

Private Letter Book

Volume VI

From the 16<sup>th</sup> January 1863

To the 9<sup>th</sup> July 1863

Private Letter Book

Volume VI

Commenced 16<sup>th</sup> January 1863

My dear Sir Richard

With reference to our conversation the other day I have the pleasure to send over Wheaton. You will find the article I alluded to of the treaty between France and America at Page 169. Pages 144, 154, 166, 172, 174 and 175 also contain information relative to the rights of the Local Authorities over Foreign Merchant States in Harbour. In the French Consular Regulations there is special allusion to the position of Consuls at British Ports, and if I remember rightly it is distinctly stated that our Laws recognise no Foreign jurisdiction within our ports and no special privileges to Consuls, giving moreover an instance of a French consulate having been searched and provisions taken of several Consular Documents found therein.

Sd O.C.

P.S

The trial of the Captain of the "Niobe" is a case in point, the wounded man as far as we are concerned having taken service in an American Vessel is looked upon as an American subject.

Singapore

20<sup>th</sup> Janry 1863

My dear Colonel Durrand

I have the pleasure to answer {enclose?} a précis of a report received from the Master of an English vessel lately arrived here from the Sooloo Islands, which may perhaps be considered interesting. I have as yet received no reply to my letter to the Sultan requesting to be furnished with a copy of the Treaty with Spain. It was however only within the last 5 months that I obtained through the aid of the Governor of Labuan an opportunity of despatching it, there being at present little or no trade and consequently no communication between this {place?} and the Sooloo Archipelago. You will perceive by my Official Report that the rumour, no doubt spread designedly, of having been loss of life at Tringanu was entirely without foundation, not a single

person having been in any way injured. Our operations have however had a beneficial effect not only on the East but the West of the Peninsula. The Rajah of Quedah, who had lately been writing to the Resident Councillor at Pinang in a very cavalier manner having quite altered his tone and expressed himself perfectly ready to attend to his advice, and to redress any wrongs of which our subjects have complained. Had the Court at Siam not been ill advised, I believe the Governor General's wishes would have been attended to in the first instance.

Sd/ O.C.

Col Durrand C B

Secy to Govt of India For: Dept

(true Copy) M.P.

(marginal note)

Copy of Treaty between Spain and the Sultan of Sooloo processed from a Malay version forwarded to Supreme Government in 1865. Vide letter to Secy of State for India 22 February 1865.

Précis of a Report furnished by the Commander of the British Bark "Ospray"

The Spaniards claim possession of the Island of Sooloo under the plea of conquest in 1852. They have however no representation on the Island. Their Steamers occasionally visit it and disputes are referred for the decision of their Commodore. At the same time they have little actual power in the Country. Their officers are not permitted to land for fear of being assassinated and their vessels are always kept in a state of preparation for immediate action with guns loaded etc. When the Spaniards seized the Capital they demolished the Port and disarmed all the inhabitants.

The present Sultan who succeeded his father whose death occurred about 8 months ago is a young man of 19 or 20 years of age. He receives from Spain a salary of one hundred or 120 dollars per mensem. He denies the right of the Spanish to exercise rule over his country of which they have entirely destroyed the trade. He asserts that he would gladly place himself under the Govt. of any liberal European power. He states that he has exerted himself to the utmost to suppress piracy and to maintain order generally, but that he is not sufficiently powerful to do so effectually without assistance and support.

No piratical Prahu are now allowed to fit out from the town of Sooj and but few from the south side of the Island, almost the whole of the Pirates by whom the coasts of Borneo have been devastated being from the Island of Tawi Tawi and the neighbouring coast of Borneo itself about Cape Unsang.

The Island of Sooloo appears to be densely populated, the Chief Town alone containing about 3,000 inhabitants, one quarter of whom are Chinese from Manilla and Mindanao. A very large

portion of the Island is covered with a long ready grass, but the soil seems to be very rich, producing every description of Native vegetable, coffee, cocoa etc.

The people appear to be well disposed towards the English and the crews of our vessels are hospitably treated. They seem to be well inclined to trade.

Although the Spaniards afford no protection and no redress in case of wrong they compel vessels trading with the Sooloos to abandon the direct trade with the Natives and to proceed to the Fort of Samboangan, where an *ad valorem* duty of 10 per cent is levied upon the whole value of the cargo. This proceeding on their part entails upon the vessel a loss of eleven days besides requiring her to lay for some days in a dangerous roadstead and in a port for which she may not be insured. The "Ospray" had been trading quietly for some days before the Spanish Men of War arrived and ordered her to discontinue trading and leave for Samboangan. The remonstrances of the Commander agt. This proceeding were unheeded.

Sd O.C.

20/Janry 63

True Copy M.P.

20/1/63

H.M.S. "Scout" being at present absent from the Station I regret that it is out of my power to furnish you with a memorandum of the charge on account of Table money during my recent visit to Sarawak. It was however made in accordance with Her Majesty's Regulations and must have amounted to about £30. With reference to the rules in force with respect to officials receiving a passage on board a Man of War, the prescribed sum is paid to the Commander by the Purser of the Vessel and the disbursement entered in the accounts of the latter. However I believe the charge can only be adjusted at the Admiralty. I beg the favor of your expressing to His Excellency the G.G. the gratification it has afforded me to learn that my Report has met with his Lordship's approval and is in his opinion likely to prove useful to Her Majesty's Government.

Sd O.C.

The Hon'ble {T Howell} Thurlow

Private Secy to H.E. the G.G. of India

(True Copy) M.P.

Précis of a letter to Captain Playfair Ag. R.C. Malacca d/22<sup>nd</sup> January 1863

Was sorry to hear of the Murder at Bkt. Pootoos and mentions that he has sanctioned the offer of Rs. 300 Reward. Is satisfied with the results of the orders regarding the sale of land and annuities. Feels sure the answer to Kim Sing's appeal will be unfavourable. Considers the Annuitants may

give up all hope of the 15 years' purchase being increased. Remarks that Macpherson can advance him the Rs. 50,000 recommended him to draw Bills on Singapore as the sum is rather large to send to send up in one of the small steamers. Desires him to take care he does not run out of stamps. Enquires when the Lighthouse will be ready. Trusts he has arranged about a good Established and that the European to be in charge is a good man. Has an idea that the Gunner of the "Torch" is not a very smart man.

Sd O.C.

True Copy M.P.

Précis of a letter to Major Man R.C.Pinang d/25<sup>th</sup> January 1863

Acknowledges his letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> Instant. Was glad to hear that matters have been arranged with the Rajah of Quedah satisfactorily and desires him to send in a report when the result is known. Mentions that a letter from the Rajah of Assahan has been sent to India. Intimates that Netscher regarding the Chinese who hoisted the British flag in Sumatra and he took the opportunity of forwarding to him copies of existing Treaties regarding the position of the English with the Native States on the E Coast of Sumatra. With regard to the hour for divine services believes there is a rule requiring reference to be made to the Chief Civil or Military Authority. Was glad to hear that he had succeeded in procuring Lord John Hay as {an?} Interpreter. Mentions that the Russian Admiral is in Singapore.

Sd O.C.

M.P.

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26/1/63

My dear Strachey

By this Mail I hope to despatch the revised scheme for the water supply for Singapore, prepared in accordance with the instructions of the |Supreme Government, by obtaining a sufficient head at the Main reservoir so as to admit of cisterns etc. within the town being entirely dispensed with and the water distributed by means of Stand pipes.

