



The Governor General is requested to lay some propositions before the Board for regulating the Vizier's native troops, and putting them on a more serviceable footing.

The Governor General lays before the Board the following letters from Major Palmer, and translations of those from the Prince, and Akber Ally Cawn, enclosed in it.

Dear Sir,

Lucknow, 29th March 1785.

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter from the Shah Zada, and one from his uncle, Ally Akber Cawn. I am not acquainted with the contents of these letters, having been simply desired to forward them to you. I believe that they do not contain any subject of business.

The Prince is in good health and spirits, and appears to be happy; the Vizier treats him with the greatest respect, and most unremitting attention. I understand that the agents of Scindia are tampering with him to throw himself upon the generosity and good faith of their principal; but as his Highness has not himself communicated to me the offers made to him, I apprehend that he does not think them deserving of any serious consideration.

You will have been informed by Mr. Anderson of the surrender of Agra to Scindia; the fort of Ally Ghur, on the confines of the Vizier's dominions, and in the possession of the family of the late Ameer ul Amrah Afrasiab Cawn, is now the only place of strength which is not brought under the power and authority of Scindia, and this place he will immediately proceed to attack. The widow and other relations of Afrasiab Cawn, residing in the place, have solicited, through Sir John Cumming, an asylum in the dominions of the Vizier, which his Excellency has consented to grant to them; Scindia can have no pretext for being displeased with the Vizier upon this occasion. The family of Afrasiab Cawn are neither the subjects or servants of Scindia, and if they were, he could not complain of a proceeding of which he has set the example in his protection of Cheit Sing against our Government, under the aggravated circumstances of rebellion and massacre. Neither has Scindia been in the least scrupulous in measures which affected the interest or dignity of the Vizier, when they tended to promote his own views. Besides this consideration, I am persuaded that the Vizier is more likely to obtain from Scindia that respect and justice to which he is entitled by the exercise of his rights on all occasions, than by the forbearance of them. These are also the sentiments of Mr. Anderson upon this subject.

Mr. Wombwell has communicated to me your desire, that I should apply to the Vizier in your name for payment in money to Gopaul Dofs of the Company's bond, at the period which the Board have directed Mr. Wombwell to pay it. It will be very inconvenient, if not impracticable, for the Vizier to comply with your wish in this point, because he has made a provision for payment of his kist to the Company of the same period, in bills of exchange, and if an alteration in that arrangement could be effected, it would be attended with considerable loss to him, whilst Gopaul Dofs can suffer more by taking bills from Mr. Wombwell instead of cash. The house of Gopaul Dofs has indeed frequently advanced money upon the exigencies of Government, but in no instance that I am acquainted with without taking unusual advantages for themselves. I have not yet mentioned the subject to the Vizier, as there is yet time for your further consideration of it, after which, if you should still wish that Gopaul Dofs should be indulged, I am persuaded that on your account the Vizier will endeavour to effect it.

When I receive your particular opinion respecting the Mootyana troops, I will give you the best information which shall be in my power of the practicability of such an establishment as may afford substantial aid in a foreign war. The troops under this denomination consist of horse and foot; they are not actually raised by or paid by Government, but a specific number of each description is allowed to the respective amils for the service of their collections, and the expence deducted from their rents. I do not know of any regulations to enforce the obligation of the Amils to keep up the stipulated numbers, and it may be supposed that they make great advantages of this omission. I am afraid that this abuse has subsisted so long, that it would be difficult to find renters, if it should be corrected, and no equivalent be made for it.

I have the honour to be,
with the greatest respect,

Dear Sir,

your most obedient, and
faithful humble servant,

(Signed)

WM. PALMER.



From the Prince: Received 8th April, 1785.

From the representations of many persons I have learnt the particulars of your wisdom and courage, and of your allegiance and attachment to the presence, and I have received the highest pleasure; and I am convinced that the concerns of the Throne, and the affairs of the Sircar, will be very soon settled in a proper manner by your labours. My mind is become very desirous of an interview with you, and you must therefore represent how the curtain of separation may be removed from between us, and union may take place, that conformably thereto I may shew favour towards you.

From Akber Ally Khan.

Before this, I addressed repeated and long letters to your presence, which you will have received, and to this time I have not been made happy by an answer to them. I am day and night praying for the attainment and increase of union with you. May the Almighty, by preserving you on the cushion of honour; and dignity, and power, according to the wishes of your well-wishers, give happiness to your servants.

A letter, full of the greatest favour, is addressed to you from the presence of his Royal Highness. I hope from your goodness that I may sometimes be made happy by answers to my letters.

The Secretary lays before the Board the following letter, and its enclosures, from the Accountant at Lucknow.

To Edward Hay, Esquire, Secretary.

Sir,

I request you will do me the favour of laying before the Honourable the Governor General and Council the enclosed copy of his Excellency the Vizier's answer to my letter, acquainting him with the Honourable Board's orders, respecting the payment of the balance due to the house of Gopaul Dofs Sah.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Lucknow,
20th March 85.

Your most obedient humble servant

J. WOMBWELL,

Accountant.

COPY of a Letter from the Vizier to Mr. Wombwell, received for Translation 31st March.

You have informed me that, with respect to the agreement which I had made to give bills upon Calcutta and Surat, in payment of the Company's money—10 lacs to the end of Cheyte, and 15 lacs at the end of Phaudun 1192 Fullullee—the Council had directed you to receive this money in specie from me, and pay it to Gopaul Dofs Shaw, in discharge of the Company's debt to him. I will, in conformity to my agreement of giving bills upon Calcutta at 91 days, receive bills at that date from the bankers, with whom I have made an agreement, and deliver them to you; and you may either send them to Calcutta, or give them to Gopaul Dofs—it is entirely at your option; but I must receive the bills from my own bankers, and deliver them to you conformably to my agreement.

Ordered, That the Secretary do acquaint the Gomastah of Gopaul Dofs with the substance of the Vizier's letter to Mr. Wombwell, for the purpose of obtaining from him an intimation of his master's wishes, with respect to the further steps that should be taken for the liquidation of the debt owing to him from the Company. He has been already informed of the orders sent to Mr. Wombwell on the subject on which the Vizier's letter has been written.

*Extract of Bengal Secret Consultations, the 12th April 1785.*

The Governor General lays before the Board the following Letter from Major Palmer.

Lucknow, the 1st April, 1785.

Dear Sir,

I have had the honour to receive your letter of the 20th past.

The Prince and Vizier have been some days hunting at several cofs distance from hence, which has prevented my communicating to the former your commands, in answer to his application for the continuance of the body guard. The corps still attend him from the Vizier, and I am certain that he will acquiesce in your reasons for transferring it from the Company's to the Vizier's service, and be much pleased with your kindness and attention in the offer of a guard from the regiment stationed here.

Since my last, the Prince has sent his uncle Ally Akbar Cawn to communicate to me the proposals made to him by Bow Buxey, in the name of Mahajee Scindia, for his Royal Highness's return to court. These were so advantageous to the Prince, that, if faithfully complied with, they would have rendered him independent of Scindia. This convinced me they were insidious, and I earnestly recommended that the Prince should not trust to promises, however flattering they might appear, but insist upon security for the due performance of them; as without it he would expose his dignity, his succession, and even his life, to the greatest hazard. I have some grounds for believing that Bow Buxey had made considerable progress in this negotiation, and entertained sanguine hopes of success. It was conducted with great secrecy; and I believe that some persons in the confidence of the Prince had been gained to prevail upon him, and upon the Vizier, to accept the offers proposed. Ally Akbar Cawn was one of the last persons to whom the Prince disclosed the real state of the transaction, and he urged the Prince to inform me of it, and to ask my advice. I did not hesitate to declare my sentiments, although a person in the interest of Scindia (as I am told) was sent by the Prince with his uncle. I consider the interests of the Company and the Vizier, in the present state of the Mahratta power, and the sanction which the Shah's authority will give to the exercise of it, as deeply involved in the fate of the Prince. He is the only person of the reigning family not under the absolute controul of the Mahrattas, and whilst he continues under the protection of the Vizier and the Company, their usurpation must be incomplete; but, if he should fall under their power, it will be perpetuated, and the consequences of their being permanently established in the authority of the empire would be truly alarming to the peace of the Vizier's and the Company's dominions. I learn from Major Browne, and with astonishment, that Scindia, in the present imperfect state of his authority and power, has given you a sample of the conduct which may be expected from him whenever these may be firmly established, by having actually prevailed upon the Shah to make a demand upon your Government for his tribute. Such a requisition, in the unqualified manner in which Major Browne has stated it, to me appears little short of open defiance. But from the true aspect of Scindia's affairs, and from the total silence of Mr. Anderson, I am inclined to think that Major Browne has been misinformed, either as to the fact, or to the circumstances which may attend it. Be this as it will, I have privately advised Colonel Ironside and Col. Cumming of it, that they may make early preparation for any event. I observe also, by the news-papers, that Scindia is in treaty for the aid of a body of Seiks. These circumstances, however they may be misrepresented or misunderstood, make it incumbent to be upon our guard in this quarter.

You may rely upon a provision for the subsistence of the Fatty Ghur detachment, so long as it may be necessary to employ it for the defence of the Vizier's dominions; all that is required is what you have already notified your approbation of, viz. the sum to be paid to the Company in the course of the year, shall not exceed the engagement made with the late Governor General. For the next year other resources must be found, if it shall be judged expedient to continue the detachment.

Sir John Cumming is still with his whole detachment at Anoopshire, but his remaining there would be entirely unnecessary, if the incursions of the Seiks alone was to be apprehended. The suspicious appearances in the conduct of Scindia, and the vicinity of the Nabob's frontier to the scene of his operations, give great uneasiness to the Vizier and his acting minister, and make them desirous of obviating any bad designs which Scindia may entertain, by preparing to resist them; and if these appearances should be kept up, it may be expedient to shew a more determined resolution to repel any injury or insult, by marching the Cawnpore troops to the banks of the Jumna.



It will not only be impracticable to withdraw the Fatty Ghurr detachment, in the event of Scindia's obtaining a firm footing in the Dooab, which is his aim, and which he has nearly accomplished; but it will be also necessary for the Vizier to maintain a respectable body of cavalry to act with the Company's infantry for the protection of his dominions; and his Excellency is so seriously alarmed at the growing power of the Marattas in his neighbourhood, that I am convinced he will readily adopt any practicable plan for securing himself against the consequences of it. The Mooteyana cavalry may amount to 5 or 6,000, and could be drawn from the collections into the field upon emergency; but I am afraid would be but of little service there. I will take the opinion of Hyder Beg Khan upon the means of supplying such a corps of cavalry as will be required, with the least possible expence to the Vizier. He has been for some days past much indisposed, and confined to his house, but is now recovering, and I hope to see him in two or three days.

The corps under command of Captain Frith is detached upon service, and dispersed. The Vizier has judged it imprudent to reduce them in the present situation of affairs, and in fact he has not been able hitherto to relieve the stations which they occupy; but, as I had the honour to inform you before, this will be done as soon as possible. Captain Frith has great merit, both in his discipline and economy of these corps; but he does not wish that any consideration for him should for a moment impede any arrangement which you may judge for the service of either government. You will certainly subject yourself to innumerable solicitations, by consenting to the appointment of a single officer to the Vizier's troops: I will by no means assist in exposing you to such embarrassments. Whenever the Vizier may chuse to make applications of this nature, I shall simply forward them to you, without encouraging the expectation of a compliance; or rather, I shall discourage such applications, so long as I know you think them productive of inconvenience rather than utility to both services.

It will afford great satisfaction and confidence to the ministers, and Ulma's Ally Cawn, to receive killaats from you, and it will give them additional weight and credit in their station.

I shall be very glad to receive the abstracts which you propose to send me of the proceedings relating to Owde; they will be of material assistance to me.

I have not the least doubt that the conduct of the Vizier and his ministers will obtain your approbation in every point. They have the sincerest desire to promote your views for the honour and prosperity of both governments.

I have the honour to be,

&c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

WM PALMER.

The Governor General acquaints the Board, that he intends to have the honour of laying some propositions before them, upon the subject of this letter, at a future period.

The Board approve of Major Palmer's conduct in having sent the advices which he mentions to Colonel Ironside and Colonel Sir John Cumming.

EXTRACT of Bengal Secret Consultations, the 19th April 1785.

The Governor General lays before the Board the following letter from Major Palmer.

Lucknow, 7th April 1785.

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you two letters from Ulma's Ally Cawn, in answer to yours. I hope that his assurances of fidelity and attachment to the Company's and Vizier's governments are sincere, and I do not at this time know of any cause to doubt them. The report which was made to me of his family having withdrawn from Lucknow, at the time to which he alludes, was, I believe, groundless.

You are doubtless better able to form a judgment of the real views of Mahajee Scindia, from the various accurate reports which are made to you, than I am; but as I cannot discover, from any lights of which I am in possession, how his interests can be promoted by a rupture with the Company and the Vizier, I do not receive any deep impression from unfavourable appearances.

It

272



It is however prudent to be prepared for any event; and, on this consideration, I think it indispensable that you should be immediately informed of the overtures made in all quarters, from several of the leading chiefs of the Seiks, for an alliance with your government and that of the Vizier against the Marattas. There can be little reason to doubt of the sincerity of these advances, as that people are much more exposed to the encroachments of the Marattas than we are, and have formerly experienced them in a very severe degree: You may therefore, I think, rely upon their assistance in any extremity, and obtain it upon easy terms. For the present, it is sufficient to encourage their expectations by general assurances; and a delay, sufficient for ascertaining the real designs of Scindia, will be obtained by demanding formal and specific proposals. In the mean time, I am of opinion that the Seiks will occupy a great portion of Scindia's time and attention, if they are persuaded the English troops will not be brought to support him against their attacks; and it is not improbable, that by this means the necessity of a connection with them may be obviated.

I have the honour to be,

With the greatest Respect,

Dear Sir,

&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) WM PALMER.

The letters from Almas Ally Cawn, mentioned in the first part of the foregoing from Major Palmer, are sent to the Persian translator's office, and will be recorded on the proceedings of the next meeting.

Agreed, That the following letter be written to Major Palmer by the Secretary.

To Major William Palmer, at Lucknow.

Sir,

I am directed to acquaint you that the Governor General has received your letters, bearing date the 29th ultimo, and 1st and 7th instant, and that he has laid the same before the Honourable Board.

The Governor General coincides with you in the opinion which you have expressed, that the interests of the Company and the Vizier, in the present state of the Maratta power, and the sanction which the Shaw's authority will give to the exercise of it, are deeply involved in the fate of the Shaw Jada; and they trust that his Royal Highness will not allow himself to attend to any overtures that may be made to him on the part of the Marattas, however specious and plausible, that may not be considered by this government, and his Excellency the Vizier, as likely to promote his Royal Highness's welfare.

The Governor General assures himself that the Prince is well inclined to act in conformity to the wishes of the Board; and trusts that no arguments will be untried by you, nor any attention to his Royal Highness's left unhewn, which can confirm him in such a disposition.

Scindia's support of the Shaw's claim to payment of tribute, conveys some serious doubts of his real intentions towards the Company and the Vizier; and particular instructions have therefore been sent to Mr. Anderson, which he will use as occasion may require. Mr. Anderson has been directed to be early in his communications to you upon all matters that relate to the security of the Vizier's country, that you may inform his Excellency thereof; and the Governor General hopes that the Vizier will conform to any arrangements that Mr. Anderson may suggest, and admit the operation of any orders that he may issue, while he remains in Scindia's camp, to Colonel Ironside and Colonel Sir John Cumming, for the safety of the Nabob's dominions, in any extremity that may require such orders. I have the pleasure to acquaint you, that the Board approve your caution, in advising Colonel Ironside and Colonel Sir John Cumming of Scindia's conduct in respect to the tribute, that they might make early preparation for any event.

The Governor General instructs me to inform you of his desire, that you assure the Nabob Vizier, in the strongest terms, of the determination of this government to support his Excellency's authority and rights against the encroachments of any power whatsoever; and acquaint him, at the same time, that, as every measure should be taken to render abortive the views of Mahajee Scindia



and to meet the possibility of their bearing an hostile tendency to the Vizier's government, the Governor General submits to him the expediency of placing a garrison of the Company's troops, detached from Cawnpore, in the fort of Allahabad, and repairing the place so as to put it into a state of immediate defence; that means should be also taken for drawing together, and preparing for actual service, such native cavalry as are in the pay or dominions of his Excellency, and are not absolutely required for the collection of his Excellency's revenues; and that directions should be immediately given for repairing, and putting into a proper state of defence, all the places he possesses along the western frontier. The Governor General considers it as unfortunate, that a large body of the regular Mogul cavalry, lately discharged by the Vizier, have arrived with their commander in Scindia's camp, and were to be enlisted in his service; and he observes, that if their engagements with Scindia have not actually been concluded, it would be an useful and meritorious service to both governments, to persuade them to return. and, on their doing so, to liquidate any claims that they may have to arrears of pay; and he is pleased to recommend the same through you to the Vizier's particular consideration.

