



Colonel Cumming a second time on the subject, and have recommended a continuance of the detachment in Rohilcund, as a measure absolutely necessary at this period, both on account of the defence of the country against the Seiks, and to assist in enforcing payment of the Company's assignments on Mahomed Cauzim Cawn and Rajah Senut Sing: the former in particular, has shewn great dilatoriness in paying his kists, there being a balance due from him of one lack and forty-nine thousand rupees (Rs 1,49,000) exclusive of last year's balance. The sum total of the assignments on these Amils is thirty-one lacks.

I have the honour, &c.

Lucknow,
26th Dec. 1783.

(Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,
Resident at the Vizier's Court.

Gentlemen,

I have been honoured with your letter of the 16th ultimo, enjoining me to be careful that no act or permission of mine do, in any instance, or in the smallest degree, counteract your directions given to Colonel Sir John Cumming, to prevent any emigrations of Europeans from the camp at Futty Ghur.

At the time Mr. McLean first applied to me, it was in the character of deputy boat agent, and as such I procured him his Highness's purwannahs for carrying on the public service.

The bankers here not being able to give bills on Ettiah, I have written to Colonel Charles Morgan, to know when, and in what manner, he chuses the money should be sent or remitted on his arrival in his Highness's dominions.

I am, &c.

Lucknow,
2d Jan. 1784.

JOHN BRISTOW,
Resident at the Vizier's Court.

Gentlemen,

I had last night the pleasure to receive from Colonel Martin a copy of his answers to the interrogatories which the Honourable Board thought proper to put to him relative to the complaints exhibited against me by the Vizier, and his minister Hyder Beg Khan. After having given them the most attentive perusal, I cannot help remarking, that these answers, wherever they are supported by the personal knowledge of Colonel Martin, far from leading to a condemnation of my conduct, do, as I now humbly conceive, very strongly corroborate the arguments and evidence I have already had the honour to submit to you, in refutation of the malicious charges of the minister; and shew clearly, that in all my intercourse with him, it was my fixed resolution to be invariably and solely guided by my instructions. For the rest, Gentlemen, the relation of Colonel Martin has heard at Third and Fourth Places, and from Third and Fourth Persons, as he must be very certain it would not be received as evidence before any tribunal on earth, so I am surpris'd Colonel Martin, under this conviction, should have put himself to the trouble of recording it; more especially, as it was impossible that he should be ignorant that many of the facts and transactions of which he speaks, to wit, the Adawlut, &c. had they even existed but in report, must, from the nature of them, have been capable of the most direct and positive Proof. I can as little reconcile it to candour, that Colonel Martin should heretofore have listened to, or that he should now repeat, tales so injurious to the reputations of the persons whom they pointed at; when, by his own confession, they were for the most part communicated to him by the parties whose interest it confessedly was to invent and circulate them. I would not be understood, Gentlemen, from any thing I have here said, to intend no further reply to Colonel Martin's narrative. On the contrary, however lightly I may judge of it, my respect for the Honourable Board, who placed me in my present situation, and the attention due to my own honour, which I consider as intimately depending upon my conduct in it, equally determine me not to suffer the most distant imputation to pass unnoticed. I shall therefore be as early as possible in submitting to the Honourable Board such an exposition of the performance in question, as, I trust, will render this last effort of the minister to injure my character, and impeach my veracity, by an appeal to Colonel Martin's testimony, as harmless and impotent as any that have



preceded it. To prepare this dispatch, I must, however, request from the Honourable Board the indulgence of a few days; and the rather, because my time is at present much engaged by a variety of public business, which cannot safely be postponed.

I have the honour, &c.

Lucknow,
21st Jan'y 1784.

JOHN BRISTOW,
Resident at the Vizier's Court.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

A few days since, the Resident at the Vizier's court communicated to me some suspicions he had entertained with regard to the intentions of Almas's Ally Khan, stating, that he apprehended a design to attack the magazine at Cawnpore in the absence of the brigade, and to carry off the artillery and ammunition. Though I do not give entire credit to the information, yet, as it is not impossible but such an event might happen, I have taken every precaution in my power to fender the attempt, if made, ineffectual.

I have therefore, on the request of Major Maclary, sent twenty artillery men and forty lascars to Cawnpore, to assist in working the guns. I have completed the field ammunition for actual service; and have also ordered the detachment, under the command of Colonel Knutson, at Bareilly, to march half the way back to Futty Ghur, in order that it might be able to join me in the space of two days, should an actual commencement of hostilities render a junction unnecessary.

I have recommended to Major Maclary to cross the magazine, which I believe is already in boats, and the artillery, to the east side of the river, which would put it out of Almas's power to lay hold of either before he might be relieved by the troops at this place.

I was averse to ordering Colonel Knutson to join immediately, because I thought it might alarm the country, perhaps, without sufficient foundation. I shall, however, hold the troops here in readiness to march, the moment I understand there is a necessity for their service.

I have the honour, &c.

(Signed) JOHN CUMMING, Colonel.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

I have been honoured with your letters of the 16th December 1783. You are pleased to observe you have received letters from Mr. Bristow, on the subject of some complaints made by Mr. George Maclean, in regard to the detention and plunder of some boats and budgerows in the country of Sandy Pallee, rented by Buffont Roy, and the treatment of his people by the Jeimmedars, &c. in that district.

You are further pleased to observe, you know not who Mr. Maclean is, nor under what authority he carries on any dealings in the Vizier's country, not having the permission of your Honourable Board to reside there; and express your displeasure at his being permitted to engage in private trade, not having a licence. I shall give all the satisfaction I am able regarding Mr. George Maclean, and the transaction alluded to in your letter.

Mr. Maclean acted at this station as agent for the boat contractor. Several months ago he reported to me, that many of the boats and budgerows stood in need of great repairs; that he could not procure timber here for that purpose, nor any where nearer than Pilibutt; and requested my assistance to procure it, by giving him letters to the Aumil (then Cajah Ain ul deen Khan). I informed him that my letters could be of no use, as no regard would be paid to them; and that I did not chuse to interfere in any thing that regarded the officers of the Vizier's government.

He then requested my permission to go to Lucknow, which I granted him. On his return he informed me, that through Mr. Bristow's influence he had obtained a Purwannah from the Vizier, and that Mr. Bristow had given him letters to the Aumil Cajah Ain ul deen Khan, desiring



desiring he would protect and assist him in his business and purchases. As the public service did not require his close attendance, he had my permission to go to Pylibut, being warranted by the Vizier's authority obtained for him by Mr. Briflow. He then proceeded on the above business, and, as he afterwards informed me, had his boats and budgerows plundered by the people of Sandy Pallee. I believe he sustained a very considerable loss; and I must do him the justice to add, that I never heard a complaint against him whilst he was at this station; and believe him to be both a quiet and industrious man, and perfectly inoffensive in his dealings.

Many acts of violence having been committed by the people of Sandy Pallee, at the requisition of the Vizier, I sent over a detachment to assist Bussunt Rzy, the Aumil, in apprehending those guilty of those outrages: but, finding the troops were employed in a manner different from what they were designed for, I recalled them. This is all I know of Mr. Maclean's transactions.

The Resident, however, has it in his power to give the Honourable Board every information they can wish on this subject.

With respect to empowering any person, whether European or Native, to carry on any trade in the Vizier's country, I have never thought myself in any degree authorized; my influence in this country is bounded by the centres of the camp. In procuring grain for the troops, to keep them from starving during the late scarcity, I have been obliged to write in strong terms to some of the Aumils, and to send out some detachments; but this was not done without repeated orders from his Excellency for this purpose, the Aumils paying no regard to his orders.

Janv 4th, 1784.

Futty Ghur.

I have the honour, &c.

(Signed) JOHN CUMMING, Col.

The following letters from Colonels James Morgan and Ironside to the Commander in Chief, having been yesterday received by the Secretary, were circulated to the members of the Board.

To Major General Stibbert.

Sir,

In consequence of Captain Scott your secretary's letter of the 18th instant, I do myself the honour to acquaint you, that, immediately upon the sentence of the General Court Martial being published, I gave out an order, directing Ensign Connor to proceed directly down to the presidency. Inclosed I have the honour to transmit you a copy of a letter I have received from Major M'Clary: it confirms my opinion of Almas Ali Cawn's having no intention to offer offence to our government, or to create disturbances in the country.

I beg leave to acquaint you, that the 3d brigade arrived this morning near the bank of the river, and will cross over to-morrow to Bhardwar. They are to march from thence on the following day; and the second brigade will march on the same day, and take up their ground at Bhurdwar.

On the 3d of January my Brigade will all cross over, and I shall prosecute my march down to the presidency without loss of time.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Camp, Muty Ranshe Talha,
31 December 1783.

(Signed)

JAMES MORGAN,
Col. commd 2 Brigade.

To Colonel James Morgan.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you, that in consequence of my requisition to Sir John Cumming for a few artillery men, he has thought proper to send me 20 Europeans and 40 Lascars, under the command of a subaltern officer.

Mr.



Mr. Bristow has also, in consequence of my request to him for a few companies (if he deemed the Aumil hostile) sent me a battalion from Khryabad, Captain M'Leod's corps, and two companies of the third regiment under the command of Lieutenant Wroughton.

This force I conceive to be unnecessary, as the Aumil does not appear to me to entertain any designs dangerous to our government.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Cawnpore;
27th Decr 1783.

(Signed) W. M'CLARY,
Major commanding at Cawnpore.

A true Copy.

(Signed) H. Lloyd,
Secy to Col. Morgan.

To Major General Stibbert.

Sir,

The brigade crossed the Ganges to Allahabad the 1st instant, and the second brigade passed it on the 2d.

The hospital boats are not yet come up; if they do not arrive, however, to-morrow; I shall no longer wait for them, but order the brigade to proceed on the 5th towards Cawnpore; where we should have been before this, had not the delays occasioned by making the deposits of grain at different places impeded our progress.

On delivery of the invoices of grain brought from Patna to Mr. Fowke, he observed it would make a convenient supply for the second brigade on its way down; so that the Company, at all events, will not be put to any expence for that particular supply.

Inclosed I transmit a copy of a letter from Major M'Clary to Colonel Morgan, in consequence of which I shall order the ammunition brought from Chunar Ghur to be returned thither.

I am, &c.

Camp at Allahabad,
3d Janr 1784.

(Signed) G. IRONSIDE,
Colt.

Major General Stibbert.

Sir,

In my letter of the 3d instant, I advised you that, in consequence of an address from Major M'Clary to Colonel Morgan, (of which I inclosed a copy) advising of their not being the final appearance of disturbances likely to be received by Almas Ally Cawn, it was my intention to return the ammunition I had seen dispatched from Chunar Ghur to that place. But being now informed by Ishmael Beg, and papers of intelligence, that the Aumil still keeps his force collected together in the neighbourhood of Rampoor, and that he has been distributing ammunition to his troops, I have altered that intention, and shall take one half of the cartridges along with me, and leave the other half here for the service of the fourteenth regiment of sepoys; which I have directed, conformably to your instructions, to relieve the battalions of the second brigade, stationed at this place and at Salhane. The leaving ammunition here is the more necessary, as the guard in the fort of Chounde is continually threatened by a considerable armed force of banditti in the neighbourhood of it.

The



The hospital boats did not arrive till yesterday, when all the recovered men were changed for such as were sick in camp. The troops were mustered to-day. The hospital has proceeded on, and the troops will follow to-morrow, without making any halt, until they arrive at Cawnpore.

I am, &c.

Camp near Allahabad,
5th January 1784.

(Signed) G. IRONSIDE,
Col.

Read the following letters from Mr. Bristow, to Edward Hay, Esquire, Secretary, &c. &c.

Sir,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 23d ultimo, acquainting me that you had it in command from the Board to acknowledge the receipt of my address of the 29th of last month, and to acquaint me, that having thought fit to transmit certain interrogatories to Lieutenant Colonel Martin, for his replies to them, they had been pleased to direct Lieutenant Colonel Martin to furnish me with a copy of the letter, conformably to the orders sent him on the 13th of last month. You will oblige me, by taking an early opportunity to inform the Honourable Governor General and Council, that hitherto I have not heard from Lieutenant Colonel Martin.—The moment I am furnished by him with the replies in question, I shall not lose a moment in preparing and transmitting my answer to the Honourable Board.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Lucknow,
9th Dec. 1783.

JOHN BRISTOW,
Resident at the Vizier's Court.

Honourable Sir, and Gentlemen,

I this day had the honour to receive your commands of the 10th of September, informing me of the separation you had thought proper to make in the duties of your secretary, in the secret, and political, and public departments.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

Lucknow,
21st Decr 1783,

(Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,
Resident at Vizir Court,

Gentlemen,

Having waited thus long in expectation of receiving Lieutenant Colonel Martin's replies to the interrogatories proposed to him by the Honourable Board, as communicated to me through your secretary, in a letter dated the 23d ultimo, I have taken the liberty of applying to Lieutenant Colonel Martin on the subject. I have the honour to send you enclosed transcripts of my application, and his answer, and beg leave to assure you, that as soon as I am furnished with the copies mentioned in the letter, I shall not lose a moment in preparing and transmitting my answer to them.

I am, &c.

Lucknow,
30th Decr 1783.

(Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,
Resident at the Vizir's Court.



COPY of a Letter from Mr. John Bristow, Resident at the Vizier's Court, to Lieutenant Colonel Claud Martin; dated Lucknow, 29th December 1783.

I beg leave to send you enclosed a copy of a letter from the Honourable Board, through their secretary; whenever the replies to the interrogatories referred to are ready, I will be obliged to you for them, conformably to the orders sent you.

Colonel Martin's Answer; the same Date.

I have received the letter you have been pleased to write to me this morning; and in conformity to the command of the Honourable Board, I will send you copy of my answer to the interrogatories as soon as they are copied.

True Copies.

(Signed)

J. NEAVE,

Asst. to the Res.

Gentlemen,

I have now the honour to enclose you my correspondence with the minister in reference to the conduct of Almas Ally Cawn, and the suspicions which, in consequence of that conduct, I have been led to entertain of his fidelity. This circumstance I have already briefly treated of in my address to the Honourable Board, under date the 20th ultimo.

I submit to you, gentlemen, who are in full possession of the detail of his administration, with what propriety Hyder Beg Cawn still continues to force upon your representative professions of zeal and attachment, or how he can reconcile the pretended readiness of his obedience to the constant breach of your most positive commands. A striking example of the opposition of his theory and practice is now before you. In my instructions, under the head of Aumils, is the following direction: "Great care must be taken in the choice of Aumils. I shall not descend to particulars, but enjoin one caution only as *indispensably necessary*, that no Aumil be appointed to a frontier station, without such pledge or other security for compelling his personal appearance whenever required, as may insure, beyond a doubt, his obedience and fidelity; and both these, and others, wherever stationed, ought to have the means of self-protection, and to be trusted and supported." The minister writing to me, in explanation of the measures he judged advisable to adopt for the purpose of ascertaining Almas's intentions, upon which subject we had already conversed, expresses himself as follows: "And in regard to the letter from Almas Ally Cawn, acquainting you that he would wait upon you in the middle of Phoos with the arrangements of his country, I said it appeared to me best to write to him, encouraging him to come; for, by the time your letter reached him, the seven or eight remaining days of Phoos would be over. If he comes, it removes all doubts; if not, whatever you order I will execute, if you think proper immediately to counteract him to command it." From which recital of his own words, it is evident, that the precautions pointed out and enjoined in the extract of my instructions herein above mentioned, although strongly and repeatedly recalled to the recollection and observance of the minister by me, have been wholly disregarded by him. That Almas is left in absolute possession of frontier countries yielding an annual revenue of above sixty lacks of rupees, without any pledge or security whatever for his obedience and fidelity, for his personal appearance, or for the due performance of his engagements with government—that consequently it is as much as ever in his power to pause upon the orders of his Sovereign, and to obey or refuse the summons that calls him to the presence, as his inclination or his interest may direct. Since the effects must now in every respect be the same, it is not, I apprehend, necessary to enter into an examination of the motives that in this instance may have prompted the minister to such an ill-advised deviation from the prescribed rule of his conduct. To whatever cause it is attributed, whether to a contempt of your authority, to habitual indolence, or to collusion, Hyder Beg Cawn is equally without excuse; and by so much the more, as he was well acquainted with the character, disposition, and past demeanour of Almas; and these certainly did not in any shape entitle the latter either to indulgence or confidence. To this willfulness or folly on the part of the minister, is added a mockery of the grossest nature, when, under the conviction of having, by his own management, precluded all possibility of option, he gravely solicits to be favoured with

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my final determination, promising to acquiesce in it; as if our situation admitted of a choice of expedients, and that to resolve and execute were alike easy; yet, whilst he holds this language, he is perfectly convinced of the existence of a dilemma, created by himself, which reduces his Prince to the disgraceful necessity of temporizing with the most intolent among his subjects, or adopting the ruinous alternative of compelling his obedience by the sword. In the mean time, gentlemen, Almas neither pays his revenues (a), or shews any disposition to perform his promise, or comply with the Nabob's demands to return to Lucknow, although the period fixed by himself is already elapsed. Before I conclude this letter, I must take the liberty to solicit your orders upon the subject of it; as also with respect to the several special matters heretofore submitted to you. In thus renewing my request to your Honourable Board for the interposition of your authority to correct the multiplied evils and abuses of this government, I trust I shall be excused by the necessity of a remedy, and my own utter inability to apply any whatever.