There can I believe be no doubt that if {of?} all the projects submitted this is the best, and I feel very grateful for your having exercised your power of veto upon the scheme last sent up, for although certainly superior to any of the others put before me, it had many serious defects. At that time, as mentioned in my former official, I was not aware of the existence of a feeder to the Ballestier Canal, which seemed merely to carry off the surface water from the neighbouring hills, which collected in a large marsh from which the Canal commenced. The stream from which we now propose to take out supply was concealed in the thick jungle beyond.

If the scheme is approved of by the Supreme Government, will you kindly oblige me by sending me a telegram via Galle. This may perhaps reach me a fortnight before your letter and towards the close of the year a fortnight is a matter of importance.

I have been obliged to ask for an additional Budget Assignment this year, but as you will perceive by my explanation, it is a mere paper transaction, to enable us to settle a transfer ordered by the Acct. General, for which of course no provision had been made in our Budget.

Your order limiting our assignment this ensuing year to three Lacs did not reach this {us?} until our Budget was nearly completed and it would have caused some delay to have had it recast. I therefore thought it right to send {it?} up unmodified. I am in hopes that the Financial Department will allow us the four lacs, as our revenue is increasing. By the end of next year I fully believe that I shall be able to pay all my Civil Establishments, for two Local Corps and three European Companies of Artillery. More than this we cannot fairly be called upon to pay for. I do not include the convicts in our Civil Establishments as it is not {?} just that the Expenditure on their account should be debited against their own Presidencies. The fact of our making their labor valuable in no way weakens the obligation upon them of supporting their own criminals. We might perhaps be required to liquidate all sums entered in the Manufacture Account, but then equally we should take credit for the money realized by the sale of articles manufactured, so that there would be in reality little alteration in the amount.

I find that there was an omission in the plan of screw piled Lighthouse that I sent up by last month's Steamer. The Draftsman forgot to insert the winding Staircase communicating with the Lanthorn from the tower apartment, the stair merely leading to the terrace. I thought there was a mistake on this point and sent it back for correction but unfortunately my memo did not reach Mayne in time for him to attend to it before embarking for Cape Rachado, and the Clerks knew nothing about the matter, whilst I did not like delaying the transmission of the project for another month, which would have been necessary had I waited until Mayne's return. The Lighthouse will be a great improvement over the Light Vessel and besides effect a considerable annual saving.

I trust you will be able to allow us to commence the new Court House. Extra accommodation is becoming much needed for all our Public Offices. I have just been obliged to order an outhouse to be converted into an import and export office in order to afford room for the Stamp Office, and we should have been in a regular fix had we not obtained the loan of the Dutch Telegraph Office.

Sd O.C.

To Col Strachey

Secy to Govt of India P.W.D.

(True Copy) M.P.

My dear Brigadier

I hear that the salute given to you yesterday by the Russian corvette was not returned from the Battery, Captain Watkins not being aware that it was in honor of a British official. As however Foreigners are sometimes punctilious on those points, it would be advisable to direct him to send a few lines to the Admiral's Flag Lieutenant mentioning the cause of the non return of the Russian civility.

Sd O.C.

True Copy

M Protheroe

Brigadier Shubrick

My dear Mr Callaghan

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> Decr and to thank you for the trouble you have taken in despatching my letter to Sooloo. Should it not reach {Sooloo?} it will not after all be a matter of any great consequence as I have recently had a very favourable opportunity of despatching a duplicate direct by the British barque "Osprey", from the Commander of which vessel I have recently received a very interesting account of the Island and its inhabitants. He states that Piracy is now almost entirely confined to the people of Tawi Tawi and the adjacent Borneo Coast.. On this point, if I mistake not,, you entertain a similar opinion.

Should anything occur to the Sultan of Bruni your hands are likely to be tolerably full for some time to come, as I suppose his death would be the precursor to serious disturbances in that Quarter, and in all probability your interference would eventually be needed etc. etc.

Sd/ O.C.

True Copy

M Protheroe

H.E. The Governor of Labuan

Singapore

3<sup>rd</sup> February 1863

My dear Sir

I request the favor of your tendering my best thanks to His Excellency the G.G. for the printed copy of my Report on Sarawak which I only received by the last Mail. The Pamphlet contains a few typographical errors of which I have the pleasure to enclose a List, as although perhaps

unimportant, it might perhaps be advisable to have them corrected in the event of any more copies of the report being printed.

Sd O.C.

Hon T. Howell Thurlow

Private Secy to G.G.

My dear Man

I can only send you a few lines in reply to your letter of the 30<sup>th</sup> Ultimo. I am indeed very glad to hear that you have made a commencement with regard to the Setar Ikan Mati Swamp, and I have little doubt that I shall see a great change by the time I come up.

I agree with you as to the necessity for a limit being placed on Mr Logan's expenditure. I desired Mayne to state that in the first instance an estimate should be submitted and then, if approved of, he should be allowed credit for the amount by a deduction from the price of the Land. If there has been any mistake on this point, please let me know.

I am afraid we should have some trouble in settling poor Lewis' business, though I should certainly be glad to render him assistance if possible. The proceedings about Larroot are fully approved of at home. As you are alluded to, I shall send you an official extract from the Despatch. It is now in my private box, as I have to draft a letter to the Sang {Yang} de per Tuan relative to his having levied duties not authorized by treaty.

The question of the Dutch aggressions on the E Coast of Sumatra has been taken up warmly, and I have little doubt that within the next three months the Dutch will be compelled to withdraw and to give up even their settlement at Bankalis. If Corbett could pay another visit to Langkat, it would be a good arrangement as I have to send the Chief a letter reminding him that we intend to enforce the terms of the Treaty.

Sd O.C.

3/2/63 Major Man R C Pinang

Singapore 3<sup>rd</sup> Febry

My dear Sandilands

Including young Earl who is only temporarily provided for Mr Denholm stands 4<sup>th</sup> on my list for an appointment in the Police, but the field for my patronage is as you know so small that it is quite out of my power to say when I shall have an opportunity of serving him. Some 3 years ago I recommended the abolition of the office of Coroner, both at Singapore and Pinang and the appointment of another Dy Commissioner of Police in Provice Wellesley, and this arrangement

will doubtless eventually be sanctioned, but it is the only opening to the best of my belief likely to occur for some years to come.

Sd O.C.

True Copy M.P.

From the reading of this concluding section of Article 7 of the Treaty of 1824, it is clear that the Sultan had no power to alternate {alienate?} any portion of the land made over to him solely for his residence. The whole of that levied {land?} together with any building thereon must be made over to Govt. before he can receive payment of the \$20,000. The ground having been allotted to him as a temporary arrangement during his residence at Singapore must now revert to the State and any agreement which the Sultan may have entered into must become null and void. No title having been given to the Sultan, he could of course confer no title on another and, even had he done so under Act xvi of 1859, the recipient was bound to have had the deed registered in the Land Office to render it valid.

Where parties are now paying a reasonable ground rent, and hold the leases for only a reasonable period, there would be no wish on the part of Govt. to disturb their occupancy, though it would be requisite for them to take out similar leases from the Land Office. Under any circumstances the land must be duly made over to us, and the right of Government to redeem it duly recognised before we should be justified in paying down the money.

Sd O.C.

28/3/63

Col R Macpherson R C {Spore}

True Copy

M Protheroe

My dear Sir Richard

I have the pleasure to enclose for your perusal Capt McNair's report upon the case of the women in whose behalf the petition was presented to you last Saturday. Will you kindly return it after perusal.

