

# SCINDE.

Charge Preferred Against his Highness Meer Ali Morad,  
Ameer of Upper Scinde

East India House, }  
14 December 1852. }

JAMES C. MELVILL.

*(Viscount Jocelyn.)*

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,  
15 December 1852*

**SCINDE.**

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RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,  
dated 16 November 1852 ;—*for*,

COPIES “ of the EVIDENCE and REPORT of a Commission appointed to inquire into a certain Charge preferred against his Highness MEER ALI MORAD, Ameer of Upper Scinde, of having made fraudulent Alterations in the Treaty of Nownahar, concluded between his Highness and the late Meer Roostum Khan ; and of all MINUTES and CORRESPONDENCE on the Indian Records connected with the Charge.”

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East India House, }  
14 December 1852. }

JAMES C. MELVILL.

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(*Viscount Jocelyn.*)

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*15 December 1852.*

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پاران ایم ایچ پنهور انسٹیٹیوٹ آف سنڈ اسٹڈیز، جامشورو.

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East India House,  
December 1852.

*T. L. Peacock,*  
Examiner of India Correspondence.

## CORRESPONDENCE, &amp;c.

**EXTRACT** Secret Letter from Government of Bombay to the Honourable the Secret Committee of the Honourable the Court of Directors; dated 16th October (No. 86) 1848.

Para. 7. WE beg to draw attention to a letter dated the 11th October 1848, addressed to Mr. Pringle from the Secret Department, containing instructions to the effect suggested in the 92d to 97th paras. of the above minute. We have, for the same reason as that above mentioned, authorized Mr. Pringle, should he deem it advisable, to defer for the present entering upon the investigation into the allegation against his Highness Meer Ali Moorad of Khyrpoor, of his having, by means of the substitution of a fabricated for a genuine document, appropriated to himself a district which belongs to the British Government.

**EXTRACT** Secret Letter from Government of Bombay to the Honourable the Secret Committee of the Honourable the Court of Directors, dated 31st December (No. 97) 1849.

Para. 3. WE beg to forward copy of a letter from Mr. Pringle, dated the 17th instant, reporting that he has commenced an inquiry relative to the doubts concerning rights to certain land alluded to in Enclosure No. 20, to our despatch dated the 16th October, No. 86 of 1848, connected with the affairs of his Highness Ali Moorad. As Mr. Pringle states that he has reported certain of his measures connected with this inquiry to the Most Noble the Governor-general, we consider that no instructions thereon are called for from this Government.

No. 13 of 1848<sup>2</sup>.—Secret Department.

To the Honourable the Secret Committee of the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable East India Company, London.

Honourable Sirs,

1. WITH our despatch dated the 12th May, No. 40 of 1848, we forwarded to your Honourable Committee copy of a minute which had been recorded on the 24th of the preceding month, by our late honourable president, Sir George Clerk, K. C. B., containing the result of his observations during his visit to Scinde in the month of February preceding, and his views and sentiments in regard to the past and future administration of that province.

2. With our further despatch dated the 16th October, No. 86 of 1848, we intimated to your Honourable Committee that we had received a letter from Sir Henry Elliot, secretary to the Government of India, dated the 9th of the preceding month, informing us that the Right honourable the Governor-general in Council approved generally of the views set forth in the above minute, and desired that this Government would proceed forthwith to institute the various inquiries therein recommended.

3. In the same despatch we drew the attention of your Honourable Committee to a letter which, under our instructions, our chief secretary had, on receipt of Sir Henry Elliot's communication above alluded to, addressed to Mr. Pringle, Civil Commissioner in Scinde, relative to the allegation against his Highness Meer Ali Moorad of Khyrpoor, noticed in the 92d to 97th paras. of Sir George Clerk's minute, of his Highness having, by means of the substitution



of a fabricated\* for a genuine document, appropriated to himself a district which belongs to the British Government; we at the same time informed your Honourable Committee that with reference to the then (October 1848) aspect of affairs in the North-west, we had vested Mr. Pringle with a discretionary authority to delay for a time his inquiry into this allegation.

4. We have now the honour to transmit to your Honorable Committee, copy of a letter from Mr. Pringle, dated the 15th ultimo, forwarding copy of a memorandum connected with the affairs of his Highness Meer Ali Moorad, which was submitted by that gentleman to the most noble the Governor-general of India at Sukkur. In forwarding this memorandum Mr. Pringle stated that from the result of his inquiries into the fraud imputed to Meer Ali Moorad in the instance above alluded to, he was of opinion that, *prima facie*, "the only conclusion which can be reasonably come to is, that there remains but little ground for any moral doubt that the fraud was committed as alleged."

5. Mr. Pringle next observed: "If this conclusion be adopted, the next point for consideration would be how Ali Moorad should be dealt with in reference to it. I presume that even if the fraud were openly brought home to the Ameer, whatever may be the opinion as to its moral turpitude, yet adverting to his position as an independent sovereign it would not be thought necessary to call for stronger measures than the resumption of the districts which have been obtained by means of it, and that if this can be effected without his open conviction, it will hardly be thought expedient to expose to his own subjects and to the world in general, as guilty of so base an act, a prince with whom we are to continue on terms of amity and alliance. Under this impression, the course I would recommend, for at once protecting our own interests and saving the reputation of our ally, would be simply to intimate to the Ameer, that as any cession within the tract where the districts in question are situated is to be received as a matter of favour, and as such to be conceded only when the grounds for it are free from all reasonable doubt, and as circumstances have come to the knowledge of the Governor-general, since the arrangements of Sir Charles Napier were proposed, to shake his confidence in the document on which the cession of those districts was based, he must withhold his confirmation to that part of them in which it is involved. It is to be hoped that such an intimation, however unpalatable to the Ameer, would be acquiesced in, under the consciousness of the risk his own reputation must incur from any attempt at braving the issue if matters are pushed to extremity. At any rate, he can have no right to demand or expect a more explicit declaration of the grounds of any modification in a measure admitted to be purely gratuitous on our part. The result as regards our interests would be to retain for us an annual revenue of upwards of a lac and a half of rupees, with arrears from the time when the districts were made over to the Ameer in anticipation of the confirmation of Sir Charles Napier's arrangements."

6. With reference to the above memorandum, and the documents therein referred to, our Right honourable President recorded, on the 21st instant, a minute from which the following is an extract:

"We have recently had the advantage of hearing the sentiments of Lord Dalhousie on the subject of our relations with Alee Moorad, especially with reference to the suspicions which attach to him of fraud in substituting a leaf in the treaty with the late Meer Roostum Khan, whereby (if these suspicions prove true) he has hitherto enjoyed certain pergunnahs instead of villages of the same names.

"It would appear that Mr. Pringle, the Commissioner in Scinde, being satisfied with the inquiry that has already taken place, is inclined to recommend that we should proceed to act almost as we should do were Alee Moorad's guilt undeniably established; for he is of opinion that we should offer to Alee Moorad such

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\* On this subject we also beg to refer to the 4th para. of a confidential memorandum by his Excellency Sir Charles Napier, recorded by his Excellency when quitting the government of Scinde, and to a demi-official letter, addressed by his Excellency to the Right honourable the late Governor-general, under date the 22d September 1847, containing information relative to the alleged mode in which this supposed fraud was committed. Copies of these documents formed enclosures to collection, No. 1, accompanying our despatch to your Honourable Committee, dated the 12th May, No. 40 of 1848.

such terms as we may deem it right that he should accept; and on the appearance of any hesitation or indication of intended refusal on his part, that we should compel him to yield by a threat of exposure, and the disgrace that would accompany it.

"This proceeding, should Alee Moorad persist in denying the fraud imputed to him, and demand inquiry, would place us in such a false position that I cannot concur in Mr. Pringle's suggestion, and I prefer to make an open and impartial investigation into the conduct of the Ameer, that he may be absolved from all suspicion if innocent, and, if guilty, there may be no room for doubt as to the justice of the measures we may take.

"With reference to the importance of the case, the high rank and position of the accused party, and the serious consequences that may follow a formal examination into his past proceedings, I am unwilling to adopt a final course on the evidence collected, or the opinion formed by a single individual, however able and deserving of confidence; and I therefore propose to appoint a commission, to assemble at Sukkur, for the purpose of investigating all the circumstances connected with the alleged fraud, receiving Ali Moorad's explanation, and when the inquiry is closed, reporting the result to Government, with their opinion. I would name the Commissioner, Mr. Pringle, President of this Commission, and Major J. Jacob, commandant of the Scinde Horse, and Major W. Lang, Political Agent in Kattywar, members.

"They should be instructed to assemble as soon as possible, and to conduct this grave inquiry with the utmost precision and celerity, so that no time may be lost, and no point may remain in doubt. As this mission will remove Major Jacob and Major Lang but for a short time from their ordinary duties, these should be performed by their immediate subordinates, under the usual rules."

7. The above Minute having been unanimously concurred in by the Board, orders to the effect therein suggested were communicated to Mr. Pringle, and to Majors Jacob and Lang, on the 25th instant.

8. We have furnished the Most Noble the Governor-general of India in Council with copy of the above minute, and of the orders issued thereon.

We have, &c.  
(signed) *Falkland.*  
*Willoughby Cotton.*  
*J. P. Willoughby.*  
*D. A. Blane.*

Bombay Castle, 28 February 1850.

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No. 9 of 1851.—Secret Department.

To the Honourable the Secret Committee of the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable East India Company, London.

Honourable Sirs,

1. In our despatch dated the 28th February, No. 13 of 1850, we informed your Honourable Committee that we had appointed a commission, composed of the officers mentioned in the margin \*, to investigate the charge preferred against his Highness Meer Ali Moorad, of Khyrpoor, of having, by means of fraud and forgery, obtained possession of certain pergunnahs (belonging to the British Government), instead of villages of the same name which of right belonged to him.

2. We now beg to report that the commission having, in conformity with our instructions, assembled at Sukkur, opened their proceedings on the 20th April last, and brought them to a close on the 8th of the following month. This investigation has terminated in a declaration by the commission that the charge against his Highness has, in their opinion, for reasons detailed in their report, been

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1. Mr. R. K. Pringle, Commissioner in Scinde, President.  
2. Major John Jacob, Commandant of the Scinde Horse, and Political Superintendent on the frontier of Upper Scinde, Member.  
3. Major W. Lang, Political Agent in Kattywar, Member.

been most fully and completely established. A copy of this report, with its several accompaniments, forms enclosure No. 16 to this despatch.

3. On these proceedings reaching this Government, our Right honourable President recorded a minute, dated the 14th June last, in which his Lordship states, that after the most deliberate consideration of the facts mentioned in the Commissioners' report, and of the oral and documentary evidence therein recorded, he concurs with the commission in opinion that the charge against His Highness Ali Moorad has, by the most irresistible evidence, been clearly and satisfactorily established.

4. His Lordship at the same time states, that he considers the British Government possesses an undoubted right to demand the restitution of all the territory of which it has been defrauded by his Highness, together with the refund of all the revenues which his Highness has derived from this territory during the time it has been in his possession.

5. Our Right honourable President further observes, that the period for the British Government enforcing these just claims affords, in his opinion, a highly favourable opportunity for placing all its relations with this prince on a permanent and satisfactory footing.

6. His Lordship has at the same time recorded a special recommendation in favour of the Ex-Ameers of Scinde, now resident at Poona, viz. ; Ameer Ali Buksha, a younger son of the late Meer Roostum Khan, and his nephew, Meer Nusseer Khan, the eldest son of Mobaruck Khan (Meer Roostum's brother), and their families. Our Right honourable President's minute has been concurred in by his Excellency Sir Willoughby Cotton, late Commander-in-chief at this Presidency.

7. The Honourable Mr. Willoughby in an elaborate minute, dated the 14th ultimo, has recorded his entire concurrence in the finding of the commission ; and after noticing at considerable length the nature of British relations with his Highness Meer Ali Moorad, has stated his opinion relative to the measures which should be adopted towards his Highness in consequence of the substantiation against him of this fraud.

8. The Honourable Mr. Willoughby has in the same minute recorded his opinion relative to the arrangements which should now be taken to ameliorate the condition of the surviving Ex-Ameers of Scinde.

9. In the 53d and following paragraphs of his minute, the Honourable Mr. Willoughby draws attention to the fact, that in addition to the fraud committed by his Highness Meer Ali Moorad in the treaty of "Nownahar," by means of which he obtained possession of the pergunnahs above alluded to, his Highness is now in possession of one fourth of the lands of Upper Scinde, which constituted the patrimonial inheritance of the late Meer Roostum Khan under the will of their father, the late "Meer Sohrab," although his right thereto was questioned, first, by Lord Ellenborough, and subsequently by Lord Hardinge, when Governor-general of India, on grounds which, in Mr. Willoughby's opinion, are most conclusive. Mr. Willoughby suggests that these lands should now be resumed, and be allotted for the maintenance of Meer Roostum's sons, urging in support of this recommendation the strong claim which the family of Meer Roostum possesses on the justice and compassion of the British Government.

10. In the 105th para. of his minute, the Honourable Mr. Willoughby further shows, that the jagheers of Meers Meer Mahomed and Mustafa Khan, another and distinct branch of the Khyrpoor family, are likewise in the unlawful possession of Meer Ali Moorad, and suggests that these jagheers should be restored to these Ameers.

11. In the concluding paras. of his minute, Mr. Willoughby alludes to several other subjects connected with his Highness Meer Ali Moorad, and the surviving Ex-Ameers of Scinde, in reference to which, in his opinion, special instructions are requisite from the Most Noble the Governor-general of India.

12. The Honourable Mr. Blane has recorded a minute, dated the 23d ultimo, in which he expresses his concurrence in the belief that his Highness Meer Ali  
Moorad

Moorad is guilty of the charge of having altered the original treaty relative to the pergunnahs above alluded to; but, for reasons which he mentions, he doubts whether, under all the circumstances of the case, the British Government possesses a right to enforce from his Highness the penalties proposed by the majority of the Board.

13. We beg to inform your Honourable Committee that we have transmitted the whole of these proceedings for the consideration and orders of the Most Noble the Governor-general of India.

We have, &c.  
(signed) *Falkland.*  
*J. Grey.*  
*J. P. Willoughby.*  
*D. A. Blane.*

Bombay Castle, 17 January 1851.

EXTRACT Secret Letter from the Government of Bombay to the Honourable the Secret Committee of the Honourable Court of Directors, dated 16 March (No. 21) 1851.

Para. 1. WITH our despatch, dated 17 January last, No. 9, we submitted to your Honourable Committee the proceedings of the Commission, composed of the officers mentioned in the margin,\* which under our orders assembled at Sukkur in the month of April last, for the purpose of investigating the charge preferred against his Highness Meer Ali Moorad of Khyrpoor, of having, by means of fraud and forgery, obtained possession of certain pergunnahs (belonging to the British Government) instead of villages of the same name, which of right belonged to him.

2. We at the same time submitted to your Honourable Committee copies† of the whole of our proceedings connected with this subject, inclusive of minutes recorded by our Board on the Commissioners' report, and stated that we had transmitted the whole case for the consideration and orders of the Most Noble the Governor-general of India.

3. We now beg to forward copy of a letter which has this day reached us from Sir Henry Elliot, K.C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, with the Most Noble the Governor-general, stating that while his Lordship concurs generally in the view this Government has taken of the charges brought against his Highness, and of the measures which are considered expedient for the Government of India to adopt, his Lordship has thought it right to submit the whole question, with his own opinion thereupon, for the consideration of the Honourable the Court of Directors.

4. We have been, at the same time, informed, that as it is impossible for the small establishment in the camp of the Most Noble the Governor-General to make copies of the voluminous collection of papers connected with this case in time to accompany the above reference, it is the wish of his Lordship that we will cause copies of them to be transmitted to the Court as speedily as they can be prepared.

5. As we have anticipated the above wish by already forwarding to your Honourable Committee copies of the whole of our proceedings in this case, we deem it unnecessary now to forward further transcripts to the Honourable Court of Directors, but beg to suggest that should your Honourable Committee see fit, our despatch above mentioned of the 17 January last, with its enclosures, may be made over to the Honourable Court.

- \* 1. Mr. R. K. Pringle, Commissioner in Scinde, President.
- 2. Major John Jacob, Commandant of the Scinde Horse, and Political Superintendent on the frontier of Upper Scinde, Member.
- 3. Major W. Lang, Political Agent in Kattywar, Member.

† A second copy of these proceedings accompanied our duplicate of despatch, No. 9, which was dispatched from Bombay, *via* Southampton, on the 17th ultimo.

## No. 16.—Foreign Department.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors of the East India Company.

Honourable Sirs,

I HAVE the honour to submit for the consideration of your Honourable Court copy of a minute recorded by me, having reference to the conduct of Meer Ali Moorad of Khyrpore, and request your early instructions on the question discussed therein.

2. The Government of Bombay have been requested to transmit the voluminous papers connected with the case to your Honourable Court by this mail, if it has not already been done.

Camp, Boorhan, 1 March 1851.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Dalhousie.*

**EXTRACT** Secret and Confidential Letter from *A. Malet*, Esq, Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay, to *R. K. Pringle*, Esq., Commissioner in Scinde; dated 11 October 1848.

Para. 6. In a memorandum (without date) left on the records of the Scinde Government by Sir Charles Napier, an imputation has been cast upon his Highness Ali Moorad of his having, by means of the substitution of a fabricated for a genuine document, appropriated to himself a district which belongs to the British Government. Sir Charles Napier, apparently anticipating that further evidence could be obtained in proof of this allegation, recommended in the above memorandum the measures that should in his opinion be adopted preparatory to the resumption by Government of the district in question. His Lordship in Council would fully concur in the propriety of the precautionary measures suggested by the late Governor of Scinde, in the event of the fact of the alleged forgery being established. The evidence hitherto adduced in confirmation of the charge is plausible; but it appears that of the three witnesses who have deposed to the alleged fraud, one\* is a person who had quarrelled with Meer Ali Moorad, and had left his service; another† had fled from the service of that chief, and the third‡ is at present in a British gaol as a convicted felon.

7. The circumstances which tend to give to this alleged fraud an appearance of probability are that Peer Allee Gohur, the second of the above witnesses, states that he wrote the original document for villages conferred, and the second document, in which a district of the same name as one of the villages granted was fraudulently substituted for the village itself. This individual also states that Allee Moorad gave him a certificate to the effect that he should be held irresponsible, if the fraud should ever come to the notice of the British Government; this certificate you should require Peer Allee Gohur to produce. This individual has declared that he possesses it, and that it was written by Allee Hoossein, the first witness, and sealed by Meer Allee Moorad.

8. You should also require his Highness Allee Moorad to produce the Koran in which the grant is recorded, and compare it with the leaf stated by Sheik Allee Hoossein to have been the original record, and given by him through Allee Akbar, the moonshee, to Sir Charles Napier.

9. A careful examination should also be made by you of all the letters addressed at the time of the conflict to the Ameers by the British authorities in Scinde, in which any mention may be made of the nature of the cessions of lands, by the means of which peace had been purchased from the strongest.

10. Captain Brown, in a memorandum which he furnished to Sir George Clerk during the period his Excellency was in Scinde, in the early part of the present year, alluded to three letters, the contents of which afford a strong evidence that the country given up to Allee Moorad did not comprise a district.

11. With reference, however, to the present aspect of affairs in the north-west, the Right honourable the Governor in Council leaves it to your discretion to defer entering upon this investigation for the present, should you deem it advisable.

No. 2366 of 1849.—Secret Department.

From the Commissioner in Scinde to the Right Honourable Viscount *Falkland*,  
Governor and President in Council, Bombay.

My Lord,

As I am now proceeding with my inquiries into the subject adverted to in the 6th and following paragraphs of Mr. Chief Secretary Malet's letter in the Secret Department, No. 386, dated the 11th October 1848, and may have to submit its details, together with our relations generally with his Highness Meer Ali Morad, for the consideration of the Most Noble the Governor-general, on the occasion of his approaching visit to this province, I have thought it advisable, as a precautionary measure, to keep the military force in this quarter for the present as strong as may be conveniently practicable, with a view to give weight to any arrangements which his Lordship may consider it expedient to adopt; although I do not apprehend that his Highness the Meer will be disposed to offer any active opposition to the execution of his Lordship's wishes, even although they may be in some respect not altogether palatable to himself.

2. With this object I have availed myself of the circumstance of the reliefs being now in progress, to request the officer commanding in Upper Scinde to detain here for the present the whole of the 24th Regiment Native Infantry and the battery now at Shikarpore, in addition to the head-quarter wing of the 24th Regiment Native Infantry, and the battery now on their way from Hyderabad; and I also propose requesting the officer commanding Her Majesty's 22d Foot, to detain that regiment for the present at Roree, where it is expected to arrive on the 27th or 28th instant, and was to have remained only till the 1st proximo.

3. As I have every reason to expect the arrival of the Governor-general here, in the first week of January, these measures will not cause any great detention or inconvenience to the public service; and I will let it be generally understood that they have been adopted merely with a view to the suitable reception of the head of the Government; under which circumstances I trust they will meet with the approval of your Lordship in Council.

4. I shall communicate the above arrangements direct to the Governor-general, and shall not fail to keep your Lordship informed in due course of my ulterior proceedings in the affairs of his Highness Meer Ali Morad.

Camp, Sukkur,  
17 December 1849.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *R. K. Pringle*,  
Commissioner in Scinde.

(True copy.)  
(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

MINUTE by the Right Honourable the Governor, subscribed to by the Board;  
dated 29th December 1849.

MR. PRINGLE has reported his proceedings to the Governor-general, which may be approved.

(signed) *Falkland*.  
*W. Cotton*.  
*J. P. Willoughby*.  
*D. A. Blane*.

(True copy.)  
(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 365 of 1849.—Secret Department.

From *A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay, to *R. K. Pringle*, Esq., Commissioner in Scinde.

Sir,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 2366 of 1849, December 17, and to inform you that the Right honourable the Governor in Council approves of your having submitted your proceedings therein reported to the Most Noble the Governor-general.

I have, &c.

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

Bombay Castle, 31 December 1849.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 83 of 1850.—Secret Department.

From the Commissioner in Scinde, to the Right Honourable Viscount *Falkland*, Governor and President in Council, Bombay.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship in Council, that the Most Noble the Governor-general arrived here at 11 a.m. yesterday, and was received with all due honours.

2. His Lordship held a durbar this morning, when he received his Highness Meer Ali Moorad and his sirdars, and subsequently the chiefs and principal officers of our own districts.

3. This afternoon his Lordship will return his Highness's visit, and to-morrow morning will proceed on his progress down the Indus.

4. I have laid fully before the Governor-general the state of our relations with Meer Ali Moorad. His Lordship considered the questions involved in them too extensive and complicated to admit of his disposing of them in person during the short time he could afford to stay here; and was also desirous of having an opportunity of consulting with your Lordship in Council, before adopting any measures upon them, with which view he will take the papers on the subject to Bombay.

5. I propose accompanying the Governor-general in his progress through this province; and as I am to attend his Lordship this afternoon on his visit to the Ameer, and shall leave this early to-morrow morning, I have only time at present to make this hasty report of my proceedings, but I shall endeavour to get the papers on the Ameer's affairs copied in time for transmission, with such explanatory remarks as may be requisite, so as to reach your Lordship in Council, if possible, before the arrival of the Governor-general in Bombay, in order that your Honourable Board may be previously placed in possession of the details of the case.

6. Under the circumstances now reported, I have intimated to the Brigadier commanding in Upper Scinde, and the officer in command of Her Majesty's 22d regiment, that there is no further occasion for the detention of the troops here.

I have, &c.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle*,  
Commissioner in Scinde.

Camp, Sukkur, 14 January 1850.

*P. S.*—As the accompaniments to the paper which I submitted to the Most Noble the Governor general are very voluminous, I fear there may hardly be time to have them copied; in which case I will merely transmit the paper itself, leaving a copy of the accompaniments to be obtained in Bombay, from that in his Lordship's possession.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle*.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

MINUTE by the Right Honourable the Governor, concurred in by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and the Honourable Mr. *Willoughby*.

MR. PRINGLE has acted with want of discretion in not making us fully acquainted with all he meant to lay before the Governor-general. He should be so informed.

This is not the first time the Commissioner has evinced an inclination to overlook his immediate official superiors, and I think his conduct in this respect should be noticed.

25 January 1850.

(signed) *Falkland.*  
*W. Cotton.*  
*J. P. Willoughby.*

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

MINUTE by the Honourable Mr. *Blane*.

I WOULD not express dissatisfaction at information on any subject having been furnished to the Governor-general during his personal visit to the Province, more especially not, as in the present instance, when relating to one of his visitors. Previous intimation to us could not, I think, as Mr. Pringle was situated, be looked for.

25 January 1850.

(signed) *D. A. Blane.*

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

MINUTE by the Honourable Mr. *Willoughby*.

I DO not understand that it is meant to express dissatisfaction of the nature stated by the Honourable Mr. *Blane*. Mr. Pringle is to be censured for not having informed his own Government on the subject, not with having furnished the Governor-general with information; and the irregularity of his proceedings is obvious, for he now tells us there is not time to furnish documents, which may probably come under discussion during the period of the Governor-general's residence in Bombay.

26 January 1850.

(signed) *J. P. Willoughby.*

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

MINUTE by the Honourable Mr. *Blane*.

I HAVE no further remark to offer.

26 January 1850.

(signed) *D. A. Blane.*

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 29 of 1850.—Secret Department.

From *A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay, to  
*R. K. Pringle*, Esq., Commissioner in Scinde.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Right honourable the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 14th ultimo, No. 83, reporting your having laid before the Most Noble the Governor-general of India the state of British relations with his Highness Meer Ali Morad, &c., and to inform you that his Lordship in Council disapproves of your not having laid before this Govern-



ment full information regarding a subject which it was your intention to place before the Most Noble the Governor-general, an irregularity of proceeding in this instance the more apparent as this Government could not, until after the arrival of the Governor-general, become acquainted with the merits of a question which you might have foreseen must have come under discussion during his Lordship's residence at Bombay.

I have, &c.  
(signed) A. Malet,  
Chief Secretary.

Bombay Castle, 11 February 1850.

(True copy.)  
(signed) A. Malet, Chief Secretary.

No. 89 of 1850.—Secret Department.

From the Commissioner in Scinde to the Right Honourable Viscount *Falkland*,  
Governor and President in Council, Bombay.

My Lord,

With reference to my letter, No. 83, dated the 14th instant, I have now the honour to transmit, for the information of your Lordship in Council, copy of a memorandum on the subject of our relations with his Highness Meer Ali Morad, which I submitted for the consideration of the Most Noble the Governor-general during his recent visit to Sukkur.

2. This paper explains so fully the progress and present position of the questions to which it relates, and my views upon them, that it is unnecessary I should enter into their details on the present occasion.

3. For the reasons stated in the postscript to my letter above referred to, I have left copies of the accompaniments to my memorandum to be obtained from those already furnished to the Governor-general.

4. From a perusal of these documents, your Lordship in Council will learn that I have prosecuted to a conclusion the inquiries directed in the 6th para. of Mr. Chief Secretary Malet's letter, No. 386, dated the 11th October 1848, and that the opinion I have been led to form from them is unfavourable to his Highness Meer Ali Morad.

5. I was desirous that these questions should have been settled, if possible, by the Most Noble the Governor-general in person during his visit to Sukkur, from a strong conviction of the importance of their early and final settlement; the convenience of that opportunity for effecting it, and the increased difficulties to which it might ultimately be exposed by any intermediate delay after the inquiries on the subject had been actively prosecuted and become matter of general notoriety, as well as of much anxiety and excitement among those affected by them. It was on this account that I thought it expedient to submit these questions direct for the consideration of the Governor-general, instead of making them the subject of previous communication to your Lordship in Council, which there was no time for doing, after I had become fully acquainted with their details, and completed my inquiries into them, which, indeed, I had only just effected when his Lordship reached Sukkur.

6. As, however, the Governor-general was unable, for the reasons stated in my letter of the 14th instant, to settle the questions in person, it only remains for me to await such further instructions as I may receive from your Honourable Board after his Lordship shall have had an opportunity of bringing them under your consideration, and consulting with you upon them.

I have, &c.  
(signed) R. K. Pringle,  
Commissioner.

On the Indus,  
15 January 1850.

P.S.—As there has been no opportunity of despatching this letter to Bombay, so as to arrive there before the Governor-general, it will be sent by the vessel which conveys his Lordship.

(signed) R. K. Pringle.

Kurrachee, 23 January 1850.

**MEMORANDUM** on the Relations of the British Government with his Highness *Meer Ali Morad*, of Khyrpore; prepared by the Commissioner in Scinde for submission to the Most Noble the Governor-general of India, on the occasion of his visit to Sukkur.

1. ~~The state of our relations~~ with his Highness *Meer Ali Morad* is the question most urgently requiring the attention of the Governor-general in his progress through this province, and one which the Ameer will doubtless make the subject of representation on the occasion of his interview with him; it may therefore be convenient that I should submit its present position, with my views upon it, for his Lordship's consideration.

2. Shortly after the conquest of Scinde, i. e., on the 28th June 1843, Sir Charles Napier reported to the then Governor-general, Lord Ellenborough, the principles by which he had been guided in the occupation of the territory acquired by that event, which were to recognize, as being conformable to the law of the country and creed of the parties (by which we were bound by treaty to abide), the assumption of the Turban or badge of sovereignty by *Meer Ali Morad*, in virtue of the voluntary resignation in his favour of his elder brother *Meer Roostum*—any retraction of which was by the same law inadmissible—and the appropriation by *Ali Morad* of the lands which had belonged to *Meer Roostum*, both in right of the Turban and as his personal patrimony, under a will of their father *Meer Sohrab*, in as far as they were in *Meer Roostum's* rightful possession at the outbreak of the war; also to recognize *Ali Morad's* right to all such lands as were in his own rightful possession at the same period; and to retain all the rest for the British Government in right of conquest or of forfeiture imposed on the Khyrpore Ameers generally for breach of engagements previous to the war.

3. Lord Ellenborough, in successive communications, some of which appear to have passed those of Sir Charles Napier on the road, assented to these principles and their application, with the exception of the recognition of the transfer of *Meer Roostum's* personal patrimony, as to the authenticity, freedom, and legality of which he expressed doubts, and on the two first points directed inquiries to be made by Sir Charles Napier, and on the two last intimated his intention of instituting them himself. He also expressed his desire that an authentic copy should be obtained of the deed of transfer, and that the extent of the rights conveyed by it should be so clearly ascertained as might guard against the possibility of its application to the prejudice of independent interests. In reply to an intermediate communication from Sir Charles Napier, urging the necessity of an early definition of the respective territorial limits, he observed that this must depend on the recognition of the transfer of *Meer Roostum's* personal patrimony; but if this were eventually decided against *Ali Morad*, the separation of the public and private estates, with a view to the resumption of the latter, should be made on terms favourable to him, and in the meantime the definition of their undivided extent might be proceeded with.

4. The result of Sir Charles Napier's inquiries tended to establish the authenticity and the freedom of the transfer both of the public and private estates of *Meer Roostum*, and those of Lord Ellenborough, its legality and the inadmissibility of its retraction; these points, therefore, appear from that time to have been held as decided, although no express declaration to that effect is on record, and it may be inferred that the whole of the principles adopted by Sir Charles Napier in the occupation of the conquered country were thenceforth acquiesced in by the Government of India.

5. Meanwhile a question had arisen as to the appropriation of the territory north of Roree, which having been declared forfeited to the British Government previous to the outbreak of the war, could not, according to Sir Charles Napier's principles, be claimed by *Ali Morad*, either in his own right or that of its cession by *Meer Roostum*, although it was included in the latter. The northern portion of this territory, comprising the districts of Subzulcote and Boongbara, had already been ceded by us to the Nawab of Bhawulpore, and the views of the Supreme Government in regard to the remainder were communicated by Lord Ellenborough to Sir Charles Napier, in a despatch dated the 19th September 1843, in which, while its ultimate appropriation was left to Sir Charles Napier, the principles by which it was considered it should be regulated were indicated to

be, to assign to Meer Ali Morad revenues equal to those held by Meer Roostum in right of the Turban, with an equivalent for any such which had been or might be ceded to Bhawulpore, and for certain forts ceded by Ali Morad at our request to Jessulmere; to make such exchanges of territory as might be desirable for improving the respective frontiers, and to assign the rest, with the exception of Roree and a small arrondissement about it reserved for us, to Bhawulpore.

6. It does not appear what measures, if any, were adopted by Sir Charles Napier in pursuance of this communication, further than the definition of Ali Morad's boundaries by a commission composed of Captain Malet, the Resident at Khyrpore and Sheikh Allee Hussain the then minister of the Ameer, which measure may have possibly been executed in conformity with such views as Sir Charles Napier had adopted in regard to the appropriation of the territory, and these may have been communicated personally to the Resident, but this can only be conjectured, for there is nothing on record to show that such was the case.

7. The next notice of the subject on record, is in the draft of a proposed treaty between the British Government and Meer Ali Morad, which was sent to the Government of India with a simple transmitting letter, dated the 4th May 1845, unaccompanied by any explanatory information as to the principles and data on which it had been framed. The effect of the territorial provisions of this treaty was to concede to Ali Morad, as a matter of grace, the application of the same principles to the appropriation of the country north of Roree which had been recognised by Sir C. Napier as his right in regard to the country south of it. It was therefore so far more favourable to the Ameer than would have been that of the principles indicated in Lord Ellenborough's despatch last referred to, that it conveyed to him the private as well as the public estates of Meer Roostum within that tract, and assigned to the Nawab of Bhawulpore no more than he was in possession of by the first cession. It did not, however, allow Ali Morad any compensation for that portion of the public estate of Meer Roostum which had been already ceded to Bhawulpore, and which, in a previous despatch, Lord Ellenborough had admitted the propriety of conceding to him on liberal terms. It was therefore, perhaps, on the whole not much in excess of Lord Ellenborough's intentions in the Ameer's favour; and Sir Charles Napier, in thus exercising the discretion reposed in him, appears to have considered that he did so in the manner most appropriate to the deserts of Ali Morad in his relations to the British Government.

8. Besides the recognition of the territories belonging to Ali Morad, the treaty provided for a mutual exchange of territory, the objects of which are not recorded, but may be inferred, from the rough estimates and memoranda on which the arrangement appears to have been based, to have been the consolidation of the respective territories within a more convenient frontier, and the adjustment of mutual claims which had arisen from the temporary occupation by one party of lands belonging to the other. In this last respect, however, there is no express recognition of the conclusiveness of the arrangement, nor does it appear to have provided for the claim of Ali Morad on account of the forts in the Desert already alluded to as having been ceded by him at our request to the Rajah of Jessulmere.

9. The receipt of this draft treaty was not officially acknowledged by the Government of India, to which Lord Hardinge had intermediately succeeded, until the 24th October 1846, when, in a despatch from Sir Frederick Currie, after entering into an explanation of the delay which had intervened, it was remarked, as regards the territorial provisions of the treaty, that the Government of India was but imperfectly informed as to the locality of the districts to which they related, that the effect of the transfer from Meer Roostum to Ali Morad did not appear to have been definitively settled as respects its bearing on the public and private rights of the parties, that there was some discrepancy in the names of some of the districts as enumerated in Meer Sohrab's will and in the treaty, and that compensation for the Desert forts and some pecuniary claims on account of collections had been unprovided for. Further observations were added on the other than territorial provisions of the treaty; and it was intimated that, while explanation on the above points was desired, to admit of a conclusive settlement of the whole question, the expediency of the proposed exchange of territory was recognized, and it might be proceeded with at once, on the respective values being satisfactorily determined, and that the Ameer might in the meantime

meantime be informed of the disposition of the Government of India to enter into a treaty of friendship and alliance with him, and of the necessary instructions and authority having been given for its negotiation to the Government of Scinde.

10. Sir Charles Napier, under date the 18th January 1847, replied in detail to these objections. He promised to send a map of the territorial provisions, which was afterwards transmitted; he recapitulated the principles by which he had been guided in the appropriation of the conquered territory, and the conclusion he had come to on the effect of the transfer of Meer Roostum's rights, and which he had been left to suppose had been ultimately acquiesced in by Lord Ellenborough's Government; he justified the gratuitous extension of the same principles to the forfeited territory north of Roree, as being no more than was required by considerations of liberality towards an ally who had abstained from opposition, and afforded us active aid at times when it was of importance; he gave his opinion on the mode in which the claim to compensation on account of the Desert forts should be disposed of, he furnished explanations on the apparent discrepancies in the names of the districts, and he replied to the remarks on the other than territorial provisions of the treaty.

11. No further communication on the subject was received from the Government of India up to the close of Sir Charles Napier's government, nor indeed has any up to this time; and it does not appear that any steps were taken by Sir Charles Napier in pursuance of the authority to proceed with the territorial exchange, in anticipation of the ulterior disposal of the treaty generally.

12. In the meantime a circumstance had come to Sir Charles Napier's knowledge, or rather he obtained proofs corroborative of former suspicions in respect to it, which tended to invalidate the authenticity of one of the documents on which the application of his principles to the forfeited territory north of Roree had been based. This document was a treaty, purporting to have been executed between Meer Ali Morad and Meers Roostum and Nusseer Khan, the son of their brother Meer Mobaruck, towards the close of the year 1842, and shortly before the events which led to the war with the British. At that time the family dissensions of these Ameers had been brought to the issue of arms; and in an action in which Ali Morad had the advantage, peace was purchased by the other two by the cession to him of certain lands enumerated in this treaty, which was written in a copy of the Koran. In virtue of this document, the lands ceded by Meer Nusseer Khan, and which would otherwise, as having belonged neither to Meer Roostum nor to Meer Ali Morad, have been appropriated by us in the application of Sir Charles Napier's principles, had been appropriated, by favour, to Meer Ali Morad, as having been in his rightful possession at the time of the conquest. It was, however, brought to Sir Charles Napier's knowledge that a fraud had been committed by Ali Morad in respect to this document, by endeavouring to substitute in it the word "district" for "village," in the designation of a place in which the village and its surrounding district bore the same names, and interpolating the names of some districts altogether; and that when this attempt was unsuccessful, the leaf itself on which the names were written had been extracted, and the matter which it bore was written afresh, with the desired alterations and additions, on another blank leaf of the same Koran, by the same person by whom the original treaty had been written; the effect of which was to convey to Ali Morad districts of considerable value, in place of villages of trifling extent. This information was given to Sir Charles Napier by Sheikh Allee Hussain, the ex-minister of Ali Morad, as being within his personal cognizance, and that of Peer Ali Gohur, an influential synd in upper Scinde, and the writer of this and other state papers in the archives of the Khyrpoor family, who had quarrelled with Ali Morad, as had Sheikh Ali Hussain himself; and the latter was then about to proceed to the Punjaub. The extracted leaf of the Koran was at the same time produced by him in proof of his statement.

13. This was the state of these questions on my succeeding Sir Charles Napier in the government of the province in the end of September 1847, when he brought the subject to my notice as one then pending, and informed me that the proofs of it were with the secretary, the late Captain Brown. He at the same time gave me a memorandum detailing the measures he would recommend for adoption when the matter should come to be disposed of, the purport of

which, so far as I can recollect, for I gave the original to Sir George Clerk and retained no copy, was, that the districts in question would have to be resumed; and that when this took place, I and the officer commanding the forces in the province, should then be present in Upper Scinde with a sufficient military force to support whatever measures might be requisite, although active opposition on the part of the Ameer was not apprehended.

14. I forwarded Sir Charles Napier's paper to Sir George Clerk, then Governor of Bombay, and directed the secretary, Captain Brown, to make a memorandum of the circumstances connected with the discovery of the alleged fraud, and to keep all the proofs for production when required; also, to collect the correspondence regarding the proposed treaty, the records respecting which he informed me were in some respects incomplete, and to be ready to give every requisite explanation upon it when it should come under consideration. All further proceedings were deferred until the arrival of Sir George Clerk, whose intention it was shortly to visit the province.

15. Circumstances delayed Sir George Clerk's visit until the month of February 1848, when the season was so far advanced, and the state of his health was such, that he was unable personally to undertake the settlement of these questions, but he was made acquainted with the information regarding the alleged fraud then in the possession of Captain Brown, and led me to expect that he would communicate to me his views on the subject.

16. Soon after Sir George Clerk's return to Bombay, the state of his health obliged him to quit India; and it was not until the month of October 1848 that I received secret instructions from the Bombay Government, founded, I presume, on the information obtained by Sir George Clerk when here, to proceed with the inquiry into the alleged fraud, but leaving it to my discretion to postpone this if the then state of affairs in the Punjaub, where the Mooltan insurrection had broken out, should render it expedient.

17. In the meantime, my secretary, Captain Brown, who had proceeded to Mooltan to join his regiment on service, returned dangerously ill, and died shortly after in Bombay, without being able again to transact business. He left the papers connected with the fraud, and the records on the subject of the treaty, to be delivered to me by his head clerk; and it is from them I have been obliged to derive my information on these subjects under considerable disadvantage from the absence of such personal explanations as Captain Brown alone could have furnished.

18. In the ensuing cold season I proceeded to Upper Scinde, and paid a visit to Meer Ali Morad, at Khyrpoor. I took that opportunity of going through the documents connected with the case, and obtained indirectly information bearing upon it, but I considered it inexpedient at that time to enter into any direct investigation, both on account of the state of affairs in the Punjaub, and from my having found the information on record regarding the data on which the details of the proposed treaty had been based very defective; and as Sir Charles Napier was soon after appointed Commander-in-Chief in India, and it was probable he might come out by the way of Scinde, I hoped to have obtained from him in personal conference such further information as was wanted; when however I found he had gone by Bengal, I availed myself of the transfer to his staff of Captain Harding, my Persian interpreter, who had been with me at Khyrpoor, to send by that officer a memorandum of the information I required, which Sir Charles Napier did me the favour to furnish, as far as his recollection enabled him to do; and as he at the same time informed me of the probability of the Governor-general's early arrival in this province, and his taking up the question of the treaty in person, I reserved it for consideration until then; I have, however, in the meantime, since my arrival at Sukkur to meet the Governor-general, prosecuted to a conclusion the further inquiries directed by the Bombay Government into the alleged fraud.

19. Having thus explained the present position of these questions, I shall now proceed to submit my views as to their disposal.

20. The principal territorial provisions embodied in the draft of the treaty, as it at present stands, are those in Articles 2 and 6; the former containing a recognition of the territory belonging to Meer Ali Morad, the latter a proposed exchange of territory between him and us.

21. In

21. In Article 2 the only portion requiring consideration is that relating to the districts with which the enumeration closes; viz., those of Meer Nusseer Khan, described as "Purgunnas Mehrpoor, and Mathela, and Milhry, and village of Dadto." These are the possessions acquired by the treaty in respect to which the fraud is alleged to have been committed.

22. The evidence in support of this allegation seems nearly as conclusive as it is possible for any evidence regarding such a transaction to be. The witnesses are persons who at the time stood high in the confidence of Ali Morad, and occupied the most influential stations about his person. They profess to have been eye-witnesses of the fact; and one of them, Peer Afi Gohar, to have been the agent in its commission, against the consequences of which to himself he produces a certificate of indemnity from Ali Morad, purporting to bear his seal and autograph authentication. The other witness, Shaikh Ali Hussain, has produced the extracted leaf of the Koran on which the interpolations are alleged to have been at first unsuccessfully attempted, and which it appears had fallen into his possession, and been carefully preserved by him. The evidence of these witnesses was given on different occasions remote from and apparently quite independent of each other; it agrees in every particular, and is borne out by the proofs to which it refers. The Koran from which the leaf is said to have been extracted has been obtained by me from Ali Morad for inspection; the only point in which its appearance at first sight raises a doubt is, that the matter of the treaty is written on four pages, the three first of which are on one sheet, so that the extracted leaf could not easily have been bound in between the first and second pages, unless it had been also part of a whole sheet instead of a single leaf, as it now appears; but the other leaf may have been blank, and become separated in the process of extraction, its preservation may therefore not have been cared for. Peer Ali Gohar's evidence on this point, before the Koran and extracted leaf were shown to him, did not quite agree with their actual appearance, but it is a point on which a trifling discrepancy at so long an interval of time does not appear to me materially to affect his general credibility. The evidence of these two witnesses is further confirmed by that given independently by one Joheeram, now a prisoner in the Shikarpoor gaol for embezzlement, but formerly a monshee in the British Agency in Upper Scinde, and supposed to be thoroughly acquainted with the transactions of the period; he does not, however, appear to have been himself an eye-witness. Finally, the allusions to the events in the correspondence of the British Agency at the time when they occurred, with the Ameers of Khayrpore, including Ali Morad himself, tends to the inference that the cessions, in respect to which the fraud is alleged to have been subsequently committed, were of inconsiderable value, and not of the large amount which under its operation they now appear. It is true that the witnesses are reputed to be notorious and unscrupulous intriguers; they are by their own showing accessories in the alleged fraud, and they are now at bitter enmity with Ali Morad, it is therefore just possible that they may have conspired to get up this charge against him; but the particularity and consistency of their statements and the concurrence of the collateral circumstances are so strong as hardly to be overborne by these considerations; while, on the other hand, there is unfortunately little in the personal character of Ali Morad to oppose any great obstacle to the credibility of their allegation. The only step which has not yet been taken is to obtain the Ameer's own explanation on the subject; this I have hitherto abstained from doing, as it would have brought the question to an open issue, which I was desirous to avoid until I could ascertain the views of the Governor-general as to its treatment, but I do not conceive that any explanation of the Ameer, if obtained, would add materially to the means of forming a judgment on the question; for I apprehend there can be little doubt that he would meet the charge by a direct denial, if innocent, as a matter of course; if guilty, as being not very likely, if capable of committing such a deed, to hesitate at disavowing it. Taking all these circumstances into consideration, as the matter at present stands, I feel that the only conclusion which can be reasonably come to is, that there remains but little ground for any moral doubt that the fraud was committed as alleged.

23. If this conclusion be adopted, the next point for consideration would be how Ali Morad should be dealt with in reference to it. I presume that even if the fraud were openly brought home to the Ameer, whatever may be the opinion

as to its moral turpitude, yet advertng to his position as an independent sovereign, it would not be thought to call for stronger measures than the resumption of the districts which have been obtained by means of it, and that, if this can be effected without his open conviction, it will hardly be thought expedient to expose to his own subjects and to the world in general, as guilty of so base an act, a prince with whom we are to continue on terms of amity and alliance. Under this impression, the course I would recommend for at once protecting our own interests and saving the reputation of our ally, would be simply to intimate to the Ameer, that as any cession within the tract where the districts in question are situated s to be received as a matter of favour, and, as such, to be conceded only when the grounds for it are free from all reasonable doubt, and as circumstances have come to the knowledge of the Governor-general, since the arrangements of Sir Charles Napier were proposed, to shake his confidence in the document on which the cession of those districts was based, he must withhold his confirmation to that part of them in which it is involved. It is to be hoped that such an intimation, however unpalatable to the Ameer, would be acquiesced in, under the consciousness of the risk his own reputation must incur from any attempt at braving the issue if matters are pushed to extremity; at any rate, he can have no right to demand or expect a more explicit declaration of the grounds of any modification in a measure admitted to be purely gratuitous on our part. The result as regards our interests would be to retain for us an annual revenue of upwards of a lac and a half of rupees, with arrears from the time when the districts were made over to the Ameer in anticipation of the confirmation of Sir Charles Napier's arrangements.

24. As regards the 6th Article of the treaty which relates to the proposed exchange of territory, it would appear from a comparison of the enumeration of villages and districts therein given with the details of the memoranda from which the treaty seems to have been framed, that, of those to be ceded by us, which, with the exception of Gotkee, Roree, and Kundra, consist entirely of the jaghires of Ali Morad's nephews, Meers Meer Mahomed and Goolam Mustafa, value has not been taken for some of those of the former and all of those of the latter; whether this omission was intentional or not, it is impossible in the absence of any detailed explanatory information to discover, but it clearly cannot now without such information be admitted. In place, however, of rectifying the omission, I am of opinion that all of these jaghires should now be retained by us, and restored to their original owners, the two Ameers above named. This branch of the family did not indeed receive any independent recognition in the will of Meer Sohrub, which forms the basis of our present policy in Upper Scinde, and may so far be viewed in the light of subject jaghiredars; but the elder of them, Meer Mahomed, appears always to have maintained practically a position of considerable independence as regards his own possessions, and the younger, Goolam Mustafa, held a somewhat similar position in virtue of his relationship to him. A separate treaty was negotiated with Meer Mahomed by Sir Alexander Burnes, and ratified by Lord Auckland. At the outbreak of the war, he was a considerable loser by the destruction of the Fort of Imamghur, which belonged to him, and where most of his stores were deposited. He then fled, as did his brother Goolam Mustafa; but neither of them took any active part in hostilities against us. Both made their submission soon after to Sir Charles Napier, from whom Meer Mahomed received a promise that all the jagheers should be restored to him which he held at the date of the battle of Meannee; but he does not appear to have been placed immediately in possession of the whole of them. No similar promise was given to Goolam Mustafa; but this may be accounted for by his having been afraid at that time to urge his claims, and having soon after gone on a pilgrimage to Mecca, when his jaghires were taken possession of by Meer Alli Morad, but under the acknowledgment that they were held for us, and in view to being accounted for in the ultimate adjustment of our mutual claims. On Goolam Mustafa subsequently petitioning for their restoration, he was referred to Ali Morad as his rais or sovereign, apparently under the misapprehension that Ali Morad held them on his own account, although they were entered as cessions to be made by us to Ali Morad in the draft of the treaty. Of the jaghires of the elder brother, Meer Mahomed, a portion is also proposed to be ceded to Ali Morad by the treaty, and of some of these Ali Morad took immediate possession, on the ground, as he afterwards alleged, of their having been confiscated by Sir Charles Napier, and made over



to him on account of Meer Mahomed's failure to accompany him in the hill war; but there is nothing on record to support this beyond the fact of their appearing among our proposed cessions in the draft of treaty, and our receiving credit for them, though not to their full value, in the estimates from which it appears to have been framed. On the other hand, on Meer Mahomed's claiming subsequently to be put in possession of all his jaghires, in virtue of the promise given to him after the conquest, his claim was admitted by Sir Charles Napier, and he was reinstated in those still in our hands, including some which it was proposed by the treaty to cede, but which Ali Morad had not taken possession of, while, as respects those which Ali Morad held, he was, as in the case of his brother Goolam Mustafa, referred to Ali Morad as his rais or sovereign, although they were held by him only provisionally, and to be accounted for to us. It seems, therefore, doubtful whether Sir Charles Napier ever did authorize the confiscation of these jaghires for the cause alleged by Ali Morad, and in any case it may be inferred that he would have authorized their subsequent restoration, as he did that of those still in our hands, had he not been under the misapprehension in this case also that they were held by Ali Morad in his own right. In his memorandum in reply to mine, Sir Charles Napier indeed states in reference to this subject, that so far as he recollects he had said he would not interfere to prevent Ali Morad from confiscating these jaghires for the cause assigned; but then he must still have been under the misapprehension that the right of sovereignty in them was vested in Ali Morad and not in us, and that it was from him, and not from us, that their confiscation, if merited, should proceed, whereas the contrary was really the case; and as Ali Morad has to account to us for their revenues, we are the only party who benefit by the measure. But even if these jaghires had been confiscated for the cause alleged, it may be questioned whether Meer Mahomed's deprivation of them for the four years during which they have since been withheld is not a more than sufficient punishment for any failure in his feudal obligations on the occasion referred to; for he states, and I believe with truth, that he is incapacitated by bodily infirmity from mounting on horseback, and that in lieu of personal attendance he had contributed 5,000 rupees towards Ali Morad's expenses in the hill war. It is from a consideration of all the above circumstances, which I have gathered with some difficulty from the records and personal inquiry, that I have formed the opinion that the jaghires of both these brothers should be excluded from the proposed cessions to Ali Morad, and restored to them.

25. If the districts alleged to have been acquired by fraud be resumed, and the jaghires of Meer Mahomed and Goolam Mustafa excluded from the proposed cessions, as I have recommended, the provisions of the treaty, as regards the exchange of territory, will require to be wholly altered; and I would recommend that, in place of the districts of Gotkee, Roree, and Kundra, which we have held up to this time, and which are conveniently situated with reference to the rest of our territory, we should cede to Ali Morad those which it is proposed to resume, and which have since the draft of the treaty been held by him, and are more conveniently situated in reference to his territory. I have made an estimate of the result of these modifications both retrospectively and prospectively, taking the valuations from the best data immediately procurable, and valuing revenue against money claims at 20 years' purchase; from which it appears that it will effect a settlement of all our mutual claims up to this date, both territorial and pecuniary, including compensation for the forts in the Desert ceded to Jessulmere, and the unadjusted items of collections, and leave a balance of 31,584 rupees against Ali Morad, to meet any reasonable objections he may take to the details of the valuations, but which in the absence of such I would recommend should be conceded to him, in view to the attainment, on terms of unquestionable liberality towards the less powerful party, of an object so desirable for both, and which would leave no claim between them for future adjustment.

26. If the districts alleged to have been acquired by fraud be not resumed, those of Roree, Gotkee, and Kundra, and the jaghires of Meer Mahomed, all on the east bank of the Indus, might be ceded to Ali Morad as originally proposed, and equivalent jaghires given to that Ameer from our territory on the west bank, which would also effect a settlement of mutual claims, with a nearly similar result, as regards the final balance, according to an estimate which I have framed on that basis, but with a difference in the details, to our disadvantage, of upwards of a lac and a half of rupees of annual revenue, and more than eight lacs in ready money.



27. There is one more point to which I would draw attention, although no allusion is made to it in the draft of the treaty as it now stands, which is, a provision for the junior members of the families of Ali Morad's brothers, Meers Roostum and Mobaruck, now residing at Khyrpore. None of these took any active part in hostilities against us, although they accompanied the heads of their families in their flight at the outbreak of the war, and, having lost all their possessions by its issue, were subsequently allowed to reside under Ali Morad's guarantee, and entirely dependent on him for maintenance. The insufficiency of the provision assigned to them by him, and the illiberality of the treatment generally which they experienced at his hands, led to frequent and bitter appeals from them to the Governments of India, Scinde, and Bombay; and, under instructions from the latter authority, I had occasion recently to submit a full report of their case, in which I recommended that an annual provision of at least 20,000 rupees should be secured to each of those families under our guarantee; that for Meer Roostum's family being chargeable to Ali Morad, as the successor to his territory, under a reciprocal obligation to provide for his maintenance; and that for Meer Mobaruck's families to us, as having acquired his territory by conquest; but I suggested that the latter charge might not unreasonably be transferred to Ali Morad, as a condition of our gratuitously ceding to him Meer Roostum's rights in the forfeited territory north of Roree. The propriety of this recommendation has been concurred in by the Government of Bombay, as respects the provision for Meer Roostum's family; but it was considered that there was not sufficient information before it to admit of an opinion being formed in respect to that for Meer Moobaruck's. Since reporting on the subject, however, I have discovered, among the papers left by Captain Brown, documents which tend considerably to strengthen the view I had taken of it. It appears from these, that at the same time that the information was given to Sir Charles Napier by Sheik Ali Hussain, regarding the fraud which he alleged to have been practised in the treaty in the Koran, it was also stated by that person, that when the cession of the Turban and his personal patrimony was made by Meer Roostum in favour of Meer Ali Morad, a separate agreement was entered into between them, stipulating that Ali Morad should take upon himself any responsibility to the British Government for the cession to him by Meer Roostum of the territory north of Roree, which had already been forfeited to it, and that he should guarantee the jaghires of Meers Roostum and Mobaruck's sons, the minor Ameers above referred to, and the personal expenses of Meer Roostum himself and his family and followers. Sheik Allee Hussain added, that the original of this agreement was in the handwriting of Peer Ali Gohur, the writer of the treaty in the Koran, and also of the public deed of cession, and that it was forwarded to Sir Charles Napier at the same time by Meer Roostum, with a letter from himself, written by one Sabr Ali Shah, but that the messenger was intercepted, and both papers taken from him by Meer Ali Morad, and had subsequently come into his, Sheik Ali Hussain's, possession, and were then deposited with his son at Mooltan, whence he promised to procure them. This he accordingly did, and forwarded them to Captain Brown, with a letter from himself, which arrived after Sir Charles Napier's departure. The evidence independently given by Peer Ali Gohur on the subject is entirely in accordance with this statement, and he has since, on being shown the original private agreement between the Ameers, identified it, and acknowledged it to be in his handwriting, as has Sabr Ali Shah, now a Soobedar in the Upper Scinde police, the transmitting letter from Meer Roostum to Sir Charles Napier. The evidence for the genuineness of these documents therefore seems to be nearly as conclusive as that in support of the alleged fraud in the Koran treaty. The objects of Ali Morad in their suppression, appear to have been to prevent their operating to invalidate his title, in virtue of Meer Roostum's public deed of transfer to the lands north of Roree, and to escape from the obligation they contain, to provide for the families of Meers Roostum and Mobaruck. The first of these objects has indeed failed, inasmuch as Sir Charles Napier never admitted Ali Morad's claim of right to the territory north of Roree, although disposed to concede to him Meer Roostum's interest in it as a matter of grace; it may be remarked, however, as regards this point, that the discovery of these documents, if they are to be relied upon as genuine, affords a strong corroboration of the justice of that view, and of any measures which it may now be thought expedient to base upon it. The other object has been so far successful, that the families of Meers Roostum and Moobaruck have hitherto been left at the mercy of Meer Ali

Ali Morad for a maintenance, and that which he has provided for them has, as there is too much reason to believe, been miserably inadequate to their wants. To rescue them from this state of dependency, which considerations of humanity as well as regard for our own character seem to require, I would recommend that it should be made an express article in the treaty, that Ali Morad should assign a clear annual allowance in money or land of 20,000 rupees for the maintenance of the families of each of those Ameers, to be held under the guarantee of the British Government, and subject to no diminution but with its consent, and to be enjoyed whether they reside in Ali Morad's territory or in ours. It would perhaps be sufficient, without alluding to the suppression of the documents, the public exposure of which could not but be discreditable to Meer Ali Morad, to base this measure on its inherent reasonableness, and its consequently having been made a condition of the otherwise gratuitous cession of the forfeited territory; but the consciousness of the existence of such documents would no doubt facilitate the Ameer's acquiescence in such an arrangement, and they might be held in reserve to support it, should he show any disposition to withhold his consent.

28. The above are the principal modifications which it occurs to me to suggest in the proposed treaty; but in giving effect to them, it will be necessary entirely to recast the matter of it; and in doing so, I think it may be brought into a form more assimilated to other instruments of the kind in India, and more simple and precise in its provisions. This I have endeavoured to do in a rough draft, herewith submitted for the consideration of the Governor-general, and for such modifications as may appear to him expedient.

29. I have collected in the form of appendices to this memorandum, copies and extracts of the principal correspondence bearing on the subjects discussed in it, and of the documents to which it refers, and shall be prepared to give such further personal explanations as may be requisite for their more complete understanding.

30. In conclusion, I would strongly urge upon the consideration of the Governor-general, the importance of his at once authorizing the requisite negotiations being proceeded with, in view to a final settlement of these questions, and the submission of the treaty, which may be agreed to upon them, for his ratification during his stay here; as it is not likely that so convenient an opportunity will again occur for their expeditious and satisfactory disposal, and it is of the utmost consequence to the interests of this part of Scinde that they should be no longer allowed to remain in a state of abeyance, each successive year of which tends to complicate their ultimate adjustment, and render it a matter of greater difficulty; while the uncertainty in which both rulers and subjects are left, as to the effect of their ultimate decision, is most obstructive to all improvement, or the adoption of any measures of a permanent character, and a wide field for intrigue and corruption is left open to those who have, or are supposed to have, any influence in their settlement. It is possible that the details of the valuations of mutual claims and cessions may be less nicely accurate than longer time and more minute research might make them; but I believe them to be sufficiently so for the arrival at a fair general approximate result, and any advantage to be expected from further inquiry is unimportant compared with that of an immediate and final settlement. There are some of my propositions too, which will no doubt be far from palatable to Meer Ali Morad, when first stated for his acceptance; but I would hope that the quick appreciation of his own interests, for which he is remarkable, when directed to a perception of the advantages to be derived from a permanent adjustment of our mutual relations, and the risk of losing so favourable an opportunity for effecting it, will overcome any reluctance which he might otherwise feel to their details; and that when these are properly represented to him, he will not withhold his early consent to the measure, in whatever form it may be proposed.

31. The effect of the measure will be to secure for us all the political, military, fiscal, and police advantages anticipated by Sir Charles Napier from the consolidation of our territories within a well-defined frontier, and the confinement of Ali Morad's to the left bank of the Indus; while, if the doubtful districts are resumed, and ceded instead of those we now hold, it will retain for us country on that bank, yielding upwards of a lac and a half of rupees of annual revenue, and obviate the necessity of transferring to another power, and one for whose good government there is little security, their inhabitants, who have now been living for

several years under our rule. It will also finally, and to us advantageously, dispose of mutual claims of considerable amount, for which no definite provision had been made in the measure originally contemplated; and it will provide in a manner honourable to the British Government, and satisfactory to the parties, for those whose claims to relief had been long and frequently urged, and not without considerable reason. If these objects are not attained without some umbrage to the personal feelings of Meer Ali Morad, it is what has been brought upon him by his own misconduct; and the substantial advantages secured to him are of a nature which should fully reconcile him to it.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle,*  
Commissioner.

27 December 1849.

*P.S.*—Since the above paper was written, I have received information tending to show that two genuine copies of the treaty of Nonar were at one time on the records of the Scinde Government, but were surreptitiously abstracted from them, and a spurious one, containing the present interpolations, substituted; to effect which, it is alleged that a lac of rupees was expended. This took place in March 1843, one month after the battle of Meeanee, and five months before the alleged fraud in the Koran, which was perpetrated 20 days before Captain Pope proceeded to Khyrpore to examine the deed (also in a Koran), in which the public cession of the Turban was made; and took the opportunity of examining this one also, when of course it would correspond with its present appearance. I have not the means of immediately verifying this information, and it may not perhaps be strictly accurate in its details, but there are circumstances which give to its general substance a considerable *prima facie* appearance of probability.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle,*  
Commissioner.

1 January 1850.

(True copy.)  
(signed) *G. Inverarity,*  
Assistant Commissioner.

*Note.*—Here follow six leaves, of which the five first represent five leaves prefixed to, or inserted in, the Koran; the sixth, a leaf of the Koran. The pages of these leaves are represented as follows:—

[*Vide* Exhibit (F), page 208.]

Pages	
1st leaf	1. Possible method in which the forgery was accomplished, as appears from the first statement of Peer Ali Gohur, and the present state of the book on which the Sunnud was given.
	2. Blank prior to the forgery being attempted; but on that occasion formed the sheet on which the first portion of the Sunnud was re-written, and therefore now contains the portion said to have been forged.
2d leaf	3. Originally blank.
	4. Originally blank, but accompanied the other page of which it is a portion, when the latter was extracted.
3d leaf	5. Originally blank.
	6. Page of the Koran on which the first sheet or commencement of the Sunnud was originally written; subsequently extracted when the forgery was completed.
4th leaf	7. Originally comprised the second sheet of the Sunnud, and still does so.
	8. Originally comprised the third sheet of the Sunnud, and still does so.
5th leaf	9. Originally contained the fourth sheet of the Sunnud, and still does so. Here the Sunnud closes, with the seals of Meers Roostum and Nusseer Khan, as also that of Meer Ali Ackbur.
	10. Blank.
6th leaf	11. Here follows the Koran.
	12. Blank.

## Series (A.)

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- No. 2.—Extract paras. 2 and 3, from Letter from the Right honourable the Governor-general, No. 703, dated 26 June 1843. Calls for certain information respecting Meer Ali Morad's Minister, and observes the importance of ascertaining what lands really belong to the "Turban" - - - - - p. 23
- No. 3.—From Secretary to Government of Scinde to Captain Pope, Collector and Magistrate, Sukkur, No. 441, dated 18 July 1843. Forwards extracts paras. 2 and 3 of Letter No. 703, of 26 June, from Right honourable the Governor-general, and requests that he will supply the information therein called for; also Copy of Translation of the Will of Meer Sohrab Khan - - - - - p. 24
- No. 4.—From the Right honourable the Governor-general to the Governor of Scinde, No. 260, dated 23 July 1843, in reference to his Excellency's Letter of 28th ultimo, regarding principles laid down for taking charge of the Conquered Territory in Upper Scinde, and the genuineness of the Deed of Transfer of the Turban by Meer Roostum Khan to his Highness Ali Morad - - - - - p. 24
- No. 5.—From Secretary to Government of Scinde to Captain Pope, Collector and Magistrate, Sukkur, No. 576, of 16th August. Forwards extract paras. 14 and 15 of Letter from the Right honourable the Governor-general, dated 23 July, requesting that he will make the necessary inquiries regarding the alleged cession to his Highness of the Lands held by Meer Roostum in his own private right, and the resignation of the Turban at Deejree - - - - - p. 26
- No. 6.—To his Excellency the Governor of Scinde, No. 298, dated 9 August. Acknowledges receipt of his Excellency's Letters of 13th and 18th ultimo, respectively, with his Lordship's views of the Customs of the Country in reference to the cession of the Turban and certain Lands to Meer Ali Morad, by Meer Roostum, the tenure under which Lands are held in Jaghire, and how far these may go to support his Highness's alleged claims - - - - - p. 26
- No. 7.—From his Excellency the Governor of Scinde to the Right honourable the Governor-general, dated 24 July. Forwards translation of a Will of Meer Sohrab Khan, of Talpoor, and suggests the formation of a Committee to determine the limits of Territory to be held by Government, and by his Highness Meer Ali Morad - - - - - p. 27
- No. 8.—To his Excellency the Governor of Scinde, No. 317, dated 17th August 1843. Acknowledges receipt of his Excellency's letter of 24th July, enclosing translation of Meer Sohrab's Will, with his Lordship's sentiments on the wording thereof, and sanctions the nomination of Captain French and Sheik Ali Hoossein for the purpose of determining the territorial limits - - - - - p. 28
- No. 9.—From Captain Pope to E. J. Brown, Esq., Commissioner of Scinde, No. 43, dated 11th August 1843. Forwards for consideration sketch of the country and its several districts between Roree and Subsulcote of the Ameers, and their respective value - - - - - p. 29
- No. 10.—Extract from Letter from Captain Pope to E. J. Brown, Esq., No. 44 of 1843, being his opinion with regard to the question as to whether any lands in Upper Scinde properly belong to the Turban, with enclosure from Mr. Wingfield, Bengal Civil Service - - - - - p. 30
- No. 11.—From Captain Pope to the Commissioner in Scinde, No. 45, dated 13th August. Reports that Deewan Shere Sing, the Ex-Ameer Roostum's head revenue servant, states that there is no probability of any documents of importance connected with his late master's affairs being found in the Duftur at Khyrpore, &c. - - - - - p. 31
- No. 12.—From Captain Pope to the Commissioner in Scinde, No. 56, dated 26th August. With reference to his letter No. 576, of 16th instant, and enclosure, paras. 14 and 15, forwards attested copy of the Deed of Cession of the Turban, &c. - - - - - p. 32
- No. 13.—To the Right honourable the Governor-general, dated 16th August. Acknowledges receipt of his Lordship's letter, No. 260, of 23d ultimo, and forwards Translation of Copy of Treaty written on the Koran by Meer Rustum Khan - - - - - p. 34
- No. 14.—From the Right honourable the Governor-general, No. 376, dated 13th September. Acknowledges receipt of his Excellency's letter of 16th ultimo, with Enclosure; transmits Translation of the Treaty made by the Foreign Secretary, and his Note thereon - - - - - p. 36
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- No. 26.—From his Excellency the Governor of Scinde, dated 18 January 1847, being reply to preceding letter from Secretary to Government of India expressive of his Excellency's sentiments on the several points therein noticed in reference to the proposed Treaty with his Highness Meer Ali Morad, and the subject of the cession of the Turban in his favour by Meer Roostum Khan - - - p. 51
- No. 27.—To the Secretary to the Government of India, No. 124, dated 8 August. Forwards for submission to the Right honourable the Governor-general, Copy of the Map called for in para. 7, of Letter, No. 396, of 24 October, showing the position of the Khyrpoor territory and the British possessions, enumerated in the proposed Treaty - - - p. 53
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## No. 1.

From His Excellency Sir C. J. Napier, Governor of Scinde, to the Right Honourable the Governor-general.

My Lord,

IN ordering Captain Pope to take possession of the conquered territory in the north, I have laid down the following principles for his guidance.

1. We recognized the assumption of the "Turban" and lands appertaining thereto by his Highness Ali Morad, on the free resignation of his brother. We were bound to do so by treaty, for such was the law of Scinde; and we were bound to abide by that law.

2. With the "Turban," according to the will of "Sorab," went certain lands amounting to one-fourth of the territory bequeathed by the Ameer Sorab to his heirs.

3. When Meer Roostum resigned the "Turban," which he did with all legal forms, he did at the same time, and with the same forms, resign to his brother the whole of his (Meer Roostum's) territories; and in return, his brother engaged to provide for his due maintenance.

4. This

4. This resignation of his territories was written in the same Koran at the same time, and was one act with the resignation of the Turban. The whole was confirmed by the signature and seal of his Highness Meer Roostum Khan.

5. As we were obliged by treaty to recognize, and did accordingly recognize, the formal transfer of the Turban, it appears to me conclusive that we must recognize every part of the transaction that is in accordance with the laws of Scinde, and of Mahomed; by this law every chief is master of his property, none of which can be entailed. The will of the possessor decides who is to have the land, such at least I am given to understand is the Mahomedan law. If this be so, we are bound to concede to his Highness Ali Morad those lands which Meer Roostum had the right of making over to him by the Mahomedan law.

6. But we are not bound to concede to his Highness those lands over which his brother Meer Roostum had no legal right, viz. those which belonged to their nephews, the sons of Meer Mobarik.

I therefore desired Captain Pope not to place our kardars in the following territories :

1st. In all those possessed by Ali Morad as his inheritance.

2d. All which belonged to the Turban by the will of his father, "Meer Sorab."

3d. All that are written in the Koran as made over to him by Meer Roostum, under the hand and seal of that Ameer, and making one act and deed with the transfer of the Turban, save and except those lands which were the property of his nephews, the sons of Mobarik.

7. But Meer Roostum recalled his gift of the "Turban" and its lands, and all that he did in that act.

Question, Was this lawful?—Ali Morad answers "No; by the law of Mahomed every chief is master of his own property. If he gives it to his children, he may, in virtue of his paternal power, revoke that gift; but if he gives it to a chief who is his equal, and over whom he has not paternal power, the deed is final; he cannot revoke the gift; therefore Meer Roostum cannot undo that which he has done. The Turban and the lands of Meer Roostum are mine by right, in virtue of the Mahomedan law, and that of Scinde."

Now, as I am given to understand that this is really the Mahomedan law, I have acted thereupon; but I have ordered Captain Pope to occupy the lands of Mobarik's sons. They made war on the English, were conquered, and their territory becomes ours. Such, my Lord, is the view I have taken of the subject, and I have ordered Captain Pope to act upon it till I receive your Lordship's commands. It was necessary for me to act immediately, as the ryots were left in a state of alarm and uncertainty, one party industriously spreading the report that all the country was to be given up to his Highness Ali Morad, the other, with equal zeal, asserting that he was to be deprived of all but his paternal inheritance.

I was so tired by writing the rough copy of this letter, that I am sure your Lordship will excuse my employing my nephew as my amanuensis.

Hyderabad, 28 June 1843.

I have, &c.  
(signed) C. J. Napier, Governor.

No. 2.

EXTRACT from a Letter from the Right Honourable the Governor-general of India to His Excellency Sir C. Napier, Governor of Scinde, No. 703; dated 26 June 1843.

Para. 2d. I should be glad to have some information about Meer Ali Morad's minister, who is said to have been much in Hindoostan, and who seems to be bringing Hindoostaness as collectors into Scinde.

2d. It is of much importance to ascertain without delay what lands really belong to the Turban; and as there must be at Khyrpoor some of the officers formerly employed by Meer Roostum, it may be as well to endeavour to obtain the requisite information from them."

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No. 3.

(No. 441 of 1843.)

From the Secretary to the Government of Scinde to Capain *Pope*, Collector and Magistrate, Sukkur.

Sir,

By direction, I have the honour to forward extract paras. Nos. 2 and 3 of a letter, No. 703, of the 26th ultimo, from the Right honourable the Governor-general, upon both which subjects you are requested, after inquiry, to forward to me the information called for.

I enclose copy of a translation of the will of Meer Sohrab Khan, showing how in the first instance the lands of Upper Scinde were divided between Meer Roostum Khan and his two brothers, but, as you will perceive, since then many alterations in the distribution have been caused by mutual exchange, &c.

Hyderabad, 18 July 1843.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. J. Brown*, Secretary.

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No. 4.

(No. 260 of 1843.)

From the Right honourable the Governor-general of India in Council to His Excellency Major-general Sir *C. Napier*, K.C.B., Governor of Scinde, Hyderabad.

General,

I HAD the honour to receive yesterday your Excellency's letter of the 28th ultimo, wherein you state the principles upon which you have directed Captain Pope to act in taking possession of the conquered territories in Upper Scinde.

2. Your Excellency has instructed Captain Pope to occupy the lands which belonged to the sons of the late Meer Mobarik, as now belonging to the British Government by right of conquest; you do not consider that any act done by Meer Roostum can have the legal effect of giving a property in these lands to Meer Ali Morad, and in this opinion I entirely concur.

3. Your Excellency has directed that the lands attached to the Turban shall be deemed to belong rightfully to Meer Ali Morad, to whom the Turban was, as your Excellency states, freely resigned by Meer Roostum, and your Excellency rejects as invalid the subsequent retraction by Meer Roostum of this resignation of the Turban.

4. It appears from your Excellency's letter of the 20th of December, that Meer Roostum had long been desirous of getting rid of the charge of the Turban, and from your letter of the 29th of December, that the Turban was resigned by him in the most formal manner, his resignation being written in the Koran before all the religious men collected to witness the act at Dejee, and the Koran was sent to your Excellency that you might see it.

5. It appears from Major Outram's notes of his conference with the Ameers on the 8th of February, that Meer Roostum addressed a letter to your Excellency, requesting that the Turban might be made over to Meer Ali Morad, and finally it is consistent with probability, that under the circumstances there existing, an old and infirm man, as Meer Roostum is, may have been really desirous of relieving himself from the chiefship of his family, and may have freely resigned the Turban to his brother Meer Ali Morad, the next legal heir

6. I concur



6. I concur with your Excellency in rejecting, as invalid, the subsequent retraction by Meer Roostum of this resignation of the Turban, and in recognizing as now belonging to Meer Ali Morad, the lands attached to the Turban so resigned to him.

7. Your Excellency has further directed that Meer Ali Morad shall be deemed the rightful possessor of all the lands which belonged to Meer Roostum, not in right of the Turban, but as a simple Ameer. These lands are now stated to have been made over to Meer Ali Morad by Meer Roostum at the same time, and with the same forms with which the Turban was transferred; this transfer of what may be considered his private property, having been made by Meer Roostum in consideration of an engagement by Meer Ali Morad for his due maintenance.

8. Your Excellency's letter of the 28th ultimo conveys the first information I have ever received from you that this transfer of lands, held not in right of the Turban, was made by Meer Roostum to Meer Ali Morad.

9. Your Excellency now acquaints me that the resignation of his territories was written in the same Koran at the same time, and was one act with the resignation of the Turban by Meer Roostum; but when your Excellency met the son of Meer Roostum, on the 6th of January, you told him that his father would hold his lands according to the draft of the treaty, but must lose what was attached to the Turban, thus drawing a clear distinction between the lands held by Meer Roostum in his private capacity as a simple Ameer, and those he possessed in his public character as the chief of the Talpoor family, invested with the Turban; and therefore on that day your Excellency cannot have been aware that his private as well as his public lands had been at the same time in one transaction ceded by Meer Roostum to Meer Ali Morad. The Koran in which the cession of the Turban was written, and which must have been seen by your Excellency on or before the 26th of December, cannot then have contained the cession of the private lands, or the writing therein must have been incorrectly translated to you.

10. On the 27th of December your Excellency wrote to me: "There is one point which I do not yet understand; some trick probably, but I cannot yet clearly see it; there is an evident objection to my seeing Meer Roostum. Why, I do not know; but I told Ali Morad I must and will see his Highness." On the 29th your Excellency wrote: "I have to tell you that Meer Roostum decamped yesterday morning. I met Ali Morad the night before, and desired him to say that I would pay my respects to his Highness the next day, and the next day I heard of his flight." Your Excellency then gave your two conjectures as to the cause of Meer Roostum's flight, and seemed to incline to the opinion that Meer Ali Morad had frightened him into the step in order to make his possession of the Turban more decisive.

11. My conjecture is, that the resignation of the Turban and the resignation of the private lands by Meer Roostum were two separate transactions, if indeed the private lands were ever ceded by Meer Roostum, and the cession thereof be not altogether a forgery subsequent to the first transaction, which was of a public character, that of the resignation of the Turban.

12. Whether by the Mahometan law, Meer Roostum being a free agent, could alienate his hereditary lands, is a question upon which inquiry shall be immediately made from persons acquainted with that law, and the result shall be communicated to your Excellency; but the indispensable condition of the legality of a grant is that it should be made by a free agent, and even if it should appear that Meer Roostum had the power to alienate these private lands, it must be clear that he did so not under restraint, and not under delusion as to his true position, before I could justly recognize Meer Ali Morad as the proprietor of such lands by virtue of the resignation Meer Roostum is now stated to have made to him.

13. That such resignation can have been altogether voluntary it is difficult to believe. Meer Roostum may have readily divested himself of the Turban, which made him the centre of the intrigues and machinations of his family, but he can hardly have been the willing instrument of the disinherison of his sons, or have freely reduced himself to dependence upon his brother for his own due maintenance.



14. I request your Excellency will have the goodness to transmit to me any copy which may have been made of the writing in the Koran, which was sent to you by Meer Ali Morad in December, and it would be desirable that your Excellency should acquaint Meer Ali Morad, that being now first made acquainted with the alleged cession to his Highness of the lands held by Meer Roostum in his own private right, and being desirous of proceeding in a matter of so much importance with all due regard to justice and even to form, I am solicitous that his Highness should place in the hands of one of your Excellency's officers, for the purpose of having it correctly copied and attested, the writing in the Koran, whereby Meer Roostum is said to have alienated to his Highness the lands held by him in his own hereditary right, without reference to the possession of the Turban.

15. Your Excellency may possibly be able to obtain from some of the religious men present at Dejee when the Turban was resigned by Meer Roostum some detailed account of what took place on that occasion.

Fort William, 23 July 1843.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Ellenborough.*

No. 5.

(No. 576 of 1843.)

From the Secretary to the Government of Scinde to Captain *Pope*,  
Collector and Magistrate, Sukkur.

Sir,

By direction of his Excellency the Governor in Scinde, I have the honour to forward extract paras. Nos. 14 and 15 of a letter received from the Right honourable the Governor-general of India in Council, in the Secret Department, dated the 23d ultimo.

2. You are requested to make his Highness Meer Ali Morad acquainted with the orders of his Lordship relative to the "alleged cession to his Highness of the lands held by Meer Roostum in his own private right," and you can at the same time request that the Koran alluded to may be sent to you, with the view to your copying and attesting the writing in it, whereby Meer Roostum is said to have alienated to his Highness the lands held by him.

3. You will also, as directed, make the necessary inquiries from such religious parties who may have been present when the Turban was resigned by Meer Roostum, at Dejee.

I have, &c.  
Hyderabad, 16 August 1843. (signed) *E. J. Brown, Secretary.*

No. 6.

(No. 298.)

From the Right Honourable the Governor-general of India in Council to His Excellency Major-general Sir *C. Napier*, K.C.B., Governor of Scinde.

General,

I HAD the satisfaction to receive last night your Excellency's letters of the 13th and 18th ultimo, with their several enclosures relating to the transactions with the Ameers immediately before the battle of Meeanee, and also to transactions subsequent thereto between your Excellency and certain of the Ameers and Chiefs of Scinde.

It would evidently still be very desirable that we should be in possession of an accurate copy of the writing in the Koran, whereby Meer Roostum ceded the Turban and certain lands to Meer Ali Morad. In that writing, as translated, there is some ambiguity.

It would be very desirable also that there should be a distinct account of the lands and privileges appertaining to the Turban.

We

We do not know what were the rights of jaghiredars ; whether the Ameers could resume, and were in the habit of resuming jaghires at pleasure, or whether, by the custom of the country and of the Talpoor family, jaghires were not resumed as long as the Jaghiredar remained faithful.

It may happen that Meer Ali Morad will be found to have taken possession of lands which Meer Roostum had no authority to cede, or that in lands legally ceded, Meer Ali Morad has exercised his power in a manner contrary to the custom of the country. The British Government could not sanction either of these proceedings.

Calcutta, 9 August 1843.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Ellenborough.*

No. 7.

From Major-general Sir *C. Napier*, K.C.B., Governor, Hyderabad, to the Right Honourable Lord *Ellenborough*, Governor-general.

My Lord,

I SEND the will of Meer Sorab Khan Talpoor. If we take it for a lease, then Ali Morad would have three-fourths and we should have one-fourth of Upper Scinde ; that is to say, Meer Mobarick's share ; add to this, what belonged to Nusseer Khan of Hyderabad, now ours.

I think that Captain Pope, Captain French, Captain Baker, and Sheik Ali Hassen, might form a commission to determine the limits, or Captain Pope and Sheik Ali Nujien could do it. But by whoever done, the limits of our respective territories ought to be determined quickly, as it keeps this country in a ferment ; all want to be under us ; and all new-comers are prevented from fixing their place of abode till Ali Morad's territory is defined.

I think Pope and Sheik Ali could get the works forward more quickly than a larger number ; but he would be very rigid with Ali Morad. This would do no harm as he is very grasping, I think, though fear renders him very amenable.

Hyderabad, 24 July 1843.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *C. J. Napier.*

TRANSLATION of a Will of *Meer Sohrab Khan Talpoor*.

I WRITE this to let it be known that I have divided my country among my sons, and I have given each a certificate showing what his share is, and I have divided the whole between my three sons, Meer Roostum Khan, Meer Moobarick Khan, and Meer Ali Morad. I have divided the country, with whatever may be its annual produce, into four shares. Two shares to Meer Roostum, as specified below. The district of Nowshera, Kundeara, Tud-dagagnee, Boordeka, Roopa, Oboura, Bhoombara, part of Subzukote, Fort of Bukkur, and some few scattered places ; the revenue of half of these, with the Sur Shumaree, Ijara, Zukat, Mehebaree, of all the country is for the expense of the Turban, and to belong to whoever holds it ; the other share to belong to Meer Roostum, as one of the three brothers.

The third share, consisting of Ghokkee, Syndpoor, Mahisra, Jamsyra, with its dependent villages Mahabeyla, Meerpoor, and Mehukkee Mughlee, and sundry other places, to Meer Mobarick Khan.

The fourth share, consisting of Gajree, Khumbyla, Fort of Ahmedabad, City of Khyrpoor, with its dependent villages, Nara, and sundry other places, to Meer Ali Morad.

I have put each in possession of his district, and have written this will to prevent any quarrelling, and for the peace and quiet of my family, and that the other Ameers, ruiers, and Beloochees may know that the country is to remain in the possession of my posterity, according to this my will. If any one deviates from this, it will be unwilling. I being of sound mind and body, have written this will to prevent any further quarrelling.

Dated 14th of Zeekad, 1244 Hisjree.

(sealed) *Sohrab Talpoor.*

(True translation.)

(signed) *H. J. Kelly*, Persian Interpreter.

No. 8.

(No. 317.)

From the Right Honourable the Governor-general of India to His Excellency Major-general Sir *C. Napier*, K.C.B., Governor of Scinde, Hyderabad.

General,

I RECEIVED last night your Excellency's letter of the 24th ultimo, enclosing a translation of Meer Sohrab's will.

The inference from the words of the will appears to be that the possessor of the Turban is entitled to an undivided moiety of the lands specifically bequeathed to Meer Roostum, besides having the fines, taxes, and tolls, &c., mentioned.

Until it be decided whether Meer Roostum ceded his personal moiety of the revenues derivable from these lands, as well as the moiety attached to the Turban, it would be impossible to proceed further than to ascertain what lands never belonged to Meer Roostum, or to Meer Ali Morad, in Upper Scinde, and to take possession for the British Government of all lands which, never having belonged to either of those chiefs, were the property of chiefs who have been in arms against us, and have not since been forgiven by your Excellency.

If the inference I have drawn from the wording of the will be correct, it would be necessary, in the event of its being decided that Meer Ali Morad is not entitled, by any act of Meer Roostum, to any other revenues than such as appertain to the Turban, to proceed to a partition of the lands bequeathed to Meer Roostum, which partition should be made on terms favourable to Meer Ali Morad; allowing to him not only lands producing a revenue fully equal to one-half of the estimated revenue of the whole, but also lands of such value as might more than compensate for the loss of any villages and lands included in the cession already made, and that which may be made to Buhawulpoor, and further for the cession of Sahgurh and the Desert attached to it, formerly belonging to Jessulmere.

There can be no wish to deal otherwise than with the utmost liberality towards Meer Alee Morad: whatever may have been his views, he has apparently been hitherto a faithful ally. He has been so when his sudden and unexpected enmity might have been fatal to our army, and we are bound to treat him with much consideration.

We must ascertain, however, what his strict rights are; and before we proceed to give, we must know what he justly has.

Your Excellency is already acquainted with the doubts which are entertained with respect to the validity of the cession of Meer Roostum's private interest in the lands he held; if, indeed, any cession of that interest was intended to be made to him.

Those doubts may be removed by the inspection of the original writing in the Koran, and by further information your Excellency may be enabled to afford; when the decision shall be taken upon this point, it would be most desirable undoubtedly to proceed without delay to the demarcation of the respective lands of the British Government and Meer Ali Morad, and to the effecting of the necessary exchanges and compensations.

Captain Pope and Sheik Ali Houssain may meet for this purpose, or if Captain French should soon join your Excellency, you might find it more convenient to employ him upon that duty, leaving Captain Pope to his own laborious functions. Captain French would, of course, refer to Captain Pope for information as to facts.

Captain Baker will be fully occupied in the business of the survey.

Even before the ultimate decision with respect to the private rights of Meer Roostum in the ceded lands, much progress might be made by the referers in the demarcation of the lands which have, without any question at all, lapsed to the British Government.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Ellenborough.*

Calcutta, 17 August 1843.

No. 9.

(No. 43 of 1843.)

From the Collector and Magistrate of Sukkur to *E. J. Brown*, Esq., Commissioner of Scinde.

Sir,

IN reference to copy of a letter addressed by his Lordship the Governor-general, under date the 27th ultimo, to his Excellency the Governor of Scinde, this day received by me direct from the Secretary to the Government of India, I have the honour, in anticipation of orders from his Excellency, to forward for consideration the subjoined sketch of the country between Roree and Subzulcote, specifying the several districts of the Ex-Ameers, and their respective value.

2. As the whole country in question was, by a proclamation issued by his Excellency in December 1842, declared to be British territory from and after the 1st January 1843, his Highness Aly Moorad cannot found a claim to any portion of it, either on the cession to him by Meer Roostum of the whole of his kingdom, subsequent to the issue of the proclamation adverted to, or on the alleged cession of the pergunnahs of Mathelah and Dadlo by Meer Nusseer Khan some months previous to its issue, and I have this day been informed by his Highness's minister, Ali Hassen, that no claim as of right is preferred, but that his Highness will trust to the generosity of the British Government.

As no part of his Highness's patrimonial property lay between Roree and Subzulcote, I have therefore to report, in reference to the latter part of the 1st para. of his Lordship's letter, that no pergunnah of the country in question belongs to his Highness Ali Moorad; no specific lands having ever been set aside as the property of the Turban, none within the above country can be indicated as attached to it. Ali Hassen admitted fully in conversation with me to-day, that no "lands" in any part of Scinde belonged to the Turban, the claim of the wearer of it being solely for half the "revenue" of the country lately possessed by Meer Roostum, with the addition of the whole amount of the taxes of the same country.

(signed) *G. Pope*, Collector and Magistrate.

Sukkur, 11 August 1843.

STATEMENT showing the several Possessions of the Ex-Ameers in the country between Roree and Subzulcote, and their respective Values.

NAME OF DISTRICT OR TUPPA.	NAME OF FORMER POSSESSORS.	ESTIMATED ANNUAL VALUE.
		Rs.
Turichanee - -	Meer Mahomed Khan, son of Goolam Hyder -	6,000
Syudssore - -	Meer Tagil Mahomed, third son of Meer Moobaruck	44,000
Maharee - -	Meer Mahomed Ali, second son of ditto - -	90,000
Gotekee - -	{ Meer Ali Mahomed, fourth son of ditto - - } { Meer Millee Mahomed, fifth son of ditto - - }	67,000
Juttoree and Maha Sira - - -	} Meer Mussceer Khan, eldest son of ditto - -	35,000
Meerpore MasoaNoa Khalen Jumshera	} Ditto - - ditto - ditto - -	120,000
Khyrpore Dehr -	Meer Roostum, and sons - - - -	134,000
Mamwah - -	Ditto - - ditto - - - -	25,000
TOTAL - - -	Rupees five lacs, twenty-one thousand - -	5,21,000

The above list commences with Tarichanee, near Roree, and proceeds northward; the pergunnahs of Bhoong-Bora and Subzulcote, though formerly belonging, the first and one-third of the second to Meer Roostum, and the remaining two-thirds of the second to the

Hydrabad Durbar, are not included, as they have already been made over to H. H. Bhawal Khan. The annual revenue of both united is estimated at one lakh and twenty thousand (1,20,000) rupees.

It is proper to add that the revenue is entered according to an estimate made several years ago when the prices of produce were higher than at present; a circumstance which must considerably affect the revenue of a country where the Government dues are almost exclusively levied in kind. I have as yet had no opportunity of judging, by experience, of the amount likely to be realized, but I have minutely examined into the capabilities of the country so far as that can be effected by repeated inquiries of the former revenue servants, and it would appear that it is one of almost boundless fertility, that cultivation might be greatly increased at a comparatively trifling expense, and that, under British rule, double even the above estimated revenue might be looked for in a year or two, with a steady increase in the rates of the extension of cultivation.

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No. 10.

EXTRACT from Letter No. 44 of 1843, from the same to the same.

WITH regard to the question as to whether any lands in Upper Scinde properly belong to the Turban, every inquiry I have made tends to confirm the opinion on the subject I have already expressed. Sheik Aly Hasan, his Highness Ali Moorad's minister, was with me to-day, and distinctly stated that no land ever did belong to the Turban, and that the only right claimed for it was that to one-half the produce (revenue) of the whole of the lands lately held by Meer Roostum, and to the whole of the produce of certain taxes on those lands, as specified in Meer Sohrab Khan's will.

4. I have the honour to enclose for his Excellency's consideration the report of Mr. Wingfield, whom I despatched to Khyrpore to make inquiries on the above subject, and would now submit that every possible inquiry, so far as oral evidence is concerned, has been made into the subject, and that the result has established the fact admitted by Ali Hassan, that no land in Upper Scinde belonged to the Turban.

5. Of the authenticity of the will of the late Meer Sohrab, on which his Highness Meer Ali Moorad founds the claim of the Turban to so large a portion of the returns of Upper Scinde, his Excellency the Governor will be able to judge. I have already taken the liberty of submitting for his consideration such remarks as occurred to me in reference thereto. I have delayed my reply to you for some days, in the hope that his Highness Ali Moorad might, in consequence of a letter I sent him, furnish me with a copy of Meer Sohrab's will; which I thought was doubtless among Meer Roostum's records at Khyrpore, but Ali Hassan, whom I saw to-day, assures me that no such records were found there; and it appears clear that whether this assertion be well or ill founded, there can be no reasonable hope of the voluntary production of any document which should damage his Highness's claims from the records, which, if they exist, have been now many months in his possession.

6. I think it useless, therefore, any longer to delay replying to your letter No. 507, but should I be able to elicit any useful information regarding Meer Roostum's records from Dewan Shere Sing, whom I have recalled from the districts for further examination into this subject, I will at once communicate it; I think it probable myself that Meer Roostum's important records, if they exist at all, may be discovered at Hydrabad. His Excellency will observe from Mr. Wingfield's report, that though I had not previously heard of the circumstance, it appears that his Highness Ali Moorad did claim Khyrpore on his father's death in virtue of his (Meer Sohrab's) will, but without success. Mr. Wingfield was accompanied to Khyrpore by Ali Hassan, who stated before setting out, that no records bearing upon the subject to be inquired into existed at Khyrpore. As the only good moonshee here could not conveniently be spared, I kept him at Sukkur, informing Mr. Wingfield that he should be sent out if any records requiring careful examination were found.

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Enclosure.

From *C. Wingfield*, Esq. Ben. C. S., to Captain *Pope*, Collector and Magistrate, Sukkur.

Sir,

AGREEABLY to the orders of his Excellency Sir C. Napier communicated by you, I have the honour to report for his Excellency's information, that on the 6th instant I proceeded to Khypore to institute the desired inquiries.

2. I called together five or six of the old inhabitants of Khypore, three of whom had been formerly in the service of Meer Roostum; from my inquiries it appears that there never had been any particular lands allotted to the maintenance of the Turban, at least none of them had ever heard of such being the case, neither could I discover that there were any other papers that could lead to such an inference; in short, I could ascertain nothing more than you had previously stated in your report to his Excellency; on the contrary, these persons entirely corroborated your statement.

3. I did not examine the papers in the office at Khypore individually, to ascertain their contents, as I had no moonshee with me, but I asked if they could produce any that would throw light on the point at issue, which they said they could not do, except those that have already been before you and his Excellency.

4. In reply to the other questions put to them, according to your desire, whether Meer Ali Moorad had ever resided at and held possession of Khypore, I gained the following particulars. After the death of their father, Meer Sohrab Khan, Meer Roostum and Meer Ali Moorad both resided for two years at Khypore, and shared the revenue of Khypore and the surrounding purgunnahs. In Khypore there were three "chabontrees;" Meer Roostum used to receive the proceeds of one (the largest) containing the grain, and the other two smaller ones belonged to Meer Ali Moorad, who also received the taxes levied on the surrounding purgunnahs. During these two years he repeatedly claimed Khypore as having been left him in his father's will, which Meer Roostum as often refused, and at last forced him to leave Khypore. I beg to state, that in consequence of most of the influential people having been absent from Khypore with Meer Ali Moorad when I was there, I could only collect these five or six people to question upon these points; should his Excellency wish the records at Khypore to be examined separately and minutely (in order to discover if there be any that refer to the question of particular lands being set aside for the Turban), I could do so with the assistance of a moonshee.

(signed) *C. Wingfield*, Bengal C. S.  
*G. Pope*, Collector and Magistrate.

(True copies.)

(signed) *P. Goldney*, Captain, Collector and Magistrate.

No. 11.

(No. 45 of 1843.)

From Captain *G. Pope*, Collector and Magistrate, Sukkur, to the Commissioner in Scinde.

Sir,

IN continuation of my letter, No. 44, I have the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that Dewan Shere Sing, the Ex-Ameer Roostum's head revenue servant, who arrived here late yesterday evening, states that there is no probability of any papers of importance connected with his late master's affairs being found in the duffur at Khypore; such papers, he states, were always kept in the toshekhanna, which Meer Roostum took with him to Hyderabad, and he is of opinion that if the "toshekhanna" was not seized at that place, it must be with some of the Ex-Ameer's sons, who are still at large. On being shown the copy of the paper produced by his Highness Ali Moorad as the will of Meer Sohrab, and asked if he had ever seen a similar one in the possession of Meer Roostum, he replied, that he had not, but added, that his not having done so was no proof that such a document did not exist; that if it did, it would have been kept in the "toshekhanna," which was not under his control.

3. He stated, that though at the time of Meer Sohrab's death, his Highness Ali Moorad was in possession of the revenues of one of the smallest cheeboutras of the city of Khypore, and a share in the revenue of the cultivation in its neighbourhood, it was notorious that such had been ceded to him as a favour by

Meer Roostum at the personal request of Meer Sohrab, who had long before his death given up to Meer Roostum the government of the city and its dependencies, which he conducted accordingly.

4. On being asked if he ever heard of the existence of the will of Meer Sohrab (copy of which I showed him), he said "certainly not," but that it might have existed without his knowledge, though its provisions, especially as regarded the actual possession and government of Khyrpore, did not appear reconcilable with the actually existing state of things previous to and at the time of Meer Sohrab's death. He added, that the facts, as stated in the preceding para., were notorious, and that he was perfectly ready to maintain his statement at any time or place.

Sukkur, 13 August 1846.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *G. Pope*,  
Collector and Magistrate.

(True copy.)

(signed) *P. Goldney*,  
Captain, Collector and Magistrate.

No. 12.

(No. 56.)

From Captain *Pope*, Collector, Sukkur, to *E. J. Brown*, Esq., Commissioner in Scinde, Hyderabad.

Sir,

IN reference to your letter, No. 576, of the 16th instant, enclosing copy of paras. 14 and 15 of a letter from the Right honourable the Governor-general to his Excellency the Governor of Scinde, dated 23d July 1843, I have the honour to state for the information of his Excellency, that I proceeded to Khyrpore on the 23d instant, for the purpose of personally inspecting the documents referred to, and making the necessary inquiries into the other points on which his Lordship the Governor-general was desirous of information.

2. I have the honour to enclose, marked (A.), an attested copy of the deed of cession of the Turban, and the whole of the lands of the Ex-Ameer Roostum to his Highness Meer Ali Moorad, and in order to show that the fidelity of the copy is beyond doubt, I beg to explain the method adopted by me in taking it.

3. The Koran was produced by the minister of his Highness Meer Ali Moorad, I took it in my own hand, seated my moonshee at a little distance, and dictated to him what he was to write. When he had finished, I caused him to read over what he had written, I comparing what he read with what was written in the book I still held in my hands, and when this second test had been gone through, I caused the moonshee to take the Koran and read aloud from it, while I compared his written paper with what he read.

4. Peer Ali Gohur, the principal Syud in Upper Scinde, was, as I was beforehand aware, the person who wrote with his own hands, in the Koran, the deed of cession alluded to; he swore to this being the case on my showing him the Koran, as also to his having seen Meer Roostum write the words "Buhai ust," after the seal had been affixed thereto by his order, and in his presence, by one of his own servants. The Syud was naturally averse to swearing to the above points, conceiving that it inferred a doubt of his word, and it is, I believe, generally known that people of rank have a very great objection to taking an oath; but on my explaining to him, that it was not from any doubt I myself felt as to the accuracy of his statement, that I wished him to swear to it, but from a wish that the utmost possible formality should be observed in the verification of so important a document, he complied. I beg to add, that I distinctly told him that I had neither the wish nor the power to insist on his verifying his statement on oath; his doing so was his voluntary act, on the explanation I gave him as to my reasons for wishing it.

5. The accompanying statement, marked (B.), will show that the sealing and signing of the deed of cession was witnessed by several individuals, servants of Meer

Meer Roostum, and of Meer Ali Moorad, and all declared publicly that neither by word or act did he (Meer Roostum) show that he was acting otherwise than of his own free will.

6. The Persian being the language of business in the country, I caused my moonshee to write, before all the people assembled, an abstract of the proceedings, which was read over to them in my presence, and assented to by all, as correct; the paper (B.) is a translation of this document, and I trust that the papers (A.) and (B.) respectively will afford all the information called for by his Lordship the Governor-general, and which his Excellency the Governor has directed me to obtain.

Sukkur, 26 August 1848.

I have, &c.  
(signed) G. Pope, Collector.

(A.)

*Note.*—The document referred to as (A.) does not follow in this place. It is the Treaty written in the Koran, which will be found in Exhibit (F.) to the Report of the Commissioners on the conduct of Ali Morad, dated 8th May 1850.—See pages 20, 208, and 209.

(B.)

TRANSLATION of a Persian Proceeding, inquiring into Matter which his Highness *Meer Roostum Khan* is said to have written on the Koran, making over the Turban and his Possessions to his Highness *Meer Ali Moorad Khan*.

ON the above subject the following persons were interrogated:—Peer Ali Gohur; Meer Jungee Khan, uncle of his Highness Ali Moorad; Meer Chakar Khan, brother of his Highness Ali Moorad; Sobdar Khan, Jelbanee; Kumal Khan, Jelbanee; Jahan Khan, Shahee; Md Ali Kutmutgar, of Meer Roostum; Kooshee Ram Dewan; Dewan Shere Singh.

The following question was put generally to the foregoing persons:

State what you know regarding the late transfer of the Turban and possessions of his Highness Meer Roostum Khan to his Highness Meer Ali Moorad Khan.

Peer Ali Gowhar states, I, with my own hand, placed and bound round the Turban on his Highness Meer Ali Moorad's head, excepting that his Highness Meer Roostum Khan gave three turns with his own hands. The compact that Meer Roostum Khan made with his Highness Meer Ali Moorad Khan, I wrote myself on the Koran, and Meer Roostum Khan wrote the words "behul ust," signifying "it is truth."

Jehan Khan Darogah, late in charge of the toshah kanah of his Highness Meer Roostum Khan, states, I stamped (by order of his Highness Meer Roostum Khan) his seal, binding the compact made on the Koran.

The following persons, Sobdar Khan, Jelbanee; Dewan Shere Sing, Dewan Kooshee Ram, state that they are witnesses to what Peer Ali Gowhar has said as being the truth; they were present at the time the negotiation was going on.

Deposition of Meer Chaker Khan, brother to Meer Roostum Khan, and Meer Jangar Khan, brother to Meer Soraub:

At the time when Meer Roostum Khan made over the Turban and his possessions to Meer Ali Moorad, I was absent, but I have been told all that Peer Ali Gowhar has said.

Question put to Peer Ali Gowhar, requesting him to state, from the first, all he knows concerning this matter.

One day, Meer Allah Bux, son of his Highness Meer Roostum Khan, according to the orders of his Highness, came to me, and at Peer Ghote, where I live, and informed me that the Ameer had sent for me, and accordingly he took me with him to Khypore to Meer Roostum Khan's house; the latter directed me to go to Meer Ali Moorad, and bring him with me, in order that he might make over the whole of his country, together with the Turban, to Meer Ali Moorad.

I replied, Give me some confidential agent of your own to go with me. The Meer replied that Futly Mahomed Goree had already gone to Ali Moorad on the subject, and said, It is not requisite that any one else should go; accordingly I proceeded, and delivered the above message.

The next day Meer Nusseer Khan, son of Meer Mobaruk Khan, and Meer Hussien Khan, eldest son of Meer Roostum Khan, came to Deeje Khole to fetch Meer Ali Moorad; and they told the Ameer that Meer Roostum Khan was anxious to make over the Turban and his possessions to him. His Highness upon this proceeded to Kawnpore, half way between Deeje and Khypore, and met Meer Roostum Khan there; the latter then proceeded at once to Deeje, and there made over the Rie's Turban, and the whole of his possessions, signing them away on the Koran.



TRANSLATION of Inquiries made respecting a Document, stated to be the Will of the late  
*Meer Sorab Khan.*

QUESTION to Meer Zunjea Khan: If you are acquainted with the contents of the will of the late Meer Sorab Khan, state truly what you know.

At the time when Meer Sorab Khan gave a copy of his will to each of his sons, and sealed them, and wrote the words on each "bahul ust," signifying "it is truth," I was present, and the will now before me is truly the one, sealed and attested by Meer Sorab Khan, and given to his Highness Meer Ali Moorad Khan.

Sukkur, 26 August 1843.

(True translation.)

(signed) *G. Pope*, Collector.

### No. 13.

From His Excellency Major-general Sir *C. J. Napier*, G.C.B., Governor of  
Scinde, to the Right Honourable the Governor-general in Council.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter, dated 23d ultimo, No. 260, which reached me late last night.

1. With regard to the 7th and 8th paras. I recollect that I did not take a copy of the agreement made in the Koran, between Meer Roostum and Meer Ali Moorad, because it recorded a mere fact, the original record of which was too important to the possessor to be either lost or disputed by him; because Lieutenant Brown and my moonshee, both knew the writing and seal of Meer Roostum, and his Highness does not deny it.

Because I intended to verify the fact from his Highness Meer Roostum's own lips.

I now forward a copy of the transfer of the Turban to your Lordship, which I had made the moment Roostum's transfer of land became a public question.

2. I did not consider myself called upon to interfere with the transfer of the private lands of his Highness to his Highness Ali Moorad; my duty was limited to the transfer of the Turban. The last was a public affair, the first a private and even a family transaction.

3. By reference to my letters and proclamations it will be seen, that I promised to preserve to all the Ameers their rights. If Meer Roostum had legally bestowed upon his brother (Ali Moorad) all his, Roostum's, land, I should have held myself pledged to support that gift in the discussion of the details of the treaty.

If Meer Roostum had not done so, then would his Highness in that discussion have rejected the claims of Ali Moorad, and I should have felt bound to support his Highness Meer Roostum.

I more than once repeated to their Highnesses, Ali Moorad and Roostum, that all should be supported in their rights and possessions; my letters and proclamations to this effect are before your Lordship in Council, but I never attended to the details of private transactions, the time for which had not arrived.

4. In one of the letters to Major Outram I proposed, even after insult had been offered to me by the Ameer Roostum, to receive him with every honour and attention whenever he pleased to come to my camp; from first to last I sought a meeting with Meer Roostum; I made every attempt to succeed; once I sent Major Outram into the Ameer's camp; it was close to mine. He persuaded Outram that he was tired, and could not come; this was all trick, as I well knew at the time. I was always baffled by the Ameer himself; not by the intrigues of Ali Moorad, as Major Outram believes, but, as I assert, by the Ameer himself, which finally changed the opinion I originally entertained, that Roostum's flight from Deejee was caused by his brother. I became satisfied that his  
flight

flight was a voluntary act of the old Ameer's own concocting. He is full of duplicity. This subsequent events have proved. He fled in like manner from Outram.

5. By the above, your Lordship in Council will perceive three important things.

First, That I made every attempt to ascertain from the Ameer himself whether or not he had voluntarily made over the Turban to his brother, and I was invariably foiled by the Ameer himself.

Secondly, That I considered the lands given over (exclusive of those belonging to the Turban) as a mere private transaction, with which my Government had then no concern; that it was an affair for after consideration in discussing the details of the treaty.

Thirdly, That I was, without a choice, obliged by treaty to acknowledge Meer Ali Moorad. It was the Ameer Roostum, not I, that had given him the Turban; but I was very glad that it was so, for it was evident that the Ameer Roostum's conduct made it almost impossible to negotiate with him; I could not trust him; and Major Outram, who was his personal friend, was duped by him.

6. When we had conquered the lands of Roostum, then the time came to inquire into the claims of Ali Moorad to the lands which he affirmed were made over to him by his brother, and I formed the opinion contained in my letter to your Lordship, dated 28th June. This claim was no longer a private affair between one brother and another, but a public question between his Highness and the English Government, and as such it became necessary to report to your Lordship.

7. It may be worth remarking, that before Meer Roostum made over his Turban and lands to Meer Ali Moorad, at Dejee, he had placed all those lands and the forts in the hands of his son, and out of his own power (*see* his letter, a translation of which I enclose); he shows that he was casting discord among his relations, for it is evident that he had virtually made his son "the Rais," as Ali Moorad averred, and said he would not submit to this; all this shows the duplicity of this prince.

8. With reference to para. 14 of your Lordship's letter, I have directed Captain Pope to obtain and forward an exact copy of the act of abdication direct to Calcutta to save time.

9. With reference to para. 15, I have given Captain Pope orders to make the necessary inquiries, which shall be forwarded to your Lordship.

I send some papers that ought to have gone before, but were not ready; all others are preparing as fast possible, but most of them being in one book, only one person can copy them, which causes delay. I think they will all be ready in four days.

I have, &c.

Hydrabad, 16 August 1843.

(signed) C. J. Napier, Governor.

TRANSLATION of True Copy of a Treaty written on the Koran by *Meer Roostum Khan*.

AFTER praise to God and the Prophet, Meer Roostum Khan Talpoor makes agreement with Meer Ali Moorad Talpoor, to give him over the Turban, with all his lands, and the Sur Shoomaree Mehurbhuree Jezra, Jjarah Goozur, Fukery, as pointed out below, and according to the customs of the chiefs of Hyderabad, and in the time of the English Government, from the beginning of the Khurreef of 1253. As Meer Ali Moorad has obtained the Musund during my life, he is also to take possession of the undermentioned country; and as I have given it to him of my own free will, neither my sons or any of my relations can ever lay claim to the Turban or the lands herein specified. If they should, it must be considered invalid. Meer Ali Morad Khan is to rule the country, take care of the army, and carry on all communications with the British Government.

I take a solemn oath on the Koran, there shall not be a hair's breadth difference. God is witness.

Dated 17th of Zakad, 1258, Hejera.

## Names of Districts and Villages.

The districts of Kodeeara, Choor, Abeygah, and Khuteyra, Nowshera and Feroz, Kundeeara Tuddagogne, with Khyrpore and Roree, Meerpore Mahateyla, Ghotkee, the Desert, Regnee, Nara, Fort of Shahghur and Sirdarghur, and other forts. The district of Obara and Khyrpoor Dheekee, Imamwah, Bhoongbarra, one-third of Subzul, Mirozarka, Shikarpoor, Mooghlee, Roopa, Boordeka, Chuck Mirozarka, Kushmoor.

(signed) *Roostum Faqueer Talpoor.*

(True translation.)

(signed) *J. Pelly*, Persian Interpreter.

(True copy.)

(signed) *W. Napier*, Captain, A. D. C.

No. 14

(No. 376 of 1843.)

From the Right Honourable the Governor-general of India to His Excellency Major-general Sir *C. Napier*, G.C.B., Governor of Scinde, Hyderabad.

General,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 16th of August, enclosing a copy of the paper by which Meer Rustum ceded the Turban, and the lands and rights attached to it, to Meer Ali Morad.

I transmit to you the translation of that paper, made here by the Foreign Secretary.

Calcutta, 13 September 1843.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Ellenborough.*

## COPY of a Treaty, written in the Koran.

PRAISE be to God, and blessings on the Prophet and his family.

Meer Roostum Khan Talpoor has made a compact and formed a treaty with Meer Ali Morad Khan Talpoor to the following effect:—At this time, during the supremacy of the powerful and exalted English Government, and from the Autumn of 1253, 1 (Meer Roostum Khan), of my own free will and pleasure, according to the rule and custom of the chiefs of Hyderabad, present to Meer Ali Morad Khan (who is worthy of the chiefship) the Turban of the chiefship and brotherhood, with the control of the whole of my country, with the (sir shumari) capitation tax, and (meer buhuree) river dues, and (jazziyah) tax on others than Mahomedans, and farms and tolls and fisheries, as specified below, so that during my lifetime having occupied the seat of the chiefship, he may take into his entire possession the country specified below. No one of my sons or nephews has or shall have claim or entry on this same Turban and this same country, which I, of my free will and pleasure, bestow in gift. If any one advances a claim he is a liar. The administration of affairs, the control of the army, the negotiations with the English all now depend on the will of Meer Ali Moorad Khan. In this compact the oath of the Koran is used; there shall not be the variation of a hair's breadth. God is a sufficient witness. Written on the 17th of Zee Quad 1258. A. H. [December 20th 1842].

Pergunnahs Khobarah, Cheboor.  
Abeerea and Kutteerah.

Pergunnah Nowshea Peroze.

Pergunnah Kunabarah, with Cherpore  
and Lohuree.

Peerunnah Lud Kakum.

Pergunnahs Meerpoor, Manhilas and Kunoonee.

Sandy Territory in Renee and Narah Forts  
Shahgurh, Sirdar Gurh, and other Forts.

Pergunnahs Oubarah, Khyrpoor, and  
Hurkee.

Pergunnah Imam Wow.

Pergunnah Bulhoonuck and Burah.

One-third of Subzul and Pergunnah  
Moozurkah.

Pergunnah Shikarpoor Mor Ali.

Pergunnah Roopah.

Pergunnah Bulbudka.

Pergunnah Chuck Moozarjah.

Pergunnah Kushmoor.

(True translation.)

(signed) *J. Thomason*, Secretary to the Government of India.

NOTE by the Secretary.

SIR C. NAPIER, in his letter of June 28th last, adverts to the legal bearing of the deed under which Meer Roostum abdicated in favour of Meer Ali Moorad.

It had been represented to Sir C. Napier that every chief is master of his own property, none of which can be entailed; that the will of the possessor decides who is to have the land; that if he gives it to his children, he may, in virtue of his paternal power, revoke that gift, but that if he gives it to a chief who is his equal, and over whom he has not paternal power, the deed is final.

It is quite correct that every person is master of his own property, and that there can be no entail. He may give it to whom he chooses. The gift, when possession has been obtained by the donee, is complete. It can, however, be cancelled under certain circumstances, but one of the barriers to cancelling a gift is relationship within the prohibited degrees; a gift therefore to a son cannot be cancelled any more than to a brother. If made to a person not a husband or wife, nor within the prohibited degrees, it may in certain cases be cancelled.

Sovereign power is not, however, considered property according to the Mahomedan law, nor is it regulated by the laws which govern the transfer of property, whether real or personal, for there is no distinction between the two. The legal title to sovereign power amongst the orthodox Mahomedans of the Sonnee sect rests upon the election of the chiefs or people, but as there are few sovereigns who could bear to have their titles subjected to this test, much ingenuity has been exercised by lawyers to accommodate their system to modern usage. The accompanying opinions by the Doctors of the Mahomedan College of Calcutta are a fair specimen of the kind of arguments which can be brought forward. There is no reason to suppose the opinions to be otherwise than sound and correct. It is customary to refer to the law officers of the Sudder Dewanny Adawlut when a legal opinion is wanted, but there is only one such officer now entertained in the court, and the post happens at the present time to be vacant. By referring to the College the unanimous opinion of ten doctors has been obtained; some of them are very able men, and all of them are well informed on the subject. It will be seen that the opinions given lead to the same result as was represented to Sir C. Napier, though there is no ground for the possible distinctions which were supposed to exist. The abdication of Meer Roostum is complete and irrevocable; the assumption of the power by Meer Ali Morad is also complete and recognized by law.

(signed) *J. Thomason*, Secretary.

30 August 1843.

TRANSLATION.

QUESTION 1st. The ruler of a country died and left his country and forts to his sons; they divided the country and forts amongst them, and each obtained full possession of his own portion. After a time one of the sons gave and made over to his brother his country, forts and powers. In this case can the donor recall his gift of country, forts and power?

(signed) *J. Thomason*, Secretary.

The donor cannot recall his gift, because when he has once removed the country and power and forts from his own control, and made them over to his brother, he is necessarily divested of all authority and becomes one of the subjects of the State. Thus no option of recalling his gift remains. Such is ruled in the books, but God knows what is right.

(signed) Moohummud Wujech, 1st Professor, M. C.  
Moohummud Busheerooddeen, 2d ditto.  
Noorooluck, 3d ditto.  
Moohummud Ibrahim, 4th ditto.  
Abdoomhum, Professor of Indian Law and Reg.  
Gholam Hossun, 1st Assistant.  
Mahummud Muzheer, 2d ditto.  
Hubebool Nubnee, 3d ditto.  
Ujub Ahmud, Moolvee of the Law Examination Committee.  
Uhmud Kuber, Secretary to the C. Committee.

(True translation.)

(signed) *J. Thomason*, Secretary.

(True copies.)

(signed) *J. Thomason*, Secretary to the Government of India.

Question 2d. What proof do you adduce that the ruler of a country cannot legally retract his gift to his brother of his forts and country, and that he becomes thenceforward one of the subjects of the Government.

(signed) *J. Thomason.*

There are two foundations of all authority and kingly power. First, the consent of the nobles and chiefs to the supremacy of any one; secondly, obedience to his orders in consequence of the establishment of this power and his supremacy. It is thus laid down in the Buhuroor-*rayik*, in the chapter on judicial decrees; and in the Kazeer Khan, in the chapter on apostacy, a king obtains his power by two means. First, by consent of his accession, and this consent must be on the part of the nobles and chiefs of the nation; and secondly, by the obedience of the people to his order from fear of his power and superiority; but if men consent to his accession, and yet no obedience is paid to his orders from his inability to force them, he does not become a king. If, on the other hand, he become king by common consent, and then turn oppressor, still if his power and authority be confirmed, he cannot be deposed; for if sentence of deposition were passed he would yet remain king by his power and strength, and the sentence would be ineffectual, but if he have no power and authority, then he will be deposed. Now, since in these troublous times discord is the common practice, and union is seldom procured, therefore the learned men of later times have agreed upon this, that in the present day power and supremacy is the test of kingly authority. It is thus laid down in the Tatawa-i-Alumigiri, and the Rhuzanot ool Moofieera, in the chapter on judicial decrees: "And in our time authority depends on superiority; and we need not inquire whether kings be just or unjust, because all of them seek after temporal power."

It is gathered from the drift of the question that the ruler in question was actually possessed of power and supremacy, and whereas he gave over to his brother his country, and power and forts, and divested himself of his supremacy and dignity, with all their attendant circumstance and pomp, and made these over to the donee, it follows that this gift and transfer could not have been made without the deposition of himself. Thus necessarily the donor becomes completely deposed, and this may be gathered from a remark of Hunaree upon a passage in the Ushbah. The passage in the Ushbah is to the following effect: "A king died, and the people consented to the succession of his minor son. It is necessary that the affairs of the administration be made over to the regent, and that this regent consider himself a dependant on the son of the king, on account of the superior rank of the latter. Now, the son is the king ostensibly, but the regent is king in reality." Upon this passage Humavee has remarked, "The object of this arrangement is to meet the necessity for a removal of the administration after his coming of age, for this cannot (legally) take place except when the ruler has effected his own deposition, because a king cannot (legally) be deposed except by his own act."

The ruler who makes the transfer and is thus deposed becomes one of the subjects of the realm, and this is established by a passage in the Hedayuh on the resignation of a judge: "On account of the resignation, the power reverts to the people, and therefore he no longer retains the option of recalling his resignation."

(signed) Moohummud Wujeeh, 1st Professor, M. C.  
 Moohummud Busheroodeen, 2d ditto.  
 Nooroolluck, 3d ditto.  
 Moohummud Ibrahim, 4th ditto.  
 Abdooruhcem, Professor of Indian Law and Reg.  
 Ghoolam Hossein, 1st Assistant.  
 Mahummud Muzheer, 2d ditto.  
 Hubeb ool Nubbee, 3d ditto.  
 Ujub Ahmud, Mulvee of the Law E. C.  
 Uhmud Kubeer, Secretary to the C. Committee.

(True translation.)

(signed) *J. Thomason, Secretary.*

(True copies.)

(signed) *J. Thomason, Secretary.*

No. 15.

(No. 289 of 1843.)

From the Right Honourable the Governor-general of India in Council to His Excellency Major-general Sir *C. Napier*, K. C. B., Governor of Scinde, Hyderabad.

General,

It appears that the Rajah of Jessulmere has obtained possession of Guttoora, and of the three forts in the Desert, formerly belonging to his Raj, and that he was making preparations for attacking Shahgurh, another of those forts, when he heard that Meer Ali Moorad had 400 men in it.

What party may occupy Gurseea, the third fort, is not known, but probably Meer Ali Moorad, who seems to be quicker than the Rajah of Jessulmere, will have got possession of that too.

Meer Ali Morad claims these three forts as belonging to him. On the other hand, it is said by Captain French that they are understood to have belonged to Meer Roostum. Probably they may have belonged to Meer Roostum in right of the Turban, and may now be claimed in the same right by Meer Ali Morad.

The places in the Desert are safer in the hands of the Rajpoots than in those of the Beloochees, and from the communication made to his Highness the Rajah of Jessulmere, he will have indulged the expectation that the possession of these forts would be obtained for him even if his own troops should fail to take them from the enemy, in whose occupation they then were.

Under these circumstances, your Excellency will have the goodness to represent to Meer Ali Morad that it would be agreeable to the British Government that these three forts should revert to the Raj of Jussulmere, and that provision shall be made for his Highness' full indemnification, should it appear that he has good claims to them.

Your Excellency will no doubt have taken steps for preventing any collision, if such indeed be at all expected, between the troops of Jussulmere and Meer Ali Morad. The Rajah of Jussulmere will probably have made no movement after he heard that Shahgurh was held by Meer Ali Morad, relying altogether upon the intervention of the British Government to secure to him ultimately the possession of that fort and of Gurseea.

It would be desirable that Meer Ali Morad should at once place Shahgurh and Gurseea, if he has it, in the hands of the troops of Jussulmere, as the sooner things assume the state in which it is intended that they should remain, the sooner may the establishment of order and tranquillity be expected to take place.

The recent acts by the British Government with respect to several of the Princes of Rajpootana, have had the necessary effect of attaching them to us, and the early completion of all the projected arrangements will give us full security in all the country occupied by the Rajpoots, and tend materially to the consolidation of our power throughout Hindoostan.

I have, &c.

Calcutta, 6 August 1843.

(signed) *Ellenborough.*

No. 16.

(No. 384 of 1843.)

From the Right Honourable the Governor-general of India to His Excellency the Governor of Scinde, Kurrachee.

General,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt to-day of your Excellency's letter of the 21st ultimo, enclosing Captain Pope's statement of the respective estimated value of the several estates of the Ex-Ameers intervening between Roree and Subzulkote.

My colleagues concur with me in thinking that it is expedient to leave to your Excellency the decision as to what particular portions of this tract shall be allotted to the British Government, to the Nuwab of Buhawulpoor, and to Meer Ali Morad respectively.

Although we are now possessed of the estimated value of the several estates composing this tract, we have no map whereon we can trace them, nor do we know the extent of the arrondissement which your Excellency may think it expedient to annex to Roree, nor the course of the stream which may be again directed through this tract from the Indus.

Captain Thomas has, in an agreement he has made with the Nuwab of Buhawulpore, taken upon himself to cede to his Highness one half of this tract; but that officer had no instructions giving him authority to agree to make any such cession.

The Nuwab has had some reason to suppose that it was intended by the British Government to give to his Highness nearly all he formerly possessed, but no official communication has ever been made to him to that effect.

The value of the tract in question is much larger than had been supposed.

The first point to be considered is what extent of arrondissement should be given to Roree.

Your Excellency has intimated the opinion that Roree is a position preferable to Sukkur for a cantonment, and some troops must certainly always be on the left bank of the river; we may hope, too, that at no distant time a considerable population may be collected in the new city of "Victoria upon the Indus," composed of Sukkur and Roree, with the island of Bukkur as its citadel.

Under all these circumstances, it may be desirable to take an arrondissement extending in every direction three or four miles from Roree.

The next consideration is, what extent of land shall be taken on each side of the intended watercourse. That watercourse will be restored or created by English science, and by labour paid for by our Government.

It is necessary, to enable us to effect the work, that we should have entire property in the lands immediately adjoining it; but through those lands will be conducted channels for the water to be distributed, as that of the canals in India, to the adjoining estates, on terms similar to those on which it is so distributed here.

This matter must be left to your Excellency to decide, and you will be enabled to come to a decision as soon as Captain Baker, the superintendent of the canals, watercourses, and forests of Scinde, shall have surveyed the country and made his plans.

In the meantime, however, our rights might be reserved by general words in any agreement made with the Nawab and with Meer Ali Morad.

When the Turban was given up to Meer Ali Morad by his brother, Meer Roostum, Meer Ali Morad can have had no reason to expect that any portion of this tract would be assigned to him. It was intended in the first instance that the whole (except the arrondissement about Roree) should be given to the Nuwab, and it was so provided in the draft treaty.

Nevertheless, taking into consideration all the circumstances, my colleagues agree with me in thinking that it would be advisable to grant out of this tract (or by exchange elsewhere), to Meer Ali Morad, lands producing one half of the present produce of the lands formerly belonging to Meer Roostum; that is, all Meer Roostum held within this tract in right of the Turban. To this cession should be added lands exceeding by one-third the value of Shahgurh, and lands equal in value to any which Meer Ali Morad may succeed in proving to have belonged to him within the ceded territory of Subzulkote and Bhoong Bhara.

The principle of exchanging lands of equal value, in order to bring estates into unbroken masses, might be applied to these last-mentioned lands as well as to those deemed equivalent in value to one-half of the lands formerly belonging to Meer Roostum. All the remaining lands should be made over to the Nuwab of Buhawulpore.

Captain Pope, in communication with the agents of the Nuwab and of Meer Ali Morad, would soon be enabled to prepare some specific proposition for the allotment of these lands upon the principles which have been laid down; principles which it has been endeavoured to make consistent with equity towards all, for this transaction is one which will be scrutinised by surrounding states, as well as by parties more immediately interested; and the character of our Government for impaternal justice towards our allies is of far more real importance than any advantage we might desire from appropriating to ourselves a large portion of this fertile territory.

The value of Shahgurh cannot be considerable; and probably the total value  
of

of the lands to be given to Meer Ali Morad will amount to about one-fifth of the total value of the tract, or, according to the old estimate, to about a lac and 5,000 rupees.

If it should be desirable to us to possess a larger portion of this tract than we can fairly claim under the head of arrondissement to Roree, it might be arranged that the share of Meer Ali Morad should be taken by us, and that full compensation should be given to his Highness in lands lately belonging to the Ameers of Lower Scinde, to the southward of Khyrpore. Shahgurb, and all formerly possessed by Jessulmere, if not already made over, should be given up, as soon as arrangements can be made for that purpose, to the officers of the Rajah.

It will be desirable that to the agreement of partition should be attached a map, showing the boundaries, if any doubt can reasonably exist with respect to them.

Calcutta,  
19 September 1843.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Ellenborough.*

No. 17.

INSTRUCTIONS for Captains *Malet* and *Taite*.

1. THESE officers are to apply to his Highness the Ameer Ali Morad Talpoor Khan to name an officer of his own to assist them in their proceedings as his Highness's Commissioner.

I think Shaik Ali Hussen would be the best, but his Highness must decide upon whom he pleases.

2. These three above-mentioned gentlemen are to form a Commission for defining the limits of the territory belonging to the British Government, and those of his Highness respectively, according to the information already given to them by me, and such as they are furnished with by Captain Pope, who is intimately acquainted with all the circumstances of the case, and will be so good as to give every further information in his power to the Commission.

3. The Commission is to detail every circumstance of its proceedings, to which it will be so good as to attach a survey, which need not contain all the accidents of ground and other details required in a military map, but merely exhibit the outline of territory, describing any remarkable objects or formation of ground which may hereafter prevent disputes about the boundary.

4. In the arrangement of territory, it will occur to the Commission that value rather than area is to be attended to in making exchanges of territory.

5. It is also desirable, as regards the interest of both parties, that the territories of each should be concentrated; and, to use a common English phrase, be as much in a ring-fence as possible, for it is very desirable that small districts or plots of ground belonging to one government should not be encompassed by the territory of another.

6. The Roree territory must join that of the districts ceded to the Nuwab of Bhawalpoor.

7. An arrangement must be made that the town of Shikarpoor shall be entirely in the hands of the British, as it would be highly inconvenient to the inhabitants of the town should they find themselves placed under the control of two governments. It would also produce incessant disputes. It is therefore hoped that his Highness will not object to commute his Shikarpoor possessions for an equivalent territory elsewhere.

8. For the purpose of assisting the Commission in its important labours, Lieutenant-colonel Paul will allow it to select an officer who understands land surveying, and who shall receive the usual allowance granted on such occasions.

9. The Commission is authorized to employ such assistants to help this officer as are necessary for the performance of his duties as surveyor, and to report to me what is done in this matter; for although the important duties of the Com-



mission demand every necessary assistance, I am sure that the officers who compose it will see the necessity of an exact economy.

10. Should his Highness the Ameer wish to appoint two officers of his own instead of one, there is no objection on my part; on the contrary, I think it would be rather advantageous, because it may so happen that the Commissioners may find it convenient to divide, and thus carry on their works with more rapidity.

11. The above are the chief points to which I wish the Commission to attend. There will naturally arise many more as the work makes progress. I do not anticipate any great difficulty, as the Ameer is not to lose any portion of his territory or revenue.

I recommend that the Commission should explain these instructions to his Highness.

12. I should have stated that in all exchanges of lands, villages, forts, &c. it must be clearly proved that whatever may be given up by the Ameer really belonged to him in the first instance, as the Commission must be fully aware of the fact, that during the war his Highness occupied many districts "*pro tempore*," which the right of conquest has since made British, and I am not aware whether his Highness has yet made the whole of these over to the collector of Sukkur. On this subject Captain Pope can give the Commission every information, and so can Shaik Ali Hussen, who has, I fear, behaved ill to the Ameer, which I much regret, as he was very useful to me during the war, and, as far as I could judge, a faithful servant.

13. I believe it to be the intention of the Governor-general that each party should possess what justly belongs to it in the first instance; and when that is clearly defined, I have no doubt that his Lordship will be disposed to consider the faithful service of his Highness the Ameer, and reward his adherence to treaties with the British Government. I can make no promise upon this subject, but I am sure that his Highness Ameer Ali Morad has not failed to observe the generous proceedings of his Lordship the Governor-general towards the Nawab of Bhawalpoor.

(signed) *C. J. Napier*, Maj.-Gen.,  
Governor of Scinde.

Head Quarters, Kurrachee,  
26 November 1843.

#### No. 18.

(No. 92 of 1845.)

From the Secretary to Government of Scinde to the Secretary to Government of India, Fort William.

Sir,

By direction of his Excellency the Governor of Scinde, I have the honour to forward for submission to the Right honourable the Governor-general of India in Council, a draft of a proposed treaty between the Honourable East India Company on one side, and his Highness Meer Ali Morad Khan Talpoor on the other.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. J. Brown*,  
Secretary to Government, Scinde.

Kurrachee,  
4 May 1846.

#### No. 19.

DRAFT of a TREATY between the Honourable East India Company on one side, and His Highness *Meer Ali Morad Khan Talpoor* on the other.

Sukkur, 1845.

Article 1st. THE Honourable East India Company is the paramount power in India.

Article 2d. His Highness the Meer Ali Morad Khan Talpoor is acknowledged as "Rais," and as successor to all the lands

lands which were held by his Highness Meer Roostum Khan Talpoor at the time the said Meer was overthrown in the battle of Meeanee, and also the lands conceded to his Highness by Meer Nusseer Khan Talpoor.

These

These lands were as follows, of Meer Roostum Khan :—

Purgunnah Kohalna, Chore—  
 ————— Abrehja—  
 — Ditto — Noushera—  
 — Ditto — Kundyaree—  
 — Ditto — Sudda Gahgun—  
 ————— Khyrpoor, and Rooree—.

Country of the Desert, Nahra, The Fort of Shahghur, the Fort of Sirdaghur, and such other forts as are in the Desert—

Purgunnah Ooboura Khyrpoor Dhir-Ke—.

$\frac{3}{8}$ ths share of Shikarpoor and Moghullee—

Tuppa Chuck Mazarchee ;  $\frac{2}{5}$ ds of purgunnah Rassah ; purgunnah Boordka—

And of Meer Nusser Khan :—

Purgunnah of Meerpoor, and Mathela and Mihry  
 Village of Dadlo—

Article 3d. This Treaty shall supersede all former treaties in the matters to which it refers.

Article 4th. His Highness the Ameer Ali Morad Khan Talpoor binds himself not to correspond or enter into any treaty with any other court or power except with the knowledge and consent of the Governor-general of India in Council.

Article 5th. The Honourable Company, on the other hand, engage to protect his Highness against the aggression of every other power.

Article 6th. An exchange of territory shall take place with regard to certain villages and lands now in the possession of the respective contracting parties ; viz. to his Highness Meer Ali Morad Khan Talpoor the Honourable the East India Company concedes in perpetuity the following possessions :—

Districts or—

Purgunnahs of Götkee—  
 ————— of Rooree.  
 ————— of Tarrachanee.  
 ————— Powaree—  
 ————— of Burrahlo Oolare.  
 ————— of Suddooja.  
 ————— of Mehrahpoor.  
 ————— of Kundra.  
 Villages of Kotree Koord—  
 ————— Dewan.  
 ————— Sakka.  
 ————— Kasmanee Puranee.

To the Honourable the East India Company his Highness Meer Ali Morad Khan Talpoor concedes in perpetuity

the following possessions in exchange for the foregoing districts or purgunnahs of Boordika :—

(Half) ———, — Khanpoor.  
 —————, — Chuck Mazarch.  
 —————, — Bhirkun.  
 —————, — Mahomeda Bugh.  
 —————, — Shahbela.  
 —————, — Roopa.  
 $\frac{2}{8}$  share of Shikarpore.  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  Village Nappur.  
 —————, — Sayndabad.  
 —————, — Suttan Ke Gote.  
 —————, — Abdool vah.  
 —————, — Alladad vah.  
 —————, — Nappur Ke vah.  
 —————, — Shyder Kowara.  
 —————, — Ke vah.  
 —————, — Seedy Ke vah.  
 —————, — Nala Guffoor.  
 —————, — Khan.  
 —————, — Booja Naphoor.

Article 7th. Should the of the River Indus change its course in its passage through the territory of the contracting parties, where it divides the lands of the Honourable East India Company from those of his Highness the Meer Ali Morad Khan Talpoor, then all that it leaves on its western or right bank shall appertain to the Honourable Company, and all that it leaves on its eastern or left bank shall belong to his Highness the Ameer, with the following exceptions: that wherever the course of the river may run the city of Ketoria, on the Indus, commonly called Sukkur Bukkur "Rooree," as also the towns of Shikarpoor and Sarkhana, shall always remain in possession of the British; and that the fortresses of Deejee Ke Gate and Khyrpoor shall always remain in the possession of his Highness Meer Ali Moorad Khan Talpoor.

And furthermore, that all towns and villages which exist, or may hereafter exist, upon either bank of the river, shall continue under the rule of that government under which they now are, or may spring up, for it is not allowable that subjects should be exposed to a change of government by the accidental changes of a river's course. The existing and immemorial "rule of the river" may apply to the land, but cannot apply to the inhabitant of a country.

And it is further provided by this treaty, that should either of the contracting parties change the course of the river by any work of art, the power which so changes the course of the river must have the consent of the other party, and cannot

cannot otherwise be allowed to acquire territory by such a change.

Article 8th. The Honourable Company engage not to interfere in any disputes which may hereafter arise between his Highness and his subjects, whether those subjects be Ameers or other servants, and his Highness has full power to act towards his own people as an independent sovereign; nor will the Honourable Company permit armed bodies of men or armed individuals belonging to either of the contracting parties to enter or seek refuge within the territory of the Company; and this rule is to be reciprocal.

Article 9th. The subjects of both the contracting parties shall be free to settle within the territory of either power at the pleasure of the said individuals, provided always that they have permission to do so from the Government under whose protection they propose to dwell.

Article 10th. All murderers and traitors shall be given up if they seek refuge within the territory of either of the contracting powers, but the party demand-

ing the accused shall send with such demand such proofs of the guilt of the accused as shall be satisfactory to the power whose protection the fugitive party has sought.

Article 11th. No tolls shall be levied on trading boats passing up or down the River Indus where that stream flows through the territory of either of the contracting parties, with this proviso, however, that any merchandize being landed from such boats while on their passage up or down the stream, shall if sold be subject to the usual duties of the country within whose territory the sale shall take place. Thus the River Indus shall be kept open to trade, and a free passage throughout the territories of the contracting parties be secured to all nations.

Article 12th. That as the British Government have forbidden the inhabitants of Scinde to carry arms in public, so his Highness Ali Morad Khan Talpoor is to forbid the wearing of arms by his subjects under the same rules which have been established by the government of Scinde.

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No. 20.

(No. 108 of 1845.)

From the Secretary to Government, Scinde, to *F. Currie*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Fort William.

Sir,

IN continuation of my letter No. 92, of the 4th instant, forwarding a draft of a proposed treaty between the Honourable East India Company and his Highness Meer Ali Moorad Khan Talpoor, I have the honour, by direction of his Excellency the Governor of Scinde, to forward for submission to the Right honourable the Governor-general of India in Council, copies of a translation of a letter from his Highness Meer Ali Morad, and of his Excellency's observations on the same.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. J. Brown*,

Secretary to Government, Scinde.

Kurrachee, 19 May 1845.

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From His Highness *Meer Ally Morad Khan Talpoor* to His Excellency the Governor of Scinde.

After compliments.

I HAVE received your draft of the treaty you wish to exist between the British Government and myself. In the 9th paragraph it says: "If any subject of either of our Governments choose to go and settle in the territory of the other, they shall be perfectly free to do so, provided they are neither traitors or murderers." I do not agree to this paragraph, and wish it to run thus: no person, whether guilty or innocent, being subjects of one of the contracting parties, shall be allowed to settle in the country of the other, otherwise my country will suffer very much. I will explain why. The British Government care nothing for their treasury and property, and, from their arrangements and customs, they are able to make all sorts of remission, and give every kind of encouragement to their subjects. I am unable to extend my kindness beyond what has always been the standing rule in Scinde. My subjects will, therefore, flock over to your territory, and the loss which must accrue to my country, and to me, your ally, is very apparent. I trust you will excuse the trouble, and kindly allow a paragraph to be inserted in the treaty, That no subject of one party is to take refuge in the territory of the other; should he do so, he is to be given up on being demanded.

demanded. When a regular treaty has been made between us, as there will then be no longer any necessity for a British agent at Khyrpoor, I trust, after Captain Malet leaves, no other officer may be sent. I shall feel greatly obliged by your according to these two requests.

(True translation.)

(signed) *H. J. Pelly*, Lieutenant,  
Persian Interpreter.

OBSERVATIONS on the Letter of His Highness *Ali Morad*.

His Highness's reasoning is without a just foundation, because—

1st. Every measure taken in Scinde is to enrich the ryot, and, consequently, to enable him to cultivate more ground, by which he will pay more taxes to the Government, with less pressure to himself. The principle of the Ameers of Scinde, and their jaghiredars, was to let the poorer classes of men live, but not do more than live. A man was ground down to a bare subsistence, if he had but one acre. If he got ten acres, the Ameers allowed him still enough to live, and no more; they or the jaghiredars seized upon the rest, so that the poor man's labour became tenfold, while his profit (if profit it can be called) remained the same. Therefore he would not cultivate any land beyond the quantity which he required for his bare subsistence, and even this he would not often do, because he made up for idleness by grazing cattle in jungles, and by robbing the Ameers; and the most distant chiefs bordering on Scinde are alarmed at our more liberal system, but the labouring class rejoice. The Ameer complains, but he has the remedy in his hands. Let him be just to his labourers; if not, his people will no doubt come and settle in Scinde, as soon as sure as the day follows the night. To consent to the unjust proposal of the Ameer would be to back up his oppression by the force of the Company's armies, ensure frequent outbreaks among the people, and eternalize misrule.

2. With regard to a Resident at the Court of Khyrpoor, after this treaty has been concluded, I see no objection to his being withdrawn after a year, or perhaps two; but I fear that, without a Resident, his Highness will get into some scrape with the Supreme Government. Our whole system is contrary to that of Asiatic princes, and a Resident at their courts is the best chance of keeping them straight, if to do so is desirable, which I do not think it is, though I did think, and do still consider it advisable to keep his Highness so for a time, to let him have a fair chance of holding his high position by understanding our mode of governing. If he does not choose to profit thereby, it is his own fault, and he must abide the results of misgoverning his people. He is a man devoted to pleasure, therefore weak; and I suspect that his wish not to have another Resident at his Court, after Captain Malet leaves it, has been created by those courtiers, upon whose influence our Resident proves a check, men who are not favourable to our rule.

That in every native court there must be an unceasing detestation of conquering strangers, and frequent intrigues going on against them is, I believe, a point which no one acquainted with the history of mankind can doubt, and India does not form an exception to the rule. The people of India are, generally, on our side; but the aristocracy of India are necessarily our sworn foes, and to support them, tends to our own destruction.

I make no apology for offering these opinions. I am in a very responsible position. Ali Morad has been faithful to his treaties with the British from first to last; but the complaint made by him of me, and his conduct on one or two occasions, which obliged me to speak plainly to his Highness, show how light his character is, and how liable to receive false impressions from his courtiers. If Ali Morad had the slightest cause to complain of me, there would be some excuse; but as I have been and am more his friend than, perhaps, any other Englishman, his conduct shows great weakness. He regrets having so acted, I believe, though I have never reproached him with his folly, because I really treat him like a schoolboy; but still, as the Supreme Government have thought it admissible to allow a great number of the family, individuals who fought against us at Meeanee, to find an asylum in his Highness's court, I think it right to speak of these questions openly, and in the light in which I view them, though perhaps erroneously. I therefore repeat, that if it be thought advisable to keep his Highness in the right path, he ought to have a British officer at his court, for he has not steadiness enough to act properly. I may perhaps be excused if I say that, as he is vainglorious of having acted with me in two campaigns, this gives him ground upon which to make the most exaggerated statement of his own exploits. He will, perhaps, submit to my instructions; but I think he may be troublesome to my successor, and oblige the Government to dethrone him. That is to say, he or his son, who is a clever lad, will sooner or later force upon us a line of policy which will be of great advantage to the people of Scinde and to the Government of India. If, on the contrary, he continues to act with good faith, he is entitled to our thorough support. I cannot be accused of inconsistency in the policy I have advocated in Scinde from first to last, viz., the rigid adherence to treaties with native princes, neither making any infraction of the compact ourselves, nor suffering them to do so without immediate dethronement. The

punishment may be severe, but half measures will not do when dealing with those whose apparent friendship is but an expedient on their parts, and whose secret hatred is interminable.

(signed) *C. J. Napier,*  
M. G. Gov.

I cannot lay my hand on the letter which I had, allowing the return of some of the Talpoor family, but I think it was from Mr. Bird, when temporary Governor-general.

(signed) *C. J. N.*

### No. 21.

(No. 1091/1223 of 1845.)

From the Secretary to Government, Scinde, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Fort William.

Sir,

By direction of his Excellency the Governor of Scinde, I have the honour to forward for submission to the Right honourable the Governor, copy of the letter from his Highness Meer Ali Morad Khan to his Excellency, relative to the proposed treaty, translation of which was sent with my letter No. 108, of the 19th instant.

Kurrachee,  
20 May 1845.

By order,  
(signed) *E. J. Brown,*  
Secretary to Government, Scinde.

From Meer *Ally Morad Khan Talpoor* to the Right Honourable the Governor-general of India.

After compliments.

I HAVE duly received your kind, complimentary letter, and am much pleased. From the time the British first came to Scinde I determined to attach myself to them, and leave my relations and friends. I am still firm in the same resolve, and always shall. You are aware I have spared nothing in the shape of property, even risking my own life to serve and assist you; and I would now beforehand wish to mention, that if the British should go to war next year with the Punjaub and Mooltan, I am ready to assist with my forces; and I hope Rojhan (which formerly belonged to me) will be restored, as also other lands granted as presents. I look to the British Government alone, and am in hopes of great kindnesses and favours from them.

(True translation.)

(signed) *H. J. Pelly,* Lieutenant,  
Persian Interpreter.

### No. 22.

(No. 112 of 1845.)

From the Secretary to the Government of Scinde to *F. Currie, Esq.,* Secretary to the Government of India, Fort William.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour, by direction of his Excellency the Governor of Scinde, to enclose a letter from his Highness Meer Ali Moorad Khan to the Right honourable the Governor-general of India in Council, together with a copy of its translation.

I am also directed to enclose, for submission to the Right honourable the Governor-general of India in Council, copies of a letter from the same chief to his Excellency the Governor of Scinde, as also of its translation, with remarks by his Excellency attached.

Kurrachee, 22 May 1845.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. J. Brown,*  
Secretary to Government, Scinde.

From Meer *Ally Moorud Khan* to His Excellency the Governor of Scinde.

After compliments.

I HAVE received and perused the draft of treaty which you sent to me. In the 9th Article, it says, "The subjects of either Government may go and live in the territory of the other, provided they get leave from the party whose territory they wish to come and reside in. This will be of great benefit to the people, but will cause me a great loss, for the British Government being very rich are able to make great remissions and diminutions in their taxes; whereas, though I would wish to do everything for my subjects, I cannot diverge from the old rules and customs; the consequence will be, that on any little point of difference arising between myself and my subjects they will immediately go over to your territory, for I cannot grant them even half the remissions, &c., &c., you do, as my country is so small. In the 12th Article, "that I should forbid my people to wear arms, as is the order in Scinde," I wish to accommodate the customs of my country to those of the British Government as far as I can; but my subjects are at times cultivators, and at other times soldiers, and when they travel to a distance from Khyrpoor it is necessary they should wear arms. I trust you will entirely erase these two articles from the treaty. I shall feel much obliged by your doing this, and I will allow no one but my own servants to go about my country armed. To what is written in the 2d Article, I would wish this also to be added, that whatever country Meer Roostum Khan gave me in right of the Turban, and whatever belonged to me before I got the Turban, that, according to the list below written, belongs to me and my heirs in perpetuity; by doing this, you will much oblige me.

(True translation.)

(signed) *H. J. Pelly, Lt.*  
Persian Interpreter.

I object to any alteration in the draft treaty. I have given my best consideration to the articles, and see no sound reason to alter them as proposed by his Highness. I am convinced that no country can be civilized when the people are allowed to go about with arms.

(signed) *C. J. Napier, Governor.*

No. 23.

(No. 59 of 1846.)

From the Secretary to Government of Scinde to the Secretary to Government of India with the Governor-General.

Sir,

By direction of his Excellency the Governor of Scinde, I have the honour to request that you will submit to the Right honourable the Governor-general of India the request of his Excellency that the letter written by his Highness Meer Ali Morad Khan, protesting against the terms of the proposed treaty of 1845 between the British Government and his Highness, may be forwarded to his Excellency, as it is of the greatest importance that the changes of land contemplated in the treaty should be at once disposed of by a declaration that such change will or will not take effect. At present large tracts of land are lying waste from the uncertainty which exists whether they will remain in the British or his Highness's possession.

Kurrachee, 19 May 1846.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. J. Brown,*  
Secretary to Government, Scinde.

No. 24.

(No. 136 of 1846.)

From the Secretary to the Government of Scinde to the Secretary to Government of India with the Governor-general.

Sir,

By direction of his Excellency the Governor of Scinde, I have the honour to forward for submission to the Right honourable the Governor-general of India copy of a letter, No. 76, of the 23d instant, from the Resident at Khyrpoor, bringing to notice the solicitude of his Highness Meer Ali Morad Khan

respecting the treaty between the British Government and his Highness. His Excellency is unable to make any reply to these repeated letters on the same subject.

Kurrachee, 28 September 1846.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. J. Brown*,  
Secretary to Government, Scinde.

No. 76 of 1846.

From the Resident, Khyrpoor, to the Secretary to the Government of Scinde  
Kurrachee.