Lucknow,
6th January 1784.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,
Resident at the Vizier's Court.

(*) Out of 48 lacks, I have only received 450,000 rupees.

TRANSLATION of a Letter from Mr. John Bristow, Resident at the Vizier's Court,
to Hyder Beg Cawn; dated 18th Mohurum, 1198 Hejira.

It was always customary for Almas Ally Cawn to pay his kists in advance. This year he does not pay them when due; and, in comparison with the other Aumils, pays but a small portion. This is astonishing, and gives me doubts of his intentions. He has carried off his effects, as well as the effects of his dependants and their families, from Lucknow; and it is reported that there is a correspondence between him and Mahajee Scindia, for which reason I have wrote to you, that, should you credit it, you may reflect thereon, and act accordingly.

TRANSLATION of a Letter from Hyder Beg Cawn to Mr. John Bristow, Resident
at the Vizier's Court; dated Mohurum 19th, 1198 Hugerie.

I have received your letter regarding Almas Ally Cawn.—Whatever you order, I am ready to obey.—I shall wait upon you to receive your orders, and will act with all my endeavours accordingly.

TRANSLATION of a Letter from Mr. John Bristow to Hyder Beg Cawn; dated
Mohurum 20th, 1198 Hugarrie.

I have received your letter in reply to mine. It was the intention of my former letter to enquire whether you credited these reports concerning Almas Ally Cawn or not, that, should they be well-founded, whatever you judged proper to be done you would write to me: Nothing can be settled on a business of such importance, except by a written correspondence. It is necessary that you, who are his Excellency's minister, should contrive means for the safety and protection of his country, and the collection of the revenues, and acquaint me of your intentions by letter.

TRANSLATION of a Letter from Hyder Beg Cawn to Mr. J. Bristow, Resident at
the Vizier's Court.

I have received your letter regarding Almas Ally Cawn: Your hirkara's and news writers that were with him have communicated the intelligence. It is my business to enquire into affairs.

—It



—It is the command of my Prince you should be the master upon this subject; whatever you order shall be done without excuse: I will wait upon you to-morrow to receive your orders, which shall be executed.

TRANSLATION of a Letter from Mr. J. Bristow to Hyder Beg Cawn, dated Mohurum 20th, 1198 Hejery.

At our consultation this day concerning Almas Ally Cawn, you informed me, "That the news writers and hurkarra's of Rajah Poorum Chund, who were constantly passing and re-passing, had communicated no intelligence whatever relative to a connection or correspondence between Mahajee Scindia and Almas Ally Cawn, and no proofs thereof were established by them; that Zyne ul Abdein, the old and confidential adherent of Almas, had three months since placed his family at Culpee; that, according to the actual state of affairs, it was advisable to appoint Lalla Takoor Dafs (the said Cawn's Naib) to the charge of the district of Byfwanah, now under Ally Ackber, who had managed it ill, meaning thereby to secure Takoor Dafs's fidelity; and that all together, with this new and his old dependencies, he would hold countries yielding thirty lacks of rupees per annum: Besides, I should write to Mr. Anderfon to prevent Mahajee Scindia from encouraging people from these quarters; that I should not mention Almas Ally Cawn's name, but write in general terms to Mr. Anderfon, that the object might be obtained without disclosing the secret."

I have thus stated the substance of our consultation this day; and in case I should have committed any error in my explanation of it, be pleased to correct it.

Whereas I had received repeated intelligence of the said Cawn's alliance; and, considering the affair of importance, I apprized you of it. As Takoor Dafs will, more or less, have thirty lacks under his charge if Byfwanah be given to him, I by no means think the measure advisable to intrust that amount to any one person; excepting him, be pleased to give Byfwarra to whoever you please. I have wrote to Mr. Anderfon. The letter which you prepared to Almas Ally Cawn at this juncture, I think, is a proper one; it will be presented to you by Moonshree Mahomed Tucker, that it may be dispatched.

TRANSLATION of a Letter from Hyder Beg Cawn to Mr. Bristow, Resident at the Vizier's Court.

Regarding Almas Ally Cawn, I said, "whatever were your orders, I was ready to obey."—When I waited upon you, I asked, "if the intelligence had been communicated by the news writers?" You replied, "it had."—I then acquainted you, "that the hircarra's and news writers of Rajah Poorum Chund had not mentioned any of the circumstances" (I have their papers), and remarked, that "there might be perhaps an understanding between Almas and them, for which reason they were silent upon the subject."—You consulted with me about this matter—I said, "if it was true, whatever you thought was proper to be done, you would command." And, in regard to the letter from Almas Ally Cawn, acquainting you that he would wait upon you in the middle of Poos with the arrangements of his country, I said, "it appeared to me best to write to him, encouraging him to come; for by the time your letter reached him the seven or eight remaining days of Poos would be over: If he comes, it removes all doubts; if not, whatever you order I will execute, if you think proper immediately to counteract him to command it." To this you were pleased to say, "you would write to him." To your questions respecting Meer Zyne ul Abdein, I replied, "That he had, about six months ago, when Almas Ally Cawn was here, requested a small fort in the Eta district to keep his family there; but not succeeding, he procured a place for that purpose of Balladar Pundit, at Culpee." However, his family are not there even at this time; they are at Tick-hory. The dwelling of people in general is not at Lucknow; they are from west to east in every city and town. It is never enquired where such people live: They follow their occupations to distant places. Regarding gaining the confidence of the Aumils of Almas Ally Cawn, I said, mentioning Takoor Dafs and the rest, "that there had been a correspondence, and, if it was your pleasure, I would renew it; that by the means of his own people every thing would be brought to light respecting Almas Ally Cawn's intentions." I advised, "to give to Takoor Dafs, and his two sons, who it is well known possess abilities, the management of affairs." This was

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was what I represented to you, that you might give your orders accordingly: "That Bysswana should be given to him to secure his attachment; he will pay a Peishky to government. After one point is gained, you may have whatever part of the collections you think proper under his management." "To write to Mr. Anderson, desiring him to apply to Mahajee Scindia to discourage any of the people from his Excellency's dominions from settling in his country—to write in general terms; for until the point was gained, secrecy was necessary: That if any means were to be taken of counteracting, they should be applied with secrecy and dispatch; however, if it pleased you to write in plain terms, you would do so." This is what I advised during our conversation. It is customary in council for ministers to offer their sentiments according to their understandings, and for their superiors to do whatever appears to them best. Whatever you are pleased to order, I am ready to obey. I think it necessary to acquaint you of every thing to the best of my understanding. All the Aumils are alarmed that their situation may become the same as Khauja Ain ul Dien's. The report from far and near is carried to them, that he made excuses on account of the drought, and is now in prison. It will be their fate next, since no allowance will be made in their accounts for the drought. Whatever you please to order, regarding Almas Ally Cawn, I am ready to obey.

TRANSLATION of a Letter from Mr. John Bristow, &c. to Hyder Beg Cawn;
dated 22 Mohurrun, 1198 Hejery.

I am favoured with your letter: Being in expectation of it, I had not forwarded the letter which I had prepared for Mr. Anderson and Almas Ally Cawn. I shall now, agreeable to your intimation, dispatch that to Mr. Anderson, and enclose another to Almas, couched in the terms you recommend, of encouragement: Be pleased to return it to me, if it meets with your approbation, that it may be sent away. In regard to conciliating and attaching the officers under Almas Ally Cawn and his Naibs to yourself, I highly approve; I have repeatedly apprized you of my opinion of the inexpediency of entrusting thirty lacks of rupees to any individual, and forbidden it.

The business now before us, is the consideration of the means whereby the money may be realized from Almas Ally Cawn, and the counteraction of his designs, should he have entertained any bad ones: The introduction of a conclusion not any way connected with the subject in question, does not forward the business; affairs are managed by zealous endeavours and loyalty, not by contrary positions, and a dispute about words. As you have introduced a comparison relative to the transactions with Khajah ain ul Deen, I shall reply to it concisely, with a view of preventing any opening to calumny before the Governor General and council.

I beg to be informed in what particular the good conduct of Khajah ain ul Deen has been ascertained. Is it a proof of it, that the province of Rohilcund is reduced to the Jumma of 20 lacks, and even to less than that sum; that it is in a state of devastation; besides which, that the ryots and inhabitants in general bewail the oppression he has exercised over them? There is an evident and plain answer to the terrors of all the Aumils, and Almas Ally Cawn in particular, from the confinement of Khajah ain ul Deen: The dissatisfaction and rebellion of Almas Ally Cawn last year was prior to my arrival, or the proceedings against Khajah ain ul Deen. I am to comprehend it is advisable that the punishment of a guilty person should be remitted, for fear of exciting the apprehension of other offenders. The Aumils have collected the revenue this year, and do collect it, and will leave no balance in the country. Seeing and comprehending the fact, I shall not forego the duty I owe to my superiors, and refrain from enjoining the punctual payment of the Company's assignments, from any conclusion drawn by you. It is incumbent also on you, sir, to afford me your hearty assistance.

TRANSLATION of a Letter from Mr. John Bristow, Resident at the Vizier's Court,
to Almas Ally Cawn, dated Mohurrun 22d, 1198 Hejery.

Your letter, acquainting me that you had instructed your Aumils to make the arrangements of every village, and that you would present them to me yourself in the middle of Phoos, and regarding your former punctuality, is received. There is no doubt of your former punctuality. I am happy that you are so assiduous in the business of the collections. I think the sooner you come with the accounts of the arrangements the better, for every thing will be properly settled:



In the mean time you will remit whatever money you can; if you can send a large sum, it will be agreeable to the wishes of your friend.

TRANSLATION of a Letter from Hyder Beg Cawn to Mr. Bristow, Resident at the Vizier's Court.

Your letter is received. Whatever I related to you, I heard from others; they were not my own conclusions. I will be particular in relating to you every thing to-morrow, respecting the letter to Almas Ally Khan; if it meets with your approbation, you will send it; the state of the matter will be known. Whenever and whatever you are pleased to order me to, respecting Almas Ally Cawn, I am ready to obey without excuse.

TRANSLATION of a Letter from Hyder Beg Cawn to Mr. Bristow, Resident at the Vizier's Court.

Your letter, dated Mohurrum, 22d, astonished me. By what reason does my former letter appear to you merely nugatory? Whatever I mentioned regarding the confinement of Khaja ain ul Deen, and that people from far and near alarmed the Aumils, by causing them to suppose that the same fate would be theirs, is not a conclusion of mine; it is the report of those persons you confide in, and who wish to alarm the Aumils, that they may resign their office: This, to my understanding, appeared improper, for which reason I represent it to you; in return, you were pleased to write that it was a conclusion of mine. I am the minister; to act so, is not my business: I did not mean under this veil to recommend either Khaja ain ul Deen, nor Almas Ally Khan; I only told you, clearly and plainly, what others said, and what appeared to me improper. Had I known that it was your inclination that they should talk in this manner, I would not have represented it to you.

Why have you been pleased to apply the word loyalty? The English gentlemen who were here formerly, and all the world, know that for six or seven years past I have acted for both governments, which are in reality united, with zeal. Whenever you will please to judge impartially, you will not trust those who are interested: My zealous conduct is established, and will continue. I am ready with my life in the service. Lacks of rupees have been and will be lost, from the advice of the interested; but these are to be imputed to me; justice is in the hands of superiors. I shall not give my opinion regarding Khaja ain ul Deen's business: They who are interested may advise whatever suits them. Regarding the Jumma of Rohilcund last year, somebody has been mistaken in their representation, by 15 lacks of rupees; the deficiency has either been occasioned by the drought, or the mismanagement of somebody. The country is hundreds of miles wide, and contains lacks of inhabitants, that are afflicted with a calamity from heaven. Mahomed Cazim Cawn is a confidential person, and holds fourteen mehals in that country. Enquire in justice what is the reason of the deficiency?—You say “you are to comprehend that the punishment of the guilty should be remitted, for fear of alarming other offenders.” To punish all alike is proper; you have punished one person for the same offence that others are guilty of. They who have pleaded the drought as an excuse, when it is not felt in their districts—who have been indulged with diminutions, and have been credited for extraordinary charges—they are at their ease employed in the collections, and hold others in ridicule. They have this year endeavoured to make the khreef harvest fall short: I have represented to you that they were not right, for the deficiency is not so much. The money is to be collected with pains. I related to you that Neger Ally Beg, the Aumil of Goonda, refused to answer for more than two lacks of rupees of the Tunkaws; he however gave a bond for three lacks of rupees: And in this manner the others would be made to give bonds. They who mismanaged would not pay, nor will they at present. I am settling affairs; but you point out a different mode. Interested people have not so much zeal for the service as I have: they extend their wishes of a failure beyond their own districts.

Regarding Almas Ally Cawn, whatever you are pleased to order, I shall not hesitate to obey. It is impossible to disclose the intentions of any person's heart: if he comes, it will remove all doubts. Thinking this a matter of importance, I have taken the liberty of offering my sentiments upon it, in hopes you will afford me your assistance; that the business of both governments,



agents, which are in reality united, be accomplished; and I may be safe from the calumny of the interred, and perform my duty satisfactorily.

TRANSLATION of a Letter from Mr. John Bristow, &c. to Hyder Beg Cawn;
dated Mohurrem 26th, 1198 Hejry.

Your letter of the 24th, in reply to mine of the 22d instant, I have received. I am surprised at understanding its contents, which are a contradiction to notorious facts: On this account I deem it right to answer you in the most concise terms, and a few words will suffice. More than three months have elapsed since I have repeatedly addressed you, both verbally and by letter, to realize the kists, settle the districts and affairs dependant on Mirza Cassim, Mirza Mahomed Haffim Cawn, &c. You now hold a language in direct opposition to my conduct; that "these Aumils are worthy of confidence; that they are confirmed in their offices, and look at others with ridicule." I consider a reply to such observations as totally useless.

TRANSLATION of a Letter from Hyder Beg Cawn, in Reply to Mr. Bristow's
dated 26th Mohurrem 1198.