There is a point on which should not be incorrect I should feel much obliged by your favoring me with an opinion. A humble appeal has been addressed to me relative to the case of the Americans to be brought before the Grand Jury tomorrow. The appeal of course I cannot lay before you. I am however making enquiries as to how far it may be deemed worthy of consideration, and the question upon which I should be glad to be favored with your opinion is whether, in the event of my being satisfied on that point, taking into consideration the fact that the alleged attempt to defeat the ends of justice did not succeed and that the parties are



Foreigners, it would be improper or unbecoming in the Govt. on the submission of an ample apology to permit the Clerk of the Crown to enter a *Nolle Prosequi*.

Sd O C

True Copy M P

3/2/63 Sir R McCausland

My dear Playfair

I write these few lines to mention that the Recorder mentioned to me last night that it had been reported to him that up to the present not a single deposition had been received by the Sworn Clerk from the Magistrate's office, and that he might possibly, in the event of there being further delay be obliged to bring the matter officially to my notice. I shall feel therefore obliged by your speaking to Mitchell on the subject and pointing out the necessity for his forwarding depositions in cases about to be brought before the Sessions in time to admit of their being fully considered before the Court proceeds to Malacca, and he should remember that if he delays in the present instance till the last moment, it is impossible that proper attention can be given to the cases, as the current work of the Court cannot be set on one side to enable the Registrar to prepare his report.

I have been unable to sanction your proposed increase to Police. You will have to reduce the strength of each party to a Duffadar and four O=Peons, and if possible recover their pay from the Municipal Fund, or at all events effect a transfer from some other heading, as I am certain no increased assignment will be granted. As soon as you can commence selling your land, your Municipal Fund should rapidly rise. Indeed all that the Government could in justice be asked to pay for would be the Frontier Police. We have not yet had your report shewing the amount that will be required for Police Purposes this year, to enable the demand to be made on the Commissioners.

Macpherson will I trust be able to send you the money required for the purchase of the Annuities by the "Rifleman". I am afraid we shall not be able to pay our visit until next month, as the "Pluto" will hardly leave Calcutta before the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> inst: No answer has as yet been received to Kim Singh's letter about the Royalty. I have received a very favourable analysis of some coal that Collyer took home from Malacca. Messrs T Neubronner and de Wind have been awarded medals from the Exhibition.

Sd O.C.

4/2/63

True Copy M.P.

Capt Playfair R C Malacca

My dear Bain

I have not thought it necessary to send a copy of the proposed Act regarding tonnage dues to Pinang because I feel convinced that there is not the slightest chance of their being enforced, nor do I think the Supreme Government ever intended enforcing them if they were not approved of. Indeed the whole originated in the Straits. Some two years ago the Chamber of Commerce at Singapore submitted a scheme for the formation of a Port Fund to keep up a Harbour Master's Establishment etc. The plan seemed a good one and I supported it and sent it on to Calcutta. An answer came back that consequent on the old prohibitory order from the Court of Directors the Supreme Government could not sanction the scheme, but {as?} the Chamber seemed to consider the intended arrangement advantageous, the question would be referred to the Secy of State. About six months ago a Despatch was sent me transmitting for my guidance {a?} copy of one from the Secretary of State authorizing the proposed charges. In reply I mentioned that this letter was not sufficient authority for me to carry out the wishes of the Chamber and that they should be embodied in a legal enactment. Upon the receipt of my letter apparently without any great reference to the previous correspondence, and possibly from ignorance as to our wants, a draft of a Bill almost exactly the same as the Act in force in Calcutta was sent down with a letter to the effect that as the rules had answered at the other Ports in India perhaps they would suit the Straits. I have of course pointed out the reasons why they would not suit and I do not think there is any probability of their being brought into force.

Sd O.C.

R Bain Esqre

True Copy M Protheroe

Précis of a letter to major Man R C Pinang 9/2/63

Requests him to give all the information in his power regarding the trade with Perak and the proper duties to be levied of articles by the Rajah of that place. Mentions that probably Pengelly will succeed Capt Gottlieb at Pinang. Informs him that he has a Medal for his specimens of wood exhibited at the International Ex<sup>n</sup>. Is glad to hear that the Huey disputes have been settled. Will send back the "Mohr" as soon as the "Pluto" arrives. Requests him to send a return of the number of stamps disposed of in January.

Sd O.C.

M.P.

Singapore

10<sup>th</sup> February 63

My dear Playfair

I think it right to send you a few lines on the subject of your official enclosing a letter from the Dhatu Klana. Macpherson is of opinion, and I cannot help concurring with him, that the document did not emanate from the Klana but from Syed Saban, who is intriguing with the Old Sultan now in Moar, in order if possible to prevent any suppression of the disturbances in Pahang.

As far as I can discover the Tumongong's party have never entered Soongay Ujong and consequently the Dhatu Klana has no cause for complaint, whilst as regards the Pungulu of Jimpole, negotiations were entered into with him in the first instance and his consent given to the passage of the party through his district. He moreover engaged if necessary to cooperate with them provided the Tumongong would lend him \$1,000, which sum I believe has been promised. Up to the present the Tumongong has received no report from his people of their having been stopped, and he is consequently inclined to believe that the statement in the Klana's letter is not correct.

Malacca is, as you must be aware, famous for the concoction of forged letters, and it is quite possible that the Klana's seal was on this, as on a former occasion, attached to a blank sheet of paper, and the letter written afterwards. It certainly was not perused by the Klana or any of his immediate followers. I hope therefore you will make a searching investigation into the matter and endeavour to unravel the web of the intrigue. You must keep a sharp look out upon the old Sultan and discover what he is doing in Moar, although he is almost an imbecile, and may yet give you trouble if he is not properly watched. By the last account from Pahang Inchi Wan Ahmed had again been driven out of his stockade and been compelled to retreat.

Did I mention in my former letter that an analysis of some specimens of coal from Malacca sent by Collyer proved very satisfactory?

We are thinking of coming up next month and, as the sessions will not be over, should we do so we purpose taking up our Quarters at Tanjong Kling. Will you therefore kindly ascertain that it is in proper order for our reception. I do not wish for many reasons to postpone our visit to A.....if it can possibly be avoided.

Sd O.C.

True Copy M P 10/2/63

My dear Sir Richard

I have the pleasure to return the order duly signed. I have read the observations made by the petit Jury relative to the necessity for adopting measures to prevent any future collision between the sailors on board the French Transports passing Singapore and the Native Residents. The question has already formed the subject of a correspondence with the French Authorities and a strict order has been issued by H.E. the French Naval C.in C. in Cochin China prohibiting Comrs of vessels from allowing any of their men to land without leave.

Sd O C

Sir R McCausland

My dear Mr Froplory

Your letter only reached me this morning as I was absent from home yesterday afternoon. In order to save time I directed it to be forwarded direct to the officer in charge of the Mails by whom it has been retained, as an authority for his making over the Shanghai Packet which has I trust ere this duly reached your office.

63. Sd O C

Mons Froplory

M P Consul for France

Précis of a letter to Capt. Playfair R C Malacca d/14<sup>th</sup> February 1863

Thanks him for the Ramie. Mentions that if Mr de Wit was in the Governor's office he is not fit to be employed at Cape Rachado as Lightkeeper. Could hardly allow 2 convicts merely to take up water for the men at the Lighthouse but considers he might give the keeper an invalid to attend to his cooking. Enquires the amount of Mr Baningarten's claim. With regard to alterations in the payment of the purchase money would take the matter into consideration where people hold land by prescription rights and requests him to report on the subject. Is glad the offenders in the Bukit Pootoos Murder are caught. Requests him to send a return of the no of stamps sold last month. Reminds him that permission to one party of visitors to occupy the Stadt house is not to be considered as a permanent grant of the indulgence to all persons. Enquires whether he has disposed of more land.