Sir,

At the oft repeated anxious request of his Highness Meer Ali Morad Khan, I have the honour to represent to his Excellency the Governor of Scinde his Highness's extreme solicitude respecting the treaty between the British Government and himself, the draft of which, by your letter to my address, No. 1,052 of the 4th May 1845, was forwarded on that day, nearly 17 months ago, for submission to the Right honourable the Governor-general of India in Council.

Khyrpoor, 23 September 1846.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *G. G. Malet*,  
Captain, Resident.

No. 25.

(No. 396 of 1846.)

From the Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor-general to  
the Secretary to the Government of Scinde.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Right honourable the Governor-general to acknowledge the receipt of your letters, Nos. and dates noted in the margin, relative  
1844. to a proposed treaty between the British Government and the Ameer Ali  
1845. Morad Khan of Khyrpoor.

— 2. At the time that the draft treaty which accompanied your letter,  
— dated 4th May 1845, was received in Calcutta, the Government of India  
1846. were unwilling to enter upon the subject of a definitive treaty with Meer  
— Ali Morad. It was felt by the Government that there were many questions of claims between Ali Morad and the British Government still unadjusted, and that the Government were very ill informed of the positions of the several tracts included by name in the treaty, regarding which no account is given in your letter. Moreover, a person named Deen Mahomed had just been in Calcutta, accredited by Meer Ali Morad in his letter submitted by you in yours of the 12th September 1844, No. 209, and his mission subsequently denied in the correspondence, noted in the margin, the purport of Deen Mahomed's communications being, that his Highness was not a free agent at Khyrpoor, and that the communications which had been made, or might be made from your office, were the result of the machinations of interested persons, who were deceiving the Government as to the real wishes and interests of his Highness.

3. About this time also was received, in your despatch of the 22d May 1845, the letter from his Highness to the Governor-general, and the copy of a representation from his Highness to the Government, protesting against the second article of the treaty as not including certain lands to which the Ameer laid claims as having belonged to his brother Meer Roostum, and having been transferred by Meer Roostum to him.

4. In reference to the above circumstances it was thought advisable that, as the Governor-general was shortly to proceed to the Upper Provinces, the consideration of the question should lie over till his Lordship should have the opportunity of further communication with his Excellency on these subjects.

5. Shortly after his Lordship's departure from Calcutta the state of things in the Punjaub was such as to engross his whole attention, and when his Lordship met Sir C. Napier at Lahore the papers were not at hand, they having been left with the most of the Government records at Ferozepore.

6. The

6. The Governor-general is willing to conclude a treaty of friendship and alliance with his Highness Meer Ali Morad of Khyrpoor, but his Lordship is desirous of being put in possession of information upon many points, to enable him to judge of the merits of the proposal which has been submitted for his approval; and at the same time he is of opinion that certain questions should be settled before an instrument of this kind is finally executed, which should leave no claims between the contracting parties unadjusted.

7. In the first place, the Governor-general would wish to be furnished with a sketch map, showing the exact position of the Khyrpoor territory in reference to the British possessions, with the names of those districts enumerated in the treaty, indicated in the map.

8. His Lordship would desire to know what arrangement the Governor proposes for definitively settling the question as to the extent of territorial right acquired by Meer Ali Morad in virtue of the deed whereby the Turban was transferred to him by Meer Roostum, dated 17th of Zee Qaad 1258, A. H., or 20th December 1842.

9. The late Governor-general, Lord Ellenborough, was decidedly not of opinion that by that deed the lands alone which were held by Meer Roostum in right of the Turban, and over and above his hereditary share of property derived by will from his father, Zohrab Khan, in common with his other brothers, were thus transferred, and that the deed in question conveyed to Meer Ali Morad no rights in any other than the Turban lands.

10. This would appear also to have been the opinion of his Excellency the Governor of Scinde; but it seems that Meer Ali Morad has never ceased to urge his claim to the whole of Meer Roostum's possessions.

11. The Governor-general does not discover from any part of the correspondence which has taken place on this subject, which of the districts enumerated in Meer Zohrab Khan's will were to be considered as Turban lands, and which as personal and hereditary property. If any distinction was ever made it has not, as far as his Lordship can discover, been stated in any document; but his Lordship must suppose that there was some distinction in the property, from the correspondence that has passed, and the opinions given.

12. An hypothetical question was put, by desire of Lord Ellenborough, to the Mahomedan law officers and professors of Arabic in Calcutta in 1843, as to the validity of a deed executed by a sovereign prince, similar to that said to have been written in the Koran of Meer Roostum, with a view to elicit the opinion of the Mahomedan doctors as to the legal validity of the deed, and the rights it might be considered to convey. The replies were so full of technicalities and conditional contingencies as to be of little value. It appeared, however, to be the opinion of the law officers that the Mahomedan law does not recognise any separate or individual rights in a sovereign prince.

13. The Governor-general is of opinion that this question should be distinctly met, and decided, before the treaty is concluded. His Lordship observes, that in Art. 2 of the draft treaty submitted with your letter, six of the districts enumerated in Zohrab's will are entered, and the others are not mentioned.

14. The question of Meer Ali Morad's right to compensation for the Desert Forts, Shahguruh, Gutturah, and Gurseya, transferred to Jessulmere, must also be determined. The letter of the Governor of Scinde to the Governor-general, dated 4 May 1845, assumes the right of Meer Ali Morad to these forts, and states (which cannot be traced on our records) that Lord Ellenborough directed that one third more than the value of the land circumjacent should be paid to his Highness for them. These forts would appear to have belonged to Meer Roostum, and the right of Meer Ali Morad for compensation, on account of their relinquishment to Jessulmere, would seem to depend on the validity of the transfer of all the property of Meer Roostum to his Highness. If the right of Meer Ali Morad to them is established, a territorial transfer of an equivalent might be negotiated, in preference to a money payment, to the extent proposed by his Excellency.

15. Since the submission of the draft treaty, Meer Ali Morad appears to have brought forward a claim, in right of the Turban, to the villages of Bhong Bhara



and one third of Zubzulkote, transferred to Bhawulpore; the conclusion of the treaty should leave no such question undetermined, and should contain a clause declaring that neither party had any claim on the other on account of territory.

16. The Governor-general concurs with Sir C. Napier in considering that we have a valid claim on Meer Ali Morad of Rs. 47,719. 1. 5. on account of collections made by him and his followers in 1843, from British districts in Servistan; but this matter may also be adjusted in the transfer which it may be necessary to make in the final negotiations for the treaty.

17. The exchange of territory proposed by the Governor of Scinde, as indicated in the sketch which accompanied his letter of 4 May 1845, appears to the Right honourable the Governor-general expedient; and on his Excellency being satisfied upon this point, and on the equivalent value, politically and territorially, to the British Government of the districts taken in exchange, the Governor-general authorizes the negotiation of such exchange, without waiting for the formal conclusion and ratification of the treaty.

18. With regard to the conditions of the draft treaty, the Governor-general observes that Meer Ali Morad, besides his objections to the extent of territory described in Art. 2, objects to Articles 9 and 12. The former of these provides that subjects of the one Government, not being state offenders, shall be at liberty to settle in the country of the other, without molestation from the Government they may have left. This is an universally admitted right; and it would have been scarcely necessary to insert it formally in a treaty, but the very fact of Ali Morad's protesting against it shows that it would not now be expedient to omit it on this occasion.

19. The latter provides that Meer Ali Morad shall not permit his subjects to wear arms. The Governor-general does not think that it would be expedient to press this article; the rule is not enforced in our own territories, nor has it ever been imposed on any of our allies. It would, moreover, be impossible to enforce on his Highness's part, at all times, a compliance with this restriction; and it is not expedient that in a treaty there should be any condition which can be habitually broken without involving serious consequences.

20. The question of the location of a Resident permanently at Khyrpoor should be finally determined, and, if considered necessary, should be made a condition in the treaty. The Governor-general is disposed to think that it will be desirable that a Resident should remain with his Highness till the affairs of the Punjab are more securely settled, but his Lordship thinks that after that he might be withdrawn. The terms of the treaty to be executed with Meer Ali Morad should correspond, as nearly as possible, with the terms of other treaties between the Honourable Company and Indian potentates; and the Governor-general directed, some time ago, that three copies of a work prepared in this office, containing all such treaties, should be forwarded by Dak Bhanghy to Kurrachee, to remain as a record in your office.

21. The Governor-general requests the attention of the Governor of Scinde to the foregoing remarks. On the receipt of his Excellency's reply, his Lordship will be prepared to give the matter immediate consideration; in the meantime, to allay the anxiety of Meer Ali Morad, his Highness may be informed that the Government of India is willing to enter into a treaty with his Highness of friendship and alliance, and has given instructions to the Government of Scinde to that effect, and authorized his Excellency to conclude the terms of the treaty with his Highness in accordance with the rules observed in treaties with other independent powers.

I have, &c.

(signed) *F. Currie*,  
Secretary to the Government of India  
with the Governor-general.

Simla,  
24 October 1846.

No. 26.

From his Excellency the Governor of Scinde to the Right Honorable the Governor-general, &c. &c.

My Lord,

IN reply to the letter No. 396, dated 24th October 1846, from the Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Government of Scinde, I have to state for the information of your Lordship, that in answer to the 2d and 7th paras. of the above-mentioned letter, a plan shall be sent as soon as it can be prepared.

With regard to Deen Mahomed, and the denial of his Highness' consent to the treaty, I know nothing regarding it except what I heard from Mr. Currie, and his Highness's denial that such a letter had been written by his direction. I think, therefore, that this Deen Mahomed deserves punishment.

With regard to the 3d para. of Mr. Currie's letter, I have no further remarks to make than were appended to his Highness's letter.

As regards paragraphs 8, 9, and 10, see my letters to Lord Ellenborough, dated June 28th and September 21st, 1843; these contain the view which I then took of this subject, and that view remains unchanged. The case seems to stand thus.

On the 28th June I made a clear statement of his Highness's claim. On the 17th August his Lordship the Governor-general expressed doubts whether the Ameer Roostum made over his personal lands as well as those belonging to the Turban to his brother Meer Ali Moorad, and his Lordship directed me, pending the decision of this question, to take possession of all the lands which never belonged to either of those chiefs, which order I obeyed.

On the 30th August 1843, it appeared by Mr. Secretary Thomason's letter of that date, that the view taken by me on the 28th June 1843, was correct. Thus the doubts which had been entertained by Lord Ellenborough (pending the decision of the ten doctors of the Mahomedan College at Calcutta) fell to the ground, and no further orders having been issued on the subject by the Supreme Government, I considered that the claims of his Highness to the whole of the lands held by the Meer Roostum were just. He at that time had possession of them, and I left matters as they stood pending further instructions, which I before observed were never received.

If any fraud can be proved against his Highness in the transaction which gave him the Turban and the remaining lands of Meer Roostum, I have nothing more to say, but otherwise, I consider that the question was settled by the letter of Mr. Secretary Thomason and the opinion of the college. I have no proof of fraud having been committed by his Highness, and without that I think it would be impossible to deprive his Highness of any of the lands made over to him in the Koran. I should consider it to be a breach of faith.

Paragraph 11. I am not aware that there are any geographical distinctions between the Turban lands and the other lands of the late Meer Roostum. However, this does not appear to be a matter of any importance, because the Mahomedan law allows of no distinction or separate rights in a sovereign prince.

Paragraph 12. The letter of Mr. Secretary Thomason appears to me to show that he places considerable confidence in the opinion given by the doctors at the Calcutta college. I sought the best opinions that I could obtain here, and all agreed with those given by the college.

Paragraph 13. I have ever considered the question to have been decided.

As to Article 2 of Draft Treaty, the six purgunnahs mentioned in Sohrab's will as granted to Meer Roostum are those alluded to by the Governor-general. The "scattered places" alluded to in Sohrab's will have been named in the treaty. The remainder of Sohrab's grants to Roostum were duties appertaining to the Turban, not places, and will be found detailed in the deed dated 20th December 1842, by which Meer Roostum made over the Turban to Ali Moorad; clear details are herewith forwarded.

Paragraph 14. His Highness was in full possession of the fortresses, I therefore assume that he had a right to them, succeeding to the right of his brother Meer Roostum, the one right being consequent on the other.

I enclose copy of Lord Ellenborough's letter relative to the transfer of these fortresses. His Highness would prefer having the forts returned to him, rather

than receive any payment. I believe he was excessively averse to give them up.

To pay his Highness by a transfer of land would be objectionable, but I have no doubt that such a mode of payment might be negotiated. I object to the payment in land, because the land of Scinde is very fertile, and will eventually yield a vast revenue.

Paragraph 15. I think the treaty should of course settle all disputed points as far as possible.

Paragraph 16. The claims on his Highness would of course be adjusted by the treaty.

Paragraph 17. Sanctions exchange of lands.

Paragraph 18. The objection of his Highness Ali Moorad is answered by my remark on his Highness's letter, sent to your Lordship with letter dated 19 May 1845.

Paragraph 19. I can see no great difficulty in enforcing the article against his Highness's subjects wearing arms in Scinde, with the exception of his Highness's sirdars and troops, who should not be interfered with. It is quite true that this has not been done in other parts of India; neither, I believe, have the inhabitants of other parts of India been prohibited from carrying arms; yet I have done this in Scinde, and consider it to be one of the chief causes of tranquillity and safety to travellers in this country.

Paragraph 20. I see no necessity for a Resident at the court of Khyrpoor; at the same time there can be no doubt that such an officer tends to keep his Highness from getting into scrapes with the British Government, and I would certainly keep the present Resident (Capt. Malet) there until the affairs of the Punjaub are perfectly settled.

As regards Lord Ellenborough's letter on the 17th August, I understood it thus:—

1. That Ali Moorad has no right to any territory north of Roree, because we had, by the draft treaty, seized upon the whole as a punishment to be inflicted on the Khyrpoor Ameer.

2. That when the battle of Meeanee made us masters of Scinde (and of this district along with the rest), then we were to give to his Highness the Turban lands in the district north of Roree,\* not as a right, but as gift. These lands, however, were never made over to him by me. He kept possession of all the lands of Meer Roostum by my permission (he having previously taken them because the Kardars, taking advantage of the interregnum caused by the flight of Roostum, were plundering both Ameers), till the Governor-general should decide upon his claims, and then he was to account for the revenues of any that the Government chose to return to Meer Roostum, for the war had not then begun, and after the conquest Roostum's territories became ours. As it had been decided at Calcutta that his Highness had a right to all the lands made over to him by Meer Roostum in other parts of Scinde, I considered, following Lord Ellenborough's injunction to treat his Highness liberally as a faithful ally, when his disaffection might have been mischievous to us, that the rule should in fairness apply to that territory which we gave to him as a reward, as well as to that which he had in right of the gift recorded in the Koran. But I have also to call to the notice of your Lordship that his Highness, at much expense, led a strong force into the hills as allies of the British in 1845, though in no way bound to do so by any treaty. This added much to the strong claims which he before had upon British liberality.

I have always endeavoured after the conquest to act in the spirit which produced the draft treaty, viz., that the treaty was brought about by the treacherous conduct of the Ameers, and not by a grasping desire of conquest, and of increasing our territory; that the resistance to a punishment inflicted by the Supreme Government for the want of faith exhibited by the Ameers, forced upon us the conquest; and that, when masters of the whole, we gave generously to those who had been faithful, viz., the Nawab of Bhawalpoor, the Rajah of Jusselmere, and his Highness Ali Moorad.

In

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\* Or, "Lands of such value as might more than compensate."—See Lord Ellenborough's letter, 17 August 1843.

In conclusion, I have to observe, that nothing has been formally given by me ; all remains in abeyance, subject to the decision of your Lordship.

I send herewith a rough sketch map made by the collector, and Captain Scott will send a more correct one hereafter. Obaura, Khyrpoor, Derkee and Enamwah, are the lands which Ali Moorad has in his hands, but which are not his by right. Half of them, however, are so by gift, according to the letter of Lord Ellenborough, and the whole of them, according to my view of the subject, a view which I think would have been also that of Lord Ellenborough, had the matter been brought to an issue before his Lordship left India.

The revenue of these districts for 1843 and 1844 only amounted to 1,16,285 rupees.

Finally (to sum up the whole of the above), I consider that all lands which are held by his Highness Ali Morad to the north of Roree, are his by gift.

All south of Roree are his Highness's by right.

To take from him any of the first would, I think, be illiberal towards a faithful ally.

To take any of the last would be breach of faith.

Kurrachee,  
18 January 1847.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *C. J. Napier*,  
Lieut.-General, Governor of Scinde.

No. 27.

(No. 124/2225 of 1847.)

From the Secretary to Government of Scinde to the Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor-general.

Sir,

By direction of his Excellency the Governor of Scinde, I have now the honour to forward for submission to the Right honourable the Governor-general of India, copy of the map, as called for in the 7th paragraph of your letter, No. 396, of the 24th October last, showing the exact position of the Khyrpoor territory in reference to the British possessions, with the names of these districts enumerated in the proposed treaty with his Highness Meer Ali Moorad Khan, indicated in the map.

No officer of the canal department having been available for this duty of surveying and laying down the proper boundaries, his Excellency deputed Lieutenant Fitzgerald of the Scinde Camel Corps to perform it, and has authorized, subject to confirmation, a deputation allowance of 10 rupees a day being disbursed to Lieutenant Fitzgerald while so employed, which, in consideration of the great heat and exposure to which that officer has been subjected, his Excellency trusts will be approved of by the Governor-general.

Lieutenant Fitzgerald has been so employed from the 2d April to the 10th July 1847. The sum of 1,000 rupees has therefore been disbursed, for which sanction is now solicited.

Kurrachee,  
8 August 1847.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. J. Brown*,  
Secretary to Government, Scinde.

MEMO. on the Places named in the Second Article of proposed Treaty.

*Kohehra, Chor Abreja*.—Meer Roostum got part of this as his right, it being the original seat of the Talpoors, in the time of the Kulhora dynasty.

Meers Châkur and Jungee had portions also, but it fell gradually to Roostum.

*Noushera, Kundiara, Ludda Gagun*.—Vide Meer Sohrab's will.

*Khyrpoore*.—City of. Was never wholly given up by Roostum to Ali Morad, though willed to the latter. Ali Morad enjoyed the lands dependent on it, as by the will.

*Roree*.—Dependency of *Ludda Gâgun*.

*Nahra, also Renee*.—Both are names of large tracts bordering on the sandy regions to the E. of Scinde.

*Shah Gurh, and Sirdar Gurh.*—Dependent on the sandy tracts to the E.

*Oobnora.*—Vide will.

*Khyrpore Duharkee.*—Dependency of the above.

*Omannoah.*—Dependency of the above.

*Share of Shikarpore and Moghlee.*—Fell to Roostum after the death of Sohrab.

*Chuck and Mazarah.*—\* Purchased by Meer Roostum from the Pathan Uskur Khan, who held a grant of it. It is part of *Moghlee*.

*Rapah.*—Vide will.

*Boordika.*—Vide will.

*Meerpore, Mathela, Muhurkee.*—Vide will. Ceded after the affair of Nomur, by Nusseer Khan to Ali Morad.

*Dadlo.*—Ditto - - It is a dependency of *Gotekee*.

MEMORANDUM on some Spots mentioned only in Meer Roostum's Deed, ceding the Turban.

*Abraoo and Kutteera.*—Are dependencies of Kohera Chor Abrejs.

*Mazarka, Kushmore.*—Were with Boordika. The Seiks have the former, the last was not Roostum's but Nusseer Khan's.

MEMO. on some Scattered Possessions of Meer Ali Morad.

*Syndabad, Arayan, Tundra, Otha, Mazaree.*—Near Sukkur. Were bought or seized by Meer Roostum.

*Shirkote, Roostum Bohuree.*—Ditto - - They are near Lukkee.

The other detached villages, viz.—

*Labana, Bhurkun, Hothee, Buchanjee and Dingra, Gurhee Haleen, Napur Booga, Gurhee Dukhea, Half Mooreed Settari.*—These were always Ali Morad's, being seized by him formerly.

(signed) Philip Goldney, Captain,  
Collector and Magistrate.

Shikarpore,  
4 January 1846.

MEMORANDUM, showing Spelling of certain Places in the Copy of the Deed by Meer Roostum, sent by the Secretary to Government of Scinde, and those presumed to be intended.

AS SPelt BY MR. THOMASON.	PRONOUNCED HERE.	PLACE PRESUMED TO BE MEANT.
Pergunnahs Khobnrah Chehoor - - - -	- - - - -	Kohera Chor Alreja.
Pergunnahs Abburea and Kutturah - - -	Abbra-oo and Kutteera -	Two districts S. E. of Nosbera Feroz.
Pergunnahs Nowshira Peroee.		
Pergunnahs Kundharrah, with Cherpore and Lohuree - - - - -	- - - - -	Kundiara, (a) Khyrpoor, and Roree.
Pergunnah Ludkakun - - - - -	Ludda Gagun.	
Pergunnahs Meerpoor, Manhilas, and Kunookes -	- - - - -	Meerpoor, Mathela, and Muhurkee.
Sandy territory in Rance and Narah.		
Fort's Shahgurh, Sirdar Gurh, and other forts.		
Pergunnahs Oobarrab, Khyrpoor, and Hurkee -	- - - - -	Obowra and Khyrpoor-Duhurkee.
Pergunnah Imamvow - - - - -	Emamwab.	
Pergunnahs Buhoamck and Burah - - - -	Bhoong and Bhara - -	Bhoong, Chara.
One-third of Snbzul and Pergunnah Moozurkab -	- - - - -	Mamazka, N. of Kusmore.
Pergunnah Shikarpur Mer Ali - - - - -	- - - - -	Shikarpoor and Moghlee.
Pergunnah Roopah.		
Pergunnah Bnlfadka - - - - -	- - - - -	Boordika.
Pergunnah Chuck Moosarjah - - - - -	Chuk Mazarcha.	
Pergunnah Kushmoor.		

(a) Cherpore and Khyrpoor are spelt exactly alike in Persian. Vide below. Besides, Ch some people pronounce as I dare say there were no dots in the deed; and Roree is invariably spelt with an L, not with an R. I have no doubt the identity.

(signed) P. Goldney,  
Captain, Collector.

\* Mazarcha adjoins Chuk, and was seized forcibly. Shahbela is a dependency of Chuk. Shahbela was given to Ali Morad by some decision of Mr. Ross Bell. I hear these now are considered as one district.

No. 28.

(A.)

GHOOTKEE PURGUNA.

STATEMENT of Amount Collected by Government during the last Two Crops, viz.,  
Kurreef and Rubbee of 1254/55.

CROPS of Kurreef and Rubbee of 1254/55, or from November 1843 to October 1844 :

	Co.'s Rupees.
Land revenue - - - - -	85,940 1 10 ½
River customs - - - - -	17 10 6
Town duties - - - - -	7,150 - -
Taxes - - - - -	2,916 13 6
Liquor and drug - - - - -	351 - -
Fishery - - - - -	1,500 - -
Garden rent - - - - -	1,324 12 -
Fees and fines - - - - -	1,558 - 9
Confiscated and unclaimed property - - - - -	253 7 -
Miscellaneous revenues - - - - -	92 2 -
<b>Total - - - - Co.'s Rupees</b>	<b>1,01,103 15 7 ½</b>
<b>Deduct pay of Kardar, and establishment, with other contingent expenses - - - - -</b>	<b>14,625 6 3 ½</b>
<b>Balance - - - - Co.'s Rupees</b>	<b>* 86,478 9 4</b>

(signed) *E. D. Townshend*, Captain,  
Shikarpore, 27 March 1845. Officiating Collector.

\* An offer of 1,20,000 rupees having been made by Ranja Mul for the farming of this pergunnah, during the coming year, that sum has been fixed as its value in the exchange.

(signed) *E. J. Brown.*

(B.)

ROREE PURGUNA.

STATEMENT of Amount Collected by Government during the last Two Crops, viz.,  
Kurreef and Rubbee of 1254/55.

CROPS of Kurreef and Rubbee of 1254/55, or from November 1843 to October 1844.

<b>Land Revenue:</b>				
In Company's rupees - - - - -	17,977	9	3	
In Khyrpoor rupees - - - - -	13,481	11	2 ½	
<b>Total - - -</b>	<b>31,459</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5 ½</b>	or Co.'s rupees - 30,185 8 8
<b>River Customs:</b>				
In Company's rupees - - - - -	1,028	15	10	
In Khyrpoor rupees - - - - -	1,082	12	9	
<b>Total - - -</b>	<b>2,056</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	or Co.'s rupees - 1,959 3 4
<b>Town Duties:</b>				
In Khyrpoor rupees - - - - -	18,500	-	-	or Co.'s rupees - 12,267 - 9
<b>Taxes:</b>				
In Khyrpoor rupees - - - - -	8,905	8	6	or Co.'s rupees - 3,536 8 9

Liquor and Drug :						
In Company's rupees	-	-	-	871	1	-
In Khyrpoor rupees	-	-	-	194	7	-
Total	-	-	-	1,065	8	-
				or Co.'s rupees	-	1,047 2 1
Fishery :						
In Company's rupees	-	-	-	813	5	3
In Khyrpoor rupees	-	-	-	651	7	-
Total	-	-	-	964	12	3
				or Co.'s rupees	-	903 3 6
Garden Rent :						
In Company's rupees	-	-	-	3,500	-	-
In Khyrpoor rupees	-	-	-	5,580	-	-
Total	-	-	-	9,080	-	-
				or Co.'s rupees	-	8,562 12 11
Fees and Fines :						
In Company's rupees	-	-	-	84	8	-
In Khyrpoor rupees	-	-	-	621	8	3
Total	-	-	-	706	-	3
				or Co.'s rupees	-	647 4 9
Confiscated and Unclaimed Property :						
In Company's rupees	-	-	-	212	10	3
In Khyrpoor rupees	-	-	-	180	2	-
Total	-	-	-	342	12	3
				or Co.'s rupees	-	330 7 6
Miscellaneous Revenue :						
In Company's rupees	-	-	-	14	-	-
In Khyrpoor rupees	-	-	-	31	-	-
Total	-	-	-	45	-	-
				or Co.'s rupees	-	42 1 2
GRAND TOTAL Company's rupees -						59,471 5 3
Deduct,						
Town duties				12,267	-	9
Kardar's establishment, and other contingent expenses				4,762	7	-
						17,029 7 9
Balance - - -						42,441 13 6

Shikarpoor, 27 March 1845.

(signed) *E. D. Townshend*, Captain,  
Officiating Collector.

(C.)

MEMORANDUM of Pergunnahs, Ilagnas, and Villages late held by *Meer Mahomed Khan*, and forfeited to the British Government and ceded to His Highness *Meer Ali Morad*.

						<i>Co's Rupees.</i>
Ilagna Terracharry Purwaree	-	-	-	-	-	10,000 - -
Buralo Polara	-	-	-	-	-	14,000 - -
Annual Value, Total Company's Rupees	-	-	-	-	-	24,000 - -

(D.)

MEMORANDUM of Pergunnahs ceded by His Highness *Meer Ali Morad* to the British Government, yearly value.

	Rupees.
Pergunnah Boordika - - - - -	65,000 - -
9/28 share of Shikarpoor - - - - -	32,143 - -
Pergunnah Roopa - - - - -	9,000 - -
Half Pergunnah Khanpore - - - - -	9,866 - -
Half Village Nahpur - - - - -	1,712 - -
Ilagua Chuk Muzacha - - - - -	17,250 - -
Ilagua Bukun Nala Guffoor Khan and Booga Napa - - -	13,788 - -
Ilagua Shahbela - - - - -	30,000 - -
Ilagua Mahomedabagh - - - - -	
Ilagua Tayudabad - - - - -	4,000 - -
Villages of Sooltan ke Goth, Iagum Abdool Vah, Alladad ke Vah, Nahpur ke Vah, Hyder Nowarake Vah, and Sheedy ke Vah -	6,000 - -
Rupees of different coinage - - -	1,88,559 - -
<hr/>	
MEMO.—Equal, rejecting fractions on a calculation of 9½ per cent. on 1,40,000 Khyrpoor rupees, and 5 per cent. on 48,559 of other denominations as exchange, to - - - Company's Rupees - - -	1,72,000 - -

(E.)

MEMORANDUM of Sums collected as Revenue by His Highness *Meer Ali Morad* from Villages properly belonging to the British Government, during Two Years.

	Rupees.
Mihrahpoor - - - - -	5,000 - -
Kotrukoord - - - - -	3,880 - -
Dewan - - - - -	1,046 - -
Sukka - - - - -	831 - -
Tadooja - - - - -	33,567 - -
Kundra - - - - -	14,956 - -
Add,	59,280 - -
Amount collected under various heads on his Highness's account, by his agent, Sheikh Ally Hussun - - - - -	1,15,616 - -
Total Rupees of all coinage - - -	1,74,896 - -
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Equal, rejecting fractions after deductions on account of exchange, to Company's Rupees - - -	1,65,000 - -



# PAPERS RELATING TO THE CHARGE PREFERRED

(P.)

MEMORANDUM of Sums collected as Revenue by the British Government from Villages, &c. properly belonging to His Highness *Meer Ali Morad*, up to the present time, from the date of the Occupation.

	Co.'s Rupees.
9/28 Share of Shikarpore - - - - -	56,250 - -
Pergunnah Oobaura, Khyrpoor, Derke and Emam Wah - - - - -	1,16,285 - -
Meerpoor Matela Merke - - - - -	1,83,908 - -
Munda-dera and Kalor Ke - - - - -	13,867 - -
Bera Pooar - - - - -	11,109 - -
Dadhlo - - - - -	5,587 - -
Kudery - - - - -	2,174 - -
Doobah Vah - - - - -	3,141 - -
Half Napur - - - - -	1,712 - -
Half Khanpoor - - - - -	9,666 - -
Sultan ke Goth - - - - -	2,611 - -
Jagum - - - - -	3,139 - -
Alladad Vah - - - - -	118 - -
Nahpur Ke Vah - - - - -	58 - -
Sheedy Ke Vah - - - - -	131 - -
Deduct,	4,09,756 - -
Expenses of management and attention, deducting fractions - -	49,756 - -
<b>TOTAL - - - Co.'s Rupees</b>	<b>3,60,000 - -</b>

(No. 1.)

YEARLY VALUE of Pergunnahs, East of the Indus, ceded to *Meer Ali Morad* by the British Government, viz. :

	Rupees.	Rupees.
Gotkee, <i>vide</i> (A.) - - - - -	1,20,000 - -	
Roree, <i>vide</i> (B.) - - - - -	42,000 - -	
Lands of Meer Mahomed Khan, <i>vide</i> (C.) - - -	24,000 - -	
		1,86,000 - -
Deduct,	1,86,000 - -	
Value of lands ceded by the Meer - - - -	1,72,000 - -	
Yearly Balance due to British } Co.'s Rupees Government - - - - }	14,000 - -	

YEARLY VALUE of Pergunnahs ceded to the British by His Highness *Meer Ali Morad*, West of the Indus.

	Co.'s Rupees.
Allowing for exchange, <i>vide</i> (D.) - - - - -	1,72,000 - -

(No. 2.)

	Rupees.
Sums collected by his Highness <i>Meer Ali Morad</i> from lands belonging to the British Government, <i>vide</i> (E.) - - - - -	1,65,000 - -
Sums collected by the British Government from lands belonging to his Highness <i>Meer Ali Morad</i> , <i>vide</i> (F.) - - - - -	3,60,000 - -
Deduct,	
Sums collected by his Highness - - - - -	1,65,000 - -
<b>TOTAL Balance due to Meer Ali Morad - - - Rupees</b>	<b>1,95,000 - -</b>

No. 29.

MEMORANDUM of Points on which Captain *Harding* is requested to obtain Information from his Excellency Sir *Charles Napier*, relative to the proposed Treaty with his Highness *Meer Ali Moorad*.

LORD ELLENBOROUGH, in an official letter, dated the 19th September 1843, left it to Sir Charles Napier to decide, as respects the lands between Rora and Subzulkote, what portions should be allotted to the British Government, the Nawab of Buhawulpore, and Meer Allee Morad respectively, intimating at the same time the general principles on which it was considered the allotment should be made. There is nothing on record directly to show how this measure was carried out, but it may be inferred from subsequent correspondence, particularly that relating to the proposed treaty with Ali Morad, that no more was assigned to the Nawab of Buhawulpore than he was already in possession of under the proclamation issued previously to the conquest, i. e., the districts of Subzulkote and Boongbars; that to Ali Moorad was given all that he had previously possessed, either in his own right or that of Meer Rostum, or by cession from Meer Nusseer Khan, with the exception of the town of Roree and its environs, which, with the remainder of the territory, was assigned to the British Government; and that the definition of the boundaries subsequently effected by Captain Malet, under orders from Sir Charles Napier, was in conformity with this allotment. If any demi-official letter was written by Sir Charles Napier to Lord Ellenborough, containing the principles and details of this arrangement, I should feel obliged by his favouring me with a copy of it.

2. The draft of the proposed treaty with Ali Morad was forwarded to the Government of India with a simple transmitting letter from the late Secretary, Captain Brown, dated the 4th May 1845. It is possible that explanations regarding its details may have subsequently passed in personal conference between Sir Charles Napier and Lord Hardinge at Lahore, but it seems hardly probable that so important a document would have been transmitted to the Government of India unaccompanied at the time by any explanation; I am therefore led to conjecture that this may have been given in the form of a demi-official communication to the Governor-general. The treaty contains a recognition of the territorial rights of Ali Morad, and an arrangement for an exchange of territory; it may reasonably be concluded that the principles on which the former was based, and the value of the latter estimated, would be explained to the confirming authority. There are some memoranda on the records, a copy of which is herewith sent for reference, which seem evidently to have been prepared with this view, and were probably sent as accompaniments to some demi-official letter on the subject, but in the absence of such communication I find it difficult to connect the details of the memoranda with the provisions of the treaty. It would appear from these memoranda that there would result a balance of territory due to us on the exchange, and that there were mutual claims on account of past collections from lands belonging to one party, but in possession of the other, to be adjusted, and compensation to be given to Ali Moorad for three forts in the Desert transferred to the Raja of Jessulmere, leaving a money balance in the Meer's favour; but the territorial exchanges detailed in the treaty appear to include some items not mentioned in the memoranda, and it is possible that the arrangement finally embodied in the treaty may have been intended to cover the territorial balance due to the Meer, so as to leave nothing unadjusted between the parties. All this would doubtless be made clear in any explanatory communication which may have been written on the subject; if such was, as I have supposed, sent in a demi-official form to the Governor-general, I should feel obliged by Sir Charles Napier favouring me with a copy of it. I am led to think that no formal official communication of this kind was before the Government of India, or was indeed known to its members generally, because a letter from the Secretary to that Government, dated the 24th October 1846, in reply to repeated requests from the Government of Scinde, that the final disposal of the treaty might be expedited, states that the delay had been caused by the absence of information from which to form a judgment on its merits. Sir Charles Napier, in acknowledging this letter, under date the 18th January 1847, replies in detail to the doubts and objections stated in it;

but it does not appear to have occurred to him that any of the information he had previously submitted might not have been before the Government generally, and therefore his explanations were perhaps less full than that authority required, which may have led to the question remaining unsettled up to this time.

3. Among the lands to be ceded by the treaty to Meer Ali Morad in exchange for others are certain jaghires formerly held by his nephew Meer Mahomed Khan Talpoor. This Meer had previously been confirmed in all his possessions by Sir Charles Napier, and there is nothing on record to show that they were again resumed, although Ali Morad asserts that they were so, and made over to him by Sir Charles Napier personally, in consequence of Mahomed Khan not having accompanied Ali Morad when he joined Sir Charles Napier in the Hill campaign. It is so unlikely that a transaction of this kind would have passed unrecorded, that I should have been inclined to suspect some unfair dealing on the part of Ali Moorad, were it not that credit is undoubtedly taken by us for these lands in the exchange as it stands in the draft treaty, which gives some colour of probability to Ali Morad's account of the matter. Sir Charles Napier's demi-official letters may perhaps clear up this point, or at all events I shall feel obliged by any information he can furnish me with in respect to it, as Meer Mahomed Khan is urgent in his complaints of the injustice with which he asserts he has been treated by Ali Moorad in depriving him of these lands.

4. Meer Mahomed Khan's brother, Meer Ghoolam Mustafa, possessed jaghires in the southern part of the Khyrfow territory, which, as not having fallen by inheritance either to Meer Ali Morad or Meer Roostum, devolved to us in sovereignty, but in consequence of Goolam Mustafa having abandoned them, and gone to Mecca soon after the conquest, they remained with Ali Morad, by whom they had been taken possession of, although properly belonging to us as the paramount power. When Goolam Mustafa, on his return, petitioned Sir Charles Napier for their restoration, he was referred to Ali Morad as the holder of the Turban, apparently under the misapprehension that Ali Morad retained them in right of it; but if such a misapprehension ever existed, it must have been subsequently removed, for we receive credit for these lands in the exchange proposed by the treaty. Goolam Mustafa's claim should then have been taken up and disposed of by us, but as this does not appear to have been done, I should be inclined now to restore his lands to him, unless Sir Charles Napier is aware of any objection to the adoption of this course.

5. In the letter from the Government of India, referred to in para. 2, Sir Charles Napier is authorized at once to carry into effect the territorial exchanges, if satisfied as to their relative values, without waiting for the final confirmation of the treaty. I am not aware if anything was done upon this, but I think it probable that further proceedings may have been suspended in consequence of the suspicions which soon after arose as to fraud having been practised by Meer Ali Morad in regard to the district of Meerpore Mathela, ceded to him by Meer Nusseer Khan. I should be glad to learn from Sir Charles Napier whether the prosecution of the territorial exchange was prevented by this or any other circumstance.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle.*

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#### No. 30.

#### RECOLLECTIONS.

1. I GAVE to Bahawalpoor, Subzul Cote and Boombara and no more, because the order of Lord Ellenborough to march against the Ameers prevented me, particularly as our ally, Alli Moorad, had claims, the settlement of which would have involved great delay.

2. When I gave Ali Moorad what he claimed (*viz.* Meerpoore Martella, I think) as having been made over to him in the Koran by Meer Roostum, I was pretty well aware that he had no right to the district, which was rich, and that he had only a right to the village, which was an affair, as he told me himself on the march to Emamghur, trifling in amount; he told me it was "too small to  
take

take over" well ; when we came afterwards to settle our accounts and boundaries, he claimed the district, worth some 40,000 rupees annually. He produced the Koran, and in a leaf of it was written that this district he received on the field of battle (I forget the name, but it was fought near Roree in the end of 1842). I was aware of the trick he was playing, but had no proof. I however was on the look-out, and just before I left Kurrachee I discovered the forgery he had committed, and made over the proofs to Mr. Pringle, or at least I gave them to Captain Brown, Secretary.

3. The old treaty was rendered useless by the conquest of Scinde, and Ali wanted a new one ; so did I. He was anxious to get the district of Meerpoor Martella acknowledged, as he knew I suspected his honesty in that foul transaction, which I had then no proof of, and I was desirous of exchanging land belonging to us on the left bank of the river for land belonging to him on the right bank. First, because he had districts in the midst of ours, and I wished to have all our land, which was on the right bank, in a ring fence ; and, secondly, because I knew he could not collect money from the district of his, which is north of Shikarpore (the name of which I forget), and I therefore expected to get it cheap ; it is very rich, and from being his, is troublesome to us. The people there are all robbers.

With this view, we valued all the lands and made our exchanges. This was chiefly done on our part by Major Goldney.

4. As far as memory serves me, Meer Mahomed Khan was restive ; he would not accompany his chief and myself to the Hill war ; and when I came back, I told him that Ali complained of him, and that he had given me offence by not going to war, as a Jagheerदार was bound to do. That Ali Morad was answerable for his, the Meer's, good conduct ; and, if he behaved ill, I would not prevent Ali from depriving him of his jaghere, and I would send him to Calcutta after the rest of the Ameers. This is, as nearly as I can recollect, the substance of these transactions, and I have no papers to refer to ; all were placed by me, when I left Kurrachee, in Captain Brown's possession.

5. I see no objection to restoring his lands to Meer Jholum Mustapha. I do not recollect what is stated in Mr. Pringle's letter, but it may be all correct.

6. The territorial exchange was prevented by the simple fact, that I could execute it but under treaty ; either Government did not approve of the treaty, and meant to alter it, which would have produced inevitable confusion and interminable trouble, or else the Government approved, and were called upon to sign it. Why this was not done is for Sir Frederick Currie to say. The whole delay lays at his door, and Lord Hardinge told me at Lahore that he had no objection to the treaty, and had ordered it. All is Sir Frederick Currie's fault, I believe. I think Ali Morad has been ill-used by the Government, and faith broken with him in regard to the forts. He gave up Shahgur, &c. at Lord Ellenborough's command to the Jussulmere man, with a positive and distinct promise of payment, which was never fulfilled. If he tried to cheat us, we did cheat him. I have to apologize to Mr. Pringle for not sooner sending these notes, which I made when I got his letter, when in Lord Dalhousie's house, and when I moved out they were jumbled up with other papers, and I forgot them till I found them this day.

Simla, 21 September 1849.

(signed) *C. J. Napier,*  
Commander-in-Chief.

(True copies.)

Assistant Commissioner.

## Series (B.)

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### No. 1.

(No. 811 of 1843.)

From Captain *H. J. Pelly*, Acting Secretary to the Government of Scinde, to  
Captain *Pope*, Collector and Magistrate, Sukkur.

Sir,

I AM directed by his Excellency the Governor of Scinde to forward to you the enclosed translation of a letter from his Highness Meer Ali Moorad, and to request you will be good enough to furnish him with any information you may have,

have, or may be able to collect on the subject. His Excellency wishes you to write also to the Right honourable the Governor-general direct, furnishing him with such information as you may be able to collect. His Excellency has this day written to the Right honourable the Governor-general, informing him that he has directed you to do so.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *H. J. Pelly,*  
Acting Secretary to Government of Scinde.

Kurrachee, 8 October 1843.

From *Meer Ally Moorad* to His Excellency the Governor.

After compliments.

It is well known that the son\* of my deceased brother, Meer Moobaruck Khan, of his own free will, gave over to me, on the Koran, the district of Meerpoor Mahatala, and the villages of Dadalow and Sanderbeylee; this was done when he was ruler of that country. You have a copy of what is written on that leaf of the Koran. About a month ago Captain Pope came to Khyrpoor to investigate about the "Pugree." He also investigated this matter, and it was proved by trustworthy witnesses that the writing on the Koran, with regard to the above-mentioned district and villages, was all correct. Moreover, before you started on your march from Roree, you told me I should have these villages. I have always been a faithful friend of the British Government, and I trust, by your kindness, that I may receive the above-mentioned district and villages, and not lose my just rights.

(True translation.)

(signed) *H. J. Pelly,*  
Dated Rumzan 6th. Persian Interpreter.

No. 2.

(No. 102 of 1843.)

From Captain *Pope*, Collector of Sukkur, to *F. Thomason*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India.

Sir,

In conformity with instructions from his Excellency the Governor of Scinde, to transmit direct, for the information of his Lordship the Governor-general, such information as I might be able to obtain in reference to a claim urged by his Highness Meer Ali Moorad, to certain lands lying between Subzulkote and Roree, alleged to have been voluntarily ceded to his Highness by Meer Nusseer Khan, his Highness's nephew, and son of the late Meer Moobaruck, I have now the honour to proceed to carry his Excellency's instructions into effect, and beg to express my regret that severe illness has prevented me from doing so at an earlier period.

2. When I proceeded to Khyrpore in August last, for the purpose of making certain investigations as to the alleged cession to his Highness Meer Ali Moorad of the Turban of Upper Scinde, and of his personal estates, by the ex-Ameer Roostum Khan, I felt persuaded that the subject now under consideration would become one for future reference, and I therefore took advantage of the circumstances in which I was placed, so favourable for a thorough investigation, to obtain and record every possible information regarding the claim now urged by his Highness Meer Ali Moorad.

3. The enclosed Persian paper, marked (A.), is a faithful copy, written from my own dictation, holding the Koran, in which it was entered, in my hand, of the deed under which his Highness now claims the lands therein specified. After the copy was made, I tested its accuracy by holding it in my hands, and comparing it with that in the Koran, the moonshee reading the latter alone.

4. Peer Ali Gohur, the principal Syud in Upper Scinde, avowed the deed to be in his handwriting; of the fact, therefore, of the deed having been duly written and sealed, little doubt can exist.

5. The balance of testimony, however, as well as the universal voice of the country, is decidedly against its having been sealed voluntarily by Meer Nusseer Khan; he appears to have been seated sullenly on the ground, some 10 or 20 paces from the rest of the chiefs. On being applied to for his seal, he is stated

to have said that he had not it with him. The *ex-Ameer* Roostum Khan then went up to him, and, after trying all in his power to reconcile him to what he said was inevitable, put his hand in his nephew's waistband, from which he drew the seal, and applied it to the deed.

6. His Highness never appears to have obtained possession of the places thus ceded till the whole country came temporarily into his possession in January 1843.

7. His Highness has frequently and fully admitted, in conversation with me, that the cession was not willingly made. I give his Highness's exact words: "Lurkur teea," he said; *i. e.*, it was a conquered country, or one that he won in war.

8. This is apparently irreconcilable with his Highness's allegation in his letter to his Excellency the Governor of Scinde, dated Ramzan the 6th, copy of which has been furnished me, in view to the preparation of this report; but it is my duty to state, without reserve, all I know upon the subject, which I have accordingly done.

Sukkur, 24 October 1843.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *G. Pope*,  
Collector and Magistrate.

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No. 3.

(No. 103 of 1843.)

From Captain *Pope*, Collector and Magistrate, Sukkur, to *E. J. Brown*, Esq.,  
Secretary to the Government of Scinde, Kurrachee.

Sir,

In reference to your letter No. 811, of the 8th instant, with enclosure, I have the honour to append, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, copy of a letter I have this day addressed to the Secretary to the Government of India.

Sukkur, 24 October 1843.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *G. Pope*,  
Collector and Magistrate.

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No. 4.

TRANSLATION of Letter from *Meer Ali Morad Khan*, Talpoor, to Sir *Charles Napier*, dated 6th Rumzan, 1259, Hijra, and received 7th October 1843.

After compliments.

MEER Nusseer Khan, son of the late Meer Mobaruck Khan, had given me in writing on the Koran the pergunnah Meeerpoor Mathela, Deh Dadalo, and Soonder Beila, three villages which were previously in his own possession. A copy of the page in question has already been seen by you, and the matter is as clear as the sun at noon-day. About a month ago, Captain Pope came to Khyrpoor to inquire into the question of the transfer of the pugree, and at that time also examined into the above case, taking the evidence of many respectable witnesses as to the writing on the Koran, such as Meer Junjee Khan, Kumaul Khan Julbanee, with many others. Besides this, you wrote me just before you left Sukkur that you would confirm me in the aforesaid pergunnah and villages. I am the servant and well-wisher of the Company, and they have been very kind to me; I therefore now write that I may be confirmed in the pergunnah and villages aforesaid.

No. 2.

To the above the following order is annexed:—

The Governor-general does not desire that you should suffer loss; and to settle the boundary, officers will be deputed.

18 October 1843.

(signed) *E. J. B.*

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No. 5.

MEMORANDUM.

ON the British entering Scinde in 1838, the rulers of Upper Scinde were three brothers, Meers Roostum Khan, Moobarick, and Ali Morad Khan.

Meer Alli Moorad was considerably younger than the other two, and in his minority had been under the guardianship of Meer Moobarick, during which period he was unjustly deprived by his guardian of certain lands.

This dispute was at its height when the British entered Scinde. In July 1839, Meer Moobarick died. His son, Meer Nusseer Khan, succeeded to Meer Moobarick's share of the government, and disputes with Ali Morad. Meer Roostum espoused Meer Nusseer's side; this was occasioned by an insult offered to Futteh Mahomed Ghoree, minister of Meer Roostum, by Meer Ali Moorad.

The late Mr. Ross Bell decided on this case of dispute at the end of 1840 in favour of Meer Alli Moorad. In January 1841, Mr. Bell quitted Scinde for Quetta, but it would appear that his decision was not finally agreed to by both parties; for on the death of that gentleman, and return to Scinde from Quetta of his successor, Major Outram, this was the first case brought to the notice of the latter by the Upper Scinde Ameers. Major Outram having inquired into the matter, reported on it to the Governor-general, in confirmation of his predecessor's decision; which also was confirmed by the Governor-general. This decision of the Governor-general was not, however, communicated to the disputing parties.

In September 1842 their disputes had arisen to such a height that the two Ameers called out their troops, and an engagement took place in the vicinity of Khyrpore on the 15th of that month, Meer Roostum siding with Meer Nusseer Khan. Meer Ali Moorad Khan was victorious, and Meer Roostum sued for peace, and to obtain it, promised to deliver to Meer Ali Moorad Khan nine\* villages, viz., seven of his own and two of Meer Nusseer Khan's, viz., "Mahteila,"† and "Dadaloo."

It has long been rumoured that the Koran, in which the cession of the two villages by Meer Nusseer Khan had been recorded, had been falsified by additions being made, by means of a fresh leaf being inserted in the Koran in the place of the original one extracted.

Sheikh Ali Hussein, ex-minister of Meer Ali Moorad, who was the Ameer's confidential agent during the above transactions, but who has since quarrelled with and left the service of the Ameer, now produces the leaf extracted from the Koran, and states as follows:

"MEMORANDUM of Circumstances that occurred during the Battle of Khyrpore, fought between the Ameers of Khyrpore and Meer Ali Morad Khan, in the month of Shaban 1258, and the Transfer of the Jaghire of Mahteila to Meer Ali Morad.

"When the battle was going on, some men were killed; Meer Roostum came to Ali Morad in a 'Mahapah,' and wished to make peace. Ali Morad said, I have expended many lacs of rupees in the fight, and have given jaghires to the Belooches; how can I make peace? Meer Roostum then gave him seven villages from himself, and two, namely, 'Mahteila' and 'Dadaloo,' from Meer Nusseer Khan. He wrote this in the Koran, and sealed it, and then Meer Nusseer Khan and Ali Akbar Khan also sealed it. On this peace was effected and fighting ceased; when a proclamation was issued that the country ‡ beyond Roree was ceded to the British, such belonging to Ali Morad alone excepted. The Ameer then added in the Koran the word *pergunnah* before the village of 'Mahteila.' He afterwards added the words *Meerpoor* and *Mekrker*, when he discovered that too many words had been inserted, and the forgery was evident; he became perplexed, and after some consideration he resolved that the first page, in which he had attempted by scratching out some portions of words added to correct its appearance, should be extracted; the second, on which were



the seals of the different parties, remaining. The matter on the sheet extracted containing the name of the villages ceded, was re-copied on a spare leaf in the Koran. The writer of the whole was Peer Ali Gohur. The sheet extracted is with me here; if you order it, I will give it up."

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No. 6.

MEMORANDUM.

SINCE preparing a memorandum for the Commissioner, copy annexed, relating to the transfer, after the battle of Nomur, on the 15th September 1842, of seven villages by Meer Roostum to Meer Ali Morad, and of the villages "Mahteila" and "Dadaloo," by Meer Nusseer Khan, to the same, the lieutenant of police at Shikarpore has transmitted the substance of evidence of one Zookeram Moon-shee, formerly in the office of the Assistant Political Agent, Shikarpore, and afterwards in that of the Collector of Shikarpore, but now in gaol for peculation. Annexed are extracts from this person's statement, and copy of one of Peer Ali Gohur, which is enclosed. The latter is the person by whom the treaty in question was written in the Koran.

It may be remarked that the evidence of this Moon-shee Zokeram, he being in prison for peculation, may not be considered trustworthy. He is, however, a clever rascal, and is beyond doubt well acquainted with the details of this case, which in Upper Scinde have very generally been discussed, I imagine.

It may also be remarked, that this Peer Ali Gohur, the writer of the agreement in the Koran, and by his own showing the utterer of it, has lately quarrelled with Meer Ali Morad Khan, and has fled to British territory.

The Moon-shee Zokeram, in the conclusion of his statement, refers to knowledge of the facts of the case by certain Ameers. If promised protection from the anger of the Ameer, they would doubtless give evidence in this case, but being the brothers of Meer Nusseer Khan, and sons of the late Meer Roostum Khan, they cannot be supposed to have any very friendly feeling towards Meer Ali Morad, under whose protection they now are, and by whom it is said they are not too well treated.

On the other hand, Meer Ali Morad Khan, in writing to me on the 18th September 1842, an account of the battle of "Noomur," states as follows:—"In the meantime, Meer Roostum Khan became mediator, and gave over to me several villages, to cover the expense of my army and the loss I had sustained, amounting to lacs of rupees. I, however, was not contented with the few places they made over to me, and would have demanded reparation for the whole of my loss had not your letter at that moment arrived; I then agreed to accept of the villages that Meer Roostum offered to me."

This extract agrees with the statement of Sheik Ali Hussein, Peer Ali Gohur, and Moon-shee Zokeeram, viz., that villages only (nine in number) were transferred to the Ameer. No mention is made of a pergunnah.

The late Meer Roostum Khan, on writing to me on the same subject and date, stated that I approached the Meer, and in order to obtain peace, consented to make over to him some villages for the time being.

Meer Nusseer Khan, on writing to me on the same subject, and dated 17th September 1842, stated, "At last Meer Roostum Khan succeeded in making peace; Meer Ali Morad Khan became most arrogant, seeing that he had it all his own way; we found him hungry, therefore satisfied him for the time with a mouthful; in future, however, it will not stand good."

By comparing the leaf said to have been extracted from the Koran (which I received from Sheik Ali Hussein, and have now in my possession) with the Koran itself now in the possession of the Ameer, some discovery might be made.

(signed) *E. J. Brown,*

Secretary to the Government of Scinde.

Kurrachee, 28 February 1848.

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No. 7.

STATEMENT of *Sheik Ali Hussein* about the extracted Leaf.

MEMORANDUM of Circumstances that occurred during the Battle of Khyrpore, fought between the Ameers of Khyrpore and Meer Ali Morad, in the month Shaban 1258, and the Transfer of the Jaghire of Mateila to Meer Ali Morad.

WHEN the battle was going on some men were killed; Meer Roostum came to Alli Morad in a Mahafah, and wished to make peace. Ali Morad said, I have expended many lacs of rupees in the fight, and have given jaghires to the Beloochees; how can I make peace? Meer Roostum then gave him seven villages from himself, and two, namely, Mahtela and Dadlo, from Meer Nusseer Khan, wrote this engagement in the Koran and sealed it himself, and then Nusseer Khan, Meer Ali Ackbar also, sealed it. On this, peace was effected, and the fighting ceased; when a proclamation was issued, that the country between Roree was ceded, and what belonged to Meer Ali Morad was spared. The Ameer then added the word pergunnah to the word village of Mahtela, and afterwards Meerpore and Meherkee was added. When he saw that too many words were added, and the style of writing was spoiled, and the forgery was apparent, he became perplexed, and after some consideration, he resolved that the first sheet, in which the scratch was made, to be taken out, and the second sheet, which remained genuine and had three seals on, to remain as it was; the first sheet, which contained the names of the villages, was to be copied out on another sheet of the Koran which was of the same colour and was in the Koran; this done, the first and the last sheet writer was Peer Ali Gohur. The sheet which was drawn out from the Koran is now with Sheik Ali Hussein at Kurrachee; if you order it, he will give it up.

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No. 8.

(No. 9 of 1848.)

From the Lieutenant of Police, Shikarpore, to the Secretary to the Government of Scinde, Kurrachee.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward the accompanying papers, which I beg may be laid before the Commissioner for his information.

2. I need hardly mention that the individual, Zokee Ram, whose statement I forward, was formerly in the Political Agent's office at Shikarpore, and afterwards head moonshee in the Collector's office; he was tried and imprisoned for bribery and embezzlement; he is well known as a very talented though untrustworthy person.

3. Peer Allee Gohur is equally well known as having been the confidential servant of his Highness Meer Ali Morad, with whom he quarrelled, and came and settled in our territory about eight months ago.

4. Some days ago Moonshee Zokeram told me that his Highness Meer Allee Morad had got possession of some valuable districts from us by forgery. I told him that he had tried that story before; he replied, "It is the case, and Peer Allee Gohur will tell you all about it." I sent for the last named individual, and questioned him on the subject; his statement is enclosed, with his seal attached to it. The principal proof regarding the leaf having been cut from the Koran, is of course with Sheik Allee Hussein, who has gone to Lahore; but I find that Peer Allee Gohur has sent a cossid to beg him to send a vukkeel down with it. He also states, that there not being room on one page of the Koran for all that had to be written, the conclusion, with the seals authenticating the document, were not on the page that was cut out.

5. I also forward a paper containing certain conditions which Peer Allee Gohur stipulates for, if he proves all he states.

6. I beg here respectfully to say, that although I consider it my duty as lieutenant of police to bring to the notice of Government all information that I receive; yet, being unaware of the views of Government, I have been careful to guarantee nothing, not even that it will be taken up, having merely put down on paper what has been told me, but taking care to get as much truth as possible. I am aware that part of this business was some months ago before Government, but I do not know how it was settled, nor can I at present inquire, as I am bound by promise not to bring it to the notice of any person but the Commissioner.

7. That there is a great deal of truth in these statements I have no doubt, as his Highness Meer Allee Morad has neither spared promises or bribes to prevent it being brought forward. The extortionate reward that Peer Allee Gohur and Moonshee Zokeram ask also show that they have no doubts on the subject.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. W. Younghusband, Lt.*  
Lieutenant of Police.

Shikarpore,  
4 January 1848.

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STATEMENT made by *Moonshee Zokee Ram* before *Lieutenant Younghusband*,  
Lieutenant of Police.

MEER ALLY MOORAD KHAN came, in the latter end of 1842, to attack Meer Nusseer Khan at Khyrporo by force; then Meer Roostum Khan and Meer Nusseer Khan were obliged to give him seven towns, named Pullughah, Khanwah, Abianee, Butcha, Durree, Khurkwhah, and Khinah; these from Meer Roostum Khan; Mathalah and Daood Loo, belonging to Meer Nusseer Khan. It was also written that these towns would be given with the consent of the British Government. Meer Ally Moorad then went to Deejee Ke Ghote. Meer Roostum Khan and Meer Nusseer Khan then collected a force to attack him. Meer Ally Morad then got afraid, and sent his father's sister and his own mother, and seven Korans, to beseech them not to attack him, and that he would restore those towns he had compelled them to give him. These towns therefore remained in their former owners' hands. After this the British Government confiscated the whole of the lands from Roree to Subzulcote, and the Governor Sahib had it proclaimed, and the proclamation put on the walls; and Meer Roostum Khan and Meer Nusseer Khan put their seals to this. After this the Governor Sahib got ready to go to Hyderabad, and ordered his army to cross from Sukkur to Roree. Meer Ally Morad said to Meer Roostum, "Come with me to Deejee Ke Gote, and we will make an arrangement regarding this." When they got there, Meer Ally Moorad said, "Hand over the whole of your country." After considerable disputes, Meer Roostum Khan said, "I will give you the country under these conditions: firstly, you will be answerable for all my expenses, keeping up my retainers, &c., &c., as I now live. What lands are in my sons' hands now they are to still hold; also the lands held by Meer Mobarick Khan's sons are to be left in the same way."

2d. The country from Roree to Subzulcote belongs to the British Government. They have been handed over to them, so that I have not the power of giving them away. Meer Ally Moorad Khan agreed to these conditions, and made an agreement to this effect, and also received a receipt from Meer Roostum Khan. The latter sent this agreement to Sir C. Napier, but Meer Ally Moorad had the messenger seized on the road, and the letters taken from him. Sheik Allee Hussein got them, and kept Meer Roostum's agreement with him. After this, the whole country came into the hands of the British Government. Meer Ally Moorad Khan, with reference to the aforesaid seven towns Meer Roostum Khan had been obliged to cede to him, and also the two Meer Nusseer Khan had in the original paper inserted the district (pergunnah), as well these towns, and also the towns of Merepore and Mahuika. Whilst inserting these the original paper was spoiled. Peer Ally Gohur made out another paper, including these towns and the districts, thus taking away from the British Government the lands belonging to Meer Nusseer Khan, Meer Roostum Khan, also all the lands belonging to Meer Roostum's sons. But from Roree to Subzulcote remained in the hands of the British Government; part of this country was given to Bawul Khan, what remained was in the hands of the British for two years. At this time Captain Malet went round to settle the boundary, that there should be no more disputes. His Excellency the Governor was on the road to the Belooch Hills. Meer Allee Moorad was also with him, also Major Goldney. When they returned from the campaign Meer Allee Moorad in some way got nearly the whole of the lands from Roree to Subzulcote from the Governor. As I was an old servant of Government when this took place, I gave information that Meer Allee Moorad had taken several towns that did not belong to him, and on my information they were resumed. I also spoke about Naowar Bhalse, saying that his Highness had taken that right, and showed Major Goldney a treaty of Meer Mobaruck Khan's. After some days Major Goldney returned the copy of the treaty to me, and asked me why I was trying to make mischief. After this my enemies got up lies against me, and I was imprisoned. After I was imprisoned, Jata Nuna, the financial moonshee in the Collector's office, embezzled a large sum of money. I made

an agreement with the Collector, in order to save my credit and to free myself from prison, to prove where 25,000 rupees had been embezzled. What I did has all been written. I now request that if, according to the old agreement, I, Suchanund Asinund, and Tour Mull are released and restored to our original credit, with situations, we will show where and to what extent the Government has been robbed; also that I will show and prove how Meer Allee Moorad has got by forgery a large portion of country belonging to the British Government. To show this, I have brought forward Peer Ally Gohur, who was engaged in all these things, as a witness; and when asked, he will disclose the whole. I have copies of all the treaties between the Meers and the British Government; but I wish this thing guaranteed me, that if I bring these things forward, I am protected from the vengeance of his Highness Meer Allee Moorad, and that a fourth part of what I prove in favour of the British Government will be paid to me. That you (Lieutenant Younghusband) will investigate this yourself, and tell it to no one until the whole thing is to be tried. That a letter be written to Meer Mahomed, Meer Allee Mahomed Khan, Meer Allee Murdar Khan, and Meer Shere Mahomed Khan, that they will be protected from the Meer if they speak the truth. I wish this done in case his Highness tries to tamper with them, and that I may be released, in order that I may be able to arrange the whole of the proofs. That I beg that this may be told to no one else till the time arrives for its being investigated; for Meer's spies are numerous here, and he spends large sums of money to get information of what is going on. I have numerous friends in the country, who can give me every information.

Before me,

Shikarpore, 4 January 1848.

(signed) *J. W. Younghusband,*  
Lieutenant of Police.

EVIDENCE given by *Peer Allee Gohur* on being questioned by *Lieutenant Younghusband*,  
Lieutenant of Police.

WHEN the fight of Noomur took place at Khirpore, Meer Roostam Khan came between and gave by treaty seven towns of his own, and two (Daoodloo and Matchla) belonging to Meer Nasseer Khan; but in this treaty there was nothing written regarding the districts these towns belonged to, or the towns of Meerpore or Merhurkee. Meer Allee Moorad Khan inserted the words Meerpore Mahurkee and the districts of Mahtela; in doing this he spoiled the paper and forgery was palpable. The Meer then took that page out of the Koran, and wrote what had been on that leaf, with his additions, on another leaf. This was written by me. The leaf that was cut out is now with Sheik Allee Hussain. This is what I told you. The Meer gave me a certificate saying, that if this came to the notice of the British Government he (the Meer) would take the blame on himself. I have it now; it was written by Sheik Allee Hussain, and signed and sealed by Meer Ali Morad. I have also got a letter from Sheik Allee Hussain regarding this affair, which I will show you.

(True translation.)

(signed) *J. W. Younghusband,*  
Lieutenant of Police.

No. 9.—*Vide* page 189.

No. 10.

CONDITIONS stipulated for by *Peer Ally Gohur*.

THE Jagheer called Khangra Badshah, which was given by Meer Sohrab to my father, and afterwards confirmed to me by Meer Roostum, to be restored.

2. That his Highness Meer Ali Morad be prevented from taking vengeance on me for giving this intelligence.

3. The Jagheer of Dullpootra, which his Highness Meer Ali Morad gave me as a bribe in the forgery case, to be restored to me.

4. Immunity for all past offences.

5. Protection to be guaranteed to Meer Mahomed Ally Khan and Meer Ally Mahomed Khan if they give evidence regarding the points brought forward.

(signed) *J. W. Younghusband, L',*  
Lieutenant of Police.

## No. 11.

**EXTRACT** para. 1 of a Letter from Lieutenant *Younghusband*, Lieutenant of Police, dated 18 December 1849, to the Commissioner.

**PARA. 1.** According to your iustructions I yesterday proceeded to a village near where Peer Ally Gohur resides, and had an interview with him. I obtained from him, without much difficulty, the document said to have been given to him by his Highness Meer Ally Morad, regarding the forgery in the Koran; I beg to forward it, with translation. Peer Ally Gohur mentioned that when he first wrote on the part of Ally Morad to the late Governor of Scinde, regarding the alleged cession, Mahteila alone was mentioned; in subsequent letters the other districts were mentioned.

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**TRANSLATION** of a Document obtained from *Peer Ally Gohur*, which bears the Seal of His Highness *Meer Ally Morad Khan*.

“Confirmed.”

**THE** reason of writing this is as follows:—Meer Roostum Khan and Meer Nusseer Khan gave me the pergunnah of Mathela, on account of the lacs of rupees I had expended in the battle of Khyrpore.

The pergunnahs Meerpore, Mathela, Mikr, and other towns were given to me, and written in the Koran by their own free will.

By the carelessness of the servant who kept the Koran some ink was spilt on some of the words, in a line of the cession written in the Koran, which spoilt it a little. I said to Peer Ally Gohur, “The page is spoilt; I will take it out; you write a copy of it in another page; because the original was written by you, so also write this.” The Peer Sahib refused to write it. I then said I would take all blame on myself; that none should rest on him; if anything was said regarding it I would be answerable. I give this document to the Peer to show that the responsibility of the act rests with me, and not with him. I therefore write that in performing this the Peer is not to blame, he having written it by my order.

The above writing I give to remain with the Peer as a sunnud, (dated) 2nd of the month Rujeeb 1259 Hijree.

(True translation.)

(signed) *J. W. Younghusband*, Lieutenant of Scinde Police.

The document of which this is a translation is said to be in the handwriting of Sheikh Ally Hossein. The word “bahab hust” (confirmed) at the top of the document is said to be the handwriting of Meer Ally Morad.

(signed) *J. W. Younghusband*, Lieut. of Scinde Police.

Sukkur, 10 December 1849.

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No. 12.

**STATEMENT** of *Peer Ally Gohur* made before *R. K. Pringle, Esq.*, Commissioner of Scinde.

I WAS not present when the leaf was taken out of the Koran. Meer Ally Moorad brought the Koran to me, with the leaf taken out, and a new one there ready to write on. As far as I can recollect the treaty originally covered three pages, on the last of which were three seals, viz., Meer Roostum, Meer Nusseer Khan, and Meer Ally Ackbar. The first was the leaf taken out. The extracted leaf was shown to me at the time by Meer Ally Morad; it was one leaf, and not a sheet. On it had first been interpolated the word Pergunnah. Afterwards Mahrkee was attempted to be substituted for the word Mirzee, in doing which the paper was spoilt. The above took place subsequent to the cession of the Turban by Meer Roostum to Meer Ally Morad. The new matter that was written by me was on one page, the same as the original, on the left hand of the book.

**Question** by the Commissioner.—Is this your handwriting? (*The leaf said to have been torn from the Koran is here shown to Peer Ally Gohur, marked A.*)—**Answer.** Yes; and this is the leaf which was extracted from the Koran.

Do

Do you know what became of this leaf after the forgery was committed?—It was left in the Koran. Sheik Ally Hossein took it out.

Was the deed of the cession of the Turban by Meer Rostom to Meer Ally Morad, and the latter's treaty with the former, written in your handwriting?—Yes, it was.

Was the matter in the above-mentioned cession of the Turban, with reference to the names of the districts and villages, the same as first written in the extracted leaf of the Koran?—I do not distinctly recollect, but I have a copy with me of the cession; and on referring to it I perceive that the pergunnalis of Meerpore Mathela, also that of Mahrker are amongst the list of cessions by Meer Roostum. I remarked, at the time of writing the cession, that the towns of these pergunnahs had already been ceded. To this he replied, it was of no consequence to write them.

Do you recognise the paper now shown to you?—(*A paper is shown to Peer Ally Gohur, marked B.*)—Yes, the handwriting is mine; it must have been written at the time the page was written in the Koran. It appears to be an attempt of mine to write certain words fair, but I do not recollect.

Do you recognise the Koran now shown to you?—Yes; this is the book from which the leaf was extracted.

Is the handwriting of the treaty written in it yours?—Yes, it is. That first page is the one that I re-wrote; the remaining three pages, on the last of which are the three seals, are my original writing.

You before stated that, as far as you recollect, the treaty was written on three pages; it now appears on four. Will you explain this difference?—It is nine years ago, and my recollection of the subject is not quite distinct.

Do the three first pages of the treaty, written in the Koran, appear to you to be written on one sheet or separate leaves?—They appear to be written on one sheet, and not on two separate leaves.

If such be the case, how do you explain your statement that the original matter is written on three last pages and the new matter on the first?—I am unable to explain at this distance of time; my memory may have failed me in regard to the number of pages. There may have been two extracted instead of one, as I before stated; and, on recollection, I think it must have been. I mean a sheet, which may account for it.

Are you aware of the Koran being bound again?—No.

The certificate granted by Meer Ally Moorad; when was it written and given to you?—Immediately before I re-wrote the matter in the Koran.

This statement was taken in my presence by Lieutenant Younghusband, lieutenant of police.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle*, Commissioner.

Sukkur, 26 December 1849.

No. 13.

From *Meer Allee Moorad Khan* to Captain *Brown*, dated 1st Shabhan 1258; received 9th September 1842.

After compliments.

29 October 1847.

I FREQUENTLY, previous to this, wrote to you, mentioning that Meer Nusseer Khan was annoying me greatly by killing my subjects and burning my villages, thereby causing me a loss of thousands of rupees. Of all this you are well acquainted. To repeat all I have said would require columns. Shaik Allee Hussain will therefore explain everything to you verbally. I do not wish to create disturbances. After first hearing from you, I remained silent, thinking that the other party would desist. Futteh Mahomed Goree afterwards came to me with many words, by which I understood he was intent on rebellion; he then returned to Khyrpoor, without giving me compensation for the villages burnt. Now Futteh Mahomed Ghoree and Meer Nusseer Khan have gone to Meer Allee Murdan Khan and Meer Mahomed Hussain, the sons of Meer Roostum. On their return, you will see what disturbances they will create.

But it is well known by all that their object is war. However, from my regard to the English Government, through whose means I hope to obtain peace, I have kept myself quite distinct from all parties; they will wage war, and will meet with their deserts.

(True translation.)

(signed) *F. Harding, Capt.*  
Persian Interpreter.

No. 14.

From *Meer Nusseer Khan* to Captain *Brown*, dated 8th Shaban 1258; received 15 September 1842.

It is about one month and a half since when I was sick, that Meer Allee Moorad having collected troops, entered my territory for the purpose of creating disturbances, which he still continues to do. I have made no movement against him, but by the advice of Meer Roostum Khan, I went to Boortee for the purpose of conciliating Meer Mahomed Hussain, and bringing him in. During my absence, Meer Allee Moorad went to Khanpoor with his army, there to wage war. I have always had great regard for your Government. However, if Meer Allee Moorad will persist in opposing me, there will be nothing left for me but to fight; otherwise I lose my reputation. I write this for your information, in whom I place all my hopes. My brother and I have great respect for the English. Bahadur Alee Shah will explain all verbally to you; you may place implicit confidence in what he says.

(True translation.)

(signed) *F. Harding, Capt.*  
29 October 1847. Persian Interpreter.

No. 15.

From *Meer Nusseer Khan* to Captain *Brown*, dated 25th Shaban 1258; received 17 September 1842.

After Compliments.

31 October 1847.

I RECEIVED your letter in answer to mine, stating that you had written two letters, one to Meer Allee Moorad Khan, directing him to desist from making war, the other to Meer Roostum, requesting him to become mediator between Allee Moorad and myself. On hearing of the advance of Meer Allee Moorad Khan, Meer Zungee Khan and Meer Allee Murdan Khan went to meet him for the purpose of making peace. After their departure, it became known that Meer Allee Moorad was marching on Kheirpoor with a large force. Meer Roostum Khan and myself then left Kheirpoor with the object of effecting a reconciliation. Meer Allee Moorad, who had taken post to the eastward, with all his forces and guns, immediately commenced an attack (neither Meer Roostum nor I having had the slightest intention to fight), when both armies met and many were slain on either side. I never heard of such audacity or disrespect. At last, Meer Roostum Khan succeeded in making peace. Meer Allee Moorad Khan became most arrogant, seeing that he had it all his own way. We found him hungry, therefore satisfied him for the time with a mouthful; in future, however, it will not stand good.

(True translation.)

(signed) *F. Harding, Captain.*  
Persian Interpreter.

## No. 16.

From *Meer Roostum Khan* to Captain *Brown*; received 18th September 1842.

After compliments.

1 November 1847.

I WROTE to you, stating that Meer Allee Moorad was advancing with his army, and asked you to prevent it. The next morning, Meer Allee Moorad before sunrise arrived with his whole army before the walls of Kheirpore. As I was always averse to disputes in my family, I would not permit Meer Nusseer Khan to collect troops for the purpose of opposing him. However, when Meer Allee Moorad had proceeded to such lengths as above mentioned, I, together with Meer Nusseer Khan and my sons, left Kheirpore without the materials of war, with the intent of bringing about a reconciliation. Meer Allee Moorad, forgetting all ties, and contrary to all custom, commenced firing upon us, and before I could reach him, 10 or 12 persons had been killed, and as many wounded. I approached the Meer, and in order to obtain peace, consented to make over to him some villages for the time being. You are my friend, in whom I place all trust. I therefore have acquainted you with the dishonourable behaviour of Meer Allee Moorad; you will be able to judge of it in future, and see with how little cause he has behaved so ill towards me, the head of the family.

(True translation.)

(signed) *F. Harding*, Capt.  
Persian Interpreter.

## No. 17.

From *Meer Allee Morad* to Captain *Brown*; received 18 September 1842.

After compliments.

2 November 1847.

I RECEIVED your letter, directing me to desist from hostilities and the gathering of troops till you heard from Major Outram. The circumstances are these, from the commencement of the disputes with Meer Nusseer Khan, and the burning of my villages. Notwithstanding your kind advice to him, he still persisted in his course. Your remonstrances made no impression upon him. Although I knew him to be much inferior to me in force, and notwithstanding the injuries he had inflicted on me by burning my villages, &c., I still continued humbly to supplicate for the restoration of my property. He would not listen, but sent Futteh Ghoree to me at Ahmedabad, with a demand of the cession of yet more territory. He made his demands in such a tone as to make my heart burn. Afterwards he returned to Kheirpore, there to conspire against me with Meer Mahomed Hussain. All this I learnt from my secret writer, whose name I do not think necessary to mention. I therefore thought if I delayed my movements, it would allow time for their plot to ripen, and thus cause me loss. He is deserving of punishment, either from my hands or the British. You have deferred his punishment; I therefore have made preparations to punish him myself before he may find an opportunity of injuring me.

At the instigation of Ghoree, he has forgotten the respect due to me as his master, and his position as my servant. He has, from cowardice, concealed himself in Kheirpore, which place I respect on account of Meer Roostum Khan. Meer Mahomed Allee, brother of Meer Nusseer Khan, erected three stockades in my front, which he, Meer Ghoolam Mahomed, son of Meer Roostum Khan, Allee Buksh, son of Meer Fush Mahomed, with several chiefs and hundreds of soldiers, occupied. The moment my victorious army advanced to the attack, they immediately deserted the two foremost stockades, taking up a position behind the third, when my troops, regardless of the fire poured into them, pursued the enemy and surrounded the third stockade. I was about to massacre the whole of them, when a voice arose, crying out, "We are the sons of Meer Roostum; for the love of God spare us." I had given orders to my troops not to fight even with the servants of Meer Roostum; but on hearing that they were the sons of Meer Roostum, I at once spared them, making them prisoners. In



the meantime Meer Roostum became mediator, and gave over to me several villages, to cover the expense of my army, and the loss I had sustained, amounting to lacs of rupees. I however was not contented with the few places they made over to me, and would have demanded reparation for the whole of my loss, had not your letter at that moment arrived. I then agreed to accept of the villages that Meer Roostum offered to me, postponing any further demands for a future time, which I hope to receive from the hands of the British, in whom I place implicit confidence. You may hourly expect the arrival of Shaik Allee Hussun with the Koran, sealed by Meers Roostum and Nusseer Khan, in which the treaty is entered. He will explain all details to you.

(True translation.)

(signed) *F. Harding*, Captain,  
Persian Interpreter.

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No. 18.

From *Meer Nusseer Khan* to Captain *Brown*; received 18 September 1842.

After compliments.

1 November 1847.

I HAVE sent Moollah Mahomed to acquaint you with the conduct of Meer Allee Morad. All, however, is now well. The particulars you will learn from the letter of Meer Roostum Khan.

(True translation.)

(signed) *F. Harding*, Captain,  
Persian Interpreter.

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No. 19.

From *Meer Allee Moorad* to Captain *Brown*; received 27 September 1842.

After compliments.

1 November 1847.

IN reply to my letter, I received your answer, saying that you were much displeased with my conduct.

The circumstances are these:—Meer Nusseer Khan has created much disturbance, killing my people and burning villages. Notwithstanding your advice, he would not enter into terms, or give me my rights, though I sent Fuqueers, Sayuds, and others to treat with him; but, on the contrary, conspiring with my enemies, did all in his power to injure me. I encamped in my own territory. Meer Mahomed Allee, brother of Meer Nusseer Khan, advanced and built stockades in my front; they commenced hostilities against me. I succeeded so well, that I could have done with them as I wished, when I received your letter, on the receipt of which I immediately allowed Meer Nusseer Khan and others to go their own way. I, who am a well wisher of the British Government, and of course followed the advice given; you may be sure that there are none in this country who will serve the British Government as I will and have done. There is now no one to oppose the British; should, however, any one be so mad as to think of doing so, I am ready, when with my own army alone, I will deal with them as they deserve; should their army be much superior in number to mine, I will call for the support of the British, and again be foremost in the attack. I therefore trust that these my good feelings for the British Government will be taken into consideration.

(True translation.)

(signed) *F. Harding*, Captain,  
Persian Interpreter.

(True copies.)

(signed) *G. Inverarity*, Assistant Commissioner.

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No. 20.

STATEMENT of *Sheikh Ali Hussein*, made before *R. K. Pringle, Esq.*  
Commissioner in Scinde.

*Questions by Commissioner.*

DID you make any statement before Sir Charles Napier regarding the treaty of Noonar ?

At that time did you give a leaf of the Koran in which the treaty of Noonar was written to Sir Charles Napier ?

How came that leaf in your possession ?

His Highness Meer Alee Morad gave it to me to take care of it. The leaf had been extracted at Khyrpoor in the presence of Busharut Ali and Peer Ali Gohur. I was at Bubarlow, and was not present, having attempted to dissuade his Highness from committing the deed ; my moonshee, Bushorut Ali, was present, and returned with the Koran ; the leaf that had been extracted was loose in it ; the Koran was given to me to show to Captain Pope, who had expressed a wish to see it. The reason that Captain Pope had expressed a wish to see the original treaty was, that he had heard that Mathela only was in the original, and that subsequently pergunnahs of Meerpore and Mathela were added.

How many pages was the treaty of Noonar written on ?

On four pages, commencing with the page on the right side of the book, and ending with a page on the left side, on the latter of which were the seals. The extracted matter was on the first page, the rest remaining as it originally was on the Koran ; one sheet forming two leaves was extracted, of which one leaf was blank. Two blank leaves were then transferred from the beginning of the book in order to rewrite the page extracted. The binding of the book was undone for this purpose. I learned this from my moonshee, Busharut Ali, but I am not aware whether any bookbinder was employed in inserting the leaves. When it (the Koran) came into my hands, the extracted leaves were both there, but separated from the binding. I do not know that Captain Pope's suspicions were aroused by the appearance of the Koran ; and as I was the Meer's servant, it was not my business to say anything on the subject. The new matter written in the Koran, in substitution of the extracted leaf, was written by Peer Ali Gohur. The Peer was at first reluctant to engage in the transaction, but having written to consult me on the subject, I told him that if he did it at the instigation of the Meer, who was all powerful, he could not be held responsible.

Are you aware of any certificate having been given by his Highness Meer Alee Morad to Peer Alee Gohur on this subject ?

I rather think that he did give a certificate to the effect, that he was not responsible ; but I have no distinct recollection of the matter.

Were you present when the treaty of Noonar was written ?

Yes, I was present ; the rough copy was written by me, but was destroyed when the fair copy was written.

Did Meer Ali Morad send any copy of the treaty to the British authorities ?

Yes, he sent a copy at that time, but I do not recollect in whose handwriting. I gave a copy, also, to Moonshee Tour Mull, who was sent by Major Clibborn to obtain it. Tour Mull copied it from the Koran. The matter in that copy was as it originally stood in the Koran. I afterwards, when I had quarrelled with the

Meer,

*Questions by Commissioner.**Replies of Deponent.*

Meer, gave information regarding the extraction of the leaf from the Koran to Captain Malet, but I did not show the leaf. He told me to give the information direct to Sir Charles Napier. Upon this I once mentioned the circumstance to Captain Brown, but as the districts north of Roree, which had once been taken possession of by the British Government, had been restored to his Highness Meer Alee Morad, it occurred to me there was no use in proceeding in the matter, so made an excuse to Captain Brown that the leaf was not then at hand, but with my family at Mooltan.

At the time of the cession of the Turban, &c., by Meer Roostum to Meer Ali Morad, were the districts in the treaty of Noonar included in the cession according to the terms of the original treaty, or according to the subsequent alterations?

Do you know what became of the copy of the treaty of Noonar that Moon-shee Tour Mull got from you?

Do you recognise the paper now shown to you? (*The leaf\* extracted from the Koran is here shown to Sheikh Ali Hussein.*)

Do you also recognise this paper? (*The paper marked (B.) is here shown to him.*)

If these two leaves originally formed one sheet, how do you account for some difference that appears in the size?

Do you recognise this Koran?

Do the first and second pages on which the treaty is written appear to you one sheet or separate?

How then do you reconcile this with your statement regarding the bringing the leaf from the commencement of the book?

Do you know this paper? (*The copy of the treaty of Noonar is here shown to him, marked (C.)*)

In the leaf extracted from the Koran there appears an interpolation and erasure; are you aware when this was effected; I mean, was it done about the same period the leaves were extracted?

Do you know the handwriting on the back of the copy of the treaty of Noonar?

The whole country was included in the cession, therefore in it were the districts referred to. In the cession were the whole of Meer Mobaruck's possessions as well as Meer Roostum's.

No, I do not.

Yes, it is the leaf from the Koran in which the treaty of Noonar was written, and is the one I gave to Sir Charles Napier.

Yes, it is the blank page of the Koran on which Peer Ali Gokur tried his hand.

The difference does not appear to be so great as to cause any doubt. The smaller appears to have become reduced in size by rubbing and folding.

Yes, this is the book in which the treaty of Noonar was written, and from which the leaves were extracted.

They appear to be one sheet.

I reported what had been told to me, at least as far as I can recollect; both pages might have been re-written.

Yes, this is the handwriting of Busharut Alee, but it must have been written subsequent to the forgery, for it has the pergunnahs of Meerpore and Mathela clearly written, but I am not aware when it was given.

No, it was done some months before the leaves were extracted. It was done about the time the country was ceded, and remained in that state in the Koran until Captain Pope's visit, when, as I said before, the leaves were extracted, and the first page re-written.

No, I do not.

*Questions by Commissioner.*

*Replies of Deponent.*

Do you recognise this paper? (*The certificate given by his Highness Meer Alee Morad to Peer Allee Gokur, marked (D.), is here shown.*)

Yes, this is a certificate I wrote by command of the Meer for Peer Alee Gohur, at the time of the insertion of the fresh matter in the Koran. I stated before that my recollection on this point was not very distinct. Now the paper is shown to me, I recollect the circumstance; it bears his Highness Meer Alee Morad's seal and the words "Bahul ust" (confirmed) in his own handwriting.

Do you recognise this paper? (*The copy of the treaty of Noonar received from Tour Mull is here shown to Sheik Ali Hussein.*)

I rather think it is in the handwriting of Bushorut Alee; it is a copy of the original treaty of Noonar as first written in the Koran. I think it is in Bushorut Alee's handwriting, and must have been taken before the forgery was committed.

Where is Bushorut Alee now?

He is at Saharunpoor, in the town of Umbitoh.

This examination of Sheik Ali Hussein was taken in my presence by Lieut. Younghusband, lieutenant of police.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle*, Commissioner.

Sukkur, 9 January 1850.

(True copy.)

(signed) *Geo. Inverarity*, Assistant Commissioner.

## Series (C.)

ABSTRACT of CORRESPONDENCE regarding the Jagheers of Meers Meer Mahomed Khan and Goolam Moostaffa.

Letter from the Resident at Khyrpoor, No. 40, dated the 28th April 1846. Forwards copy of a Petition from Meer Mahomed Khan to his address, claiming Thurree, Chanee, Powaree, and Gahilpoor, also certain lands in Moglee. The two former are in the British districts of Roree, Gahilpoor in his Highness Ali Moorad's purgunnah of Boordika, and Moglee in the Shikarpoor collectorate, below Sukkur.

Reply to No. 1,066, dated 4 May 1846. Copy attached, No. 1 in this Series - - - p. 79

Letter from the Collector of Shikarpoor, No. 652, dated 6 May 1846. Reports that his Highness Alee Moorad had claimed Gahilpoor and Gandhur, adjoining Kusmore. These dependencies formerly did not belong to Ameer Roostum but to Meer Mahomed, who had also claimed them, and been referred to his Excellency the Governor. Forwards also extract from a Letter to his address from the Resident at Khyrpoor, stating that the places in dispute were formerly held by Meer Mahomed Khan, but as they are in the Boordika District, there could, he fancied, be no doubt but that they are entirely at the disposal of his Highness Meer Ali Moorad Khan, the whole of Boordika being his Highness's; adding, "these having been held by Meer Mahomed Khan, can surely give us no claim to them if in his Highness's country."

Reply to No. 1,218, dated 19 May 1846. Copy attached, No. 2 in this Series - - - p. 79

To the Resident at Khyrpoor, No. 1,219, dated 19 May 1846, forwarding Copy of the preceding Letter to the Collector of Shikarpoor, No. 1,218, for his information.

From ditto, No. 58, dated 3 June 1846, in reply to Letter, No. 1,219. Forwards seven Documents produced by Meer Mahomed Khan in support of his claim to the lands above alluded to. Five of these documents relate to the lands called Moghlee, purchased formerly by Meer Mahomed Khan. In the other two Sunnuds mention is made, and the names are specified, of all the various lands held in Jagheer by Meer Mahomed Khan, under the seals of Meer Sohrab Khan and Meer Roostum Khan; of these Thurra, Chanee and Powarree are alone in British territory, all the rest are in the country held by his Highness Ali Moorad.

Letter to the Collector of Shikarpoor, No. 1,635, dated 20 June 1846. Forwards for his Report thereon, copies of the preceding Letter from the Resident at Khyrpoor, with Enclosures.

From ditto, No. 996, dated 30 June 1846. There is no doubt that Meer Mahomed enjoyed all the Jagheers claimed by him, up to one month before the battle of Meeanee, about which time Meer Roostum having fled, Meer Ali Moorad confiscated them. By the formal Treaty previously sealed by Meer Roostum, the country from Roree to Subzulcote being ceded to the British, Thurra, Channce, and Powarree would have been included, &c.

Reply to No. 1,804, dated 13 July 1846. Copy attached, No. 3 in this Series - - p. 79

From the Resident, Khyrpoor, No. 67, dated 31 July 1846, submits a Letter from his Highness Meer Ali Moorad, claiming Gahilpoor as a village in the Purgunnah Boordika.

Reply to No. 2,070, dated 8 August 1846. Copy attached No. 4 in this Series - - p. 79

From the Resident, Khyrpoor, No. 72, dated 18 August 1846, in reply to preceding Letter, forwards a further communication from his Highness Ali Moorad, and observes that there is no doubt but that Meer Mahomed Khan held Gahilpoor on the 17th February 1843. This village has been in our hands since we occupied the country, and it is for his Excellency the Governor to decide whether it shall be restored by us to Meer Mahomed Khan, or whether he shall receive it at the hands of the Rais, in whose country it is, and which would, no doubt, be so restored by his Highness after what he had said in his present communication.

Reply to No. 2,198, dated 24 August 1846. Copy attached, No. 5 in this Series - - p. 80

Letter to the Collector and Magistrate, Shikarpoor, No. 333, dated 14 February 1847. Copy attached, No. 6 in this Series - - - - - p. 80

From ditto, No. 408, dated 3 March 1847; states the locality of the several villages claimed under Sunnud by Meer Mahomed Khan Talpoor.

Reply to No. 552, dated 8 March 1847. Copy attached, No. 7 in this Series - - - p. 80

From the Collector of Hyderabad, No. 768, dated 26 August 1847, submits for orders, claim advanced by Meer Mahomed Khan Talpoor, to the village of Sadoojah in the Hyderabad Collectorate, but to this he would not seem entitled by Sunnud.

Reply to No. 2,477, dated 30 August 1847. The Governor entirely agrees with him; Meer Mahomed Khan can only claim the land laid down in the original Sunnud of Meers Sohrab Khan and Roostum Khan.

Petition from Meer Mahomed Khan Talpoor, dated 30 March 1848, claiming the village of Suddooja; with Report thereon, by the Collector of Hyderabad, No. 388, dated 6 April 1848.

Reply to Meer Mahomed Khan, dated 9 May 1848. Captain Rathborne's opinion on the subject of his claim; having been concurred in, and approved of by his Excellency the late Governor, and appearing to the Commissioner equitable in itself, he sees no reason to modify it.

Petition from the Wukcel of Meer Mahomed Khan Talpoor, dated 24 May 1848, regarding the village of Suddooja.

Reply to, dated 26 May 1848. The Commissioner is unable to give him any other reply than that already received by him on the subject.

Petition from Meer Mahomed Khan Talpoor, dated 30 March 1848. Complains of having been deprived of his Jagheers by his Highness Meer Ali Moorad.

The above Petition referred for the Report of the Resident at Khyrpoor on the 5th April 1848.

Report from the Resident at Khyrpoor on the above Petition, No. 57, dated 3 May 1848. The possessions mentioned in Meer Mahomed Khan's Petition were made over by the late Governor of Scinde, in exchange for lands elsewhere, now in our possession. Endorsement on above Report, dated 9 May 1848, calling upon the Resident to state to what exchange of lands between Government and his Highness the Ameer he refers.

From the Resident, Khyrpoor, No. 86, dated 5 June 1848. Explains that this exchange of lands, by which Meer Mahomed's Jagheers came into the possession of his Highness Meer Ali Moorad, is that which took place at Sukkur on the return of troops from the Hill Campaign early in 1845. "In Article 6 of the Draft Treaty, dated Sukkur, 1845, the Jagheers in question are entered under the name of Burrehla Olara."

Reply to No. 1,592, dated 12 June 1848. Requests he will report what lands were transferred by his Highness Meer Ali Moorad to the British Government in 1845, in lieu of Meer Mahomed's Jagheer lands, as nothing is on record in the Commissioner's office relating to any such exchange of land.

From the Resident at Khyrpoor, No. 95, dated 26 July 1848, with Enclosure. Copies attached, No. 8 in this Series - - - - - p. 81

To the Collector and Magistrate Shikarpoor, No. 2,085, dated 2 August 1848. Forwards copy of the above communication from the Resident, Khyrpoor, with a request that he will furnish a full report on the subject.

From the Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay, in the Political Department, No. 3,285, dated 10 August 1848, forwarding representations from Meer Mahomed Khan Talpoor, and Hajee Meer Goolam Moostaffa; the former complaining of having been deprived of his Jagheers by his Highness Ali Moorad.

From the Collector of Shikarpoor, No. 259, dated 16 October 1848. Copy attached, No. 9 in this Series - - - - - p. 82

Petition from Meer Mahomed, dated 31 January 1849. Copy attached, No. 10 in this Series, p. 87

No. 1.

(No. 1,066 of 1846.)

From the Secretary to the Government of Scinde to the Resident, Khyrpoor.

Sir,

Kurrachee, 4 May 1846.

IN reply to your letter of the 28th ultimo, No. 40, I have the honour, by direction, to acquaint you that Meer Mahomed Khan holds a purwunnah of his Excellency the Governor, regranting to him all his lands he held in the time of the Ex-Ameers, to which he must prove his right.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. J. Brown*, Secretary.

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No. 2.

(No. 1,218 of 1846.)

From the Secretary to the Government of Scinde to the Collector and Magistrate, Shikarpoor.

Sir,

Kurrachee, 19 May 1846.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 652, of the 5th instant, on the subject of various claims preferred by his Highness Meer Ali Morad Khan.

2. I have written to the Resident at Khyrpoor, on the 4th instant, that Meer Mahomed Khan holds a purwunnah from his Excellency the Governor, regranting to him all the lands he held at the time of the battle of Meeanee, to which, of course, he must prove his right to your satisfaction.

3. His Excellency is decidedly of opinion, that all boundary questions had better be deferred until next winter, when your deputies could repair personally to the spot, and decide any existing disputes.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. J. Brown*, Secretary.

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No. 3.

(No. 1,084 of 1846.)

From the Secretary to the Government of Scinde to the Collector and Magistrate, Shikarpoor.

Sir,

Kurrachee, 13 July 1846.

IN reply to your letter of the 30th ultimo, No. 996, reporting on the jagheers of Meer Mahomed Khan Talpoor, I have the honour, by direction, to state that what was in Mahomed Khan's possession on the 17th February 1843, must now be restored to him.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. J. Brown*, Secretary.

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No. 4.

(No. 2,070 of 1846.)

From the Secretary to the Government of Scinde to the Resident, Khyrpoor.

Sir,

Kurrachee, 8 August 1846.

I HAVE the honour, by direction of his Excellency the Governor, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 67, of the 31st ultimo, and its Enclosures, relative to the making over Gahilpoor to Meer Mahomed Khan.

2. In reply, I am directed to forward, for your information, copy of a purwunnah, written to the Ameer by his Excellency in June 1843, guaranteeing to the Ameer all lands possessed by him on the capture of Scinde, in February 1843. This purwunnah was written at the instigation of Sheik Ali Hussain, minister of his Highness Meer Ali Morad Khan, who stated that it was his Highness' wish that such should be written. From this, you will perceive that the whole question depends upon in whose possession was Gahilpoor on the 17th February 1843.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. J. Brown*, Secretary.

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No. 5.

(No. 2,198 of 1846.)

From the Secretary to the Government of Scinde to the Resident, Khyrpoor.

Sir,

Kurrachee, 24 August 1846.

By direction of his Excellency the Governor, I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 72, of the 18th instant, and Enclosure, from his Highness Meer Ali Morad Khan; and in reply, to state that his Excellency's purwunnah to Meer Mahomed Khan Talpoor, dated 5 June 1843, only guaranteed to that chief, such rights in land as he possessed at the period of the battle of Meeanee.

2. If, therefore, it should appear that Meer Mahomed Khan, on the 17th February 1843, only held the lands you allude to in jaghire on a grant from the then Rais of the family, such now should be the terms on which he should hold them under his Highness Meer Ali Morad Khan. It will become necessary, therefore, to make inquiries on this subject, which, in communication with the Collector of Shikarpoor, will you be good enough to do.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *E. J. Brown*, Secretary.

No. 6.

(No. 333 of 1847.)

From the Secretary to the Government of Scinde to the Collector and Magistrate, Shikarpoor.

Sir,

Camp, Hyderabad, 14 February 1847.

I AM directed to forward seven original sunnuds produced by Meer Mahomed Khan Talpoor (formerly of Emamghur), and to inform you that his Excellency the Governor will confirm him in his rights to all lands within the British territory that may be named therein.

2. After examination, be good enough to return to me such sunnuds as may require the seal of his Excellency.

3. Such lands as this Ameer held in jagheer, as grants from the Rais, are now, of course, at the disposal of Meer Ali Morad Khan.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *E. J. Brown*, Secretary.

No. 7.

(No. 552 of 1847.)

From the Secretary to the Government of Scinde to the Collector and Magistrate, Shikarpoor.

Sir,

Kurrachee, 8 March 1847.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 408, of the 3d instant, and to return the Persian enclosures, sunnuds of Meer Mahomed Khan Talpoor.

2. I now forward, under the seal of his Excellency the Governor, a sunud confirming, from the spring crop of 1847, to this Ameer, all jaghire lands situated within the British territories which he held at the time of the battle of Meeanee.

3. His Excellency directs that the boundaries of Chandia shall be carefully fixed and laid down by arbitration of competent persons.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *E. J. Brown*, Secretary.

No. 8.

(No. 95 of 1848.)

From the Resident, Khyrpoor, to the Secretary to the Commissioner in Scinde.

Sir,

Khyrpoor, 26 July 1848.

I HAVE the honour to forward for submission to the Commissioner the accompanying letter, in original and with translation, from his Highness Meer Ali Morad Khan, giving his Highness's account of the way in which Meer Mahomed Khan's jaghires came into his possession. I have been informed by Meer Mahomed Khan that he was prevented by sickness from accompanying his Highness in the Hill campaign, but that he gave his Highness a considerable sum of money towards defraying the expenses of that expedition.

As his Highness has not, either in the accompanying letter or in any conversation I have had with him on the subject, alluded to the pecuniary assistance thus rendered him by Meer Mahomed in lieu of personal service, it is more than probable that with Sir Charles Napier his Highness was equally silent on this point.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) J. Forbes, Resident.

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TRANSLATION of a Letter from His Highness *Meer Ally Morad Khan Talpoor* to Captain *Forbes*, Resident of Khyrpoor, dated 9th Shaban 1264 (11th July 1848).

WHAT I now write is not unknown to you. When the British Government conquered Scinde, a part of my territories was in their possession, yielding an annual revenue of 45,000 rupees, viz., half of Khanpore, half of Nappur, share of Shikarpore, Kote Sooltan, Jaghun, Abduloah, Alladadvah, Happur-ka-vah, Hyder-quavur-ka-vah, Sydee-ka-vah, and Guffoor-khan-ka-vah; all these villages are still in possession of the British. The following villages belonging to the British Government, and yielding an annual revenue of 12,000 rupees, are in my possession, viz.: Kunthur (belonging to Meer Mobarick Khan), Merabpore, Kotrie, Davun, Lakka, Kasmanee Purreeanee (belonging to Meer Mustapha Khan), thus leaving a difference of 33,000 rupees per annum in my favour, due by the British Government. When Sir C. Napier returned from the Hill campaign, he entered into an engagement with me that certain lands belonging to me on the right bank of the Indus, viz., Booldka, Chuck-mazarchah, Birkun Boojah, Nappur, Mahomedabah Shabalah, Purgunnah Ropah, Dey Syndabad, together with the lands above-mentioned as being in possession of the British Government, be given in exchange for lands belonging to the British Government on the left bank of the Indus, viz., Gotekee, Roree, Tarree Chawnee, Powarree, Beraloo, Olara, Moree, Goggun, Shaikoopore (belonging to Meer Mahomed Khan), Dey Suddoojah (belonging to Meer Gholam Mustapha Khan), together with the lands above mentioned as being in my possession. This proposed exchange of lands was satisfactory to both parties, as the amount of revenue was equal. On the accounts being made up a difference of 1,95,000 rupees was found in my favour, which was promised to be paid to me by Sir Charles Napier. This exchange of territory was embodied in my treaty and forwarded to the Governor-general of India. Three years have now elapsed without my treaty being ratified, and the exchange of territory has, in consequence, not been effected. The villages of Beralos, Olara, Moree, belonging to Meer Mahomed, yield an annual revenue of 14,000 rupees. When Sir C. Napier went up to the hills, Meer Mahomed would not go. For this he incurred his Excellency's displeasure, who took away the above lands from him, on account of the British Government, and gave them to me as portion of the lands intended to be exchanged, as mentioned in the treaty. Exclusive of the above 14,000 rupees per annum, the British Government have now in their possession lands belonging to me yielding an annual revenue of 19,000 rupees per annum. I beg you will take into consideration the above facts, and you will see that Meer Mahomed Khan has no right whatever to the lands for which he has set forth a claim. I never seized the lands from him; they were taken away from him by Sir Charles Napier, as a punishment for his disloyalty in not joining him in the Hill campaign, and afterwards given to me in exchange for some of my lands. So far from my seizing any of Meer Mahomed Khan's lands, I gave him a portion, the revenue of which he is enjoying up to this day. This is the gratitude I received for my kindness to him, for he is continually complaining to the British Government that I seized his lands; but he is cunning enough not to mention the reason why his lands were taken away from him. God knows how people can take upon themselves to fabricate such false complaints, as if it is truth. They do not consider that the British can soon discover a true or false complaint. I have now to request the British Government will kindly carry into effect the exchange of territory proposed in the treaty, or that the difference of 19,000 rupees per annum be paid to me, together with the balance due for my lands in possession of the British Government. If it is the wish of the British Government that Meer Mahomed Khan should resume his jagheer, the same way as he had it before it was taken from him by Sir C. Napier, it will be no loss to me, as they will make good to me the full



33,000 rupees per annum, for lands belonging to me in their possession. I leave this entirely to the British Government to do as they please, and I trust you will, after due inquiry, obtain for me my just rights.

(True translation.)

Khyrpoor, 24 July 1848.

(signed) J. Forbes, Resident.

No. 9.

No. 259 of 1848.—Political Department.

From the Collector and Magistrate, Shikarpoor, to W. J. Surtees, Esq.,  
Assistant Secretary to the Commissioner in Scinde, Kurrachee.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report upon the letter of his Highness Meer Aly Morad, received in yours, No. 2,085, of the 2d August 1848.

2. His Highness values the country we hold of his at 45,000 Company's rupees per annum. Appendix (A.) shows the total amount received from this source by the British Government, from the conquest to this date, averaging 26,771 Company's rupees only.

3. His Highness estimates the lands belonging to the British Government and its Jaghiredars at 12,000 Company's rupees per annum. Appendix (B.) shows the sum I estimate to have been received by his Highness on that account, averaging 35,573 Company's rupees annually.

4. Appendix (C.) details lands strictly British, to the best of my information, and the sums enjoyed by his Highness on that head to the present date; these lands have, I believe, never been claimed on behalf of the English Government.

5. His Highness states the amount of revenue in the districts proposed to be exchanged by the draft treaty of March 1846 as equal. I have not access to the documents filed on that occasion, but to the best of my recollection a balance of 8,000 Company's rupees against his Highness was found on the final settlement; and I the better remember this, because on the late Resident, Khyrpoor, Captain Malet, expressing a hope that his Excellency Sir C. J. Napier would not exact a corresponding set-off against the deficiency on his Highness's part, I pointed out to Captain Malet that the annual sum of 8,000 Company's rupees is equal to two lacks of Government paper (then at four per cent.), and that his Highness the Meer held in reserve a claim to about that amount on account of "Shah Ghurh" and "Sirdar Gurh," two forts in the Eastern Desert, transferred by order of Government to the Jeysulmere State.

6. Against the 1,95,000 Company's rupees claimed by his Highness as balance on account of undue collections by the British (chiefly of "Meerpoor," "Ooboura," "Metheta," &c., conceded in March 1845), I beg to set off Appendix (D.), showing in round numbers 3,68,000 Company's rupees per contra.

7. In explanation of the one lac account, of the S. C. 1,254 (wheat and barley harvest of 1843), I beg to state that the British Government only assumed charge of Shikarpoor and other dependencies on the month of July 1843, though entitled to them from the 17th February of that year.

8. It is notorious that the execution of the draft treaty of 1846 was prevented by the Meer's own emissary, one Deen Mahomed, who proceeded to Delhi in the summer of 1845 for that purpose, and was actually seen by the deputy collector of Ghotekkee while *en route* to the camp of the Right honourable the Governor-general of India.

9. "Birialo," &c., it will be seen, I estimate at 23,400 Company's rupees per annum.

10. Meer Mahomed Khan Talpoor, nephew of his Highness, labours under a painful complaint which prevents his riding on horseback without inconvenience. His vakeel here informs me, that by consent of the Meer Aly Morad, his master paid 4,000 rupees towards the expenses of the Hill campaign in lieu of personal attendance. I am not aware of the causes of his Excellency Sir C. J. Napier's displeasure, but whatever his Excellency thought fit to resume from Meer Mahomed or Meer Mustapha belongs to the British Government, both these nephews of Meer Aly Morad having forfeited their possessions to us by adhering to the fortunes of Meer Roostum in 1842-43.

11. I am

11. I am aware of no appanages of his Highness that reverted to the British in exchange for any jagheers of these two brothers given by his Excellency to his Highness; and if his Highness did thereafter regret any part of these possessions to these two parties, he is still responsible to the British Government for the proceeds, or for any equivalent in other lands, no such equivalent having as yet been given that I am aware of, though set forth in his Highness's letter.

12. It is quite true that Meer Mahomed and Meer Mustapba do heap complaints upon his Highness, but I am unable to say a word upon the subject, not knowing anything of the merits of the case beyond the fact that his Highness did accuse Meer Mahomed of failing to accompany him in the Hill campaign.

13. My first eight paras. sufficiently explain all that I have the means of reporting on the allegations and demands marked (E.)

14. And the Schedules (A.), (B.), (C.), and (D.) will enable the Commissioner to judge how far his Highness's penultimate para. is founded; indeed these last demands depend mainly on the decision of the Right honourable the Governor-general of India in Council.

15. The Schedule (A.) is framed from my accounts, which can be inspected by his Highness's agents, if desired. His Highness's accounts should be similarly at our option to inspect.

16. My valuations of the lands held by his Highness are estimates derived from parties likely to know.

17. The statement of Meer Mahomed Khan's vakeel is attached, showing the lands and value of lands held by his master at the present time.

I have, &c.

Collector's Office, Shikarpoor,  
16 October 1848.

(signed) P. Goldney, Major,  
Collector and Magistrate.

### Appendix (A.)

SCHEDULE (A.), showing Amount received up to this Date, Lands belonging to His Highness Meer Ali Morad.

This Schedule shows the Sums received from his Highness's shares of the several places only; exclusive of Value of Shares belonging to British.

		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Kote Sooltan	- - - - -		
Jaguul	- - - - -		
Abdoolwah	- - - - -		
	- - The whole of this is in Jageer, granted by Meer Roostum Khan, and confirmed, of course, by his Excellency in 1840. I resumed one-fourth on account of the death of the grantee.	14,522 - -	
Allahdadwah	- - - - -		
Nappurkavah	- - - - -		
Hyderkahawur	- - - - -		
Seydeekavah	- - - - -		
Guffoor Khan Karah	- - - - -		
Khanpoor	- - - - -	17,809 - -	
1/2 Napur	- - - - -	5,610 - -	
9/28 Shikarpoor	- - - - -	95,515 - -	
	- - 16 Shares belonged to Hy- drabad. - - 3 shares belonged to Nusser Khan Khippoor - - 9 shares belonged to Roos- tum Khan		133,856 - -
TOTAL of Five Years, Company's Rupees		- - -	133,856 - -
Or per annum		- - -	26,771 - -

(E. E.)

(signed)

Collector's Office, Shikarpoor,  
14 October 1848.

P. Goldney, Major,  
Collector and Magistrate.

## Appendix (B.) 1.

TRANSLATION of Appendix (B.) 1, being a Memorandum showing the Value of Jageers formerly belonging to Meer Mahomed Khan Talpoor, enjoyed by his Highness Meer Ali Morad Khan of Khyrpoor.

NAMES OF JAGEERS.	TOTAL PRODUCE PER ANNUM.	ENJOYED BY MEER ALI MOORAD.	REMARKS.
	<i>Rs. a. p.</i>	<i>Rs. a. p.</i>	
Ollara - - -	21,000 - -	8,000 - -	{13,000 enjoyed by Meer Md. Khan.
Berialo - - -	7,000 - -	7,000 - -	These lands have been in possession of his Highness Meer Ali Morad Khan from April 1845, or S.C. 1256, being 34 years.  Rs. Yrs. 23,400 × 84 = 81,900 Co.'s Rs.  (signed) P. Goldney, Collector.
Maree Mulka - -	3,000 - -	3,000 - -	
Thehkooran with Kekee	7,000 - -	7,000 - -	
Sore and Runagpoor, } (in Oboursa district)	1,000 - -	1,000 - -	
	39,000 - -	26,000 - -	
Deduct 10 per cent. -	- - -	23,400 - -	Khyrpoor Rupees. Company's Rupees.

Company's Rupees, Twenty-three thousand Four hundred.

(E. E.)

(True translation.)

(signed) P. Goldney, Major,  
Collector and Magistrate.

Collector's Office,  
Shikarpoor, 24 October 1848.

## Appendix (B.) 2.

STATEMENT showing Valuation by Collector's best information of the under-mentioned Places.

NAMES OF PLACES.	TO WHOM THEY BELONG.	Estimated Yearly Revenue.	
		Khyrpoor Rupees.	Company's Rupees.
Khundhur - -	Belonging to M. Mobarick K.	3,200 - -	2,880 - -
Mihrabpoor - -			
Kotrie - -	Belonging to Goolam Mootapha Khan - - -	10,325 - -	9,293 - -
Deurim - -			
Takka - -			
Kushmannee - -			
Puneeanee - -			
Total Company's Rupees - - -			12,173 - -
Total Amount of Revenue enjoyed by his Highness Meer Ally Morad Khan, during (5) five years - - -			5
TOTAL Company's Rupees - - -			60,865 - -

(E. E.)

(signed) P. Goldney, Major,  
Collector and Magistrate.

Collector's Office,  
Canp, Sukkur, 4 November 1848.

Appendix (C.)

SCHEDULE (C.), showing Sums realized from Lands belonging to Meer Nussur Khan of Khyrpoor, not hitherto claimed by the British.

		Estimated Yearly Revenue.		
		Ukheershahee Rupees.	Hydrabad Rupees.	Company Rupees.
Part of Nara	} Belonged to Meer Nussur Khan	4,791 - -	Equal to	4,551 - -
Part of Kohera		- - -	3,040 - -	2,740 - -
Part of Koterah		- - -	1,100 - -	1,000 - -
Total Company's Rupees		- - -	- - -	8,291 - -
Total Amount of Revenue enjoyed by his Highness Meer Ali Morad Khan, during five years		- - -	- - -	5
Company's Rupees, Forty-one thousand Four hundred and Fifty-five				41,455 - -

(E. E.)

(signed) P. Goldney, Major,  
Collector and Magistrate.

31 October 1848.

STATEMENT of Esur Dass, British Kardar, late Servant of Meer Roostum Khan.

Koterah was given by Meer Morad Aly Khan of Hydrabad to Meer Mobarik, Khan of Khyrpoor, and was enjoyed by Meer Mobarik's son, Meer Nussur of Khyrpoor up to the conquest.

Nara was, after the death of Meer Sorab, conferred upon Meer Moobarik Khan by Meer Ali Morad. Meer Nusser Khan enjoyed it at his father's death to within a few months of the conquest (17 July 1843); Kohera was enjoyed by Meer Nusseer Khan up to the conquest.

Before me, (signed) P. Goldney, Major,  
Collector and Magistrate.

Appendix (D.)

SCHEDULE (D.), showing Amount in Grain and Cash realized by his Highness Meer Ali Morad Khan from British Territory, between February and July 1843.

DESCRIPTION.	AMOUNT.	TOTAL.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cash collections - - - - -	1,41,098 8 6	
Value of Grain - - - - -	1,26,417 2 8	2,67,515 12 2
Add,—		
Rubbee collections, 1254 S. C., 1843, estimated at -	1,00,000 - -	1,00,000 - -
TOTAL Company's Rupees, Three lacks Sixty-seven thousand Five hundred and fifteen, Twelve annas, and Two pies - - -	- - -	3,67,515 12 2

(E. E.)

(signed) P. Goldney, Major,  
Collector and Magistrate.

Collector's Office, Shikarpoor,  
25 October 1848.

## Appendix (E.)

## EXTRACT.

I HAVE now to request the British Government will kindly carry into effect the exchange of territory proposed in the treaty, or that the difference, 19,000 rupees per annum, be paid to me, together with the balance due for my lands in possession of the British Government.

(True extract.)

31-October 1848.

(signed) P. Goldney, Major,  
Collector and Magistrate.

## Appendix (F.)

TRANSLATION of a Statement made by Hussun Ally, Vakeel of Meer Mahomed Khan Talpoor, dated 23 October 1848.

STATES, that prior to the Hill campaign all produce of the lands mentioned by Meer Mahomed Khan used to be enjoyed by him, but after the Hill campaign Meer Ali Morad, with force, took the said lands away, leaving only the village of Oolloora on account of its being the residence of Meer Mahomed, but the inundated lauds belonging to the said village he confiscated; and they have been in his possession ever since, and from the village of Oolloora too he takes, sometimes half or three-fourths of the produce up to this date; except 13,000 rupees for the produce of Oolloora, all the rest is in the hands of the Meer from Rubbee 1256 (April 1845) to the present day.

(True translation.)

(signed) P. Goldney, Major,  
Collector and Magistrate.

## ABSTRACT.

VALUE, by information given to Collector of Upper Scinde, of Lauds and Appendages strictly belonging to the British Government or its Jagheerdars, and held by Meer Ali Morad Khan Talpoor.

DESCRIPTION.	COMPANY'S RUPEES.	REMARKS.
	Total.	
As per Appendix (B.) 1 -	81,900 - -	These valuations are, of course, subject to revision on production of the accounts of the Purgunnabs by his Highness Meer Ali Morad.
As per Appendix (B.) 2 -	60,865 - -	
As per Appendix (C.) -	41,455 - -	
TOTAL Co.'s Rupees	184,220 - -	
Deduct enjoyed by British Government, as per Appendix (A.)	133,856 - -	
Balance in favour of British Government	50,364 - -	

Fifty thousand Three hundred and Sixty-four Company's rupees.

(Errors excepted.)

(signed) P. Goldney, Major,  
Shikarpoor, Collector's Office,  
Camp, Sukkur, 4 November 1848. Collector and Magistrate.

No. 10.

From *Meer Mahomed Khan*, Son of *Meer Goolam Hyder Khan Talpoor*, to the Commissioner in Scinde, 31 January 1849.

After compliments.

ACCORDING to the wills of my grandfather and father, I ruled over my lands up to the time of the conquest of Scinde by the British, when I sent my vukeel to Hydrabad for the purpose of making arrangements for my future welfare. His Excellency Sir Charles Napier then gave to my vukeel a purwannah, confirming to me all my former possessions, and giving me every encouragement, saying that I should in no way be annoyed. By virtue of his Excellency's purwannah, I took possession of and enjoyed my jaghires as formerly. Now, however, without my having committed any fault, the jaghires I held by right of inheritance, and situated to the south of the river, have been taken possession of by his Highness Meer Aly Morad. I petitioned you on the subject; you directed Major Goldney to learn the extent of land and produce of the same. My vukeel informed Major Goldney, who no doubt has acquainted you with the amount of produce. In May 1844 his Excellency Sir Charles Napier wrote to his Highness Meer Ali Morad to the following effect: that if Meer Roostum Khan had made over to his Highness any lands not his \* property, and to the transfer of which the rightful owner was not agreeable, the British Government would, on proving the same, take possession of those lands. The lands I formerly possessed were held by virtue of sunuds from Meer Sohrab Khan (my grandfather) and Meer Roostum Khan (my uncle). Those lands should therefore belong to the British Government, and the British Government clearly made them over to me. I held them under the British Government; I therefore hope you will, after having examined my sunuds, &c., cause those lands to be restored to me.

(True translation.)

1 February 1849.

(signed) *F. Harding*, Captain,  
Persian Interpreter.

(True copies.)

Assistant Commissioner.

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ABSTRACT of Correspondence in the Case of Meer Mustapha Khan, son of Meer Goolam Hyder.

1. FROM the Secretary to Government of Scinde to the Resident, Khyrpoor, No. 52, dated 8 May 1844, forwarding copy of a petition from Meer Mustapha Khan, on the subject of a jaghire stated to have been taken from him by Meer Ali Morad, and requests that he will state what has been the past conduct of this Ameer.

2. From the Resident, Khyrpoor, No. 48, dated 16 May 1844, in reply to letter, No. 52, dated 8 May 1844; from the Secretary to Government of Scinde, on the subject of a petition from Meer Mustapha Khan, states that this Meer has neither shown a friendly disposition or made his *salam* to his Highness, but that the jaghire he lays claim to is at present in his Highness's possession.

3. From the Secretary to Government of Scinde to the Resident, Khyrpoor, No. 56, dated 26 May 1844, acknowledges receipt of his letter, No. 48, of 16th instant, and in reply thereto, observes, that his Excellency does not learn from it that the jaghire of Meer Mustaffa is within the possessions of his Highness Meer Ali Morad Khan.

4. From the Resident, Khyrpoor, to the Secretary to Government of Scinde, No. 53, dated 29 May, in reply to Secretary's letter, No. 56, of 25th instant, regarding the jaghire claimed by Meer Mustapha Khan, submits proceedings of the Boundary Commission of 24 April of same year, in which, as it does not seem to have been formally made over to his Highness, it is submitted that the same be included as British territory, "subject to the approval of his Excellency the Governor of Scinde." Remarks that the jaghire is at present in the hands of his Highness Meer Aly Morad.

5. From the Resident, Khyrpoor, to the Secretary to Government of Scinde, No. 16, dated 9 April 1847, submitting certain documents, with translations into English, from Meer Goolam Mustapha Khan Talpoor, detailing the circumstances under which his Highness Meer Ali Morad possessed himself of his jaghire, his subsequent treatment at his Highness's hands, and prays for its restoration by Government.

6. To the Resident, Khyrpoor, No. 1,008, dated 14 April 1847. Returns the original sunud, and favour of Meer Mustaffa Khan, received with his letter, No. 16, of 9th instant, for redelivery, observing that the lands formerly held by him in jaghire appear to have been held at pleasure.

## Series (D.)

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### INDEX to CORRESPONDENCE regarding the MINOR AMEERS.

- No. 1.—Letter from the Chief Secretary to Government of Bombay, No. 3,237, dated 8th August 1848. Forwards for Commissioner's Report, Petition from Meer Mahomed Ali Khan and Meer Ally Mahomed Khan, sons of Meer Mobarick Khan Talpoor, soliciting Government to make some provision for their support, similar to those assigned to other Chiefs since the conquest of Scinde by the British Government - - - p. 89
- No. 2.—To the Right honourable the Governor in Council, Bombay, No. 3,182, dated 25th November 1848, in reply to the above Letter. Forwards Copy of a Petition addressed by the same individual, in common with other relatives of the ex-Ameers, on the 2d April 1847, to his Excellency Sir C. Napier, together with Copy of a Memorandum recorded by his Excellency upon it - - - - - p. 89
- No. 3.—From Mr. Chief Secretary Malet, No. 5,116, dated 8th December 1848. The Commissioner's own opinion is required in the matter of this Petition - - - p. 93
- No. 4.—From Mr. Chief Secretary Malet, No. 3,504, dated 16th August 1849. Draws attention to his Letter, No. 328, of the 14th September 1848, forwarding for Report representations from Meer Mahomed Hussein Khan, Meer Ali Murdan Khan, and Meer Mahomed Ali Khan, complaining of alleged oppression and tyranny on the part of his Highness Ali Morad, and calls for a reply with the least possible delay - - - p. 93
- No. 5.—To the Right honourable the Governor in Council, Bombay, No. 1,709, dated 1st September 1849. The case of Meer Mahomed Hussein Khan has been disposed of in the Letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, with the Most Noble the Governor-general, No. 86, dated the 30th December 1848; the case of the other two Ameers awaits the receipt of certain intelligence promised by his Excellency Sir C. Napier, - - - p. 93
- No. 6.—From Mr. Chief Secretary Malet, No. 3,841, dated the 13th September 1849. Calls for further information in the case of Meer Mahomed Hussein Khan, and observes that there does not appear any necessity for the postponement of the Commissioner's Report on the case of the other two Ameers - - - - - p. 94
- No. 7.—To the Right honourable the Governor in Council, No. 1,905, dated 3d October 1849. Reports on the case of the Ameers above named, with Enclosures - - - p. 95
- No. 8.—From Mr. Chief Secretary Malet, No. 330, dated 30th October 1849. With reference to the suggestions in the 6th para. of the preceding Letter, that a sum of 20,000 Rupees, annually, should be allotted for the maintenance of the families of the brothers of his Highness Ali Morad, the late Meer Roostums and Moobarick, requests that information may be furnished with as little delay as possible, as to the numbers and quality of these members of the families, and the particulars of the treatment which is considered by the Commissioner as "far from kind and liberal, &c. &c." - - - p. 104
- No. 9.—To the Right honourable the Governor in Council, Bombay, No. 2,174, dated 8th November 1849. Submits the information required in the preceding Letter - p. 105
- No. 10.—From Mr. Chief Secretary Malet, No. 356, dated 4th December 1849. Instructions on the Commissioner's Report, No. 2,147, dated 8th November 1849. Secret - p. 107
- No. 11.—Letter from Ali Hassain to Ali Ukbar - - - - - p. 108
- No. 12.—Letter from Ali Hassain to Captain Brown, with enclosed Letter from Meer Roostum to Sir C. Napier, and Agreement between Meer Roostum and Ali Morad - p. 109
- No. 13.—Statement of Sub Ali Shah before Lieutenant Younghusband - - - p. 110
- No. 14.—Conversation between Meer Roostum and Meer Ali Moorad at Deejekote, in January 1843 - - - - - p. 111
- No. 15.—Translation of the Treaty entered into between Meer Roostum and Meer Allee Morad, in January 1843 - - - - - p. 112
- No. 16.—Last Statement of Peer Ali Gohur, taken by Lieutenant Younghusband in my presence, 26 December 1849 - - - - - p. 113
- No. 17.—Statement of Sheikh Alee Hassain, given before the Commissioner in Scinde, 9th January 1850 - - - - - p. 113
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No. 1.

No. 3,237 of 1848.—Political Department.

From *A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government of Bombay, to  
*R. K. Pringle*, Esq., Commissioner in Scinde.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Right honourable the Governor in Council to forward, for your report, the accompanying translation of a petition from Meer Mahomed Ali Khan, and Meer Ally Mahomed Khan, sons of Meer Moobarick Khan Talpoor, soliciting Government to make some provision for their support, similar to those assigned to other chiefs since the conquest of Scinde by the British Government.

I have, &c.

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary,

Bombay Castle, 8 August 1848.

Persian Department.

SUBSTANCE of a Petition from Meer Mahomed Ally Khan Talpoor, and Meer Ally Mahomed Khan Talpoor, sons of Meer Moobaruck Khan Talpur, to the Right Honourable the Governor in Council, without date, and received 27th June 1848.

WE are the sons of Meer Moobaruk Khan. During the time of the late Ameers we were chiefs of our own illaka, yielding a revenue of about three lacs of rupees per annum. In order to remove the enmity which then existed between us and Meer Ally Morad Khan, we made over to him certain villages, yielding a revenue of 20,000 rupees per annum; we have claims on both sides. At present we have no means to maintain ourselves, and to preserve our character; our families labour under great distress. The Company's Government has made suitable provisions for the support of the chiefs of the countries which it has conquered; for instance, the chiefs of Bengal, Guzerat, Madras, have been duly provided for. The said Ameer will make no provision for our support. As our lands and property are in the possession of Government, and as our other things are in the hands of Meer Ali Moorad Khan, we request that, according to the principles of justice and equity, provisions similar to those made for other chiefs may be made for our support.

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 2.

No. 3,182 of 1848.—Political Department.

From *R. K. Pringle*, Esq., Commissioner in Scinde, to the Right Honourable Viscount Falkland, Governor and President in Council of Bombay.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Chief Secretary Malet's letters, Nos. 3,237, and 4,809, dated respectively the 8th August, and 15th instant, with accompanying copy of a petition from Meers Mahomed Ali Khan, and Ali Mahomed Khan, sons of Meer Moobarickh Khan Talpur, and to transmit, for the information of your Lordship in Council, translate of a petition addressed by the same individual, in common with other relatives of the Ex-Ameers, under date the 3d April 1847, to his Excellency the late Governor of Scinde, together with copy of a memorandum recorded by his Excellency upon it, under date the 10th idem, which latter document will place your Lordship in Council in possession of Sir C. Napier's view of their case.

I have, &c.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle*,

Kurrachee, 25 November 1848.

Commissioner in Scinde.



TRANSLATION of Petition of Meer Ali Ukbar Khan, Meer Ali Murdhan Khan, Meer Sheer Mahomed Khan, Meer Goolam Mahomed Khan, and Meer Dost Mahomed Khan, the Sons of the late Meer Roostum Khan, to his Excellency the Governor of Scinde.

After compliments.

IT is the custom of the great and brave to think of and feel for those who have fallen from high estate, and upon whom there is oppression. The Almighty approves of this. In sympathy for us, your Excellency inquires of Meer Ali Morad Khan as to our state and condition. May God reward you for this. But our circumstances are in this wise. Meer Ali Morad is fully aware of our numbers, of the members of our families, of our people, and our necessary expenses. Yet, notwithstanding this, he has stated to you that we receive yearly 21,000 rupees, which would not be more than sufficient for one of us, and yet we take our oaths to God that for no one year have we received much more than one-fourth of that sum, and this will be seen by you from the accompanying memorandum (as given below). Moreover, from the time of our coming to live under Meer Ali Morad, a period of three years, during that whole time we have not, up to the present time, received so much (21,000 rupees) from him, neither have we any hope or expectation of receiving at the rate he has stated for the future. On this account we are in hopes that the British Sircar will, in its kindness, take annually from Meer Ali Morad the sum named by him (21,000 rupees), and pay us that amount, and we will sit down and remain in such part of the British territory as may be pointed out to us. Thus we shall be relieved from the oppression now upon us by night and day, to such an extent that we cannot write it, and we will pray for the British. If the Sirkar should wish to take our security, notwithstanding we are so weak that we could not turn an insect, yet we will give as our security men in whom confidence can be placed. Most certainly the Sircar must look with kindness upon our wretched state, and consider our hands as upon the skirt of its garment.

(signed) Meer Allee Ukbar Khan.  
Meer Alle Murdan Khan.  
Meer Sheer Mahomed Khan.  
Meer Goolam Mahomed Khan.  
Meer Dost Mahomed Khan.

TRANSLATION of Petition of Meer Mahomed Allee, Meer Allee Mahomed Khan, Meer Wullie Mahomed Khan, the Sons of the late Meer Moobaruk Khan; and of Meer Allee Muddut Khan, Meer Allee Ahmed Khan, the Sons of Meer Nusseer Khan; also of Meer Allee Buksh Khan, Meer Ameer Buksh Khan, the Sons of the late Meer Fuzzle Mahomed Khan, to his Excellency the Governor of Scinde.

After compliments.

PERMIT us to represent to you, that when our uncle, Meer Roostum Khan, fled, at the instigation of Meer Ali Morad, our brother, Meer Nusseer Khan, accompanied him, and we, with great fear and trembling, leaving all our property in our houses, ran away to the Desert, where we received message from Meer Ali Morad telling us to fly further, or we should be made prisoners, and, on what he said, we went to Mooltan. Here we wished to make our salaam to the British, through the medium of Bohawull Khan; but a constant succession of messengers came to us from Meer Ali Morad, righteuing us, and saying that we should by no means approach the British through Bohawull Khan, and not to make friendship with him, as, if we did, we should be made prisoners. To give our hearts confidence, he (Ali Morad) sent us word, saying he was our near relation, and that he gave us advice by which we should be benefited. Unacquainted with the ways of the British, and ignorant of the artifices in the heart of Meer Ali Morad Khan, we did not come in and submit to the Sircar. After this, Meer Ali Morad Khan sent us word desiring us to keep our spirits up, to come to him, and that he would make arrangements for us with the Sircar. On hearing this, we made certain that the portions of territory which formerly belonged to our father, and which had not been taken possession of, nor given in exchange by the Sircar, but which were held by Meer Ali Morad Khan, would either be restored to us by him willingly, or that he would be made to do so by the British, and we, with all our families, came to him. We expected to make our salaam to the Sircar through him, hoping that some arrangement would be made for us; but Meer Ali Morad told us to be quiet, asking what arrangements we expected to make with the British. That we should be sent to Calcutta as prisoners. On hearing this we became sorrowful, saying, in our hearts, Oh God, what fault have we committed that we are amenable to such punishment. In short, being helpless, we are passing our days in great distress; so much so, that the sun is in the place of our bread, and in lieu of meat there is blood. The lancet of oppression falls daily from Meer Ali Morad upon the veins of our lives to such an extent that we cannot keep body and soul together. It has always been the custom of the British to look with the eye of kindness upon the poor and humble, and it is the wish of the same to protect the honour of the well-born. The Sircar does not punish those who are guiltless of crime, indeed, it protects and preserves the honour of the families of those who come under its displeasure. It does not allow them to lose their honour; for instance, there are the families of the Meers of Hydrabad. But perhaps the Sircar is not aware of the cruelty we are suffering.

suffering, and, if our state is known, it is our misfortune. Had we committed any fault against the Sircar, of course, for very shame, we should have been hopeless of receiving kindness; but we were guiltless of any fault, and we cannot understand why we should not be looked kindly upon by the Sircar.

We have heard from some that the lands which were formerly our father's, and which have neither been taken by the Sircar, nor given in exchange (for other lands) to Meer Ali Morad, that these were intended for the subsistence of the family of Meer Moobaruk, but Meer Ali Morad has not given us the tenth part of them, consuming the whole himself; possibly this is not known to the Sircar, if it was we should not remain in this distress. We hold in our possessions the papers of our father's share of territory, bearing the seals of Meer Sohrab Khan, and of Meer Roostum. Amongst these are Meerpoor Mahree, in the purgunna Mattehla; Kundra, in the purgunna of Kyrpoor; Koteera, in the purgunna of Koheera, and No Kalsa; these are all in the hands of Meer Ali Morad. The following are in the hands of the British; Gotchee, Ahdilpoor, the village of Jettonee, those of Syndpoor (of which Syud are the Zemendars), and some lands which we bought of Affghans, in the Shicarpoor country, are also held by the British, because it is not known to them that these were purchased by us; in short, there is no land in the hands of the family of the late Meer Moobaruk by which they can subsist themselves; and other purchased land has been restored by the Sircar to its owners. A few villages which Meer Nusseer Khan gave to his family have not as yet been received in exchange by the British, as they are ignorant on the subject; and Meer Ali Morad enjoys them, and he constantly seeing our wretched state never gives us anything from them; we pass our time with much difficulty, Meer Ali Morad never giving us a thought.

When we fled to the Desert we left in Khyrpoor much property, weapons, and cloths, all of which were looted by Meer Ali Morad. Up to this time we have been in expectations that when the Sircar should inquire about us, this would be restored to us, and we still have that hope; we also hope that the Sircar will seize our hands, now in the ocean of oppression, and drag us out on the bank of justice: that it will look upon our condition and that of our families and children with the eye of kindness, for sympathy first falls upon women and children; also that the Sircar will give a thought for our subsistence, and that such country as may be bestowed upon us be given with the British seal; for if the Sircar gives us nothing, we shall certainly perish, when the women of the families of Meer Roostum and Meer Moobaruk will be ruined, and thus shame will come upon the Sircar. We number 30 souls in the family of Meer Moobaruk, and with followers and all, we are 1,000. We do not receive from Meer Ali Moorad food sufficient for one of us; oppression of various kinds at his hands is always upon us, beyond what we can describe. If any of our people go into the jungle to gather firewood, they are seized, put in the stocks, and fined by his servants; he constantly makes us a target for his arrows of indignity, saying we are like the Bungys, who carry dead hog, and that if he were not security for us we should go to our brothers. By the oath of God, to hear such language from him, it would be preferable to be in a British gaol.

We have not sufficient strength to be equal to Meer Ali Morad's Shikarries (Bungys), therefore why should the Sircar take his security for such reduced people? If it is really necessary for the Sircar to have security for us, allow us and our families to reside in the British territory, and we will then furnish as our security men of weight, and we will abide where the Sircar may choose to place us, praying to God for the British.

(Translation.)

(signed) G. G. Malet, Captain,  
Resident.

Khyrpoor, 8 April 1847.

#### List of the Family and Sons of Meer Roostum Khan, late of Khyrpoor.

Meer Alee Ukbar Khan, nine sons, six wives, servants and followers	-	-	-	300
Meer Alee Murdhan, one son, one wife, servants and followers	-	-	-	250
Meer Shir Mahomed Khan, one wife, servants, &c.	-	-	-	160
Meer Goolam Mahomed Khan, servants, &c.	-	-	-	200
Meer Dost Muhomed Khan, one wife, his mother, a widow of the late Meer Roostum Khan, servants, &c.	-	-	-	150
One widow of Meer Roostum Khan, servants	-	-	-	80
Total Souls	-	-	-	1,166

MEMORANDUM of Revenue received by the Sons, &c. of the late Meer Roostum, during the last Year, Fussle 1257.

Rubbe and Khurreef	- - - - -	Rupees.	6,266 11 6
Deduct:			
Taken by the servants of Meer Ali Morad Khan	- - - - -		302 14 -
Total Revenue	- - - Rs.		5,963 13 6

Khyrpore, 3 April 1847.

(Translation.)  
(signed) G. G. Malet, Captain,  
Resident.

TRANSLATION of a Memorandum given at Hydrabad, in February 1847, by his Highness Meer Ali Morad Khan, showing what his Highness states he allows yearly to the Sons and Families of the late Meer Roostum Khan and Bejar Khan.

Mebralipoor, between the whole; yearly produce	- - - - -	Rupees.	8,000 - -
Mizapoor, to Meer Aleo Ukbar alone, yearly produce	- - - - -		3,000 - -
Chullah - - - ditto - - - ditto	- - - - -		500 - -
Thameer Debra, to Meer Aleo Murdan alone	- - - - -		6,000 - -
Surkaree, 1,300; Kahra, 600; between Meer Shir Mahomed and Meer Goolam Muhomed	- - - - -		1,900 - -
Himmon, 1,000; Touhr Mungria, 600; to Meer Dost Mahomed	- - - - -		1,600 - -
TOTAL	- - - Rs.		21,000 - -

Thus the sons of Meer Roostum Khan receive in jagghire yearly to the amount of 21,000 rupees. His Excellency the Governor suggests that I should give them as much as the families of the Meers of Hydrabad receive. But the country of the British is very great; they can give lacks to whom they please; my territory is small, and I am not able to bestow upon people in a manner similar to the British. It is not necessary for me to say anything more, his Excellency knowing all.

Begar Khan and his people have Gama Bahgut, the annual amount of the produce of which is 4,000 rupees, besides which he receives daily subsistence.

Khyrpore, 3 April 1847.



(The Seal of His Highness  
Meer Ali Morad Khan.)

(Translation.)  
(signed) G. G. Malet, Captain,  
Resident.

#### MEMORANDUM.

1. His Highness Meer Ali Morad has been the faithful ally of the British, when the whole of his family, by their misconduct, subjected themselves to the punishment which befell them.

2. They fled from their country when their army was defeated, and Scinde conquered by the British.

3. They returned under the protection and guarantee of his Highness, and at their own request to me through his Highness.

4. If they are not content with the way in which his Highness behaves to them, I am sorry for it, but I neither can nor will interfere. They may leave his territory if they please. The petitioners of the family of Meer Roostum were the men who produced the war by their misconduct and hostility to the British. They were more guilty than any others, and have no claims upon the British. They are the subjects of his Highness while they choose to dwell under his protection; and the British Government has no right to interfere between his Highness the Rais and his subjects, especially those of his own family, and for whose conduct he is responsible.

5. If the members of Meer Roostum's family choose to memorialise the Supreme Government to be sent to Calcutta, I will forward their memorial to that effect; the same being sent through his Highness.

6. I will not, on any account, receive communications from the subjects of his Highness, and especially from those for whose good conduct his Highness is pledged to the British Government,

Government, except through his Highness's agency; should any such be sent to the Resident, he will be so good as to return them, with the above explanation.

7. The petition of the family of Meer Roostum is in most of its assertions wrong. It is not to have common sense to assert that the petitioners had committed no offence against the British Government, for their offences reduced them to their present state of dependence on their relation and chief, the Rais.

8. With regard to Bejar Khan, I ought to have hanged him; I spared his life at the entreaty of his Highness, and if his Highness allows him food and raiment, the robber chief has no grounds for complaint. All that concerns me is, that his Highness does not let him escape into the hills, from whence he would again ravage our frontier with greater barbarity than ever.

10 April 1847.

(signed) C. Napier, Lieut.-General,  
Governor.

(True copy.)  
(signed) E. J. Brown,  
Secretary, Scinde Government.

No. 3.

(No. 5,116 of 1848.)

From A. Malet, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to  
R. K. Pringle, Esq., Commissioner in Scinde.

Sir,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 25th ultimo, No. 3,182, forwarding copy of a memorandum recorded by Sir C. Napier, when Governor of Scinde, containing his opinion in regard to the claims of the relatives of the ex-Ameers to the interference of the British Government on their behalf with his Highness Ali Moorad Khan of Khyrpoore.

2. In reply, I am desired by the Right honourable the Governor in Council to inform you, that fully recognising the propriety of your bringing to the notice of Government the opinion of the late Governor of Scinde, his Lordship in Council wishes that in this, and in all future references, you would favour Government with your own opinion on the subject referred for your report.

I have, &c.  
(signed) A. Malet,  
Chief Secretary.

Bombay Castle, 8 December 1848.

No. 4.

(No. 3,504 of 1849.)

From A. Malet, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay, to  
R. K. Pringle, Esq., Commissioner in Scinde.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Right honourable the Governor in Council to draw your attention to my letter, dated the 14th September last, No. 328, forwarding for your report representations from Meer Mahomed Hussein Khan, Meer Ali Murdan Khan, and Meer Mahomed Ali Khan, complaining of alleged oppression and tyranny on the part of his Highness Meer Ali Moorad of Khyrpoore, and to request that you will submit your reply thereto with the least possible delay.

I have, &c.  
(signed) A. Malet, Chief Secretary.

Bombay Castle, 16 August 1849.

No. 5.

(No. 1,709.—Political Department.)

From the Commissioner in Scinde to the Right Honourable Viscount Falkland,  
Governor and President in Council, Bombay.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Chief Secretary Malet's letter, No. 3,506, dated the 16th ultimo, calling for an early report on the representations

sentations from Meer Mahomed Hussein Khan, Meer Ali Murdan Khan, and Meer Mahomed Ali Khan, transmitted with his letter, No. 328, dated the 28th September last.

2. The case of Meer Mahomed Hussein Khan has been disposed of in the letter from the Secretary to the Government of India with the Most Noble the Governor-general, No. 86, dated the 30th December last.

3. I made full inquiries into the case of the other two Meers, when I was at Khyrpore in February last, and I was led to believe that they had substantial grounds of complaint against his Highness Meer Ali Morad, but I deferred bringing the subject under the consideration of your Lordship in Council, until I should be in possession of certain information relative to the appropriation of the territories of the late Meer Roostum and Meer Mobarick, which would enable me to point out the manner in which I consider a future provision might be best made for their sons, of whom are the two Meers now referred to. This information not being procurable in a complete state from the records of the late Scinde government, I applied to his Excellency Sir Charles Napier for it, who was good enough to promise he would furnish me with it as soon as he should receive papers which were not then by him, but which he had sent for.

4. Should your Lordship in Council desire it, I can report on the subject at once, but I would prefer waiting for the receipt of the information alluded to, which would admit of my doing it in a more satisfactory manner. In the meantime, I personally requested the political authorities in Upper Scinde to extend their protection indirectly to the minor Ameers in such a manner as might, as far as possible, ameliorate their condition without exciting the jealousy of his Highness Meer Ali Moorad.

I have, &c.

(signed) R. K. Pringle

Kurrachee, 1 September 1849.

Commissioner in Scinde.

#### No. 6.

(No. 3,841 of 1849.)

From A. Malet, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to  
R. K. Pringle, Esq., Commissioner in Scinde.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Right honourable the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 1st instant, No. 1,709, relative to the complaints of Meer Mahomed Hussein Khan, Meer Ali Mundan Khan, and Meer Mahomed Ali Khan, of alleged oppression and tyranny on the part of his Highness Meer Ali Moorad, of Khyrpoor.

2. In reply I am desired to observe, that although, as stated in the second paragraph of your letter, the case of Meer Mahomed Hussein has been disposed of in the letter No. 86 from the Secretary to the Government of India with the Most Noble the Governor-general, dated the 30th December 1848, this Government is not informed whether this person has taken advantage of the permission granted to him to reside at Bhawalpoor, and has actually quitted the territories of Meer Ali Moorad. I am instructed to request that you will be pleased to supply this required information, and at the same time state, for the information of Government, whether the relatives of Meer Mahomed Hoossein, who are stated in the petition to be exposed to the tyranny of Meer Ali Moorad, are still suffering therefrom.

3. The Right honourable the Governor in Council does not perceive any necessity for the postponement of your report on the case of the other two Meers until you are able to suggest the manner in which they can be pecuniarily provided for. The object of Government is to rescue these persons from present oppression; and the attainment of that object is unconnected with, and ought not to be delayed by considerations as to the income which they should in future enjoy, or the sources from which it shall be derived.

4. His Lordship in Council understands from your letter that you have applied directly to his Excellency Lieutenant-general Sir Charles Napier for information relative

relative to the territories of the late Meer Roostum and Meer Mobarick, and desires me to observe that your application should have been made through this Government.

Bombay Castle,  
13 September 1849.

I have, &c.  
(signed) A. Malet,  
Chief Secretary.

No. 7.

No. 1,905 of 1849.—Political Department.

From the Commissioner in Scinde to the Right hon. Viscount *Falkland*, Governor and President in Council, Bombay.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt, on the 28th ultimo, of Mr. Chief Secretary Malet's letter, No. 3,841, dated the 13th idem, and, in conformity with the instructions conveyed in it, proceed at once to report on the case of the minor Ameers of Khyrpoor therein referred to.

2. Meer Mahomed Hussein was never, as your Lordship seems to suppose, in the territories of Meer Ali Moorad: he quitted Scinde on our occupation of that province in 1843, and has ever since been a fugitive. I believe he is at present residing at Bhawulpore; but on this point I cannot speak with certainty, as I have not yet received a reply to a communication I directed to be made to him on the 3d ultimo, conveying the final orders of the Most Noble the Governor-general in his case.

3. As respects Mahomed Hussein's relatives now at Khyrpoor, that is, the descendants of his father the late Meer Roostum, including Meer Ali Murdan, one of the other two petitioners to your Lordship, and the descendants of his uncle the late Meer Mobarick, including Meer Mahomed Ali, the other of the two, as well as the minor Ameers generally residing at Khyrpoor under the guarantee of his Highness Meer Ali Moorad, I beg to enclose, for the information of your Lordship in Council, copy of a correspondence, as noted in the margin, which I had with the late Resident at Khyrpoor regarding them. On my visit to Khyrpoor I had also frequent and full personal communications with Captain Forbes on the subject of the treatment of these Ameers, and endeavoured as far as possible to ascertain its real character, without exasperating the unfriendly feelings which existed between some of them and his Highness Meer Ali Moorad.

4. The result of my inquiries was confirmatory of the opinions expressed by Captain Forbes, and led to the conclusion that the treatment which the members of the families of his brothers, the late Meer Roostum and Mobarick, received from his Highness Meer Ali Moorad, was far from kind and liberal, and that the only means of effectually ameliorating their condition would be to remove them from under his protection altogether. I did not consider it expedient to inquire minutely into the details of their grievances, as this could not be done without further embroiling them with his Highness; but the general impression, from all I heard and saw, was to the above effect.

5. Captain Forbes bears testimony to the peaceable conduct of these Ameers since they have been residing under the guarantee of Meer Ali Moorad; and with advertence to the opinion formed by him, after good opportunities for observations, I see no reason to apprehend any risk to the peace of the country from their being now withdrawn from his Highness's guarantee, and settled in British Scinde under the surveillance of the local authorities; while the general character of the treatment they experience from his Highness, and the uncertainty of the provision for their maintenance under him, would seem to justify the adoption of this course.

6. Captain Forbes is of opinion that an annual income of 20,000 Company's rupees, either in jagheer or money, would afford a sufficient maintenance for each of these families; and with reference to their numbers and position, and the assignments which have already been professedly made to them, as also to

the allowances granted to the Hyderabad Ameers, this appears to me a suitable provision. If it be conceded, I would recommend that they should be permitted to reside in the vicinity of Hyderabad, under the surveillance of the Collector of that district, and that the allowances, if in jagheer, should be in our territory or if in money, which I am disposed to consider the more advisable form, should be paid through our Government.

7. I agree with Captain Forbes, that the charge of the provision for the members of Meer Roostum's family should be borne by his Highness Meer Ali Moorad, because, as observed by Captain Forbes, he is now in possession of Meer Roostum's territories, and also because the cession of the Turban and his patrimonial lands by Meer Roostum, in virtue of which Meer Ali Moorad's title to their possession was recognized by us, appears to have been made under a reciprocal obligation on the part of Meer Ali Moorad, to provide for the maintenance of Meer Roostum.

8. I also concur with Captain Forbes in thinking that the charge of providing for the family of Meer Mobarick should be defrayed by our Government, because we hold the territories of that Ameer by conquest. But if the confirmation of the possession of the territory north of Roree has not already been promised unconditionally by Sir Charles Napier to Meer Alee Moorad, I am of opinion that as any cession in that quarter would be matter of favour, and not of right, it may not unreasonably be charged with the condition of providing for the family of his brother, Meer Moobaruck, the uncertainty of whose maintenance and illiberality of whose treatment under him forces us to interfere in their behalf.

9. The measures I have recommended might be carried into effect as soon as they are approved of, and when the principle on which the charge on account of the provisions should be apportioned had been determined, their adjustment according to it might be effected in the final settlement of our territorial and pecuniary relations with his Highness Meer Ali Moorad.

10. In the 8th and following paragraphs of his letter, No. 8, dated the 2d February last, Captain Forbes also alludes to the case of Meers Mahomed Khan and Ghoolam Moostuffa, the sons of Meer Ali Morad's second brother, Meer Goolam Hyder. These Ameers have been dispossessed of their jagheers, and are harshly treated by Meer Ali Moorad. His Highness affirms that the jagheers of the former were confiscated by Sir Charles Napier, in consequence of his failure to accompany him in the Trukkee campaign; and the latter appears never to have regained his jagheers since our occupation of the country. I am of opinion that unless the jagheers of Meer Mahomed were really confiscated on sufficient grounds by Sir Charles Napier, and unless his Excellency is aware of any good reason for the confiscation of those of Meer Goolam Mostuffa, they should be restored under the guarantee of our Government.