I have received your letter. I represented to you the situation of those persons who occasioned losses to government, are continued in office, confided in, and ridicule others. You are pleased to say, "this is an entire contradiction of notorious facts, and astonishing to you. I have repeatedly directed you to attend to the realization of the revenue, and settlement of the affairs of Mahomed Cassim, Mahomed Haffim Cawn, &c. The replying to such assertions is totally useless." My bountiful sir, many just affairs, which are clearly a loss to government, I do not represent to you; from this apprehension, that my representations do not meet with your approbation. You are pleased to tell me, that "a reply to these is totally useless; but in every affair which I have stated to you, whenever you will do me the favour to ascertain my representation in an equitable way, there will appear no deviation. That person who is the incendiary, and interrupter of the affairs of government, causes lacks of rupees loss in the Jumma, and in the extravagant charges: He affords protection to other Aumils, and is in your confidence: The Aumils you have specified by name, and some other persons, are all under his influence: The Aumils who are his dependants, and by whose hands whatever loss has accrued or does accrue to government, are gratified thereby in their dependance on him; and they speak their sentiments of their hearts regarding other Aumils, and even regarding the Vizier himself. I have not settled the districts under their charge, as you have directed me, for some days past, from the following apprehension: That, in conjunction with that person, every one is intoxicated with fabricating aerial tales and slander; and no person consents to take those districts, "left, from verbal and written calumny, disgrace should ultimately fall upon us," and I also am apprehensive. You are the magistrate and the master; I am the official agent. Being helpless I have represented thus much of these matters to you.

TRANSLATION of a Letter from Mr. Bristow to Hyder Beg Cawn; dated 27th
Mohurrim 1198.

This day we consulted concerning Almas Ally Cawn; and, to prevent mistakes, I commit to writing what passed. The particulars are as follows: That we agreed, until an answer was received from the letters addressed to Almas Ally Cawn and Tahoor Dofs, on whom you depended, any further measures regarding the said Cawn should be delayed; and, provided he did not return a satisfactory answer with respect to the payment of his kists, that his going away was preferable to his remaining on the present footing; in which case, performing the duties of loyalty, immediate measures should be followed to secure the revenue, and the peace and safety of the country. Be pleased to favour me with an answer.

TRANSLATION of Hyder Beg Cawn's Reply to the former.

I am favoured with your letter. Before this I represented to you, and I do so now, that I will perform whatever orders you may be pleased to give me. On my part there is no excuse against my



my obedience to your orders; you are the master and the magistrate; if it is your pleasure, apprise his Highness; if not, it is well. Whatever may be your orders, I will obey. In two of your letters, the word loyalty is introduced to persons who fail in the duties of loyalty; this still is applicable: interested people before now have likewise traduced me with various and various calumnies, not a tittle of which have been proved; now doubts of my loyalty are entertained. I hope you will plainly specify the acts in which I have failed in my loyalty; that, being informed, I may reply thereto. Among us poor men of Hindostan, this word is very bad, that Chiefs and Princes should use it to the obedient, and servants, without the proof of any crime. Out of your favour be pleased to inform me, in plain terms, why you have applied it to me. I will state other affairs, on paying my respects to you. In approving or not approving, you are the master.

TRANSLATION of a Letter from Mr. Bristow to Hyder Beg Cawn, 30th Mohurrum 1198.

I am favoured with your letter in answer to mine: Be pleased to specify the persons and place which are in the state you describe. I hope you will favour me with the particulars of every Aumil, together with the settlement of the actual receipts and expences, for my information. I am always ready to afford you my assistance and support.

TRANSLATION of Hyder Beg Cawn's Reply.

I am favoured with your letter. You order me to give you the names of places and persons. Before this I stated the circumstances to you, and furnished you with the accounts: Again agreeable to your orders, they shall be presented to you.

A true translation.

(Signed) ROBT GREGORY,
Assist to the Res at the Vizier's Court.

EXTRACT of Bengal Secret Consultations, 3d February 1784.

The following letters having been received from Mr. Bristow on the 21st ultimo, they were circulated for the perusal of the members of the Board.

Gentlemen,

Inclosed I have the honour to transmit you a copy of a letter I have received from Mr. James Anderson; and, as I conceived the subject to be a matter of importance, I informed him of my intentions to make a reference to your Honourable Board: At the same time I called upon the acting minister, Hyder Beg Cawn, to point out the most eligible means of preventing undue exactions, and also obviate commotions natural on the assembly of so numerous a body of pilgrims.

Mr. Anderson having mentioned the exactions made by the Subah of Allahabad, I requested him to ascertain under what pretences, and through whom, they were collected. The Vizier has repeatedly issued his commands, forbidding any more being required than the authorized duties; and I have spoke myself to the Subah on the subject. He excuses his own conduct; and informs me there are, besides himself, many other persons (particularly the Killedar) in authority at Allahabad, independent of him; that he has enjoined his own people to avoid making such exactions, and precluded every complaint as far as lies in his power.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

JOHN BRISTOW,

Resident at the Vizier's Court.

Lucknow,

10th January 1784.

COPY



COPY of a letter from Mr. James Anderfon to Mr. John Bristow, Resident at the Court of the Vizier, dated Scindia's Camp, 3d January, 1784.

Bow Buckfey yesterday informed me, that Scindia had received intelligence of a very large party of pilgrims, amounting to 10 or 12,000, having reached Saghur, in their way to the Deccan. He observed, that, having already made so many applications for exemptions of duties, he could not think of making more, especially in the present instance, where the amount was such as to render it an object of consideration to his Excellency; but he hoped that on this occasion some fixed and certain regulations might be laid down, so that the pilgrims may be exempted from the arbitrary exactions of the Aumil of Allahabad. He said, that although the oppressions exercised over the pilgrims there were such as had occasioned great complaints, yet he had reason to believe that they were unknown to his Excellency; who, he understood, derived but little benefit from this branch of his revenue, in comparison of what it was capable of yielding him, without any burthen to the pilgrims, if properly regulated. And he was the more earnest on this point, because the fame of the attention shewn last year to Sevajee Eetul, had induced many Mahrattas of high rank either to proceed themselves, or send their families, to make the pilgrimage this year. From the intelligence he had received from Poonah, of other parties, besides the present, which were to set out on this account from thence in the course of this season, he supposed that, including such as had accompanied Moodajee's daughter from Nagpore, the sum of the whole pilgrims this year from the Deccan would be little less than 50,000.

I informed Bow Buckfey, in reply, that I would not fail to communicate this matter to you; but that, as your own judgment, founded on your superior information of the subject, would suggest to you how far it was proper to make any application to his Excellency with regard to the establishment of new regulations, that is (as he afterwards explained himself) the fixing a particular assessment on each horseman, footman, palankeen, &c. I could not, therefore, give him any assurances on this head. In the mean time, as the request of Scindia, in the limited view in which I am capable of considering it, appears not unreasonable; and as I am certain, from the interest he takes in the concerns of the pilgrims, that a compliance with it would gratify him extremely; I beg leave to recommend it to your consideration. It is not, I understand, his wish, that his Excellency should suffer any detriment; but only, in fixing the particular rates himself, it may not be in the power of the Aumils to exact beyond them.

A true copy.

(Signed)

J. NEAVE,

Assistant to the Resident at the Vizier's Court.

Honourable Sir, and Gentlemen,

In my letters of the 13th and 20th ultimo, I had the honour to acquaint you with the reasons that induced me to reinforce the troops left for the defence of Cawnpore; since then, Colonel Morgan having deemed two regiments and a battalion of sepoys a sufficient force for the protection of the magazine, &c. at that place, Major Maclary has, at my requisition, ordered the two companies of the third regiment, and the Resident's guard, to return to their respective stations.

Subsequent to my letter of the 6th instant, I have received further accounts from Almas Ally Cawn's camp, of his having secured a retreat for himself and his dependants in Mahajy Scindia's dominions, and also of his close connection with that chief. Three days ago his Vaccel again left Lucknow, with a letter from me, explaining in general terms my sentiments of his conduct, and requiring a final settlement of the revenue he proposed paying.

I have represented to you, in my address of 22d ultimo, the distress of the troops at Futty Ghur. I now have the honour to enclose extracts of two other letters on the same subject, which I have since received from Colonel Sir John Cumming. I have the pleasure to inform you, that I have furnished his detachment with above a lack and a half of rupees, and shall shortly send a further supply.

I have the honour, &c.

Lucknow,

(Signed)

JOHN BRISTOW,

11th January, 1784.

Resident at the Vizier's Court.



EXTRACT of a letter from Colonel Sir John Cumming to Mr. Bristow, Resident at the Vizier's Court, dated Fatty Ghur, 22d December, 1783.

We have not a day's provision beforehand, nor scarcely know whence to procure any subsistence; but what heightens our distress, is the total want of money, without which I do not think we could march, however urgent the occasion might be.

EXTRACT of a letter from ditto, of the same date.

Our distress for money and grain is such, that never any troops in this service before experienced. With respect to grain, I know it is not in your power to give us assistance, as the officers of the Vizier's government pay no attention to any letters from him or you, and have never furnished one far.

I have to beg of you to dispatch Lieutenant Browne with whatever money you can furnish, however small the sum; and I have ordered Lieutenant Peché, who was gone to Cawnpore with a detachment of artillery, to proceed from thence to Lucknow, and he will escort any money that may be ready there for this station.

True extracts.

(Signed)

J. NEAVE,

Affistant to the Resident
at the Vizier's Court.

The following letter, and its inclosures, received from Mr. Bristow on the 28th ultimo, and immediately circulated to the members of the Board.

Gentlemen,

Enclosed I have the honour to transmit you a copy of a letter I have received from Lieutenant Colonel Knudson.

I am, &c.

Lucknow,
18th January, 1784.

(Signed)

JOHN BRISTOW,

Resident at the Vizier's Court.

COPY of a letter from Lieutenant Colonel Knudson to Mr. John Bristow, Resident at the Vizier's Court, dated Camp near Bareilly, 8th January, 1784.

I have to inform you, that I have received advice of a large body of Seiks, said to amount to 20,000 cavalry, being arrived at Burrin, a place on the banks of the Jumna. The near vicinity of so formidable a body of these freebooters, with the rumour which prevails of their designing to attempt an entrance in this province by the Ghaut, between Durana Ghur and the Hardawar, has greatly alarmed the inhabitants of the districts in that neighbourhood; and as Rajah Soocut Sing, the Aumil of this country, has in consequence applied to me to take measures for preserving the tranquillity of those parts, I have addressed Colonel Sir John Cumming for his instructions regarding the advancing of my detachment; in the mean while I have sent orders to the officer commanding the Vizier's forces to keep a vigilant guard over the Ghauts.

His Highness the Vizier, I hear, will not be at this place before the middle of this month.—When he arrives, I shall wait on his Highness, agreeable to his desire, and inform him of every circumstance which may have come to my knowledge concerning the Seiks and the other powers on these frontiers.

It is with pleasure I here inform you, that the long-wished for rain, which we have lately had in great abundance in these parts, has happily relieved the inhabitants from the fear they were under



under of a famine, owing to the long drought, and given a new and happy turn to the face of this country. The price of grain in consequence thereof is exceedingly fallen.

A true Copy.

(Signed)

J. NEAVE,

Assistant to the Resident
at the Vizier's Court.

The Accountant General not having been yet informed of the withdrawing of the Residency from Lucknow, or the resolution taken to accept the security of bankers of known credit and responsibility for the payment of the balance due from the Vizier to the Company, and of the current kists, and of the directions given to Mr. Wombwell;

Ordered, That the Secretary do make him acquainted therewith.

EXTRACT of Bengal Secret Consultations, 17th February, 1784.

THE following letter, and its enclosure, having been received from Mr. Bristow, on the 6th instant, were circulated to the members of the Board for their perusal.

Honourable Sir, and Gentlemen,

Immediately on the receipt of your commands of the 31st ultimo, I addressed his Highness, who was absent in Rohilcund upon a hunting party, and transmitted a copy of my address to his minister, Hyder Beg Cawn; copies of these, and the answers I received, I take the liberty to transmit you in the accompanying paper.—The Vizier reached me only this day.

My continuance at this court now depends upon the Vizier; I shall leave Lucknow whenever his Highness performs his part of the engagement, and gives me my leave of departure. In order to prevent any unnecessary delay or counteraction of the plan you have thought proper to adopt, I have solely employed my time, since the receipt of your orders of recall, in adjusting the affairs of my Residency, which unavoidably precluded me from a possibility of completing my observations on Lieutenant Colonel Martin's answers to the interrogatories, and will, I hope, be deemed a sufficient excuse for my postponing them, or any final explanation on the state of your affairs in these provinces, until I proceed upon my journey to the Presidency.

I have the honour, &c.

Lucknow,
28th Jan. 1784.

(Signed)

JOHN BRISTOW,

Resident at the Vizier's Court.

TRANSLATION of a Letter from Mr. Bristow to his Highness the Vizier, dated 20th January 1784, or 26th Suffer 1198.

The Honourable Governor General and Council having agreed to your Highness's offer, of paying the debt to the Company, and the current kists, they have in conformity thereto communicated their commands to me, and directed that whenever Mr. Wombwell should receive from your Highness the stipulated security, to inform me of it, and I, and the gentlemen connected with my office, should leave Lucknow. I have therefore the honour to represent to your Highness, that I am ready to obey the orders of the Honourable the Governor General and Council; and in the execution of them, agreeable to their commands, and from the long attachment which is impressed upon my heart towards your Highness, I shall conform to your directions in the mode of relinquishing my office, so as to prevent as much as possible any interruption in the affairs of your government.

From

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From Mr. Bristow to Hyder Beg Cawn, 21st January 1784, or 27th Suffer 1193.

A copy of the letter which I had yesterday the honour to address to his Highness, I enclose for your information.

Hyder Beg in Reply.

I have received your letter; the contents of the address you dispatched to his Highness, and of which you favoured me with a copy, are made known to me.—It is probable his Highness will speedily arrive.

From the Vizier to Mr. Bristow: Received the 27th January, 1784.

I have received your letter, and understand the contents. I shall shortly arrive at Lucknow, when at our meeting all affairs will be concluded. I shall arrive quickly.

A true Translation.

JOHN BRISTOW,
Resident at the Vizier's Court.

The following Letter, and its enclosures, were received from Mr. Wombwell, Accountant at Lucknow, on the 7th instant, and circulated to the members of the Board; and in consequence of their directions, a copy of the security engagement of Lallah Buchefanje and Faqueer Chund was sent a number in the packet per ship Lord Macartney.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

I have the honour to transmit to you the copy of a letter I have received from the Vizier, and a translation of the security (the original being with me) offered by the Vizier for the discharge of the balance due from his Excellency to the Company, and for the growing payments of the subsidy, and other current expences.

I am, &c.

Lucknow,
27th Jan. 1784.

(Signed) J. WOMBWELL,
Accountant.

From the Vizier to Mr. Wombwell: Received 7th February 1784.

A letter from the Governor General to me is arrived, in which, after expressing his own regard, and that of the gentlemen of the Council, to my situation, he desires I will procure teeps from the banks for the sums due to the Company, and deliver them to you. The teeps are accordingly sent to you, and you will therefore act agreeable to the orders of the Governor General and gentlemen of the Council.

TRANSLATION of the Engagement from Lala Butchrauje and Faquir Chund to become security for the balance due to the Company from the Vizier, and for the current demands upon him.

The sum of one crore and three lacks and eighty-four thousand four hundred and twenty rupees sicca Lucknow, due to the English Company from the Nabob Vizier on the balance of the year eleven hundred and ninety Fusfully, and for the subsidy of their troops and other demands,
for



for the present year eleven hundred and ninety-one Rupees, according to the statement adjusted by Mr. Bristow—The said sum we have made ourselves answerable for, deducting such sums as may have been collected on account, by Mr. Bristow: and whatever shall appear to be due, after deducting such collections as may have been already made, we engage to pay in such manner as shall be settled by Major Palmer for the present year, to commence from the first of Rubbee ul Owel, and end at Bhaudoon; and the remainder in the course of the full year eleven hundred and ninety-two.