Sd O C

Singapore 14<sup>th</sup> Febry

My dear Man

I am afraid this will be a hurried letter as I have only a few minutes to spare. Upon sending for the draft of Mayne's letter I found that it was not in accordance with the orders I had passed. I therefore directed him to send you a second despatch in continuation of the first which will I trust reach you by this Mail. My idea was as follows, that Logan should send in an Estimate of the work, the amount of which after due check should be sanctioned. You should at the same time furnish an estimate of the present value of the land he holds and of its probable value after the drainage works are completed. The difference should be deducted from his outlay as an equivalent for the personal benefit obtained, the balance to be deducted from the purchase money, as the equivalent of the advantage gained by Government.

I will proceed to illustrate my meaning — say that Mr. Logan's Estimate after scrutiny is passed at \$3,000. The price of his land at its present value is \$4,000 but, when it is drained, it is

considered worth \$6,000. The difference \$2,000 would be deducted from the Estimate leaving \$1,000 to be recovered from the Government out of the purchase money which would thus be reduced to \$3,000, the sum to be actually paid into the Treasury by Logan. This arrangement would be just to all parties, whilst having it determined beforehand there would be no misunderstanding hereafter.

I am glad to hear that the Rajah of Quedah is doing so well. I have not had time to answer your official. Almost before this reaches you, you will be promoted. Accept any etc. etc.

Sd O C

True Copy M.P. Hon: Lt Col Man

R C Pinang

My dear Playfair

With reference to my letter on the subject of the communication said to have been from the Dhatu Klana of Soongie Ujong I think it is right to mention that Abu Bakr has received a letter from a resident of Malacca styling himself Syed Hoosain Bin Abdul Rahman Tussoff (Yusof?), brother to Syed Ahmed of Campong Glam, in which he states that you sent for Syed Saban and spoke to him on the subject of the interference with the Tumongong's party, and that Syed Saban, who was accompanied by two Rambow Chiefs, in reply stated that the operations carried on by the Tumongong were contrary to Malay Law and, as the matter was not one connected with the English Govt., that he must decline meeting the wishes you had expressed for him to endeavour to arrange matters. The letter concludes by advising the Tumongong to have a meeting with Syed Saban where all difficulties may possibly be removed, and hints at his being able to make discourses {disclosures?} regarding secret proceedings at Malacca. This may perhaps give you a clue to the whole affair and enable you to discover the truth.

My own idea is that Syed Saban is at the bottom of the matter and is desirous of making use of influence among the Chiefs to extort money from the Tumongong. I have kept the letter in my own desk but can u a copy or translation, if you think either would be of ay use to you.

As there appears to be some doubt as to the range of the tides on the North Sands, will you order the Commander of the "Torch" to take soundings at every turn of the tide for a whole month and then send in a report upon the subject showing the depth of each sounding taken.

I should be very much obliged if you could kindly furnish me with a brief account of the cultivation etc. of the Ramie, the manner of preparing it for use, and the use to which it is eventually put. I should require these details to induce the A. & H. society to take an interest in the plant.

Sd O C

True Copy

19/2/63 M Protheroe

Capt Playfair

Offg. R C Malacca

Singapore 22<sup>nd</sup> Febry

My dear Sir

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> Decr and to thank you for the information therein afforded relative to the cause of the delay on Mr Earl's part in joining his acting appointment. Your account of Mr Earl is so favourable that I have little doubt that in his present berth he will afford satisfaction and I trust ere long to have it in my power to provide for him permanently.

Sd O C

True Copy M P

Major Stevenson

Dy Comr Tavory {Tavoy?}

22<sup>nd</sup> Febry

My dear Capt Carew

I have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 26<sup>th</sup> Ult and to state that your name was mentioned in an official Letter recently forwarded to the Supreme Government as being on my list of Candidates for Employment in the Straits. It is of course quite out of my power to say when it is likely that I may be able to meet your wishes as the list is rather a long one and as you know I have not many appointments in my gift.

Sd O C

True Copy

M P

Capt Carew I N

Adjdaha Bombay

Febry 21

My dear Man

I hope the "Fame" will bring us down the copy of the Treaty with Langkat. Upon its receipt I purpose asking Corbett to allow the "Coquette" to go over to the Sumatra Coast to deliver my letter to the Rajah. Her appearance in that quarter just at present will prove beneficial. Mt Netscher called on me a few days ago. He states that on his last visit to Delhee he rescued a British Schooner belonging to Pinang which had been detained for several months in the river Putut(?). He did not know her name but that of the owner was Sour Ali Beg. I told him that, as you had recently been to Delhee in the "Scout", it appeared strange, if the vessel had been forcibly detained, that no appeal had been made to you for assistance as the crew must have been well aware of an English Man of War being in the neighbourhood. However I promised to make enquiries on the subject. He expressed a hope that, if I had any reason to be dissatisfied with the proceedings of the Chiefs, I would bring the matter to his notice, and he wd. Take care my wishes were attended to. I thanked him but said that, as my instructions were to compel due observance of all out treaties with Native States, I must myself adopt the necessary measures for causing due respect to be paid to my {any?} remonstrances I might have to make, and must consequently decline availing myself of his kind offer.

When the "Pluto" arrives please send her off as soon as possible and direct the Commander to call at Cape Rachado and bring down any convicts for Singapore he may find there.

Sd O C

Major Man R C Pinang

M Protheroe

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My dear Hellard

I write these few lines to mention that I have duly applied for your services to the Bombay Govt and reported to the Supreme Govt that it is my intention to appoint you M.A. on your return which I expect will be some time in May.

I observe by the order on the subject of the abolition of the Indian Navy that during the period of an officer being employed under any Indian Govt. he will not be entitled to draw his pension. You will therefore be restricted to your pay viz 500 Rs. per mensem as M.A. and 200 per mensem from the fees of the Shipping office as Shipping Master under Act 1 of 1859. How far the order with regard to your not drawing your pension would operate in the event of the Settlement being transferred to the Colonial Office I cannot say, but I should imagine in that case, your connection with India being severed, that you would be entitled to receive it. This however is merely conjecture on my part. etc. etc.

Sd O C

True copy M P

Capt Kellard I.N.

London

Singapore

Febry 27<sup>th</sup> 1863

My dear Sir Robert

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> Instant and to beg you to accept my best thanks for the reception you have accorded consequent on my introduction of Mr. And Mrs Lewis, for which I can assure you they both feel most grateful.

A few days ago I received a letter from the Sultan of Tringanu begging that I would induce the Court at Bangkok to take early measures for the removal of the Ex.Sultan of Lingga from his territories, but as I observe from the papers that a Siamese Steamer is about to be sent down the coast for that purpose it is unnecessary that I should address you officially on the subject.

I have little doubt that the pretensions of Siam over Kalantan and Tringanu will now be definitely settled so that no future doubts will be allowed to exist on this point. It is clear to me from all the correspondence on the subject, that for a long period of years Siam has been endeavouring to induce the two States to acknowledge her Sovereignty, but hitherto has never



succeeded in the attempt, though in order to avert an attack the Chiefs have consented to offer the quinquennial tribute.