The Governor General approves of the opinion which you have expressed on the overtures said to have been made by the leading chiefs of the Seiks for an alliance with the Company and the Vizier against the Marattas; and would be pleased if the Vizier should encourage their advances, but not meet them, excepting by general assurances, until the real designs of Mahajee Scindia shall have been ascertained to be of an inimical nature.

The Governor General wishes that you would be very watchful of the conduct and negotiations that may be carrying on through any channel between Scindia and the principal chiefs in the Vizier's country, and that your communications to him be frequent and minute upon every subject useful to the information of government at this crisis.

I am further directed to inform you, that various reports exist of extraordinary demands made by Bow Buckfey upon his Excellency the Vizier, but that no attention is paid to such reports, as you have not taken any notice of the supposed matter of them in your correspondence with the Governor General.

The 35th regiment of sepoys, which was to have been disbanded, is not to be reformed until further orders: and the company of Chasseurs is ordered to move from Chunagur to Cawnpore.

In case of public commotion, and in the event of the 3d brigade and Sir John Cumming's detachment being called into service against the Marattas, the Governor General deems it necessary that the Bazars of the camp should be well supplied under the responsibility of the commanding officer; and wishes, therefore, that the Vizier's cutwals should be withdrawn: You are desired to inform his Excellency accordingly.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) E. HAY, Secy.

Council Chamber, St Dept,
19th April 1785.

EXTRACT of Bengal Secret Consultations, 26th April, 1785.

The Governor General lays before the Board the following letter from Major Palmer.

Lucknow, the 11th April 1785.

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you letters from the Vizier and his acting minister, in explanation of several points upon which Raja Gobind Ram acquaints them you have desired him to communicate your sentiments.

His Excellency and his minister feel very great concern that their conduct, in any instance, should have appeared contrary to your wishes or expectations, with which they are sincerely desirous to comply, on every occasion, to the extent of their abilities. They are persuaded that you will never require from either any measures which you do not conceive to be for the honour and advantage of the Vizier and his government, and they trust that you will give them credit for the same disposition towards you.

The

274



The explanations contained in their letters will, I hope, prove satisfactory to you, and shew that some points have been misunderstood, and others attended with circumstances which rendered it impracticable for the Vizier to act in them as you might wish.

I am convinced that you are too just to give implicit belief to any representations made to you, until informed by enquiry from hence; and you may rely upon it that no information, of which I may be the channel of conveyance, shall intentionally deceive you.

The Vizier and his minister earnestly hope that you will not find it inconvenient to communicate your sentiments directly to themselves upon any transaction which you may think requires explanation, as they are exposed to additional uneasiness from the possibility of imperfect or exaggerated representations of your disapprobation by others.

The Futtu Ghurr detachment has been unquestionably a heavy and unnecessary burthen upon the Vizier, without any prospect of service from it, proportioned to the expence of maintaining it; until this year, that the unexpected progress of the Mahrattas, in the subversion of the Mogul power, has given serious cause of alarm for the safety of the Vizier's dominions; and unfortunately it is at this precise time that the Vizier is least able to support the charge. He stands engaged to the Company for three-fifths of his complete revenue within the year; and, to fulfil his engagement, has submitted to many retrenchments in his public and domestic expences; the remainder of his income will barely suffice for unavoidable disbursements. He is willing to defray the charge of the detachment during the appearances of a necessity for its services, without availing himself of the reference made upon it to the Company: He only requires that its subsistence shall be furnished from the sum for which he is engaged to the Company this year, and stand as a charge against him to be liquidated in the next; and that he shall be totally relieved from the burthen of it as soon as the situation of affairs will safely admit of the protection of his territories being assigned to his own troops.

I imagine that Rajah Gobin Ram must have mistaken your meaning, respecting a failure in the regular discharge of the stated gifts to the Company: They have to this time been paid with a degree of punctuality which I believe has been seldom exceeded by any government in its pecuniary engagements.

The Vizier is now desirous, as you will observe, of being entirely released from the stipends which he has granted to the Company's servants, that he may be enabled to make greater exertions for the common interest. These allowances, during my agency here, have been little more than nominal; only one lack of rupees having been advanced upon them. They are a source of great uneasiness and vexation to me, of which neither the Vizier nor his minister participate, as I have never been importunate with them for payment.

I have had the honour to present your letter to the Prince, in answer to his application for the continuance of the body guard. He is very sensible of your desire to do him honour, and to give him weight in the eyes of the natives, by permitting an officer's guard from the Company's troops to attend his person. At present the corps, lately under the command of Lieutenant Polhill, continues to be his guard. But if the Vizier should shew a desire of retaining it about his own person, the Prince will apply for a guard, conformably to your offer.

The Prince is determined to decline any treaty with Scindia for his return to court, unless under the guarantee of your government. Scindia cannot reject the mediation of a common friend, without evincing that his designs are insidious.

I beg leave humbly to offer it as my opinion, that your becoming the guarantee of engagements between the Prince and Scindia would be productive of solid advantages both to the Company's and the Vizier's governments, as you would thereby establish a check upon the proceedings of Scindia, and acquire a title to indulgence in future measures for the benefit of the Company, which may be supposed to require the sanction of the Royal authority.

The renunciation of the tribute, and of all claims upon the Dooab, and every part of the Vizier's dominions, both from the Shah and the Mahrattas, are points of great and immediate importance to the peace and security of the Company's governments, and that of the Vizier. These concessions might probably be obtained, as the price of permitting Scindia to proceed in his views of reducing Ally Ghurr, and possessing himself of the countries in the Dooab Westward of the Vizier's. His being in possession of those countries would be no longer a cause of alarm, when the above-proposed renunciations should leave no possible pretext for giving disturbance.

275



I do not see upon what pretence either the Company or the Vizier can obstruct the plans of Scindia, so long as he refrains from hostilities against their actual possessions. I apprehend that, until he offers some direct injury or insult, we should not be justified in any stronger measure than providing against the consequences of his becoming too formidable for a neighbour.

Upon this principle I observe, with great concern, that Colonel Sir John Cumming is taking measures, which cannot but appear to Scindia as decidedly unfriendly. Sir John has encamped with a part of his detachment within a few cofs of Ally Ghurr, and, as I understand, beyond the Vizier's jurisdiction, and has given a meeting to the Kelladar; and although this interview was, I believe, for no other purpose than to offer an asylum in the Vizier's territories to the family of Afrasiab Khan, his Excellency is very uneasy at the effects which he is apprehensive these steps may produce in the mind of Scindia, and has this day written to Sir John, requiring his return to his former post at Anopsheer, which will as effectually cover the Vizier's country as that which he now occupies, and remove all cause of alarm and jealousy from Scindia. I observe too that Mr. Anderson is uneasy at the indications, which the movement of Sir John Cumming gives, of opposition to the plans of Scindia.

Ambajee, on the part of Scindia, has been for some days past negotiating with the Seiks, and as I believe at length sent a plan of alliance for the approbation of Scindia. Mr. Anderson does not think that their conjunction has any object inimicable to the Vizier or to the Company.

Dear Sir,

Your most obedient

and faithful humble Servant,

(Signed)

WM PALMER.

The Governor General lays before the Board translations of the letters from the Vizier and his ministers, which accompanied the foregoing from Major Palmer.

The Governor General observes, that the extraordinary style of these letters, a style to which none of his could have given occasion, induced him to call upon Rajah Gobind Ram, the Vizier's Vakeel, for information of what he had written to his principals, that could give rise to the uncommon style of their letters; and that Rajah Gobind Ram having in consequence furnished him with copies of the letters in question, which he wrote to Lucknow, and giving leave for their being laid before the Board, the Governor General desires to record them after those already mentioned to himself.

From the Vizier.—Received 21st April 1785.

Whatever you said to Raja Gobind Ram upon every point, the said Rajah has fully written it to me. My friend, from the beginning of the friendship between the noble Chief of the Company and the exalted gentlemen of council, and my deceased father and myself, no deficiency ever appeared; and, after the death of my deceased father, I have constantly remained, and still remain, employed from my heart and soul in preserving this friendship more than formerly; and, on the other part of the gentlemen also, the system of intimacy was preserved. In many concerns of the distresses which from various causes had happened, the Governor General, Mr. Hastings, after learning, applied himself to relieve my situation, and settle a plan by which the Company's money would properly be paid by my ministers, and the Company and all the English gentlemen would receive credit.

After his departure, you from your kindness were favourable to my concerns, and preserved the plan and agreement which had been settled between him and myself, and with the greatest friendship you write to me the completest confirmation; and Major Palmer, in obedience to your orders, gave repeated consolation to me and my ministers. I am convinced that the good situation of my concerns will be increased by your favour. Conformably to the agreement to pay the Company's money, which was settled between me and the late Governor General, my ministers have to this time paid the Kists, and no deviation has happened. You may learn this from Mr. Wombwell; and I, considering the discharge of the company's debt to be the most necessary of all affairs, pay it from the receipts of the country, and the loans of the bankers; and I apply myself to nothing but the discharge of the Company's debt, and the preservation of your friendship. You told Rajah Gobind Ram, that to this time the money had not been regularly paid, according to the agreement which had fixed Kists for the Company's money. This order



order astonishes and confounds me; because, from last year to this time, whatever agreement had been made for the payment of the Company's money, my ministers have paid conformably to the kists, and are in future ready to pay, by the blessing of god, according to the engagements of payment; but your favour and countenance is requisite. This order must certainly have been caused solely by the representations of interested persons; and I from this am much afflicted, that, notwithstanding the regular payment of the money according to the kists, you should give such an order, upon the representations of interested persons, otherwise such orders could not have proceeded from your exalted mind; because many days have not elapsed since you in writing gave me confidence in every point, and, whilst the money was regularly paid, you would not give such orders:—At any rate, I hope from your favour the observance of this rule—Never to listen to the representations of interested persons; because in such cases the affairs are disgraced, and the bankers and ministers are dispirited. With respect to the brigade at Futty Ghur, you say that you had, agreeably to my request, sent orders for it to march to Behur Gurn; but to this time Hyder Beg Khan has not advanced the money for their expences.—My friend, my request, whatever it be, is known to you. In all concerns, there is one word upon which I rely, That, whatever agreement was made between me and Mr. Hastings, and the plan which was settled, you have repeatedly written that you have approved of, and preserved that engagement out of consideration to my distresses. Whatever is promised with respect to the removal of that brigade is well known to you: And you have also written to Major Palmer, who has given me confidence, that you, from your kindness to my relief, do not approve of keeping an increased army in this country; but that now, until the doubts from the west are removed, the Futty Ghur brigade must remain.

I also, who desire also your satisfaction, approved of his advice; because, as the reduction of my expences, and the relief of my concerns, is your wish, it will be done at a proper opportunity. When your letter for the Futty Ghur brigade to remain a little time longer here, was received by Major Palmer, and the Major, agreeably to your orders, told me, that this year, besides one crore and 5 lacks of rupees, which had been engaged for the payment of the Company's money, no more would be demanded, I was entirely set at ease by your kindness: You now order that I should make advances for the expences of the brigade. My situation is not hidden from you: Why should I for ever trouble you, that this year I pay, from the receipts of the country and the loans of the bankers, for the discharge of the Company's money which has been engaged? Do you yourself order, from your favour and kindness, whatever may be advisable towards the relief of my concerns. The affairs of my country and property, and of the Company's government, through friendship are the same: Such matters depend upon your kindness. You will learn full particulars from the letters of Major Palmer.—With respect to the expences of the gentlemen who are here, I have before written in a covered manner. I now write plainly, that I have no ability to give money to the gentlemen, because I am indebted many lacks of rupees to the bankers, for the payment of the Company's debt. At the time of Mr. Hastings's departure, I represented to him that I had no resources for the expences of the gentlemen. Mr. Hastings having ascertained my distressed situation, told me, that after his arrival in Calcutta he would consult with the council, and remove from hence the expences of the gentlemen, and recall every person except the gentlemen in office here. At this time, that all the concerns are dependent upon you, and you have in every point given ease to my mind, according to Mr. Hastings's agreement, I hope that the expences of the gentlemen may be removed from me, and that you may recall every person residing here beyond the gentlemen in office. Although Major Palmer does not at this time demand any thing for the gentlemen, and I have no ability to give them any thing, yet the custom of the English gentlemen is, when they remain here, they will in the end ask for something: This is best, that they should be recalled. Mr. Hastings wrote to me for the abolition of Captain Frith's battalion: At that time the disturbances of the Seiks existed in the neighbourhood of Berelly, and my army was stationed at the gauts of the river, at those places which at this season are always fordable. This year many other gauts were fordable; and the Seiks crossed over to plunder, which is their custom. My army, which was already there, came upon them, and punished them; and they, finding no strength to remain, crossed back again, and returned; but it became necessary to guard all gauts, and I therefore stationed, for the defence of the Berelly gauts, my old battalions, which were fixed at Kherrabad and other mahls; and I sent the battalions of Captain Frith, which were newly raised, for the settlement of the mahls of Kherrabad, &c. These battalions went under the command of a commandant belonging to me, and no English gentlemen went there. In these four battalions, according to the rule of all my battalions, there are three thousand men: and the expence of them, including the artillery, is 25,000 rupees in each month. For a little time I thought this expence advisable, for the execution of two important objects, the settlement of the country, and the expulsion of the Seiks, which, by the blessing of god, have both been effected. I have now determined to disband them, after satisfying them: but I consider it proper to guard the gauts until Cheyte, 'till when the fords continue; after that, when the river be full, so large an army will not be wanted at the ghants. In this case I request your advice, that as the army is on a reduced and saving



establishment, if you chuse I will keep the battalions until Cheyte; or, if your order, I will dismiss them immediately. Captain Frith will have no concern in the battalions, commandants belonging to me will command them. With respect to Lieutenant Polhill's battalion, which, with other gentlemen, is in attendance on the prince, you ordered me to learn his Royal Highness's wish; and that if he should be desirous to keep them, they might remain a little time with him. Upon learning his desire, I, conformably to your instructions, have consented to retain the battalion a little time, but I did not speak about retaining Lieutenant Polhill and the other gentlemen, nor does he continue with me in this command.—I merely wrote to you in obedience to his Royal Highness's desire, requesting that Lieutenant Polhill alone might remain, the approbation or refusal of which depends entirely upon your pleasure; I have no ability to maintain the battalion with the gentlemen. I desire nothing but your satisfaction, and hope that such orders as relate to the friendship between the Company and me, and as may be your pleasure, may be written in your own private letters to me through Major Palmer, and in your letters to the Major, that he may, in obedience to your orders, properly explain them to me, and whatever may be settled he may first in secret inform you of it, and afterwards I may write to you, having learnt your pleasure. In this way the secrets will be known to your mind alone, and the advice of all the concerns will be given in a proper manner. For further security, I trouble you again with my request that you will not listen to the representations of interested persons, in respect to my concerns; for in this case my affairs are disgraced, and the bankers, from whom I have borrowed many lacks towards paying the debts to the Company, are alarmed. I labour from my heart and soul to preserve your satisfaction, and you, from your kindness, are inclined to maintain the plan and agreement which has taken place; therefore to give entrance to interested persons is laying the bases of disagreement; I hope from your favour that, in the concerns between me and you, no interested may be admitted to hear the secrets between the Company and myself and your orders.

From the Vizier: Received the 21st April 1785.