A true Copy of the Translation.

E. HAY,
Secretary.

The Governor General lays before the Board copies of a correspondence which passed between Mr. Wombwell and Mr. Bristow, received from the former; by which it appears that Mr. Bristow had hesitated to obey the orders which directed his return to the Presidency, grounded on some doubts which the Governor General is not sure that he sufficiently comprehends, but which are expressed to be primarily founded on the terms of the orders which he has received, and which he expresses to be "loose and indefinite." The Governor General, to prevent further delays, or elusion of the Board's orders, moves, That Mr. Bristow be peremptorily commanded to leave Lucknow, and repair to the Presidency on the immediate receipt of these commands; directing, in like manner, the assistants of his office to leave Lucknow, and to repair to Calcutta immediately; and that, in conformity with his former orders, he do deliver over all the papers, accounts, and cash of his office, to Mr. Wombwell.

Agreed.

(Signed) EDWARD WHEELER.

To John Wombwell, Esquire, &c.

Sir,

I have been honoured by the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, informing me, "that you had received from the Vizier the security offered by his Excellency for the discharge of the balance due from him to the Company, and for procuring payments of the subsidy and other current expences." The orders of the Honourable the Governor General and Council, as they have been transmitted to me on this subject, through their secretary, direct, that I shall leave Lucknow, upon the receipt of a notification from you, that his Highness has put into your hands, for the purposes hereinabove mentioned, *The security of bankers of known credit and responsibility*; and in a letter, addressed by the Honourable the Governor General to the Vizier, the necessity of taking the most speedy means to obtain and deliver such security is pointed out to his Highness, and he is requested *then, and not till then*, to give me leave in form to withdraw. I enclose you copies of the papers here alluded to, that the possibility of any error or delay, arising from a misconstruction of our respective orders, may be avoided; and as the one I have received is so loose and indefinite in the terms of it, I am to request that you will either favour me with a notification in such specific language as will alone justify me in accepting it for any notification at all, and consequently as any authority to withdraw from Lucknow, or that you will inform me decidedly that I am not to expect it from you. Arguing as well from the nature of any such agreement, as from the terms of that which has on this occasion taken place between the Vizier and the Honourable the Governor General and Council, it would be absurd to suppose an intention in the latter to accept, without previous inquiry into its sufficiency, of any security his Excellency may be pleased to offer them for the performance of his part of the compact. As the Honourable Board have given me no instructions on this head, I conclude they have thought proper to constitute you the judge of, and accountable to them for the validity of the security now to be given by the Nabob. I am therefore further to request you will inform me whether this latter conjecture is warranted, and whether you consider yourself as so responsible to them; and if not, that you will furnish me with attested copies of the engagements entered into by the respective bankers.

The conjecture being of the last importance to the interests of the Honourable Company, engages me to be thus particular. I am persuaded that you will think of it as I do, and will, as I have done, waive all forms, and give me every possible explanation in your power.

Lucknow,
Jan. 28th, 1784.

I have the honour, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BRISTOW.



COPY of a Letter from the Secretary of the Honourable the Governor General and Council to Mr. John Bristow, Resident at the Vizier's Court, dated 31st December 1783.

I transmit to you enclosed, for your information, by order of the Honourable the Governor General and Council, a translation and copy of letters written by the Governor General to his Excellency the Vizier. You and your assistants will withdraw from Lucknow, when Mr. Wombwell informs you that he has obtained the securities specified in the former.

TRANSLATION of a letter from the Honourable the Governor General to the Nabob Vizier.

After a very full and mature consideration of the state of your highness's country and government, it has been resolved by myself, and the gentlemen of the council, to accept of the offer some time since made by your highness, of the security of bankers of known credit and responsibility for the discharge of the balance due from you to the company, on the condition of the recall of Messrs. Bristow and Cowper, and withdrawing the Company's resident from your court. You will of course see the necessity of taking the most speedy means to obtain such security, and to deliver the same to Mr. Wombwell, who has orders to receive charge of all the papers in Mr. Bristow's office, and to remain for the purpose of keeping the accounts of payments made from your Circar to the Company; and it is my request that your highness will then, and not till then, give to Mr. Bristow leave in form to withdraw. He will accordingly depart, and return to Calcutta, and signify your order to Mr. Cowper, and the other assistants of his office, to the same effect, that they may also return to Calcutta.

A true Copy.

(Signed) E. H A Y, Secretary.

A true Copy.

(Signed) J. Hill,

Assist. to the Resident.

To John Bristow, Esquire, &c.

Sir,

I have the honour of your letter of the 28th January, and a copy of a letter from the Secretary to you.

I have transmitted to the honourable the Governor General and council a copy of the Security offered by the Vizier for the discharge of the balance due from his excellency to the Company, and for the growing payments of the subsidy, and other current demands. They are the proper judges. I do not in any manner consider myself responsible.

I have the honour, &c.

(Signed) JOHN WOMBWELL.

Mr. Staëls.—Provided that the Governor General is satisfied that the security given by the Nabob Vizier is sufficient, I assent to Mr. Bristow's immediate recall from Lucknow, as expressed in the Governor General's minute 7th February.

Governor General,—I am satisfied with the security.

(Signed) W. H.

The



The following Letter, and its Enclosures, were received from Mr. Bristow on the 7th Instant, and circulated for the perusal of the members of the Board.

Gentlemen,

Sufficient rain has fallen in these provinces, as I have every reason to hope will obviate in a great measure the alarming consequences of a famine; yet precautions against any distress your troops may suffer is necessary; and I have the honour to enclose for your information an extract of a letter from Colonel Ironside to me on this subject.

If it is your pleasure that any stock of grain be laid in, the near approach of the rubby harvest will render the present period the most convenient, when it may be furnished with the least expence and difficulty.

I have the honour, &c.

Lucknow,
28th Janry 1784.

(Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,
Resident at the Vizier's court.

EXTRACT of a Letter from Colonel Gilbert Ironside to Mr. John Bristow, Resident at the Vizier's Court: dated 24th Jan. 1784.

So unpromising is the aspect of the country in point of fertility, that I must beg leave to offer to your immediate consideration the most effectual means for the establishment of a magazine of grain, sufficient for the consumption of the troops at that station for the period of the dry season. The presence of so large a body of Marattas as you acquaint me may be expected, will undoubtedly enhance the present scarcity, if means be not employed to guard against it; and I regard the establishing a magazine, as was done in the time of the famine in Bengal, to be indispensable. The grain is to be served out at fixed rates to each officer and man, for themselves and necessary servants, lest, if Almas really harbour any ill intentions, he should, by monopolizing the grain in the Douab, render the continuance of the brigade at Cawnpore utterly impracticable.

A true Extract.

J. NEAVE,

Asst to the Res.

The following Letter, and its Enclosures, were received from Mr. Bristow on the 8th Instant, and circulated.

Honourable Sir, and Gentlemen,

The frequent robberies and murders perpetrated in his excellency the Vizier's dominions have too often been the subject of my representations to your honourable Board. From the total want of police, hardly a day elapses but I am informed of some tragical event, whereof the bare recital is shocking to humanity. About two months since an attempt was made to assassinate Raja Ticket Roy, the acting minister's confidential agent, but he happily escaped unhurt: Nabob Bahadre, his highness's brother, has not been so fortunate, as will appear from translations of two of his letters to me, No 1, which I have the honour to enclose for your information. Although my feelings are sensibly hurt, and my compassion strongly excited, by the disgraceful and miserable state of poverty to which his excellency's brothers are reduced; yet, situated as I am, it is not in my power to interfere with effect. My efforts on a former occasion failed of success, and my interposition now would only excite the resentment of the minister towards the unhappy sufferers, in consequence of their application to me; from whom alone, however, they hope for relief from their present distress, which, their near connection with the Vizier considered, is both shameful and unprecedented.

That no regular courts of justice have been established in this country, is particularly pointed at in my instructions, as "the most disreputable defect in his highness's government;" yet the minister seems determined on abolishing even the shadow of so necessary an institution. The office



office of Sudder ul Huck, as held by Molovy Moubine, was ever nugatory, but now it is sunk in the lowest contempt. The original establishment, inadequate as it was, is mouldering away, and the officers now attached to it are literally starving, as no part of their allowances has been paid for above six months past: he himself has proposed to resign his appointment, being every way precluded from a possibility of exercising the duties of it.

I have the honour to forward, for your further information, the enclosure, No 3.—It contains a relation of the hardships endured by the ladies of the late Vizier's zenana.

I have the honour, &c.

Lucknow,
23th Jan'y 1784.

(Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,
Resident at the Vizier's court.

TRANSLATION of a letter from Nabob Behadre, his highness the Vizier's brother, to Mr. Bristow; dated 28th December 1783.

Your own servant carried you the account of what he himself was an eye witness to after the affairs of last night. These are the particulars:—About midnight my agent received twelve stabs from a man, of which she died: I also received six successive stabs, which alarmed the people of the house, who set up a shouting, whereupon the assassin ran off. Besides being without food, or the means of providing any, this misfortune has befallen me. I am desirous of sending the coffin to your door. It is your duty, both for the sake of God and of Christ, to execute justice, and to enquire what harm I have done to the murderer, sufficient to deserve assassination, or even injury.—You now stand in the place of his excellency the Vizier; I request you will do me justice. What can I say more?

P. S. I am also desirous to shew you my wounds.

From the same.

7th January 1784.

You have been duly informed of all the circumstances relative both to the murder of the innocent, and my being wounded, as well by my former letter, as by the messenger whom you sent to enquire into the state of my health; and I have every reason to hope, from your known kindness, that you will not be deficient in seeking out the assassin. I am at this moment overwhelmed in misfortune; whilst the blood is flowing from my wounds, neither I, nor my children, nor my servants, have wherewithal to procure sustenance, nor have I it in my power either to purchase remedy, or to reward the physician; 'tis for the sake of God alone that he attends me. Thus loaded with calamity upon calamity, I am unable to support life; for I find no relief from my affliction, either day or night. Do you (now standing in the place of my father) grant me fresh life by speedy acts of benevolence.

For these two last years his excellency established a pension for me of twenty thousand rupees, but I never received the full amount of it, either last year or the year before; should it however be paid me, though inadequate to my desires, I shall still be enabled to support myself. From the beginning of this year to the present time I have not received a farthing, nor do I expect any; though, if you afford protection to the oppressed, all my wishes will be accomplished. I was desirous of waiting on you with my family, that you might be an eye witness to their condition; but I was advised not to stir out, on account of my wounds. What more can I say?

A true translation.

(Signed) ROBT HOLT,
Assist. to the Resident.

TRANS-



TRANSLATION of a Letter from the Nabob Vizier's Brothers, Myrza Hyder Ally, Myrza Imayut Ally, and Myrza Syfe Ally, to Mr. Bristow, Resident at the Vizier's Court: Received 9th March 1783.

The manly and generous conduct of the English gentlemen towards all nations is as clear as the Sun at noon day; so well known is the favour shewn by the Company, the Governor, and you, to our late father, and our whole house, that it is unnecessary to write the particulars.—We before this communicated to you, through Myrza Ishmael Beg, some general circumstances concerning our distress, to which you returned for answer, that you would cause 2,000 rupees a month to be paid to each of us, and ask us to visit you. It is some time since we received this message, and we go on without any means of subsistence, and in the utmost misery, entirely relying upon the hopes of your friendship. Apparently, from the multiplicity of business on your hands, you have forgot your promise. Our situation is not fit to be represented; for two years we have not received a hubba on account of our tuncaw, though the ministers have annually charged a lack of rupees, and never paid us any thing.—After all, we are the sons of Sujah ul Dowla.—It is surprising, having such a friend as you, our situation is arrived at that pass, that we should be in distress for dry bread and cloaths. Whereas, as you have done many generous acts, be pleased so to shew us your favour, that by some means we may receive our allowances from the Company's treasury, and not be obliged to depend upon and solicit others for it. We hope you will grant us a favourable answer through Mr. Cowper.

From Myrza Hyder Ally, Myrza Emayut Ally, and Myrza Syfe Ally, to Mr. Cowper:

Received 10th March, 1783.

We have, through your favour, received Mr. Bristow's answer; it has been thousands of a thousand causes of satisfaction to us.—May the everlasting God, in the purity of his glory, preserve health to you, who have shewn us all this favour.—Our pens fail in expressing our gratitude.—We are now perfectly satisfied that from your favour we shall receive our allowances, month by month: for instance, the Gomostah of Rajah Ticket Roy sent us an order on the house of Lalla Buchagie for the sums of 2,000 rupees each.—We hope you will apply in our names to the Resident, that our pensions may be granted us from the Company's treasury, in the same manner as that of our brother Saadut Ally: we also represented this matter to the Resident.—Whereas the person who brought your letter to us was a Burgally, and Hircarras from the presence watch us; likewise we are under great fear from the Nabob Vizier, and the people in his court, lest they should be informed of our having any dependance on the English gentlemen, whereby an injury might be done us: we therefore request, that if you have an Indostan Moonshy, as undoubtedly will be the case, he may be employed in our negotiations. Hindostannies passing will not be regarded, and nobody will be informed thereby.—As you have favoured us with your friendship, you will shew it by not disclosing our secret, until we have an interview with the Resident, and oblige us by delivering the enclosed letter to him.

True Copies,

(Signed)

J. NEAVE,

Affixt to the Resident.

TRANSLATION of a Paper of Intelligence from Fyzabad.

The ladies, their attendants, and servants were still as clamorous as last night. Latafut the Droga went to them, and remonstrated with them on the impropriety of their conduct, at the same time assuring them, that in a few days all their allowances would be paid; and should that not be the case, he would advance them ten days subsistence, upon condition that they returned to their habitations: none of them however consented to his proposals, but were still intent upon making their escape through the Bazar; and in consequence formed themselves in



the following order:—The children in the front, behind them the ladies of the seraglio, and behind them again their attendants; but their intentions were frustrated by the opposition which they met with from Latafut's sepoy.

The next day Latafut went twice to the women, and used his endeavours to make them return into the Zanana, promising to advance them 10,000 rupees, which, upon the money being paid down, they agreed to comply with; but night coming on, nothing transpired.

On the day following their clamours were more violent than usual.—Latafut went to confer with them on the business of yesterday, offering the same terms; depending on the fidelity of his promises, they consented to return to their apartments, which they accordingly did, except two or three of the ladies, and most of their attendants.—Latafut then went to Hoshmurid Ally Cawn to consult with him about what means they should take; they came to a resolution of driving them in by force, and gave orders to their sepoy to beat any one of the women who should attempt to move forward.—The sepoy accordingly assembled, and each one being provided with a bludgeon, they drove them by dint of beating into the Zennana. The women seeing the treasurer of Latafut, proceeded to throw stones and bricks at the sepoy, and again attempted to get out; but finding that impossible from the gates being shut, they kept a continual discharge till about 12 o'clock, when, finding their situation desperate, they retired into the Rung Mahal, and forced their way from thence into the palace, and dispersed themselves about the house and gardens: after this they were desirous of getting into the Begum's apartments, but she being apprized of their intentions, ordered the doors to be shut. In the mean time Latafut and Hoshmurid Ally Khan posted centries to secure the gates of the Lesser Mahal. During the whole of this conflict, the ladies and women remained exposed to the view of the sepoy. The Begum then sent for Latafut and Hoshmurid Ally Khan, whom she severely reprimanded, and insisted upon knowing the cause of this infamous behaviour. They pleaded in their defence, the impossibility of helping it, as the treatment the women had met with had only been conformably to his Excellency the Vizier's orders. The Begum alledged, that even admitting that the Nabob had given these orders, they were by no means authorized in this manner to disgrace the family of Sujah Dowlah; and should they not receive their allowances for a day or two, it could be of no great moment: what had passed was now at an end, but that the Vizier should certainly be acquainted with the whole of the affair, and that whatever he directed she should implicitly comply with. The Begum then sent for two of the children who were wounded in the affray of last night, and, after endeavouring to soothe them, she sent again for Latafut and Hoshmurid Ally Khan, and in the presence of the children again expressed her disapprobation of their conduct, and the improbability of Asoph ul Dowlah's suffering the ladies and children of Sujah Dowlah to be disgraced, by being exposed to the view of the rabble: upon which Latafut produced the letter from the Nabob, representing that he was amenable only to the order of his Excellency, and that whatever he ordered it was his duty to obey; and that had the ladies thought proper to have retired quietly into their apartments, he would not have used the means he had taken to compel them.—The Begum again observed, that what had passed was now over;—she then gave the children 4,00 rupees, and dismissed them, and sent word by Sumrud and the other eunuchs, that if the ladies would peaceably retire to their apartments, Latafut would supply them with 3 or 4,000 rupees for their present expences, and recommended to them not to incur any further disgrace; and that if they did not think proper to act agreeable to her directions, they would do wrong. The ladies followed her advice, and about 10 at night went back into the Zennana.—The next morning the Begum waited upon the mother of Sujah Dowlah and related to her all the circumstances of the disturbance. The mother of Sujah Dowlah returned for answer, that after there being no account kept of crores of revenue, she was not surprized that the family of Sujah Dowlah, in their endeavours to procure subsistence, should be obliged to expose themselves to the meanest of people. After bewailing their misfortunes, and shedding many tears, the Begum took her leave and returned home.