When the Prime Minister waited upon me in 1861, he alluded to a petition he had received from some British Subjects against the Sultan of Tringanu, and expressed his readiness if I desired it, to have the matter enquired into and I at once told him that all matters in which the Sultan of Tringanu was concerned I settled myself, so that he was perfectly well aware of the views entertained by this Government, and I have little doubt that the offer was made solely with the object of obtaining a tacit acknowledgement of the power of Siam over the 2 states, an acknowledgement which of course I was not prepared to make. All this was fully reported so that the Home Govt. will have no want of data to refer to.

We require no extension of territory and are naturally anxious to maintain the independence of the Malayan Chiefs. These States are too small to invite Foreign European attack, but if they formed part of Siam, they might at any time be involved in a war with the French which it is our object to prevent. I have little doubt that the Siamese themselves are perfectly well aware of the necessity for their keeping on good terms with us. Without our support they would be liable at any moment to have a quarrel fastened on them, and Bangkok would be in the Estimation of our worthy Allies a much more desirable Settlement than Saigon. Doubtless your presence alone has prevented this being the case long ere this, and the Siamese Authorities must feel this and ought to be grateful to you for the countenance you have always afforded them.

The allowance I recommended for your witnesses is in Excess of that about to be granted in similar cases by this Govt or in India. About a moth ago I received a scale from Idia for my guidance in drawing up my own reg<sup>ns</sup>, so that if you address me officially I shall now be quite prepared to answer your queries and to give you the necessary assistance towards deciding the question. etc.

Sd O C

P.S. Will you kindly give our remembrances to Mr and Mrs Lewis. I am afraid I shall not have time to answer his letter,

Sir R Schomburgk

Consul Bangkok

True Copy

M P

Précis of a letter to Major Man R C Pinang d/27/2/63

Trusts that a good example will be made of the recaptured convicts. Enquires whether he is aware that Hilliard has been obliged to employ free instead of convict labor on the new road near Tassek. Explains that Mayne is anxious to take up his quarters at Govt House for a short time

probably in May next. Considers that the bishop has not suffered from St John's attack. Is expecting "Pluto". Requests him to send down translation of treaty with Langkat.

Sd O C

M P

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My dear Mr Froplory

I have the pleasure to return with many thanks the inter Report on Saigon you kindly sent for my perusal. It differs from a Report on a British Colony inasmuch as it contains in detail the orders issued without giving the result. The latter intimates the result without specifying the orders through which that result has been obtained.

Saturday 28/2/63 Sd/ O C

Mons Froplory

Singapore

4<sup>th</sup> March 1863

My dear Sir

I have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ultimo and again to return you my best thanks for the kind assistance you have rendered me in procuring the supply of cotton seed which has been duly received and distributed. I beg to enclose a Bill upon London for £2.10. in payment of the price of the seed. I regret that I was unable to procure an order upon Alexandria but trust that you will experience no difficulty in getting this cashed.

Sd O C

True Copy M P

Sidney Smith Saunders Esqre Egypt H B Consul General

Précis of a letter to Captain Playfair R C Malacca d/5<sup>th</sup> March 1863

Is glad to hear of the arrival of the sheep in good condition. Mentions that the Tumongong's party have probably arrived ere this in Pahang, the Punghulu of Jampole having refused to stop them. Considers that Syed Saban is intriguing with the Sultan. Considers it advisable for him to keep his stamps. Hopes that Govt. will allow him to reduce the Royalty to 5 Percent in cases where mining operations are carried on on a large scale. Does not intend to proceed to Malacca till the 17<sup>th</sup>. Supposes that the judge will be back on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Singapore

7<sup>th</sup> March/63

My dear Capt Pengelly

I write these few lines in the hopes that they may reach you before you leave for Europe. I have duly submitted your name in the list of officers of Indian Navy for whom I should be glad to provide should an opportunity occur and {from} all I hear the vacancy at Pinang will take place almost immediately. The pay of the berth including the allowance as Shipping Master which has latterly been regularly paid from the fees in {is} Rs 550 per mensem and there are a few fees received as Examiner etc. but there are I fancy trifling at present. The Straits are attached to India and consequently I am afraid Sir C Wood's order would affect you, but in the event of our being transferred to the Colonial Office you would I presume be fully entitled to draw your pension in addition to your pay. That the transfer will eventually take place I have little doubt, still it is impossible to say when the measure will be carried out. I certainly do not think it will be deferred beyond another year or so but nothing positive has yet been decided, and consequently there is some conjecture and you may therefore act upon your own judgment. If after taking everything into consideration you would still desire to succeed to the Pinang appointment I can only say that it would afford me pleasure to meet your wishes.

Sd O C

To Capt Pengelly I.N.

Care of Stevens Brothers & Co

Bombay

Singapore

8<sup>th</sup> March 1863

My dear Man

I have merely time to write a few lines to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> Ultimo and to mention that the necessary alterations and repairs have been ordered to the Boilers and Machinery of the "Mohr". The Estimate however is a very high one, about \$2,000, and is at present under consideration with a view to its being reduced if possible. However the Steamer, when the work is finished, ought to be in first rate order and require little or nothing in the way of repairs for some time. It is not unlikely that she may be required for special service under the order of the Supreme Govt for about a couple of months or so, in which case for the time she is to be employed her expenses are not to be debited against Pinang. This must however depend upon the early execution of the work now in hand.

In all probability I shall leave this {place} for Malacca in the "Pluto" about the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>. The Steamer will then go on to Langkat, deliver my letter and pay you a visit, so as to be available for about a week for any duty you may require of her, returning afterwards to pick us up again and take us back to Singapore.

I am very glad to hear that you have received such satisfactory accounts of the proceedings of our Native friends in the Peninsula. I agree with you in thinking that they are not likely again to give us much trouble. As you have not sent on the correspondence about Dewljee's case I presume you are satisfied with the reprimand you have yourself administered and consequently do not wish to submit the question officially. I am surprised after the previous correspondence on this subject that Hilliard should have exposed himself to rebuke. I am afraid if you cannot find the Langkat Treaty amongst your records that it must have been sent up to Calcutta. However we have had a translation made which will answer the purpose.

Sd O C

True Copy

M P

Hon: Col: Man R C Pinang

Singapore 8/3/63

My dear Playfair

The "Pluto" will leave this {place} about the 13<sup>th</sup> to bring down the Judge and the Court Establishment as I presume that by that time the session will be over and Sir Richard glad to return. I wish you to have the relief of the Lighthouse effected and then send down the "Tonze" to Singapore, as it is possible her services may be required for some time as a tender to one of the Men of War, as {and?} it is just as well that she should be here so as to have any necessary repairs to her Machinery executed and to be in readiness to start at a day's notice.

At present Corbett's plans are somewhat uncertain and it is possible that he may not to pay his visit to the Sumatra coast as soon as he intended, but he will be in a position to deliver {deliberate?} upon the matter after he returns from Batavia, which will be about the 17<sup>th</sup> Instant, and as time may be an object, it is necessary that we should have our Steamer in readiness, so as not to delay his movements. The "Mohr" is at present under repair and not likely to be fit for work for some time to come.

I hope you have sent down one of the Printed forms of the Certificates we have been in the habit of giving to the Imams attached to the Village Mosques. We require the forms for our guidance here.

Have you been able to procure an account of the process to wh the Rami is subjected in its preparation, the mode of cultivation etc. etc. so that I may bring the matter to the notice of the A.H.Society?

Sd O C

Captain Playfair

R C Malacca

Singapore

12<sup>th</sup> March 1863

My dear Playfair

Many thanks for your letter of the 4<sup>th</sup> Instant and for the Enclosures which only reached me yesterday.