11. Captain Forbes has stated that the above are the only minor Ameers who are dissatisfied with their position under Meer Ali Moorad, and this is consistent with my own knowledge, except as regards his brother Meer Chakur Khan and his family, who have complained to me of the treatment they receive from his Highness, and probably not without reason, although there may be faults on both sides; but the will of Meer Sohrab, which forms the basis of our policy in Upper Scinde, not recognizing any independent rights in Meer Chakur, he can only be considered as the subject of the holder of the Turban, Meer Ali Moorad, and as such we cannot with propriety interfere between him and his rais or sovereign, otherwise than by mutual friendly advice, which has already been given; and if Meer Chakur still continues dissatisfied, I am of opinion that his only resource is to remove to our territory, where there would be no objection to offering him an asylum; but in that case he would have no claim either on our Government or on his Highness Meer Ali Moorad for a maintenance.

12. With reference to the concluding paragraph of Mr. Malet's letter under acknowledgment, I beg to explain that my communication with Sir Charles Napier therein adverted to, was in a private, not an official form.

I have, &c.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle,*  
Commissioner in Scinde.

Kurrachee, 3 October 1849.

(No. 3,394 of 1848.—Secret Department.)

From the Commissioner in Scinde to Captain *J. Forbes*, Resident at Khyrpoor.

Sir,

IN continuation of the subject of my letters, Nos. 3,191 and 3,192, dated the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit for your opinion and report, copy of the substance of a petition from Meer Mahomed Ali Khan and Ali Mahomed Khan, sons of Meer Mobaruk Khan Talpoor, to the Right honourable the Governor of Bombay in Council.

2. With reference to these and similar petitions which have from time to time been presented by these and other of the ex-Ameers and their relatives to the authorities in Calcutta, Bombay, and this Province, I request you will have the goodness, after instituting any inquiries that may be necessary, and giving the subject your mature consideration, to favour me with your report and opinion on the following points, irrespective of any decisions which may have hitherto been come to upon them. 1st. Who of the ex or minor Ameers and their relatives are at present living under the protection and guarantee of his Highness Meer Ali Moorad? 2d. What is the position of these individuals as respects their original relation and conduct towards the British Government, and how far does it give or deprive them of claims to our favourable consideration? 3d. How far would it now be advantageous to the interests or character of the British Government to extend to all or any of these individuals favourable consideration, without reference to their original relation and conduct towards it? 4th. What is the nature and character of the treatment they receive from his Highness Meer Ali Moorad? 5th. If that treatment be harsh, and if the original claims of the individuals, or the modification which time and circumstances may have effected in their position, would make it advantageous to the interests and character of the British Government to ameliorate their condition, is the time now arrived when they might with safety be withdrawn from his Highness's guarantee, and provided with a settlement in British Scinde? 6th. If this be the case, in what locality and under what surveillance or restrictions would it be advisable to place them, what assignments in land or money would be suitable for their maintenance, what would be the annual aggregate charge on this account, and to what party should it be debited, to the British Government or to his Highness Meer Ali Moorad?

3. In requesting the favour of full information on the above points, I need hardly impress on you the necessity of secrecy and caution in any inquiries which you may find it necessary to make with a view to it, and the careful avoidance of anything which may tend to excite distrust on the part of his Highness Meer Ali Moorad, or unreasonable expectations on that of his relatives.

4. I hope in the course of my present tour to visit Khyrpoor, when I shall have an opportunity of obtaining from you such personal explanations as may be requisite for the full consideration of this subject; but it will facilitate its disposal if I am, in the meantime, favoured with your report in writing, on the points above adverted to, and any others which may contribute to its elucidation; and I should feel obliged by your including in your report the case of any other of the ex-Ameers' relatives, who although not at present living under the protection and guarantee of his Highness Meer Ali Moorad, may have similar claims to our consideration with those who are so situated.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *R. K. Pringle*,  
Commissioner in Scinde.

Camp, Oonerpoor, 20 December 1848.

(No. 1 of 1849.)

From the Resident, Khyrpoor, to the Commissioner in Scinde.

Sir,

As called for in your letter, No. 3,394, of the 20th ultimo, I have herewith the honour to forward a list of the minor Ameers of Khyrpoor, with, as near as I have been able to ascertain the same, a statement of the revenue they derive from the jaghires assigned them by his Highness Meer Ali Morad Khan.

2. The case of the first on the list, the family of the late ex-Ameer Rustom, I have ever considered as deserving, from the British Government, of far more consideration than it appears hitherto to have met with, whether in regard to the long standing friendship which existed between it and the late head of that family, or to the extent of blame which ought to be attached to their individual share in the events of 1842-43, which ended in the exile of that Ameer, and in their present state of dependence and want; and that their case should receive such consideration I am the more anxious, as I feel that the decision Government must come to on it, viz., to ameliorate their condition, would be one highly advantageous to its character.

3. Meer Ali Ukbar, Meer Rustom's second son, was the only one present in the battle of Meeanee. From that field he joined his three brothers, Ali Murdan, Shere Mahomed, and



Dost Mahomed (deceased), at Kochra, in the Khyrpore territory. In July of the same year (having, during the interval, never left the Khyrpore state), they, with the permission of his Highness Meer Ali Moorad Khan, settled at Merahwah, where they continued quietly to reside until the 14th May following, when they were, by order of his Excellency the Governor of Scinde (Appendix (A.)), removed prisoners to Khyrpoor.

4. The above order followed the receipt by his Excellency of a petition (Appendix (B.)) from the four Ameers in question, and by which petition his Excellency appears first to have learned that petitioners were residing in the Khyrpore territory.

5. That petitioners were not made prisoners for any attempt at disturbing the peace of the country would appear from the following extract from a letter, dated 29th May 1844, from his Highness Meer Ali Morad Khan to his Excellency Sir C. Napier, but solely because his Highness's protection of them was not authorized. (Appendix (C.) and (D.))

"Meer Ali Ukbar, Meer Ali Murdan, and the other sons of Meer Roostum Khan (with the exception of Mahomed Hoosein), since the battle of Meeanee, have behaved obediently to the British Government and to me. Seeing this, I permitted them to remain at Mehra-poor, and I gave encouragement; now your Excellency's order has reached Captain Malet, and this officer directed me to seize Meer Ali Ukbar, &c. &c.; and according to this, I sent some horsemen for the purpose. There were many Belooches about them, but these showed no sign of opposition or resistance, and the Meers were brought safely into Khyrpore.

"I am certain these four Ameers will never cause disturbance, or be unfriendly towards your Government."

6. Their conduct subsequent to their release, in September or October of the same year, has been as exemplary as it was previous to their imprisonment. Such behaviour on their part as subjects, for a period of nearly six years, alone gives them, in my opinion, no slight claim to the favourable consideration of their case by the British Government, even had their acts as princes been far more hostile than they ever were.

7. I have not the least doubt but that they might with perfect safety, and certainly with great advantage to themselves, be now withdrawn from his Highness's guarantee, and provided with a settlement in British Scinde, as their peaceable behaviour hitherto is not in any way to be attributed to that guarantee, but to their own conviction of the utter hopelessness of any attempt to recover their lost position, in opposition to the British Government; for to our Government do they consider his Highness of Khyrpore solely indebted for the chieftom, as also that we are prepared to maintain him in it.

8. They might be located in any part of the Hyderabad Collectorate which is not contiguous to the Khyrpore state, as if the latter, from the feeling that exists between his Highness of Khyrpore and them, constant bickerings would arise.

9. I should consider not less than 20,000 Company's rupees a year a sufficient assignment for them, and to the Khyrpoor state should decidedly be debited the charge, for the following reasons amongst others:

The whole of the lands they themselves received in jaghire from the late ex-Ameer Rustom are now in possession of his Highness Meer Ali Morad Khan.

There is little doubt but that his Highness assured Sir Charles Napier, in an interview he had with him at Hyderabad, that he allowed this family the above sum, and that he would continue to do so.

10. I should not consider it necessary to place them under any other surveillance than that under which all jaghiredars in British Scinde are at present.

11. Regarding the others on the list I shall address you in continuation of this report without delay.

I have, &c.

(signed) J. Forbes, Resident.

Khyrpore, 10 January 1849.

List of the Ex-Meers residing at Khyrpore, and for whom his Highness Meer Ali Morad Khan is security.

	AGE.	YEARLY INCOME.	REMARKS.		
Sons and Grandsons of the late Ex-Ameer Rustom.	Sons:				
	Meer Ali Ukbar - - - -	48	One daughter.		
	Meer Ali Murdan - - - -	38			
	Meer Shere Mahomed - - - -	28			
	Meer Ghoolam Mahomed - - - -	23			
	Grandsons:				
	Sons of Meer Ali Ukbar:				
	Meer Goolam Shah - - - -	20	One son, Alla Bux, 3½ years of age.		
	Meer Ali Gober - - - -	15			
	Meer Nudjif Ali - - - -	11	From 8,500 to 9,500 Company's rupees at the most; Kardars, &c. &c. to be paid out of this.		
	Meer Sorab Ali - - - -	10			
	Meer Hyder Ali - - - -	9			
	Meer Sootuf Ali - - - -	7			
	Meer Goolam Ali - - - -	6			
	Meer Adeol Kadus - - - -	-			
	Meer Alla Dettah - - - -	-			
	Son of Meer Ali Murdan:				
	Meer Mozaffur Ali - - - -	13	By a concubine. By a concubine.		
Sons and Grandsons of Moolarick Khan (deceased).	Sons:				
	Meer Mahomed Ali - - - -	37	-- Three wives; one daughter married to Ale Muddud, son of Meer Nusseer Khan. Two wives. Two wives.		
	Meer Ali Mahomed - - - -	28			
	Meer Walli Mahomed - - - -	26			
	Grandsons:				
	Sons of Meer Nusseer Khan Poonah:				
	Meer Ali Muddud - - - -	12	-- One wife. Meer Nusseer Khan Poonah has three wives at Khyrpoor, and one daughter, married to Meer Ameen Bux.		
	Meer Ahmed Ali - - - -	8			
	Son of Meer Ali Mahomed:				
	Meer Ali Hyder - - - -	9			
	Son of Meer Walli Mahomed:				
	Meer Moobarick Khan - - - -	7			
	Sons of Meer Fuzle Khan (deceased):				
	Meer Ali Buxsh - - - -	20		One wife.	
	Meer Ameen Buxsh - - - -	15		One wife.	
	Sons & Grandson of Meer Sooliman (deceased).	Sons:			
		Meer Mahomed Khan - - - -		43	-- One wife; one daughter, betrothed to Meer Taj Mahomed, second son of H. H. Meer Ali Morad. One wife. One wife.
		Meer Moreed Hyder - - - -	33		
Meer Goolam Shah - - - -		28			
Grandson, Son of Meer Mahomed Khan:					
Meer Alla Dittah - - - -		20	One wife.		
Meer Zeehangheer Khan - - - -		64	-- Two wives; one daughter, married Mahomed Khan, son of Meer Sooliman.		
Meer Chakur Khan - - - -		70	One wife.		

(continued)

(continued)

	AGE.	YEARLY INCOME.	REMARKS.
Meer Chakur Khan's Sons and Grandson.			
Sons:			
Meer Nuble Bux - - - -	29	- - - -	One wife.
Meer Goolam Mootaga - - - -	23	- - - -	One wife.
Meer Ahmed Ali - - - -	13		
Grandson, Son of Meer Goolam Moothaga:			
Meer Alla Bux - - - -	3		
Meer Mahomed - - - -	48	- - - -	Three wives.
Sons of Meer Mahomed:			
Meer Goolam Hyder - - - -	27	- - - -	One wife.
Meer Goolam Nubbee - - - -	20	- - - -	One wife.
Meer Abbass Ali - - - -	15		
Meer Hoosein Ali - - - -	13		
Meer Fuzzle Ali - - - -	9		
Meer Bnchul Khan - - - -	10		
Meer Ali Bux - - - -	2	- - - -	By a concubine.
Meer Ahmed Khan - - - -	43	- - - -	One wife. A quiet, respectable man.
Sons of Meer Ahmed Khan:			
Meer Alla Ditta - - - -	20	From 3,000 to 4,000 Company's rupees at the most; Kardars, &c. &c. to be paid out of this.	One wife.
Meer Alla Muldud - - - -	19		
Meer Goolam Hoosein - - - -	17		
Meer Tutteh Khan - - - -	15		
Meer Buksh Ali - - - -	13		
Meer Sooltan Ali - - - -	11		
Meer Sootuf Ali - - - -	9		
Meer Dost Ali - - - -	8		
Meer Goolam Ali - - - -	3		
Meer Goolam Mustapha - - - -	40	- - - -	- One daughter. A very quiet, respectable man.
Son of Meer Goolam Mustapha:			
Meer Goolam Ali - - - -	6		
Meer Currum Khan - - - -	25		
Son of Meer Kooda Bux (deceased):			
Meer Iham Nindah - - - -	21	- - - -	- - One wife; two sisters, the eldest betrothed to Meer Sha Newaz, H. H. Meer Ali Morad's eldest son; to be married towards the end of this month, February.

(signed) J. Forbes, Resident.

(A.)

(No. 1,438 of 1844.)

From Secretary to the Government of Scinde to Captain Malet, Resident, &amp;c., Khyrpoor.

Sir,

I AM directed to forward copy of a translation of a petition received from four sons of the Ex-Ameer, Roostum Khan, and to request that you will keep the subject a secret until you may arrive at Khyrpoor, when you will take steps to make prisoners with certainty of the four Ameer.

I have, &c.  
(signed) E. J. Brown,  
Secretary to the Government of Scinde.

Kurrachee, 6 May 1844.

(B.)

From Meer Ali Murdan, Dost Mahomed, Meer Shere Mahomed, Meer Ali Akbar, to His Excellency the Governor of Scinde.

After compliments.

SINCE Meer Roostum went away with the other Ameers to Bombay, we have only had a small place called Merahwah for our support. This is not sufficient for us, and we trust you will restore us the jagheers we had in the time of Meer Roostum.

(True translation.)

(signed) *H. S. Pelly, Lt,*  
Persian Interpreter.

(True copy.)

(signed) *W. J. Surtees,*  
Assistant Secretary to Government of Scinde.

(C.)

(No. 2,720 of 1844.)

From the Secretary to Government of Scinde to Captain *Malet*, Resident at the Court of His Highness Meer Ali Moorad Khan, Sukkur.

Sir,

By direction of his Excellency the Governor, I have the honour to forward for your information, extract para. No. 6 of a letter, No. 573, of 24th ultimo, from the Secretary to the Government of India, which will you be good enough to communicate to his Highness Meer Ali Moorad Khan, explaining most clearly to him that in future his Highness will be held responsible for the acts of the four Ameers whom the Governor-general sanctions remaining in his Highness's custody.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. J. Brown,*  
Secretary to Government of Scinde.

Kurrachee, 12 September 1844.

EXTRACT para. 6 from a Letter, No. 573, dated 24th August 1844, from the Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to Government of Scinde.

6. A distinct communication should be made to Ali Moorad, informing him that his protection of the four Ameers was not, as his Highness alleges, authorized by Sir C. Napier; that we hold him responsible for any misconduct of which they may be guilty, or for any interference, correspondence, or intrigues into which they may enter, and that in forbearing to exact from him as our ally the painful duty of surrendering those members of his family who have been engaged in military operations against us, the Governor-general in Council cautions his Highness not to misunderstand this forbearance on our part; that if his relatives who are in his custody and charge, abuse our lenity by the slightest act of interference, we shall consider his Highness to be the responsible person, and not hesitate to have recourse to such coercive measures as may prevent the tranquillity of Scinde from being disturbed for the future.

(True extract.)

(signed) *W. J. Surtees,*  
Assistant Secretary, Government of Scinde.

(True copies.)

(signed) *J. Forbes,* Resident.

(No. 8 of 1849.)

From the Resident, Khyrpore, to the Commissioner in Scinde.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter, No. 1, of 10th ult., and with reference to the latter part of the 19th para. of it, I have the honour to forward copies of a letter from my predecessor, Captain Malet, to the Secretary to Scinde Government, and of the English translation of the memorandum and petition, from the sons of the late Meer Rustom, referred to in it; as also a copy of memorandum by the late Governor of Scinde, Sir Charles Napier, on receipt of and in reply to the above.

2. As Captain Malet does not express any opinion as to the correctness or otherwise of his Highness's memorandum, I may add, that even if the value of the jagheers is, as stated

(No. 13 of 1847.)

From the Resident, Khypore, to the Secretary to Government of Scinde.

Sir,

AGREABLY to the orders of his Excellency the Governor of Scinde, I have made inquiries of the family of the late Meer Rustom Khan, and of Bejar Khan Dohomkee, as to the subsistence received by them from his Highness Meer Ali Morad Khan, having reference to the memo. which his Highness gave to his Excellency at Hyderabad on this subject, and which I now forward with English translation.

Bejar Khan assures me that he does not receive half the sum stated by his Highness to be allowed him, namely, rupees 4,000.

I have the honour to forward a petition with English translation from the family of the late Meer Rustom Khan, who hope that this fact will not be made known to his Highness Meer Ali Morad Khan, for they tell me that on a former occasion when they (Meer Ali Murdhan) petitioned his Excellency direct, the petition was sent to Meer Ali Morad, who kept him confined for six months for having done so.

I have also the honour to forward a petition, with English translation, from the sons and family of the late Meer Muobarick Khan. From what I can learn the whole of the above parties, the relatives of his Highness Meer Ali Morad, are in very great distress, and they are all in such dread of him that they dare only come to me secretly by night.

Khypore, 4 April 1847.

(signed) G. G. Malet, Captain,  
Resident.

TRANSLATION of Memorandum given at Hyderabad, in February 1847, by His Highness Meer Ali Morad Khan, showing what His Highness states that he allows yearly to the Sons and Family of the late Meer Rustom Khan.

	Rupees.
Mebrabpoor, between all the sons of Meer Rustom Khan; yearly produce - - - - -	8,000 - -
Meergapoor, to Meer Ali Ukbar Khan alone; yearly - - -	3,000 - -
Chillah - - - ditto - - - ditto - - -	500 - -
Shameer Dekra, to Meer Ali Murdhan; yearly - - -	6,000 - -
Surkahnee, yearly 1,300; Kapra, yearly 600; between Mera Shere Mahomed and Sheer Goolum Mahomed - - -	1,900 - -
Stimmon, yearly 1,000; Gourpr Mungria, yearly 600; to Meer Dost Mahomed - - -	1,600 - -
<b>TOTAL - - - Rs.</b>	<b>21,000 - -</b>

The sons of Meer Rustom Khan receive yearly jaghires to the amount of 21,000 rupees. His Excellency the Governor suggests to me to give to them as much as the families of the ex-Meers of Hydrabad receive; but the country of the British is very extensive; they can give lacks to whom they wish; my territory is small, and I am not able to give to people in a manner similar to the British. His Excellency knows everything; it is not necessary for me to say anything.

Bejar Khan and his people have gained a bahgutt, the annual amount of produce of which is 4,000, besides which this Sirdar receives daily subsistence.

Khypore,  
3 April 1847.



The Seal of  
His Highness Meer Ali Morad Khan.

(True translation.)  
(signed) G. G. Malet, Captain,  
Resident.

(True copies.)  
(signed) J. Forbes, Resident.

COPY of Memorandum by His Excellency Sir C. Napier, with reference to and on receipt of the above.

1. His Highness Meer Ali Morad has been the faithful ally of the British, when the whole of his family, by their misconduct, subjected themselves to the punishment which befell them.

2. They fled from their country when their army was defeated, and Scinde conquered by the British.

3. They returned under the protection and guarantee of his Highness, and at their own request to me, through his Highness.

4. If they are not content with the way in which his Highness behaves to them, I am sorry for it; but I neither can nor will interfere. They may leave his territory if they please. The petitioners of the family of Meer Rustom were the men who produced the war by their misconduct and hostility to the British; they were more guilty than any others, and have no claim upon the British. They are the subjects of his Highness while they choose to dwell under his protection, and the British Government has no right to interfere between his Highness the Rais and his subjects, especially those of his own family, and for whose conduct he is responsible.

5. If the members of Meer Rustom's family choose to memorialize the Supreme Government to be sent to Calcutta, I will forward their memorial to that effect; the same being sent through his Highness.

6. I will not on any account receive communication from the subjects of his Highness, and especially from those for whose good conduct his Highness is pledged to the British Government, except through his Highness's agency. Should any such be sent to the Resident, he will be so good as to return them, with the above explanation.

7. The petition of the family of Meer Rustom is in most of its assertions wrong. It is not to have common sense to assert that the petitioners had committed no offence against the British Government, for their offences reduced them to their present state of dependence on their relative and chief, the Rais.

8. With regard to Bejar Khan, I ought to have hanged him. I spared his life at the entreaty of his Highness; and if his Highness allows him food and raiment, the robber chief has no grounds for complaints. All that concerns me is that his Highness does not let him escape into the hills, from whence he would again ravage our frontier with greater barbarity than ever.

(signed) *C. J. Napier*, Lieutenant-General,  
Governor.

10 April 1847.

(True copy.)

(signed) *J. Forbes*, Resident.

THE Translation of a Letter from his Excellency, the Governor of Scinde, to Meer Mahomed Khan Talpoor, dated 5th June 1843.

Ameer Mahomed Khan, of high rank,

I WRITE to you that my sincere friend, Meer Ali Moorad Khan, has promised me that you, of high rank, will strictly obey all the regulations of the English.

For this reason your jaghires are given to you. On no account will you be injured if you conduct yourself properly.

(True copy.)

(signed) *E. J. Brown*,  
Secretary to Scinde Government.

(True translation.)

(signed) *J. Forbes*, Resident.

No. 8.

(No. 330 of 1849.)

From *A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government of Bombay, to  
*R. K. Pringle*, Esq., Commissioner in Scinde.

Sir,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 1,905, dated the 3d instant, with enclosures, reporting on the treatment experienced by the minor Ameers of Khyrpoor from his Highness Meer Ali Morad.

With reference to the suggestion in your 6th para., that a sum of 20,000 rupees annually should be allotted for the maintenance of the families of his Highness's brothers, the late Meers Roostum and Moobaruck, I am desired by the Right hon. the Governor in Council to request that you will submit, with as little delay as possible, information as to the numbers and quality of the members of the families

families alluded to, and that you will state the particulars of the treatment which is considered by you as "far from kind and liberal."

3. With reference to your 10th para., I am desired to point out to you the necessity for placing beyond doubt the circumstance under which Meers Mahomed Khan and Goolam Mustapha were dispossessed of their jaghires, as well also as the exact nature of the terms under which the possession of the territory north of the Roree (adverted to in your 8th para.), has been promised to his Highness Ali Moorad by his Excellency Sir Charles Napier. It is probable that the details of these transactions will be found by you in the public records. You will be pleased to report with as little delay as possible, whether this be the case or not, and submit, if forthcoming, the information required by Government.

I have, &c.  
(signed) A. Malet,  
Chief Secretary.

Bombay Castle, 30 October 1849.

No. 9.

(No. 2,174 of 1849.)

From the Commissioner in Scinde to the Right Honourable Viscount *Falkland*, Governor and President in Council, Bombay.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Chief Secretary Malet's letter, No. 330, dated the 30th ultimo, calling for further information in regard to the minor Ameers of Khyrpore.

2. A statement of the number and quality of the members of the families of the late Meers Roostum and Moorbaruck, alluded to in the 6th para. of my letter, No. 1,905, of the 3d ultimo, was among the documents appended to Captain Forbes's letter, No. 8, of the 2d February last, which formed one of the accompaniments to that communication. A copy of that portion of the statement which relates to those families, is again herewith transmitted for facility of reference.

3. The deficiency in kindness and liberality which I noticed in the general treatment of those persons by his Highness Meer Ali Moorad, consisted in his assigning to them a maintenance insufficient for their comfort and respectability, and the distress to which they were consequently subjected; the resort to personal restraint, and other objectionable measures for preventing them from representing their grievances to our Government; petty acts of annoyance and oppression towards their followers; the absence of that countenance and consideration at Durbars and on other public occasions which is due to their position and near relationship to his Highness, and necessary to obtain for them the respect of his subjects. Besides the above, I was given to understand that there were other circumstances of daily occurrence which had a tendency to humiliate and depress them, but of which it would be difficult to give a formal enumeration; more especially as, for the reasons stated in the 4th para. of my former letter, I was deterred from inquiring minutely into their details. Captain Forbes, who, from his residence on the spot, had ample opportunity of judging, was fully impressed with this view of their case, and represented it to me frequently and strongly in conversation. That his predecessor, Captain Malet, entertained similar opinions may be gathered from his letter of the 4th April 1847 (also among the documents appended to Captain Forbes' letter above referred to), in which he states that on one occasion when Meer Ali Murdan, son of Meer Rustom, had addressed a petition direct to his Excellency the late Governor, his Highness Meer Ali Moorad kept him confined for six months for having done so; and that the members generally of the families of the late Meers Roostum and Mobaruck were all in very great distress, and in such dread of his Highness that they could only venture to visit the British Resident secretly, and by night.

4. I have made every search among the public records of the late Scinde Government, but can find nothing elucidatory of the circumstances under which Meers Mahomed Khan and Goolam Mustapha were dispossessed of their jaghires, or of the exact nature of the terms, if any, under which the possession of the territory north of Roree, adverted to in the 8th para. of my former communication,

cation, had been promised to his Highness Ali Moorad by his Excellency Sir Charles Napier. As regards the former, however, his Excellency has informed me, in a private communication, that as far as he can recollect he did tell Meer Mahomed Ali Khan that he had given offence by his failure to accompany his chief and himself to the Hill war as a jaghireदार was bound to do, and that if he behaved ill he would not prevent his Highness from depriving him of his jaghire. His Excellency has further informed me that he does not recollect the circumstances connected with the resumption of Meer Goolam Mustapha's lands, but he is aware of no objections to their restoration. I believe it was the intention of his Excellency to allow Meer Ali Moorad to retain possession of the country he held to the north of Roree unconditionally, but as the arrangements connected with it were never finally completed, nor received the sanction of the Government of India, I apprehend they are still open to consideration.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *R. K. Pringle*,  
Commissioner.

Kurrachee, 8 November 1849.

EXTRACT from List of the Ex Meers residing at Khyrpore, and for whom His Highness Meer Ali Moorad Khan is Security.

	AGE.	YEARLY INCOME.	REMARKS.
Sons and Grandsons of the late Ex Ameer Rustom.	Sons :		
	Meer Ali Ukbar - - - -	43	- - - - One daughter.
	Meer Ali Murdan - - - -	38	
	Meer Shere Mahomed - - - -	28	
	Meer Goolam Mahomed - - - -	23	
	Grandsons:		
	Sons of Meer Ali Ukbar:		
	Meer Goolam Shah - - - -	20	- - - - One son, Alla Bux, 3 1/2 years of age.
	Meer Ali Goher - - - -	15	
	Meer Nudjif Ali - - - -	11	
	Meer Soorab Ali - - - -	10	
	Meer Hyder Ali - - - -	9	
	Meer Sootif Ali - - - -	7	- - - - One wife.
	Meer Goolam Ali - - - -	6	
	Meer Abdool Khadur - - - -	-	
	Meer Allah Dittah - - - -	-	By a concubine.
	Son of Meer Ali Murdan:		
	Meer Mozaffur Ali - - - -	13	By a concubine.
Sons and Grandsons of Moobarick Khan (deceased).	Sons :		
	Meer Mahomed Ally - - - -	37	- Three wives; one daughter, married to Ali Muddud, son of Meer Misser Khan.
	Meer Ali Mahomed - - - -	28	
	Meer Wuli Mahomed - - - -	26	
	Grandsons:		
	Sons of Meer Nusseer Khan Poonah:		
	Meer Ali Muddud - - - -	12	- - One wife. Meer Nusseer Khan Poonah has three wives at Khyrpore, and one daughter married to Meer Ameen Buxsh.
	Meer Ahmed Ali - - - -	8	
	Son of Meer Ali Mahomed:		
	Meer Ali Hyder - - - -	9	
	Son of Meer Wulli Mahomed:		
	Meer Moobarick Khan - - - -	7	
	Sons of Meer Fuzle Khan, deceased:		
	Meer Ali Buxsh - - - -	20	One wife.
	Meer Ameen Buxsh - - - -	15	One wife.



No 10.

No. 358 of 1849.—Secret Department.

From *A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay, to  
*R. K. Pringle*, Esq., Commissioner in Scinde.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Right honourable the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter with enclosures, No. 2,174, dated the 8th ultimo, relative to the minor Ameers of Khyrpore.

2. In reply I am desired to observe, that from the statement accompanying your letter it appears that the descendants of the late Meer Rustom Khan now at Khyrpore number fourteen persons from the age of forty-three to six years with their families, and that his Highness Meer Ali Moorad has allotted to them a provision at the utmost amounting to 9,500 rupees per annum.

3. From the same statement it appears that the descendants of the late Meer Moobaruck Khan number nine persons, aged from thirty-seven to seven years, with their families, receiving at the highest computation about 4,000 rupees per annum.

4. Meer Ali Moorad, in his memorandum dated the 3d April 1847, a translation of which forms an enclosure to your letter, No. 1,905, dated the 3d October last, stated that the allowances to the families of the late Meer Rustom Khan amounted to rupees 21,000 per annum; if therefore their present allowances are no more than rupees 9,500, his Lordship in Council considers the interference of Government to be called for.

5. The Right honourable the Governor in Council however apprehends that unless these families are allowed to reside in British Scinde, although Government may insist on an increase to their allowances, they will suffer from his Highness Meer Ali Moorad in many ways which it will not be in the power of Government to notice.

6. I am therefore instructed to request that you will, on your approaching tour, be pleased to take advantage of every favourable opportunity to speak to his Highness Meer Ali Moorad on the subject of these Ameers and their families. It is probable that you may, without giving reason to suppose that they have complained, be able to induce his Highness to make up their income to what he formerly reported to be its amount.

7. Should you, however, fail to secure better treatment and more liberal allowances for these families, I am to request that you will forthwith report the same to Government, in view to the consideration of the expediency of removing them from under his Highness's control, requiring him to grant to them such allowances as may be deemed necessary.

8. There is not sufficient information at present before Government to enable it to decide on the amount which would be proper for the support of the late Meer Moobaruck's family, and in the absence of such information Government will not deem itself warranted in requiring the sum which has been set apart for them by Meer Ali Moorad to be increased to five times the utmost amount now received by them, as suggested in the 7th paragraph of Captain Forbes's letter of the 2d February last.

9. His Lordship in Council does not at present feel that Government should burthen itself with the pension of this family, which has hitherto been defrayed by Meer Ali Moorad, and is therefore desirous of being informed, if possible, of the mode in which the allowance to them was first fixed and made payable by his Highness.

10. It is probable that in the case of Meer Rustom's family, the obligation mentioned in the 7th paragraph of your letter, dated the 3d October last, may be the only, as it is a very sufficient, reason why Ali Moorad should make the payment. This would not, however, apparently apply to the case of Meer Moobaruck's descendants, concerning whom it must be supposed that some express directions were issued by the Government of Scinde.

11. In conclusion, I am desired to request that you will also be good enough to endeavour, during your approaching tour, to arrange the other disputes alluded to by Captain Forbes in his letter of the 2d February last.

I have, &c.  
(signed) A. Malet,  
Chief Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 4 December 1849.

No. 11.

From *Sheik Allee Hussain* to *Moonshee Allee Akbar Khan*, Bahadur, dated  
25 Zileadorh 1263.

AFTER taking my leave of you I started for these parts, and arrived at Shikarpore 29th October 1847. Previous to my departure from Kurrachee, I wrote to my son, directing him to take from my box of papers Meer Roostum Khan's letter addressed to his Excellency the Governor, and the treaty given by Meer Allee Morad to Meer Roostum Khan, and forward them to Scinde. My son, according to the directions given him, found the papers, and not wishing to trust to the post, sent them to Scinde by the hands of Sheik Ghoolam Hyder, and also sent a letter informing me of the same by a fast cossid, which I received at Jarkana. I remained at Shikarpore for the arrival of Ghoolam Hyder, fearing he might miss me on the road. I informed Major Goldney of these circumstances, who wrote them to Captain Brown. I informed Major Goldney for this reason, that Captain Brown had written to him, requesting him to assist me as far as Mooltan, since his Excellency the Governor expected papers from me. This letter Major Goldney read to me. I therefore told Major Goldney that the papers were on the road, but gave no detail. On the 5th November Ghoolam Hyder arrived with both papers all correct, which I now send through Major Goldney to Captain Brown. When at Kurrachee I requested Captain Brown to direct the dak moonshee at Buhawulpore to forward to me with care his Excellency the Governor's certificate, and a letter in my favour addressed to Mr. Lawrence. Captain Brown told me to ask you to make the necessary arrangements, I therefore hope you will send me the certificate and letter enclosed in a purwunnah from Captain Brown. You also write to the dak moonshee desiring him to forward the above with great care, that they may not be lost as former ones. I am now about to start for Mooltan. My proceedings with Misr have commenced by order of Major Goldney. I am well contented, and have left a wukeel at Shikarpore to prosecute the case.

Major Goldney has given me eight sowars to escort me through Scinde.

Both papers are clear proof, because Meer Roostum Khan, previous to granting the treaty to Meer Allee Morad Khan, made Meer Allee Morad Khan write this treaty, which is in the handwriting of Peer Allee Gohur. The treaty also given by Meer Roostum to Meer Allee Morad was written by Peer Allee Gohur. The seal and the word "Bahal" are from Meer Allee Morad's own hand.

The letter from Meer Roostum Khan is in the handwriting of Sabr Allee Shah, who was then wukeel to Meer Roostum Khan. That letter Meer Roostum sent to his Excellency the Governor. I am well acquainted with the handwriting of Sabr Allee Shah, and as to its identity there is not the slightest doubt. If you are, therefore, asked, you may without hesitation declare it the handwriting of Sabr Allee Shah. You yourself must be well acquainted with his handwriting, as he was frequently in the habit of coming to the British on the part of Meer Roostum. He is now a soobedar in the Shikarpore police stationed at Gotkee. If you inquire, you will be able to discover him. This treaty was written before me, and in the presence of Meer Allee Morad, by Peer Allee Gohur. From these two papers a profit of five or six lacs of rupees yearly will accrue to Government; that is to say, the country north of Roree and that belonging to the sons of Meer Roostum Khan.

Such are my services.

When you direct the purwunnah of the secretary to me, address me, High in rank and dignity, possessor of pomp and grandeur, &c.

(True translation.)

(signed) *F. Harding*, Captain,  
Persian Interpreter.

No. 12.

From *Sheik Allee Hussain* to Captain *Brown*, Secretary, dated  
6 November 1847.

After compliments,

AFTER having taken my leave of you, I started for these parts, and arrived at Shikarpore on the 29th October 1847.

Whilst at Kurrachee, and some days previous to my departure for Mooltan, I wrote to a son of mine, directing him to search in my box of papers for Meer Roostum Khan's letter, addressed to the Governor, and the treaty that Meer Allee Morad Khan gave in writing to Meer Roostum Khan, and send them by the hands of a trustworthy person to Scinde.

My son, according to the instructions I gave him, sought and found the letter and treaty above mentioned, which he sent to Scinde by the hands of Sheik Gholam Hyder. My son at the same time sent a letter by a fast cossid to inform of the circumstance, that I might be aware of it previous to the arrival of Ghoolam Hyder. The cossid arrived at Jarkanah, when I learnt of the despatch of Ghoolam Hyder with the papers. I went to Shekarpore to await the arrival of the papers, in order that I might forward them to you through Major Goldney. On the 5th November Ghoolam Hyder arrived at Shikarpore, and delivered over to me the two papers, all correct, which I now send with this letter through Major Goldney to you. I trust they reach you in safety, and that you will favour me with a receipt. I also hope that you will send me the certificate and the note addressed to Mr. Lawrence, as given by his Excellency the Governor.

(True translation.)

11 November.

(signed) *F. Harding*, Captain,  
Persian Interpreter.

From His Highness *Meer Roostum Khan* to His Excellency Sir *Charles Napier*,  
dated 17 Zilcadah 1258.

After compliments.

I HAVE always been the friend of the British, and, never having done evil towards them, trust they will not do evil unto me; I have now of my own free will and accord, owing to old age and weakness, made over in writing to Meer Allee Morad Khan the Turban, the whole of my country and fortresses, on condition that he be solely responsible to the British Government for the new treaty and in everything. I am old and weak, without the power of conversing or arranging with the British Government; neither am I able to travel from village to village or from mountain to mountain; I therefore hope, that whatever the British Government have to say, that it will be with Meer Ali Morad, as I have abdicated in favour of Meer Ali Morad the Turban, given over to him all my own country, and the whole arrangement and responsibility of the treaty with the British.

As a proviso, I have caused Meer Allee Morad Khan to give in writing an agreement containing the four articles as follows:

The country north of Roree, according to proclamation, I made over to the British; should I now give that to the Meer? The British Government would without doubt be angry, and say, "You made over that country to us; why have you given it to Meer Allee Morad?"

2. The country belonging to the sons of Meer Mobarick Khan, fearing that Meer Allee Morad Khan might deprive them of it, on account of a former enmity.

3. The country belonging to my sons.

4. My expenses, that of my family, whitmutgars, male and female slaves. I am certain that Meer Allee Morad would not deprive my sons of their country, or me of my subsistence, since I have done him much kindness. But for the sake of the future, and to insure my maintenance and the restoration of the three countries, I have caused Meer Allee Morad to give me a written treaty. Hereafter, should Meer Allee Morad, either before or after my

death, make difficulties as to the restoration of the country of my sons, or of the sons of Meer Mobaruck Khan, I trust that the British Government will cause Meer Allee Morad to restore to them their country, which is their right, and to which Meer Allee Morad has no claim. As to the country beyond Roree, Government will of course act as they please. I have enclosed the treaty sealed by Meer Allee Morad, and in the handwriting of Peer Ally Gohur; I hope that, after having perused it, you will return it to me.

(True translation.)

11 November 1847.

(signed) *F. Harding*, Captain,  
Persian Interpreter.

I, Meer Allee Morad Khan Talpoor, requested Meer Roostum Khan, on account of his old age and weakly state, to abdicate the Turban in my favour, and give over in writing to me all the country; that I would be responsible in every way to the British Government. The Meer consented to abdicate the Turban, and give over in writing the whole country and all the fortresses, but he required that I should agree to four articles, after which he would give over to me in writing the whole country. Those articles are as follows :—

1. That the country north of Roree, according to the proclamation, belongs to the British.
2. The country belonging to the sons of Meer Mobaruck Khan.
3. The country belonging to the sons of Meer Roostum Khan.
4. My expenses.

I consented to the above articles, taking upon myself the whole responsibility. I do now declare (giving the same in writing) that if the British Government remonstrate with Meer Roostum Khan, and demand why he made over the country north of Roree to Meer Allee Morad, I will be answerable and satisfy the English Government. If they demand the country I will give it up; but I will not allow Meer Roostum Khan to suffer one word of annoyance.

2. To the sons of Meer Roostum Khan, whom I look upon as my own brothers, I will restore their jagheers. I will in no way depart from this; to take one span of their land is unlawful. I have no claim whatever to their jagheers; it is their right, and their right they shall receive. The country belonging to the sons of Meer Mobaruck Khan, should I not take, the British Government will. I will therefore now appropriate their country, which I will afterwards make over to them. I have no claim whatsoever on their country. One single span of their country in my possession would be unlawful. The country is their right, and their right they shall receive.

As for Meer Roostum Khan, his family, servants, male and female slaves, I will provide for all, either in land or with money, nothing shall be deficient. I will serve him as he wishes.

These articles I have written out in the form of a treaty; that hereafter may remain as proof, and that no difference may occur. God is my witness. Dated 16th Zileadah 1258.

Postscript.—Meer Roostum Khan to retain possession of Kheirpore for life.

Dated as above.

Confirmed.

Meer Allee Morad.
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(True translation.)

(signed) *F. Harding*, Captain,  
Persian Interpreter.

11 November 1847.

### No. 13.

STATEMENT of Subedar *Sabr Ally*, of the Shikarpoor Mounted Police, made before Lieutenant *Younghusband*, Lieutenant of Scinde Police.

IN December 1842 I was a vakeel of Meer Roostum's, and was sent to Sukkur with a letter to Sir Charles Napier; when there I was sent for by that officer, and informed that Meer Roostum had fled to Deja Kegote. I immediately went after him; when I arrived at that place I was told by Meer Roostum (who was crying) that he had ceded the Turban to Meer Ally Morad. On the following morning Meer Roostum sent off the cession, signed by himself, as also the treaty between him and Ally Morad, signed by the latter, with an accompanying letter to Sir C. Napier. I afterwards heard that Meer Ally Morad sent horsemen after  
the

the cossid who took the letter, and brought him back. The papers were taken possession of by Meer Ally Morad, but Shaik Ally Hussain has since informed me that he got them from him.

*Question* by Lieutenant of Police. Are you aware who wrote the documents that Meer Roostum sent to Sir Charles Napier?—*Answer*. The cession and treaty were in the handwriting of Peer Ally Gohar. I do not recollect who wrote the forwarding letter, but Shaik Ally Hussain has since told me that it is my handwriting. This may be the case, for I was in the habit of writing letters from Meer Roostum to Sir Charles Napier; but there was so much confusion at the time I do not recollect it.

If you saw the letter, would you be able to state whether the handwriting is yours or not?—Yes, certainly.

*A letter bearing the seal of Meer Roostum is here shown to Subedar Sabur Ally*. Is this your handwriting?—Yes, it is; this is the letter Meer Roostum sent with the cession and treaty to Sir Charles Napier.

(signed) *J. W. Younghusband, Lt,*  
Lieutenant of Scinde Police.

Sukkur, 21 December 1849.

No. 14.

CONVERSATION between *Meer Roostum Khan* and *Meer Ali Morad Khan* when *Meer Roostum Khan* had gone to Deejee in the Month of January 1843.

Meer Ali Morad.—You are now an old man, and had better give over governing the country. Your sons are always in concert with Futteh Mahomed Goree, making disturbances. The British Government does not approve of this, therefore they think that you are unfit to govern, and you will get into a scrape through this.

Meer Roostum Khan.—I, and you, and Nusseer Khan, and Futteh Mahomed Goree, will hold a concert together on this matter, and settle it.

Meer Ali Morad.—There is no occasion for any others to be present; you and I are quite sufficient. Futteh Mahomed Goree is a disturber, and Nusseer Khan in this business is a great loser, therefore will not agree.

Meer Roostum.—Meer Ally Morad, what do you say? The British Government will do nothing to me. I have committed no crime.

Meer Ally.—I do not know that you have committed any crime, but if you do not know what you have done, Futteh Mahomed does. But I imagine that if you cede the chieftainship and the country to me, the Government will still remain in your hands, and I will be as your child, and what you have to answer for to the British will easily be settled.

Meer Roostum.—I see that for two reasons, the country will not remain in my hands: first, because I am a decrepit old man; secondly, because Futteh Mahomed Goree and my sons are continually fighting.

Meer Ali Morad.—That is the case.

Meer Roostum.—Make out a treaty and bind it to me; when I have read and agreed to it, I will sign and send it.

Meer Ali Morad then wrote out a treaty\*, giving over to him all the territory belonging to Meer Roostum Khan, Meer Mobaruk Khan, the chieftainship, the forts and artillery, and brought it to Meer Roostum Khan for signature, who, when he saw it, said,

Meer Roostum.—The country from Roree northwards I have given to the British Government, and it has been proclaimed through those districts; that country therefore belongs to the British; I therefore cannot cede that. The lands of Meer Mobaruk Khan do not belong to me, so neither can I cede those; nor can I cede the country belonging to my sons, for they have no other livelihood; but I will cede to you my own territories; you take care of them.

Meer Ali Morad.—Meer Sahib, that country north of Roree will never be asked after by the British; if it is, I will be answerable. Whatever arrangement the British Government makes, I will carry it into effect. I will also make arrangements for the continuance in their jagheers of the sons of Meer Mobaruck Khan, as also for your own sons, and for your private expenses. I am answerable; be satisfied.

Meer Roostum.—Very good. Write a treaty according to this, and I will give you the whole country and chieftainship.

Meer Ally Morad then wrote out the agreement and signed it. Meer Roostum Khan then wrote the treaty in the Koran, ceding his territory to him. After this Meer Roostum Khan wrote a letter to Major-general Sir C. Napier, telling him what he had done, and enclosing the agreement signed by Meer Ali Morad. This came to the latter's ears, and he sent a man after Meer Roostum's servant, and took the letter from him, and it was given to Shaik Ally Hussan, with whom it is now. The copy is with me (Peer Ally Gohur).

(True translation.)

(signed) *J. W. Younghusband, L.*,  
Lieutenant of Police.

No. 15.

TRANSLATION of the Treaty entered into between *Meer Roostum Khan* and *Meer Ally Morad Khan*, in January 1843.

I, ALLY MORAD KHAN TALPOOR, have told Meer Roostum Khan that he is now an old man, and that I will be answerable for everything to the British Government, if he cedes to me the whole of his territory and the chieftainship. Meer Roostum has agreed to cede to me the territory, forts, and chieftainship belonging to him; but there were four conditions attached to it, which were to be guaranteed to him before he would do so. They are as follows:—

1. The country north of Roree belongs to the British.
2. The sons of Meer Mobaruck Khan are to keep possession of their lands.
3. Ditto with reference to my (Meer Roostum's) sons.
4. His private expenses.

These four stipulations I have agreed to, and for that reason agree and write this:—That if the British Government ever ask why the territory north of Roree was given away to Meer Ally Moorad, I will be answerable for it if they wish it. I will give it to them, and will prevent any displeasure of the British coming down on Meer Roostum for this; secondly, that all the sons of Meer Roostum shall keep their jagheers, and in this I never will tell a lie; nor will I ever take a span of their lands; nor have I any authority in their jagheers in any way. If I do not take the country of Meer Mobaruck Khan the British Government will; so I will take it, and then give it back to Meer Mobaruck's sons, for I have no right to the country; not a span of it; it belongs to them, and I will give it to them. As for Meer Roostum, who is as a father to me, I will leave with him his zenana, slaves, servants, &c., and will give what he requires for his expenses, and in every way will I oblige him. What I have written above I agree to. This is a sunnud, nor will I encroach a single hair on what I have written, as God is my witness. Dated 16th Zekad 1258.

As long as Meer Roostum Khan lives, the city of Khypore will remain in his hands.

(True translation.)

Shikarpore,  
4 January 1848.

(signed) *J. W. Younghusband, L.*,  
Lieutenant of Police.

No. 16.

STATEMENT of Peer Ally Gohur, made before *R. K. Pringle, Esq.*,  
Commissioner in Scinde.

THE separate private deed of Meer Roostum, ceding the Turban and all his lands, is shown to Peer Ally Gohur, and he is asked :

Do you recognise this paper ?

Yes ; it is in my hand-writing, and was written when Meer Roostum ceded the Turban to Meer Ally Morad.

This statement was taken in my presence by Lieutenant Younghusband, lieutenant of police.

Sukkur, 26 December 1849. (signed) *R. K. Pringle,*  
Commissioner.

No. 17.

STATEMENT of Sheikh Alee Hussein, made before *R. K. Pringle, Esq.*,  
Commissioner in Scinde.

*Questions by Commissioner.*

*Answers by Deponent.*

Did you give any statement to Sir Charles Napier regarding the transfer of the Turban by Meer Roostum ?

Yes ; I gave a statement at the same time as I did the one regarding the treaty of Moonar.

Did you give any papers to Sir Charles Napier regarding this subject ?

Not at that time, for they were at Mooltan ; but I got them down, and sent them to Major Goldney, who forwarded them to Kurrachee ?

Do you recognise the two papers here shown to you ?

Yes, I recognise them ; they are the letters I addressed to Captain Brown and Moonshee Alee Ackbar on the subject.

These papers are marked (E.) and (F.).

Do you recognise these papers also ?

Yes ; one is the letter from Meer Roostum Khan to Sir Charles Napier, and the other the private agreement between Meer Alee Morad and Meer Roostum, regarding the cession of the Turban ; these are the original papers referred to above.

They are marked (G.) and (H.).

How did these papers come into your possession ?

Meer Alee Morad gave them to me to put by, when I was in his full confidence.

Do you know what messengers Meer Roostum sent with the letter ?

No, I do not.

Who were present when the private agreement between Meer Roostum and Meer Alee Moorad was executed ?

I, Peer Alee Gohur, Sabur Alee Shah, Shere Sing, and several other people.

*Questions by Commissioner.*

Did you ever make these circumstances known to the British authorities before your communication to Sir Charles Napier on the subject?

*Answers by Deponent.*

No, I did not; because I was desirous first to ascertain how the districts of Meerpoor and Mathela would be disposed of. I wrote one petition to Lord Hardinge when I was at Mooltan, after my quarrel with the Meer, subsequent to the Truckee campaign. I wrote in general terms, saying I could give valuable information to the amount of 10 lacks of rupees, but did not particularize until now that inquiries are being instituted.

This examination of Sheikh Aleo Hussein was taken in my presence by Lieutenant Younghusband, lieutenant of police.

Sukkur, 9 January 1850.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle,*  
Commissioner.

(True copies.)

(signed) *G. Inverarity,*  
Assistant Commissioner.

## (E.)

ESTIMATE of the Result of a proposed Exchange of Territory and Settlement of mutual Pecuniary Claims between the British Government and his Highness Meer Ali Moorad, framed on the Supposition that the Districts claimed by the latter in virtue of their alleged Cession by Meer Nusseer Khan, in the Treaty of Nonar, are disallowed by us, but a portion of them ceded to Meer Ali Moorad in exchange for others.

## ESTIMATES of Territorial Exchange.

	<i>Rupees.</i>
1. Annual revenue of land belonging to Meer Ali Moorad, on the west of the Indus, proposed to be ceded to us - - -	1,72,000
2. Annual revenue of three parts in the Desert ceded by Meer Ali Moorad, at our request, to Jessulmeer - - -	14,000
<i>Rupees</i> - -	1,86,000
3. Annual revenue of Meerpoor Mirhrkee and Mahtehla on the east bank of the Indus, proposed to be ceded to Ali Moorad - - -	1,63,163
4. Balance to be made good by us, in annual revenue or its pecuniary equivalent, to Meer Ali Moorad - - -	22,837
<i>Rupees</i> - -	1,86,000

## ESTIMATE of the Settlement of mutual Pecuniary Claims.

	<i>Rupees.</i>
5. Revenues of Meerpoor Mirhrkee and Mahtehla for five years, <i>i. e.</i> from 1845 to 1850, due to us by Meer Ali Moorad, $1,83,163 \times 5$ - - -	8,15,815
6. Revenues of village Dadlo, ditto ditto, $2,520 \times 5$ - - -	12,600
7. Revenues of Meer Mahomed's jagheers, enjoyed by Meer Ali Moorad, but due to us for five years, $23,400 \times 5$ - - -	1,17,000



	<i>Rupees.</i>
8. Revenues of Meer Gulam Mustafa's jagheers, enjoyed by Meer Ali Morad, but due to us for seven years, $9,293 \times 7$ - - -	65,051
9. Revenues of Kundra, enjoyed by Ali Moorad, but due to us, for seven years, $6,200 \times 7$ - - - - -	43,400
10. Revenues collected in 1843 by Shek Ali Hussan, Ali Moorad's agent, from districts belonging to us - - - - -	1,04,055
11. Revenues collected in 1843 by Ali Moorad's agents, in our district of Seshwistan in 1843 - - - - -	47,719
<i>Rupees</i> - -	12,05,640
12. Balance of annual revenue to be made good by us to Ali Moorad, valued at 20 years' purchase, $22,837 \times 20$ - - -	4,56,740
13. Revenues of Ali Moorad's districts west of the Indus, collected by us for seven years, $26,771 \times 7$ - - - - -	1,87,397
14. Ditto ditto east of the Indus, for two years preceding 1845 - - -	1,31,919
15. Revenues of forts ceded to Jessulmeer for seven years, $14,000 \times 7$ - - - - -	98,000
16. Estimated value of ceded forts - - - - -	3,00,000
17. <u>Balance</u> due to us by Ali Moorad - - - - -	31,584
<i>Rupees</i> - -	12,95,640

NOTES explanatory of the foregoing Estimates.

1. TAKEN from estimates framed at the time of the original draft treaty, and agreed to by both parties. I believe that considerably overrates the value of some of the districts, particularly Budika; but this contains much waste land, and may be expected to improve under good management.

2. Taken from various data, none of them of a very satisfactory character; but the balance of testimony makes it appear that Khyrpoor rupees 15,500 = Company's rupees 14,000, might have been realised in a favourable season, which sum is therefore an ample allowance to make to Ali Moorad under this head.

3, 5, 6. Taken from the actual realisations in the year 1844-45, when the districts were held by us.

4. *Vide* item 12.

7. Taken from a statement furnished by Major Goldney as the result of information collected from parties well acquainted with details, and exclusive of rupees 13,000 annually allowed by Ali Moorad to Meer Mahomed.

8. Taken from a statement furnished by Major Goldney at the same time as that alluded to in item 7, and which does not include Sudoja, also a jagheer of Goolam Moostafa's, but now in the Hyderabad collectorate.

9, 10. Taken from estimate framed for the draft treaty, and agreed to by both parties.

11. Taken from accounts and vouchers furnished by Captain Preedy, collector of Kurachee, subsequently to the formation of the estimates for the draft treaty.

12. *Vide* item 4.

13. Taken from accounts of the actual realisations furnished by Major Goldney.

14. Taken from the estimate (F.) framed for the draft treaty, but excluding the revenues of the districts now disallowed, and the collections from those already included in item 13.

15. *Vide* item 2.

16. This item is perhaps much over-estimated, but it is one for which no satisfactory data are procurable; and as it is taken at nearly the amount claimed by Ali Moorad himself, he can make no objection to it.

## (F.)

**ESTIMATE** of the Result of a proposed Exchange of Territory and Settlement of mutual Pecuniary Claims between the British Government and his Highness Meer Ali Moorad, framed on the Supposition that the Districts claimed by the latter in virtue of their Cession by Meer Nusseer Khan in the Treaty of Nonar are allowed to him.

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**ESTIMATE of Territorial Exchange.**

	<i>Rupees.</i>
1. Annual revenue of the districts of Gotekee, Roree, and Kunder, on the east bank of the Indus, belonging to us, and proposed to be ceded to Meer Ali Moorad - - - -	1,68,200
2. Annual revenue of the jagheers of Meer Mahomed Khan, on the east bank of the Indus, and proposed to be ceded by us to Meer Ali Moorad, and jagheers to be given by us to Meer Mahomed, in lieu of them, on the west bank - -	45,100
<i>Rupees</i> - -	2,13,300
3. Annual revenue of lands on the west bank of the Indus, belonging to Meer Ali Moorad, and proposed to be ceded to us - - - - -	1,72,000
4. Annual revenue of three forts in the Desert, ceded by Meer Ali Moorad, at our request, to Jussulmeer - - - -	14,000
5. Balance to be made good to us in annual revenue, or its pecuniary equivalent, by Meer Ali Moorad - - - -	27,300
<i>Rupees</i> - -	2,13,300

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**ESTIMATE of the Settlement of mutual Pecuniary Claims.**

	<i>Rupees.</i>
6. Balance of annual revenue to be made good to us by Meer Ali Moorad, valued at 20 years' purchase, $27,300 \times 20$ - -	5,46,000
7. Revenues of certain jagheers of Meer Mahomed, due to us but enjoyed by Meer Ali Moorad, for five years, $23,400 \times 5$ -	1,17,000
8. Revenues of certain jagheers of Meer Goolam Moostaffa, due to us but enjoyed by Meer Ali Moorad, for seven years, $9,293 \times 7$ - - - - -	65,051
9. Revenues of the district of Kundra, enjoyed by Meer Ali Moorad but due to us, for seven years, $6,200 \times 7$ - -	43,400
10. Revenues collected in 1843 by Meer Ali Moorad's agent, Shaik Ali Hussain, from districts belonging to us - -	1,04,055
11. Ditto by Meer Ali Moorad's agents in our district of Schwistan, in 1843 - - - - -	47,719
<i>Rupees</i> - -	9,23,225
12. Revenues of Ali Moorad's districts west of the Indus, collected by us, for seven years, $26,771 \times 7$ - - - - -	1,87,397
13. Ditto of ditto east of the Indus, ditto - ditto, for two years preceding 1845 - - - - -	3,02,465
14. Revenues of forts ceded to Jessulmeer, for seven years, $14,000 \times 7$ - - - - -	98,000
15. Estimated value of ceded forts - - - - -	3,00,000
16. Balance due to us by Meer Ali Moorad - - - -	35,363
<i>Rupees</i> - -	9,23,225

NOTES explanatory of the foregoing Estimates.

1. TAKEN from estimates framed at the time of the original draft treaty, and agreed to by both parties.
2. Taken from a statement furnished by Major Goldney, as derived from persons well acquainted with the details, and inclusive of the sum of 13,000 Khyrpoor rupees annually allowed by Meer Ali Moorad to Meer Mahomed, with the addition of the jagheer of Taracharee Powaree, now in the hands of Meer Mahomed, which is valued in the estimates for the draft treaty at 10,000 rupees.
3. Taken from estimates framed at the time of the draft treaty, and agreed to by both parties. I believe it considerably over-rates the present value of some of the districts, particularly Boordika; but this contains much waste land, and may be expected to improve under good management.
4. Taken from various data, some of them of a very unsatisfactory character; but the balance of testimony makes it appear that about 15,500 Khyrpoor rupees (14,000 Company's rupees) might have been realized in a favourable season. This is, therefore, an ample allowance to make to Meer Ali Morad under this head.
5. *Vide* item 6.
6. *Vide* item 5.
7. From the same source as item 2.
8. From a statement furnished by Major Goldney along with that alluded to in item 2, and which does not include Sudonjee, also a jagheer of Goolam Moostaffa's, but now in the Hyderabad collectorate.
9. Taken from estimates framed at the time of the draft treaty, and agreed to by both parties.
10. Ditto - - - ditto.
11. Taken from accounts and vouchers furnished by Captain Preedy, collector of Kurra-chee, subsequently to the preparation of the estimates for the draft treaty.
12. Taken from accounts of actual realization furnished by Major Goldney.
13. Taken from estimate framed for the draft treaty, excluding collections already included in item 12.
14. *Vide* explanation on item 4.
15. This item is, perhaps, much over-estimated; but it is one for which no satisfactory data are procurable, and as it is taken at nearly the amount claimed by Meer Ali Moorad himself, he cannot object to it.

(G.)

DRAFT of a TREATY proposed to be substituted for that transmitted to the Government of India on the 4th May 1845.

(After the usual Preamble.)

Article I. There shall be perpetual peace and friendship between the British Government and his Highness Meer Ali Morad, his heirs and successors, and the friends and enemies of the one state shall be the friends and enemies of the other.

Article 1 is substituted for Article 1 of the former draft.

Article II. His Highness Ali Morad agrees to act in subordinate co-operation with the British Government, and to have no intercourse or alliance with any other state unless with the knowledge and consent of the British Government.

Articles 2, 3, and 4 embody the provisions of Articles 4 and 5 of the former draft.

Article III. The British Government engages to protect the territories of his Highness Meer Ali Morad against all aggression, and his Highness Meer Ali Morad engages to afford every facility, in the purchase of supplies or otherwise, to such British troops as may have occasion to pass through his territories; his Highness likewise engages to afford all the assistance in his power to the British Government in all wars or military operations in which it may be engaged.

Article IV. His Highness Meer Ali Morad will not commit aggression on other states, and in the event of any cause of difference arising between him and any other state, it shall be submitted to the arbitration and award of the British Government.

Articles 5, 6, and 7 embody the provisions of Articles 8, 9, and 10 of the former draft.

Article V. His Highness Meer Ali Morad shall be absolute ruler within his own country, and the British Government will not interfere in any disputes between his Highness and his own subjects.

Article VI. Armed bodies of men or armed individuals shall not be permitted to enter and seek refuge in the territory of the one state from that of the other; but unarmed subjects of either state shall be free to settle at their own pleasure within the territory of the other, provided that they have permission to do so from the state under whose protection they propose to dwell.

Article VII. All persons charged with murder, treason, robbery or other heinous offence, who may seek refuge in the territory of the one state from that of the other, shall be given up on demand to that effect being made, accompanied by such proof as may be satisfactory to the state within which the accused may have sought refuge. And for the furtherance of justice and prevention of crime his Highness Meer Ali Morad consents that the officers of the British Government may pursue such criminals, and apprehend them within his territories.

Article 8 is adopted in substance from Article 12 of the former draft.

Article VIII. His Highness Meer Ali Morad engages to enforce within his territory rules similar to those by which the inhabitants of Scinde are prohibited from publicly carrying arms within the British territory.

Articles 9, 10, 11, and 12 are intended to embody the provisions of Articles 2 and 6 of the former draft, in a form more concise and less open to doubt or dispute.

Article IX. The British Government cedes to his Highness Meer Ali Morad all right and claim to any territory east of the river Indus, and north of the present boundary of the Hyderabad Collectorate, with the exception of the places enumerated in Schedule (No. 1), annexed to this treaty.

Article X. His Highness Meer Ali Morad cedes to the British Government all right and claim to any territory west of the river Indus.

Article XI. The cessions stipulated for in Articles IX. and X. having been made on an estimate of the mutual claims of both states, territorial and pecuniary, and calculated with a view to their final adjustment, are to be held as conclusively disposing of all such claims up to the date of this treaty, and leaving no question connected with them unadjusted.

Article XII. In respect to any lands at present in the possession of the one state, but which under the operation of the above cessions will be transferred to the other, the transfer shall take place on the 1st day of April 1850; and all revenue collected after that date, whether current or in arrear, shall belong to the state to which the lands have been transferred. An enumeration of such lands is given in Schedule (No. 2), annexed to this treaty.

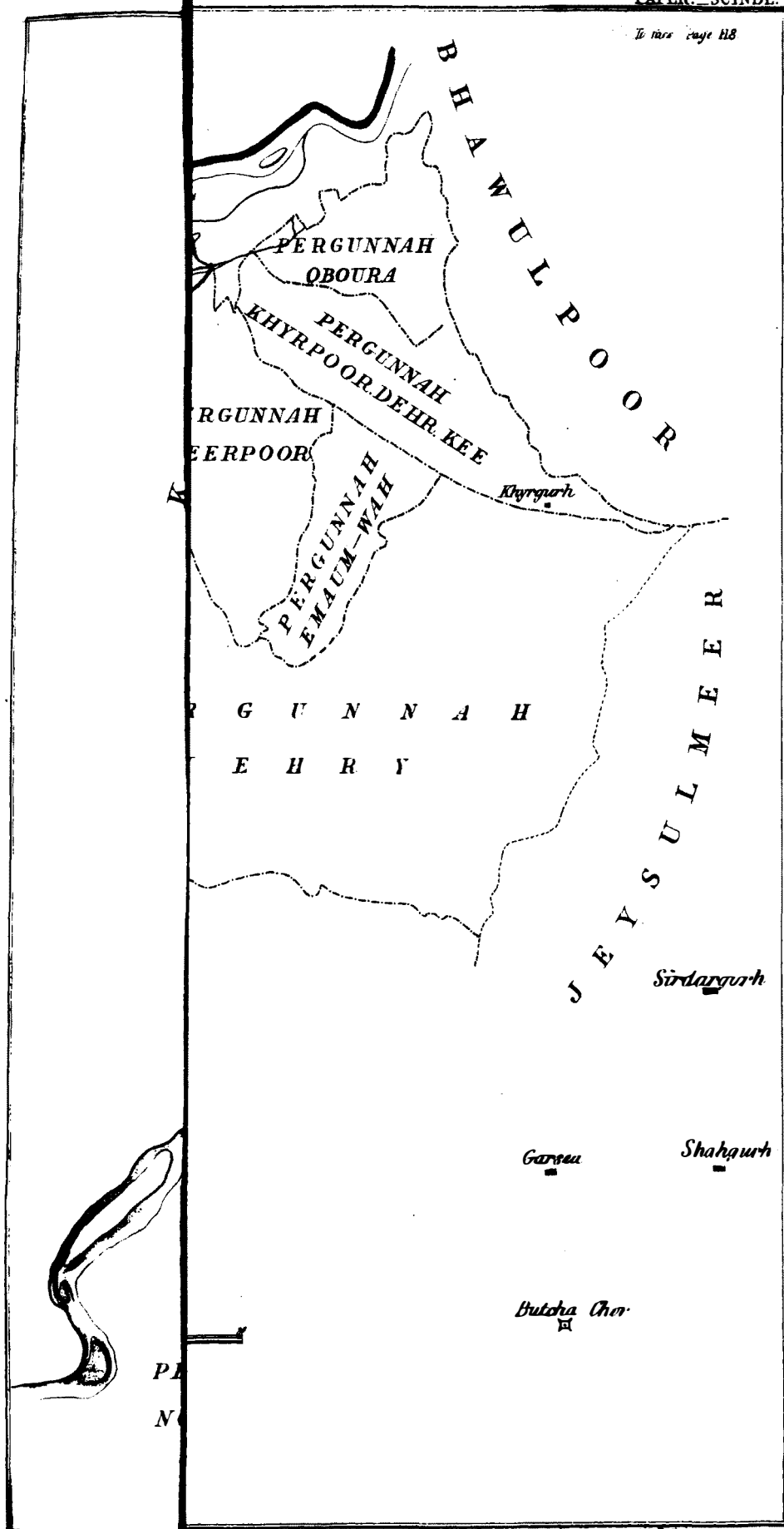
Articles 13 and 14 embody the provisions of Article 7 of the former draft.

Article XIII. If the river Indus should at any time change its course in its passage through the two states, all land that it leaves on the west bank shall become the property of the British Government, and all land that it leaves on the east bank shall become the property of his Highness Meer Ali Morad; provided, that no town, village, fort, or other inhabited place shall be transferred from the government of the one state to that of the other by reason of such change in the course of the river; and provided further, that should such change in the course of the river be effected by any work of art, no transfer of territory shall take place in consequence of it, without the consent of the state from which it is to be transferred.

Article XIV. No duties shall be levied by either state on boats or merchandize passing up or down the river Indus, provided such merchandize be not landed on either bank.

Article 15 is new, and its provisions are likely to be distasteful to the Ameer. The grounds for its proposal are fully stated in my Memorandum.

Article XV. His Highness Meer Ali Morad engages to provide for the descendants of his brothers, Meer Roostum Khan and Meer Mobaruk Khan, in such proportions as to the British Government may appear fitting, a clear annual maintenance, in land or money, of not less than 20,000 Company's rupees each, or 40,000 Company's rupees in all; such provision to be held under the guarantee of the British Government, and paid, if necessary, through its officers, and whether the parties to whom it is assigned reside in British territory or that of his Highness Meer Ali Morad, and to be subject to no reduction without the sanction of the British Government, with whom shall rest the disposal of all questions as to its distribution.



SCHEDULES framed on the supposition that the Treaty of Nownahar is disallowed.

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SCHEDULE No. 1.

LIST of Places on the East Bank of the Indus excepted from the Cessions made by the British Government to His Highness Meer Ali Morad, under Article IX. of the Treaty :

Pergunna Gotkee, Pergunna Roree, Pergunna Kundra.

The following places now or formerly held in Jaghire by Meer Meer Mahomed :

Pergunna Teree Chanee Powaree, Pergunna Oobra Beraloo, Pergunna Shehpoora Keeachee, Village Moree Moola.

The following places formerly held in Jaghire by Meer Goolam Mustafa :

Pergunna Muhrabpoor, Pergunna Sudooja, Pergunna Lakka, Village Kotree Koond, Village Dewan, Village Kusmanee Puranee.

The following places transferred by the British Government to the Raja of Jessulmere :

Fort of Shahgurrh, Fort of Sirdagurrh, Fort of Gursea.

The above list is inclusive of all the lands appertaining by usage to the several places enumerated in it.

SCHEDULE No. 2.

LIST of Places at present held by His Highness Meer Ali Morad, to be transferred to the British Government, under Article XII. of the Treaty, on the 1st April 1850 :

All places whatsoever on the West Bank of the River Indus.

The following places on the East Bank of the Indus :

Pergunna Kundra, Village Dadlo, Pergunna Oobra Beralo, Pergunna Shehpoora Keeachee, Village Mere Moola, Pergunna Mehrabpore, Pergunna Sudooja, Pergunna Lakka, Village Kotree Koond, Village Dewan, Village Kusmanee Puranee.

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SCHEDULES framed on the supposition that the Treaty of Nownahar is allowed.

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SCHEDULE No. 1.

LIST of Places on the East Bank of the Indus excepted from the Cessions made by the British Government to His Highness Meer Ali Morad, under Article IX. of the Treaty :

The Town and Environs (three miles in radius) of Roree.

The following places formerly held in Jaghire by Meer Goolam Mustafa :

Pergunna Mehrabpoor, Pergunna Sadooja, Pergunna Lakka, Village Kotree Koond, Village Dewan, Village Kusmanee Puranee.

The following places transferred by the British Government to the Raja of Jessulmere :

Fort of Shahgurrh, Fort of Sirdagurrh, Fort of Ghursea.

The above list is inclusive of all lands appertaining by usage to the several places enumerated in it.

## SCHEDULE No. 2.

LIST of Places at present held by His Highness Meer Ali Morad, to be transferred to the British Government, under Article XII. of the Treaty, on the 1st April 1850 :

All places whatsoever on the West Bank of the River Indus.

The following places on the East Bank of the Indus :

Pergunna Mehrabpoor, Pergunna Sudooja, Pergunna Lukka, Village Kotree Koond, Village Dewan, Village Kusmanee Puranee.

LIST of Places at present held by the British Government, to be transferred to His Highness Meer Ali Morad, under Article XII. of the Treaty, on the 1st April 1850 :

Pergunna Gotkee, Pergunna Roree (exclusive of the town of Roree and its environs), Pergunna Teree Chanee Powaree.

(True extract.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

(No. 109 of 1850.—Secret Department.)

From the Commissioner in Scinde to the Right Honourable Viscount *Falkland*, Governor and President in Council, Bombay.

My Lord,

IN continuation of my letter, No. 89, of the 15th instant, with accompanying copy of a memorandum on the subject of the affairs of his Highness Meer Ali Morad, I have the honour to transmit, for the information of your Lordship in Council, copies of two memorandums supplementary to the first, which the course of events rendered desirable should be laid before the Most Noble the Governor-general during his late visit to this province; unavoidable circumstances have prevented my forwarding these documents earlier.

I have, &c.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle*,  
Commissioner.

Kurrachee, 28 January 1850.

## SUPPLEMENTARY MEMORANDUM.

1. SINCE my former memorandum was transmitted to the Most Noble the Governor-general, Sheik Ali Hussain has arrived from Mooltan, and has this day been examined in my presence by Lieutenant Younghusband, lieutenant of police, relative to the fraud in the treaty of Nonar, and the private agreement between Meers Roostum and Ali Morad. His evidence, which in all material points confirms his former statements, and corroborates, but with some variations in the details, that obtained from other sources, has been annexed to the documents forming the appendices to my former memorandum.

2. Lieutenant Younghusband, whose assistance I have availed myself of in these inquiries, informed me this morning that an emissary from the Ameer came to him last night with a present of gold to the amount of 17,000 rupees, which has been placed under seal, and deposited in the treasury of the deputy collector of Sukkur.

3. Lieutenant Farrington, the officiating collector of Shikarpore, also informed me to-day that Mr. Teasdale, a European, in the service of his Highness Meer Ali Morad, waited upon him the day before yesterday, with the offer of a present of jewels to a very large amount, on the part of the Ameer, which was declined.

4. I note

4. I note these circumstances as indicative of the efforts his Highness appears to be making to influence the proceedings now in progress.

9 January 1850.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle.*

(True copy.)

(signed) *Geo. Inverarity,*  
Assistant Commissioner.

No. 88 of 1850.—Secret Department.

From the Commissioner in Scinde to Sir *H. M. Elliot*, K.C.B., Secretary to the Government of India with the Most Noble the Governor-general.

Sir,

WITH reference to the concluding paragraph of my supplementary memorandum on our relations with his Highness Meer Ali Morad, submitted to the Most Noble the Governor-general, under date the 9th instant, I have the honour to transmit copy of a deposition taken by my assistant, Mr. Inverarity, the night before I left Sukkur, from the person deputed by his Highness with a present of gold coins to Lieutenant Younghusband.

2. I request that this document may be annexed to those which form the appendix to my memorandum, marked (B.), as being connected with the subject to which that series of documents relates.

3. I take this opportunity of submitting, for the information of the Governor-general, copy of letters which I have addressed, under dates the 14th and 15th instant, to the Government of Bombay, on the subject of these papers.

I have, &c.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle,*  
Commissioner.

On the Indus, 15 January 1850.

DEPOSITION of Duleh Khan, son of Turrachu Khaskelie, in the service of His Highness Meer Ali Morad Khan of Khyrpoor.

ON the night of the 8th January 1850 you were apprehended while bringing a present of 17,000 rupees, in gold coins, &c., to Lieutenant Younghusband, lieutenant of Upper Scinde police; for what purpose did you bring it, and by whom were you sent?

I am in the service of his Highness Meer Ali Morad, and was sent by him to give the gold to Lieutenant Younghusband. The Meer told me at Naich to take the gold and give it to him, to secure his assistance throughout the accusations that Peer Ali Ghor, &c. were bringing against his Highness. He first sent me with 6,000 rupees, which I brought over to Sukkur; and as the Meer had told me that he would shortly send over more, I waited a day or two, when 8,000 rupees more came over with my brother, Hussein Ali, and the remaining 3,000 rupees came again after that by the hands of his Highness's servant, named Joomra Abra; this last 3,000 rupees was in gold, partly gold coins, and partly in gold lumps. With the other 14,000 rupees I purchased gold in the bazaar from Chela Shroff and others. Chela is a Shikarporee. I sent for him from Shikarpore, and purchased from him in all 10,000 rupees' worth; the other 4,000 rupees' worth was purchased at Roree, by my servant and brother, Hussein Ali, from a shroff whose name I do not recollect. My brother made the purchase of some of the gold at Roree, through the means of Sheekh Bala. After I had bought all the gold, I brought it for Lieutenant Younghusband, when I was apprehended as afore stated. When the Meer, in his tent, told me to take the money for Lieutenant Younghusband, there were present only himself, myself, and my brother Hussein Ali; Hotesing Bunnea was also present a part of the time, but that was in the latter portion of the interview, and then we said nothing of the matter in point before him. The 6,000 rupees aforesaid was made over to my possession by Badul, a servant of the Meer. I am not now in the service of Meer Mahomed Khan, but formerly was, and, for the last 16 months, am a paid servant of the Meer, at 100 rupees per month. I hold a note of the Meer to that effect. I have also a small jaghire of two wells, and land attached thereto, at the village Beraloo, presented me by Meer Ali Morad about two and a half years ago, or thereabout. Besides the wells, I also get four kharwars of grain annually. I quitted Meer Mahomed Khan's service about three years ago, more or less. Since my apprehension here, my brother, Hussein Ali, has been placed in arrest by his Highness Meer Ali Morad. My brother, since then, has sent me several mes-



sages through my servant Jyful, in view to my denying having been sent by the Meer for the above purpose, and also that I might state my having been sent by Meer Mahomed Khan.

The above is a true deposition.

(signed) *Duleh Khan ud Turrachee.*

Given before me this day, 14th January 1850.

(signed) *Geo. Inverarity,*  
Assistant Commissioner.

(True copies.)

(signed) *Geo. Inverarity,*  
Assistant Commissioner.

(True copies.)

(signed) *A. Malet,* Chief Secretary.

**MEMORANDUM** of the first connexion of the British with Ali Morad Khan Tālpur. Prepared in the Foreign Office of the Government of India, and made over to the Government of Bombay during the recent stay of the Most Noble the Governor-general in Bombay.

S. 1843.  
7 October, No. 491,  
p. 22; Nos. 492 and  
500, p. 29.

S. 1843.  
7 October, Nos. 299  
and 300.

S. 1843.  
28 November, No. 129.

S. 1843.  
18 January, No. 80;  
25 January, No. 62.

S. 1843.  
15 February, No. 58.

S. 1843.  
7 October, Nos. 483,  
484, p. 1, 2, and 8.

S. 1843.  
7 October, Nos. 357,  
493, and 500, p. 38.

S. 1843.  
25 January, No. 61;  
7 October, No. 471,  
p. 14, 15; and No. 498.

S. 1843.  
7 October, No. 473.

S. 1843.  
7 October, No. 302,  
para. 7; and No. 304.

MEER SOHRAB was the rais or head of the Khyrpoor branch of the Talpoors, and possessed the whole of Upper Scinde, which, at the time the British entered Scinde, yielded a revenue of 20,39,000 rupees. Meer Sohrab divided his country into four parts. Each of his three sons, Meer Roostum, Meer Moobaruck, and Meer Ali Morad, received one of these portions as his hereditary property; and Meer Roostum, the eldest son, also had a life interest in the fourth part, which was attached to the Turban. Meer Sohrab regulated the succession in the following manner: "I do hereby make a will, to the effect, that upon my death the Guddee and Turban of the chiefship shall devolve upon Meer Roostum Khan; in failure of Meer Roostum, they shall belong to Meer Moobaruck Khan; in failure of Meer Moobaruck, they shall pass to Meer Ali Morad Khan." Meer Moobaruck, the second son, died in 1839, so that when Sir Charles Napier was appointed to the authority over the territories of the Lower Indus, Meer Ali Morad was the heir apparent to the guddee.

On the 1st December 1842, Sir Charles Napier informed the Ameers that, in consequence of certain infractions of treaty on their part, he was ordered by the Governor-general to confiscate Roree and the left bank of the Indus, up to the Bhawulpore frontier. His Excellency also desired them to meet at Hyderabad, and subscribe their names to a draft treaty which he had received from the Governor-general.

The confiscated territory yielded an annual revenue of 6,10,500 rupees, and contained the following districts:—

Roree, Oobowrah, and Khyrpoor, Duhurkee; Meer Roostum's;

Emamwah, Bhoong Bhara, Sukkur; Subzulkote, one third to Meer Roostum, and two thirds to the Hyderabad Durbar.

Ghotee, Syndpore, Shuttaya, and Mahasbar, Jamshara, Mahateyla, and Meerpoor, Maharee; Meer Moobaruck's sons.

Meer Roostum Khan, an old and imbecile man, alarmed at the intrigues and machinations of his family, sent a secret message to Sir Charles Napier that he was anxious to place himself under his protection. Sir Charles sent him the following reply, through Ali Morad: "I send this by your brother, his Highness Meer Ali Morad; listen to his advice, trust yourself to his care. You are too old for war; and if battle begins, how can I protect you? If you go with your brother, you may either remain with him, or I will send an escort for you to bring you to my camp, where you will be safe. Follow my advice, it is that of a friend. Why should I be your enemy? If I was, why should I take this trouble to save you? I think you will believe me; but do as you please."

Meer Roostum, in great perturbation, took Sir Charles's advice. He made over all his possessions to his sons, and proceeded to Deejee Khote, where his brother Ali Morad, a man of unbounded ambition and great tact, and consistent and

and unswerving in his purpose of aggrandizement, lived in baronial state. Meer Roostum afterwards declared, that although he had received the letter quoted above, and had followed the advice contained therein, he had never written to Sir Charles Napier that he wished to leave his family, and place himself under his Excellency's protection. He felt convinced, however, that such a message had been sent by some one. Be that as it may, he had not remained many days at Deejeekote, ere by a formal piece of writing in the Koran, he reduced himself to beggary by resigning the Turban, and transferring every acre of land he possessed to his brother. In this deed of transfer several of the confiscated districts named above were improperly entered. This transaction was the origin of a controversy between Sir Charles Napier and Major Outram. It was also the principal cause of the war with the Ameers. The Beloochees swore that they would not sheathe their swords unless Meer Roostum were reinstated as Rais.

S. 1843.  
7 October, Nos. 471,  
473, and 497, p. 11.

S. 1843.  
7 October, Nos. 303,  
307, 308, and 479.

S. 1843.  
25 January, No. 63.  
S. 1847. 31 Dec. No. 355.  
(A.)

S. 1843. 7 Oct. No. 472.  
S. 1843. 7 Oct. No. 306.  
(B.)

Sir Charles Napier considered that he was not in a position either to scrutinise the intrigues of Ali Morad (supposing him to have been guilty of any) or to attach any weight to the excuse that Meer Roostum's actions were the emanations of imbecility. "Imbecility is not a legitimate excuse for rulers, I have only to deal with Meer Roostum's acts," wrote Sir Charles Napier. He found that Ameer's abdication in favour of Ali Morad to be regular and formal, and he felt himself bound to recognise the latter as Rais. At the same time, however, he wrote to him, "I think your Highness will do well not to assume the Turban. People will say that the English put it on your head against the will of Meer Roostum, but do as you please." Sir Charles Napier also sent word to Meer Roostum that he would like to have an interview with him, in order to hear from him personally all he had done. This message apparently possessed such terrors for Meer Roostum that he immediately fled from Deejee Kote into the Desert. He afterwards declared that he had not received Sir Charles's message, and that he had been frightened away by his brother.

S. 1843.  
7 October, No. 302,  
paras. 2, 3; No. 500,  
p. 68.

S. 1847.  
31 December, No. 358,  
paras. 5, 6.

S. 1843.  
7 October, No. 473,  
para. 3; 30 December,  
No. 38.

S. 1843.  
7 October, No. 498.

S. 1843.  
7 October, No. 293,  
para. 10; and No. 302.

S. 1843.  
7 October, No. 497,  
p. 7 & 11; and No. 498.

Meer Roostum shortly after went to Hyderabad in Lower Scinde, where nearly all the Ameers had assembled for the purpose of discussing the propriety of signing the draft treaty which Sir Charles Napier had sent them. Here, at a conference between Major Outram and the Ameers on the 8th February 1843, Meer Roostum indignantly complained of the treatment he had received from his brother, Ali Morad, and retracted his resignation of the Turban. "Would I resign my birthright of my own free will?"

S. 1843.  
7 October, Nos. 471,  
478, 482, and 500, p. 57.

S. 1843.  
7 October, No. 292,  
para. 6; and No. 293,  
paras. 3 to 8, & 13.

S. 1843.  
7 October, Nos. 474 &  
496.

S. 1843.  
7 October, Nos. 471 &  
497, p. 22, 23, & 29.

(C.)

(D.)

S. 1843.  
15 March, No. 155.  
7 October, No. 491,  
p. 40; and No. 500,  
p. 79, 80.

S. 1843.  
7 October, No. 483,  
p. 9.

S. 1843.  
15 March, No. 155.  
7 October, No. 301,  
paras. 4, 5.

S. 1847.  
31 December, No. 353.

After some hesitation, the Ameers agreed to the terms of the treaty; but they at the same time stated, that unless Major Outram would give a promise that the Government of India would permit them to unite their forces against Ali Morad for the purpose of compelling that Ameer to yield the Turban to Meer Roostum, it would be out of their power to restrain their Beloochee retainers from proceeding to acts of violence. Major Outram did not feel himself competent to give such a promise, and his house was attacked by an infuriated multitude. His gallant defence is well known. Sir C. Napier rapidly came up with his 2,500 troops, and overthrew the hosts opposed to him at Meeanec on the 17th February 1843. The battle of Dubba was fought on the 24th March, and the conquest of Scinde was complete.

#### Proposed Treaty with Ali Morad Khan Talpoor.

The Governor-general was desirous of rewarding our three allies, Ali Morad, the Khan of Bhawalpore, and the Raowl of Jessulmere. To the Ameer he directed the cession of a great portion of the territory which had been confiscated in December 1842; to Bhawal Khan, the districts of Bhoong Bhara and Subzulkote; and to the Raowl of Jessulmere the forts of Shahgurh, Gunseya, and some other forts, which were in the Desert.

Ali Morad expressed great dissatisfaction with this arrangement. He complained, that instead of being rewarded for his services, several pergunnahs to which he had a right, had been taken away from him by the British. The fact is,

S. 1843.  
7 October, Nos. 292,  
293, para. 2; Nos. 357,  
358, paras. 10, 11;  
No. 484, p. 22, 23, 26,  
27; & Nos. 494 & 500.

S. 1846.  
28 November, Nos.  
128 & 156, para. 3.

\* This retraction was invalid, according to Mahomedan law. See Cons. 7 Oct. 1843, Nos. 294 to 296.

(E.)  
S. 1843,  
7 October, No. 290,  
para. 4; and Nos. 291  
& 298.  
S. 1847,  
31 December, No. 353,  
paras. 20 to 22.

is, that the country north of Roree, which had been confiscated by Sir Charles Napier, contained several districts which were afterwards entered in Meer Roostum's deed of transfer. During the confusion which prevailed a short time previous to the battle of Meeanee, Sir Charles Napier had permitted Ali Morad to take temporary charge of these districts, as the kardars were appropriating the revenues to themselves. Ali Morad seemed determined to grasp whatever he possibly could; on his march to Hyderabad, shortly after the conquest, he entered, without permission, into the British districts of Sehwanistan, and collected cash to a large amount from the produce of the rubbee and khurreef crops.

S. 1846.  
28 November, No. 132.

Eventually, however, Ali Morad agreed to abide by our decision. "It is but justice to his Highness," wrote Sir Charles Napier, "to say, that although he claims much more than we could possibly allow to be just, he ended by assuring me that whatever the British Government decided he would be satisfied with.

(F.) The attempt to get the most was natural and oriental. But the being content with what the British concede does him credit, and shows his good sense prevailing over the chicanery which those about him try to force on him."

(G.)  
S. 1845.  
21 Feb., Nos. 59 to 62.  
S. 1846.  
28 November, No. 128.

Ali Morad had been so dissatisfied at first that he even ventured to depute, without the knowledge of the Governor of Scinde, a vakeel to the Supreme Government with "certain secret messages;" but the Governor-general refused to receive this person.

S. 1846.  
28 November, No. 156,  
para. 5.

(H.)  
Ditto, Ditto, para. 21.  
(I.)

S. 1846.  
28 Nov., Nos. 154, 155.

S. 1847.  
31 December, Nos.  
345, 358, & 359.

In order that a proper understanding on these matters might be established, it became necessary to draw up a written agreement between the Honourable East India Company and Ali Morad. Accordingly, on the 4th May 1845, Sir Charles Napier submitted a draft treaty for the approval of the Governor-general, with this remark, "It is very desirable that the treaty should be concluded as soon as possible, as it will greatly tend to settle Scinde." More than four years have now elapsed, and yet no final orders on the subject have been passed. Ali Morad's affairs were brought on the tapis in 1846, when Lord Hardinge met Sir Charles Napier at Lahore; but the requisite papers having unluckily been left at Ferozepore, the subject could not be properly discussed. Pending the execution of the regular treaty, however, Sir Charles Napier was directed to enter into a treaty of friendship and alliance with his Highness.

In February 1847, Ali Morad expressed the greatest anxiety for the ratification of a treaty, and suspected that Sir Charles Napier threw obstacles in the way. His Excellency informed him that there was no occasion for him to be alarmed; that probably the Governor-general's attention had been so much absorbed in the affairs of the Punjaub, that he had not had time to investigate his Highness's claims; since then every thing seems to have remained in abeyance.

S. 1846.  
28 November, No. 131.

The proposed treaty is inserted below, with a few elucidative remarks appended to some of the articles.

"Art. I. The Honourable East India Company is the paramount power in India.

"Art. II. His Highness Ali Morad Khan, Talpoor, is acknowledged as Rais, and as successor to all the lands which were held by his Highness Meer Roostum Khan, Talpoor, at the time the said Meer was overthrown in the battle of Meeanee, and also the lands conceded to his Highness by Meer Nusseer Khan Talpoor. These lands were as follows:

#### "Of Meer Roostum Khan.

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| " 1. Kohchira Chor Abreja.                  | " 10. Oobowra.                  |
| " 2. Noushera.                              | " 11. Khyrpoor Duhurkee.        |
| " 3. Kundiara.                              | " 12. Emamwahi.                 |
| " 4. Ludda Gagun.                           | " 13. 9/28 share of Shikarpore. |
| " 5. City of Khyrpoor.                      | " 14. Mooghlee.                 |
| " 6. Roree.                                 | " 15. Chuah and Mazarcha.       |
| " 7. Rence (country of the Desert).         | " 16. Ropah.                    |
| " 8. Nara.                                  | " 17. Bcordika.                 |
| " 9. Forts of Shahguruh, Sirdargurh,<br>&c. |                                 |

' And

“ And of Meer Nusseer Khan (the eldest son of Meer Moobaruck).

“ 18. Meerpoor.

“ 20. Muhurkee and the village  
of Dadlo.”

“ 19. Mathela.

*Remarks.*—Nos. 6, 10, 11, 12, 18, 19, and 20 constitute a portion of the tract which was confiscated in December 1842, prior to the date of deed. Sir Charles proposed to give them to Ali Morad as a reward for his fidelity.

S. 1847.  
31 December, No. 353.

The forts of Shahgurh, Sirdarghurh, &c. (No. 9), were made over to Jessulmere, and will be noticed by-and-by.

All the above-named places, including those ceded to Ali Morad by Nusseer Khan, were entered in Meer Roostum's deed of transfer, besides the following :

1. *Mazarha*. This had been wrested from Meer Roostum by the Sikhs ; it was therefore ridiculous for him to have mentioned it in the deed.

S. 1847.  
31 December, No. 354.

There was another place (Rojhan) which had been taken from Meer Roostum by Runjeet Sing, and to which Ali Moorad laid a claim after the Sutlej campaign.

S. 1846.  
28 November, Nos.  
140, 147 to 149, 151  
& 152.

2. *Kushmoor*. Meer Roostum had no right to transfer this ; it belonged to Nusseer Khan.

3. *Kutteera*.

4 & 5. *Bhoong Bhara and Subzulcote*.

These two were made over to Bhawul Khan by the Governor-general's desire.

S. 1842.  
28 December, No. 973.  
S. 1843.  
25 January, No. 64 ;  
15 February, Nos. 59  
to 61.

“ Art. III. This treaty shall supersede all former treaties in the matters to which it refers.

“ Art. IV. His Highness the Meer Ali Morad Khan, Talpoor, binds himself not to correspond or enter into any treaty with any other Court or Power, except with the knowledge and consent of the Governor-general of India in Council.

“ Art. V. The Honourable Company, on the other hand, engage to protect his Highness against the oppression of every other power.

“ Art. VI. An exchange of territory shall take place with regard to certain villages and lands now in the possession of the respective contracting parties, viz., to his Highness Ali Morad Khan, Talpoor, the Honourable East India Company concedes in perpetuity the following possessions :

(Ten districts and villages, not necessary to be named in this place.)

“ To the Honourable East India Company his Highness Meer Ali Morad Khan Talpoor, concedes in perpetuity the following possessions, in exchange for the foregoing districts or purnannas of Boordika.”

(The halves of 18 districts and villages.)

*Remarks.*—On the 19th September 1843, Lord Ellenborough pointed out to Sir Charles Napier that the principle of exchanging lands of equal value in order to bring estates into unbroken masses, might be applied with advantage to the districts in Upper Scinde. Accordingly, in the foregoing Article, his Excellency proposed an exchange by which all Ali Morad's territory would be brought upon one bank of the Indus. “ We shall now,” wrote his Excellency, “ hold the right bank of the river, with our possessions unbroken from its mouth, and from Kurrachee to the Mooltan territory at Rojhan, on the west, and up to Nowshera, on the east ; from whence his Highness's territory will be in a compact mass, up to the territory of the Nawab of Bhawalpoor. I confess I should have preferred that all his Highness's territory should have been on the west, and ours on the east bank. But this was impracticable ; he could not resign Deejee-ke-Kote and Khyrpore, and we could not give up Kurrachee. \* \* \* It would be very inconvenient both to his Highness and to us, if small tracts and villages belonging to him were situated in the midst of our possessions, and the contrary. Such inconvenience is too evident to need being detailed.”

S. 1843.  
7 October, No. 358,  
para. 12.

S. 1846.  
28 November, No. 132.

Art. VII. The Governor-general approved of the exchange. (Provides for the contingency of the river changing its course in its passage through the territories of the contracting parties.)

S. 1846.  
28 November, No. 156,  
para. 17.

Art. VIII. The Honourable Company “engage not to interfere in any dispute which may hereafter arise between his Highness and his subjects, whether those subjects be Ameers or other servants; and his Highness has full powers to act towards his own people as an independent sovereign. Nor will the Honourable Company permit armed bodies of men, or armed individuals belonging to either of the contending parties, to enter or seek refuge within the territory of the Company. And this rule is to be reciprocal.

“Art IX. The subjects of both the contracting parties shall be free to settle within the territory of either power at the pleasure of the said individuals; provided always, that they have permission to do so from the Government under whose protection they propose to dwell.”

*Remarks.*—Ali Morad objected to this article, and wished it to run thus:—  
“No person, whether guilty or innocent, being subjects of one of the contracting parties, shall be allowed to settle in the country of the other.” His reason was, that the British Government being very rich, could afford to make great remissions in the taxes of the people; whereas it would be improper for him to depart from the established customs of his ancestors, even if he could afford to do so. The consequence would be, that his subjects would flock over to the Company’s territories.

S. 1846.  
28 November, Nos.  
135 & 139.

Sir Charles Napier considered Ali Morad’s reasoning to be without a just foundation. The established custom of the Ameers, he said, had been to grind down the peasant by over taxation. “The Ameer complains, but he has the remedy in his hands. Let him be just to his labourers; to consent to the unjust proposal of the Ameer would be to back up his oppression by the force of the Company’s armies, and ensure frequent outbreaks among the people.”

S. 1846.  
28 November, No. 136.

The Governor-general concurred with his Excellency.

S. 1846.  
28 November, No. 156,  
para. 18.

Art. X. (All murderers and traitors to be given up if they seek refuge within the territory of either of the contracting powers).

Art. XI. (All merchandize, when sold, to be subject to the usual customs; but no tolls to be levied on trading boats passing up or down the river).

“Art. XII. That as the British Government have forbidden the inhabitants of Scinde to carry arms in public, so his Highness Ali Morad Khan Talpoor is to forbid the wearing of arms by his subjects under the same rules which have been established by the Government of Scinde.”

S. 1846.  
28 November, No. 139.

*Remarks.*—This is the last Article. Ali Morad objected to it. He urged that his subjects were frequently obliged to throw away their pruning-hooks and betake themselves to their swords. “They are at times cultivators, and at other times soldiers; and when they travel to a distance from Khyrpore it is necessary they should wear arms.”

S. 1846.  
28 November, No. 156,  
para. 19.

(K.)

The Governor-general was of opinion that it would not be expedient to press this article. “The rule is not enforced in our own territories, nor has it ever been imposed on any of our allies. It would, moreover, be impossible to enforce on his Highness’ part at all times a compliance with this restriction; and it is not expedient that in a treaty there should be any condition which can be habitually broken without involving serious consequences.”

S. 1847.  
31 December, No. 353,  
para. 18.

Sir Charles Napier did not see any great difficulty in enforcing the article. “It is quite true,” he said, “that the inhabitants of other parts of India have not been prohibited from carrying arms; yet I have done this in Scinde, and consider it to be one of the chief causes of tranquillity and safety to travellers in this country.”

The Forts made over to Jessulmere.

This is the only point which remains to be noticed.

The forts of Shahgurb.

Goteyra, &c. are situated in the “Desert.”

S. 1847.  
December, No. 350.

From the statements of the Jessulmere authorities, it appears that they were built by the rulers of Scinde on land belonging to Jessulmere, and that they are now in a ruinous condition. Lord Ellenborough, perhaps with some political motive,

motive, as Sir Charles Napier supposed, ordered his Excellency to transfer the forts to Jessulmere, and to compensate Ali Morad for their loss by the cession of lands exceeding their value by one-third. Ali Morad was highly incensed when he heard of this order, and reluctantly withdrew his garrisons. It is doubtful whether he has to this day received any compensation; it does not appear from these papers that he has. Sir Charles Napier had a great disinclination to pay Ali Morad by a transfer of land, as he considered the land of Scinde to be very fertile, and expected that it would eventually yield a "vast revenue."

(L.)  
S. 1843.  
7 October, No. 301,  
para. 4; No. 358,  
para. 14.  
(M.)  
S. 1847.  
31 December, No. 345.  
(N.)

"As far as I have been able to ascertain," wrote his Excellency, "the value of the forts is 4,17,000, and the revenue they gave 16,450 Khyrpore rupees; from this\*, deducting one-tenth, we get 3,75,300 Company's rupees; and to this add the value of the land, plus one-third, and the bill against us is very heavy. Now it appears to me fair that the Raja of Jessulmere should pay for the forts thus made over to him, and which he could never have taken by force."

S. 1846.  
28 November, No. 132.  
\* i. e. from the value of the forts.

Sir Charles Napier was informed in reply, that the Governor-general preferred a territorial transfer to a money payment. No notice was taken of the proposition to make the Jessulmere Government pay for the forts. Indeed it would have been rather awkward to make such a demand upon the Maha Rawul; he had already been in possession of the forts for nearly two years, and evidently considered them as gifts from the British Government.

S. 1846.  
28 November, No. 156,  
para. 14.

Sir Charles Napier again urged his objection to transfer any land to Ali Morad. "To pay his Highness by a transfer of land would be objectionable; but I have no doubt that such a mode of payment might be negotiated."

S. 1847.  
31 December, No. 353,  
para. 11 to 13.

The money which Ali Morad had improperly collected at Sehistan, amounted to 47,719 rupees; Sir Charles Napier proposed to defer the adjustment of this sum until the time came for paying the Ameer for his forts.

S. 1846.  
28 November, Nos.  
141 to 143, and 156,  
para. 16.

On the 15th October 1846 Ali Morad complained that the subjects of Jessulmere had made several aggressions on his territory, and had plundered, wounded, and murdered several of his subjects. He took the opportunity of again urging his claims to these forts.

S. 1847.  
31 December, Nos.  
346, 347.

The matter was referred for inquiry and report to the agent at Rajpootana, who was at the same time desired to furnish a statement of the value of the forts, and of the revenue of the lands which the Rawul obtained with them.

S. 1847.  
31 December, No. 348.

In reply Colonel Southerland forwarded, without any remarks of his own, translations of certain papers which he had received from the Jessulmere vakeel. It was stated in these papers that the Ameer's people, encouraged by the Ameer himself, had first assaulted the Maha Rawul's subjects, who were then compelled to act on the defensive. The Jessulmere authorities hoped that strict injunctions would be issued to Ali Morad to prohibit any further aggressions on their lands. The vakeel was unable to furnish any accurate information regarding the value of the forts, and the net revenue of the lands attached to them.

S. 1847.  
31 December, Nos.  
349, 350.

Colonel Southerland was directed to procure detailed and accurate information, and to submit them, with his own remarks, so as to enable the Governor-general to come to a proper decision on the claims preferred by Ali Morad.

(O.)  
S. 1847.  
31 December, No. 351.  
(P.)

Colonel Southerland stated in reply (4th June 1847), "Jessulmere is the first state which I intend to visit on the opening of the season, and I shall then have an opportunity of furnishing the information required by the Governor-general."

S. 1847.  
31 December, No. 352.

Here, in a most abrupt and unsatisfactory manner, ends the correspondence regarding Ali Morad, leaving several questions unanswered.

Does the amount which Ali Morad improperly collected in Sehistan remain unadjusted? Has he given up his claims to Rojhan? What about the compensation which we promised him for the Desert forts? If he has been compensated by a transfer of land, what was the estimated value of the forts, and on what data was such an estimate formed? Do his districts lie intermingled with those of the British, or have all his territories been brought in an unbroken mass on one bank of the river, in anticipation of the treaty?

The want of a correct map of the Khyrpore territory was the principal cause of the delay which has taken place in settling these questions. We called for a map on the 24th October 1846, and on the 12th February last were furnished with a copy of one, showing the positions of the districts and villages named in Articles II. and VI. of the Draft Treaty.

Simla, 5 July 1849.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

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MINUTE by the Right Hon. the Governor, concurred in by his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and the Honourable Mr. *Blane*.

WE have recently had the advantage of hearing the sentiments of Lord Dalhousie on the subject of our relations with Alee Morad, especially with reference to the suspicions which attach to him of fraud in substituting a leaf in the treaty with the late Meer Roostum Khan, whereby (if these suspicions prove true) he has hitherto enjoyed certain pergunnahs instead of villages of the same names.

2. It would appear that Mr. Pringle, the Commissioner in Scinde, being satisfied with the inquiry that has already taken place, is inclined to recommend that we should proceed to act almost as we should do were Alee Moorad's guilt undeniably established; for he is of opinion that we should offer to Alee Morad such terms as we may deem it right that he should accept; and on the appearance of any hesitation or indication of intended refusal on his part, that we should compel him to yield by a threat of exposure, and the disgrace that would accompany it.

3. This proceeding, should Alee Moorad persist in denying the fraud imputed to him and demand inquiry, would place us in such a false position that I cannot concur in Mr. Pringle's suggestion; and I prefer to make an open and impartial investigation into the conduct of the Ameer, that he may be absolved from all suspicion if innocent, and that if guilty there may be no room for doubt as to the justice of the measures we may take.

4. With reference to the importance of the case, the high rank and position of the accused party, and the serious consequences that may follow a formal examination into his past proceedings, I am unwilling to adopt a final course on the evidence collected or the opinion formed by a single individual, however able and deserving of confidence, and I therefore propose to appoint a commission to assemble at Sukkur for the purpose of investigating all the circumstances connected with the alleged fraud, receiving Alee Moorad's explanation, and, when the inquiry is closed, reporting the result to Government, with their opinion. I would name the Commissioner, Mr. Pringle, president of this commission, and Major J. Jacob, Commandant of the Scinde Horse, and Major W. Lang, Political Agent in Kattewar, members.

5. They should be instructed to assemble as soon as possible, and to conduct this grave inquiry with the utmost precision and celerity, so that no time may be lost, and no point may remain in doubt.

6. As this mission will remove Major Jacob and Major Lang but for a short time from their ordinary duties, these should be performed by their immediate subordinates, under the usual rules.

As Major Lang will be put to very considerable expense as well as inconvenience by being obliged to leave Kattywar at this season, I would propose that he be allowed a special deputation allowance of 500 rupees per mensem, subject to the confirmation of the Government of India.

21 February 1850.

(signed) *Falkland.*  
*W. Cotton.*  
*D. A. Blane.*

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

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MINUTE by the Honourable Mr. *Willoughby*, concurred in by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

I THINK under all the circumstances of this case, the course suggested by the Right honourable the Governor is the best that can be adopted.

21 February 1850.

(signed) *J. P. Willoughby.*  
*W. Cotton.*

(True copies.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 49 of 1850.—Secret Department.

From *A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay, to  
*R. K. Pringle*, Esq., Commissioner in Scinde.

Sir,

WITH reference to the documents submitted by you to the Most Noble the Governor-general of India, on the occasion of his Lordship's recent visit to Scinde, and to your letters of the numbers and dates noted in the margin\*, regarding the relations of the British Government with his Highness Alee Morad, of Khyrpore, and more particularly to the charge which has been preferred against his Highness of having, with the view of defrauding the British Government, substituted a leaf in the treaty with the late Meer Roostum Khan, ceding to him a pergunnah instead of a village of the same name, I am now directed to communicate to you the following observations and instructions.

\* No. 89, dated  
15 January 1850;  
No. 109, dated  
28 January 1850.

2. The charge advanced against his Highness is of a very serious nature, and *prima facie* seems to be supported by strong evidence. But the Right honourable the Governor in Council cannot concur in your suggestion that Government should at once proceed to pronounce Alee Morad guilty of the base fraud imputed to him, and to treat him indirectly as a guilty man, without first calling upon him to answer the charge, and affording him an opportunity if in his power of refuting it.

3. His Lordship in Council has therefore resolved that a further full and complete investigation should be made into the conduct of the Ameer, in order that he may be absolved from all suspicion if innocent, or that, if really guilty, there may be no reason to question the justice of the measures which it may become necessary to adopt against him.

4. And with reference to the importance of the case, the high rank and position of the party accused, and the consequences which may follow, the Right honourable the Governor in Council is of opinion that a Commission should be appointed for the purpose of investigating all the circumstances connected with the alleged fraud; receiving any explanation which his Highness Alee Morad may desire to afford; and, when the inquiry has closed, reporting the result, with their opinion to Government.

5. His Lordship in Council has therefore determined to appoint a Commission, composed of yourself as president, and Major Lang, Political Agent in Kattywar, and Major John Jacob, Superintendent and Commandant on the frontier of Upper Scinde, as members.

6. This Commission will assemble forthwith at Sukkur. You will place before it all the documentary and oral evidence in your possession connected with the subject of inquiry; but the proceedings of the Commission are to commence *de novo*, and as far as practicable all the evidence is to be taken over again, so as to afford the accused the opportunity of cross-examination, either in person, should he desire it, or by vakeel.

7. His Lordship in Council relies on the Commission conducting the inquiry with precision and impartiality, so that no time may be unnecessarily lost, and no point may be left in doubt, and that as much courtesy and regard for the feelings of his Highness Alee Morad will be shown, as is consistent with the chief object of Government, eliciting the truth.



8. Major Lang has this day been directed to proceed with all practicable expedition to Scinde, and place himself in communication with you, and Major Jacob has also been informed of his having been appointed a member of the Commission.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *A. Malet*,  
Chief Secretary.

Bombay Castle, 25 February 1850.

(True copy.)  
(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

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No. 50 of 1850.—Secret Department.

From *A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay, to Major  
*W. Lang*, Political Agent, Kattywar.

Sir,

1. I AM directed by the Right honourable the Governor in Council to inform you that he has been pleased to appoint you a member of a Commission which has been directed to assemble forthwith at Sukkur, for the purpose of inquiring into a subject, the particulars of which will be communicated to you by the president of this Commission. R. K. Pringle, esq., Commissioner in Scinde, has been nominated president, and yourself and Major J. Jacob, members.

2. On the receipt of these instructions you will be pleased to deliver over charge of your office to your first assistant, and, placing yourself in communication with Mr. Pringle, proceed, at your earliest convenience, either to Kurrachee, or to Hyderabad, in Scinde, as you may consider best calculated to expedite the assembly of the Commission at Sukkur.

3. Whilst employed on this duty, his Lordship in Council is pleased to assign you a special deputation allowance of 500 rupees per mensem, subject to the confirmation of the Government of India.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *A. Malet*,  
Chief Secretary.

Bombay Castle, 25 February 1850.

(True copy.)  
(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

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No. 51 of 1850.—Secret Department.

From *A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay, to Major *Jacob*, Political Superintendent and Commandant on the Frontiers of Upper Scinde.

Sir,

1. I AM directed by the Right honourable the Governor in Council to inform you that he has been pleased to appoint you a member of a Commission which has been directed to assemble forthwith at Sukkur, for the purpose of inquiring into a subject, the particulars of which will be communicated to you by the president of this Commission. R. K. Pringle, esq., Commissioner in Scinde, has been nominated president, and yourself and Major Lang, members.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *A. Malet*,  
Chief Secretary.

Bombay Castle, 25 February 1850.

(True copy.)  
(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

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No. 19 of 1850.—Secret Department.

From *A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay, to  
Sir *H. M. Elliot*, Bart., Secretary to the Government of India.

Sir,

THE Commissioner in Scinde having laid before this Government a copy of the documents which he had the honour to submit to the Most Noble the Governor-general of India, on the occasion of his Lordship's recent visit to the province of Scinde, on the subject of the relations of the British Government with his Highness Meer Ali Morad, of Khyrpoor, I am desired to report, for the information of his Lordship in Council, that this Government, not concurring in the suggestions of the Commissioner in Scinde for the disposal of this case, it has been considered necessary, for reasons mentioned in the accompanying copy of a minute, recorded by this Government on the 21st instant, to appoint a Commission, consisting of the officers named in the margin \*, to investigate the circumstances connected with the fraud which the Ameer is alleged to have committed, in order that a full and impartial investigation may be secured to his Highness before the adoption of any measures which it may be found necessary to take.

2. In reporting the above proceedings, I am desired to solicit the sanction of his Lordship in Council to a special deputation of 500 rupees per mensem to Major Lang, the Political Agent in Kattywar, during the time that officer may be employed on the Commission, as he will be put to very considerable expense as well as inconvenience by being obliged to leave Kattywar at the present season.

A copy of the instructions issued to the Commission is annexed, for the information of his Lordship in Council.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *A. Malet*,

Bombay Castle, 25 February 1850.

Chief Secretary.

(True copy.)  
(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 445 of 1850.—Secret Department.

From *R. K. Pringle*, Esq., Commissioner in Scinde, to the Right Honourable  
Viscount *Falkland*, Governor and President in Council, Bombay.

My Lord,

1. WITH reference to Mr. Chief Secretary Malet's letter, No. 49, dated the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to request I may be informed whether it is the wish of Government that the Commission appointed to inquire into the conduct of his Highness Meer Ali Morad should confine its inquiries to the charge of fraud in the treaty of Noonar, or extend them to other matters of supposed bad faith on the part of his Highness. As for instance, the alleged suppression of the private agreement between himself and Meer Roostum, and the interception of the letter from Meer Roostum, transmitting it to Sir Charles Napier.

2. I also beg to be informed whether when the Commission shall have closed its proceedings and submitted its report, it should wait at Sukkur until the orders of Government are received.

3. I submit these points thus early to prevent the delay which would be caused by references at so great a distance, and when the advanced period of the season may retard the communication.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *R. K. Pringle*,  
Commissioner in Scinde.

Scinde Commissioner's Office, Kurrachee,  
5 March 1850.

(True copy.)  
(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

MINUTE

\* *R. K. Pringle*, Esq., Commissioner in Scinde, president; Major *W. Lang*, Political Agent in Kattywar, member; Major *J. Jacob*, Political Superintendent and Commandant on the Scinde frontier, member.

MINUTE by the Right honourable the Governor, subscribed to by the Board.

I THINK it would be both useless and highly inexpedient for the Commission to enter on the investigation of any acts of Ali Morad which do not directly bear on the matter into which they are charged to examine.

The Commission may separate immediately on having sent in their report, unless there be so serious a difference of opinion among the members as to render a reference to Government necessary.

(signed) *Falkland.*  
*W. Cotton.*  
*J. P. Willoughby.*  
*D. A. Blane.*

12 March 1850.

(True copy.)  
(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 68 of 1850.—Secret Department.

From *A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay, to  
*R. K. Pringle*, Esq., Commissioner in Scinde.

Sir,

1. I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 445, dated the 5th instant.

2. In reply to the 1st para., in which you request instructions whether the Commission appointed to inquire into the conduct of his Highness Meer Ali Moorad should confine its inquiries to the charge of fraud in the treaty of Noonar, or extend them to other matters of supposed bad faith on the part of his Highness, I am desired by the Right honourable the Governor in Council to inform you, that the Commission should not enter on the investigation of any acts of the Ameer which do not directly bear on the matter into which, by the instructions communicated to you in my letter of the 25th ultimo, they have been charged to examine, the circumstances connected with the alleged substitution of a leaf in the treaty with the late Meer Roostum Khan, in which the cession to him of a purgunnah instead of a village of the same name is entered.

3. With reference to your 2d para., I am desired to state, that the Commission may be considered as dissolved immediately on its report being forwarded to Government, unless there be such serious difference of opinion among its members as to render a reference to Government necessary.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *A. Malet*,  
Chief Secretary.

Bombay Castle, 13 March 1850.

(True copy.)  
(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

General, No. 91 of 1850.—Political Department.

From the Political Agent in Kattywar to *A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay.

Sir,

IN acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 25th ultimo, No. 50, in the Secret Department, I have the honour to forward, for the information of Government, copies of my letters to my first assistant and the Commissioner in Scinde, on the subject of it, and hope my making over charge of the agency, without returning to Rajcote, will be sanctioned as a special case.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *William Lang*,  
Political Agent.

Kattywar Political Agency,  
Camp, Velawuddur, 3 March 1850.

No. 89 of 1850.

From the Political Agent in Kattywar to Captain *Aston*, First Assistant Political Agent, Kattywar.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have been directed, in a letter from Mr. Chief Secretary Malet, in the Secret Department, under date the 25th ultimo, to proceed to Sukkur, in Scinde, with the least practicable delay, after making over charge of this agency to you, for the purpose of acting as a member of a Commission which has been directed to assemble at that place, and I beg therefore to request that you will have the goodness to return to Rajcote, and assume charge accordingly, furnishing me after you have done so with the usual receipts for the Treasury, for transmission to the Account Department. As my proceeding by sea to Kurrachee at this season of the year would in all probability cause considerable delay in the assembly of the Commission, my present purpose is to cross the Runn to Cutch, and proceed by land direct to Hyderabad; and as I shall go by Halwud, I purpose remaining at that place till I hear of your having taken charge, and can run into Rajcote for a night, should there be anything to render this necessary, but as this would delay me a little I wish to avoid it if possible, and shall forward a copy of this communication to Government, in order that my delivering over charge to you without visiting Rajcote may be sanctioned as a special case. The English and native establishments, and all the records with me, shall be sent to you on my departure, and I shall hereafter acquaint you with any business there may be requiring your immediate attention, and can run into Rajcote, as already stated, for a night should anything occur which may appear to render this necessary.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *William Lang*,  
Political Agent.

Kattywar Political Agency,  
Camp, Velawuddur, 3 March 1850.

No. 90 of 1850.

From the Political Agent in Kattywar to *R. K. Pringle*, Esq., Commissioner in Scinde.

Sir,

HAVING been directed in a letter from Mr. Chief Secretary Malet, dated 25th ultimo, to place myself in communication with you, in reference to the Commission ordered to assemble at Sukkur, of which you have been appointed president, and Major J. Jacob and myself members, I have the honour to inform you that as soon as I can make over charge of this agency to Captain Aston, who is at present on the western coast of Kattywar, I purpose proceeding through Cutch direct to Hyderabad, in Scinde, unless otherwise instructed by you, as I am likely I think to reach Sukkur by that route much sooner than by proceeding by sea to Kurrachee at this season of the year in a sailing vessel. If you will kindly address your reply to the care of Lieutenant Raikes, assistant political agent in Cutch, I will make arrangements for its reaching me by as direct a route as possible; and you would further oblige me by giving the necessary instructions for my receiving a passage up the river to Sukkur, in any steamer which may be likely to leave Hyderabad towards the end of this month, when I hope to reach that place.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *William Lang*,  
Political Agent.

Kattywar Political Agency,  
Camp, Velawuddur, 3 March 1850.

(True copies.)

(signed) *William Lang*, Political Agent.

(True copies.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

MINUTE by the Right Honourable the Governor, concurred in by the Honourable Board.

MAJOR Lang's proceedings may be approved.

12 March 1850.

(signed) *Falkland.*  
*J. P. Willoughby.*  
*D. A. Blane.*  
*W. Cotton.*

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 69 of 1850.—Secret Department.

From *A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay, to Major *W. Lang*, Political Agent in Kattywar.

Sir,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 91, dated the 3d instant, reporting the circumstances under which you had made over charge of the Kattywar Agency to your first assistant, without returning to Rajkot, and to inform you that your proceedings are approved by the Right honourable the Governor in Council.

Bombay Castle,  
13 March 1850.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *A. Malet*,  
Chief Secretary.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 523 of 1850.—Political Department.

From the Commissioner in Scinde to the Right Honourable Viscount *Falkland*, Governor and President in Council, Bombay.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Chief Secretary Malet's letter, No. 49, dated the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship in Council that I propose leaving this for Sukkur, as soon as I learn from Major Lang, with whom I am in communication, the probable date of his arrival at Hyderabad, in order that we may proceed together up the river from that place.

Kurrachee, 15 March 1850.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *R. K. Pringle*,  
Commissioner in Scinde.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 470 of 1850.—Foreign Department.

From Sir *H. M. Elliot*, K.C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, to *A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

Sir,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 19, dated the 25th February, respecting the appointment of a Commission to inquire into certain circumstances relative to the tenure of some pergunnahs instead of villages of the same name by his Highness Meer Ali Morad Khan, under a grant of the late Meer Roostum Khan.

2. The Governor-general in Council is pleased to sanction the proposed grant of a special deputation allowance of 500 rupees per mensem to Major Lang, the Political Agent in Katteewar, who has been nominated one of the members of the Commission.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *H. M. Elliot*,  
Secretary to the Government of India.

Fort William, 21 March 1850.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 88 of 1850.

From *H. E. Goldsmid*, Esq., Secretary to Government, Bombay, to  
*E. E. Elliot*, Esq., Accountant-general, Bombay.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Right honourable the Governor in Council to inform you, that under the authority of the Most Noble the Governor-general of India in Council, a special deputation allowance of 500 rupees per mensem has been granted to Major Lang, Political Agent in Katteewar, whilst employed as a member of a Commission which has been directed to assemble at Sukkur. Secret Department. Rs. 500.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *H. E. Goldsmid*,  
Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 15 April 1850.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 89 of 1850.

From *H. E. Goldsmid*, Esq., Secretary to Government, Bombay, to  
*William Simson*, Esq., Civil Auditor.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Right honourable the Governor in Council to inform you that under the authority of the Most Noble the Governor-general of India in Council, a special deputation allowance of 500 rupees per mensem has been granted to Major W. Lang, Political Agent in Katteewar, whilst employed as a member of a Commission which has been directed to assemble at Sukkur. Secret Department. Rs. 500.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *H. E. Goldsmid*,  
Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 15 April 1850.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

General, No. 104 of 1850.—Political Department.

Government,  
No. 39 of 1850.

From Major *William Lang*, Political Agent in Kattywar, to *Arthur Malet*, Esq.,  
Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that having disposed of the business I had more immediately on hand, I left Hulwud on the 15th instant for Wagur, and having after my arrival there received Mr. Pringle's reply, to the effect that he expected to be at Hyderabad about the time I was likely to reach that place, and

could give me a passage to Sukkur in the river steamer he intended proceeding in himself, I have continued to make as long marches as due consideration for the health of the people with me would admit of at this season of the year; and I hope to cross the Runn to Ballyarn to-morrow night, and to get to Hyderabad early next month.

2. Having a number of things, however, still on hand, which I can dispose of with less trouble than it would take Captain Aston to acquaint himself with the former proceedings regarding them, I have brought on one of the English writers of the Agency with me, and shall forward the different letters, as I can get them and the accompaniments copied, to Captain Aston, for his information, and for submission to you. I hope this will be approved of, as I shall have a good deal of leisure on the march; and it will be some assistance to Captain Aston, who will find all his time fully taken up with the current duties of the office. I have also taken a chous and 10 Arabs from the Rajcote irregular infantry, and two of the Agency police horsemen, as an escort, together with a few peons, which will, I doubt not, be sanctioned. Having no other tents with me when I received your order, and there being no time to get them, I have also brought two of the Agency tents and a few rowtees with me.

3. My unexpected departure prevented my making the tour which I had commenced through Ihallawar; and the information required by Government regarding the affairs of Jinjoowarra and Choorra must therefore, I fear, stand over till next cold season, as it cannot be furnished satisfactorily without visiting these places. There will also be the same delay with the Limree and Wudwan accounts, which require to be tested on the spot, but as they are not, I fancy, very urgently required by Government, this will not, I hope, signify much. All pending business of importance I have brought to Captain Aston's notice; but there are so many matters which I had commenced necessarily left unfinished by my departure, and Captain Aston will find the current work of the Agency so heavy, particularly if not allowed another assistant during my absence, that I consider it most desirable that I should not be detained in Scinde longer than may be absolutely necessary; and I trust, therefore, when the proceedings of the Commission are finished, if there appears no probability of our having to re-assemble, that Government will be pleased to authorize Mr. Pringle to let me leave at once, sending the fair copy of the proceedings after me, if necessary, from their length, for signature, so as to enable me to return to Kattywar before the rains, which, if the sittings of the Commission continue for any time, is as much as I shall be able, with every expedition, to accomplish.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *William Lang*,  
Political Agent.

Khowra, in the Puchum,  
25 March 1850.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

MINUTE by the Right Honourable the Governor, concurred in by the Honourable Mr. *Blane*, and by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

MAJOR LANG's proceedings may be approved.

The decision of Government relative to the departure of the members of the Commission was communicated to Mr. Pringle on the 13th March last. I have no objection (the other provisos being attended to) to Major Lang's departure, previous to the completion of the fair copy of the proceedings of the committee, as his presence in Katteewar is urgently required.

(signed) *Falkland*,  
*D. A. Blane*,  
*W. Cotton*.

25 April 1850.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 102 of 1850.—Secret Department.

From *H. E. Goldsmid, Esq.*, Secretary to Government, Bombay, to  
Major *W. Lang*, Political Agent in Katteewar.

Sir,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 39, dated the 25th March last, reporting your departure to Scinde, on the duty therein mentioned, and to inform you that the Right honourable the Governor in Council approves of your proceedings therein reported.

2. With reference to the last para. of your letter, I am desired to furnish you with an extract, para. 3, from a communication, addressed by Mr. Chief Secretary Malet, under date the 13th March last, to the Commissioner in Scinde, and to inform you that (the other provisos, therein made, being attended to), his Lordship in Council has no objection to your returning to Kattywar, where your presence is urgently required, previous to the completion of the fair copy of the Commission's proceedings.

I have, &c.

(signed) *H. E. Goldsmid,*

Bombay Castle, 7 May 1850.

Secretary to Government.

No. 103 of 1850.

COPY of the above letter to be sent to Mr. Pringle for information with reference to Mr. Chief Secretary Malet's communication, dated the 13th March last, No. 68.

(signed) *H. E. Goldsmid,*

Bombay Castle, 7 May 1850.

Secretary to Government.

(True copies.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

PROCEEDINGS of the Commission appointed to investigate the Conduct of his Highness MEER ALLEE MOORAD.

India Political Department.

1851.—Secret Department, Bombay Castle, No. 9, dated the 17th January 1851.

COPY of a Letter from the Commissioner in Scinde, dated the 8th May, No. 840 of 1850.

No. 16.

SUBMITS the proceedings of the Commission appointed to investigate the circumstances connected with a fraud alleged to have been perpetrated against the British Government by his Highness Ali Morad, of Khyrpore, in the treaty of Nownahar, by means of which his Highness obtained possession of certain purgunnas instead of villages of the same name.

No. 840 of 1850.—Secret Department.

From the Commissioner in Scinde to the Right Honourable Viscount *Falkland*, Governor and President in Council, Bombay.

My Lord,

I HAVE herewith the honour to transmit the Proceedings of the Commission appointed to investigate the conduct of his Highness Meer Allee Moorad, under the instructions contained in Mr. Chief Secretary Malet's letter, No. 49, dated the 25th February last.

I have, &c.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle,*

Sukkur, 8 May 1850.

Commissioner.



List of Accompaniments to the Commissioner's Letter, No. 840, dated the 8th May 1850.

Proceedings, with Opinion of the Commission attached to them - - - - p. 138.

Appendix :

- Exhibit (A.) Instructions of Government to the Commission - - - - p. 176
- Exhibit (B.) Extract of Memorandum by the Commissioner regarding our relations with his Highness Meer Allee Moorad, and copies of Correspondence descriptive of the districts in dispute - - - - p. 178.
- Exhibit (C.) Copies of former Correspondence and Depositions regarding this dispute - - - - p. 185
- Exhibit (D.) Copies of Papers more immediately relating to the Battle of Nownahar - - - - p. 196
- Exhibit (E.) Translations of Correspondence on this subject with his Highness Meer Alee Moorad - - - - p. 203
- Exhibit (F.)—Original Documents in the Native Language, and Copies of others referring to this case - - - - p. 208
- Exhibit (G.) Copy of Letter from Secretary to Government of Scinde, alluding to the theft of a box of Records from his Office, and of the reply - - - - p. 212
- Exhibit (H.) Translations of further Letters and other Papers from his Highness Meer Alee Morad, not immediately bearing on the subject of this Inquiry - p. 313

Sukkur, 8 May 1850.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle,*  
Commissioner in Scinde.

PROCEEDINGS of the Commission assembled at Sukkur, agreeably to the Instructions conveyed in Mr. Chief Secretary Malet's Letter of the 25th February 1850, No. 49 in the Secret Department, to the Address of the Commissioner in Scinde, Copy of which, and of Mr. Chief Secretary Malet's subsequent Letter of 13th March, No. 68 in the Secret Department, are recorded in the Appendix as Exhibit (A.)

President :—R. K. Pringle, Esq., Commissioner in Scinde.

Members :—Major J. Jacob, Commanding Scinde Horse, and Superintendent of the Frontier ; Major W. Lang, Political Agent in Katteewar.

Sukkur, Saturday, 20 April 1850.

As directed by Government, both of the members of the Commission have read and been made fully acquainted with all the correspondence and other papers connected with the accusation against his Highness Meer Alee Moorad, of Khyrpoor, of having made interpolations and additions in the treaty of Nownahar, between Meers Roostum Khan and Nusseer Khan and himself, whereby he obtained possession of the pergunnas of Meerpoor, Mathela, and Mehurkee, instead of the village of Dadloo and Mathela, and of having afterwards substituted a leaf in the Koran containing these alterations copied fairly in lieu of the one on which they had been originally made.

To save the trouble of reference, an extract from the memorandum drawn up in December last, by the Commissioner in Scinde, regarding our relations with his Highness Meer Allee Morad, together with a copy of the correspondence describing the pergunnahs above referred to, is recorded in the Appendix annexed to these proceedings as Exhibit (B.)

Copies of the several statements, depositions, &c., formerly made on this subject, are likewise given in the Appendix as Exhibit (C.)

Copies of the correspondence more immediately referring to the battle of Nownahar, together with extracts from Captain Brown's Digest of Intelligence, referring thereto, is recorded in the Appendix as Exhibit (D.)

Translations

Translations of the correspondence with his Highness Meer Alee Morad, regarding the investigation directed by Government to be held on the above-mentioned subject, are also recorded in the Appendix as Exhibit (E.)

The Koran sent by his Highness Meer Alee Morad, at the request of the Commissioner in Scinde, before the Commission assembled, is produced, and the Treaty of Nownahar, as now contained in it, is carefully examined, and the binding of the leaves at the beginning of the book on which it is written compared with that of those at the end of it, which are still blank. A copy and translation of the treaty, with an explanation of the result of this examination, are recorded in the Appendix in a separate exhibit of native papers. *Vide* No. 1 of Exhibit (F.)

His Highness Meer Alee Morad having this day attended in person with such of his followers as he wishes to have present at the inquiry, the following witnesses are called and examined on solemn affirmation before him.

*Sheikh Allee Hussan*, the son of Sheikh Emaum Bukkers, inhabitant of Umbetha, in the district of Laharanpoor, aged 40 years, having been called in, states as follows, on being asked what he knows about the fight at Nownahar: Meer Alee Morad Khan and Meer Nusseer Khan having had a dispute about the village of Loonderbeyk, which led to a fight near Nownahar, Meer Mahomed Alee Khan and Meer Goolam Mahomed Khan, the son of Meer Roostum Khan, came out to oppose Meer Allee Morad Khan, and we surrounded them with our troops. Meer Roostum Khan then, leaving his sons and nephews, came forward alone to Allee Morad, in order to put a stop to the disturbance. He told Meer Allee Morad, that it was a bad thing to fight; but he replied, that he had expended a great deal of money in the quarrel, and would not, therefore, make peace for nothing. Meer Roostum Khan then gave him seven villages of his own; and Dadla, on the part of Meer Nusseer Khan; and Mathela, on that of Meer Mahomed Allee Khan, and made a writing to that effect in the Koran, stating, at the same time, that he would send his vakeel, and get the arrangement sanctioned by the British Government. Peace was thus restored, Meer Roostum Khan affixing his own seal to the writing, and sent Peer Allee Gohur with Mirza Julhaun to Meer Nusseer Khan, and Meer Allee Ukhbur, and Meer Mahomed Allee, to get them to affix their seals also. A man of his soon afterwards returned, stating that Meer Nusseer Khan refused to put his seal to it. Meer Roostum Khan then went himself, and got the seals of Meer Nusseer Khan and Meer Allee Ukhbur affixed to the engagement, and then sent the Koran to Meer Allee Morad. The latter then ordered me to let Meer Mahomed Allee and Meer Ghoolam Mahomed go. Allee Morad remained there that night, and the following day proceeded towards Deejee Kakote with his army. The day after I went from thence to Bubberlow, and the following day I took the Koran and a letter from the Meer, with a copy (of the treaty) to Captain Brown. The Koran was shown to him, and the copy given for the records. Afterwards the proclamation was issued by the British Government in December 1842, and Sir Charles Napier arrived at Sukkur, and sent orders, that from that season's khureef crop, all the country north of Roree, belonging to the Meers of Khyrpoor, would be taken possession of by the British Government, with the exception of what belonged to Meer Allee Morad; or if any of Meer Allee Morad's was taken, other places would be given in exchange for it. At the time a letter was written by Sir Charles Napier to Meer Allee Morad, requiring him to state whether he had any country north of Roree, to which he replied, that he had the villages of Dadloo, Kuderee, and Soonderbela, together with the pergunna of Mathela, and at the same time altered the word "deh" (village) before Mathela into "pergunnah." (*Witness here describes how this was done.*) After this, when the war with the Hyderabad people took place, the army marched in that direction, and when it arrived at Kala, Colonel Outram and Captain Brown came from Hyderabad, and joined the army. Moonshee Myadeen was also with them, and Meer Alee Morad Khan had before arranged with him at Sukkur, that if he would get for him the copy of the treaty, which had been given to Government in September, he would reward him with the sum of 10,000 rupees. The Moonshee was thinking how he could manage this when the attack on the Residency at Hyderabad took place, and some of Colonel Outram's things were left behind, and this exactly answered his purpose, for he immediately told me that the copy of the

treaty had either been lost there, or he had lost it, and that therefore the discussion about the substitution of "pergunnah" for "deh" (village) was at an end, and he then demanded the payment of the 10,000 rupees reward. I replied, "Very good; when the Meer arrives at Hydrabad, some arrangement will be made about this." I then wrote to Meer Allee Morad what I have related above, and told him to rest satisfied, as the writing had been lost. After this, in the month of April, Allee Morad Khan sent another copy of the treaty of Nownahar to me to Hydrabad, by the hands of Hafiz Noor Mahomed Khan, a Mooltanee Puthaee. In this the words "Pergunnah Meerpoor, Mathela, bamar (together with) Mehurkee" were inserted; and Hafiz Noor Mahomed Khan told me, that this copy was to be entered in the Government records; I, therefore, gave it for record accordingly on the 4th April. After this Meer Allee Morad Khan came to Hydrabad, and Moonshee Moyadeen again began to demand the money from him. The Meer replied, that if he could get the book for him, in which translations of papers of this kind were kept, he would immediately pay him the money. The Moonshee, in reply, agreed to do this for him, but asked for security for the payment of the money afterwards, and proposed that that of Sheikh Allee Hussein should be given. The Meer then told me to become security, which I did; and the Moonshee sent the book required to Meer Allee Morad in the middle of June 1843. The Meer then borrowed the sum of 50,000 Kora rupees from one of the Ameers residing at Hydrabad, and paid Moonshee Moyadeen 10,000 out of it. After this I returned with the Meer to this part of the country.

About this time it reached the ears of Captain Pope that some forgery had been made in the Koran containing the treaty, and he, therefore, sent for it for the purpose of examining it. When I saw the Koran, I found great erasures in it which could not escape detection, and asked the Meer how I could show it in that state to Captain Pope. The Meer also became perplexed, and after much consideration, proposed that as the treaty was written on four pages, and the alterations and erasures had only been made in the first, and the one containing the seals was perfect, the first leaf should be taken out and another written by Peer Allee Gohur and substituted for it. I then replied, that I could not assist or advise in anything of this kind, but he might do as he liked, and I would take the Koran as he might give it to me and show it to Captain Pope. I then came to Bubburloo and sent my moonshee, Busharut Allee, to bring the Koran to me when it was ready. Meer Allee Morad then sent for Peer Allee Gohur to Khyrpoor, and told him to write a fair copy of that page of the treaty in which the words "Pergunna Meerpore, Matheela, bamere Mihurkee" were inserted. Peer Allee Gohur declined to do so, but Meer Allee Morad Khan said that he would be responsible for what he did, and Peer Allee Gohur then told him to give him a writing to that effect in the hand of Sheikh Allee Hussan, agreeing that if this ever came to the knowledge of the British Government, Meer Allee Morad would be responsible. The Meer then sent Futteh Mahomed Toshakjee to me at Bubburloo, and told me that Peer Allee Gohur hesitated to write what was wanted, and required a sunnud to the above effect, and, therefore, to write one for him and send it to the Meer that he might seal it and give it to him. Upon this I wrote the sunnud as directed, and sent it to the Meer. Peer Allee Gohur also wrote to me that the Meer was frightening him, and threatening to disgrace him if he did not write the paper for him, and therefore asked me what he was to do. I sent him a reply to the effect that he was helpless and his character at stake, and therefore to take the writing from the Meer absolving him from responsibility and make the entry required. Peer Allee Gohur then did this, and the extracted paper also remained loose in the Koran. The Meer then sent me the Koran by the hands of Busharut Allee, who also told me all that had been done as related above. I then took the Koran to Captain Pope, who examined it, but did not detect any forgery. The extracted paper, however, having been left in the Koran by mistake, fell out into his hands, and he asked me what it was. Being at that time in the service of Allee Morad Khan, I replied that it was probably some rough copy, and he then replaced it in the Koran and did not entertain any suspicion about it. After this I went to Bubburloo, and I there took out the two extracted leaves and kept them by me, and sent the Koran to Meer Allee Morad Khan. A dispute afterwards took place between the Meer and myself, on account of my telling him that the British Government was very kind to him, and that it was therefore improper on his part

part deceitfully to appropriate any of its possessions, which I recommended him in consequence to restore. This did not, however, please the Meer, and I afterwards mentioned the circumstance to Captain Malet, together with other matters involving the interest of Government. When the Governor, Sir Charles Napier, returned to Sukkur from the Hill campaign, Captain Malet informed him of what I had said, and Captain Brown, by his directions, asked me about the leaves extracted from the treaty of Nownahar, which I had mentioned to Captain Malet. In reply, I related the circumstance to him, and he asked me for the leaves. I did not, however, think that it was the pleasure of the gentlemen at that time to recover the rights of Government, and I therefore said that I certainly had them, but I was not certain whether they had been sent with my property to Mooltan, or were lying among some of my other papers. I said, however, that I would look for them and send them afterwards. I then went to Mooltan, and from thence I sent a petition on the 10th of May to the Governor-general, Lord Hardinge, and also another, dated on the 5th of the same month, to the address of Sir Charles Napier at Kurrachee. In these I wrote that Meer Allee Morad Khan had appropriated districts rightfully belonging to the British Government of the value of ten lacs of rupees annually. I added, that I was ready to show this if any one asked me about it, but I did not receive any reply to these communications. Two years afterwards I visited Kurrachee and went to the Governor, who sent Moonshee Allee Ukhbar to me to get information on two points; one of these was about the treaty of Nownahar, on which subject he asked me to communicate all I knew. I related all the circumstances, and stated that I had both of the extracted leaves in my possession and would bring them when required. The Governor sent for them, and I took them to him. Moonshee Towur Mull was sent to me formerly by Major Clibborne, to get a copy of the Treaty of Nownahar, and I gave him a copy of it as it was originally written, without any allusion to pergunnahs in it.

In reply to questions, witness further states as follows:—

*Question.* State the particulars regarding the pergunnahs which were added in the treaty, and what the reason was for first writing that of Mathela only, and afterwards adding to it those of Meeapore and Mehurkee?—*Answer.* Meer Moobaruck Khan divided Mathela and Meerpoore and Mehurkee into three separate tuppas, and gave those of Mathela and Mehurkee to Meer Mahomed Allee, and that of Meerpoore to Meer Nusseer Khan. They were thus made separate, and Meer Allee Morad therefore had them all entered, in order that the whole might be included in the Pergunna Meerpoore, Mathela and Mehurkee. Besides, Meer Mahomed Allee's seal was not put to the treaty, and Meer Nusseer Khan had nothing to do with the tuppas of Mathela and Mehurkee. If Meerpoore therefore only had been written, as Nusseer Khan's seal was affixed to the treaty, this tuppa alone would have been included. By sending for the treaty of Meer Moobaruck Khan you will find the division of these places amongst his sons.

What may be the revenue of those three tuppas of Meerpoore, Muthala and Mehurkee?—It was formerly as much as two lacs of rupees per annum, and latterly they have yielded about one lac annually. The revenue of the village of Mathela alone is probably about ten thousand rupees a year. Formerly I enjoyed all these places in jagheer from Meer Ali Morad.

How was it with regard to Meerpoore, Mehurkee and Mathelee, before they were separated by Meer Moobarick Khan?—Formerly it was customary to write the pergunna of Meerpoore Mathela, but whether Mehurkee was included in this or not I am not aware.

After Moobarick Khan separated them, was it usual to call the separate places pergunnahs or tuppas?—I believe they were called tuppas. I saw this, if I remember rightly, in Meer Moobarick Khan's treaty.

In the Koran in which the Nownahar treaty is entered, pergunnah is written; how is this?—Meer Ali Moorad must know.

Has it ever been customary in this province to designate a pergunnah a tuppa, or *vice versa*?—No, I believe not; but if tuppa had been written in this case it must have been entered before each place, whereas by writing pergunnah it included them all. This, at least, is the only reason that occurs to me for writing pergunnah; but if there be any other, Meer Ali Morad must know.

After the battle of Nownahar, and before your interview with Captain Brown, did Meer Ali Morad write any letter to that officer?—On the 15th of September, after the fight was over, and while they were writing the treaty, a letter arrived from Captain Brown to the address of Meer Ali Morad, endeavouring to dissuade him from fighting, and the Meer sent a reply the same day after the treaty was finished. In this he stated that he had had a dispute with Meer Nusseer Khan about Soonderbeyloo, and had come there to take his revenge, but that Meer Roostum Khan had settled matters by giving him seven villages of his own and two others, Dadla and Mathela, from Meer Nusseer Khan. He added, that he would return home the following day. In that letter, if you can get it from the records, you will find the word villages and not pergunnas used.

In this letter, written on the day of the fight, was there any mention made of the treaty?—I do not exactly remember.

By whom was that letter written?—It was in the handwriting of Mooushee Kishondass.

How many days after the fight did you visit Captain Brown, and had you the Koran and the copy of the treaty with you at that time?—Three days after the fight; and I had both the Koran and the copy of the treaty with me.

By whom was the copy of the treaty which you then gave to Captain Brown for record written?—It was written either by Moonshee Busharut Ali or Moon-shee Kishondass; I am not certain which.

By whom was the copy you gave afterwards to Towur Mull written?—It was written by Moonshee Busharut Ali.

Given before the Commission this 20th April 1850.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle*, President.

*Peer Ali Gohur*, the son of Peer Silikut Oollab, an inhabitant formerly of the village of Peer-ka-Gote, in the Khyrpoor territory, and now residing in that of Kooyab, belonging to the British Government, aged about 30 years, is then called before the Commission, and examined on solemn affirmation as follows, regarding the circumstances attending the battle of Nownah :

After the battle was over Meer Roostum Khan sent for me and told me to go to Meer Ali Moorad, and endeavour to persuade him to come to terms; when I went to him he said he had been put to very great expense, but I got him to suspend hostilities, and Meer Roostum Khan then came to him, seated in a mahafu (a kind of palanquin conveyance). It was then arranged that Meer Roostum Khan should give him (Meer Ali Moorad) seven villages of his own, and that of Mathela, belonging to Meer Mahomed Ali, and that of Dadlee, belonging to Meer Nusseer Khan. To this engagement Meer Roostum Khan put his own seal, and sent me with it to Meer Nusseer Khan to get him to add his. Mirza Salabaneer also accompanied me. Meer Nusseer Khan, however, would not attend to what I told him, and I therefore sent word to Meer Roostum Khan that Meer Nusseer Khan had refused to seal the treaty, and he must therefore get this done himself. Meer Roostum Khan then came there and forcibly caused the seals of both Meer Nusseer Khan and Meer Ali Ukhbar Khan to be put to the treaty, and then sent the Koran in which it had been written back to Meer Ali Moorad Khan. Some time after this, when the proclamation was issued by the British Government about the annexation of the country, the word "deh" (signifying village) was altered in the treaty to "pergunnah," and in doing this the paper was spoiled. I was then sent for and told to take out the leaf and write a new one. I refused, however, to do this, and the Meer Sahib insisted on my doing it; I therefore wrote to Sheikh Ali Hussane on the subject, and he told me in reply that the Meer had made him write a paper for me about this, and therefore to get this from him. The Meer Sahib gave me this writing, and made me enter it on the blank page next to the one that had been injured and taken out, the words that had been written on it. I sent the paper which the Meer Sahib gave me to the Sirkar. Sheikh Ali Hussain sent a copy of the treaty, when it was first entered into, for the Government records, and therefore send for him and make inquiries about this. Three days after I had written the new page in the Koran, Captain Pope came to Khyrpoor and asked me whether the handwriting was mine, to which I replied that it was. This is all I know on the subject.

*Question.*

*Question. (The extracted leaf of the treaty marked (A.) is here shown to witness.)* *Vide No. 2 of Exhibit (E.)*

—*Answer.* This is the paper, and it is my handwriting; I recognise it.

*(The other piece of paper marked (B.), on which the words "Deh Dadlee" and "Pergunnah Mathela" are written, is then shown to witness, and he is asked whether it is a part of the same sheet on which the alterations in the Koran were made or separate.)*—The leaf was not extracted in my presence. *Vide No. 3, Exhibit (F.)*

In whose hand is the writing on it?—It is in my handwriting.

What is the writing on it about?—It was the paper on which I wrote a few of the words required, to see whether I could insert them properly in the fair copy or not, and also to see whether the ink was all right.

*(The treaty in the Koran is then shown to the witness, and he is asked about the handwriting.)*—It is in my handwriting.

Which is the freshly-written part of it; the first, or any of the other pages?—The first page is the one which was written over again.

Was the paper which was extracted a sheet, or separate leaves?—Formerly the two leaves made one sheet, and one leaf was extracted, when the other, which was blank on the right side of it, came out also, and on the other blank page opposite, in this the fresh writing was entered. *(Witness here shows the Commission how all this was done.)*

Were you present when the leaf was taken out of the Koran?—No, I was not.

How, then, do you know that the leaf was extracted?—I saw it in the Koran when I was sent for.

What difference was made in the treaty, as originally written?—"Pergunnah" was substituted for "Deh," or village, before Mathela, and the words "Meerpoor (bumæe) Mehurkee" were added after Pergunnah Mathela.

*(The paper given by the Meer to witness, absolving him from all responsibility in the matter, and marked (D.), is here shown to him.)*—This is the paper that Meer Ali Moorad gave me. The word "Balal" is in his Highness's own handwriting, and the seal is his. It was written by Sheikh Ali Hussan. *Vide No. 5 of Exhibit (F.)*

When the paper was spoiled by the erasures made in it, what period elapsed before the new page was written, and how long was this after the treaty had been first written?—I wrote the new page in the Koran on the 3d of Kijjub 1259, and the treaty was written originally on the 9th of Shahban 1258, so that nearly eleven months elapsed. *(July 1843.)  
(Sept. 1842.)*

Do you know when the erasures and additions were made in the original treaty, and by whom?—I do not know when or by whom they were made, but I heard it was done at the time of the proclamation annexing part of the country.

Do you know the reason of the leaf having been extracted and a new one substituted for it so long afterwards?—The forgery was apparent, and Captain Pope was coming to examine the Koran; and on this account the new leaf was written.

When Captain Pope came, was the Koran shown to him, and what did he say after seeing it?—He saw the Koran, and asked me if the handwriting was mine, to which I replied that it was.

When Captain Pope saw the Koran, where was the extracted paper?—I do not know where it was then.

Given before the Commission this 20th April 1850.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle*, President.

It being near four o'clock, the Commission adjourns till Monday the 22d instant, at 11 A. M.

## SECOND DAY.

Sukkur, Monday, 22 April 1850.

The Commission having re-assembled this day, proceeds with the investigation of the matter before it.

Present:—The President and Members, as on Saturday; and his Highness Meer Ali Moorad attends with the people he requires to be in attendance upon him, as before.

*Tomur Mull Tehibram*, Hindoo kayuth, inhabitant of Sukkur, aged about 50 years, is then called before the Commission on solemn affirmation, as follows:

*Question.* What occupation did you follow before the conquest of Scinde; and do you know anything about the battle of Nownahar, which happened between Meer Ali Moorad Khan and the other Ameers of Khyrpoor?—*Answer.* I was formerly employed in the capacity both of moonshee and kardar by Meer Moobarick Khan, and after his death I began to serve the British Government under Major Clibborn; I was in the habit of sending him secret information for Captain Brown, regarding the affairs of Scinde and this part of the country. On the 9th of Shabhar 1258 Hijree, corresponding with the 15th of September 1842, I heard in the evening that Meer Ali Moorad Khan had come from Dejee-Ka-Kotee to Nownahar, and had there a fight with Meer Roostum Khan. The following day, the 10th of Shabhan, I reported this to Major Clibborn, and he ordered me to go and ascertain about the fight, and also how peace had been restored. On the 11th Shabhan, corresponding with the 17th September, I went to Baberlow, and told Soobhagabanyan to go and inform Sheik Ali Hussain of my arrival. Sheik Ali Hussain then sent for me, and inquired what I wanted; in reply to which, I requested him to give me the information I required about the battle. He then took out the Koran, containing a copy of the treaty that had been entered into, in which there were three seals, one of Meer Roostum Khan, one of Meer Nusseer Khan, and one of Meer Ali Ukhbar Khan. In this it was written that a dispute had occurred about Soonderbeyla, and Roostum Khan had made peace by giving the seven villages of Khamberham, Mhyanee, Butchoo, Durree, Guragna, Rayna, and Daleeja on his own part, and two villages, Dadloo and Mathela, on that of Meer Nusseer Khan and Meer Mahomed Ali Khan. From respect to the Koran, I did not take a copy of this with my own hand, but I looked at it, and read it, and begged that a copy might be given to me. Sheik Ali Hussain then sent for his moonshee, Busharut Ali, and made him copy the treaty, for me. Upon this I returned to Sukkur, and gave the Saheb a copy of this transcribed by myself; Major Clibborn sent this to Captain Brown with a note from himself. On the 18th September 1842, Sheik Ali Hussain brought the Koran, and showed it to Captain Brown, explaining at the same time all that had occurred. Moonshee Moyadeen placed a copy of this in the Persian records, and had a translation of it made likewise in English. When the fight took place at Hyderabad, and the Governor went there, I was with him; Sheik Ali Hussain was also there, on the part of Meer Ali Moorad. Before the battle of Meanee, Colonel Outram and Captain Brown, together with the Moonshee Moyadeen, went down from Dejee-Ka-Kote in the steamer to Hyderabad, and when they got to the garden and alighted there, I heard from Mirza Daood, that Moonshee Moyadeen had lost the Persian and English copies of the treaty of Nownahar which were on the records of Government; I went and told Captain Brown of this, and he sent for Moonshee Moyadeen, and asked him where the book containing the copies of papers of this kind was. The moonshee replied, that it must be among the other records, and he would look for it, and get it. He then went and searched for it, and reported to Captain Brown that he could not find it. Captain Brown was very angry with him in consequence, and placed him in arrest seven or eight days. Afterwards Captain Brown again sent for him, and asked him how it had been lost, and he replied it had been lost when the Bulooches plundered the Residency of Hyderabad. Captain Brown after this released him, and employed Mirza Daood likewise. When Meer Ali  
Morad



Morad came to Hyderabad, I heard that Moonshee Moyadeen had given him the book containing the copies of the English papers. This happened some time in the month of June.