A true translation.

(Signed)

ROBERT HOLT,

Assist. to the Resid.

The



The following letter, and its enclosures, were received from Mr. Wombwell on the 9th instant.

To Edward Hay, Esquire, Secretary,

Sir,

I beg you will do me the favour to present to the Honourable the Governor General and Council the enclosed copy of a correspondence between Mr. Bristow and me.

In my letter of 28th January, I acquaint Mr. Bristow that I have received from the Vizier the security offered by his Excellency; that I have transmitted a copy of it to the Board; that the Governor General and Council are the proper judges; and that I consider myself to be without responsibility.

In my letter of the 29th January, I venture to mention to Mr. Bristow my opinion of the credit of the bankers; and I have informed him of their names, that, should his sentiments differ from mine, he might act accordingly.

Lucknow,
29th January 1784.

I have the honour, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WOMBWELL.

To John Bristow, Esquire, &c.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you, that I have received from the Vizier the security offered by his Excellency for the discharge of the balance due from him to the Company, and for the growing payments of the subsidy, and current expences.

I am, &c.

27th Jan^y
1783.

(Signed) JOHN WOMBWELL,
Acct.

To John Wombwell, Esquire, &c.

Sir,

I have been honoured by the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, informing me, that you had received from the Vizier the security offered by his Excellency for the discharge of the Balance due from him to the Company, and for procuring payments of the subsidy, and other current expences. The orders of the Honourable the Governor General and Council, as they have been transmitted to me on this subject through their secretary, direct that I shall leave Lucknow upon the receipt of a notification from you, that his Highness has put into your hands, for the purposes above-mentioned, the security of bankers of known credit and responsibility; and in a letter addressed by the Honourable Governor General to the Vizier, the necessity of taking the most speedy means to obtain and deliver such security is pointed out to his Highness, and he is requested *then, and not till then*, to give me leave in form to withdraw. I enclose you copies of the papers here alluded to, that the possibility of any error or delay, arising from a misconstruction of our respective orders, may be avoided; and as the one I have received is so loose and indefinite in the terms of it, I am to request that you will either favour me with a notification in such specific language as will alone justify me in accepting it for any notification at all, and consequently as any authority to withdraw from Lucknow; or that you will inform me decidedly that I am not to expect it from you. Arguing, as well from the nature of any such agreement, as from the terms of that which has on this occasion taken place between the Vizier and the Honourable the Governor General and Council, it would be absurd to suppose an intention in the latter, to accept, without previous enquiry into its sufficiency,

of



of any security his Excellency may be pleased to offer them for the performance of his part of the compact. As the Honourable Board have given me no instructions on this head, I conclude that they have thought proper to constitute you to be judge of, and accountable to them for the validity of the security now to be given by the Nabob. I am therefore further to request you will inform me, whether this latter conjecture is warranted, and whether you consider yourself as so responsible to them; and if not, that you will furnish me with attested copies of the engagements entered into with the respective bankers.

The Conjecture being of the last importance to the interests of the Honourable Company, engages me to be thus particular. I am persuaded, Sir, you will think of it as I do, and will, as I have done, waive all forms, and give me every possible explanation in your power.

I have the honour, &c.

Lucknow,
28th January.

(Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,
Resident.

To John Bristow, Esquire, Resident, &c.

Sir,

I have the honour of your letter of 28th January, and the copy of a letter from the secretary to you. I have transmitted to the Honourable the Governor General and Council a copy of the security offered by the Vizier for the discharge of the balance due from his Excellency to the Company, and for the growing payments of the subsidy, and other current expenses. They are the proper judges; I do not in any manner consider myself responsible.

I have the honour, &c.

28th Jan'y
1784.

(Signed) JOHN WOMBWELL.

To John Wombwell, &c.

Sir,

Your letter of this morning leaves me in the same state of uncertainty as before, with respect to the nature of the security you have received from the Vizier for the discharge of the balance due from his Highness to the Company, and for the growing payments of the subsidy, and other current expenses. The orders of the Honourable Governor General and Council, conveyed to me through their secretary, are (as I have shewn by the enclosures in my former letter to you) express, to wait a *specific notification* from you, that the security of bankers of known credit and responsibility has, for the purposes herein above mentioned, been delivered to you by the Vizier. You must consequently be sensible I cannot accept any notification in less explicit terms, as an authority either for my departure, or the withdrawing the Residency. I must therefore once again ask you, whether you mean, by what you have now said, to give such *specific notification*. I entreat you, Sir, to simplify your answer, that I may not, by my presence, furnish to the ministers of this court, a plea for the violation of the agreement which has taken place between his Highness the Nabob, and the Honourable Governor General and Council.

I have the honour, &c.

Lucknow, Wednesday
28th Jan. 1784.

(Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,
Resident.

To



To John Bristow, Esquire, &c.

Sir,

I received your letter at twelve o'clock last night. I have had the honour of acquainting you, that I have received from the Vizier the Security offered by his Excellency, and that I had transmitted a copy of it to the Honourable the Governor General and Council.

I have complied, as far as it has been in my power, with the direction of the Secretary.

I am, &c.

28th Jan. 1784.

(Signed) J. WOMBWELL

The following letter having been received from Mr. Bristow, the board were pleased to resolve, that Captain Norman Macleod should continue in his command at Lucknow, until the arrival of the Honourable the Governor General at that place.

Gentlemen,

The Resident's guard, under Captain Norman Macleod, having, from the attention and ability of that officer, been rendered a well-disciplined and respectable corps, and your Honourable Board being silent concerning it in your directions for withdrawing the Residency, and as the leaving these troops without any officer to command them would be a measure unadvisable and irregular, I shall request Captain Macleod to continue in the command until your pleasure is known.

I have the honour, &c.

Lucknow,
30th Janry 1784.

(Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,
Resident.

The Neptune Packet being ready to take her departure for Bufforah, a general letter to the Honourable Court of Directors was dispatched on the 9th instant, in duplicate to the Resident, to be transmitted over land.

On the same day, a general letter was dispatched to the Honourable the Court of Directors, to go by the ship Lord Macartney.

The following letter, and its enclosures, were received from Mr. Wombwell on the 10th instant.

To Edward Hay, Esquire, Secretary.

Sir,

I take the liberty of transmitting the copy of a letter which I have received from Mr. Bristow, together with the enclosures contained in it, which I request you will lay before the Honourable Board.

I have the honour, &c.

Lucknow,
31st Janry 1784.

(Signed) JOHN WOMBWELL,
Accountant.



To John Wombwell, Esquire, &c.

Sir,

I have received your letter of yesterday's date, asserting that Lalla Faquir Chund and Lalla Butchrauje, the securities offered by his Highness, are bankers of known credit and responsibility.

I now have the honour to refer you to the enclosure, No. 1, for an estimate of the Company's claims upon the Vizier, brought up to the 31st of January, 1784. For your information I transmit you No. 2, a translation of my bond to certain bankers for a loan of Lucknow Sicca Rupees, seventeen lacks and forty thousand, borrowed on the conditions more fully explained in my address to the Board of the 8th of June, 1783. Three lacks, seventy-eight thousand, nine hundred and forty-four rupees, eight annas, and six pice have been in part paid, which leaves a sum of thirteen lacks, sixty-one thousand and fifty-five rupees, seven annas, and six pice due on that account, exclusive of interest, for which three lacks are specified in the estimate, and forms part of the claims on the Vizier.

The Paper, No. 3, is an estimate of the current demands on the treasury. I have addressed the Vizier's minister, Hyder Beg Khan, fully on the subject of his accounts, particularly requesting he would supply the paymaster with the sum of Sonaut Rupees one lack, for the payment of Colonel Charles Morgan's detachment, without delay, as the Colonel will very shortly arrive at Etaya, the place where he has desired me to remit the money. In making this payment, I obey the orders of the Governor General and Council.

I have the honour, &c.

Lucknow,
30th Jan. 1784.

(Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,
Resident.

ESTIMATE



ESTIMATE of Claims upon his Excellency the Nabob Vizier, on Account of the Honourable Company, from the 1st of February, to the end of the Fuffullee Year 1191.

Balance due by his Excellency, the 31st January, 84	—	—	—	—	51,02,165 13 11
Army Subsidy.					
One brigade, according to the old establishment, from 1st of February to 31st August 1784, 7 months, at 2,60,000 rupees per month	—	—	18,20,000	0 0	
One regiment stationed at Lucknow, according to the new establishment, at 25,000 rupees per month	—	—	1,75,000	0 0	
Five regiments under Colonel Sir John Cumming, according to the new establishment, at Rs 25,000 per regiment per month,	—	—	8,75,000		
One company of artillery, under Colonel Cumming, at Rs 20,000 per month,	—	—	1,40,000		
			10,15,000	0 0	
Mirza Saudit Ally's stipend	—	—	—	30,10,000	0 0
Abdul Rhamans Cawn's corps of cavalry	—	—	—	3,00,000	0 0
Rohilla stipends, from 1st of Maug to the end of Bhaudoon 1191	—	—	—	41,052	0 0
Army Donation	—	—	—	10,50,000	0 0
Mr. Frazer	—	—	—	2,00,000	0 0
Estimate of interest on the money borrowed from Gopaul Dofs Sala	—	—	—	3,00,000	0 0
					52,01,052 0 0
Fyzd 16 Sun Sicca Rupees					1,66,03,217 13 11

Errors excepted.

(Signed)

JOHN BRISTOW,

Resident at the Vizier's Court.

TRANSLATION of a Bond given by Mr. Bristow, Resident at the Vizier's Court, to Gopaul Dofs, dated 8th June 1783, or the 6th of Rajjub 1197 Hijura, or 3d of Jeit 1190 Fuffullee.

Borrowed from the under-mentioned persons, on account of the Honourable Company, through Lalla Munfuram, the Agent of Lalla Gopaul Dofs, Banker, the sum of seventeen lacks and forty thousand rupees, bearing interest at one per cent. per month. I engage that it shall be paid, after providing for the Company's necessary disbursements, from the receipts of the assignments granted on the country in their favour by his Highness the Nabob Vizier.

PART I.



PARTICULARS of the Loan.

From Lalla Munfuram, agent to the house of Gopaul Dofs	—	14,00,000	0	0
From Kissen Chund	—	1,00,000	0	0
Premium of exchange, 16 per cent. upon 15 lacks	—	2,40,000	0	0
Lucknow S ^a rupees	—	17,40,000	0	0

A true Copy.
(Signed) J. NEAVE,
Affiant to the Resident.

ESTIMATE of Current Demands on the Lucknow Treasury, to the 31 January 1784.

The Army.				
Col ^l Sir John Cummings's detachment.				
Mr. Melville's estimate to pay the Europeans to the 31 January 1784, and the sepoy to the 31 December 1783	—	5,44,000	0	0
Estimate of the pay, &c. of the sepoy for January 1784.	—	1,02,500	0	0
		6,46,500	0	0
Deduct,				
Mr. Melville's draft to Col ^l Knudson, for which a tuncaw on Seorut Sing, the Aumil of Rohilcund, has been granted	1,30,000	0	0	
Remitted Mr. Melville	66,600	0	0	
D ^o , in three bills of exchange	81,994	7	6	
D ^o , a tuncaw the Sezawal of Furruckabad	52,567	11	3	
		3,31,162	2	9
		3,13,337	13	3
The 3d Brigade.				
Mr. Collins's estimate to pay the Europeans to the 31st January 1784, and the sepoy to the 31st December 1783	—	2,74,382	0	0
Estimate of the pay, &c. of the sepoy for Janry. 84	—	78,000	0	0
		3,52,382	0	0
Major Cooke's regt, Dec ^r and Janry.	—	40,000	0	0
Major Grant's regiment, January	—	20,000	0	0
		60,000	0	0
The above two regiments are not included in either of the paymaster's estimates.				
Colonel Charles Morgan	—	1,11,000	0	0
Major Duncan's draft	—	24,000	0	0
		8,62,719	13	3
C ^t rupees	—	85,494	18	0
Deduct to the 11 per cent	—			
		7,77,225	1	3
Mr. Scott.				
The Board's order of 17 July 83 in his favour	—	2,50,000	0	0
D ^o -- 1 December	—	1,25,000	0	0
		3,75,000	0	0
Paid from the treasury	—	75,000	0	0
D ^o , by an order on the Aumil of Goruckpore	—	30,000	0	0
		1,05,000	0	0
		2,70,000	0	0
Deduct batta 5.9.3 per cent.	—	14,265	3	6
		2,55,734	12	6
Carried over Fyzabad 16 Sun Sicca rupees	—	10,32,959	13	9



Brought forward		1023,959 13 9
The Resident's office.		
Mr. Wombwell, accountant, December and January	—	5,200 0 0
Mr. Cowper, November, December, and January	—	1,200 0 0
Mr. Gregory, January	—	400 0 0
Mr. Holt, December and January	—	600 0 0
Mr. Saml Middleton, December and January	—	600 0 0
Mr. Neave, January	—	300 0 0
		8,300 0 0
Add batta 5 per cent.		415 0 0
		8,715 0 0
Balance of Abdul Khaman Cawn's corps of cavalry	—	10,41,674 13 9
		2,10,200 0 0
Fyzd 16 Sun Sicca rupees	—	12,51,874 13 9

Errors excepted.

(Signed)

JOHN BRISTOW,

Resident at the

Vizier's Court.

The following letter, and its enclosures, were received from Mr. Bristow, on the 13th instant, and circulated to the members of the Board for their perusal.

Gentlemen,

Mr. Wombwell not having notified to me the security offered by his Highness in the form prescribed by your Honourable Board, a correspondence ensued, a copy of which I have the honour to enclose (No 1.) and it will appear at the conclusion of it, that Mr. Wombwell declared Lalla Bucherage and Faquin Chund to be men of known credit and responsibility.

In a measure of such great importance to the Honourable Company's interests as the realization of a fund of above a crore of rupees, I deem it an indispensable duty in me to give my opinion; an opinion not originating from the occasion, but upon record, as the transactions which gave rise to it occurred so long ago as the 30th of July 1783. I represented to your Honourable Board that I had actually saved the house of Caffnigry Mull and Butchagree, by a timely aid, from bankruptcy. They engaged for a proportion of rupees 650,000, on account of the last year's loan; with the utmost exertion of their credit, they fulfilled their engagements, and now they have contracted for above seven times the sum, with less prospect of being reimbursed by government, and no change of circumstances in their private affairs to encrease their credit or responsibility. This is one of the houses in Lucknow which has of late been most irregular in its payments.