I can hardly believe that Syed Saban was ignorant of the translation of the letter to the Tumongong, although of course he would naturally deny all acquaintance with the matter. He is fond of intrigue and I have little doubt that he is at present in correspondence with the Old Sultan or some of his people.

The report that you have received relative to the state of affairs in Pahang certainly does not correspond with the accounts that have reached us from other Quarters, from which latter it would appear that Wan Ahmed had retreated and that the country was quieting down. The statement made to you however is valuable inasmuch as it shews the impression that exists amongst the neighboring Chiefs with regard to the support given to wan Ahmed by the Court at Siam. It might perhaps be worthwhile for you to place the statement upon record.

I was very sorry to hear of the disturbance at Kassing. I trust that a conviction has been duly obtained against the guilty parties.

I hardly think we shall be able to leave this {place?} much before the 19<sup>th</sup> as I am desirous if possible of seeing Corbett again before we start, and he will hardly be back from his trip to Batavia before the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> Inst

With our united kind regards

Sd O C

I hope the "Tonze" has left for Singapore. If she has not relieved the "Torch", the relief must be effected.

My dear Rose

In looking over the Catalogue of Articles sent from India to the great Exhibition, I note a report relative to oil expressed from the seeds of the (?) {chaulmoogra?} which is procurable at Chittagong, and is stated by the Civil Assistant Surgeon, Dr. Beatson, to be a most valuable remedy in leprosy and in obstinate ulcers of all kinds. He mentions that he has seen ulcers, both leprosy and non-leprosy, take on a healing action on the application of the Chanoog—after resisting every other kind of treatment. Have you used this oil? If not I think it would be worthwhile for you to write to dr. Beatson and ask him to send down a small quantity for trial. I hope you are keeping your patients in the House of Correction up to their work. They would be good people to try the Effect of the oil upon.

Sd O C

True Copy

M P

18/3/63

Dr Rose Senior Surgeon

Précis of a letter to Major Man R C Pinang d/19<sup>th</sup> March 1863

Regrets to hear that Hilliard's case will have to be referred for orders. Cannot find the Volunteer clothing indents but considers he might prepare an ordinary one as used by Regiments in this country and send it in. Mentions that it should be in by the 1<sup>st</sup> June. Does not consider he has cause to complain of the absence of the "Mohr". Mentions that she will not be back at Pinang before June or July, but that the "Pluto" will be sent up occasionally. Mentions her approaching trip to Delly, Assahan, Langkat. States that Mayne will probably go to Pinang in "Baltic". Is glad to hear that the disturbances among the Celestials have been settled

Sd O C

My dear Lireman

I have spoken to Playfair on the subject of provisioning the European Artillery shortly expected. He informs me that there is a Butcher at the Station who is prepared to kill a Bullock twice a week. This will, under the plan proposed of taking double rations and salting one half by Carson's Machine, provide for 4 days. For 2 more days corned pork might be issued and perhaps for the 7<sup>th</sup> day the men might, as at Pinang, be glad to have fresh Pork, more especially if some condiments were given in addition. Playfair tells me that Pork can be supplied of very good quality, and as this place is certainly, as regards fish and fowl, cheaper than Singapore, the Europeans would occasionally be able to add something to their ordinary rations.

It is possible that if the Butcher finds a steady supply creates a steady demand, he may eventually kill oftener, but for the present we must be content. It is advisable that you should write as soon as possible to Playfair, clearly specifying the arrangements you wish to be made, so that

everything may be settled before the men arrive, as each man is allowed 1 lb. Of meat clear of large bones. I presume that will in reality require about 1lbs. 60 (6 oz?) for the two days' rations

Sd O C

Major Lireman

23/3/63 True Copy M P

Précis of a note to Col Macpherson R C Singapore 23/3/63

Mentions that Mr Kaupman is supposed to be in the habit of landing all the sick Chinese from the Carimons at Singapore, and as this is a breach of the law desires him to call Dunman's attention to it.

Sd O C

M P

Malacca 25<sup>th</sup> Mch

My dear Atkinson

Many thanks for your kind letter of the 31<sup>st</sup> Decr which should have been answered long ere this, had I not heard that the Malacca School Committee had solicited the aid of the bishop I obtaining the services of a head Master, and I was therefore anxious to ascertain the result of their application before writing.

I find that the Bp. Has promised to assist them as far as may be in his power, but does not appear very sanguine of success, and the Committee have consequently begged me to mention that they are quite prepared to instal in the vacant office any person whom you, in communication with his Lordship, may nominate. I am afraid however the candidate alluded to in your Letter wd. Not be well qualified to fill the post, as he wd. Not possess sufficient influence over the Under Masters to keep them in proper control which is very necessary.

If possible the nominee should be of pure European birth and not less than 25 years of age. The salary which is provided from the govt. grant in aid is at present Rs. 220 per mensem, and it may hereafter be increased to 250 per mensem from Local Subscriptions but on this point there is no certainty. In addition to his salary the Head Master also enjoys comfortable quarters in the School house. A remittance on a/c of passage money has already been made by the Bishop.

I shall indeed be very glad if you and his Lordship between you can arrange to secure the services of a really good man, for they are much needed. I visited the school yesterday and examined the first class. The result was anything but satisfactory.

As regards the scholarships granted by the Straits Govt., I am afraid we shall for the present be obliged to keep them as local Prizes, as although some of our Scholars both at Spore and Pinang are making very fair progress, and I have no right to complain, they are as yet I should imagine hardly ready to compete with the Alumni of the Presidency institutions. I should however esteem it a great favour if you would kindly supply me with a copy of the paper of questions proposed for the last Calcutta Scholarship Examinations. This would guide me in procuring a correct judgement as to the relative proficiency of your lads and my own, and enable me to come to a decision on this point.

I am now on an inspectional tour but purpose returning to Headquarters at Spore about the 10<sup>th</sup> Prox. I have not yet had time to visit the Vernacular Schools I have recently established, but I hear they are progressing very favourably. In another 2 years if all goes well, I may reasonably expect as regards education a decided improvement throughout my Govt.

Sd O C

To W S Atkinson Esqre M A

Director of Public Instruction

Calcutta

True Copy

M P

Précis of a letter to Major Man R C Pinang d/27<sup>th</sup>/3/63

Enquires whether he shall send a copy of the draft Act for the regulation of Chinese Secret Societies for his consideration and for him to shew the Chinese, as he intends to again submit the matter to India.

Sd O C

Précis of a letter to the Secy A & H Society d/27/3/63

In reply to his letter states that officers in charge of districts have been requested to report on the result of the cultivation of the cotton distributed among them and a report will be sent to the Society on receipt of their replies.

Sd O C

M P

Malacca d/27/3/63



My dear Macpherson

I have just time to write a few lines to return the Warrant received with yours of the 25<sup>th</sup> and to state that I think the matter is one that need not have been brought to your notice. If Dunman was of opinion that the order to arrest the man was illegal, a point upon which I am not quite sure, he should have mentioned the matter to Vaughan in the first instance. This he does not appear to have done and consequently the matter solves {resolves?} itself into a question of talebearing, a practice that must be discountenanced.

Whenever a reference is made on a subject connected with 2 officers, the only plan is to cause it to be submitted officially and with the reports of both parties attached. It never does even in the most trifling matters to allow an officer to make a side attack, as it were, upon another. We had a great deal too much of this in the Straits some years ago. I will write you a long letter in a day or two.