In every way I hope for advantage to my affairs from you; I therefore, thinking it in my mind to be proper, I write to you that I am entirely set at ease by the Company's army. The Seiks are villains with two faces, and always reside in the neighbourhood of Delhi. The country on the other side of the river belonging to his Majesties Khalsa, and under the late Zabelor Khan, extends to the gauts of the river, in the neighbourhood of my country—the Seiks often come there. This is not under my authority, that I should expel them from it; and from a long period of years the case is, that the Chiefs of Delhi do not properly furnish them, for the punishing of them is no such great matter; for the punishing of this generation of double-faced villains no additional expence is required. The Governor General, Mr. Hastings, when he discovered my distressed situation, engaged to remove the brigade of Futty Ghurr, and from my foresight of events got leave to retain four battalions, which I had spoken for additional security, which four battalions should be stationed at Futty Ghur, under the command of one officer in my confidence, and should whenever necessary, be sent under an Aumil to settle the Mahals of Saundy, &c. which are under the Aumil of Kherrabad; and also some Mahals belonging to Bherelli, &c. in that neighbourhood, and should return to Futty Ghur, and the expences of the four battalions, which consist of three thousand men, and nine guns, being fixed at twenty-five thousand rupees, in each month, are upon a reduced and saving establishment; accordingly, at the time of the disturbance of the Seiks, my old battalions, which were stationed in Kherrabad, and were sent to Berelli for the protection of the gauts, and the new-raised battalions, were sent to Kherrabad, &c. where it is determined, that for the Mahals belonging to Almas Ally Khan, which extend from the other side of the river from Anopsheer, &c. the horsemen of a few battalions from the horsemen and old battalions in my service, attached to Ilmas Ally Cawn, should be sent to Anopsheer with artillery, that from that quarter also, making an attack upon the Seiks, they should at the same time protect their own country: At that time a letter arrived to this purport—that the Futty Ghur brigade should remain there until the disturbances of the westward be composed. I, who am obedient to your orders, countermanded the march of Almas Ally Khan's people to Anopsheer, and did not object to Colonel Cumming's march, because, as long as you conceive no doubt of my readiness to execute your will, one brigade of the Company's troops is, by the blessing of god, quite sufficient to punish the enemies of the west; and if the expulsion of any person who might attempt to invade my country, would be effected by one brigade for the expulsion of the Seiks, who are double faced-villains, what had been done and planned was sufficient. I also who am obedient to your pleasure and advice, have troubled you with these full particulars, because our concerns here are the same, and you from your kindness are favourable to my affairs; having kindly attended to these circumstances, write to me; whatever may



may be approved by your mind for the relief of my situation, which I shall perform.—I am under your advice and directions. Further, in matters of government, preparations are proper and necessary before the time of action. When his Majesty was going from Delhi to Illabarabad, Mr. Hastings was here; I then told him the secret thoughts of my mind, that my country and that of the Company were the same; that I had the greatest confidence in our mutual friendship; and that if any disturbance should happen this year from the westward I had no fear or hope from any person; but that as the vicissitudes of the world could not be depended upon, self-defence was necessary, and that for this purpose a plan might be very easily settled for getting me at ease with respect to the frontiers of my own country; that if any person should conceive evil designs upon my country, his expulsion and punishment should be effected from hence—and the plan was this. That I should take out of the hands of the Zemindars the command of the two forts of Sartee and Kumri, on the frontiers of my country, which are very good forts, and of which the Zemindar is of a bad disposition, and does not pay the Company's money, and is a promoter of disturbances, and at his instigation others also make commotions, and that I should place a chief in my confidence, with a party of troops, in both forts; and after I should have paid the Company's debt, and the loans of the bankers, I should at the time of leisure and ability build some other forts like these, both large and small, in places which might be proper on the frontiers of my country in the Dooab, and should appoint people from the presence into these forts, instead of leaving them under the Aumils of that province; and after, if any person should make a disturbance, they would be properly punished, and a brigade of the Company's troops would always remain to expel our enemies; and in this event no person would dare to come into my country, even for plunder: Mr. Hastings approved of my proposal, and it was determined that the Cawnpore brigade should march to turn the Zemindar of that place, who was well supplied with military stores, out of those two forts; and that Ilmafs Ally Khan, also joining with his army and artillery, should assist in turning him out. When Mr. Hastings departed from Lucknow towards Calcutta, he told me, that with the consent of the Council, he would send leave for the brigade to march. As delays occurred in the receipt of the order for the brigade to march, in the mean time Ilmafs Ally Khan settled the concerns of the Zemindar of that place upon a perpetual Aumilvaree.—After a long delay, the order for the march of the brigade was issued;—this matter was delayed; and now also, if this matter should be approved, let it be executed, it is very necessary.

From Hyder Beg Khan: Received 21st April 1785.

From your favour and kindness, and sincerity of heart, whatever doubt had arisen in your mind from my neglect, you informed Raje Gobind Ram of it: I am for this reason grateful for your kindness, that you have plainly declared the displeasure which you had conceived towards me. My protector! I am obedient to you, and under your orders; and I am the well-wisher and faithful servant of the government of the Company, and of his Highness, which in every respect are the same; and on this I know to be founded my good and advantage. Till this time I have never, to my own knowledge, been guilty of any deficiency in the duties of attachment to both governments, and of allegiance to your commands. An arzee of Raja Gobind Ram, containing all your orders, was received by his Highness, from whom a letter in answer to every point will be presented to you, and from it you will learn all particulars. I do not, therefore, write the circumstances explicitly, and at large; but I represent the affairs concisely. Conformably to the agreement which was entered into between his Highness and Mr. Hastings, for his discharge of the Company's money, and the plan and system which was settled to this time the kists have been regularly paid to Mr. Wornwell, who is at your presence, and from him you may learn it; and in future also, in case of your favour, assistance, and protection, the Company's money will, according to the kists, and to the agreement, be, by the blessing of God, regularly paid—no deviation from it shall happen. In the concerns of the agreement and plan which was made between his Highness and Mr. Hastings, and by approving which you have given the greatest ease to his Highness, and have repeatedly written to give him confidence; and Major Palmer, by your orders, has comforted his Highness. It is certain that you preserve the same favour towards his Highness, which will be a cause of glory to you in all Hindostan. His Highness, for the preservation of your friendship, is and will be from his heart fixed in obedience and readiness to execute your orders, which is a most necessary matter; and I, who am your servant, know my happiness and advantage to depend upon my obedience and allegiance to you: No deviation shall ever happen. I hope that in every concern which his Highness has written, you will attend to the rights of his Highness with the eye of favour and benevolence, and will order whatever may be the will of your mind. His Highness, from his regard to friendship, can make no excuses against your pleasure: He hopes for relief to his situation from your kindness, and accordingly you also have repeatedly given him confidence. I hope that such orders and commands as relate to the friendship between his Highness and the Company's government, and to your will, may be sent through Major Palmer,



Palmer or in your own private letters to the Major, who is appointed from you to the presence of his Highness, that in obedience to your orders he may properly explain your commands; and whatever affair may be settled, he may first secretly inform you of it, and afterwards his Highness may conformably thereto write an answer, and also may represent it. By this system your pleasure will always be fully made known to his Highness, and his Highness and we will execute whatever may be your orders, without deviating a hair's breadth; and let not the representations of interested persons be approved of, because his Highness make no opposition to your will, and I, your servant, am ready in obedience and service, and I make no excuses. In case you attend to the representations of interested persons, it will cause discredit to his Highness's concerns, and injury to the transactions with the banker. The good state of his Highness's affairs depends upon your favour and kindness, that the servants of his Highness's government, and the bankers, being confident in your protection and countenance, may transact business as usual.

From Rajah Govind Ram to the Vizier, 25th Rubby ul Sanie 1199.

I went yesterday to pay my respects to the Governor General, Mr. John Macpherson, Behader, who in private conference, by the interpretation of Colonel Macpherson, spoke as follows:

"I formerly sent friendly letters to the Vizier, which he would have received from Major Palmer; also friendly letters to Husein Reza Khawn, Hyder Beg Khawn, and Almas Ally Khawn, were sent at the same time; and I now desire you, who I consider as the confidential servant of the Vizier, to acquaint him, that with respect to the friendship which subsisted between Mr. Hastings and his Excellency, my wish is to exceed it for the real good of his government; and I shall consider his friends and his enemies, as my own friends and enemies."

"My object is the advantage of the Company, and the concerns of the Company and his Excellency are the same; and I am fully persuaded that he will afford me every assistance in carrying these good intentions into execution. The affairs of Government cannot be carried on without much money, and I have the strongest confidence that his Excellency will use every endeavour that the money due to the Company may be paid off in proper time.

"I have heard that the Vizier was formerly subject to many expences on account of European gentlemen—my wish is to remove this inconvenience; therefore it is my desire that every rupee paid to the Company, or European gentlemen, shall appear upon the face of his account with the Company.

"I have no wish or desire but the prosperity of the Company and his Excellency, so as to acquire and merit a good name for myself.

"It was commonly the custom in signing Persian letters, to write two letters of the name only, but I always sign my name at full length; and whatever business I may have with his Excellency, shall be fully and distinctly wrote in letters under my signature and seal, and every letter I receive from the Vizier shall be laid before the Council, and all business shall be carried on entirely in this manner; but should it at any time so happen, that his Excellency should be desirous of my private opinion respecting any business, before he writes me publicly as above, I request he will mention it to Major Palmer, and also instruct his Vakeel to whom my friendly advice shall always be given.

"Many people will be representing various circumstances to his Excellency, and perhaps make use of my name; but he is not to give credit to any thing that may be said regarding me, except what shall be wrote in my letters, as already described; and his Excellency, by writing his wishes to me in the same manner respecting the affairs of the Sircar, will remove every room for doubts and uneasiness."

I can see from the Governor's conduct and observations, that he has no views or expectations of his own, but what are for the good of the Company and your Excellency.

Notwithstanding

280



Notwithstanding Mr. Hastings engaged that the Futtu Ghur detachment should march into the Company's dominions; but as it is now, on account of the enemies of the Sircar, marched to the Westward, it would in the opinion of your flave be adviseable (and I see it to be the Governor General's sentiments) that your Excellency would write that the army having marched against the Seiks conformable to your orders and wishes, that your Excellency would therefore bear every expence till its return. There is little doubt but what the Governor will by-and-by, write from the Board on this subject; but should your Excellency's letter, as above, arrive before this happens, it will, I am certain, be very pleasing to the Governor General that the Nabob, without application, saw what was right, and did it.

Rajah Gobind Ram wrote to Hyder Beg Khawn the same as the above.

Second letter from Rajah Gobind Ram to Hyder Beg Khawn, dated 9th Jamadel Aweel 1599.

I went to pay my respects to the Governor General, who in a conference, through the interpretation of Colonel Macpherson, spoke as follows:

"Conformable to his Excellency's request, orders have been sent for the march of the Futtu Ghur detachment towards Pattegur, but Hyder Beg Khawn has not as yet sent any money for their expence; and notwithstanding that Mr. Hastings, when here, by the advice of the Gentlemen of the Council, sent orders for reforming the five battalions under Captain Frith, they have not to this time been reformed.

"I have without reserve shewn the most friendly disposition towards the Vizier's ministers, and I am persuaded that they will not, on their part, be inattentive to the interest of the Company or his Excellency; and I have now full confidence, from their depth of understanding, that they will strictly observe their engagements, and act accordingly on all occasions.

"Mr. Hastings in withdrawing Mr. Bristow, who was appointed from Europe to be Resident there (Lucknow) took upon himself the whole business, and engaged that he had settled a plan by which the Company's money should be paid on one year, and that the kists should be remitted at the periods agreed upon. Although the money of the kists has not hitherto been paid as promised, yet I am persuaded the amount of the several kists will, for the time to come, be regularly and without delay, paid as stipulated." He also observed, "But if it should so happen, that the money is not paid agreeable to promise, and it should appear necessary to send the above gentlemen again, or any other person, it cannot be helped, it must be laid upon the shoulders of the ministers for their neglect and non-performance."

I replied, the money for the kists is on the way; and I hope, by the blessing of God, that hereafter there will be no deviation from engagements in the payment of the kists.

The Governor then observed, that "with respect to discontinuing the officers of the battalion with Shahzader, we have wrote to recall Mr. Polhill, and the other gentlemen, and the above battalion to be made over to his Excellency. Major Palmer has wrote, in answer, that his Royal Highness the Prince expressed his wish that the battalion should continue with the gentlemen as usual; but recalling all the English officers in any of his Excellency's battalions, being with a view to lessen his expence, the continuance of Mr. Polhill, or the other gentlemen, cannot on any account, take place, because, should I agree to one gentleman, an hundred more would apply.—"Your friend remarked, that it was probable the Prince would be uneasy, unless there was a gentleman stationed with him as before.

The Governor General said, "It is not our wish to make his Royal Highness uneasy or displeased; I shall therefore write to Major Palmer, that an officer with a few companies of the regiment from Cawnpore at Lucknow, be constantly on duty with the Shahzadah; and when the regiment is relieved by another regiment from Cawnpore, these companies will also be relieved; and should his Royal Highness go to Benares, a party will attend him from the regiments at Chunar."

I have represented all these matters for information.



N. B. On the 11th Jemadel Awil Rajah Gobind Ram wrote to the Vizier exactly the same as the foregoing.

The Secretary lays before the Board the following letter from the Assistant to the Accountant at Lucknow, and the accounts enclosed in it.

To Edward Hay, Esquire, Secretary.

Sir,

I request you will do me the favour of laying before the Honourable Board the accompanying Treasury and Nabob Vizier's Accounts for the month of March 1785.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient

humble Servant,

(Signed) TREVOR WHEELER,
Ass^t to the Account^t at Lucknow.

Accountant's Office,
Lucknow, 9th April 1785.

TREASURY

222



CSL

TREASURY ACCOUNT of the Accountant at Lucknow, from the 1st to the 31st March 1785, or from the 5th of Chytebud to the 5th of the Intercatery Cheytebud 1192.

C

Balance remaining in the treasury the 28th February 1785, or the Cheytebud. 1192		2,83,796	1	6	By Fort William Presidency.				
To the Nabob Vizier.					Paid the Paymaster General, as per his receipt, dated 10th March for Current Rupees 2,77,500		2,50,000	0	0
From Hyder Beg Cawn, the Kifts for Cheyte		3,25,000	0	0	Paid Mr. J. P. Scott, in part of the Honourable Governor General's orders in his far. as per rect of 6th March		21,000	0	0
					Paid Mr. Blain his salary, as surgeon, for February and March, at 1,250 per month	Ca Sa Rs 2,500	2,625	0	0
					Paid Mr. Wombwell his salary, as accountant, for Mar.	2,600	2,730	0	0
					Paid Mr. Wheler his salary, as Assistant to the Accountant, for January and February		2,000	0	0
							2,78,355	0	0
					By the Nabob Vizier.				
					Paid the Rohillas, for Cheyte		5,131	8	0
							2,83,486	8	0
					By balance remaining in the treasury the 31st Mar. 85, or 5th of the Intercatery Cheyte Bud. 1192		3,25,309	9	6
Fyzabad 16 Sun Sicca Rupees		6,08,796	1	6	Fyzabad 16 Sun Sicca Rupees		6,08,796	1	6

31. Balance due the Shroffs on account of the money borrowed from them in June 1783 - L^w Rs 13,61,055. 7. 6.

Lucknow the 1st of April 1785, or 6th of the Intercatery Cheytebud. 1192.

(Errors excepted)

(Signed) **TREVOR WHELER,**

Assistant to the Accountant at Lucknow.



ASBIB VIZIER in Account with the Honourable Governor General and Council, from the 1st to the 31st March 1785, or from the 5th Cheytebud to 5th of the Inter-
 tery Cheytebud. 1192.

CSL

To Balance due the 28th February 1785, or 4th of Cheytebud. 1192

To Army Subsidy.

For One Brigade, according to the Old Establishment

2,60,000 0 0

For One Regiment stationed at Lucknow, according to the Old Establishment

25,000 0 0

For Five Regiments of Sepoys, and One Company of Artillery, under Colonel Cummings

1,45,000 0 0

To Mirza Saudit Ally's Stipend.

For One Month, at 2 Lacks per Annum

16,666 10 8

To Rohilla Stipends.

For One Month (Cheyte)

5,131 8 0

To Interests on Mr. Frazer's Bond.

One Month, on 16,141, the Balance due the 28th February

107 9 8

4,51,905 12 4

Fyzd 16 Sun Sicca Rupees

32,97,790 12 7

Balance due on Account Mr. Frazer's Bond 28th February

16,141 0 0

Deduct, the Proportion of the Receipts that the balance due on the Bond bears to the whole

Amount due by the Vizier the 28th February

1,843 0 0

Remains due on Account the Bond the 31st March

14,298 0 0

Balance due on Account the Army Donation the 28th February

88,293 0 0

Deduct, The Proportion of the Receipts that the Balance due on Account the Donation bears to the whole Amount due by the Vizier the 28th

February

10,083 0 0

Remains due on Account the Donation the 31st March

78,210 0 0

By Amount received, as per the Accountant's Treasury Account

3,25,000 0 0

By Balance due the 31st March 1785, or 5th of the Inter-
 catory Cheytebud. 1192

29,72,790 12 7

Fyzd 16 Sun Sicca Rupees

52,97,790 12 7

Lucknow 1st April 1785, or 6th of the Intercatory Cheytebud. 1192.

Errors excepted,

(Signed) TREVOR WHEELER, Affi to the Accountant at Lucknow.

Ordered,

(284)



Ordered, That the Secretary do acknowledge the receipt of this letter, and these accounts, and that copies of the latter be sent to the Accomptant General.

Read the following petition from Munohur Dofs.

The Petition of Munohur Dofs.

As you always honour me with the strongest marks of your favour in all my business, Mr. Hay communicated your commands to me concerning the balance due to me by the Company, and further directed me to specify the specie, together with the exchange and batta of every place at which I propose to have payments made. In consequence I am now to hope from your favour that assignments may be granted me agreeable to the proportions hereunder specified: The payment of the whole sum due to me to be completed between the beginning of Byesack and the end of Badonn 1192 Fully, and the money to be issued to me as the kists become due. —On examination of my accounts at the present, it will appear that about 18 lacks will be forthcoming.

Proposed Division of Payments.

					Lucw Sa Rs.
At Lucknow	—	—	—	—	2,00,000
Assignment on Benares	—	—	—	—	13,00,000
Bills on Calcutta	—	—	—	—	3,00,000
				Total	18,00,000

Exchange at which Munohur Dofs agrees to receive the above.