Faquir Chund is the minister's private banker; but as I have personally had few official transactions with him, I cannot speak so decidedly from my own experience of the credit of his house. I may, however, safely venture to assert, from all the enquiries I have made concerning him, that he is by no means equal to the responsibility he has undertaken: Indeed these men, or any other two bankers, being even the ostensible agents in a transaction of such magnitude and importance, is an idea ridiculed by the majority of the inhabitants of Lucknow.

In conclusion, gentlemen, with every submission to your judgment, I beg leave to give my opinion, that the security offered by his Highness is fictitious, and in the event will appear no more than the personal security of Hyder Beg Cawn; that he will be able to fulfil the engagements, though invested with despotic power over so extensive a country, is a great doubt with me: I am convinced he cannot do it, and at the same time furnish the necessary funds for the household



and other current demands of his Highness's government; and I am confirmed in this opinion from the present backwardness of the collections.—There is, however, no saying what sum may be raised in a short period by a violent exertion of power, and that Hyder Beg will use such means is not improbable, when I consider his character, and the general tenor of his conduct: His purpose may be served for the time being, but the effects will appear in a farther decline of the country, already impoverished to so great a degree, as to have fallen above a third in its annual revenues during the last seven years.

I have circulated letters (translations of which I have the honour to enclose, No 2.) to all the Aumils, and I shall proceed to the presidency as soon as his Highness grants my leave of departure.

Lucknow,
2d February 1784.

I am, with the highest respect,

(Signed)

JOHN BRISTOW,

Res't at the Vizier's Court.

COPY of a Letter from Mr. Bristow to Mr. Wombwell, dated 29th January, 1784,

Your letter of this morning, informing me that you have complied, as "far as it has been in your power, with the directions of the Secretary"—I take the liberty to request you to oblige me with a copy of that direction, since, if you are not authorized, or rather if you are not enjoined by it, to give me a more precise and specific notification than any you have yet favoured me with, it follows that the orders we have respectively received from our superiors, and through the same channel, are in perfect contradiction to each other.

Mr. Wombwell, in Reply; dated 29th January 1784.

In reply to your letter of this date, I enclose the copies of the Secretary's letter to me, and of my address to the Board.

Though I have it not in command from the Board, I do, to prevent any further correspondence on this subject, inform you, that the bankers are Lalla Butcherange and Lalla Fakeer Chund, men of known credit and responsibility.

TRANSLATION of a Circular Letter from Mr. Bristow to the Aumils of his Highness the Vizier's Government.

Agreeably to the orders of the Honourable Governor General and Council, I withhold from any farther collections on account of the Honourable Company's Assignments, and you will make your future payments in conformity to the Vizier's directions. I write this for your information.

TRANSLATION of a Letter from Mr. Bristow to Hyder Beg Cawn, dated 2d February, 1784.

You will herewith receive a copy of the letter I have this day written to the Aumils, the contents of which you will understand.

True Translations.

(Signed)

J. NEAVE,

Assistant to the Res't at the Vizier's Court.



The following Minutes, and their Enclosures, were delivered by the Governor General on the 14th instant, and taken to the other members of the Board, by the Secretary, in circulation.

Fort William, February 1784.

To Mr. Wombwell, Lucknow.

Sir,

The Governor General intending to visit the dominions of the Nabob Vizier, we therefore direct you to obey all such orders and instructions as he may from this time think proper to issue to you in his own name, and in all respects to consider his single authority as of the same force, until this order shall be revoked, as that of the Governor General and Council collectively.

We are,

Sir,

Your most obedient

Humble servants.

The same order to be written to Mr. Willis, at Furruckabad; and to Mr. Francis Fowke, at Benares.

A true copy.

E. HAY,

Secy.

Fort William, February 1784.

To Colonel Gilbert Ironside, commanding the Troops at Cawnpore.

Sir,

The Governor General intending to visit the dominions of the Nabob Vizier, we therefore direct you to obey all such orders and instructions as he may from this time think proper to issue to you, and to the troops under your command, in his own name, and in all respects to consider his single authority as of the same force, until this order shall be revoked, as that of the Governor General and Council collectively.

We are,

Sir,

Your most obedient

humble Servants.

The same order to be written to Colonel Sir John Cummings, commanding the detachment in Rohilcund; and to Lieutenant Colonel Ahmuty, commanding the detachment at Chunar.

A true Copy.

E. HAY,

Secy.

Mr. Stables and Mr. Wheler deliver the following Minutes:

16th February, 1784.

Mr. Stables.

I have already given my dissent to the Governor General's proceeding to Lucknow, and I see no reason to alter it. With respect to the powers which the Governor General claims, and the orders he desires to be issued to the army, and to all the civil servants beyond the provinces, they are not only, in my opinion, illegal, but such as, if lawful, no Government constituted as this is ought to grant to any individual, however respectable.

For



For these reasons, and for many others that might be enumerated, although I have every respect for the Governor General, I feel myself in duty bound to protest against granting, or affixing the seal of the Company to, the proposed commission.

A true Copy.

E. HAY,
Secy.

February 16th, 1784.

Mr. Wheeler.

The Board having invested the Governor General with a special and separate charge of the Company's affairs and interests in the dominions of the Nabob Asoph ul Dowlah, and having agreed, on the invitation of the Nabob Vizier, and on a tender made by the Governor General, that he shall proceed to Lucknow, for the purpose of assisting the Nabob Vizier in the means of discharging his engagements to the Company, and in the regulation of his government, it is further necessary to furnish him with such powers as may enable him to accomplish those objects.

For this purpose it is requisite he should be armed with such authority as will enable him not only to concert and adjust with the Nabob Vizier the means of discharging his engagements to the Company, of restoring and securing the peace, safety, and order of his government, and of promoting the improvement of his revenue, but also to carry those means into effect, by supporting the Nabob Vizier with the authority of this Government, in as full and ample manner as we can empower him to exercise it by any act of the Parliament of Great Britain now in being, or by any of the orders of the Honourable Court of Directors; for without full powers to carry into immediate execution such measures as the Governor General may hereafter plan and agree upon with the Nabob Asoph ul Dowlah, the purposes of his visiting that Prince's country may be defeated, or the season for action lost, whilst he is waiting for the sanction of the Board.

It seems also absolutely necessary, for the same reasons, to invest the Governor General "with the full power and authority of this Government (as far as we can legally delegate the same) over all the officers, civil and military, stationed or residing within the dominions of the Nabob Asoph ul Dowlah, and the province of Benares;" and when it is remembered that the troops in the Vizier's country are stationed there for the purposes of protecting it, and of aiding and assisting him on all occasions, when he shall apply for them, to reduce his subjects to the due obedience of his authority, and are paid out of the Vizier's treasury, it will not seem that the placing them under the orders of the Governor General, as the means of carrying into effect the regulations for the internal government of his dominions, formed and adjusted with the Nabob Vizier himself, is any very extraordinary delegation of power.

The importance of the arrangements to be made in the government and finances of the Nabob Vizier, and the difficulties that may be expected to be encountered in enforcing them, are such as, I should apprehend, would justify the Board in delegating to the Governor General, upon this occasion, as ample powers as have ever been granted to any of their members upon any former one; and when it is considered that the extensive powers given to Lord Clive by the instructions of the Select Committee of the 21st June, 1765, and those given to Messrs. Cartier, Smith, and Ruffel, by the instructions of the Select Committee of the 13th September, 1768, were in the notice and contemplation of the Parliament at the time the act was passed which constituted this Government upon its present footing, and vested the whole civil and military government of this Presidency in the Governor General and Council, in like manner, to all intents and purposes, as the same had been exercised by the President and Council, or Select Committee, I should conceive this Government possesses the right of delegating to the Governor General, upon the present occasion, as full powers as those which were granted to Lord Clive by the Select Committee in June 1765, or to Messrs. Cartier, Smith, and Ruffel, in 1768.

But the powers proposed to be granted to the Governor General by the instructions now before the Board, being limited in their objects, and confined in their operation to the dominions of the Nabob Vizier and the province of Benares, fell far short of those given to Lord Clive, who, in conjunction with General Camac, "was empowered to stipulate such conditions with Sujah ul Dowlah, to form such connections with the country powers, and to pursue such means as he should judge necessary to the Company's interest, the public welfare, and the obtaining a safe, honourable, advantageous, and lasting peace."

I am



I am induced, for these reasons, to give my assent to the proposed draft of the powers and authority to be vested in the Governor General by the Board.

A true Copy.

E. H A Y,
Secy.

Resolved, That the power and authority proposed to be given to the Governor General, be vested in him accordingly.

The Governor General has desired the Board to assemble this day, for the purpose of receiving his final dispatches, having been advised to leave Calcutta for the benefit of a change of air a few days, before he begins his journey to Lucknow, as he has been much incommoded for some days past by a feverish indisposition, of which he still feels the effects; and he proposes, with the permission of the Board, to take his departure for that purpose this evening. He regrets the necessity of his absence from the Board, and most heartily wishes them success; and, for his own, recommends himself to their support.

The Governor General's credentials are now signed, as well as the letters proposed to be written to the civil and military officers stationed beyond the province of Bahar.

Agreed that the following letter be written to Major General Stibbert:

Sir,

The Governor General intending to visit the dominions of the Nabob Vizier, we have thought proper to direct the commanding officers at Cawnpore, Futty Ghur, and Chunar, to obey all such orders and instructions as he may from this time think proper to issue to them, and to the troops under their command, in his own name, and in all respects to consider his single authority of the same force, until this order shall be revoked, as that of the Governor General and Council collectively.

We are, &c.

Fort William,
17th February, 1784.

Read a letter from Mr. Bristow, dated 4th October,

Honourable Sir, and Gentlemen,

I had the honour to address you on the 30th of August, soliciting your explicit directions on the subject of Almas Ally Cawn's dismissal; and I shall now endeavour to state the whole of this transaction to you, in the clearest point of view, hoping it will appear that I have done my utmost in a business which forms a principal and important part of my instructions.

I was so circumstanced as to render it utterly impossible to undertake this measure at the time of my arrival, when such very considerable detachments were dispersed throughout the country, and the troops under the command of Col. Sir John Cumming had only reached Allahabad. The inconsiderable number of two regiments only could be brought into the field; and I submit to your judgment, gentlemen, in the event of resistance, whether this force was, in any respect, equal to the service.

I have also to observe, that it would have been a very difficult matter to have selected proper persons for the charge of such extensive districts, especially as it was impossible for me, immediately on entering upon the office, to form a correct judgment of the degree of confidence due to my agents, or the probability of a defection in Almas Ally Cawn's naibs, or his troops. Confident as the minister professed to be on this head, Almas's immense wealth might possibly have



secured their fidelity; while, on the other hand, I could with difficulty support the current disbursements. I received charge with a heavy debt, running at an exorbitant interest, and an empty treasury. My plan, then, was to keep Almas in office, until the conclusion of the Fulslee year, when his dismissal might be effected without loss or tumult; but the ministers determined opposition to this, as well as every other plan of reform, has again counteracted and rendered all my efforts vain. Though I directed him, in conformity to your instructions, to remove Almas Ally Cawn, and make the settlement of that Aumil's districts, he has at last avowed his determination to disobey, pleading in excuse, that as his former nominations are superseded, he should leave me to name and appoint the Aumils; he would exhibit them to his Highness, but he would not act from himself.

The undisguised manner in which the minister has expressed his sentiments, furnish me with good reason to suppose, that his object is to increase the confusion in this unhappy country, and, by interrupting the Company's resources, impute all the mischiefs of his own ruinous administration to my interference, and endeavour to induce you to continue, as a measure of necessity, his unparticipated and despotic dominion over the lives and property of the Vizier's subjects. Whatever may be his motives, I beg leave to mark the contradiction in his conduct, in calling upon me to name aumils, when he has already made the heaviest complaints against me on this head, though I never ventured beyond the strict line of my duty, in offering my opinion, as my instructions enjoin I should, on the propriety or impropriety of his nominations. Sensible of the insidious view with which Hyder Beg has often solicited me, in the most urgent manner, to recommend people for offices, I have most cautiously avoided yielding to his intreaties. The Aumils have all been appointed from his lists; he has settled every account himself. I have confined my interference solely to advising oecconomy in the charges of collection, &c. reduction of the dangerous power of the great Aumils; and in instances that I have disapproved of his nominations, I have still left it in his discretion to appoint persons of his own selection.

The collusion between the minister and Almas Ally Cawn is, I believe, sufficiently proved, from the latter's remaining in office in opposition to my remonstrances, and in contempt of your positive commands, expressed in the Honourable the Governor General's instructions to me. It is evident, from Almas's continuing his accustomed arrangements for the year, in making new levies, and replenishing his stock of military stores (all of which has been done by him), that he is assured of confirmation and permanence. He informed me himself, on his raising a musalla of the Company's disbanded troopers; and when I asked an explanation from the minister of the authority by which he acted, he first answered, it was a matter of surprise, and afterwards, that I might enquire of Almas, refusing to give me any satisfaction on the subject. I do not charge Almas with any crime in making these levies, as it is an established custom among the Vizier's Aumils to raise and disband troops at their pleasure: but the practice of thus delegating to subjects an uncontrolled and exclusive authority over the military is of the most dangerous tendency: I need only revert to the instance of Almas Ally Cawn himself, who but last year withdrew with his whole army, and was enabled to set the Vizier and the Company at defiance, to treat with his Sovereign upon a footing of equality, and exact his own terms, and an agreement guaranteed by your representative's signature before he would deign to return.

Every action of a man in Almas's situation is interesting to the Vizier's government, and I have therefore watched his conduct minutely, when some time since my suspicions of him were awakened. He had spoke to me of his intention to go to Mysan Gunge, a place seventeen coss from Lucknow, and I understood he went and returned; but he set off again on the 6th September, upon which occasion his vakeel publicly declared, at my house, that his master had received news which gave him uneasiness, and caused his proceeding suddenly to Mysan Gunge; for which reasons he could not apprise me as usual, but he proposed staying only two or three days, and then return to Lucknow: I afterwards heard that he had crossed the Ganges to Tolgram, the principal cantonment of his troops, a place fifteen coss from Canogue, on the Agra Road. I thought it my duty to transmit the necessary information to the commanding officers, and called upon the minister for an explanation, though as usual, he declined giving me any satisfaction. I have since understood, that the true cause of Almas Ally Cawn's journey was owing to his having quarreled with the Naib of Etaya, and a suspicion that he had applied to me for protection; to obviate the consequences of which, the minister himself advised his undertaking the journey. It is certain the Naib did send me a message, soliciting my protection, and assistance in procuring him the farm of the Etaya province, independent of Almas. This proposition may, in the event of your determining on Almas's dismissal, be improved to the Vizier's advantage; and it is for this reason, Gentlemen, that I have been so particular in mentioning the circumstances of a transaction which, in other respects, will appear trivial.