Sd O C

True Copy

M P

My dear Macpherson

Owing to my trips to the interior and sending off the Calcutta Mail I have hardly had a moment's leisure since we arrived here. Hence the delay in answering your long letter.

Playfair has received another communication fm. The Datu Klana. It is written in a different strain from the first but still accuses the Tumongong of want of courtesy in not addressing him on the subject of the despatch of the Party to Pahang, and states that he does exercise control over a portion of the Country through which they passed and that the transit of another party will not be allowed without permission.

I have told Playfair to inform him in reply that the discourtesy was not intentional on the Tumongong's part, and that if the Dhatu Klana can satisfy me as to his right to claim authority over any part of the route traversed by the Tumongong's people, I will bring the matter to the Tumongong's notice. This being the case I think Abu Bakr had better write to the Datu Klana expressing his regret that he should have reason to suppose that he has been guilty of discourtesy towards him, stating that he was not aware of any section of the road passing through his territories, and requesting, in the event of such being the case, that he will withdraw the prohibition and allow the other party to proceed to their destination. This doubtless could have a good result.

I saw the man who wrote to Abu Bakr the other day. He insists upon it that his letter was in reply to one received from A.B.'s secretary, asking him for advice and information; otherwise he

would not have written. I understood from Simons that the letter was a perfectly uncalled for production and from a person regarding whom Abu Bakr had no previous knowledge. Will you kindly speak to Simons on the subject and ask him for full information regarding the correspondence, as I should like to get at the bottom of the matter.

There would have been no objection to your writing the letter about the Municipal Account, leaving the number blank and sending up the draft by the first opportunity. We could then have brought it into our file by giving it a half number or adding the letter A to the number.

I shall be anxious to hear the result of the sale of our farms. I have little doubt there will be some increase, though I am not desirous that it should be a very large one.

I should be glad to support the request of the Mercantile Community with regard to granting Willans a suitable assistant, provided it can be shewn that our Merchants are subjected to inconveniences from which Merchants in Calcutta and in England are exempted. Unless this can be proved I doubt whether the application would be successful. I had a long chat with Willans on the subject before I left, and although he was hardly repared to express a vy decided opinion he seemed to think that in no case had any inconvenience been suffered by anyone which could not be attributed to the sufferer's own neglect, and he mentioned that almost all the Mer. Firms were obtaining a regular stock of stamps, so as always to keep a few days' supply in hand, an arrangement which must afford a great relief to the Stamp Collector, as it would enable him to work off a number of stamps of the same value at the same time instead of being frequently compelled to change the die, which causes much delay. I doubt much whether in Calcutta, Madras or Bombay the Merchants send to the stamp office on Mail days except in a few very peculiar cases. Willans stated that there were one or two modifications of the present system he intended proposing, but he wished in the first instance to satisfy himself fully of the necessity for them.

Sd O C

True Copy M P

Malacca 31<sup>st</sup> March 63

My dear McNair

I have the pleasure to return for record in the Chief Engineer's office the Abstract of Proceedings forwarded by Mayne previous to his departure for Pinang. He wrote to mention that he was very anxious for the purchase of a steam hammer for the use of the work yard. The price of it is \$650. If there is any money available I have no objection to the measure as I presume that the hammer would be found extremely useful and that it would be worked by your present engine and attached to the Saw Mill.

I do not know whether the question of the Bungalow on Pearls Hill was decided before Mayne left. If not you might mention to Lireman that all I should feel disposed to sanction would be the

redivision of the rooms and some addition in the way of a Pandal to protect the outer walls from the Sun and Rain.

Sd O C

M P

Capt Macnair

Ex Eng Spore

Malacca 9<sup>th</sup> April

My dear Man

I am sorry to hear you have had so much trouble with the disputes between your Chinese Societies. I have the pleasure to forward a copy of the Draft of an Act I submitted some 2 or 3 years ago for the consideration of the Supreme Govt, regarding which no decided order have ever been issued, though the Secy of State expressed himself as a general question opposed to any Legislative movement against the Hooeys. It is not, as you will perceive, the intention of the Act to suppress these societies but rather to bring them under proper control and eventually to render them instruments of good instead of evil.

Sd O C

The Honble Major Man R C Pinang

Singapore

22<sup>nd</sup> April 1863

My dear Sir Richard

I have the pleasure to return the enclosures to your note of the 14<sup>th</sup> Instant. I have caused a copy of the remarks of the Grand Jury in the case of the Indictment against Bookooh Heng Sam to be forwarded to the police Magistrate for his information, and he will I am sure give the matter his due consideration.

As regards the question of having vessels in Harbour unmanned, although the practice which is stated to prevail at Singapore is certainly extremely reprehensible, yet as far as I am able to judge, any interference on the part of Government in the present state of the law would be unauthorized, and I hardly think that the solitary instance of an evil result now adduced would be

deemed a sufficient cause to induce the Legislature to move in the matter. It shall however have my consideration.

I have already brought to the notice of the Supreme Govt the fact of our being unable to exercise any control over vessels engaged in carrying Passengers between the Straits and China. As the Junk in which the recent Mortality (120 out of 300) occurred did not apparently leave a British {port?}, under any circumstances the overcrowding etc. could not have been prevented. I purpose however forwarding a copy of the depositions in the case for the information of the government at Macao.

Sd O C

The Honble

Sir R B McCausland

Précis of a letter d/ 22<sup>nd</sup> April to J B Brown Esqre

Glugor Pinang

Acknowledges the receipt of his letter of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Ult. Mentions that Capt Stewart's name is down in the list of Candidates but can hold out small hopes of his being employed under this Govt.

Sd O C

Précis of a letter to Honble Major Man R C Pinang

Was glad to hear that the escaped convicts were recaptured. Hopes he will be able to unravel the plot and effectively prevent a recurrence of these escapes. Mentions that he has replied to letter regarding Sir E Parry. Enquires whether Hilliard keeps a case book for serious convict cases. Mentions that he has forgotten to send a copy of the letter from the Rajah of Assahan. Enquires when he intends to leave. Desires him to tell Burn that he has not written to him as he could give him no intelligence until his (Maj: Man's) plans were decided.

Sd O C

M P

My dear Macpherson

I have received your Letter No 63 of yesterday's date. Before issuing any order upon it I would wish to know whether McNair had any verbal communication with you on the subject of your right to require the execution of the work in the P.W.D. I had been under the impression that you mentioned that he had told you that he hoped you would not suppose he wished to oppose your order, but that he was anxious that the question of Mayne's right to interfere with the Convict

Department might be clearly determined, which it would be by the subject being brought to my notice, which it was both by you and himself. As therefore it was referred for my decision and a reply sent you of which he received a copy for his information and guidance, he could hardly move again in the matter

With respect to the Rule relative to the powers of Resident Councillors, it is possible that although he was aware of the existence of the order, he could not quote it and may have waited until Mayne's return to submit the question to him. If I remember rightly a circular on this point was sent to R C's and Ex Engineers in 1861. If I thought that there was any attempt on McNair's part to decline recognising your authority, I should have no difficulty in dealing with the matter, but as it seems to me that the view you have taken may not have been the correct one for the following reasons.

1<sup>st</sup> That he was unaware of the existence of an order limiting the powers of Local Civil Authorities though he could not quote it and therefore intended to submit the question to the Chief Engineer to whom he is responsible for the due observance of P.W.D. Regulations.