A premium of 4 per cent. on the assignment on Benares, amounts to	—	52,000
Deduct, the difference of exchange between Lucknow Sa Rs and Calcutta Siccas		
is 5½ per cent. on rupees is	—	16,500
Total premium to be paid Gopaul Dofs	—	35,500

Ordered, That the Secretary, assisted by the Accomptant General and Sub-Treasurer do propose the best and easiest mode of liquidating the claim of Gopaul Dofs upon the Company, at Calcutta, Lucknow, and Benares, and report their opinion to the Board, observing that the Company are not to be at the charge proposed for loss on exchange.

EXTRACT of Bengal Secret Consultations, 26th April 1785.

Read the following letter from Almas Ally Cawn to the Governor General, received from the office of the Persian translator.

From Almas Ally Cawn.—Received the 19th April 85.

Your letter, full of favour, written to ease my mind, honoured and comforted me by its arrival. You write that you had learnt that I had taken some alarm, and was sending my family away from Lucknow. As no idea of this ever came, or ever could come, into my mind, I am much astonished and confounded at these false accusers, who without reason represent to you such untrue intelligence, which has not the smallest foundation.

That your Excellency from your favour should have written thus fully upon the reports from hence, I ascribe entirely to your benevolence; and I derive therefrom the greatest comfort and reliance, that through their kindness the truth and veracity of this circumstance will be ascertained. May the Almighty, in return for all this beneficence, spread his shadow over you! I firmly hope from your justice, that, from your favour, the person who represented to you this intelligence may be compelled to prove it; that, if there be the smallest foundation for the idea of it, he may ascertain it; or, if otherwise, you may act as your benevolence shall dictate, so that in future he may



never represent again such false news. By the blessing of God, Major Palmer, who resides here, knows every thing good or bad, and is the master: Whatever I might say further would be superfluous. I, the slave of his Highness, will not to the end of my life think of any other place besides this. It will have been represented to you also, how steadfastly, from my heart and soul, I maintain my duty and attachment to the government of his Highness, and of the Company, which are the same. I am firmly convinced that, during my life, no deviation or deficiency will ever be found in my obedience, attachment, and labour for the Sircar of his Highness, and of the Company, which are the same.

The rest you will learn from the letters of Major Palmer. From your commands of benevolence I have received the completest confirmation and comfort both outwardly and inwardly, and I have no thoughts except those of slavery and obedience to government. Accordingly I am day and night employed, with the greatest exertions of attachment, in some concerns of the Sircar. I hope from your favours that I may be always honoured by the dispatch of kind letters, from which alone I can expect dignity, comfort, and advantage.

EXTRACT of the Secret Letter from Bengal, dated 29th April 1785.

Para. 6. You were acquainted by our last, that Colonel Sir John Cumming had received a requisition from the Vizier, for his return to Futty Ghur with the whole detachment, except two regiments of sepoy, that were to remain at Anopsheer under Lieutenant Colonel Knudson. He accordingly left Anopsheer on the 1st instant, but on the first day of his march he received authority to remain on the frontier, if he should think it necessary for the safety of the Vizier's dominions. The Colonel has since returned to his former station at Anopsheer: The Nabob has declared himself willing to defray the charges of this detachment, during an appearance of a necessity for its service.

EXTRACT of Bengal Secret Consultations, 3d May 1785.

Read the following letter from the Accomptant General.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

As the sums to be charged to the account of, and received from, his Excellency the Vizier, for the expence of the troops serving in his dominions, must very materially affect the estimate of the probable resources and disbursements of the government, I am to request that the Honourable Board will be pleased to inform me of the amount at which I may estimate these for the year 1785-6, if those at which they were estimated for 1784-5, may not be adopted on forming the estimate of the ensuing year of account. The sums which have hitherto, since September 1782, been monthly charged to his Excellency's account, for the troops serving in his dominions, are as follows:

For the brigade at Cawnpore	—	—	2,60,000
For the regiment at Lucknow	—	—	25,000
For the five regiments of sepoy under Sir J. Cumming at	—	—	—
25,000	—	1,25,000	—
For one company of artillery with do.	—	20,000	—
		—	1,45,000
		—	—
Fyzabad 16th sun ficcas	—	—	4,30,000

On the return of the Bombay detachment, the two rissallahs of horse which arrived with it were attached, one to the station of Cawnpore, the other to that of Futty Ghur; but although the Board resolved, on the 27th February 1784, that an addition should be made to the subsidy for these troops, yet, as I have never been informed of the sum which should be carried to his Excellency's debit on this account, he consequently has not yet been debited for any part of their expence. I therefore deem it incumbent upon me to suggest this circumstance to the recollection of the Board, at the same time that I solicit from them instructions with respect to the sum at which I am to reckon the subsidy to be carried to the account of his Excellency the Vizier in 1785-6.

Fort William,
Acct Genl's Office,
the 21st April 1785.

I have the honour to be,
with the greatest respect, &c. &c. &c.
(Signed) WM LARKINS, Acct Genl.

There

286



There can be no doubt of the propriety of debiting the Nabob Vizier for the year 1785-6 for the brigade at Cawnpore, and the regiment at Lucknow; there might be some with respect to the propriety of debiting his Excellency for the expence of the detachment under Colonel Sir John Cumming for that year, if, from appearances in the upper provinces, there was not a likelihood that the services of that detachment would be necessary; but as there is a probability of commotions, and as the Vizier has agreed to admit the charge of the detachment upon himself, while a necessity exists for it; Agreed, That it be charged in the estimate accordingly.

Resolved also, That the Governor General be requested to ask the Vizier's permission to debit his Excellency for the two riffallahs of cavalry while they have been in his country, and to continue the same while they remain in it. This corps is the only corps of cavalry in the service of the Company, and may be essentially useful in his Excellency's dominions.

Resolved, That a similar request be made with respect to the company of chaffeurs ordered from Chunargur to Cawnpore.

Read another letter, as follows, and its enclosure, from the Accomptant General.

To the Honourable John Macpherfon, Esquire, Governor General, &c. Council, Fort William.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

The military Paymaster General having, in a letter dated yesterday, transmitted to this office an intimation, that in the statement which I had the honour to lay before you on the 21st February, the loss by exchange upon the sums disbursed on account of the Candahar cavalry, should have been stated at current rupees 1,75,468. 9. 5, instead of current rupees 1,85,147. 9. 1; this will consequently reduce the sum which should be carried to the Vizier's debit, on account of the expence of this corps, current rupees 9,678. 15. 8. If therefore the Accomptant at Lucknow should already have debited the Nabob with the sum of current rupees 1,69,084. 9. 8, in obedience to your orders of the 5th April, he should credit his Excellency for the sum of current rupees 9,678. 15. 8, otherwise he will have occasion to debit him for no more than current rupees 1,59,405. 10. Since addressing the Honourable Board on the 21st February, the annual adjustment which takes place between the books of the military Paymaster General's department and the general books has been completed for 1782-3, this has enabled me to carry to the credit of his Excellency the balance of the accompanying account current, which the Accomptant at Lucknow should be directed to bring to the credit of his Excellency in the present month's account current, should the same not already have been closed, in which case it may be made in that for May 1785.

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

(Signed) WM LARKINS.

Fort William,
Accomptant General's Office,
29th April 1785.

NABOB



NABOB ASOPH UL DOWLAH in Account Current with the Military Paymaster General.

CSL

83.
April.

To Stephen Bayard, Paymaster to the Bombay detachment

For amount overcharged to Mr. Bayard, on acct of the
horse stoppages for Octr 1780 - -

936 4 7

To general books.

Balance of this account transferred - -

21,752 1 8

Current Rupees -

22,688 6 3

1783.
April.

By Stephen Bayard, Paymaster to the Bombay detachment

For amount of horse stoppages, on account of the Vizier,

for -- April 1782 - - 1,237 10 4

May - - 2,562 14 5

June - - 4,201 5 7

July - - 2,602 15 3

August - - 2,680 10 5

September - - 2,697 4 9

October - - 2,686 3 2

November - - 2,625 2 4

December - - 1,304 4 0

22,688 6 3

Current Rupees -

22,688 6 3

Mily Paymr Genl's Office, the 31st August 1784.

Errors excepted.

(Signed) CLAUDE ALEXANDER,
Mily Paymr Genl.

A true Copy.
(Signed) A. Gardiner,
Head Affr Acct Genl's Office.

2008

(288)



Ordered, That copies of the foregoing Letter, and Account from the Accountant General, be transmitted to the Accountant at Lucknow, and that he be instructed in conformity to the Accountant General's recommendation.

EXTRACT of Bengal Secret Consultations, 12th May, 1785.

Read the following letter from the Secretary, Accountant General, and Sub-Treasurer.

To the Honourable John Macpherson, Esquire, Governor General, &c. Council, Fort William, in their Secret Department.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

In obedience to your orders of the 26th ult. by which we were directed to propose the best and easiest mode of liquidating the claim of Gopaul Dofs upon the Company, by payments at Calcutta, Lucknow, and Benares, for money lent by him in June 1783, we have considered how far and in what degree it was practicable for the Board to assign the funds that might not be required for the local exigencies of Government at Benares, to the satisfaction of this claim. We found, from the representation that had been transmitted by the Accountant at Lucknow, under date the 20th March, that the whole of the Company's funds at Lucknow, not absolutely necessary for the payment of the troops in the Vizier's dominions, were actually engaged to be remitted to Calcutta and Surat; and as the premium at which they are engaged to be remitted to Calcutta, and the loss of interest by the distance of time at which they are payable after date, are matters for which a compensation would be required, the just amount of which we are unable to determine with any degree of accuracy, we are of opinion that the Resident at Benares should be directed to remit to Lucknow whatever balance may remain in his hands from time to time, until the debt to Gopaul Dofs shall be completely paid, after defraying the charges of the Benares station, and furnishing the supplies to the Paymaster at Chunargur, making the remittances as expeditiously, and upon the most advantageous terms possible, to the Accountant at Lucknow, who, we think, should be directed to keep the Resident at Benares well informed of the amount due on this claim.

The growing demands upon the Presidency at this season of the year being much above the expected receipts, we have scarcely had the option of suggesting the mode by which such claims might be liquidated in Calcutta, especially as this would afford a plea for a greater compensation in the remittance thereof back to the place at which it was justly payable, according to the tenor of the engagement, than we conceived ourselves at liberty to agree to. The amount of the demand, were it proportioned to the distance to which the remittance should be made, ought certainly to be much less, if supplied from Benares, than if it were supplied from Calcutta to Lucknow; and this consideration has principally guided our judgment in the proposition which we have had the honour to submit to your Honourable Board.

We have the honour to be, with the greatest respect,

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

Your most obedient

humble servants,

Fort William,
6th May, 1785.

(Signed)

E. HAY, Secy.

C. CROFTES, S. T.

WM. LARKINS,

Accr. General.

Agreed, That a statement of Gopaul Dofs's claim on the Honourable Company for money lent by him in June 1783, calculated to the end of August next, be sent to the Resident at Benares, and to the Accountant at Lucknow; that the Resident at Benares be directed to remit to the Accountant at Lucknow, at the most reasonable rates of exchange, whatever balance may remain in his hands from time to time, until all that is required, with the aid of the under-mentioned bills from Lucknow, to discharge the debt of Gopaul Dofs, shall have been paid off; and that the Accountant at Lucknow do make over to Gopaul Dofs, or his order, the bills for ten lacks that are to be granted on Calcutta, in the month of Bhaudeen, by his Excellency the Vizier, if



Gopaul Dofs should be willing to accept the same, with an allowance to him of three per cent. for the loss of interest that will accrue by their not being payable in Calcutta until 90 days after date.

EXTRACT of Bengal Secret Consultations, the 12th May, 1785.

The Governor General lays before the Board the following Letter from Major Palmer.

To the Honourable John Macpherson, Esquire, Governor General, &c. Fort William.

Dear Sir,

The late dispatches from Mr. Anderson will have completely informed you of the apparently precarious state of the alliance between the Company and Mahajee Scindia.

Although I believe that Scindia has had no other object in the offensive requisitions which he made, and excited the Shah to make, than to try the temper of our Government, in full persuasion that he should be able to deprecate any resentment that might be the consequence, by explanations and submission, I have, nevertheless, thought it my indispensable duty to prepare the Nabob Vizier to co-operate in whatever measures the situation of affairs may determine you to adopt.

It is with the greatest satisfaction that I can assure you, from his Excellency, of his firm and cheerful resolution to apply the utmost resources of his Government, in conjunction with yours, for the honour and security of both, by whatever means you shall judge most conducive to those ends, in the event of an actual war. The Vizier will furnish the disbursements for both brigades directly from his own revenues, so long as it may last; and his acting minister has given me the strongest assurances of exerting his talents, his credit, and his private fortune, towards effecting the intentions of his master. The Vizier will himself communicate to you his sentiments and wishes upon this subject. Both the Vizier and Hyder Beg Khan entertain a spirited and dignified resentment at the insult which has been offered to the Company's Government, and to the person of the Vizier.

His Excellency deems it absolutely necessary that the 2d brigade should march to Etawa, the south frontier of his dominions, upon the first intelligence of Mr. Anderson's having actually quitted the camp of Scindia. I have apprized Col. Ironside of this intention; and I have also advised Col. Sir John Cumming of the posture of affairs.

When I reflect upon the prodigious advantages which Scindia has derived from his alliance with the Company, (for I am convinced that it is to that alone he is indebted for his late successes) the delicacy which your Government has observed towards him, in a studious forbearance of every measure which might tend to injure or alarm him; I cannot help thinking the unfriendly and offensive return which he has made, gives you an undoubted right to take advantage of the fears which the spirited conduct of Mr. Anderson has excited in him, in order to secure yourselves against the possible consequence of a disposition so manifestly unprincipled and inimical. As the best means of effecting this purpose, I take the liberty to suggest the following propositions for a new treaty, to be executed by the Shah and Scindia. I hope that the zeal which I entertain for the honour of your Administration, and the prosperity of the Company's and the Vizier's governments, will excuse my presumption in offering you my opinion upon this occasion. The propositions are as follows:

1st. A renunciation by the Shah of all tribute and arrears of tribute from the Company, and of all claims upon any country possessed by them and the Vizier.

2d. A renunciation of the latter, and of all claim of Chout, for the time past and to come, from the Mahratta State, and from Scindia personally.

3d. A suitable establishment for the Shahzada, heir apparent, in the dooab adjoining to the country of the Nabob Vizier to the westward.

4th.

290



4th. The nomination of a Naib to the Vizier to be vested in the Vizier. There may be other points useful and attainable, which the better information of Mr. Anderson may suggest.

I have the honour to be,
with the highest respect,

Lucknow,
26th April 1784.

Dear Sir,

Your faithful and humble servant,
(Signed) Wm. PALMER.

EXTRACT of Bengal Secret Consultations, 12th May 1785.

READ the following Letter from the Accountant General.

To the Honourable John Macpherson, Esquire, Governor General, &c. Council of Fort William,
in their Secret Department.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

I think it my duty to point out to you, that I do not perceive any alteration in the amount charged as paid monthly to Mirza Saudit Ally by the Resident at Benares, for the stipend assigned to him by his Excellency the Vizier, correspondent to that which took place in the Lucknow accounts from the end of the Fuffully year 1191, or 31st August 1784, when the sum monthly charged to the debit of his Excellency's account was reduced from 25,000 to 16,666. 10. 8.— Should it be the Honourable Board's intention to allow of no more being paid to Saudit Ally than is chargeable to the Nabob Vizier's account for this stipend, it will be necessary to restrict the Resident from making any further payment to Saudit Ally upon this account, until the period shall arrive, at which, upon the reduced scale of 2,00,000 per annum, from the end of August last, he may be entitled to receive another payment thereon.

I have the honour to be,
With the greatest respect,

Fort William,
Accountant General's Office,
the 4th May 1785.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

Your most obedient
humble servant,

(Signed) Wm. LARKINS,
Acct. General.

Agreed, That the circumstances stated by the Accountant General be immediately noticed to the Resident at Benares;—that he be directed to inform the Board what instructions he received from the late Governor General, respecting the stipend of the Nabob Saudit Ally, and to restrict it in future to the amount agreed upon between the late Governor General and his Excellency the Vizier. If the late Governor General omitted to give any orders to Mr. Fowke upon this subject, the Vizier is to be informed thereof, and requested to permit the over-payment to be carried to his Excellency's debit.

Read another letter from the Accountant General.

To the Honourable John Macpherson, Esquire, Governor General, &c. Council of Fort William,
in their Secret Department.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

Although I consider it to have been my duty, as Accountant General, to suggest, in that capacity, whatever occurred on the subject of the mode by which the demand that Gopaul Dofs has upon the Company might be liquidated, to the other two gentlemen to whom the Honourable Board's reference, of the 26th ulto. was jointly addressed, yet I did not consider myself, on such an occasion, warranted to agitate the specific amount with which the Honourable Company should be charged at Lucknow, for the liquidation of the same.