Would you recognise the Koran, in which this treaty was written, if you were to see it? (*The Koran is here shown to witness.*)—This is the very Koran. (*Witness then reads the treaty now contained in it, and further states*): At that time “Deh Mathela,” or the village of Mathela, only was written in it, but now there is, “Pergunnah Mathela, Meerpoor, mae (with) Meheerkee.”

(*The extracted leaf, marked (A.), is here shown to witness, and he is asked if he recognises it.*)—This is the very leaf that was in the treaty originally. Vide No. 2 of Exhibit (F.)

How do you know that the Koran is the same you saw before, containing the treaty?—I know it by the circumstance of the seals to the treaty being the same, and the title-page of the Koran is ornamented in a particular way. I remember this also.

Have you kept the copy of the treaty Busharut Ali made for you ever since that time, or when did you part with it?—I kept it for several years, from the time I showed it to Captain Brown till the arrival of the Commissioner some time ago at Sukkur, when I gave it to Mr. Younghusband.

Did you in the meantime show it to any one else besides Captain Brown?—I did not show it to any one else, but I mentioned about it both to Captain Malet and to Major Goldney.

(*The copy of the treaty here alluded to, and marked (O.), is then shown to witness, and he is asked about it.*)—This is the same; I recognise it. Vide No. 6 of Exhibit (F.)

Read it over, and see whether it is in the same state as when you had it, or whether any alteration has been made in it?—(*After reading the whole of it over.*) This is the same, and no alteration has been made in it.

(*The words “Deh Mathela” in this copy of the treaty, which appear to the Commission to have been partly erased and altered, are here pointed out to witness, and he is asked how this happened.*)—The copy is just as it was when Busharut Alli gave it to me, when I was speaking to Sheik Alli Hussan. There is no difference in it. (*Witness here, on being asked, reads what is now written as “Wa deh Mathela.”*)

You stated before about Colonel Outram, and Captain Brown, and Moonshee Moyadeen coming to the gardens, when some of the papers were lost; did that occur before the battle of Meance or subsequently, and who else were in the garden?—It was after the battle of Meanee, and the Governor and all the army were there.

What became of Mirza Daood?—I do not know where he is, whether in Khorasan or elsewhere.

Given before the Commission this 22d April 1850.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle*, President.

*Mr. W. Maher*, clerk to the Commissioner in Scinde, being solemnly affirmed, is questioned.

*Question.* Do you recollect anything regarding the loss of certain records from the office of the late Captain Brown during the early part of the year 1843?—

*Answer.* Yes; I recollect that about the month of June 1843 a box was stolen from Captain Brown’s table, containing Major Outram’s secret letters and important papers, written during his stay at Khyrpoor. The box also contained some valuable Persian documents, as I was subsequently informed by Captain Brown; but of the exact nature of which I am not aware. Among the contents of the box was an English book, which was wholly written by myself; it was endorsed secret. The contents of this book related to disputes between the Ameers of Upper Scinde, and commenced about September 1842. Some of these papers had reference to the treaty of Nownahar, but I do not recollect whether a copy or translation of that treaty was among them.

What proceedings were adopted by Captain Brown on the loss of the box?—Every inquiry was made among the whole establishment, and suspicion fell on Moonshee Moyadeen, who was currently believed to have taken it. The moon-shee was immediately suspended by Captain Brown, but as nothing could be proved against him he was again employed for a short time, and then dismissed altogether. The box, with its contents, was never afterwards heard of.



Are you acquainted with a person named Mirza Daood?—I was acquainted with a moonshee of that name, who was employed in the office of the Secretary to the Government of Scinde in 1844, and who died in the year 1848.

Given before the Commission this 22d April 1850.

(signed) R. K. Pringle, President.

Copy of a Letter from Captain *Brown* to the Secretary Government of India, requesting copies of certain Letters supposed to have been stolen from his Office at Hyderabad in 1843, and of the Reply, are recorded in the Appendix as Exhibit (G.).

*Sheik Ali Hussan*, the first witness, is then called again before the Commission, and examined on his former solemn affirmation, as follows :

*Question.* You before stated that you had caused a copy of the treaty of Nownahar to be made by your moonshee, Busharut Ali, and given to Moonshee Towur Mull. Would you recognise that document if you were to see it again?—*Answer.* Yes, I would recognise the handwriting of Moonshee Busharut Ali, and he copied it before me. There was also a word in it which had been altered a little. The letters of “Kaf” and “Nu” (K and N) were, I think, in it, and after Busharut Ali had written it I looked at it myself, and remember that there was one word of this kind, but do not know what it was.

As you remember the letters of “K” and “N” in the word, how is it that you do not remember the word itself?—The word was first written in some other way; and some alteration was made in it, but without affecting the meaning. I remember that there was some difference made in the “Kaf” and “Noon” (K and N), but do not know whether the word was “Koond,” “Koonud,” or “Koonnee” (all parts of the Persian verb to do); but I remember there was a murkees in it (the upper stroke or line made in writing the letter Kaf, thus, 5).

Have you ever seen the copy of the treaty you caused to be given to Towur Mull since that time?—No, I have never seen it since.

(*On the part of Meer Ali Morad.*)—Was there merely an alteration made in the writing of the word to which you allude, or was there any erasure; and after the copy had been written, what was the reason of your looking at it?—I do not exactly remember, but think there was not any erasure. It was altered, I fancy, either with a pen or penknife. Moonshee Busharut Ali was in my service, and it was therefore proper that I should look at what he had written.

The copy of the treaty here alluded to, and marked (O.), is then shown to witness.—(*After reading the whole of it over.*) This is in the handwriting of Moonshee Busharut Ali, and I believe it to be the same as was first given to Towur Mull. There is no difference in it since then; and the words “unjam Kind, wu ahud bust Meer Saheb” (Meer Saheb settled these terms and made these conditions), are in my handwriting.

Point out the word which you thought was “Koond,” “Koonud,” or “Koonnee,” but could not exactly recollect?—Witness points out the first line of the writing, which has been taken out by drawing a pen through it, and states that this must have been remembered by him, as the murkees, or upper stroke of the Kaf and the Noon he thought of, must have been that in the word “Nagh” (copy), which has also been taken out. The reason of taking out this line was, that in the Koran what is expressed in it was written in a different place, and the copy was therefore altered accordingly.

The words “Deh Mathela” in this writing are then shown to witness, and he is asked whether they were as they now appear when the copy was given to Towur Mull, or whether any alteration has been made in them?—A little extra ink has been used, but the meaning is the same.

Where is Moonshee Busharut Ali now?—He is in Hindoostan, but I do not know in what part of it.

When Meer Allee Morad sent Hafiz Noor Ahmed Khan Puthan Mooltanee to you, with a copy of the treaty of Nownahar, in April, as you formerly stated, did he send any letter with him?—He wrote to the effect that I was to attend to whatever Hafiz Noor Ahmed Khan told me. Besides this letter there was a piece of paper, on which the words “Pergunnah Mathela, Meerpoor, bamae Mehurkee,” were written. Hafiz Noor Ahmed Khan told me that he had been  
directed

directed to show me this paper and then take it back, and that I was to give a copy of the treaty, written by my own moonshee, with these alterations, for the purpose of being placed among the Government records. I therefore did all this as I had been ordered to do.

Where is Hafiz Noor Ahmed Khan now?—He is probably at Mooltan or Bawulpore. He was employed by Bhawul Khan, of the latter place, and I saw him during the fight at Mooltau, but I am not certain where he is now.

When was the alteration you formerly stated to have been made in the treaty, from Deh Mathela to Pergunnah Mathela, made?—At the time the proclamation was issued.

You first stated that Meer Ali Morad had sent you a copy of the treaty by Hafiz Noor Ahmed Khan, with the alterations of “Pergunnah Mathela, Meerpoor, bamae Mehurkee” inserted in it, and directed you to give it to Government for record; and now you state that he sent you a separate piece of paper with these words written on it, and told you to have these words inserted in a fresh copy of the treaty, and to give this for record; what explanation do you give of this?—I did not mention that a copy of the treaty had been sent, but merely a copy, by which I meant the piece of paper on which the words “Pergunnah Meerpoor, Mathela, bamae Mehurkee” were written. Refer to my statement, and you will find that these words are mentioned in it.

Are the words written on the fresh leaf of the treaty the same as those that were contained on the extracted one, or has any alteration been made in them?—The meaning is the same; but in the extracted paper the words “bu-mirzee” were altered into “Mehurkee,” and on the fresh leaf “Pergunnah Meerpoor, Mathela, bamae Mehurkee,” together with “bu-mirzee khood,” are all written.

In the copy on the separate paper, which Hafiz Noor Ahmed Khan brought to you for entry in the copy for Government, what was written?—“Pergunnah Meerpoor, Mathela, bamae Mehurka bu-mirzee khood” was written.

(*The Koran containing the treaty is here shown to Witness.*)—This is the same in which the treaty was written.

(*The extracted leaf is here shown to witness.*)—This is also the same; I recognise it. Vide No. 2, of Exhibit (F.)

(*The copy of the treaty which was given to Captain Brown in the handwriting of Moonshee Busharut Ali, and marked (C.) is then shown to witness.*)—This is the same copy that was given. Vide No. 4 of Exhibit (F.)

Are the words “bu-mirzee” in it?—No, they are not.

You formerly said that they were inserted in this copy?—I did not remember properly.

What is the reason of this not having been written in this copy; does this not alter the meaning?—The meaning is the same; the words “bu-mirzee” must have been forgotten.

(*The two copies of the treaty, the one given by witness for record, and the other given to Towur Mull, are here shown to witness; and it is pointed out to him that the handwriting does not appear to be the same in both, and he is therefore told to explain this.*)—The handwriting is the same, but they appear to have been written with different kinds of pens.

Given before the Commission this 22d of April 1850.

(signed) R. K. Pringle, President.

Towur Mull, the former witness, is here recalled, and further questioned, as follows, by his Highness Meer Alli Morad:

*Question.* In the treaty, as copied, in your possession formerly, whose handwriting was there, and was there the writing only of one person, and of no other?—*Answer.* It was written entirely by Moonshee Busharut Alli, and by no one else.

Have you, ever since you had it, shown it to Sheik Alli Hussan or not?—No, I never showed it to him.

Given before the Commission this 22d April 1850.

(signed) R. K. Pringle, President.

Meer Allee Morad having requested to be furnished with copies of all the depositions taken before the Commission, they are directed to be furnished accordingly, and he requests to be allowed till Friday, the 26th instant, to write what he has to offer in reply to the allegations of the several witnesses. The Commission, therefore, adjourns till Friday forenoon next, at 11 A.M.

It may be here added, that translations of the depositions of Sheik Alle Hassan and Peer Alli Gohur, formerly taken before the Commissioner in Scinde, were given to his Highness Meer Ali Morad, at his request, before the Commission commenced its proceedings.

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### THIRD DAY.

Sukkur, Friday, 26 April 1850.

THE Commission having reassembled this day, proceeds with the investigation of the matter before it.

Present:—The President and Members, as on Monday last; and his Highness Meer Alli Morad attends as before, with such of his followers as he wishes to have with him, for the purpose of cross-examining the witnesses, &c.

His Highness gives in a written statement, which is read and considered by the Commission, and translation of it recorded as follows:—

“Statement on the part of his Highness Meer Alli Morad Khan Bhadoor, before the gentlemen of the Commission.

“It is known to the Sirkar that I suffered from the enmity of my brothers and my brothers' sons, which I incurred, owing to my having made friendship with the British Government, and adhered thereto with sincerity, allowing nothing to sway me from my resolution to that effect. I was in the habit of performing service for them with heart and soul, like one under their allegiance, and when I went to meet Mr. Ross Bell, Political Agent, at his camp at Bhutee, and my brothers heard that he had shown me much kindness, their enmity towards me became greatly increased, and they began beyond measure to exert themselves to injure me. They also wrote an account of this visit to the Ameers of Hyderabad, and endeavoured in every way to do me harm. They wrote, that the English Government was their enemy, and Meer Alli Morad joining with them in friendship, was bringing calamity on his own house, as the English Government was evidently determined to ruin them, and take the country of Scinde, and had on that account taken Meer Ali Morad into favour; they therefore proposed, first to exterminate me as being the enemy of their house, and after making the necessary arrangements to put me to death, in order that no member of their family might ever after form an alliance with the English Government, they were then to enter into agreements with the rulers of Khorasan and Lahore, and to shut up the road for the Government to pass to and fro. Having formed this determination, they commenced by taking measures to ruin me. Meer Nuseer Khan and Meer Mahomed Hussan Khan, therefore, combined for this purpose. The latter then making an excuse of the dispute with his father about the Turban, left Khyrpoor and went to Behortee, and there raised troops. Nuseer Khan at the same time assembled his people near the fort of Kunduran, on pretence of the Soonderbelee and Uzeezpoor business. It was agreed to between them that Nuseer Khan should bring his army against Deejee-Ka-Kote, from the north, and Meer Mahomed Hussan advance at the same time from the south, and that they should thus surround Deejee-Ka-Kote. Hearing of this I likewise assembled my troops and marched immediately against Meer Nuseer Khan. When I arrived at Koondia I heard rumours of Meer Nuseer Khan having proceeded with his army against Deejee-Ka-Kote, by the Khyrpoor road; on this account I countermarched upon Khyrpoor, and when I got to Tardea, Buksh Ali Tailpoor, within a coss of Khyrpoor, Meer Mahomed Ali and Meer Gholam Mahomed came out with their troops to Nownahar and entrenched themselves. Through the blessing of God, and my own good fortune, I was victorious over them, and surrounded and detained them. Meer Roostum Khan, who had in the meantime left Khyrpoor

to join in the fight, hearing of what had happened, and seeing how many people had been already killed, abandoned his intention of fighting, and came forward to make peace ; with this view he sent Peer Ali Gohur and Meer Zungee Khan to me, stating that the British Government was our enemy, and wished to ruin our house, for which reason we ought not to assist with our own hands in bringing this about. I refused, however, to entertain his proposals. After this Meer Roostum Khan, with his own confidential followers, came with Peer Ali Gohur to me ; seeing him, my elder brother, with his white beard do this, I became ashamed, and remained silent. Peer Ali Gohur then talked to me, and I replied, that Meer Nuseer Khan and Meer Mahomed Hussun, from their own folly, regarded the British Government as their enemy, and wished to ruin me because I was a friend of the said Government. That he was aware, since my meeting with Mr. Ross Bell, they regarded me as an open enemy, and had several times assembled their troops to attack me, and that I therefore being alarmed and alone, had had to expend lacs of rupees to preserve my own life, by which means I had escaped ; also, that Meer Roostum Khan had frequently interfered to restore peace, but never abandoned the enmity which he entertained in his own breast. I therefore told him, that without making a satisfactory arrangement, and recovering the lacs of rupees I had expended, I could not listen to terms. Peer Ali Gohur then told me that he had explained the whole of this to Meer Roostum Khan, who replied, that he had no ready money to give, nor had Meer Nuseer Khan, but if Meer Ali Moorad was willing to take a cession of country instead, they would make a settlement on these terms. When Peer Ali Gohur brought me this proposal, I consulted with Sheik Ali Hussun, who told me not to be satisfied with verbal agreements, but to have the engagement, ceding any places that were to be given, written in the Koran. Upon this I consented to accept of a settlement of this kind, and Meer Roostum Khan agreed to give me seven villages on his own part, and the pergunnahs Mathela, Meerpoor, and Mehurkee, and the village of Dadhoo, on that of Meer Nuseer Khan, and had a writing to that effect inserted in the Koran, and sealed with his own seal, and those of Meers Nuseer Khan and Ali Ukhbur Khan. This is the very writing which is entered in the Koran, which I have produced before the gentlemen (of the Commission) ; no alterations or erasures whatever have been made in it. It was not only written before Sheikh Ali Hussun and Peer Ali Gohur, but in the presence of many other respectable persons, who are still alive ; and should their evidence be approved of by the gentlemen of the Commission, I will send for them. The circumstances regarding Sheik Ali Hussun and Peer Ali Gohur, are as follows : The former was first employed by me on seven rupees a month, as a bargeer, and afterwards I raised him to places of honour and dignity, till at length he became my principal moonshee and adviser, and he was entrusted with the charge of all my business with Government. He was also fully empowered to transact all the revenue and other management of my country, and had charge of my treasure ; whatever he required in money he took without having to ask my permission. Formerly I knew but little of Peer Ali Gohur, but the Sheik formed a friendship with him, and told me he was a good and intelligent man, and deserved to be taken into our counsels. I immediately agreed to this, and they became still greater friends, and were fully entrusted with the sole and entire management of all my affairs ; my seal remained in their charge, as I was generally employed in those days with my troops, owing to the enmity of my brethren towards me, and attended but little in consequence to the affairs of my districts, which were therefore entirely in their hands. When they settled any thing they put my seal to it with their own hands, and sometimes, when I entrusted my particular business to them, they were in the habit of getting my signature in the words "Bahal ust" (it is confirmed) on blank pieces of paper, and my own seal remained with them, and they put it to any writing or agreement they chose. To this extent were they trusted by me, when I attacked Melleh Mahomed Chandeya on this side of the river, and seized him and went to Hyderabad to meet Sir C. Napier, the Governor of Scinde. I saw that the Sheik was disposed to play me false, and had made common cause with Moon-shee Ali Ukhbur, who had given him advice to get from me in writing half of the country that the British Government had given me, telling him at the same time, that if I refused to give this writing, he (Ali Ukhbur) would devise some means of ruining me. The Sheikh then visited me in Hyderabad, and spoke to

me to this effect, at a private interview, to which I replied, that I was going to Khyrpoor, and to come there, and I would arrange about a jaghire for him according to his pleasure; I added, however, that it was very unbecoming in him to entertain any desire to get half of the country, inasmuch as he was a servant, and not a shareholder with me. After this, the Sheik being perplexed, told me that in this business Moonshee Ali Ukhbur was in concert with him; and therefore, if I would not agree to the arrangement proposed, he would devise some means by which I should be ruined. Notwithstanding this, I tried by mildness and conciliation to make him understand, and promised to arrange about a jagheer for him when I returned to Khyrpoor, but told him that I would never consent to give him half the country. After this, agreeably to Sir Charles Napier's orders, I started at night in the direction of Dulleelderee, in order to arrange about Meer Shere Mahomed. On meeting Colonel Roberts, who had also come near that place from Sewistan, I told him that Sheik Ali Hussun had become inimical towards me, and that therefore I was of opinion that he (Colonel Roberts) should inform Sir Charles Napier of this, and that an officer should be appointed as a Resident between me and the British Government, when there would be no further necessity for any other vakeel. Colonel Roberts then wrote a note to General Napier to this effect, and he agreed to the arrangement, and appointed Captain Malet to the situation of Resident of Khyrpoor. Upon this the Sheik became more my enemy than ever, and in conjunction with Ali Ukhbur, began to devise means for my ruin. From Dulleelderee I hurried to Khyrpoor to put a stop to the disturbance which Meer Mahomed Ali had raised in my district of Dublea; and when I got near Peer Subreh, I met Captain Pope, who told me that the Sirkar's troops were ready to assist me as I might require. I replied, that as it was the hot season I did not wish to give the Sirkar's troops trouble, and that I had men enough of my own to punish Meer Mahomed Ali. After this, having arrived near Dublea, I defeated Meer Mahomed Ali, so that he fled and crossed the river, and the ryuts of that country were relieved from all apprehension. Having arranged everything there, I returned to Khyrpoor, and about the same time Sheik Ali Hussun came there from Hyderabad, and told me that as I had not given him half the country, the whole of the Government servants employed in the duftur, together with Moonshee Ali Ukhbur, were of one mind with him, and he would devise means of injuring me to such an extent that I would be involved in the calamity all my life. This at last was the length to which he got, that the letters which I wrote to Sir Charles Napier were lost on the way, and the letters of that officer to me did not reach me in safety. At length Captain Malet arrived at Khyrpoor, and I informed him of all the enmity of the Sheik towards me, and of his friendship with Ali Ukhbur, and of the claims I had upon him for an account of all he had received from me. That officer in consequence saw the necessity of making some arrangement for me; and as it soon appeared that the Sheik had also gained over the Peer (Alli Gohur) to his own evil ways, I put a stop to their using my seal, and some time afterwards the seal was lost, of which I gave information to Captain Malet. I likewise sent my people to resume the jaghire which Sheik Ali had near Boodakeh; but his men opposed them, and he would not give it up. I then informed Captain Malet of this further disrespect which he had shown me. Shortly after this, Sir Charles Napier, the Governor, came into this part of the country, and Captain Malet informed him of all the proceedings of Sheik Ali Hussun, and of his having allied himself to Moonshee Ali Ukhbur. The Governor then forbade Moonshee Ali Ukhbur from interfering in my affairs, and told Captain Malet that I was the owner of my own country, and the Sheik was my servant, and his jaghire situated in my country, and I might therefore resume it whenever I chose. Upon this I sent my people to this jaghire, and the Governor himself told me in the meantime, near Sukkur, that if I wished it, he would hang the Sheik, or give him any other punishment. I replied, that whatever appeared proper to the Sirkar should be done, but that I had claims on him for lacks of rupees, which I could prove by my accounts. About this time the Governor determined to go into the Hills, and I got ready, and accompanied him; when I returned, I wished to settle accounts with Sheik Ali Hussun, but he took an opportunity of escaping during the night to Mooltan. Peer Ali Gohur also having been desired to accompany me to the Hills, refused to do so, and became my enemy; and he and the Sheik continued to be of one mind, in consequence of which the Peer became as inimical as him; and when I de-

manded

manded my account from him, he also left my districts during the night, and fled across the river into the Sirkar's jurisdiction. I likewise told the Governor of this. I had given my seal to these people in the purity of my heart, and placing entire confidence in them; and I never conceived that they would raise any such conspiracy against me. Government should therefore take all this into consideration, and weigh all the circumstances well, whether it be proper to listen to the accusation of such enemies against me. If the evidence of enemies like these is accepted, then the whole world will become my enemies, for ever since the time I abandoned the cause of my brothers, and made friendship with Government in the time of Mr. Ross Bell, my brothers have raised their heads to the skies in enmity towards me; and besides the British Government, I have no friends or well wishers. The whole world are my opponents and enemies. For the rest, you are possessed of all wisdom.

"Dated 12th of the month Juma Doolsanee, in the year of Hijree 1266, Camp, Sukkur." 25 April 1850.

*Peer Ali Gohur* is recalled before the Commission, at his Highness Meer Ali Moorad's request, and cross-examined by his Highness on his former solemn affirmation.

*Question.* When Meer Roostum Khan sent you to Meer Ali Moorad on the day of the battle of Nownahar, were you alone, or was there any one else with you?—*Answer.* Khulifa Kaim, my servant, was with me that day, but he is since dead; and there were several other persons, but I do not recollect any of them.

When you went to Meer Ali Moorad to negotiate for peace, who were with him?—A great many Sepoys were with him; but of respectable persons I only remember Nusseer Jullalsuee; Oomed Ali, the servant of Meer Ali Murdan; and Ghoolan Surwur Khan Puthan. There were also other people, but I do not remember any more of them.

Did Meer Roostum Khan first send you to negotiate for peace, or did he send any one else before you?—He sent Meer Zungee Khan and Meer Ali Murdan before he sent me.

When you spoke to Meer Ali Moorad about making peace was Meer Zungee Khan present?—When I was going to Meer Ali Moorad, I met Meer Zungee Khan returning from him to Meer Roostum Khan.

What did he return for?—You can ask this of Meer Zungee Khan; I believe he went to bring Meer Roostum Khan himself.

When Meer Roostum Khan went to Meer Ali Moorad to make peace, who was with him?—Mahomed Ali Boorghurree and, I think, Ghoolam Shah and their servants; Meer Ali Mahomed, the son of Meer Mobaruck Khan, was also with him, but I do not now remember what other persons.

When Captain Pope went to Khyrpoor and you went to him, were you alone or was there any other person with you?—Meer Zungee Khan, Meer Chakore Khan, Sobadar Julbhonee, Sooliman Hujjaum, Shaik Ali Hossain, Jehan Khan, Shahee Kumal Khan, Jhulbhane, and, I think, Suyud Khan Jhulbhamee were with me.

When Captain Pope examined you about the Nownahar business, did he administer an oath to you or merely question you?—He first asked me whether the writing was by my hand, and I replied that I had written it; and he then showed me the Koran and asked if it was the same; and he also gave me an oath on the Koran that I had written it, to which effect I took an oath accordingly. He only asked me this about the handwriting, but put no other questions.

Did Captain Pope only question you about this treaty, or did he also examine any of the others?—I do not remember whether he asked any of the others, but he only asked me what I have stated.

You have stated that when you wrote the other leaf, you got a writing first from Meer Ali Moorad; why did you do this, and what fear had you, or from what Government?—I was afraid of the British Government; that some harm might happen to me if this became known.

When you knew that Captain Pope was coming to inquire about the treaty of Nownahar, and you had then, on that very account, written the fresh leaf in the Koran, and you had also got a writing absolving you from all responsibility in the matter, how came you not, at that time, to tell Captain Pope about it?

You had got a writing to save you from the displeasure of his Government, and why, therefore, did you not make it known to that Government?—There were two reasons for my not doing so. He did not ask me about this, and I was still residing in Meer Ali Moorad Khan's country, and was afraid of him.

As you did not make it known to Captain Pope, what then was the use of taking the writing absolving you from responsibility?—I asked for the writing in case it should ever become known to the British Government, and I should be asked about it, that I might then show the certificate to prove that the Meer Saheb had forcibly made me write it while I remained under his jurisdiction. I could not make it known when the British Government asked me; however, I told what I knew.

What did you take an oath to before Captain Pope?—About my handwriting.

Are people sworn about the contents of a writing, or merely about the handwriting?—The gentleman, after giving me an oath, only asked me about the handwriting, but not about anything else.

When I went to the Hill campaign, and desired you to accompany me, and you declined, and became my enemy in consequence, why did you not inform Sir Charles Napier about this when he returned from the campaign, and was in consideration about the treaty with me at Sukkur, and gave me over the disputed country?—I was not your enemy, and never heard that the treaty was under consideration. I was still living under your jurisdiction, and could not then from fear of you make this known.

When the Meer's seal was lost, did you hear that it had been so?—Yes, I heard twice of the Meer's having lost his seal, but it was only lost once, not on the other occasion.

When Meer Roostum Khan went to Meer Ali Moorad, and the treaty was being written, was this done at once, or had any draft of it been made beforehand?—There was a draft in some other person's handwriting; I merely copied this into the Koran.

In whose handwriting was the draft?—I do not remember.

You stated in your former deposition, that when the proclamation was issued I altered the words "Deh Mahtehla" into "Pergunnah Mahtehla;" who told you this?—When I was with Meer Ali Moorad in private, he spoke of the pergunnah Mahtehla as his, and from this I understood it, for I had first written only village, and he spoke of the pergunnah.

Given before the Commission this 26th April 1850.

(signed) R. K. Pringle, President.

*Shaik Ali Hussun* is then recalled before the Commission, and cross-questioned by his Highness Meer Ali Moorad, as follows:—

*Question.* You have stated in your deposition that when you showed the Koran to Captain Pope, the extracted leaves fell out of it, and that gentleman asked what they were, and you said it must be a draft or something of that kind. Captain Pope was well versed in Persian, and the writing was in that language; how then came he not to read it, particularly as he went to examine the Koran on account of some suspicion of forgery?—*Answer.* He read a little of it and asked me, but he had no idea that the leaf had been cut out, and he, therefore, I fancy, believed it was merely a draft.

Do people in committing forgery leave the altered papers in the Koran?—Ask Meer Saheb why he left them, whether by mistake or intentionally.

In your former deposition, made in December last, you stated that I had given you the extracted leaf to take care of, and now you say it fell into Captain Pope's hands by mistake, as you were not aware of its being there?—I do not remember to have written this in my former deposition. It was a different paper that the Meer Sahib gave me to keep.

In your deposition you state that you never afterwards saw the copy of the treaty you gave Tawur Mull, and from your former deposition it appeared that the Commissioner showed it to you. How is this?—I never saw it with Tawur Mull, and the Commissioner did not tell me that the copy he showed me had been got from him.

You state that this copy of the treaty, and that given to Government, are both in the handwriting of Moonshee Busharut Ali; but it is evident, on looking at them, that they are written by different hands, and that which was given to  
Government



Government for record appears to be written by him, but not the other. How is this?—The difference appears to be merely in the pens, otherwise they seem to be the same. If, however, the Meer is of a different opinion, it is still clear that I gave the copy to Tawur Mull, for my writing is also on it.

You state that Meer Sahib wrote the words “Pergunnah Meerpoor, Mahtehla, bamae Mehurkee” on a slip of a paper, and sent it by the hand of Hafiz Noor Ahmed Khan, with directions to you to enter them in the copy of the treaty you had with you, and give a copy with these additions for record to Government, whereas in the Koran, “Pergunnah Mahtehla, Meerpoor, Mehurkee” are written. What is the reason of this difference?—There is no additional meaning in the word “bama” (with), and the transposition of the words “Mahtehla” and “Meerpoor” does not signify. I did not commit it to memory that I should remember each word. In repeating it just now, Meer Sahib himself has twice put in the word “wu” (and), saying first, “Pergunnah Mahtehla, Meerpoor, wu Mehurkee,” and afterwards, “Pergunnah Mahtehla, wu Meerpoor Mehurkee,” and in the writing there is no “wu” (and) at all.

Given before the Commission this 26th April 1850.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle*, President.

*Tawur Mull* is then recalled before the Commission on his former solemn affirmation, and cross-questioned by his Highness Meer Ali Moorad, as follows:—

*Question.* You state that in the evening of the 9th Shabluun 1258, Higree, you heard that I came from Dejee Kakote, and arrived at Nownahar; who told you this, and said there had been a fight between Meer Roostum Khan and myself?—

*Answer.* I heard it from Dydass the kardar of Sukkur, and also from Meer Nusseer Khan’s vukeel, Bahadoor Ali Shah, who came at the time to report it to Captain Brown. When I heard it, I immediately went to report it to Major Clibborn.

Did you hear it from any one else?—The whole of Sukkur was speaking about it. I also heard it from Jalla Koondundass, the vukeel of Meer Roostum Khan, who was here.

You state that you did not show the copy of the treaty you had to any one except to Captain Brown, but mentioned about it to Captain Malet and Major Goldney; what did they say in reply?—Captain Malet said he had inquired from Meer Saheb about it, who replied that Captain Pope had come and investigated the matter, asking Peer Ali Gohur, Meer Zunghee Khan, and Kumal Khan Jullanee, and other respectable people about it; and he also said that he would write what I had told him to the Governor, and till then, and he received a reply, he would not lay down the boundary of Mahtehla. Major Goldney merely stated that there was some delay in inquiring about this business, but he would ask me about it afterwards.

Given before the Commission the 26th April 1850.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle*, President.

It being past five o’clock, the Commission adjourns, and at the request of his Highness Meer Ali Moorad, the next meeting is appointed to take place on Monday next, the 29th instant, at 11 A.M.

A letter is at the same time directed to be written to his Highness, informing him that the Commission are ready to receive the evidence of any witnesses he may wish to call, relative to the circumstances of the cession in the treaty of Nownahar. Translation of this will be found, numbered 8, in the Appendix, Exhibit (E.), containing all the correspondence not recorded in the body of the proceedings, on the subject of the present investigation.



## FOURTH DAY.

Sukkur, Monday, 29 April 1850.

THE Commission re-assembles this day, pursuant to adjournment, and proceeds with the investigation of the matter before it.

Present :—The President and Members, as on Friday last ; and his Highness Meer Ali Moorad attends as before, with such persons as he wishes to be present to assist in the examination of the witnesses, &c.

His Highness Meer Ali Moorad's reply to the letter addressed to him on Friday, in which he states that his witnesses are in attendance, is read, and a translation recorded in the Appendix, under Exhibit (F.), No. 9.

His Highness having brought his reply to a letter addressed to him on Saturday, the 27th instant, requesting any explanation he might have to offer on certain points in the correspondence placed before the Commission, which appear to bear strongly on the subject under investigation, the following translations of the several paragraphs of this reference to the Ameer, and of the letters or other papers referred to therein, are here recorded, with translation of his Highness Meer Ali Moorad's reply on each point placed in juxtaposition, in order that the whole may be shown in the clearest light on the proceedings of the Commission.

*A Letter addressed to his Highness Meer Ali Moorad, to the following effect.*

After Compliments.

I HEREWITH transmit to your Highness copies of three documents bearing on the subject now under investigation, on which the members of the Commission would be glad to be favoured with any explanations your Highness may wish to offer.

The first is the copy of a letter addressed by your Highness to Captain Brown, immediately after the battle of Nownahar, in which you describe the cession made by Meer Roostum Khan as consisting of villages, and allude to it as being of considerable amount, compared with your demands. Your Highness is requested to explain how this can be reconciled with the actual extent of the cession, as it now appears in the treaty in the Koran, consisting of the pergunnahs of Meerpoor, Mahtehla and Mehurkee, and several villages, amounting in all to a considerable value. I may further add, in allusion to this point, that the letters received at the same time by Captain Brown, from Meers Roostum and Nusseer Khan, allude to the cession in terms in like manner indicating it to have been of small value.

Letter, copy of which was enclosed in the above:

From Meer Ali Morad to Captain Brown, received 18 September 1842.

After compliments.

I RECEIVED your letter directing me to desist from hostilities and the gathering of troops till you heard from Major Outram. The circumstances are these : from the commencement of the disputes with Meer Nusseer Khan, and the burning of my villages, notwithstanding

*Reply of his Highness Meer Ali Moorad to R. K. Pringle, Esq.*

FOR the information of the Commission, states, after compliments, and recapitulating the contents of the Commissioner's letter :

"The copy of the letter you have sent me, addressed to Captain Brown, is not to be found entered on my records. I have had a very diligent search made for it, but cannot find it ; I have, however, a copy of the letter which I addressed to that officer on the day of the fight, the 9th of Shahbhan, in reply to a letter from him, and in it there is merely an account of the battle, but no allusion whatever either to villages or pergunnahs. I send you a copy of this with my present reply for your perusal ; and the other letter, in which the conditions of peace are referred to, and certain villages mentioned, must, I imagine, have been written by Shaik Ali Hussain, who was my fully accredited karbharree. The particulars of the villages and pergunnahs are not entered in this, as the object of it was merely to communicate intelligence of what had happened, in order that the disturbance might be put a stop to ; and at that time the country of Sciende was in possession of its former rulers, and had not been conquered by the British Government. The matter was one between myself and the other Meers of Khyrpoor as brothers, and they sometimes had been in the habit of taking my villages, and sometimes I used to take theirs. I did not, therefore, think it necessary to send particulars of the villages and pergunnahs to that officer, but was contented to inform him that the Koran contain-

notwithstanding your kind advice to him, he still persisted in his course; your remonstrances made no impression upon him. Although I knew him to be much inferior to me in force, and notwithstanding the injuries he had inflicted on me by burning villages, &c., I still continued humbly to supplicate for the restoration of my property. He would not listen, but sent Futteh Gohree to me at Ahmedabad, with a demand of the cession of yet more territory. He made his demands in such a tone as to make my heart burn. Afterwards he returned to Khyrpoor, there to conspire against me with Meer Mahomed Hussein. All this I learned from my secret writer, whose name I do not think necessary to mention; I therefore thought that if I delayed my movements, it would allow time for their plot to ripen, and thus cause me loss. He is deserving of punishment, either from my hands or the British; you have deferred his punishment, I therefore have made preparations to punish him myself, before he may find an opportunity of injuring me.

At the instigation of Gohree he has forgotten the respect due to me as his master, and his position as my servant. He has from cowardice concealed himself in Khyrpoor, which place I respect on account of Meer Roostum Khan. Meer Mahomed Ali, brother of Meer Musseer Khan, erected three stockades in my front, which he, Meer Goolam Mahomed, son of Meer Roostum Khan Allee Buksh, son of Meer Tazal Mahomed, with several chiefs, and hundreds of soldiers, occupied. The moment my victorious army advanced to the attack they immediately deserted the two foremost stockades, taking up a position behind the third, where my troops, regardless of the fire poured into them, pursued the enemy, and surrounded the third stockade. I was about to massacre the whole when a voice arose, crying out, We are the sons of Meer Roostum; for the love of God spare us. I had given orders to my troops not to fight even with the servants of Meer Roostum; but on hearing that they were the sons of Meer Roostum, I at once spared them, making them prisoners. In the meantime Meer Roostum became mediator, and gave over to me several villages to cover the expense of my army and the loss I had sustained, amounting to lacs of rupees. I, however, was not contented with the few places they made over to me, and would have demanded reparation for the whole of my loss, had not your letter at that moment arrived; I then agreed to accept of the villages that Meer Roostum offered to me, postponing any further demands for a future time, which I hope to receive from the hands of the British, in whom I place implicit confidence. You may hourly expect the arrival of Shaik Ali'Hussun, with a Koran sealed by Meers Roostum and Nussur Khan, in which the treaty is entered. He will explain all details to you.

ing the treaty would afterwards be sent for his inspection, when he would become aware of what was contained in it. It was mentioned in the letter that the Koran would be sent in a few days. Had I known at that time that the country of Scinde would be conquered by the British Government, and that that part of it belonging to Meer Nusseer Khan would revert to Government, I should certainly have written the names and other particulars of the country in my letter to Captain Brown, copy of which was forwarded with the above.

"After compliments.

"In reply to my letter I received your answer, saying that you were much displeased with my conduct.

"The circumstances are these: Meer Nussur Khan has created much disturbance, killing my people and burning villages; notwithstanding your advice, he would not enter into terms or give me my rights, though I sent Fuqueers, Suyuds and others to treat with him; but, on the contrary, conspiring with my enemies, did all in his power to injure me. I encamped in my own territory; Meer Mahomed Ali, brother of Meer Nussur Khan, advanced, and built stockades in my front; they commenced hostilities against me; I succeeded so well that I could have done with them as I wished, when I received your letter, on the receipt of which I immediately allowed Meer Nussur Khan and others to go their own way; I, who am a well-wisher of the British Government, of course followed the advice given; you may be sure that there are none in this country who will serve the British Government as I will and have done; there is now no one to oppose the British; should, however, any one be so mad as to think of doing so, I am ready, when, with my own army alone, I will deal with them as they deserve. Should their army be much superior in number to mine, I will call for the support of the British, and again be foremost in the attack; and I, therefore, trust that these, my good feelings for the British Government, will be taken into consideration."

(True translation.)

(signed) *F. Harding*, Captain,  
Persian Interpreter.

(True translation.)

(signed) *F. Harding*, Captain,  
Persian Interpreter.

*Remark by the Commission.*—The original of this letter is recorded on the records as having been received on the 27th September 1842, and letters written by Captain Brown, forwarding translations of it, as well as of that given on the other side to Major Outram at the time, will be found in the Appendix, Exhibit (D.); no date is put by the writer on either of the originals of these letters. They are, however, endorsed with Captain Brown's initials.

Para. 2. The second is the copy of a letter received by Sir Charles Napier from your Highness on the 24th January 1843, in which you claim the pergunnah of Mahtehla and certain villages, but no mention is made in it of the pergunnahs of Meerpoor and Meherkee, as now entered in the treaty of Nownahar; your Highness is requested to account for this omission.

Letter here alluded to.

From His Highness *Meer Ali Moorad* to His Excellency Sir C. Napier, K. C. B.

After compliments.

ACCORDING to your instructions, I have ordered my people to leave the country between Roree and Subzalkote, and to deliver it over to the people of Bhawul Khan; but I have one word to say, that before this you were kind enough to write me that you would leave me the pergunnah of Mahtehla and three villages; namely, Dadla, Kundheree, and Soonderbeila, my property now; any orders you will give I shall obey. If you kindly give me the above-named pergunnah and the villages, tell me that I may keep some men there, and to make over the remainder to the Khan's (the Nuwab's) people. Write a letter to Bawul Khan; tell him not to interfere in the above-named pergunnah and villages, but to take charge of the rest you may do as you please.

Dated 23d Zilkay 1258.

P. S.—It was mentioned in your proclamation, that you would take the grain of the present crop, the khurreef. Now, my men have prepared all the grain of the present crop of this country. The grain is ready, and they have only to take it; what is your order? If you wish my people to take the grain, I hope you will write to the Nuwab, telling him not to hinder my people from taking this grain, but the future rubbee he may take.

Above date.

Received 24th January 1843.

Para. 3. The third is a copy of a certificate of indemnity, purporting to have been granted by your Highness to Peer Ali Gohur on the occasion of his re-writing the first leaf of the Koran, which bears your Highness's seal, and the superscription "Bubul ust," in your own hand, and the original of which paper was shown to your Highness when Peer Ali Gohar's evidence was taken before the Commission. Your Highness is requested to inform the members of the Commission whether this document is genuine, and whether the seal and superscription which it bears are really those of your Highness.

Certificate here alluded to.

"Confirmed."

The reason of writing this is as follows:

Meer Roostum Khan and Meer Nusseer Khan gave me the pergunnah of Mahtehla, on account of the lack of rupees I had expended in the battle of Khyrpoor.

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"As regards the letter to Sir Charles Napier, in which the pergunnah of Mahtehla alone and several villages are applied for, I beg to state that, from the first, the pergunnah Mahtehla has included the whole, and Meerpoor and Meherkee are part of it, and have from ancient times been subordinate to it. If the evidence of the Zameendars be required on this point, they can be produced for the Commission; all these places form one pergunnah, not three, that Meerpoor and Meherkee should be designated separately as pergunnahs. The reason of writing them in the treaty was that Meer Mobaruck Khan, when he divided his country amongst his sons, separated these places into tuppals, but they did not from this circumstance become separate pergunnahs, and if Meerpoor and Meherkee were excluded from the pergunnah of Mahtehla, then how could the latter alone be called a pergunnah without them, since it is well known that these two places belong to it. On this account Mahtehla only was claimed in the letter, as my pergunnah, and the other places dependent on it were not mentioned. The details however are stated in the Koran."

"My reply, regarding the certificate with my seal and superscription, in the possession of Peer Ali Gohur, as an indemnity for his re-writing the fresh leaf of the Koran, and which he has shown to the Commission, is as follows:

"I stated in the reply I formerly gave in to the Commission, that the Shaik and the Peer were both fully accredited ministers of mine, and kept my seal in their charge, writing whatever they required, and putting my seal upon it. They were also in the habit of getting my signature in the words Babal ust on blank papers, under pretence of requiring them for some particular business; when they afterwards became inimical to me, they may doubtless have forged this writing, but I never gave any such certificate; and why should I have done so? The leaf of the Koran was not written over again, and the members of the Commission should consider that Peer Ali Gohur is a Fuqeer, and poor; if he was possessed of sufficient circumspection to ask for such a certificate, would not I, who

The pergunnahs Meerpoor, Mahtehla, Mehr, and other towns were given to me, and written in the Koran by their own free will.

By the carelessness of the servant who kept the Koran, some ink was spilt on some of the words, in a line of the cession written in the Koran, which spoilt it a little. I said to Peer Ali Gohur, "The page is spoilt; I will take it out; you write a copy of it in another page; because the original was written by you, so also write this." The Peer Sahib refused to write it. I then said, I would take all blame on myself; that none should rest on him; if any thing was said regarding it, I would be answerable. I give this document to the Peer, to show that the responsibility of the act rests with me, and not with him. I therefore write, that in performing this the Peer is not to blame, he having written it by my orders. The above writing I give to remain with the Peer as a Sunnud.

Dated 2d of the month Rujub, 1259 Higru.

(True translation.)

(signed) *J. W. Younghusband,*  
Lieutenant of Police.

Para. 4. In addition to the points above noticed, it has attracted the attention of the Commission, that among the districts made over to your Highness by Meer Roostum along with the Turban, those of Meerpoor and Mahtehla are included, which seems inconsistent with the fact of their previous cession by the treaty of Nownahar; on this point also the Commissioner would be glad to be favoured with your Highness's explanation.

Khan had become disobedient to Meer Roostum and inimical to the British Government, Meer Roostum Khan did not think the former fit for the management of his country, and gave it over to me on the pages of the Koran; and in those days Meer Roostum Khan sent a private message to Sir C. Napier, regarding his being helpless in the hands of his relations. His Excellency, in consequence, in the month of December 1842, issued a proclamation on the subject, a copy of which I beg to enclose for your perusal, and if the members of the Commission consider that the said Pergunnah Mahtehla Meerpoor was written in the treaty of the Turban, because it had not before been ceded by the treaty of Nownahar, then I would ask how the pergunnah of Gotekee happens also to be written in the treaty of the Turban; and besides this, the insertion of the pergunnah of Mahtehla Meerpoor in the second treaty was a confirmation of the cession made in the first, and proves its genuineness; when Sir C. Napier, however, wished to take possession of the country of Meer Nusseer Khan, I submitted at once to his orders without hesitation.

"These are my replies to the four questions of the Commission, and the gentlemen are wise, and can distinguish between friends and enemies. I need not, therefore, write more, although the whole world is full of my enemies, who envy my prosperity and reputation. The whole of this is now in your hand."

"15 Jumodee Oolsumce, 1266."

28 April 1850.

PROCLAMATION alluded to above, under the Seal of Sir C. Napier.

"Meer Roostum Khan has privately sent me a message that he is in the hands of his relatives, and helpless in consequence, which prevents his acting properly in concert with the British Government. On receiving this message, I wrote in reply, that his disobedient relatives should be kept under surveillance for their admonition; I also recommended him to go to the Kote of Seejee, to his brother, Meer Alli Moorad Khan, which he accordingly did; I was therefore much pleased with Meer Roostum Khan's conduct, and wished to write again to the Governor-general regarding his friendliness and obedience to Government, and was desirous of visiting him. I was satisfied that he had again become on friendly terms. But Meer Roostum Khan afterwards fled from Alli Moorad Khan, and joined in consultation with the seditious people who were in conspiracy

against Government. He has, therefore, committed misconduct, and disgraced himself. I now, in consequence, proclaim to all the chiefs and inhabitants of Scinde, in order that it may be generally known, that Meer Alli Moorad Khan is the owner of all the sovereignty of the Talpoors, and all the people must be obedient to him as such. Whoever transgresses Meer Ali Moorad's order, I will make him by force obey it. Have no doubt of this."

His Highness Meer Alli Moorad likewise presents a paper of remarks, which is read, and translation of it recorded, as follows :

"When Captain Pope visited Khyrpoor, to inquire into the circumstances regarding the Turban, he also inquired about the treaty of Nownahar, as stated by Peer Alli Gohur in his deposition, in which he says that that officer asked him whether the treaty of Nownahar was in his handwriting, and that he replied that it was. The fact, however, is, that the said gentleman inquired into the circumstance of Nownahar from the Peer and other respectable persons, and they related all that happened ; how the disturbance originated, and how in the end peace was restored by Meer Roostum Khan writing this treaty on the Koran. Captain Pope also administered an oath to the Peer and other parties regarding the genuineness of the treaty, as shown in the Koran. They swore on the Koran accordingly to the treaty being genuine, and to there being no doubt about it. These people are alive, and will testify to all this before the Commission, when the truth or falsehood of the Peer will become known. His falsehood is indeed apparent, from his own confession ; for, in his deposition he says that Captain Pope only asked him about his handwriting ; whereas, in his second deposition, he states that Captain Pope gave him an oath, and asked him about his handwriting. His falsehood will become still more apparent when the other witnesses are examined ; and now, when he asserts that the treaty was forged, how can his assertion be believed, after his having stated on oath before Captain Pope that it was genuine ? How can the evidence of such a man, who turns his back on his oath, and forswears his religion, be depended on ?

"Peer Alli Gohur states, in his deposition, that when the Meer Saheb extracted the leaf from the Koran he was not present ; and Sheik Alli Hussan says in his deposition, that the leaf was extracted at Khyrpoor before Bushrut Alli and Peer Alli Gohur, when he (Sheik Alli) was at Babberlow. As there is a difference between the statement of the Sheik and the Peer on this point, the Commission is requested to consider it.

"Sheikh Alli Hussan says that he took the copy of the treaty written in the Koran to Captain Brown three days after the battle of Nownahar, and caused it to be entered in the Government records, and that that copy was lost by moonshee Moyadeen ; also, that after the treaty was altered, he caused another copy to be entered on the Government records ; but as this must have been seen by Captain Brown, how came he not to hesitate about it when he had also seen the first copy ?

"When the two separate copies of the treaty (one of which was given in by Moonshee Towur Mull) were shown to Sheikh Alli Hussan, and a question put to him whether he recognised them, he replied that he did, and that they were both in the handwriting of Moonshee Busharut Alli, but with different kinds of pens ; and in his fourth deposition he states that he thought them alike. But if they appeared different, still it is evident that the one in Towar Mull's possession was given by him, as it contains his handwriting upon it ; from this it is clear that the copy in question is a forged one, and might have been given by the Sheikh afterwards. The handwriting of the two copies is evidently different, and the first copy is not written by Busharut Alli. The members of the Commission can consider this.

"Sheikh Alli Hussun, in his replies to questions, states that the Sahib (meaning Captain Pope) read a part of the leaf and asked him ; but it did not occur to the Sahib that a leaf had been extracted, and he therefore thought that it was probably a draft. As the gentlemen of the Commission are possessed of wisdom, they will consider how it is possible that this could occur with an officer acquainted with Persian ; and how he could have read it without seeing what it was about ? Captain Pope only sent for the Koran to remove his suspicion about the forgery ; and if the extracted paper was also read by him, how was it that he did not discover it ? Therefore the Commission ought to inquire about this.

"Sheikh Alli Hussun, in his reply about the difference in the deposition, where he first says that Meer Alli Moorad Khan gave him the extracted paper to  
take

take care of, and afterwards that the extracted paper fell by mistake into the hands of Captain Pope, states that he does not remember having mentioned anything to the former effect in his deposition, and that it was another paper that Meer Sahib gave him to keep. In these two statements, therefore, his falsehood is apparent; the members of the Commission will therefore consider about this.

“ Sheikh Alli Hussun, in his reply regarding his having seen or not having seen the copy of the treaty given by Towur Mull, says that he never afterwards saw it, and that the Commissioner did not tell him that it was Towur Mull's copy of the treaty. I would therefore point out that he denies having seen it, although the Commissioner did show it to him; and as regards his saying that the Commissioner did not tell him that Towur Mull had given this copy, it appears by his own statement that his handwriting was upon it, and that it was, therefore, the same that he gave to Towar Mull. How, then, did he not recognise his own handwriting before, and discover that it was the paper he had given to Towar Mull? From this his falsehood is evident, and the members of the Commission will consider this.

“ Sheikh Alli Hussun, in his deposition, says that the annual revenue of Meerpoor, Mathela, and Mehurkee, in former days, was two lacs of rupees, and now that it is one lac of rupees; whereas I have a statement of the produce for nine crops of Meerpoor, Mahtehla, and Mehurkee, which altogether amounts to one lac and 31,000 rupees of net revenue. At this rate, the annual produce would appear only to be Rs. 29,055. 13 a.; if, therefore, the Sheikh tells such a great falsehood in this matter, he will of course do the same on all other points.

“ Major Lang, on the first day of our meeting, said that Sir C. Napier and Captain Malet had not seen the extracted paper of the treaty; then why does Sheikh Alli Hussun, in his deposition, dated in December 1849, say that he gave a leaf of the Koran to Sir C. Napier? If his Excellency had had the least suspicion, how could he have allowed me to enjoy the country, especially in those days when the Sheikh represented the circumstance of the forgery to his Excellency? The country of Mathela, Meerpoor, and Mehurkee, was in possession of Government. This ought to be considered by the members of the Commission.

“ The witnesses in this case who have appeared before the Commission are three men; the first Peir Alli Gohur, the second Sheikh Alli Hussun, and the third Towur Mull. The fact, however, is, that the Peer and Sheikh have embezzled from me many lacs of rupees, which I can prove against them by my accounts; therefore they have made all these allegations against me. Towur Mull is a criminal and a prisoner, whose term of confinement has not yet expired. On the statement of my enemies, he has been released from imprisonment and brought to give evidence. If 100 prisoners are released and brought forward to give false evidence, they will, of course, considering their own release from confinement, state what may suit their own purpose. How, then, can the evidence of such men be admitted before the Commission?

“ Dated 16 Jamudee Ool Akhir, 1266. From Sukkur (29 April 1850).”

The following witnesses are then produced by his Highness Meer Alli Moorad, and, having been separately called before the Commission, are examined on solemn affirmation, as follows:—

*Meer Zungee Khan*, uncle of his Highness Meer Alli Moorad Khan, an inhabitant of Khyrpoor, aged about 80 years, is questioned by his Highness Meer Alli Moorad, as follows:—

*Question.* State what you know about the battle of Nownahar, and about the writing of the treaty in the Koran?—*Answer.* On the 9th day of Shabun 1258, Meer Alli Moorad Khan left Deejee-Kakote with his army, and arrived at a place called Chakur. When this news was reported to Meer Roostum Khan, at Khyrpoor, he sent me, his younger son, Meer Alli Murdan, and Kumal Khan Julbanee, to Meer Alli Moorad Khan, to endeavour to make peace. Although we did our utmost to persuade him, we could not succeed, as he said he had expended enormous sums of money, which he must receive from Meer Nusseer Khan, and also take his country from him. We therefore returned, and told Meer Roostum Khan of this; and he again sent me, with Peer Alli Gohur, Alli Murdan, and Kumal Khan Julbanee, to Meer Alli Moorad Khan, and entreated him, through us, to desist. In the meantime Meer Alli Moorad's army became victorious, and

that of Meer Roostum Khan was defeated, and Meer Mahomed Alli and Meer Gholum Mahomed both seized. Meer Roostum Khan then went himself to Meer Alli Moorad, taking me and Peer Alli Gohur with him. He began by entreating him much, and then he gave his seal to Meer Alli Moorad Khan, telling him to take whatever country he wished, and at the same time holding out before him the skirt of his garment (by way of urgent entreaty). Meer Alli Moorad Khan told him that he had nothing to do with him, but that he would take the lacs of rupees he had expended, as well as his country, from Meer Nusseer Khan. At last Meer Roostum Khan, taking his seal back from Meer Alli Moorad, had a treaty written by Peer Alli Gohur, and attached his seal to it, to the effect that seven villages of his own and the pergunnah of Mathela, Meerpoor, and Mehurkee, and the village of Dadloo, belonging to Meer Nusseer Khan, should be given to Meer Alli Moorad. He then took the seals of Meer Nusseer Khan and Meer Alli Ukhbar, his own son, and attached them likewise to the writing. Meer Mahomed Alli and Meer Ghulam Mahomed, the sons of Meer Roostum Khan, were then released. Meer Alli Moorad remained there that night, and Meer Roostum Khan returned to Khyrpoor. This is all that occurred, and the treaty written on the Koran was to the effect mentioned above.

When you went to Captain Pope, what other persons were present:—I myself, Peer Alli Gohur, Sooliman Abdur, Jeeham Khan, Shaher Toshukjee, Kumal Khan Julbanee, Sheik Alli Hussan, Dewan Shere Sing, and Dewan Kesheeram, all went, by order of Meer Alli Moorad Khan, to Captain Pope, in the bungalow of Mere Shere Mahomed. That officer first asked me about the Turban, and then about the matter of Nownahar, and, having given an oath three times to Peer Alli Gohur, made him swear that it was his handwriting, and that there was no difference in it.

*Question by the Commission.* As you state that seven villages were given by Meer Roostum Khan, and the pergunnah of Mathela, Meerpoor, and Mehurkee, and the village of Dadloo, belonging to Meer Nusseer Khan, do you know whether these places were received at the time by Meer Alli Moorad Khan or not:—These places were immediately given over to Meer Alli Moorad Khan.

Given before the Commission, this 29th April 1850.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle,*  
President.

*Kumal Khan Jubbanee*, formerly in the service of Meer Roostum Khan, and now in that of his Highness Meer Alli Moorad Khan, from whom he holds a jaghier, aged about 60 years, is questioned by his Highness Meer Alli Moorad.

*Question.* Relate the circumstances of the battle of Nownahar?—*Answer.* On the 9th of Shaban 1258 a battle was fought at Nownahar between Meer Alli Moorad Khan and Meer Roostum Khan and Meer Nusseer Khan. After many persons were killed on both sides, the army of Meer Alli Moorad Khan became victorious, and the other party was defeated. Meer Mahomed Alli and his servants were seized, and Meer Roostum Khan afterwards sent Meer Zungee Khan and Meer Alli Murdan to Meer Alli Moorad Khan to try and make peace. We tried our utmost, but could not persuade him; he said that on this account he had expended lacs of rupees, and without receiving this back and taking his country he could not make terms. Hearing this we returned to Meer Roostum Khan and informed him of it. Meer Roostum Khan then got into his mubafa (a kind of palkee) and went to Meer Alli Moorad, taking me, Meer Zungee Khan, Peer Alli Gohur, and Juhan Khan Saher with him. Meer Roostum Khan took up the skirt of his garment before Meer Alli Moorad, and held out his seal to him, telling him to take whatever country he wanted. Meer Alli Moorad replied that he had nothing to do with him, who was his senior, but that he had a claim against Meer Nusseer Khan, and would take his country. After a long entreaty it was settled that Meer Roostum Khan should give seven villages of his own, and the pergunnah Mathela, Meerpoor, Mehurkee, with the village of Dadloo, belonging to Meer Nusseer Khan. Peace was thus restored, and a treaty to the above effect written on the Koran, on which are the seal of Meer Roostum Khan, Meer Nusseer Khan, and Meer Alli Ukhbar. These were affixed to it by Meer Roostum Khan, and the Koran given to Meer Alli Moorad.

Meer



Meer Alli Moorad remained there that day, and Meer Roostum Khan returned in the evening to Khyrpoor.

When Captain Pope visited Khyrpoor to inquire about the treaty of the Turban, and also about the Nownahar business, who were present, and what were they asked?—That officer called confidential people before him, such as Meer Zungee Khan, Meer Chakur Khan, Peer Alli Gohur, Sheikh Alli Hussan, Juban Khan Shaher, Suliman Abdar, and myself, and asked Peer Alli Gohur whether the circumstances about the Turban and the battle of Nownahar were as stated. The Koran that was with Sheikh Alli Hussan was then given to Peer Alli Gohur, and held at the same time by Captain Pope, who told him that it contained his faith and religion, and asked him whether he was the Peer of the Umeers, or also of the poor, and told him to relate what was true, on his oath. The Peer replied that whatever was stated in the Koran was genuine and true.

Given before the Commission, the 29th April 1850.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle*, President.

*Soolleman Abdar*, formerly employed in the service of Meer Roostum Khan, and at present without any employment or jaghier, inhabitant of Khyrpoor, and aged about 64 years, is questioned by his Highness Meer Alli Moorad.

*Question.* Relate the circumstances of the battle of Nownahar?—*Answer.* When the battle was fought between Meer Alli Morad Khan and Meer Roostum Khan, and Meer Nusseer Khan, and many people killed and wounded on both sides, Alli Moorad's troops were at last victorious, and Meer Roostum Khan then sent Peer Alli Gohur, Meer Zungee Khan, Kumal Khan, Julbanee, and his own son Alli Murdan Khan and myself, to Alli Moorad Khan to try and make peace. The Meer replied that he had expended lacs, and would not make terms. When this reply was reported to Meer Roostum Khan, he got into his muhafa and went to Meer Alli Moorad, who repeated to him that he had been put to great expense, which he must recover, and that he must also take Meer Nusseer Khan's country, or get hold of himself. Meer Roostum Khan held out the skirt of his garment with his seal to him, and entreated for peace. It was then settled by Meer Roostum Khan to give seven villages of his own, and the pergunnah of Mathela, Meerpoor, Mehurkee, and the village of Dadloo, belonging to Meer Nusseer Khan, to Meer Alli Moorad Khan. On this the latter agreed to terms and remained there that night, but Meer Roostum Khan returned to Khyrpoor. This is what occurred.

*Question by the Commission.* Are the places Mathela, Meerpoor, and Dadla, the names of a pergunnah or of villages?—Mathela is the name of a pergunnah, Meerpoor and Mehurkee are written with Mathela; I have not seen, but heard this; I do not know about Dadla; it may also be there.

What was your occupation with Meer Roostum Khan?—I was a personal servant of his, and kept his clothes and his water, and was likewise in the habit of taking the accounts from his mootsudees (managers).

Given before the Commission this 29th April 1850.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle*, President.

*Peer Alli Gohur* is then re-called before the Commission, and questioned by Meer Alli Moorad on his former solemn affirmation, as follows:

*Question.* You stated in your deposition that you have heard that my seal was lost twice, and that once it was really lost, but not the second time; did you ever get hold of the seal that was lost?—*Answer.* I never got it; what should I do with your seal?

Have you ever shown the seal that was lost to any person?—I never got it; how then could I show it to any one?

Given before the Commission the 29th April 1850.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle*, President.



*Fusul Mahomed Khan Musree*, formerly in the service of Meer Nusseer Khan, now with Meer Alli Moorad, aged about 35 years, is questioned by Meer Alli Moorad, as follows :

*Question.* Relate the circumstance of the loss of my seal, how it happened, and at what time?—*Answer.* I do not know when the seal of Meer Alli Moorad was lost, but I heard that it had been so. I saw it with Peer Alli Gohur. When I became dissatisfied with Meer Alli Moorad I went to Peer Alli Gohur and told him about it, asking his advice as to what I should do if the Meer asked me for an account of the pergunnahs. In reply the Peer answered me that he would devise some plan for me. I asked him how I was to be satisfied of this, and he then took me into his tosheekhana, or private room, and taking out a small box he took the Meer Saheb's seal from it, and showed it to me. I recognised it as the same seal that had been lost. He then told me that he would make a purwana for me about any account that I wished, so that no one could afterwards demand any further answer from me.

How long did you remain with Peer Alli Gohur?—I remained 24 months with the Peer.

*Question by the Commission.* When did all this happen that you have related?—During the year of Hijree 1263, or about three years ago.

You have stated that you did not know about the seal that was lost; how then did you know that it was this very seal?—I was not present when the seal was lost, but it afterwards became known to everybody that it had been so.

If impressions of several of his Highness Meer Alli Moorad's seals were shown to you, would you know that of the one that was lost?—Yes, I would recognize it.

What business of Alli Moorad's was in your charge, of which you had to give an account?—The tuppa of Larkhana and that of Obowra were both in my charge; I had to give accounts of them as manager.

Did Peer Alli Gohur give you any paper with the impression of the seal?—It did not become necessary.

How then did you settle your accounts with Meer Alli Moorad?—They have not yet been settled.

Where do you reside now; within Alli Moorad's territory, or in any other?—I reside in the territory of the British Government, at a place called Koriah, within about a koss of Peer Alli Gohur's residence.

Given before the Commission this 29th April 1850.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle*, President.

His Highness Meer Alli Moorad, having been requested to send for the book containing copies of his outward letters, from which the copy of his letter to Captain Brown, about the battle of Nownahar, given to the Commission this day, and translated above, was taken, sends for it accordingly, and shows it to the Commission, and it is examined in his presence.

A. D. 1843-44.

About July 1841.

About Dec. 1846.

It commences with a few letters written in the year of Hijree, 1259; and then, after a number of intervening pages, a fresh beginning is made, and letters entered in it from the 24th Jumadee Ool Sanee, 1267, to the 28th Zulkay, 1262. The date, 9th Shabun, of the letter to Captain Brown, appears written above the line at the end of the letter, as if entered since; and the letter immediately preceding it is dated the 15th Rujub, nearly a month before; and after it follows one to Major Outram of the same date, 9th Shabun, and then one dated in the month Zilkad, between which and Shabun come the Mussulman months of Rumzun and Shawul. No other letters about the same time appear to Captain Brown's address, from which it is evident that only some of the Meer's letters could have been entered in it, and he admits it to have been copied afterwards from the loose drafts of letters despatched.

It being near six o'clock, the Commission then adjourned till to-morrow, at 11 A. M.

FIFTH DAY.

Sukkur, Tuesday, 30th April 1850.

THE Commission having assembled this day, pursuant to adjournment, proceeds with the investigation of the matter before it.

Present :—The President and Members, as yesterday ; and his Highness Meer Alli Moorad attends as before, with such of his people as he wishes to have with him, for the purpose of examining the witnesses, &c.

*Hoosain Shah*, formerly in the service of Peer Alli Gohur, and now residing in the Khyrpoor district, but without employment, aged 50 years, is then called before the Commission, on the part of his Highness Meer Alli Moorad, and examined on solemn affirmation by him, as follows :

*Question.* How did you see my seal with Peer Alli Gohur ?—*Answer.* There was some enmity between the Meer Saheb and Peer Alli Gohur, about a piece of jaghier land. Meer Saheb forbade him to do something, and he came home displeased in consequence. I went to him, and asked why he was angry, saying that the Meer was a Sirdar. After this, on another occasion, Peer Alli Gohur came home displeased with the Meer, and I went to him. It was on Friday, at noon. I asked him why he was so angry with the Meer. He replied, he would never agree with his Highness, and that he intended to go across the river, where he desired me to accompany him. I asked him why I should go across the river, as the country there belonged to the English Government. Afterwards, the Peer said that he had got the seal of the Meer Saheb, and would go across the river and make some disturbance. I told him he was speaking falsely, as he could not have the seal of the Meer, and, if he had, to show it to me. Afterwards he went into his toshukhana, and, bringing out a small box, took the seal out of it and showed it to me ; seeing it, I said to the Peer that it was the same seal which Ali Moorad had lost at Khyrpore. The Peer replied, Yes, that it was the very same. I asked him how it fell into his hands, but he said that it was no business of mine, and told me again to come across the river with him and they would set some scheme on foot. I replied, that that was a bad thing to do, and advised him to desist from it. I lived a long time with the Peer, but he left at last and crossed the river, and I remained where I was. Meer Alli Moorad then sent for me, and I took the box containing my clothes and went to him, and lived with him. When I heard the circumstance of this dispute, I told Ali Moorad that Peer Alli Gohur had his lost seal ; and I now give my evidence to that effect.

*Question by the Commission.* When was the seal of the Meer Sahcb lost ?—In the month of Zullug, 1259, and on the 11th day of the month. I heard this by the conversation of people who were in the habit of frequenting Peer Alli Gohur's house.

When did you see the seal with Peer Alli Gohur ?—At noon on Friday, the 15th of Suffur, but I do not recollect the year ; it is, however, about five years ago.

Had the Meer Saheb only one seal for sealing all his letters ?—There was only one seal lost.

Would you know the seal again if you saw it ? (*The impressions of two other seals of Meer Alli Moorad, and also of that on the certificate given to Peer Alli Gohur, are here shown to witness.*)—Yes. I could recognise it again. Neither of the other seals shown to me are like it, but the one on the certificate is the impression of the seal to which I allude.

Given before the Commission this 30th April 1850.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle*, President.

*Qazee Mahomed*, the son of Jozee Aborolla of Shikarpore, aged about 45 years, is then called before the Commission on the part of Meer Alli Moorad, and examined on solemn affirmation by him, as follows :—

*Question.* When Sheik Alli Hussun and Peer Alli Gohur visit Shirkarpoor, are they in the habit of putting up with you ?—*Answer.* Yes, they are in the habit of putting up with me. The father and ancestors of Peer Alli Gohur used

also to put up in my house, but the last time they came there Sheik Alli Hussun put up with me, and Peer Alli Gohur in another place.

Have you ever seen any blank papers containing a seal, and the signature of Bahalust with Sheik Alli Hussun or Peer Alli Gohur?—I have seen many blank papers containing seals and the words Bahal ust in a box belonging to Peer Alli Gohur.

When Peer Alli Gohur had the dispute with me, and crossed the river and went to see Major Goldney and put up with you, what did he say against me to you?—At first he was concerned in some intrigue about Meerpoor Mathela, and the wukeel of Meer Mahomed and Meer Mahomed Alli were always coming to him. One day I heard that the Peer had got something written on one of these blank papers by some other person, and I told him that it was not becoming in him to act in this way. He replied, that when one man was the enemy of another he would not fail to do his utmost against him. I talked to him much on the subject, but he would not attend to what I said. One day, Sheik Alli Hussun said to me, that during his management of Alli Moorad's affairs, the Meer had deposited with him the seal of the late Meer Sohrab Khan, and he had kept it a long time. He added, that when the Meer became displeased with him he wished to get that seal back, and he had therefore taken impressions of it on ten or twelve blank pieces of paper, and given him the seal back.

Do you know how the seal of Meer Roostum Khan was made?—I heard that the seal of Meer Roostum Khan, together with the seals of the other Khyrpoor Ameers, had been forged for Peer Alli Gohur by Mahomed Yoosoof of the pergunna of Sehwan.

When did this happen?—About three years ago.

Given before the Commission this 30th April 1850.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle*, President.

*Futteh Mahomed Hajee Tashnekjee*, zumendar of Khora, in the Khyrpoor territory, aged about 33 years, is then called before the Commission on the part of his Highness Meer Alli Moorad, and examined on solemn affirmation by him, as follows:—

*Question.* Sheikh Alli Hussun, in his deposition, states that you came to him with an order from me to write a certificate of indemnity for Alli Gohur, as I wished to get him to write a fresh leaf in the Koran, and he refused to do it for me without such a certificate. State before the Commission, on your oath, whether I ever sent you with such a message, or whether Sheik Alli Hussun is speaking falsely?—*Answer.* He states what is false. I never went to him with such a message.

Given before the Commission this 30th April 1850.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle*, President.

*Sheikh Alli Hussun* is then recalled before the Commission, and examined on his former solemn affirmation, as follows:

*Question.* (The two letters received by Captain Brown from Meer Alli Moorad, shortly after the battle of Nownahar, are shown to witness, and he is asked if he knows the handwriting.)—*Answer.* I do not recognize that of the one received on the 18th September 1842; the other, received on the 27th of the same month, is I think in the handwriting of Moonshee Kishondass, but I am not certain: (after looking over the letters attentively, witness adds) the handwriting of the first letter also resembles the other a good deal, and both letters may have been written by the same person. I cannot, however, be certain.

When you were Meer Alli Moorad's minister were copies of the letters written to Government taken for record in his duftur?—They are generally taken.

Where were they entered, or kept?—The draft was generally kept as a copy, and sometimes they were entered in a book. I used to keep the copies of the letters in a book without covers or boards.

Do you know who kept the copy of the letter, which was written on the day of the battle of Nownahar, and by whom that letter was written?—Kishondass kept copies of the letters which were sent by the Meer Sahib, and I also kept  
copies

copies of them. The letters that were sent through me I kept copies of myself. On the day of the battle a letter was sent to Captain Brown.

Was Meer Saheb ever in the habit of sending letters except through you?—Yes, he did sometimes; and whatever he used to send through me he prepared the perwanas, and gave them to me.

(*The letter received on the 18th September 1842 is here again shown to Sheik Alli Hussun, and he is desired to read it, which he does.*)—This letter is the one which was written by Busharut Alli, and it was written in my presence; copies of it are entered both in my book and the Meer Saheb's.

(*The other letter, received on the 27th September, is also again shown to the witness, who is told to read it.*)—This was also written before me, and I think by Kishondass.

Who is likely to have a copy of this letter?—Moonshee Kishondass may have it, but it is not in my duftur.

During what period were you the fully accredited minister of Meer Alli Moorad, and when were you discharged from his service?—From the beginning of the year of Hijree 1256 (A.D. 1840), to within a few months of the end of 1259 (A.D. 1843); and again for a short time during the year 1260 (A.D. 1844), when a temporary reconciliation took place between the Meer and myself: we soon afterwards quarrelled again, and I left his service altogether.

(*The book containing copies of the Meer's letters is here shown to witness, and he is asked if he recognises it.*)—I do not remember ever to have seen it before; and I do not know it as a book of the Meer Saheb's.

(*The copy of the letter addressed to Captain Brown, and entered in this book, under date the 9th Sahban, is here shown to witness.*)—This appears to be in Kishondass' handwriting.

(*The letter received from Meer Mahomed Hussun, and stated to have been written to him by Meer Ali Morad, from Deejee Ka Kote, which will be found in the Appendix of Native Enclosures, Number 11, in Exhibit (E.), is here shown to witness, and he is asked if he recognises it.*)—(After reading the whole of it.) This is in my handwriting.

When was it written, and under what circumstances?—A few days after the battle it was written, with a view to effect a reconciliation with Mahomed Hussun Khan. It was sent by the hands of Hafiz Hukumut Khan; there was also a note sent with it in Meer Saheb's own handwriting, and the words "Bahal ust" in it are written by him.

Why did Meer Saheb write the note in his own handwriting; was not that letter sufficient?—It was written in order to make the communication more urgent. There is no detail mentioned in it. All that is in the other.

(*The note here alluded to, and which was also received from Meer Mahomed Hussun Khan, and will be found, numbered 12 in Exhibit (E.) of the Appendix of Native Papers, is here shown to Meer Ali Morad Khan, who at once admits it to be in his handwriting. It is to the effect, that it is sent by the hands of Hafiz Hukumut Khan, and to consider any message he may deliver true, and send an answer.*)

The examination of *Sheik Alli Hussun* is then continued, as follows:—

(*The note is shown to him, and he is asked if it is the one to which he alludes.*)—Yes, this is the very same.

The Meer then asked where Hafiz Hukumut Khan is now, and he states that he is either here or at Roree. He is then requested to send for him, and a peon is sent with his messenger, in order to get him here to-day if possible.

The following questions are then asked of the witness, Sheik Alli Hussun, by his Highness Meer Alli Morad:

When the envelope of a letter is sealed, it is not usual to write the name of the writer, Meer Alli Morad Khan Talpoor, on it, and it is not usual to write the words "Bahul ust" inside of letters; how then has this been done in the letter now produced by Meer Mahomed Hussun?—I write the name of the sender of letters outside as well as putting the seal, and the words "Bahal ust" are written in confirmation of the writing, and that the same may be written in reply.

Are these words "Bahul ust" really in my handwriting?—(After examining the words.) Yes, they are in your handwriting.

*Question by the Commission.* Were you in the habit of keeping any blank papers with the Meer's seal, and the words "Bahal ust" written by him?—No, never.

Was Peer Ali Gohur in the habit of keeping any blank papers of this kind?—When I did not, how could he have done so?

(*The letter from Meer Alli Morad to Meer Mahomed Hussan, above referred to (numbered 11 of Exhibit, F.), is here again shown to witness, and he is asked why the handwriting inside and of the envelope are different, and the paper of the two also different.*)—The handwriting is the same, but I do not know the reason of the paper being different.

Given before the Commission this 30th April 1850.

(signed) R. K. Pringle,  
President.

His Highness Meer Alli Morad having brought his reply to a letter addressed to him by the Commission yesterday, requesting any explanation he may have to offer regarding certain letters which have been received from Meer Mahomed Hussan, son of Meer Roostum Khan, as having been written to him about the time of the battle of Nownahar, the following copy of the draft of reference made to his Highness, and translations of the letters to which it alludes, are here recorded, with translation of Meer Alli Morad's reply and its accompaniment in juxtaposition.

LETTER addressed to His Highness Meer Alli Morad, to the following effect:

After compliments.

I HEREWITH forward for your Highness's perusal copies of three letters, the originals of which have come into my possession. These letters purport to be addressed to Meer Mahomed Hussan by Meer Roostum Khan, Meer Nusseer Khan, and your Highness respectively, and make allusion to the cession at the time of the battle of Nownahar in terms irreconcilable with its extent, as it now appears in the treaty of the Koran.

The Commission would be glad to be favoured with any explanation your Highness may wish to offer on this point.

29 April 1850.

LETTER from Meer Roostum Khan, above alluded to.

AFTER the usual compliments, states that Meer Alli Morad Khan, together with all his troops, consisting of Beloochees and Affghans, came to Nownahar, near Khyrpoor. First, he fired guns; and Meer Mahomed Ali Khan, through the pride of his youth, pushing on there, offered resistance. When I got the news of this disturbance between them, I went there with my sons and nephews to try to remove dissensions, and make peace. Although I entreated Meer Alli Morad, it was of no avail, and he became very impertinent and disobedient. Being helpless, by the fear of the strong English army, which is close at hand, I, under the pressure of the times, gave several places of jagheer of my own, such as the villages of Khanbuhān, Ubyanee, Bacha, Duree, Ghurukna, Rayna, and Pulceja, the last two of which are Meer Ali Ukhbar Khan's; the village of Dadloo, from Meer Nusseer Khan, and that of Mathela, from Meer Mahomed Ali Khan. These were all written over on the Koran, and the disturbance removed. My son and nephews, however, would not affix their seals to the engagement, and I had to take that of Meer Nusseer Khan

REPLY from His Highness Meer Alli Morad to R. K. Pringle, Esq., Commissioner in Scinde.

After compliments.

I HAVE received your letter, with copies of three letters, one of which contains my seal, the second that of Meer Roostum Khan, and the third that of Meer Nusseer Khan; all to the address of Meer Mahomed Hussan Khan. You request me to give my explanation on the subject, as the contents of these letters are irreconcilable with the cession shown in the treaty of Nownahar. On first reading the contents of the letter purporting to be from me, I fell into great astonishment, never having written any letter to this effect. I therefore ordered my confidential moonshēe, Khan Sing, to attend upon you to-day, and see the original; who did so accordingly, and informed me that this letter is not written by my moonshēe, but by Sheik Ali Hussan. The words "Bahal ust" are likewise forged, and not written by me. On first seeing the copy, I was astonished, but my astonishment has now been removed. Dear sir, I beg to state in reply, that in my memorandum given to the Commissioner, I mentioned that my seal was for a long time with Sheik Ali Hussan and Peer Ali Gohur; and I also said yesterday, before the Commission, that for the arrangement of any matters of importance, I was likewise in the habit of giving them blank papers with my seal. There seems every probability therefore that this must be one of the forged papers, because it is well known that the Sheik, in the year 1264 (A. D. 1848), went to Meer Mahomed Hussan, and had intrigues with him, and promised to raise such difficulties in my house, that some arrangement would be made for him by Government. Meer Mahomed Hussan was so deceived by his allurements as to pay him the sum of 14,000 rupees to act for him as wukeel. The Sheik, together with Qazee Kadur Buksh, an inhabitant of Roree, then went to Kurrachee. Kadur Buksh is still alive; and if his evidence is required by the Commission, it can be obtained. If my enemies, like Meer Mahomed

Khan by force, and add it. He exclaimed that, without the leave of the owner, a grant of this kind is not valid, and that he would therefore apply to the English Government to give him redress. O, my son! this is the way of the world. A strong English army is close at hand, and we must therefore be cautious. Although on this account we must be patient, yet as regards Alli Morad Khan, there must be no delay, as he has been so insolent to me, who am the chief of the tribe. What have the gentlemen said to him, that they should say anything to me? We must have our revenge. You therefore come here quickly, with your troops and munitions of war, that we may retaliate. What more need I write?

Dated 10 Shabun (about 16 September 1842) 1258.

LETTER from Meer Nusseer Khan, also alluded to in the reference from the Commission.

After compliments.

On the 9th Shabun 1258, Meer Alli Morad Khan arrived at Nownahar, near Khyrpoor, with his troops and artillery, and Meer Roostum Khan, for the sake of peace, rode down to him, in order to persuade him, and some other Ameers and myself went with him. When we arrived at Nownahar, the Meer in question fired his artillery, and on hearing the sound of this, Meer Mahomed Ali Khan and Meer Ghoolam Mahomed Khan, with a few followers, got ready to fight, and the principal Meer (meaning Roostum Khan) and the rest of us remained behind. The fighting continued for two puhurs (six hours), when the principal Meer, being helpless, gave to Meer Ali Morad seven villages of his own, and my village of Dadloo, and that of Mathela, belonging to Meer Mahomed Ali Khan, who was then absent. I refused to put my seal to the agreement to this effect in the Koran, but the principal Meer took my seal by force from my toshukjee, and applied it. Meer Ali Moorad Khan has hereby committed a great excess.

You are the master of the Turban, and successor to the same. Therefore I hope you will come quickly to Khyrpoor with a large force and artillery, in order to take our revenge from Meer Ali Moorad.

If you do not come, I shall, being helpless, have to apply to the British Government for redress.

Accept also of the compliments of Meer Mahomed Ali Khan, Meer Ali Mahomed Khan, Meer Wullee Mahomed Khan, and Meer Ali Buksh Khan.

11 Saban 1259.  
(17 September 1842.)



LETTER from Meer Ali Moorad Khan, likewise alluded to in the reference from the Commission.

"Confirmed."

After compliments.

FORMERLY I sent to you Alim Khan Chandya with some verbal messages, and he returned

homeed Hussan and Sheik Ali Hussan, combine in this way, and make forgeries, it is not at all difficult to do so. I have never sent any such letter to the above-mentioned Meer; and in our family it has never been usual to write the words "Bahal ust" at the top of our letters to each other. This also proves the Sheik's forgery. The Sheik is a very seditious man, and if he has, with Moonshee Ali Ukbur's assistance, made any forgeries in the Government records, it is not at all to be wondered at.

The letters from Meer Roostum Khan and Meer Nuseer Khan to the address of Meer Mahomed Hussun are open to the same objections, because the seals of these two Ameers are with their families, who are in concert with Meer Mahomed Hussun. The original seals being thus within reach, the writing of such letters is not matter of surprise, particularly as regards the seal of Meer Nuseer Khan, which is added at the end of the letter, a practice which was never adopted in our family. It was only the practice to stamp the seal on the envelope. I have one further well-grounded argument to bring forward before the Commission. A letter has fallen into my hands containing Meer Mahomed Hussun's seal, and addressed to Meer Mahomed Ali and Meer Ali Mahomed. It is dated 11 Suffur 1266 (about 27 December 1849) and states that Peer Ali Gohur, who is the root of sedition and disturbance, has got the seals of all the Ameers ready with him, and can forge the receipt or other papers of any of them. He therefore recommends them not to disobey his advice, and to get any documents they require prepared by him, as the English Government will not interfere in any matter without documentary evidence. He also adds, that it appears from a note of Peer Ali Gohur's, that he has made some scheme by which Meer Ali Morad will lose the friendship of the English Government. He writes even more than this; and I beg to enclose with this, a copy of the letter. Gentlemen, these are all enemies of mine, striving to bring about some scheme by which I may get into bad terms with Government. If with a man like the Peer, who is the root of sedition, the seals of all the Ameers remain, and Meer Mahomed Hussun assist him in his forgeries, what difficulty can they have in raising accusations against me. Formerly both Sir Charles Napier and yourself prohibited Meer Mahomed Hussun from coming to Scinde, and I begged Government to allow his sons, when they came to me, to remain in Scinde, but was directed to send them back, and not allow them to remain here. Now, however, Meer Mahomed Hussun is at Sukkur, and presents forged papers at the instigation of my enemies.

17 Jumadee ool Ukhir (30 April 1850) 1266.

LETTER from Meer Mahomed Hussun to Meers Mahomed Ali Khan and Meer Ali Mahomed Khan, alluded to in the above.

After compliments.

I RECEIVED your letter about Peer Ali Gohur, and his sending the document. O Meers, I wrote to you before, that the Peer

returned and gave me great consolation from you. You are aware that Meer Nuseer Khan, about the dispute of Soonderbeila, has been guilty of excess, and sending his army into my country has burned some villages and killed some of my people. In order to take my revenge, I have expended lacks of rupees, and I went to Khyrpoor to fight with Meer Nuseer Khan. The action took place, and afterwards Meer Roostum Khan interfered to make peace. On account of my expenses, he gave me seven villages of his own, viz. Khanwakun, Ubyanee, Bucha, Durree, Rayna, Puleeja, and Ghurakna; also two villages, those of Dadloo and Mathela, on the part of Meer Nuseer Khan and Meer Mahomed Ali Khan. He wrote all this upon the Koran, and gave it to me. Peace was thus concluded. Meer Roostum Khan, however, at the instigation of Futteh Mahomed Ghorree and Meer Nuseer Khan, has again assembled troops, and is ready to fight with me. He has also sent for you with the troops of the Beloochees. It is evident that Meer Roostum Khan has nothing to do with this affair. Let Nuseer Khan and myself settle it. I therefore request you to be so kind as to confirm the conditions of agreement proposed between us, through the above-mentioned Chandya, and to come to Khyrpore and endeavour to dissuade the Meer Saheb from fighting. For this reason, I have sent you my confidential agent, Hafiz Hookamut Khan, in order that our terms of friendship may be confirmed. Attend to whatever he may tell you from me, and the conditions I am willing to agree to are these: That if you remain neutral, and assist neither party, Meer Nuseer Khan nor myself, I will restore to you the seven villages given to me by Meer Roostum Khan, keeping the villages of Mathela and Dadloo and Soonderbeila for myself; but if you will render me assistance against Nuseer Khan, then whatever country we may take belonging to him or his relations, shall be divided between us. Do not think there will be any difference in this agreement, and also write and send me a reply to the same effect, with your seal and your signature, "Bahal ust," so that we may remain on terms of friendship and agreement.

Written from Kote Deejee, 18 Shabau 1258, corresponding with 24th September 1842.

*Meer Mahomed Hussun*, son of Meer Roostum Khan, formerly of Khyrpoor, aged about 50 years, is then called before the Commission, and requested to reply to the different questions that may be put to him on solemn affirmation. He is then examined as follows:

*Question.* (*A letter in his Highness Meer Ali Moorad's own handwriting, translation of which is as follows: "My salaam to the Meer Saheb. I send herewith my confidential agent, Hafiz Hookumut Khan, to you; whatever verbal messages he may deliver you may rely upon, and reply to them by him, that I may receive information. Further, all is well here. Written by Ali Moorad;" is here shown to witness, and he is asked if he recognises it.*) [This will be found in the Appendix of Native Papers, numbered 12, in Exhibit (F.)]—*Answer.* Yes, I recognise it. Meer Ali Moorad Khan sent it to me about a month before the battle of Nownahar, by the hands of Hafiz Hookumut Khan, and with it he sent a verbal message, to the effect that he and Meer Nuseer Khan had a dispute about a boundary matter, which would lead to a fight, and that if I would afford

would not prepare any document or *perwana* unless he received something. As he is a seditious man, he will not do anything of this kind, without being encouraged. You therefore did well to promise him something; that after the documents have been prepared, our objects may be accomplished. Formerly the Peer took a writing from me on the Koran, at Kangree Padshapeer, agreeing to give him 10,000 rupees, and he then made the document with the seal of Meer Sorab Khan, together with the words "Ulhum," and sent it to me, and as he has the seals of all the Ameers made ready, I have befriended him, and till you have gained your object, do not act contrary to anything he may tell you. It appears from the letter he has sent me, that he has devised some scheme by which Meer Ali Morad will lose his friendship with the British Government, and the country will be restored to us. But all of you Meers must be of one mind, and continue to petition Government as the Peer may advise, regarding Meer Ali Morad, in order that they may be convinced of his ill-treating his brethren. He will then give you the jagheers he has been refusing, so you must encourage the Peer, and get your objects effected, that he may act towards us as he has sworn on the Koran to do. Give the letter I send to Peer Ali Gohur, and get an answer, and send it quickly by the hands of Khoda Buksh Logharee. You must also represent to the Governor-general your claims to the Turban, and the share of the country, and never disobey Peer Ali Gohur, as the documents will never be prepared except through his kindness, and Government will not interfere unless some documentary evidence is produced.

Dated 11 Suffur 1268 (27 December 1849).

Accept of the compliments of Moulvee Mahomed Akram.



afford him my assistance, whatever country he might take belonging to Meer Nuseer Khan, he would divide equally with me; but that if I would not assist him, he hoped that I would not interfere at all. He also complained of Meer Roostum Khan showing partiality to Meer Nuseer Khan, and requested me to go to Meer Roostum Khan and get him to desist from so doing. I returned a verbal answer through Hafiz Hookumut Khan, that I would not go near the disputed boundary, and would not show partiality to either of the parties. That he might settle it with Meer Nuseer Khan. I also promised when I went to Khyrpoor to endeavour to dissuade Meer Roostum Khan from showing partiality to Meer Nuseer Khan. With this message I gave Hafiz Hookumut Khan his leave.

*(The letter containing Meer Ali Moorad's seal, and the words "Bahal ust" written by him, which will be found numbered 11 in the Appendix of Native Papers under Exhibit (F.), and a translation of which accompanies that reference from the Commission to Meer Ali Moorad, recorded above, is here shown to witness, and he is asked what he knows about it.)*—I received this letter after the battle of Nownahar, when I was collecting troops. I was at Abud when Hafiz Hookumut Khan brought it to me. I said to him that I would act up to the agreement I had made, and would not interfere at all, or show partiality to either of the parties, and that I would request the old Meer, on my visiting Khyrpoor, to desist from showing partiality to Meer Nuseer Khan, which I did accordingly when I went there.

*(The letter from Meer Roostum Khan to the witness's address, likewise translated above, and recorded in the Appendix under No. 9 of Exhibit (F.), is shown to witness, and he is asked about it.)*—It is from the old Meer Roostum Khan, and was written the day after the battle, and I received it the following day, the 11th Shabun.

*(The letter from Meer Nusser Khan to the witness's address, likewise translated above, and recorded in the Appendix of Native Papers, as No. 10 in Exhibit (F.), is next shown to witness, and he is asked about it.)*—I recognise this also; it was written by Meer Nuseer Khan on the 11th Shabun, and I received it on the 12th.

*(The original letter stated by Meer Ali Moorad to have been written by witness to Meer Mahomed Ali and Meer Ali Mahomed, and of which a translation is given above after his Highness's reply, and the original recorded in the Appendix of Native Papers, as No. 13 in Exhibit (F.), is here shown to witness, and he is asked if he recognises it.)*—*(After looking at it and reading it.)* I do not know anything of this letter; but it contains my seal. I gave four blank papers containing my seal to Qazee Kadur Buksh, on sending him as my wukeel to the gentlemen; one of these was taken from him by Meer Ali Mahomed Khan and returned to me, and I have it now with me; the corners of the papers being cut as when I received it back. Three of these papers remained with Qazee Kadur Buksh, who was afterwards employed by Meer Ali Moorad Khan. Perhaps this is one of the three seals.

What country and land were given to Ali Moorad Khan after the battle of Nownahar?—Seven villages of Meer Roostum Khan's, one of Meer Nuseer Khan's, and one of Meer Mahomed Ali; among the seven by Meer Roostum Khan, one named Puleeja, belonged to Meer Ali Ukhbur Khan; Meer Ali Moorad Khan, however, did not obtain possession of these villages at that time, but got them after the disturbances in Scinde commenced. The proof of this is, that the grant does not bear any gentleman's counter-signature.

Do you remember the names of these villages?—Yes, they were the villages of Khanwahan, Abyana, Daree, Bucha, Ghurukna, Rayna, Puleeja, belonging to Meer Ali Ukhbur Khan; Mathela, belonging to Meer Mahomed Ali Khan, and Dadloo, belonging to Meer Nuseer Khan.

As the dispute was between Meer Nuseer Khan and Meer Ali Moorad Khan, how came Meer Roostum Khan to give seven villages of his own and only one belonging to Meer Nuseer Khan?—The reason is, because Meer Nuseer Khan would not agree to give his country, and Meer Roostum Khan, therefore, in order to put a stop to the disturbances, gave some villages of his own; Meer Nuseer Khan did not willingly seal even what was given, and Meer Roostum Khan had to make him do it by force.



*Question by his Highness Meer Ali Moorad.* In whose handwriting is the letter, the envelope of which bears your seal, to the address of Meer Mahomed Ali and Meer Ali Mahomed?—I do not know whose handwriting it is.

Given before the Commission 30th April 1850.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle*, President.

*Hafiz Hookumut Khan*, inhabitant formerly of Mooltan, but now in the service of his Highness Meer Ali Moorad Khan, aged about 48 years, is then called before the Commission, and examined on solemn affirmation, as follows:

*Question.* Did you carry any letter or verbal message from Meer Ali Moorad Khan to Meer Mahomed Hussun before or after the battle of Nownahar?—

*Answer.* Yes, I carried a message, but it is such a long time ago, that I do not recollect particulars; but it was one to the effect, that friendship and peace should be made between Ali Moorad Khan and Mahomed Hussun. The former was then at Khyrpoor, and the latter at Abud. If there be any note in Ali Moorad's handwriting, I remember it was to the effect that whatever I (*Hafiz Hookumut Khan*) said, might be relied upon.

Were you to see this note would you recognise it? (*The note in Ali Moorad's handwriting is here shown to him.*)—This is in Ali Moorad's handwriting, and it is the same in which he wrote, that whatever I might say was to be depended on.

Did you go twice to Meer Mahomed Hussun with messages of peace?—I only went once.

When you took the note in Meer Ali Morad's handwriting, was there any other letter with it?—Why should I have taken any other letter? The note in the Meer's own handwriting was sufficient.

(*The letter in the name of Meer Ali Moorad, and bearing his seal and signature "Bahul ust," is here shown to witness, and he is asked about it.*)—(*After looking at it.*) I never carried any such letter.

Given before the Commission 30th April 1850.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle*,  
President.

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Sukkur, Thursday, 2d May 1850.

HIS Highness Meer Ali Moorad having yesterday and to-day sent some further representations to the Commission, translation of the following is recorded here, as it refers to some of the evidence taken before the Commission; and the others will be found translated in a separate Appendix. *Vide Exhibit (H.)*

Queries addressed to the Commission by his Highness Meer Ali Moorad.

"Peer Ali Gohur, in his reply to one of my questions, said, that my seal had been lost, and I produced the parties who saw this seal with the Peer, Fuzul Mahomed Murree and Suyad Hoossein Sha, as witnesses before the Commission, and they have given evidence to this effect; my seal has thus been proved to be with the Peer, and this being the case, his raising an accusation against me is not to be wondered at; but the Commission will do justice.

"Hazeer Mahomed is an inhabitant of Shikarpoor, and a man of respectability. The Peer and the Sheikh used both to put up with him, and they did not conceal from him their malevolence against me. In reply to my questions, he has stated before the Commission, that he had seen several blank papers containing my seals and autograph "Bahal ust." If they keep such papers, what doubt can there be of their forgeries?

"The friendship of the Kazee with the Peer and Sheikh is of old standing, otherwise he would never have become aware of such secrets; but the Commission will decide.

"Sheikh Ali Hussun says in his deposition, that Futteh Mahomed Toshukjee had been sent by me to Bubberlow to get him to write a certificate, whereas Futteh Mahomed has appeared as an evidence before the Commission, and has solemnly affirmed that he never went on such a business to the Sheikh; the Commission will do me justice in this case.

" Meer

"Meer Mahomed Hussun, after seeing his letter containing his seal, which was sent to me, said that he did not recognize it; but when Moonshee Mahomed Saduck read his name in the seal, he said that he had given Kazeer Kadur Buksh four blank papers containing his seal, when he sent him as a wukeel to the British authorities, and that he had since come into my service, and that the letter produced contained probably one of these seals, and had been forged; the letter however is in the handwriting of Moulvee Mahomed Akram, who is a servant of his, and the teacher of his sons; and the Commission may send for this person and compare this with his handwriting, when the truth and falsehood will become evident, and the forgeries of my enemies will thus be proved.

"In the letter to the Governor Saheb, I have written pergunna Mathela, and you requested an explanation of this, I beg therefore to enclose copies of four Royal Purwunas (of the kings of Delhi), in which the words pergunna Mathela only are mentioned, and which I hope you will consider.

"I yesterday mentioned before the Commission that the letter said to have been addressed by me to Meer Mahomed Hussun appeared new, compared to the envelope, which is old and in a different handwriting. This envelope, containing my seal, was probably with the Sheikh, and he may have written the letter while he was employed as a wukeel by Meer Mahomed Hussun, and with his concurrence. Kazeer Kadur Buksh, who was employed in the wukeelut with the Sheikh, must know all about this. Meer Mahomed Hussun states that he first received a note in my own handwriting, brought by Hafiz Hookumut Khan, and that he afterwards received this letter also by his hands. The Sheikh, on the other hand, says, that they were both sent together, and Hafiz Hookumut Khan gave his evidence before the Commission, that he had only gone once and taken a note in my own handwriting, but no other letter. From the inconsistencies in the depositions of Sheikh Ali Hussun and Meer Mahomed Hussun, it would therefore appear that this letter must have been forged by them, both which the Commission will I hope consider.

"It was not proper for the Commission to admit the evidence of Meer Mahomed Hussun, as he is an enemy both of the Government and of mine.

"I certainly expect that the false accusations and intrigues of my enemies, the Sheikh and Peer, against me, must have become apparent to the Commission, as respectable witnesses have come forward and proved their forgeries in its presence. Their enmity to me is self-evident, and the reason of it is that they have embezzled several lacs of rupees belonging to me, and they knew that in the end I would bring forward claims against them on this account. I have also acquainted the Government with all this before, and if I hereafter obtain any further documents proving their forgeries, I will send them. Whatever questions have occurred to me I have stated, and as I am unacquainted with the rules of Government, I must trust to the Commission to do me justice in this case.

"Dated Sukkur, 18 Jumadee ool Sanee 1266 (1 May 1850)."

Translations of the purwanas herein alluded to, as they do not bear on the matter before the Commission, further than showing that Mathela alone is stated in them as a pergunna, will be found in Exhibit (H.), Nos. 4, 5, 6 and 7.

(True translation.)

(signed) *W. Lang*, Major,  
Member of Commission.

#### OPINION of the Commission.

Sukkur, Wednesday, 8 May 1850.

THE Commission, having fully considered the evidence in the case, proceeds to record its opinion.

The principal witness in support of the charge is Sheik Ali Hussain. The following are the facts stated by him, in as far as they immediately bear on the subject under investigation. He was present at the battle of Nownahar, and at the arrangement of the terms of the treaty which was then made. This treaty

was written in a copy of the Koran by Peer Ali Gohur. The cession, as it originally stood in the treaty, included only the villages of Dadlo and Mathela, in addition to seven villages of Meer Roostum. A letter of remonstrance from Captain Brown was received by Meer Ali Morad on the day of the battle, and a reply returned the same day, intimating the nature of the cessions contained in the treaty. A copy of the treaty, as it then stood, was given by him (Sheik Ali Hussain) at the time, and which he now recognises, to Moonshee Towur Mull, for Major Clibborn. Three days after this he was sent by Meer Ali Morad with another copy of the treaty and the Koran on which the original was written, to Captain Brown, in whose records this copy was deposited. Shortly after this, when the country north of Roree, with the exception of what belonged to Meer Ali Morad, was going to be appropriated by the British Government, Meer Ali Morad claimed the pergunnah of Mathela from Sir Charles Napier, and at the same time altered, in the treaty in the Koran, the word signifying "village" into the word signifying "district" before the word "Mathela." Some time after this, one Moideen, a moonshee attached to Captain Brown, to whom Meer Ali Moorad had promised 10,000 rupees if he would extract from that officer's records the copy of the treaty which had been deposited there in September preceding, gave the Meer to understand through him (Sheik Ali Hussain), that that document had disappeared at the time of the attack on the Hyderabad Residency, and, as the detection of the substitution of pergunnah for village was thus rendered impossible, claimed the reward. After this he (Sheik Ali Hussain), under instructions from Meer Ali Morad, made a fresh copy of the treaty, with the words pergunnah Meerpoor, Mathela, with Mherkee in it, and gave it, on the 4th April 1843, to be deposited in Captain Brown's records. Subsequently Meer Ali Morad, when on a visit to Hyderabad, made him become security to moonshee Moideen for the payment of the reward of 10,000 rupees, on the condition that Moideen should further obtain from Captain Brown's records the book in which translations of documents such as the treaty were kept. This was accordingly effected by Moideen in the middle of June, and the reward paid. Shortly after this, Captain Pope, having sent for the Koran for the purpose of inspecting the treaty, he (Shekh Ali Hussain) pointed out to Meer Ali Moorad that, in its then state, the alterations were so obvious as to be sure to be detected. Meer Ali Moorad, in consequence, extracted the leaf on which they were made, and got the matter of it, including the alterations, re-written by Peer Ali Gohur, the writer of the original, on a blank leaf which remained in the Koran, and at the same time gave Peer Ali Gohur a certificate of indemnity against the consequences, under his own seal and autograph authentication, and in the handwriting of him, Shekh Ali Hussain. The Koran was in this state when it was inspected by Captain Pope; and the extracted leaf, which had remained in it, was found and kept by him, Shekh Ali Hussain. He subsequently quarrelled with Meer Ali Morad, and gave information on this subject to Captain Malet, who afterwards mentioned it to Sir Charles Napier, and Captain Brown, in consequence, questioned witness on the subject; but, seeing no immediate prospect of his information being acted upon, he did not then proceed further. Finally, he made the circumstances known to Sir Charles Napier, and produced the extracted leaf of the Koran.

The statement of Shekh Ali Hussain on the above points is fully corroborated, in all its details, by Peer Ali Gohur and Moonshee Towur Mull; and as regards the abstraction of the papers from Captain Brown's records, by Mr. William Maher, who recollects the theft of a box of papers, containing a book in which was much relating to the transactions about the time of the treaty of Nownahar, although he cannot speak with certainty to a translation of the treaty having been in it, and that suspicion fell on Moideen, who was placed in confinement on that account.

His Highness Meer Ali Morad's defence consists of a general denial of the charge, an assertion of the identity of the matter of the treaty, as it now appears in the Koran, with what was originally written in it, a disavowal of the documents bearing his seal, produced in support of the charge, a denunciation of the character and motives of the principal witnesses against him, and an exposure of the inconsistencies and discrepancies in their evidence.

In support of his general denial of the charge, and assertion of the genuineness of the matter in the treaty, the Meer produces three witnesses, Meer Zungee Khan, his uncle, Kumal Khan Julbanee, a person in his service, and Sooliman Abdar, formerly servant of Meer Roostum, but now residing at Khyrpoor, all of whom depose to having been present at the settlement of the treaty of Nownahar, and to its having included in its cessions the pergunnas of Mathela, Meerpoor, and Mehrkee.

These witnesses gave their evidence in a manner which conveyed to the Commission the impression that it was entitled to little confidence, and had been prepared for the occasion, and was given like the repetition of a task which had been committed to memory; and occasionally the witnesses were prompted by the Meer's wukeels. The Commission is further of opinion that such evidence on this point, if unsupported by other proof, is little to be relied upon.

The discrepancies and inconsistencies noticed by Meer Ali Moorad, in the evidence of the principal witnesses for the charge, appear to the Commission to be of no material importance.

The strength of the defence, then, must rest on the badness of the character and motives of the witnesses in support of the charge, and the Commission is of opinion that, apart from the allegations of his Highness Meer Ali Morad, there might be, under ordinary circumstances, enough in their own position and showing to render their testimony of very little value, if uncorroborated by collateral proof; but these men were, undoubtedly, at the time they state the circumstances in question to have occurred, the trusted, confidential servants of his Highness Meer Ali Morad; and his Highness the Meer appears only to have discovered their worthlessness when Shekh Ali Hussain applied to him for half the country as a reward for his services. Moreover, in a case such as this, direct evidence is not to be expected from witnesses of unexceptionable character and motives; it thus becomes necessary to take such as is procurable, and endeavour to test its value by its internal marks of probability, and by collateral proof. It is, therefore, on the force of these, that, in the opinion of the Commission, the issue of the present investigation must depend, and they are as follows:—

1. The narrative is more lengthy, complicated, and circumstantial than would have been necessary for the purpose of a conspiracy, and therefore presents more points exposing it to detection than it is probable conspirators would have hazarded.

2. The appearance of the extracted leaf exactly corresponds with that of the Koran from which it is said to have been taken; and the latter still retains the marks of the stitching, by which it appears to have been fixed on it.

3. The bad execution of the alterations in the extracted leaf, as it now stands, is apparent enough, and the attempt made in it to substitute the word Mehrkee for "bu Murzee;" whereas the re-written leaf contains both words, agrees with the statements of the witnesses as to the successive stages by which the forgery was brought into its present form.

4. The only copy of the treaty now on the records of the British Government, and which there is no reason to doubt was placed there at the date of the receipt, entry indorsed on it, the 4th April 1843, and has remained there ever since, corroborates Shekh Ali Hussain's statement as to its having been then delivered for record by him, in consequence of the loss of the first copy. It corroborates it also in a remarkable point, which Shekh Ali Hussain did not himself notice, nor at first perceive the force of, when questioned upon it, which is, that it bears the word "Mehrkee," followed by "Khoon," but without the intermediate "bu Murzee," and in this respect appears to warrant the inference that it was at that time intended to support the claim by interpolating the additional matter, without resorting to the substitution of a fresh writing; for, although the word "Meerpoor" does not appear in the extracted leaf, it is evident that an attempt was made to alter "Bumurzee" into "Mehurkee;" and, had this succeeded, Meerpoor might have been inserted before it, and the word "Khoon" must then of course have remained alone, without "Bumerzee" preceding it, as it now

appears in the Koran. Either reading would make sense, but a slightly different sense.

5. The copy of the treaty produced by Towur Mull as having been taken by Sheik Ali Hussain's moonshee, Busharut Ali, from the original in the Koran, as it stood at the time of the battle of Nownahar, and of which a copy was then given to Major Clibborn, bears the word "village," not pergunna Mathela, and makes no mention of Meerpore and Mehrkee; it also contains the "bu Murzæ" which was transformed into Mehrkee in the extracted leaf, and omitted in the copy now on the records, but again inserted in the re-written leaf. This document would give strong confirmation to the truth of the narrative, if it could be relied upon as genuine, but the Commission is not disposed to found much upon it, because there is some appearance of erasure in the word signifying "village" preceding Mathela, which brings it into doubt; and also because it has been intermediately in the custody of the persons whose statement it is brought to corroborate, and therefore open to the same objection, from their character and motives, as their statement itself. Could any dependence indeed be placed upon it, it might perhaps warrant an inference that the tampering with this treaty had been commenced at an earlier period after the battle of Nownahur, than the date of the proclamation annexing the districts north of Roree to the Khan of Bhawalpore.

6. The circumstance of the Persian records of the late Upper Scinde Agency not being forthcoming between March and December 1842, in September of which year the treaty was made, and the loss of the copies of the treaty which were then obtained; also the abstraction of the box of English records relating to the same period, as proved by the evidence of Mr. Maher, and by a letter from Captain Brown, in which it is assigned as a reason for applying to the Government of India for the copy of a document supposed to have been contained in it. These circumstances strongly corroborate Shekh Ali Hussain's statement, in a point which, had they not really occurred, it was unnecessary to have introduced into the narrative, and the introduction of which could only have increased the risk of detection; while if the abstraction of the papers was not effected with the cognizance of Meer Ali Moorad and for the object alleged, as no other reason has ever been heard of for abstracting them, it could only have been for the objects of a conspiracy, upon which it has been brought to bear after a lapse of seven years, a supposition too improbable to be for a moment entertained.

7. The mention of the pergunnah of Mathela, in the letter from Ali Morad to Sir Charles Napier, claiming it in January 1843. This the Commission is disposed to consider, in conjunction with other circumstances, confirmatory of Shekh Ali Hussain's statement as to that pergunnah only having at that time been included in the forgery, and Meerpoor and Mehrkee having been subsequently added, although had it stood alone, the Meer's explanation, as to Mathela being the more general term, and including within it Meerpoor and Mehrkee, might perhaps have been admitted.

8. The inclusion of the pergunnah of Mathela and Meerpoor in the later treaty of December 1842, in the Koran, by which the Turban was ceded by Meer Roostum to Meer Ali Morad. This is against the supposition of those districts having been ceded by the treaty of Nownahar in the September preceding. Adverting, indeed, to the circumstances under which the former document was framed, the Commission would not lay much stress upon this point, did it stand alone, and might be disposed to admit the Meer's explanation that it was intended to make assurance doubly sure; but taken in conjunction with the other circumstances, it is entitled to some weight.

9. The certificate of indemnity from Meer Ali Morad to Peer Ali Gohur. This would of course afford conclusive evidence in corroboration of the Peer's statement, and that of Shaik Ali Hussain, if its genuineness could be relied upon; but being in the handwriting of Shekh Ali Hussain, and having remained intermediately in the Peer's custody, it is inadmissible in support of the credibility of those persons, further than it contains in itself undoubted proofs of authenticity; and the Commission is not disposed to consider the Meer's seal such, with advertence to the incautious use which appears to have been made of

of seals by the Meers; and perhaps the same objection may apply to the autograph authentication or "bahalust," though this does not appear to the Commission so clearly established. It may be here observed, that the rejection of the evidence of seals merely renders it unnecessary to consider Meer Ali Morad's allegation as to the theft of the seal by Peer Ali Gohur, and the evidence of Fazul Mahomed Murree, Hossain Shah, and Cazeer Mahomed, which has been brought in support of it; nor that of Futteh Mahomed Toshajee, regarding his not having conveyed any message to Shekh Ali Hussain on the subject.

10. The letters produced and identified by Meer Mahomed Hussain as having been received by him from his father Meer Roostum, his cousin Meer Nusseer, and his uncle Meer Ali Morad himself, immediately after the battle of Now-nahar. All of these describe the cession as consisting of the village of Mathela, and not of the pergunnahs of Mathela, Meerpoor, and Mehrkee, and are conclusive evidence in corroboration of Shekh Ali Hussain's statement as to the original extent of the cession. Meer Ali Morad, indeed, objects to Meer Mahomed Hoossain's evidence, on the ground of their notorious and long-existing dissensions; but the Commission cannot help attaching great weight to it, from the clear, straightforward manner in which it was given, and which rendered it impossible to doubt its truthfulness on this point.

11. The entry in the diary of Captain Brown, then assistant political agent in Upper Scinde, dated the 20th September 1842, in which, alluding to the report of the arrangement between the Meers effected after the battle of Nownahar, which had just reached him, he describes the cession as consisting of nine villages. This entry in Captain Brown's own handwriting, the genuineness of which is beyond the possibility of doubt, the Commission considers a very strong incidental confirmation of the truth of Shekh Ali Hussain's statement as to the original extent of the cession.

12. The letters from Meer Roostum, Meer Nusseer, and Meer Ali Morad himself, written to Captain Brown about the time of the battle of Nownahar. These all allude to the cession in terms quite irreconcilable with its extent as now shown in the Koran. There can be no doubt as to the genuineness of these letters, which bear the initials of Captain Brown, affixed at the time of receipt, and have ever since remained in the Government records, and probably escaped abstraction, along with the other Persian records of the period, only from having been filed with their English translations, which are in the handwriting of Captain Kennedy, then assistant in the Agency. The inferential support given by these letters to the statement of Shekh Ali Hussain, from the terms in which they allude to the cession, is perhaps stronger than if it had been direct, from being less open to the suspicion of having been fabricated with that view; in which case it would probably have been more precise, though it could hardly have been more significant. The Commission is disposed to place very great weight on this branch of the evidence, from its freedom from the possibility of having been tampered with; and it is clear that its weight is fully appreciated by Meer Ali Morad himself, from his having met it by throwing all the doubt he could on his own letter, written on the day of the battle, and his production in its stead of the draft of one received by Captain Brown 12 days later; this draft bears the date of the day of the battle, but it is clear to the Commission that this date has been inserted for the present occasion. As the original in Captain Brown's records bears no date at all, and it moreover makes allusion to an intermediate letter from Captain Brown, in reply, it would seem to be the one written on the day of the battle; and this is further borne out by the tenor of Captain Brown's allusions to both letters in his correspondence at the time with Major Outram. The obvious attempt at deception on this point affords, in the opinion of the Commission, the strongest proof of the strength of the inference furnished by these letters in Meer Ali Morad's own estimation, against the genuineness of the treaty as it now stands in the Koran, from the disingenuous course resorted to for getting rid of it, and which in itself, it may be observed, affords a fair inference that there would be little scruple in tampering with the treaty also, when a sufficient object was to be gained by it.

Many of the above circumstances taken singly, and still more all of them together, afford so strong a corroboration of the truth of the main facts of the charge, as stated by Shekh Ali Hussain, as in the opinion of the Commission

to be quite irresistible; and it has therefore no hesitation in coming to the conclusion that the fraud was effected by his Highness Meer Ali Morad, and most probably at the time and in the manner set forth by that witness.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle,*  
Commissioner and President.  
*Jno. Jacob,* Major and Member.  
*W. Lang,* Ditto, ditto.

Sukkur, 8 May 1850.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet,* Chief Secretary.

## A P P E N D I X.

### EXHIBIT (A.)

### I N D E X.

- No. 1.—Letter from the Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay, to the Commissioner in Scinde, No. 49, dated 25th February 1850, Secret Department. With reference to the Documents submitted by the Commissioner to the Most Noble the Governor-general of India, when at Sukkur, and to Commissioner's Letters, Nos. 89 and 109, of 1850, to the Right honourable the Governor in Council, Bombay, connected with the Affairs of his Highness Ali Morad, intimates that Government cannot concur in the suggestion that his Highness Ali Morad should at once be pronounced guilty of the charge of Forgery, in substituting a Leaf in his Treaty with the late Meer Roostum Khan, ceding to him a Pergunnah instead of a Village of the same name, brought against him, and that therefore a Committee is appointed, composed of the Commissioner as President, and Major Lang, Political Agent at Kattywar, and Major Jacob, Political Superintendent and commanding on the frontier of Upper Scinde, as Members, to investigate this matter - - - - - p. 176
- No. 2.—Letter from the Chief Secretary to Government of Bombay to the Commissioner in Scinde, No. 68, dated 13th March 1850, Secret Department, in reply to Commissioner's Letter, No. 445, dated 5th instant, intimates that the Commission should not enter on the investigation of any acts of the Ameer which do not directly bear on the matter into which by the instructions communicated in his preceding Letter they have been charged to examine - - - p. 177

### No. 1.

No. 49 of 1850.—Secret Department.

From *A. Malet, Esq.*, Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay, to *R. K. Pringle, Esq.*, Commissioner in Scinde.

Sir,

No. 89, dated  
15 January 1850;  
No. 109, dated  
28 January 1850.

1. WITH reference to the documents submitted by you to the Most Noble the Governor-general of India, on the occasion of his Lordship's recent visit to Scinde, and to your letters of the numbers and dates noted in the margin, regarding the relations of the British Government with his Highness Alee Morad of Khyrpore, and more particularly to the charge which has been preferred against his Highness, of having, with the view of defrauding the British Government, substituted a leaf in the treaty with the late Meer Roostum Khan, ceding to him a pergunnah instead of a village of the same name, I am now directed to communicate to you the following observations and instructions.

2. The charge advanced against his Highness is of a serious nature, and *primâ facie*, seems to be supported by strong evidence. But the Right honourable the Governor in Council cannot concur in your suggestion, that Government should at once proceed to pronounce Alee Morad guilty of the base fraud imputed to him, and to treat him indirectly as a guilty man, without first calling upon him to answer the charge, and affording him an opportunity, if in his power, of refuting it.

3. His Lordship in Council has therefore resolved that a further full and complete investigation should be made into the conduct of the Ameer, in order that he may be absolved from all suspicion if innocent, or that if really guilty, there may be no reason to question the justice of the measures which it may become necessary to adopt against him.

4. And with reference to the importance of the case, the high rank and position of the party accused, and the consequences which may follow, the Right honourable the Governor in Council is of opinion that a Commission should be appointed for the purpose of

of investigating all the circumstances connected with the alleged fraud, receiving any explanation which his Highness Alee Morad may desire to afford, and, when the inquiry has closed, reporting the result with their opinion to Government.

5. His Lordship in Council has therefore determined to appoint a Commission, composed of yourself as president, and Major Lang, Political Agent in Katteewar, and Major John Jacob, Superintendent and Commandant on the frontier of Upper Scinde, as members.

6. This Commission will assemble forthwith at Sukkur. You will place before it all the documentary and oral evidence in your possession connected with the subject of inquiry; but the proceedings of the Commission are to commence *de novo*, and, as far as practicable, all the evidence is to be taken over again, so as to afford the accused the opportunity of cross-examination either in person, should he desire it, or by vakeel.

7. His Lordship in Council relies on the Commission conducting the inquiry with precision and impartiality, so that no time may be unnecessarily lost, and no point may be left in doubt, and that as much courtesy and regard for the feelings of his Highness Alee Morad will be shown, as is consistent with the chief object of Government, eliciting the truth.

8. Major Lang has this day been directed to proceed with all practicable expedition to Scinde, and to place himself in communication with you; and Major Jacob has also been informed of his having been appointed a member of the Commission.

I have, &c.

(signed) A. Malet, Chief Secretary.

Bombay Castle, 25 February 1850.

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No. 2.

No. 68 of 1850.—Secret Department.

From A. Malet, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government of Bombay, to R. K. Pringle, Esq., Commissioner in Scinde.

Sir,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 445, dated the 5th instant.

2. In reply to the 1st paragraph, in which you request instructions whether the Commission appointed to inquire into the conduct of his Highness Meer Alee Morad should confine its inquiries to the charge of fraud in the treaty of Noonar, or extend them to other matters of supposed bad faith on the part of his Highness, I am desired by the Right honourable the Governor in Council to inform you, that the Commission should not enter on the investigation of any acts of the Ameer which do not directly bear on the matter into which, by the instructions communicated to you in my letter of the 25th ultimo, they have been charged to examine, viz. the circumstances connected with the alleged substitution of a leaf in the treaty with the late Meer Roosium Khan, in which the cession to him of a pergunnah instead of a village of the same name is entered.

3. With reference to your second paragraph, I am desired to state, that the Commission may be considered as dissolved immediately on its report being forwarded to Government, unless there be such serious difference of opinion among its members as to render a reference to Government necessary.

I have, &c.

(signed) A. Malet, Chief Secretary.

Bombay Castle, 13 March 1850.

(True copy.)

(signed) W. Lang,  
Member of Commission.



## EXHIBIT (B.)

## INDEX.

- No. 1.—Extract from a Memorandum by the Commissioner in Scinde, of the relations of the British Government with his Highness Meer Alee Morad, of Khyrpoor, dated 27th December 1849 - - - - - p. 178
- No. 2.—Letter from the Commissioner in Scinde to the Collector of Shikarpoor, No. 1,422, dated 6th July 1849. Requests he will obtain for the Commissioner's information as to the approximate Annual Value of the Village of Dadloo and the Purgunnahs of Mahtela, Meerpoor, and Meherkee, now held by his Highness Ali Morad, in right of the Cession made to him by Meer Nusseer Khan, distinguishing, in the case of Mahtela, the Revenue of the Village from that of the Purgunnah of that name - - - - - p. 182
- No. 3.—From the Collector of Shikarpoor to the Commissioner in Scinde, No. 379, dated 16th July 1849. Submits the information required in the preceding Letter - - - - - p. 182
- No. 4.—Return of the Value of the Village of Dadloo, Purgunnah Meerpoor (Meherkee), Town of Mahtela, and Pergunnah of Ooboura - - - - - p. 183
- No. 5.—Letter from the Commissioner in Scinde to the Collector of Shikarpoor, calling upon him to explain whether the Purgunnah Meerpoor and Mahtela are the same, whether there are any Villages of those names, and whether there is a Purgunnah as well as a Village of the name of Mahtela; also, requesting to be furnished with the Amount of Revenue belonging to each - - - - - p. 183
- No. 6.—Reply from the Collector of Shikarpoor, furnishing the above explanation - - - - - p. 184
- No. 7.—Return of the Value of the Village and Pergunnah of Mahtela and Town of Meerpoor - - - - - p. 184

## No. 1.

EXTRACT from a Memorandum by the Commissioner in Scinde, of the relations of the British Government with His Highness Meer Ali Morad of Khyrpoor, dated 27th December 1849.

2. SHORTLY after the conquest of Scinde, i. e. on the 28th June 1843, Sir Charles Napier reported to the then Governor-general, Lord Ellenborough, the principles by which he had been guided in the occupation of the territory acquired by that event, which were to recognize as being conformable to the law of the country and creed of the parties, by which we were bound by treaty to abide, the assumption of the Turban or badge of sovereignty by Meer Ali Moorad, in virtue of the voluntary resignation in his favour, of his elder brother Meer Roostum, any retraction of which was by the same law inadmissible, and the appropriation by Ali Moorad of the lands which had belonged to Meer Roostum, both in right of the Turban and as his personal patrimony, under a will of their father Meer Sohrab, in as far as they were in Meer Roostum's rightful possession at the outbreak of the war; also to recognize Ali Morad's right to all such lands as were in his own rightful possession at the same period, and to retain all the rest for the British Government, in right of conquest, or of forfeiture imposed on the Khyrpoor Ameers generally, for breach of engagements previous to the war.

3. Lord Ellenborough in successive communications, some of which appear to have passed those of Sir Charles Napier on the road, assented to these principles and their application, with the exception of the recognition of the transfer of Meer Roostum's personal patrimony, as to the authenticity, freedom and legality of which he expressed doubts, and on the two first points directed inquiries to be made by Sir Charles Napier, and on the two last intimated his intention of instituting them himself. He also expressed his desire that an authentic copy should be obtained of the deed of transfer, and that the extent of the rights conveyed by it should be so clearly ascertained as might guard against the possibility of its application to the prejudice of independent interests. In reply to an intermediate communication from Sir Charles Napier, urging the necessity of an early definition of the respective territorial limits, he observed that this must depend on the recognition of the transfer of Meer Roostum's personal patrimony; but if this were eventually decided against Ali Morad, the separation of the public and private estates, with a view to the resumption of the latter, should be made on terms favourable to him; and in the meantime the definition of their undivided extent might be proceeded with.

4. The result of Sir Charles Napier's inquiries tended to establish the authenticity and the freedom of the transfer both of the public and private estates of Meer Roostum, and those of Lord Ellenborough its legality and the inadmissibility of its retraction; these points therefore appear from that time to have been held as decided; no express declaration to that effect is on record, and it may be inferred that the whole of the principles adopted by Sir Charles Napier in the occupation of the conquered country were thenceforth acquiesced in by the Government of India.

5. Meanwhile a question had arisen as to the appropriation of the territory north of Roroe, which having been declared forfeited to the British Government previous to the out-  
break

break of the war, could not, according to Sir Charles Napier's principles, be claimed by Ali Moorad either in his own right or that of its cession by Meer Roostum, although it was included in the latter. The northern portion of this territory, comprising the districts of Subzulkote and Bhoongbharra, had already been ceded by us to the Nuwab of Bhawulpore, and the views of the Supreme Government in regard to the remainder were communicated by Lord Ellenborough to Sir Charles Napier, in a despatch dated the 19th September 1843, in which, while its ultimate appropriation was left to Sir Charles Napier, the principles by which it was considered it should be regulated were indicated to be, to assign to Meer Ali Moorad revenues equal to those held by Meer Roostum in right of the Turban, with an equivalent for any such which had been or might be ceded to Bhawulpore, and for certain forts ceded by Ali Morad, at our request, to Jessulmere; to make such exchanges of territory as might be desirable for improving the respective frontiers, and to assign the rest, with the exception of Roree and a small arrondissement about it, reserved for us, to Bhawulpore.

6. It does not appear what measures, if any, were adopted by Sir Charles Napier in pursuance of this communication, further than the definition of Ali Moorad's boundaries by a commission composed of Captain Malet, the Resident at Khyrpoor, and Sheikh Ali Hussain, the then minister of the Ameer, which measure may possibly have been executed in conformity with such views as Sir Charles Napier had adopted in regard to the appropriation of the territory; and these may have been communicated personally to the Resident, but this can only be conjectured, for there is nothing on record to show that such was the case.

7. The next notice of the subject on record is in the draft of a proposed treaty between the British Government and Meer Ali Moorad, which was sent to the Government of India with a simple transmitting letter, dated the 4th May 1845, unaccompanied by any explanatory information as to the principles and data on which it had been framed. The effect of the territorial provisions of this treaty was, to concede to Ali Moorad, as a matter of grace, the application of the same principles to the appropriation of the country north of Roree, which had been recognized by Sir Charles Napier as his right in regard to the country south of it. It was, therefore, so far more favourable to the Ameer than would have been that of the principles indicated in Lord Ellenborough's despatch last referred to, that it conveyed to him the private as well as the public estate of Meer Roostum within that tract, and assigned to the Nawab of Bhawulpore no more than he was in possession of by the first cession. It did not, however, allow Ali Moorad any compensation for that portion of the public estate of Meer Roostum which had been already ceded to Bhawulpore, and which in a previous despatch Lord Ellenborough had admitted the propriety of conceding to him on liberal terms. It was therefore, perhaps, on the whole, not much in excess of Lord Ellenborough's intentions in the Ameer's favour; and Sir Charles Napier, in thus exercising the discretion reposed in him, appears to have considered that he did so in the manner most appropriate to the deserts of Ali Moorad in his relations to the British Government.

8. Besides the recognition of the territories belonging to Ali Moorad, the treaty provided for a mutual exchange of territory, the objects of which are not recorded, but may be inferred, from the rough estimates and memoranda on which the arrangement appears to have been based, to have been the consolidation of the respective territories within a more convenient frontier, and the adjustment of mutual claims which had arisen from the temporary occupation by one party of lands belonging to the other. In this last respect, however, there is no express recognition of the conclusiveness of the arrangement, nor does it appear to have provided for the claim of Ali Moorad on account of the forts in the Desert, already alluded to as having been ceded by him, at our request, to the Raja of Jessulmere.

9. The receipt of this draft treaty was not officially acknowledged by the Government of India, to which Lord Hardinge had intermediately succeeded, until the 24th October 1846, when in a despatch from Sir Frederick Currie, after entering into an explanation of the delay which had intervened, it was remarked, as regards the territorial provisions of the treaty, that the Government of India was but imperfectly informed as to the locality of the districts to which they related; that the effect of the transfer from Meer Roostum to Ali Moorad, did not appear to have been definitively settled as respects its bearing on the public and private rights of the parties; that there was some discrepancy in the names of some of the districts, as enumerated in Meer Sohrab's will, and in the treaty; and that compensation for the Desert forts, and some pecuniary claims on account of collections, had been unprovided for. Further observations were added on the other than territorial provisions of the treaty, and it was intimated that while explanation on the above points was desired, to admit of a conclusive settlement of the whole question, the expediency of the proposed exchange of territory was recognised, and it might be proceeded with at once, on the respective values being satisfactorily determined; and that the Ameer might in the meantime be informed of the disposition of the Government of India to enter into a treaty of friendship and alliance with him, and of the necessary instructions and authority having been given for its negotiation to the Government of Scinde.

10. Sir Charles Napier, under date the 18th January 1847, replied in detail to these objections; he promised to send a map of the territorial provisions, which was afterwards transmitted; he recapitulated the principles by which he had been guided in the appropriation of the conquered territory, and the conclusion he had come to on the effect of

the transfer of Meer Roostum's rights, and which he had been left to suppose had been ultimately acquiesced in by Lord Ellenborough's Government; he justified the gratuitous extension of the same principles to the forfeited territory north of Roree, as being no more than was required by considerations of liberality towards an ally who had abstained from opposition, and afforded us active aid at times when it was of importance; he gave his opinion on the mode in which the claim to compensation on account of the Desert forts should be disposed of, he furnished explanations on the apparent discrepancies in the names of the district, and he replied to the remarks on the other than territorial provisions of the treaty.

11. No further communication on the subject was received from the Government of India, up to the close of Sir Charles Napier's Government, nor indeed has any up to this time; and it does not appear that any steps were taken by Sir Charles Napier, in pursuance of the authority to proceed with the territorial exchange in anticipation of the ulterior disposal of the treaty generally.

12. In the meantime, a circumstance had come to Sir Charles Napier's knowledge, or rather, he obtained proofs corroborative of former suspicions in respect to it, which tended to invalidate the authenticity of one of the documents on which the application of his principles to the forfeited territory north of Roree had been based. This document was a treaty purporting to have been executed between Meer Ali Moorad and Meers Roostum and Nus-eer Khan, the son of their brother Meer Moobaruck, towards the close of the year 1842, and shortly before the events which led to the war with the British. At that time the family dissensions of these Ameers had been brought to the issue of arms, and in an action in which Ali Moorad had the advantage, peace was purchased by the other two by the cession to him of certain lands enumerated in this treaty, which was written in a copy of the Koran. In virtue of this document, the lands ceded by Meer Nusseer Khan, and which would otherwise, as having belonged neither to Meer Roostum nor to Meer Ali Moorad, have been appropriated by us in the application of Sir Charles Napier's principles, had been appropriated by favour to Meer Ali Moorad as having been in his rightful possession at the time of the conquest. It was, however, brought to Sir Charles Napier's knowledge, that a fraud had been committed by Ali Moorad, in respect to this document, by endeavouring to substitute in it the word "district" for "village," in the designation of a place in which the village and its surrounding district bore the same name, and interpolating the names of some districts altogether; and that when this attempt was unsuccessful, the leaf itself on which the names were written had been extracted, and the matter which it bore was written afresh, with the desired alterations and addition, on another blank leaf of the same Koran, by the same person by whom the original treaty had been written; the effect of which was to convey to Ali Morad districts of considerable value, in place of villages of trifling extent. This information was given to Sir Charles Napier by Shaik Ali Hussain, the ex-minister of Ali Moorad, as being within his personal cognizance, and that of Peer Ali Gohur, an influential syud in Upper Scinde, and the writer of this and other state papers in the archives of the Khyrpoor family, who had quarrelled with Ali Morad, as had Sheik Ali Hoosain himself, and the latter was then about to proceed to the Punjaub; the extracted leaf of the Koran was at the same time produced by him in proof of his statement.

13. This was the state of these questions on my succeeding Sir Charles Napier in the government of the province in the end of September 1847, when he brought the subject to my notice as one then pending, and informed me that the proofs of it were with secretary the late Captain Brown. He at the same time gave me a memorandum detailing the measures he would recommend for adoption when the matter should come to be disposed of, the purport of which, so far as I can recollect, for I gave the original to Sir George Clerk and retained no copy, was, that the districts in question would have to be resumed, and that when this took place, I and the officer commanding the forces in the province should then be present in Upper Scinde with a sufficient military force to support whatever measures might be requisite, although active opposition on the part of the Ameer was not apprehended.

14. I forwarded Sir Charles Napier's paper to Sir George Clerk, then Governor of Bombay, and directed the secretary, Captain Brown, to make a memorandum of the circumstances connected with the discovery of the alleged fraud, and to keep all the proofs for production when required; also to collect the correspondence regarding the proposed treaty, the records respecting which, he informed me, were in some respects incomplete, and to be ready to give every requisite explanation upon it when it should come under consideration; all further proceedings were deferred until the arrival of Sir George Clerk, whose intention it was shortly to visit the province.

15. Circumstances delayed Sir George Clerk's visit until the month of February 1848, when the season was so far advanced and the state of his health was such that he was unable personally to undertake the settlement of these questions; but he was made acquainted with the information regarding the alleged fraud, then in the possession of Capt. Brown, and led me to expect that he would communicate to me his views on the subject.

16. Soon after Sir George Clerk's return to Bombay, the state of his health obliged him to quit India; and it was not until the month of October 1848 that I received secret instructions from the Bombay Government, founded, I presume, on the information obtained by Sir

Sir George Clerk when here, to proceed with the inquiry into the alleged fraud, but leaving it to my discretion to postpone this if the then state of affairs in the Punjaub, where the Mooltan insurrection had broken out, should render it expedient.

17. In the meantime my secretary, Captain Brown, who had proceeded to Mooltan to join his regiment on service, returned dangerously ill, and died shortly after in Bombay, without being able again to transact business. He left the papers connected with the fraud, and the records on the subject of the treaty, to be delivered to me by his head clerk, and it is from them I have been obliged to derive my information on these subjects under considerable disadvantage, from the absence of such personal explanations as Captain Brown alone could have furnished.

18. In the ensuing cold season I proceeded to Upper Scinde and paid a visit to Meer Ali Moorad at Khyrpoor. I took that opportunity of going through the documents connected with the case, and obtaining indirectly information bearing upon it; but I considered it inexpedient at that time to enter into any direct investigation, both on account of the state of affairs in the Punjaub, and from my having found the information on record regarding the data on which the details of the proposed treaty had been based; very defective; and as Sir Charles Napier was soon after appointed Commander-in-chief in India, and it was probable he might come out by the way of Scinde, I hoped to have obtained from him in personal conference such further information as was wanted. When however I found he had gone by Bengal, I availed myself of the transfer to this staff of Capt. Harding, my Persian interpreter, who had been with me at Khyrpoor, to send by that officer a memorandum of the information I required, which Sir Charles Napier did me the favour to furnish as far as his recollection enabled him to do, and as he at the same time informed me of the probability of the Governor-general's early arrival in this province, and his taking up the question of the treaty in person, I reserved it for consideration until then; I have however in the meantime, since my arrival at Sukkur to meet the Governor-general, prosecuted to a conclusion the further inquiries directed by the Government of Bombay into the alleged fraud.

19. Having thus explained the present position of these questions, I shall now proceed to submit my views as to their disposal.

20. The principal territorial provisions embodied in the draft of the treaty, as it at present stands, are those in Articles 2 and 6, the former containing a recognition of the territory belonging to Meer Ali Morad, the latter a proposed exchange of territory between him and us.

21. In Article 2, the only portion requiring consideration is that relating to the districts with which the enumeration closes, viz. those of Meer Nusseer Khan, described as "Pergunnahs Meerpoor and Mahtela and Mihry, and village of Dadlo." These are the possessions acquired by the treaty, in respect to which the fraud is alleged to have been committed.

22. The evidence in support of this allegation seems nearly as conclusive as it is possible for any evidence regarding such a transaction to be. The witnesses are persons who at the time stood high in the confidence of Ali Moorad, and occupied the most influential stations about his person. They profess to have been eye-witnesses of the fact, and one of them, Peer Ali Gohur, to have been the agent in its commission, against the consequences of which, to himself, he produces a certificate of indemnity from Ali Morad, purporting to bear his seal and autograph authentication; the other witness, Shaik Ali Hussain, has produced the extracted leaf of the Koran, in which the interpolations are alleged to have been at first unsuccessfully attempted, and which it appears had fallen into his possession and been carefully preserved by him. The evidence of these two witnesses was given on different occasions, remote from and apparently quite independent of each other; it agrees in every particular, and is borne out by the proofs to which it refers. The Koran from which the leaf is said to have been extracted, has been obtained by me from Ali Moorad for inspection; the only point in which its appearance at first sight raises a doubt is, that the matter of the treaty is written on four pages, the three first of which are on one sheet, so that the extracted leaf could not easily have been bound in between the first and second pages, unless it had been also part of a whole sheet instead of a single leaf, as it now appears; but the other leaf may have been blank and become separated in the process of extraction; its preservation may therefore not have been cared for. Peer Ali Gohur's evidence on this point before the Koran and extracted leaf were shown to him, did not quite agree with their actual appearance, but it is a point on which a trifling discrepancy at so long an interval of time does not appear to me materially to affect his general credibility. The evidence of these two witnesses is further confirmed by that given independently by one Jokeeram Row, a prisoner in the Shikarpore gaol for embezzlement, but formerly a moonshee in the British Agency in Upper Scinde, and supposed to be thoroughly acquainted with the transactions of the period; he does not however appear to have been himself an eye-witness. Finally, the allusions to the events in the correspondence of the British Agency, at the time when they occurred, with the Ameers of Khyrpoor, including Ali Morad himself, tends to the inference that the sessions in respect to which the fraud is alleged to have been subsequently committed, were of inconsiderable value, and not of the large amount which under its operation they now appear. It is true that the witnesses are reputed to be notorious and unscrupulous intriguers; they are, by their own showing, accessories in the alleged fraud,

and they are now at bitter enmity with Ali Moorad ; it is therefore just possible that they may have conspired to get up this charge against him, but the particularity and consistency of their statements, and the concurrence of the collateral circumstances are so strong as hardly to be overborne by these considerations ; while, on the other hand, there is little unfortunately in the personal character of Ali Moorad to oppose any great obstacle to the credibility of their allegation. The only step which has not yet been taken is to obtain the Ameer's own explanation on the subject ; this I have hitherto abstained from doing, as it would have brought the question to an open issue, which I was desirous to avoid, until I could ascertain the views of the Governor-general as to its treatment ; but I do not conceive that any explanation of the Ameer, if obtained, would add materially to the means of forming a judgment on the question, for I apprehend there can be little doubt that he would meet the charge by a direct denial, if innocent, as a matter of course, if guilty, as being not very likely, if capable of committing such a deed, to hesitate at disavowing it. Taking all these circumstances into consideration, as the matter at present stands, I feel that the only conclusion which can be reasonably come to is, that there remains but little ground for any moral doubt that the fraud was committed as alleged.

23. If this conclusion be adopted, the next point for consideration would be, how Ali Moorad should be dealt with in reference to it. I presume that, even if the fraud were openly brought home to the Ameer, whatever may be the opinion as to its moral turpitude, yet, adverting to his position as an independent sovereign, it would not be thought to call for stronger measures than the resumption of the districts which have been obtained by means of it ; and that if this can be effected without his open conviction, it will hardly be thought expedient to expose to his own subjects, and to the world in general, as guilty of so base an act, a prince with whom we are to continue on terms of amity and alliance. Under this impression, the course I would recommend for at once protecting our own interests, and saving the reputation of our ally, would be simply to intimate to the Ameer that, as any cession within the tract where the districts in question are situated is to be received as a matter of favour, and as such to be accorded only when the grounds for it are free from all reasonable doubt, and as circumstances have come to the knowledge of the Governor-general since the arrangements of Sir Charles Napier were proposed, to shake his confidence in the document on which the cession of those districts was based, he must withhold his confirmation to that part of them in which it is involved. It is to be hoped that such an intimation, however unpalatable to the Ameer, would be acquiesced in under the consciousness of the risk his own reputation must incur from any attempt at braving the issue if matters are pushed to extremity. At any rate he can have no right to demand or expect a more explicit declaration of the grounds of any modification in a measure admitted to be purely gratuitous on our part. The result, as regards our interests, would be to retain for us an annual revenue of upwards of a lac and a half of rupees, with arrears from the time when the districts were made over to the Ameer, in anticipation of the confirmation of Sir Charles Napier's arrangements.

(True extract.)

(signed) *William Lang*,  
Member of Commission.

COPIES of Correspondence descriptive of the District forming the Subject of Dispute.

No. 2.

No 1,422 of 1849.—Political Department.

From the Commissioner in Scinde to Major *Goldney*, Collector of Shikarpoor.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to request you will obtain for me information as to the approximate annual value of the village of Dadloo, and the pergunnahs of Mahtela, Meerpoor, and Meheerkee, now held by his Highness Meer Ali Moorad, in right of the cession made to him by Meer Nusseer Khan, distinguishing, in the case of Mahteela, the revenue of the village from that of the pergunnah of that name.

I have, &c.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle*,  
Commissioner in Scinde.

Kurrachee, 6 July 1849.

No. 3.

No. 379 of 1849.—Political Department.

From the Collector, Shikarpoor, to *R. K. Pringle*, Esq., Commissioner in Scinde,  
Kurrachee.

Sir,

HEREWITH I have the honour to forward the memorandum of proceeds of the village of Dadloo, and of the pergunnahs of Mahtela, Meerpoor, and Meheerkee, called for in your letter, No. 1,422, of 6th instant.

2. I have

2. I have added a return of those of Ooboura Dehrkee, in case of its being desired now or hereafter.

3. The returns exhibit the actual realizations from these districts, for the Fuslee year (of Scinde) 1255 (1844-45), rejecting all arrears of former years. The accounts being in this office, there has been no necessity to seek information elsewhere.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *P. Goldney*, Major,  
Collector, Upper Scinde.

Shikarpoor, Collector's Office,  
16 July 1849.

No. 4.

RETURN of the Value of the following Pergunnahs and Towns, as called for in Commissioner's Letter, No. 1,422, dated the 6th July 1849.

DETAIL.	AMOUNT.	TOTAL AMOUNT.
	<i>Rs. a. p.</i>	<i>Rs. a. p.</i>
Total collections of the village of Dadaloo, for Fuslee year 1255, A. D. 1844-45 - - - -	2,520 - -	
Total collections of the pergunnah of Meerpoor (Meher-kee), for Fuslee year 1255, A. D. 1844-45 - -	1,61,106 5 11	
Total collections of the town of Mahtela, for the Fuslee year 1255, A. D. 1844-45 - - - -	2,066 13 1	
		1,65,683 3 -
GRAND TOTAL, One lac Sixty-five thousand Six hundred and Eighty-three rupees, Three annas - - - -		1,65,683 3 -

OBOURREE.

Total collections of the pergunnah of Oobouree (Dehurkee), for the Fuslee year 1255, A. D. 1844-45 - - - -	<i>Rs. a. p.</i>
	1,18,913 4 8
GRAND TOTAL, One lac Eighteen thousand Nine hundred and Thirteen rupees, Four annas, Eight pies - - - -	1,18,913 4 8

(signed) *O. F. M'L. Farrington*, Deputy Collector,  
late Deputy Collector of these Districts.

Shikarpoor, 17 July 1849.

MEMORANDUM.

THE pergunnah of Meerpoor is called Mehrkee; the pergunnah of Oobourah is called Dehurkee; this latter district having also been given over to his Highness Meer Ali Moorad with the others. I apprehend there is a clerical error in the Commissioner's letter, "and Mehurkee" having been written for "and Dehurkee," I therefore attach the value of the latter pergunnah also.

(signed) *O. F. M'L. Farrington*, Deputy Collector.  
*P. Goldney*, Collector.

No. 5.

No. 1,511 of 1849.—Political Department.

From the Commissioner in Scinde to the Collector of Shikarpore.

Sir,

REFERRING to your letter No. 379, of the 16th instant, I have the honour to request that you will explain whether the pergunnahs of Meerpoor and Meherkee are the same; whether

whether there are any villages of those names, and if so, what is the amount of their revenues; also whether there is a pergunnah as well as a village of the name of Mahtehla; and if so, the amount of its (the pergunnah's) revenue.

Kurrachee, 24 July 1849.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *R. K. Pringle,*  
Commissioner in Scinde.

No. 6.

No. 440 of 1849.—Revenue Department.

From the Collector of Shikarpoor to the Commissioner, Scinde, Kurrachee.

Sir,

In reply to your letter, No. 1,511, of 24th instant, I have the honour to state that the pergunnahs of Meerpoor and of Mehrkee were under the Meer's distinct portions of the large pergunnah of Mahtela, which at one time comprised besides the whole of the tuppah divisions now forming the pergunnah of Gotekee, and others.

2. There is a village called Meerpoor, but now called Mehrkee.

3. There is a village called Mathela, and also a pergunnah of that name.

4. Some confusion has arisen from the circumstance that, whereas Meerpoor was at one time a tuppah of Mahtehla, and subsequently erected by the British Government into a pergunnah, of which Mahtela formed a tuppah; on the other hand, Mahtehla was formerly a pergunnah, of which Meerpoor formed a tuppah; but it (Mahtela) was under us reduced to a tuppah in the pergunnah of Meerpoor.

5. A memorandum of the revenue desired in your letter under reply is attached in a separate half sheet.

Collector's Office, Shikarpoor,  
31 July 1849.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *P. Goldney,* Major,  
Collector, Upper Scinde.

No. 7.

RETURN of the Value of the following Village and Tuppah of Mahtehla, and the Town of Meerpoor, as called for in Commissioner's Letter, No. 1,511, of 24th July 1849.

DETAIL.	AMOUNT.	AMOUNT TOTAL.
	<i>Rs. a. p.</i>	<i>Rs. a. p.</i>
Total collections of the town of Meerpoor, for Fuslee year 1255, A. D. 1844-45 - - - - -	6,657 - -	
Total collections of the pergunnah (now tuppah) of Mahtela, for Fuslee year 1255, A. D. 1844-45 - <i>Rs.</i> 23,856 - -		
Add town of that name - - - 2,066 - -	25,922 - -	32,579 - -
TOTAL Company's rupees, Thirty-two thousand Five hundred and Seventy-nine, no annas, no pies - - - - -		32,579 - -

(signed) *O. F. M. L. Farrington,* Deputy Collector,  
late Deputy Collector of Meerpore District.

(signed) *P. Goldney,* Collector.

(True copies.)

(signed) *W. Lang,* Member of Commission.

EXHIBIT (C.)

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No. 1.

No. 811 of 1843.

From the Secretary to the Government of Scinde to Captain G. Pope, Collector and Magistrate, Sukkur.

Sir,

I AM directed by his Excellency the Governor of Scinde to forward to you the enclosed translation of a letter from his Highness Meer Ali Moorad, and to request you will be good enough to furnish him with any information you may have, or may be able to collect on the subject. His Excellency wishes you to write also to the Right honourable the Governor-general direct, furnishing him with such information as you may be able to collect. His Excellency has this day written to the Right honourable the Governor-general, informing him that he has directed you to do so.

Kurrachee,  
8 October 1843.

I have, &c.  
(signed) H. J. Pelly,  
Acting Secretary  
to Government of India.



## No. 2.

TRANSLATION of a Letter from *Meer Ali Moorad Khan*, Talpoor, to Sir *Charles Napier*, dated 6th Ramgan 1259, Hijree, and received 7th October 1843.

After compliments,

MEER NUSSEER KHAN, son of the late Meer Mobaruck Khan, had given me in writing on the Koran the pergunnah Meerpoor Mahtehla, Deh Dadalow, and Soonderbeylee, three villages which were formerly in his own possession. A copy of the page in question has already been seen by you, and the matter is as clear as the sun at noon-day. About a month ago Captain Pope came to Khyrpoor to inquire into the question of the transfer of the "Pugree," and at that time also examined into the above case, taking the evidence of many respectable witnesses as to writing on the Koran, such as Meer Thunghee Khan, Kumaal Khan, Julbhane, with many others. Besides this, you wrote me, just before you left Sukkur, that you would confirm me in the aforesaid pergunnah and villages. I am the servant and well-wisher of the Company, and they have been very kind to me; I therefore now write that I may be confirmed in the pergunnah and villages aforesaid.

(True translation.)

(signed) *G. Inverarity*, Assistant Commissioner.

## No. 3.

To the above the following order is annexed :—

The Governor-general does not desire that you should suffer loss; and to settle the boundary, officers will be deputed.

18 October 1843.

(signed) *E. J. Brown*,  
Secretary to the Government of Scinde.

## No. 4.

No. 102 of 1843.

From Captain *G. Pope*, Collector, Sukkur, to *F. Thomason*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India.