For information of Almas Ally Cawn's connection with the chiefs at Delhi, I have the honour to refer you to the enclosed extract of my address to the Governor General, dated 5th November 1782: but I am since informed, from a number of original Letters, which I intercepted, that he had negotiated a treaty with Mahajee Sindia, through the Rebel Raja Cheyte Sing, by which it seems that the Fort of Lahore, with a district around it, was to have been ceded to him. From one of the letters, which is the hand writing of Almas's moonshy, but without a cover, which all the other letters have, I should suppose that, after his return to Lucknow, he preferred a correspondence with Cheyte Sing—This letter must have been written by Almas in November last, and the fact is corroborated by Mr. Anderson. In Almas's connection with any of the native powers, prior to his return, he has received the Vizier's pardon; but his continuing it afterwards is certainly criminal, and an indication of the retreat he has prepared for himself, though, at the present juncture, he may have no inducement to go to it. The estimate of the districts under his charge I have the honour to enclose, wherein his allowances are stated at the sum of rupees 20,28,076. 5. 6. and his military establishment at 14,000 infantry and cavalry, with 40 pieces of cannon, entirely independant of the Vizier's controul: So long as he can enjoy these advantages with personal security, I should imagine he can have no adequate prospect of a provision in the service of any foreign Prince, and therefore there will be no temptation for him to quit the Vizier's dominions; but the present footing, upon which he holds his countries, is both distressful and degrading to his Highness's affairs and dignity. In the first place, he assumes an independant style of conduct; his Naibs acknowledge their obedience due to him alone; and, in order to prevent insults to the Vizier's authority, I have forborne applying for orders to him, except in the instances where the supplying of your troops rendered them absolutely necessary. The only plea urged by the minister in favour of Almas, is the punctuality of his payments; which I readily admit, though I give him no merit for it. It would be wonderful indeed, if, with an allowance of rupees 20,28,076. 5. 6. for his civil and military establishments, holding the same districts at a gradual decrease to government, and great profit to himself, he did not punctually pay the small pittance of revenue which remains. If Almas Ally Cawn be thought a useful servant to the Vizier, from the great wealth which he possesses, I can only observe, Gentlemen, the principal part of his property is secured in a way to render it of no benefit to the state; nor will he ever produce it to supply the public emergencies, except he receives a confirmation of his great power. Continuing him on the present footing is only adding to his immense wealth, and impoverishing the country; when, by dividing the extensive districts under his charge among a number of Aumils, the wealth could neither be monopolized nor exported, and such men would not have the means of resisting the Vizier's authority.

I must earnestly entreat you, Gentlemen, to consider my present situation, that all my efforts are rendered nugatory by every species of secret or open counteraction. I am charged with your affairs at a court, where the Nabob, in the words of my instructions, "must ever be in the hands of some person a mere cypher;" unhappily he is still that cypher in the hands of Hyder Beg Cawn. Why my endeavours to diminish the influence of this minister have hitherto failed of success, I have in my former correspondence had the honour to explain to you: I will not therefore, Gentlemen, intrude upon your time, by re entering unnecessarily into a detail; inasmuch, however, as the situation of affairs at this court is becoming every hour more critical, I should fail in my duty, if I did not very earnestly solicit your speediest decision, as well upon the subject of my present address, as on those which have preceded it. Permit me also, Gentlemen, with the utmost deference, again to submit to you, that it is only by the interposition of your authority that the tyranny exercised by Hyder Beg Cawn over his Sovereign can now be restrained, or those multiplied abuses be corrected, which have already involved every department of the Vizier's government in confusion and distress, and which, in their further operation, seem to threaten the total ruin of his establishment.

I have the Honour to be, &c. &c.

Lucknow,
4th October 1783.

(Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,
Resident at the Vizier's Court.

Ordered, That the enclosures in the foregoing letter be entered after the Consultation.

The Governor General thinks it proper to exculpate the secretary from any possible charge of delay, in laying the above letter before the Board. It was sent in circulation in proper time, but escaped the Governor General's attention.



The following letter having been received from the secretary to the public department, the Board's resolution was communicated to Mr. Woinbwell on the 9th instant, and he was directed to conform to it.

To Edward Hay, Esquire, Secretary to the Political Department.

Sir,

In obedience to the commands of the Honourable the Governor General and council, in their general department, I transmit you the annexed extract of their proceedings of this Day.

General Department,
Council Chamber,
5th January 1784.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. BRUERE,
Secretary.

EXTRACT of Consultation, 5th January 1784.

Resolved, that the Board do exert its influence with the Nabob Vizier for the payment of his bond to Mr. Frazer, and that the same be included in the estimates for the current year; viz.

Principal	—	—	—	S ^a Rs 1,23,000	—	—
Interest at 12 per cent. per annum, from 1st Shauban or						
15th July 1782, to 15th September 1783	—	—	—	17,260	—	—
				S ^a Rs 1,40,260	—	—

Ordered, That this resolution be referred to the political department.

A true Extract.
(Signed) W. BRUERE,
Secretary.

EXTRACT of a Letter from Mr. Bristow to the Honourable the Governor General and Council, 30th of August 1783.

If I may form any conclusion from his (the acting minister's) conduct, it is not less his desire to confirm the dangerous power of Almas Ally Cawn, by leaving him in possession of all his countries—These are points, Gentlemen, of such immediate importance to the welfare and existence of his Highness the Vizier's government, that, agreeably to my instructions, nothing on my part has been omitted, in the way of protest and remonstrance, to deter the minister from the prosecution of them. So entirely, however, has Hyder Beg Cawn thrown of all respect and consideration for your representative, that I must confess I have no longer any expectation of good from this mode of interference. At the same time, I am at a loss, Gentlemen, how otherwise to act. Having already seen my endeavours to execute treaties interpreted into a design to infringe and usurp the Sovereign rights of the Nabob, I cannot flatter myself that an attempt to secure his dominions against the horrors of future rebellion would from his minister meet a more favourable construction. In this Dilemma, I beg leave to request your explicit directions for my guidance, upon a supposition that the minister, undeterred by my remonstrance, should at last determine to continue a system, which, by a most impolitic division of his Highness's treasures and forces, leave no security to government for the payment of the revenues, and the peace of the country, except what may be derived from the uncertain forbearance and moderation of a few powerful and haughty individuals. Of the fallibility of this dependance, indeed,



indeed, if it were necessary, Gentlemen, to search for examples in proof of a self-evident proposition, the instance of Almas Ally Cawn's revolt last year would, I apprehend, be decisive.

A true Extract.

(Signed)

JOHN BRISTOW,

Resident at the Vizier's Court.

EXTRACT of the Honourable the Governor General's Instructions to Mr. John Bristow, Resident at the Vizier's Court; dated the 23d of October 1782.

Almas Ally Cawn, 7th.—The means by which Almas Ally Cawn has been permitted to acquire independence have been long seen, and the effects of it foretold by every person acquainted with the state of that government, except those immediately interested in it. The late resident has been his constant advocate; and I lately understood that, however truly, the minister disclaims all concern in this imprudent measure. It is very extraordinary that his defection, his retreat to the frontier, the subsequent negotiations which passed between him and the Nabob, the engagements concluded between them, which resemble more a treaty between equal states than a transaction between a sovereign and his vassal, have all passed without the least communication or report of them being made to me by the resident, or his assistant, or the minister; and, in a letter which I have lately received from the Nabob, the minister has had the presumption to make the Nabob declare the whole to be false and without foundation, and to affirm that every part of his dominions enjoyed the most perfect peace and tranquillity. Upon this subject the behaviour of the minister is so reprehensible, that I think it incumbent upon me to let him know my sentiments of it. It will at least shew him how thin the veil is by which he covers his own acts, and that such artifices will only tend to make them the more criminal, from the falsehood and duplicity with which they are associated. As for Almas Ally Cawn himself, the policy which has been observed towards him has been scandalously derogatory from the Nabob's dignity and interest, and hurtful to the reputation of our government, so far as it is connected, or the world will think it connected, with it. If any engagement shall actually subsist between them at the time you have charge of the residency, it must, however exceptionable, be faithfully observed. But if he has been guilty of any criminal offence to the Nabob his master, for which no immunity is provided in the engagement, or he shall break any one of the engagements of it, I do strictly enjoin you, and it must be your special care to endeavour, either by force or surprize, to secure his person and bring him to justice. By bringing him to justice, I mean that you urge the Nabob to punish him with death, on a due consideration, as a necessary example to deter others from the commission of the like crimes; nor must you desist till this is effected. I cannot prescribe the means; but to guard myself against that obloquy to which I may be exposed by a forced misconstruction of this order by those who may hereafter be employed in searching our records for cavils and information against me, I think it proper to forbid, and protest against the use of any fraudulent artifice or treachery to accomplish the end which I have prescribed; and as you alone are privy to this order, you will of course observe the greatest secrecy, that it may not transpire. But I repeat my recommendation of it, as one of the first and most essential duties of your office.

A true Extract.

(Signed)

JOHN BRISTOW,

Resident at the Vizier's Court.

From Mr. Bristow to Hyder Beg Cawn; dated the 26th of Jemmady ul Ewul 1197, or 29th April 1783.

I request you will favour me with a statement of the Jumma, for the complete year, of the provinces of Corah, Etaya, Jugdiesspore, &c. all the countries under Almas Ally Cawn. The accounts which you gave me of Bareilly, &c. under Khauja Gin Uddien, are those of last year; nothing of the present year is to be understood by them, and they are of little service.

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X

Be



Be pleased to order the latter to be furnished from the Duan's office, and transmit them to me.

Hyder Beg Cawn, in Reply.

I have received your letter. I before caused to be prepared and presented to you such accounts of Corah, Etya, Jugdiapore, as were deposited in the office according to the usage observed by farmers. I will cause them to be again prepared by the Dewanny officers, and present them to you. When you required an account of particulars of the Jumma of the districts in Bareilly, &c. I represented to you, that they had been let upon lease for some years past, and it was not usual for such accounts to be deposited in the office; but the accounts of former administrations, during the time they were in trust, I had caused to be prepared by Duan's Mortefidies, and delivered to you. Bareilly, &c. was farmed last year, and the account particulars of each district in it have not been received. They were estimated according to the Aumil's agreement; and this year that they are in trust the accounts will be transmitted after the taxes are settled. Whenever they may be received, I will present them to you: I have written for them.

Mr. Briflow to Hyder Beg Cawn: dated the 27th Jemmady ul Ewul, or 30th April 1783.

I am favoured with your letter concerning the accounts of Bareilly Corah Etya and Jugdiapore. I have by me the account of the said districts, which you furnished from the Dewany office; and there will be no use in causing those accounts to be again given to me by the officers of the Dewanny. It is very true, the Aumils do not transmit the accounts of the taxes they levy when they farm districts, but I imagined that the person invested with the authority for the time being, in order to ascertain the advantage and disadvantage to government, and to form his judgment in making the settlement, would enquire into the particulars of the taxes, and obtain an account of them, especially of such important places as are under the management of Khauja Gin Uddien and Almas Ally Cawn, amounting to above half the Vizier's dominions; otherwise their value being unknown, a compliance with any demands which these Aumils might require in their own favour, would become a measure of necessity. Owing to these causes, Almas Ally Cawn and Khauja Gin Uddien, notwithstanding their being uncontrolled rulers of the districts entrusted to their charge, and deriving great benefit and advantage from government, have had remitted to them very considerable sums under the head of decrease. Thus, in the place of putting their countries into a flourishing and cultivated state, I understand, from the accounts in my possession, both the population and cultivation have decreased; and having reaped great profit themselves the country is thrown into general ruin. In consequence of the heavy balance due from Khauja Gin Uddien, I have wrote him, in plain and explicit terms, that he must consider his welfare will depend upon the payment of the Company's demands, and he should not make light of my friendship. He has nevertheless totally neglected to make remittances, and is constantly writing vague excuses; of these incidents I have repeatedly apprized you. I rely on your devising expedients for realizing the assignment on Bareilly &c. that you will now be pleased by some means to enforce payment from Khauja Gin Uddien, and that he receive the punishment due for his offences. I understand an account of the taxes, levied by Khauja Gin Uddien, it is not recorded in the office. I hope you will favour me with one, when you may be able to obtain it; and I beg that you will conceal the contents of letters of this nature, which are secret from every body except Mounshee Mahomed Taker.

From Mr. Briflow to Hyder Beg Cawn; dated the 7th Rujjub 1197, or the 8th June 1783.

In the account which I have received from you, the particulars of each district in Shallera are specified, but they are wanting in those of Corah, Etya, and Jugdiapore, and therefore I must trouble you for a separate statement of them.



Hyder Beg Cawn in reply; dated the 8th of Rujjub 1197, or 9th June 1783.

You are pleased to order a separate statement of the particulars of the Jumma of Corah and Etya, which has not been made out since they were let upon lease; the settlement has been concluded according to the custom in such cases. I will cause the settlement of these provinces, when they were formerly in trust, to be prepared to-morrow, and the day after it shall be presented to you.

Mr. Bristow to Hyder Beg Cawn; dated the 26th Shabaan 1197, or 27th July 1783.

If you have ascertained the particulars of the taxes, and the several divisions of the districts in Corah and Etya, be pleased to favour me with them, being particularly wanted. The sooner these statements are furnished, the more pleasing it will be.

Hyder Beg Cawn, in reply.

When I do myself the honour to wait upon you to-morrow, I will address you on the subject of the accounts you require, and obey your commands.

Mr. Bristow to Hyder Beg Cawn; dated the 29th of Shabaan 1197, or 30th July 1783.

I must trouble you for a statement of the several districts in Corah and Etya, a subject on which I have repeatedly importuned you. If you have been able to obtain it, oblige me with it.

Hyder Beg Cawn, in reply.

You order me to furnish a statement of the districts in Corah and Etya. When I have the honour to wait upon you to-morrow, I will explain the matter to you, by inspecting the statement of former years, with which I have furnished you. The account you require may therefrom be prepared in the manner you are pleased to direct.

Mr. Bristow to Hyder Beg Cawn; dated the 3d of Rumsaan 1197, or 2d August 1783.

I do not wish to give you unnecessary trouble in my correspondence; but as the period for making the settlement is elapsing, and as yet no statement of the districts in Corah and Etya is formed and presented to me, be pleased to inform me if you can fix a time for favouring me with the said statement.

Hyder Beg Cawn, in reply.

You order a statement of the district in Corah and Etya. I represented to you that you might, according to your pleasure, prepare a statement of them from the former accounts with which I had furnished you. Twice have I since waited on you; and, owing to other affairs which I had to state to you, and your commands to me, neither of us recollected this business. I shall attend
on



on you to-morrow, and will prepare the statement from those accounts. Whatever is your pleasure will be done.

Mr. Bristow to Hyder Beg Cawn; dated 6th of Rumgaan 1197, or 5th August 1783.

I understand, by your favour of the 29th of Shabaan, that a statement of the districts in Corah and Etya may be formed from the accounts with which you have furnished me. The day before yesterday you also verbally promised to explain this matter to me. I have searched a great deal after those accounts, and have formed the account particulars of Sharah and Judeepore, but cannot find any for Corah and Etya; moreover I do not recollect that you ever furnished me with them in the form I required, though it is three months since I have importuned you. If in my possession, how could I have troubled you so repeatedly on the subject? The day before yesterday Almas Ally Cawn discharged the sums due from him in full, and the term for which he entered into engagements, on account his farm will shortly expire, wherefore be pleased most speedily to form a plan of settlement for the districts under his charge. When matters of such importance, and the settlement of the whole provinces are in agitation, I submit it to your judgment, whether it is advisable or not that his Highness should proceed to Fyzabad. Be pleased to favour me with an answer.

Hyder Beg Cawn, in reply.

I have received your favour. I caused two papers concerning Etya and Corah, containing the accounts of former times, to be delivered to you. It does not signify if, from the multiplicity of papers, they cannot be found, as I have other copies by me. To-morrow I will wait on you. Affairs of importance depend upon the orders of his Highness. The day after to-morrow is fixed for giving Maho Raja Surat Sing his Kelaat, and dispatching him. I solicited his Highness to delay his departure until the day after to-morrow. He answered, that his mother was indisposed, and his anxiety to visit her prevented his compliance. He directed Maha Raja Surat Sing should follow him, and his Highness would dispatch the Maha Raja from Nabob Gunga.

Mr. Bristow to Hyder Beg Cawn; dated the 15th of Rumzaun 1197, or 14th August 1783.

No settlement of the districts under Almas Ally Cawn has yet taken place. The season is elapsing, and it is proper that this business should be speedily concluded.