When



When this and other loans were taken up from the Bankers, the Lucknow Haley Sicca Rupees were valued in account at 5. 9. 3 per cent. below Fyzabad 16 Sun ficas; but as, in the month of May 1784, the late Governor General directed the Lucknow Haley ficas to be valued in account as equal to Fyzabad 16 Sun ficas, if of these the same sum is to be charged in the Lucknow accounts as was credited for in them in Haley ficas, there will be a difference of Fyzabad 16 Sun ficas 71,910. 2. 7 between the sum for which the Lucknow treasury accounts were debited for the receipts of the principal of this loan, and that which they will be credited for the re-payment of the same; and as these are valued upon the Honourable Company's books at 11 per cent. above current, the loss which will appear upon this loan will be current rupees 79,820. 4. 6. the interest thereon being chargeable to the Nabob's account, whatever may be the amount of this, it will consequently not affect the state of the Honourable Company's property.

Should the Honourable Board be of opinion that this loss ought to be borne by the Company, an intimation of that opinion will authorize me to write off the same from the Honourable Company's general books; but if their determination should be different, it will become my duty to accommodate myself officially thereto.

I have the honour to be,
with the greatest respect,
Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

Fort William,
Accountant General's Office,
the 10th May, 1785.

Your most obedient
humble servant,
(Signed) WM. LARKINS,
Acc^t. General.

The Board are of opinion, that the loss stated in this letter should be borne by the Vizier, and agree that his Excellency be charged accordingly.

EXTRACT of Bengal Secret Consultations, the 13th May, 1785.

THE Secretary lays before the Board the following letter, which he has received from Major Palmer.

To Edward Hay, Esquire, Secretary for the Secret Department.

Sir,

I have this morning been honoured with the duplicate of your letter of the 19th ult.; the original I have not received.

You will be pleased to inform the Honourable Board, that when I had last the honour to confer with the Shah Zadah upon the subject of his return to court, and the proposals made to him for that purpose by Mahajee Scindia, his Royal Highness gave me the strongest assurances that he would accept of no conditions which the Government of Bengal and the Vizier should not judge perfectly safe and honourable to himself, and expedient for their common interests. That he considered the offers of Scindia as insidious, and had no further view in listening to them, than to learn his real designs, and to shew a proper respect and duty to the Shah's authority, under which Scindia assumes his negotiation.—The Prince is persuaded, that the Shah secretly approves of the protection on which he has chosen to rely, and regards it as the surest pledge of the stability of the Sultanut in himself and his descendants. The mother of the Prince, and all his real friends, who are near the Shah's person, strongly conjure him to reject all advances from Scindia, and his uncle Ally Ackber Cawn, who is with him, and the Vizier and his ministers constantly give him the same advice. I doubt not but that the Board, with the knowledge of these circumstances, will be perfectly easy as to the conduct of the Prince.

I trust that the last advices from Mr. Anderson will have removed all apprehensions of a rupture with Scindia; but if, contrary to expectations, any new alarm should be given, the Board may rely upon the utmost exertions of the Vizier's Government, in concert with our own, for obviating or defeating the purposes of their mutual enemies; and that the Vizier will cheerfully comply with every requisition and recommendation which they may think conducive to that effect.

The greatest part of the Vizier's troops, both horse and foot, are at present upon the frontiers the most exposed to danger, and ready to co operate with Colonel Cumming, in which situation they will remain until the rise of the rivers shall render the Vizier's country secure from any insult.



The two ruffallahs of Mogul cavalry, under the command of Sumshud Beg and Khajee Nama Auliah, were dismissed the Vizier's service, for a most daring mutiny in his capital, aggravated by personal insult to himself, and threats against the life of his acting minister.—The Vizier, some time since, had in consideration to re-admit them again into his service, upon their offering to make due submission, and to accept of a diminished pay; but they did not wait the result of his determination, and accepted of offers made to them in the mean time by Scindia, who has detached them against the disaffected Rajepoots to the southward, so that it is now become impracticable to re-engage them in the service of the Vizier.

I do not apprehend that the conduct and negotiations of Bow Buxey can be productive of any ill consequences, as I am duly informed, both by the Prince and the Vizier, of his proceedings at their respective durbars, that no demand has been made by him upon the Vizier which can be deemed extraordinary, nor do I know to what the reports of such demands which have reached the Governor General can allude, unless it be to a proposal, or rather suggestion, of Bow Buxey's for a more free communication, and constant correspondence between the Vizier and Scindia, which his Excellency seemed to understand as calculated to promote an appearance of a separation of interest, or a want of concert between his Government and the Company's, but which was explained by a similar application from Scindia, through Mr. Anderson, to me, and had for its real or apparent meaning nothing more than a desire of shewing to the world that perfect harmony and friendship subsisted between the Vizier's Government and Scindia, and to remove a contrary opinion which it was supposed might have gained ground from some late appearances; and to the request, as thus explained, the Vizier made a suitable and favourable reply.

The Vizier will most cheerfully consent that Allahabad, and any other of his forts, shall be garrisoned by the Company's troops, whenever they shall judge it expedient for the better security of his country; but as at present all appearances of danger have subsided, he supposes that the Board will think it unnecessary.

By what I learn from the public news-papers, a general confederacy of the Rajepoots is likely to be entered into for freeing themselves from the Mahratta tribute; that the Rajahs of Keesche, Hootes, and Boondy of Joudpore, have already acceded to it, and in all probability it will be formidable enough to divert the attention of Scindia from his great objects at the Shah's durbar, and in the Doab.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Lucknow,
3d May, 1785.

Sir, &c. &c.
(Signed) W. PALMER,
Agent from the G. G. at the Ct of the
Nabob Vizier.

Major Palmer having assured the Board, in the foregoing to their Secretary, that the Vizier will most cheerfully consent that Allahabad, and any other of his forts, shall be garrisoned by the Company's troops whenever they shall judge it expedient for the better security of his country; and the Board being yet of opinion, notwithstanding the favourable change that has lately taken place in the face of affairs in the Upper Country, that it is of great importance to put the fort of Allahabad into a proper state of defence, and that it should be garrisoned, at least in part, by the Company's troops; the Governor General takes occasion to lay before the Board the following Proposal, which he has received from Colonel Ironside, for the better fortifying that post.

On the Fortress of Allahabad.

Our armies have for a series of years been continually crossing a canal cut from the Ganges to the Jumna (which insulates the town and fortress of Allahabad) without its even been known that such a communication existed. During the few days I was last in this quarter, I casually discovered, to my utter astonishment, this canal, which Shujah Uldowlah caused to be excavated in 1764, either to obstruct the enterprizes of the approaching English, or to impede the invasions of the Abdallies, of both which he was then apprehensive.

Of all the strong holds I have met with in India, Allahabad appears to be the best calculated for a provisionary magazine for a military station for our frontier troops, and for their retreat in case of any untoward accident; possessing this, indeed, our forces would become little liable to check or repulse. For it is observed, that troops always advance and engage with more intrepidity



dity and confidence when they know that their rear is covered. Hence the origin of second lines in the array of battle.

In the midst of a luxuriant plain, and at the confluence of two large rivers, stands this asylum, not less strong by natural position than fortified by art; but above all, happily situated for the provision of both dry and green forage (the environs being fertile beyond imagination) as well as the safe and easy importation of all kinds of military stores. It seems to require at present little more to render it inaccessible than its own ditch to be cleaned and deepened. The extremities of the ditch should be left uncut, for fear of inundation, and the intervals closed by two fraized redoubts. The earth from the lunette and ditch would constitute an excellent glacis. By leaving the wall eight or ten feet, and clearing away all the internal buildings and rubbish, abundant materials would be at hand to form a solid rampart, floped and turfed on the inside for all commodious thatched lodgments, quarters, and barracks, also in preferable situations, and the place be thus rendered level, verdant, salubrious, cool, and comfortable for the reception (if expedient) of a whole brigade.

To fraize the covert way, and render all the ground for a mile round a green open esplanade, would be the whole extra required, and even the earth from thence collected contribute to elevate the glacis.

For the execution of this design, the field establishment of brigade workmen, assisted by two or three hundred extra builders, would prove equal. I would undertake to perform it with this inconsiderable aid; but should there arise any unforeseen and unexpected charges, by the construction of a small ornamental pagoda of stone, at the concourse of the Jumna and Ganges, as a sanctuary for all the idols now in adoration there collectively, the toll at present levied on the pilgrims, from their libations, might soon be augmented and collected by the Vizier, to an amount fully competent to defray the expence of every contingent repair and alteration.

Agreed, That a copy of the foregoing plan be transmitted to the Commander in Chief, and Chief Engineer; and that their opinions be desired of the work that should be done, and the alterations required, to render the fortrefs of Allahabad defensible against any force that can appear before it, without subjecting his Excellency the Vizier to any unnecessary expence.

EXTRACT of Bengal Secret Consultation, the 26th May, 1785.

To the Honourable John Macpherson, Esquire, Governor General, &c. Members of the Supreme Council, Secret Department.

Gentlemen,

I yesterday received a letter from your Secretary, informing me that your Honourable Board, notwithstanding the favourable change that has taken place in the Upper Country, are still of opinion that it is of great importance that the fort of Allahabad should be put into a proper state of defence, and that it should be garrisoned, at least in part, by the Honourable Company's troops; and enclosing to me a copy of a plan drawn up by Colonel Ironside for the better fortifying that post, on which my opinion is requested.

I have already, in my letter to your Honourable Board of the 26th April, offered it as my opinion, that it would be ineligible to require possession of the fort of Allahabad; that our troops can at all times be more usefully employed in the field than garrisoning fortresses; that Allahabad in its present state is, in case of any disaster to our troops, capable of affording them protection, and of holding out against a Mahratta, or any other country army. The works and alterations designed by Col. Ironside would certainly improve the place, as well in regard to its strength as to its salubrity; but I have no conception that they could be performed in the manner he proposes, on the contrary, am confident *that in the execution of them would be expended many lacks of rupees*, and the preservation of them afterwards would be a constant source of expence.

If, however, the Board are come to the resolution of putting this fort into a complete state of defence, and of a convenience for the reception of a garrison of English troops, (to which I must again repeat) the Nabob's consent will not be easily gained, I have to recommend, in order that a work of such magnitude and importance may not be undertaken without the best information



tion, that two experienced engineers be sent to survey and examine the fort, and to give the opinion of the expence that will be incurred by executing Colonel Ironside's design, or to prepare and submit for inspection plans of their own. Colonel Watfon's opinion should also be required on a proposition of this fort, appertaining to his department as chief engineer.

The fort of Allahabad is of very large extent, near, I suppose, *two miles round*, the high walls are built entirely of stone, with battlements, according to the old method of fortification, except a few bastions, which were new-modelled by the late Major Bruce, at the desire of the late Nabob, in 1773. To take away the battlements, and to lower the walls, as Colonel Ironside proposes, would of itself be an expence that he does not seem aware of; but to form a solid rampart in the inside, sloped and turfed, to erect commodious lodgements, quarters, and barracks; to deepen and clear the ditch, and raise a proper glacis; and by this means modernize the fort, are undertakings of vast expence and labour, and which I cannot, in the present distressed situation of the Company's and Nabob's affairs, at any rate recommend.

I shall conclude this letter with the following observation, that our power and authority in this country can only be maintained whilst we are able to oppose the enemy in the field: It is true that our army in the upper provinces might receive a sudden check, and be obliged for a shorttime to seek protection within the walls of a fort, which I have already said, Allahabad in its present state is fit to afford; but if ever we are compelled to have recourse to, and rest our security in fortified places, capable of sustaining long and regular sieges, our force must then be reduced to so low a state, as to threaten the total expulsion of the British nation from Hindostan.

Fort William,
16 May 1785.

I have the Honour to be,
Gentlemen,

Your most obedient
humble Servant.

(Signed) G. STIBBERT.

The Board agree with the Commander in Chief in the opinion which he has expressed, that our best security in time of war is in opposing the enemy in the field; but the necessity of having a strong post to resort to in the event of any sudden check, not only for the sake of the protecting that such post would afford, but that time may be given for collecting troops, and regaining that authority and credit which would have been in a great degree lost by an adverse stroke of fortune, induces the Board to persevere in their conviction of the great importance of having Allahabad in a proper state of defence, which they believe not to be this case at present, and garrisoning it with the Company's troops. The chief engineer's opinion has been lately desired on Colonel Ironside's plan for repairing this fortress.

To the Vizier: Written 12th May 1785.

As the two Rossallahs of cavalry which are now in your county are the only corps of cavalry in the service of the Company, and may be essentially useful in your dominions, I am to request your permission to debit you for them while they have been in your country, and to continue the same while they remain in it. I must also make a similar request with respect to the Company of Chaffuort ordered from Chuargur to Cawnpore.

To Hyder Beg Khan Hussun Baza Khan, of the same Tenor and Date.

To the Vizier: Written 12th May 1785.

I have pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters, containing requests that you may be relieved as much as possible from expence for the gentlemen stationed at Lucknow. This is a matter full of important benefits, and I have attended to your wishes therein: Accordingly some arrangements have been already resolved on, the particulars of which will be communicated to you by Major Palmer.

To Hyder Beg Khan, and Hussun Beza Khan, of the same tenor and date.

To the Nawab Vizier: Written 19th May 1785.

I have had the honour of receiving your Highness's last letter of the 10th May: It has given me real satisfaction. Your Highness has on every occasion shewn a spirit worthy of your high situation



situation and illustrious descent, and this is not the first occasion in which you have united that spirited disposition of mind with strong attachment to the Company and their representatives in India.

Your conduct, in going to the aid of Governor General Hastings, during the troubles of Benares, made a lasting and favourable impression on my mind, and your offers to proceed now, at the head of your own and the Company's forces in your country, to resent any indignity that may be offered, raises my esteem for your Highness to the highest degree.

I know that your Highness means this friendly offer from your heart; and should a proper occasion offer, I will certainly agree to your proposal with readiness: I will mention it in the most favourable manner to the Company, and to the ministers of my sovereign, who will not fail to give the King of England a full impression of your Highness's attachment to the English.

At present I have every reason to believe that neither Scindia nor Shah Allum will deviate from the most friendly declarations which they have recently made to me, disavowing any idea of dissatisfaction towards your Highness or the English.

Your own troops, under proper management and discipline, and the English brigades, animated by the influence of your Highness's attachment to this government, are fully sufficient to command the respect of all the powers of Indostan united; and as it is neither my own disposition, nor that of your Highness, to disturb neighbouring powers, or offend our allies, so I trust the peace of your dominions will be long established. Major Palmer will mention other particulars relative to our military security. I am highly pleased with the zeal which your ministers have shewn towards your own and the Company's government on this late occasion.

To Hyder Beg Khan: Written 19th May 1785.

I have received your last letter [recapitulate the contents] which gave me great satisfaction. His Highness may be assured, that this voluntary offer from his friendship is most pleasing to me, as I am convinced that it came from his heart; and when a proper occasion offers I will certainly agree to his proposal. What I have written to his Highness, you may consider as equally addressed to yourself. Major Palmer will inform you of further particulars.

The Secretary lays before the Board the following letter from the Assistant to the Accountant at Lucknow.

Edward Hay, Esquire.

Sir,

I am favoured with your letter, and its several enclosures, under date the 5th ultimo.

In obedience to the Honourable Board's commands, I have addressed the Vizier respecting the additional sum to be charged to him on account of the Candahar cavalry, and also on the subject of the demands made on him by Majors Lumfaine and Gilpin. I will do myself the pleasure of transmitting to you his Excellency's answer the instant it is communicated to me.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient humble Servant,

(Signed) TREVOR WHEELER,

Ass't Acct at Lucknow.

Lucknow,
May 3d 1785.

Edward Hay, Esquire, Secretary.

Sir,

I request the favour of your laying before the Honourable Board the accompanying treasury, and Nabob Vizier's accounts, for the month of April 1785.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient

humble Servant,

(Signed) TREVOR WHEELER,

Ass't Acct at Lucknow.

Accountant's Office,
Lucknow, 8th May 1785.

Ordered, That the accounts inclosed in the foregoing letter be entered after the consultation, and that copies thereof be sent to the Accountant General.

TREASURY

296

CL
C

TREASURY ACCOUNT of the Accomptant at Lucknow, from the 1st to the 30th of April 1785, or from the 6th of the Intercalary Cheytebud to the 6th of Byfaakbud 1192.

balance remaining in the treasury the 31st March 1785,
or 5th of the Intercalary Cheytebud 1192

To the Nabob Vizier.

Received from Hyder Beg Cawn for Byfaak

3,25,309 9 6

3,25,00 0 0

Fyz^d 16 fun sicca rupees

6,50,309 9 6

By Fort William Presidency.