Sir,

In conformity with instructions from his Excellency the Governor of Scinde to transmit direct, for the information of his Lordship the Governor-general, such information as I might be able to obtain in reference to a claim urged by his Highness Meer Ali Morad to certain lands lying between Subzulkote and Roree, alleged to have been voluntarily ceded to his Highness by Meer Nusseer Khan, his Highness's nephew, and son of the late Meer Mobaruck, I have now the honour to proceed to carry his Excellency's instructions into effect, and beg to express my regret that severe illness has prevented me from doing so at an earlier period.

2. When I proceeded to Khyrpoor, in August last, for the purpose of making certain investigations as to the alleged cession to his Highness Meer Ali Morad of the Turban of Upper Scinde, and of his personal estates, by the Ex-Ameer Roostum Khan, I felt persuaded that the subject now under consideration would become one for future reference, and I therefore took advantage of the circumstances in which I was placed, so favourable for a thorough investigation, to obtain and record every possible information regarding the claim now urged by his Highness Meer Ali Morad.

3. The enclosed Persian paper, marked (A.), is a faithful copy (written from my own dictation, holding the Koran in which it was entered in my hand) of the deed under which his Highness now claims the lands therein specified. After the copy was made, I tested its accuracy by holding it in my hands and comparing it with that in the Koran, the moonshee reading the latter aloud.

Peer Ali Gohur, the principal Syud in Upper Scinde, avowed the deed to be in his handwriting; of the fact therefore of the deed having been duly written and sealed, little doubt can exist.

The balance of testimony, however, as well as the universal voice of the country, is decidedly against its having been sealed voluntarily by Meer Nusseer Khan; he appears to have been seated sullenly on the ground some 10 or 12 paces from the rest of the chiefs; on being applied to for his seal, he is stated to have said, that he had it not with him. The Ex-Ameer, Roostum Khan, then went up to him, and after trying all in his power to reconcile him to what he said was inevitable, put his hands in his nephew's waistband, from which he drew the seal, and applied it to the deed.

His

His Highness never appears to have obtained possession of the places thus ceded, till the whole country came temporarily into his possession in January 1843.

His Highness has frequently and fully admitted in conversation with me, that the cession was not willingly made. I give his Highness's exact words, "Lurka lea" he said, i. e., it was a conquered country, or one that he had won in war.

This is apparently irreconcilable with his Highness's allegation in his letter to his Excellency the Governor of Scinde, dated Ramgan the 6th, copy of which has been furnished me, in view to the preparation of this report; but it is my duty to state, without reserve, all I know upon the subject, which I have accordingly done.

I have, &c.  
(signed) G. Pope,

Sukkur, 24 October 1843.

Collector and Magistrate.

No. 5.

No. 103 of 1843.

From Captain Pope, Collector and Magistrate, Sukkur, to E. J. Brown, Esquire, Secretary to the Government of Scinde, Kurrachee.

Sir,

IN reference to your letter, No. 811, of the 8th instant, with enclosure, I have the honour to append, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, copy of a letter I have this day addressed to the Secretary to the Government of India.

I have, &c.  
(signed) G. Pope,

Sukkur, 24 October 1843.

Collector and Magistrate.

No. 6.

# MEMORANDUM.

ON the British entering Scinde in 1838, the rulers of Upper Scinde were three brothers, Meers Roostum Khan, Mobaruck, and Ali Morad Khan.

Meer Ali Morad was considerably younger than the other two, and in his minority had been under the guardianship of Meer Mobaruck, during which period he was unjustly deprived by his guardian of certain lands.

This dispute was at its height when the British entered Scinde. In July 1839 Meer Mobaruck died; his son, Meer Nusseer Khan succeeded to Meer Mobaruck's share of the government, and disputes with Ali Morad. Meer Roostum espoused Meer Nusseer's side. This was occasioned by an insult offered to Futteh Mabomed Ghoree, minister of Meer Ali Morad.

The late Mr. Ross Bell decided on the case of dispute at the end of 1840, in favour of Meer Ali Morad. In January 1841 Mr. Bell quitted Scinde for Quetta, but it would appear that his decision was not finally agreed to by both parties, for on the death of that gentleman and return to Scinde from Quetta of his successor, Major Outram, this was the first case brought to the notice of the latter by the Upper Scinde Ameers. Major Outram having inquired into the matter, reported on it to the Governor-general in confirmation of his predecessor's decision, which also was confirmed by the Governor-general. This decision of the Governor-general was not however communicated to the disputing parties.

In September 1842 their disputes had arisen to such an height, that the two Ameers called out their troops, and an engagement took place in the vicinity of Khyrpoor on the 15th of that month, Meer Roostum siding with Meer Nusseer Khan. Meer Ali Moorad Khan was victorious, and Meer Roostum sued for peace, and to obtain it promised to deliver to Meer Ali Moorad Khan \* nine villages, viz. ; seven of his own, and two of Meer Nusseer Khan's, viz., "Matheila†" and "Dadalow."

It has long been rumoured that the Koran in which the cession of the two villages by Meer Nusseer Khan had been recorded, had been falsified by additions being made by means of a fresh leaf being inserted in the Koran in the place of the original one, extracted.

Sheik Ali Hussun, ex-minister of Meer Ali Morad, who was the Ameer's confidential agent during the above transactions, but who has since quarrelled with and left the service of the Ameer, now produces the leaf extracted from the Koran, and states as follows:—

"Memo. of circumstances that occurred during the battle of Khyrpore, fought between the Ameer of Khyrpore and Meer Ali Morad Khan in the month of Shahban 1268, and the transfer of the jaghire of Mahteila to Meer Ali Morad.—When the battle was going, some men were killed. Meer Roostum came to Ali Morad in a 'Mahapah,' and wished to make peace. Ali Morad said, 'I have expended many lacs of rupees in the fight, and have given jaghires to the Beloochees; how can I make peace?' Meer Roostum then gave him seven villages from himself, and two, namely, 'Mahteila' and 'Dadaloo' from Meer Nusseer Khan. He wrote this in the Koran and sealed it, and then Meer Nusseer Khan

\* My digest of  
16 Sept. 1847.  
† Sheik Hassan's  
statement.

\* Between Roree and Bhawalpore, by order of the Governor-general.

and Ali Akbar Khan also sealed it. On this peace was effected and fighting ceased, when a proclamation was issued that the country\* beyond Roree was ceded to the British, such belonging to Ali Morad alone excepted. The Ameer then added in the Koran the word 'pergunnah' before the 'village of Mahteela.' He afterwards added the words 'Meerpoor' and 'Mehekee.' When he discovered that too many words had been entered, and the forgery was evident, he became perplexed, and after some consideration he resolved that the first page in which he had attempted by scratching out some portions of words, added, to correct its appearance, should be extracted; the second, on which were the seals of the different parties, remaining. The matter on the sheet extracted, containing the names of the villages ceded, was recopied on a spare leaf in the Koran; the writer of the whole was Peer Ali Gohur. The sheet extracted is with me here; if you order it I will give it up.

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No. 7.

MEMORANDUM.

SINCE preparing a memorandum for the Commissioner, copy annexed, relating to the transfer, after the battle of Noonar, on the 15th September 1842, of seven villages by Meer Roostum to Meer Ali Morad, and of the villages "Mehteila" and "Dadoloo" by Meer Nusseer Khan to the same, the Lieutenant of police at Shirkapoor has transmitted the substance of evidence of one Zokeeram Moonshee, formerly in the office of the Assistant Political Agent, Shikarpoor, and afterwards in that of the Collector, Shikarpoor, but now in the gaol for peculation.

Annexed are extracts from this person's statement, and copy of one of Peer Ali Gohur, which is enclosed. The latter is the person by whom the treaty in question was written in the Koran.

It may be remarked that the evidence of this Moonshee Zokeram, he being in prison for peculation, may not be considered trustworthy. He is, however, a clever rascal, and is, beyond doubt, well acquainted with the details of this case, which in Upper Scinde have very generally been discussed, I imagine.

It may also be remarked that this Peer Ali Gohur, the writer of the agreement in the Koran, and, by his own showing, the alterer of it, has lately quarrelled with Meer Ali Morad Khan, and has fled to British territory.

The Moonshee Zokeram, in the conclusion of his statement, refers to knowledge of the facts of the case by certain Ameer. If promised protection from the anger of the Ameer, they would doubtless give evidence in this case; but being the brother of Meer Nusseer Khan, and sons of the late Meer Roostum Khan, they cannot be supposed to have any very friendly feeling towards Meer Ali Moorad, under whose protection they now are, and by whom it is said they are not too well treated.

On the other hand, Meer Ali Moorad Khan, in writing to me on the 18th September 1842 an account of the battle of "Noonar," states as follows: "In the meantime Meer Roostum Khan became mediator, and gave over to me several villages to cover the expense of my army, and the loss I had sustained, amounting to lacs of rupees. I, however, was not contented with the few places they made over to me, and would have demanded reparation for the whole of my loss had not your letter at that moment arrived. I then agreed to accept of the villages that Meer Roostum offered to me."

This extract agrees with the statement of Sheik Ali Hussun, Peer Ally Gohur, and Moonshee Zokeram; viz. that villages only (nine in number) were transferred to the Ameer. No mention is made of a pergunnah.

The late Meer Roostum Khan, on writing to me on the same subject and date, stated that "I approached the Meer, and in order to obtain peace consented to make over to him some villages for the time being."

Meer Nusseer Khan, on writing to me on the same subject and date, the 17th September 1842, stated, "At last Meer Roostum Khan succeeded in making peace. Meer Ali Moorad became most arrogant, seeing that he had it all his own way. We found him hungry, therefore satisfied him for the time with a mouthful; in future, however, it will not stand good."

By comparing the leaf said to have been extracted from the Koran (which I received from Sheik Ally Hussun, and have now in my possession) with the Koran itself, now in the possession of the Ameer, some discovery might be made.

(signed) E. J. Brown,  
Secretary to Government of Scinde.

Kurrachee, 28 February 1848.

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No. 8.

EXTRACT from a Letter, No. 386, dated 11 October 1848, from Mr. Chief Secretary *Malet* to the Commissioner in Scinde; paras. 6 to 11.

6. "IN memorandum (without date) left on the records of the Scinde Government by Sir Charles Napier, an imputation has been cast upon his Highness Ali Morad of his having, by means of the substitution of a fabricated for a genuine document, appropriated to himself a district which belongs to the British Government. Sir Charles Napier, apparently anticipating that further evidence could be obtained in proof of this allegation, recommended, in the above memorandum, the measures that should in his opinion be adopted preparatory to the resumption by Government of the district in question. His Lordship in Council would fully concur in the propriety of the precautionary measures suggested by the late Governor of Scinde, in the event of the fact of the alleged forgery being established. The evidence hitherto adduced in confirmation of the charge is plausible; but it appears, that of the three witnesses who have deposed to the alleged fraud, one\* is a person who had quarrelled with Meer Ali Morad and had left his service, another† had fled from the service of that chief, and the third‡ is at present in a British gaol as a convicted felon.

\* Shaik Alli Hussain.

† Peer Ali Gohur.

‡ Thota Ram Moonshee.

7. "The circumstances which tend to give to the alleged fraud an appearance of probability are, that Peer Ally Gohur, the second of the above witnesses, states that he wrote the original document for villages conferred, and the second document in which a district of the same name as one of the villages granted was fraudulently substituted for the "village" itself. This individual also states that Allee Moorad gave him a certificate to the effect that he should be held irresponsible if the fraud should ever come to the notice of the British Government. This certificate you should require Peer Gohur to produce. This individual has declared that he possesses it, and that it was written by Allee Hoossain, the first witness, and sealed by Meer Allee Morad.

8. "You should also require his Highness Ali Morad to produce the Koran in which the grant is recorded, and compare it with the leaf stated by Shaik Allee Hussain to have been the original record, and given by him, through Allee Akbar the moonshee, to Sir Charles Napier.

9. "A careful examination should also be made by you of all the letters addressed at the time of the conflict to the Ameers by the British authorities in Scinde, in which any mention may be made of the nature of the cession of lands, by the means of which peace had been purchased from the strongest.

10. "Captain Brown, in a memorandum which he furnished to Sir George Clerk during the period his Excellency was in Scinde in the early part of the present year, alluded to three letters, the contents of which afford a strong evidence that the country given up to Allee Morad did not comprise a district.

11. "With reference, however, to the present aspect of affairs in the north-west, the Right honourable the Governor in Council leaves it to your discretion to defer entering upon this investigation for the present, should you deem it desirable."

No. 9.

No. 9 of 1848.

From the Lieutenant of Police, Shikarpoor, to the Secretary to Government of Scinde, Kurrachee.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward the accompanying papers, which I beg may be laid before the Commissioner for his information.

2. I need hardly mention that the individual, Jokee Ram, whose statement I forward, was formerly in the Political Agent's office at Shikarpoor, and afterwards head moonshee in the Collector's office; he was tried and imprisoned for bribery and embezzlement; he is well known as a very talented though unworthy person.

3. Peer Ally Gohur is equally well known as having been the confidential servant of his Highness Meer Ally Morad, with whom he quarrelled, and came and settled in our territory about eight months ago.

4. Some days ago Moonshee Jokee Ram told me that his Highness Meer Ali Morad had got possession of some valuable districts from us, by forgery; I told him that he had tried that story before; he replied, "It is the case, and Peer Ali Gohur will tell you all about it." I sent for the last-named individual, and questioned him on the subject; his statement is enclosed, with his seal attached to it. The principal proof regarding the leaf having been cut from the Koran is of course with Shaik Allee Hussein, who has gone to Lahore, but I find that Peer Allee Gohur has sent a cossid to beg him to send a vakeel down with him. He also states that there not being room on one page of the Koran for all that had to be

written,

written, the conclusion, with the seals authenticating the documents, were not on the page that was cut out.

5. I also forward a paper containing certain conditions which Peer Allee Gohur stipulates for, if he proves all he states.

6. I beg here respectfully to say that although I consider it my duty as lieutenant of police to bring to the notice of Government all information that I receive, yet being unaware of the views of Government, I have been careful to guarantee nothing, not even that it will be taken up, having merely put down on paper what has been told me, but taking care to get as much truth as possible. I am aware that part of this business was some months ago before Government, but I do not know how it was settled, nor can I at present inquire, as I am bound by promise not to bring it to the notice of any person but the Commissioner.

7. That there is a great deal of truth in these statements I have no doubt, as his Highness Meer Ally Morad has neither spared promises nor bribes to prevent it being brought forward. The extortionate reward that Peer Ally Gohur and Moonshah Jokee Ram ask, also show that they have no doubts on the subject.

I have, &c.

(signed) J. W. *Younghusband*,

Shikarpoor, 4 January 1846.

Lieutenant of Police.

#### No. 10.

STATEMENT made by *Moonshah Jokee Ram* before *Lieutenant Younghusband*,  
Lieutenant of Police.

MEER ALI MORAD KHAN came in the latter end of 1842 to attack Meer Nusseer Khan at Khyrpoor by force, then Meer Roostum Khan, and Meer Nusseer Khan, were obliged to give him seven towns, named Pullacyhah, Khanwal, Abema, Butcha, Durree, Khurkud, and Khinah, these from Meer Roostum Khan; Mathelah and Daoodloo, belonging to Meer Nusseer Khan. It was also written that these towns would be given with the consent of the British Government. Meer Ali Morad then went to Dejee-ka-Gote; Meer Roostum Khan and Meer Nusseer Khan then called a force to attack him. Meer Allee Morad then got afraid, and sent his father's sister and his own mother, and seven Korans, to beseech them not to attack him, and that he would restore those towns he had compelled them to give him. These towns therefore remained in their former owner's hands; after this the British Government confiscated the whole of the lands from Roree to Subzulkote, and the Governor Saheb had it proclaimed, and the proclamation put on the walls, and Meer Roostum Khan and Meer Nusseer Khan put their seals to this. After this the Governor Saheb got ready to go to Hyderabad, and ordered his army to cross from Sukkur to Roree. Meer Ally Morad said to Meer Roostum, "Come with me to Dejee-ke-Gote, and we will make an arrangement regarding this." When they got there, Meer Ally Moorad said, "Hand over the whole of your country." After considerable disputes, Meer Roostum Khan said, "I will give you the country under these conditions; firstly, you will be answerable for all my expenses, keeping up my retainers, &c., &c., as I now live; what lands are in my sons' hands now they are still to hold; also the lands held by Meer Mobaruck Khan are to be left in the same way. Secondly, the country from Roree to Subzulkote belongs to the British Government; they have been handed over to them, so that I have not the power of giving them away." Meer Allee Morad Khan agreed to these conditions, and wrote an agreement to this effect, and also received a receipt from Meer Roostum Khan. The latter sent this agreement to Sir Charles Napier, but Meer Allee Morad had the messenger seized on the road, and the letters taken from him; Shaik Ally Hussain got them, and kept Meer Roostum Khan's agreement with him. After this the whole country came into the hands of the British Government. Meer Allee Moorad Khan, with reference to the aforesaid seven towns Meer Roostum Khan had been obliged to cede to him, and also the two Meer Nusseer Khan had, in the original paper inserted the district (pergunnah), as well, these towns, and also the town of Meerpoor and Mahurkee; whilst inserting these the original paper was spoiled. Peer Ally Gohur made out another paper, including these towns and the districts. Thus taking away from the British Government the lands belonging to Meer Nusseer Khan, Meer Roostum Khan, also all the lands belonging to Meer Roostum's sons; but from Roree to Subzulkote remained in the hands of the British Government. Part of this country was given to Bhawulkhan, what remained was in the hands of the British for two years. At this time Captain Malet went round to settle the boundary, that there should be no more disputes. His Excellency the Governor was on the road to the Belooch Hills; Meer Ally Morad was also with him, also Major Goldney. When they returned from the campaign Meer Allee Morad in some way got nearly the whole of the lands from Roree to Subzulkote from the Governor. As I was an old servant of Government when this took place, I gave information that Meer Ally Morad had taken several towns that did not belong to him, and on my information they were resumed. I also spoke about Naowar Khalsa, saying that his Highness had taken that right, and showed Major Goldney a treaty of Meer Mobaruck Khan's. After some days Major

Goldney

Goldney returned the copy of the treaty to me, and asked me why I was trying to make mischief. After this my enemies got up lies against me, and I was imprisoned. After I was imprisoned, Jatee Nund, the financial moonshee in the Collector's office, embezzled a large sum of money; I made an agreement with the Collector, in order to save my credit, and to free myself from prison, to prove where 25,000 rupees had been embezzled; what I did has all been written. I now request that if, according to the old agreement, I. Suchanund, Assinund, and Tour Mull, are released, and restored to our original credit, with situations, we will show where, and to what extent the Government has been robbed; also, that I will show, and prove how Meer Allee Morad has got by forgery a large portion of the country belonging to the British Government. To show this, I have brought forward Peer Allee Gohur, who was engaged in all these things, as a witness; and when asked he will disclose the whole. I have copies of all the treaties between the Meers and the British Government; but I wish this thing guaranteed me, that if I bring these things forward I am protected from the vengeance of his Highness Meer Ally Morad, and that a fourth part of what I prove in favour of the British Government will be paid to me. That you (Lieutenant Younghusband) will investigate this yourself, and tell it to no one until the whole thing is to be tried. That a letter be written to Meer Mahomed Allee Khan, Meer Ally Mahomed Khan, Meer Allee Murdan Khan, and Meer Shere Mahomed Khan, that they will be protected from the Meer if they speak the truth. I wish this done, in case his Highness tries to tamper with them, and that I may be released in order that I may be able to arrange the whole of the proofs. That I beg that this may be told to no one else till the time arrives for it being investigated, for the Meer's spies are numerous here, and he spends large sums of money to get information of what is going on; I have numerous friends in the country who can give me every information.

Before me,

(signed) *J. W. Younghusband,*  
Lieutenant of Police.

Shikarpoor, 4 January 1848.

No. 11.

EVIDENCE given by *Peer Ally Gohur*, on being questioned by *Lieutenant Younghusband*,  
Lieutenant of Police.

WHEN the fight of Noonar took place at Khyrpoor, Meer Roostum Khan came between and gave by treaty seven towns of his own, and two (Doodakoo and Mathala) belonging to Meer Nusseer Khan; but in this (treaty) there was nothing written regarding the districts these towns belonged to, or the towns of Meerpore or Mahurkee, Meer Ally Moorad Khan inserted the words *Meerpore Mahurkee*, and the district of Mathala; in doing this he spoiled the paper, and the forgery was palpable. The Meer then took that page out of the Koran, and wrote what had been on that leaf, with his additions on another leaf. This was written by me. The leaf that was cut out is now with Sheikh Ally Hussein; this is what I told you. The Meer gave me a certificate, saying, that if this came to the notice of the British Government, he (the Meer) would take the blame on himself; I have it now; it was written by *Sheik Allee Hussain*, and signed and sealed by *Meer Allee Morad*. I have also got a letter from *Sheik Ally Hussain* regarding this affair, which I shall show you.

(True translation.)

(signed) *J. W. Younghusband*, Lientenant,  
Lieutenant of Police,

No. 12.

CONDITIONS stipulated for by *Peer Ally Gohur*.

THE jaghire, called *Khanghra Badsha*, which was given by *Meer Sohrab* to my father, and afterwards confirmed to me by *Meer Roostum*, to be restored.

2. That his Highness *Meer Ally Morad* be prevented from taking vengeance on me for giving this intelligence.

3. The jaghire of *Dulputra*, which his Highness *Meer Ali Morad* gave me as a bribe in the forgery case, to be restored to me.

4. Immunity for all past offences.

5. Protection to be guaranteed to *Meer Mahomed Ally Khan* and *Meer Ally Mahomed Khan* if they give evidence regarding the points brought forward.

(signed) *J. W. Younghusband*,  
Lieutenant of Police.

## No. 13.

EXTRACT from a Memorandum from Lieutenant *Younghusband*, dated 18th December, 1849.

Para. 1. "ACCORDING to your instructions I yesterday proceeded to a village near where Peer Ally Gohur resides, and had an interview with him; I obtained from him without much difficulty the document said to have been given to him by his Highness Meer Allee Morad, regarding the forgery in the Koran; I beg to forward it, with translation. Peer Allee Gohur mentioned, that when he first wrote on the part of Ally Morad to the late Governor of Scinde regarding the alleged cession, Mathela alone was mentioned; in subsequent letters the other districts were mentioned."

## No. 14.

TRANSLATION of a Document obtained from *Peer Allee Gohur*, which bears the Seal of His Highness *Meer Ali Morad*.

"Confirmed."

THE reason of writing this is as follows: Meer Roostum Khan and Meer Nusseer Khan gave me the purgunnah of Mathela on account of the lacs of rupees I had expended in the battle of Khyrpoor.

The pergunnahs Meerpoor, Mathela, Mikr, and other towns were given to me, and written in the Koran by their own free will.

By the carelessness of the servant who kept the Koran, some ink was spilt on some of the words in a line of the cession written in the Koran, which spoilt it a little. I said to Meer Ally Gohur, "The page is spoilt, I will take it out, you write a copy of it in another page, because the original was written by you, so also write this." The Peer Sahib refused to write it. I then said I would take all blame on myself, that none should rest on him; if anything was said regarding it I should be answerable. I gave this document to the Peer, to show that the responsibility of the act rests with me, and not with him. I therefore write, that in performing this the Meer is not to blame, he having written it by my orders. The above writing I give to remain with the Peer as a sunud. Dated 2d of the month Rujeeb, 1259 Hijree.

(True translation.)

(signed) *J. W. Younghusband*,  
Lieutenant of Police.

The document, of which this is a translation, is said to be in the handwriting of Sheik Allee Hussain. The words "Bahul ust" (confirmed) at the top of the document is said to be the handwriting of Meer Allee Morad.

(signed) *J. W. Younghusband*,  
Lieutenant of Police.

Sukkur, 18 December 1849.

## No. 15.

STATEMENT of *Peer Ally Gohur*, made before *R. K. Pringle*, Esquire, Commissioner of Scinde.

I WAS not present when the leaf was taken out of the Koran. Meer Ally Morad brought the Koran to me with the leaf taken out, and a new one then ready to write on. As far as I can recollect, the treaty originally covered three pages, on the last of which was three seals; viz., Meer Roostum's, Meer Nusseer Khan, and Meer Ally Akbar; the first was the leaf taken out. The extracted leaf was shown me at the time by Meer Ally Morad; it was one leaf, and not a sheet. On it had first been interpolated the word "pergunnah;" afterwards "Mehrkree" was attempted to be substituted for the word "Mirzee," in doing which the paper was spoilt. The above took place subsequent to the cession of the Turban by Meer Roostum to Meer Ally Morad. The new matter that was written by me was on one page, the same as the original, on the left hand of the book.

*Question by the Commissioner.* Is this your handwriting (*The leaf said to have been torn from the Koran is here shown to Peer Ally Gohur*) marked (A.)?—*Answer.* Yes; and this is the leaf which was extracted from the Koran.

Do you know what became of this leaf after the forgery was committed?—It was left in the Koran. Sheik Allee Hussein took it out.

Was the deed of the cession of the Turban by Meer Roostum to Meer Allee Morad, and the latter's treaty with the former, written in your handwriting?—Yes, it was.

Thus is the matter in the above-mentioned cession of the Turban, with reference to the names of the districts and villages, the same as first written in the extracted leaf of the Koran?—

Koran?—I do not distinctly recollect, but I have a copy with me of the cession; and on referring to it, I perceive that the pergunnahs of Meerpoor, Mathela, also that of Mahrkee, are amongst the list of cession by Meer Moostum. I remarked at the time of writing the cession, that the towns of these pergunnahs had already been ceded; to this he replied, It was of no consequence; to write them.

Do you recognise the paper now shown to you (*a paper is shown to Peer Ally Gohur, marked (B.)*)?—Yes, the handwriting is mine; it must have been written at the time the page was re-written in the Koran; it appears to be an attempt of mine to write certain words fair, but I do not recollect.

Do you recognise the Koran now shown to you?—Yes; this is the book from which the leaf was extracted.

Is the handwriting of the treaty written in it yours?—Yes, it is; the first page is the one that I re-wrote. The remaining three pages, on the last of which are the three seals, are my original writing.

You before stated that, as far as you recollect, the treaty was written on three pages, it now appears on four; will you explain this difference?—It is nine years ago, and my recollection of the subject is not quite distinct.

Do the three first pages of the treaty written in the Koran appear to you to be written on one sheet, or separate leaves?—They appear to be written on one sheet, and not on two separate leaves.

If such be the case, how do you explain your statement that the original matter is written on the three last pages, and the new matter on the first?—I am unable to explain this at this distance of time; my memory may have failed me in regard to the number of pages; there may have been two extracted instead of one, as I before stated, and on recollection I think it must have been; I mean a sheet, which may account for it.

Are you aware of the Koran having been rebound at the time?—No.

The certificate granted by Meer Ally Morad, when was it written and given to you?—Immediately before I re-wrote the matter in the Koran.

This statement was taken in my presence by Lieutenant Younghusband, Lieutenant of Police.

Sukkur, 26 December 1849.

(signed) R. K. Pringle,  
Commissioner.

No. 16.

STATEMENT of Sheik Ally Hussain, made before R. K. Pringle, Esq., Commissioner in Scinde.

*Question by the Commissioner.* Did you make any statement before Sir C. Napier regarding the treaty of Noonar?—*Answer.* Yes; I made a statement to Moonshee Ally Ukbar, at the request of Sir Charles Napier; I wrote the statement down in my own handwriting, by his desire.

At that time did you give a leaf of the Koran in which the treaty of Noonar was written to Sir Charles Napier?—Yes, I gave the leaf of the Koran.

How came that leaf in your possession?—His highness Meer Ally Morad gave it to me to take care of it. The leaf had been extracted at Khyrpoor, in the presence of Bushurut Ally and Peer Ally Gohur; I was at Baberloo and was not present, having attempted to dissuade his Highness from committing the deed. My moonshee (Bushurut Ally) was present and returned with the Koran; the leaf that had been extracted was loose in it; the Koran was given to me to show to Captain Pope, who had expressed a wish to see it. The reason that Captain Pope had expressed a wish to see the original treaty was, that he had heard that Mathela only was in the original, and that subsequently pergunnahs of Meerpoor and Mathela were added.

How many pages was the Treaty of Noonar written on?—On four pages, commencing the page on the right side of the book, and ending with the page on the left side; on the latter of which were the seals. The extracted matter was on the first page, the rest remaining as it originally was in the Koran; one sheet, forming two leaves, was extracted, of which one leaf was blank. Two blank leaves were then transferred from the beginning of the book in order to re-write the page extracted; the binding of the book was undone for this purpose. I learnt this from my moonshee, Bushwunt Ally; but I am not aware whether any bookbinder was employed in inserting the leaves when it (the Koran) came into my hands; the extracted leaves were both there, but separated from the binding. I do not know that Captain Pope's suspicions were aroused by the appearance of the Koran, and as I was the Meer's servant, it was not my business to say anything on the subject. The new matter written in the Koran in substitution of the extracted leaf, was written by Peer Ally Gohur. The Peer was at first reluctant to engage in the transaction; but having written to consult me on the subject, I told him that if he did it at the instigation of the Meer, who was all powerful, he could not be held responsible.

Are you aware of any certificate having been given by his Highness Meer Ally Morad to Peer Ally Gohur on this subject?—I rather think he did give a certificate to the effect that he was not responsible, but I have no distinct recollection of the matter.



Were you present when the treaty of Noonar was written?—Yes, I was present; the rough copy was written by me, but was destroyed when the fair copy was written.

Did Meer Ally Morad send any copy of the treaty to the British authorities?—Yes, he sent a copy at that time, but I do not recollect in whose handwriting; I gave a copy also to Moonshee Tour Mull, who was sent by Major Clibborn to obtain it; Tour Mull copied it from the Koran. The matter in that copy was as it originally stood in the Koran. I afterwards, when I had quarrelled with the Meer, gave information regarding the extraction of the leaf from the Koran to Captain Malet, but I did not show the leaf. He told me to give the information direct to Sir Charles Napier. Upon this, I at once mentioned the circumstance to Captain Brown, but as the districts north of Roree, which had once been taken possession of by the British Government, had been restored to his Highness Meer Ally Morad, it occurred to me that there was no use in proceeding in the matter, so made an excuse to Captain Brown that the leaf was not then at hand, but with my family at Mooltan.

At the time of the cession of the Turban, &c., by Meer Roostum to Meer Ally Morad, were these districts in the Treaty of Noonar included in the cession according to the terms of the original treaty, or according to the subsequent alterations?—The whole country was included in the cession; therefore, in it were the districts referred to. In the cession were the whole of Meer Mobaruck's possessions, as well as Meer Roostum's.

Do you know what became of the copy of the treaty of Noonar, that Moonshee Tour Mull got from you?—No, I do not.

Do you recognise the paper now shown to you (*the leaf extracted from the Koran is here shown to Sheik Ally Hussein*)?—Yes; it is the leaf from the Koran on which the treaty of Noonar was written, and is the one I gave to Sir Charles Napier.

Do you also recognize this paper (*the paper marked (B.) is here shown to him*)?—Yes; it is the blank page of the Koran on which Peer Ally Gohur tried his hand.

If these two leaves originally formed one sheet, how do you account for some difference that appears in the size?—The difference does not appear to me so great as to cause any doubt. The smaller appears to have been reduced in size by rubbing or folding.

Do you recognize this Koran?—Yes; this is the book in which the treaty of Noonar was written, and from which the leaves were extracted.

Do the first and second pages on which the treaty is written appear to you one sheet, or separate?—They appear to be one sheet.

How then do you reconcile this with your statement regarding the bringing the leaf from the commencement of the book?—I repeated what had been told to me, at least as far as I can recollect; both pages might have been re-written.

Do you know this paper (*the copy of the treaty of Noonar is here shown to him, marked (C.)*)?—Yes; this is the handwriting of Busharut Ally. But it must have been written subsequent to the forgery, for it has the pergunnahs of Meerpoor and Mathela clearly written; but I am not aware when it was given.

In the leaf extracted from the Koran there appears an interpolation and erasure; are you aware when this was effected; I mean, was it done about the same period the leaves were extracted?—No, it was some months before the leaves were extracted. It was done about the time the country was ceded, and remained in that state in the Koran until Captain Pope's visit, when, as I said before, the leaves were extracted, and the first page re-written.

Do you know the handwriting on the back of the copy of the treaty of Noonar?—No, I do not.

Do you recognize this paper (*the certificate given by his Highness Meer Ally Morad to Peer Ally Gohur, marked (D.), is here shown*)?—Yes; this is a certificate I wrote by command of the Meer, for Peer Ally Gohur, at the time of the insertion of the fresh matter in the Koran. I stated before, my recollection on this point was not very distinct; now the paper is shown me, I recollect the circumstance; it bears his Highness Meer Ally Morad's seal, and the words "Bahul ust" (confirmed) in his own handwriting.

Do you recognize this paper (*the copy of the treaty of Noonar, received from Tour Mull, is here shown to Sheik Ally Hussein*)?—I rather think it is the handwriting of Bushurut Ally; it is a copy of the original treaty of Noonar, as first written in the Koran. I think it is Bushurut Ally's handwriting, and must have been taken before the forgery was committed.

Where is Bushurut Ally now?—He is at Soharanpoor, in the town of Umbetah.

This examination of Sheik Ally Hussein was taken in my presence by Lieutenant Young-husband, Lieutenant of Police.

Sukkur,  
9 January 1860.

(signed) R. K. Pringle, Commissioner.

(True copy.)  
(signed) W. Lang,  
Member of Commission.

EXHIBIT (D.)

CORRESPONDENCE with British Agency.

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- No. 2.—From Meer Allee Morad to Captain Brown, dated 7th September 1842. He fears that Meer Nusseer Khan is bent upon creating disturbances, and it is his sincere wish that this strife should be ended - - - - - p. 196
- No. 3.—From Captain Brown to Meer Allee Morad, dated 9th September 1842. Copy of his Letter has been sent for Major Outram's orders, also to Meer Roostum Khan, in the hope that he may be able to effect the settlement of these disputes - - - - - p. 196
- No. 4.—From Captain Brown to Major Outram, Political Agent, Scinde and Beeloochistan. Forwards Letter from Meer Roostum Khan, intimating that Meer Ally Morad had advanced with a force to Khyrpore, in the neighbourhood of Meer Nusseer Khan's possessions; also, copy and translate of one accordingly addressed by him to Meer Alli Morad - - - - - p. 197
- No. 5.—From Captain Brown to Meer Alli Morad, dated 14th September 1842. Recommending that he should disperse his troops, and come to an amicable arrangement with Meer Nusseer Khan - - - - - p. 197
- No. 6.—From Meer Nusseer Khan to Captain Brown, dated 8th September 1842. Meer Allee Morad has come to Kharpoor with his troops, and if he will persist in opposing him, there will be nothing left for him but to fight, otherwise he will lose his reputation - - - - - p. 197
- No. 7.—From Captain Brown to Major Outram, Political Agent, No. 70, dated 16th September 1842. An action took place on the previous day between the followers of Meer Allee Morad Khan and those of Meer Roostum Khan and Nusseer Khan, in which the former were victorious. Sends a detailed account of this action - - - - - p. 198
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- No. 10.—From Captain Brown to Meer Nusseer Khan, dated 17th September 1842. He has received with great regret the tidings contained in his letter, a copy of which has been sent to Major Outram - - - - - p. 199
- No. 11.—From Captain Brown to Major Outram, Political Agent, No. 74, dated 19th September 1842. Forwards copy and translation of a Letter received three days previously from Meer Allee Morad, relative to his having commenced hostilities with Meer Nusseer Khan; also of one from Meer Roostum Khan on the same subject. Sheik Alli Hussein, the Minister of Meer Alli Morad, has not yet waited upon him (Captain Brown) with the Koran, in which the cession by Meer Roostum and Nusseer Khan to Meer Allee Morad of certain villages is written - - - - - p. 199
- No. 12.—From Meer Allee Morad to Captain Brown; no date. Stating the causes which led to his attacking Meer Nusseer Khan, who with Meer Roostum Khan were obliged to make over to him some villages; the agreement to this effect is in a Koran, which will shortly be sent to him (Captain Brown), with Sheik Allee Hussein, who would relate all particulars - - - - - p. 199
- No. 13.—From Meer Nusseer Khan to Captain Brown; no date. States the circumstances which occurred during the fight with Allee Morad - - - - - p. 200
- No. 14.—From Meer Nusseer Khan to Captain Brown; no date. Refers him to the preceding Letter from Meer Roostum Khan for particulars - - - - - p. 200
- No. 15.—From Captain Brown to Major Outram, Political Agent, No. 77, dated 20th September 1842. Forwards copy and translation of Letter he had addressed to Meer Allee Morad, in reply to his Letter, copy of which was forwarded with Captain Brown's, No. 74, dated 19th instant. Sheik Allee Hussein waited upon him only that morning - - - - - p. 201
- No. 16.—From Captain Brown to Meer Allee Morad, dated 20th September 1842. He cannot offer him more advice in the present case, but he will submit anything he has to say to Major Outram - - - - - p. 201
- No. 17.—From Captain Brown to Major Outram, Political Agent, No. 84, dated 27th September 1842. Forwards copy and translate of a Letter from Meer Allee Morad Khan, detailing his proceedings before the fight - - - - - p. 201
- No. 18.—From Meer Allee Morad to Captain Brown, received 27th September 1842. Details his proceedings before the fight, vows eternal friendship to the British, and only wants an opportunity to render himself terrible to their enemies - - - - - p. 201
- No. 19.—Extract from the Digest of Intelligence of Captain Brown, Assistant Political Agent, Upper Scinde, from the 13th to the 19th September 1842. Containing a clear account of the fight between Meer Allee Morad's and Meer Roostum and Nusseer Khan's followers. The two latter Meers have satisfied the claims of Meer Allee Morad, by transferring to him nine villages - - - - - p. 202
- No. 20.—Extract from the Digest of Intelligence of Captain Brown, Assistant Political Agent, Upper Scinde, from the 20th to the 26th September 1842. Describes the then state of affairs between the rival Meers. Sheik Alli Hussein had waited upon him with the Koran - p. 203

No. 1.

No. 65 of 1842.

From the Assistant Political Agent in Charge, Upper Scinde, to Major *Outram*, Political Agent, Scinde and Beeloochistan, Quetta.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward copies and translations of a letter yesterday received from Meer Allee Morad Khan, and of my reply thereto, referring to his old disputes with Meer Nusseer Khan.

Political Agency,  
Scinde and Beeloochistan, Sukkur,  
10 September 1842.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. J. Brown*,  
Assistant Political Agent in Charge.

No. 2.

From *Meer Ali Morad* to Captain *Brown*, Assistant Political Agent.

After compliments.

PRIOR to this, I informed you of the quarrels and the oppression of Meer Nusseer Khan; how he had killed my sepoy, and had burned my villages, thereby causing a loss of thousands of rupees. All this you are well aware of, the violence that has been used by Meer Nusseer Khan without any right. Again a lengthened explanation would appear necessary, and my faithful servant, Shaik Ali Hussain, will also communicate the particulars to you; in short, it is my sincere wish that this strife should be ended, and that all violence should cease; and according to your advice, conveyed to me by letter, I ceased from agitating the matter, and concluded that the opposite party would also come to a right understanding. After this, Futtu Mahomed Ghoree paid me a plausible visit at Deja Kate, and began to relate several things, complete fabrications, and without foundation, the narration of which was likely to make things worse, and to increase the flame of discord. After this he returned to Khyrpoor without making any settlement or offer of compensation for all the injury I have received, and exerted himself to prevent matters coming to a peaceful conclusion, by using his influence to excite animosity, and to devastate my territory. Perhaps Futtu Mahomed Ghoree and Meer Nusseer Khan have entered into a compact, and have gone to make an arrangement with Meers Ali Murdun and Meer Mahomed Hussein, and we shall see when they return what seditious tumults and deceptions have been hatched; but it would appear from report, when they return to Khyrpoor that some new violence will be practised. I have been in expectation that the Sirkar Ungreez would put an end to all these contentions, consequently sleep aloof and allow things to pass away; but in the end, whatever tumult they (Meer Nussur and party) may create, they will certainly receive their reward.

(True translation.)

7 September 1842.

(signed) *W. Kennedy*,  
Assistant Political Agent.

No. 3.

From Captain *Brown*, Assistant Political Agent, to *Meer Alee Morad*.

After compliments.

I HAVE received your letter, acquainting me of Meer Nusseer Khan's intention to fight and cause disturbance, and I think it advisable that you should act as I formerly recommended, and that my high-minded friend should not incline to altercation. A copy of my friend's letter, the "ornament of delight," has been forwarded to Major Outram, political agent, that whatever he may think proper he will write in reply in this case. A copy of your letter has also been forwarded to Meer Roostum Khan, in the hope that he may be able to effect in some way the settlement of these disputes in whatever way he may consider proper and likely to attain the object in view.

(True translation.)

Sukkur,  
9 September 1842.

(signed) *W. Kennedy*,  
Assistant Political Agent.

No. 4.

No. 69 of 1842.

From the Assistant Political Agent in Charge, Upper Scinde, to Major *Outram*, Political Agent, Scinde and Beloochistan, Quetta.

Sir,

IN continuation of my letter to your address, No. 65, of the 10th instant, I have the honour to acquaint you that Mahomed Yar Khan, son of the minister, and three vakeels waited upon me yesterday with a letter from his Highness Meer Roostum Khan, which referred me to this agent for the nature of his communication. This had reference to Meer Ali Morad Khan having advanced with a force to Kharpoor, in the neighbourhood of Meer Nussur Khan's possessions.

2. I enclose copies and translations of a letter I accordingly addressed to Meer Ali Morad Khan, which I trust you will approve.

Political Agency,  
Scinde and Beeloochistan, Sukkur,  
15 September 1842.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. J. Brown*,  
Assistant Political Agent.

No. 5.

From Captain *Brown*, Assistant Political Agent in Charge, to *Meer Allee Morad*, dated Sukkur, 14 September 1842.

After compliments.

FIVE days have elapsed since I received my friend's kind letter, and in reply, I wrote to him: that a copy of his letter was forwarded by me to the Political Agent, and by way of friendly advice, recommended him to wait in expectation of an answer. I also informed my friend that I had written to Meer Roostum on the subject of his letter, and I learn that the Rātes (Meer Roostum) is much pleased at the idea of being able to settle my friend's cause of complaint, and of making smooth the differences at present existing between my friend and Meer Nusseer Khan, and in truth it is a most laudable custom that any strife or discord that may arise between brothers should be dispelled by the "Head of the Tribe." Notwithstanding I have written and explained everything to my friend in a friendly way, it has now come to my knowledge that he is not thinking of waiting for the decision of the chief of his tribe, or a reply from the Political Agent; neither does my friend appear inclined to listen to the advice of his well-wishers, but I hear that, having assembled his troops, he has ordered them to take up a position close to the residence of Meer Nusseer Khan, and firing his guns; it is evident there is no occasion for all this, for the moment that the Political Agent learns the wishes of my friends matters would be settled, and there would then be no necessity for this assembling of troops and creating disturbance in the country. I therefore again beg to offer advice to my friend that he should disperse his troops, and discontinue the firing of cannon close to the dwelling of Meer Nusseer Khan; for these acts are improper, especially between brothers and relations.

(True translation.)

(signed) *W. Kennedy*,  
Assistant Political Agent.

No. 6.

From *Meer Nusseer Khan* to Captain *Brown*, dated 8 Shahban 1258; received 15 September 1842.

After compliments.

IT is about one month and a half since, when I was sick, that Meer Allee Morad, having collected troops, entered my territory for the purpose of creating disturbances, which he still continues to do. I have made no movement against him, but by the advice of Meer Roostum Khan I went to Boortee for the purpose of conciliating Meer Mahomed Hussein and bringing him in. During my absence Meer Ali Morad went to Kharpoor with his army, there to wage war. I have always had great regard for your Government. However, if Meer Ali Morad will persist in opposing me, there will be nothing left for me but to fight, otherwise I lose my reputation. I write this for your information; in you I place all my hopes. My brothers and I have great respect for the English. Bahadoor Allee Shah will explain all verbally to you; you may place implicit confidence in what he says.

(True translation.)

29 October 1847.

(signed) *F. Harding*, Captain,  
Persian Interpreter.

## No. 7.

No. 70 of 1842.

From the Assistant Political Agent in Charge to Major *Outram*, Political Agent, Scinde and Beloochistan, Quetta.

Sir,

IN continuation of my letter, No. 69, of yesterday's date, I have now the honour to acquaint you, that I have been informed that an action took place yesterday in the neighbourhood of Khyrpoor, between the followers of Meer Alli Morad Khan and those of Meer Roostum Khan and Nusseer Khan, in which the former were victorious; the loss very trifling; 50 killed of the latter party, and about 30 of the former. Meer Mahomed Ali Khan, brother of Meer Nusseer Khan, is said to be wounded. I enclose a detailed account of the action of yesterday.

*Vide digest of intelligence, 16 Sept. 1842, p. 202.*

Political Agency,  
Scinde and Beloochistan, Sukkur,  
16 September 1842.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. J. Brown*,  
Assistant Political Agent in Charge.

## No. 8.

No. 71 of 1842.

From the Assistant Political Agent in Charge to Major *Outram*, Political Agent, Scinde and Beloochistan, Quetta.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward, in continuation of my former letters, copies and translations of a letter I to-day received from his Highness Meer Nusseer Khan of Khyrpoor, and of my reply, relative to past acts of his Highness Meer Ali Morad Khan.

Political Agency,  
Scinde and Beloochistan, Sukkur,  
17 September 1842.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. J. Brown*,  
Assistant Political Agent in Charge.

## No. 9.

From *Meer Nusseer Khan* to Captain *Brown*, Assistant Political Agent in Charge.

After compliments.

I HAVE received your letter ornamented with friendship, causing delight, in reply to mine, mentioning that you had written two letters, one to Ali Morad Khan, recommending him to desist from fighting, and the other to his Highness Meer Roostum Khan, hoping that he would settle matters peaceably, and dispel contention. My kind friend, on hearing Meer Ali Morad's intention to fight, Meer Zumgee and Meer Allee Murdan Khan left Khyrpoor for the purpose of settling matters. After they had left I learned that Meer Allee Morad Khan, with a large force, had turned his face towards Khyrpoor. Being without remedy, Meer Roostum Khan and myself, bent entirely upon pacific measures, left Khyrpoor, and found that Meer Allee Morad had taken up a position close to the city, on the eastern side, with his army and guns, and without discrimination and with inordinate desire, drew his foot out of the circle of respect and commenced hostilities, notwithstanding that I had no thought of joining the contest. The troops on both sides took to their arms and swords, and began fighting. A few on each side were killed and wounded. My friend, such shameful, improper, and disrespectful conduct was never known. Finally, Meer Roostum Khan managed to settle matters, and put an end to the strife, and I have thought proper to acquaint you with these particulars. Meer Ali Morad has acted without respect of persons; and seeing that he was beyond all bounds, and had no regard for the usual etiquette, I was obliged to satisfy the hungry beggar with a morsel, and so put him off for the time.

(True translation.)

(signed) *W. Kennedy*, Assistant Political Agent.

No. 10.

From Captain *Brown*, Assistant Political Agent in Charge, to *Meer Nusseer Khan*, of Khyrpoor.

After compliments.

YOUR kind letter, perfumed with friendship, has come to hand, mentioning that Meer Allee Morad, having gone outside the circle of respect, had brought his forces to Khyrpoor and fought. A copy of my friend's letter has been sent for the information of Major Outram, Political Agent; no doubt, upon learning the conduct of Meer Allee Moorad, who would not listen to friendly advice, repeatedly given, but commenced with war and strife, he will receive these tidings as I have done, with great regret. Believe me to be always desirous of your welfare and happiness.

(True translation.)

Sukkur, 17 September 1842.

(signed) *W. Kennedy*,  
Assistant Political Agent.

No. 11.

No. 74 of 1842.

From the Assistant Political Agent in Charge to Major *Outram*, Political Agent, Scinde and Beeloochistan, Quetta.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour, in continuation of former correspondence on the same subject, to forward for your information copy and translation of a letter I received three days ago from Meer Allee Morad Khan, relative to his having commenced hostilities with Meer Nusseer Khan.

2. Sheik Allee Hussan has not yet waited upon me with the Koran.

3. I also enclose copy and translation of a letter I have received from Meer Roostum Khan, to which I have returned a reply similar to that to Meer Nusseer Khan, which I have already forwarded to you.

Political Agency,  
Scinde and Beeloochistan, Sukkur,  
19 September 1842.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. J. Brown*,  
Assistant Political Agent in Charge.

No. 12.

From *Meer Allee Morad* to Captain *Brown*, Assistant Political Agent in Charge, Sukkur.

After compliments.

MY friend's letter, a series of delight, reached at an auspicious moment, causing joy and gladness, intimating a desire that quarrelling should cease, and also the collecting of troops be postponed until a reply was received from the Political Agent. My friend, the case stands thus: from the commencement of the quarrel with (my fruit-eating friend) Meer Nusseer Khan, and the burning of my villages, although my friend gave him excellent advice, yet, from his boasting, when there was no occasion, and with the cotton of neglect in his ears, my friend's recommendation had no effect upon him; and although I acknowledged as it were my weakness, viz., their (Meer Nusseer and party) having through violence and oppression burnt my villages, and entreated that my property should be restored, they would not give way; but what need I say regarding the restitution of my property? Futteh Mahomed Korie came to me at Ahmedabad (Dijee-kote) and asked me to give up some territory, and related some despicable stories, the hearing of which burnt my heart. Having taken his leave, he then returned to Khyrpoor, and consulted with his party, to the detriment of my life and property. He also went to Meer Mahomed Hussein, to gain him over to his side; and what passed between them my confidential messenger will apprise you of, for it is not fit to put in writing. I was informed of the whole from private sources, and thought that now was the time to dispel all their plots and consultations, otherwise I was likely to suffer considerable injury at their hands. My friend (Meer Nusseer) being void of respect, is worthy of punishment, either from the hands of the Sirkar "Ungreez," or from my own; and since my friend (Captain Brown) put it off to a future time, my enemies would in the interim have accomplished their designs. Being helpless, I therefore prepared to punish my fruit-eating friend, and simply from his boasting, without foundation for doing so, having forgotten my rank and sovereignty, and his former dependence (having eaten my salt), all through the seductions of Futteh Mahomed Korie, not

from any bravery or heroism of his own. My friend secreted him in Kheirpoor, which, from being the residence of Meer Roostum, is to me a place of respect; and his brother, Mahomed Allee, built three large batteries before my eyes; and Meer Ghoolam Mahomed (son of Meer Roostum), and Alli Buksh (son of Meer Fuzul Mahomed), with their followers and hundreds of sepoys, took up their position on them. As soon as my troops, "accustomed to victory," made an attack, the two first batteries were immediately vacated by the opposite party, who fled and crept into the third one. My men, having no care for themselves, followed up in the face of a heavy fire, and surrounded the party, and were on the point of lightening the shoulders of some of them of the weight of their heads, when a voice was heard from the inside (of the battery): "I am a son of Meer Roostum Khan's; for God's sake protect me!" Since my men had particular orders not to fight with any of Meer Roostum's people, the young Meer was accordingly taken care of and kept in safe custody. Meer Roostum Khan then came forward as arbitrator, and gave me up some of his own villages, and also of Meer Nusseer Khan's, as compensation for the injury I had sustained, and the expense of collecting troops, amounting to some lacs of rupees. I was not content with the recompense offered, and was on the point of demanding the whole of my rights, when my friend's letter, an object of precious regard, arrived. I therefore accepted the terms first offered by Meer Roostum (in part payment), reserving my further claims for a more fitting opportunity, and, God willing, I will receive them from the hands of the Sirkar Ungreez, to whom I look for support, and upon whom I am dependent, and whose friendship I covet as I have always done. May God protect this Sirkar, for it is equitable and just.

(True translation.)

(signed) *W. Kennedy,*  
Assistant Political Agent.

*P.S.*—My faithful friend Sheik Allee Hussein will shortly wait upon you with the Koran containing the agreement showing the seals of Meer Roostum and Meer Nusseer Khan, and will relate to you all particulars.

#### No. 13.

From *Meer Roostum Khan* to *Captain Brown*, Assistant Political Agent.

After compliments.

THE letter which you addressed to me, intimating the intention of Meer Allee Morad advancing with his troops, and recommending a stop to be put to the same, was duly received. The following morning the Meer aforesaid, before the rising of the sun, appeared before the walls of Khyrpoor, with his troops in battle array; and as I by no means approved of the flame of strife and discord being kindled in my family, for this reason I forbade Meer Nusseer Khan collecting his troops and the munitions of war, since the Meer already mentioned (Meer Ali Morad) had drawn his foot out of the circle of respect, without regard to my rank or chiefship; still, accompanied by my sons and Meer Nusseer Khan, for the sake of peace solely, and settling the dispute, with some servants, and without any preparation for a conflict, I went outside of the city of Khyrpoor. The Meer (Meer Ali Morad), forgetful of all degrees of rank and kindness, commenced firing his guns and musketry, until I went up to him for the purpose of settling the matter in the best manner possible, by offering recompense, &c., when there were found to be 10 or 12 killed and 8 or 10 wounded.

You are my friend and place of hope; I have therefore made known to you the short-sightedness and perfidy of the Meer, Meer Ali Morad, as it happened. Finally, my friend is able to discriminate and judge of the disrespect and dissimulation practised by the Meer above mentioned towards me, who am the head of the tribe.

(True translation.)

(signed) *W. Kennedy,*  
Assistant Political Agent.

#### No. 14.

From *Meer Nusseer Khan* to *Captain Brown*; received 18 September 1842.

After compliments.

I HAVE sent Moolla Mahomed to acquaint you with the conduct of Meer Ali Morad. All, however, is now well. The particulars you will learn from the letter of Meer Roostum Khan.

(True translation.)

(signed) *F. Harding*, Captain,  
Persian Interpreter.

1 November 1847.

No. 15.

No. 77 of 1842.

From the Assistant Political Agent in Charge to Major *Outram*, Political Agent, Scinde and Beeloochistan.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward copy and translation of a letter I have to-day addressed to Meer Allee Morad Khan, in reply to that from the Ameer, copy of which I forwarded to you in No. 74, of 19th instant. This I should have done long ago had the promised visit of Sheik Allee Hussein taken place sooner; he waited upon me this morning.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. J. Brown*,  
Assistant Political Agent in Charge.

Political Agency, Sukkur,  
20 September 1842.

No. 16.

From Captain *Brown*, Assistant Political Agent in Charge, to *Meer Allee Morad*, dated 20 September.

After compliments.

I HAVE received your kind letter (the embroidery of friendship) alluding to matters that have (lately) happened with Meer Roostum Khan and Meer Nusseer Khan; its receipt gratified me much. Your well-wisher wrote to his friend what he considered good advice, but it did not appear to meet with approbation. He therefore cannot offer any more in the present case, but he will submit anything from his friend for the consideration of Major Outram, Political Agent, and it will give him delight to hear of his friend's welfare and happiness.

(True translation.)  
(signed) *W. Kennedy*,  
Assistant Political Agent.

No. 17.

No. 48 of 1842.

From the Assistant Political Agent in Charge to Major *Outram*, Political Agent, Scinde and Beeloochistan.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward copy and translation of a letter I have this day received from Meer Allee Morad Khan, which, however, is little more than a repetition of that already sent to you. In reply to it, I have acquainted the Ameer that it would be forwarded to you.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. J. Brown*,  
Assistant Political Agent in Charge.

Political Agency,  
Scinde and Beloochistan, Sukkur,  
27 September 1842.

No. 18.

From *Meer Allee Morad* to Captain *Brown*, Assistant Political Agent; received 27 September 1842.

After compliments.

I HAVE received your letter in answer to mine, and you appear to be somewhat displeased. My friend, the case is this: That of late Meer Nusseer Khan has, on four or five occasions, shown a degree of hostility, and was on the eve of setting fire to my villages and wounding my sepoy, the particulars of which I have several times written to you, and notwithstanding you gave him some good advice, he has not given me back my rights; and although I sent a "fuqueer" syud to him to demand my own, I could obtain nothing, but he assembled a number of his friends to consult about my ruin; being therefore helpless, I turned out to support my own claim, and pitched my tents within my own territory. Meer Mahomed Ali Khan, brother of Meer Nusseer Khan, then advanced and came in front of my position, made lines of entrenchment, and commenced acting on the offensive, when I



came forward to confront him, and the result was that Meer Nusseer Khan, together with his brothers, fell into my hands, so that I could have done whatever I pleased with them. At this time I received your valuable letter, and declare to God that I instantly set free Meer Nusseer Khan, &c. I who am dependent on, and the sincere friend of the British Government, why should I not accept of your advice; and, my friend, I know well that the way in which I act up to the wishes of the Sirkar Ungreez, and will continue to do so, cannot be excelled; and if a proof were wanting, there is, in fact, no power in Scinde to compete with the Sirkar Ungreez, and if any were for a moment so shortsighted as to think so, I am ready to render aid, and you have only to give me intimation, and whatever force I consider myself able to compete with, I will, with the help of God, punish them without the assistance of the Sirkar Ungreez. Should they outnumber me, I will, with the aid of the British, confront them in person, even should it be my own brother or intimate friends; this being the case, I therefore rely upon your friendship and that of the British Government, and trust that such a (clever) friend will not be rejected.

(True translation.)

(signed) *W. Kennedy,*  
Assistant Political Agent.

#### No. 19.

EXTRACT from the Digest of Intelligence of Captain *E. J. Brown*, Assistant Political Agent in Upper Scinde, from the 13th to the 19th September 1842.

An action took place yesterday in the neighbourhood of Khyrpore between the followers of Meer Allée Morad Khan and those of Meer Roostum Khan and Nusseer Khan, in which the former were victorious; the loss very trifling; 60 killed of the latter party, and 12 of the former. Meer Mahomed Alli, brother of Meer Nusseer Khan, is said to have been wounded; hostilities have for the present ceased.

The following is a clear account of the action of yesterday:

Yesterday morning Meer Alli Morad took up a position with his whole force at Buksh, Alli Khan Tulpoora's village. Meer Roostum Khan, Meer Rustum Khan, Meer Nusseer Khan, Meer Zungee Khan, Meer Mahomed Ali Khan, Alli Mahomed Khan, Wullie Mahomed Khan, Meer Alli Buksh, Meer Alli Akbar, Meer Alli Murdan, Meer Shere Mahomed, Meer Morad Hyder, and a host of their allies and retainers, took up their ground on the salt manufacturer's hill, near Captain Kennedy's old quarters, near Khyrpore. Meer Mahomed Alli Khan, Meer Ali Buksh, and Meer Wullie Mahomed immediately advanced rapidly to the nulla near the Ishunder wing (bridge), and commenced hostilities; Gholam Mahomed Belooch Charickzye, follower of Nusseer Khan, rushed forward with a body of men, and seized one of Ali Morad's guns. Hookunt Khan and Syud Ahmed Shah, however, with an overpowering force, rushed forward with determined violence, drove back Mahomed Alli Khan's men with great slaughter, till they fled to where Roostum Khan and the other Ameers were seated, when the whole of Meer Roostum's and Meer Nusseer Khan's, &c. force fled back on Khyrpore; Meer Mahomed Alli Khan, wounded in the leg with a match-lock ball, was so hard pressed by the enemy, that with some 40 or 50 men they were obliged to take refuge in a koowar (a salt-hill); there, surrounded by Alli Morad's force, without food or water, they were virtually prisoners when my informant came away; nor can Nusseer Khan's force afford any assistance. Meer Roostum, seeing the state of things, sent his seal by his son Meer Alli Murdan to Alli Morad, with "*carte blanche*" for any terms he might choose to dictate. Meer Alli Morad replied, "that he came there to fight, and to recover the lands and properties that Meer Roostum and Meer Moobaruk unjustly seized of his when he was a boy." On the return of Meer Alli Murdan, Meer Roostum and Syud Alli Gohur, taking with them the Koran, proceeded to Meer Alli Morad's quarters, to entreat him to cease fighting, and to withdraw. When my informant came away, Meer Roostum and Alli Gohur were still at Alli Morad's camp. The loss on Alli Morad's side has been some 11 or 12 killed, and a few wounded. On the side of Meer Nusseer Khan, &c., 60 killed, and a considerable number wounded. Sulleem Shah Syud is among the killed. Meer Alli Buksh is badly wounded through the arm.

Meer Roostum's people have been withdrawn from Arrie since last night, and Nusseer Khan of Hydrabad's people occupy it and the neighbouring villages, the inhabitants of which have fled to the villages near camp.

(Added by Captain Brown in his own handwriting) on the 20th September 1842.

Meer Roostum Khan and Meer Nusseer Khan have satisfied the claims of Meer Ali Morad Khan, by transferring to him nine villages, and hostilities have for the present been suspended; but from Meer Roostum's continuing to collect troops and repair his guns, it is generally believed that he is temporizing, and intends when in sufficient strength to meet Meer Alli Morad in the field again.

No. 20.

EXTRACT from the Digest of Intelligence of Captain *E. J. Brown*, Assistant Political Agent in Upper Scinde, from 20th to 26th September 1842.

IN Upper Scinde matters remain in the same state as reported last week. Meer Roostum Khan and Nusseer Khan continue to collect troops and repair their guns, with the avowed intentions of attacking Meer Alli Morad Khan. Meer Roostum has again summoned his eldest son, Meer Mahomed Hoossein, to Khyrpoor, threatening to make Meer Nusseer Khan head of the Talpoor family should he any longer refuse to obey the summons. He is said to have threatened to resume all the jagheers of the younger branches of his family who will not live at Khyrpoor. The influence of the minister is at present on the wane, Meer Nusseer Khan being all-powerful.

Sheik Alli Hoossein, vakeel of Meer Ali Morad Khan, waited upon me to show me the agreement written in the Koran of his master, consequent on the late fight at Khyrpoor, by Meer Roostum Khan. I declined, however, having any more to say in the matter, as the Ameer had not thought fit to follow the advice I had formerly given to him on the subject. It appears that the Ameer had sent his mother and aunt to Meer Roostum Khan to endeavour to persuade him to act up to the agreement lately written in Ali Morad's Koran. In this, however, they failed, and, on the contrary, the chief calls upon Meer Alli Morad to restore Bubbahoo and the other villages, the right to which, after being so long disputed, had been given in his (Alli Morad's) favour.

Meer Roostum has given orders for the seizure of the jagheers of Bralaroo, Turree, Chamree and Sher Mahomed Kegaum, belonging to Meer Mahomed Khan, eldest son of his brother, the late Meer Ghoolam Hyder, for having rendered assistance to Meer Alli Morad Khan in the late fight.

(True copies and extracts.)

(signed) *W. Lang*,  
Member of Commission.

EXHIBIT (E.)

I N D E X.

- No. 1.—Letter addressed to His Highness Meer Ali Morad, dated 8th April 1850, informing him that it had been represented to the Government that certain alterations and interpolations were attempted, by His Highness's directions, to be made in the Treaty entered into between him and the late ex-Ameers Roostum and Nusseer Khan, in December 1843; and that, in consequence, a Commission had been appointed, with the Commissioner as President, to investigate the matter; he, the Commissioner, being then on his way to Sukkur, requests that His Highness will favour the Commissioner with any explanation he may wish to offer on the subject, as a preliminary to further proceedings - - - - - p. 204
- No. 2.—Letter from His Highness Meer Ali Morad to the Commissioner in Scinde, dated 29th Jamade-ul-Awal. Expressed his surprise and indignation at the charge preferred against him, which he denies in toto. Inquires whether the arrangements made by Sir Charles Napier in the settlement of his affairs were to be continued or not, when he would enter into a further reply upon these matters - - - - - p. 204
- No. 3.—Letter from the Commissioner in Scinde to His Highness Ali Morad, dated 15th April 1850. Acquaints him with his arrival at Sukkur, and of the whole of the members of the Commission having met. No other matter but that mentioned in the Commissioner's first letter will be inquired into. Begs he will appoint as early a day as may be convenient for the commencement of the proceedings, and inquires whether His Highness will attend in person or by Vakeel; also begs he will send the Koran in which the Treaty is written - - - - - p. 205
- No. 4.—Letter from His Highness Ali Moorad to the Commissioner in Scinde, dated 4th Jomaidel-ool 1266. He will visit Sukkur in person, but requires a previous notice of four or five days to attend the Commission at the appointed time. The Koran containing the Treaty would be sent on that day - - - - - p. 206
- No. 5.—Letter from the Commissioner to His Highness Ali Morad, dated 17th April 1850. As the Commission has received orders to expedite their proceedings as much as possible, they therefore propose that unless His Highness has any material objection to offer, to enter upon business on Friday, the 19th instant, at 11 a. m. - - - - - p. 206
- No. 6.—Letter from His Highness Ali Morad Khan to the Commissioner, dated 5th Jomadil awul 1266. Friday being a day on which Mussulmen perform certain religious duties, begs that the sitting of the Commission be deferred until next day - - - - - p. 207
- No. 7.—Letter from the Commissioner to His Highness Ali Morad, dated 19th April 1850. Agreeably to his request, the Commission will sit on Saturday, the 20th instant. He cannot get the proper salute, as artillery is not at hand, which it is hoped he will excuse - - - - - p. 207
- No. 8.—Letter from the Commissioner to His Highness Ali Moorad, dated 26th April 1850. Intimates that the Commission are ready to receive the evidence of any witnesses His Highness may wish to call in his defence, at the next meeting of the Commission - - - - - p. 207
- No. 9.—Letter from His Highness Ali Morad to the Commissioner in Scinde, dated 14th Jamdil 2d, 1266 n. He has several witnesses of respectability present, whom he would bring on the appointed day for the Commission to re-assemble - - - - - p. 207

## No. 1.

A LETTER to the following effect to be addressed in courteous language to His Highness *Meer Ali Morad*.

(After the usual compliments.)

I now proceed to enter upon a subject of much importance to your Highness's character and interests.

It has been represented to the British Government, that certain alterations and interpolations were attempted under your Highness's directions to be made in a treaty entered into between your Highness and the late ex-Ameers Roostum and Nusseer Khan, in December 1843, and written in a copy of the Koran now in your Highness's possession, and that subsequently, in consequence of these not having been executed in so satisfactory a manner as was desired, the leaf on which they were attempted was extracted, and a fresh leaf inserted, on which the matter of the former leaf was re-written, with the required alterations and additions; the effect of which has been to substitute valuable districts for a village in territory claimed by your Highness from the British Government on the authority of that treaty.

Evidence to the above effect having been adduced, and the alleged extracted leaf of the Koran produced in support of it, it has been thought due to his Highness and to the British Government, that a matter so seriously affecting your Highness's honour and the interests of both parties, should receive such a full and formal investigation as may leave no ground for the allegation that any ulterior measures which it may call for have been adopted with less deliberation and impartiality than the interests of truth and justice and the importance of the subject demand.

Influenced by these considerations, the Right honourable the Governor of Bombay in Council has appointed a Commission to inquire into this subject, composed of myself, as president, Major Jacob, Political Superintendent on the frontier of Upper Scinde, and Major Lang, Political Agent in Katteewar, as members; and I am now on my way, accompanied by Major Lang, to Sukkur, where, on being joined by Major Jacob, we shall enter upon our proceedings.

In the meantime, I make this communication to your Highness, in order that you may be aware of our approach and the object of our visit; and as a preliminary to further proceedings, I would request that your Highness will favour me, for the information of the Commission, with any explanation you may wish to offer upon it.

I also take this opportunity of intimating to your Highness that the Commission will proceed to take the evidence on the subject afresh, and that it will be open to your Highness to attend either in person or by vakeel, and to cross-question the witnesses, and bring any evidence you may wish in refutation of the allegations; and I trust it is unnecessary for me to add, that the proceedings will be conducted with every consideration for your Highness's high rank and position, and as little personal inconvenience to your Highness as may be consistent with the attainment of the ends of justice and the satisfactory ascertainment of the truth, in a matter of such grave importance.

In conclusion, I would request that, to prevent any unnecessary delay, your Highness will favour me, as soon as possible after my arrival at Sukkur, with a communication of your sentiments on the subject, and the mode in which it would be most agreeable to your Highness's feelings that the inquiry should proceed, and also that your Highness will again entrust to me the copy of the Koran on which the treaty is written, and which, as your Highness is aware, was sent to me on a former occasion, and again returned to your Highness.

8 April 1850.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle.*

## No. 2.

LETTER to the Commissioner in Scinde from His Highness *Meer Ali Morad*, dated 29th Jumadee-al-Awul.

I HAVE received your letter, stating that it has come to the notice of the British Government that, according to my directions, certain alterations and interpolations were executed on the leaf of the Koran containing the treaty between myself and the late Meers Roostum and Nusseer Khan as that treaty and its contents were not according to what I wished; and that I had inserted a fresh leaf in the place of the original one; and that, according to the contents of the said treaty, I laid claim to several districts and villages, in consequence of which the Right honourable the Governor of Bombay had appointed a Commission to investigate and inquire into the truth of the same, for which duty you were about to reach Sukkur, and had written to me in the first place to acquaint me with these proceedings, with a request that I might make any communication on the subject which I might be desirous of doing, and appear before you either in person or by vukeel, as I might prefer; every consideration being afforded to my rank and dignity, &c. &c. I have been both surprised and astonished by this communication. It is not unknown to you that the parties who prefer these charges against me are my debtors in large sums, and that they have laid this false information through the fear that I would come down upon them through Government

ment for a speedy settlement, and their sole aim is, that in some way the displeasure of Government may fall upon me; but I demand justice in this case, for I have served Government faithfully and well since the conquest of Scinde until the present day. Notwithstanding all this, the statements of interested parties have been received against me, and admitted as true; which is not just, for I have thereby been disgraced in the eyes of the world. Once on a time, for the sake of the Government, I attached myself to its interests, and threw off connexion with my brethren and friends, and the Government, of its great bounty, elevated me to the rais-ship. Now the case is altered, and a Commission is assembling to investigate the slanders of interested and hostile parties against me; and I am required to meet and confute these. Such is the result of my faithful services, and it is such as I never anticipated. At the same time, when Meers Roostum and Nusseer Khan during the fight, wrote the treaty on the Koran, there was no opportunity for concealment, or that the circumstance should not reach the public ear, for there were numbers of people from both sides present when the document was made out; and how could a matter, apparent as the sun, be altered or confused? Indeed, none who had a particle of wisdom would attempt such a proceeding, and it is therefore palpable that the representations of my opposers are in every respect devoid of truth and confidence. The treaty is as it stood on the day of the fight, and no alteration has been made in it. You state that the occurrence of such an alteration affects my character and the interests of Government; but I know that no such deeds were ever thought of or perpetrated by me, and that you should write in such a strain has overwhelmed me with distress; and it is unbecoming in one friend to write to another in such a tone, but it is said whatever comes from a friend is good. I remark that you state that the Commission will inquire into all the matters respecting these charges afresh. My friend, all my affairs were arranged under the auspices of Sir Charles Napier, Governor of Scinde, and in accordance with these I am now acting. Now that you are going to inquire into everything afresh, I am in doubts whether these arrangements are to be continued or not, and beg that I may be favoured with a clear explanation on this point, after the receipt of which I will enter into a further reply upon these matters. God is witness that such is my obedience to the will of Government, that if they desire any place from amidst my territories, I will make it over on the slightest token of their wish being intimated to me, for my whole kingdom and wealth are at their disposal, because that I am their true and sincere friend. You state in your letter that every consideration will be given to my rank and position during the inquiry; but if I or my vukeel are to appear to answer the false accusations of my enemies, in what has my position been unaffected or my dignity maintained? The world is already treating me with contempt and ridicule on account of my frequent solicitations for the execution of the treaty never having been attended to; now what will it not say? In short, I am in sad affliction; and if the will of Government is unavoidably in favour of investigating the statements of my accusers, I am agreeable thereto, because the inquiry will elicit the state of affairs, the truth appearing the truth, and the false, false; but I regret that my anticipations as to the benefits which I had hoped to derive from my connexion with Government should not have been realised. But whatever is the wish of Government is good, and the copy of the Koran which you requested, as containing the treaty, will be handed over when you arrive at Sukkur.

(True abstract.)

(signed) *G. Inverarity,*  
Assistant Commissioner.

No. 3.

A LETTER to the following effect to be addressed in Persian to His Highness  
*Meer Ali Morad.*

After compliments.

I BEG to inform your Highness that I arrived at Sukkur, accompanied by Major Lang, on the 13th instant, where we found Major Jacob awaiting us, and according to the intimation conveyed in my former communication, we are now prepared to enter on the proceedings of our Commission.

On the 14th instant, I was favoured with your Highness's letter in reply to mine of the 9th instant, with the perusal of which I was much gratified.

Your Highness expresses an apprehension, founded on my intimation that the Commission would take afresh the evidence on the subject entrusted to its investigation, that there may be an intention to interfere with arrangements made by Sir Charles Napier, I therefore lose no time in again assuring your Highness explicitly, that my intimation had reference exclusively to the subject entrusted to the investigation of the Commission, the nature of which has already been explained; and that the Commission has neither the intention nor the authority to inquire into or interfere with any other matter.

I trust that your Highness, being now informed of the Commission having met, will appoint as early a day as may be convenient for the commencement of the proceedings, and will inform me whether it is your Highness's wish to attend in person, or by a duly accredited agent; also that you will now do me the favour to send me the Koran, which your Highness stated you would do, on being informed of my arrival at Sukkur.

In the event of its being most agreeable to your Highness's wishes to depute an accredited vukeel in the first instance, the Commission will be happy to receive him ; and should your Highness at any subsequent stage in the proceedings prefer being present in person, your wishes to that effect will be duly attended to.

15 April 1850.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle.*

No. 4.

A LETTER from his Highness *Meer Ally Morad Khan*, to the Commissioner of Scinde, dated 4th Jomaidel-oul 1266.

After usual compliments.

I RECEIVED your letter in reply to mine, which was highly gratifying to me. You allude to my apprehension on the matter of the proceedings being taken afresh, and the Commission's being appointed to make a certain investigation only, but without having any intention or authority to interfere in any way, or make any alteration in other matters, and informing me of the speedy commencement of the proceeding, desiring me either to be present in the Committee, or to depute any accredited agent to act for me, and request me to send a copy of the Alkoran.

In reply I beg to say, that as I have always acted sincerely and faithfully towards the British Government, I fear nothing, as apprehension is only entertained by a party who acts against another party. By the Grace of the Almighty, the British Government are true to their words, and well known for keeping their promises; and I likewise bear in mind my former important services and fidelity towards Government; the only cause of my being annoyed is the accusation made against me. However, I have communicated this to you, considering that friends must apprise each other of their cases. God is witness, that I am so firm and steady in my obedience and friendship to the Government, that if a thousand occurrences and accidents take place, I will never deviate from my allegiance.

In conclusion, I beg to state, that I intend to visit Sukkur in person, as desired by the Commission; but four or five days previous to the commencement of the proceedings, I hope you will duly inform me, to enable me to visit Sukkur on the appointed day. Sukkur is near to the place I am residing in. Had it been at a hundred koss, I would have come with all my heart. The copy of the Koran containing the treaty of Nownahar will be sent to you to-day. Have peace of mind.

No. 5.

A LETTER to the following effect to be addressed in Persian to His Highness *Meer Ali Morad*.

After compliments.

I HAVE duly received your Highness's letter of yesterday's date, in which you intimate your intention of being present in person at the proceedings of the Commission.

In reply, I have to inform your Highness, that it will afford myself and the other members of the Commission much satisfaction to be honoured with your presence on all occasions during our proceedings on which it may be your desire to attend; and I take this opportunity of apprising your Highness, that as it may occupy some time to take all the evidence, and our instructions are to expedite our proceedings as much as possible, we are anxious to avoid any unnecessary delay in commencing them, and therefore propose, unless your Highness has any material objection to offer, to enter upon business on Friday next, the 19th instant, at 11 a. m., when, should it not be convenient for your Highness to be present, I trust you will appoint an accredited agent to act for you, until such time as you can attend in person.

I would further request that your Highness would favour me with previous intimation when it is your intention to be present in person, in order that suitable arrangements may be made for your reception.

17 April 1850.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle.*

No. 6.

A LETTER from *Ally Morad Khan* to the Commissioner in Scinde, dated 5 Jomaidil-owal 1266.

After compliments.

STATES that I have had much gratification in receiving your letter, in which you intimate to me the intention of the Committee to assemble on the 19th instant, Friday, and also desiring me to attend in person, or depute an accredited agent to act for me.

In reply I beg to say, that I myself intend to appear before the Commission; but owing to the day's being Friday, on which Mussulmen perform certain religious duties, I would beg to ask you the favour of deferring it to Saturday. In conclusion, I beg to say that on Friday evening I intend to arrive at Sukkur; trusting you will order the usual salute of guns, &c., I have applied directly to you to make the necessary preparation for my reception, because the Resident is at Shikarpore.

No. 7.

A LETTER from the Commissioner Sahib to *Meer Ally Morad Khan*, dated 19 April 1850.

After usual compliments.

I HAVE the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 5th Jamed-owul 1266, in which you request that the assembling of the Commission proposed to take place on Friday may be deferred to Saturday, the day following, in consequence of its being inconvenient to attend on that day, being a holiday, and Mussulmen having to perform religious duties, and stating your intention to attend the Commission in person.

In reply I beg to intimate that, agreeably to your request, Saturday is appointed for commencing the proceeding. As artillery is not at hand, I hope you will excuse the salute; but all other preparations for your reception shall be made as usual on such occasions.

No. 8.

A LETTER to be addressed to the Meer to the following effect.

As it may not have been clearly understood by your Highness that the Commission are ready to receive the evidence of any witnesses you may wish to call relative to the circumstances of the cession in the treaty of Nonar, I take this opportunity of intimating this to your Highness, in order that they may be in attendance at the next meeting of the Commission.

26 April 1850.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle*, Commissioner.

No. 9.

A LETTER from His Highness *Meer Ali Morad Khan* to Commissioner Sahib, dated 14 Jamdil 2d, 1266 H.

After compliments

I HAVE received your letter, desiring me to bring any witnesses I may have on the subject of the treaty of Nonar on the next meeting of the Commission. In reply, I beg to say that I have now present here several witnesses of respectability in this matter, and will bring them on the appointed day for the Commission to assemble.

(True translations.)

(signed) *William Lang*, Member of Commission.

## EXHIBIT (F.)

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## No. 1.

COPY of the TREATY of NOWNAHAR, as it now appears in the Koran of His Highness Meer Ali Morad, with the different parts of the Writing, Seals, &c., exactly as shown in the Book, and the same number of Words in each Line, and of Lines in each Page.

[*Vide Engravings annexed.*]

## OBSERVATIONS.

stitched leaves to  
represent the  
Koran, with  
Treaty.

THIS has been made to give some idea of the Koran without the boards, and of the manner in which the treaty of Nownahar is written in it. The leaves before the title-page, and those at the end of the book, which are still blank, have been arranged, as nearly as possible, as they appear therein, but with only a single sheet between them to represent the Koran.

The stitching here shown at the top and bottom is not in the book, and the boards have not been taken off to ascertain how the centre part is bound, as that is immaterial. The thread in the centre of the two sheets at the end of the book appears, however, as shown in this, and the two sheets on which the treaty is written are attached in the same way; so that the extracted leaf must have formed part of a third sheet bound in by the same thread, the treaty having been commenced formerly on the left-hand page of this, and the right-hand leaf coming out when the other was extracted. The rubbing off shown in this of the inner corners at the bottom of the two last leaves of the treaty, as it now stands in the Koran, also corresponds exactly with that of the same part of the extracted leaf.

(signed) *W. Lang*, Member of Commission.

TRANSLATION of the Treaty made between *Meer Roostum Khan Talpoor* and *Meer Ali Morad Khan Talpoor*.

In the name of the Most Merciful and Compassionate God.

May the God of the Universe be praised.

MEER Saheb Meer Roostum Khan Talpoor made peace, and bound himself by promise with Meer Ali Morad Khan Talpoor to this effect: that as a dispute arose between Meer Ali Moorad Khan and Meer Nusseer Khan, on the subject of the boundary of Soondurbealy, in which Meer Nusseer Khan was proved to have encroached, Meer Ali Moorad Khan, having expended lacs of rupees, came to fight with Meer Nusseer Khan. In the meantime, in order to put an end to disturbances, and considering the expense in cash and jagheers which Meer Ali Moorad Khan has incurred on account of his army, I give over the villages of Khanwahun, Abayanee, Bacha, Daree, Ghurukna, the village Rayna and Paleeja, with my free will, and that of Meer Nusseer Khan, to Ali Moorad Khan, that he may enjoy them from the commencement of the season Khureef 1253; and I (Meer Roostum) will depute a wukeel to get this treaty sanctioned by the British authorities. I will never cause any molestation against the said villages; neither my sons nor Meer Nusseer Khan, nor his relations, will raise any claims to this country. If they attempt to do so they are false; and as regards the villages of Pupurloosee, Oobree, and Shah Bella, Mahomed Obag, and Mahlanee, which are the right of Meer Ali Moorad Khan, although they were in the possession of Meer Moobarick Khan,

Khan, Meer Ali Moorad Khan has got them back through the British Government; neither Meer Nusseer Khan nor his children are to set forth their claims to the said villages, or apply to the British Government for them. If they attempt to do so they are false; and I, together with my sons, shall take part with Meer Ali Moorad Khan, as he is in the right; and the boundary of Soondurbella as may be settled by the Ameers, I will give into the possession of Meer Ali Moorad Khan. There is no difference in this treaty, nor will any be made. God is witness.

Roostum  
Fuqueer  
Talpoor.

Meer Ali  
Ukbar Khan  
Talpoor.

Meer  
Nusseer Khan  
Talpoor.

Dated 9th Shaban 1258.

(True translation.)

(signed) *W. Lang*, Member of Commission.

No. 2.

LEAF said to have been extracted from the Koran, and corresponding in size, &c., with the other leaves now containing the Treaty.

(A.)

(*Vide* Copy of original Document [No. I.], in native characters, at the end.)

TRANSLATION.

In the name of the Most Merciful and Compassionate God.

May the God of the Universe be praised.

MEER Saheb Meer Roostum Khan Talpoor made peace, and bound himself by promise with Meer Ali Moorad Khan Talpoor to this effect: that as a dispute arose between Meer Ali Moorad Khan and Meer Nusseer Khan, on the subject of the boundary of Soondur Bealy, in which Meer Nusseer Khan was proved to have encroached, Meer Ali Moorad Khan having expended lacks of rupees, came to fight with Meer Nusseer Khan. In the meantime, in order to put an end to disturbances, &c., considering the expense in cash and jagheers which Meer Ali Moorad Khan has incurred on account of his army, I gave over the villages of Khanwahun, Abayanee, Bucha, Daree, Ghurucknah, the village Raynah and Paleeja, with my free will, and the village Dadloo and pergunnah \* Mathela with my own free will, and that of Meer Nusseer Khan.

(Translated as on the extracted leaf [No. I], at the end.)

(signed) *W. Lang*, Member of Commission.

No. 3.

PAPER on which Peer Ali Gohur states that he wrote a few words before writing the fresh page in the Koran.

(B.)

(*Vide* Copy of original Document [No. II.], in native characters, at the end.)

TRANSLATION.

And the village Dadlow and pergunnah Mathela  
and the village Dadlow  
and the village

Meerpoor.

MEER  
MEER  
MEER  
MEER

In the name of the Most Merciful, and of

Mehrkee.

(Translated as on copy of original Document [No. II.], at the end.)

(signed) *W. Lang*, Member of Commission.

\* The word "deh" appears here to have been altered to "pergunnah," and in attempting to make "bu-mirzee" into "Mehurkee," the papers seem to have been spoiled.

(signed) *W. Lang*, Member of Commission.



## No. 4.

COPY of Treaty from the Government Records, endorsed as having been received  
4 April 1843.

(C.)

(*Vide* Copy of original Document [No. III.], in native characters, at the end.)

## OBSERVATIONS.

In this copy, the cession by Meer Roostum, on his own account, mentions the villages of "Khanwuhn and Ubyanee, and Bucha and Duree, and Ghurukna, and the village of Abraba and Paleeja of his own free will," whereas in the copy, as it stands in the Koran, "the village Raena" is written instead of "the village Abraba." This would seem to be a mere mistake of the copyist; but, in the extracted leaf, there is a strong appearance of "Abraba" having also been first written, but without the word "deh" before it; and afterwards changed into "deh Raena," or the "village Raena," as it now stands in the Koran. This apparent alteration of the name of the village, although why it was made does not appear, probably led to the mistake of the copyist, in inserting the wrong village in this copy of the treaty now on the Government records.

After the words "pergunna Mathela, Meerpoor, Mehurkee," the word "khond" stands alone in this copy; whereas, in that in the Koran, "bu-mirzee khond" are inserted, "bu-mirzee" in the extracted leaf, or perhaps "mirzee" alone into "Mehurkee," when it may have been intended to trust entirely to interpolation for the alterations required. A mistake has also been made in this copy, in omitting the word "gohee," meaning "ever," near the end; but it does not affect the sense.

(signed) *W. Lang,*  
Member of Commission.

## No. 5.

ORIGINAL Certificate given by His Highness *Meer Ali Morad Khan to Peer Ali Gohur.*

(D.)

(*Vide* Copy of original Document [No. IV.], in native characters, at the end.)

## TRANSLATION.

"Confirmed."

THE reason of writing this is as follows: Meer Roostum Khan and Meer Nusseer Khan gave me the pergunnah of Mathela on account of the lacs of rupees I had expended in the battle of Khyrpoor.

The pergunnahs Meerpoor, Mathela, Mikr, and other towns were given to me and written in the Koran by their own free will.

By the carelessness of the servant who kept the Koran, some ink was spilt on some of the words in a line of the cession written in the Koran, which spoilt it a little. I said to Peer Ali Gohur, "The page is spoilt; I will take it out. You write a copy of it in another page; because the original was written by you, so also write this." The Peer Sahib refused to write it. I then said I would take all blame on myself; that none should rest on him. If anything was said regarding it, I would be answerable. I give this document to the Peer to show that the responsibility of the act rests with me, and not with him. I therefore write that, in performing this, the Peer is not to blame, he having written it by my orders. The above writing I give to remain with the Peer as a sunnud. Dated 2d of the month Rujeeb, 1259 Hijree.

(True translation.)

(signed) *J. W. Younghusband,*  
Lieutenant of Police.

(True copy.)

(signed) *W. Lang,* Member of Commission.

## No. 6.

COPY of the Treaty of Nownahar, received from Moonashee *Towur Mull*, a copy of which is said to have been given to Major *Clebborn* for Captain *Brown*.

(O.)

(*Vide* Copy of original Document [No. V.], in native characters, at the end.)

## OBSERVATIONS.

THERE are one or two clerical errors between this copy and the one in the Koran. In this, near the beginning, Meer Nusseer is written instead of Meer Nusseer Khan, and the village Dadloo is called Dadloee in this copy, which is different, both from the treaty as now existing, and from the extracted leaf, in both of which it is called Dadloo.

This

This copy also contains "the village Mathela," instead of the "pergunnah Mathela, Meerpoor, Mehurkee," but there is an apparent erasure where the words "the village Mathela" occur, and it has much the appearance of having been written originally "pergunnah Mathela," and afterwards altered into "deh Mathela," or the village of Mathela.

Further on in the treaty, and beyond the part which is written on the extracted leaf, the village "Pupurlooee" is written, having been corrected in the original from Pupurknoee, whereas in Towur Mull's copy it is written Buburlooee.

In Towur Mull's copy of the treaty, the upper line has been scored out, on account, it is stated, of the words denoting it to be a copy having been written there, and just before the words "May the God of the universe be praised." As it now stands, the words showing it to be a copy are written on the top, and the other words also transferred to the place where they are usually written in such deeds. In taking out the first line, the words "Meer Sahib made peace, and bound himself by promise," have also been scored out, and now appear inserted in the margin, at the beginning of the second line, which Sheik Ali Hussun states to have been done in his own handwriting.

(signed) *W. Long,*  
Member of Commission.

No. 7.

LETTER from His Highness *Meer Ali Moorad* to Captain *Brown's* address, received  
18 September 1842.

(*Vide* Copy of original Document [No. VI.], in native characters, at the end.)

No. 8.

LETTER from His Highness *Meer Ali Moorad* to Captain *Brown's* address, received  
27 September 1842.

(*Vide* Copy of original Document [No. VII.], in native characters, at the end.)

No. 9.

LETTER from *Meer Roostum Khan* to *Meer Mahomed Hussun's* address, said to have  
been written after the Battle of Nownahar.

(*Vide* Copy of original Document [No. VIII.], in native characters, at the end.)

No. 10.

LETTER from *Meer Nusseer Khan*, ditto, ditto, ditto.

(*Vide* Copy of original Document [No. IX.], in native characters, at the end.)

No. 11.

LETTER from His Highness *Meer Ali Moorad* to the address of *Meer Mahomed Hussun*, said  
to have been received after the Battle of Nownahar, but denied by the former.

(*Vide* Copy of original Document [No. X.], in native characters, at the end.)

No. 12.

NOTE from His Highness *Meer Ali Moorad*, in his own handwriting, to *Meer Mahomed Hussun*, written about the time of the Battle of Nownahar.

(*Vide* Copy of original Document [No. XI.], in native characters, at the end.)

No. 13.

LETTER produced by His Highness *Meer Ali Moorad*, as having been written to *Meer Ali Mahomed*, and *Meer Mahomed Ali*, by *Meer Mahomed Hussun*, but denied by the latter.

(*Vide* Copy of original Document [No. XII.], in native characters, at the end.)

## EXHIBIT (G.)

## INDEX.

- No. 1.—Letter from the Secretary to the Government of Scinde to the Secretary to the Government of India, with the Governor-general, No. 165, dated 12th November 1847. Calls for copies of the replies to the Letters addressed by Colonel Outram, late Political Agent, Scinde and Beeloochistan, to the Government of India, Nos. 1,153 and 1,194, dated 21st and 26th April 1842, relating to disputes between His Highness Meer Ali Morad and Meer Nusseer Khan, of Khyrpoor, as the originals are supposed to have been carried off in a box of records, stolen from the Secretary's Office at Hyderabad, in 1843 - - - - - p. 212
- No. 2.—From the Under Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Government of Scinde, No. 1,186, dated 24th December 1847. Sends copies of the Letters called for in the preceding communication - - - - - p. 212

## No. 1.

(No. 3,441.)

No. 165 of 1847.

From the Secretary to the Government of Scinde to the Secretary to the Government of India, with the Governor-General.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to request you will authorize duplicates of the replies to letters Nos. 1,153 and 1,194, dated 21st and 26th April 1842, addressed by the late Political Agent in Scinde and Beeloochistan, Colonel Outram, to T. H. Maddock, Esq., relating to disputes between his Highness Meer Ali Moorad and Meer Nusseer Khan, of Khyrpoor, being furnished me, as the originals are supposed to have been carried off in a box of records stolen from my office at Hyderabad in 1843.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *E. J. Brown*,  
Secretary to Government of Scinde.

Kurrachee, 12 November 1847.

## No. 2.

No. 1,136.—Foreign Department.

From the Under Secretary to the Government of India to Captain *E. J. Brown*, Secretary to the Government of Scinde.

Sir,

To the Political Agent, Scinde and Beloochistan, dated 10 May 1842, No. 127.

As requested in your letter of the 12th ultimo, No. 165, I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of the reply returned to the despatches from the late Political Agent, Scinde and Beloochistan, Colonel Outram, dated respectively the 21st and 26th April 1842, Nos. 1,153 and 1,194, relating to the disputes between their Highnesses Meer Ali Morad and Meer Nusseer Khan.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *P. Melvill*,

Fort William, 24 December 1847. Under Secretary to the Government of India.

(True copy.)

(signed) *W. Lang*, Member of Commission.

EXHIBIT (H.)

INDEX.

- No. 1.—Letter from his Highness Meer Ali Morad to the Commissioner, dated Jomadessanee 1266, and received 1 May 1850. Forwards copy of a Letter, written by Meer Mahomed Hussun and Meer Nusseer Khan to Meer Roostum Khan, advising him not to proceed to Khyrpoor, but to Khoohera - - - - - p. 213
- No. 2.—Copy of the Letter above alluded to, from Meer Mahomed Hussun, &c. to Meer Roostum Khan - - - - - p. 213
- No. 3.—Letter from his Highness Meer Ali Morad to the Commissioner, received 2d May 1850. Complains, that Government should have thought fit to listen to his enemies, &c. - - - p. 214
- No. 4.—Copy from the Map containing the Seal of Mahomed Badshah Ghasee, confirming Arub Khan Allihur in the possession of certain Villages named in his Sunnud - - - - - p. 214
- No. 5.—Copy of a Document containing the Seal of Ameer Morid, of Mahomed Shah Ahungur, appointing one Shaik Abdool Kurim, Kazee of Pergunnah of Ullour, &c., dependent on the Sirkar of Bukkur - - - - - p. 215
- No. 6.—Writing by Fukeer Allee Buksh, a man of learning, stating the quantity of Land held by Sheik Abdool Kurim Kazee in virtue of his office in the Lands of Pergunnas Ullour and Mathela - - - - - p. 215
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No. 1.

A LETTER from his Highness *Meer Ali Morad* to the Commissioner in Scinde, dated Jomadessanee, 1266, and received 1st May 1850.

After compliments.

YESTERDAY, before the Commissioner, I produced a note written by Meer Mahomed Hussun and Meer Nusseer Khan to Meer Roostum Khan, dissuading him from visiting Khyrpoor, and advising him to come to Kooheera to assemble troops, and to join with the Ameers of Hyderabad; I wish the members of the Commission to consider how great an enemy Meer Mahomed Hussun was of mine and the British Government; although his father, Meer Roostum Khan, wished to accompany Major Outram to Khyrpoor, Mahomed Hussun and Nusseer Khan prevented him from doing so, and induced him to go to Kooheera, and joining its opponents to resort to hostility against the Sirkar, which happened accordingly, and they have experienced the result. This is the same Mahomed Hussun who is an enemy of the Sirkar's, and mine, but was present yesterday to give his evidence before the Court. I hope the Commission may, after consideration, make a distinction between friend and foe.

I herewith beg to enclose a copy of the said note for your consideration.

No. 2.

COPY of a Letter from *Meer Mahomed Hussan Khan* to *Meer Roostum Khan*.

I RECEIVED a petition from Qazee Mahomed Showkar, and a note from Meer Mahomed Nusseer Khan, written by himself, and a letter from Meer Soobdar Khan, containing terms of friendship; the contents of the Qazee's petition relates to your being prevented from going to Khyrpoor, and induced to go to Kooheera; the originals are herewith transmitted to you. Rest assured your visit to Khyrpoor is bad in all respects, and by your coming to Kooheera there will be great advantage; if you go to Khyrpoor you are lost, and the present favourable opportunity if neglected will never return. What have we to do at Khyrpoor? For God's sake abstain from going there; the ex-Ameers of Hyderabad will not in any way fail in affording assistance in money and troops, and on your coming to Kooheera nothing will be wanting. The circumstances will be evident to you by the Qazee's statement, and the Hyderabad Meer's writing.

From Meer Mahomed Hussun in his own handwriting: For God's sake do not ruin us like the Kalowas. O, Meer Ali Ukbar Khan, what crime have we committed that you take my father to Khyrpoor? Fear God, and conduct my father to Kooheera.

Written by Meer Nusseer Khan in his own handwriting: Cherisher of the poor, do not fancy any other thing, but come here quickly. As everything has turned out agreeably to our wish, all the Ameers and chiefs of Beloochees have promised assistance in troops and money, but only on condition of your coming; they will also get you lacks of rupees from the Mackdoods (peers or spiritual advisers of the people); for God's sake come without loss of time; accept of the compliments of Qazee Mahomed Ramshum.

## No. 3.

LETTER from His Highness *Meer Ali Moorad* to the Commissioner, received  
2d May 1850.

After compliments.

I HAVE attended the Commission as required to confront my enemies; but it has occasioned me great surprise that people who were my servants, and who at last fled after embezzling lacks of rupees of mine, which I can prove by accounts, should have made up such stories against me before the gentlemen; what can I write? I have rendered important services to Government, taking no heed for myself in doing so, and sacrificing every other consideration to my feelings of sincere friendship to Government, and obedience to its wishes; and now I am involved in shame and disgrace, and rumours arise on every side that such a friend, who has sacrificed everything for Government, and formerly received so much kindness in return as to be selected for chief, is now summoned with his enemies before the Commission, and his honour and respectability sullied by their allegations, and all the other petty Ameers in the country are ridiculing my situation. I abandoned all connexion with my brethren and relations, and formed a strict alliance with Government, and fought with its enemies; could this have been only to involve me eventually in such disgrace? On the contrary, I was expecting to receive what is left of my rights in the hands of Government, together with the reward which Sir Charles Napier in his letter tells me I should receive for my services. Instead of this, however, from the false accusations of my enemies, the Commission is assembled to investigate about the country which by the kindness of Government is now in my possession. This is matter of great regret, that by such false allegations I should be made the ridicule of all the people, and no regard be had to my respectability. It is evident I have no friends or supporters except Government, and I never shall have any others. I have become the enemy of my brothers and relations by fighting with them, under the allegiance I formed to Government, and turning them out of their homes and possessions. They consequently all write against me, and are engaged in these seditions, and the reason of the Sheik and Peer's enmity is this, that Mathela was enjoyed by the former in jaghire, and when I resumed it, and pressed him to settle the accounts of my revenue, he became my enemy. The Peer is also so, having embezzled my property, and when I demanded it, became my enemy. As I have no alliance except with Government, and my enemies thus by false accusations injure me, how can I help being sorrowful. It is now three years since the Sheik and Peer, joining with the petty Ameers, have raised these seditions. I formerly informed Captain Forbes of the Peer's forgeries, and he, agreeably to your orders, desired me to defer the matter. I now beg to state clearly, that wherever these people remain they will cause disturbances, and I hope the Government will therefore arrange about this. My enjoyment of the country is by the grant and favour of the Sirkar, as I have not attained it by my valour and exertions. My honour and respectability, therefore, depend on the Sirkar, and I have every hope that they will be preserved, otherwise it will be impossible for me to reside in this country; the possession of it and the enjoyment of prosperity can only be gratifying while my reputation continues. But whatever Government wishes, must be done.

Dated Sukkur, 1<sup>st</sup> Jumadee Oolsanee 1266.

P. S.—I beg to add that my country is small, and if Government thinks it beneficial to take it, let me be informed where I am to go and reside. As I have lost so much reputation by the machinations of my enemies, I am greatly distressed. If the Government had ordered me to fight with its enemies, and I had lost my life in the action, it would have been better, for in this there would have been honour, but in all that that has now happened there is disgrace.

## No. 4.

COPY from the Map containing the Seal of Mahomed Badshah Guzee.

THE zumeendaree of the village of Tatta, Meeran Shah, and Kotpunnour, included in the pergunnah of Methela, under the jurisdiction of the Sirkar of Bukkur, subordinate to the Soubah of Mooltan, has belonged from ancient times to the ancestors of Arub Khan Mehar Zumeendar, and has descended to him hereditarily. Some time since, however, Mahomed Hussain Affghan brought a false sunnud of the zumeendaree of the said villages, and on account of the cloth on which it was pasted it was not properly examined. In the same manner Uklhee Sing Rajpoot also brought a sunnud of zumeendaree for the same places, but although I took the sunnuds in the same way, I did not allow either of them to enjoy the zumeendaree, as I thought they were forgeries. Now the villages of Mamye Soorabra, Nora Kujara, Balhnee, Humruth, Mekryaree, and Phaldra, which also appear to be hereditary zumeendaree of the aforesaid Arabkhan Nihur, have been confirmed to him. Therefore this is written that he may be satisfied, and cultivate the ground with good will, and people the villages. Let him possess the zumeendaree of all these places, as was the custom in the time of his ancestors, and pay all the Government dues. It is necessary that the mootsun-

dees and jaghiredars, now and hereafter, should consider this settled and genuine, and give encouragement accordingly to the zumeendar, so as to enable him to attend to his duty as zumeendar.

1140 Hijree.

Consider this order strict, and let it be obeyed accordingly. 11th Shabar, 7th year of reign.

No. 5.

COPY of a Document containing the Seal of Ameer Khan, Morid of Mahomed Shah Ahungeer.

MAY it be known to the goomashtars, jagheerdars, and karoorees, present and future, of the pergunnah Ullour, &c., dependent on the Sirkar of Bukkur, subordinate to the Soubah of Mooltan, that, as agreeable to the order of his Majesty, the office of kazeegce-ree of the said pergunnah, &c., together with its dependencies in towns and villages where a kazeer is required, is conferred on Sheik Abdool Kurim, son of Moolla Jann Mahomed, therefore the royal purwannah is issued to you, and you are hereby ordered to act conformably in considering kazeer of that place, and to observe his decision and settlement in the administration of the law. Do not think that there is any other partner with him. The said kazeer is bound to perform the useful services connected with his jurisdiction with fidelity (here these duties are enumerated), and to induce the people to perform their religious services; and when any place is beyond his reach, to depute a naib well learned in knowledge. All the residents and inhabitants of the said pergunnahs are to consider the kazeer's writing in documents and the deed of marriage trustworthy.

Dated 11th Rubee Oolawul, 43d year of reign.

On the 22d Mohurruum, 43d year of reign, entered in the record.

On the 11th Rubee Oolawul, 43d year, recorded in the Deewannus Sadarut.

On the 7th Rubee Oolawul, 43d year, again brought to the Royal notice the above-mentioned pergunnah, the pergunnah of Kukree, the pergunnah of Mathela.

No. 6.

THIS is to state that, agreeably to the orders of his Majesty, the office of kazeeship of the pergunnah Ullour, pergunnah Methela, and pergunnah Kukree, of the Sirkar of Bukkur, depending on the Soubah of Mooltan, is conferred on Kazeer Abdool Kurim, son of Moolla Jann Mahomed Mooftee; he has also a grant of 145 beegas of the land of pergunnah Ullour and Mathela, as an allowance for his office, besides his hereditary right of five beegas of pergunnah Ullour; and he is to perform services entrusted to him with honesty and fidelity, not to covet anything from any of the inhabitants, who are to be satisfied with the kazeer's justice, and to pray for his Majesty; any syud, kazeer, shaik, or learned man, and people in general, knowing about him, are requested to confirm this writing with their seals.

Written by Fakeer Alla Bukhs, a man of learning.

No. 7.

Durbanan, Kanoongoo, Moosuddees, Cultivators and Subjects of Pergunnah Mahtela, in my Jagheer.

May it be known.

As the office of kazeeship of the said pergunnah was conferred on Sheik Abdool Kurim, agreeably to his Majesty's order, therefore you are hereby bound to consider the said man as kazeer of that place, to refer all judicial cases and matters connected with law to him, and the kazeer will distribute justice according to the enlightened law.

Dated 25th Rungun 44.

(True translation.)

(signed) *W. Lang*,  
Member of Commission.

(True copies.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 10 of 1850.

Foreign Department.—Secret.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to Government, Bombay.

Sir,

I AM directed by the President in Council to transmit the accompanying copy of a letter from the superintendent of the ex-Ameers of Scinde at Hazareebagh, dated 30th ultimo, No. 12, and the memorial from Meer Mahomed Khan, therein alluded to, and to request that the Government of Bombay will be good enough to call upon the Commissioner in Scinde for a report on the matter of Meer Mahomed Khan's representation.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *William Grey*,  
Officiating Secretary to the Government  
of India.

Fort William, 8 February 1850.

No. 12 of 1850.

From Dr. R. Collun, Superintendent Ex-Ameers, Hazareebagh, to *William Grey*, Esq.,  
Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Fort William.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for submission to the Honourable the President in Council, the accompanying Persian memorial (duly translated) to his Honor's address, from the ex-Ameer Meer Mahomed Khan, praying that the pension assigned by Government for the support of his father's family may be paid to his mother and step-mother, through their agent Mahomed Arif.

2. The cause of this request being preferred is, that the widows of Meer Noor Mahomed and Meer Nusseer Khans, though each receives a separate pension, have managed, through their agents, to get the control of the allowance sanctioned for Meer Moorad Ally's family, viz. 500 rupees per mensem. From this sum only 170 rupees are disbursed to the two ladies and their daughter, while the remainder would seem to be distributed among a lot of hangers-on, favourites of the late Meer Noor Mahomed and Meer Nusseer's families, who are nominally entertained by these ladies as attendants upon Meer Moorad Ally's; but of whose breach of trust, ill-will, and perfidy, Meer Mahomed Khan possesses ample proof.

3. In obtaining the command of this allowance, the vanity of those ladies may be gratified, but it is at the cost of their unfortunate relatives. They hoped thereby to exercise full control over the movements of Meer Moorad Ally's family; but finding all endeavours to keep them longer in Scinde unavailing, they now expect that on their departure to India, they will be permitted to appropriate the portion of that family in addition to their own. They have, however, no more right to draw a pice of it, or to press their interference upon the others, than their children in Dum Dum would have to draw the pensions and control the affairs of Meer Mahomed Khan and Meer Yar Mahomed Khan, the only surviving sons of Meer Moorad Ally Khan.

4. It might be inferred from the circumstance of the pensions assigned to the families of Meer Noor Mahomed Khan, Meer Nusseer Mahomed Khan, and Meer Meer Mahomed Khan, being (1,000 rupees to each per mensem) double that granted to the families of Meer Moorad Ally, Meer Kurin Ally, and Meer Sobdar Khan, that the former held a higher position, or were more deserving of consideration than the latter. But this anomaly admits of easy explanation, for the Ameers have ascertained from one of the highest authorities, that a "punch," consisting of three persons, the retainers and servants of the three former Ameers, was assembled, and requested to state how the monthly allowance of 4,500 rupees, assigned for the several families, could be best apportioned amongst them. As might under such circumstances be expected, the "punch" consulted only the interests of their respective masters' families, and recommended an arrangement, whereby they secured for their friends the lion's share. But with this even those ladies are not contented. They would possess themselves of what belongs to others, depriving the widow and orphan of their means of support and dignity.

5. Meer Mahomed Khan is the only one of the Hyderabad Ameers who has evinced any proper regard for the ladies, and arranged for the speedy removal of the members of his family to India. His conduct is excellent, and in every way praiseworthy; and I would respectfully recommend his request to the favourable consideration of Government. Its being granted will prevent any considerable extra outlay by the State hereafter, which otherwise

*END OF THE KORAN*

اختتام قرآن



*BEGINNING OF THE KORAN.*

TITLE PAGE

*Ornamented all round*

سورة البقرة وبها بدأ وصفت نماز و آيات  
بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم  
آية ذالِكَ الْكِتَابُ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ هُدًى  
لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ هَ الَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْغَيْبِ وَ  
يُقِيمُونَ الصَّلَاةَ وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنْفِقُونَ  
وَالَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكَ وَمِمَّا  
أُنزِلَ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ وَبِالْآخِرَةِ هُمْ قَائِلُونَ

بسم  
الحم  
يا  
يا  
يا  
يا  
يا  
يا  
يا

OF THE KORAN.

*in the original.*

سُورَةُ الْفَاتِحَةِ مَكِّيَّةٌ وَهِيَ تَعَارِيفَاتُ  
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ۝ الرَّحْمَنِ  
الْرَحِيمِ مَالِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ إِيَّاكَ  
نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ ۝ اهْدِنَا  
الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ ۝ صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ  
عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ

مهر

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ند

خود طرف دار میر علم را من خواهم بود  
 که حق بجانب است و دیکسند بر سبی  
 موجب امانت ایمان بدست مهر  
 علم را داد من خواهم داد و برین بنام  
 تعادلت نیست و نخواهد شد کفایت بشهره  
 مخزن تاریخ نهم ماه شعبان ۱۲۵۴ (در توفیق)

خان لیسرا  
 مرصع  
 است

علی شاد  
 مهر بر علی اگر خدایا

در دهن مرعرد ص د و د م  
که از در زبانه ای قصه خویش <sup>شعاع</sup> صرف  
خود کرد و بران انجام و کبر خود دارم و بخت  
چنان بگزیدیم بخانه خواهم داد  
و گاهی می روم به است مذکور نخواهم شد  
و بران می روزه بهر نصرت O  
به کلدانش و عود داری این ملک  
نخواهم کرد و اگر کردید کار نخواهم  
و بگویم به نند پرگری و ابری شاه پهل

TREATY

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

*Leaf said  
to have been  
re-written*

الحمد لله رب العالمين

اثنایم کرد و گشت میرجه میرستم خان نا پیر  
بامیر عمر خاں نا پیر بر اسمعیلی الله چون  
قبایل میر عمر خاں و میر نصر خاں بر مقدمه و یک  
سند بر پایی خورشید یزدی امره دزبیدی لکری  
میر نصر خاں ناست نشد بعد ان میر عمر اد خان  
مبالغه که خجی پیدا کرده مستعد حرکت میر نصر خاں  
شده بعد در طایفه نایب میر و غوغیای طرغی  
دیده قتل افراد و مبالغه فتنه و کبریا میر خاں  
که در نظر سپاه خود درگاه دیانت خانوارین و  
و اینان و جمیع ربی و غوغیه دهر را بشد و چو غوغی خود  
و ده داد و بگریه فتنه میر در مهر کی غوغی خود میر نصر خاں

otherwise will unavoidably be incurred, when his mother, step-mother, and sister, with their families, and his betrothed bride with her mother and family, come and join him in this country.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *R. Collum*, Assistant Surgeon,  
Superintendent *Ex-Ameers*.

Hazareebagh, 30 January 1850.

(True copy.)  
(signed) *W. Grey*,  
Officiating Secretary to the Government of India.

TRANSLATION of a Memorial from the *Ex-Ameer, Meer Muhomed Khan*, to the Address of the Honourable Sir *J. H. Littler*, G.C.B., President of the Council of India.

AFTER the usual respectful form of introduction, this memorial sheweth, that after the *ex-Ameers* of Hyderabad had been removed from Scinde, the Government was pleased to allow their families 4,500 monthly for their maintenance.

That sum was apportioned as follows: to the family of the memorialist's father, the late Meer Moorad Ally Khan, 500 rupees; to that of the late Meer Kurin Ally, 500 rupees; and to those of the Meer Noor Mahomed and Meer Nussir Khans, and of Meer Mahomed Khan, 1,000 each; and to that of the late Meer Sobdar Khan, 500 per mensem.

When these pensions were granted there were three widows of Meer Morad Ally Khan alive, who shared their allowance as they thought proper. On the demise of the first "dera," the widows of the late Meer Noor Mahomed Khan and Meer Nusseer Khan got the pension of my father's surviving "deras" into their hands, and gave to them therefrom about 170 rupees per mensem; the remainder they expend as they please, only retaining servants, their own favourites, as if ostensibly to attend upon my father's family.

The two "deras" being thus subjected to hardships from the want of sufficient means, and to various annoyances, wrote to me on the subject; but the Governor-general had then written a letter, intimating to me "that on a future occasion his Lordship in Council would take our (Meer Mahomed Khan and Yar Mahomed Khan) position, as regards the province of Scinde, under his consideration separately from that of the other *ex-Ameers*." On this account I allowed the "deras" affairs to lie over, believing that on my return to Scinde they could be most satisfactorily disposed of.

At a subsequent period the Governor-general again intimated to us that he could not admit of our return to Scinde. Having been thus disappointed, I immediately took steps for the removal of my family to this country, and requested that accommodation might be provided for us at Ghazapore.

Government complied with my request; but from the difficulty of procuring residences there suitable to our tastes, his Honor the President in Council recommends that we should in preference remain at Hazareebagh; and our families agree also to come hither and join us.

When it became known that arrangements were being made for their removal from Scinde, certain parties, whose sole interest it is that the *Ameers'* families should continue as they are, separated from their Highnesses, adopted measures to prevent the ladies of our family from quitting Scinde. Their plans became known to the ladies, and they wrote, informing me of all the circumstances; that they had to encounter want and vexation in Scinde; that they would not assent to their pensions remaining at the disposal of the other "deras," nor admit the services of the domestics whom they entertained, and therefore that it had become necessary to appoint a confidential follower of their own to control their affairs.

Accordingly Mahomed Arif, whom I esteem as a true and sincere friend, and who was sent last year by Government to Scinde, *via* Bombay, at my request, to fetch the ladies to this country, has been appointed as vakeel for transacting their affairs, until such time as they shall leave Scinde; and our superintendent and the collector of Hyderabad, on being informed of the same, approved of his appointment.

I have therefore to request that your Honor will be so good as to have instructions given that my father's family shall receive their pension (to which they are in justice entitled) direct through their own agent, in like manner as the several other "deras" receive theirs through their respective vakeels.

The position of the late Meer Kurin Ally's family is exactly similar to that of my father Meer Morad Ally Khan's, viz., they both consisted of three deras on the pensions being granted to them, and up to the present time one of each family, the first "dera," has died. The two surviving "deras" of the former Ameer received the same allowance as was originally granted, and this they require, since it is evident that the expenses of their family establishment continues the same as at first. This course, from your Honor's well known sense of justice and equity, I expect to see observed in my father's family.

I am most anxious for the removal of my family to this country; but as yet there is no information as to whether J. H. Crawford, esq., the Governor-general's agent, will fix his future residence at this place or not. Whenever that officer settles here, the rapid increase of the town and improvement of the country will follow as matters of course, for his whole thoughts and time are devoted to the public good. We proposed to leave Hazareebagh

because of its being desolate. This cause will be removed by Mr. Crawford's remaining here. We shall therefore send for our families, and have them removed to Hazareebagh.

Our honour and good name, and the honour of our families, now rest with the Government.

May your days be passed in happiness and prosperity.

Dated the 15th day of Rubbee ul Awal, A. H. 1266, corresponding with the 30th January, A. D. 1850.

Hazareebagh,  
30 January 1850.

(signed and sealed) *Mahomed Khan Talpoor.*

(True translation.)

(signed) *R. Collum*, Assistant Surgeon,  
Superintendent ex-Ameers.

(True copy.)

(signed) *Wm. Grey*,  
Officiating Secretary to the Government of India.

(True copies.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

MINUTE by the Right Honourable the Governor, concurred in by the Honourable Board.

COPY to be sent to the Commissioner in Scinde, with a request that he will furnish the report required.

22 February 1850.

(signed) *Falkland.*  
*W. Cotton.*  
*J. P. Willoughby.*  
*D. A. Blane.*

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 53 of 1850.—Secret Department.

From *A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay, to  
*R. K. Pringle*, Esq., Commissioner in Scinde.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Right honourable the Governor in Council to transmit to you copy of a letter from the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 8th instant, No. 10, and of its enclosures, and to request that you will be pleased to furnish the report therein called for, relative to the representation made by Meer Mahomed Khan.

Bombay Castle,  
25 February 1850.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *A. Malet*,  
Chief Secretary.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 538 of 1850.—Secret Department.

From the Commissioner in Scinde to the Right Honourable Viscount *Falkland* Governor and President in Council, Bombay.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Chief Secretary Malet's letter, No. 53, dated 25th ultimo, and, in reply, to transmit the accompanying copy of a report from the Collector of Hyderabad, No. 333, dated 12th instant, as furnishing the information required by the Government of India in the matter of the memorial of Meer Mahomed Khan Talpoor.

Kurrachee, 18 March 1850.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *R. K. Pringle*,  
Commissioner in Scinde.



No. 333 of 1850.

From the Collector of Hyderabad to the Commissioner in Scinde.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to return the papers forwarded to me with your memorandum, No. 419, of the 4th instant, for report; and in reference to them, beg to submit that the superintendent ex-Ameers at Hazareebagh has evidently written under a total misconception of the case, which is as follows:—

2. The first four Talpoor rulers in Scinde were, as every one knows, four brothers, Meers Futteh Ali, Ghoolam Ali, Kurim Ali, and Moorad Ali.

3. Meer Futteh Ali died, leaving a son, the late Meer Sobdar, who, when he became of age, succeeded to the possession of his father's share of Scinde, and to the care and management of his father's family, in addition to his own.

4. Meer Ghoolam Ali died, leaving a son, Meer Mahomed Khan, now at Calcutta, who also succeeded to the care of his father's family, and to the share of his father in Scinde.

5. Meer Kurrim Ali died childless, and his widows continued to maintain their separate establishments.

6. Meer Moorad Ali died, leaving four sons, Meer Noor Mahomed and Nussur Khan by one wife, Meer Mahomed Khan, the petitioner in the present case, and his brother, Meer Yar Mahomed, by a second wife.

7. He also left a third wife, but had no sons by her, and, like the other Meers above named, left several concubines, who all remained, after the custom of Scinde, in his harem, subject, with his other wives, to the control of the principal lady of it, the mother of Meer Noor Mahomed and Meer Nusseer Khan, and the care of the harem devolved on the eldest son, Meer Noor Mahomed Khan.

8. After Meer Moorad Ali's death, his elder sons, Meer Noor Mahomed and Meer Nusseer Khan, divided his share of Scinde between them, assigning to their younger brothers, Meer Mahomed Khan, the petitioner, and Meer Yad Mahomed Khan, small pensions for their support, as in divers previous petitions they have informed the Supreme Government.

9. On the death of Meer Noor Mahomed Khan, his two sons, Meer Shadad and Meer Hossein Ali, divided the lands of their father between them; but the harem of the father, including that of their grandfather, Meer Moorad Ali Khan, remained with their mother, a lady of masculine understanding, and who possessed the greatest influence in Scinde.

10. At the time of the conquest there were thus four harems to provide for, the harem of Meer Sobdar, including his father Meer Futteh Ali's; the harem of Meer Mahomed Khan, including his father Meer Ghoolam Ali's; the harem of the late Meer Noor Mahomed, including his father Meer Moorad Ali's; and his eldest son Meer Shadad's (the younger son Hossein Ali being unmarried), and the harem of Meer Nusser Khan.

11. The sum of 4,500 rupees was fixed by Government as the allowance for the whole, and was subdivided among the several harems, according to the best information then procurable as to the number of inmates, including concubines, to be supported in each. In the fixing these amounts it is quite true that the petitioner, Meer Mahomed Khan, was not consulted; but this was not owing to any sinister proceeding, but simply because he was himself unmarried, and could have no voice regarding the disposal of his father's widows, as long as his father's elder son, Meer Nusseer Khan, was alive, and because his mother, as the second wife of the late Meer Moorad Ali Khan, could have no title to interfere in the arrangements, as long as the head of the harem, the mother of Meer Nusseer Khan, was in existence. This latter lady, though 500 rupees per mensem was considered as a fitting sum out of the whole to allow for her late husband's family, preferred living with the harems of her sons, and thus no separate allowance was made for her. The allowance to the harems of Meers Noor Mahomed and Nusseer Khan, with whom she lived, being increased on her account proportionately.

12. The division accordingly was as follows:

	Rs.	a.	p.
To Meer Nusseer Khan's harem - - - - -	1,233	5	4
To Meer Noor Mahomed's harem - - - - -	1,233	5	4
To Meer Mahomed's harem (son of Meer Ghoolam Ali)	983	5	4
To Meer Sobdar's harem - - - - -	550	-	-
And to Meer Kurrim Ali's - - - - -	500	-	-
Rs.	4,500	-	-

13. This arrangement has till now continued, and it has only very lately been objected to by the petitioner. It was made in strict accordance both with the wishes of the head of

Meer Moorad Ali's harem at the time, and with eastern custom, and that no pecuniary profit can be derived by the widow of Meer Noor Mahomed Khan from the arrangement I have, by papers submitted to me, seen. On the contrary, a considerable sum is annually expended on the harem, generally out of her private funds, beyond the allowance granted by the State. If, however, Meer Mahomed Khan, the petitioner, wishes that 500 rupees monthly shall now be given as a separate grant for the maintenance of the late Meer Moorad Ali's harem, I can see no objection to the measure, provided that his Highness will engage to support out of it, not only his own mother, but the other members of the zennanah of his late father who are now dependent on it; if, in short, he will manage so as not only to prevent any additional cost to the State by the change, but also prevent the heads of the family, Meers Shabdad and Hoossein Ally, from having any cause to complain of the mode in which their grandfather's other ladies are disposed of. The honour of these Meers must obviously be consulted in the matters as well as the inclinations of Meer Mahomed Khan, and it is only therefore on the condition of the latter engaging to reconcile both, and that without additional cost to Government, that the prayer of his petition can, in my opinion, with propriety or advantage be acceded to.

I have, &c.

(signed) A. B. Rathborne,  
Collector.

Hyderabad, Collector's Office, 12 March 1850.

(True copy.)

(signed) George Inverarity,  
Assistant Commissioner in Scinde.

(True copies.)

(signed) A. Malet, Chief Secretary.

Office, No. 87.

No. 37 of 1850.—Secret Department.

From *H. E. Goldsmid*, Esq., Secretary to Government, Bombay, to *F. J. Halliday*, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Fort William.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Right honourable the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Officiating Secretary Grey's letter, dated the 8th February last, No. 10, and to transmit to you, for submission to the Honourable the President in Council of Fort William, copy of one from the Commissioner in Scinde, dated the 18th ultimo, No. 538, with enclosure from the collector of Hyderabad, furnishing the information called for in Mr. Secretary Grey's communication in regard to the memorial of Meer Mahomed Khan of Talpoor, dated the 30th January last.

I have, &c.

(signed) H. E. Goldsmid,  
Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 12 April 1850.

(True copy.)

(signed) A. Malet, Chief Secretary.

No. 129 of 1850.

From the Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

Sir,

Foreign Department.

WITH reference to your letter dated the 12th of April last, No. 37, I am directed to forward copy of a further communication from Dr. Collum, the superintendent of the ex-Ameers, residing at Hazareebagh, dated the 7th instant, No. 63, together with its enclosures.

2. Adverting to Mr. Pringle's letter, No. 436, addressed to the Government of Bombay, under date the 26th of February 1848, as well as to para. 11 of Captain Rathborne's letter to that gentleman's address, dated the 12th of March in the present year, there would seem to be no doubt that out of the sum of 4,500 rupees a month, assigned in 1843 for the support of the families of the ex-Ameers

ex-Ameers of Scinde, 500 rupees a month was intended by the Government for the support of the family of the late Meer Morad Ali. It is understood that the chief widow of that Ameer has died since this sum was allotted, and that the family at present consists of the second and third widows, and of other ladies. It is now represented by the sons of the second widow, Meer Mahomed Khan and Meer Yar Mahomed Khan, that the surviving widows are desirous to join them in Bengal, and they solicit the Government to direct the payment of the above-named sum of 500 rupees a month to be made to those widows directly, deducting only the allowances of such of the concubines of the late Meer Morad Ali as may prefer to remain in Scinde.

3. There does not appear to the President in Council to be any objection to complying with this application, but as his Honor in Council is quite ignorant as to the extent of the late Ameer's household, and as he has no means of judging to what portions of the income in question the several members of it may be respectively entitled, I am directed to request that the Commissioner in Scinde may be instructed to cause a careful inquiry to be made into the matter, and to report his opinion as to the manner in which the allowance may be properly and justly apportioned. In making such an inquiry it will, of course, be necessary to ascertain what members of Meer Morad Ali's family are really intending to come round to Bengal; and I am desired, in connexion with that point, to draw attention to my letter, No. 20, dated the 3d February 1849, and to request that, in accordance with the instructions therein contained, suitable arrangements may be made for the conveyance to Bengal of such part of Meer Morad Ali's family as may now determine upon leaving Scinde.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *W. Grey*,  
Officiating Under Secretary to the  
Government of India.

Fort William, 13 September 1850.

No. 63 of 1850.

From Dr. R. Collum, Superintendent ex-Ameers of Scinde, Hazareebaugh, to *W. Grey*, Esq., Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of India, Fort William.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for submission to the Honourable the President in Council, the accompanying Persian memorial (with a translation appended) from the ex-Ameer, Meer Mahomed Khan, to his Honor's address, having reference to arrangements which he begs may be made preparatory to the removal of his own family and that of his father, the late Meer Moorad Ali Khan, from Scinde to Hazareebaugh.

2. The ex-Ameer wishes that the monthly allowance of 500 rupees per mensem, assigned by the Government for the maintenance of his father's family, may be paid directly to the surviving widows of the late Moorad Ali Khan; and that any of his concubines who may not choose to accompany the two widows and their unmarried daughter to Hazareebaugh, may receive in Scinde the same allowance or wages as they do at present; that amount, or whatever may be deemed equitable, being deduced from the 500 rupees, (should Government think fit to order any deduction to be made from the ladies on their account), and disbursed to those parties by the Collector of Hyderabad.

3. If, as I presume, in granting this allowance, the ladies and not the concubines were chiefly considered, there would be no extra expense to the State by complying with the Ameer's request. I respectfully hope that Government will be pleased to consider it in a favourable light, because the Ameer's health has of late suffered greatly, and he has just had a narrow escape from sinking under the burthen of his misfortunes, the greatest of which is that entailed by the separation from his family. The other Ameers do not evince any such anxiety to be reunited with their families; they form local connexions of a less creditable nature; but the man of the family who refrains from these, and comes forward praying for assistance to make the only proper and honourable connexion open to him, merits truly all the consideration a kind and generous Government may afford.

4. As I have already had the honour to report, the buildings alluded to by the ex-Ameers as necessary for the two hareems of the late Meer Moorad Ali Khan and their daughter, for the betrothed of Meer Mahomed Khan, her mother and family, for the establishment of Meer Yar Mahomed Khan, and for the wife, daughter, and establishment of Meer Shah Mahomed Khan, are the unoccupied Government godowns, and a private bungalow adjoining them, that may be purchased for a moderate sum; certain additions and alterations will be necessary to make these buildings suitable for native hareems. But these need entail little or no expense upon Government, except for materials, which can be had from the

barrack godowns here. The prisoners can make bricks, and those in the agency gaol lately have been taught masonry and carpentry, and had mason and carpenter burkundauzes superintending them; so that they are fully competent to execute whatever may be required of them now in the way of such labour.

Hazareebaugh,  
7 September 1850.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *R. Collum*, Assistant Surgeon,  
Superintending Ex-Ameers of Scinde, Hazareebaugh.

TRANSLATION of a Persian Memorial from the Ex-Ameer *Meer Mahomed Khan* to the Address of the Honourable Sir *J. H. Littler*, G. C. B., President of the Council of India.

Hazareebaugh, 6 September 1850.

AFTER presenting to your Honor the compliments that are customary, I beg to represent, that on the 31st of January last I submitted a memorial to Government, in regard to the mode of payment of the allowance of 500 rupees per mensem, assigned for the maintenance of the family of my father, the late Meer Sahib Meer Morad Ali Khan.

Up to the present time Government has not favoured me with a reply to that memorial, and its silence on this subject is a source of trouble and anxiety to me. At a subsequent date, I addressed another memorial to Government, begging for an increase of stipend, a place of residence at this station for the hareems, and that they might be brought hither at the public expense, and furnished with all necessaries requisite for their journey.

In answer to these requests, I was informed that your Honor declined to grant to me any increase of stipend, and that my application on this head was deemed a reiteration of my constant complaint of poverty.

Your Honor, had a provision been assigned to me in accordance with my rank and necessities, I should never have troubled you. But as you have refused to allow me any increase, I am helpless and silent. However, one day I hope to see my position improved through the kindness and equity of the British Government.

I should have done myself the honour of writing at a much earlier date concerning the other orders which you have been so good as to pass, but for a considerable time past I have been suffering from fever and rheumatism, and, as advised by my medical attendant, I have been travelling about on the Grand Trunk Road for the benefit of change of air.

Thank God, I have lately returned to Hazareebaugh in improved health, and take the first opportunity of entreating your Honor fully to consider the great hardships I have to endure by being separated from my family; a continuance of such hardships will neither be viewed favourably by the home authorities, nor your Honor.

I therefore again solicit, that should Government approve of giving to my father's family the aforesaid monthly pension of 500 rupees to which they are entitled, you will be pleased to have orders passed for that amount to be paid into their hands, that they and their dependents may maintain themselves upon the same; and on the hareems coming to Hazareebaugh, any of my father's concubines who may prefer to remain behind in Scinde can each receive therefrom their respective allowances, as at present.

In the event of this arrangement meeting with the sanction of Government, I beg that instructions may be given to Dr. Collum to commence putting in order, for the reception of the ladies, the places of residence which I have approved for them, and likewise to the Commissioner in Scinde, to provide the ladies with necessaries and expenses for their journey, and have them sent towards this from Scinde, overland, with all due honour and consideration.

I entreat the favour of an early reply to this memorial, since the rainy season will soon be at an end, and the hareems ought to leave Scinde in the commencement of the cold season. From the letters of the Haramsara, I learn that their residence in Scinde is about to be repaired, pursuant to the orders of Government; should your Honor accede to the request I have made, it would be superfluous to expend money in repairing the residence of my father's family in Scinde when they are about to come to Hazareebaugh.

Dated the 28th of Shawul or H. 1266, corresponding with the 6th September 1850.

The Seal and Signature of Mahomed Khan Talpore.

(True translation.)  
(signed) *R. Collum*, Assistant Surgeon,  
Superintendent Ex-Ameers.

(True copies.)  
(signed) *Wm. Grey*,  
Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of India.

(True copies.)  
(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

MINUTE by the Honourable Mr. *Willoughby*, concurred in by the Honourable Mr. *Blane*.

WITH reference to the Commissioner's letter, No. 538, dated 18th March last, a copy of this letter and its enclosures should now be transmitted to him. His attention should be particularly drawn to the third para. of this letter, and to Mr. Secretary Halliday's letter, No. 20, dated 3 February 1849, therein alluded to. The Commissioner should be enjoined to allow of no unnecessary delay in reporting on this matter.

25 September 1850.

(signed) *J. P. Willoughby.*  
*D. A. Blane.*

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 182 of 1850.—Secret Department.

From *A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay, to  
*R. K. Pringle*, Esq., Commissioner in Scinde.

Sir,

IN acknowledging the receipt of your letter, dated the 18th March last, No. 538, with enclosure, on the subject of the memorial submitted to the Supreme Government, under date the 30th January preceding, by Meer Mahomed Khan Talpoor, I am directed by the Right honourable the Governor in Council to transmit to you copy of a communication from the Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 13th instant, No. 129, and to request your particular attention to the third para. thereof, and to Mr. Secretary Halliday's letter, of the 3d February 1849, No. 20, therein alluded to.

\* Forming enclosure to my communication, No. 122, of 24 Feb. 1849.

2. You will be pleased to allow of no unnecessary delay in submitting the information now called for by the Government of India.

Bombay Castle,  
30 September 1850.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *A. Malet*,  
Chief Secretary.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 1,948 of 1850.

From the Commissioner in Scinde to the Right Honourable Viscount *Falkland*, Governor and President in Council, Bombay.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Chief Secretary Malet's letter, No. 182, dated the 30th September last, with accompaniment from the Government of India, and to transmit for the information of your Lordship in Council copy of a correspondence (as per margin\*) which I have had with the Collector of Hyderabad on the subject of it.

Secret Department.

2. The proportion in which Captain Rathborne proposes, in the 5th para. of his letter, No. 861, dated the 31st ultimo, to distribute the monthly allowance of 500 rupees among the ladies of the late Meer Morad Ali's household, appears to me fair, and I would recommend its adoption.

3. I also consider the allowance of 40 rupees a day for six months, or 7,280 rupees in all, which Captain Rathborne recommends for the travelling expenses of the seven ladies who propose proceeding to Hazareebaugh, reasonable and suitable, and the most satisfactory form in which their travelling charges could be

\* To, No. 1,609, dated 12 October. From, No. 861, dated 31 October, with accompaniments. To, No. 1,884, dated 18 November. From, No. 909, dated 23 November. To, No. 1,949, dated 27 November.

be provided for. I have therefore authorised its adoption, under the authority conveyed in Mr. Secretary Halliday's letter, No. 18, dated the 3d February 1849, copy of which accompanied Mr. Secretary Malet's, No. 122, dated the 28th idem, and have given directions for a suitable escort to accompany the ladies on their journey; which arrangements will, I trust, meet with the approval of your Lordship in Council.

Kurrachee,  
27 November 1850.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *R. K. Pringle*,  
Commissioner in Scinde.

No. 1,609 of 1850.—Secret Department.

From the Commissioner in Scinde to the Collector of Hyderabad.

Sir,

IN transmitting the accompanying copy of a letter, No. 182, dated the 30th ultimo, from Mr. Chief Secretary Malet, with enclosures, I have the honour to request that you will institute inquiries into the subject to which they relate, and favour me with your report and opinion at your earliest convenience.

Kurrachee, 12 October 1850.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *R. K. Pringle*, Commissioner.

No. 861 of 1850.

From the Collector of Hyderabad to the Commissioner in Scinde, Kurrachee.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 1,604, of the 12th instant, with enclosures, on the subject of the ladies of the late Meer Morad Ali.

2. The points on which reports are directly called for are two, viz. the number of ladies belonging to the late Meer Morad Ali's household, who purpose proceeding to Hazareebaugh, and the proportion of the stipend of five hundred rupees payable to the whole, to which the ladies so proceeding to Hazareebaugh may be entitled.

3. As regards the first point, I would submit that the ladies of the late Meer Morad Ali's household, who purpose going to Hazareebaugh, are four in number, the second and third widows, with a grown-up daughter of the latter, and one concubine. The remainder of the household have decided on continuing at Hyderabad, with the widows of Meer Morad Ali's eldest sons, late Meers Noor Mahomed and Nusseer Khan.

4. As regards the proportions in which those going and those staying would be entitled to share in the allowance of five hundred rupees monthly, assigned for the whole, the obvious rule to go by would be the proportion in which they have hitherto shared it. But on that head I am unable to obtain accurate information, though my information approaches accuracy sufficiently to afford easy data for the disposal of the question by Government.

5. The moonshee of the widows of Meers Noor Mahomed and Nusseer Khan, states that the amount hitherto paid to those going, was two hundred and seventy-four rupees and fourteen annas monthly, and the amount to those staying two hundred and twenty-four, and eight annas. The vakeel of Meer Morad Ali's ladies, on the other hand, says that the sum hitherto paid to those staying, was only one hundred and eighty-two rupees twelve annas; and that his mistresses are entitled to the remainder. Each produces his list in evidence of his accuracy, and each most solemnly affirms his truth, and under the obvious impossibility of my questioning directly the ladies themselves, I am unable to form any idea of which is right and which wrong.

6. The difference, however, is one of no great importance; it amounts only to forty-two rupees and six annas monthly; and as the sum claimed by the two widows and the daughter and the concubine going would only give them three hundred and seventeen rupees two annas per mensem between them, while the widows of Meers Noor Mahomed and Nusseer Khan would still have left for themselves and the rest of the concubines above two thousand one hundred, I would beg to recommend that the award, as regards the sum the vakeels differ regarding, should be made in the widows of Meer Morad Ali's favour, and that henceforth the sum of three hundred and seventeen rupees four annas should be paid to them monthly; the remainder of the five hundred rupees being given as before to the widows of Meers Noor Mahomed and Nusseer Khan jointly, on account of those of the concubines of Meer Morad Ali who stay behind. I may add that Akoond Mahomed Aruf, the duly authorised vakeel of Meer Morad Ali's ladies, and of their sons, Meer Mahomed Khan, and Yar Mahomed, has given me a paper stating that if the division is made in this manner, those whom he represents will be content to abide by it, without further question on the subject of the allowances granted them by Government.

7. As regards the arrangements for the conveyance of these ladies to Bengal; I am not quite sure whether it was your intention that I should report on that subject also, but as it may save time my now doing so, I have called on the vakeel of the ladies for a memorandum of what is required, and translations of the papers I enclose.

8. I confess that to me this appears to be drawn up on a most extravagant scale. It is however a difficult and invidious task to take to pieces a list of this kind, while, if admitted without question, there is no limit to the demands which the other ladies, when it comes to their turn to go round to Calcutta, will make on this score. It appears to me, therefore, that by far the best way would be for Government to sanction what it deemed a sufficient rate of travelling allowance for each lady, and then leave them to arrange the details of expenditure as they thought proper; and if, in addition to their ordinary stipend, ten rupees a day travelling allowance were sanctioned in respect of the second widow, and fifteen rupees a day for the third widow and her daughter, I do think that ample provision would be made for all the necessary travelling expenses of the party, which the ladies could then make as small or as large as they saw fitting.

9. With reference to the request of an escort of ten sowars, I would beg to add that that appears to me in every way reasonable, and I would recommend that it be acceded to. If so, it would be necessary to address the authorities *en route*, in order that the sowars might, wherever reliefs were available, be relieved.

Hyderabad, Collector's Office,  
31 October 1850.

I have, &c.  
(signed) A. B. Rathborne,  
Collector.

P.S.—Since writing the above Meer Shah Mahomed's lady, who is also going to Hazareebaugh, has sent me her estimate for the travelling expenses of herself and her daughter; a translation of this too I enclose. From this you will see that the sum she asks for the purpose is 7,734 rupees. If 10 rupees a day were assigned for her, and five for her daughter, for the period that might be occupied by the march, I imagine that in her case too her real travelling wants would be more than sufficiently provided for. At the rate thus proposed by me, the cost of the conveyance of all the ladies of all the harems to Bengal will amount to 22,500 rupees, supposing their estimate of the time to be spent *en route* be correct; a sum which, if much below that which they would ask for, I cannot think to be a niggardly one, or at less than would be fitting in every way for the Government to allow.

(signed) A. B. Rathborne.

No. 1.

DETAILED Amount of estimated Expenditure in the Journey to Bengal of the Second and Third Dheras of Meer Morad Ali Khan, and the Betrothed of Meer Mahomed Khan, as represented by their Vakeel, Akoond Mahomed Aruff.

	Rs.	a.	p.
For curtained kujawahs, small:			
1 curtained kujawah for the widow.			
2 ditto for the third widow.			
1 ditto for the betrothed of Meer Mahomed Khan.			
1 ditto for Alum Khan Murree's wife, a follower of the ex-Ameers.			
1 ditto for a concubine of Meer Mahomed Khan's.			
1 ditto for a concubine of Meer Yar Mahomed Khan's.			
In all, 7 curtained kujawahs, with gear, at 26 rupees each	162	-	-
14 camels, the price to be paid for which will be at the discretion of Government.			
For kujawahs for female servants and dependants:			
10 kujawahs for the servants proceeding to Meer Mahomed Khan.			
8 ditto - for the ditto ditto, with the 3d Dhera.			
6 kujawahs for the servants proceeding to Meer Yar Mahomed.			
In all, 24 kujawahs, with ropes, &c., at 7½ rupees per each	174	-	-
24 camels on hire, the amount to be paid for them being at the discretion of Government.			

Expenses on account of Male Servants:

20 individuals proceeding to Meer Mahomed Khan; for these are required 12 camels.  
12 ditto proceeding with the 3d Dhera; for these are required six camels.  
10 individuals proceeding to Meer Yar Mahomed Khan; for these are required 5 camels.  
In all, 23 camels with saddles.

(continued)

Expenditure for Stores required :					Rs.	a.	p.
Tents, first-rate quality, with walls and carpets and necessary tent ; in all, 6, at about 150 rupees each	-	-	-	-	900	-	-
Tents, ordinary, for servants, 10, at about 30 rupees each	-	-	-	-	300	-	-
Copper pots, 2, both weighing 1 maund and 20 seers, at Rs. 1. 10. the seer	-	-	-	-	97	8	-
Puckal bags with appurtenances, 10, at 4 rupees each	-	-	-	-	40	-	-
Shoulder bags, leather, for water, 30, at 8 annas each	-	-	-	-	15	-	-
Leather ropes for drawing water, 4, at 1 rupee each	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
Leather buckets for drawing water, 4, at about 8 annas each	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Saddle-bags, leathern, 10, value about rupees	-	-	-	-	35	-	-
Woollen saddle-bags for clothes, 15, value about rupees	-	-	-	-	15	-	-
Cotton, hair, and coir ropes, 200, value rupees	-	-	-	-	300	-	-
Pieces of woollen cloth for bags for tents and tent pegs, 50, value at 12 annas each	-	-	-	-	37	8	-
Iron hoes, 8, value about rupees	-	-	-	-	6	-	-
Hatchets, 8, value about rupees	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
2 iron stoves, value about rupees	-	-	-	-	6	-	-
Servants to be entertained :							
8 terashees, at 7 rupees each	-	-	-	-	Rs. 56	-	-
4 cooks, at 8 rupees each	-	-	-	-	32	-	-
6 bheesties, at 8 rupees each	-	-	-	-	48	-	-
2 dhobees, at 8 rupees each	-	-	-	-	16	-	-
1 carpenter, at 10 rupees	-	-	-	-	10	-	-
1 sweeper with family, at 8 rupees per month	-	-	-	-	8	-	-
10 servants to take care of goods, at 6 rupees each	-	-	-	-	60	-	-
1 moonshee, at 25 rupees	-	-	-	-	25	-	-
In all, per Mensem	-	-	-	-	255	-	-
60 camels with riding and baggage saddles, required for the carriage of goods and the servants to be entertained, the rate to be paid for them laying at the discretion of Government.							
Estimated monthly expenditure for all individuals proceeding	-	-	-	-	1,000	-	-
Total of goods to be purchased	-	-	-	-	1,850	-	-
Hire of servants, and monthly expenditure	-	-	-	-	1,255	-	-
10 Government sowars, required to proceed with the party.							
7 individuals to proceed with the curtained kujawahs, at 7 rupees each per mensem	-	-	-	-	49	-	-

(signed) *Mahomed Aruff.*

(True translation.)

(signed) *A. B. Rathborne, Collector.*

## No. 2.

## SUMMARY of the Probable Expenditure in the Hire and Purchase of Camels and the Purchase of Goods required.

	Rs.	a.	p.
14 camels for the curtained kujawahs, at 100 rupees each	1,400	-	-
110 camels on hire as far as Jayepoor, at 17 rupees each	1,870	-	-
About 34 carts from Jyepoor to Benares, at 30 rupees each	1,020	-	-
About 34 carts from Benares to Hujareebaugh, at 17 rupees each	578	-	-
Purchase of Goods required :			
The estimated value, with reference to the list, will be about	1,750	-	-
Subsistence money and pay to new servants entertained, &c.	7,679	-	-
Total of all, Rupees	14,197	-	-

(True translation.)

(signed) *A. B. Rathborne, Collector.*



DETAILED Memorandum of Estimated Expenditure in the Journey to Bengal of Meer Shah Mahomed's Dhera and Followers, as given by her Vakeels Fuzzul Khan Murree and Hajee Rahmut Oollah Kismutgar.

	Rs.	a.	p.
1 curtained kujawah for Meer Shah Mahomed's Dhera,			
1 ditto - ditto - for the Chota Dhera (daughter),			
1 ditto - ditto - for concubines,			
1 ditto - ditto - for Saduck Khan Murree's wife, at 26 rupees			
— each - - - - -	104	-	-
4			
8 kujawahs for the followers and servants accompanying Meer Shah Mahomed's Dhera,			
4 ditto, for ditto - ditto - ditto, accompanying the Chota Dhera,			
2 ditto, for ditto - ditto - ditto, accompanying the concubines,			
2 ditto, for ditto - ditto - ditto, accompanying Syud Khan Murree's wife,			
16 kujawahs, at 7½ rupees each - - - - -	116	-	-
Expenditure for Stores required :			
3 tents of first-rate quality, with walls and carpets and necessary tent, &c. at 152 rupees each - - - - -	456	-	-
6 tents, ordinary, for servants, at 28 rupees each - - - - -	168	-	-
4 carpets, ordinary, for servants, at 7 rupees each - - - - -	28	-	-
Copper cooking pots, in all weighing 1 maund, at 1½ rupees per seer - - - - -	45	-	-
Pukaul bags, leathern, five - - - - -	21	-	-
Shoulder bags, ditto, for ditto, 15 - - - - -	8	-	-
Leathern ropes for drawing water, 3 - - - - -	3	-	-
Leathern buckets for drawing water, 3 - - - - -	1	8	-
Saddle bags, leathern, 5 - - - - -	16	8	-
Woollen saddle bags for clothes, 8 - - - - -	7	8	-
Cotton, hair, and coir ropes, 100 - - - - -	30	-	-
Salleetas, 30 - - - - -	22	-	-
Iron hoes, 3 - - - - -	2	4	-
Hatchets, 3 - - - - -	3	-	-
Iron stoves, 2 - - - - -	6	-	-
Iron pans for cooking bread upon, 3 - - - - -	3	-	-
Iron fire-places, 4 - - - - -	2	-	-
Rope network made for carrying grass, 2 - - - - -	2	-	-
	824	12	-
	Rs.	1,044	12 -
Food for one Month, for			
32 men with Meer Shah Mahomed's Dhera,			
16 ditto - small Dhera,			
10 ditto - concubines,			
10 ditto - Saduck Khan Murree,			
68 ditto in all, at 5 rupees each per month - - - - -	340	-	-
Servants to be entertained :			
3 feroashees, at 7 rupees each, monthly - - - - -	21	-	-
2 cooks, at 7 rupees - - ditto - - - - -	14	-	-
3 bheesteas, at 7 rupees - ditto - - - - -	21	-	-
1 dhobie, at 7 rupees - - ditto - - - - -	7	-	-
1 carpenter, at 7 rupees - ditto - - - - -	7	-	-
1 sweeper, at 12 rupees - ditto - - - - -	12	-	-
6 servants to take care of goods, at 7 rupees, ditto - - - - -	42	-	-
1 teacher for Meer Shah Mahomed - - - - -	20	-	-
1 moonshee - - - - -	20	-	-
	Rs.	164	-
Miscellaneous Expenses :			
Estimated at - - - - -	200	-	-
	704	-	-
The above amount for six months - - - - -	4,224	-	-
Total - - - - -	Rs.	5,268	12 -

Expenses for Carriage :		Rs.	a.	p.
To purchase eight camels - - - - -		800	-	-
To hire camels as far as Jheypoor for kujawahs, 16 camels, For servants to ride upon with saddles, 18 camels, For baggage 16 camels, in all 50 camels, at 17 rupees each - - -		850	-	-
For carriages from Jaypoor to Hajareebaugh, 17, at 48 rupees each -		816	-	-
		2,466	-	-
Grand Total - - -	Rs.	7,734	12	-

5 Government sowars to accompany these.

Signature of

*Fuzzil Mahomed Khan Murree.*  
*Hafee Rahmutla Khismutgar.*

(True translation.)

(signed) *A. B. Rathborne*, Collector.

No. 1,884 of 1850.—Secret Department.

From the Commissioner in Scinde to Captain *Rathborne*, Collector of Hydrabad.

Sir,

WITH reference to your letter, No. 861, dated the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to request you will inform me whether in your estimate of 22,500 rupees for the sum required, at the rates you recommend, to provide for the conveyance of the ladies of all the harems to Bengal, you have, as I presume, included those ladies who do not at present express any wish to quit Scinde.

2. What you propose for the seven ladies now going would, as I understand, amount to 40 rupees per diem; and I observe the period which it is stated, in one of their memorandums, the journey would occupy is six months; according to which, the sum now required would not exceed 7,200 rupees, or about one third of their own estimate.