Hyder Beg Cawn, in reply.

I have received your favour. You are pleased to direct the settlement of the districts under Almas Ally Cawn. I am obedient to your order. I will attend upon you, and represent all the particulars.

Mr. Bristow to Hyder Beg Cawn; dated the 17th of Rumzaun, or 16th August 1783.

I have received your letter of the 15th instant, in answer to mine on the subject of the settlement of Almas Ally Cawn's district. You have for a long time past, on every occasion, told me, in reply to my requisitions (instead of forming arrangements, executing the business, and settling accounts, &c.) that you will obey my orders. I sincerely wish that the Vizier's affairs were well settled; and the Company's assignments, on account of the ensuing year, should be immediately ascertained, as both governments must suffer from the delay. The responsibility of what has happened, or may happen, will rest with you.

Hyder

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Hyder Beg Cawn, in reply.

I have received your letter. You are pleased to write as if the settlement of Almas Ally Cawn's districts, the execution of the business, the adjustment of the accounts, and the delays which have occurred, rested upon me. Do me the justice, sir, to point out the particular instances in which I have evaded or delayed to obey your commands. You directed nomination of Aumils to the several districts; they were immediately made. You ordered the accounts of receipts and disbursements to be settled; I stated the Aumils representation, and informed you, that I would cause them to be prepared agreeable to the Summa you might fix, and present them to you. You directed a reduction of expence; I replied, that you had the accounts of the year 1190 fully, and wherever, and in whatever mode you thought proper, orders should be issued to the Aumils regarding the Company's assignments. I have already represented to you, and I now do, that there is no objection on my part in obeying your orders, at whatever time, and in whatever mode you please to give them. The Company's assignments are a business of greater importance than any other: His Highness also is intent on it; and I must consider my own welfare and advantage as depending on the execution of the Company's affairs. There is no objection on this head concerning a charge in Almas Ally Cawn's districts you delayed until he had discharged the sum due from him. A few days are elapsed since he has done it, and you ordered a change: The period is not a long one. I represent to you, among instances of security and confidence to the Company, that large assignments were always granted on Almas Ally Cawn; his payments are more regular than those of any banker, and he has invariably every year discharged to the last farthing. Now that it is your pleasure to remove Almas Ally Cawn, undoubtedly other Aumils shall be appointed, who will pay the Company's demands without giving trouble. A list of the Aumils unemployed, those who are solicitous for employments, and a statement of the division of the districts under Almas Ally Cawn, have been presented to you; and I will exhibit to his Highness the names of the persons, and the district to which you may appoint them. An answer may be received in two days—that will not be a distant period. I do not, in any respect, excuse myself from the obedience and submission I owe you night and day. I am attentive to the Company's affairs, and my obedience to you. Whatever you have ordered I have obeyed, and now even I obey. As a person in whom the utmost confidence and reliance may be placed for the punctuality of his payment, a circumstance well known to you, I quote Almas Ally Cawn, when I speak of the Company's assignments, which are an object prior to every other affair, except in this particular, I do not recommend Almas. Be pleased to favour me with your nomination of Aumils to Almas Ally Cawn's districts, that I may exhibit the same to his Highness. An answer will speedily arrive. My reason for having asked your orders regarding a reduction of expence, indeed I now ask them, is this: In places where the expences are regulated by custom, those you will approve, because it is certain that your attention is given to the preserving order in the country. Several persons who, during last year, have demanded more than is customary, and wish to do the same in future, will not consent to my arrangement; wherefore I ventured to solicit your orders and plans. In any other situation it is the duty of a servant of government to represent, to the best of his judgment, whatever is right, as a well-wisher. Ultimately, whatever may be your order shall be done.

Mr. Bristow to Hyder Beg Cawn; dated 23d Rumzaun, 22d August 1783.

I have received your letter, in answer to mine of the 17th instant, on the subject of the settlement of Almas Ally Cawn's districts.—The concise state of the case is this, that I entertain a disposition to forward the affairs of both governments, and consider a war of words as useless; wherefore I must ask, whether or not you recollect my shewing you the original correspondence between Mahajy Scindia and Chyt Sing, and Almas Ally Cawn? It is evident therefrom, that Almas Ally Cawn had connected himself with these chiefs; and in other respects, by marching last year to Secundera, he gave proofs of his disposition to withdraw his allegiance from the Vizier's government. As he had returned to Lucknow agreeable to his Highness's orders, and you and Mr. Johnson entered into a treaty with him before my arrival at Lucknow, I did not think it right to make any retrospection into his conduct, nor would I now wish to deviate from the treaty, if he will relinquish the districts under his charge without tumult or disturbance. I represented to the Governor General my intentions of advising his Highness to dismiss Almas Ally Cawn, and I continued Colonel Morgan and Colonel Sir John Cumming, to guard against Almas Ally Cawn's contumacy when his dismissal should take place. Whatever I have undertaken in this business is agreeable to the Governor General's instructions.—I have repeatedly written to you, and I now write, that you make the settlement of Almas Ally Cawn's districts. Be pleased privately



vately to form a plan of arrangement, and present it to me, that whenever his Highness may arrive it should be immediately carried into execution. In case his Highness's return should be postponed, it is advisable, at the present juncture, you address him on the subject of the present settlement of the country, and solicit that he should be pleased speedily to come to Lucknow. I have stated these secret matters to you without disguise, and I desire an answer, whether or not you will comply with my requisition.

Hyder Beg Cawn, in reply.

I have received your letter on the subject of the settlement of Almas Ally Cawn, and other matters, which you communicated to me as secret. In this case I have replied to your orders, that I was obedient, and I never addressed his Highness on secret matters, except by your permission. I am obedient to your pleasure in every business, and at all times. His Highness was this day to leave Fyzabad, and will arrive in two or three days. I am in any way ready in my submission to your pleasure in this business.

Mr. Bristow to Hyder Beg Cawn; dated the 28th Rumzan 1197, or 27th August 1783.

Be pleased to acquaint me if you have yet formed a plan for the settlement of Almas Ally Cawn's districts; as the time is elapsing, the sooner this business is settled the better. In my address to you of the 23d instant, I asked, whether or not you recollected the correspondence between Mahajy Scindia and Chyt Sing, and Almas Ally Cawn? I repeat my request to you, whether or not you have perused it.

Hyder Beg Cawn, in reply.

I have received your letter. You enquire if I have formed a plan for the settlement of Almas Ally Cawn's districts, and desire I would present it to you. At all times, whatever you have ordered concerning the general settlement of the country I have executed, and I never objected to your commands relative to Almas Ally Cawn's affairs, but represented to you that you were furnished with a list of Aumils unemployed, and the solicitations for employment, and I would exhibit to his Highness the nominations to the respective districts as you should be pleased to order.—To-morrow I will attend upon you, and state other matters.

Mr. Bristow to Hyder Beg Cawn; dated the 29th of Rumzaun, or 28th August 1783.

In my letter of the 23d and 28th instant, I addressed you concerning the perusal of the original correspondence between Mahajy Scindia and Chyt Sing, and Almas Ally Cawn; you evaded making any reply. For the third time I now must trouble you to inform me, whether or not you have perused the said correspondence.

Hyder Beg Cawn, in reply.

I am favoured with your letter. Twice and thrice have I solicited you, "that you would be pleased to direct what was advisable, and it should be done, concerning Almas Ally Cawn's affairs."

I never objected to this business. In answer to my repeated applications, you directed me not to address his Highness on the subject until the Aumils were named. In order to relieve myself from



from any blame in this business; I repeat my representation to you, that I do not object. I will do whatever you order. Other matters I explained at our interview this day.

COPY of a Letter from Mr. Bristow to Colonel James Morgan, commanding the Troops in the Field; dated Lucknow, 27th August 1783.

The period approaching when I expect Almas Ally Cawn's dismissal from the districts under his authority will take place, I transmit you a statement of the troops under his command, and their stations, as nearly as I have been able to ascertain them. I hope this event will be unattended with tumult; but I furnish you with the information, that every necessary precaution may be taken.

STATEMENT of Almas Ally Cawn's Troops.

With whom.	Horse.	Foot.	Artillery.
Sobah Ram and Sewaram, Foujdars of Etawa	800	1,600	5
Shaik Afimul Deen, Foujdar Ackberabad Secundara	200	400	
Takoer Dofs, Foujdar Shokrah	500	1,000	4
Satul Purfand, Foujdar Corah	500	1,000	5
Jeffing Roy, Aumil Pippaud	200	1,000	2
Huffure Cawn, Jugdulpore, Ancune, &c.	200	1,000	4
Huffein Buxh Chelap, Foujdar Futtypore	400	1,000	2
At Meak Gunge	650		
At Talgong	1,400	1,700	18—4 large.
	4,850	8,700	40
With Almas at Lucknow	150	300	
Total	5,000	9,000	40

N. B. 20 pieces of the above artillery belong to the Nabob.
20 Do — Do — Do — Almas.

To Colonel Sir John Cumming, commanding a detachment on the frontier station—The same as to Colonel Morgan.

COPY of a Letter from Colonel James Morgan to Mr. Bristow; dated Cawapore, 29th August 1783.

I have received your letter of the 27th instant, with the statement of Almas's forces; and I have transmitted, as my instructions direct, a copy of them to the Board, and have requested their instructions on the subject of them.

In



In the mean time give me leave to remark, that in case the service of any of the troops of this station is required, two regiments may be supplied them. I shall have only two regiments here (one of which is a broken one) which cannot be considered as a force fit to act with on emergency, especially as the strength of a regiment is reduced nearly one third by the new establishment; and it does not appear that I can move the brigade without the Board's orders, unless on a sudden emergency against a foreign enemy: But, upon a requisition for troops, I am directed to send such a proportion as I am able, without endangering the security of the station; therefore, should you want more than two regiments, it will be absolutely necessary for me to call Captain Dennis and Alston's battalions in here, and application must be made to Colonel Blair for other troops to take up their stations; and you are not unacquainted of Colonel Sir John Cumming's detachment being designed by the Board for guarding and keeping in quietness the provinces above Korah; and this station is more conveniently situated to send troops from against Almas's forces, which, according to your statement, are for the most part situated not far from it. In case of any disturbance happening, to march the brigade against such a divided and separated a force as Almas's appears to be by the statement, would be putting the Company to a very great expence, which is unnecessary in my opinion, as the service can be performed full as well by strong detachments from Colonel Sir John Cumming's force, assisted with two or three regiments from this station, though there must be two regiments here at least, as it takes 500 men to furnish the ordinary camp guards; besides, putting the brigade in readiness will immediately set the country in alarm, and such a force as two regiments can march off always, with their guns, &c. on twenty-four hours warning. But I beg leave to observe, it will be necessary to have some of the Nabob's cavalry to act with the detachments sent upon this service.

When Major Nicol's regiment is collected, it will be sufficient, with such of the Nabob's as are there, for quelling any disturbance in any part of the country near him, therefore he can remain there.

There is one circumstance which I beg leave to acquaint you with; that is, in consequence of the late orders for reducing the establishment, there will be about 4,000 old sepoys discharged from the corps now in his Excellency's dominions on the first of next month, and most of them may be entertained by Almas, if he should be inclined to make any opposition, or raise disturbances.

Whenever it may be expedient to call upon me for troops, I request that a requisition from his Excellency the Vizier may come through you for that purpose, as I must advise the Board of all such orders immediately.

COPY of a Letter from Colonel Sir John Cummings to Mr. Bristow; dated Futty Ghur, August 29th, 1783.

I am favoured with your letter of the 27th instant, enclosing a statement of the troops under Almas Ally Cawn.

As it is not possible for me to judge of the probability of a disturbance taking place in this country, in consequence of Almas's dismissal from the office he now holds, I must beg leave to remind you, that the force under my command will be weakened very much by the reduction which will be made in the regiments on the 1st of September (viz. 200 rank and file to be discharged from each) and by the detaching a force to Rohilcund. It would not be possible, without recalling that detachment, to carry more than 2,600 men fit for the service into the field. It also may be necessary to reduce the fort at Etya, should Almas be inclined to keep possession of it, in which event we shall stand in need of four 18 pounders.

I beg leave to suggest to you, whether it would not be most advisable to seize the person of Almas while he remains at Lucknow. The several bodies of troops, now disposed at the several stations mentioned in your statement, would never think of assembling in one body if their chief was confined; whereas, if he remains at liberty, it is not improbable but many of the country people may join in an insurrection in his favour against the Vizier's government, and he may perhaps endeavour to gain the powers on the other side of the Jumma to support his cause. You, however, having the most certain intelligence, are best enabled to judge of the probability of these events.



Mr. Briflow to Hyder Beg Cawn, dated the 29th of Rumzaan, or 28th August 1783.

You this day talked to me on the subject of the settlement of Almas Ally Cawn's districts.—My advice is as follows: That such of his Naibs may be continued, who will in future have no collusion with him, and who are distinguished as well for their attachment to his Highness's government, as for their good conduct in the cultivation of the country; but it does not appear to me there are any among them who answer this description. Should there be any, be pleased to inform me.—For a long time I have constantly importuned you on the subject of the settlement of Almas Ally Cawn's districts; nothing is yet done: Do consider this as a very delicate and important affair. I have repeatedly reminded you of it, and protest against the mischiefs and loss which have accrued or may accrue from the delay. The whole rests with you.

Hyder Beg Cawn, in Reply.

I have received your favour. In regard to the settlement of the districts under Almas Ally Cawn, whenever I was ordered I did not object. His Highness was at Fyzabad. I represented that you were furnished with the Aumils names, and I would exhibit a list of those persons to him whom you might think proper to nominate. An answer would arrive in two days. Now that his Highness is here, be pleased to make the nomination, and I will present them to him. There is no room for reflection or objection on my part—I am obedient. You, Sir, are the magistrate. As you charge me with criminality, without reason, I am helpless. Whenever you direct me to do it, I shall address his Highness.

Mr. Briflow to Hyder Beg Cawn, dated 30th of Rumzaan 1197, or 29th August 1783.

I have received your favour, in answer to my query, whether you had perused the original correspondence between Mahajy Scindia and Cheyt Sing, and Almas Ally Cawn. Notwithstanding I have three times addressed you on the subject, you have evaded to answer. You write me other matters, I explained at our interview this day. It is very true, that you yesterday verbally confessed having perused the correspondence. My reason for having asked this confession of you proceeds from the delicacy and importance of the business; and I gave you timely notice, that you might not plead ignorance, in case of your being pleased to recommend Almas Ally Cawn.

Hyder Beg Cawn, in Reply.

I have received your favour. You write regarding the perusal of Mahajy Scindia and Cheyt Sing's letters to Almas Ally Cawn. I represented, "That on waiting on you, I would ask the reason for your putting the question." I did so; and you were pleased to assign as the reason, that it was to prevent my pleading, upon any occasion, ignorance in excuse. Is this acting fairly? As it is some time since you shewed me the letters, why are doubts entertained of my objecting to this business concerning Almas Ally Cawn's affairs? Ten months ago, when you arrived, you said it was unadvisable to leave such extensive countries under his charge. I represented that it was well, take them from him. The measure was, conformably to your orders, executed in regard to Ryzabad, &c. and you directed that he should be removed from Etya and Corah at the beginning of the year. I explained former transactions to you concerning the nomination of Rajah Nunderam to Corah, Rajah Jaggernaut to Etya, and Tokeodas and other Aumils under Almas Ally Cawn being ready to attend; I also fully explained the reasons why my arrangements were set aside. I never recommended Almas Ally Cawn, nor do I recommend him; and on shewing me the letter also, you spoke to me concerning his dismissal from Corah and Etya. I never objected in any manner, nor do I object. Let me know your pleasure, and I will execute it. Be pleased, then, fully to explain why doubts are entertained of my pleading ignorance of the letters, that being informed I may reply to them.