Paid the Paymaster General, as per his receipt of the 10 April, for current
rupees 3,16,350

2,85,000 0 0

Paid Mr. J. P. Scott in full for the Honourable the Governor General's
orders in his favour, as per his receipt of the 3d April

29,014 7 10

Paid W. Blaine his salary, as Surgeon, for April, Ca Sa Rs 1,250, or 1,312 8 0

Ditto Mr. J. Wombwell his salary as Accomptant, for April

Ca Sa Rs 2,600, or 2,730 0 0

Ditto Mr. T. Wheler, his salary, as Assist to the Accompt for

March and April 2,000 0 0

6,042 8 0

3,20,056 15 10

By the Nabob Vizier.

Paid the Rohillas for the Intercalary Cheyte

— —

5,131 8 0

3,25,188 7 10

By balance remaining in the treasury the 30th April 1785, or 6 of Byfaakbud 1192

— —

3,25,121 1 8

Fyz^d 16 fun sicca rupees

— —

6,50,309 9 6

1785.

ril 30. Balance due to the Shroffs, on account of the
money borrowed from them in June 1783.—

Lw Sa Rs 13,61,055. 7. 6.

Lucknow, the 1st of May 1785, or 7 of Byfaakbud 1192.

Errors excepted.

(Signed) TREVOR WHELER.



CSL

BOB VIZIER in Account with the Honourable Governor General and Council, from the 1st to the 30th of April 1785, or from the 6th of the Intercalary Cheytebud, to the 6th of Byfaakbud. 1192.

				C.			
To balance remaining due the 31st of March 1785, or 5th of the Intercalary Cheytebud. 1192	—	—	29,72,790	12	7	By amount received as per the Accountant's treasury account	3,25,000 0 0
To Army Subsidy.	—	—	—	—	—	By balance remaining due the 30th April, 1785 or 6th of Byfaakbud. 1192	30,99,684 4 4
For 1 brigade, according to the old establishment	—	2,60,000	0	0			
For 1 regiment stationed at Lucknow, according to the new establishment	—	25,000	0	0			
For 5 regiments and 1 company of artillery under Colonel Sir John Cumming	—	1,45,000	0	0			
		4,30,000	0	0			
To Mirza Saudit Ally's Stipend.	—	—	—	—	—		
For one month, at 2,00,000 per annum	—	16,666	0	0			
To Rohilla Stipends.	—	—	—	—	—		
Paid them for the Intercalary Cheyte	—	5,131	8	0			
To Interest on Mr. Frazer's Bond.	—	—	—	—	—		
One month on 14,298, the balance due on the bond the 31st March, at 8 per cent. per annum	—	95	5	1			
		4,51,893	7	9			
Fyzd 16 Sun Sicca rupees	—	—	34,24,684	4	4	Fyzd 16 Sun Sicca rupees	34,24,684 4 4
Balance due on account of Mr. Frazer's bond, 31st March, is	—	14,298	0	0			
Deduct, The proportion of the receipts that the balance due on the bond bears to the whole amount due by the Vizier the 31st March	—	1,563	0	0			
		12,735	0	0			
Remains due on account the bond the 30th April	—	—	—	—	—		
Balance due on account of the donation 31st March	78,210	0	0				
Deduct, The proportion of the receipts that the balance due on account of the donation bears to the whole amount due by the Vizier the 31st March	8,550	0	0				
	69,660	0	0				
Remains due on account the donation 30th April	—	—	—	—	—		

Lucknow, the 1st of May 1785, or 7 of Byfaakbud. 1192.

Errors excepted.

(Signed)

TREVOR WHEELER,
Assist^t Accot at Lucknow.

(298)

*EXTRACT of Bengal Secret Consultations, the 14th June, 1785.*

Governor General,

I beg leave to lay before the Board a letter which I have received from Major Palmer.

The Board will recollect the letters that are recorded in Consultation 26th April, from the Vizier and his acting minister.

I communicated to Major Palmer my dissatisfaction at the contents of these letters, which were in the nature of a charge against this Government for breach of the engagements made with the Vizier.

Such a charge was ill-founded; and a simple reference to Rajah Govind Ram's letters is sufficient to prove it so: Rajah Govind Ram states it as his own opinion, that it would be agreeable to this Government that the Vizier should, of his own accord, offer to pay the expence of Sir John Cumming's detachment. The truth is, that the Company have not funds to pay such expence; and as the detachment, which is maintained for the Vizier's service, is absolutely necessary for the security of his dominions, and has been lately of very essential use, it seems most reasonable that the charges attending it should be defrayed by his Excellency.

I hope that the Vizier's funds will enable him to do so, more especially as the reduction which has lately been effected by this Government, in the allowances granted by his Excellency to the servants of the Company in his country, gives him an additional resource of more than ten lacks of rupees per annum.

I formerly intimated to the members of the Board my intention of allowing Major Palmer to resign his office at Lucknow, whenever he should think proper; and their wishes concurred with my own, that the succession to it should be vested in Lieutenant Colonel Harper, a gentleman of experience and ability, respected for the integrity of his character, and esteemed by the Vizier. I have accordingly appointed him my Agent at the Court of Lucknow.

The Board will observe from Major Palmer's letter now recorded, that he proposes to leave Lucknow very soon.

I have been further guided in my nomination of Lieutenant Colonel Harper to this trust by the approbation which the members of the Board gave to a military plan for the security of the Vizier's country, which Colonel Harper submitted to them individually, before he went to the Upper Provinces; and to support which the office of agent from the Governor General will give him particular influence, and the best opportunities of affording it public effect.

The letters, announcing to the Vizier Colonel Harper's nomination to this temporary appointment, will be regularly laid before the Board; and it is with particular pleasure that I avail myself of the present occasion in favour of Lieutenant Colonel Harper, to testify to the Board, and to the Company, what I think due to the merit of an officer, who was not recommended to me, nor connected with me; but whom, upon account of his former services to the Company, and the well-known satisfaction which his conduct gave to the Nabob of Oude, in the time of the late Sujah ul Dowlah, I have thought it my duty to select for this trust, in preference to others who had claims to my support, and were nearly interested in the success of my administration. I have been further induced to this choice, as it is most consistent with the spirit of the agreement that was made by Mr. Hastings with the Vizier in 1784; indeed I may add, that the Vizier has made a particular request to me, that, if Major Palmer left Lucknow, Colonel Harper should be his successor.

To the Honourable John Macpherson, Esquire, Governor General, &c. &c. Fort William.

Sir,

The day after I had the honour to receive your letter of the 8th instant, I was seized with a violent fever, which, from that day to this, has rendered me totally incapable of any application to business.

It



It has given me great uneasiness to learn, that the Nabob's answer to the representations from you, made through Govind Ram, should have made an unfavourable impression upon your mind of the intention either of the Nabob or myself: I can assert, that no such effect was expected from it. I must confess that the surprise which yourself and the Board have expressed at his Excellency's answer, is to me unaccountable. It was not possible the Vizier could avoid being alarmed at the intimation of a demand for the discharge of the disbursements of the Futty Ghur detachment, after he had been publicly and recently informed of the solemn renunciation of it made in council for the present year; and after having assigned three-fifths of his whole revenue to the complete discharge of his debt to the Company, and to relieve them in their necessities. The Nabob trusted to the faith of the public engagements, and to the sense which the Members of the Board would entertain of this great exertion which he had made for the interests of the Company, and the credit of their administration, not only for exemption of any further demands, but for every indulgence in their power to shew him towards the relief of his funds. I understood it to be the idea of yourself and Mr. Hastings, that my continuation in office at Lucknow should be considered by the Vizier as an additional security or pledge of a firm adherence, on the part of our Government, to the engagements which he had entered into with the late Governor General, and for the support of his ministers in the execution of them. It was therefore with great concern that I observed, from the letter of Govind Ram, a wish on your part to extend the demands of the year, in the very instance which had been specifically provided against by a subsequent act of the Board; and my concern upon this occasion is considerably increased by your opinion expressed to me of the propriety of the demand, and the probability that it will be publicly made. I am entirely unacquainted with any circumstance which can have occasioned any change in the state of the proposition respecting the Futty Ghur detachment, since the 14th January; when it was resolved in Council to continue the detachment, but to suspend the charge of it to the Vizier, until the receipt of orders from the Company. The purpose of retaining the detachment was to protect the Vizier's dominions against the attempts of his enemies: And, whether this service was performed by obviating or repelling such attempts, no claim can be thereby established, in contradiction to a renunciation made under the expectation of such service, and without any provision expressed for it. Viewing the requisition in these lights, and considering myself, as I have said above, placed here to encourage in the Vizier a firm reliance on the good faith of our Government, and in the moderation of your personal character, I could not with consistency oppose the representations which his Excellency thought it indispensable to make in vindication of his rights, and to engage your support of them. His appeal was made personally to yourself, as was particularly expressed in it; and consequently could not mean to insinuate to your colleagues, or to the public, any apprehensions of your intention to depart from the public engagements.

The only material subject, besides the above, which I have seen in Rajah Govind Ram's letters, was that of your having complained that the stated kists for the liquidation of the Nabob's debt to the Company had not been regularly discharged: and that, unless they should be so in future, you should be obliged to send Mr. Bristow, or some other Resident, to Lucknow; as the abolition of that gentleman's office had been upon the express condition of punctuality in this article, and for which Mr. Hastings made himself responsible. As you had received information from me, before this conversation passed with Rajah Govind Ram, that the kists had been and continued to be paid with great exactness, and Rajah Govind Ram did not state in his letters, to what particular kists you alluded, the Vizier could attribute to no other than the misrepresentation of interested persons, your reproach of failure on this head; and when this reproach was combined with the name of Mr. Bristow, it carried an air of unkindness under which it was impossible for him to be either easy or silent.

With respect to the time of payment of bills drawn upon Calcutta, it was settled by the late Governor General; and, I believe, conformable to the practice of the bankers.

I have no where seen, in the letters of the Rajah Govind Ram to his Excellency, that it was your desire he should refer to me alone for the explanation of your sentiments, as contained in your public letters.

If the actual expence incurred by the Company for the troops stationed for the protection of the Vizier's dominions, exceeds the subsidy paid for them by his Excellency, it ought not in any shape to be ascribed to a necessity of service performed for him: the subsidy is estimated much higher than the actual expences of the establishments existing when it was made. An amazing increase of officers has since taken place; and the supernumeraries have been crowded upon the stations within his dominions, while there have been great deficiencies in the number of privates, particularly of Europeans.

Your



Your reductions in the allowances granted by the Vizier, to the gentlemen at Lucknow, will be highly acceptable, and a great relief to his Excellency's finances.

As I have always been of opinion, that the affairs of government at this court might be most advantageously conducted by an agent known to possess not only your public confidence, but also your private friendship; as I have no intention to engage in public business after the departure of Mr. Hastings, it has been always my wish to be relieved from this station, whenever you should think my services might be dispensed with: I have frequently told you so, to relieve you from any embarrassment which delicacy towards me might lay you under. But as I was resolved to sacrifice every personal consideration to the opinion which yourself and Mr. Hastings had entertained, that my continuance in office might be productive of public benefit, I had not expressed any wish to be removed at this particular time; nor was it my intention to have desired leave to retire, until the arrangements formed by Mr. Hastings, had terminated. It is, however, perfectly agreeable to me to retire at this time; and I have, in consequence of your desire, sent for Colonel Harper, and acquainted him with my intention to leave Lucknow as soon as I am in a situation to travel, and can adjust some necessary affairs. I hope that neither of these considerations will detain me beyond the first of July; for it is my earnest wish to get away as soon as possible.

I do not think that you could have made a more judicious choice of an agent than Colonel Harper, nor one more acceptable to the Vizier and his ministers.

I am convinced that you will find the sincerest disposition in the Nabob Vizier, and his servants, to promote the interests of the Company, and the honour of your administration.

For my own part, I sincerely lament that I am so peculiarly situated, as to render it unavoidable that I must either appear to oppose the views of my employers, or to act contrary to my own sense of justice.

I have the honour to be,

Lucknow,

Sir,

31 May 1785.

Your most obedient and humble servant,

WM PALMER.

The members of the Board entertain an high opinion of Lieutenant Colonel Harper; and they have an entire confidence in his abilities and integrity. They approve of the principle on which the Governor General has nominated this gentleman to be his agent at Lucknow; and they are hopeful that the other object, which the Board had in contemplation for Lieutenant Colonel Harper, will be forwarded by this appointment. The Board wait the orders of the Company for the regulation of affairs in the Vizier's country.

The Secretary lays before the Board the following letter from the Resident at Benares.

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

Sir,

I have received the honour of your letter of the 12th ultimo, communicating the orders of the Honourable Board, by which the amount of the Nabob Saad Ul Ally Cawn's stipend is in future restricted to rupees 16,666. 10. 8. per month.

I beg you will please to inform the Honourable Board, that I never received any instruction whatever from the late Governor General on this subject.

I am,

Benares,

Sir,

1st June 1785.

Your very obedient servant,

F. FOWKE,

Rest.

Agreed, That the over-payment to Saad Ally Cawn be stated to the Vizier, and that he be requested to permit the amount thereof to be carried to his Excellency's debit, agreeable to the resolutions of the 12th ultimo.



Extract of Bengal Secret Consultations, the 28th June 1785.

The Secretary lays before the Board the following letter from the Assistant to the Accountant at Lucknow, and the accounts enclosed in it.

To Edward Hay, Esquire, Secretary.

Sir,

I request the favour of your laying before the Honourable Board the accompanying Treasury and Nabob Vizier's Accounts for the month of May, 1785.

I am,

Sir,

Accountant's office, Lucknow,
8th June 1785.

Your most obedient

humble Servant,

(Signed) TREVOR WHEELER,
Asst Acct at Lucknow.

Ordered, That the accounts mentioned in the foregoing letter be entered after the consultation.

Read the following letters received, and sent and entered in the books of the Persian correspondence.

To the Vizier: written 12th May 1785.

As the two roffalas of cavalry, which are now in your country, are the only corps of cavalry in the service of the Company, and may be essentially useful in your dominions, I am to request your permission to debit you for them while they have been in your country, and to continue the same while they remain in it. I must also make a similar request with respect to the Company of chaffeurs ordered from Chunargur to Cawnpore.

To Hyder Beg Khan and Hussen Reza Khan; of the same tenor and date.

From the Vizier: received 21st June 1785.

I have had the pleasure to receive your letter; your order, that two roffalas of horse are stationed by the Company to watch and defend my country, and the concerns of my government; and that, from their remaining, my dominions will be protected, and my concerns benefited; and that, from the day of the said roffalas being fixed in my country, as long as they may remain there, the expence of their pay should be written in my accounts; that at this time, a company of Europeans, which was at Chunar, has been added to the brigade at Cawnpore; and that, whilst they shall continue with the troops of Cawnpore, their pay also should be issued from my Sircar, and written in my accounts.—My friend, I am in every respect desirous of your satisfaction, and on these points I can make no opposition to the manner which you direct; whatever may be your will, I agree to it: I will pay it in the year 1193.—The particulars of my distresses are well known to you, and you have been favourable for the reduction of my expences: I hope that you will not order an increase of expence. My property and country are the same as the Company's Sircar, there is no difference; and the protection of my country and of the concerns of my government, is effected through the blessing of God, and the friendship of the Company; it does not depend upon two roffalas of horse, and a company of European soldiers, because there are in the brigade of Cawnpore, two battalions of Europeans, whose pay is issued by me with the pay of the brigade. I am in all respects hopeful of your favour. At present I can make no excuses, because it might occur to your mind that I do not chuse to obey your



your will: their assignments shall be given in the year 1193. In future, turning your eye to the relief of my situation, be favourable in a proper manner, that such expences may not be put upon me.

From Hyder Beg Khan: received 21st June 1785.

I have been honoured by the receipt of your letter, about the two rossalas of horse and the company of chaffeurs. My protector, his Highness, is obedient to your will, and ready to execute your orders; and from your favours he hopes relief from his situation. Whatever you will order, he will execute. Every particular will be fully learnt from his Highness's letter which is sent. I am under your orders and commands; and consider obedience, in every thing which you may order, to be my happiness and advantage. I am hopeful that I may be honoured with letters of kindness.

To the Nauvab Vizier: written 19th May 1785.

I have had the honour of receiving your Highness's last letter of the 10th May. It has given me real satisfaction, that your Highness has, on every occasion, shewn a spirit worthy of your high situation and illustrious descent; and this is not the first occasion in which you have united that spirited disposition of mind with strong attachment to the Company and their representatives in India.

Your conduct in going to the aid of Governor General Hastings, during the troubles of Benares, made a lasting and favourable impression on my mind; and your offer to proceed now, at the head of your own and the Company's forces in your country, to resent any indignity that may be offered, raises my esteem for your Highness to the highest degree.

I know that your Highness means this friendly offer from your heart; and, should a proper occasion offer, I will certainly agree to your proposal with readiness. I will mention it in the most favourable terms to the Company, and the minister of my sovereign, who will not fail to give the King of England a full impression of your Highness's attachment to the English.