3. I request you will also inform me whether you consider the time assigned for the journey reasonable with reference to the distance, and whether you would recommend that the whole amount of what may be allowed for travelling expenses should be advanced at once to the ladies, or their agents on their account; also, at what time they will be prepared to set out on their journey, and by what route they will proceed, in order that the requisite arrangements may be made for providing them with an escort.

I have, &c.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle*, Commissioner.

Kurrachee,  
14 November 1850.

No. 909 of 1850.—Political Department.

From the Collector of Hydrabad to the Commissioner in Scinde, Kurrachee.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 1,884, of the 15th instant, and, in reply, to inform you that in my estimate of 22,500 rupees for the travelling expenses of the whole of the Meer's ladies to Bengal, I included the charges of those now staying behind, in the event of their ultimately proceeding there.

2. The amount proposed by me would give 40 rupees a day to the seven ladies now going, or 7,280 rupees in the whole, being about a third of their own estimate; but I believe the sum I have proposed will be found sufficiently ample.

3. The time assigned by the ladies for the journey exceeds, I believe by two months, that usually occupied by travellers; but I do not think it would be desirable to tie persons of their sex and condition down to time; it may be presumed that the discomforts necessarily attending a journey of the kind will be a sufficient inducement to them to get it finished as quickly as they conveniently can.

4. As regards the payment of the money, the whole, or at any rate the greater portion, should be issued in advance; as out of it they will have to lay out a considerable sum at starting in payment of equipments for the journey, and advance of camel hire, &c.

5. It may not be improper to add, that happening to ask, the other day, a Sirdar of high rank and great experience here, what in his idea would be necessary to enable the ladies now going

going to Hazareebaugh to travel there, with their servants and followers, in all honour and comfort, he mentioned, that from 8,000 to 10,000 rupees, Cora, would be about what would be necessary; the latter of which sums falls short, by a few hundred rupees, of what I had myself estimated for the purpose. In this view another person present expressed his concurrence, whose opinion is of the greater weight, because he himself has been with the Meers to Calcutta, and since returned by the route to be traversed.

6. This route runs, I am informed, by Jeysulmier, Jeypore, Ackberabad, and Allahabad, and thence to Hazareebaugh.

Hydrabad, Collector's Office,  
Sata Jellalanicke Gote, 23 November 1850.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *A. B. Rathborne*,  
Collector.

No. 1,949 of 1850.—Secret Department.

From the Commissioner in Scinde to Captain *Rathborne*, Collector, Hydrabad.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 909, dated the 23d instant.

2. The recommendation contained in your letter, No. 861, dated the 31st ultimo, relative to the distribution of the allowance among the ladies of the late Meer Moorad Ali's household, has my concurrence; but on this subject further instructions will be communicated to you hereafter.

3. I also approve of the scale of travelling allowance which you propose for those of the ladies who wish to proceed to Hazareebaugh, being at the rate of 40 rupees a day for the seven, for six months, or 7,280 rupees in the whole.

4. You do not state when the ladies wish to commence their journey; but, as the season is now favourable, the sooner they set out the better. I therefore authorise you to advance the whole, or any portion of the above sum you may consider expedient.

5. You will also have the goodness to apply to the captain of police for an escort of 10 or 15 horsemen to accompany the ladies, when they are ready to depart, and inform me of the nearest station on the route at which a relief can be obtained, in order that I may write to the authorities there on the subject.

Kurrachee, 27 November 1850.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *R. K. Pringle*,  
Commissioner.

(True copies.)  
(signed) *R. K. Pringle*, Commissioner, Scinde.

(True copies.)  
(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 2,007 of 1850.—Secret Department.

From the Commissioner in Scinde to the Right Honourable Viscount *Falkland*, Governor and President in Council, Bombay.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my letter, No. 1,948, dated the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit, for the information of your Lordship in Council, copy of a letter, No. 939, dated the 7th instant, from the collector of Hyderabad, intimating the desire of the ladies of the Zennaneh to postpone their journey until they shall have communicated with the ex-Ameers at Hazareebagh, and the dissatisfaction of their agents at the sum which it was proposed to assign for their travelling expenses, on which last point my opinion is in accordance with that expressed by Captain Rathborne.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *R. K. Pringle*,  
Kurrachee, 10 December 1850. Commissioner in Scinde.

No. 939 of 1850.—Political Department.

From the Collector of Hyderabad to the Commissioner in Scinde, Kurrachee.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 1,949, dated the 27th ultimo, on the subject of the travelling expenses of the ex-Ameer's ladies, proceeding to Huzareebagh, and in reply to submit that I have given the necessary intimation to the vakeels of the ladies, who however state that, before setting out, they purpose reporting to their masters, the Meers at Hazareebagh, for their orders; they also say that the sum assigned is inadequate to their requirements.

2. My opinion is not the least changed by what they have stated on this head, but I think it right to report to you the fact of the objection. Looking to general principles, 40 rupees a day must be considered a most handsome travelling allowance for three ladies, with their two daughters, whose united incomes amount only to 400 rupees monthly; and, looking to their antecedents, and the customs of Scinde, they will be able to travel with at least as much comfort and state too, on that sum, as they ever did even when their relations were reigning.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *A. B. Rathborne*,  
Collector.

Hyderabad, Collector's Office,  
Alyar Ka Tanda, 7 December 1850.

(True copy.)  
(signed) *R. K. Pringle*, Commissioner in Scinde.

(True copies.)  
(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

MINUTE by the Right Honourable the Governor, concurred in by his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and the Honourable Mr. *Blane*.

WITH reference to the letters from the Government of India, No. 20, dated 3d February 1849, and 129, dated 13th September 1850, copies of this letter and No. 1,948, date 27th ultimo, should be sent to Calcutta for information and any further instructions that may be deemed necessary.

(signed) *Falkland*.  
*W. Cotton*.  
*D. A. Blane*.

20 December 1850.

(True copy.)  
(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

MINUTE by the Honourable Mr. *Willoughby*, concurred in by the Right Honourable the Governor and the Honourable Mr. *Blane*.

THE estimate of expenses made by these ladies is undoubtedly extravagant; but in addition to the sum of 40 rupees per diem which it is proposed to allow them, I think tents might be provided for their comfortable accommodation.

(signed) *J. P. Willoughby*.  
*Falkland*.  
*D. A. Blane*.

23 December 1850.

(True copy.)  
(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 1 of 1851.—Secret Department.

From *A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay, to *W. Grey*, Esq.,  
Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of India.

Sir,

WITH reference to Mr. Officiating Secretary Halliday's letter, No. 20, dated the 3d February 1849, and to your letter, No. 129, dated the 13th September last,

last, I am directed by the Right honourable the Governor in Council to transmit to you, for the information of the Honourable the President in Council at Calcutta, and for any further instructions that may be deemed necessary, copies of the letters noted in the margin, from the Commissioner in Scinde, regarding the ladies of the ex-Ameers who purpose removing to Hazaree-baugh.

2. In forwarding these documents, I am desired to remark that the estimate made by these ladies of their travelling expenses is extravagant; but that his Lordship in Council is of opinion that in addition to the sum of 40 rupees per diem proposed to be assigned for this purpose, they should be provided with tents for their comfortable accommodation.

I have, &c.

Bombay Castle,  
6 January 1851.

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

From *J. H. Peart*, Esq., Staff Surgeon in Charge of ex-Ameers of Scinde, to  
*A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

Sir,

At the request of their Highnesses the ex-Ameers of Scinde, I have the honour to forward the accompanying petition, which I shall feel obliged by your presenting to the Most Noble the Governor-general.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. H. Peart*,

Poona,  
29 January 1850.

Staff Surgeon in Charge of ex-Ameers of Scinde.

To the Most Illustrious, &c., Lord *Dalhousie*, Governor-general of India.

THE Petition of Meer Ullah Buksh Khan and Meer Nusseer Khan.

After compliments.

We humbly beg to represent to your Lordship that the late Meer Roostum Khan, notwithstanding his great age, exerted himself greatly in the service of the Company's Government; whatever was calculated to please Government was done by him to the utmost of his power. We dare say your Lordship has already learned these circumstances from the public certificates and records. He acted thus with a view to secure the welfare of his posterity. He hoped that after his death the Company's Government would assist and protect his children. The return of his services has, however, been the reverse of what he expected; he died in the Deccan in despair; his corpse is still preserved unburied here. Alas! that even his remains should not have been restored to his native country. He left eight sons and some nephews. Meer Allah Buksh Khan, one of your petitioners, is his son, Meer Nusseer Khan is his nephew; we live in the Deccan, apart from our native country. Owing to the tyranny of Meer Ali Moorad, Meer Mahomed Husson Khan has left his native country, and resides in the territory of Neuvab Bhawul Khan; Meer Roostum Khan's three sons have died from want of parental protection; three other sons of his are in a distressed state in the vicinity of Khyrpoor, in consequence of Meer Ali Moorad's oppression. His nephews also are suffering from Meer Ali Moorad's tyranny; this is well known to all the European officers in Scinde. The news of your Lordship's arrival has been a source of great pleasure to us, and we trust that in consideration of the claims of the deceased your Lordship will permit us to return to our native country, in order that we may take with us the remains of the deceased, and inter them in our ancestors' burying ground. We also beg that your Lordship will be pleased to assign to us a city in our native country for our residence, in order that we may live in comfort with our brothers and other kinsmen; and that I, Meer Allah Buksh Khan, may get myself married, which I have not yet been able to do. The climate of this place does not at all agree with my (Meer Nusseer Khan's) constitution, and he can only hope to be restored to health by a return to his native country. We are in hopes that your Lordship, renowned for justice

and clear-sightedness, will be graciously pleased to listen to and grant our request, and we shall then pass our lives in praying for the prosperity and perpetuity of the Company's Government, of which we shall be the obedient subjects. May God, &c.

(signed) *Meer Nusseer Khan.*  
*Meer Ali Buksh.*

Poona, 26 January 1850.

(True translation.)

(signed) *J. H. Peart*, in charge of ex-Ameers.

(True copies.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

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MINUTES by the Right Honourable the Governor, concurred in by the Honourable Board.

THE petition should be forwarded, as requested, to the Most Noble the Governor-general.

Mr. Peart, on the 31st May 1846, reported that the remains of Meer Roostum Khan were interred on the 28th idem, in the Moosalmen burying ground at Garpeer. Explanation on this point should be called for.

Meer Mahomed Hoosein, alluded to in this petition, has now a pension of 500 rupees per mensem, with intimation that he can only be allowed to reside at Ghawulpoor, as decided by the Governor-general on the 30th December 1848.

(signed) *Falkland.*  
*W. Cotton.*  
*J. P. Willoughby.*  
*D. A. Blane.*

30 January 1850.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

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No. 546 of 1850.—Political Department.

From *A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay, to Dr. *J. H. Peart*, in charge of the Ex-Ameers of Scinde, at Poona.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Right honourable the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 29th instant, and to inform you that the petition therewith forwarded from the ex-Ameers of Scinde under your charge, to the address of the Most Noble the Governor-general of India, will be this day transmitted for submission to his Lordship.

2. I am, however, desired to request, that you will submit an explanation as to the statement set forth by the ex-Ameers, in regard to the remains of the late Meer Roostum Khan, which, in your letter of the 31st May 1846, you reported were interred on the 28th idem, in the Mussulman burying ground at Garpeer.

I have, &c.

(signed) *A. Malet*,  
Chief Secretary.

Bombay Castle, 31 January 1850.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

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No. 1 of 1850.—Political Department.

From *A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay, to Sir *H. M. Elliot*, K. C. B., Secretary to the Government of India with the Most Noble the Governor-general, Bombay.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Right honourable the Governor in Council to transmit to you, for submission to the Most Noble the Governor-general of India, copy of a letter from the officer in charge of the ex-Ameers of Scinde, at Poona, dated the 29th instant, submitting a petition, dated the 28th idem, from the ex-Ameers, to the address of his Lordship, and of my reply thereto of this date.

2. In forwarding these documents I am desired to state, that the Meer Mahomed Hoossein alluded to in the petition from the ex-Ameers, now receives a pension from Government of 500 rupees per mensem, and that under the decision conveyed in your letter, dated the 31st August last, No. 265, he is directed to reside at Bhawalpoor.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *A. Malet*,  
Chief Secretary.

Bombay Castle, 31 January 1850.

(True copy.)  
(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

From *J. H. Peart*, Esq., Staff Surgeon, in charge of ex-Ameers of Scinde, to *A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay.

Sir,

IN reference to the second paragraph of your letter, No. 546 of 1850, I have the honour to state that the remains of the late Meer Roostum were buried at Garpeer, as stated in my letter of 31st May 1846, and that what the ex-Ameers meant to imply was, that Meer Roostum's remains still lie unburied in the tomb of his ancestors, as is their custom, and as was the case with the two ex-Ameers who died at Calcutta, whose bodies were buried there, and afterwards disinterred and forwarded to Hyderabad in Scinde, to be buried with their forefathers.

2. One of the burying places of the Ameers of Upper Scinde is near Khypore, and the other at Koheira, but as both these places are under the dominion of Meer Ali Moorad, they have not wished that Meer Roostum's remains should be removed there except on the conditions prayed for in their petition.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *J. H. Peart*,  
Staff Surgeon in charge of ex-Ameers of Scinde.

Poona, 4 February 1850.

(True copy.)  
(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

MINUTE by the Right Honourable the Governor, concurred in by the Board.

To be communicated to the Most Noble the Governor-general in continuation of our former letter.

(signed) *Falkland*.  
*W. Cotton*.  
*J. P. Willoughby*.  
*D. A. Blane*.

5 February 1850.

(True copy.)  
(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 3 of 1850.—Political Department.

From *A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay, to Sir *H. M. Elliot*, K.C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, with the Most Noble the Governor-general.

Sir,

IN continuation of my letter, dated the 31st ultimo, No. 1, I am directed by the Right honourable the Governor in Council to transmit to you, for submission to the Most Noble the Governor-general of India, copy of a communication from the officer in charge of the ex-Ameers of Scinde, at Poona, dated the 4th instant, explaining the statement set forth by the ex-Ameers under his charge, in regard to the remains of the late Meer Roostum Khan.

Bombay Castle,  
8 February 1850.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

From *J. H. Peart*, Esq., in charge of ex-Ameers, to *A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay.

Sir,

AT the request of their Highnesses the ex-Ameers of Scinde, I have the honour to forward petitions from them and their relatives in Scinde, which I shall feel obliged by your forwarding to their respective addresses.

Poona,  
27 February 1850.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *J. H. Peart*,  
In charge of ex-Ameers.

#### TRANSLATION.

To the Right Honourable Lord *Falkland*, Governor of Bombay.

After compliments and respects.

You are well acquainted that our father, the late Meer Roostum Khan, during his lifetime, served the British Government with fidelity, sought to please them, and submissively yielded all obedience to them; but Meer Ali Moorad Khan, in order to obtain the object of his desires, fraudulently and falsely complained against him, got him banished, and became the Rais of the country. We are the sons of the late Meer Roostum Khan, and it is nearly seven years since that we, in accordance with the injunctions of the British Government, have appointed Meer Ali Moorad as Rais, and have submitted to him as such; since then we have sold our household property to maintain ourselves, yet can barely exist; for it is known to all that what Meer Ali Moorad gives to us is not sufficient for us; the incomes of the jagheers conferred on us by Meer Ali Moorad are very small, our families very large, and domestics many, so we are now in extreme want. Though we had the possession of the jagheers, as specified in the sunnuds and orders given us by our father, the late Meer Roostum Khan, from our infancy to the conquest of Scinde by the Company's Government, yet these Meer Ali Moorad has wrested from us, and taken into his own hands, and fraudulently says that Meer Roostum Khan, in writing, has conferred the Turban of the Reyaset on him; we have waited so long in full expectation of having our rights restored by your Lordship.

When the Governor-general arrived in Scinde, we expected to be delivered from the oppression of Meer Ali Moorad; but in consequence of his Lordship making a very short stay, and of the dread of Meer Ali Moorad, we then got no opportunity of petitioning his Lordship. We now hope that the Government will restore us to our rights and privileges; and we being thus restored, will ever laud the justice of the Government of Britain.

May the sun of your prosperity ever shine brightly.

(signed) *Meer Ali Murdhan Khan*,  
*Meer Ali Akbar Khan*,  
*Meer Goolam Mahomed Khan*.

(True translation.)

(signed) *J. H. Peart*, in charge of ex-Ameers.



TRANSLATION.

To the Right Honourable Lord *Falkland*, Governor of Bombay.

After compliments, respects, &c.

WE have already petitioned your Lordship regarding our pitiable condition, but have not as yet been favoured with a reply. On this account we are overwhelmed with grief. Alas for our misfortunes, since even you, whose justice is so well known, have not given us redress.

2. Further, the sons of the late Meer Roostum Khan, who are our brothers, in consequence of the oppressions which they have suffered from Meer Ali Morad, have petitioned the Governor-general of India. These petitions are sent herewith, and will be laid before you.

3. Three others of the late Meer's sons have died of grief, in consequence of the loss of their father and the ill-usage of Meer Ali Morad; we therefore hope your Lordship will do us justice, and we pray that the sun of your prosperity may ever continue in meridian splendour.

Poona, 15 February 1850.

(signed) *Meer Ali Bux Khan.*  
*Meer Nusseer Khan.*

(True translation.)

(signed) *J. H. Peart*, in charge of ex-Ameers.

(True copies.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

MINUTE by the Right Honourable the Governor, concurred in by the Board.

THE Ameers may be informed that the matters treated of in these papers are under the consideration of Government, and that the memorials will be despatched to their addresses.

5 March 1850.

(signed) *Falkland.*  
*W. Cotton,*  
*J. P. Willoughby.*  
*D. A. Blane.*

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 62 of 1850.—Secret Department.

From *A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to  
Dr. *J. H. Peart*, in charge of ex-Ameers of Scinde, Poona.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Right honourable the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 27th ultimo, submitting certain memorials from the ex-Ameers of Scinde under your charge, and their relations in that province, and to request that you will inform the ex-Ameers that the matters therein treated of are under the consideration of Government.

2. The memorials to the address of the Most Noble the Governor-general of India and the Commissioner in Scinde have been forwarded to their destination.

Bombay Castle,  
13 March 1850.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *A. Malet*,  
Chief Secretary.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 26 of 1850.

From *A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay, to  
Sir *H. M. Elliot*, K.C.B., Secretary to the Government of India

Sir,

I AM directed by the Right honourable the Governor in Council to transmit to you, for submission to the Most Noble the Governor-general of India, copy of a letter from the officer in charge of the ex-Ameers of Scinde, dated the 27th ultimo, submitting memorials from the ex-Ameers and their relations in Scinde, to the address of his Lordship.

I have, &c.

Bombay Castle,  
13 March 1850.

(signed) *A. Malet*,  
Chief Secretary.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

---

No. 64 of 1850.

From *A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay, to *R. K. Pringle*,  
Esq., Commissioner in Scinde.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Right honourable the Governor in Council to transmit to you copy of a letter from the officer in charge of the ex-Ameers of Scinde, at Poona, submitting the memorials from the ex-Ameers and their relations in Scinde to your address.

I have, &c.

Bombay Castle,  
13 March 1850.

(signed) *A. Malet*,  
Chief Secretary.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

---

No. 30 of 1850.

From Sir *H. M. Elliot*, K.C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, to  
*A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government of Bombay.

Sir,

With reference to your despatches, dated the 31st January and 8th February last, No. 113, I am directed to request that the ex-Ameers of Scinde, residing at Poona, may be informed that the Governor-general in Council cannot consent to their proceeding themselves to Scinde, but that there is, of course, no objection to their sending there for the purpose of interment the remains of the late Meer Roostum Khan.

I have, &c.

Fort William,  
20 March 1850.

(signed) *H. M. Elliot*,  
Secretary to the Government of India.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

---

MINUTE by the Right Honourable the Governor, concurred in by his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and the Honourable Mr. *Blane*.

DR. PEART, in charge of the ex-Ameers in Poona, should be requested to communicate this decision to those gentlemen, in reply to their application, transmitted in his letter of the 27th February last.

(signed) *Falkland.*  
*W. Cotton.*  
*D. A. Blane.*

2 April 1850.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 1,617 of 1850.—Political Department.

From *H. E. Goldsmid*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to  
*Dr. J. H. Peart*, in charge of the ex-Ameers of Scinde, Poonah.

Sir,

WITH reference to certain memorials from the ex-Ameers of Scinde, under your charge, transmitted with your letter, dated 27 February last, I am directed by the Right honourable the Governor in Council to forward to you copy of a letter, No. 30, of 20th ultimo, from the Secretary to the Government of India, and to request that you will communicate the decision therein contained to those gentlemen.

Bombay Castle,  
9 April 1850.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *H. E. Goldsmid*,  
Secretary to Government.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 53 of 1850.

From Sir *H. M. Elliot*, K.C.B., Secretary to Government of India, to  
*A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Governor-general in Council to transmit, for the consideration and orders of the Right honourable the Governor in Council of Bombay, the accompanying translations of the two memorials from the ex-Ameers of Scinde, to the address of the Governor-general, which were received with your letter of the 13th ultimo, No. 26.

Fort William,  
3 April 1850.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *H. M. Elliot*,  
Secretary to the Government of India.

# TRANSLATION.

To the Governor-general of India.

After compliments and respects.

WE have petitioned the Commissioner to inform him of our miserable condition, and we now beg to inform you of the same.

We hope that you, whose justice is so well known, will deliver us from the oppressions and tyranny of Meer Ali Moorad, and will restore to us the jageers which were allotted to us by the late Meer Roostum Khan, as mentioned in the sunnuds which he gave to us, and which are now in our possession, and also the lands which we ourselves had purchased. We strongly hope that justice will be done according to the well-known liberality and munificence of the British Government.

You are well aware of our expenses and the state of our lands.

If you commiserate our condition you will deliver us from the hands of Meer Ali Moorad, and we will spend the remainder of our days in praying to Heaven for the prosperity of the Company's Government. What more shall we ~~say~~?

May the sun of British prosperity ever continue resplendent.

(signed) *Meer Mahomed Ali, and  
Ali Mahomed.*

(True translation.)

(signed) *J. H. Peart*, in charge of ex-Ameers.

(True copy.)

(signed) *H. M. Elliot*, Secretary to the Government of India.

#### TRANSLATION.

To the Governor-general of India.

After compliments and respects.

You are well acquainted that our father, the late Meer Roostum Khan, during his lifetime, served the British Government with fidelity, sought to please them, and submissively yielded all obedience to them; but Meer Ali Moorad Khan, in order to obtain the object of his desires, fraudulently and falsely complained against him, got him banished, and became the Rais of the country. We are the sons of the late Meer Roostum Khan, and it is nearly seven years since that we, in accordance with the injunctions of the British Government, have appointed Meer Ali Moorad as Rais, and have submitted to him as such; since then we have sold our household property to maintain ourselves, yet can barely manage to exist, for it is known to all, that what Meer Ali Moorad gives to us is not sufficient for us; the incomes of the jageers conferred on us by Meer Ali Moorad are very small, and our families very large, and domestics many, so we are now in extreme want. Though we had the possession of the jageers, as specified in the sunnud and orders given to us by our father, Meer Roostum Khan, from our infancy till the conquest of Scinde by the Company's Government, yet these Meer Ali Moorad had wrested from us, and taken into his own hands, and fraudulently says that Meer Roostum Khan, in writing, has conferred the Turban of the Reyaset on him. We have waited so long without petitioning you, in full expectation of receiving our dues from the munificent Government of Britain; we rejoiced greatly to hear you were coming to Scinde, for we thought, that as the Almighty has given you a large empire, and as no princes in distress and reduced circumstances under you are tyrannized over as we are by Meer Ali Moorad, that you will, according to the usual Royal generosity of the British Government, restore us to our rights and privileges, and we being thus restored, will ever laud the justice of the Government of Britain. May the sun of your prosperity ever continue in meridian splendour.

(signed) *Meer Ali Murdan Khan.  
Meer Goolam Mahomed Khan.  
Meer Ali Ackbar Talpoor.*

(True translation.)

(signed) *J. H. Peart*, in charge of ex-Ameers.

(True copy.)

(signed) *H. M. Elliot*, Secretary to the Government of India.

(True copies.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 101 of 1850.—Secret Department.

From *H. E. Goldsmid*, Esq., Secretary to Government, Bombay, to  
*R. K. Pringle*, Esq., Commissioner in Scinde.

Sir,

WITH reference to Mr. Chief Secretary Malet's letter, dated the 13th March last, No. 64, I am directed by the Right honourable the Governor in Council to transmit for any remarks you may have to offer, copy of a letter from the  
Secretary

Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 3d ultimo, No. 53, together with the translations of the two memorials therein alluded to, to the address of the Most Noble the Governor-general.

Bombay Castle, 4 May 1850. I have, &c.  
(signed) *H. E. Goldsmid*,  
Secretary to Government.  
(True copy.)  
(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

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No. 897 of 1850.—Secret Department.

From the Commissioner in Scinde to the Right Honourable Viscount *Falkland*, Governor and President in Council, Bombay.

My Lord,  
I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Secretary Goldsmid's letter, No. 367, dated the 4th instant, with accompaniments, from the Government of India, and beg to refer your Lordship in Council to para. 28 of the Memorandum submitted by me to the Most Noble the Governor-general on our relations with his Highness Meer Ali Morad, as containing all the remarks it occurs to me to offer on the subject of the two memorials to the address of the Governor-general, translations of which accompanied Sir H. Elliot's letter, No. 53, of the 3d ultimo.

Kurrachee, 23 May 1850. I have, &c.  
(signed) *R. K. Pringle*,  
Commissioner in Scinde.  
(True copy.)  
(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

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MINUTE by the Right Honourable the Governor, concurred in by the Honourable Messrs. *Willoughby* and *Blane*.

THIS letter may now be recorded; it is possible that the papers we are about to forward to the Most Noble the Governor-general, relative to Ali Morad, may lead to some amelioration of the condition of these unfortunate Ameers.

31 December 1850. (signed) *Falkland*.  
*J. P. Willoughby*.  
*D. A. Blane*.  
(True copy.)  
(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

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From *J. H. Peart*, Esq., in Charge of ex-Ameers, to *A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay.

Sir,  
AT the request of their Highnesses the ex-Ameers of Scinde, I have the honour to forward two memorials, one to the address of the Most Noble the Marquis of Dalhousie, K.T., Governor-general, and the other to the Right honourable the Viscount Falkland, Governor of Bombay.

Poona, 21 September 1850. I have, &c.  
(signed) *J. H. Peart*,  
In charge of ex-Ameers.

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## TRANSLATION.

THE Memorial of Ex-Ameers Ali Buksh Khan and Nusseer Khan to the Right Honourable Lord Falkland, Governor of Bombay.

After compliments.

WHEN we were unfortunately banished from our native land to India, we entertained the hope that, on account of our innocence, which is well known to the British Government, they would soon give us our freedom and restore us to our country. Consequently, when the monthly allowance of 4,200 rupees, granted us by the British Government, was not sufficient to cover our expenses, we laid not our case before them, and spent the little money which we had brought with us from our country, and the donation made to us by the Government in defraying our expenses.

But as these resources are exhausted, and as our necessary expenses are great, and we are incurring debt, we are compelled to bring our case before your Lordship, and pray that, till we are restored to our country, you will be pleased to grant us, according to the well-known and world-envied generosity of the British Government, and according to our own rank, an increase to our monthly allowance.

And it is customary with the British Government to protect princes and their families when they take their country under their administration, as they have, to a certain extent, done to the sons and families of the late Ameers of Hyderabad, who are better paid than we; we think it very strange indeed that since the families of the late Ameers of Hyderabad are maintained at the liberality of the British Government, our own brethren and families should still be left unprovided for, and they have hitherto maintained themselves by selling their property. Besides, they are tyrannised over by Meer Ali Moorad. Previously, when we had heard of their distress, we had sent them a little assistance; but as now we ourselves are in want, we cannot do so, which has saddened our hearts.

We therefore pray that your Lordship will commiserate our deplorable condition, grant us an increase to our allowance till our restoration, and provide for our brethren and families, who are reduced to utmost penury and oppressed by Ali Moorad, and forward the accompanying memorial to Lord Dalhousie.

And may the sun of your prosperity ever continue in its zenith.

(signed) *Ali Buksh Khan Talpoor.*  
*Nusseer Khan Talpoor.*

(True translation.)

(signed) *J. H. Peart*, in charge of ex-Ameers.

(True copies.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

MINUTE by the Right Honourable the Governor, concurred in by the Honourable Messrs. *Willoughby* and *Blane*.

THE memorial to the Most Noble the Governor-general should be sent with a copy of this. It is possible that in considering the case of Ali Moorad, his Lordship may see fit to ameliorate the condition of some of the members of this family.

(signed) *Falkland.*  
*J. P. Willoughby.*  
*D. A. Blane.*

31 December 1850.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 6 of 1851.—Secret Department.

From *A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay, to Sir *H. M. Elliot*, K.C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, with the Most Noble the Governor-general, Camp.

Sir,

As connected with my letter, No. 2, dated the 3d instant, I am directed to transmit to you, to be laid before the Most Noble the Governor-general of India, a memorial to his Lordship's address from the ex-Ameers of Scinde, Ali Buksh Khan and Nusseer Khan, together with transcript of one to the Right honourable the Governor of this Presidency, and of his Lordship's minute thereon, dated the 31st ultimo.

I have, &c.

Bombay Castle,  
7 January 1851.

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 485 of 1850.—Political Department.

From the Commissioner in Scinde to the Right Honourable Viscount *Falkland*,  
Governor and President in Council, Bombay.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Chief Secretary Malet's letter, No. 3,574, dated the 23d August last, with accompaniment, from the Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor-general, I have the honour to transmit translate of a letter from the ex-Ameer Mahomed Hussun to my address, declining to accept the pension of 500 rupees per mensem which it was proposed to assign for his maintenance.

2. I take this opportunity of forwarding, for the information and instructions of your Lordship in Council, copy of a letter, No. 94, dated the 27th ultimo, from the officiating collector of Shikarpoor, reporting the arrival in Scinde of the widow and daughter-in-law of the late Meer Roostum, alluded to in the last para. of Sir H. Elliot's letter, with their attendants. I am not aware that there would eventually be any great objection to allowing these ladies to reside within the province, but I am of opinion they would be better out of it until our relations with his Highness Meer Ali Morad are placed on a more satisfactory footing. I will not, however, take any steps for procuring their return, pending the receipt of your Lordship's instructions.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *R. K. Pringle*,  
Commissioner in Scinde.

Kurrachee, 9 March 1850.

No. 94 of 1850.—Political Department.

From *O. J. M'L. Farrington*, Esq., Officiating Collector, Shikarpoor, to the Commissioner in Scinde, Kurrachee.

Sir,

I do myself the honour to inform you that, when at Sukkur, I received intimation of certain of the females of the family of the ex-Ameers Roostum Khan and Nussur Khan having arrived in our territory from Bhawalpore; but, owing to various circumstances, as also our having taken no immediate notice of the sons of Meer Mahomed Hussun having returned to Khyrpocr, I deemed it expedient to allow the matter to rest until I could more quietly ascertain who the parties were, and their object in coming to the Roree district.

2. I beg to subjoin a list. I hear that these parties have hitherto resided with Mahomed Hussun, but were induced to travel towards this, in the hope of being able to lay their wishes before the Most Noble the Governor-general on his arrival at Sukkur, and also to visit the mausoleum of the Ameer's family, near Khyrpoor. They are now at Moree, a place about four miles to the north of Roree, where they beg permission to be allowed to remain and pass the remainder of their days. May I request the favour of your instructions on the subject.

LIST.

The wife of the late Meer Roostum Khan; the wife of the ex-Ameer Nusseer Khan; the daughter of Meer Mooreed Hyder; 20 domestics; Kitmuigars, Seedees, &c., 30; outdoor servants, wood cutters, &c., 15; water carriers, 8; camel men, 8; goatherds, 5; moon-shee, 1; his servants, 3; physician, 1; his servants, 2; grooms, 5; cowmen, 7; sweepers, 9; maid servants, 40; Seedee women, 25; women water carriers, 4; sweepers, 3; children, 54.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *O. J. M'L. Farrington*, Lieutenant,  
Officiating Collector.

Shikarpoor, Collector's Office, 27 February 1850.

(True copy.)

(signed) *G. Inverarity*, Assistant Commissioner.

ABSTRACT TRANSLATION of Enclosure.

I HAVE been favoured with your letter, calling my attention to a former one, and requesting a reply thereto. I am your servant; and if my pension of 500 rupees was increased threefold, it would not be sufficient for my maintenance. I therefore trust I may receive

at the same rate as was given my father, and that I may be permitted to reside in Scinde; if not, that Meer Ali Morad may be accepted as my security, and I permitted to live under his care, to which I am agreeable.

(True abstract.)

(signed) *G. Inverarity.*

(True copy.)

(signed) *G. Inverarity*, Assistant Commissioner.

(True copies.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

---

MINUTE by the Right Honourable the Governor, concurred in by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, and the Honourable Mr. *Blane*.

THIS should be referred for the decision and orders of the Most Noble the Governor-general of India.

(signed) *Falkland.*  
*W. Cotton.*  
*D. A. Blane.*

19 March 1850.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

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No. 46 of 1850.—Political Department.

From *A. Malet*, Esq. Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay, to Sir *H. M. Elliot*, K.C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, Fort William.

Sir,

WITH reference to your letter dated the 3d August last, No. 265, I am directed by the Right honourable the Governor in Council to transmit to you, for the decision and orders of the Most Noble the Governor-general of India in Council, copy of a letter from the Commissioner in Scinde, dated the 9th inst., No. 485, relative to the propriety, or otherwise, of permitting the widow and daughter-in-law of the late Meer Roostum Khan to reside within the province of Scinde.

I have, &c.

Bombay Castle,  
25 March 1850.

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

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No. 1,396 of 1850.

From *A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay, to *R. K. Pringle*, Esq., Commissioner in Scinde.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Right honourable the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 9th instant, No. 485, relative to the propriety, or otherwise, of permitting the widow and daughter-in-law of the late Meer Roostum Khan to reside within the province of Scinde, and to inform you that this subject has been referred for the decision and orders of the Most Noble the Governor-general of India in Council.

I have, &c.

Bombay Castle,  
25 March 1850.

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

(True copy.)

*A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

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No. 57 of 1850.

From Sir *Henry Elliot*, K.C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, to  
*A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government of Bombay.

Sir,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 25th ultimo, No. 46, submitting for the orders of Government copy of a communication from the Commissioner in Scinde, relative to the propriety, or otherwise, of permitting the widow and daughter-in-law of the late Meer Roostum Khan to reside within the province of Scinde; and in reply, to state that the Governor-general in Council is not aware of any particular objection to their doing so. His Lordship in Council does not understand what effect the presence of Meer Roostum's widow can have on our settlement of affairs with Meer Ali Morad.

Fort William, 11 April 1850.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *H. M. Elliot*,  
Secy. to Govt of India.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 2,071 of 1850.

From *H. E. Goldsmid*, Esq., Secretary to Government, Bombay, to *R. K. Pringle*, Esq., Commissioner in Scinde.

Sir,

WITH reference to Mr. Chief Secretary Malet's letter, dated the 25th March last, No. 1,396, I am directed by the Right honourable the Governor in Council to transmit, for your information and guidance, copy of letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 11th ultimo, No. 57, relative to the propriety, or otherwise, of permitting the widow and daughter-in-law of the late Meer Roostum Khan to reside within the province of Scinde.

Bombay Castle, 6 May 1850.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *H. E. Goldsmid*,  
Secretary to Government.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

Persian Department.

SUBSTANCE of a Letter from the Deras of Meer Roostum Khan, Meer Nusseer Khan, and Meer Mooreed Hyder Khan, to the Right Honourable Viscount Falkland, Governor of Bombay, without date, and received 10 April 1850.

BEFORE this we forwarded our petitions to the Right honourable the Governor-general of India, and to the Commissioner, but unfortunately have not yet received any answer. Now, we beg to send our application to your Lordship. Since the establishment of the Honourable Company's rule in this country we have been residing at Muree, in the hope that Government will grant an allowance for our support according to our rank. We are awaiting a reply to our petitions. Several kings receive allowances for their subsistence from the British Government, and we also request the same. We therefore beg your Lordship will kindly recommend our case to the notice of the Governor-general of India, and let us know the result.

(signed) *C. J. Erskine*,  
Deputy Secretary to Government.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 885 of 1850.

REPORT of the Commissioner in Scinde.

THESE ladies are the parties whose prayer for a maintenance was rejected in the 2d para. of the letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, No. 265, dated the 3d August last, and whose prayer to be permitted to reside in Scinde was assented to in a letter from the same authority, No. 57, dated the 11th ultimo; the former is therefore inadmissible, and the result of the latter has just been communicated to them.

On the Indus, 16 May 1850.

(signed) *R. K. Pringle,*  
Commissioner in Scinde.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet,* Chief Secretary.

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MINUTE by the Honourable Mr. *Willoughby*, concurred in by the Honourable Mr. *Blane*.

THE Commissioner having informed these ladies of the decision of Government, this may be recorded.

28 August 1850.

(signed) *J. P. Willoughby.*  
*D. A. Blane.*

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet,* Chief Secretary.

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No. 862 of 1850.—Political Department.

From the Commissioner in Scinde to the Right honourable Viscount *Falkland*, Governor and President in Council, Bombay.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my letter, No. 485, dated the 9th March last, and former correspondence, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Meer Mahomed Hoossain, eldest son of the late ex-Ameer Roostum Khan, arrived at Sukkur without any previous intimation, during the sitting of the Commission to inquire into the conduct of his Highness Meer Ali Moorad, induced probably by the expectation that in the course of the proceedings then in progress, something might turn up to improve his position and prospects.

2. As his evidence was of importance in the matter under investigation, it was taken before the Commission; but after the proceedings were over I sent for him, and told him I was afraid he had brought himself into difficulty by coming to Scinde without the permission of the British Government. But I recommended him to return with as little delay as possible to the Nawab of Bhawalpore's country, for which purpose I would furnish him with a passport and escort; and although I could hold out no promise that the British Government would be disposed to modify the decision already communicated to him on his affairs, yet, if he would submit what he had got to represent in writing, it should be forwarded for the consideration of Government. This he accordingly agreed to do, and the enclosed is a copy of the paper, in Persian and English, which he has sent to me on the subject.

3. Meer Mahomed is now advanced in years; his appearance and address are prepossessing; he was accompanied by his three eldest sons, fine looking young men; he has never, I believe, in any way conducted himself inimically to our Government since the conquest of Scinde; and if he were allowed to return to reside in this province, I should not myself have any apprehension of his abusing the indulgence. I should also be glad to see the pension of 500 rupees per mensem,  
which

which it was proposed to allow him, doubled ; for I believe it would be very scanty for the maintenance, in a manner suitable even to his present fallen position, of the representative of the eldest branch of the Khyrpoor family, with his children and followers.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *R. K. Pringle,*  
Commissioner in Scinde.

On the Indus, 13 May 1850.

To the Commissioner of all Scinde.

The Translation of the Petition of Meer Mahomed Hussun Khan.

Most respectfully sheweth,

THAT your poor petitioner, with submission and deference, lays his case under your innate discretion, that it is known that he did not join himself in the battle of Meeanee, nor in that of Mere Shere Mahomed ; and after both the two skirmishes, although your humble petitioner wrote to Meer Ali Morad Khan to send him to the Governor Sahib, Meer Ali Moorad refused to do so ; but he wrote a letter to your petitioner, also sent word by the tongue of Meer Khoda Buksh, that he will not carry your poor petitioner to the Governor Sahib, for the above-mentioned Sahib will imprison your poor petitioner ; rather, the fore-mentioned Meer Sahib became your petitioner's soul enemy, also determined for his ruin ; and your petitioner being obliged, also fearing for his life and character, went to Mooltan, and lodged there, having gone out of this country ; and it is known to you that in the house of his Highness Meer Ali Moorad Khan there are many deceits, the right of the British Government, and your petitioner was acquainted with them ; also, he having the agreement papers in his hand, waited for an exact opportunity. Now, when your Honor came to Sukkur for the court of this matter, his Highness Meer Ali Morad Khan appointed several false witnesses for destroying the privilege of the British Government ; this news reached your petitioner's ears ; then he considered peradventure from the evidence of false witnesses the right of the British Government be spoiled, and from the decoction of well-wishing, your petitioner introduced himself in your Honor's presence ; also, he gave to you four papers regarding the case of Meer Poor Mashela, through which the right of the British Government, and the treachery of Meer Ali Morad Khan, are justified and proved ; also your petitioner gave evidence for the right of the British Government before the members of the court ; in this case your petitioner showed great well-wishing, and in the second case, which is known to you also, he gave you two papers ; and your petitioner will show great well-wishing before this, that the court will meet for it, and will discover the privileges of the British Government. Oh, honoured sir, you are a chief of the English Government ; your petitioner showed well-wishing to his utmost. Your Honor may also show even two kindnesses, one is this, that kindly enlarge his salary, because the maintenance of his great family cannot be carried on in 500 rupees ; the other is this, kindly to grant even license for living in this country of Scinde, that he may pass his life under the kind protection of the British Government ; and your petitioner is not fit for any dispute, nor did he before any quarrel ; he went out from the country of Scinde merely from the enmity of Meer Ali Morad Khan. So now your Honor may kindly bestow upon your petitioner his two hearty desires, and if your Honor demand any security for your petitioner then he can introduce : to add more will be stepping beyond the limits of respect.

(True copy.)

(signed) *R. K. Pringle,* Commissioner.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet,* Chief Secretary.

MINUTE by the Right Honourable the Governor, concurred in by the  
Honourable Mr. *Blane*.

COPY should be sent to the Most Noble the Governor-general, with reference to Sir Henry Elliot's letters of the 30th December 1848 and 3d August 1849, with a request to be informed, if the instructions therein contained are to be relaxed in favour of Meer Mahomed Hoossan.

(signed) *Falkland.*  
*D. A. Blane.*

27 May 1850.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet,* Chief Secretary.

MINUTE by the Honourable Mr. *Willoughby*.

I WOULD suggest that this case should not be disposed of until the report of the Sukkur Commission has been considered. It is not improbable that that inquiry may have thrown some light on the conduct of Meer Alee Morad towards the unfortunate Meer Roostum and his family, and it may also appear, that the value of his eldest son's evidence before the Commission, may entitle him to favour and indulgence.

(signed) *J. P. Willoughby*.

30 May 1850.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

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MINUTE by the Right Honourable the Governor.

I HAVE kept these papers till after disposing of the Report of the Sukkur Commission, and now beg to refer to paragraphs Nos. 9, 10 and, 11 of my Minute of this day's date, and to suggest that this petition of Meer Mahomed Hussein Khan be forwarded with our favourable recommendation to the Government of India.

(signed) *Falkland*.

14 June 1850.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

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MINUTE by the Right Honourable the Governor, concurred in by  
His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

AFTER an attentive perusal of the accompanying papers, and a deliberate consideration of their contents, I cannot but entirely concur in the opinion expressed by the Commission, that his Highness Ali Moorad has been guilty of a gross and culpable fraud towards the British Government; and this fact established, we have now to consider what are the consequences, direct and indirect, which such a decision involves.

2. It would seem to be an inevitable result, that the treaty of Nownapoor must be deemed nullified by Ali Moorad's own act, and, therefore, that all the possessions which he has for so long a time enjoyed, and which he acquired by our assistance under the authority of that treaty, should be resumed; and further, that all revenue wrongfully received by him during his period of possession should be refunded.

3. A determination so derogatory to the honour and dignity of the Ameer at once deprives him of any right to be regarded with consideration, or treated as an ally hereafter; he must be dealt with according to strict justice, but has no claim to favour. It becomes then necessary to determine in what, after having abrogated the treaty of Nownapoor, that strict justice will consist.

4. I am not able to discover, from the papers before me, that any treaty has ever been absolutely ratified between the British Government and Ali Moorad, but his Excellency Sir Charles Napier would seem to have distinctly pledged the Government to allow that chief to retain his own possessions and those public estates attached to the Turban.

5. Beyond this I do not think we can be deemed to have been at any time under any specified obligation, and it will be for the Government of India to determine whether this obligation be of such a nature as that it cannot be set aside, and the baseness of the Scinde chieftain punished by the confiscation of greater extent of territory than that wrongfully appropriated, a punishment of which he seems certainly morally deserving.

6. In paragraph 94 of his Report on Scinde, my distinguished predecessor, Sir George Clerk, says,—

“Our ally, Ali Moorad, bears an indifferent character; he seems addicted to field sports to a degree that precludes his devoting any time to the affairs of his country or his subjects. In short, from all I can learn about him, I see no reason to think that the account given in Lieutenant Forbes’ report is in any respect erroneous. In my opinion, all we should do is to give him an impressive warning, and then leave him to himself. For this chief we have sacrificed so much and so many, that if after this warning he is not reclaimed to a course more creditable to our adoption, I would not hesitate to wrest his territory from him.”

From this quotation, it is evident Sir George Clerk would have visited the mismanagement of his own state (an offence towards us at least of a much lighter nature than the dishonourable and fraudulent deceit he has practised on the British Government) on this prince by the confiscation of the whole of his dominions.

7. In allusion to the case now under our consideration, Sir George Clerk further says, para. 95,—

“In a private memorandum left by the late Governor of Scinde, there stands recorded against this chief an imputation of having, by means of the substitution of a fabricated for a genuine document, appropriated a district which belongs to the British Government; Sir Charles Napier assumes such to have been the case, and apparently anticipating that still more evidences would be obtained, recommends that, preparatory to the resumption of the district in question, the Commissioner and the Officer commanding in Scinde should be present at Sukkur, and the troops in Northern Scinde reinforced. I fully concur as to the propriety of such precautions, if the fact of the forgery be established.”

To the expediency of which measures recommended by his Excellency Sir Charles Napier, I shall be fully prepared to assent in the event of the Government of India concurring with the Commission as to the delinquency of Ali Moorad, and specifying the punishment to which he should be subjected in consequence.

8. After giving his opinion as to the mode in which the inquiry into Ali Moorad’s guilt or innocence should be in some respects conducted, Sir George Clerk goes on, in para. 97, to say, in equally strong language with that I have cited above,—

“Captain Brown, in his memorandum, mentions three letters, the contents of which afford strong evidence that the country given up did not comprise a district. Should it be fully established, that Meer Ali Moorad did perpetrate this fraud, his turpitude deserves, not only that he should lose the district so usurped, but that he should be deprived of all his possessions.”—See Report, para 97.

And then in para. 98, after eulogizing the character of the Nuwab of Bahawalpoor, and predicting that every reliance might be placed on the fidelity of this chief, in the event of any future troubles arising in Scinde or in the Punjab, a prediction, the sagacity of which (as well as of that in para. 99, in which it is said that “We are in a position in the Punjab peculiarly void of stability, and that our next step will probably comprise a movement on Mooltan, or upon that ever turbulent quarter where the life of the Assistant to the British Representative at Lahore has lately been attempted”) has been amply testified by the late events, observes, that in such a crisis our occupation of Upper Scinde would be of the highest importance; concluding thus, (para. 101),—

“If Meer Ali Moorad should forfeit Khyrpoor, and I think it not unlikely that ere long he may be considered to merit the forfeiture, it may be worth our while to consider whether holding, as we shall then do, all the left bank of the Indus, the river itself, and the ferries, these last being specified in a new treaty, it might not be advisable to re-establish the Talpoorees on the right bank, and thus have a more convenient, less costly, and, as I cannot but consider, a less anxious front towards the hills, than we have at present, or can ever hope to have in immediate proximity to the restless and hardy tribes inhabiting them.”

I have referred thus copiously to the views recorded by my predecessor, because Sir George Clerk has not only indicated the punishment he would have meted out to Ali Moorad, if found guilty, but has likewise pointed out the manner in which the lands that he should forfeit might be in part disposed of.

9 Mr. Pringle has also, in paras. 25 and 26 of his memorandum, submitted to the Most Noble the Governor-general on the occasion of his visit to Sukkur, and dated the 27th of January 1849, suggested certain arrangements with regard to the lands to be resumed from Ali Moorad, and these suggestions comprise the very important matter of the equivalent to be given for the forts in the Desert, ceded to Jussulmere, for which the payment of compensation has so long been delayed, as well as a proposition for the settlement of all other conflicting claims, either territorial or pecuniary, of Ali Moorad and the British authorities, and has discussed at some length (para. 27) the justice and expediency of our making provision for the junior members of the family of Ali Moorad, whose history, together with their condition and present places of residence, will be found in the annexed note framed from information given by the ex-Ameers, now at Poona.

10. It may be remarked that Mahomed Hussein, the eldest son of Meer Roostum, has lately entitled himself to the special and favourable consideration of the British Government by the very important evidence he gave during the late investigation, which evidence is particularly noticed in the Report of the Commission.

11. I would specially recommend to the benevolence of the Government of India, the Ameers resident at Poona, viz., Ameer Ali Buksha, a younger son of Meer Roostum, and Nusseer Khan, the eldest son of Mobaruck Khan (Meer Roostum's brother), and their families, leaving their, at present, unhappy position, as well as the deserts of the Nuwab of Bahawulpore, for the consideration of that authority.

12. I have before expressed my opinion that we have an indubitable right to demand the restitution of all the territory obtained by Ali Moorad by fraudulent means, as well as the payment to us of all the revenue derived from such territory during the time it remained under his dominion; and the moment of enforcing our just claims seems to me to afford a peculiarly favourable opportunity for placing all our relations with this prince on a permanent and satisfactory footing. I would therefore recommend to the Government of India, that the Commissioner in Scinde shall be instructed to enter on a preliminary negotiation with the Meer, with a view to determine accurately his rights, and the boundaries of his territory, and at the same time to effect a settlement of every outstanding claim on either side, when the individual claims adverted to in paras. 9, 10 and 11, can be finally disposed of.

13. In effecting this adjustment, full use can be made of our knowledge of the fraud Ali Moorad has committed, and I think it will be more politic thus to take advantage of that knowledge to bring about a speedy and satisfactory general settlement, than to deal with it as an isolated act.

14. As the original documents in Persian are among the enclosures accompanying the report of the Commission, the whole of these enclosures should be sent in original to the Government of India, and in making copies the compilation should not be unbound.

15. The thanks of Government are due to Mr. Pringle and the other members of the Commission, for the manner in which this investigation has been conducted, and should be communicated to them accordingly.

(signed)

*Falkland.*  
*W. Cotton.*

14 June 1850.

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MEMORANDUM referred to in Para. No. 9, of Governor's Minute of 14th June 1850.

MEER SORAB KHAN, the father of Meer Roostum Khan, of Khyrpoor, lived to the age of nearly 100 years; and 30 or 40 years before his death he made over to Meer Roostum Khan, his eldest son, the pugree and all his possessions. Meer Sorab Khan had by one wife four sons—Meer Roostum Khan, Meer Goolam Hyder, Meer Moobaruck Khan, Meer Chakur. He had also by another wife Meer Ali Moorad, who was the youngest son.

Meer Roostum Khan, during the lifetime of his father, gave to his brothers as follows :

To Meer Goolam Hyder, his elder brother, jagheers, which at his death were divided between his three sons, Meer Mahomed Khan, Meer Ummud Khan, and Meer Goolam Mustapha. The two first mentioned now retain in their possession some of those jagheers, the remainder have been taken away from them by Ali Moorad, who has also seized upon the jagheer of the younger brother, Meer Goolam Mustapha.

To Meer Moobaruck Khan, his second brother, Meer Roostum gave the purgunnas of Meerpoor Mussoowah, Nowakalso, Jumsheer Dahant Juttooe and Mhyserat; also the zillas of Maharee and Sidepoor Gotkee Khundhur, Adulpore Kholerah Khashmoon, and a garden in the town of Roree.

To Meer Chakur, his third brother, Meer Roostum gave jagheers, the sunnuds for which are now in his possession.

To Meer Ali Moorad, his half brother, he gave the purgunnah of Gogree.

Meer Moobaruck Khan, Meer Roostum's second brother, died about four years before Sir Charles Napier went to Scinde, and left five sons; viz.—

1. Meer Nusseer Khan, now a prisoner at Poona.
2. Meer Mahomed Ali Khan, residing at Mungunwalla, about three coss from Khyrpoor.
3. Meer Fuzeel Mahomed Khan, who died about one year before Sir Charles Napier went to Scinde, leaving two sons, Ali Buksh and Ameer Buksh, both now residing at Mungunwalla.
4. Meer Ali Mahomed, now living at Mungunwalla.
5. Meer Wullee Mahomed, living at Mungunwalla.

Meer Moobaruck Khan, before his death, made over to his eldest son Meer Nusseer Khan, the following jagheers, &c. &c. &c.:—Meerpore Mussoowah, about 40 coss from Khyrpoor; Nowakalso Jumsheera Dahant Julloobee, and Mhysa. Besides these he gave different jagheers that he had purchased from the Putions near Shikarpoor, the sunnuds for which can be procured. He also gave him Kothera, about 40 coss from Hyderabad, and Kushmoor, in the zilla of Khur, near the city of Rozan, and Gunderah, about six coss from Khyrpoor.

To his second son, Meer Mahomed Ali Khan, Meer Moobaruck gave the zilla of Maharee, about 40 coss from Khyrpoor, also some lands that he had purchased from the Puttans near Shikarpoor.

To his third son, Meer Fuzeel Mahomed Khan, he gave Sidepoor and some of the lands purchased from the Pattans.

To his fourth son, Meer Ali Mahomed, he gave Golkee, near Meerpoor.

To his fifth son, Meer Wullee Mahomed, he gave Ahdilpoor.

Besides the above-mentioned purgunnas, &c. &c. there are other lands to which right was disputed between Meer Nusseer Khan and Meer Ali Moorad. Of this Colonel Outram is aware. The names of the places are Bubhurlow Obree, between Khyrpoor and Roree, Shahbella Mhomdebagh, Malanee and Narah; to these it is supposed Meer Ali Moorad cannot prove his right.

Meer Roostum Khan, about a year before Sir Charles Napier arrived in Scinde, had eight sons:—

1. Meer Mahomed Hussein Khan, at present residing in Bhawul Khan's territory.
2. Meer Ali Ukbar Khan, residing at Mhirapoor.
3. Meer Ali Mudali Khan, residing at Mhirapoor.
4. Meer Shere Mahomed, died about 10 months ago, leaving mother, wife, and one daughter.
5. Meer Ali Buksh Khan, a prisoner at Poona.
6. Meer Goolam Mahomed Khan, residing at Mhirapoor.
7. Meer Mooreed Hyder, died about six years ago, leaving one daughter.
8. Meer Dost Mahomed Khan, died about two years and a half ago, leaving wife and mother.

Meer Mahomed Hussein Khan; Meer Ali Ukbar Khan; Meer Mooreed Hyder, one mother living.

Meer Ali Murdah Khan; Meer Shere Mahomed Khan; Meer Ali Buksh Khan; Meer Goolam Mahomed, one mother living.

Meer Dost Mahomed Khan, mother living.

Meer Mahomed Hussein Khan, the eldest son of Meer Roostum Khan, can give all necessary information respecting the purgunnas, &c. &c. held by him and his brothers, Ali Ukbar Khan, Mooreed Hyder Khan, and Dost Mahomed Khan (before the conquest of Scinde), as all the documents are in his hands.

The undermentioned four sons of Meer Roostum, viz.: Meer Ali Murdeh Khan, Meer Shere Mahomed Khan, Meer Ali Buksh Khan, Meer Goolam Mahomed Khan, held, at the time of the conquest of Scinde, the following purgunnas, &c. &c.:—

Half the purgunna of Nowshara; half the purgunna of Khundeara, and a share of every kind of product; also a share in the administration of justice, and management of the two above-mentioned purgunnas.

The whole of the purgunna of Chuck Oomazarcba, and as much of Subzulcote as belonged to Meer Roostum.

The boundary of the purgunna of Khandiara is the Sorabwa river, and this also was included in the shares of the above-mentioned four brothers. Meer Roostum also gave to them the half of the purgunnas of Bhuldneea and Naharkee, together with the whole of Roopa, and as much of Shikarpoor as belonged to Meer Roostum.

In the purgunna of Luddagagun are some jagheers named Taree Veerumloo and Sahiblo Wawgaree, and Datooree, the town of Lookman, the town Mustee Khan Murree, the jagheer Sidabad, and three forts, Gunsee Oodura, Meeterahoo, and Sehariah; all these were given to the above-mentioned four sons of Meer Roostum, and were held by them before the conquest of Scinde. To prove this, the documents can be produced, if necessary.

(True copies.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

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#### MEMORANDUM by the Right Honourable the Governor.

I SHALL be obliged by the Chief Secretary informing me where the papers relating to the case of his Highness Ali Moorad now are.

Chakoon, 15 September 1850.

(signed) *Falkland*.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

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#### MEMORANDUM by the Chief Secretary.

THE papers alluded to being in circulation, the Chief Secretary would be obliged by the information required by the Right Honourable the Governor.

(signed) *A. Malet*,

17 September 1850.

Chief Secretary.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

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#### MINUTE by the Honourable Mr. Willoughby.

THE papers relating to the case of Ali Moorad are with me, and I am engaged in writing a Minute on the Commission's report. The delay which has occurred in the performance of this duty, has been occasioned by the increased business which devolves upon me as senior member of Council, during the absence of the Right Honourable the Governor at Poona; by various references which his Lordship has been pleased to make to me for my opinion on matters which did not admit of any delay (for instance, the recent events in the Persian Gulf, which occupied my uninterrupted attention for a whole week, by no means an unreasonable period, when the extent of information submitted to the Board in my Minute of the 18th instant is considered), and to the fact that two intricate

and



and important cases, involving life and death, have lately been referred to me by the Sudder Foujdaree Adawlut, in my capacity of chief judge of that Court, and which could not of course be delayed. These have occupied me exclusively for several days. I am fully aware how desirable it is that Ali Moorad's case should be disposed of as early as possible; and his Lordship may depend on my best exertions to perform my part in the case, without any unnecessary delay; but with so many and important matters coming before Government, it is not easy to find the uninterrupted leisure required for such grave and important questions as are involved in the proceedings alluded to.

18 September 1850.

(signed) *J. P. Willoughby.*

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

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MINUTE by the Right Honourable the Governor.

1. I do not wish to hurry the Honourable Mr. Willoughby unnecessarily, being well aware of his most indefatigable industry, but I have all along been anxious that the papers concerning Ali Moorad should be sent to the Government of India as soon as possible, and I believe I expressed my anxiety on this point in my Minute on the subject three months ago.

2. My reason was this:—The Commander-in-Chief proposed to reduce the force in Scinde, on the approaching relief, by one native regiment. To this Mr. Willoughby objected, on the ground that Ali Moorad's case was pending, and might require a strong demonstration of troops for its solution.

3. The resolution of Government was, that Lord Dalhousie could decide what weight was to be attached to this objection, and that in his hands the whole matter must ultimately rest. But before deciding the question of reduction, or no reduction of force, it appeared to me that the Most Noble the Governor-general would wish to be acquainted with the facts of Ali Moorad's case, the degree of his delinquency, and the bearing he assumed. That I was not wrong, I learn by a private letter received yesterday; Lord Dalhousie is anxious to see the papers, and has been somewhat at a loss to determine, without them, upon the reply to be given to our references respecting the reduction of the force in Scinde, and the Scinde allowances. I cannot, therefore, but think their early transmission desirable, and that my Honourable colleague will acquit me of having been unreasonable in advocating it.

27 September 1850.

(signed) *Falkland.*

(True copy.)

(signed) *(A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

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MINUTE by the Honourable Mr. Willoughby.

I HAVE no other observation to offer, except suggesting that these Minutes may be forwarded to the Most Noble the Governor-general of India, to account for the delay which has occurred in disposing of Meer Ali Morad's case.

29 September 1850.

(signed) *J. P. Willoughby.*

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

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MINUTE by the Honourable Mr. Blane.

THE papers not having yet reached me, I have no remark to offer.

29 September 1850.

(signed) *D. A. Blane.*

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

## MINUTE by the Right Honourable the Governor.

MY call for these papers was never intended for record, nor did I expect that my observations would go beyond my colleague's and the Secretary's office.

I am informed that such a proceeding as placing observations of the kind, for I will not call them Minutes, on the public records of this Government, or on the records of the Government of India, is quite unusual. If, however, the Honourable Mr. Willoughby adheres to his wish, I suppose it must in this instance be done.

8 October 1850.

(signed) *Falkland.*

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.MINUTE by the Honourable Mr. *Willoughby*.

MY object in wishing my Minute to be sent to the Most Noble the Governor-general, was that his Lordship might be apprised of the cause of the delay in transmitting the Commission's report, and when I dispose of it, I shall refer to my Minute of the 18th September to account for that delay, and to relieve the Government from blame, which, if blame be due, should fall on me individually.

11 October 1850.

(signed) *J. P. Willoughby.*  
*D. A. Blane.*

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

## MINUTE by the Right Honourable the Governor.

NO BLAME, I conceive, can be attached to Mr. Willoughby. I presume these papers may now be cancelled.

14 October 1850.

(signed) *Falkland.*

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.MINUTE by the Honourable Mr. *Willoughby*.

I DO not wish my explanation on this subject to be cancelled, as I intend to refer to it in my Minute on Ali Morad's case.

17 October 1850.

(signed) *J. P. Willoughby.*

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.MINUTE by the Honourable Mr. *Blane*.

THE required explanation might perhaps be given separately, instead of being recorded in this form, and in that view I concur in the Right honourable President's proposal.

17 October 1850.

(signed) *D. A. Blane.*

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

MINUTE by the Right Honourable the Governor.

I AM unwilling to prolong this discussion, and therefore accede to the proposal of the Honourable Mr. Willoughby (*see* his Minute 29th of September), that our Minutes up to that date may be forwarded to the most Noble the Governor-general, the subsequent Minutes being also sent.

(signed) *Falkland.*

20 November 1850.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

MINUTE by the Honourable Mr. Willoughby.

1. I NOW proceed to offer my remarks on the report of the Commission which assembled at Sukkur, in April last, for the purpose of investigating a charge of fraud and forgery, committed against the British Government by his Highness Meer Ali Morad of Khypore. In explanation of the long period I have detained these important papers, I beg to annex the Minute I recorded on the 18th September last, in reply to an inquiry for them made by the Right Honourable the Governor.

2. I propose to divide my remarks under the five following heads: First, I shall state the circumstances which led to the battle and treaty of Nownahar, which are prominently alluded to in these proceedings; secondly, I shall describe the nature and object of the fraudulent act imputed to his Highness Ali Morad, and the manner in which it was perpetrated; thirdly, I shall briefly recapitulate the evidence, oral as well as documentary, by which the charge has been supported; fourthly, I shall offer my opinion as to how it appears to me the case should be disposed of; fifthly and lastly, I shall notice several points which are alluded to in the proceedings, in connexion with our relations with his Highness Ali Morad, upon which it seems requisite to solicit the instructions of the Most noble the Governor-general of India.

3. And, first, in regard to the circumstances which led to the battle and treaty of Nownahar. When, in 1838, the British entered Scinde, the rulers of Upper Scinde were three brothers, Meer Roostum Khan, Meer Mobarick Khan, and Meer Ali Morad Khan. Before them their father, Meer Sorab Khan was the Rais\* or head of the Khypore branch of the Talpoors, and possessed the whole of Upper Scinde, which at the time we entered the province, yielded a revenue of 20,39,000 rupees per annum. He divided his country into four parts, each of his three sons above mentioned receiving one portion as his hereditary property, and the eldest son Meer Roostum also had a life-interest in the fourth part, which was attached to the Turban, which in Scinde is the badge of sovereignty or the chiefship. Meer Sohrab Khan left a will†, dividing his property and regulating the succession among his sons, as follows: "I write this to let it be known that I have divided my country among my sons, and I have given each a certificate showing what his share is, and I have divided the whole between my three sons, Meer Roostum Khan, Meer Moobarick Khan, and Meer Ali Morad Khan. I have divided the country, with whatever may be its annual produce, into four shares; two shares to Meer Roostum, as specified below. The district of Nowshera, Kundeara, Suddagagun, Boordikar, Roopa, Oboura, Bhoonghana, part of Subzulkote, fort of Bukkur, and some few scattered places, the revenue of half of these, with the Seer Shumame Ijara, Tukat, Mehabarree, of all the country, is for the expense of the Turban, and to belong to whoever holds it. The other share is to belong to Meer Roostum Khan, as one of the three brothers. The third share, consisting of Ghotkee, Syndpore, Mahisra,

\* See a very lucid Memorandum, "On the first connexion of the British Government with Ali Morad Khan Talpoor," dated Simla, 5th July 1849, prepared in the Foreign Office of the Government of India.

† For this document, *see* Nos. 151 & 152 of the Supplement to the Scinde Blue Book.

Mahisra, Jamsyra, with its dependent villages, Mahteyla Meerpoor, and Meehurkee, Mooghlee and sundry other places, to Meer Moobarick Khan. The fourth share, consisting of Gajree, Khumhyla, fort of Ahmedabad, city of Khyrpore, with its dependent villages, Nara and sundry other places, to Meer Ali Moorad. I have put each in possession of his district, and have written this will to prevent any quarrelling, and for the peace and quiet of my family, and that the other Ameers, rulers, and Beeloochees may know that the country is to remain in the possession of my posterity, according to this my will. If any one deviates from this, it will be unlawful. I, being of sound mind and body, have written this my will to prevent any further quarrelling.—Dated the 14th Zilkad 1244, Hijree (18th May 1829). (Sealed). *Sohrab Talpoor*.” This will was forwarded by Sir C. Napier to the Governor-general on the date noted in the margin. In the summary prepared in the Foreign Office of the Government of India, it is stated that Meer Sohrab regulated the succession in the following manner: “I do hereby make a will to the effect that upon my death the Guddee and Turban of the chiefship shall devolve upon Meer Roostum Khan. In failure of Meer Roostum, they shall belong to Meer Moobarick Khan. In failure of Meer Moobarick, they shall pass to Meer Ali Morad Khan.” I am unable to reconcile these two accounts of what purports to be from the same document; but they involve an important question as affecting our proceedings before the conquest of Scinde, namely, whether by the custom of that province the Turban or chiefship should devolve on the son\* or brother of the last possessor. There can be no doubt that a very short time before his downfall, Meer Roostum had entertained the design of transferring† the Turban to his eldest son, Meer Mahomed Hussain, and this was very probably one of the causes which induced Meer Ali Morad to plot the ruin of his family, and which he soon after so successfully accomplished. To resume, however: Ali Morad‡, the youngest of Meer Sohrab’s sons, was considerably younger than the other two, and, when a minor, was placed under the guardianship of Meer Moobarick. During his minority, he was unjustly deprived by his guardian of a part of his inheritance. A dispute arose in consequence, which was at its height when we entered Scinde. Meer Moobarick died on the 19th July 1839, and his son Meer Nusseer Khan, now state prisoner at Poona, succeeded to his share of the government, and to the disputes with Ali Moorad. The Meer Roostum, in consequence of an insult offered to his minister, Futteh Mahomed Ghoree, by Ali Morad, espoused his nephew Meer Nusseer’s cause. Towards the end of 1840, Mr. Ross Bell, the political agent in Upper Scinde, investigated and decided the dispute in Ali Moorad’s favour. But before this decision had been agreed to by the parties, Mr. Bell quitted Scinde for Quetta, and dying soon afterwards, the Upper Scinde Ameers brought the case to the notice of his successor, Major Outram. This officer, after inquiry, reported on it to the Governor-general in confirmation of Mr. Bell’s decision. Upon this the Governor-general confirmed the decision, but unfortunately the confirmation was not communicated to the disputing parties. The following extracts from the Digest of Intelligence, received from the Upper Scinde Agency, clearly explain the subsequent progress of the dispute, until at last the two Ameers called out their troops, and on the 15th September 1842, a battle was fought in the vicinity of Nownahar, and Ali Morad being completely victorious, his opponents were obliged to purchase peace by ceding to him nine villages, seven of which belonged to Meer Roostum Khan, and two (Mahtela and Dadaloo) to Nusseer Khan and Meer Mahomed Ali, the Meer Roostum being induced to make this humiliating sacrifice in order to effect the liberation of one of his sons, named Meer Goolam Mahomed Khan:—

“A reconciliation has been effected between Meer Ali Morad Khan and the other members of the Khyrpore family, with whom he had been at feud for years

\* In a letter, dated the 10th May 1842, Mr. Secretary Maddock, on this point, when sanctioning the recognition of Ali Moorad’s reversionary right to succeed to the Turban, observed, “At the same time his Lordship, desirous of the prosperity and future tranquillity of the state of Khyrpore, cannot but regret the existence in that state of a course of descent so unreasonable, and calculated to produce so much conflict in the Khyrpore family.” See Enclosure, No. 57, of No. 379, of Scinde Blue Book.

† *vide* Scinde Digest of Intelligence, dated the 5th September 1842. See also Supplement to Scinde Blue Book, No. 159.

‡ Memorandum prepared by the late Captain Brown, for the Commissioner in Scinde.

years past; this was brought about by Futteh Mahomed Ghoree, Meer Roostum's minister, and heretofore the implacable enemy of Meer Ali Morad; visiting that Ameer at Dejee-ke-kote, humbling himself before the Ameer for his own previous enmity, and soliciting a reconciliation on behalf of Meer Roostum Khan. On which Meer Ali Morad consented to accompany Futteh Mahomed to Khyrpore, where accordingly they proceeded some days ago."

"Meer Ali Morad's vakeel, Sheikh Ali Husson, waited upon Captain Brown, and appeared anxious to persuade him that a second boundary dispute was likely to spring up between his master and Meer Nusseer Khan of Khyrpore, in which, to avoid bloodshed, it would be necessary for the British Government to interfere. Captain Brown informed him that Government did not wish to interfere, but that such matters should be settled by the Rais."

"During the last week the followers of Meer Ali Morad and Meer Nusseer Khan of Khyrpore have come into collision in the neighbourhood of Soonderbeila. One man on each side is said to have been killed. From what I have yet learnt, Meer Ali Morad was the aggressor. I have sent out an agent to inquire. I informed his vakeel that the case should be referred to the Rais of the family, Meer Roostum Khan, not in the first place to the British Government." In a postscript Captain Brown adds, "The disputed boundary lies between the village of Soonderbeila, the property of Meer Nusseer Khan, and Shabeila the property of Meer Ali Morad Khan, and about 12 koss from Sukkur. In the commencement, Meer Ali Morad's party took by force 700 rupees from the ryots of the land disputed. The followers of Meer Nusseer Khan, in return, attacked some grain boats of the former, and carried off about 26 khurwas of grain. In this attack, one man on each side was killed, and one on Meer Nusseer's wounded. In addition to this, the followers of Meer Nusseer Khan have burnt nine houses in Oudar Zukya, the property of Ali Morad. There are now about 200 men of each party on the ground."

"On the 13th July more troops of Ali Morad's were crossed over the river, with the view of opposing those of Meer Nusseer Khan in the neighbourhood of Shahbeila. On the 15th, Ali Morad left Dejee-ke-kote, and moved to Khanpore, with the avowed intention of attacking Meer Nusseer Khan in the neighbourhood of Khyrpore. Meer Roostum sent his minister and one of his sons to dissuade him from further prosecuting the quarrel, but apparently without effect. On the 18th I received a letter from Meer Roostum to the above effect, and requesting me to interfere. I accordingly addressed Ali Morad, stating that it would be right and proper, were the dispute between him and Meer Nusseer Khan referred to the Rais of the family for adjustment; and at any rate, as he had referred his grievances to the Political Agent, he ought not, pending a reply, to further agitate the matter. In this, as in past disputes, Ali Morad would willingly abide by the decision of Meer Roostum himself, but is aware that the minister hostile to him, not the Ameer, would decide the case."

"The dispute between Meers Ali Morad and Nusseer has been adjusted by Meer Roostum Khan, who has promised to proceed to the disputed boundary, and himself decide the case. To this Meer Ali Morad was willing from the first to agree."

"The Ameers of Khyrpore remain quiet, though Meer Ali Morad and Meer Nusseer Khan continue to collect troops in their villages near Shabeila, 12 miles from Shikarpore. The former is said to have invited 300 sowars from Mooltan, and made large promises to Beloochees at Shikarpore and Khyrpore, to induce them to enter his service."

On the 4th August, Ali Morad lost his eldest son, Meer Sohrab Khan; but in the Digest of the 8th it is noted, "Meer Ali Morad and Nusseer Khan continue collecting troops." On the 15th, on the other hand, it is stated, "Meer Ali Morad and Nusseer Khan of Khyrpore have made up their past differences, but still continue collecting troops." On the 22d there is an entry, "Meers Roostum and Ali Morad continue collecting troops under the plea of family differences." On the 29th, "The Ameers continue as heretofore collecting troops, on the old plea of existing differences between Meers Ali Morad and Nusseer Khan." On the 3d September, "Shadee Boota, a vakeel of Meer Ali Morad, waited on his Highness Meer Roostum with a message, bidding him to prepare his forces to

meet him (Ali Morad); Meer Roostum's reply is given, to the effect that his followers are collecting."

"At Khyrpore the Ameers continue collecting their followers. Meer Ali Morad has a large force assembled at Dejee-ke-kote. One reason given for this is, that Meer Roostum Khan has it in contemplation to transfer his Turban of chiefship to his eldest son Meer Mahomed Hussein. This arrangement is said to have been agreed to by all the chiefs of Upper Scinde, except Meer Ali Morad and Meer Ali Murdhan, son of Meer Roostum, and his three brothers. Meer Nusseer Khan and Futteh Mahomed Ghoree, the minister, have, I know, been deputed from Khyrpore to Bortee, where Meer Mahomed now is, to accompany him to Khyrpore. Three vakeels have been deputed to Meer Ali Morad, in the hope of being able to bring over that chief, as it is of importance at the present time there should be but one party among the Ameers. He however declines having any connexion with a party with Meer Mahomed Hussein at its head." In the Digest of the 13th September, it is mentioned, "that Meer Mahomed Hussein would not proceed to Khyrpore, and that Ali Morad continued to decline to join the party." A new point of dispute has arisen between Meers Roostum and Ali Morad, the former refusing to give in marriage a daughter (who had been betrothed to the eldest son of Ali Morad, recently deceased), with the second son of Meer Ali Morad. These are stated to be the causes why Meer Roostum had issued purwannahs, calling on all his followers to assemble.

As far as I can learn, it is not understood at Hyderabad that the troops collected by the Khyrpore Ameers are intended for any other purpose than that of supporting their internal feuds.

"On the evening of the 13th September Meer Ali Morad's force marched to the neighbourhood of Khanpore near Kote of Meer Nusseer Khan and fired, as is apparently customary in this country, guns in defiance, with blank ammunition." Heard of the arrival of Major-general Sir Charles Napier at Kurrachee, with a detachment of Her Majesty's 28th Regiment of Foot. On the 14th September a deputation waited on Capt. Brown with a letter from Meer Roostum. The deputation at once alluded to the unjustifiable conduct of Meer Ali Moorad, and stated that the dispute existing between him and Meer Nusseer Khan, Meer Roostum was willing to decide. On this Captain Brown addressed a letter of remonstrance to Ali Morad, informing him that "he could see no necessity for his acting thus hastily; that dissensions in a country were bad, but most particularly so among relations; and that when they do exist, the parties should listen to the advice and decision of the Rais, or head of the tribe." He concludes by observing that, "with the exception of this dispute, which I conclude will end as usual without bloodshed, as Meer Roostum, I understand, has written to inform Meer Ali Moorad of his intention of moving out to decide the case, which is a petty village quarrel, which has been allowed by interested parties to be made much of, all remains quiet in Upper Scinde."

Before, however, Captain Brown's letter reached Ali Morad, the parties had fought the battle of Nownahar. In the Digest of the following day, it is reported "An action took place yesterday in the neighbourhood of Khyrpore, between the followers of Meer Ali Morad, and those of Meer Roostum Khan and Nusseer Khan, in which the former were victorious; the loss very trifling; 60 killed of the latter party, and 12 of the former. Meer Mahomed Ali, brother of Meer Nusseer Khan, is said to have been wounded; hostilities have for the present ceased. The following is a clear account of the action. Yesterday morning (15th September) Meer Ali Morad took up a position with his whole force at Buksh, Ali Khan Talpoor's village. Meer Roostum, Meer Nusseer Khan, Meer Zangee Khan, Meer Mahomed Ali Khan, Ali Mahomed Khan, Meer Shere Mahomed, Wullee Mahomed Khan, Meer Ali Buksh, Meer Ali Akbar, Meer Ali Murdhan, Meer Morad Hyder, and a host of their allies and retainers, took up their ground on the salt manufacturer's hill, near Captain Kennedy's old quarters, near Khyrpore. Meer Mahomed Ali Khan, Meer Ali Buksh, and Meer Wullee Mahomed immediately advanced rapidly to the Nullah, near the Sekunder Bridge, and commenced hostilities. Goolam Mahomed Beloochee Charikzye,

Charikzye, a follower of Meer Nusseer Khan, rushed forward with a body of men, and seized one of Ali Morad's guns. Hookmul Khan and Syud Ahmed Shah, however, with an overpowering force rushed forward with determined violence, drove back Mahomed Ali Khan's men with great slaughter, till they fled to where Meer Roostum Khan and the other Ameers were seated, when the whole of Meers Roostum and Nusseer Khan's force fled back on Khyrpore. Meer Mahomed Ali Khan, wounded in the leg with a matchlock ball, was so hard pressed by the enemy, that with some 40 or 50 men they were obliged to take refuge in a koonur (a salt hill). There surrounded by Ali Morad's force, without food or water, they were virtually prisoners when my informant came away; nor can Nusseer Khan's force afford any assistance. Meer Roostum, seeing the state of things, sent his seal by his son, Meer Ali Murdhan, to Ali Morad, with a *carte blanche* for any terms he might choose to dictate. Meer Ali Morad replied, 'that he came there to fight, and to recover the lands and properties that Meers Roostum and Moobarick unjustly seized of his when he was a boy.' On the return of Meer Ali Murdhan, Meer Roostum and Syud Ali Gohur, taking with them the Koran, proceeded to Meer Ali Morad's quarters to entreat him to cease fighting, and to withdraw. When my informant came away, Meer Roostum and Ally Gohur were still at Ali Morad's camp. The loss on Ali Morad's side has been some 11 or 12 killed, and a few wounded. On the side of Meer Nusseer Khan, 60 killed, and a considerable number wounded. Sultan Shah Syud is among the killed. Meer Ali Buksh is badly wounded through the arm." At the conclusion of the same Digest, it is stated, "Meer Roostum Khan and Meer Nusseer Khan have satisfied the claims of Meer Ali Morad by transferring to him nine villages, and hostilities have for the present been suspended, but from Meer Roostum continuing to collect troops and repair his guns, it is generally believed that he is temporizing, and intends, when in sufficient force, to meet Ali Morad in the field again."

"Meer Roostum and Nusseer Khan continue to collect troops and repair their guns, with the avowed intention of attacking Meer Ali Morad. Meer Roostum has again summoned Meer Mahomed Hussein, his eldest son, to Khyrpore, threatening to make Meer Nusseer Khan head of the Talpoor family, should he any longer refuse to obey the summons. Meer Roostum issued orders to seize certain jagheers belonging to persons who had aided Ali Morad in the late fight."

"Sheik Ali Hussein, vakeel of Meer Ali Morad, waited upon Captain Brown, to show him the agreement written in the Koran of his master, consequent on the late fight at Khyrpoor, by Meer Roostum Khan. Captain Brown declined having any more to say in the matter, as the Ameer had not thought fit to follow the advice he had formerly given to him on the subject. It appears that the Ameer sent his mother and aunt to Meer Roostum Khan, to endeavour to persuade him to act up to the agreement lately written in Ali Morad's Koran. In this, however, they failed; and on the contrary, the chief calls on Ali Morad to restore Bubhaloo and the other villages, the right to which, after being so long disputed, had been given in his, Ali Morad's favour."

4. Such were the circumstances under which the Treaty of Nownahar originated; and I now proceed to the second head of my Minute, namely, to describe the nature and object of the fraudulent act imputed to his Highness Ali Morad, and the manner in which it was perpetrated. This charge was first officially brought forward\* in a memorandum without date, but written shortly

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\* In the memorandum prepared for the Commissioner by the late Captain Brown, it is stated, "It has long been rumoured that the Koran in which the cession of the two villages by Meer Nusseer Khan had been recorded, had been falsified by additions being made, by means of a fresh leaf being inserted in the Koran, in the place of the original one extracted. Sheikh Ali Hussein, ex-minister of Ali Morad, now produces the leaf, and states as follows regarding the treaty: 'Meer Roostum came to Ali Morad, and wished to make peace. Ali Morad said, "I have expended lacs of rupees in the fight, and have given jaghires to the Beloochees; how can I make peace?" Meer Roostum then gave him seven villages from himself, and two, namely Mahtela and Dadaloo, from Meer Nusseer Khan. He wrote this in the Koran, and sealed it, and then Meer Nusseer Khan and Ali Akbar Khan also sealed it; on this peace was effected, and fighting ceased, when a proclamation was issued that the country beyond Roree was ceded to the British, that belonging to Ali Morad excepted. The Ameer then added in the Koran the word "pergunnah," before the village of "Mahtela;" he afterwards added the words "Meerpoor" and "Mehurkee." He discovered that too many words had been inserted, and the forgery



shortly before he relinquished the Government of Scinde, by his Excellency Sir Charles Napier. It was to the effect that by means of substituting a fabricated for a genuine document, he had appropriated to himself a district instead of certain villages. In other words, by making interpolations and additions in the treaty of Nownahar, he obtained the possession of the pergunnahs of Meerpoor, Mathela, and Mehurkee, instead of the villages of Dadaloo, Mathela, and seven others; and that he afterwards substituted a leaf in the Koran, containing these alterations copied fairly, in lieu of the one on which they had been originally made. In the first instance, the alterations were made in the original treaty. It appears, however, that from some cause, a suspicion arose that a forgery had been committed, and Captain Pope, the Collector of Sukkur, requested that the Koran containing the original treaty might be sent to him for inspection. This demand threw Meer Ali Morad into great perplexity, for the interpolations and erasures in the original were too manifest to escape detection. In the words of one of the witnesses, "after much consideration, he (Ali Morad) proposed that as the treaty was written on four pages, and the alterations and erasures had only been made in the first, and the one containing the seals was perfect, the first leaf should be taken out, and another written by Peer Ally Gohur, and substituted for it." This was accordingly done. The Peer employed to extract the old and substitute the new leaf, was no doubt selected by Ali Morad because he was the writer of the original treaty; but he could not be prevailed upon to commit the fraud until Ali Morad had given him a certificate of indemnity, relieving him from responsibility in the event of the fraud being at any future period detected by the British Government. The Peer is one of the witnesses in support of the charge, and states, "the difference made in the treaty as originally written was, 'pergunnah' (district), was substituted for 'deh' (village), before Mathela, and the words 'Meerpore bamae Mehurkee' were written after Mathela." The original treaty of Nownahar was written on the 9th Shabhan 1258 (15th September 1842). The fraud was committed\* on the issue of the proclamation confiscating Subzulcote and Bhoongbara; but the leaf was not extracted until the 3d Rujub 1259, 31st July 1843, so that between the two transactions, there was an interval of nearly 11 months.

5. It now remains to explain the object of this barefaced fraud. Sir Charles Napier arrived† at Sukkur on the 4th October 1842. On the 1st December following, he informed the Ameers that in consequence of certain infractions of the treaty on their part, he was ordered by the Governor-general to confiscate‡ Rorec and the left bank of the Indus up to the Bhawulpore frontier. His Excellency also desired them to meet at Hyderabad, and subscribe their names to a draft treaty which he had received from the Governor-general. The confiscated territory yielded an annual revenue of 6,10,500 rupees, and contained the following districts. On the 18th December Sir Charles Napier issued the following proclamation: "The Governor-general of India has ordered me to take possession of the districts of Subzulkote and of Bhoong-bhara, and to reannex the said districts to the territory of his Highness the Nawab of Bhawulpore, to whom they will be immediately made over, his Highness guaranteeing all contracts made between the Ameers and private individuals not within the said districts, in such manner as shall be hereafter arranged in fulfilling the details of the treaty.§ It is hereby also made known, that if the Ameers collect any revenue in

was evident; he became perplexed, and, after some consideration, he resolved that the first page, in which he had attempted by scratching out some portions of words, added to correct its appearance, should be extracted; the second, on which were the seals of the different parties, remaining. The matter on the sheet extracted, containing the names of the villages ceded, was recopied on a spare leaf in the Koran. The writer of the whole was Peer Ali Gohur. The sheet extracted is with me here. If you order it, I will give it up." *Vide Exhibit (C.), No. 6, C. P.*

\* Sheikh Ali Hussein says, "At the time the proclamation was issued, the alteration from 'deh Mahtela,' to 'pergunnah Mahtela' was made." Peer Ali Gohur that, "when the proclamation was issued by the British Government about the annexation of the country, the word 'deh,' (signifying village), was altered in the treaty into 'pergunnah,' and in doing so the paper was spoiled."

† Digest of Intelligence from Upper Scinde, dated 4 October 1842.

‡ Memorandum, "On the first connexion of the British Government with Ali Morad," prepared in the Foreign Office of the Government of India.

§ This allusion to a treaty which at the time had no existence is curious, and called forth a mild remonstrance from Meer Roostum: "The result to me is that you have issued a proclamation, that in accordance with the new treaty my country, from Roree to the boundary of Subzulcote, shall be considered as belonging to the British Government from the 1st January; as yet I have not entered into any treaty to this effect."



in advance, after the 1st January 1843, or shall impose any new tax upon the ryots of the above-named districts, the said Ameers shall be amerced to that amount in arranging the new treaty; and this amercement shall be enforced to a larger amount than the Ameers may have so levied upon the people of the said districts." (Signed) *C. J. Napier*, Major-general.

6. Shortly after the conquest of Scinde. "Sir Charles Napier reported to the then Governor-general, Lord Ellenborough, the principles by which he had been guided in the occupation of the territory acquired by that event, which were to recognise as being conformable to the law of the country and creed of the parties, by which we were bound by treaty to abide, the assumption of the Turban or badge of sovereignty by Meer Ali Moorad, in virtue of the voluntary\* resignation in his favour of his elder brother, Meer Roostum, any retraction of which was by the same law inadmissible; and the appropriation of the lands which had belonged to Meer Roostum, both in right of the Turban and as his personal patrimony, under a will of their father, Meer Sohrab, in as far as they were in Meer Roostum's rightful possession at the outbreak of the war; also to recognise Ali Moorad's right to all such lands as were in his own rightful possession at the same period, and to retain all the rest for the British Government, in right of conquest or of forfeiture imposed on the Khyrpore Ameers generally, for breach of engagement previous to the war." As I shall hereafter have occasion to show, Lord Ellenborough assented† to these principles, with one important exception. With much reason, his Lordship questioned the legality, freedom, and authenticity of the transfer of all his personal patrimony by Meer Roostum to Meer Ali Moorad.

7. Hence it will be at once seen that it was Ali Moorad's interest to establish as large a possession as possible, north of Roree, at the outbreak of the war; and in order to effect this, he did not scruple, immediately after he had raised himself to power on the ruin of his brother Ameers, to practise a shameless fraud on the British Government, by deceiving Sir Charles in the manner above mentioned. Accordingly, on the 7th October 1843, he addressed the following letter to Sir Charles Napier: "Meer Nusseer Khan, son of the late Mobarick Khan, had given me in writing on the Koran, the pergunnah Meerpoor, Mathela deh Dadaloo and Soondabugla, three villages which were formerly in his own possession. A copy of the page in question has already been seen by you, and the matter is as clear as the sun at noonday. About a month ago Captain Pope came to Khyrpore to inquire into the question of the transfer of the 'Pugree,' and at that time also examined into the above case, taking the evidence of many respectable witnesses as to the writing in the Koran, such as Meer Shungi Khan, Kumal Khan Tullhanee, with many others. Besides this, you wrote‡ me, just before you left Sukkur, that you would confirm me in the possession of the aforesaid pergunnah and villages; I therefore now write that I may be confirmed in the pergunnahs and villages aforesaid." Captain Pope was§ directed by Sir C. Napier to report upon the matter, and after having inspected the original treaty of Nownahar, and of course, in the absence of any charge against Ali Morad, failing to detect the fraud he was practising, reported as follows: "Peer Ali Gohur, the principal syud in Scinde, avowed the deed to be in his handwriting; of the fact thereof of the deed having been duly written and sealed, little doubt can exist. The balance of testimony, however, as well as the universal voice of the whole country, is decidedly against its having been sealed voluntarily by Nusseer Khan; he appears to have been seated sullenly on the ground, some 10 or 20 paces from the rest of the chiefs. On being applied to for his seal, he is stated to have said that he had it not with him. The ex-Ameer, Roostum Khan, then went up to him, and after trying all in his power

to

\* This has always been a disputed point; Meer Roostum, from first to last, asserting that the transfer was compulsory, when by Sir C. Napier's advice he had placed himself in Ali Moorad's power, in his stronghold of Dejee Kekote.

† The correspondence between the Governor-general and Sir C. Napier on this subject will be found summed up in Exhibit (B.), No. 1, of the Appendix to the Commission's Report.

‡ This is true. On the 11th December 1842, Sir C. Napier wrote a letter to Ali Moorad, assuring him that "all his rights should be secured to him." See Sup. Scinde Blue Book, No. 7.

§ For a more full account of Captain Pope's proceedings, I beg to refer to Exhibit (C.), Nos. 1, 2, 3, & 4, of the Appendix to the Commission's Report.

to reconcile him to what, he said, was inevitable, put his hands in his nephew's waistband, from which he drew the seal, and applied it to the deed. His Highness never\* appears to have obtained possession of the places thus ceded till the whole country came temporarily into his possession in January 1843. His Highness has frequently and fully admitted to me in conversation that the cession was not willingly made. I give his Highness's exact words, "Luskur Leea," i. e. it was a conquered country, or one that he won in war. This is apparently irreconcilable with his Highness's allegations in his letter to the Government of India."

8. Although in his correspondence with the Governor-general, alluded to in paragraph 6 of this Minute, Sir Charles Napier advocated his Highness Ali Morad's claim to retain the country he possessed north of Roree, his right thereto has never been recognised by the British Government, and the following extract from a memorandum† prepared by the Commissioner in Scinde, explains the reason why it still remains in abeyance. In the meantime a circumstance had come to Sir Charles Napier's knowledge, or rather he obtained proofs corroborative of former suspicion in respect to it, which tended to invalidate the authenticity of one of the documents on which the application of his principles to the forfeited territory north of Roree had been based. This document was a treaty purporting to have been executed between Meer Ali Morad, Meer Roostum, and Meer Nusseer Khan, the son of their brother, Meer Mobarick, towards the close of the year 1842, and shortly before the events which led to the war with the British. At that time the family dissensions of these Ameers had been brought to the issue of arms, and in an action in which Ali Morad had the advantage, peace was purchased by the other two, by the cession to him of certain lands enumerated in this treaty, which was written in a copy of the Koran. In virtue of this document the lands ceded by Meer Nusseer Khan, and which would otherwise, as having belonged neither to Meer Roostum nor to Meer Ali Morad, have been appropriated by us, in the application of Sir Charles Napier's principles, had been appropriated by favour to Meer Ali Morad, as having been in his rightful possession at the time of the conquest. It was, however, brought to Sir Charles Napier's knowledge that a fraud had been committed by Ali Morad in respect to this document, by endeavouring to substitute in it the word "district" for "village," in the designation of a place in which the village and its surrounding district bore the same name, and interpolating the names of some districts altogether; and that when this attempt was unsuccessful the leaf itself on which the names were written had been extracted, and the matter which it bore was written afresh, with the desired alterations and additions, on another blank leaf of the same Koran, by the same person by whom the original treaty had been written. The effect of which was to convey to Ali Morad districts of considerable value in place of villages of trifling extent.

9. It must have been mortifying indeed to Sir Charles Napier to have discovered that one for whom he had done and sacrificed so much could have been guilty of such an impudent fraud.‡ And I now pass on to the third head of my Minute; namely, to recapitulate the evidence, oral and documentary, by which the charge against Ali Morad has been supported.

10. I would

\* On the 11th August 1843, Captain Pope submitted a sketch of the country between Roree and Subzulkote, and observed, "as the whole of the country in question was by a proclamation, issued by his Excellency in December 1842, declared to be British territory from and after the 1st January 1843, his Highness Ali Morad cannot found a claim to any portion of it, either on the cession to him by Meer Roostum of the whole of his kingdom, subsequent to the issue of the proclamation adverted to," &c. &c.

† Dated the 27th December 1849. "On the relations of the British Government with his Highness Meer Ali Morad, of Khyrpore." *Vide Exhibit (B), No. 1, of the Appendix to the Commissioner's Report, para. 12.*

‡ On the 21st September 1840, Sir C. Napier informs Mr. Pringle, "When I gave Ali Morad what he claimed (namely, Meerpore Mahtela, I think), as having been made over to him in the Koran by Meer Roostum, I was pretty well aware that he had no right to the district, which was rich, and that he had only a right to the village, which was an affair, as he told me himself on the march to Emanagurh, trifling in amount. When we came, afterwards, to settle our accounts and boundaries, he claimed the district, with some 40,000 rupees annually. He produced the Koran, and in a leaf of it was written that this district he received on the field of battle (I forget the name, but it was fought near Roree, in the end of 1842). I was aware of the trick he was playing, but had no proof; I was however, on the look out, and just before I left Kurrachee I discovered the forgery he had committed, and made over the proofs to Mr. Pringle, or at least I gave them to Captain Brown, secretary."

10. I would first notice, in terms of great satisfaction, the ability, care, and impartiality with which the Commission conducted the inquiry. The inquiry commenced on the 20th April at Sukkur, and terminated on the 8th May. At the outset, the Commission addressed a letter to his Highness Ali Morad, explaining the nature of the charge against him, inviting him to suggest the mode in which the inquiry could proceed with the least violence to his feelings, and informing him that all the evidence would be taken *de novo*; and that it was optional with his Highness, either to attend in person or by vakeel, to cross-examine the witnesses for the prosecution, and to produce evidence in refutation of their allegations. His Highness resolved to appear before the Commission in person, attended by such persons as he desired to be present; and in availing himself of his right of cross-examination, and in his comments on the evidence, he exhibited much acumen and ability. At his own request he was supplied with copies, not only of the depositions taken before the Commission, but also of those which had been previously taken during the preliminary inquiry conducted by Mr. Pringle, and was thus afforded the opportunity of exposing the mis-statements and discrepancies which false witnesses, examined at distant intervals, are likely to commit. When also, during the progress of the inquiry, the documentary evidence was found to press so hard against his Highness, the Commission addressed his Highness in writing, noticing the points which particularly called for explanation, and his replies will be found recorded on the proceedings. Finally, the Commission adjourned from the 22d to the 26th April, to enable his Highness to prepare his defence; and it must, I think, be admitted, that if, with all these facilities and advantages, his Highness has failed to establish his innocence, this has arisen from the irresistible and conclusive nature of the evidence adduced in support of the charge, and from no other cause.

11. The oral evidence consists of the testimony, first, of Sheikh Ali Hussein, who at the time of the imputed fraud was the confidential minister of his Highness Ali Morad,\* but whose service he left in consequence of a quarrel. He states that the cause of quarrel was a remonstrance on his part, pointing out how wrong it was on the part of Ali Morad "deceitfully to appropriate any possessions which belonged to the British Government, who had been so kind to him," and recommending him to restore them. I do not believe this. I have no doubt that the ex-minister was originally a party to the fraud, and that the motive which has now induced him to denounce his master, is irritation in consequence of his not having been sufficiently rewarded with a due share of what Ali Morad had unlawfully acquired. It was this person who first communicated the fraud to Sir Charles Napier as being within his personal knowledge, supporting his accusation by asserting that the leaf extracted from the Koran was in his possession. Fortunately this person, as well as the second witness, were examined several times at distant intervals. He was first interrogated by the late Captain Brown, by order of Sir C. Napier; again by Mr. Pringle, on the 9th January 1850, and finally by the Commission; and a careful comparison of the testimony he gave on each of these occasions will show that it is consistent throughout, and this, therefore, is much in favour of his veracity. On the supposition that his testimony is false, discrepancies and contradictions could scarcely have been avoided, but none of any consequence are observable. Sheikh Ali Hussein was present at the battle of Nownahar, and was an eye-witness of the treaty which was then concluded. This treaty was written in a Koran by Peer Ali Gohur, the second witness, and the cession originally made consisted only of the villages of Dadaloo and Mahtela, and seven villages belonging to Meer Roostum. It so happened that on the day of the battle a letter was received from

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\* In his final examination before the Commission, he states he "was his Highness Ali Morad's fully accredited minister from the beginning of the year of Hijree 1256 (A. D. 1846), to within a few months of the end of 1259 (A. D. 1843); and again, for a short time, during 1260 (A. D. 1844), when a temporary reconciliation took place between us. We soon after quarrelled again, and I left his service altogether." In a letter from Ali Morad to Captain Brown, he is designated by his Highness as "my faithful servant Sheikh Ali Hussein;" and this is repeated in a subsequent letter, reporting the battle of Nownahar and the treaty which followed. (*Vide Exhibit (D.), No. 12, C. P.*) Sir C. Napier, in a memorandum of instructions to Captains Malet and Tait, appointed to settle boundaries, dated the 26th November 1843, says of him, "He was very useful to me during the war, and, as far as I could judge, a faithful servant."

from Captain Brown, remonstrating against Ali Morad's violent proceedings; and in the reply thereto, written on the same day, the nature of the cession was correctly specified. A correct copy of the treaty was also furnished by deponent to a moonshee named Towur Mull, employed by the late Major Clibborne to collect intelligence; and three days after the battle, deponent was sent by Ali Morad with another correct copy, and the Koran in which it was written, to Captain Brown, which copy was deposited in the records of the Sukkur Agency. Shortly after the promulgation of Sir Charles Napier's proclamation of the 18th December 1842, confiscating all the territory belonging to the Khyrpore Ameers, with the exception of what belonged to Ali Morad, the latter wrote a letter to Sir C. Napier, claiming the pergunnah of Mahtela, and, in order to establish his right thereto, changed the word *Deh*, village, before Mahtela, into *Purgunnah*, district. In doing this the original document was damaged, and Ali Morad required Peer Ali Gohur to write a new leaf. His Highness wrote to deponent that the Peer declined to do this without a certificate of indemnity, and ordered him to prepare one, which he did. The Peer at the same time wrote to deponent that Ali Morad was frightening and threatening to disgrace him, and deponent advised him to do as he was required after receiving the certificate, and he did so. The interpolations and erasures on the extracted leaf were made some months before the extraction, and remained in that state until Captain Pope sent for the Koran containing the treaty, when the leaf was taken out and a new one substituted. His Highness sent the altered treaty to deponent, and he took it to Captain Pope, who examined but did not detect the fraud. The extracted leaf was at this time in the Koran, fell out, and attracted Captain Pope's notice, but deponent lulled suspicion by equivocating. The ex-minister enters into very minute details regarding the circumstances in which the treaty of Nownahar arose, and deposes to the fact of Captain Brown's moonshee Moideen having, in consideration of a bribe of 10,000 rupees, abstracted from the records of the Scinde Government the correct copy of the treaty furnished in September 1842 by his Highness Ali Morad. \* The statement of this witness is fully confirmed by Peer Ali Gohur, the next witness in importance. This person was an influential syud in Upper Scinde. He appears to have been employed as the writer of the state papers in the archives of the Khyrpore family. He was first examined by Lieutenant Younghusband, lieutenant of police in Scinde, again by Mr. Pringle, on the 29th December 1849, and finally by the Commission. Like the ex-minister, he is said to have quarrelled with Ali Morad and to have fled from his service, but nothing very precise is stated as to the nature of the quarrel. He was present at the battle of Nownahar, was sent by Meer Roostum to sue for terms, but failed. He then describes how Meer Roostum himself purchased peace by a cession of certain villages, under a treaty which deponent himself wrote in the Koran. This account of the circumstances under which the leaf was extracted, and a new leaf in his handwriting was substituted, exactly tallies with that of the first witness. "The Meer (he deposes) made me enter on the blank page next to the one which had been injured and taken out, the words that had been written on it. He does not know by whom the erasures and additions in the original treaty were made, or when, but heard it was done at the time of the proclamation annexing the country." On being asked why, after so long an interval, the leaf was extracted and a new one substituted, he replied, "The forgery was apparent, and Captain Pope was coming to examine the Koran. On this account the new leaf was written. Captain Pope saw the Koran, and deponent acknowledged to him that the treaty was in his handwriting." The testimony of these two witnesses is corroborated in some of its most essential details by moonshee Towur Mull, who at the time of the battle of Nownahar was employed by the late Major Clibborne to collect intelligence. Having reported the battle of Nownahar to his master, he was sent to inquire about it. Meeting with the first witness, he took out a Koran and showed him the treaty with three seals affixed to it. In this it was written that a dispute had occurred about Soonderbula, and Roostum Khan had made peace by giving the seven\* villages on his own part, and two villages, Dadloo and

\* He names them: namely, 1. Khan Sukan; 2. Abyanee; 3. Bacha; 4. Dherrae; 5. Ghunkna; 6. Royina; 7. Pulluga. On reference to Exhibit (F.), No. 10, it will be seen that these exactly correspond with the names of the villages specified in Meer Roostum's letter to his eldest son, dated the day after the battle of Nownahar.

and Mahtela, on that of Meer Nusseer Khan and Meer Mahomed Alee Khan. Having read it, he begged a copy, and having obtained one in the handwriting of Bushurut Ali, he returned to Sukkur, and having made a copy of this copy himself, gave it to Major Clibborne, who sent it to Captain Brown. Deponent identified the Koran containing the treaty by the seals, and "by the title-page being ornamented in a particular way;" and having perused the treaty, he pointed out the forgery that had been committed. "At the time 'Delh,' Mahtela, or the village of Mahtela, only was written in it; but now there is pergunnah Mahtela, Meerpoor, mae Mehurkee, or the districts of those names." Besides these witnesses, we have the evidence of Meer Mahomed Houssein, the eldest son of the late Meer Roostum, who, although proscribed from residing in Scinde, of his own accord and uninvited, boldly appeared before the Commission; and besides producing three original letters, to be hereafter alluded to, which appear to me to be conclusive of Ali Morad's guilt, and of the real nature of the cession made at Nownahar, deposed that it consisted of seven villages of Meer Roostum's, one of Meer Nusseer Khan's, and one of Meer Mahomed Ali's. He added that Ali Morad did not obtain possession of the villages until after the disturbances in Scinde commenced; and on being asked to enumerate the villages, did so with perfect accuracy, and explained, that although the dispute was between Ali Morad and Meer Nusseer Khan, and not with Meer Roostum, the latter ceded his villages to terminate the disturbances, and because Nusseer Khan would not consent to give up his country. When we come to the documentary evidence, it will be seen that Meer Roostum, at the time of the cession, wrote a very particular account of the transaction to his son; a very natural proceeding, when we consider that he had just alienated for ever a portion of the inheritance which would on his death have devolved on his son. There is also the evidence of a person named Jokeeram, formerly in the Political Agent's office at Shikarpore, and afterwards head moonshee in the Collector's office, and supposed to be thoroughly acquainted with the transactions of the period. Although he does not appear to have been an eye-witness of the fraud, although the evidence he gave is recorded on the preliminary inquiry, and although it confirms the testimony of the other witnesses in many particulars, I shall not further notice it; not only because Jokeeram was not re-examined by the Commission, but also because it is stated\* that "he was tried and imprisoned for bribery and embezzlement, and well known as a very talented, although unworthy person." Finally, the abstraction of confidential papers from the late Captain Brown's office is confirmed by Mr. Maher, a clerk in his office, who remembers the theft of a box of papers, containing a book which related to the transactions about the time of the treaty of Nownahar (although he cannot positively assert that the translation of the treaty was in it), and that suspicion fell on the moonshee Moideen, who was placed in confinement on that account.

12. In regard to the conclusion to be drawn from the oral evidence, of which I have now given a summary, I cannot more clearly express my opinion than by citing the following extract from a very able paper drawn up by Mr. Pringle, for the information of the Most Noble the Governor-general of India. The evidence in support of the allegation seems nearly as conclusive as it is possible for any evidence regarding such a transaction to be. The witnesses are persons who, at the time, stood high in the confidence of Ali Morad, and occupied the most influential positions about his person. They profess to have been eye-witnesses of the fact, and one of them, Peer Ali Gohur, to have been the agent in its commission; against the consequences of which, to himself, he produces a certificate of indemnity from Ali Morad, purporting to bear his seal and autograph authentication. The other witness, Sheikh Ali Houssein, has produced the extracted leaf of the Koran, on which the interpolations are alleged to have been at first successfully attempted, and which, it appears, had fallen into his possession, and been carefully preserved by him. The evidence of these two witnesses was given on different occasions, remote from, and apparently quite independent of each other. It agrees in every particular, and is borne out by the proofs to which it refers. The Koran, from which the leaf is said to have  
been

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\* Letter from Lieutenant Younghusband, lieutenant of police in Scinde, dated 4th January 1849, Exhibit (C.), No. 9, C. P.

been extracted, has been obtained from Ali Morad for inspection. The only point in which its appearance at first sight raised a doubt is, that the matter of the treaty is written on four pages, the three first of which are on one sheet, so that the extracted leaf could not easily have been bound in between the first and second pages, unless it had also been part of a whole sheet instead of a single leaf, as it now appears; but the other leaf may have been blank, and become separated in the process of the extraction,\* and its preservation may not have been cared for. Peer Ali Gohur's evidence on this point, before the Koran and the extracted leaf were shown to him, did not quite agree with their actual appearance, but it is a point on which a trifling discrepancy, at so long an interval of time, does not appear to affect his general credibility. The evidence of these two witnesses is further confirmed by that given independently by one Jokeeram, now a prisoner in the Shikarpore gaol for embezzlement, but formerly a moonshee in the British Agency in Upper Scinde, and supposed to be thoroughly acquainted with the transactions of the period. He does not, however, appear to have been an eye-witness. Finally,† the allusions to the events in the correspondence of the British Agency, at the time when they occurred, with the Ameers of Khyrpore, including Ali Morad himself, tend to the inference that the cessions in respect to which the fraud is alleged to have been subsequently committed were of inconsiderable value, and not of the large amount which, under its operation, they now appear. It is true that the witnesses are reputed to be notorious and unscrupulous intriguers; they are, by their own showing, accessories in the alleged fraud, and they are now at bitter enmity with Ali Morad. It is, therefore, just possible that they may have conspired to get up this charge against him, but the particularity and consistency of their statements, and the concurrence of the collateral circumstances, are so strong as hardly to be overborne by these considerations; while, on the other hand, there is little, unfortunately, in the personal character of Ali Morad to oppose any great obstacle to the credibility of their allegations.

13. I now proceed to explain the nature of the documentary evidence in support of the charge. First, there is an exact copy and translation of the treaty of Nownahar, as it now stands in the Koran. Second, there is the leaf alleged to have been extracted from the Koran, and corresponding in size with the other leaves now containing the treaty. The Commission remark that, between the words "Dadloo and Mahtela," the word "Deh" appears to have been altered to "Pergunnah;" and that in attempting to make "Bu-meerzee" into "Mehr-kee," the paper seems to have been spoiled. Third, there is a piece of waste paper, on which Peer Ali Gohur states he wrote a few words before writing the fresh page in the Koran. He did this to try his hand before he committed the forgery. The words written on this paper here and there bear out this assertion. They are, "and the Village Dadloo and Pergunnah Mahtela," the first four words of the sentence being repeated. Then we have "Meerpoor, Mehr, Mehr, Meer, Meer; in the name of the most merciful God;" and finally, "Mehr-kee." Fourth, there is a copy of the treaty obtained from the Government records, and endorsed as having been received the 4th April 1843. The Commission notice that the village "Abraba" is included in the cession by Meer Roostum, whereas, in the copy in the Koran, the village "Ranna" is written. They regard this as a mere mistake of the copyist; but they remark that, in the extracted leaf, there is a strong appearance of "Abraba" having also been first written without the word "Deh" before it, and afterwards changed into "Deh Rauna," or the village Rauna, as it now stands in the Koran. This apparent alteration of the name of the village, although why it was made does not appear, probably led to the mistake of the copyist, in the copy of the treaty now on the records of Government. They further point out, that after the words "Pergunnah Mathela," Meerpoor, Mehrkee, the word "Khood" stands alone in this copy;

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\* This appears to me to be a very probable solution of the difficulty, and it is by no means unlikely that the piece of waste paper on which Peer Ali Gohur "tried his hand," before he wrote the new leaf, is the identical leaf. *Vide* Exhibit (F.), No. 3, C. P.

† It must be borne in mind that these remarks were written before the Commission assembled at Sukkur; they contain, therefore, no allusion to the important evidence after obtained from the late Major Clibborne's moonshee, Towur Mull, and from Meer Roostum's eldest son, Meer Mahomed Hussain, included in my summary.

copy; whereas, in that in the Koran, "Bu Meerzee Khood" are inserted. This is probably owing to the attempt to alter "Bu Meerzee" in the extracted leaf, or perhaps "Meerzee" alone into "Mehrkee," when it may have been intended to trust entirely to interpolations for the alterations required. A mistake has also been made in this copy, in omitting the word "gahee," meaning "ever," but this does not affect the sense. Fifth, there is the original certificate of indemnity granted by Meer Ali Morad to Peer Ali Gohur, absolving him from the consequences of having perpetrated the forgery, and bearing his Highness's seal and sign manual. Sixth, there is a copy of the Treaty of Nownahar, which was given by Ali Morad's minister, Sheikh Ali Hussein, to the moonshee Towur Mull, copy of which copy is stated to have been given to Major Clibborn, for the late Captain Brown. The Commission notice several clerical errors and variations in this copy, when compared with the treaty in the Koran, and with the extracted leaf. On the whole, however, I am of opinion, that these rather tell in favour, than otherwise, of the genuineness of the document; for, if it had been made for an object that is to support the charge, it would have been made perfect.

14. The above may be considered to constitute the first portion of the documentary evidence, which may be conveniently classified together. The first document needs no remark, as it was produced by his Highness Ali Morad as the genuine and original treaty of Nownahar. The Koran in which it is written was identified as the one from which the leaf was extracted, by the three principal witnesses, Sheikh Ali Houssein, Peer Ali Gohur, and Towur Mull: the second was given by the first of these witnesses to Sir Charles Napier, through his moonshee, Ali Akhbar, who states, "Ali Morad had given it to him to take care of. It was extracted at Khyrpore, in the presence of my moonshee, Bushurat Ali, and the Peer; I was not myself present, having attempted to dissuade Ali Morad from the deed; my moonshee brought the Koran, and the loose leaf was in it. The Koran was afterwards taken to Captain Pope, who had heard a rumour of the fraud; he inspected it, but did not detect the fraud. The treaty was written on four pages, commencing on the page on the right side of the book, and ending with a page on the left side, on which were the seals; the extracted matter was on the first page, the rest remained as it originally was in the Koran; one sheet, forming two leaves, was extracted, of which one leaf was blank; two blank sheets were then transferred from the beginning of the book, in order to re-write the page extracted; the binding of the book was undone for this purpose." The moonshee told me this. After showing the Koran to Captain Pope, I went to Bubbeelow, and returned the Koran to Ali Morad, taking out the two extracted leaves, which I kept by me. The Peer states, "the first page is the one that I re-wrote; the remaining three pages, on the last of which are the three seals, are my original writing." Major Clibborn's moonshee states, "this is the leaf that was in the treaty originally." I see no reason for doubting the truth of the above evidence. To some it may appear unaccountable how Ali Morad could have allowed such strong proof of his guilt to have passed out of his possession; but Sheikh Ali Hossein was then in his full confidence, and he may have forgotten it, or success in a series of unprincipled deeds may have made him careless. The third document is thus described by the Peer: "It appears to be an attempt to write certain words fair, but I do not recollect." Sheikh Ali Hussein says, "it is the blank page on which the Peer tried his hand." In this examination before the Commission, the Peer states, "It is a paper on which I wrote a few of the words required, to see if I could insert them properly in the fair copy, and that the iuk was all right." It appears to me that this document is corroborative of the truth of the story of the witnesses, for it seems extremely unlikely that such a device should have occurred to them as an after-thought in support of a conspiracy. The fourth document is strongly corroborative of Ali Morad's guilt. It is a copy of the treaty \* of Nownahar, clandestinely entered into the Scinde

\* In a postscript to the memorial prepared by Mr. Pringle, for the Governor-general, he states, "Since this paper was written, I have received information tending to show that two genuine copies of the treaty of Nownahar were at one time on the records of the Scinde Government, but were surreptitiously abstracted from them, and a spurious one containing the present interpolations substituted. This took place in March 1843, one month after the battle of Meeanee, and five months before the alleged fraud in the Koran, which was perpetrated 20 days before Captain Pope proceeded



Scinde records in lieu of the genuine copy, originally furnished to Captain Brown, subsequently abstracted through the knavery of the moonshee Moideen. It is in the handwriting of Bushurut Ali. Sheikh Ali Hossein deposes: "Two or three days after the treaty, I produced the Koran before Captain Brown, to whom I delivered a letter from Meer Ali Morad, enclosing copy of the treaty, written by either moonshee Busharut Ali or Kishondass, for the records of Government." Before Mr. Pringle, he stated, "The rough copy of the treaty of Nownahar was written by me, and the Meer sent a copy to the British Authorities." It of course became necessary, after the treaty had been altered, to destroy the decisive evidence which this copy afforded of the forgery; and the manner in which it was effected strongly illustrates Ali Morad's unprincipled conduct. He corrupted the moonshee Moideen, by promising him a bribe of 10,000 rupees, on producing the copy. The moonshee, in the first instance, attempted to deceive his employer, by stating that the document required had been lost in the attack on the Residency at Hyderabad. He had also the effrontery to claim the promised reward, on the plea that as the document had been lost, all discussion respecting the alteration of the word "Deh" into "Pergunnah" was at an end. Ali Morad, however, was not to be so deceived; and when on a visit at Hyderabad, he repeated his promise to pay the 10,000 rupees, provided the moonshee "would get for him the book in which the translations of this kind were kept." Moideen agreed, but demanded security for the payment of the bribe when he had performed his part of the contract, and at Ali Morad's request, his minister, Sheik Ali Hussein became security. The moonshee soon after abstracted the book, and received the amount promised. Sheikh Ali Hossein states that the copy I am now remarking on, corresponding with the forged treaty, was introduced by himself into the Scinde records on the 4th April 1843, and this fact is established by an endorsement, to the effect that it was received on that date. Hence it is clear that some reason existed for placing the document on our records; and as the subject of the treaty of Nownahar was not then under discussion, no other reason can be assigned except that stated in the evidence, namely, that it was so placed in lieu of the copy which had been abstracted by Moideen. The ex-minister further states, that Ali Morad sent to him a man named Hafiz Nooa Mahomed Khan\*, with a letter, directing him to attend to whatever he might say. "Hafiz was provided with a piece of paper, on which was written the words 'Pergunnah Mathtela Meerpoor Bamere Mehurkee,' which he said he had been directed to show, and take back; and that I was to give a copy of the treaty, written by my own moonshee, with these alterations, to be placed on the Government records; and I did all this." The copy being now produced, he recognised it as being the one written by his moonshee, Bushurut Ali, after the forgery had been committed, because the pergunnas of Mahtela and Meerpoor are inserted in it. This evidence is corroborated by that of Major Clibborne's moonshee, Towur Mull, who states, that on the 18th September 1842, Ali Morad's minister brought the Koran to Captain Brown, and explained all that had occurred. Moonshee Moredeen placed a copy of this in the Persian records, and had a translation made in English. After the battle of Meeanee, I heard Moideen "had lost the Persian and English copies of the treaty of Nownahar, on the records of Government." Suspicion fell on the moonshee. Captain Brown was very angry, and put Moideen under arrest. He was subsequently released, on his stating that the book had been lost in the attack on the Residency. When Ali Morad came to Hyderabad, I heard that the moonshee had given him the book containing the copies. The fact of a book of confidential records having been lost, and of suspicion falling on Moideen, is fully confirmed by the evidence of Mr. Maher, a confidential clerk in Captain Brown's service, and still in the Commissioner's office. "I recollect," (says Mr. Maher,) "that about June

1843,

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ceeded to Khyrpore to examine the deed (also in a Koran) in which the public cession of the Turban was made, and took the opportunity of examining this one also, when of course it would correspond with its present appearance. I have not the means of verifying immediately this information, and it may not perhaps be strictly accurate in its details, but these are circumstances which give to its general substance a considerable *prima facie* appearance of probability."

\* It appears that this person was either at Mooltan or Bhawalpore, as he obtained service from Bhawal Khan, and Sheik Ali saw him at Mooltan, during the siege of that place.



1843, a box was stolen from Captain Brown's table, containing Major Outram's secret letters, and important papers written during his stay at Khyrpoor. It also contained some valuable Persian documents." Captain Brown told me this. In the box was an English book, which was wholly written by myself. It was endorsed "secret." It related to the disputes between the Ameers of Upper Scinde, and commenced about September 1842. Some of the papers related to the treaty of Nownahar, but I do not recollect whether a copy or translation was among them. Every inquiry was made, and suspicion fell on moonshee Moie-deen, "who was currently believed to have taken it." He was suspended, but as nothing could be proved against him, he was again employed for a short time, and then dismissed altogether. The box, with its contents, was never afterwards heard of. The fifth document, or the certificate of indemnity, is identified by Sheik Ali Hussein as written by himself, with Ali Morad's seal affixed to it. The Peer also identified it, and states it was written immediately before he wrote the new leaf, pointing out Ali Morad's seal, and the word "luhal," or confirmed, as his Highness's autograph authentication. This also is strong corroborative evidence of his Highness's guilt. The sixth, and last document, is very important. It purports to be the identical copy of the treaty of Nownahar, furnished by Sheik Ali Hussein to Major Clibborne's moonshee, Towur Mull, who was employed by that officer to collect intelligence of passing events. In this, of course, only nine villages actually ceded to Ali Morad are enumerated. It is identified by the ex-minister as a true copy of the original, taken before the forgery was committed, and, as he believes, in the handwriting of his moonshee, Bushwunt Ali, who is now at Saharanpore. In his examination by Mr. Pringle, he states, "Moonshee Towur Mull was sent to me formerly by Major Clibborne to get a copy of the treaty of Nownahar, and I gave him a copy of it as it was originally, without any allusion to pergunnas." Towur Mull himself states, "For several years after I had shown it to Captain Brown, I kept the copy of the treaty made for me by Bushurut Ali, until the Commissioner arrived at Sukkur, when I gave it to Mr. Younghusband. I did not show it to any one, but mentioned it to Captain Malet and Major Goldney. On Exhibit (F.), No. 6, being shown to him, he identifies it, and after reading it over, observes, "This is the same, and no alteration has been made in it." The Commission point out that the words "deh Mahtela" appear to them to have been partly erased and altered; and he replies, "The copy is just as it was when Bushurut Ali gave it to me, when I was speaking to Sheik Ali Hussein: there is no difference in it." On being asked, the witness states what is now written is "wa deh Mahtela."

15. The second portion of the documentary evidence consists of extracts from the correspondence of the British agency at the time of the battle and treaty of Nownahar, with the Ameers of Khyrpoor, including Ali Morad himself, containing allusions which establish that the cession in respect to which the fraud was committed was of trifling value, and not of the large amount which in consequence of the alleged fraud it now appears; in other words, that the cession consisted of villages only, and not of districts. This will be found in Exhibit (D.), No. 1 to No. 20 of the Appendix to the Commissioners' proceedings; and I shall now briefly notice the principal documents of the series. The first of the series is a letter from Ali Morad to Captain Brown, complaining of the conduct of Meer Nusseer Khan and of the sons of Meer Roostum, and stating they intended to wage war against him. It is dated the 1st Shaban (7th September 1842), and reached Captain Brown on the 9th September 1842. From another letter it appears that Captain Brown reported the arrival of a mission on the 10th September, from Meer Roostum, making counter complaints, that Ali Morad had advanced with his forces to Khyrpore. Upon this Captain Brown addressed a letter of remonstrance to Ali Morad, requiring him to disperse his troops. About the same time Meer Nusseer Khan also complained against Ali Morad, stating that if violence was resorted to he had no alternative but to fight. This reached Captain Brown on the 15th September 1842, the very day on which the battle of Nownahar was fought, and which was reported to Major Outram on the 16th September. After this Meer Nusseer Khan wrote another letter, complaining bitterly against Ali Morad's violence, and stating "Meer Roostum Khan managed to settle matters and put an end to the strife; I was obliged to satisfy the hungry beggar with a morsel, and so put him off for the time." Ali Morad also wrote an apologetic letter, throwing the blame on the opposite party. This

contains the following important admission: "Meer Roostum Khan then came forward as arbitrator, and gave up some of his own villages, and also of Meer Nusseer Khan, as compensation for the injury I had sustained, and the expense of collecting troops, amounting to some lacks of rupees." He adds that this did not satisfy him, but that the receipt of Captain Brown's letter of remonstrance had induced him to accept the terms. In a P. S. he adds, "My faithful servant, Sheik Ali Hussein, will shortly wait upon you with the Koran containing the agreement, showing the seals of Meer Roostum and Meer Nusseer Khan, and relate all particulars. A letter from Meer Roostum was also received, giving his account of the battle, and strongly inveighing against Ali Morad's perfidy, disrespect, and dissimulation towards him, "who am the Rais or the head of the tribe." Passing over other letters which do not require to be noticed, we come to Captain Brown's digests of intelligence from the 13th to the 19th, and from the 20th to the 27th September 1842. The former contains an account of the battle, and under date the 20th there is the following conclusive entry in Captain Brown's own handwriting; there can here be no mistake, for from another letter we learn that on the morning of the 20th Ali Morad's minister had waited upon Captain Brown, and had no doubt shown him the Koran containing the agreement; the entry is, "Meer Roostum and Meer Nusseer Khan have satisfied the claims of Meer Ali Morad, by transferring to him nine villages, and hostilities have been for the present suspended; but from Meer Roostum continuing to collect troops, and repair his guns, it is generally believed that he is temporising, and intends when in sufficient strength to meet Meer Ali Morad in the field again." In addition to these proofs collected by the Commission that the cession consisted of villages, and not of purgunnas, I find that in a P. S. to a letter addressed by this Government to the Honourable the Secret Committee, dated 1st October 1842, it is reported as follows: "Letters have this morning been received from Sukkur, dated the 17th ultimo (September), from one of which is the following extract: 'Hostilities between the Ameers of Upper Scinde have for the present ceased, Meer Nusseer Khan having transferred to Meer Ali Morad certain villages.'"

16. The third portion of the documentary evidence is the most important and conclusive of the whole. It consists of three original letters, in the possession of the eldest son of Meer Roostum, who, as already stated, although proscribed from entering Scinde, when he heard of the inquiry, voluntarily appeared before the Commission. The first of these letters purports to have been addressed to him by his father, Meer Roostum, on the 16th September 1842, the day after the battle of Nownahar. It must therefore be viewed as a confidential communication in which the father describes to his son what had occurred on the previous day. The whole letter is worthy of an attentive perusal. After stating that the conflict with Ali Morad had been brought on by Meer Mahomed Khan, through the pride of his youth, he informs his son "being helpless by the fear of the strong English army, which is close at hand, under the pressure of circumstances, I gave several places of jagheer, of my own, such as the village of Khan Buhan, Ubyanee, Bacha, Dherree, Ghurruckna, Rayina, and Pulleja, the last two of which are Meer Ali Ukhbar Khan's, the village of Dadloo from Meer Nusseer Khan, and that of Mahtela, from Meer Mahomed Ali Khan. These were all written over in the Koran, and the disturbance removed." The Ameer then pathetically entreats his son to come quickly with his troops and munitions of war, "in order that we may retaliate and have our revenge, as he (Ali Morad) had been so insolent to me, who am the chief of the tribe." The second letter from Meer Nusseer Khan, is dated the 17th September 1842, two days after the battle, and is also addressed to Meer Roostum's son. After detailing the particulars of the battle, it informs him, "when the principal Ameer (*i. e.* Roostum) being helpless, gave to Meer Ali Morad, seven villages of his own, and my village of Dadloo, and that of Mahtela, belonging to Meer Mahomed Ali Khan, who was then absent, I refused to put my seal to the agreement to this effect in the Koran, but the principal Ameer took my seal by force from my tasheebejee and applied it." In conclusion, he calls upon him to come quickly "with a large force and artillery, in order to take our revenge of Ali Morad." The third letter purports to be from Meer Ali Morad himself to Meer Roostum's son, written from Dejee-ke-Kote, and dated 24th September 1842, nine days after the battle of Nonahar. After alluding to this battle, Ali Morad

Morad informs Meer Mahomed Hussein, as follows: "The action took place, and afterwards Meer Roostum interfered to make peace. On account of my expenses he gave me seven villages of his own; namely, Khan-un-Khan, Ubyanee, Bacha, Dhurree, Reyna, Pulleeja, and Ghurruckna; also two villages, those of Dadloo and Mahtela, on the part of Meer Nusseer Khan. He wrote all this in the Koran, and gave it to me." Ali Morad then expresses alarm at the preparations in progress by his opponents to attack him (and we know from the Scinde Digests of Intelligence that this is true), and informs Meer Roostum's son, that if he will observe a neutrality, and aid neither party, he (Ali Morad) "will restore to him the seven villages given to him by Meer Roostum, keeping the villages of Mahtela, Dadloo, and Soonderbeila himself; but that if he will render assistance against Nusseer Khan, then whatever country they might take belonging to him or his relations shall be divided between us." Meer Mahomed Hussein deposed before the Commission, that he received two letters from Ali Morad, one before the other, after the battle of Nownahar. The first\* related to his disputes with Nusseer Khan, and was delivered to him by Hafiz, to whom he was referred for further particulars; the second is the letter above alluded to, in respect to which he states, "I received this letter after the battle of Nownahar, when I was collecting troops. I was at Abad, when Hafiz Hukumut brought it to me." He identifies the letter, as well as Exhibits (F.), Nos. 9 and 10. On Ali Morad's letter being shown to his late minister, Sheik Ali Hussein, he also identified it, and declared it to be in his handwriting, stating, that it was written about the time of the battle with the view of effecting a reconciliation with Meer Mahomed Hussein. Thus it will be seen that in all of these three letters the cession made after the battle of Nownahar is alluded to, in terms altogether irreconcilable with its extent, as it now appears in the Koran, and as now claimed by Ali Morad.

17. There are two other documents requiring a passing remark. In a letter addressed to Sir Charles Napier on the 24th January 1843, Ali Morad had merely claimed "the pergunna of Mahtela, and three villages named Dadloo, Kundpara, and Soonderbeila," making no mention of the pergunnas of Meerpoor, Mehurke, as entered in the forged treaty of Nownahar. His Highness endeavoured to surmount this difficulty by stating, that the last two districts are included in, and subordinate to, that of Mahtela; but if so, the question naturally arises, why are they separately entered in the Koran? Again, although the treaty of Nownahar is dated the 15th September 1842, the districts in dispute are included among those entered in the subsequent treaty, dated the 20th December 1842, by which Meer Roostum is alleged to have ceded to Ali Morad the Turban or badge of sovereignty in Upper Scinde. This seems inconsistent with the fact that they had already been ceded under the first of these treaties.

18. I shall now briefly review the counter evidence which his Highness Ali Morad has been able to adduce, in refutation of the formidable array of testimony adduced on behalf of the prosecution. His Highness's defence† is long and rambling; he refers to the enmity which existed between his brothers and himself, in consequence of his allying himself with the British Government, and gives an account of the battle of Nownahar. He charges his ex-minister, Sheik Ali Hussein and Peer Ali Gohur, with enmity towards him, and the former with having leagued with Sir Charles Napier's moonshee, who advised the minister to demand half the country which the British Government had given to him. To this his Highness would not consent, though he promised a jagheer, and in consequence of this refusal, he threatened to accomplish his Highness's ruin. Ali Morad further asserts, that his minister was incensed, because he had applied for a Resident to be stationed at his Court, and Captain Malet being in consequence appointed.

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\* Exhibit (F.), No. 12. This document is admitted by Ali Morad to be genuine. It is merely to the effect that it will be delivered by Hafiz Hukumut, and that the party addressed might consider any message he delivered to be true. It is in Ali Morad's own handwriting. Hafiz appeared before the Commission, and admitted he was sent with the first letter, and a message, but denies being sent a second time. The second letter being shown to him he denies having taken it.

† It is dated the 25th April 1850, and is recorded on the Commission's proceedings of the following day.

appointed. At last his Highness resumed his minister's jagheer, and called upon both him and Peer Ali Gohur to render their accounts, as they had embezzled from him several lacks of rupees. They transacted all his business for him, had the custody of his seals, which they applied to any writing or agreement they chose, and they had also in their possession blank papers, with his autograph authentication, "Buhal ust," (it is confirmed) written upon them. The three principal witnesses for the prosecution were very strictly cross-examined\* by Ali Morad, and it is worthy of remark that his Highness does not impute to the moonshee, Towur Mull, any motive of animosity likely to induce him to depose falsely, though he designates him as a criminal and a prisoner, whose period of imprisonment had not then expired. Finally, he indignantly denies† the charge altogether, and boldly asserts, that "the treaty is as it stood on the day of the fight, and no alteration has been made in it."

19. His Highness only produced seven witnesses in his defence: 1st, His own uncle; 2d, a dependant of his own, formerly in the service of Meer Roostum; 3d, another servant of Meer Roostum, now out of employ; 4th, a servant, formerly of Meer Nusseer Khan's, but now in Ali Morad's service; 5th, a deceased servant of Peer Ali Gohur's; 6th, the kajee of Shikarpore; and, 7th, a zemindar of Khyrpore, who denies the ex-minister's statement that he (deponent) was sent by Ali Morad to order him to write out the certificate of indemnity. Ali Morad's uncle states, that the cession included the purgunnas of Mahtela, Meerpoor, Mehurkee, as well as the villages; but in many particulars he otherwise corroborates the evidence of the witnesses for the prosecution. No one however can fail, on comparing the evidence of the three first witnesses, to detect a great similitude, as if they had been previously tutored. The Commission, in fact, notice, that these persons gave their evidence in a manner which conveyed the impression, that it was entitled to no confidence, and had been prepared for the occasion, and was given like the repetition of a task which had been committed to memory, and occasionally the witnesses were prompted by the Meer's vakeels. The fourth witness was produced to establish that a seal belonging to Ali Morad was lost; that he saw it in the Peer's possession, who offered to forge a document for him, to enable him to adjust his accounts; but he admits no such document was forged. This occurred three years ago. The Peer denies having possessed such a seal. The fifth witness, a discarded servant of the Peer, states he saw the seal in his master's possession, and that the seal on the Certificate of Indemnity is of that which was lost. The sixth witness deposes that he had seen many blank papers with impressions of seals, and the words, "Buhal ust," upon them in the possession of Peer Ali Gohur. Such may, I think, be considered the sum and substance of the oral evidence adduced by Ali Morad in his defence.

20. With respect to the mass of documentary evidence adduced in support of the prosecution, his defence may be said to consist of a general disavowal by Ali Morad of the documents produced bearing his seal and signature. When required by the Commission to explain the letter he wrote to Captain Brown, and received by that officer on the 18th September 1842, describing the cession to consist of villages, and how it could be reconciled with its actual extent, as specified in the treaty of Nownahar in the Koran, namely, purgunnas Meerpoor, Mahtela, and Mehrkee, Ali Morad merely replied that no such letter was to be found on his records.‡ His Highness does not, however, question the authenticity of the letter, but states it "must, he imagines, have been written by

\* See a paper on the C. P. dated the 28th April 1850, remarking on the discrepancies in their evidence. They do not affect however the main story, although minor variations are noticed, but not of such a nature as to affect their general credibility.

† Exhibit (D.), No. 2, C. P., at the conclusion of the inquiry Ali Morad addressed a sort of remonstrance to the Commission. *Vide* Exhibit (H.), No. 3, C. P. In this he observes, "I abandoned all connexion with my brethren and relations, and formed a strict alliance with Government, and fought with its enemies." Again, "I have become the enemy of my brothers and relatives by fighting with them under the allegiance I formed to Government, and turning them out of their homes and possessions. They, consequently, all unite against me, and are engaged in these seditions."

‡ The Commissioners examined these records, and satisfied themselves that only a portion of Ali Morad's correspondence had been entered in them. They also saw reason to believe that another letter produced by his Highness had been tampered with.

by Sheikh Ali Hussein." This is the case, and we must recollect that at this time no quarrel existed between Ali Morad and his minister, to induce the latter to misrepresent the real facts of the case; but the letter distinctly states, "In the meantime Meer Roostum became mediator, and gave over to me several villages, to cover the expenses of my army and the loss I had sustained, amounting to lacks of rupees. I, however, was not content with the few places they made over to me, and would have demanded reparation for the whole of my loss, had not your letter at that moment arrived. I then agreed to accept of the villages that Meer Roostum offered to me." With respect to the three important letters produced by Meer Roostum's eldest son, Ali Morad could only assert that they are forgeries, that the letter from himself to Meer Mahomed Hussein must have been written by Sheikh Ali Hussein, as he had the custody of his seal, and had blank papers with his seal affixed. The letters from Meer Roostum and Meer Nusseer Khan he declares must have been forged by their families; and in order to support this declaration, Ali Morad produced a letter\* purporting to be from Meer Mahomed Hussein to Meer Mahomed Ali Khan and Meer Ali Mahomed Khan, and, if genuine, would establish that Peer Ali Gohur forged documents, and that an intrigue was on foot against Ali Morad, so that he might lose the friendship of the British Government. This is dated the 27th December 1849; but it does not appear how Ali Morad obtained possession of it, which is a suspicious circumstance. On this letter being shown to Meer Mahomed Hussein, he at once admitted that his seal is affixed to it, but denied that he ever wrote such a letter, and of which he has no knowledge. He added, that when he sent a quazee (who was afterwards employed by Ali Morad as his vakeel) to the gentlemen, he furnished him with four blank papers bearing his seal. One of them he afterwards recovered, but the other three remained with the quazee; and he therefore supposes that the letter now produced must have been written on one of these.

21. Having now remarked, perhaps at greater length than was requisite, upon the evidence adduced, both for the prosecution and defence, I shall conclude this part of my Minute by the following extract from the Commission's Report, containing a very clear and impartial summary of the case against Ali Morad, and pronouncing his Highness guilty of the gross act of fraud and forgery charged against him:—

"The strength of the defence, therefore, must rest on the badness of the character and the motives of the witnesses for the prosecution; and the Commission is of opinion that, apart from Ali Morad's allegations, under ordinary circumstances there might be enough in their own position and showing to render their evidence, if uncorroborated by collateral proof, insufficient. But these men were undoubtedly, at the time they state the circumstances in question to have occurred, the trusted and confidential servants of his Highness; and his Highness appears only to have discovered their worthlessness when Sheikh Ali applied to him for half the country as a reward for his services. Moreover, in a case like this, direct evidence is not to be expected from witnesses of unexceptionable character and motives. Hence it becomes necessary to take such as is procurable, and endeavour to test its value by its internal marks of probability, and by collateral proof. It is therefore on the force of these that, in the opinion of the Commission, the issue of the present investigation must depend, and they are as follows:—

"1st. The narrative is more lengthy, complicated, and circumstantial than would have been necessary for the purpose of a conspiracy, and therefore presents more points exposing it to detection, than it is probable conspirators would have hazarded.

"2d. The appearance of the extracted leaf exactly corresponds with that of the Koran, from which it is said to have been taken, and the latter still retains the marks of the stitching by which it appears to have been fixed in it.

"3d. The bad execution of the alterations in the extracted leaf, as it now stands, is apparent enough, and the attempt made in it to substitute the word 'Mehekee' for 'bu murzee,' whereas the re-written leaf contains both words, and

\* Exhibit (F.), No. 13. For Ali Morad's remarks on this document, see his explanatory Memorandum recorded on the Commission's proceedings, and dated the 30th April 1850.

and agrees with the statement of the witnesses as to the successive stages by which the forgery was brought into its present form.

"4th. The only copy of the treaty now on the records of the British Government, and which there is no reason to doubt was placed at the date of the receipt entry, endorsed 4th April 1843, and has remained there ever since, corroborates Sheikh Ali's statement as to its having been then delivered for record by him, in consequence of the loss of the first copy. It corroborates it also in a remarkable point, which Sheikh Ali did not himself notice, nor at first perceive the force of when questioned upon it, which is, that it bears the word 'Mehrkee,' followed by 'khood,' but without the intermediate 'bu murzee,' and in this respect appears to warrant the inference, that it was at that time intended to support the claim by interpolating the additional matter without resorting to the substitution of a fresh writing; for although the word Meerpoore does not appear in the extracted leaf, it is evident that an attempt was made to alter 'bu murzee' into 'Mehrkee,' and had this succeeded, Meerpoore might have been inserted before it, and the word 'khood' must then of course have remained alone, without 'bu murzee' preceding it as it now appears in the Koran. Either reading would have made sense, but a slightly different sense.

"5th. The copy of the treaty produced by Towar Mull, as having been taken by Sheikh Ali's Moonshee, Bushwut Ali, from the original in the Koran as it stood at the time of the battle of Nownahar, and of which a copy was then given to Major Clibborn, bears the word village, not pergunna Mahtela, and makes no mention of Meerpoore Mehrkee. It also contains 'bu murzee,' which was transformed into Mehrkee in the extracted leaf, and omitted in the copy now on the records, but again inserted in the re-written leaf. This document would give strong confirmation of the truth of the narrative, if it could be relied on as genuine. The Commission, however, is not disposed to found much upon it, because there is some appearance of erasure in the word signifying village, preceding Mahtela, which brings it into doubt, and also because it has been immediately in the custody of the persons whose statement it is brought to corroborate, and therefore open to the same objections from their character and motives, as their statement itself; could any dependence indeed be placed upon it, it might perhaps warrant an inference that the tampering with this treaty had been commenced at an earlier period after the battle of Nownahar than the date of the proclamation annexing the districts north of Roree, to the Khan of Bawulpore.

"6th. The circumstance of the Persian records of the late Upper Scinde agency not being forthcoming between March and December 1842, in September of which year the treaty was made, and the loss of the copies of the treaty which were then obtained; also the abstraction of the box of English records relating to the same period, as proved by Mr. Maher, and by a letter\* from Captain Brown, in which it is assigned as the reason for applying to the Government of India for the copy of a document supposed to have been contained in it; these circumstances strongly corroborate Sheikh Ali's statement in a point which, had they not really occurred, it was unnecessary to introduce into the narrative, and the introduction of which could only have increased the risk of detection, while if the abstraction of the papers was not effected with the cognizance of Meer Ali Morad, and for the object alleged, as no other reason has ever been heard of for abstracting them, it could only have been for the objects of a conspiracy, upon which it has been brought to bear after a lapse of seven years, a supposition too improbable to be for a moment entertained.

"7th. The mention of the pergunna only of Mahtela, in the letter from Ali Morad to Sir Charles Napier, claiming it in January 1843. This the Commission is disposed to consider, in conjunction with other circumstances confirmatory of Sheikh Ali's statement, as to that pergunna only having at that time been included in the forgery, and Meerpoore and Mehrkee having been subsequently added,

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\* *Vide* Exhibit (G.), Nos. 1 and 2. Letter from the Government of Scinde to the Government of India, dated 12th November 1847, requesting copies of the replies to the letters addressed by Colonel Outram, late Political Agent in Scinde and Beeloochistan, to the Government of India, dated the 21st and 26th April 1842, relating to disputes between his Highness Meer Ali Morad and Meer Nusseer Khan, of Khyrpoore, as the originals are supposed to have been carried off in a box of records stolen from the secretary's office at Hyderabad, and the reply thereto, dated the 12th May 1842, furnishing copy of the letters required.



added, although, had it stood alone, the Meer's explanation as to Mahtela being the more general term, and including within it Meerpoor and Mehrkee, might have been admitted.

"8th. The inclusion of the pergunnas of Mahtela and Meerpoor in the later treaty of December 1842, in the Koran, by which the Turban was ceded by Meer Roostum to Meer Ali Morad.—This is against the supposition of those districts having been ceded in the treaty of Nownahar, in the September preceding. Adverting, indeed, to the circumstances under which the former document was framed, the Commission would not lay much stress on this point did it stand alone, and might be disposed to admit the Meer's explanation, that it was intended to make assurance doubly sure, but taken in conjunction with the other circumstances, it is entitled to some weight.

"9th. The certificate of indemnity from the Meer to Peer Ali Gohur.—This would, of course, afford conclusive evidence in corroboration of the Peer's statement, and that of Sheikh Ali, if its genuineness could be relied on; but being in the Sheik's handwriting, and having intermediately remained in the Peer's custody, it is inadmissible in support of the credibility of those persons further than it contains undoubted proofs of authenticity; and the Commission is not disposed to consider the Meer's seal such, with advertence to the incautious use which appears to have been made of seals by the Meers; and perhaps the same objection may apply to the autograph authentication, 'Buhal ust,' though this does not appear to the Commission so clearly established. It may be here observed, that the rejection of the evidence of seals, merely renders it unnecessary to consider the Meer's allegation as to the theft of his seal by the Peer, and the evidence of the three witnesses which has been brought in support of it, nor that of Futteh Mahomed Toshajee regarding his not having brought any message to Sheikh Ali on the subject.

"10th. The letters produced, and identified by Meer Mahomed Hussein, as having been received by him from his father, Meer Roostum; his cousin, Meer Nusseer; and his uncle, Meer Ali Morad, immediately after the battle of Nownahar.—All of them describe the cession as consisting of the village of Mahtela, and not of the pergunna of Mahtela, Meerpoor, Mehrkee, and are conclusive evidence in corroboration of Sheikh Ali's statement as to the original extent of the cession. The Meer, indeed, objects to Meer Mahomed Hussein's evidence, on the ground of their notorious and long existing dissensions; but the Commission cannot help attaching great weight to it, from the clear, straightforward manner in which it was given, and which rendered it impossible to doubt its truthfulness on this point.

"11th. The entry in the diary of Captain Brown, then Assistant Political Agent in Upper Scinde, dated the 20th September 1842, in which, alluding to the report of the arrangement effected between the Meers after the battle of Nownahar, which had just reached him, he describes the cession as consisting of nine villages.—This entry, which is in Captain Brown's own handwriting, the genuineness of which is beyond the possibility of a doubt, the Commission consider a very strong incidental confirmation of the truth of Sheikh Ali's statement as to the original extent of the cession.

"12th. The letters from Meer Roostum, Meer Nusseer Khan, and Meer Ali Morad himself, written to Captain Brown about the time of the battle of Nownahar.—These all allude to the cession in terms quite irreconcilable with its extent as now shown in the Koran. There can be no doubt as to the genuineness of these letters, which bear the initials of Captain Brown, affixed at the time of receipt, and have ever since remained in the Government records; and probably escaped abstraction with the other Persian records of the period, only from having been filed with their English translations, which are in the handwriting of Captain Kennedy, then an assistant in the agency. The inferential support given by these letters to the Sheikh's statement, from the terms in which they allude to the cession, is perhaps stronger than if it had been direct, from being less open to the suspicion of having been fabricated with that view, in which case it would probably have been more precise, though it could hardly have been more significant. The Commission is disposed to place very great weight on this branch of the evidence, from its freedom from the possibility of having been tampered with; and it is clear that its weight is fully appreciated by Meer Ali Morad himself, by having met it by throwing all the doubt he could on his own letter, written on the day of the battle, and his production, in

its stead, of the draft of one received by Captain Brown twelve days later. This draft bears the date of the day of the battle, but it is clear to the Commission that this date has been inserted for the present occasion, as the original in Captain Brown's records bears no date at all; and it, moreover, makes allusion to an intermediate letter from Captain Brown, in reply, it would seem, to the one written on the day of the battle; and this is further borne out by the tenor of Captain Brown's allusions to both letters in his correspondence at the time with Major Outram. The obvious attempt at deception on this point affords, in the opinion of the Commission, the strongest proof of the strength of the inference furnished by these letters in Ali Morad's own estimation, against the genuineness of the treaty as it now stands in the Koran; from the disingenuous course resorted to for getting rid of it, and which in itself, it may be observed, affords a fair inference that there would be little scruple in tampering with the treaty also, when a sufficient object was to be gained by it."

Finally, the Commission observe, "many of the above circumstances taken singly, and still more, all of them together, afford so strong a corroboration of the truth of the main facts of the charge, as stated by Sheikh Ali Hussein, as in the opinion of the Commission to be quite irresistible, and it has therefore no hesitation in coming to the conclusion that the fraud was effected by his Highness Meer Ali Morad, and most probably at the time and in the manner set forth by that witness."

22. Such are the strong and convincing grounds upon which the Commission have unanimously found his Highness Meer Ali Morad guilty. Further comment on the subject is altogether superfluous, and I now proceed to the fourth head of my Minute, namely, to record my opinion as to how the case should be disposed of; or, in other words, what notice should be taken of Ali Morad's flagrant misconduct, and what measures should be adopted for the resumption of the rights of which the British Government has been defrauded.

23. There can be no doubt that Sir Charles Napier viewed Ali Morad's conduct with the indignation it deserves. He informed \* Mr. Pringle, on one occasion, "Ali Morad was anxious to get the district of Meerpoor Mahtela acknowledged, as he knew I suspected his honesty in that foul transaction, of which I had then no proof." And in the memorandum bringing the fraud to the notice of his successor, he stated that he was clearly of opinion that if the charge were proved the district should be resumed; and although he did not anticipate that Ali Morad would resist, Sir C. Napier recommended that the Commissioner and the officer commanding the forces should be in Upper Scinde, with a sufficient military force to support whatever measures might be requisite. The present Commissioner in Scinde, in addition to the resumption of the district, would compel Ali Morad to make a suitable provision for the junior Ameers of Khyrpoor. "I presume (observes Mr. Pringle) that even if the fraud were openly brought home to the Ameer, whatever may be the opinion

*Vide para. 23 of Exhibit (B.), No. 1, C. P.*

It is necessary here to observe, that Mr. Pringle was averse to a public inquiry into Ali Morad's conduct, but suggested that the case should be decided against him *ex parte*. This Government thought it would be unjust to condemn the Ameer without first affording him an opportunity of defence, and appointed the Commission for that purpose.

as to its moral turpitude, yet, adverting to his position as an independent sovereign, it would not be thought to call for stronger measures than the resumption of the districts which have been obtained by means of it, and that if this can be effected without his open conviction it will hardly be thought expedient to expose to his own subjects, and to the world in general, as guilty of so base an act, a prince with whom we are to continue on terms of amity and alliance." Mr. Pringle further contemplated demanding from Ali Morad the revenue of the districts in

arrears from the date on which Ali Morad fraudulently possessed himself of them. Our late Governor, Sir George Clerk, has recorded an opinion in favour of more extreme measures. "Should it be fully established that Meer Ali Morad did perpetrate this fraud, his turpitude deserves not only that he should lose the district so usurped, but that he should be deprived of all his possessions."

Minute on Scinde, dated 24 April 1848, p. 97.

24. It is not from any sympathy towards Ali Morad that I dissent from this opinion; on the contrary, it appears to me that were we merely to consider his personal deserts, no punishment we could inflict would be too severe for one who

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\* *Vide Paper, dated the 21st September 1849, Simla, headed "Recollections."*



by the late inquiry has been proved so worthless and unprincipled; and I feel an indignation scarcely to be described, that our general character for honour and honesty, justice and good faith, should have been so seriously compromised by the base and selfish intrigues of a person who has been well described \* as ~~"a man of unbounded ambition and great tact, and consistent and unswerving in his purpose of aggrandizement."~~ It is true that Sir G. Clerk has given such a picture of Ali Morad's government that there can be no doubt his removal from power would be a blessing to all now subject to his heartless and despotic rule. Our ally, Meer Ali Morad, bears an indifferent character; he seems to be addicted to field sports to a degree that precludes his devoting any time to the affairs of his country or his subjects. In short, from all I can learn about him, I see no reason to think that the accounts† given in Lieutenant Forbes's Report is in any way erroneous. In my opinion, all we should do is "to give to him an impressive warning, and then to leave him to himself." For this chief we have sacrificed so much, and so many, that if after the warning he is not reclaimed to a course more creditable to our adoption, I would not hesitate to wrest his territory from him.

25. It is only, therefore, because I fear that the adoption of the extreme measure, apparently contemplated by Sir George Clerk, in the event of Ali Morad's guilt being, as it has been, fully established, would be prejudicial to our character, that I am an advocate for the adoption of a more lenient course. This is also recommended by the circumstance that a period of seven years has elapsed since the commission of the crime for which he is now arraigned. Ali Morad is the creature of our own raising, used for the objects and purposes of the day, and were we now to dethrone him we could not escape from, however little we might deserve, the imputation of doing so merely because we had no further need of his services. I would not incur the risk of this reproach, and the measures which have occurred to me, as combining moderation and a suitable punishment, are the following:

26. In the first place, I would no longer recognize Meer Ali Morad as Rais or Chief of the Talpoor of Upper Scinde. With the exception of the sons of the late Meer Roostum and Mobarick, who, for reasons to be hereafter stated, should be removed from his Highness's control, there are in fact no Ameers remaining in Upper Scinde over whom he can exercise the authority of, and exact the rights and services due to the Rais. The conquest of Scinde has removed them all. Ali Moorad would of course feel our declining to consider him as Rais, as detracting from his rank and dignity. With this exception, I would leave him in the independent enjoyment of his own paternal inheritance, and the lands he acquired by the cession of the Turban in December 1842, with the exceptions noticed hereafter.

27. In the second place, I would declare that Ali Morad has, in consequence of the imposition he has practised on the British Government, forfeited all the advantages he acquired under the treaty of Nownahar; in other words, I would altogether cancel that engagement, and demand payment from his Highness of all that he has received from the districts, from the period they first came into his possession up to the present date. No one will of course question the propriety of our resuming the districts which, under cover of that treaty, fraudulently came into Ali Morad's possession. This will be merely taking back our own, and what never rightfully belonged to his Highness. The resumption, in addition, of the nine villages which were really ceded by the treaty of Nownahar, appears to

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\* Memorandum on the first connexion of the British Government with Ali Morad Talpoor, dated Simla, 5 July 1849, prepared in the Foreign Office of the Government of India.

† Vide his letter, dated 25 November 1847, No. 85 of the Appendix to Sir G. Clerk's minute. "As regards Ali Morad's treatment of his relations, it has been and is most illiberal, to say the least of it, and this in particular towards his eight nephews, the sons of the late Meers Roostum and Mobarick. There is not one of his Highness's principal shikarees who is not in most respects far better off than they are. They have been reduced by want to the sale of their wives' ornaments and clothes. Shooting, hunting, hawking, their chief amusements in their better days, are now denied them. But a few days back Meer Shere Mahomed, fourth son of the late Meer Roostum, appeared a suppliant for subsistence before the door, and is now living on the bounty of her, who in his father's life time was a low courtesan in the Khyrpoor bazaar, and who is now the favourite wife of his Highness Meer Ali Morad, enjoying an income of nearly three lacs a year."

me to be a very moderate penalty for the acts of fraud and deceit towards the Government, by whose power he was raised, and by whose power, I may add, he was retained in authority; and although, but for the detection of this fraud, it would be too late to notice penally his violent proceedings at Nownahar, they were most unjustifiable, and would no doubt have entailed upon him the serious displeasure of the British Government, but for the transfer which about that time occurred, or the administration of Scinde, from the charge of Major Outram to that of Sir C. Napier, and the important events which followed in rapid succession. For Ali Morad was bound\* to refer his disputes with his brothers to the British authority in Scinde; and in fact they were under reference to Colonel Outram, when he thought proper to bring the matter at issue to be determined by the sword, and none of the Ameers had less excuse than himself for not submitting his disputes to Major Outram's arbitration; for our records prove that in September 1840, when he was threatened by a large force collected by Meer Nusseer Khan, the latter was required to disperse his troops, under a threat that if in 48 hours he failed to do so, a British force would be sent against him. A force for this purpose actually crossed the river to Roree, on the 23d September 1840, but Nusseer Khan then yielding, it was recalled to Sukkur. Under these circumstances, the penalty I have suggested seems to me to be peculiarly suitable and appropriate.

28. Respecting the value of the districts proposed to be resumed, we have the following information. Sheik Ali Hussun states that Meer Mobarick Khan divided Mathela, Meerpoor, and Mehrkee into three separate tuppas, and gave the first and third to Meer Mahomed Ali, and the second to Meer Nusseer Khan. The treaty of Meer Mobarick Khan will show the division of these places amongst his sons. The three tuppas formerly yielded two lacs annually, latterly only about one lac. Mahtela alone probably yields 10,000 rupees. The minister ought to know, because he states he formerly held all these places, in jagheer, from Ali Morad. Before the division into tuppas, it was usual to write Meerpoor Mathela, but whether this included Mehrkee he does not know. After the division he believes they were called tuppas, not pergunnahs. Ali Morad must know why pergunnah was† inserted. In Scinde it is not usual to designate a pergunnah a tuppa, or a tuppa a pergunnah. It is of course the interest of his Highness Ali Morad to represent the revenue of the three districts at a low figure. He therefore denies the ex-minister's valuation, and asserts that he can show that the net revenue realised from nine harvests amounted only to 1,31,000 rupees. At this rate the average annual produce, he states, would be only Rs. 29,055. 13.‡ Fortunately, however, we possess authentic information on the subject. During the Fuslee year 1255, corresponding with A. D. 1844-45, the actual revenue realised, exclusive of arrears, from these districts, was as follows :

	Rs.	a.	p.
Total collection from the village of Dadloo - - -	2,520	-	-
Ditto, ditto, from the districts of Meerpoor Mehrkee -	1,61,106	5	11
Ditto, ditto, from the town or village of Mehtela - -	2,066	13	1
Grand Total - - -	Rs. 1,65,683	3	-

Under the Ameers, the pergunnahs of Meerpoor and Mehrkee were distinct portions of the large pergunna of Mehtela, which at one time comprised, besides the

\* Namely, by the 5th article of the treaty with Khyrpoor, negotiated by Sir A. Burns, dated the 25th December 1838, which stipulates, "The Ameer and his heirs and successors will not commit aggressions on any one. If, by accident, any dispute arise with any one, the settlement of it shall be submitted to the arbitration and award of the British Government." Scinde Blue Book, No. 119. This was made applicable to Meer Ali Morad by a separate treaty, dated the 28th December 1838. Scinde Blue Book, No. 124.

† The ex-minister here explains that if "tuppa" had been written, it must have been entered before each place, whereas "pergunna" included all three. The reason also why "Mahtela" alone was first written, and "Mehrkee" afterwards added, was that, as above stated, they had been separated, and Ali Morad included all three. Besides this, as Mahomed Ali's seal was not affixed to the treaty, and Meer Nusseer Khan had no interest in the tuppas of Mathela and Mehrkee, if Meerpoor alone had been alluded to, the two other tuppas would have been excluded.

‡ Vide Ali Morad's remarks on the discrepancies of the evidence, dated the 28th April 1850, C.P.

the whole of the tuppa, divisions now forming the pergunna of Gotkee and others. There is a village called Meerpoor, but none called Mehrkee. There is a village called Mahtela, and likewise a pergunna of the same name.\* Some confusion has arisen from the circumstance that whereas Meerpoor was at one time a tuppa of Mahtela, and subsequently created by the British Government into a pergunna, of which Mahtela formed a tuppa; on the other hand, Mahtela was formerly a pergunnah, of which Meerpoor formed a tuppa, but it (Mahtela), under us, was reduced to a tuppa in the pergunnah of Meerpoor. The total collections of the

	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>a.</i>	<i>p.</i>
Town of Meerpoor in A. D. 1844-45 was - - -	6,657	-	-
Ditto, ditto, of the pergunna (now tuppa) of Mahtela in ditto, was - - - - -	23,856	-	-
Add, ditto, ditto, of the town of Mahtela, in ditto, was -	2,066	13	1
Total - - - <i>Rs.</i>	32,579	13	1

From the above information it seems very probable that Mr. Pringle's opinion is correct, that the result (of the resumption) as regards our interests would be to retain for us an annual revenue of upwards of a lac and a half of rupees, with arrears from the time when the districts were made over to the Ameer in anticipation of Sir Charles Napier's arrangements.

29. In the third place, I would propose that all the junior Ameers, for whom Mr. Pringle most properly suggests that a provision should be made, should be withdrawn from Ali Morad's control, and be placed under the protection of the British Government, their jagheers, of which I shall presently show they have been wrongfully deprived, being restored to them under such terms and conditions as may be deemed expedient. We have for some time past had the appeals of these unfortunate princes under our consideration, and the time appears to me to have arrived when we can with safety render them partial justice; and a stronger case for the compassionate consideration of Government can scarcely be imagined. I advocate their claims for such consideration, not only with reference to the peculiar circumstances of our connexion with Scinde, from its commencement up to its final conquest, but also on grounds of equity and justice, and a regard for our own reputation, and from compassion to a line of fallen princes, the victims of circumstances, who were, from no fault of their own, suddenly reduced from a high position, rank and affluence, to poverty and exile. I further advocate their cause, because no one can deny that the posterity of the late Meer Roostum Khan have peculiar claims on the generosity of the British Government, not only in return for the numerous acts of friendship that unfortunate chief evinced towards us in time of difficulty, but likewise on account of their own personal conduct at the time, and subsequent to the conquest of Scinde. Lastly, I shall adduce proof which in my judgment amounts to a certainty, that these jagheers are now held by Meer Ali Morad by as base an act of fraud and deception, as that practised on the British Government in regard to the districts of Meerpoor, Mahtela, and Mehrkee, and I am happy to add, that fortunately for the ends of justice, his right to retain them has never been acknowledged, but, on the contrary, has been challenged by two successive Governors-general, Lord Ellenborough and Lord Hardinge.

30. In illustration of this part of the subject, and for the sake of reference, I annex to my minute a genealogical table† of the Ameers of Upper Scinde. I would likewise refer to Major Outram's letter to Sir Charles Napier, dated the 24th January 1843, showing that on that date there were 18 chiefs possessing estates, with 30 sons, besides daughters, to provide for, all of whom were afterwards involved in Meer Roostum's ruin, and, with two exceptions, were not even charged with any act of hostility against the British Government.

31. The

\* This information is condensed from a correspondence between Major Goldney, the Collector of Shikarpoor, and the Commission, which is recorded in the Appendix to their Proceedings. Exhibit (B.), No. 2 to No. 7.

† This, I believe, was received from the Government of India.

31. The following summary, condensed from the correspondence\* which has taken place between this Government and Mr. Pringle, on the subject of the sons and families of the late Meers Roostum and Mobarick Khan, will forcibly illustrate the deplorable state of poverty to which they are reduced, their claims to consideration, and the strong reasons which exist for immediate measures being adopted for ameliorating their condition. In August 1848 this Government received a petition from Meer Mahomed Ali Khan and Meer Ali Mahomed Khan, sons of Mobarick Khan, praying that a provision might be assigned to them similar to those which had been granted to other chiefs in Scinde subsequent to the conquest. They represented that previous to the conquest they were chiefs of their own Illaqua, yielding a revenue of about three lacks per annum, and that in order to propitiate Meer Ali Morad, they had transferred to him villages of the annual value of 20,000 rupees. "We have claims," they observed, "on both sides. At present we have no means to maintain ourselves and to preserve our character; our families are in great distress. The Company's Government has made suitable provision for the support of the chiefs of the countries it has conquered; for instance, the chiefs of Bengal, Guzerat, Madras, have been duly provided for. The said Ameer will make no provision for us. As our lands and property are in the possession of Government, and as our other things are in the hands of Ali Morad, we request that, according to the principles of justice and equity, provisions similar to those made for other chiefs may be made for our support." This was forwarded to Mr. Pringle, who in reply merely submitted copy of two petitions which these Ameers had, in common with other relations of the ex-Ameers, on the 2d April 1847, presented to Sir Charles Napier, with a memorandum which his Excellency had recorded thereon on the 10th idem.

32. The first petition was from five† of the sons of the late Meer Roostum Khan, and stated, "It is the custom of the great and brave to think and feel for those who have fallen from high estate, and upon whom there is oppression; the Almighty approves of this. In sympathy for us your Excellency inquires of Meer Ali Morad as to our state and condition; may God reward you for this. But our circumstances are in this wise: Meer Ali Morad is fully aware of our numbers, of the members of our families, of our people, and our necessary expenses; yet, notwithstanding this, he has stated that we receive yearly 21,000 rupees, which would not be more than sufficient for one of us, and yet we take our oaths to God that for no one year have we received much more than one quarter of that sum, as will be seen from the annexed memorandum. Moreover, from the time of our coming to live under Ali Morad, a period of three years, during the whole time we have not, up to the present time, recovered so much (21,000 rupees) from him; neither do we hope or expect to receive at that rate for the future." In conclusion, they solicit that the British Government will annually receive from Ali Morad the sum he mentions (21,000 rupees), and pay it to them when they will reside in such part of the British territories as may be pointed out. "Thus shall we be relieved from the oppression now upon us by night and day to such an extent that we cannot write it, and we will pray for the British. If the Government wish to take our securities, notwithstanding we are so weak that we could not turn an insect, yet we would give as our securities men in whom confidence can be placed."

33. The second petition was from three‡ of the sons of the late Mobarick Khan, two§ sons of Meer Nusseer Khan, and two|| sons of the late Meer Fuzzlee Mahomed Khan, and states as follows: "Permit us to represent to you that when our uncle, Meer Roostum Khan, fled at the instigation of Meer Ali Morad, our brother, Meer Nusseer Khan, accompanied him, and we with great fear and trembling, leaving all our property in our houses, ran away to the Desert, where we received messages from Ali Morad, telling us to fly further, or we should be made prisoners; and on what he said we went to Mooltan. Here we wished to make our

\* The whole of this correspondence will be found in the series (D.) of papers prepared by Mr. Pringle for the Governor-general, App. C. P.

† Meer Ali Ukbar Khan, Meer Ali Mudhun Khan, Meer Shere Mahomed Khan, Meer Gholam Mahomed Khan, Meer Doss Mahomed Khan.

‡ Meer Mahomed Ali, Meer Ali Mahomed Khan, Meer Wullee Mahomed Khan.

§ Meer Ali Muddut Khan, Meer Ali Ahmed Khan.

|| Meer Ali Buksh Khan, Meer Ameer Bukul Khan.

our salaam to the British, through the medium of Bhawul Khan; but a constant succession of messengers came to us from Ali Morad, frightening us, and saying that we should by no means approach the British through Bhawul Khan, and not to make friendship with him, as, if we did, we should be made prisoners. To give our hearts confidence, he (Ali Morad) sent us word, saying he was our near relative, and that he gave us advice by which we should be benefited. Unacquainted with the ways of the British, and ignorant of the artifices in the heart of Meer Ali Morad, we did not come into the Sirkar. After this, Ali Morad sent us word, desiring us to keep up our spirits, to come to him, and that he would make arrangements for us with Government. On hearing this, we made certain that the portions of territory which had not been taken possession of nor given in exchange by the Government, but which were held by Ali Morad, would either be restored to us by him willingly, or that he would be made to do so by the British, and we with all our families came to him. We expected to make our salaam to the Government through him, hoping that some arrangement would be made for us; but Meer Ali Morad told us to be quiet, asking what arrangements we expected to make with the British; that we should be sent to Calcutta as prisoners. On hearing this, we became sorrowful, saying in our hearts, 'Oh, God, what fault have we committed that we are amenable to such punishment?' In short, being helpless, we are passing our days in great distress; so much so, that the sun is the place of our bread, and in lieu of meat there is blood; the lancet of oppression falls daily from Ali Morad on the veins of our lives to such an extent, that we cannot keep body and soul together. It has always been the practice of the British Government to look with the eye of kindness upon the poor and humble, and it is the wish of the same to protect the well born. The Government does not punish those who are guiltless of crime; indeed, it protects and preserves the honour of the families of those who come under its displeasure, it does not allow them to lose their honour; for instance, there are the families of the Meers of Hyderabad. But perhaps Government is not aware of the cruelty we are suffering, and if our state is known, it is our misfortune. Had we committed any fault against the Government, of course for very shame we should have been hopeless of receiving kindness; but we are guiltless of any fault, and we cannot understand why we should not be looked kindly upon by Government." They then truly observe, "We have heard from some that lands which were formerly our fathers', and which have neither been taken by Government nor given in exchange for other lands (to Ali Morad), that these were intended for the subsistence of the family of Meer Mobarick; but Meer Ali Morad has not given us the tenth part of them, consuming the whole himself. Possibly this is not known to the Government; if it was, we should not remain in this distress. We hold in our possession the papers of our fathers' share of territory, bearing the seals of Meers Sohrab Khan and Roostum Khan. Amongst these, are Meerpoor Mehr, in the pergunnah of Mathela; Kundia, in the pergunnah of Khyrpoor; Koteera, in the pergunnah of Koheera; and No Kalsa: these are in the hands of Ali Morad. The following are in the hands of the British: Gotekee Adhilpoor; the villages of Jettooree; those of Syndpore, of which syuds are the zemindars; and some lands which we bought of Afghans in the Shikarpoor country, are also held by the British, because it is not known to them that these were purchased by us. In short, there is no land in the hands of the family of the late Meer Mobarick by which they can subsist themselves; and other purchased land has been restored by the Government to its owners. A few villages which Meer Nusseer Khan gave to his family have not as yet been received in exchange by the British, as they are ignorant on the subject, and Ali Morad enjoys them; and he, constantly seeing our wretched state, never gives us anything from them. We pass our time with much difficulty, Meer Ali Morad never giving us a thought. When we fled to the Desert, we left in Khyrpoor much property, weapons, and cloth, all of which were plundered\* by Ali Morad. Up to this time we have been in expectation that when Government inquired about us, this would be restored to us, and we have still that hope. We also hope that Government will seize our hands, now in the ocean of oppression, and drag us out on the bank of justice; that it will look upon our condition and that

\* The Digests of Intelligence of Scinde, towards the end of 1842, establish the fact that the property of these Ameeris at Khyrpoor did fall into Ali Morad's hands.

that of our families and children with the eye of kindness; for sympathy first falls on women and children. Also that Government will give a thought for our subsistence, and that such country as may be bestowed upon us be given with the British seal; for if the Government gives us nothing, we shall certainly perish, when the women of the families of Meer Roostum and Mobarick will be ruined, and thus shame will come upon the Government. We number 30 souls in the family of Meer Mobarick, and with followers and all are 1,000. We do not receive from Ali Morad food sufficient for one of us; oppression of various kinds at his hands is always upon us, beyond what we can describe. If any of our people go into the jungle to gather firewood, they are seized, put in the stocks, and fined by his servants. He constantly makes us a target for the arrows of his indignity, saying we are like the bungys who carry dead hog, and that if he were not security for us we should go to our brothers. By the oath of God, to hear such language, it would be preferable to be in a British gaol!" The petition concludes by requesting that they may be allowed to reside with their families in British territory, on their furnishing the security of men of weight.

34. Annexed to this petition is a memorandum of the family of Meer Roostum Khan and their dependents, and showing that during the Fuslee 1257 (1846-47), all they received from Ali Morad amounted to Rs. 5,963. 13. 6. Then follows a statement\* furnished by Meer Ali Morad, showing in detail that he gave to the family of Meer Roostum alone jagheers in the aggregate of the value of 21,000 rupees per annum, which is at all events an admission on his part that they are at least entitled to that amount.

35. The pathetic appeals of the sons of Meers Roostum and Mobarick found no response in the breast of the conqueror of Scinde.† Forgetting the admissions he had repeatedly made, that Ali Morad was only entitled to the lands appertaining to the Turban, and that he was not entitled to the private lands which belonged to Meers Roostum and Mobarick, and overlooking the fact that the Governor-general (Lord Ellenborough) had challenged his right to the latter, he sternly rejected the petition, on the following grounds: 1st. That Ali Morad had been the faithful ally of the British, when the whole of his family, by their misconduct,‡ subjected themselves to the punishment which befel them. 2d. That the petitioners fled from their country when their army was defeated and Scinde conquered by the British. 3d. That they returned under the protection and guarantee of his Highness, and at their own request. Sir C. Napier then observes, "If they are not content with the way in which his Highness behaves to them, I am sorry for it, but I neither can nor will interfere; they may leave his territory if they please. The petitioners of the family of Meer Roostum were the men who produced the war by their misconduct and hostility to the British; they were more guilty than any others, and have no claims upon the British. They are the subjects of his Highness while they choose to dwell under

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\* This appears to have been furnished by the Meer to Sir C. Napier in February 1847.

† On the 16th August 1843, Sir Charles Napier informed the Governor-general, "By reference to my letters and proclamations it will be seen that I promised to preserve to all the Ameers their rights. I more than once repeated to their Highnesses Ali Morad and Meer Roostum that all should be supported in their rights and possessions." *Vide* Supplement to Scinde Blue Book, No. 199.

‡ In a subsequent part of my Minute (*infra* para.), I have denied that these Ameers were personally engaged in hostilities against us, and I repeat that the information contained in the Scinde Digest of Intelligence corroborates the opinion I entertain, that the Upper Scinde Ameers never entertained hostile designs against us. Their hostile feelings were against Ali Morad, not against the British Government; and the cause of hostility was his treatment of their chief, Meer Roostum. Thus on the 4th January, it is noted, a letter had been received from the Lower Scinde Ameers, calling upon Ali Morad to reinstate Meer Roostum in all his possessions and rightful authority, and stating that if he declined, they would join the latter; "they are all most inveterate against Ali Morad, and are determined to resist his authority with arms in their hands." On the 8th January, it was generally understood that they (the Ameers of Dinghee) had been written to by Meer Roostum, to abstain from any hostilities with the English, but when the British forces moved down towards Hyderabad, the whole of the Ameers were to assemble and destroy Meer Ali Morad, against whom the bitterest feelings are excited, and chiefly from his conduct towards Meer Roostum. On the 9th January the general opinion is "that the Ameers have been given to understand by Meer Ali Morad, that if captured by the General they will be imprisoned. They have no intention of hostility against the English, but they foster the idea that as the British troops have been withdrawn from Afghanistan and Shikarpoor, that at no remote period they will also be withdrawn from Scinde, and then they meditate the destruction of Meer Ali Morad." 21st January. "The feeling of indignation against Ali Morad was very strong." No idea of hostility is thought of among them.

under his protection, and the British Government has no right to interfere between his Highness the Rais and his subjects, especially those of his own family, and for whose conduct he is responsible. If the members of Meer Roostum's family choose to memorialize the Supreme Government to be sent to Calcutta, I will forward their memorial to that effect, the same being sent through his Highness." The memorandum concludes by declining to receive any communications from the Ameers in question, except through Ali Morad, and stating that, "the petition of the family of Meer Roostum is in most of its assertions wrong. It is not in common sense to assert that the petitioners had committed no offence against the British Government, for their offences reduced them to their present state of dependence on their relation and chief the Rais."

36. It would be very easy to show that these remarks are chiefly founded on assumptions. These unfortunate chiefs certainly, as it was their duty to do, accompanied their parent, the then Rais, when he was first scared away by his fears from Khyrpoor, and afterwards from Dejee; but much as I have studied the Scinde question, I have not been able to discover that they were personally engaged in any act of hostility against the British Government; for the first act of hostility was the aggression on our part against the fort of Emamghad, which no one resisted. One thing is quite certain, when Sir C. Napier directed Meer Roostum to proceed to Hyderabad to meet Major Outram, not one of the petitioners accompanied him, and consequently they could not have participated in the next hostilities (namely, the attack of the Residency, on the 14th, and the battle of Meeanee, on the 17th February 1843). Surely, fleeing for refuge into the Desert, and afterwards to Mooltan, was no offence against Government. But I am anticipating.

37. In September 1848 another representation was forwarded to Mr. Pringle from three\* of the sons of Meer Roostum, complaining of the tyranny and oppression of Ali Morad. In his reply, after referring to a separate correspondence relating to the first of the petitioners, the Commissioner† reported that when at Khyrpoor in February last he had made full inquiries into the case of the other two Ameers, "and was led to believe that they had substantial grounds of complaint against his Highness Ali Morad;" but that he had delayed reporting on the subject until he could obtain "certain information relative to the appropriation of the territories of the late Meers Roostum and Mobarick, to enable him to point out the manner in which a future provision might be made for their sons," and was awaiting the reply to a reference he had made to Sir C. Napier respecting them. The Commissioner was, in reply, informed that he should not delay his report on the case of these two Ameers, the object of Government being "to rescue them from present oppression; and the attainment of that is inconsistent with and ought not to be delayed by considerations as to the revenue they should in future enjoy, or the sources from whence it shall be derived."

38. In answer to this requisition, Mr. Pringle submitted to Government a correspondence between Captain Forbes, the Resident at Khyrpoor, and himself, on the condition of the descendants of Meers Roostum and Mobarick, and of the junior Ameers generally at Khyrpoor, under the guarantee of his Highness Ali Morad; and that having endeavoured by inquiry on the spot, and in personal communication with the Resident, to ascertain the real character of the treatment of these Ameers, "the result was confirmatory of the opinions expressed by Captain Forbes, and led to the conclusion that the treatment which the members of the families of his brothers, the late Meers Roostum and Mobarick, received from Ali Morad, was far from kind and liberal, and that the only means of effectually ameliorating their condition would be to remove them from under his protection together." He did not inquire minutely into their grievances, as this could not be done without further embroiling them with his Highness; but "the general impression from all he heard and saw was to the above effect." The Commissioner added, that Captain Forbes bears testimony "to the peaceable

\* Meer Mahomed Houssein Khan, Meer Ali Murdhan Khan, Meer Mahomed Ali Khan.

† Letters to Mr. Pringle, dated 14th September 1848, and 16th August 1849; and reply thereto of the 1st September 1849.



peaceable conduct of these Ameers since they have been residing under the guarantee of Ali Morad, and with advertence to the opinion formed by him, after good opportunities for observation, I see no reason to apprehend any risk to the peace of the country, from their now being withdrawn from his Highness' guarantee and settled in British Scinde under the surveillance of the local authorities; while the general character of the treatment they experience from his Highness, and the uncertainty of the provision for their maintenance under him, would seem to justify the adoption of this course." The provision recommended by Captain Forbes, either in jagheer or money, for each of the families of Meers Roostum and Mobarick, is 20,000 rupees per annum, which, with reference to their numbers and position, and the assignments which have already been professedly made to them, as also to the allowance made to the Hyderabad Ameers, Mr. Pringle considers suitable; and if granted, he recommends that the recipients should reside in the vicinity of Hyderabad under the surveillance of the Collector, and that the allowance, if in jagheer, should be in British territory; or, if in money, which he is disposed to prefer, should be paid through the British Government. The charge for the provision for Meer Roostum's family, both Captain Forbes and the Commissioner suggest, should be borne by Ali Morad, "because he is now in possession of Meer Roostum's territories, and also because the cession of the Turban and his patrimonial lands by Meer Roostum, in virtue of which Meer Ali Morad's title to their possession was recognised\* by us, appears to have been made under a reciprocal obligation on the part of Meer Ali Morad to provide for the maintenance of Meer Roostum." On the other hand, both officers concur in opinion that the provision for Meer Mobarick's family should be at the cost of the British Government, because we hold the territories of that Ameer by conquest. But, adds Mr. Pringle, "if the confirmation of the territory north of Roree has not been already promised unconditionally by Sir C. Napier to Ali Morad, I am of opinion, that as any cession in that quarter would be matter of favour and not of right, it may not unreasonably be charged with the condition of providing for the family of his brother Meer Mobarick, the uncertainty of whose maintenance, and illiberality of whose treatment under him, forces us to interfere on their behalf."

39. On referring to Captain Forbes' report, it appears that in December 1848, the petitions from two of the sons of Meer Mobarick to this Government were forwarded for his report, and with reference to this and similar petitions from others of the ex-Ameers and their relatives at Calcutta, Bombay, and Scinde, the Resident, after full inquiry and mature consideration, was required to report:—

1st. Who of the ex or minor Ameers and their relatives are now living under the protection and guarantee of his Highness Meer Ali Morad?

2d. What is the position of these individuals as respects their original relation and conduct towards the British Government, and how far does it give or deprive them of claims to our favourable consideration?

3d. How far would it now be advantageous to the interests or character of the British Government to extend to all or any of these individuals favourable consideration, without reference to their original relation and conduct towards it?

4th. What is the nature and the character of the treatment they receive from his Highness Meer Ali Morad?

5th. If that treatment is harsh, and if the original claims of the individuals, or the modifications which time and circumstances may have effected in their position, would make it advantageous to the interests and character of the British Government to ameliorate their condition, is the time now arrived when they might be withdrawn from his Highness's guarantee, and provided with a settlement in British Scinde?

6th. If this be the case, in what locality, and under what surveillance or restrictions would it be advisable to place them; what assignments in land or money would be suitable for their maintenance; what would be the annual aggregate charge on this account; and to what party should it be debited, to the British Government or to his Highness Meer Ali Morad?

In prosecuting these inquiries, secrecy and caution were enjoined on the Resident,

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\* This is a mistake. The cession of Meer Roostum's patrimonial lands has never been recognised by us; only that of Turban.



dent, and a careful avoidance of anything which might tend to excite Ali Morad's distrust, or unreasonable expectations on the part of his relations. Finally, Captain Forbes was desired to include in his report the case of any other of the ex-Ameer's relatives, who, although not at present living under the protection or guarantee of Ali Morad, may have similar claims to our consideration with those who are so situated.

40. With his reply, Captain Forbes furnished the following list of the minor Ameers of Khyrpoor, with, as far as he could ascertain, the amount of revenue they derived from the jaghire assigned for their support by Meer Ali Morad :—

	AGE.	YEARLY REVENUE.	REMARKS.
<b>Sons of Meer Roostum :</b>			
1. Meer Ali Ukbar - -	43	- - -	One daughter.
2. Meer Ali Murdhan - -	33		
3. Meer Shere Mahomed - -	28		
4. Meer Ghoolam Mahomed	23		
<b>Sons of Meer Ali Ukbar :</b>			
1. Meer Ghoolam Shah - -	20	From 8,500 rupees to 9,500 rupees at the most; kardars, &c., &c. to be paid out of this.	One wife.
2. Meer Ali Gohur - -	15		
3. Meer Nudjif Ali - -	11		
4. Meer Sohrab Ali - -	10		
5. Meer Soortaf Ali - -	7		By a concubine. By a concubine.
6. Meer Ghoolam Ali - -	6		
7. Meer Abdool Kadar - -	"		
8. Meer Allah Dattah - -	"		
<b>Son of Meer Ali Murdhan :</b>			
1. Meer Mozzuffu Ali - -	13		
<b>Sons and Grandsons of Meer Mobarick Khan, deceased :</b>			
1. Meer Mahomed Ali - -	37	- - -	- - Three wives ; one daughter married to Ali Mudduck, son of Meer Nusseer Khan.
2. Meer Ali Mahomed - -	28	- - -	Two wives.
3. Meer Wulle Mahomed - -	26	- - -	Two wives.
<b>Sons of Meer Nusseer Khan, at Poona :</b>			
1. Meer Ali Mudduk - -	12		
2. Meer Ahmed Ali - -	8		
<b>Son of Meer Ali Mahomed :</b>			
1. Meer Ali Hydur - -	9		
<b>Son of Meer Wulle Mahomed :</b>			
1. Meer Mobarick Khan - -	7		
<b>Grandsons of Mobarick Khan, Sons of Meer Fazzle Khan, deceased.</b>			
1. Meer Ali Buksh - -	20	From 300 to 400 rupees at most; kardars are paid out of this.	One wife.
2. Meer Buksh - -	15		One wife.
<b>Sons of Meer Sooliman Khan :</b>			
1. Meer Mahomed Khan - -	43	- - -	- - One wife ; one daughter betrothed to Meer Taj Mahomed, second son of Ali Morad.
2. Moreed Hydur - -	33	- - -	One wife.
3. ——— Ghoolam Shah - -	28	- - -	One wife.
<b>Son of Meer Mahomed Khan :</b>			
1. Meer Allee Dattah - -	20		
1. Meer Zahangheer Khan - -	64	- - -	- - Two wives ; one daughter married.
2. Meer Chakur Khan - -	70	- - -	One wife.

(continued)

(continued)

	AGE.	YEARLY REVENUE.	REMARKS.
<b>Sons of Chakur Khan :</b>			
1. Meer Nubbee Bux - -	29	- - -	One wife.
2. Meer Goolam Moortaga - -	22	- - -	One wife.
3. Meer Ahmed Ali - -	18		
<b>Son of Meer Ghoolam Moortaga :</b>			
1. Meer Ali Bux - -	3		
1. Meer Mahomed - - -	48	- - -	Three wives.
<b>Sons of Meer Mahomed :</b>			
1. Meer Goolam Hydur - -	27	- - -	One wife.
2. Meer Goolam Nubbee - -	20	- - -	One wife.
3. Meer Abbass Ali - -	16		
4. Meer Houssein Ali - -	16		
5. Meer Fuzzle Ali - -	9		
6. Meer Buchal Khan - -	10		
7. Meer Ali Bux - -	2	- - -	By a concubine.
1. Meer Ahmed Khan - -	43	From 300 to 400 rupees at most; kardars are paid out of this.	- - One wife. A quiet respectable man.
<b>Sons of Meer Ahmed Khan :</b>			
1. Meer Ali Dattah - -	20		
2. Meer Allah Muddud - -	19		
3. Meer Goolam Houssein - -	17		
4. Meer Futteh Khan - -	16		
5. Meer Buksh Ali - -	18		
6. Meer Sooltan Ali - -	11		
7. Meer Looft Ali - -	9		
8. Meer Dost Ali - -	8		
9. Meer Ghoolam Ali - -	3		
1. Meer Ghoolam Mustapha - -	40	- - -	- - One daughter. A very quiet respectable man.
<b>His Son :</b>			
1. Meer Ghoolam Ali - -	6		
1. Meer Karum Khan - -	25		
<b>Son of Meer Khoodoo Bux, deceased :</b>			
1. Meer Khan Neudah - -	21	- - -	- - One wife, two sisters, the eldest betrothed to Meer Sha Newaz, his Highness Ali Morad's eldest son, and is to be married in February.

41. With reference to the four sons and nine grandsons, with which the above list commences, Captain Forbes, with much force and truth, observes, "The family of the late ex-Ameer Roostum I have ever considered deserving, from the British Government, of far more consideration than it appears hitherto to have met with, whether in regard to the long-standing friendship which existed between it and the late head of that family, or to the extent of blame which ought to be attached to their individual share in the events of 1842-43, which ended in the exile of that Ameer, and in their present state of dependence and want; and that their case should receive such consideration I am the more anxious, as I feel that the decision Government must come to on it, namely, to ameliorate their condition, must be highly advantageous to its character." In these sentiments I most cordially concur; they do great honour to the Resident.

42. From the same report we obtain the following melancholy history of the hardships which these most unfortunate princes have endured, from the date of the battle of Meeanee up to the present time:—"Meer Ali Ackbar, Meer Roostum's second son, was the only one present in the battle of Meeanee. From that field he joined his three brothers, Ali Murdhan, Shere Mahomed, and Dost Mahomed (deceased), at Kocha, in the Khyrpore territory. In July of the same year (1843), having during the interval never left the Khyrpore State, they, with the permission of his Highness Meer Ali Morad, settled at Meerahwah, where they continued quietly to reside until the 14th May 1844, when they were, by order of his Excellency the Governor of Scinde (App. (A.)), removed

removed prisoners to Khyrpore. This order originated in a petition (App. (B.) which the four Ameers sent to Sir Charles Napier, and by which petition his Excellency appears to have first learned that petitioners were residing in the Khyrpore territory. That petitioners were not made prisoners for any attempt at disturbing the peace of the country appears from an extract from a letter dated the 29th June 1844, from his Highness Ali Morad, but solely because his Highness's protection of them was not authorised (App. (C.) and (D.). In this letter his Highness Ali Morad writes: "Meer Ali Akbar, Meer Ali Murdhan, and the other sons of Meer Roostum (with the exception of Meer Mahomed Hussein), since the battle of Meeanee, have behaved obediently to the British Government and to me. Seeing this, I permitted them to remain at Mehrapore, and I gave them encouragement. Now your Excellency's order has reached Captain Malet, and this officer directed me to seize Meer Ali Ukbar, &c.; and according to this, I sent some horsemen for the purpose. There were many Belooches about them, but they showed no sign of opposition or resistance, and the Meers were brought safely into Khyrpore. I am certain these four Ameers will never cause disturbance or be unfriendly towards your Government." It is pleasing to observe the better feelings of Ali Morad obtaining the mastery, and inducing him thus to intercede with the Governor of Scinde on behalf of his unfortunate nephews, and in the end he succeeded in obtaining their release from imprisonment.

43. Their conduct (reports Captain Forbes), subsequent to their release in September or October 1844, has been as exemplary as it was previous to their imprisonment. Such behaviour on their part as subjects, for a period of nearly six years, alone gives them, in my opinion, no slight claim to the favourable consideration of their case by the British Government, even had their acts as princes been far more hostile than they were. I have not the least doubt but they might with perfect safety, and certainly with great advantage to themselves, be withdrawn from his Highness's guarantee, and be provided with a settlement in British Scinde, as their peaceable behaviour hitherto is not in any way to be attributed to that guarantee, but to their own conviction of the utter hopelessness of any attempt to recover their lost position, in opposition to the British Government; for to our Government do they consider his Highness of Khyrpore solely indebted for the chieftom, as also that we are prepared to maintain him in it. In conclusion, the late Resident suggests that Roostum's sons and grandsons may be located in any part of the Hyderabad Collectorate not contiguous to the Khyrpore State, in order to avoid the constant bickerings that would arise between them and Ali Morad. Twenty thousand rupees would, in his opinion, be a sufficient provision; and this should be decidedly paid by the Khyrpore State, first, because the whole of the lands they themselves received in jagheer from the late Meer Roostum are now in the possession of Ali Morad; secondly, because there is little doubt that his Highness assured Sir Charles Napier, in an interview he had with him at Hyderabad, that he allowed this family the above sum, and would continue to do so. No further surveillance on them will be necessary beyond what all other jagheerdars in British Scinde are subjected to.

44. The petition from the sons of the late Meer Roostum, alluded to in the above extract, merely set forth that "since Meer Roostum went away with the other Ameers to Bombay, we have only had a small place called Meerahwah for our support. This is not sufficient for us, and we trust you will restore to us the jagheers we had in the time of Meer Roostum." The only notice taken of it was to forward it to Captain Malet, the then Resident at Khyrpore, with directions to keep the subject secret until he arrived at that place, "when he was to take steps to make them prisoners with certainty." This was accordingly done, and in September following the Resident was furnished with an extract from a letter from the Government of India, directing that a distinct communication should be made to Ali Morad, informing him that his protection of the four Ameers was not, as his Highness alleges, authorized by Sir Charles Napier; that we hold him responsible for any misconduct of which they may be guilty, or for any interference, correspondence, or intrigues into which they may enter, and that in forbearing to exact from him, as our ally, the painful duty of surrendering those members of his family who have en-

gaged\* in military operations against us, the Governor-general in Council cautions his Highness not to misunderstand this forbearance on our part; that if his relatives, who are in his custody and charge, abuse our lenity by the slightest act of interference, we shall consider his Highness to be the responsible person, and not hesitate to have recourse to such coercive measures as may prevent the tranquillity of Scinde being disturbed for the future.

45. Such are the circumstances under which these princes were originally entrusted to Ali Morad's custody, and their complaints of ill-treatment, and of their not receiving a sufficient subsistence, have been unceasing. On one occasion Captain Malet forwarded to the Government of Scinde a petition from the family, which they requested might be kept secret, because on a former petition being sent to his Highness, Meer Ali Murdhan was kept by Ali Morad in confinement for six months. Captain Malet also enclosed a petition from the sons and family of the late Meer Mobarick, and observed, "from what I can learn, the whole of the above parties, the relatives of his Highness Ali Morad, are in very great distress, and they are all in such dread of him that they can only come to me secretly at night." With this letter, Captain Malet furnishes a memorandum, which it appears Ali Morad gave in February 1847 to Sir Charles Napier, of the allowances he had granted to these families; viz.

						Rupees.
Meerabhpoor between all the sons of Meer Roostum, annual produce	-	-	-	-	-	8,000
Meergrapoor to Meer Ali Akbar alone	-	-	-	-	-	3,000
Chulla to ditto - ditto - ditto	-	-	-	-	-	500
Shamerdekra to Meer Ali Murdhan, ditto	-	-	-	-	-	600
Surkaree	-	Rs. 1,300	{ Between Meer Shere Mahomed and Meer Gholam Mahomed - - }	-	-	1,900
Kahra	-	600		-	-	
Kurenou	-	1,000	{ To Meer Dost Mahomed, ditto	-	-	1,600
Gourkr Murgria	600			-	-	
Total - - Rs.						21,000

I have already stated that these representations produced no effect on Sir Charles Napier. He declined to interfere on behalf of these children of affliction, which is the more surprising, with reference to the comparative liberality with which the Lower Scinde Ameers and their families have been treated pecuniarily, although the guilt and folly charged against them far exceed what has ever been imputed to the Khyrpore branch of the Talpoors.

46. Captain Forbes remarks, "Even if the value of the jagheers is, as stated by his Highness Ali Morad, 21,000 Khyrpore rupees, equal to 19,000 Company's rupees, which I not do believe they are, still from that amount has to be deducted one-third nominally, but more frequently one-half in reality as taken by his Highness. They are also subject at all seasons, in common with the less favoured of his Highness's jagheerdars, to the oppressive and detrimental demands of his Highness's shikarees, for men to beat up the shikargahs, and to repair their enclosures, as also furnish labourers for other work when called upon to do so."

47. With reference to the three sons and 10 grandsons of the late Mobarick, and their families, Captain Forbes remarks, "they are equally badly off, and the amelioration of their condition would be equally advantageous to the character of the British Government." The same amount should be assigned to them, as to the family of Meer Roostum, "but as the whole of Meer Mobarick's possessions, as well as all jagheers held from that Meer by his sons, now form a portion of British Scinde, it would not be fair to call on the Khyrpore State to bear their entire charge." He, therefore, suggests that Ali Morad should be called upon to state in writing what provision he is willing to make for the family; and on the supposition that he will permit them to enjoy, free of all deductions or interference, the lands they now hold, of the estimated value of 7,000 rupees, he suggests that the British Government should add cultivated lands

\* This is a mistake. Only one of Meer Roostum's sons, according to Captain Forbes, was personally engaged in hostilities.

lands of the value of 13,000 rupees per annum, and permit them to reside on the same, with all the rights of British subjects.

48. On Mr. Pringle being required by this Government to furnish further particulars of the treatment of the families of Meer Roostum and Mobarick, which he considered far from kind or liberal, he stated "that the deficiency in kindness and liberality in their general treatment by Ali Morad, consisted in his assigning to them a maintenance insufficient for their comfort and respectability, and the distress this subjected them to; the resort to personal restraint, and other objectionable measures for preventing them from representing their grievances to Government; petty acts of annoyance and oppression towards their followers; the absence of that countenance and consideration at durbars, and on other public occasions, which is due to their position and near relationship to his Highness, and necessary for them to obtain the respect of his subjects." Besides this, he was given to understand that there were other circumstances of daily occurrence, tending to humiliate and depress them, but difficult of formal enumeration. Captain Forbes, who, from his residence on the spot, had ample opportunity of judging, was fully impressed with this view of their case, and represented it to me frequently and strongly in conversation. That his predecessor, Captain Malet, entertained similar opinions, may be gathered from his letter of the 4th April 1847. Finally, he referred to the fact of Meer Ali Murdhan having been kept under restraint for six months for petitioning, and to the members of Meer Roostum's family being in such distress, and in such dread of Ali Morad, "they could only venture to visit the British Resident secretly, and by night."

Letter dated  
30 October 1849.

Reply to ditto,  
dated 8 Nov. 1849

49. The Commissioner was informed, in reply, that it appeared that the descendants of the late Meer Roostum, now at Khyrpore, were in number 14 persons, from the age of 43 to six years, with their families, to whom Ali Morad has assigned a provision not exceeding, at the utmost, 9,500 rupees per annum. On the other hand, the descendants of the late Meer Mobarick are nine in number, of from 37 to seven years of age, with their families, receiving, at the highest estimate, 4,000 rupees per annum. That Ali Morad, in his memorandum, asserts that the allowances to Meer Roostum's family amount to 21,000 rupees per annum, and if that they amount only to 9,500 rupees, the interference of Government is called for; but unless these families are permitted to reside in British Scinde, although Government may insist upon an increased allowance, they will suffer from Ali Morad in many ways, in which it would not be in the power of Government to prevent. Mr. Pringle was, therefore, directed, on his then approaching tour, to take every opportunity to speak to his Highness on the subject of these Ameers and their families, without giving his Highness reason to suppose that they had complained, and to induce him to make up their income to what he formerly reported to be its amount. Should the Commissioner, however, fail in securing better treatment, and more liberal allowances for their families, he was instructed forthwith to report the same to Government, in view to the consideration of the expediency of removing them from under his Highness's control, requiring him to grant them such allowances as may be deemed necessary.

Letter dated  
4 Dec 1849.

50. With respect to Meer Mobarick's descendants and their families, the Commissioner was informed that further information was required to enable Government to decide on the amount which would be proper for their support, and before it acceded to Captain Forbes's suggestion that it should be increased fivefold. It did not also exactly appear to Government why it should burden itself with the provision to this family, hitherto defrayed by Ali Morad. Information was therefore required as to the mode in which it was first fixed, and made payable by his Highness. It was further observed, that in the case of Meer Roostum's family, it was probable that the obligation mentioned by Mr. Pringle may be the only, as it is a very sufficient reason why Ali Morad should pay it, but that this does not apply to Meer Mobarick's descendants, concerning whom it must be supposed that some express directions were issued by the Government of Scinde. I have been unable to discover any reply to this reference, and if none has been received, the Commissioner should be requested to furnish the information called for, to enable Government to decide on the claims of the late Meer Mobarick's family.

Letter dated  
3 October 1849,  
P. 7.

*Vide Mr. Pringle's letter, dated 3 Oct. 1849.*

51. Captain Forbes's list of the members of the late Meer Roostum's family does not include his eldest son, Meer Mahomed Hussain, and his youngest son, Meer Ali Buksh. Neither of these persons personally engaged in hostilities against the British Government, either at Meeanee or Dubha. The former joined his father with his followers soon after the battle of Nownahar; but on the ruin of his family, consequently on the conquest of Scinde, he quitted that province, and has ever since been a fugitive, first at Mooltan, and latterly at Bhawulpore. The youngest son accompanied his father into his captivity in Poona, where he now resides. He has lately petitioned to be permitted to return to Scinde. His conduct has been unexceptionable.

*Letter dated 21 Nov. 1848.*

52. The case of Meer Mahomed Hussein was first brought to our notice by Mr. Pringle in 1848, as one deserving of consideration. In a petition to the Governor-general, the ex-Ameer states, "I never before petitioned your Lordship, and now do so because I am in extreme distress. His Excellency the Governor of Scinde knows that I took no part in the disturbance\* of Scinde. When my late father, Meer Roostum, was sovereign, all his children had jagheers separately, and had possession of them. If my father gave all his country to Meer Ali Morad, certainly he must have made some provision for himself, his children, and his family, because he could not have known that he would be sent to India, and get a provision from Government. When he left Khyrpore, all that he had was plundered by Meer Ali Morad." After alluding to his flight with his family after the battle of Meeanee, he continues: "The few ornaments the women saved on their persons are all sold and expended, and nothing is now left for us. I do not speak whether my father was guilty or not, that the Government knows; but I do say that his family were guiltless, and deserve the sympathy of Government. I never meddled in any quarrel, therefore I deserve in justice the mercy of Government. When Government thought it right to give Meer Roostum's country to Meer Ali Morad, they may think it just to give his family a piece of bread. Meer Roostum and I served the Government. I beg that my jagheer or any portion of it may be given to me, or that Government may give something from its country sufficient for the subsistence of my father's family, or from Meer Ali Morad's country. I shall give in writing on the Koran, or in any manner that Government may wish, that I will never do anything to offend the British Government. I hope that Government will no longer wish me to remain in a wild and strange country with all the family. To go to India there is no objection in distress, but the name of being a prisoner we cannot bear."

*Letter, dated 28 April, and reply thereto of 17 May, 1849.*

*Letter dated 14 June 1847.*

*Letter from Major Goldney, dated 5 July 1848.*

*Vide his Report, dated 9 Nov. 1848.*

53. Sir Charles Napier was requested to report whether a pension should be granted to Meer Mahomed Hussein; and, in reply, stated, "he could only recommend that he should be sent to live at Calcutta, with the other ex-Ameers;" and, accordingly, the Government of India assigned to him a pension of 500 rupees per mensem, with orders that he should reside at Dum Dum. It was to avoid this hard condition that the ex-Ameer had become a refugee from Scinde; and he evaded acceptance of the provision offered to him. In July 1848, however, he again petitioned, representing that in consequence of Dewan Moolraj having rebelled against the British Government, he had left Mooltan, and had sought an asylum in the territory of the Nawaub of Bhawulpore. In reply, he was merely referred to the order of the Government of India, assigning him a pension of 500 rupees per mensem, on condition of his residing at Calcutta. In November of the same year, he visited Lieutenant James, deputy collector in Scinde, and presented three more petitions, in one of which he observed, "My late father befriended the British, and made over to them Fort Bukkur, at a time when

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\* This is the truth. There is in fact proof that Meer Roostum was not on cordial terms with his eldest son a short time before the battle of Nownahar in September 1842, and that much persuasion was requisite before he could be induced, on that event, to come to Meer Roostum's aid. Mr. Ross Bell, in a letter to his Assistant, dated 23d December 1840, when alluding to the intrigues of the minister, Futteh Mahomed Ghoree, observed, "The consequence has been that numerous and serious quarrels have arisen in the family of his Highness Meer Roostum, whose eldest son, Meer Mahomed Hussein, along with his brothers, Meer Ali Akbar and Meer Morad Hyder, have in consequence been obliged to retire in disgrace to the estates granted to them by their father. It has been the care of Futteh Mahomed Ghoree to foment, not only the disputes that have arisen among the children of his master, but those of longer standing which existed between Ali Morad and Nusseer Khan, the other branches of the Khyrpore family."—Scinde Blue Book, No. 287.

when all the other chiefs of Scinde were averse to the connexion, and so on till his death. The rest of my brethren are sitting in Scinde, under his Highness Ali Morad. I alone, for six years, have been an exile." On these appeals being forwarded, with the recommendation of this Government, that the ex-Ameer should be permitted to reside and receive his pension under the protection and surveillance of the Chief of Bhawalpore, the Governor-general was pleased to sanction the arrangement. On his being informed, the ex-Ameer again petitioned to return to his native land, and that a separate provision might be granted to other members of Meer Roostum's family. "I am now an old man (he observed), and desire that I may be permitted to return to Scinde, and that a place of residence be appointed for me there. There need be no fear of my entering upon traitorous schemes, for no one has power to resist the British. I am satisfied with the amount of pension allowed me, but I have a large family, five sons, the widows of Meer Roostum and Nusseer Khan, and the family of the late Meer Morad Hyder Khan, son of Meer Roostum Khan; and my expenses average four times the amount of pension allowed me." On reference, both the ex-Ameer's requests were negatived.

Letter dated 13 December, and reply thereto of 30 December, 1848.

Letter from Mr. Pringle, dated 12 June 1849.

Letter from Sir H. Elliot, dated 3 August 1850.

54. There is another appeal from the ex-Ameer now before Government, which, at my suggestion, has not been disposed of, in expectation that the report of the Sukkur Commission would throw some light on the conduct of Meer Ali Morad towards the unfortunate Meer Roostum and his family, and that it may also appear that the value of his eldest son's evidence before the Commission may entitle him to favour and indulgence. Both of these expectations have been realised. I shall presently show that Ali Morad has fraudulently appropriated lands of large value, which either belong to the British Government or to Meer Roostum's family; and of the value of Meer Mahomed Hussein's evidence before the Commission there can be no question, for although I will not go so far as to assert that Ali Morad's guilt could not have been established without his assistance, nevertheless, the documents he produced are of themselves sufficient to satisfy the most sceptical, and the straightforward manner in which the Chief of his own accord came forward, greatly strengthens the claims which, in my opinion, he previously possessed for a just and compassionate consideration of his case. And I rejoice to observe that Mr. Pringle advocates this, for, in reporting his unexpected appearance before the Commission, he observes, "Meer Mahomed Hussein is now advanced in years; his appearance and address are prepossessing; he was accompanied by his three eldest sons, fine looking young men. He has never, I believe, in any way conducted himself inimically to our Government since the conquest of Scinde, and if he were allowed to return to reside in this province, I should not myself have any apprehensions of his abusing the indulgence; I should also be glad to see the pension of 500 rupees per mensem, which it was proposed to allow him, doubled, for I believe it would be very scanty for the maintenance, in a manner suitable even to his present fallen position, of the representative of the eldest branch of the Khayrpore family, with his children and followers. In his petition, which should now be forwarded for the consideration of the Most Noble the Governor-general of India, the ex-Ameer reiterates the appeals he has so frequently made, and very naturally takes credit to himself for the service he has performed for the British Government, in producing evidence which has established the right of the British Government to Meerpoor Mahtela, and refuted the false witnesses produced by his Highness Ali Morad."

*Vide* Mr. Pringle's letter, dated 13 May, and my minute thereon, concurred in by the Board, dated 30 May 1850.

See my minute, dated 9 Dec. 1849.

Letter dated 13 May 1850.

55. I now proceed to establish that Ali Morad has obtained possession of the jagheers which formerly belonged to Meer Roostum and his sons, by an act of fraud and deception as flagrant as that practised on us, in respect to the districts of Meerpoor, Mahtela, and Melurkee; and as the act I allude to is intimately mixed up with another transaction, namely, the cession of the Turban, or badge of sovereignty in Upper Scinde, by Meer Roostum to Ali Morad, I shall first endeavour to give a correct statement of how this most extraordinary event was brought about. This is not irrelevant to the case now before the Board, for the alleged cession of the Turban is repeatedly alluded to in the Commission's proceedings, and Ali Morad himself recorded thereon the treaty under which he asserts it was ceded.

56. The principal facts connected with the cession of the Turban are that Sir Charles Napier received a message from Meer Roostum, complaining of being



opposed and coerced by his family. That, in reply, Sir Charles Napier, avowedly for a political object, wrote a letter to Meer Roostum, advising him to go to his brother Ali Morad, then residing in his stronghold at Dijee-ke-Kote, and to be guided by his advice. That Meer Roostum afterwards denied having sent the messages, but nevertheless followed Sir Charles Napier's advice, and went to Dijee, where, according to Ali Morad, voluntarily, but according to his own account, by force, he ceded the Turban and the whole of his country to Ali Morad, under a treaty written in a Koran. That Meer Roostum immediately escaped from Dejee, and fled into the Desert, from whence he promptly renounced the act of cession, as having been extorted by force. That in the first instance, Sir Charles Napier believed his statement, and advised Ali Morad not to assume the Turban; but during the discussions which subsequently occurred respecting the transaction, he changed his opinion, and came to the conclusion that the cession was voluntary. That Meer Roostum unfortunately avoided a personal meeting with Sir Charles Napier, his brother Ali Morad having craftily, and in order to avoid the exposure which a personal interview would lead to, impressed him with the conviction that Sir Charles Napier intended to imprison him. Finally, that the wrongs thus inflicted on Meer Roostum were emphatically remonstrated against by Meer Roostum and the other Ameers of Scinde, but that Sir Charles Napier determined to recognise and uphold the cession, and to refuse inquiry and redress; and afterwards when, by order of Sir Charles Napier, Meer Roostum proceeded to Hyderabad, to meet Major Outram, his wrongs became the war-cry of the Beloochees, and were the cause of the war, and conquest of Scinde. In the first instance, it was understood that the cession only included the lands which appertained to the Turban, which, according to Meer Sohrab's will,\* was only one-fourth of the lands of Upper Scinde, but Ali Morad afterwards claimed under the same treaty another fourth, or the portion assigned under the same will to Meer Roostum and his family, as their patrimonial inheritance. In other words, he asserted that the cession of the Turban included that of the private estate, and that Meer Roostum had voluntarily reduced himself and family to beggary. It is with the last part of the transaction that I have chiefly to deal; for it must be obvious that if, as will soon appear, Meer Roostum's private estate was not ceded, it cannot possibly of right belong to Ali Morad, though he has contrived to obtain possession of it. It must either belong to his unfortunate family, or it must have devolved to the British Government, in virtue of the conquest of Scinde.

57. In the document alluded to in the margin,† it is stated, Meer Roostum Khan, an old and imbecile man, alarmed at the intrigues and machinations of his family, sent a secret message to Sir Charles Napier that he was anxious to place himself under his protection. Sir Charles Napier sent him the following reply, through Ali Morad:‡ “I send this by your brother, his Highness Meer Ali Morad; listen to his advice, trust yourself to his care. You are too old for war, and if battle begins, how can I protect you? If you go with your brother, you may either remain with him or I will send an escort for you to bring you to my camp, where you will be safe. Follow my advice; it is that of a friend. Why should I be your enemy? If I was, why should I take this trouble to save you? I think you will believe me, but do as you please.” Meer Roostum, in great trepidation, took Sir Charles Napier's advice; he made over all his possessions to his sons, and proceeded to Dejee-ke-Kote, where his brother Ali Morad, a man of unbounded ambition and great tact, and consistent and unswerving in his purpose of aggrandisement, lived in baronial state. Meer Roostum afterwards declared, that although he had received the letter quoted above, and had followed the advice contained therein, he had never written to Sir Charles Napier, that he wished to leave his family, and place himself under his Excellency's protection.

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\* This document has been recited at length in para. 3 of this Minute.

Memorandum drawn up in the Foreign Office of the Government of India, on our first connexion with Ali Morad Talpoo.

† *Vide* No. 10, Supplement to Scinde Blue Book. In a previous letter, No. 8 of the same compilation, Sir C. Napier had informed Meer Roostum Ameer, “I have received my orders, and I will obey them. I laugh at your preparations for war. I want to prevent blood being shed. Listen to my words. Consult with your brother, his Highness Ali Morad. Your own blood will not deceive you; your servants will.”



He felt convinced, however, that such a message had been sent by some one. Be that as it may, he had not remained many days at Dejee Kote ere, by a formal piece of writing in the Koran, he reduced himself to beggary by resigning the Turban, and transferring every acre of land he possessed to his brother. In this deed of transfer several of the confiscated districts named above were improperly entered. This transaction was the origin of a controversy between Sir Charles Napier and Major Outram. It was also the principal cause of the war with the Ameers. The Beloochees swore that they would not sheathe their swords unless Meer Roostum was reinstated as Rais. Sir Charles Napier considered that he was not in a position either to scrutinise the intrigues of Ali Morad (supposing him to have been guilty of any), or to attach any weight to the excuse that Meer Roostum's actions were the emanations of imbecility. "Imbecility is not a legitimate excuse for rulers. I have only to deal with Meer Roostum's acts," wrote Sir Charles Napier. He found that Ameer's abdication in favour of Ali Morad to be regular and formal, and he felt himself bound to recognise the latter as Rais. At the same time he wrote\* to him, "I think your Highness will do well not to assume the Turban; people will say that the English put it on your head against the will of Meer Roostum; but do as you please." Sir Charles Napier also sent word to Meer Roostum that he would like to have an interview with him, in order to hear from him personally all he had done. This message apparently possessed such terrors for Meer Roostum that he immediately fled from Dejee Kote into the Desert. He afterwards declared that he had not received Sir Charles's message, and that he had been frightened away by his brother. Meer Roostum shortly after went to Hyderabad, where all the Ameers had assembled for the purpose of discussing the propriety of signing the draft treaty which Sir Charles Napier had sent them. Here, at a conference between Major Outram and the Ameers on the 8th February 1843, Meer Roostum indignantly complained of the treatment he had received from his brother Ali Morad, and retracted his resignation of the Turban. "Would I resign my birthright of my own free will?" After some hesitation the Ameers agreed to the treaty, but they at the same time stated, that "unless Major Outram would give a promise that the Government of India would permit them to unite their forces against Ali Morad for the purpose of compelling that Ameer to yield the Turban to Meer Roostum, it would be out of their power to restrain their Beloochee retainers from proceeding to acts of violence. Major Outram did not feel himself competent to give such a promise, and his house was attacked by an infuriated multitude. His gallant defence is well known. Sir Charles Napier rapidly came up with his 2,500 troops, and overthrew the hosts opposed to him at Meeanee on the 17th February 1843. The battle of Dubba was fought on the 24th March 1843, and the conquest of Scinde was complete."

58. I have given this extract because it contains, in a clear and condensed form, a statement of the circumstances under which Ali Morad obtained the Turban, and of the conquest of Scinde which followed, framed from the most authentic data in existence, viz. the records of the Government of India. I have, however, observed, that Sir Charles Napier had a political object in view when he advised Meer Roostum to go to his brother; and the fact is proved by the following extract from a letter which he addressed, on the 20th December 1842, to the Governor-general: "I had a secret message from Meer Roostum. The bearer had an open letter in the usual unmeaning style of the durbar, but the messenger privately informed Lieutenant Brown that Roostum could do nothing, and would escape to my camp." I did not like this, as it would have embarrassed me very much how to act; but the idea struck me at once that he might go to Ali Morad, who might induce him (as a family arrangement) to resign the Turban to him (Ali Morad), especially as Roostum has long been desirous of getting rid of this charge of the Talpoors. I therefore secretly wrote to Roostum and Ali Morad, and about one o'clock this morning I had an express from Ali Morad, to say that his brother is safe with him, &c. Ali Morad is now virtually chief; for if Meer Roostum does not bestow the Turban upon him, he will at all events be guided by Ali, into whose hands he has voluntarily  
thrown

\* This letter will be found in the Supplement to the Scinde Blue Book, No. 14.

Supplement to the  
Scinde Blue Book,  
No. 139.

thrown himself." On the 29th December Sir Charles Napier informed the Governor-general, "Meer Roostum had resigned the Turban to his brother Ali in the most formal manner, writing his resignation in the Koran before all the religious men collected to witness the resignation at Dijee. Ali sent me the Koran to see it. I said that these family arrangements were their own, but that your Lordship would support the head of their family, whoever it might be, according to the spirit of the treaty; that I personally thought it better for Roostum to keep the Turban, and let Ali Morad act for him, but that he was free to do as he pleased. It was a family arrangement, with which your Lordship would not interfere."

Ibid.

59. There is abundant evidence that at this time Sir Charles Napier suspected that foul play had been practised against Meer Roostum, for in the same letter he informs Lord Ellenborough, "Now it strikes me that Ali Morad may have frightened the old man into the foolish step he has taken on purpose to make his possession of the Turban more decisive; that to do this he told him I intended to make him (Roostum) a prisoner; Ali pretending to be his friend, and only waiting for his opportunity to betray us. Such are my conjectures, &c." And on the 7th January 1843 Sir Charles Napier repeated that both Major Outram and himself "were convinced that Ali Morad had frightened him, and that the old man had been persuaded by Ali Morad that I meant to imprison him for life, and who was perfectly exhausted by his flight." Nevertheless, on the 1st of this month Sir Charles Napier issued a proclamation to the Ameers and people of Scinde, which Ali Morad had caused to be recorded on the Commission's proceedings. In this\* the transfer of the Turban to Ali Morad is proclaimed, and the General's intention announced, "to protect, according to the existing treaty, the chief Ameer Ali Morad in his right, as the justly constituted chieftain of the Talpoor family. God willing, I mean to march into the Desert. I will disperse the armed bands that have stopped our mails; I will place the killadars of the chief, Ali Morad, in command of every post, and I will act towards the Ameers of Hyderabad as I shall find their conduct may deserve."

Ibid.

See *infra*, para. 79.

60. The treaty under which the Turban was ceded is dated 20th December 1842, and will be found in the compilation printed by order of Parliament, No. 12.

No. 66 of Supple-  
ment to Scinde  
Blue Book.

61. Immediately on the receipt of Sir Charles Napier's proclamation of the 1st January 1843, noticed in paragraph 59, Meer Roostum denied that he had ever sent the message, and desired to know who had delivered it; at the same time stating that he had no doubt it was delivered, but that he was prepared to prove that he never sent such a message. He added that the night before he left Dejee, Noor Ahmed Hafiz (a confidential servant of Ali Morad) brought a message at midnight from Ali Morad, to the effect that it was Sir Charles Napier's purpose to come to Dejee; that there he would meet Roostum, from whom he intended to extort three lacs of rupees; that if the money was not paid, the jewels and property of the zenana were to be seized, therefore Ali Morad advised him to go off to the Desert at once. He (Roostum) accordingly did so, early in the morning. It is, however, clear, from a letter dated the 2d January 1843, that the moment Meer Roostum was out of Ali Morad's power he appealed to Sir Charles Napier, and repudiated the act of ceding the Turban, for in this he observes, "The gist of your letter amounts to this, that I advised you to be guided by his Highness Ali Morad, and that he advised you to fly from a meeting with me, as a conspirator, who wished to make you a captive." Forgetting his previous admission (see paragraph 59), that he thought this very likely, Sir Charles Napier, without inquiring, treats this as a subterfuge and untruth, and informs Meer Roostum that he will no longer treat with him as Rais, or consider him as chief of the Talpoors, and takes for granted that he (Roostum) "had solemnly resigned the Turban." On the 11th February, Sir Charles Napier says, "Roostum's plea of being sent to Ali Morad by me is a shallow affair; because, in the first place, he sent a secret message (by Moya-deen, I believe Brown told me), to say that he was to all intents a prisoner at

No. 17 of Supple-  
ment to Scinde  
Blue Book.

Letter to Major  
Outram, No. 57  
of Supplement to  
Scinde Blue Book.

\* The whole of this very remarkable document is well worthy of a perusal. It is No. 15 of the Supplement to the Scinde Blue Book.

at Khyrpore." I replied to him, "Take your brother's advice; go to him, and either stay with him or I will escort you to my camp." To which, on the 13th, when reporting that all the Ameers of Upper and Lower Scinde had accepted the new treaties in public durbar, and applied the seals to the draft, Major Outram informs his superior, "The old story, justice to Roostum, was the reiterated cry, notwithstanding my constant replies, that the abdication was his own act. This they all higgled at more than signing away their own property, which is confiscated by the new treaty. He (Roostum) has always been consistent in his story, and brings forward strong proofs; and, indeed, it appears notorious that he was, in the first place, actually surrounded by Ali Morad's sentries, and his own people removed from him; and that Ali Morad afterwards caused him to fly, to avoid, as he (Ali Morad) led him to believe, a worse evil, he not perceiving Ali Morad's object, *i. e.*, to prevent the interview which you proposed having with Meer Roostum until he saw your proclamation here the day before yesterday, his observations on which I send you." Unfortunately, Major Outram's remarks produced no effect. The battle of Meeanee was fought four days afterwards. Meer Roostum gave himself up to Sir Charles Napier, and was sent, with the other Ameers, a prisoner to Bombay. In one of his appeals,\* which he addressed from hence to Government, he thus describes the mode in which the cession of the Turban was extorted from him:—"I and my family went to the fort of Dejee, in conformity with Sir Charles Napier's advice. As soon as we arrived there, Meer Ali Morad placed guards over us, and, having seized all my confidential and respectable servants, imprisoned them. He forcibly made me execute a writing, making over to him the right of inheritance to the country, and affixed to certain forged papers our seals, which he took from our imprisoned servants. Afterwards he went to Khyrpoor, and sent a message to his servant that we were at liberty to go out of the fort of Dejee, and that, if we did not leave the fort, the army of General Napier, Sahib Bahadur, would march there, and imprison us. On the receipt of this message, we did not know what to do; and having no remedy left to us, we went out of the fort, exposing ourselves to cold and rain, and arrived at Saheeda."† In allusion to Major Outram informing him that he must relinquish the government of the country, which belonged to Ali Morad, he pathetically observes, "I could not bear this conversation, as I had governed the country 85 years; and as I was put to the necessity of living at the mercy of a younger brother whom I had brought up from infancy, I went to Kohera in exile, and remained there. I trust that, in conformity with the laws of Jesus Christ, and of the justice and equity of the British Government, my affairs will be settled." Requests that his appeal may be forwarded to the Governor-general and the authorities in England, "in order that they may be merciful to me, who am oppressed at the age of 85 years, and grant me redress."

Letter to Major Outram, No. 65 of Supplement to Scinde Blue Book.

62. I have already shown that, before the conquest of Scinde, Sir Charles Napier was under the impression that Meer Roostum had been frightened into the cession of the Turban, and that he avoided a meeting with the general, "the old man having been persuaded by Ali Morad that I intended to imprison him for life." After the conquest, however, and when the justice of the measure became matter of discussion, Sir Charles Napier abandoned this impression, and made the following observations‡: "Soon after, a message arriving from Meer Roostum, claiming my protection against the intrigues of his own family, offered an opportunity of having one man to deal with instead of a faction, with whom it was impossible for a civilised Government to deal, and into whose intrigues I considered it undignified for a powerful Government to enter; and from the first I determined not to enter into them. I was determined that when

*Supra*, para. 59.

\* Letter to the Governor of Bombay, Supplement to the Scinde Blue Book, No. 122.

† In an appeal to the Honourable Court of Directors (Supplement to Scinde Blue Book, No. 167), dated the 18th September 1843, from his prison at Sassoor, Meer Roostum repeats this statement.

‡ These will be found in No. 155, Supplement to Scinde Blue Book, and are dated the 10th August 1843. They are merely an expansion of that most pernicious doctrine, "might makes right," or, as Sir Charles Napier expressed himself, "The intrigues of these people are very silly, and like a tangled web; we can cut the Gordian knot, as Alexander did; we are too strong to take the trouble to untie it." Letter to Major Outram, dated the 23d January 1843.

when there was a breach of treaty, whether great or small, I would hold all the Meers responsible, and would not be played off like a shuttlecock, and told, This was done by one Ameer, and that by another, and have a week's inquiry to find out whom I was to hold responsible for the aggression; for I at once saw, on arriving in Scinde, that this hide and seek shifting responsibility was the game which the Ameers had been playing. The proposal of Meer Roostum to come into my camp offered me an easy remedy for this evil; and having adopted the high opinion which Major Outram entertained of Ali Morad, I had no hesitation in recommending his brother to seek his protection, and be advised by him." "Yet, having suspicions, in despite of the high character given to me by Major Outram of that brother, that some intrigue must be going on, I gave Meer Roostum the option and invitation of coming to my camp, and putting himself under my protection. By my advice to Meer Roostum, which, let the reader observe, was not given till it was asked, I secured to Meer Roostum the honourable and powerful protection of the British Government. This he did not choose to accept; he went to his brother, and then he fled from that brother with his usual vacillating imbecility (an imbecility \* which I believe to have been produced by his long habits of drunkenness, for he is said never to be sober after mid-day). That this flight was caused by Ali Morad, as Major Outram affirms, I do not now believe, though I did at the time. I have neither seen nor heard anything to make me believe it." \* \* \* "When I heard that he had resigned the Turban I disapproved of it; and Mr. Brown will recollect my sending Ali Morad's vakeel back to him with this message. I even recommended him to return the Turban, and merely act as his brother's lieutenant. His answer was, that the deed had been executed in due form before all the moollahs or priests, and that it was impossible to alter it. I, of course, had nothing to say; I had no business to interfere with the private engagements of the Ameers; I was authorised to give advice when asked; I was obliged by existing treaty to give protection to any Ameer whose rights were invaded by another, but I was not called upon to originate a complaint when none was made to me, and especially in a case which, whether originating or not in family intrigues, had a result so favourable to my own Government and useful to the Ameers. I did not, therefore, interfere between Ali Morad and his brother. The proofs that he was voluntarily elected by his brother were laid before me. I sought to have the acknowledgment that it was a voluntary act from that brother's own lips; but he pertinaciously avoided meeting me, nor was Major Outram able to bring about a meeting. Afterwards, I believe that it was his own family that prevented his meeting me; they were afraid that he should confess that he had voluntarily given up the Turban." Further on, Sir Charles Napier observes, "We will even suppose, which I do not admit (though I suspected it at the time), that Ali Morad bullied his brother into making over the Turban and his estates, he (Ali Morad) guaranteeing a due and dignified maintenance to Roostum;" and then, arguing on false premises, asserts that, "What the law of England would have done for him, Ali Morad did for himself by his own power; that is, not only possessed himself of the Turban, the badge of sovereignty, and the rights belonging to it, but likewise Meer Roostum's private estates, thereby making the unfortunate Ameer disinherit his own sons and nephews."

63. I have made this long extract in order to give both sides of the question. But it may be asked, why do I now re-open a question which, had I the power, I would bury in oblivion, and especially since Meer Roostum has found that peace in the grave which was denied to him in this world. To this I reply, that I plead the wrongs he suffered as the most powerful argument that can be adduced in favour

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\* Nothing could more clearly prove Sir Charles Napier's predisposition to receive and believe statements to the prejudice of the Ameers than this assertion. Meer Roostum was in possession of his faculties up to the time of his death at Poona. He was bowed down by the weight of fourscore years and five, and was subdued by the terrible calamities in which his family had at that age been involved. In regard to his being an habitual drunkard, the medical officer in charge of him promptly replied: "Meer Roostum Khan, now upwards of 80 years of age, is in full possession of his faculties; his memory is good, and he is most strict in his religious observances; his mode of living is abstemious, eating meat only once a day, and his sole beverage water or milk." Letter from Dr. Peart, dated the 17th July 1843.

favour of our now affording redress to the utmost extent of our ability to his descendants. Sir Charles Napier admits he was bound by existing treaty to interfere when any Ameer's rights were invaded by another; but it is difficult to reconcile this admission with his refusal to listen to Meer Roostum's complaint against his brother's perfidy. An "old Indian," like myself, the merest tyro of a "political," and those classes for whom he professes such a profound contempt, would have informed Sir Charles Napier that the message conveyed to Meer Roostum from a general at the head of an army was likely to be viewed as a command, and that when a British officer has been instrumental in placing one man in another's power, he is responsible for the consequences, at all events to such an extent as to satisfy himself that no foul play had been practised. Sir Charles Napier had thought fit to assure Meer Roostum that he might trust Ali Morad, and that Ali Morad would not deceive him; and I will venture to assert that there is not a political officer of any note in India who will dissent from my opinion, that he was bound in honour and good faith to have investigated Meer Roostum's complaints against Ali Morad. Had he professed his readiness to do this, he would have found no difficulty in obtaining an interview with the Ameer, for the old man was scared away by the menacing\* letters he received, and by his being informed by Sir Charles Napier's orders, "that no concession or submission could reinstate him in the Turban which he has resigned." (Sir Charles Napier to Lord Ellenborough, dated 7th January 1843, S. S. B. Book, No. 139.) Had this course been adopted, the brilliant victories of Meeanee and Dubba would not have been added to the military fame of England, and the large public and private treasures of the unfortunate Ameers would not have been divided amongst our noble and gallant army†, but the materials would not have been created for writing what, I venture to say, will constitute one of the most melancholy chapters of the history of British India.

64. It has been seen that Sir Charles Napier's advice to Meer Roostum, to be guided by Meer Ali Morad's advice, was founded on a secret message received from Meer Roostum, and that the latter denied having sent such message; and who will henceforward discredit the denial, now that it has been established by the Commissioner's inquiry, that the man who is stated to have brought the message was the corrupt agent of Ali Morad, viz., the moonshee Moidan, who, for a bribe of 10,000 rupees, abstracted‡ the box containing the original treaty of Nownahar, and other confidential records from Lieutenant Brown's office; a man, moreover, who was proved to be a double traitor, and was actually made a prisoner in consequence of having been detected in corresponding with the enemy, "Major Clibborn having intercepted letters from the hostile chiefs, thanking him for his information." And the information we derive from the Digests of Intelligence from Scinde between September and December 1843, render it highly improbable that any such message was sent, and prove that Ali Morad was the very last person§ to whom Meer Roostum would cede a Turban voluntarily. The Upper Scinde Ameers were at this time divided into two parties: Meer Roostum and his sons and nephews (the sons of the late Mobarick) on the one hand, Meer Ali Morad on the other. For several years a bitter fraternal feud (*inamedicabile vulnus*) had prevailed between them, and Meer Roostum had only a very short time previously been humbled to the dust, and although Rais, or sovereign of the country, had been compelled to purchase peace by a cession of territory. Can it for one moment be supposed that, on the

\* For instance, on the 18th December 1843, Meer Roostum was thus addressed: "My letters have been stopped near Khyrpoor; this has been done either by your order or without your consent: if by your order, you are guilty; if without your consent, you cannot command your people. In either case I order you to disband your armed followers instantly. I will go to Khyrpoor to see that this order is obeyed."—*Vide* Supplement to Scinde Blue Book, No. 11.

† The Scinde prize-money distributed amounted to Rs. 56,44,701. 7., of which one-eighth, or 6,63,326 rupees was adjudged to Sir Charles Napier.—*See* General Orders by the Government of India, dated the 31st December 1847, 21st July 1849, and 3d April 1850.

‡ *Supra*, para. 11.—For the moonshee's statement made on the 16th August 1843, long after the conquest of Scinde, *see* No. 160, Supplement to Scinde Blue Book.

§ On the 22d January 1843, the warning voice of Major Outram informed Sir Charles Napier, "Ali Morad basely lies in saying that Meer Roostum sent any such message as he (Ali Morad) represented to you. Ali Morad is the last person on whose tender mercies or liberality Roostum would rely."—*Vide* Supplement to Scinde Blue Book, No. 29.]

the 20th December 1843, he would voluntarily have ceded not only the Turban, but, as it now appears, his private estates, the inheritance of his sons after his own demise, to one of whom, on the 16th September 1843, in the confidence which exists between father and son, he wrote as follows:—"Although I entreated Ali Morad, it was of no avail, and he became very impertinent and disobedient. Being helpless, by reason of the strong English army, which is close at hand, under the pressure of circumstances I gave several pieces of jagheer of my own, &c. &c. Oh! my son, this is the way of the world! A strong English army is close at hand, and we must therefore be cautious; although on this account we must be patient, yet, as regards Ali Morad there must be no delay, as he has been so insolent to me, who am the chief of the tribe. What have the gentlemen said to him, that they should say anything to me? We must have our revenge. You must therefore come quickly with your troops and munitions of war, that we may retaliate." The writer of this letter\* never dreamt that it would be exhibited as evidence in a British court of justice, we may therefore rely that it faithfully portrays the feelings which he then entertained towards Ali Morad; and to imagine that in the short space of two months Meer Roostum would, of his own free will, make over all that he possessed in the world, is to pronounce that he was either insane or imbecile. But he was neither.† Ali Morad, the most designing of the Upper Scinde Ameers, completely hoodwinked Sir Charles Napier, and succeeds in effecting the ruin of his elder brother, Meer Roostum. That old and venerable chieftain, bewildered with the menacing and insulting letters of the British representative, and by the artful insinuation of his brother, expresses his wish to throw himself into the hands of Sir Charles Napier. Does this look like a desire to resort to force? Is this a proof of his contumacy and hostile feeling to the British Government? What is the answer of Sir Charles Napier? He recommends Meer Roostum to seek refuge with his worst enemy, Ali Morad. A recommendation under such circumstances was, of course, a command. What is the result? The slightest knowledge of native princes might have foretold. Ali Morad takes advantage of the opportunity to practise on the fears of the helpless old man, who, by force or fraud, is induced to resign the Turban, and is then persuaded to fly. The most remarkable feature of the case is the conviction of Sir Charles Napier, that while trampling on all the dearest rights of these wild Belooches, and transferring the power of the State from an aged and justly beloved chieftain to one who was an object of detestation, he had hit on the only expedient for ensuring a permanently peaceful state of affairs in Upper Scinde.

65. Shortly after the conquest of Scinde a correspondence occurred between Sir Charles Napier and the Governor-general, Lord Ellenborough, respecting the arrangements to be adopted for the occupation of the conquered territory, and for determining what portion should be retained by Ali Morad, and what portion devolved to the British Government. A reference to this correspondence is now necessary, because, as it involved the question of what rights Ali Morad had acquired under the treaty ceding the Turban, it still further illustrates the real character of that transaction, and at the same time affords additional evidence of Ali Morad's duplicity, and of the manner in which he has swindled Meer Roostum's sons and nephews out of their birthright. Strange to say, at the commencement, and throughout this correspondence, Sir Charles Napier contended that Ali Morad was entitled to retain not only all the lands in his own rightful possession at the outbreak of the war, and all lands which Meer Roostum possessed in right of the Turban, but likewise his personal patrimony under the will of their father, Meer Sohrab, as far as they were in Meer Roostum's rightful possession at the same period. The rest he proposed should devolve to the British Government, either in right of conquest, or of forfeiture imposed on the Khyrpoor Ameers generally for breach of engagement

\* This letter is (F.), No. 9 of Appendix to the Commissioners' proceedings.

† This extract is from a speech by Captain William Eastwick, on the case of the Ameers of Scinde, and at a special Court held at the India House on the 26th January 1844, whose able advocacy of their cause is the more valuable, because he served with distinction in the province of Scinde, and because he was personally acquainted with the Ameers, and was cognizant of the important services they, but more especially Meer Roostum, had, in times of difficulty and disaster, rendered to the British Government.

ment previous to the war. I say it is strange that Sir C. Napier should have so argued, because it must be familiar to those who are conversant with the Scinde question, that in the controversy between that officer, Major Outram, when the latter asserted that Meer Roostum had been deprived of all his lands, those which appertained to the Turban, and those which constituted his private estate, Sir Charles Napier emphatically declared that such was not the fact. Nay, I shall presently show that, on the 14th January 1843, Sir Charles Napier addressed a letter to Ali Morad, explicitly informing him, in order to obviate any mistake, that he would be only entitled to the lands and privileges which belonged to the Turban, and not to those which appertain to Meer Roostum as an individual. See infra, paras. 83, 84 and 85.

86. On the conquest of Scinde Captain Pope was appointed collector and magistrate of Sukkur,\* and was instructed by Sir C. Napier to take charge of the conquered territory in the north. Almost immediately after assuming charge, this officer wrote to Sir C. Napier as follows:—"I perfectly understand your instructions as to the territories which his Highness Ali Morad is to be acknowledged as possessor of, i. e., whatever belonged to him before the war broke out, and whatever was by right attached to the Turban." The then Governor-general, Lord Ellenborough, entertained exactly the same view, and it did not escape his Lordship's penetration, that Ali Morad was endeavouring to grasp more than he was entitled to, for on the receipt of Captain Pope's report, he observed† to Sir C. Napier, "I am afraid there will be some inconvenient differences with respect to the land attached to the Turban. I have never seen any account of them. Your Excellency has justly decided, that Meer Ali Morad is to retain possession of all the land he before held in his own right, and to have all those attached to the Turban. More than this he is not entitled to. I should judge, however, from Captain Pope's report, that he is endeavouring to possess himself of all the land in Upper Scinde which belonged to any of the Ameers who acted hostilely to the British Government. This must not be permitted." Letter dated 15 May 1843.

87. There can be no doubt that the Governor-general's views were conformable to justice and reason. Sir C. Napier, however, changed his original views, and advocated Ali Morad's claim to much more than the Governor-general conceded. He observed, 1st. We recognized the assumption of the Turban and land appertaining thereto, by his Highness Ali Morad, on the free ‡ resignation of his brother. We were bound to do so, by treaty, for such was the law of Scinde, and we were bound to abide by that law. 2d. With the Turban, according to the will of Sohrab, went certain lands, amounting to one-fourth of the territory bequeathed by the Ameer to his heirs. 3d. When Meer Roostum resigned the Turban, which he did with all legal form, he did, at the same time, and with the same forms, resign to his brother the whole of his (Meer Roostum's) territories, and in return, his brother engaged to provide for his due maintenance. This resignation of his territories was written in the same Koran, at the same time, and was one act with the resignation of the Turban. The whole was confirmed by the signature and seal of his Highness Meer Roostum Khan. 4th. As we were obliged by treaty to recognise, and did accordingly recognise the formal transfer of the Turban, it appears to me conclusive, that we must recognise every part of the transaction that is in accordance with the laws of Scinde and of Mahomed. By this law every chief is master of his property, none of which can be entailed. The will of the possessor decides, who is to have the land; such, at least, I am given to understand, is the Mahomedan law. If this be so, we are bound to concede to his Highness Ali Morad those lands which Meer Roostum had the right of making over to him by the Mahomedan law. 5th. But we are not bound to concede to his Highness those lands to which his brother, Meer Roostum, had no legal right, viz. those which belonged to their nephews, the sons of "Mobarick." Sir Charles Napier, therefore, informed the Letter to the Governor-general, dated 28 June 1843.

\* *Vide* Government Order by Sir Charles Napier, dated 2d April 1843.

† Letter dated the 16th June, in reply to one from Sir C. Napier of the 29th May 1843.

‡ Was it free? This is the disputed point, and one which I think this Minute will set at rest for ever.



District officers.

the Governor-general that he had directed Captain Pope to abstain from stationing Kardars: 1st. In all those territories possessed by Ali Morad as his inheritance. 2d. All which belonged to the Turban by the will of his father "Meer Sohrab." 3d. All that are written in the Koran as made over to him by Meer Roostum, under the hand and seal of that Ameer, and making one act and deed with the transfer of the Turban, save and except those lands which were the property of his nephews, the sons of "Mobarick." Sir Charles Napier then discusses the question, whether Meer Roostum could recal the gift (as he terms it) of the Turban, and decides that, by the Mahomedan law, and by the law of Scinde, he could not; but he observes, "Meer Roostum recalled his gift of the Turban" and its lands, and all he did in that act. Question: Was this lawful? Ali Morad answers, "No;" by the law of Mahomet every chief is master of his own property; if he gives it to his children, he may in virtue of his paternal power revoke that gift, but if he gives it to a chief who is his equal, and over whom he has not paternal power, the deed is final. He cannot revoke the gift. Therefore Meer Roostum cannot undo that which he has done. The Turban and the lands of Meer Roostum are mine by right, in virtue of the Mahomedan law and that of Scinde. Now, continues Sir C. Napier, as I am given to understand this is really the Mahomedan law, I have acted thereupon, but I have ordered Captain Pope to occupy the lands of Mobarick's sons. They made war on the English, were conquered, and their territory becomes ours. "Such, my Lord, is the view I have taken of the subject, and I have ordered Captain Pope to act upon it till I receive your Lordship's commands. It was necessary for me to act immediately, as the ryots were left in a state of alarm and uncertainty; one party industriously spreading the report that all the country was to be given up to his Highness Ali Morad, the other, with equal zeal, asserting that he was to be deprived of all but his paternal inheritance."

68. The above letter evidently took Lord Ellenborough by surprise, and well might it do so. I have already shown that it would be a violent supposition to imagine that Meer Roostum would voluntarily have resigned to his most bitter enemy even the Turban and the lands appertaining to it. How then can we for a moment suppose that, in addition thereto, he would make a free gift to that same enemy of his private estate, in fact, of every acre he possessed, and for ever afterwards become, with his family, pensioners on Ali Morad's bounty. The Governor-general does not appear to have recollected that Sir C. Napier had himself expressly informed Ali Morad, before Scinde was conquered, that the Turban lands alone were all he would receive. Without this aid, however, Lord Ellenborough, in a very able letter, refuted Sir Charles Napier's arguments, and directed further inquiries to be instituted. In this, after concurring in the order to Captain Pope, to occupy the lands which belonged to Meer Mobarick's\* sons, as now belonging to the British Government by right of conquest, his Lordship observed, "Your Excellency has directed that the lands attached to the Turban shall be deemed to belong rightfully to Ali Morad, to whom the Turban was, as your Excellency states, freely resigned by Meer Roostum; and your Excellency rejects, as invalid, the subsequent retraction by Meer Roostum of this resignation of the Turban. It appears from your Excellency's letter of the 20th December (1842), that Meer Roostum had long been desirous of getting rid of the charge of the Turban, and from your letter of the 29th December, that the Turban was resigned in the most formal manner, his resignation being written in the Koran before all the religious men collected to witness the act at Dejee, and the Koran was sent to your Excellency that you might see it. It appears also from Major Outram's notes of conference with the Ameers, on the 8th February (1843), that Meer Roostum addressed a letter to your Excellency, requesting that the Turban might be made over to Meer Ali Morad, and finally, it is consistent with probability that, under the circumstances then existing, an old and infirm man, as Meer Roostum is, may have been really desirous of relieving himself from the chiefship of his family, and may have freely resigned the Turban to his brother, Ali Morad, the next legal heir." His Lordship,

Dated 23 July  
1843.

This is an error,  
*vide supra*, 59.

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Lord Ellenborough observes, "You do not consider that any act done by Meer Roostum can have the legal effect of giving a property in these lands to Ali Morad, and in this opinion I entirely concur."



Lordship, therefore, concurred with Sir C. Napier in rejecting Meer Roostum's subsequent retraction of the cession of the Turban, and in recognizing Ali Morad's right, in virtue of such cession, to the lands which appertained thereto.

69. We here see that the Governor-general proceeds on the supposition that the resignation of the Turban was the free and voluntary act of Meer Roostum, and from this it is to be inferred, that had his Lordship thought the contrary he would not have confirmed the transaction. At the same time it is clear, that the Governor-general had some misgiving \* on the subject, for at the conclusion of his letter he observes, "Your Excellency may possibly be able to obtain from some of the religious men present at Dejee, when the Turban was resigned by Meer Roostum, some detailed account of what took place on that occasion."

70. Having disposed of this part of the question, the Governor-general proceeds to remark on Sir C. Napier's proposal, that Ali Morad shall be deemed the rightful possessor of all the lands which belonged to Meer Roostum, not in right of the Turban, but as a single Ameer, now stated to have been made over to Meer Ali Morad at the same time and with the same forms with which the Turban was to be transferred; this transfer, of what may be considered his private property, having been made by Meer Roostum in consideration of an engagement by Meer Ali Morad for his due maintenance. To this proposal Lord Ellenborough replies, that Sir C. Napier's letter of the 28th June is the first information he had received of this transfer of lands not held in right of the Turban, and of its being one act with the resignation of the Turban; and points out that when your Excellency met the son of Meer Roostum on the 6th January (1843), you told him that his father would hold his lands according to the draft treaty, but must lose what was attached to the Turban; thus drawing a clear distinction between the lands held by Meer Roostum in his private capacity as a simple Ameer, and those he possessed in his public character, as the chief of the Talpoor family, invested with the Turban; and therefore your Excellency cannot have been aware on that day that his private as well as public lands had at the same time, and in one transaction, been ceded by Meer Roostum to Meer Ali Morad. The Koran, in which the cession of the Turban was written, and which must have been seen by your Excellency on or before the 26th December (1842), cannot then have contained the cession of the private lands, or the writing therein must have been incorrectly translated to you.

71. The following remarks clearly indicate the manner in which the cession of the Turban was extorted. On the 27th December your Excellency wrote to me, "There is one point which I do not yet understand, some trick probably, but I cannot yet clearly see it; there is an evident objection to my seeing Meer Roostum, why, I do not know; but I told Ali Morad I must and will see his Highness." On the 29th your Excellency wrote, "I have to tell you that Meer Roostum decamped yesterday morning; I met Ali Morad the night before, and desired him to say that I would pay my respects to his Highness." Your Excellency then gave your two conjectures as to the cause of Meer Roostum's flight, and seemed inclined to the opinion that Meer Ali Morad had frightened him into this step, in order to make his possession of the Turban more decisive. My conjecture (adds the Governor-general) is, that the resignation of the Turban, and the resignation of the private lands by Meer Roostum, were two separate transactions, if, indeed, the private lands were ever ceded by Meer Roostum, and the cession thereof be not altogether a forgery, subsequent to the first transaction, which was of a public character, that of the resignation of the Turban."

72. His

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\* I have elsewhere observed, that the bitter feud which existed between Meer Roostum and Ali Morad, opposes the belief that the transfer was voluntary. The records of the day contain abundant evidence of the rancorous nature of their enmity. For instance, the Scinde Digest of the 4th October 1842 reports, the same preparations are going on on the part of Meer Roostum and Nusseer Khan, the former declaring that nothing short of the transfer of the port of Dejee Kekcte by Ali Morad, and his dropping all right to the canal which runs past Khyrpore and Dejee, will satisfy him. This done, he will receive Ali Morad as a brother. The latter replies, that he will part with his fort only with his life. Sir Charles Napier arrived at Sukkur the very day the above was written, and immediately interpreted the preparations, really intended against Ali Morad, as signs of hostility against the British Government.

72. His Lordship then observes, "Whether by the Mahomedan law, Meer Roostum, being a free agent, could alienate his hereditary lands is a question upon which inquiry shall be immediately made, from persons acquainted with that law, and the result shall be communicated to your Excellency; but the indispensable condition of the legality of a grant is, that it should be made by a free agent; and even if it should appear that Meer Roostum had the power to alienate these private lands, it must be clear that he did so, not under restraint, and not under delusion as to his true position, before I could justly recognize Meer Ali Morad as the proprietor of such lands, by virtue of the resignation Meer Roostum is now stated to have made to him. That such resignation can have been altogether voluntary it is difficult to believe. Meer Roostum may have readily divested himself of the Turban, which made him the centre of the intrigues and machinations of his family; but he can hardly have been the willing instrument of the disinherison of his sons, or have freely reduced himself to dependence upon his brother for his own maintenance." The words I have underlined in the above extract deserve to be inscribed in letters of gold, but I cannot see how it can be contended that they are not as equally applicable to the cession of the Turban as to the cession by Meer Roostum of his private estate, especially when we recollect that it was by Sir Charles Napier's advice he had placed himself in Ali Morad's power. In conclusion, the Governor-general called for a copy of the writing in the Koran, sent to Sir C. Napier by Meer Ali Morad in December, and directed that the latter should be informed, that being now for the first time "made acquainted with the alleged cession to his Highness of the lands held by Meer Roostum in his own private right," the Governor-general, being desirous of proceeding in a matter of so much importance with all due regard to justice, and even to form, suggested that his Highness should place in the hands of one of Sir Charles Napier's officers, for the purpose of having it correctly copied and attested, the writing in the Koran, whereby Meer Roostum is said to have alienated to his Highness the lands held by him in his own hereditary right, without reference to the possession of the Turban.

73. On the receipt of this letter, Sir C. Napier appears to have felt himself obliged to shift his grounds. In his letter of the 28th June 1843, he argued, that as the cession of the Turban and the cession of the private estate were one and the same act, written in the same Koran, we were bound to recognize every part of the transaction. In his reply to the Governor-general's letter above alluded to, when furnishing a copy of the deed ceding the Turban, he draws a distinction between the two cessions, and states, "I did not consider myself called upon to interfere with the transfer of the private lands of his Highness to his Highness Ali Morad. My duty was limited to the transfer of the Turban. The last was a public affair, the first a private, and even a family transaction."

74. In a subsequent letter,\* the Governor-general, in answer to two letters from Sir Charles Napier, "relating to transactions with the Ameers immediately before the battle of Meeanee, and also to transactions subsequent thereto, between his Excellency and certain of the Ameers and chiefs of Scinde," again called for a copy of the writing in the Koran, whereby Meer Roostum ceded the Turban and certain lands to Meer Ali Morad, and observed, "In that writing, as translated, there is some ambiguity. It would be very desirable that there should be a distinct account of the lands and privileges appertaining† to the Turban." We do not know what were the rights of jaghiredars, whether the Ameers could resume, and were in the habit of resuming, jaghires at pleasure, or whether by the custom of the country and of the Talpoor family, jaghires were not resumed as long as the jaghiredars remained faithful. Meer Ali Morad may have taken possession of lands which Meer Roostum had no right to cede, or in land legally ceded, he may have exercised his power in a manner contrary to the customs of the country. The British Government would not sanction either of these proceedings.

75. On

\* Letter dated the 9th August, in reply to Sir Charles Napier's letters of the 13th and 18th July 1843.

† See also the Governor-general's letter, dated the 26th June 1843, suggesting that information on the subject might be sought for from some of the officers formerly employed by Meer Roostum.

75. On the 6th July 1843, Sir C. Napier wrote to the Governor-general: "Ali Morad is evidently very desirous to get all he can, whether by right or not; I imagine that he is not singular in this propensity. The lands which belong to the 'Turban' are said to be one-fourth of the territory which was bequeathed by Meer Sohrab, the father of Meer Roostum and Meer Ali Morad." In forwarding copy of Meer Sohrab's will,\* Sir Charles Napier observes, "If we take it for a lease, then Ali Morad would have three-fourths and we should have one-fourth of Upper Scinde; that is to say, Meer Moobaruck's share, in addition to what belonged to Nusseer Khan of Hyderabad, now ours." In this letter he observes, "Ali Morad is very grasping, though fear renders him very amenable."

76. The Governor-general placed a very different, and no doubt the true construction on Meer Sohrab's will. From it we inferred that the possessor of the Turban is entitled to an undivided moiety of the lands specifically bequeathed to Meer Roostum, besides having the fines, ferries, tolls, &c. mentioned. But until it be decided whether Meer Roostum ceded his personal moiety attached to the Turban, it would be impossible to proceed further than to ascertain what lands never belonged either to Meer Roostum or to Meer Ali Morad, and to take possession for the British Government of all lands which, never having belonged to either of those chiefs, were the property of chiefs who have been in arms against us, and have not since been forgiven by your Excellency. In conclusion, his Lordship reiterated the doubts entertained with respect to the validity of the cession of Meer Roostum's private interests in the lands he held, if indeed any cession of that interest was intended to be made by him, doubts which may be removed by the inspection of the original writing in the Koran, and by further information which may be afforded by Sir Charles Napier.

Letter to Sir C. Napier, dated the 17th August 1843.

77. A copy of Meer Sohrab's will, showing how in the first instance the lands of Upper Scinde were divided between Meer Roostum Khan and his two brothers, was forwarded to Captain Pope, with instructions to ascertain and report what lands really belonged to the Turban. In reply, he reported, on the information of Ali Morad's minister, Sheikh Ali Hussein, "that no lands in any part of Scinde belong to the Turban, the claim of the wearer of it being solely for the half of the revenue of the country lately possessed by Meer Roostum, with the addition of the whole amount of the taxes of the same country." In a subsequent letter he repeats this opinion, and enclosed a report from Mr. Wingfield on the subject; and submits that the result of the inquiry, so far as oral evidence is concerned, had confirmed the fact admitted by Sheikh Ali, that no land in Upper Scinde belonged to the Turban. With regard to the authenticity of Meer Sohrab's will, Captain Pope left this point to be determined by Sir Charles Napier, observing, there can be no reasonable hope of the voluntary production of any document which should damage his Highness Ali Morad's claims from the records in his possession.

Letter dated 13th July 1843.  
Reply to ditto, dated 11th August 1843.

78. Pursuant to the Governor-general's instructions, Captain Pope was now, at the eleventh hour, six months after the battle of Meeanee, directed to obtain "a copy from the Koran, ceding the private estate of Meer Roostum, and to make the necessary inquiries from such religious parties who may have been present when the Turban was resigned by Meer Roostum at Dejee." For the performance of this duty, Captain Pope proceeded to Khypore, and obtained "an attested copy of the deed of cession of the Turban, and the whole of the lands of the ex-Ameer Roostum to his Highness Ali Morad." In his report, he explains the precautions he adopted to ensure accuracy,† and these were unexceptionable. The writer of the deed of cession was the Syud Peer Ali Joheer, the same person who was afterwards employed by Ali Morad to commit the forgery

Letter dated 16th August 1843.

Dated the 26th August 1843.

\* Letter to the Governor-general, dated the 24th July 1843. For the will itself, see para. 3 of this Minute.

† The "Koran was produced by the minister of his Highness Meer Ali Morad. I took it into my own hands, seated my moonshree at a little distance, and dictated to him what he was to write; when he had finished, I caused him to read over what he had written; I compared what he had read with what was written in the book I still held in my hands; and when this second test had been gone through, I caused the moonshree to take the Koran and read aloud from it, while I compared his written paper with what he read."

forgery in the treaty of Nownahar, discussed at the commencement of this Minute. At the time of Captain Pope's inquiry he was on friendly terms, and in the service of Ali Morad. That he really wrote the deed of cession was never disputed. He admitted the fact, and stated that after the deed had been sealed, he saw Meer Roostum write the words "Bahal ust" upon it. He at first demurred to verifying his statement on oath, but was finally persuaded by Captain Pope to do so. The only other evidence obtained by Captain Pope was a joint statement made by the persons named in the margin,\* to the effect that the sealing and signing of the deed of cession was witnessed by several individuals, servants of Meer Roostum and of Meer Ali Morad, and all declared publicly that neither by word or deed did he (Meer Roostum) show that he was acting otherwise than of his own free will. The Persian being the language of business in this country, I caused my moonshee to write, before all the people assembled, an abstract of the proceeding, which was read over to them in my presence, and assented to by all as correct; the paper (B.) is a translation of this document. In this Peer Ali Goheer states, I, with my own hand placed and bound round the Turban of (? on) his Highness Meer Ali Morad's head, excepting that his Highness Meer Roostum Khan gave three turns with his own hands. The compact that Meer Roostum made with Ali Morad I wrote myself on the Koran, and Meer Roostum Khan wrote the words "Bahal ust," signifying it is truth. The sixth on the list, a Darogah, late in charge of Meer Roostum's seal, states, he affixed the seal to the agreement by Meer Roostum's orders; Nos. 4, 8 and 9, state, they were present when the negotiation was going on, and corroborate Ali Gohur's statement. It does not appear that Nos. 5 and 7 gave any specific evidence, though they signed the statement; and as for Ali Morad's uncle and brother, Nos. 2 and 3, they were absent when the Turban was ceded, but heard "all that Peer Ali Goheer has said."

79. For the sake of reference I will now transcribe the translation of the deed of cession made in the office of the Foreign Secretary at Calcutta.†

Treaty written in the Koran by Meer Roostum.

"Praise be to God, and blessings on the Prophet and his family."

"Meer Roostum Khan Talpoor has made a compact, and formed a treaty with Meer Ali Moorad Khan Talpoor to the following effect: At this time, during the supremacy of the powerful and exalted English Government, and from the Autumn of 1253, I, Meer Roostum Khan, of my own free will and pleasure, according to the rule and custom of the Chiefs of Hyderabad, present to Meer Ali Morad Khan (who is worthy of the chiefship), the Turban of the Chiefship and Brotherhood, with the control of the whole of my country, with the (*sur shemeari*) capitation tax, (*meer buhuree*) river dues, and (*jayeya*) tax on others than Mahomedans, and farms and tolls and fisheries, as specified below, so that during my lifetime having occupied the seat of chiefship, he may take into his entire possession the countries specified below. No one of my sons or nephews has, or shall have, claim or entry in this same Turban and this same country, which I, of my free will and pleasure, bestow in gift. If any one advances a claim he is a liar. The administration of affairs, the control of the army, the negotiations with the English, all now depend on the will of Meer Ali Morad Khan. In this compact the oath of the Koran is used; there shall not be the variation of a hair's breadth. God is a sufficient witness. Written on the 17th Tekiad 1258, A.H. (December 20, 1842). 1st. Purgunnas Kho-bara Chehoor, Alleeareea aid Kuhteera. 2d. Purgunnas Noushera Praze. 3d. Ditto Kundbarra, with Cherpore and Loharee. 4th. Sud Kokun. 5th. Ditto Meerpore Manhilas and Kunoorkee. 6th. Sandy territory in Rene and Nara. 7th. Forts Shahguruh, Sirdashguruh and other forts. 8th. Pergunnas Obara Khyrpore, Hurkee. 9th. Ditto Imamwah. 10th. Ditto Bahooneuck and Burah. 11th. One-third

\* 1. Peer Ali Goheer. 2. Meer Junjee Khan, uncle of his Highness Ali Morad. 3. Meer Chakeer Khan, brother of ditto. 4. Sohdar Khan Jelbaree. 5. Kumal Khan ditto. 6. Joban Khan Shaikee. 7. Mahomed Ali Kutenatzur, or servant of Meer Roostum. 8. Kooshee Ram Dewan. 9. Dewan Shere Sing.

† This was furnished by Lord Ellenborough to Sir C. Napier, on the 13th September 1843. There are other translations on the Commissioner's proceedings, but I select this as the most correct. It is No. 12 of Supplement to Scinde Blue Book.

11th. One-third of Subzul and Purgunna Moozucka. 12th. Purgunna Shikarpore Mor Ali. 13th. Ditto Roopa. 14th. Ditto Bulbudka. 15th. Ditto Chuck Moozargah. 16th. Ditto Kushmoor."

80. Sir Charles Napier informed the Governor-general that Captain Pope "tells me there is not the least doubt of the treaty ceding the Turban being authentic and voluntary on the part of Meer Roostum. However, Captain Pope shall speak for himself. We are trying to verify the rights and powers of the Turban;" and in a subsequent letter he observes, "By the time this reaches its destination your Lordship will have received all the proofs that Captain Pope has been able to collect relative to the transfer made to Ali Morad, by Meer Roostum, both as regards the Turban and his personal territory. They seem to me satisfactory and valid. Meer Roostum does not deny the facts. We have his own confessions that he went voluntarily to Ali Morad's fortress of Dejee; for his assertion that he went by my advice, even if true, admits that he went voluntarily. He also admits that he came away voluntarily, he says, by Ali Morad's advice; but still he went away voluntarily. I think that if despotic princes are to escape the results of their folly, by throwing the blame on their advisers, it would be very hard to deal with them, if any wrong. I have all along thought, and still think, that Ali Morad has a just claim to the possessions of Meer Roostum, and I am sure your Lordship will have the same opinion when you receive Captain Pope's papers. I desired the Captain to be very exact in his inquiries, as the utmost justice was necessary towards a captive prince. But assuredly neither the Ameer nor his family have any claim upon us, except to have justice."

81. It is not surprising that Sir Charles Napier should have endeavoured to satisfy himself that the result of Captain Pope's inquiry was satisfactory, for unquestionably upon the result the justice or injustice of our proceedings in Scinde mainly depended. For this reason, however, Sir Charles Napier's opinion cannot be regarded as conclusive. A more extraordinary mode of conducting so important an inquiry never came under my observation. What a contrast does it not afford to the recent inquiry into the charges preferred against Ali Morad. Captain Pope evidently misunderstood the Governor-general's instructions, which I have no doubt were to elicit the truth; that is, the real merits of the "Turban" transaction. Captain Pope, however, confined the inquiry to such persons as Ali Morad, the party complained against, thought fit to produce, and does not appear to have felt himself at liberty to search out for independent and disinterested testimony. Instead of examining the witnesses separately, and subjecting them to strict cross-examination, they are all lumped together. The character of the first witness, Peer Ali Gohur, is sufficiently developed on the Commissioner's proceedings. At the time of the cession of the Turban, and at the time also of his examination, he was in Ali Morad's service, ready to do whatever his master bid him, even to the commission of forgery, as in the case of the treaty of Nownahar. The second witness, an uncle of Ali Morad's, appeared before the Commission to support that forgery. The third, a brother of Ali Morad's, and now dependent upon him, admits he was not present when the transaction occurred, his evidence therefore being hearsay. The six other witnesses are either retainers of Ali Morad, or, with one exception, persons formerly in the service of Meer Roostum, who, after the wreck of their master's fortunes, attached themselves to Ali Morad. To call this a *bonâ fide* inquiry would be a mockery. It was, to all intents and purposes, *ex parte*. Meer Roostum, the plaintiff, had been exiled to Poona; no one was summoned on his behalf; he was, in fact, altogether unrepresented at the inquiry. One thing, however, is quite certain. By instituting any inquiry at this late period, Lord Ellenborough, as Governor-general, virtually admitted that Meer Roostum's earnest appeals, and the appeals of the Ameers of Lower Scinde on his behalf, and the wild cry of remonstrance of the Beloochees generally, ought to have been attended to. That they were listened to, augments, in my humble judgment, the claims of Meer Roostum's posterity upon the justice and mercy of the British Government, because it has now become matter\* of history, that the refusal to investi-

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\* On this subject the reader should consult the Scinde Blue Book, but more especially No. 281, Major Outram's notes of conferences with the Ameers, on the 8th, 9th, 12th and 13th February 1843. The conduct of these wild clansmen was noble, thus rallying round their respected chief in

gate and redress his grievances, became the war cry of the incensed Beloochees, and was the ultimate cause of the war and conquest of Scinde.

82. But it appeared to me very desirable that the real nature of Captain Pope's inquiry should not be involved in doubt, and the following extracts from a letter I have received from that officer, which I give with his permission, will explain its character, and show how ill adapted it was to elicit the truth:

"I do not remember the date, on or about which I was sent to Khyrpore; most probably it was in August 1843; but I was not, I regret to say, sent to inquire into the circumstances of the cession of the 'Turban' of Upper Scinde to Ali Morad by the late Meer Roostum, but to 'hear' what Ali Morad might have to adduce in proof that the cession was voluntary. He was himself for some time in the room at Khyrpore when the statements I had to hear were made; and his minister, Sheikh Ali, remained there to conduct the proceedings. I had only to hear and record what was said. The witnesses produced were all either persons residing at Khyrpore, or within Ali Morad's territories, or having their families so residing, and they were consequently completely under his power. It could never have been intended that there should be any investigation, or else Ali Morad would naturally have been directed to send the parties to be examined to Sukkur. The idea of any of those produced at Khyrpore saying one word likely to displease Ali Morad would have been absurd, and in no case could an *ex parte* statement of one side of the question be viewed as an inquiry into the whole. It may be as well further to note that Sir Charles Napier had virtually decided the question, by putting Ali Morad in possession of the lands referred to in the alleged list of cession long before the inquiry, if inquiry it can be called, took place, and that the servants of Meer Roostum had passed into Ali Morad's service. Only one of the parties, whose depositions you will probably find on record, Shere Sing, formerly Meer Roostum's Dewan, or finance minister, was at the time in British employ (under me as Collector), but his family and property remained at Khyrpore; so that even had a *bond fide* inquiry been ordered, no fair search could have been entered into. In the absence of any one representing Meer Roostum, it would probably have been vain to expect that the witnesses to be examined should speak out, while themselves, their families, and properties were in Ali Morad's power, and the question at issue had been already practically decided in his favour by the British Government. In obedience to my orders I went to Khyrpore, heard and recorded what the parties produced by Ali Morad had to say as to the circumstances attending the alleged cession of the 'Turban' to himself by Meer Roostum, and transmitted the record to Sir Charles Napier, with a remark, to the best of my recollection, that, so far as I saw, the parties deposing did not do so under compulsion. I have no copies, either of my order or report, but they are in the Sukkur records, I presume, or in those of Carrachee. I must, in justice to myself, state that long previously I had expressed to Sir Charles Napier my own conviction, founded on statements made to me, and the concurrent belief of all natives in Upper Scinde who ever mentioned the circumstance, that the cession was not voluntary, and I know that Sir Charles Napier himself did not believe it to have been so. Ali Morad, as well as his minister, Ali Hussein, severally confessed to me that the cession was not voluntary, Ali Hussein saying, when pressed on the subject, 'Who gives lands and sovereignty away voluntarily?' and Ali Morad saying to this effect, 'Everything is allowable in political matters.' These circumstances I mentioned to Sir Charles Napier, also to Sir George Arthur; indeed, I have never concealed my opinion on the subject at any time or place when it happened to be discussed, in Scinde or out of it, and I have not the slightest wish to do so now. I have little fear of any man being ultimately injured

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the hour of distress; and makes us regret the more, that shortly afterwards they should have made a chivalrous, though useless, sacrifice of their lives in his defence, on the fatal fields of Meeanee and Dubba. Of them Sir Charles Napier remarks:—

"The Beloochees are as fine looking race as the Scindees, and even finer, and resolute to the last degree. I never saw one of them run away; they invariably walked away when defeated; and this accounts for the immense slaughter we made at Meeanee, unequalled, I believe, in modern war. A more noble race of men does not exist, nor one more full of self-respect. I do not see much of the bigotry of the Mahomedan religion among them. However, as I cannot speak with them all, my acquaintance is confined and little worth." Letter from Sir Charles Napier to Lord Ellenborough, dated the 10th April 1844.



injured by telling the truth ; but, even were it otherwise, I should not hesitate when the remotest chance existed of my being, even indirectly, of the slightest service to these unhappy exiles of Khyrpore."

83. I have not been able to discover any reply from Lord Ellenborough to Sir Charles Napier's letter, commenting on Captain Pope's report, and stating it to be his opinion that the proofs obtained by that officer, both as regards the Turban and Meer Roostum's personal territory, were "satisfactory and authentic." No trace of such document is to be found either in the voluminous correspondence on the subject received with the Commission's proceedings, or in the correspondence lately furnished by the Government of India relating to Sir C. Napier's administration of India. In fact, there appears to have been a cessation of the correspondence on the subject between these two high functionaries from September 1843 to May 1845, and I infer that his Lordship never expressed his concurrence in Sir C. Napier's opinion. Be this as it may, it is quite clear that the Government of India never did so; for when Sir C. Napier forwarded a draft treaty of 12 articles which he proposed to enter into with Ali Morad, for the confirmation of the Government of India, he was called upon to report "What arrangement he proposed for definitively settling the question as to the extent of territorial right acquired by Meer Ali Morad in virtue of the deed whereby the Turban was transferred to him by Meer Roostum, dated the 20th December 1842;" and it is clear that Lord Hardinge, who had intermediately become Governor-general, did not consider this point had been cleared up; for in the same letter his Lordship observes, "The late Governor-general, Lord Ellenborough, was decidedly of opinion that by that deed the lands alone which were held by Meer Roostum in right of the Turban were thus transferred, and that the deed in question conveyed to Meer Ali Morad no rights in any other than the Turban lands." This also (the letter continues) appears to have been Sir C. Napier's opinion; but it seems Meer Ali Morad has never ceased to urge his claim to the whole of Meer Roostum's possessions. "But there is no information before Government which of the districts enumerated in Meer Sohrab's will were to be considered as Turban lands, and which as personal and hereditary." If any distinction was made, it is not stated in any document; but from the correspondence it is supposed some such distinction existed. The Government of India then justly observe, the hypothetical question\* put by desire of Lord Ellenborough to the Mahomedan law officers and professors of Arabic law in Calcutta, in 1843, as to the validity of a deed executed by a sovereign prince, similar to that said to have been written in the Koran by Meer Roostum, with a view to elicit the opinions of the Mahomedan doctors as to the legal validity of the deed and rights it conveyed is of little value, the replies being so full of technicalities and conditional contingencies. It appeared, however, to be the opinion of the law officers that the Mahomedan law does not recognize any separate or individual rights in a sovereign prince. This question should be distinctly met and decided before the treaty is concluded. To this I would remark that, admitting the Mahomedan law to be as stated, Meer Sohrab, the father of Meer Roostum, by his will distinctly recognizes as Meer Roostum's private property one-fourth of the lands of Upper Scinde, another fourth being assigned to the "Turban."

Letter dated 4th May 1845.

Letter dated 24th October 1846.

Lord Hardinge assumed the Government on the 23d July 1844.

See supra, para. 3.

84. In reply to this communication, Sir C. Napier referred to his letters to Lord Ellenborough, dated the 28th June and 21st September 1843, and stated that the views therein expressed remained unchanged. "The case (he observed) seems to stand thus: On the 28th June I made a clear statement of his Highness's claim; on the 17th August, his Lordship the Governor-general expressed doubts, whether the Ameer Meer Roostum made over his personal lands, as well as those belonging to the Turban, to his brother Meer Ali Morad, and his Lordship directed me, pending the decision of this question, to take possession of all the lands which never belonged to either of those chiefs, which order I obeyed. On the 30th August 1843, it appeared from Mr. Secretary Thomason's letter of that date,

Dated 18th January 1847.

\* For this very remarkable document, see No. 165 of Supplement to Scinde Blue Book. The question was not fairly put, for it assumes that the gift was voluntarily made. Besides which, it is in evidence that Meer Roostum had previously bestowed the same lands on his eldest son, Meer Mahomed Hussein.

date, that the view taken by me on the 28th June 1843 was correct.\* Thus the doubts which had been entertained by Lord Ellenborough (pending the decision of the ten doctors of the Mahomedan college at Calcutta) fell to the ground, and no further orders having been issued on the subject by the Supreme Government, I considered that the claims of his Highness to the whole of the lands held by the Meer Roostum were just. He at that time had possession of them, and I left matters as they stood, pending further instructions, which as I before observed, were never received. If any fraud can be proved against his Highness in the transaction which gave him the Turban and the remaining lands of Meer Roostum, I have nothing more to say, but otherwise I consider that the question was settled by the letter of Mr. Secretary Thomason, and the opinion of the college. I have no proof of fraud having been committed by his Highness, and without that, I think it would be impossible to deprive his Highness of any of the lands made over to him in the Koran. I should consider it to be a breach of faith. I am not aware that there are any geographical distinctions between the Turban lands and the other lands of the late Meer Roostum. However, this does not appear to be a matter of any importance, because the Mohammedan law allows of no distinction or separate rights in a sovereign prince." Finally, Sir C. Napier observed, "nothing has been formally given by me. All remains in abeyance, subject to the decision of your Lordship. To sum up the whole, I consider that all lands held by his Highness Ali Morad to the north of Roree are his by gift; all south of Roree as his Highness's by right. To take from him the first would, I think, be illiberal towards a faithful ally. To take away the last, would be a breach of faith." In a subsequent letter, Sir C. Napier submitted a sketch prepared by Lieutenant Fitzgerald, "showing the exact position of the Khyrpoor territory in reference to the British possessions, with the names of those districts enumerated in the proposed treaty," and with it a memorandum prepared by the Collector of Shikarpore on the districts included in Article II. of the treaty. There are also statements showing the respective values of certain lands to be exchanged † under the treaty between the British Government and his Highness Ali Morad, but which are of little value, since they include the districts which his Highness fraudulently appropriated to himself under the treaty of Nownahar. With this letter the correspondence between Sir C. Napier and the Government of India terminated, and in the following month his Excellency was succeeded in the Government of Scinde by Mr. Pringle.

Dated 8th August  
1847.

85. I have observed (para. 63.) that in the controversy between himself and Major Outram, Sir C. Napier distinctly denied that Ali Morad had obtained under treaty with Meer Roostum any lands, except those which appertained to the "Turban;" one of the chief points of that controversy related to the extent of possessions which Ali Morad had acquired under the treaty. Major Outram contended, that Meer Roostum had been deprived of almost all he possessed; Sir C. Napier, that he had only recognised Ali Morad's right to the Turban lands. It is now clearly proved that Major Outram was right, and Sir C. Napier wrong, on this most important point. On this subject I beg to refer to Major Outram's letter to Sir C. Napier, dated the 24th January 1843, explaining his views in regard to the financial results which would follow the arrangements then in progress in Scinde, and giving "a list of Ameers and their sons, who are now rendered desperate," together with the Belooch and native chieftains and feudatories dependent upon them. To this is appended, the following note ‡ by Sir C. Napier: "I was pledged to nothing except to support Ali Morad in his rights as Rais;" again, "I was pledged to nothing except to the rights of the Turban, whatever the rights may be." On the 13th February Major Outram

See Supplement to  
Scinde Blue Book,  
No. 33.

wrote

\* That is, Sir C. Napier considers the answer of the law officers at Calcutta, described above, as "full of technicalities and conditional contingencies," settled the whole question. A singular mode, truly, of disposing of a great political question in dispute.

† In the statement marked (E.) of Mr. Pringle's collection, will be found an "Estimate of the result of a proposed exchange of territory, and settlement of the pecuniary claims between the British Government and his Highness Ali Morad, framed on the supposition that the districts claimed by the latter, in virtue of their alleged cession by Meer Nusseer Khan, in the treaty of Nownahar, are disallowed by us, but a portion of them ceded to Meer Ali Morad in exchange for others."

‡ These notes were not addressed to Major Outram, but to the Governor-general, long after the conquest of Scinde.



wrote, "I believe it is merely a last attempt to get their brethren of Upper Scinde restored to their lands, given, or about to be so, to Ali Morad. They have never murmured at what has been taken by the treaty, poor devils;" on which Sir C. Napier writes, "Given; who gave him anything? I certainly did not." Again, on the 14th February, Major Outram informed Sir C. Napier, "It has been intimated to me, that if the lands assigned to Ali Morad were restored, his retaining the Rais would not be disputed." Supplement to Scinde Blue Book, No. 69.

86. I really cannot reconcile Sir C. Napier's statements in 1843, that Ali Morad was merely entitled to the lands of the Turban, with his statements in his correspondence with Lord Ellenborough, that in addition thereto he was entitled to Meer Roostum's personal estate or inheritance; but how, may I ask, are the latter statements to be reconciled with the following letter, Sir C. Napier addressed to Ali Morad, on the 14th January 1843: "The Governor-general has ordered me to support your Highness, as the lawful possessor of the Turban as Rais; your Highness has certain privileges, and certain lands, which appertain not to the individual, but to the Turban. These must be given to you with the Turban, but the rights and possessions of the other Ameers must be maintained, as prescribed in the draft of the new treaty; and I endeavoured to explain, that no portion of their estates can be transferred to you. If they resist the arms of the Company in war, and if a shot be fired at the troops under my command, then I have orders to take all their estates in the name of the Company, and they would not be made over to your Highness; at least such, in my belief, is the intention of the Governor-general." And on the 23d January, Sir C. Napier wrote to Major Outram, "The intrigues of these people are very silly, and like a tangled web; we can cut the Gordian knot, as Alexander did; we are too strong to take the trouble to untie it. I hear this minute that Roostum has gone the wrong way after all you said to him; why did he doubt you? However, his movements signify nothing, we walk over his folly and Ali Morad's intrigues, and all the others, giving our own road. "I have clearly told Ali Morad in my letter, that if any of the Ameers fight, or refuse to join you personally or by vakeels, their lands shall be forfeited to the Government." Ibid, No. 78.

87. And the motive which induced Sir C. Napier to address the above letter to Ali Morad, gives it greater force. Major Outram, when on friendly terms with Sir C. Napier, repeatedly warned him against the craft and subtlety of Ali Morad. "It is" (he observed, as early as the 30th October 1842) "the interest of Ali Morad to place the other Ameers of Khyrpore at enmity with the British Government, as well to gratify revengeful feelings as to secure our support to his claims to the principal chieftainship of Upper Scinde on the demise of Meer Roostum Khan." When he had obtained the latter object, in the manner described in my Minute, Sir C. Napier endeavoured to set bounds to his further ambition, informing him in the above letter, that if war ensued he would be no gainer; he would only retain what he already possessed, the rights and lands belonging to the Turban; all in excess of that, including, of course, Meer Roostum's private estate, would devolve to the British Government as conquerors of Scinde. And Lord Ellenborough, in what may be regarded as a vindication \* of his Scinde policy, and of Sir C. Napier's proceedings, adopted the same view. "The charge against Ali Morad would seem to be, that he forced Meer Roostum to cede land not so attached (*i. e.*, to the Turban), or that he had without any such cession taken possession of the lands of other chiefs, whose interest in such land was not dependent on the Turban, were matters to be inquired into by the British Government, upon which, after full inquiry, decision would have been given. Sir C. Napier sanctioned the cession by Meer Roostum of the Turban, with its accustomed rights, but his sanction went no further; with whatever passed between Ali Morad and Meer Roostum, on the occasion of the cession of the Turban, Sir C. Napier had nothing to do." † Ibid, No. 21.

88. I rejoice

\* Letter to the Secret Committee, dated the 29th June 1843, Supplement to the Scinde Blue Book, No. 50, being his Lordship's remarks on the notes of conferences between Major Outram and the Ameers of Upper and Lower Scinde, from the 8th to the 13th of February 1843.

† I beg to refer to para. 61 of this Minute, contending that as Meer Roostum had placed himself in Ali Morad's power by Sir C. Napier's advice, the latter was bound by every principle of honour and justice, to see that foul play had not been resorted to, especially as the advice was given to secure a political object.

88. I rejoice to state, that in consequence of Lord Ellenborough and Lord Hardinge not concurring in Sir C. Napier's views, the question of what rights Ali Morad acquired under the treaty ceding the Turban, is still an open one, for, as I shall now proceed to show, there are the strongest grounds for believing that Meer Roostum was not so insane as to disinherit his sons, and reduce his family as well as himself to beggary, by ceding every acre he possessed to Ali Morad; but that when the alleged cession of the Turban occurred, he reserved, by a separate agreement, his own personal estate, as well as those of the sons of the late Mobarick Khan, which agreement has been fraudulently withheld by Ali Morad.

*Vide Mr. Pringle's letter, dated the 5th March 1850.*

89. It will be in the recollection of the Board, that the Commission referred to Government for instructions, whether their inquiries should be confined "to the charge of the fraud in the treaty of Nownahar, or be extended to other matters of bad faith on the part of his Highness; as, for instance, the alleged suppression of the private agreement between Meer Roostum and himself, and the interception of the letter from Meer Roostum, transmitting it to Sir C. Napier." In reply, they were, as I now think, unfortunately informed, that they should not investigate "any acts of the Ameer which do not directly bear" on the fraud in regard to the treaty of Nownahar. I say that this is unfortunate, because, I think, had we been aware of the connexion which exists between the several frauds committed by Ali Morad, we should have requested the sanction of the Most Noble the Governor-general to the inquiry being extended.

*Letter dated 13th March 1850.*

90. I think, however, that the evidence obtained by Mr. Pringle, in his capacity of Commissioner, obviates the necessity of a new inquiry, for it is corroborated by a very remarkable fact, although all, including Sir C. Napier, admit, that when Meer Roostum ceded all his lands (Turban as well as personal) to Ali Morad, he stipulated for a liberal maintenance for himself, family, and dependents; nevertheless, on reference to the treaty between Meer Roostum and Ali Morad, produced by the latter in support of his claim to retain all Meer Roostum's lands, it will be seen that it contains no stipulation for maintenance. Now, it may surely be asked, was it likely that any man in his senses would have allowed so important a part of the arrangement to be unrecorded? Certainly not; and the absence, therefore, of any stipulation in favour of Meer Roostum and his family strongly corroborates the fact, now, I believe, for the first time brought to the notice of Government, that two agreements were entered into on the 20th December 1842, the one ceding the Turban to Ali Morad, the other reserving certain lands and possessions to Meer Roostum, to his sons, and to his nephews. The former, however, has alone been produced, and the latter suppressed by Ali Morad.

*See supra, para. 77.*

91. On the 28th January last, Mr. Pringle, with reference to his letter of the 15th of that month, on the affairs of his Highness Ali Morad, submitted two memorandums. The first of these states that Sheikh Ali Hussein, Ali Morad's minister, having arrived from Mooltan, had been examined by the lieutenant of police, in the Commissioner's presence, "relative to the fraud in the treaty of Nownahar, and the private agreement between Meer Roostum and Ali Morad." The second states, that on the night of the 8th January 1850, an emissary of Ali Morad's came to the lieutenant of police (Lieutenant Younghusband) with a present of gold, to the value of 17,000 rupees, which he had placed under seal in the Government treasury. Further, that Lieutenant Farriington, the officiating collector of Shikarpore, reported that on the 7th January Mr. Teasdale, a European in the service of his Highness Ali Morad, came with the offer of a present of jewels, to a very large amount, which was declined. "I note these circumstances (observed the Commissioner) as indicative of the efforts his Highness appears to be making to influence the proceedings now in progress." The man sent with the gold to bribe Lieutenant Younghusband was apprehended, and in his examination\* before the magistrate, acknowledged that the object of the bribe was to secure the lieutenant of police's services throughout the accusations that Peer Ali Gohur and others were bringing against his Highness;

\* *Vide the examination of Duleh Khan, taken before G. Inverarity, Esq., on the 14th January 1850, accompanying to Mr. Pringle's letter of the 15th January.*

Highness; when he was seized, his brother was arrested by Ali Morad, with the view of intimidating him into a denial of having been sent by his Highness, and of inducing him falsely to state that Meer Mahomed Khan had sent the bribe.

92. I must now refer the Board to the documents noticed in the margin. The first of these (No. 11.) is a letter from Sheikh Ali Hussein to Sir Charles Napier's moonshee, Ali Akbar, dated 25th Zeleed 1263 (4 November 1847). In this the writer informs the moonshee that he had arrived at Shikarpore on the 29th October 1847, but that before he left Kurrachee he had written to his son, then at Mooltan, directing him to take from his box of papers Meer Roostum's letter to Sir Charles Napier and the treaty given by Meer Ali Morad to Meer Roostum. That his son, not liking to trust the papers to the post, sent them by a person named Gholam Hyder. This person reached Shikarpore on the 5th November, and his arrival was reported to Major Goldney, who forwarded the papers to Captain Brown. Sheikh Ali Hussein then remarks, "Both papers are clear proof, because Meer Roostum, previous to granting the treaty to Meer Ali Morad Khan, made Meer Ali Morad write this treaty, which is in the handwriting of Peer Ali Gohur. The seal and 'Buhal ust' are from Meer Ali Morad's own hand. The letter from Meer Roostum Khan is in the handwriting of Sabr Allee Shah, who was then vakeel to Meer Roostum Khan. That letter Meer Roostum sent to his Excellency the Governor. I am well acquainted with the handwriting of Sabr Allee Shah, and as to its identity, there is not the slightest doubt. You yourself must be well acquainted with his handwriting, as he was frequently in the habit of coming to the British on the part of Meer Roostum. He is now a soobedar in the Shikarpore Police stationed at Gotkee. This treaty was (two written) before me, and in the presence of Meer Ali Morad, by Peer Ali Gohur. From these two papers a profit of five or six lacks of rupees yearly will accrue to Government; that is to say, the country north of Roree, and that belonging to the sons of Meer Roostum Khan."

Nos. 11 and 13 of the Appendix (D.) to the Commissioners' proceedings.

93. The second document (No. 12.) is a letter from Sheikh Ali Hussein to Captain Brown, dated the 7th November 1847. It is in substance nearly the same as the one above given to the moonshee, and encloses the original letter which Meer Roostum addressed to Sir C. Napier, and the treaty which Meer Ali Morad entered into with Meer Roostum. The letter is as follows:

"From His Highness *Meer Roostum Khan* to His Excellency Sir C. Napier, dated 17th Zilcadah 1258.

Corresponding with the 20th December 1842.

"After compliments.

"I HAVE always been the friend of the British, and never having done evil towards them, trust they will not do evil to me. I have now, of my own free will and accord, owing to old age and weakness, made over, in writing, to Meer Ali Morad Khan, the Turban, the whole of my country and fortresses, on condition that he is solely responsible to the British Government for the new treaty, and in everything. I am old and weak, without the power of conversing with the British Government, neither am I able to travel from village to village or from mountain to mountain. I therefore hope, that whatever the British Government have to say, that it will be with Meer Ali Morad, as I have abdicated in his favour the Turban, and given over to him all my country, and the whole arrangement and responsibility of the treaty with the British. As a proviso, I have caused Meer Ali Morad to give, in writing, an agreement containing four articles, as follows: 1st. The country north of Roree, according to proclamation, I made over to the British; should I now give that to the Meer, the British Government would without doubt be angry and say, 'You made over that country to us; why have you given it to Meer Ali Morad?' 2d. The country belonging to the sons of Meer Mobarick Khan, fearing that Meer Ali Morad Khan might deprive them of it on account of a former enmity. 3d. The country belonging to my sons. 4th. My expenses, that of my family, kidnutgars, male and female slaves. I am certain that Meer Ali Morad would not deprive my sons of their country, or me of subsistence, since I have done him much kindness; but for the sake of the future, and to ensure my maintenance and the restoration of the three countries, I have caused Meer Ali Morad to give me a written treaty. Hereafter should Meer Ali Morad, either before or after my death, make difficulties as to the restoration of the country of my sons, or of

the sons of Meer Mobarick Khan, I trust that the British Government will cause Meer Ali Morad to restore to them their country, which is their right, and to which Meer Ali Morad has no claim. As to the country beyond Roree, Government will, of course, act as they please. I have enclosed the treaty sealed by Meer Ali Morad, and in the handwriting of Peer Ali Gohur. I hope that after having perused it, you will return it to me."

94. The treaty\* above alluded to is as follows: "I, Meer Ali Morad Talpoor, requested Meer Roostum Khan, on account of his old age and weakly state, to abdicate the Turban in my favour, and give over, in writing, all the country; that I would be responsible in every way to the British Government. The Meer consented to abdicate the Turban, and to give over, in writing, the whole country, and also the fortresses, but he required that I would agree to four articles; after which he would give over to me, in writing, the whole country. These articles are as follows:

"1st. That the country north of Roree, according to the proclamation, belongs to the British.

"2d. The country belonging to the sons of Meer Mobarick Khan.

"3d. The country belonging to the sons of Meer Roostum Khan.

"4th. My (that is, Meer Roostum's) expenses.

"I consented to the above articles, taking upon myself the whole responsibility. I do now declare, giving the same in writing, that if the British Government remonstrate with Meer Roostum Khan, and demand why he made over the country north of Roree to Meer Ali Morad, I will be answerable, and satisfy the English Government. If they demand the country I will give it up, but I will not allow Meer Roostum Khan to suffer one word of annoyance. To the sons of Meer Roostum Khan, whom I look upon as my own brothers, I will restore their jagheers; I will in no way depart from this. To take one span of their land is unlawful. I have no claim whatsoever to their jagheers; it is their right, and their right they shall receive. The country belonging to the sons of Meer Mobarick Khan should I not take the British Government will; I will therefore now appropriate their country, which I will afterwards make over to them. I have no claim whatever on their country; one single span of their country in my possession would be unlawful; the country is their right, and their right they shall receive. As for Meer Roostum Khan, his family, servants, male and female slaves, I will provide for all, either in land or in money; nothing shall be deficient. I will serve him as he wishes. These articles I have written out in the form of a treaty, that hereafter they may remain as proof, and that no differences may occur. God is my witness. Dated the 16th Zilcadah 1258. A. D. 19th December 1842.

"Postscript.—Meer Roostum Khan to retain possession of Khyrpore for life."

"Dated as above. Confirmed."

Meer Ali  
Morad's seal.

Translated by Captain Harding, 11 November 1847.

95. It will be observed, that the above treaty is dated the 19th December 1842, which establishes the fact that Meer Roostum Khan first took the precaution of securing, as he thought, a provision for himself, his sons, and his nephews, for the treaty ceding the Turban is dated the day after, namely, the 20th December 1842. The following summary of the evidence obtained by Mr. Pringle, establishes, in my opinion, the genuineness of the two documents above recited; and at the same time, the villany resorted to by Meer Ali Morad to deceive Sir Charles Napier, and to deprive Meer Roostum's sons and nephews of their birthright.

96. Sabr

\* Appendix (D.), No 15 C. P., is another translation with trifling verbal alterations made by Lieut. Younghusband, Lieutenant of Police.

96. *Sabr Ali*, soobedar of the mounted police of Shikarpore, but formerly in the service of *Meer Roostum Khan*, states,\* that in December 1842 he was *Meer Roostum's* vakeel, and was sent to Sukkur with a letter to Sir C. Napier, who informed him that *Meer Roostum* had fled to Dejee Kekote. He immediately went to Dejee, and was informed by *Meer Roostum* (who was crying), that he had ceded the Turban to *Meer Ali Morad*. On the following morning *Meer Roostum* sent off the cession, signed by himself, as also the treaty between him and *Ali Morad*, signed by the latter, with an accompanying letter to Sir Charles Napier. Deponent heard afterwards that *Ali Morad* despatched horsemen after the cossid conveying the letter, and brought him back. Thus *Ali Morad* obtained possession of the papers, but *Sheikh Ali Hussein* has since informed him that he obtained them from *Ali Morad*. The cession and the treaty were both written by *Peer Ali Gohur*. He does not recollect who wrote the forwarding letter, but *Sheik Ali Hussein* has told him he did so. This may be the case, for deponent was in the habit of writing *Meer Roostum's* letters to Sir Charles Napier, but there was so much confusion at the time, he does not recollect it. If he saw the letter he would certainly be able to state whether it is in his handwriting or not. The original letter is now shown to the witness, and he is asked whether it is in his handwriting, and he replies, "Yes, it is; this is the letter *Meer Roostum* sent with the cession and treaty to Sir Charles Napier."

97. *Peer Ali Gohur*, the writer of the treaty ceding the Turban, and also of the private treaty between *Meers Roostum* and *Ali Morad*, gives the following account of a conversation which occurred between the two Ameeris at Dejee, at time the two engagements were entered into:—

*Meer Ali Morad*. You are now an old man, and had better give over governing the country; your sons are always in concert with *Futteh Mahomed Ghoree*, making disturbances. The British Government does not approve of this, therefore they think that you are unfit to govern, and you will get into a scrape through this.

*Meer Roostum*. I and you, *Nusseer Khan*, and *Futteh Mahomed Ghoree*, will hold a concert together on this matter, and settle it.

*M. A. Morad*. There is no occasion for any others to be present; you and I are quite sufficient. *Futteh Mahomed Ghoree* is a disturber, and *Nusseer Khan* in this business is a great loser, and therefore will not agree.

*M. Roostum*. What do you say? The British Government will do nothing to me; I have committed no crime.

*M. A. Morad*. I do not know that you have committed any crime, but if you do not know what you have done, *Futteh Mahomed Ghoree* does. But I imagine if you cede the chieftainship and the country to me, the government will still remain in your hands, and I will be as your child; and what you have to answer for to the British Government will easily be settled.

*M. Roostum*. I see that for two reasons the country will not remain in my hands. First, because I am a decrepit old man; second, because *Futteh Mahomed Ghoree* and my sons are continually fighting.

*M. A. Morad*. That is the case.

*M. Roostum*. Make out a treaty, and bring it to me; when I have read and agreed to it, I will sign and send it.

*Peer Ali Gohur* then states, that *Meer Ali Morad* wrote out a treaty, making over to him all the territory belonging to *Meer Roostum Khan*, *Meer Mobarick Khan*, the chieftainship, the forts and artillery, and brought it to *Meer Roostum* for signature. *Meer Roostum* said, "The country from *Roree* northwards I have given to the British Government, and it has been proclaimed through these districts; that country therefore belongs to the British; I therefore cannot cede that. The lands of *Meer Mobarick Khan* do not belong to me, so neither can I cede those; nor can I cede the country belonging to my sons, for they have no other livelihood. But I will cede to you my own territories; you take care of them.

*M. A. Morad*. *Meer Sahib*, that country north of *Roree* will never be asked after by the British; if it is, I will be answerable; whatever arrangements the British Government makes, I will carry it into effect. I will also make arrangements

\* Before Lieutenant Younghusband, on the 29th December 1849. *I'ide* No. 13, Appendix (D.) of Commission's proceedings.

arrangements for the continuance in their jagheers of the sons of Meer Mobarick Khan, as also for your own sons, and for your private expenses. I am answerable; be satisfied.

*Meer Roostum.* Very good; write a treaty according to this, and I will give you the whole country and chieftainship.

The Peer further states that "Meer Ali Morad then wrote out the agreement and signed it. Meer Roostum then wrote the treaty in the Koran, ceding his territory to him. After this, Meer Roostum wrote a letter to Major-general Sir C. Napier, telling him what he had done, and enclosing the agreement signed by Meer Ali Morad. This came to the latter's ears, and he sent a man after Meer Roostum's servant, and took the letter from him; and it was given to Sheikh Ali Hussein, who now has it. The copy is in my possession."

98. On the 26th December 1849, the private engagement between Meer Roostum and Meer Ali Morad was exhibited by Mr. Pringle to Peer Ali Gohur, and he was asked whether he recognised it, and he replied, "Yes, it is in my handwriting, and was written when Meer Roostum ceded the Turban to Meer Ali Morad." On the 9th January 1850, Sheikh Ali Hussein was likewise examined by Mr. Pringle on the same subject, and as his evidence unveils the real nature of the transaction, I will transcribe it in *extenso*.

*Question by the Commissioner.*

1. Did you give any statement of Sir C. Napier regarding the transfer of the Turban by Meer Roostum?

2. Did you give any papers to Sir C. Napier regarding this subject?

3. Do you recognise the two papers here shown to you?

4. Do you recognise these papers also?

5. How did these papers come into your possession?

6. Do you know what messengers Meer Roostum sent with the letter?

7. Who were present when the agreement between Meer Roostum and Meer Ali Morad was executed?

8. Did you ever make these circumstances known to the British authorities before your communication to Sir C. Napier on the subject?

*Answer by Deponent.*

1. Yes; I gave a statement at the same time as I did the one regarding the treaty of Nownahar.

2. Not at that time, for they were at Mooltan; but I got them down, and sent them to Major Goldney, who forwarded them to Kurrachee.

3. Yes, I recognise them; they are the letters I addressed to Captain Brown and Moonshee Ali Ukhbar on the subject.

*N.B.*—These papers are marked (E.) and (F.)

4. Yes, one is the letter from Meer Roostum Khan to Sir Charles Napier, and the other the private agreement between Meer Ali Morad and Meer Roostum, regarding the cession of the Turban. These are the original papers referred to above.

*N.B.*—They are marked (G.) and (H.)

5. Meer Ali Morad gave them to me to put by when I was in his full confidence.

6. No, I do not.

7. Peer Ali Gohur, Shabur Ali Shah, Shere Sing, and several other people.

8. No, I did not, because I was desirous, first to ascertain how the district of Meerpoor and Mahtela would be disposed of. I wrote one petition to Lord Hardinge when I was at Mooltan, after my quarrel with the Meer, subsequent to the Truckee campaign. I wrote in general, thus, saying I would give valuable information to the amount of 10 lacs of rupees, but did not particularise until now that inquiries are being instituted.

99. From the above it will be observed, that the proof of this atrocious fraud, the interception in the first instance, and the suppression afterwards, of the private treaty between Meers Roostum and Ali Morad, chiefly depends on the evidence of the same two persons who proved the Nownahar forgery. But it is supported most materially by the independent testimony of the soobedar of police, against whom no charge of enmity against Ali Morad exists. It is further corroborated by the strong presumption which exists in favour of the truth of the story;

story; from the absence of all mention in the treaty which Ali Morad has produced, of the maintenance of which it is admitted he engaged, when the Turban was ceded, to provide for Meer Roostum and his family. It may also be observed, that if the present charge originates in a conspiracy against his Highness by his ex-minister and the Peer, why should the former have gone through the farce of sending to Mooltan for the papers? Why should they have not fabricated the letter from Meer Roostum and the private treaty on the spot, and supported them by producing (which would have been easy) false evidence to prove that these documents were intercepted by Meer Ali Morad. Although, therefore, as I have already stated, I regret that the Commissioners' inquiry was not extended to this additional charge, I see no reason for discrediting the evidence obtained by Mr. Pringle; and coupled with the facts proved in regard to the Nownahar treaty, and referring to the impudent attempt of Ali Morad to bribe Lieutenants Younghusband and Farrington, I have no hesitation in recording my belief, that the documents produced by Sheikh Ali Hussein are genuine, and the charge of having fraudulently imposed on Sir C. Napier, and depriving Meer Roostum and his sons of their paternal estates, is fully proved.

100. It follows, therefore, that Meer Ali Morad has no claim whatever, either to those estates, or to the lands he claims to the north of Roree. They belong either to the British Government, or, as I hope, will be restored to Meer Roostum's sons; whether, on the supposition that they are restored, they shall be granted hereditarily, or for life only, or whether, when conferred, they shall be subjected to a moderate tribute or quit rent, I shall leave to the judgment of my superiors. I do not advocate that the Ameers should be restored to the sovereign powers, this would be beneficial neither to themselves nor to the people of Scinde; but I would create them Jageerdars of the first class, and subject them to the same rules, as far as they can be applied in defining their relations to Government, as the Sirdars of the Deccan and the Jagheerdars in the Southern Mah-ratta country are subjected to.

101. I have asserted that the posterity of Meer Roostum have peculiar claims on the generosity of the British Government, not only in consideration of the many acts of friendship which that ill-used chief evinced towards us at a period when his friendship was thought worth courting, but likewise for their own personal conduct since they were ejected from Scinde. It is not from want of suitable opportunity that they have not joined the enemies of those whom they must regard as the oppressors of their race and family. Nevertheless, not one among them has become the avenger of their wrongs; a strong argument in favour of those who maintain that the Ameers of Scinde were coerced into hostility. We have had to undergo the severest trial perhaps to which we have been subjected since we landed in India as commercial adventurers; but in neither of the Punjab wars did a single prince of Scinde draw the sword against us, although he who suffered most was, at the time of the second and greatest struggle, a refugee at Mooltan, the focus of that rebellion, which arrayed the Sikh nation against us, and which required all our energies to subdue. I say therefore that the peaceful and submissive conduct of these princes in adversity, and during a period of turmoil and strife, is the best guarantee we can have that they will remain so after their condition has been ameliorated in the manner I suggest.

102. In regard to the claim they possess in consequence of Meer Roostum's friendly conduct, I must be very brief. When it was resolved to invade Afghanistan for the purpose of replacing Shah Shooja on the throne of Cabool, it became an object of Imperial policy to enter into a close alliance with the Ameers of Upper Scinde. For this purpose the late Sir A. Burnes was deputed to Khyrpore, and, as is well known, obtained from Meer Roostum everything that it was thought expedient to demand, including even permission to occupy temporarily the important fortress of Bukkur, and the abolition in the Khyrpore territory of the levy of all tolls on the Indus. The following extracts from the correspondence of the day will show how much importance was attached to these concessions by the then Governor-general, Lord Auckland, and also the opposition Meer Roostum experienced from his family when complying with the requisitions of the British Government: "The Governor-general has received with much pleasure the account contained in your letter, of the professions of friendly feeling which have been made to you by the Meer of Khyrpore; for his Lordship



Scinde Blue Book,  
No. 15.