At present, I have every reason to believe, that neither Sindia nor Shaw Allum will deviate from the most friendly declarations, which they have recently made to me, disavowing any idea of dissatisfaction towards your Highness or the English.

Your own troops, under proper discipline, and the English brigades, animated by the influence of your Highness's attachment to this government, are fully sufficient to command the respect of all the powers of Indostan united; and as it is neither my own disposition, nor that of your Highness, to disturb neighbouring powers, or offend our allies, so I trust that the peace of your dominions will be long established. Major Palmer will mention other particulars relative to our military security. I am highly pleased with the zeal which your ministers have shewn towards your own and the Company's government, on this late occasion.

To Hyder Beg Khan: written 19th May 85.

I have received your last letter [recapitulate the contents] which gave me great satisfaction. His Highness may be assured, that this voluntary offer from his friendship, is most pleasing to me, as I am convinced it came from his heart; and when a proper occasion offers, I will certainly agree to his proposal. What I have written to his Highness, you may consider as equally addressed to yourself. Major Palmer will inform you of further particulars.



CSL

TREASURY ACCOUNT of the Accountant at Lucknow, from the 1st to the 31st of May 1785, or from the 7th of Byfaakbud to the 8th Jeitebud 1192

Balance remaining in the treasury the 30th of April, or 6
Byfaak bud 1192 - - - - -

3,25,121 1 8

To the Nabob Vizier.

Received from Hyder Beg Cawn, kist for Jeite - - - - -

3,25,000 0 0

By Fort William Presidency.

Paid the Paymaster General, as per his receipt of 4th of May, for
C^a R^s 3,60,750 - - - - -

3,25,000 0 0

Paid Mr. Blaine his salary, as surgeon, for May,
C^a S^a R^s 1,250 - - - - -

1,312 8 0

Do. Mr. Wombwell do. as Accountant, for May,
C^a S^a R^s 2,600 - - - - -

2,730 0 0

Do. Mr. Wheeler do. as Asst to the Accountant, for May 1,000 0 0

5,042 8 0

3,30,042 8 0

By the Nabob Vizier.

Paid the Rohillas for Byfaak - - - - -

5,131 8 0

3,35,174 0 0

By balance remaining in the treasury the 31st May 1785, or 8th Jeite
bud 1192 - - - - -

3,14,947 1 8

Fyz^d 16 Sun Sicca Rupees - - - - -

6,50,121 1 8

Fyza 16 Sun Sicca Rupees - - - - -

6,50,121 1 8

May 31.—Balance due the Shroffs on account the money bor-
rowed from them in June 1783 - L^w S^a R^s

13,61,055 7 6

Lucknow, 1st June 1785, or 9th Jeite bud 1192.

Errors excepted,

TREVOR WHEELER,

Assistant Accountant at Lucknow.



NABOB VIZIER in Account with the Honourable Governor General and Council, from the 1st to the 31st May 1785, or from the 7th of Byfaakbud to the 8th of Jeitebud 1192.

CSL

C.

To balance due the 30th of April 1785, or 6th Byfaakbud 1192	—	—	30,99,684 4 4	By amount received, as per the Accountant's treasury account	3,25,000 0
To Army Subsidy.				By balance due the 31st of May 1785, or 8th of Jeite bud 1192	34,28,396 0 4
For one brigade, according to the old establishment.	2,60,000 0 0				
For one regiment, according to the new establishment, stationed at Lucknow	25,000 0 0				
For five regiments of sepoy, and one company of artillery, under Colonel Sir John Cumming	1,45,000 0 0	4,30,000 0 0			
To Mirza Saudit Ally's Stipend.					
For one month, at 2 lacks per annum		16,666 10 8			
To Rohilla Stipends.					
Paid them for Byfaak		5,121 8 0			
To interest on Mr. Frazer's bond.					
One month on 12,735, the balance due the 30th of April, at 8 per cent per ann.		84 14 5			
To amount short debited on account of the Candahar cavalry, as per the Accountant General's letter of the 21st Feby.	CRs 1,69,084 9 8				
Deduct,					
Error in the sum charged on account of loss by exchange, as per the Accountant General's letter, 29th April	9,678 15 8				
Amount of horse stoppages on account of his Excellency, from April to December 1782, as per the Paymaster General's Account Current	21,752 1 8				
	31,431 1 4				
Current rupees	1,37,653 8 4				
Deduct batra 11 per cent.	13,641 5 4	1,24,012 3 0			
To amount of Major Lumfaine's bills	51,121 3 0				
of Major Gilpin's	25,192 0 0				
of Lieut. John Shipton	1,503 4 11				
	77,816 7 11				
		6,53,711 12 0			
Fyzabad 16 San Sicca rupees		37,53,396 0 4		Fyzabad 16 San Sicca Rupees	37,53,396 0 4
Balance due on Mr. Frazer's bond the 30th April	12,735 0 0				
Deduct, the proportion of the receipts that the balance due on the bond bears to the whole amount due by the Nabob the 30th April	1,335 0 0				
Remains due on account the 31st of May		11,400 0 0			
Balance due on account the army donation, 30th April	69,660 0 0				
Deduct, the proportion of the receipts that the balance due on the bond bears to the whole amount due by the Nabob the 30th April	7,393 0 0				
Remains due on account the donation, 31st May		62,357 0 0			

Lucknow, the 1st June 1785, or 9th of Jeitebud 1192.

Errors excepted.

TREVOR WHITE

[305]

305



EXTRACT of the Secret Letter from Bengal, dated 23d July 1785.

Par. 40. Your Governor General laid before us on the 14th ultimo a letter which he had received from Major Palmer, dated the 30th May. The subject of it will be fully detailed in our next advices. Major Palmer communicated his purpose of leaving Lucknow soon; and the Governor General acquainted us, that he had appointed Lieutenant Colonel Gabriel Harper to be his agent at the court of Lucknow. The Governor General had formerly intimated to us individually his intention of allowing Major Palmer to resign his office at Lucknow, whenever he should think proper; and our wishes concurred with his own, that the succession to it should be vested pro tempore in Lieutenant Colonel Harper, a gentleman of experience and ability, respected for the integrity of his character, and not only esteemed by the Vizier, but the express object of his Excellency's request, that he should succeed Major Palmer. There were further reasons, which will be hereafter communicated to your Honourable Court, for this selection of Lieutenant Colonel Harper for the trust delegated to him. The agreement made by your late Governor General with the Nabob Vizier, and yet in force, precluded the appointment of a public minister from this government at Lucknow. The allowances to Lieutenant Colonel Harper are limited to those to which Major Palmer's were lately reduced; vizt Sonat Rs 2,988 per mensem.

41. The balance due to the Company from the Nabob Vizier amounted, on the 31st of May last, to Fyzabad 16 sun sicca rupees 34,28,396. 0. 1.

42. An arrangement has been made for the liquidation of your debt to Gopaul Dofs Saw, and Kissen Chund, contracted by the Resident at the Vizier's court in 1783, and now amounting to current rupees 2,93,923. 11. 8.

EXTRACT of Secret Letter from Bengal, dated 31st July 1785.

Par. 64. Towards the end of March last, some conversation passed between your Governor General and Rajah Govend Ram, the Vakeel of the Nabob Vizier at this presidency, in which the Governor General suggested to him his wish that the Vizier might be punctual in the payment of his gifts, and urged the necessity of his being so, as well as the possible consequences of the reverse; and he intimated also the pleasure he would receive, if a voluntary offer were made by the Vizier to defray the charge of your detachment under Colonel Sir John Cumming. The particulars of this conversation appear on our proceedings of the 26th of April, as written by Rajah Govind Ram to the Vizier and his ministers, and laid before the Board by your Governor General, who desired them from the Vakeel, in consequence of his having received letters from the Nabob and Major Palmer, in which it appears that some offence had been taken at their contents, and a charge implied against this government of breach of the engagements with his Excellency. The charge being without foundation, the circumstance is no otherwise deserving of serious notice, than that it may lead to a supposition in others, which Major Palmer appears to have entertained, that your Governor General had been deficient in fairness of conduct to the Nabob Vizier, which we are very sure was very far from his intention; and as it appears to have been the primary cause which influenced an alteration that has lately taken place in the management of your interests at the court of Lucknow.

65. A second letter was received by your Governor General from Major Palmer, in which he takes notice of the Governor's answer to the Vizier's letter, alluded to in the foregoing paragraph, and offers his remarks on it with freedom; perhaps it may appear to you with a freedom not totally warranted by his relation to the service and to this government; certainly not by the occasion. Major Palmer's observations were prefatory to a repetition of the wish he had before expressed, to be relieved from his station whenever the Governor General should think that his services might be dispensed with. He observed, that he had not declared his wish to be removed at this particular time, nor was it his intention to have desired leave to retire until the arrangements formed by Mr. Hastings had terminated; that it was, however, perfectly agreeable to him to retire now: and, in consequence of the Governor General's desire, he had sent for Colonel Harper, and acquainted him with his intention to leave Lucknow as soon as he was in a situation to travel, and could adjust some necessary affairs,

Par. 66. Your Governor General had formerly intimated to us, individually, his intention to allow Major Palmer to resign his office at Lucknow, whenever he should think proper; and our wishes concurred with his, that the succession to it should be vested in Lieutenant Colonel Harper, a gentleman of experience and abilities, respected for the integrity of his character, and esteemed by the Nabob Vizier and the principal men in his court.



We were informed, on the 14th ultimo, that your Governor General had accordingly appointed Lieutenant Colonel Harper his agent at the court of Lucknow.

67. Your Governor General was further guided in his nomination of Lieutenant Colonel Harper to this trust, by the approbation which we had given to a military plan for the security of the Vizier's country, which Colonel Harper submitted to us individually before he went to the upper provinces; and to support which, the office of agent from the Governor General would give him particular influence, and the best opportunities of affording it public effect.

68. The Governor General availed himself of the occasion that offered, on his announcing to us the appointment of Lieutenant Colonel Harper, to testify to the Board, and to your Honourable Court, what he thought due to the merits of an officer who was not recommended to nor connected with him; but whom, upon his former services to the Company, and the well-known satisfaction which his conduct gave to the Nabob of Oude, in the time of the late Soujah ul Dowlah, he had thought it his duty to select for this trust, in preference to others who had claims to his support, and were nearly interested in the success of his administration. He was further induced to this choice, as it was most consistent with the spirit of the agreement that was made by Mr. Hastings with the Vizier in 1784; and because his Excellency has made it his particular request, that, if Major Palmer left Lucknow, Colonel Harper should be his successor.

69. We entertain an high opinion of Lieutenant Colonel Harper, and have an entire confidence in his ability and integrity. We approved of the principle on which the Governor General had nominated this gentleman to be his agent at Lucknow; and we are hopeful that the other object, which we had in contemplation for Colonel Harper, will be forwarded by this appointment. We wait your orders for the regulation of affairs in the Vizier's country.

71. We have the honour to refer you to our consultation of April 5, for an account shewing the amount of the Nabob Vizier's debt to the Company, at the end of February 1784, and how far it has been increased or diminished, according to the latest information received by your Accountant General on the 16th February 1785.

72. Your Accountant General having informed us that the sums to be charged to the account of, and received from, his Excellency the Vizier, for the expence of the troops serving in his dominions, must very materially affect the estimate of the probable resources and disbursements of this government, and requested that we would inform him of the amount at which he might estimate those for the year 1785-6, if those at which they were estimated for 1784-5 might not be adopted on forming the estimate of the ensuing year of account—we were of opinion that there could be no doubt of the propriety of debiting the Nabob Vizier, for the year 1785-6, for the brigade at Cawnpore and the regiment at Lucknow; though there might be some, with respect to the propriety of debiting his Excellency for the expence of the detachment under Colonel Sir John Cumming for that year, if, from appearances in the upper provinces, there was not a likelihood that the services of the detachment would be required. But as there was a probability of commotions, and as the Vizier had agreed to admit the charge of the detachment upon himself while a necessity existed for it, we resolved that it should be entered in the estimate accordingly.

73. On the return of your troops from the western side of India, the two roffalahs of horse that served with it were attached to the station of Cawnpore and Futty Ghurr; and we resolved, on the 27th February 1784, that an addition should be made to the Nabob's subsidy for these troops. But, as nothing further decisive had passed upon the subject, your Governor General wrote to the Vizier for his permission to debit his Excellency for three roffalahs, while they had been in his country, and to continue the same while they should remain in it: It was observed that this corps was the only corps of cavalry in the service of the Company, and might be essentially useful in his Excellency's dominions. A similar request was also made with respect to the Company of chaffeurs ordered from Chunargur to Cawnpore.

74. The Nabob Vizier has complied with these applications, but desired that the amounts may be charged to him in the ensuing, not the present year. They will be charged accordingly, with other sums disbursed on his Excellency's account, for military services performed in his country.

75. Captain Norman Macleod having applied to us for his pay, and the disbursements that he made while he had the charge of a body guard of your late Resident at Lucknow, we sent orders to the Accountant at that station to discharge the amount which was justly due to Capt. Macleod, and to pass the same to the debit of the Vizier.



Monnawar Dofs, the son and vackeel of Gopaul Dofs, having repeatedly desired payment of the amount borrowed from his father's house at Lucknow, on the Company's account, in the year 1783, by your late Resident, we gave orders to our Secretary, assisted by the Accomptant General and Sub-Treasurer, to propose the best and easiest mode of liquidating the debt to Gopaul Dofs, at Calcutta and Benares; observing, that the Company were not to be at a charge preferred by Monnawar Dofs for lots on exchange.

77. These gentlemen, in consequence, reported to us, that as they found by the representation which had been transmitted by the Accomptant at Lucknow, under date the 20th March, that the whole of your funds at that place, not absolutely necessary for the payment of your troops in the Vizier's dominions, were actually engaged to be remitted to Calcutta and Surat—and as the premium at which these were engaged to be remitted to Calcutta, and the loss of interest by the distance of time at which they were payable after date, were matters for which a compensation would be required, the just amount of which your Secretary and Accomptant General and Sub-Treasurer were unable to determine with any degree of accuracy—they were of opinion, that the Resident at Benares should be directed to remit to Lucknow whatever balance might remain in his hands from time to time, until the debt to Gopaul Dofs should be completely paid, making the remittances as expeditiously as possible, and upon terms most advantageous to your interests; and that orders should be sent to the Accomptant at Lucknow, to keep the Resident at Benares well informed of the amount due on this claim. Their motives for this recommendation appear on our proceedings of the 12th May.

78. We ordered that a statement of Gopaul Dofs's claim, calculated to the end of August next, should be sent to the Resident at Benares, and to the Accomptant at Lucknow; and that the Resident at Benares should remit to the Accomptant at Lucknow, at the most reasonable rates of exchange, whatever balance may remain in his hands, from time to time, until all that is required, with the aid of the under-mentioned bills from Lucknow, to discharge the debt to Gopaul Dofs, shall have been paid off.—We directed also, that the Accomptant at Lucknow should make over to Gopaul Dofs, or his order, the bills for ten lacks, that are to be granted on Calcutta, in the month of Behawdeen, by his Excellency the Vizier, if Gopaul Dofs should be willing to accept the same; with an allowance too of three per cent. for the loss of interest that will accrue by their not being payable in Calcutta until 90 days after date.

79. The amount of Gopaul Dofs's claims amounts to the sum of Lucknow sicca rupees 13,61,055. 7. 6. exclusive of interest.

80. When this and other loans were taken up from the bankers, the Lucknow Haley sicca rupees were valued in account at 5. 9. 3. per cent. below Fyzabad 16 fun ficas; but as, in the month of May 1784, your late Governor General directed that the Lucknow Haley ficas should be valued in account as equal to Fyzabad 16 fun ficas, your Accomptant General acquainted us, that, if of these the same sum was to be charged in the Lucknow accounts as was credited for them in Haley ficas, there would be a difference of Fyzabad 16 fun ficas 71,910 2. 7. between the sum for which the Lucknow treasury accounts were debited for the receipts of the principal of this loan, and that which they would be credited for the re-payment of it; and, as these were valued upon the Honourable Company's general books at 11 per cent. above current, the loss which would appear upon this loan would be current rupees 79,820. 4. 6. We were of opinion that this loss should be borne by the Nabob Vizier; and we accordingly directed the Accomptant at Lucknow to debit his Excellency's account with it, after having apprized him of our wishes on this subject.

81. The attornies of Major James Brown having laid before us fundry bills of disbursements made by that gentleman, prior to the 1st February 1785, during his deputation to the court of Delhi, and desired the discharge of them, we gave directions for passing the same; and, as the expence had been incurred before the departure of Mr. Hastings from Bengal, we ordered that it should be placed to the account of Durbar charges, incurred during the administration of the late Governor General.