Secretary with  
Governor-general  
to Lieut.-colonel  
A. Burnes, dated  
6th September  
1838, S. B. B.,  
No. 16.

Governor-general  
to the Secret Com-  
mittee, dated 24th  
September 1838,  
S. B. B., No. 30;  
see also Nos. 28 and  
30 of the same  
compilation.

S. B. B., No. 34.

*Ibid*, No. 48.

*Ibid*, No. 65, letter  
to Sir A. Burnes.

*Ibid*, No. 104,  
letter to Secretary  
with the Governor-  
general, 25th De-  
cember 1838.

For this and Sir  
A. Burnes's letter,  
see S. B. B., Nos.  
105 and 106, and  
108 and 118.

S. B. B., No. 133.

*Ibid*, No. 150.

*Ibid*, Nos. 153,  
166, and 167.

considers it to be of much importance that the good offices and the cordial good feeling of that chief should be conciliated, as well with a view to the approaching operations of our armies, as for the facility which may thereby be required for the navigation of the Indus. It would be of great and important convenience to the army, if the temporary occupation of Bukkur could be obtained for our own magazines and hospitals; and Captain Burnes has been directed to use his best endeavours to facilitate this object." Again, "The Governor-general, as you are aware, attaches great importance to the possession of Bukkur, and you will probably be able to ascertain from Meer Roostum Khan how far he would be willing to permit us to occupy it. Herewith you will receive a document under the seal and signature of the Governor-general, certifying that our desire is only for the temporary occupation of that fortress, which you are authorized to produce should occasion require it." Again, "The devotion to British interests expressed by the Ameer of Khyrpore, and evinced by Meer Sobdar Khan, are at this juncture important. The important point of obtaining temporary possession of the fortress of Bukkur is, in the despatch to the Resident in Scinde, merely incidentally alluded to." The favourable temper of that chief (Meer Roostum Khan) has been already noted; this feeling Captain Burnes has been instructed to cultivate, and for its maintenance, in connexion with the great importance of the temporary cession of Bukkur, Lieutenant-colonel (now become Sir A.) Burnes arrived at Khyrpore on the 18th October 1838; and on the 26th of that month he reported that Meer Roostum had voluntarily placed in his hands a letter he had received from Meer Noor Mahomed of Hyderabad, hostile to the British Government, observing, "With such adherence I feel quite at a loss to know how we can either ask money or any favour from this family. I have never doubted their sincere disposition to cling to us, but in their weak state I did not expect such firmness in the day of trial." "As respects Bukkur (observed the Governor-general), "it would be required by this Government as a dépôt for treasure and ammunition during the war only; and it would be advisable that this fact should be carefully impressed upon the Ameers, when reference is made to the question of our occupancy of it." The accomplishment of the great object of obtaining the fort was thus reported by Sir A. Burnes: "It is with the highest satisfaction that I inform the Governor-general of India, that the fortress of Bukkur has been ceded to the British Government on the terms proposed, and that Meer Roostum Khan has placed himself and his country under its protection. I have had a task of delicacy, difficulty, and even danger; but Meer Roostum Khan has shown in the day of trial, what he professed at all times, that he was the sincere and devoted friend of the British nation." So offensive was this to the aged Ameer's family, that in the treaty concluded with the Khyrpore state, the cession of the fort was made in a separate article; for, as the Ameer observed, "it was the heart of his country, his honour was centred in keeping it, his family and children would have no confidence if it were given up;" and, again, "the Ameer (Roostum) stated at full length his declarations of devotion. He said, that in giving up Bukkur to the British, he had to encounter great disgrace; that his tribe and his family were alike opposed to it; but that he was an old man with but few years to live, and it was to save his children and his tribe from ruin that he had years ago resolved on allying himself to us; that other invaders of India might be resisted, but if one of our armies were swept away, we could send another, and that such power induced him alike to fear and rely upon us; that he was himself henceforward the submissive and obedient servant of the British, and hoped I would avert all injury befalling him, and tell him without hesitation what he could do to please us." The keys of the fortress were delivered to Sir A. Burnes on 30th January 1839, and possession taken of it on the same day. And a few days afterwards, that officer observed, "It is not for the temporary cession of Bukkur that I have ventured to solicit his Lordship's indulgence to the Khyrpore chief, but for his steady and faithful conduct under trying difficulties, the last of which was the granting of a road to Hyderabad; and I only echo the voice of all the Scindians, when I record that to the cession of Bukkur and the demonstration of the army of the Indus, we owe the rapid adjustment of affairs at Hyderabad, and the happy result of our now being enabled to carry into effect the highly important operations of the Governor-general to the west." For proof that Lord Auckland estimated very highly the value of the concession by Meer Roostum, I beg to refer to the documents noted in the margin. His Lordship accepted it *bonâ fide* as a loan, and regarded it as such as long as he governed India; on one occa-  
sion-



sion observing: "Sir James Carnac has recommended the permanent retention of Bukkur in our hands; but it will be remembered, that we are under a special engagement to restore Bukkur to the Khyrpore Ameers, and that we have no absolute right under treaty to station our troops within the Khyrpore limits." What must have been the surprise of these Ameers, when, under the succeeding administration, the political authorities in Scinde were directed to negotiate for the permanent cession of the Island of Bukkur and the town of Sukkur, with such an ample arrondissement as may give every facility for the maintenance of a good police within the town, and for the formation of commercial establishments therein," with the avowed object of "converting the Island of Bukkur into a citadel and arsenal of the town of Sukkur, and making it easily defensible by a small force. Finally, when we recollect that the cession of the fortress and neighbouring islets was ultimately enforced by the treaty imposed upon the Khyrpore state, as a penalty for certain alleged breaches of the former treaty, charged against Meer Roostum, but which he denied, though he was never allowed the opportunity of proving his innocence, it must be admitted that here there is much reasonable ground for recrimination against the British Government, and this constitutes an additional reason why we should look with an eye of compassion on his descendants." But besides the cession of Bukkur, Meer Roostum about the same time strengthened his claims to the favour and justice of the British Government, by consenting "for ever to renounce all right to toll on the Indus throughout his territories;" a sacrifice on his part which was at the time highly appreciated by Lord Auckland, who informed Sir A. Burnes, that the "result of his well conducted negotiations is itself a matter of much importance to the growing traffic on the Indus, and a source of sincere gratification to the Governor-general." I am sure that with all right-minded and honourable men, I have fully justified my opinion, that the descendants of the man who, in difficult and troublous times, performed the above important, and many other minor services for the British Government, have a right to expect justice and favour at our hands. But if any one still entertains a doubt on this point, let him peruse the following letter, which was addressed to Meer Roostum by Lord Auckland, the representative of Her Majesty and the Honourable East India Company, and let him reflect that in less than four years afterwards, the man so addressed was violently dethroned, exiled, and his family utterly ruined; and what must be the effects on our national character, if we permit his innocent posterity to pine in want and poverty, and to continue dependant on the bounty of the crafty chief who was mainly instrumental in bringing about such a sad reverse of fortune."

*Ibid*, No. 226,  
Minute by Lord  
Auckland, dated  
8th Dec. 1839.

*Ibid*, No. 334,  
Lord Ellen-  
borough's instruc-  
tions to the Politi-  
cal Agent in Scinde.  
22d May 1842.

*Ibid*, No. 125, Letter  
from Sir A. Burnes to  
the Secretary with the  
Governor-general, 16th  
January 1839.

*Ibid*, No. 142,  
Reply to ditto,  
7th February 1839

*Ibid*, No. 130.

"The Governor-general to Meer Roostum Khan, of Khyrpore.

"The judicious mediation of your friend, Sir A. Burnes, the highly esteemed and able agent of my Government, now with you, has, by the blessing of God, brought about the establishing of our mutual good understanding by treaty on a firm and lasting basis.

"The support afforded to you by the guarantee of the British Government will, I am assured, prove a source of future strength, and, if it be God's will, of continued prosperity to your country, and I am glad to acknowledge the advantages which I hope to derive from your alliance and support in the warlike operations which I am about to undertake.

"Having entered into a treaty with your Highness in all honesty and good faith, I should be sorry to find any part of the written agreement between us so worded as to leave either your successor or mine under the supposition that we concluded our compact in the spirit, on the one side or the other, of anything like jealousy or distrust.

"The mention, however, of a previous written agreement in every instance, as to the temporary character of the occasional occupation of Scinde by the English, is calculated to convey this unpleasant idea.

"I have, therefore, struck it out, and in place of inserting a sentence which casts a doubt on the sincerity of our intentions, I address you this friendly letter as a lasting assurance of the plain meaning and purpose of the words of the separate article; viz., that the British shall avail themselves of the fort of Bukkur, the citadel of their ally, the Meer of Khyrpore, only during actual war, and periods of preparing for war like the present.

"I trust that this mode of reassuring your Highness will have the double effect of setting your mind at ease, and of putting you in possession of a written testimony to my intentions, such as may remain among your records in pledge of the sincerity of the British Government."

"Camp, Bhagpoorana, 10 January 1839."

*Suprà*, p. 28.

Scinde Blue Book,  
Nos. 1 and 2.

Dated 4th April,  
20th April, and  
22d April 1832,  
and 23d December  
1834. *Vide* Scinde  
Blue Book, Nos. 3,  
4, 5, and 6.

*See* Correspondence in Scinde  
Blue Book of this  
period.

*See* note at the end  
of para. 62.

103. I have observed also, that Meer Roostum's posterity have peculiar claims on the British Government, in consequence of the nature of our connexion with Scinde, from the commencement up to its final conquest and annexation to the British Empire. It was at first my intention to have endeavoured to have given a rapid sketch of the origin and nature of our connexion with that province, and the transactions in which it has involved us from the beginning up to the overthrow of the Talpoor dynasty, so injurious, in my opinion, to our national reputation for honour and good faith. For such a sketch, the controversy which occurred immediately after the conquest, between Sir C. Napier and Major Outram; the debates in Parliament and the Court of Proprietors; the papers relating to Scinde, published by the order of Parliament; and other sources of information open to me, afford ample and authentic materials. But I have already trespassed at such length on the Board's attention, and time presses so much, that I find myself obliged to relinquish this design. I do so, however, with much regret, because I am satisfied that a summary of this kind would greatly strengthen my argument, that it is only consistent with justice and policy that the condition of the surviving Ameers of Scinde, not only of those at liberty, but likewise of those in exile at Poona and Calcutta, should be ameliorated by every means in our power, compatible with the maintenance of the public peace. In such a sketch I should have shown that our earliest treaties with Scinde (those of 1809 and 1820) were merely treaties of friendship, stipulating for the exclusion of foreigners; that we next appeared as suppliants for commercial privileges; that the first rulers of Scinde adopted the sagacious policy of repelling our proffered friendship, and all our advances for the formation of a closer alliance; and that when their successors departed from that policy, they did so with melancholy forebodings\* of the results which have actually occurred. I should have shown that the "meteor flag" of England, the emblem, generally speaking, of advancing civilization, justice, and good faith, was first unfurled on the waters of the Indus by means of a not very dignified ruse; that from this time forward, we forced on the Ameers of Scinde treaties in rapid succession, each more unpalatable and stringent than its precursor; that by the treaties of 1832 with Khyrpoor and Hyderabad, and the one of 1834, we obtained commercial privileges and the opening of the Indus, on condition that no armed vessels or military stores should be conveyed by that river,—the Ameers, moreover, manifesting their distrust of the alliance by introducing the humiliating stipulation, that "the two contracting powers mutually bind themselves, from generation to generation, never to look with the eye of covetousness on the possessions of each other;" that in 1838, our necessities, in consequence of the invasion of Afghanistan, compelled us, at the expense of good faith, contrary to the treaty of the 20th April 1832, to force a passage and make Scinde a highway for our armies, which, as might have been expected, very nearly anticipated the subsequent war in 1842-43; that in the following year we compelled† the Ameers to conclude another treaty, imposing a subsidiary force and tribute, and abolishing without compensation the levy of tolls on the river Indus; that during the three years that succeeded the treaty of 1839, "All the authorities unite in praising the conduct of the Scinde chieftains. Throughout that eventful period, which was characterised by disasters unparalleled in our Indian annals, the Ameers remained faithful to their engagements at a season when, if they had nourished

\* Noor Mahomed broke out into a passionate exclamation at the evils that had already resulted from the British connexion: "We ought (he said) never to have granted a road through our territories; that was my act alone; all the Beloochees predicted what would happen; this is the consequence of friendship."—Lieutenant Eastwick's letter to the Resident in Scinde, dated 26th January 1835, Scinde Blue Book, No. 143. *See* also the last para. of Colonel Pottinger's letter to the Governor-general, dated 7th March 1839.—Scinde Blue Book, No. 174.

† *See* Correspondence in Scinde Blue Book of this period, and in particular the draft treaty proposed by Colonel Pottinger, of 23 Articles, No. 133; Lord Auckland's remarks thereon, with the amended draft treaty, Nos. 176 and 177.

nourished any hostile designs, they might have cut off all support to our troops to the north-west, and placed in jeopardy the very existence of the British force in Candahar." I should have also shown that the war in Scinde and ultimate ruin of the Talpoor dynasty was chiefly occasioned by an unwise departure\* from a fundamental rule of our administration of India, viz., that the functions of war and peace should not be vested in the same person. At a period of great difficulty, and on the eve of complicated negotiations, when various charges of breach of treaty had been preferred against the Ameers, requiring careful, patient, and impartial inquiry, the Political† Department in Scinde, composed of men well known to the Ameers of Scinde, and disposed to treat them with respect and forbearance, was abruptly abolished. The machinery, by which the intercourse between the two States had heretofore been carried on, was suddenly swept away, and the conduct of our affairs in Scinde was entrusted, without check or control, to a distinguished military commander, who, although of eminent but eccentric genius, untiring zeal, and determined energy, priding himself on never swerving from the right hand or to the left in the accomplishment of any object he had in view, was, from his ignorance of the language, manners and customs of the people with whom he now for the first time came in contact, and his inexperience of native character and the intrigues which always, more or less, prevail at Asiatic courts, but ill fitted to exercise the unlimited powers entrusted to him, and who, indeed, himself proclaimed this fact, when, only 12 days after‡ his arrival at Sukkur, he informed the Governor-general that "only a fair pretext was wanted to coerce the Ameers;" and when, shortly afterwards, he observed§ to Major Outram, the intrigues of these people are very silly, and like a tangled skein of thread; we can cut the Gordian Knot, as Alexander did; we are too strong to take the trouble to untie it. I trust I shall not be mistaken in these remarks. I am no advocate for the interference of the civilian with the military commander after war has commenced, or for the revival of that absurd system adopted by the Dutch in a bygone age, in sending deputies to the head quarters of Marlborough to control and thwart the operations of that great commander. All I contend for is, that not one in a million can with safety be intrusted with the combined functions of peace and war, with the power to determine when the sword shall be drawn and to apply it afterwards. The ablest men are often, unknown to themselves, influenced by ambition, thirst for fame, military honours and distinctions; by the desire to acquire wealth; by ignorance, prejudice, and contempt of those beneath them, and of those whom the Chinese term "outside barbarians;" or, it may be, by the desire, laudable in itself, to amend what, according to their ideas, seems amiss in the laws and institutions of foreign governments. It is unwise to emancipate from all control these, some of them, the strongest passions of mankind, and the line of demarcation is perfectly clear to any one of the slightest experience.

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\* By a General Order, dated 24th October 1842, the Governor-general directed that the functions and allowances of all officers holding political appointments in Scinde and Beeloochistan, and on the right bank of the Upper Indus, and of all persons composing their several establishments, shall cease on the 15th November. The effect of this order was to vest Sir C. Napier with full power to determine when peace should end and war commence.

† Nothing was more calculated to create mistrust and suspicion in the minds of the Ameers than this measure. They were in a feverish state of anxiety as to our intentions, in consequence of the arrival of Brigadier England's force from Candahar and Prince Timoor. Lieut. Myles, in his Digest of Intelligence at the commencement of November, notes,—"The Ameers continue much agitated regarding the force at Sukkur, and Meer Khan is about to leave for Khyrpore to endeavour to ascertain the object of so large an assemblage of troops." Major Outram, in his very last Digest, notes, "The daily intelligence he had received during the past week, as displaying the temper of the chiefs under the alarm caused by the suspicious appearance of the troops delaying here; all their measures and preparations, however, are defensive merely, and will lead to nothing offensive, I think." Lieutenant Brown also, in his Digest of the 13th November, notes, "The Ameers are wholly at a loss to comprehend the reason of the withdrawal of the agency of Scinde and Beeloochistan, as announced to them by Major Outram, and look upon it as preparatory to their country being abandoned to the pleasure of the Afghan tribes. During the past week, each day has brought a message from one or other of the Ameers, begging that some one might be permitted to remain at Hyderabad in a political capacity."

‡ "Observations by Sir C. Napier upon the occupation of Scinde, dated the 17th October 1842."  
—Scinde Blue Book, No. 39a.

§ Letter dated 23d January 1843, Supplement to Scinde Blue Book, No. 32; the words underlined, however, being omitted.

The man of peace should, in the first instance, have the freest scope in his endeavours to avert the terrible alternative of war, and it should be his province to pronounce when those efforts have failed. The military commander's work then commences, and he should have equally free scope, without interference, to conduct the war to a successful termination. It is to the neglect of these generally recognised principles that I chiefly attribute our misfortunes in Scinde. But I should have also shown that Sir Charles Napier was, on his arrival in Scinde,\* received with every demonstration of attention and respect by the Ameers of Hyderabad and Khyrpoor; that an "old Indian" would have considered it his duty to have discussed with the Ameers the various matters of misunderstanding which had arisen between the two Governments, to have reasoned with them, and, at all events, to have heard what they had to say in self-defence, and against the demands made upon them. Instead of this, remaining only two days at Hyderabad, he left with the officer in charge a memorandum to be delivered after his departure, cutting the Gordian Knot of difficulty by authoritatively deciding, according to his own interpretation, several articles of the treaty then existing, upon which a difference of opinion might very well arise. That after his arrival at Sukkur, a series of the most arbitrary measures were adopted by Sir C. Napier against the Ameers, more especially the summary confiscation under a proclamation of territory yielding an annual revenue of six lacks of rupees. That Sir Charles Napier even did not concur † in this severe measure, and that there is too much reason to fear that Lord Ellenborough himself was not aware of the extent of the penalty imposed by his orders on the Ameers of Khyrpoor, for Major Outram pointed out that his Lordship had originally specified that Subzulkote and Bhoongbarra only were to be forfeited, and therefore that it must be from mistake that the whole country, from Subzulkote to Roree, was afterwards ordered to be confiscated. Major Outram therefore suggested that the point should be referred ‡ to the Governor-general,

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\* In the Scinde Digest of Intelligence for the 25th September 1842, it is noted, "At an early hour this morning deputations from the Ameers, composed of their most respectable Sirdars, began to arrive at the Agency to wait on Sir C. Napier, and a hundred trays of sweetmeats were presented in the evening; a palanquin of state and several of the Ameers' favourite riding camels were sent for the purpose of conveying the Major-general and his staff to the Durbar; we were met at some distance from the town by a deputation consisting of the relations and principal Sirdars of the Ameers, and a little further on by the sons of Meer Sobdar and Nusseer Khan. The reception was with every mark of cordiality and friendship, and with every assurance of inviolable attachment to the British Government. Their Highnesses were very handsomely apparelled, and the Durbars were crowded with a number of well-dressed attendants. Sir C. Napier desired me (Lieutenant Mylne) to express to their Highnesses the gratification he experienced from the very flattering manner in which he had been received, and that this mark of their friendship for the British Government could not fail to meet the approval of the Governor-general, to whom he would report it." In like manner the Upper Scinde Digest, of the 5th October, records, "Khyr Mahomed, son of the minister, Futteh Mahomed Ghoree, was deputed by Meer Roostum Khan to wait upon Sir C. Napier, and inquire after his health." On the 10th October a second deputation from Khyrpoor waited on the Major-general, consisting of Meer Ali Buksh Khan, younger son of Meer Roostum Khan, Meer Wullie Mahomed Khan, younger brother of Meer Nusseer Khan, and the minister, Futteh Mahomed Ghoree. The chief topic of conversation was the great friendship the Ameers had for the British Government. We find also that these hostile chiefs were amusing themselves at this period by firing salutes in honour of the victories gained by Major-general Pollock in China. On the 8th October it is noted, "A salute was fired from the fort of Hyderabad, in honour of victories gained by Major-generals Pollock and Nott, and our success in China, 'and the Ameers assured Lieutenant Mylne, that in everything they feel the interests of the two to be interwoven.'" On the 21st October 42 guns were fired in honour of our victories in China at Khyrpoor.

† This appears from Sir C. Napier's letter to Major Outram, dated the 28th January 1843, enclosed in one to the Governor-general, of the 16th August 1843: "I so far agree with you that I should prefer the plan I proposed to Lord Ellenborough. I object, but have not objected to the donation to Bhawalpoor. I should prefer the simple exchange I proposed of tribute against land, but am wholly unauthorized to object to orders issued by such high authority, surrounded by the sources of all Indian information. Had Lord Ellenborough asked me, I should have stated my opinion again, for my proposal was a clear and deliberate exposition of my opinion in the first instance. The draft treaty I therefore consider as his Lordship's cool determination. I have only to execute my orders to the best of my abilities."

‡ The oversight was pointed out in November 1842, but unfortunately no reference was made until the 30th January 1843, and his Lordship, on the 9th February, promptly replied, "If you should be of opinion that the cession originally demanded presses too heavily on the Ameers, I shall be glad to receive any suggestions you may wish to offer for its modification." This expression of the Governor-general's readiness to rectify a grievous error, arrived too late; the battle of Meeanee had been fought. *Vide* Scinde Blue Book, Nos. 479 and 480. In a letter to Sir C. Napier, dated the 10th September, Lord Ellenborough "admits the value of the tract in question is much larger than had been supposed."

general, under the impression that his Lordship had erroneously concluded that Subzulkote and Bhoongbarra extended to Roree, whereas in fact they included only about one-quarter of that extent. I should further have shown that the treaty\* dictated to the Ameers, by order of the Governor-general, was most unjust and arbitrary, and could only be justified by the supposition that the charges against the Ameers had been fully proved, whereas they were denied, and no opportunity of rebutting them had been afforded, though there are strong grounds for believing that many of them were fabricated by Ali Moorad to effect Meer Roostum's ruin. "A careful and deliberate inquiry ought to have preceded any stringent measures. The various cases of infraction of treaty ought to have been brought to the notice of the Ameers. If no satisfactory explanation was afforded the Ameers ought to have been distinctly warned, the innocent separated from the guilty, and then, if any one persisted in breaking his engagements, we should have been justified in exacting the penalty. Charges are not crimes: proof is requisite. The Ameers ought to have had the opportunity of answering these charges." I should also have shown the gross injustice of the attack and destruction, without any previous declaration of war,† or any overt act of hostility on the part of the Ameers, of the fortress of Emamghur, and have exposed the fallacy of the explanation by which that hostile act on our part has been defended, namely, that all forts in Scinde belonged to the Rais or Sovereign, and that Ali Morad, being Rais, and having given his sanction to the measure, the fort was destroyed accordingly; for, if all forts in Scinde appertained to the Turhan, how did it happen that Deje Ke Kote, the strongest fort in that province, and other fortlets, were in the undisturbed and undisputed possession of Ali Morad before he became Rais, and as a part of his patrimonial inheritance. This fort, in fact, was the property of Meer Mahomed Khan, the head of a separate branch of the Talpoor family, who never injured us in word or deed, and the arch traitor Ali Moorad must have laughed in his sleeve when the British general sought his permission to blow up the fort, and when he replied, "As far as the value of the property goes, I am quite indifferent, and I fully concur with you in the reasons which make it necessary to destroy it; therefore, considering me joyfully willing, by all means blow up the fort, and consider me your well-wisher." I should have shown that all these arbitrary and unjust measures were adopted without any previous act of decided hostility; that they were carried out with the most harsh and unbending rigour, and that the Ameers were addressed in a style of hauteur and menace never before adopted towards sovereign princes. Take this as a sample. In forwarding the draft of a new treaty, dictated by Lord Ellenborough, Sir Charles Napier informed the Ameers, "In obedience to the commands of the Governor-general of India, I shall proceed to occupy Roree, and the left bank of the Indus, from the latter town up to the Bhawalpore frontier,

See note at the end of para 62.

Supplement to S. B. B., Nos. 18 and 19.

Letter dated 1 December 1842 Sup. S. B. B. No. 5.

\* For this see Scinde Blue Book, No. 405 et seq. One of the articles outraged the religious feelings of the Ameers (*vide* Article 3); stringent as it was, it was by compulsion agreed to by the Ameers both of Upper and Lower Scinde. It is but justice to the Governor-general to notice, that it was clearly his intention that inquiry, and an opportunity of defence, should precede punishment. On the 8th May 1842, his Lordship observed, "there must be clear proof of the Ameers' faithlessness, and that it must not be provoked by the conduct of the British agent producing apprehensions in the minds of any chief that the British Government entertains designs inconsistent with his interests and honour (Scinde Blue Book, No. 342); and on the 11th September Sir C. Napier was informed that his Lordship would not proceed to punishment" without the most ample and convincing evidence of the guilt of the person accused, and that the Governor-general entirely relies upon his sense of justice, and is convinced that whatever report he may make upon the subject, after full investigation, will be such as he may safely act upon. Scinde Blue Book, No. 377. See also Supplement to ditto, No. 1.

† On the 27th December 1842, Sir C. Napier informed the Governor-general, "I made up my mind, that although war has not been declared (nor is it necessary to declare it), I would at once march upon Emamghur, and prove to the whole Talpoor family, of both Khyrpoor and Hyderabad, that neither their Deserts nor their negotiations can protect them from the British troops. While they imagine they can fly with security to their Deserts they will never be quiet." Scinde Blue Book, No. 458. For Sir C. Napier's defence of this exploit, when its justice was questioned, see Supplement to ditto, No. 143. It is thus noticed in the Scinde Digest of Intelligence:

"On the 4th January 1843, Major-general Sir Charles Napier marched to Dejee-Ke-Kote, the fort of Meer Ali Moorad, and the next night moved with a small force, lightly equipped, towards Emamghur, a fort distant 80 miles in the Desert, belonging to Meer Mahomed Khan, nephew of Meer Roostum Khan. This fort had hitherto been considered by the Ameers inaccessible to our troops, and as, from its position in the centre of the Desert, it was looked upon as a refuge for the disaffected, it was, with the concurrence of Meer Ali Morad, who accompanied the general, destroyed by mining."

Letter dated the  
3d December  
1842. Sup. S. B. B.  
No. 6.  
Letter without  
date, Sup. S. B. B.  
No. 8

tier, including the whole of the district of Bhoongbarra and Subzulkote, as set forth in the said treaty. The minor arrangements will be entered into by my aide-de camp, Captain French (and Lieut. Stanley), with those whom your Highness may appoint for that purpose, to the end that the treaty may be speedily brought to a conclusion ;” or this, “ I have sent my Commissioner to wait upon you, and to agree upon the day and hour of the ensuing week, on which your Highness will receive a new treaty, which the Governor-general has ordered me to place in your hands, and carry into immediate execution ;” or expressions like these, addressed to Meer Roostum : “ Ameer, I have received my orders, and will obey them. I laugh at your preparations for war. Eight days have passed, and I have not heard that your Highness has nominated a Commissioner to arrange the details of the treaty ; I expect to have in writing your full acceptance of the draft thereof by return of the bearer. Your Highness is collecting troops in all directions, I must, therefore, have your acceptance of the treaty immediately ; yea or nay, I will not lose the cold weather ; your Highness must be prompt, or I shall act without consulting your Highness ; my time is measured, and I cannot waste it in long negotiations. Your Highness’s letter is full of discussion, but as there are two sides of your river, so are there two sides of your Highness’s arguments. Now, the Governor-general has occupied both sides of your Highness’s river, because he has considered both sides of your Highness’s arguments ; but I cannot go into the argument. I am not Governor-general, I am only one of his commanders.”\* I might multiply examples, but will conclude with the following letter, dated the 13th December 1842, addressed to Meer Roostum, and by referring to Sir Charles Napier’s proclamation of the 1st January 1843 : “ Ameer, my letters† have been stopped near Khyrpore ; this has been done either by your order or without your consent. If by your order, you are guilty ; if without your consent, you cannot command your people. In either case, I order you to disband your armed followers instantly ; I will go to Khyrpore to see that this order is obeyed.” I should further have argued, that notwithstanding all this provocation, the summary confiscation of territory yielding six lacks annually, the imposition of a new penal treaty, the destruction of the Fort of Emamghur, all the measures adopted by the Ameers of Khyrpore were purely defensive,‡ and that, although untrustworthy spies may have reported to the contrary, they never had the courage, or folly, seriously to think of defying the tremendous power of the British Government, at a period the most favourable to us, and the reverse to them, and of the magnitude of which they had only very recently witnessed such an ample demonstration in a neighbouring country. No ; the patriarchal chief, Meer Roostum, wrote in terms which ought to have been felt by the stern warrior to whom they were addressed : “ God knows we have no intention of opposing the British, nor a thought of war, or fighting ; we have not the power. Ever since my possessions were guaranteed to me and my posterity by the British Government under a formal treaty, I have considered myself a dependant of theirs, and have thought myself secure ; I have always attended to the least wish of the British officers ; and now that my territory is being taken from me, I am at a loss to find out the reason of so harsh a measure. I have committed no fault. If any is alleged against me, let me hear what it is, and I shall be prepared with an answer. I feel strong in the possession of that treaty, and I trust to the consideration of the British still. If, with-

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*Vide* Scinde Blue  
Book, No. 44*ti*.

\* Supplement to Scinde Blue Book, Nos. 11 and 15. See also No. 12 of ditto, for a letter to Meer Roostum, dated the 21st December 1842.

† It has been asserted that this was one of the devices resorted to by Ali Moorad to embroil Meer Roostum Khan with the British general ; and that Sir C. Napier suspected Ali Moorad of stopping his dawks is quite clear, for on the 4th February 1843, he thus writes to Major Outram : “ The miscarriage of the mail is a strange affair. I am very suspicious of this matter. I think Ali Moorad may have stopped it.” *Vide* Sup. to Scinde Blue Book, No. 45.

‡ On the 14th November 1843, Lord Ellenborough himself writes, “ The designs of the Ameers would seem, by the intelligence transmitted, to be of a defensive character only.” The fact is, as his Lordship remarked on the 8th October 1842, “ the assembling of men by the Khyrpore Ameers was only for the settlement of a quarrel amongst themselves, and had nothing in it of hostility to us.”—Scinde Blue Book, No. 2.

Is it not against all probability (observed Captain Eastwick), can it be believed that the Ameers would have stood our staunch friends in the day of defeat and adversity, to break with us at the moment when our armies were returning flushed with victory ? Is it credible that with the experience of our successes in Afghanistan, under Pollock and Nott, they would rush headlong into so unequal a contest ?



out any fault of mine, you choose to seize my territory, I shall not oppose you, but I shall consent to, and observe the provisions of the new treaty. However, I am new and shall continue to be a suitor for justice and kindly consideration at your hands." Meer Roostum's acts proved his sincerity;\* at all events, up to the period when, in obedience to Sir C. Napier's orders, he proceeded to Hyderabad. The catastrophe was finally brought on by the ungovernable fury of the Belooche tribes, exasperated by the sight of their venerable and respected chief, who had been cajoled out of the "Turban" by one whom they despised, and whose villany and deceit have now been placed beyond all cavil by the result of the Commission's inquiry. In vain did the assembled Ameers, though giving a forced compliance to all our severe demands, implore a hearing and redress of Meer Roostum's wrongs. Major Outram was not vested with any plenary powers, and could make no promise that those wrongs would be investigated. He was merely deputed to demand acceptance of the treaty dictated† by Lord Ellenborough. By a most unhappy oversight the notes‡ of his conferences with the unfortunate Ameers on the 8th, 9th, 12th, and 13th February 1843, were not forwarded to the high authority on whose fiat their future fate depended, until long after that fiat had been pronounced. These notes (admits Lord Ellenborough) I never read until I saw them to-day (June 13th, 1848). "I knew absolutely nothing of what may have passed between Major Outram and the Ameers while he was acting as Commissioner under Sir C. Napier, for the settlement of the details of the treaty to which the Ameers had generally given their assent." Then followed in rapid succession the attack and brilliant repulse of the infuriated Beloochees§ on the Hyderabad Residency, the glorious (only, however, in a military sense) victories of Meeanee and Dubha, the extirpation, root and branch, of the Talpoor dynasty, and the indiscriminate punishment of sovereign princes, old and young; those who had never in any way swerved from their fidelity equally with those who were charged with specific, though still

\* Nothing more strongly indicates this than Meer Roostum's conduct when Sir Charles Napier proceeded against Emamghur. That officer admitted that he could not conceal his march (Scinde Blue Book, No. 449); and, although unopposed, the guns he took with him were found ineffectual to destroy it; mining was therefore resorted to. "On the evening of the 15th January 1843, the demolition of Emamghur was completed. Thirty-four mines were sprung, the last finishing the whole of the powder in the fortress, viz., about 20,000 lbs."—Scinde Blue Book, No. 470. For a description of the great strength of the fortress, see Scinde Blue Book, No. 468. Now it must be obvious, that had the Ameers of Upper Scinde been hostilely disposed, they would have opposed Sir C. Napier, and could easily have defied even so skilful a commander, with the small force and limited means he could bring to bear against the fort. It was only because he was unopposed that he was able to destroy the stronghold. But what did Meer Roostum do on this occasion? The Scinde Digest of the 9th January informs us, "About 12 o'clock at night a hurkara came, conveying a letter from Meer Roostum to Meer Mahomed Hussein, Meer Nusseer Khan, and Meer Ali Murdhun, in which it was announced to them that the general had entered the Thurr, or Desert, and was in full march for Meer Mahomed Khan's fort; and he desired that on receiving the letter they would instantly fly, or the English force would be on them, and make them prisoners. In accordance with Meer Roostum's letter, they mounted their horses, and, accompanied by a large body of Belooches, took the route to Kokee."

† Vide his Lordship's letter to the Ameers of Hyderabad, and to Meer Nusseer Khan, in which their guilt is assumed as early as the 4th November 1842, and the new treaty imposed upon them as the penalty.—Scinde Blue Book, Nos. 403 and 404.

‡ For these, see Scinde Blue Book, No. 481. This important document would in all probability have never seen the light had not Major Outram, under the conviction that the notes must have been communicated to the Governor-general, alluded to them in his communications with Her Majesty's ministers, when endeavouring to obtain some amelioration of the Ameers' hard fate. On the 26th October 1843 Major Outram informed Sir C. Napier, "It never could have occurred to me that these notes could otherwise than have been transmitted, being strictly of an official nature, and in fact the only opportunity afforded to the princes of Scinde for formally communicating their sentiments to the representative of the British Government, and through him to the Governor-general, on an occasion so important to their own interests, as receiving a new treaty seriously affecting them, which I had been delegated to require their acceptance of." For Sir C. Napier's explanation why the notes were not forwarded to the Governor-general, see Sup. to Scinde Blue Book, Nos. 145 and 146.

§ In his appeal to the Honourable Court of Directors (Scinde Blue Book, Sup. No. 167), Meer Roostum observes, "When the Belooches near Hyderabad perceived that the general would pay no sort of attention to peaceful proposals, and saw me, an old man of 85 years, expelled from my country, separated from my family, and deprived of all my possessions, which they knew had been given to my younger brother, Meer Ali Morad; and when they heard moreover of the seizure of Hyat Khan, by Sir C. Napier, in despair 'they washed their hands of their lives,' and marched out of the fort. I accompanied. Had I determined on fighting, I had 15,000 Belooches at my back at Khyrpoor, and I could have brought them; but at last, seeing there was no remedy, we were driven to desperation."

still unproven acts of bad faith. In a military point of view, probably few achievements in India have been more brilliant; looking at it morally, a more disgraceful act never stained the history of our country. From the first step to the final scene, the same reckless injustice predominates. No distinction is made between the Ameers who were alleged to be guilty and those who were known to be innocent. Meer Sobdar,\* whose whole career has been one of scrupulous fidelity, to whom Lord Ellenborough, in the very last treaty, had assigned territory as a reward for his good conduct, shares the hard fate of Meer Nusseer and Meer Roostum; is dethroned, exiled, and imprisoned. It must not be forgotten that each chief was perfectly independent of all the others, responsible for his own acts, and guaranteed in his possessions and rights by a separate treaty; and lastly, I should have shown that we have not the consolation, poor and ignoble as it would be, of having obtained, in return for the loss of reputation which such acts must undoubtedly have occasioned, a really valuable possession. I admit, that as we have since been obliged (I rejoice to say in self-defence and to repel aggression) to conquer the Punjab, the political value and importance of Scinde has been enhanced. But the time is still far distant when this province will cease to be a burthen on the finances of India, but more especially on those of this Presidency. Let those who have deceived themselves and others into belief that Scinde already pays its own expenses, and even possesses a surplus revenue (a result obtained by excluding the heaviest item, viz., the extra military expenditure), consult paras. 106 to 120 of Sir George Cierk's Minute, dated the 24th April 1848, and they will at once be emancipated from so grievous a delusion. But I have now before me an approximate estimate of the revenues and charges of Scinde, prepared by our Accountant-general, and dated the 5th July 1850, for the years 1842, 1843, 1844, 1845, 1846, 1847, and 1848; I say approximate,† for although no doubt all receipts are entered, all charges are certainly not so, for up to this date we are frequently called upon to admit what are inaptly designated "inefficient balances;" that is, to sanction expenses actually incurred during Sir C. Napier's administration of Scinde, and this to such an extent that we have been obliged to direct that these items should

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\* The case of this Ameer is melancholy in the extreme. He himself, and his son, a fine young man of 21 years of age, have both died in captivity at Calcutta. At the time of the battle of Meeanee, he was making preparations for the marriage of his children, little dreaming of the reward he was about to receive for his constant attachment to British interests. The marriage trousseau fell into the hands of the conqueror of Scinde, and constituted a portion of the Scinde booty. Not only was he excepted from the penal treaty, but Sir C. Napier more than once acknowledged his fidelity. On the 23d December 1842, he tells Ali Moorad all the Ameers were in league against us, except his Highness Meer Sobdar and himself, and that we required "friendly rulers, like himself and Meer Sobdar" (S. S. B. B., No. 14). On the 27th January 1843, three weeks before the battle of Meeanee, he commended Meer Sobdar "for his loyal and true conduct towards the British Government."—(S. S. B. B., No. 35). See also the Ameers' appeals to the Court (S. S. B. B., No. 172). He was unable however to restrain his Beloochee retainers, and he suffered as severely as any of the Ameers. It was no excuse for him, that on or about the 14th February 1843, the Meer's minister informed Major Outram "that the fat man" (meaning Nusseer Khan), having assembled all the Beloochee Sirdars in a garden, and sworn them on the Koran, that any one that does not join him to oppose the English will be imprisoned; and that your people whom you had called in from Kohera and elsewhere, that they should not join the enemies of the British, have accordingly turned against your master (Meer Sobdar), and will no longer obey him, and the Meer himself if he does not move out will be murdered; but that he will not move out, and that he will do his utmost to serve the British, but that if he suffer in consequence, "it will be on the Sirdar's head."—*Vide* enclosure to Sir C. Napier's letter to the Governor-general, dated the 16th August 1843.

† See note at the close of para. 64. It was undoubtedly Lord Auckland's policy to divide and rule. He therefore entered into separate treaties with the four principal Ameers, which were to be regarded as a great charter, obtained from the good will of the paramount power of India, "for the future security of their independence and of their possessions." *Vide* Scinde Blue Book, Nos. 176 and 177. With a stroke of his pen Sir C. Napier abrogated this solemn engagement, and adopted the more convenient, but most unjust policy, of making the Ameers in common responsible for the acts of one another. *Vide* *supra*.

‡ The most exaggerated estimates have been formed of the value of Scinde. In a paper designated *Observations on the Defence of Scinde, and on the numerous Forts therein*, dated the 19th May 1844, Sir C. Napier observes, "The conquest of Scinde, instead of weakening India, has added to the security of her north-western frontier; and so far from adding to the expenses of our Indian Government, will diminish that expense, and add to the revenue of the Honourable Company, not only by the excess of revenue beyond the expenditure, but also by obviating the necessity of so large a force upon the Sutledge, and from Ferozepore down to Cutch inclusive; as must have been maintained had Scinde been in the hands of the Ameers, and especially when Gwalior was insecure." By Lord Ellenborough, Scinde was compared in fertility to Egypt. See also Sir C. Napier's letter to Lord Ellenborough, dated the 20th January 1844.



should be entered under a separate head, so that what was, in fact, expenditure made by the late Government of Scinde may not be included in the current expenditure of this Government administering Scinde. The results of the statement, however, as it now stands, is as follows :—

	Rupees.			
Total receipts - - - - -	1,25,55,661	8	11	
Ditto Charges - - - - -	3,84,56,980	13	7	
Balance against Scinde - - - - -	2,59,01,319	4	2	

Or considerably more than two millions and a half pounds sterling.

104. The above brief allusion to the principal events connected with the conquest of Scinde, “ deeds to make Heaven weep, all earth amazed,” read more like romance than reality ; but nevertheless they are described without exaggeration from published documents. It may, however, be asked why have I usurped the province of the future historian in making these painful reminiscences ? To this I reply, that I have done so in the hope that consideration of the wrongs suffered by the fathers may benefit their children. Meer Roostum is dead, Meer Nusseer Khan is dead, and Meer Sobdar, the faithful ally of the British Government, is also dead. All three died in exile and captivity, severed from their families and kindred ; but all three have left children to mourn their loss, fit objects for the compassionate consideration of the British Government. I admit that from the moment I became aware of the real circumstances which led to the conquest of Scinde, I agreed with those who considered\* “ that the proceeding of the Government of India, which ended in the dethronement, exile, and imprisonment of the Ameers, and the seizure of their country and private property, were uncalled for, impolitic, and unjust ;” and for a long time I cherished the hope that the policy pursued towards them would be denounced as “ inconsistent with good faith and subversive of the interests of the British rule in India.” But now, by the lapse of time, viewing the annexation of Scinde to the Anglo-Indian empire as *un fait accompli*, final and irrevocable, our efforts should be directed to the amelioration of the condition of the princes of Scinde who yet survive, and to benefiting to the utmost of our power the country which has thus become subjected to our rule, so that out of present evil future good may come.

105. I have already shown how the first may easily be accomplished, in the case of Meer Roostum’s sons and grandsons, by resuming their private lands, reserved to them by the private engagement referred to in paras. 93 and 94, which have, however, been fraudulently retained by his Highness Meer Ali Morad. In the case of the sons of the late Mobarick Khan, redress cannot be so easily effected, for I believe the best portion of their private estates has been bestowed upon our faithful and staunch ally, the Nawab of Bhawulpore ; at least I find it stated† by the late Sir A. Burnes, “ Meer Mobarick Khan is the second brother of Meer Roostum Khan ; he holds a little less than one-third of the Khyrpoor territories, is very miserly in his household, and universally reputed to have wealth in jewels and money. The fertile territory lying between Subzulkote and Koree, nearly all belongs to Mobarick Khan, and includes the villages and district of Ghotkee, with Malsoler, Choonga, Dadoota, and Uzeezpore. He has also estates in the neighbourhood of Khyrpoor itself, and towards Hyderabad ; but besides this, Sukkur and the country half way between it and Shikarpoor, as well as a share of that town, are his property.” Even, however, in the case of this family, there appear reasons for believing that a portion of their jagheers are wrongfully possessed by Ali Morad. In one of his letters to Sir C. Napier, Captain Pope reports : “ I am informed that his Highness Meer Ali Morad has granted to his son Jan Mahomed the whole tuppaa of Maharee, annual value 90,000 rupees ; also to an aunt of his, the place and district of Adalpore, value 22,000 rupees ; total, 1,12,000 rupees, both being out of the territories of the sons of the late Meer Mobarick (*vide* para. 1 of the printed statement). His Highness possesses not the slightest claim to these under your orders. This has been told me so confidently, that I think there can hardly be any mistake in the matter. I shall soon have

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\* See Requisition to the Honourable Court of Directors, by certain East India Proprietors, dated the 16th January 1844.

† Letter to the Envoy with Shah Shooja, dated the 12th April 1839.—Scinde Blue Book, No. 199.

an official report on the subject from the kardars. "Whether Ali Morad was afterwards required to surrender these districts does not appear, but the matter should be inquired into, and if they are still in his possession, they ought to be reclaimed, and made to constitute a portion of the provision which I trust will be now allotted to Meer Mobarick's sons.

*Vide supra, paras.*  
93 to 100.

106. The Commissioner in Scinde has recommended\* that a provision should be made for the junior members of the families of Ali Morad's brothers, Meers Roostum and Mobarick; and when doing so, observed, "None of these took any part in hostilities against us, although they accompanied the heads of their families in their flight at the outbreak of the war; and having lost their possessions by its issue, were subsequently allowed to reside under Ali Morad's guarantee, and entirely dependant on him for a maintenance. The insufficiency of the provision assigned to them by him, and the illiberality of the treatment generally which they experienced at his hands, led to frequent and bitter appeals from them to the Government of India, Scinde, and Bombay." In support of his recommendation, Mr. Pringle refers to Meer Roostum's letter and the private treaty entered into with Ali Morad when he ceded the Turban, remarking that the evidence for the genuineness of these documents is nearly as conclusive as that in support of the alleged fraud in the treaty of Nownahar. "The objects of Ali Morad," continues Mr. Pringle, "in their suppression appear to have been to prevent their operating to invalidate his title in virtue of Meer Roostum's public deed of transfer to the lands north of Roree, and to escape from the obligation they contain to provide for the families of Meer Roostum and Mobarick. The first object has failed, inasmuch as Sir C. Napier never admitted Ali Moorad's claim of right to the territory north of Roree, although disposed to concede to him Meer Roostum's interest in it as a matter of grace. It may, however, be remarked, as regards this point, that the discovery of these documents affords a strong corroboration of the justice of that view, and of any measures which it may now be thought expedient to base upon it." The other object has been so far successful, that the families of Meers Roostum and Mobarick have hitherto been left at the mercy of Meer Ali Morad for a maintenance, and that which he has provided for them has, as there is too much reason to believe, been miserably inadequate to their wants. To rescue them from this state of dependency, which considerations of humanity, as well as regard for our own character, seem to require, I would recommend, &c.

*Vide Genealogical*  
*Table annexed to*  
*my Minutes.*

107. We have also to decide the case of Meer Mahomed Khan and Meer Mustapha Khan, also nephews of Meer Ali Morad, being the sons of his deceased brother Meer Goolam Hyder. We have further proofs of Ali Moorad's grasping policy, and the gross injustice with which he treats his brethren. The case is thus noticed by Mr. Pringle, when remarking on an exchange of territory which had been proposed in the 6th article of a draft treaty with Ali Moorad.† It would appear, from a comparison of the enumeration of villages and districts therein given, with the details of the memorandum from which the treaty seems to have been framed, that of those to be ceded to us, which, with the exception of Gotkee, Koree, and Kundra, consist entirely of the jagheers of Ali Moorad's nephews, Meers Meer Mahomed and Goolam Mustafa, value has not been taken for some of those of the former and all of those of the latter. Whether this omission was intentional or not, it is impossible, in the absence of any detailed explanatory information, to determine; but it clearly cannot now without such information be admitted. In place, however, of rectifying the omission, I am of opinion that all these jagheers should now be retained by us, and restored to their original owners, the two Ameer above named. This branch of the family did not indeed receive any independent recognition in the will of Meer Sobrah, which forms the basis of our present policy in Upper Scinde, and may so far be viewed in the light of subject jagheerdars; but the elder of them, Meer Mahomed, appears to have maintained practically a position of considerable independence as regards his own possessions; and the younger, Goolam Mustafa, held

\* *Vide* Mr. Pringle's Memorandum (para. 27), dated the 27th December 1849, prepared for the Most Noble the Governor-general of India.

† Memorandum prepared for the Most Noble the Governor-general of India, dated 27th December 1849, para. 24.

held a somewhat similar position, in virtue of his relationship to him : a separate treaty \* was negotiated with Meer Mahomed by Sir A. Burnes, and ratified by Lord Auckland. At the outbreak of the war, he was a considerable loser by the destruction of the fort of Emamghur, which belonged to him. He then fled, as did his brother Mustapha, but neither of them took any active share in hostilities against us. Both made their submission soon after to Sir C. Napier, from whom Meer Mahomed received a promise that all the jagheers should be restored to him which he held at the date of the battle of Meeanee ; but he does not appear to have been immediately placed in possession of the whole of them. No similar promise was given to Goolam Mustapha, but this may be accounted for, by his having been afraid at that time to urge his claims, and having soon after gone on a pilgrimage to Mecca, when his jagheers were taken possession of by Meer Ali Moorad, but under the acknowledgment that they were held for us, and in view to being accounted for in the ultimate adjustment of mutual claims. On Goolam Mustapha subsequently petitioning for their restoration, he was referred to Ali Moorad, as his rais or sovereign, apparently under the misapprehension that Ali Morad held them on his own account, although they were entered as cessions made by us to Ali Morad, in the draft of the treaty of the jagheers of the elder brother, Meer Mahomed. A portion is also proposed to be ceded to Ali Morad by the treaty, and of some of those Ali Morad took immediate possession, on the ground, as he afterwards alleged, of their having been confiscated by Sir Charles Napier, and made over to him on account of Meer Mahomed's failure to accompany him on the Hill war ; but there is nothing on record to support this beyond the fact of their appearing among our proposed cessions in the draft treaty, and for receiving credit for them, though not to their full value in the estimates from which it appears to have been framed. On the other hand, on Meer Mahomed claiming subsequently to be put in possession of all his jagheers, in virtue of the promise given to him after the conquest, his claim was admitted by Sir C. Napier, and he was reinstated in those still in our hands, including some which it was proposed by the treaty to cede, but which Ali Morad had not taken possession of ; while as respects those which Ali Moorad held, he was, as in the case of his brother Goolam Mustapha, referred to Ali Morad as his rais or sovereign, although they were held by him only provisionally, and to be accounted for to us. It seems therefore doubtful if Sir C. Napier ever did authorise the confiscation of these jagheers for the cause alleged by Ali Morad ; and in any case it may be inferred that he would have authorised their subsequent restoration, as he did that of those still in our hands, had he not been under the misapprehension in this case also that they were held by Ali Morad in his own right. In his memorandum in reply to mine, Sir C. Napier indeed states, in reference to this subject, that as far as he recollects, he had said he would not interfere to prevent Ali Morad from confiscating these jagheers for the cause assigned ; but then he would still have been under the misapprehension that the right of sovereignty in them was vested in Ali Morad, and not in us ; and that it was from him, and not from us, that their confiscation, if merited, should proceed, whereas the contrary was really the case ; and as Ali Morad has to account to us for their revenue, we are the only party who benefit by the measure. But even if these jagheers had been confiscated for the cause alleged, it may be questioned whether Meer Mahomed's deprivation of them for the four years during which they have since been withheld is not more than a sufficient punishment for any failure in his feudal obligations on the occasion referred to, for he states, and I believe with truth, that he is incapacitated by bodily infirmity from mounting on horseback, and that in lieu of personal attendance, he had contributed 5,000 rupees towards Ali Morad's expenses in the Hill war. It is from a consideration of all the above circumstances, which I have gathered with some difficulty from the records, and from personal inquiry, that I have formed the opinion that the jagheers of both these brothers should be excluded from the proposed cessions to Ali Morad, and be restored to them.

108. The

\* For this, see Scinde Blue Book, No. 124. I am not aware that this treaty has ever been annulled. Meer Mahomed, although in a time of peace we destroyed his fort of Emamghur, as shown in the text, never acted towards us hostilely, and how, therefore, can we say this treaty has become null and void ? We are therefore bound to restore his jagheers, for we engaged never to covet one rupee of the revenue of the share of Scinde in his possession, nor to interfere in the internal management.

108. The above statement by the Commissioner is easily susceptible of proof. Shortly after the conquest of Scinde, Sir C. Napier, as Governor of the Province, addressed\* the following letter to Meer Mahomed Khan Talpoor:—"O Meer Mahomed Khan, of high rank. I write to you, that my sincere friend, Meer Ali Morad, has promised me that you of high rank will strictly obey all the regulations of the English. For this reason your jagheers are given to you; on no account will you be injured, if you conduct yourself properly." In 1846 Meer Mahomed petitioned† for the restoration of his jagheer, and the Resident at Khyrpore was informed, that the Ameer holds a perwunnah of his Excellency the Governor, regranting to him his lands, held in the time of the ex-Ameers, to which he must prove his right. "Shortly afterwards the Collector ‡ of Shikarpore reported, that Ali Morad claimed Gahilpoor and Gundhur, adjoining Kussnore, which did not belong to Meer Roostum, but to Meer Mahomed, and at the same time forwarded a letter from the Resident, stating that as these places were in the Boordika district, the whole of which belonged to Ali Morad, they must belong to his Highness. In reply, he was referred to Sir Charles Napier's perwunnah," regranting to Meer Mahomed all the lands he held at the time of the battle of Meeanee, to which he must prove his title to his satisfaction. "The Resident subsequently submitted seven documents produced by Meer Mahomed in support of his claims; five relating to certain lands he had purchased, called Moghlee, and two sunnuds, under the seals of Meers Sohrab and Roostum, in which were specified all the various lands held in jagheer by Meer Mahomed. Of these, only three places, Thuna, Chamoree, and Powaree are in British territory; the remainder in Ali Morad's. The Collector of Shikarpore reported, that there is no doubt that Meer Mahomed enjoyed all the Jagheers claimed by him up to one month before the battle of Meeanee, about which time, Meer Roostum having fled, Meer Ali Morad confiscated them. By the former treaty, previously sealed by Meer Roostum, the country from Roree to Subzulkote being ceded to the British Government, Chownee and Powaree would have been included, &c. &c. The Collector was again informed, that what was in Meer Mahomed Khan's possession on the 17th February 1843 must now be restored to him." On the Resident at Khyrpore submitting a letter from Ali Morad, claiming Gahilpoor as part of the district of Boordika, he was in reply furnished with copy of the perwunnah written to Meer Mahomed by the Governor of Scinde in June 1843, guaranteeing to him all lands possessed by him at the capture of Scinde in February 1843, written at the instigation of Sheikh Ali Hussein, Ali Morad's minister, who stated that it was his Highness's wish that it should be written. The whole question, therefore, depends upon in whose possession Gahilpoor was on the 17th February 1843." In submitting another statement from Ali Morad, the Resident stated that there could be no doubt Meer Mahomed held Gahilpoor on the date mentioned, but since the conquest of Scinde it had been in our possession; and, in reply, after again referring to the terms of Sir C. Napier's perwunnah, he was informed, "that if Meer Mahomed on the 17th February 1843 only held the lands alluded to in jagheer on a grant from the then rais of the family, such should now be the terms on which he should now hold them under his Highness Meer Ali Morad;" and he was directed to inquire into this point. In February 1847 seven original sunnuds, produced by Meer Mahomed Khan Talpoor, formerly of Emamghur, were sent to the Collector of Shikarpore, with an intimation § that "his Excellency the Governor will confirm him in his rights to all lands within the British territory that may be named therein; after examination, be good enough to return such sunnuds as may require the seal of his Excellency." Such lands as this Ameer held in jagheer as grants from the Rais are now of course at the disposal of his Highness Ali Morad. The Collector having subsequently described the locality of the several villages, a sunnud, under the seal of Sir C. Napier, was sent to that officer, "confirming from the spring

Dated 19 May  
1846.

Letter, dated  
3 June 1846.

Letter dated  
13 July 1846.

Letter dated  
31 July, and reply  
thereto of 18 Au-  
gust 1846.

Letter dated 18th,  
and reply thereto  
of 24th August  
1846.

Letter from, dated  
3d, and reply there-  
to of 8th, March  
1847.

\* *Vide* Enclosure to Captain Forbes' letter to Mr. Pringle, dated the 2d February 1849.

† Resident at Khyrpore's letter, dated the 4th April, and reply thereto of the 4th May, 1846.

‡ Letter dated the 6th May, and reply thereto of the 13th May.

§ For my remarks on the destruction of Emamghur, *see supra*. I have said that Meer Mahomed never injured the British Government in word or deed, and the restoration of his jagheers by Sir C. Napier proves this fact; for had the Ameer been guilty of any act of hostility against us, he would doubtless have been transported with the other Ameers to Calcutta.

spring crop of 1847, to Meer Mahomed, all jagheer lands situated within the British territory which he held at the time of the battle of Meeanee. His Excellency directs that the boundaries of Chandia shall be carefully fixed and laid down by arbitration of competent persons." Meer Mahomed soon after claimed the village of Sadoogah, in the Hyderabad Collectorate, when Sir C. Napier negatived it, on the ground that the Ameer "can only claim the land down in the original sunnud of Meer Sohrab and Meer Roostum. In 1848 the Ameer himself, and in May 1848 his vakeel again petitioned for this village, but was told the former decision was final."

Letter from, dated 26th, and reply thereto of the 30th, August 1847.

109. In March 1848 Meer Mahomed complained that he had been deprived of his jagheers by Ali Morad; and on his petition being referred to the Resident at Khyrpoor, that officer reported that the possessions therein alluded to had been made over by Sir C. Napier in exchange for other lands now in our possession. The Resident was requested to state to what exchange he referred, and, in reply, stated that the exchange "by which Meer Mahomed's jagheers came into the possession of his Highness Ali Morad occurred at Sukkur, on the return of the troops from the Hill campaign;" and that in Article 6 of the draft treaty, dated Sukkur 1845, Meer Mahomed's jagheers are entered under the name of Burrula Olara. He was not required to point out what lands had been given by Ali Morad in exchange for Meer Mahomed's jagheers, as there was nothing on record in the Commissioner's office relating to any such exchange. In reply, the Resident forwarded a letter from Ali Morad, explaining how the jagheers came into his possession, and observed, that Meer Mahomed states that he was prevented by sickness from accompanying Ali Morad in the Hill campaign, but that he gave his Highness a considerable sum of money towards defraying the expenses of that expedition. On this point, Ali Morad in his letter takes no notice, and, as the Resident remarked, it is more than probable that with Sir C. Napier he was equally silent regarding it. After referring to a proposed exchange of territory between himself and the British Government, Ali Morad explained: "The villages of Burloo, Olara Meree, belonging to Meer Mahomed Khan, yield an annual revenue of 14,000 rupees. When Sir Charles Napier went up to the Hills, Meer Mahomed would not go; for this he incurred his Excellency's displeasure, who took away the above lands from him on account of the British Government, and gave them to me as a portion of the lands intended to be exchanged as mentioned in the treaty. Exclusive of the above 14,000 rupees per annum, the British Government have now in their possession lands belonging to me of the annual value of 14,000 rupees. I beg that you will consider the above facts, and you will see that Meer Mahomed has no right whatever to the lands for which he has set forth a claim. I never seized the lands from him; they were taken from him by Sir C. Napier, as a punishment for his disloyalty in not joining him in the Hill campaign, and afterwards given to me in exchange for some of my lands. So far from my seizing any of Meer Mahomed's lands, I gave him a portion, the revenue of which he is now enjoying. This is the gratitude I receive for my kindness to him, for he is continually complaining to the British Government that I seized his lands; but he is cunning enough not to mention why his lands were taken from him. God knows how people can take upon themselves to fabricate such false complaints. \* \* \* If it is the wish of the British Government that Meer Mahomed should receive his jagheer the same way as he had it, before it was taken from him by Sir C. Napier, it will be no loss to me, as they will make good to me the full amount of 33,000 rupees per annum due for lands belonging to me in their possession."

Petition dated 30 March 1848.

Letter to, dated 5th April, and reply thereto of 3d May, 1848.

*Ibid*, dated 5 June 1843.

Letter dated 12 June 1848.

Letters dated 11 & 26 July 1848.

110. His Highness Ali Morad's explanation was forwarded for the particular report of the Collector of Shikarpoor, and in his reply Major Goldney, after entering into an elaborate calculation to establish that Ali Morad had greatly over-estimated his demands against Government, and that the exchange proposed was, in part, founded on erroneous data, observed as follows:—"Meer Mahomed Khan Talpoor, nephew of his Highness, labours under a painful complaint, which prevents his riding on horseback without inconvenience. His vakeel here informs me that, by consent of the Meer Ali Morad, his master paid 4,000 rupees towards the expenses of the Hill campaign in lieu of personal attendance. I am not aware" (continues Major Goldney) "of the causes of

Letter dated 2d August, and reply thereto of the 16th October 1848. On the 10th August we received petitions from Meer Mahomed and his brother, reiterating their complaints, which were on receipt referred to Mr. Pringle.

*Vide supra*, p. 108.

Appendix (B.),  
No. 1, to Collector's  
Report.

Sir C. Napier's displeasure, but whatever his Excellency thought fit to resume from Meer Mahomed, or Meer Mustapha, belongs to the British Government, both these nephews of Meer Ali Morad having forfeited their possessions to us for adhering to the fortunes of Meer Roostum in 1842-43. The Collector, in making this remark, either forgets or was not aware of the perwannah given to Meer Mahomed by Sir C. Napier in June 1843, confirming him in the possession of all the lands he held on the date of the battle of Meeanee." The Collector, in conclusion, adds, that "he is not aware of any appanages of his Highness that reverted to the British in exchange for any jagheers of these two brothers given by his Excellency to his Highness, and if his Highness did thereafter re-grant any part of those possessions to them, he is still responsible to the British Government for the proceeds, or for an equivalent in other lands." No such equivalent has, as yet, been given that I am aware of, though set forth in his Highness's letter. Annexed to this report are various figured statements in support of the Collector's views. In one of these, Meer Mahomed's jagheers are specified of the annual value of 39,000 rupees, of which 2,600 rupees have been enjoyed for three years and a half by Ali Morad, equal to 23,400 rupees, Company's currency, or, in the aggregate, to 80,900 Company's rupees. The remaining 18,000 rupees is still enjoyed by Meer Mahomed.

Statement dated  
23 October 1848.

Dated 31 January  
1849.

111. In October 1848 Meer Mahomed, through his vakeel, Hussein Ali, represented that, prior to the Hill campaign, the produce of all the lands he had specified were enjoyed by him, but that after that campaign Ali Morad, by force, deprived him of his lands, with the exception of Olara, his usual place of residence; but even in this village he confiscated the inundated lands. From Olara, moreover, he also takes sometimes one-half or three-fourths of the produce. With the exception of 13,000 rupees, the produce of Olara, the remainder of his jagheers has been taken by Ali Morad, from the Rubbee of 1256 (1845), up to the present time. In a subsequent petition to the Commissioner in Scinde, the Ameer represented that, up to the time of the conquest of Scinde, he ruled over his lands under the wills of his grandfather and father. That on his deputing a vakeel to Hyderabad, to make arrangements for his future welfare, Sir C. Napier gave him a perwannah confirming him in all his former possessions, and encouraged him by promising him that he should not be annoyed. In virtue of this perwannah, he took possession of and enjoyed his jagheers as formerly. Now, however, without having committed any fault, the jagheers he held by right of inheritance, and situated to the south of the river, have been taken by Ali Morad. On his petitioning for their restoration, Major Goldney was instructed to inquire into the matter. In May 1844 his Excellency Sir C. Napier wrote to Ali Morad, that if Meer Roostum had made over to his Highness any lands not his, to the transfer of which the rightful owner did not consent, the British Government would, on proof of the same, take possession of such lands. The lands which petitioner formerly held, were held in virtue of sunnuds from Meer Sohrab Khan (his grandfather), and Meer Roostum Khan (his uncle). "Those lands should, therefore, belong to the British Government, and that Government clearly made them over to me. He held them under the British Government, and he therefore hopes they may be restored to him after an examination of his sunnuds, &c."

Letter dated 8th,  
and reply thereto  
of 16th, May 1844.  
Letter dated 25th,  
and reply thereto  
of 29th, May 1844.  
Dated 24 April  
1844.

112. The case of Meer Mustapha very nearly resembles that of his brother Meer Mahomed, except that in this instance Meer Ali Morad cannot urge against him neglect of feudal service in justification of his having confiscated his lands. In May 1844 a petition from this Ameer, complaining of his jagheer having been taken from him by Ali Morad, was forwarded to the Resident at Khyrpore, with instructions to report "what has been the past conduct of the Ameer." In reply, he reported that the Ameer's jagheer was in Ali Morad's possession, and that he had not made his salaam to his Highness. On this, Sir C. Napier remarked that he did not learn from the Resident's letter that the jagheer in dispute was included within Ali Morad's territory; and in reply the Resident submitted the proceedings of the Boundary Commission, suggesting, that as it had never been made over to Ali Morad, it should be included within British territory, subject "to the approval of his Excellency the Governor of Scinde." In April 1847, the Resident at Khyrpore submitted certain documents, showing the circumstances under which Ali Morad had obtained possession of Meer Mustapha's jagheer, praying for its restoration, and complaining of the treatment which



which he received from his Highness. Among these were certain original sunnuds, which were returned to the Resident in order that they might be given back to the Ameer, with a remark "that the lands formerly held by Meer Mustapha Khan in jagheer, appear to have been held at pleasure;" but at whose pleasure is not mentioned. From Major Goldney's report it would appear that the Ameer's jagheer is of the annual value of 10,325 Khyrpore rupees, equal to 9,293 rupees Company's currency.

Letter dated 9th, and reply of 14th, April 1847.

Dated 16 October 1848, App. (B.), No. 2.

113. The Commissioner in Scinde being in doubt as to the reasons which had caused the jagheers of Meers Mahomed and Mustapha to be included in the proposed exchange with Ali Morad, sought for information from Sir C. Napier. Mr. Pringle observed among the lands to be ceded by the treaty to Meer Ali Morad, in exchange for others, are certain jagheers formerly held by his nephew Meer Mahomed. This Meer had previously been confirmed in all his possessions by Sir C. Napier; and there is nothing on record to show that they were again resumed, although Ali Morad asserts that they were so, and made over to him by Sir C. Napier, in consequence of Mahomed Khan not having accompanied Ali Morad when he joined Sir C. Napier in the Hill campaign. Mr. Pringle remarks, "It is so unlikely that a transaction of this kind would have passed unrecorded, that I should have been inclined to suspect some unfair dealing on the part of Ali Morad, were it not that credit is undoubtedly taken by us for these lands in the exchange, as it stands in the draft treaty, which gives some colour of probability to Ali Morad's account of the matter. Meer Mahomed is urgent in his complaints of the injustice with which he asserts that he has been treated by Ali Morad in depriving him of these lands." To this Sir C. Napier replied, "As far as memory serves me, Meer Mahomed Khan was restive; he would not accompany his chief and myself to the Hill war; and when I came back I told him that Ali complained of him, and that he had given me offence by not going to war as a jagheerdar was bound to do; that Ali Morad was answerable for his (the Meer's) good conduct, and if he behaved ill I would not prevent Ali from depriving him of his jagheer, and I would send him to Calcutta after the other Ameers." This is, as nearly as I can recollect, the substance of these transactions with respect to Meer Ghoolam Mustapha's case. Mr. Pringle observed that this Ameer possessed jagheers in the southern part of the Khyrpore territory, which, as not having fallen by inheritance either to Meer Ali Morad or Meer Roostum, devolved to us in sovereignty; but in consequence of Ghoolam Mustapha having abandoned them and gone to Mecca soon after the conquest, they remained with Ali Morad, by whom they have been taken possession of, although properly belonging to us as the paramount power. When, on his return, Ghoolam Mustapha petitioned Sir C. Napier for their restoration, he was referred to Ali Morad as the holder of the Turban, apparently under the misapprehension that Ali Morad retained them in right of it; but if such a misapprehension ever existed, it must have been subsequently removed, for we receive credit for these lands in the exchange proposed by the treaty. Ghoolam Mustapha's claim should then have been taken up and disposed of by us; but as this does not appear to have been done, I should be inclined now to restore his lands to him, unless Sir Charles Napier is aware of any objection. To this Sir C. Napier replied, "I see no objection to restoring his lands to Meer Ghoolam Mustapha. I do not recollect what is stated in Mr. Pringle's letter, but it may be all correct."

Paper dated Simla, 21 Sept. 1849, headed "Recollections."

Ibid.

114. Finally, Mr. Pringle, in submitting his correspondence with Captain Forbes,\* the late Resident at Khyrpore, earnestly recommending that a suitable provision

\* Letter dated 3d October 1849. In his letter to the Commissioner, dated 2d February 1849, Captain Forbes observes, "There is nothing in the records of this office to prove that any of Meer Mahomed's jagheers were thus confiscated by the late Governor of Scinde, and actually transferred to his Highness Ali Morad, and suggests that his Highness should be required either satisfactorily to show he was authorized by Sir C. Napier to take possession of these jagheers, or if unable to do this, to furnish now in writing the complaints he made verbally against Meer Mahomed to enable Government to judge after a fair investigation, 1st, of their correctness; and, 2d, then, if found correct, if they are of such a nature as to make it probable that Sir C. Napier decided as Ali Morad states." If the jagheers are restored, the Resident recommends that they be held of the British Government in every way independent of Ali Morad, "as the enmity between these parties is already so great as to render this necessary for the protection to the weaker of his rights and property. He can with perfect safety be withdrawn from his Highness's guarantee, and be allowed to reside in any of his jagheers in the Shikarpore collectorate."

provision should be assigned to the junior Ameers, observes in regard to the jagheers of Meers Meer Mahomed and Gholam Mustapha Khan, that "those Ameers have been dispossessed of their jagheers, and are harshly treated by Meer Ali Morad. His Highness affirms that the jagheers of the former were confiscated by Sir C. Napier in consequence of his failure to accompany him in the Trukee campaign; and the latter appears never to have regained his jagheers since our occupation of the country." Unless Meer Mahomed's jagheer was really confiscated on sufficient grounds by Sir C. Napier, and unless his Excellency is aware of any good reason for the confiscation of those of Meer Ghoolam Mustapha, Mr. Pringle is of opinion that they should be restored under the guarantee of the British Government.

115. Under the circumstances above detailed, I have no doubt that the Commissioner's recommendation will be sanctioned. It is quite clear that Sir Charles Napier's purwanneh of June 1843, regranting Meer Mahomed's jagheers as he held them at the time of the battle of Meeanee, though issued in the most formal manner, has been violated. It is also quite evident that Sir C. Napier did not, as Ali Morad asserts, authorise the confiscation. The most that he did was to signify to the Ameer his displeasure, and to threaten him with confiscation for not having accompanied him in the Hill campaign. But, admitting that the Ameer was bound to perform this service, in palliation of his neglect it is stated that he was not only incapacitated by bodily infirmity from personal attendance, but that he actually commuted personal service by a pecuniary payment; and as regards his brother Meer Ghoolam Mustapha, he appears to have lost his jagheers for no offence, but merely because, about the period of the conquest of Scinde, he proceeded to Mecca on a pilgrimage. I trust, therefore, that when the case of Ali Morad is disposed of, orders will be issued for the restoration of all the lands belonging to these two Ameers, whether they are situated within the territories of the British Government or in those of their uncle, Ali Morad, and henceforward that they shall be considered and treated as jagheerdars of the British Government.

116. The Commissioner also refers to the case of a brother of Ali Morad, by name Meer Chakir Khan, and his family, who have also complained of the treatment they receive from his Highness, "and probably not without reason, though there may be faults on both sides." But Mr. Pringle adds, the will of Meer Sohrab, which forms the basis of our policy in Upper Scinde, not recognising any independent rights in Meer Chakur, he can only be considered as the subject of the holder of the Turban, and as such we cannot with propriety interfere between him and his rais or sovereign, otherwise than by mutual friendly advice, which has already been given. "If, however, Meer Chakur should continue to be dissatisfied, his only resource is to remove to our territory, where there would be no objection to offering him an asylum; but in that case he would have no claim, either on our Government or on his Highness Meer Ali Morad, for a maintenance." This is a hard alternative, but I am unable to suggest any course by which the situation of this branch of the Khyrpore family can be alleviated.

117. I have now arrived at the fifth or last division of my Minute, in which I propose to notice several points alluded to in the Commission's proceedings connected with our relations with Ali Morad, upon which the final instructions of the Most Noble the Governor-general of India should in my opinion be solicited.

118. The first of these in importance is the conclusion of a treaty with Ali Morad. In this matter his Highness Meer Ali Morad has, as men of his unscrupulous character often do, overreached himself. He grasped at too much; and the consequence has been that, although Sir Charles Napier, as far back as May 1845, submitted the draft of a treaty of 12 articles for the confirmation of the Government of India, and was himself extremely anxious for its immediate ratification, the subject, in consequence of his Highness claiming so much more than he was entitled to, is still an open question, and we are fortunately at liberty to dictate to his Highness such a treaty as may now be considered suitable to the position in which, by his fraudulent conduct, he has placed himself. As the basis of this treaty will mainly depend upon the view which the supreme authority in India may take of his Highness's conduct, as elicited in these proceedings, it would be an unprofitable waste of time to refer at any length



length to the past discussions on the subject. Their actual state at the period of the assembly of the Sukkur Commission, and the causes which prevented the ratification of the treaty, are very clearly summed up in the document noticed in the margin;\* and, if further information is required, it will be found in Mr. Pringle's memorandum,† dated the 27th December 1840, and the draft treaty appended thereto, and in Sir C. Napier's letter to the Government of India, dated 4th May 1845, the reply thereto of the 24th October 1846, with Sir C. Napier's rejoinder of the 18th January 1847, which terminated his share in the discussion of the question.

119. It must be obvious that the principles on which Sir C. Napier desired to conclude a treaty with Ali Morad were never sanctioned by the Government of India, and that they ought not now to be recognized. It must be equally evident that whatever may have been Ali Morad's claims for consideration, he has by his treachery towards us in the case of the districts of Mahtela, Meerpoor, and Mehrkee, forfeited them, and all that he can now expect is strict justice in deciding what portion of Upper Scinde belongs to him. I am of opinion that his original claims to consideration were over-rated;‡ for there is abundant reason to believe that up to a very short period before the war in Scinde he was as inimical to our interest as any of the other Ameers. It was only when he perceived that by acting treacherously towards Meer Roostum and his family his own personal interest would be promoted, that he turned against them, and sided with us. If all this is admitted, it follows that Ali Morad possesses no right either to the lands which constituted Meer Roostum's private estate, or to the lands which constituted the late Meer Mobarick's private estate, or to any portion of the territory belonging to the Ameers of Upper Scinde, which Sir Charles Napier, under the orders of Lord Ellenborough, summarily confiscated under his proclamation dated 1st December 1842. (See Supplement to Scinde Blue Book, No. 5.) But all these lands are included in Sir C. Napier's draft treaty of 1845; although, as I have already shown, they were all specially excepted under the deed by which Meer Roostum ceded the Turban to Ali Morad. It follows, therefore, that any treaty which we may ultimately conclude with Ali Morad should only recognize, first, what he held in his own right individually as an Ameer of Upper Scinde; and, secondly, the lands in Upper Scinde which appertained to the Turban. With regard to the former, we have Meer Sohrab's will, and the schedule prepared by Mr. Ross Bell, showing the villages and districts possessed by each Ameer at Khyrpore in his time, to guide us. From the latter document we learn that Ali Morad's private inheritance consisted of 64 villages, yielding annually 2,95,500 rupees. With reference also to the lands appertaining to the Turban, Meer Sohrab's will may also be our guide; for although this does not specify the particular lands which belonged to the Turban, it states that they were exactly one half of what Meer Roostum received; to that half, therefore, and no more, is Ali Morad entitled, and the adjustment is reduced to one of calculation.

In a letter to Lord Ellenborough, dated 29th September 1843, Sir Charles Napier observes, "With regard to the claims of Meer Ali Morad to any portion of the territory ceded to Bhawulpore, all that passed between him and his Highness was as follows: 'Conversing on the march to Emamghud, the Ameer told me that he possessed one or two small villages in the midst of the territory ceded to Bhawulpore; but,' he added, throwing up his head, 'these are trifling things, and the Governor-general is welcome to them.'"

*Vide supra*, p. 91 to 100.

*Vide Scinde Blue Book*, No. 253.

120. In

\* Memorandum drawn up in the Foreign Office of the Government of India, "On our first Connexion with Ali Morad Talpoor."

† Appendix (B.), No. 1, C. P. See also Mr. Pringle's Memorandum of points on which he sought for information through Captain Harding, and Sir C. Napier's replies from Simla, headed "Recollections."

‡ In the Digest of Intelligence from Scinde, of the 10th October 1842, it is noticed that the chiefs of Upper Scinde, including Ali Morad, had concluded an armistice in consequence of the assembly of a British force at Sukkur, and the approach of Prince Timoor. On 31st October, it is recorded that Ali Morad had agreed to make common cause with the other Ameers; on the 2d November, that Ali Morad made friends with Nuseer Khan, "and they all swore on the Koran before Meer Roostum, that all former differences were at an end, and that they were all united under his orders." Ali Morad was appointed by Meer Roostum chief over all his forces. On the 9th November, that Ali Morad had by general consent been invested with full powers to treat with the English general, and that the Talpoors intended to abide by his decision, whether it be for friendship or hostility. On the 26th November it is recorded, Meer Ali Morad, writing to Meer Roostum, tells him that he has seen the whole English force, and that the Ameers need not be under any apprehension to encounter it, and that they may remain in perfect security at Khyrpore.

120. In concluding this treaty it will probably still be considered expedient as was originally proposed by Sir Charles Napier, to provide for a mutual exchange of territory, with a view of consolidating the territory of each state with a more compact and convenient frontier, and of adjusting mutual claims which have arisen from the temporary occupation by one party of lands belonging to the other. When effecting an arrangement for this purpose the sketch map\* prepared by Lieutenant Fitzgerald, "showing the exact position of the Khyrpore territory in reference to the British possessions," will be extremely useful. The memorandum prepared by Major Goldney, on the districts included in Article II. of Sir Charles Napier's draft treaty, may also be usefully referred to by the officer who may have to arrange the exchange.

Dated 4 Jan. 1846.

121. Another point on which the instructions of the Governor-general of India are required, relates to the compensation which should be granted to Ali Morad for the three forts of Shahgurn, Guttora, and Gurseya, which were transferred by order of Lord Ellenborough to the Jessulmere state. In his letter to Sir Charles Napier, the Governor-general informs him that the Raja of Jessulmere had already occupied Guttora, and was preparing to attack Shahgurn, when he heard that it had been garrisoned by Ali Morad with 400 men, and that it was not known whether the Raja or Ali Morad occupied the third fort (Gurseya). These forts were claimed by the Jessulmere state, as having formerly belonged to it, and also by Ali Morad; but his Lordship, on the authority of Captain French, states, "It is understood that they belonged to Meer Roostum; and if, as is probable, in right of the Turban, they may now be claimed in the same right by Ali Morad. The places in the Desert," continues his Lordship, "are safer in the hands of the Rajpoots than in those of the Beloochees; and from the communication made to his Highness the Raja of Jessulmere, he will have indulged the expectation that the possession of these forts would be obtained by him even if his own troops should fail to take them from the enemy, in whose occupation they then were." He therefore directed that the forts should be restored to Jessulmere, under a promise that Meer Ali Morad should be indemnified "should it appear that he has good claims to them."

Letter, 24 October 1846.

Letter, 18 Jan. 1847.

Dated Simla, 21 Sept. 1849.

122. The Government of India have observed, "These forts would appear to have belonged to Meer Roostum, and the right of Meer Ali Morad to compensation on account of their relinquishment to Jessulmere, would seem to depend on the validity of the transfer of all the property of Meer Roostum to his Highness." If his Highness's right is established, "a territorial transfer of an equivalent might be negotiated in preference to a money payment to the extent proposed by his Excellency." Sir C. Napier observed, "His Highness was in full possession of the fortresses; I therefore assume that he had a right to them, succeeding to the right of his brother, Meer Roostum, the one right being consequent on the other. I enclose copy of Lord Ellenborough's letter, relative to the transfer of these fortresses. His Highness would prefer having the forts returned to him rather than receive any payment, I believe. He was excessively averse to give them up. To pay his Highness by a transfer of land would be objectionable, but such a mode of payment might be negotiated. I object to the payment in land, because the land of Scinde is very fertile, and will eventually yield a vast revenue." And in his "Recollections," Sir C. Napier observes, "the territorial exchange was prevented by the simple fact that I could not execute it but under treaty. Either Government did not approve of the treaty, and meant to alter it, which would have produced inevitable confusion and interminable trouble, or else the Government approved, and were called upon to sign it. Why this was not done is for Sir F. Currie to say; the whole delay lays at his door; and Lord Hardinge told me at Lahore he had no objection to it, and had ordered it. All is Sir F. Currie's fault, I believe. I think Ali Morad has been ill used by the Government, and faith broken with him in regard to the forts. He gave up Shahgurn, &c., at Lord Ellenborough's command to the Jessulmere man, with a positive and distinct promise of payment which was never fulfilled. If he tried to cheat us, we did cheat him."

123. The

\* This was forwarded by Sir C. Napier to the Government of India on 8th August 1847.

123. The following account, however, will show that Lord Hardinge's Government, or rather Sir F. Currie, who is his Lordship's secretary, is made responsible, for the Government is not quite so much to blame as Sir C. Napier supposes. These forts are situated in the Desert; according to the statements of the Jessulmere authorities, they were built by the rulers of Scinde, on land belonging to Jessulmere. They are now in a ruinous condition. Lord Ellenborough, perhaps with some political object, ordered Sir C. Napier to transfer the forts to Jessulmere, and to compensate Ali Morad for their loss, by the cession of lands exceeding their value by one-third. Ali Morad was highly incensed when he heard of this order, and reluctantly withdrew his garrisons. Sir C. Napier was disinclined to compensate Ali Morad by a transfer of land, as he considered the land of Scinde to be very fertile, and expected that it would eventually yield a "vast revenue." "As far as I have been able to ascertain (wrote his Excellency), the value of the forts is 4,17,000 rupees, and the revenue they gave 16,450 Khyrpore rupees; from this deducting one-tenth, we get 3,75,300 Company's rupees; and to this add the value of the land, and the bill against us is very heavy. Now it appears to me fair, that the Raja of Jessulmere should pay for the forts thus made over to him, and which he could never have taken by force."\* Sir C. Napier was informed in reply, that the Governor-general preferred a territorial transfer to a money payment. No notice was taken of the proposition to make Jessulmere pay for the forts. Indeed it would have been rather awkward to make such a demand upon the Maha Kawul; he had already been in possession of the forts for nearly two years, and evidently considered them as a gift from the British Government. Sir C. Napier again urged his objection to transfer any land to Ali Morad: "To pay his Highness by a transfer of land would be objectionable; but I have no doubt such a mode of payment might be negotiated." On the 15th October 1846, Ali Morad complained against the aggressions made on his territory by Jessulmere subjects, and took the opportunity of again urging his claims to these forts. His complaint was referred for inquiry and report to the agent at Rajpootana, who was also directed to furnish a statement of the value† of the forts, and of the revenue of the lands which the Rawul obtained with them. The Agent, Colonel Sutherland, forwarded statements from the Jessulmere authorities, containing counter-complaints against Ali Morad's subjects, and representing that they could not furnish any accurate information regarding the value of the forts, and the net revenue of the lands attached to them. He was directed, in reply, to procure detailed and accurate information, so as to enable the Governor-general to come to a proper decision on the claims of Ali Morad; and he afterwards reported that as it was his intention to visit Jessulmere at the opening of the season, he would then have an opportunity of obtaining the information required by the Governor-general.

Memorandum drawn up in the Foreign Office of the Government of India, "On our first connexion with Ali Morad Talpoor."

Demi-official letter to Sir Henry (now Lord) Hardinge, dated 4 May 1845.

Letter dated 14 June 1847.

124. From the above, it is evident that the requisite information is still wanting, to enable Government to decide what amount of compensation should be paid to Ali Morad for the three forts transferred to Jessulmere. In fact, at the close of the memorandum from which the above account is extracted, the question is put, "3d. What about the compensation which we promised for the Desert forts? If he has been compensated by a transfer of land, what was the estimated value of the forts, and on what data was such an estimate formed?" In this discussion, however, one material point appears to me to have been overlooked; Lord Ellenborough's promise of compensation to Ali Morad was made on the express condition "that it should appear that he had good claims to them;" but I can discover no trace of any inquiry having been instituted. In the deed executed by Meer Roostum, ceding the Turban to Ali Morad, the fort of Shahgurgurh is specified, but those of Guttora and Gurseya are not mentioned, though they may be included in the term, "other forts." This, however, ought not to be taken for granted, without further inquiry. My remarks on the destruction of the fort of Emamghud will warn Government not to be misled by the fallacy that

Letter to Sir C. Napier, dated 6 August 1843. *Vide Supplement to Scinde Blue Book, No. 12.*

\* This is not quite correct. From Lord Ellenborough's letter of the 6th August 1843 (*supra*, para. 121), it appears that Jessulmere had actually taken Guttora.

† Among the papers prepared by Mr. Pringle, there is an estimate marked (F.), in which the annual revenue of the three forts is stated to be 14,000 rupees, or for seven years 98,000 rupees and the estimated value of the ceded forts is set down at 3,00,000 rupees, which seems to be a very high estimate; with reference to their very dilapidated condition.

that all forts in Upper Scinde belonged to the possessor of the "Turban." Emamghud was the private property of Meer Mahomed, and was not therefore entered in the treaty by which Meer Roostum ceded the Turban to Ali Morad. If all the fortresses appertained to the Turban, such would assuredly have been mentioned in the deed of cession; but another proof of the fallacy of this assumption, will be found in Meer Sohrab's will, which, although it bequeaths the Turban to Meer Roostum, gives to his younger brother, Ali Morad, "the fort of Ahmedabad."

125. That some compensation is due on account of the forts, if proved to belong to Ali Morad, admits of no doubt. As an offset against this, we have a demand against his Highness on account of lands temporarily occupied by him at the commencement of the war, but which belonged to the British Government. In one of his communications to Lord Ellenborough, Sir C. Napier observes, "Meer Ali Morad occupied all the land in Northern Scinde, when we advanced. The kardars of the other Ameers fled, and a general state of pillage was, I feared, about to begin, which would be a great loss to the flying Ameers. I therefore thought it fair by them to take whatever steps I could to preserve their property. I felt assured that in the general pillage, his Highness would probably, by means of his kardars, secure the lion's share; so I thought my best plan was to tell him to take all, and be accountable for all the revenues when peace was re-established. This he agreed to." Again, Sir C. Napier wrote to the Governor-general, "The plan will soon be drawn, and then I shall make the exchanges with his Highness Ali Morad, and forward the whole to your Lordship for decision. I hope this will put his Highness in better temper with me, though I fear there is a disagreeable account of money to settle, which he will not like. He pillaged\* us abominably, and fancies this is all to be smoothed over; but I warned him all along, that I kept an account which must be balanced at last." Sir C. Napier stated† that the amount improperly collected by Meer Ali Morad at Schwistan was‡ 47,719 rupees, and proposed that the adjustment of this sum should be deferred until the time came for paying the Ameer for his forts.

126. It would further appear, from Major Goldney's letter and enclosures, dated the 16th October 1848, that we have a further demand, to the amount of 50,364 rupees, against his Highness Meer Ali Morad, on account of lands and appendages strictly belonging to the British Government or its jaghiredars in his Highness's possession. The data on which the Collector brings out this balance are very clearly detailed in his report, and the amount really due will have materially increased by the lapse of time which has occurred since his calculations were made. It will be seen that at that period was due to the British Government,—

As

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\* He also pillaged his brothers as much as he did us. The Scinde Digest of the 22d December notices that his minister had taken possession of Khyrpore, and that of the 22d January, that Ali Morad has seized in Khyrpore from Soolimaun, Meer Roostum's confidential servant, 150 khurwars of jowar, and 50 khurwars of wheat; from Meer Ali Akbar's Toaba Khana, a large amount of valuable property in gems, swords, cloths. He has also seized from Meer Mahomed's Government of Oobouree, a vast quantity of all kinds of grain, several bricks of gold of half seer weight, and some silver. On the Ameers leaving Khyrpore, Meer Mahomed Khan's son left Khyrpore and all the valuables it contained.

† Memorandum drawn up in the Foreign Office of the Government of India.

‡ In a letter dated the 18th January 1847, to the Government of India, Sir Charles Napier stated he understood from Lord Ellenborough's letter of the 17th August:

1st. That Ali Morad has no right to any territory north of Roree, because we had by the draft treaty seized upon the whole as a punishment to be inflicted on the Khyrpoor Ameers.

2d. That when the battle of Meeanee made us masters of Scinde, and of this district along with the rest, then we were to give to his Highness the Turban lands in the district of Roree, not as a right, but as a gift. These lands, however, were never made over to him by me. He kept possession of all the lands of Meer Roostum by my permission, he having previously taken them, because the kardars, taking advantage of the interregnum caused by the flight of Roostum, were plundering both Ameers, till the Governor-general should decide on his claims, and then he was to account for the revenues of any that the Government chose to return to Meer Roostum, for the war had not then began; and after the conquest, Roostum's territories became ours. As it had been decided at Calcutta that his Highness had a right to all the lands made over to him by Meer Roostum in other parts of Scinde, I considered, &c. &c.

	<i>Co.'s Rs.</i>
As per Appendix (B.), No. 1 - - - - -	81,900
As per Appendix (B.), No. 2 - - - - -	60,865
As per Appendix (C.) - - - - -	41,455
	<hr/>
Total <i>Co.'s Rs.</i>	184,220

From this deduct lands belonging to his Highness Ali Morad, in the possession of the British Government,

As per Appendix (A.) - - - - -	1,33,856
	<hr/>
Balance due to the British Government - - -	50,364
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*N. B.*—The Collector observes, these valuations are of course subject to revision on production of the accounts of the purgunnahs by his Highness Meer Ali Morad.

127. In conclusion, I again beg to apologise to the Board, and to superior authority, for the length of time I have unavoidably detained these important papers. In addition to the reasons assigned for this delay in my Minute of the 18th September. I have further to state, that when I was about to close this minute, we received from the Government of India the voluminous correspondence relating to the government of Scinde under Sir C. Napier's administration, which accompanied Mr. Under Secretary Grey's letter, No. 1,725, dated the 18th October last. I have availed myself of the authentic materials contained in this correspondence to illustrate several of the questions discussed in my Minute; but to enable me to do this, I was obliged to recast and re-arrange much of what I had before written. Notwithstanding the time and labour I have devoted to the subject, I am by no means satisfied with my performance; but it will be always to me a source of the highest gratification, if at the close of my long and laborious career in India, I have been able successfully to plead the cause of the ruined and oppressed princes of Scinde, and to place their case in such a shape before my superiors as will enable them to afford partial redress for great wrongs, wrongs which I venture to predict will be stigmatized by the future historian in terms most unfavourable to our national reputation; which have undermined, if they have not entirely destroyed, the moral vantage ground we before possessed, when pleading with other nations on behalf of the oppressed; and which have been made the subject, and I fear will continue to be so, of severe and recriminatory comment in every quarter of the globe; penetrating even, as we are\* informed, the Great Desert of Sahara. Finally, in

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\* Mr. J. Richardson in his Narrative of his Personal Adventures in the Great Desert (Vol. I. p. 232), details a conversation with "the famous, rich, and powerful Haj Ben Mansa, Ettanee, the *quasi* Sultan of the Ben Wulud at Ghadanes."

"He is a man of a great age, and nearly blind, and the chief of the most numerous and influential family of Ghadomes. Ettanee was attended by two or three servants, one carrying a skin and another a cushion to recline on. These arranged, the old gentleman mounted upon the stone bench, and took his seat, everybody making way for him with the greatest alacrity. Having heard I was present, after a short silence, he addressed me: "Christian, do you know Scinde?" (*N. B.*—Most of the people here have heard of Scinde, but their knowledge of it is very imperfect.) I replied, "I know it." "Are not the English there?" he continued. "Yes," I said. He then turned and said something to the people in the Ghadamus language. (*N. B.*—I afterwards learnt it was, "You are these Christians who are eating up all the Mussulman countries.") My conversation was always in Arabic. He abruptly turned to me, "Why do the English go there, and eat up all the Mussulmans; afterwards you will come here." I replied, "The Ameers were foolish, and engaged in a conspiracy against the English of India, but the Mus-ulmans in Scinde enjoyed the same rights and privileges as the English themselves." "That's what you say," he rejoined, and continued, "Why do you go so far from home to take other people's countries from them?" I replied, "The Turks do the same; they come here in the Desert." "Ah! you wish to be such oppressors as the Turks," he continued, very bitterly, and then told me not to talk any more. No one present dared to put in a word. This painful silence continued for some time. I was anxious to get off, feeling very disagreeable; and beginning to move, he said to somebody, "Who's that?" for he could not see much, being nearly blind. They told him it was the Christian going. He cried out, "Stop," and then added, "You have books with you, but you English are not Christians; you deceive us. Nor are the Danish, or the Swedes, or the Russians, Christians. They have no books." He meant religious books. The same opinion, I found afterwards, was entertained by Haj Ibrahim, a very respectable and intelligent Moorish merchant of Tripoli."

the words of one whose policy, during the short period he governed India, and more especially in Scinde, has with so much reason been objected to and disapproved, a reputation for justice goes further in the East than it does in Europe, in giving strength to a Government, and a great name to those by whom it is administered: "Justice in the East is a very rare quality, and certainly it was not one possessed by our predecessors, the Ameers. It will be more valued in us." (Letter from Lord Ellenborough to Sir Charles Napier, dated the 3d September 1843.) And again, alluding to the principles on which the territories of Scinde were to be apportioned after the conquest, his Lordship observed, "principles which it has been endeavoured to make consistent with equity to all, for this transaction is one which will be scrutinized by surrounding States, as well as by the parties more immediately interested; and the character of our Government for impartial justice towards our allies is of far more importance than any advantage we might derive from appropriating to ourselves a large portion of this fertile territory."\* I fervently pray that these just and liberal principles may be applied to the hard case of the sons and nephews of our faithful allies, the late Meer Roostum and Sobdar, if not to all the Ameers in common.

14 December 1850.

(signed) *J. P. Willoughby.*

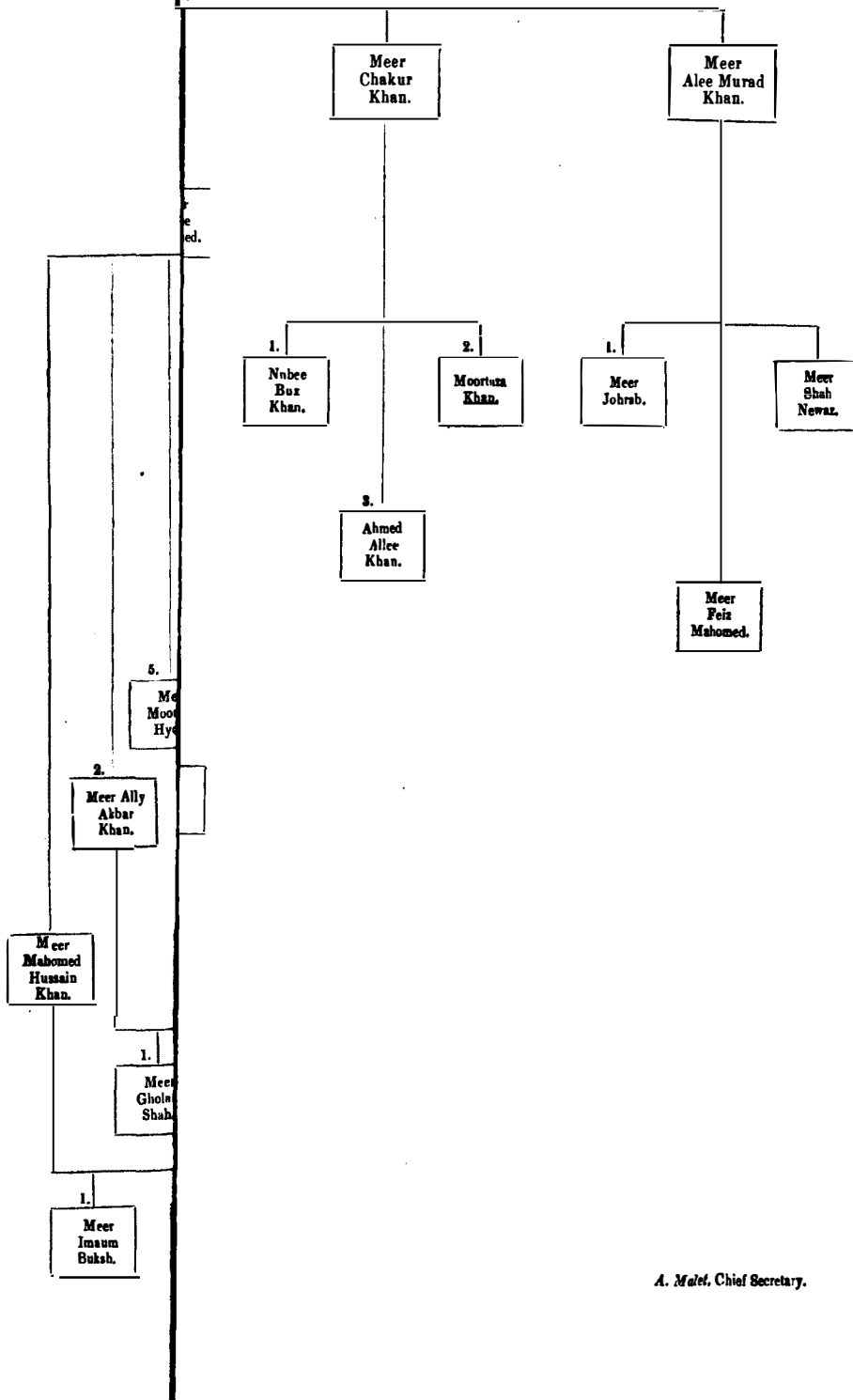
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\* Letter from Lord Ellenborough to Sir Charles Napier, dated the 19th September 1843. See also the Circular issued by his Lordship to all political officers, prescribing the principles by which he desired they should regulate their intercourse with the princes and chiefs to whom they were deputed, dated the 26th April 1842.

MEER ALI MORAD.

[To face page 336.]

MEER SCINDE.



A. Mallet, Chief Secretary.

## MINUTE by the Honourable Mr. Blane.

**THERE** is no reason, I think, for doubt that the treaty of peace, dated 18th September 1842, transcribed in the Koran after the battle of Nownahar, has been clandestinely altered from what it originally was, and probably in the manner deposed to by Sheik Ali Hussein and Peer Ali Gohur.

2. The period of, and motive to, the said alteration is less clear.

3. In the fifth heading of the summing up by the Commission, in para. 8, they allude to the possibility "that the tampering with the treaty had been commenced at an earlier period after the battle of Nownahar than the date of the proclamation annexing the districts north of Roree to the Khan of Bahwulpoor, and in the eighth heading advert to the inclusion of the pergunahs of Mathela and Meerpoor in the later treaty in December 1842, in the Koran, by which the Turban was ceded by Meer Rustum to Meer Ali Morad, observing, 'that had that circumstance stood alone they might be disposed to admit the Meer's explanation that it was intended to make assurance doubly sure,' &c.

4. But in weighing the value of these circumstances, it does not appear to have occurred to them that unless the alteration were made before the 20th December 1842, the date of the later compact, which has always been recognized and upheld by us, there could have been no object in the alteration at all, and that if so made, then that the motive to it could not have been any treachery or fraud towards the British Government. The alleged substitution of the new leaf so late as 31st July 1843, as deposed to by Peer Ali Gohur, could, if true, have been only to save appearances, and may well have been the act mainly of the parties by whom the alterations had been so clumsily executed. How little indeed a Mahomedan prince of Ali Moorad's habits was likely to interfere in the details of such a transaction, would seem to be a point to be duly kept in view. Had the intent been that of fraud towards Government, the alterations would have been made to bear upon the cessions by Nusseer Khan, and not upon the territory of Meer Rustum, intermediately made over by the compact for the transfer of the Turban.

5. Sir Charles Napier's proclamation taking possession of Subzulcote and Blong Bhara for the purpose of annexing these districts to the territories of his Highness the Nuwab of Bhawulpoor, would seem (para. 5 of the Honourable Mr. Willoughby's Minute) to have been dated 18th December 1842, two days previous to the Turban compact; but in the said proclamation, as given in the above quoted paragraph, no mention is made of the rule by which reimbursement was to be made. On that head Sir Charles Napier's intentions were only declared after the conquest of Scinde, in a letter dated 28th June 1843, to which therefore any proceedings antecedent to December 1842 could have had no relation.

6. For the above reason I have some doubt as to how far Meer Ali Moorad is amenable to us for any alterations, however perfidious in a moral point of view, in the treaty of Nownahar.

7. Supposing him to be held to be amenable, then the Nownahar treaty might be set aside; but as the Turban compact would still remain in his favour, that also would require to be set aside, in order to the districts included in the alteration of the former document being declared to be forfeited.

8. The point for consideration would then be confined to the expediency of imposing any further retributive penalty.

9. Bearing in mind the nature of our alliance with Ali Moorad from the commencement, and the interpretation which could not fail to be generally placed on our turning upon our ally at this late hour, and depriving him of his share in the booty, I should incline to the limitation of any additional penalty to dictating such terms in making up our account with him, as we may deem most conducive to the consolidation of our relations in that quarter. What these terms may be argued to be, the information on record does not afford the means of offering an opinion.



10. In respect to the question of rendering justice to the families of the ex-Ameers, discussed by the Honourable Mr. Willoughby, we could hardly insist upon Meer Ali Morad doing so, without doing the like ourselves, and to enter into the merits of the transfer of the Turban by Meer Rustom, appears to me to be tantamount to re-opening the whole question as to the cause of quarrel, and consequent seizure and annexation of the province.

11. With the opinions already recorded by me respecting the extreme want of judgment evinced by Mr. Frere in his proceedings in Sattara, I cannot but entertain great apprehension as to the settlement of this question being confided to him, and think, if it could be arranged, that the appointment of a special commissioner might be advisable. Since, however, we are to await the instructions of the Most Noble the Governor-general, it is sufficient perhaps that the papers relating to Mr. Frere's appointment will have been before his Lordship ere these are received by him.

12. The Honourable Mr. Willoughby's Minute being dated 14th instant, I would observe, for the purpose of exonerating myself from any delay in passing on these papers, that they reached me only on the afternoon of the 21st, the day before yesterday.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *D. A. Blane.*

23 December 1850.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

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FURTHER MINUTE by the Right Honourable the Governor, subscribed to by the Honourable Board.

It is of great importance that these papers should be forwarded to the Most Noble the Governor-general without delay; the copies should be sent by express, and the originals afterwards returned to me.

(signed) *Falkland.*  
*W. Cotton.*  
*J. P. Willoughby.*  
*D. A. Blane.*

24 December 1850.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

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No. 180 of 1850.

(Office, No. 267.)

From *A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to Sir *H. M. Elliot*, K. C. B., Secretary to the Government of India with the Most Noble the Governor-general, Camp.

Sir,

WITH reference to my letter, No. 19, dated the 25th February last, I am directed by the Right honourable the Governor in Council to transmit to you, by express, to be laid before the Most Noble the Governor-general of India, the documents noted in the annexed list, regarding the proceedings of the Commission which was appointed by this Government, for the purpose of investigating the circumstances connected with a fraud alleged to have been perpetrated against the British Government by his Highness Meer Ali Morad of Khyrpoor, in the treaty of Nownahar; by means of which his Highness obtained possession of certain purgunnahs, instead of villages of the same name.

2. The Most Noble the Governor-general will observe, from the Minute recorded by the Right Honourable the Governor of this Presidency, and concurred in by his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that his Lordship is of opinion that the charge has been fully established by the most irresistible evidence against the Meer; and that the British Government has an undoubted right to demand the restitution of all the territory obtained by Ali Morad by fraudulent means,

means, as well as the re-payment of all the revenue derived from such territory during the time it remained under his dominions ; and that the period of enforcing the just claims of Government affords a peculiarly favourable opportunity for placing all its relations with this prince on a permanent and satisfactory footing.

3. His Lordship has also recorded a special recommendation in favour of the Ameers resident at Poona, viz., Amcer Ali Buksha, a younger son of Meer Roostum, and Nusseer Khan, the eldest son of Mobaruck Khan (Meer Roostum's brother), and their families.

4. The Hon. Mr. Willoughby has, in an elaborate Minute, dated the 14th instant, entered most fully into the question of our relations with the Meer; stating his views not only with reference to the measures to be adopted towards his Highness, but the arrangements which should, in his opinion, be adopted to ameliorate the condition of the surviving Ameers, and for placing them under the control of the British Government.

5. With reference also to para. 53 to para. 61, the Most Noble the Governor-general will observe that the Honourable Mr. Willoughby states, that in addition to the fraud committed in the treaty of Nownahar, his Highness is now in possession of one-fourth of the lands of Upper Scinde, which constituted the patrimonial inheritance of Meer Roostum under the will of their father, Meer Sohrab, although his right thereto has been questioned on grounds, in his opinion, most conclusive, both by Lord Ellenborough and Lord Hardinge; he suggests that this should be resumed and allotted for the maintenance of Meer Roostum's sons, urging in support of his recommendation, the strong claims the family of Meer Roostum possesses on the justice and compassion of the British Government.

6. On reference to para. 105, his Lordship will observe that Mr. Willoughby also states that the jagheers of Meers Meer Mahomed and Mustafa Khan, another and distinct branch of the Khyrpoor family, are likewise in the unlawful possession of Meer Ali Morad; and suggests that they also should be restored to these Ameers.

7. I am also desired to refer his Lordship to the concluding paras. of the same minute, noticing several other subjects, for which the Honourable Mr. Willoughby is of opinion that special instructions from the Most Noble the Governor-general should be solicited.

8. The Honourable Mr. Blane likewise concurs in the fact of the treaty having been clandestinely altered; but for reasons stated in his minute of the 23d instant, expresses his doubts as to how far "Meer Ali Morad" is amenable to the British Government for any alterations, however perfidious in a moral point of view, in the treaty of Nownahar.

Bombay Castle, 31 December 1850. I have, &c.  
(signed) A. Malet,  
Chief Secretary.  
(True copy.)  
(signed) A. Malet, Chief Secretary.

List of Proceedings accompanying a Letter to Sir H. M. Elliot, K. C. B., Secretary to the Government of India with the Most Noble the Governor-general, dated 31 December 1850, No. 180.

1. Copy of a Letter from the Commissioner in Scinde, dated 5th March 1850, No. 445.
2. Copy of a reply to the Commissioner in Scinde, dated 13th March 1850, No. 68.
3. Copy of a Letter from the Commissioner in Scinde, No. 840, dated 8th May 1850.
4. Copy of a Report by Commission, dated 8th May 1850.
5. Accompaniments to ditto, in original.
6. Copy of a Minute by the Right honourable the Governor, concurred in by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, dated 14th June 1850, with accompaniments.
7. Copy of a Minute by the Honourable Mr. Willoughby, dated 14th December 1850.
8. Copy of a Minute by the Honourable Mr. Blane, dated 23d December 1850.

9. Copy of a Further Minute by the Right honourable the Governor, concurred in by the Board, dated 24th December 1850.
10. Copy of a Memo. by the Right honourable the Governor, dated Chakoon, the 18th September 1850.
11. Copy of a Minute by the Honourable Mr. Willoughby, dated 18th September.
12. Copy of a Minute by the Right honourable the Governor, dated 27th September.
13. Copy of a Further Minute by the Honourable Mr. Willoughby, dated 29th September.
14. Copy of a Minute by the Honourable Mr. Blane, dated 29th September.
15. Copy of a Further Minute by the Right honourable the Governor, dated 8th October.
16. Copy of a Minute by the Honourable Mr. Willoughby, dated 11th October.
17. Copy of a Minute by the Right honourable the Governor, dated 14th October.
18. Copy of a Minute by the Honourable Mr. Willoughby, dated 17th October.
19. Copy of a Minute by the Honourable Mr. Blane, dated 17th October.
20. Copy of a Minute by the Right honourable the Governor, dated 20th November 1850.
21. Copy of a reply to the Commissioner in Scinde, dated 31st December 1850, No. 268.
22. Copy of a Letter from the Commissioner in Scinde, dated 13th May, No. 862, with Enclosure.
23. Copy of a Minute by the Right honourable the Governor, dated 27th May 1850, concurred in by the Honourable Mr. Blane.
24. Copy of a Minute by the Honourable Mr. Willoughby, dated 30th May.
25. Copy of a Further Minute by the Right honourable the Governor, dated 14th June 1850.

*A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 268 of 1850.

From *A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to  
*R. K. Pringle*, Esq., Commissioner in Scinde.

Sir,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 840, dated the 8th May last, forwarding the proceedings of the Commission appointed to investigate the charge of fraud alleged against his Highness Meer Ali Morad, in having, by means of interpolations and additions to the treaty of Nownahar, obtained possession of certain pergunnahs, instead of villages of the same name.

2. In reply, I am desired to express the high commendation of Government for the able manner in which the investigation has been conducted by the Commission.

Bombay Castle,  
31 December 1850.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *A. Malet*,  
Chief Secretary.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 269 of 1850.—Secret Department.

From *A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to  
Major *W. Lang*, Political Agent in Katteewar.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Right honourable the Governor in Council to transmit for your information copy of my letter, No. 268, of this date, to the Commissioner in Scinde.

Bombay Castle,  
31 December 1850.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *A. Malet*,  
Chief Secretary.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 270 of 1850.

From *A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to Major *J. Jacob*, c. b., Political Superintendent and Commandant on the Scinde Frontier.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Right honourable the Governor in Council to transmit for your information copy of my letter, No. 268, of this date, to the Commissioner in Scinde. Secret Department.

Bombay Castle,  
31 December 1850.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *A. Malet*,  
Chief Secretary.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 2 of 1851.—Secret Department.

Office, No. 3.

From *A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to Sir *H. M. Elliot*, K. C. B., Secretary to the Government of India with the Most Noble the Governor-general, Camp.

Sir,

WITH reference to my letter, No. 180, dated the 31st December last, I am directed by the Right honourable the Governor in Council to transmit to you, to be laid before the Most Noble the Governor-general of India, copies of the documents noted in the margin,\* connected with certain petitions from the Ameers of Scinde, alluded to in the Minute of the Honourable Mr. Willoughby, dated the 14th ultimo, which have not already been laid before the Governor-general.

2. Such of the petitions alluded to in Mr. Willoughby's Minute, of which copies have already been submitted to his Lordship, were transmitted to you with my letters of the dates noted in the margin.

Bombay Castle,  
3 January 1851.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 76, dated  
13 Dec. 1848;  
No. 19, dated  
25 Feb. 1850.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

MINUTE by the Most Noble the Governor-general of India.

IN the spring of 1848, Sir George Clerk, then the Governor of Bombay, submitted a general report on the Province of Scinde. In connexion with the affairs of Scinde, he adverted to the relation existing between the British Government and the Meer Ali Morad of Khyrpore, and brought to notice certain charges, specified in a memorandum by the late Governor, Sir Charles Napier, which gravely affected the conduct of his Highness. He recommended that these charges should be immediately investigated, and expressed a decided opinion that

Meer Ali Morad  
Khan of Khyrpore

\* 1. Petition from Meer Nusseer Khan and Meer Ali Buksh Khan, dated 21st August 1848; 2. Petition from Meer Mahomed Houssein Khan, dated 1st Rujub 1264; 3. Petition from Meer Ali Murdan Khan, son of Meer Rustum Khan, dated 11th Rujub 1264; 4. Petition from Meer Mahomed Ali Khan, dated 15th Rujub 1264; 5. To the Commissioner in Scinde, dated 14th September, No. 328 of 1848; 6. To the Commissioner in Scinde, dated 16th August, No. 3,504 of 1849; 7. From the Commissioner in Scinde, dated 1st September, No. 1,709 of 1849; 8. Reply to the Commissioner in Scinde, dated 13th September, No. 3,841 of 1849; 9. From the Commissioner in Scinde, dated 3d October, No. 1,905, with Enclosures; 10. Reply to the Commissioner in Scinde, dated 30th October, No. 330 of 1849; 11. From the Commissioner in Scinde, dated 8th November, No. 2,174 of 1849, with Enclosure; 12. Reply to the Commissioner in Scinde, dated 4th December, No. 356 of 1849.

that if the allegations of forgery of treaties, and consequent fraud on the Government, should be conclusively proved against the Meer, his dethronement would be no more than a just punishment for his offence.

2. At that time, the second war in the Punjab broke out, and under those circumstances the inquiry respecting Meer Ali Morad was necessarily postponed.

After the termination of the war, and during the summer of 1849, the question of our relations with the Meer was resumed, and the allegations of fraud were further examined.

On my arrival at Sukkur, during a journey through Scinde at the end of that year, I found that Mr. Pringle, the Commissioner, had halted Her Majesty's 22d Regiment at Roree, on its march to Hindostan, to await my arrival, and the result of the decision he wished me to form on the evidence against the Meer, which he then submitted to me, and on the measures which should be taken in consequence.

I declined, however, to issue orders at that moment; both because I did not conceive it to be fitting that I should supersede the Government of Bombay in its proper functions, by unnecessarily originating instructions for any step in an important question connected with our relations with a native power which were in the charge of that government; and further, because I did not consider it just that a decision should be formed adverse to Meer Ali Morad, and fatal to his character as a man and his faith as a prince, without a deliberate and formal inquiry, where the Meer should have full opportunity of meeting and rebutting, if he were able, the charges which had been brought against him.

While at Bombay, immediately afterwards, I attended a meeting of the Council, and brought the case personally before them. I stated the opinion I had formed on the evidence, as it was then before me, and objecting to any appearance of secrecy, or to the adoption, without full and open inquiry previously, of any new line of conduct towards the Meer, in consequence of the charges brought against him, and the evidence by which they were supported, I recommended that a Commission should be appointed for the investigation of these charges in Scinde. It was intended that the proceedings should be conducted with all due consideration for the rank of the Meer, and that he should have every facility afforded to him for explanation or defence.

The Commission was accordingly appointed by the Government of Bombay, and its proceedings, together with the recorded evidence and the minutes of the Governor and of the members of the Council of Bombay thereupon, were received by me about six weeks ago.

3. In a matter such as this I have thought it my duty to examine for myself the evidence on which the Commission formed a conclusion, which if acted upon by the Government of India, must exercise a material influence, not merely on the reputation of Meer Ali Morad, but on his actual position and on his future relations with the British Government.

The examination of the oral and documentary evidence, and the perusal of the very voluminous papers connected with the subject, have occupied some time; for my attention, necessarily much engaged with the ordinary conduct of public affairs from day to day, could not be devoted exclusively to the case of the Meer of Khyrpore.

4. After repeated and careful consideration of the whole case, I have no hesitation whatever in expressing my full concurrence in the opinion unanimously expressed by the members of the Commission, and by the several members of the Government of Bombay, that his Highness Meer Ali Morad has been convicted of fraudulently altering the contents of the treaty of Nownahar, the effect of which has been to give to his Highness the possession of certain large districts instead of certain small villages of the same name, to the prejudice of the British Government, to whom these districts would have belonged, and in gross violation of good faith and honour.

5. The evidence has been so clearly and accurately summed up in the report of the Commission, and the whole subject in all its bearings and in every branch of it has been so minutely and elaborately discussed by the Honourable Mr. Willoughby, that I should only waste the time of others if I were again to review it in detail.

It is enough that I express my full assent to the view which has been taken of the evidence both by the Commission and by the honourable gentleman.

6. If the case against the Ameer had rested merely on the testimony of Sheik Ali Hussun and of Peer Ali Gohur, formerly the confidential servants of his Highness, and now his accusers; or if the direct evidence of these men had been supported only by handwriting produced, by impressions of seals sworn to, or by the evidence of third parties who might have been schooled and influenced by them, I should have been reluctant to convict the Meer. The skill with which such testimony can be manufactured, and the ease with which it can be obtained in eastern countries, are too notorious to admit of my placing any reliance upon it if it had stood alone.

But Sheik Ali Hussun, the prime minister, and Peer Ali Gohur, the confidential secretary, of the Meer were unquestionably at the time to which they refer in a position to be cognizant of all his Highness's proceedings, and were likely to be made his instruments in whatever he schemed. Their testimony taken frequently, at different times, by different persons, and after long intervals, has been uniformly the same; it is consistent with itself, probable in itself, and in accordance with the character which the Ameer notoriously bears among his own countrymen. It is supported by the appearance of the book in which the forgery, or substitution of a leaf, is alleged to have taken place; by the confessedly authentic copy of the treaty deposited in the Scinde records in April 1843; by the theft of certain papers connected with the treaty, an act inexplicable at the time, but intelligible now, and indispensably necessary for the success of the fraud; by the contents of contemporary letters from the Meer to the British officers in Scinde, and from him and the other Meers to Meer Mahomed Hussain, produced before the Commission; by the entries in the Government diaries; and by the correspondence preserved among the Government records; all of which "allude to the cession in terms quite irreconcilable with its extent as now shown in the Koran."

Supported by so many incidental circumstances, and from so many indirect and contemporary sources, the evidence of Sheik Ali Hussun and Peer Ally Gohur acquires a trustworthiness which of itself it could not command. It is true that, on their own showing, these men are dishonest, long accomplices in a fraud, though they subsequently denounced it; and consequently unworthy of credit, as men devoid of honesty or character. I have already said that their testimony, if unsupported by other testimony beyond suspicion, would be wholly unworthy of credit. But the best evidence which could be obtained of a forgery is the evidence of an eye-witness and an accomplice, if it be true. When, therefore, the evidence of these men is so supported by other testimony as to be shown to be true, their testimony acquires weight just in proportion to their share in the crime which was committed, and which they now confess and reveal.

7. On these grounds, very briefly stated here, but fully exhibited in the documents to which I have referred before, and in which I have declared my concurrence, I have to record my firm conviction that Meer Ali Morad, of Khyrpore, did fraudulently change the contents of the treaty of Nownahar, and did thus treacherously obtain and still enjoys considerable tracts in Upper Scinde, which in fact belong to the British Government.

8. The Honourable Mr. Blane has raised a question as to the date at which the forgery was committed, with the view, as I understand, of founding upon it the argument, that if committed previous to the issue of the proclamation, 18th December 1842, confiscating the territory, then the fraud was against his brother Ameers, and the British Government has nothing to do with it.

I am not prepared to admit, that even if the forgery were committed in the short interval between the 15th September 1842 and 18th December 1842, the British Government would not have a right to call Ali Morad to account for a fraudulent act that indirectly deprived them of territory which would otherwise have been theirs by the proclamation of December 1842, just as they now call him to account for an act that has filched such territory from them directly.

But there is nothing whatever to show that the forgery was committed before the 18th December 1842.

In referring to a copy of the treaty, the Commission allude to some appearance of tampering; not by a definite expression of their opinion, but by a mere conjectural intimation of a possibility.

There is nothing in support of such a conjecture.

The probability of the fraud having been committed before December 1842, and against the Ameers, is negatived by the fact, which is clearly stated, that Ali Morad never was in possession of those lands till January 1843. On the other hand, the substitution of the leaf in the Koran bearing the words "district of Mathela, &c.," instead of the words "village of Mathela, &c." (which substitution is the fraud with which the Meer is charged, and by which this Government has suffered), is proved by the evidence not to have been made till many months after the issue of the proclamation.

If it be objected that the date of the substitution rests on the evidence of parties to the fraud, I would reply that I have already shown, in para 6, that the evidence of such persons, untrustworthy in itself, is entitled to credit when confirmed by other unimpeachable testimony. Since, then, the accuracy of their statement as a whole is held to be established; there can be no reason to suspect their accuracy in a matter of detail, which could not have been supposed by them likely to have any material bearing on the case they sought to make out.

9. Having recorded my full persuasion of the guilt and treachery of Meer Ali Morad, I have now to consider what course of action it will be necessary and right for the Government of India to follow, in consequence of the discovery of the fraud that has been committed.

10. It has been seen that Sir George Clerk broadly stated an opinion, that if the Meer were convicted of the fraud alleged, he "should be deprived of all his possessions."

Neither the Governor of Bombay nor the Members of Council recommend this extreme measure. The Honourable Mr. Willoughby would compel the restitution of the lands of which the Meer is fraudulently in possession by means of the forgery; he would refuse to the Meer our recognition of the title of Rais, which has hitherto been conceded to him; and, lastly, he would make use of the present opportunity to obtain through the means of the British Government, an amelioration of the condition of the Ameers generally, and especially of the family of the old Meer Roostum.

11. In urging the claims of the Ameers, Mr. Willoughby enters at great length into the circumstances connected with the commencement of the war in Scinde in 1842, with the cession of the Turban by Meer Roostum to Meer Ali Morad, and with the subsequent annexation of Scinde to the British Empire in India.

His discussion of this subject is marked by all that research, extensive knowledge of public affairs, and distinguished ability, which are the characteristics of every important document that issues from Mr. Willoughby's hands.

But I do not think it requisite that I should record any opinion on the conclusions he has formed, because it does not appear to me to be necessary for determining the policy we are now to pursue towards Meer Ali Morad, that we should re-open the general question so much controverted formerly.

However widely men's opinions differ respecting the events connected with our annexation of the Province of Scinde, all agree in this, that the act is now irrevocable.

I therefore desire to avoid reviving this controversy on the records of the state. Without doing so, we have ample grounds for resolving to do justice on Meer Ali Morad for the guilt he has incurred, and for desiring, of our compassion, to lighten the sufferings of the princely family whose cause Mr. Willoughby pleads.

12. I do not propose to dethrone the Meer, or to deprive him of all his possessions. While I concur with Sir George Clerk in thinking that we should be fully justified in resorting to that extreme act of severity, I deprecate it as inexpedient. A long time has elapsed since the commission of the fraud; several years have passed since it was first denounced. And though the lapse of time will not exempt a criminal from the penalty of his crime, still it will justify any leniency with which the state may be disposed to treat it.

Moreover, such an act on the part of this Government would be liable to misrepresentation. It might give a plausible pretence for our enemies to say that it was but another instance of insatiable aggression; and that having used Ali Morad

Morad as long as he was useful, we had found means of involving him in the common sacrifice when he was no longer profitable to us. The imputation would be unjust, but it should not be needlessly incurred.

Neither would I withdraw the recognition of his title as Rais. I do not perceive how, if we leave him still an independent sovereign, we can refuse to him the name; nor do I see the advantage of no longer conceding to him the title of Rais of the Talpoors, when there is none other to whom we can transfer it.

13. I propose, nevertheless, that Meer Ali Morad shall suffer a severe punishment for the crime he has committed, and shall pay before all the world an open penalty for the foul deed he has done.

14. The Meer should, in the first place, be compelled to restore to the British Government the districts of which he has been in possession by means of the forgery now proved. His Highness should further account fully to the British Government for the revenues of those lands since they have been in his hands.

15. Meer Ali Morad should further, as a penalty for his offence, be compelled to deliver up to the British Government that fourth part of Upper Scinde which formed the patrimonial inheritance of Meer Roostum. If, as appears in one part of the evidence, the lands attached to the Turban, and the lands forming the patrimonial estate of Meer Roostum, were not distinguished, then the value of both shares formerly held by Meer Roostum should be ascertained; land to the value of one-half of that aggregate should be allotted to Meer Ali Morad, and the remaining half should, as above declared, be confiscated to the British Government.

The lands forming the patrimonial estate of Meer Roostum have never been recognized to belong to Meer Ali Morad by Lord Ellenborough, or by Lord Hardinge, or by myself. And the facts now first recorded in connexion with the report of the Commission (to say the least of it) go far to show that those lands were never made over to Meer Ali Morad by Meer Roostum.

But it is quite unnecessary to decide that question. Assuming that the lands have been in the rightful possession of Meer Ali Morad, the infamous fraud he has practised on the British Government requires that he should make amends, and the surrender of these lands will be a fitting reparation.

16. By these cessions a considerable revenue will be placed at the disposal of the Government of India.

Without re-opening the question of the actual or relative guilt of the Meers, whose fallen condition is so sadly illustrated by the narratives which Mr. Willoughby has collected, I am earnest in my desire that we should show mercy to the fallen, and should use the means at our disposal to raise out of their present unquestionable misery the members of a family, once royal, long our faithful friends, now so crushed and poverty stricken.

17. Before entering into the consideration of the mode and degree in which the bounty of the Government should be distributed, I consider it to be my duty to submit the whole question for the consideration of the Honourable Court of Directors.

If the affair were one on which an immediate decision was necessary, on grounds of public policy I should not hesitate to carry into effect at once the views I have recorded in this Minute. But although the question had been long pending before it could be brought into its present state, and although there are other matters still in suspense between Meer Ali Morad and the Government of India, and consequently any further delay is undesirable, still there is nothing which so urgently requires decision as to prevent my referring it to the Honourable Court, who will justly expect to have an opportunity of conveying to me their instructions on such a question as that which has arisen in the case of the Meer of Khyrpore.

When these instructions shall have been received, I shall be prepared to enter fully into the various questions connected with the territory of Khyrpore, and with the other Ameers.



Any discussion of these points, until the main question shall have been decided by the Home authorities, to whom I think it right to refer, would be manifestly premature.

18. Acquaint the Government of Bombay, that while I concur generally in the view they have taken of the charges brought against Meer Ali Morad, and of the measures which they consider it expedient for the Government of India to adopt, I have thought it right to submit the whole question, with my own opinion thereupon, for the consideration of the Honourable Court of Directors. On receiving their reply, I will again communicate further with the Government of Bombay, relative to the several questions on which they wish to receive instructions.

27 February 1851.

(signed) *Dalhousie.*

No. 646.

From Sir *Henry Elliot*, K. C. B., Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor-General, to *A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

Sir,

THE Most Noble the Governor-general has had under consideration your despatch, No. 180, dated the 31st December last, and the documents which accompanied it, regarding the fraud alleged to have been perpetrated against the British Government by Meer Ali Morad of Khyrpore, in the treaty of Nownahur.

2. I am directed, in reply, to acquaint you that while his Lordship concurs generally in the view the Right honourable the Governor in Council has taken of the charges brought against his Highness, and of the measures which are considered expedient for the Government of India to adopt, he has thought it right to submit the whole question, with his own opinion thereupon, for the consideration of the Honourable the Court of Directors.

3. As it is impossible for the small establishment in this camp to make copies of the voluminous collection of papers in time to accompany the above reference, I am desirous to request that the Governor in Council will be pleased to direct copies of them to be transmitted to the Court as speedily as they can be prepared.

4. On receiving the Court's reply, his Lordship will again communicate further with the Governor in Council, relative to the several questions on which it is his wish to receive instructions.

I have, &c.

(signed) *H. M. Elliot,*

Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor-general.

Camp, Boorhan, 1 March 1851.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

MINUTE by the Right Honourable the Governor, concurred in by the Honourable Mr. *Willoughby* and the Honourable Mr. *Blane*.

1. THE Most Noble the Governor-general of India should be informed that copies of the whole of our proceedings in the case of his Highness Meer Ali Morad, alluded to in this letter, were forwarded by this Government to the Honourable the Secret Committee by the overland mail which left Bombay on the 17th January last, and that duplicate copies thereof were sent to the same authority by the overland mail of the 17th ultimo.

2. Copy

2. Copy of this letter should be sent to the Secret Committee by the mail of the 17th instant, with an intimation to the above effect, accompanied by a request that, if they see no objection, they will cause the above despatch with its enclosures to be made over to the Honourable Court.

(signed) *Falkland.*  
*J. P. Willoughby.*  
*D. A. Blane.*

14 March 1851.

(True copy.)

(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

No. 48 of 1851.—Secret Department.

From *A. Malet*, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay, to Sir *H. M. Elliot*, K.C.B., Secretary to the Government of India with the Most Noble the Governor-general.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Right honourable the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 1st instant, No. 646, and to state for the information of the Most Noble the Governor-general of India, that copies of the whole of the proceedings of this Government in the case of his Highness Meer Ali Morad, therein alluded to, were forwarded to the Honourable the Secret Committee by the overland mail which left Bombay on the 17th January last, and that duplicate copies thereof were sent to the same authority by the overland mail of the 17th ultimo.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *A. Malet*, Chief Secretary.

Bombay Castle, 14 March 1851.

(True copy.)

(signed) *H. E. Goldsmid*,  
Secretary to Government.

(True copies.)

(signed) *T. L. Peacock*,  
Examiner of India Correspondence.

East India House, December 1852.

*Leaf said to have been extracted from the Koran  
and corresponding in size &c., with the other leaves  
now containing the Treaty.*

(A)

الحمد لله  
بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم  
مرتب العالمین

انجام کرد و عهد بست بر صاحب بر رستم خان  
نایب بابیر علمیراد خان نایب بر این معنی ایکنه چون  
فناپن میر علمیراد خان و میر نصیر خان بر مقدمه و یک  
سند بر بیلی فرخنده بر قوع آمده و زیار بی بطرف  
میر نصیر خان ثابت شده بعد آن میر علمیراد خان  
مبالغه کلهها خرج سپاه کرده مستعد جنگ بابیر نصیر خان  
شده آمده در حال اینجانب بنا بر دفعه فساد طرفین  
و بعد تطوا اخراجات مبالغه نقد و سایر کرات میر مذکور  
که در تصرف سپاه خود داده دیات ملل و این و  
ایبانی و بیجه و در پی و غرق شدن بلدایه و بیجه بر صنی خود  
در به دادند و پرکنه نایتند بر صنی خود و میر نصیر خان

*Paper on which Peer Ali Gohur states that he wrote  
a few words before writing the fresh page in the Koran.*

(B)

دیرم دادلو و پرکتہ مانند

مہرچور دیرم دادلو

و دیرم

مہر

مہر

بسم اللہ الرحمن الرحیم

مہر

رو

(C)

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

فقير مطبق اصل

رب العالمين

الحمد لله

ایمان کرده و عهد بست بر حسب میریستم خان تا پسر میر علماد خان پسر پسر منی اینک  
چون قباصل میر علماد خان و میر نصر خان بر مقدمه دنگ سندر چلی خرش  
بوقوع آمده و زیادهای طرف میر نصر خان ثابت شده بعد از آن میر علماد خان  
مبالغه لکها خرج سپاه کرده و مستعد جنگ میر نصر خان شده آمده در حال  
بنام بنابر دفعه و طریق و بعد نظر اخراجات مبالغه نقد و سایر کرات  
بر مذکور که در تصرف سپاه خود داده و بهات خانواهی و ایجابی و مهم  
و دربی و غرقه و دهم برده و پیکر عمر منی خود و دهم داد و در کشته مانند میر پور و  
خود و میر نصر خان در دست میر علماد خان و دردم که از در ایندای فصل خلف  
بصرف خود دارد و برای ایمان و کید خود دست و پا میزند  
خواهم داد و کام هر عزم و بهات مذکور نخواهم شد و پسران من و خواه میر نصر خان  
و پسر برادرش و عواریری ای ملک نخواهند کرد و اگر کردند کارب نخواهد بود

و آنچه دهانه بر روی دادری و شاه بنده و محمد باغ و مبلدی حق و ملک

بر عسکران در تصرف بهر مبارک و بر عسکران

و لا بمعرفت جان اگر گرفته متصرف شده بهر عسکران خواه اولاد در

دعوات در دهانه صدر بهر خود با بمعرفت جان اگر هرگز نخواهد شد

و اگر نشد کاذب است و این بنام بهر آن خود طرف در بر عسکران

خواهم بود حق بجانب است در رنگ صندری پستی بموجب امانت

ایمان بهر عسکران خواه داد در بین و بنام تفاوت است

و نخواهد شد کفایت شهره و بحر نهم، درست نموده

کاکت میرزا فاضل

سخن خود را بنویس  
میرزا فاضل

*Original Certificate given by His Highness  
Meer Ali Moorad Khan to Peer Ali Gohur.*

(D)

جگہ است

جست توبہ کرمہ چہ پر گزیدہ میرستم خان و میر نصیر خان در جنبہ پور  
لبیب خجہ شدن لکھنؤ روپہ و جاگیرات اینجانب یہاں خاک کئے در پور ماہنامہ و ہر کما  
غیرہ و بہت برضا و رغبت خود پر قرآن مجید نشتہ داده بود از اتفاق از این غیر ضرر و نقصان  
در یک سطر قرآن مجید کیا ہر چہ خوف افتاد و قند و شکر کہ ہمہ اینجانب حضرت میر صاحب  
میر صاحب کو ہر حالت کہ این ورق مراب شدہ را از قرآن مجید شد این حدیث  
بر ورق دیگر بنویسند و اول ہمہ این تحریر و خط شد است پیر صاحب از انوشن انکار کردہ  
من غیر ذلک منمنو از مرصعہ ذمہ دار ہوں کہ ارشاد بچاسنی از خواستہ امعقدہ خواہم کرد

Copy of the Treaty of Nownahar received from  
Moonshee Towar Mall, a copy of which is said to have  
been given to Major Clibborne for Captain Brown.

(0)

نقد مطبوعی لعل

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

رب العالمین

الحمد لله

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم رب العالمین ان شاء الله

احکام کرده اند که میر سیم جان پاپیر مار عیدم را دغانی پاپیر بر میسی انکه خون فباپن میر عیدم را دغانی

و میر عیدم را دغانی پاپیر بر میسی انکه خون فباپن میر عیدم را دغانی

میر عیدم را دغانی پاپیر بر میسی انکه خون فباپن میر عیدم را دغانی

جانب میر عیدم را دغانی پاپیر بر میسی انکه خون فباپن میر عیدم را دغانی

اخراجات میبایست نفع و حاجات میر سیم را در دغانی پاپیر بر میسی انکه خون فباپن میر عیدم را دغانی

ضمانت و ایستادگی و در دغانی پاپیر بر میسی انکه خون فباپن میر عیدم را دغانی

میر سیم را دغانی پاپیر بر میسی انکه خون فباپن میر عیدم را دغانی

میر سیم را دغانی پاپیر بر میسی انکه خون فباپن میر عیدم را دغانی

میر سیم را دغانی پاپیر بر میسی انکه خون فباپن میر عیدم را دغانی

و به برادرانش دعا دار این ملک را بشکند و اگر کرد نه کارب خا منه بود



دایمیهات میرلوی در دهر بی و شاه بیع و محمد باغ و مسجدی خونی که میر علی میرزاخان  
 در آنوقت میرزاخان بد و میر علی میرزاخان حاکم معبرفت صاحبان اکثر بزرگتر  
 متفرق شد که میرزاخان خواهر اولاد گاه هر دو بدیدار دایمیهات صدر به خود  
 یا معبرفت صاحبان اکثر بزرگتر که خفته شد و در آنوقت کاذب و اینجاب  
 محمد به این خود طرفه از میر علی میرزاخان خواهم بود و حتی یکا به او برود و  
 سند به این موجب است یعنی به میر علی میرزاخان خواهم دل در برین  
 انجام نهادن نیست و خفته شد که با به شمشیر اخویر بنایانهم با به بنان ۱۲۰۰

(میرزاخان)

کاه است

(میرزاخان)

(اکثر خدایان)

میرزاخان

کور خواهر شد

خط بهر عمر فردی در خط کمال بر دل صاحب بهادر  
منشور شود و قیامت حجت در کفایت هر دو عین کمال  
مصدق به جمع ۱۴۴۴

و غفره بی، در صبح که آفتاب در آید  
شیخ علی حسن مومنی در آن تزیین فیه مالک هر بر میر حاکم  
نوشته شد که انشعاب خوله رسم و نام حضرت بی بی طراز  
خوله که لایم محبت و کاه روز یکم یار



ختر اهلان خوشی نش، و هر چه غصی بر صاف کم روزی بر سر شود <sup>و دهات</sup> بر در و در  
سختی و با به غصی بر ار ارشی در حوزت بیگانه <sup>در آن</sup> صفی نماند در سر که  
به معنی فتح کبری و قهر قلعه احمد ایام تو غصی سید و حوزت ملک ملک و حکایت <sup>و حوز</sup>  
و به سماع آن لب و دل غصی خوشی با که در آن <sup>چشم و</sup> خشت خشت و خیر در سید <sup>چشم و</sup>  
نشان مال غصی کرده در و از طرف میر حسن بر دوش <sup>چشم و</sup> خار خفته شدند  
در پیش برای بهتر آن اولد چون که لدنی <sup>چشم و</sup> بحر است و از این <sup>چشم و</sup> جارج <sup>چشم و</sup> یون  
به غصی و مسدود شد غصی نیست که اگر صلدایشان دفع او قهر که <sup>چشم و</sup> می اند  
و شرف سرش غصی مشهور که هر <sup>چشم و</sup> سید <sup>چشم و</sup> بنده بر خوردار به ادب  
لایق سر است سواره در کار <sup>چشم و</sup> زنگر زبهار <sup>چشم و</sup> خواهد <sup>چشم و</sup> ار دستم <sup>چشم و</sup> از با که <sup>چشم و</sup> است  
بر دشت <sup>چشم و</sup> دیگر <sup>چشم و</sup> در شمع <sup>چشم و</sup> پیش <sup>چشم و</sup> از <sup>چشم و</sup> آفت <sup>چشم و</sup> از دست <sup>چشم و</sup> این <sup>چشم و</sup> همه <sup>چشم و</sup> اند

مطالعہ طبعی و سماویات کے لئے منتخب و ادنیٰ جانداروں کی بہار و شمع

خط میر علی محمد خان متصرف و اوقات جنگ میر نصیر خان  
معہ اظہار تاجہ الدار غولہ کارا اکرزہ ہمارے  
موصولہ بہت مفید ہے۔

*Letter from His Highness Meer Ali Moorad to  
Captain Brown's address received 27<sup>th</sup> September, 1842.*

محرم الحرام ۱۲۶۰  
حضرت میرزا علی محمد باقر  
خان قزوینی  
مقام عالی  
حضرت میرزا علی محمد باقر  
خان قزوینی  
مقام عالی

محرم الحرام ۱۲۶۰  
حضرت میرزا علی محمد باقر  
خان قزوینی  
مقام عالی

بدرج شریف و شریفی است در لایق و در کفایت  
نام که در هر وجهی در جواب محض میفرماید در هر حال  
لایق است به در هر وجهی است که در این مشق  
مهرت است در هر وجهی است که در این مشق  
در هر وجهی است که در این مشق  
از این مشق مرقوم که در هر وجهی است که در این مشق  
مهرت است در هر وجهی است که در این مشق

حق محض و پودیده محض اصدد بر آید و استغایه بلکه زیاده توهم با جمع شده  
نه بر فرا یا محض شمرده محض باشد. بدو حق بر آید. در ملک محض  
دیده کرد میر محمد عیاضی خان برادر میر نصیر خان پیش قدم نموده و بدو محض آمده  
موسسه بنی کرده جنب شروع کرد و قسبه محض بمقتضای  
پرداخت نسبت باین درجه رسید که میر نصیر خان معه برادران در دست  
این محض به بنطور قابو آید که آنچه می کردم که درین عرصه نامه  
رامی رسید که محض بقدر رسیدن نامه رامی میر نصیر خان و غیره مل  
را کرده محض متا بعد از دست دید سرکار انگلیز بهادر است چطور  
تصاحب این مفتی پذیرا می کرد محض من قیین تصور باید کرد که طریقه  
در تکیه محض تا بعد از سرکار انگلیز بهادر می کنند و خواهد کرد از دیگری  
نخواهد شد خواه آزمائش فرمایند اول در تکیه کسیر مقابل که کثرت  
اگر که امیر لویه اندیش خایه به بخاطر آن محض حاضر است و اول لذ



موصول ہاں  
بمطابق طرہ صریح شمولیہ / کتب و تصانیف در ذیل درج ہے

*Letter from Meer Roostum Khan to Meer Mahomed  
Hussan's address said to have been written after the  
Battle of Nownahar.*

بخدمت ارکامه از چشم زخمی جاندار و اجابت محمد و خواجه و امان خان  
سلطان

بخدمت از تبت سلام بخیریت انجام مشهور خاطر شوق تاثر مبداء  
رویکه راینک میر علی محمد خان معتمد تالشک بدو حمله افغانه کوه نرخیه  
که تو بخار باشد رسیده بقتل اتوب سلاصه اداده بخور دار میر محمد علی خان  
بر عورت جان از اجرت گومان حمله داشت به انجا رسیده مقابر برادر کشته  
حون خوراد گنج و چکدن او شان بسع رسیده غم بخورداران و برادر از ارکان  
کجه معلوم لوری مافه حمله دفع در انجا رفتم به میر علی محمد خان  
هر حمله شب فراز زمانه فغانم تقصید و مصلحت به ادب و پا  
از متابعت در کسبه لاجبار به پیوسته اکثر که در پهلوشته است  
دفع الوقت نموده چند قطعات جایزه از غنای خاچه دیهات خاوندان  
و ایام دکه در و عکه و دمه رسته و دیهچه از بخور دار میر علی اکبر خان  
و دیه دادله از میر نصیر خان و دیه مانیه از میر محمد علی خان بر آن نوشته دفع نمائش  
منعم بکسر بخورداران مطلب بر آن مهر نزنه مگر هر از میر نصیر خان  
سرور گرفته درست که درم کور دار میر نصیر خان بخوردار کشته کی به اجازت

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم  
الحمد لله الذي جعل في كتابه  
الغياض والنبات والحيوان  
والإنسان آياتاً للذين  
يعقلون

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

بخدمت حضرت بنده کان عالی متعالی میر محمد صادق الدین فیاض خان صاحب میر محمد حسن خان دام ظلہ  
جلو علیہ السلام سلامت و خوشی و عجز و نیاز و عنوف و ای شغف و پستی و کد و کد و کد و کد  
انجام به خط و نشان است که میر محمد صادق الدین فیاض خان بتاریخ نهم ماه شعبان شمس المعیت  
قشون وافر و اسباب و کچانه قریب شهر خیر پور که در ناز پشاد رسید و حضرت  
بنده کان عالی متعالی حاضر و نه گفت اقامت میر محمد صادق الدین دام اقباله جهت صلح و  
فمائش بود که در دیده و بنده درگاه الهی و دیگر میر صاحبان نیز با برکات میر محمد صادق  
برگاه که به نواز رسیدیم میر محمد صادق الدین فیاض خان و ابا سماع او از نوبت میر صاحب  
میر محمد علی خان و میر غلام میر خان به آدمیان فلیکس پشند در نواز مستعد جنگ که در دیده  
و حضرت میر محمد صادق الدین فیاض خان در نواز پشند به نوبت میر محمد صادق الدین فیاض خان  
برای دفع الوقت هفت مکان از خود و دهم داد و نواز بنده کان الهی و دهم مائید از ملک  
میر محمد علی خان پس پانه از محمد علی خان بر قرآن شریف نوشته به میر محمد صادق الدین فیاض خان  
داد و این بنده درگاه الهی میر محمد صادق الدین فیاض خان محبت ختم نمیکند حضرت میر صاحب کلدن  
بر در و جبر از نوشکی مهر گرفته درست کرده داد و پنجمی طور سفت میر محمد صادق الدین فیاض خان  
در معاد برادر بر کرده رفته است انحضرت سر دار صاحب دست روی عهد و دستار و شمعیت  
نوع دارم در از شغف سر دارانه محض و معبود کثیر بمباسب و کچانه صبح  
در خیر پور پشند که مکانات از میر محمد صادق الدین فیاض خان گرفته و داد و انحضرت شریف و نیاز  
پس بنده درگاه الهی لاجار به پشند صاحبان اکثر صاحبان ناز کو دیار





*Letter from His Highness Meer Ali Morad to the address of Meer Mahomed Hussan, said to have been received after the Battle of Nownahar, but denied by the former.*

بجا است  
 حضرت میر حبیب الدین صدر وقتها پسران مجمع محاسن فراداد  
 بعد ابوالوارث محمد سلیم خورشید بنام دارفر که اینجوست بر که است خوف صمن  
 لطف بزرگوار پیش ازین که این چاره را سر معانات با نطف  
 انبر حبیب رود که بعد از بمرده درینجا که از طرف انبر حبیب  
 میر حبیب می باشد که ازل بر نفسان است تکرار شده ریح پا ند و ابوالوارث  
 پس در نهادش که در ملک ایمان او در عقبه و جگر فرساده خسته و دلت  
 اش داده و بخت کرده است که چون انبار برای گرفتن حق خود و عیبی که  
 خود پیدا که برای حکم بر بعضی طرف خبر در رفت حکم واضح  
 حضرت بیکان نامر حبیب فید پرستم خان در میان آمده صبح فرقه در روی  
 فرج استانت است و از طرف که می دانند خوانده و ابائی می در می  
 رانند بیک عرقه دم و هم می دهم با نمل و ده داد و از طرف بر بعضی در می

اگر امر خود از طرف ذری طریقی دست کشیده یعنی به طرفه از این جانب و نه طرفه از میر نصر خان شدند  
 تا وقت دهانت بر وجه قبده داد یا میر صاحب خواهی داد و ده منتهی و دهه دارد و دست بر  
 این به خواهی گرفت و اگر امر خود از طرفه از این جانب شد، الله تعالی روح من و شوکران من  
 یا میر نصر خان جدا کردن در صورت نام ملک بر نصر خان و برادرانش حکم گرفت و نصف نصف  
 قسم حکم که از طرفه این به معین عهده و انجام است تا وقت زمره در میان خود که میر صاحب  
 این معین فرشته هر دو به خودی دست که در ده فائده معین بر عهده خود منقسم باشند  
 زیاده خیر و السلام فقط

*This Letter having been shown to Meer Mahomed Hussein, is recognised by  
 him as having been received from Meer Ali Moored.*

(Signed) R.K. PRINGLE,  
 President.





*Note from His Highness Meer Ali Moorad, in his own handwriting, to Meer Mahomed Hussun, written about the time of the Battle of Nownahar.*

حضرت میر صاحب مست

درینو لا علیٰ رفیع حتمت بسکھا بار باد ف نواب حافظ حکومت خان  
پیش این صاحب میرد کچھ پیغامات زبانی بیان نمائے جملہ  
معتبر تصور نہ جوابات آن جملہ حوالہ حفظ مذکور نمائند کہ برآں  
اطلاع دست دہ دیگر مسکھر الوجہ خبرت است و سلام

نصیب صاحب رو

*This Paper is acknowledged by H.H. Meer Ali Moorad to be in his Handwriting.*

*(Signed) R.K. PRINGLE,  
President.*



عظم  
بر سر من و علی بن ابی طالب  
و محمد و عقیله عروسی  
و زینب و خدیجه و فاطمه  
و علی و ابی طالب و علی بن ابی طالب  
و علی بن ابی طالب و علی بن ابی طالب

امانت امانت امانت

خزینة علم امانت امانت  
و علی بن ابی طالب و علی بن ابی طالب