82. No alteration having appeared in the amount charged to have been paid to Mirza Saudet Ally, by the Resident at Benares, for the stipend assigned to him by his Excellency the Vizier, correspondent to that which took place in the Lucknow accounts, from the 31st August 1784, when the sum charged monthly to the debit of his Excellency's account was reduced from Rs 25,000, to Rs 1,666. 10 8. in consequence of an arrangement made by the late Governor General in the upper provinces—the Resident of Benares was directed to acquaint the Board with the instructions which he received from Mr. Hastings on this subject; and at the same time to restrict the future payment of Saudet Ally's stipend in its reduced amount.

83. The



83. The Resident acquainting us that he had received no instructions on this subject from the late Governor General, the circumstances have been stated to the Vizier, who has been informed that the overpayment made to Saudit Ally, Sicca Rs 66,666. 10. 8. was not, in the Board's opinion, imputable to them; since we did not know of its existence in proper time, and had actually stopped it as soon as we were informed of its continuance: And the Vizier was requested to allow the amount to be charged to his Excellency's debit.

84. The Vizier's debit to the Company amounted, at the end of last month, to Fyzabad 16 Sun Sicca Rupees 25,81,910. 9. —

EXTRACT of Bengal Secret Consultations, the 13th January, 1785.

THE following minute having been written for some time since, and communicated privately to the members of the Board, the Governor General desires that it may be entered on the minutes of the 4th instant, as well as on these, that being the day on which it underwent their Inspection.

Agreed to, and ordered that the Secretary do enter the same accordingly.

The Governor General.

4th January 1785.

The period is now arrived in which I must either verify the declaration which I have made and repeated to the Court of Directors, of my intention to relinquish the service, or suspend the execution of it, if compelled to it on the grounds of superior obligation. These I shall now state, and submit my destiny to the justice and generosity of my colleagues in the administration. In making this appeal, I should be sorry to have it ascribed to any distrust in the issue, having evinced the contrary by making the declaration to which I have above alluded, without any such reserve or qualification, but I do it in performance of a solemn engagement, and with a conviction, that the security of a valuable portion of the Company's immediate and pecuniary interests indispensably require it.

The Board will permit me to remind them, that on the 31st December 1783 they passed an unanimous resolution, agreeing and declaring, that "the offer made by the Nabob Vizier, and his minister, to give the security of bankers of known credit and responsibility for the payment of the balance due to the Company, and for the current demands of that year, should be accepted, with the condition annexed, of the recall of Mr. Briflow and Mr. Cowper, the Governor General consenting to be especially answerable for the propriety of the measure;" and that in consequence of the Board's having agreed that the Governor General should proceed to Lucknow, for the purpose of assisting the Nabob Vizier in the means of discharging his engagements to the Company, and the regulation of his government, they, on the 17th February last, resolved, "That the Governor General should be, and he was thereby invested with full power and authority 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; and to support the Nabob Vizier with the authority of this government, in as full and ample manner as the Board could empower him by an act of parliament of Great Britain, or by any of the orders of the Honourable Court of Directors; and to take all such measures as he should think necessary for the accomplishment of these ends."

I undertook the service at a time, and under circumstances, which to a mind liable to despond, would have suggested unfurmoutable difficulties: These I have minutely stated in my correspondence with the Board; and my late report of the 20th September states in what manner I have executed the trust which I had undertaken.

The engagements which I have obtained from the Nabob Vizier cease with the close of the next Fushlee year, or in September next, but the means of fulfilling them depend upon the uncharged and unmolested subsistence of many internal arrangements, which are mutually connected by a series of five years from their formation, and *that* on the absolute forbearance of this government from all present interference in his authority, and especially in the controul and administration of his revenues.



When I was on the eve of parting from him, I deemed it consistent with the sincerity of my own character, and necessary to prevent the consequences of too abrupt an information, whenever he might receive it, of the apparent deprivation of my support, to acquaint him with the probable approach of my removal from the service, and at the same time I promised him that I would on no account make it in my own act, without previously obtaining from the Board their promise of an entire and punctual adherence to the engagements which I had made with him on my own part individually, and on the behalf of the Board, in virtue of their existing engagements with me, which are contained in the resolution to which I have appealed in the introduction of this minute. The same assurance I gave also to his ministers, I soon after departed, leaving my Secretary, Major Palmer, as my personal representative and agent with the Nabob Vizier, both for the encouragement of the Nabob and his ministers, and for the means of urging them to the faithful discharge of their stipulated payments, and Mr. Wombwell, the proper officer, in charge of the receipts.

In conformity to the above engagements, I now make it my earnest request to the Board, that they will be pleased to record their resolution to abide by the arrangements which I have made, and to notify the same for the satisfaction and assurance of the Nabob Vizier, and his ministers, by an official letter to the Nabob Vizier from my eventual successor, with a promise that no deviation shall be made from the said arrangements, nor any person deputed to reside at his court, but at his own spontaneous inclination, or any authority exercised within the limits of his dominion, by the appointment and permission of the Board, except such as shall be required by the Nabob himself, for the military officers stationed for his defence, and the protection of his country until the conclusion of the present Fuffulle year, or until the orders of the Court of Directors shall be received, in consequence of the references which have been made to them, if such orders shall either enjoin or authorize a different conduct.

I presume that this requisition is consonant with the strictest of legal propriety, as the first delegation of the trust made to me in December last extends in its full force, as a reciprocal obligation, to the period which I have prescribed; and as the act of a majority of the Board, which followed it from its legal obligation, on the whole necessarily includes and involves every engagement contracted under it and conformable to it, with the same force of an equal and permanent obligation.

Before I conclude, I desire to obviate every possible misconception of my object in the requisition which I have made. I do not desire the Board, nor the members of it, individually, to approve what I have done; I only desire them to ratify what I have done under a constitutional and legal authority, by their constitutional and legal acquiescence and confirmation of it; knowing that without it the Nabob Vizier, and his ministers, who are ignorant of the powers of the Board, and of the principles which give stability to its decided acts, which conclude that all the engagements contracted with them, by the only ostensible member of our government with whom by the forms of it they are connected, will be dissolved on his removal from it: I make the proposal with an anxiety natural to the importance of its issue, in the hope that it will prove the last act of my public life, and the last test which I shall exact from the Board of that spirit of mutual conciliation which no difference of opinion has yet been able wholly to extinguish, and which it is my most earnest wish to preserve, whether we are to be still longer united in the same service, or whether we are to part, in our public capacities, for ever.

The following minute is delivered by Mr. Macpherson and Mr. Stables:

We have considered the very important and solemn proposition which the Governor General has made to the Board: The very earnest manner in which he has called upon us, as his colleagues in the administration, and the great anxiety which he has expressed for the issue of our determination, oblige us to confine our sentiments, on the present occasion, to a close and explicit answer to the question which he has been pleased to propose.

The question itself, as a proposition for our adoption, is stated in full and clear terms: nor need we repeat the words. It is a proposition founded upon specific acts of this government which have already taken place, and, as members of the government, we have already committed our sanction in its favour, by those legal obligations which bind every member of the administration to the acts of a decided majority, and that constitutional acquiescence in the arrangements concluded between the Governor General and the Nabob Vizier and his ministers, and to which our ratification is required, on the liberal principal which the Governor General has specified.



We are sensible of the just and public grounds upon which it is proper and necessary that the Nabob Vizier should be assured that arrangements concluded with him for the discharge of his debt to the Company, and the future regulation and increase of his revenues, should remain permanent and binding upon the Company's representatives, independent of the continuance in office of the Governor General for the time, who had the delegated powers of the government to conclude those arrangements; we are therefore willing and ready to adopt the mode which the Governor General has proposed for leaving the mind of the Vizier, as well as his ministers, from all apprehension or uneasiness upon this subject.

We are confident, at the same time, that the Governor General will, of his own accord, use his utmost influence to convince the Vizier and his ministers of the necessity of a punctual performance of their engagements, so as to preclude this government from all interference in the controul and administration of his Excellency's revenues. Having acceded in so explicit a manner to the Governor General's proposal, and having pledged our support of arrangements; for the successful issue of which to the public, it is natural for the Governor General to carry an anxiety beyond the period he may wish to prescribe to his own administration in this country; we further beg leave to assure him, that whether we are to be longer united with him in the public service, or are soon to separate, it is our earnest wish to preserve unextinguished, and improve, that spirit of conciliation which is equally dictated by our own sense of public duty and our personal respect for the Governor General.

(Signed) { JOHN MACPHERSON.
 { JOHN STABLES.

EXTRACT of Bengal Secret Consultations, 14th January, 1785.

THE Governor General requests the decision of the Board on a proposition which he some time since submitted to their consideration; namely, that if it shall be their resolution, on the arrival of the fox, which it has been supposed may contain some orders respecting the force to be kept up in the provinces dependent on the Nabob of Owd, to retain the detachment now commanded by Colonel Sir John Cummings in its present station at Futty Ghur, or in any other part of the Nabob's dominions, the payment of his expences be not demanded from the Nabob Vizier during the course of this year, but the subject be generally referred to the Honourable Court of Directors, and a due time allowed for their answer and decision thereon to be received, for the regulation of that claim. The Governor General is the more anxious to receive the determination of the Board on the question depending, because he conceives it to be immediately connected with the object of his minute of the 4th instant; for if the charge of that detachment, which has been estimated at twenty-two lacks and a half, but which will more probably amount to twenty-five lacks, shall be exacted from the Nabob Vizier in the course of the present year, it will not only be a breach of the engagements made with him by the Governor General, but exceed by the amount, whatever it may be, his ability to pay it, and the demand will produce the effect of a total abolition of the engagements now subsisting with the Nabob Vizier.

Respecting the question of withdrawing or continuing the corps, the Governor General informs the Board, that the Nabob Vizier has provided five battalions of sepoy to replace Col. Cumming's detachment. These have been lately completed, and properly equipped for the service, under the direction of a very able officer, whom the Governor General left with the Nabob for that purpose, and for attendance on the Prince, with whom they are at present stationed as his guard; they are to attend the Prince as far as Futty Ghur, their destined station, and no further, as the Nabob cannot provide funds for raising an equivalent recruit to supply their place. This officer is Captain Frith. The Governor General did not mention his appointment to the Board in his former report relating to the Prince, because the Nabob Vizier had at that time signified his intention of placing the corps under the command of a native officer, and the Governor General of course withdrawn his recommendation of Captain Frith. The Nabob has since changed his intention.

Now, if it be the decided opinion of the Board that the detachment be continued in its station for another year, the Governor General conceives that it will afford a considerable saving to the Nabob Vizier, to apprise him of it, that he may disband the corps which he had appointed for its relief; and what is a saving to the Nabob will be eventually an aid to the Company. But if the Board shall either suspend their opinion, or shall adopt the conciliatory expedient of ordering the relief to take effect in the month of April or May next, beyond which the approaching season

311



of the rains will preclude the necessity of any defence during their continuance; and it may be easily remanded to the same station, if there should be a call for it after that period; in either of these cases the Nabob should be informed of the Board's intention, that he may keep the same corps in readiness for its eventual destination. The Governor General offers these intimations merely in advice, deeming it improper, in his present situation, to propose them as formal questions.

The only question in which he requests the decision of the Board, is that to which he has referred in the first part of his minute, viz. that no part of the subsidy or charge of Colonel Sir John Cumming's detachment be exacted from the Nabob Vizier during the course of this year, but that his engagement be allowed to stand at 1,05,00,000 rupees, the sum fixed by his engagement concluded with and ratified by the Governor General.

(Signed) WARREN HASTINGS.

Mr. Macpherson.

The sum agreed between the Governor General and the Nabob Vizier to be discharged within the Full year, is all that can be exacted from the Vizier within that period. I agree that the expence of Sir John Cumming's detachment be submitted, as was suggested in a former minute of the Governor General's, and more particularly in the preceding minute, to the determination of the Court of Directors. But I think that the Vizier should be immediately informed that the Board think the expence of his new levies an unnecessary expence, and that Sir John Cumming's detachment will, while it remains in his dominions, render those new battalions unnecessary.

The Governor General is requested to write to his Excellency the Vizier accordingly.

(Signed) J. M^rP.

Agreed.

J. S.

EXTRACT of Bengal Secret Consultations, the 8th March, 1785.

THE Governor General lays before the Board the following letters which he has received from Major Palmer; the last inclosing a letter from his Royal Highness the Shahzada Mirza Jewan Bucker.

Lucknow, 13th February 1785.

• Dear Sir,

I have had the honour to receive your letter of the 1st instant, and am deeply impressed with a sense of the liberal and generous terms upon which you require my continuance at Lucknow, for the purposes of assisting in the arrangements established by Mr. Hastings between the Company and the Vizier, and of the transactions of your Government.

It is with the greatest sincerity that I declare to you, my first wish is to retire from public business, not from distrust of your confidence and support, but for reasons which are purely of personal consideration to myself; yet I am too conscious of my obligations to the Company, to my most worthy and respected patron and friend, Mr. Hastings, and to the manner in which you have engaged my services, to hesitate a moment in making any sacrifice of my ease or convenience, whilst you and he are partially disposed to believe it may contribute to the success of public affairs, and to the credit of your administration. These will be the first objects of my attention, so long as you are pleased to honour me with the execution of your commands. I have no views, nor will I entertain any that can come into competition with them; and you may be assured, that I will serve you with the same zeal and fidelity with which I have served Mr. Hastings for near eleven years.

I am

312



I am persuaded that it cannot be difficult for you to find, amongst your particular and most deserving friends, a gentleman with every requisite to conciliate the confidence and esteem of the Vizier and his servants, and with abilities far superior to mine to conduct the affairs of your Government at this darbar; and whenever you shall be inclined to send here a person of this description, I will most cheerfully and cordially make way for him, and introduce him upon the most advantageous footing in my power.

The Vizier and his ministers place a firm reliance upon the assurances which Mr. Hastings has given them of your friendly disposition towards them, and of your determination to abide by the engagements which he has entered into. Their confidence will be strengthened and confirmed by your own letters, and the daily proofs which the course of business will afford.

The Shah Zada and the Vizier are hourly expected. I shall have the honour to present your letters to them on their arrival; and will omit no means nor opportunity of exciting in their minds that entire confidence and esteem which is so necessary to the public welfare, and for your mutual personal satisfaction. I have not the smallest doubt of success in this endeavour.

I have the pleasure to acquaint you, that there is not the least appearance of failure in the Vizier's pecuniary engagements to the Company. The crops are remarkably fine, and no obstruction has happened, or is likely to happen in the collections. It shall be my particular care to guard against every circumstance which may tend to disappoint the well-grounded hope I entertain upon this subject.

The late predatory incursion of the Seiks has been more discreditable than injurious to the Vizier's government; there has certainly been neglect in the Aumil of Rohilcund, as the Vizier pays for a force in that country more than adequate to its protection against such a despicable banditti as the Seiks, and the ghauts should have been properly guarded as soon as the rivers became fordable. The depredations made by these freebooters falls upon individuals, and can in no shape affect the public revenues. They retreated across the Ganges on the first appearance of the Vizier's troops, and although they are now assembled to the number, as is reported, of 20,000, on the western shore of the Ganges, I have not the least apprehension of their making another attempt to penetrate into the Vizier's dominions, as Sir John Cumming detached two regiments on the 2d instant to Anoopshire, and was to follow with his whole force on the 12th.

Repeated and uniform accounts have been received through the public news-papers, and private intelligence, of encouragement given to this attack upon the Vizier's possessions by Mahajee Scindia, and of his having engaged to support it by a Mahratta force. I did not give implicit credit to these reports, but the possibility of their being true was sufficient cause for not neglecting them. I therefore recommend it to the Vizier to require the actual march of the Fatty Ghur detachment, and the preparation for it of the brigade at Cawnpore. The latter is now suspended as unnecessary, since Sir John Cumming is in the field, and Scindia has solemnly disavowed to Mr. Anderson having excited the Seiks to ravage the Vizier's country.

The acting minister of the Vizier having some time since intimated to me, that the conduct of Almas Ally Cawn wore the appearance of discontent, and of a design to give disturbance to the affairs of Government, I requested the latter to come to Lucknow, with which he immediately complied. I made the departure of Mr. Hastings, and my desire to give him assurances of your kindness and protection, the pretext for desiring to see him; and whilst he was with me I found means to ascertain his real disposition and intentions, which I have the satisfaction to assure you are entirely dutiful towards his master, and full of confidence in and attachment to the Company's Government. I discovered that he had entertained some distrust of Hyder Beg Cawn, on account of his having detached two of his principal dependants from their connections with him, at a time when it was suspected that he intended to retire from the Vizier's dominions; but I found it easy to remove this misunderstanding, and to restore confidence and cordiality between them, which they have engaged to preserve, and to apply their utmost exertions in their respective stations for the prosperity of the Vizier's affairs, and of those of the Company, as connected with them.

I hope that this concise relation will suffice to give you a general view of the present situation of the Vizier's most material concerns. I shall not fail to inform you regularly of all future transactions as they occur.

I have the honour to be,
with perfect respect and attachment,
Dear Sir,

Your most obedient and
faithful humble servant,
(Signed)

WM. PALMER.