2<sup>nd</sup> that having had a verbal communication with you he may have supposed that you were satisfied with his explanation and would therefore await my decision without requiring any further notice of your letter on his part.

Sd O C

Col Macpherson

R C Spore

April 25<sup>th</sup>

My dear Sir Richard

I am sorry to say that I do not possess the power of ordering the conversion of Company's paper into cash. This can only be done I believe in Calcutta.

As far as I am at present capable of judging, the question at issue is one in which no responsibility whatever attaches to the Local Government, nor could it be justified in interfering within the Court, nor the suitors can demand the investment of money in a treasury certificate Loan as a matter of legal right. The power exercised by the former is permissive only and may at any moment be withdrawn. Whilst its exercise is still perfectly optional, and in the event of the Court preferring to direct money to be invested in one of the ordinary Loans, the suitors would have no legal cause for complaint.

Although the Accountant General is appointed by the Government, and the Govr. is therefore responsible for the safety of the money entrusted to his charge as shown by his periodical accounts, yet it cannot I opine be answerable for any neglect of the orders of the court. Those orders are not communicated to the Govt. nor are the periodical accounts of the Acct. General

submitted to its scrutiny. On the contrary these accounts which shew distinctly the mode of investment of all money received from the Court are forwarded to the Court, and in the event of their being received without comment, it may be fairly presumed that the Court is satisfied with the manner in which its orders have been carried out. If not, it would certainly possess the means of enforcing due attention to its instructions. Had the Court in 1854 been dissatisfied with the mode of investment of the money appertaining to the Estate of Tan Koon Swee, it could at once have manifested its displeasure, and either through the Executive govt. or the Acct. General, caused the error to be rectified. But it is quite possible that when the matter was brought to notice, the Court did not deem it necessary to require any change, not considering that the interests of the Estate would be in any way affected, nor honestly do I think they will be, the tendency of all govt. Loans being so evidently upward.

There is one point upon which I shall have to call for further information as there seems to be some discrepancy between Playfair's statement and that of the Acct. General in Calcutta. The order of Court is stated to have been issued on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 1854, but the Acct. Gl. Asserts that the subscription was an original one made on the 1<sup>st</sup> from {June?} 1837. This I do not quite understand, more especially as in 1837 the indulgence of investing in the Treasury Certificate Loan had not been granted. As soon as this doubtful point is settled I propose submitting the question for the opinion of the Advocate General and the orders of the Supreme Govt which is I think the best course to be adopted.

Sd O C

Sir R B McCausland

(True Copy) M P

Extract from a letter to Sir R Schomburgk Consul at Bangkok d/28<sup>th</sup> April 1863

France seems to have enough to do just at present, and consequently is not I think likely for some little time to come to attempt to pick a quarrel with Siam. Still the contingency is one that we must always be prepared to Guard against. If however, as is currently reported here, the French Consul when he went was kept waiting in an outer shed until it suited H.M.'s pleasure to receive him, I cannot be surprised at his demanding reparation for what could not be looked upon as anything else but an insult, and a studied one for with Orientals all such acts of discourtesy are intended not casual.

Unless H.M. learns to treat the representatives of Foreign Powers with the same courtesy which they would receive from European Sovereigns, he will always be in hot water with some Consul or other. It is quite possible that he may consider the course he pursues as dignified instead of being as it really is merely the result of his want of knowledge of the ordinary rules of civilized Society. I have been introduced at Private receptions to an Oriental Ambassador who was under my charge both to H.M. and the emperor of the French and on both occasions the Sovereign was as punctual as ourselves.

I have heard nothing from India relative to the Tringanu affair. I have however little doubt as to its resulting in a clear exposition as to our relative positions with Tringanu and Kalantan. Mr Mackenzie's letter, which was quite unauthorized, was the first occasion of the Court at Bangkok ever being addressed with respect to the settlement of any disputes we have had with those States, and both have on different occasion been called upon by the commanders of an armed vessel to afford redress for wrongs inflicted upon our subjects.

As regards the Ex.Sultan of Linga, the Siamese Authorities, unless they had intended to be responsible for his good behaviour, had no right to summon him to Bangkok in 1861. I was well aware of what would be the result at that time.

Sd O C

True Copy M P

Note dated 28<sup>th</sup> April 1863 forwarding a certificate to Sergeant O'Leary Adj't Genl's office Calcutta.

Note date 28<sup>th</sup> April 1863 to Capt Fraser Offg Ch: Eng: Govt of Bengal regarding stone at Spore for Alguada Reef

Sd O C

M P

Précis of a letter to Lt Col Man R C Pinang d/28/4/63

Awaits the report of his intended departure for Europe. Mentions that Mayne will cut down Hilliard's Church Estimate and that he has again addressed the Supreme Govt regarding Sir E Parry

28/4/63 M P

My dear Playfair

I write these few lines to mention that with respect to the sum of \$11,000 invested in a 4 per cent Loan instead of a Treasury certificate Note, it might be advisable for you to forward it to the Accountant General by this opportunity requesting him, if the Loan is now at par, to cause it to be disposed of through the Bank of Bengal, the sum required to be paid being deposited to credit in the Treasury and the Balance invested in a treasury certificate Loan. This arrangement probably might prevent any further trouble as the tendency of Govt. paper has been upwards lately. It is not improbable that the loan may be even now at a premium.

Sd O C

True Copy M P

Spore April

My dear Corbett

Many thanks for your kind letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> Inst. Although I am afraid you have little chance of coming across any Lamons {Lanuns} this year, I concur with you in thinking that the fact of your having secured the cooperation of the Natives of the Islands of Borneo and instilling them with an idea that we are desirous of protecting them from the attacks of their Enemies is in itself an actual success. For the confidence thus inspired and {?} will always induce them to forward intelligence to the nearest Man of War, whenever Lanoon Prahus make their appearance, and as I presume a gunboat will henceforward be stationed on the Borneo Coast, she may thus be enabled to intercept the Pirates before they succeed in passing Labuan. I dare say the trip with you was of benefit to Sir J Brooke.

True Extract

M P Sd O C

April 30<sup>th</sup>

My dear Sir Richard

I have the pleasure to enclose for your perusal a Letter from the sitting Magistrate relative to the remarks of the Grand Jury with respect to the indictment against Bookooh Leng Soon. Mr Vaughan's opinion is so decided that it would of course be improper for the Government to take any further steps in the matter.

I should feel very much obliged if you would kindly favor me with your opinion as to the merits of the accompanying appeal against the extract of the Recognizances of Choon Ah Soon and Jamal Karim. If, from the Dy Sheriff's report (attached) you are satisfied that the omission to attend was not wilful and that the reason assigned for their absence may be taken as a valid excuse I should be prepared to take the case into favorable consideration, but if not the order of the Bench will be duly enforced.

Sd O C

Sir R B McCausland

May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1863

My dear Sir Richard

I have the pleasure to return with many thanks the papers kindly sent for my perusal. I cannot say that they in any way alter the opinion I have already expressed, more especially as regards its being the duty of the Court to see that its own orders have been duly carried out with reference to the permission to invest money in the Treasury Certificate Loan. At the same time however I



should not consider myself competent to act on my own judgement and in the event of any difficulty arising should refer the question for the orders of the Supreme Government.

Sd O C

To Sir R McCausland

Précis of a letter to Lt General Sir J B Hearsey Manor House St Johns Wood London

Inform him that he would be happy to assist Lt G O B Caren but that his name is 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> on the list of candidates for employment and he fears that the only two appointments in his gift will be filled up.

Sd O C

5/5/63

Précis of a letter to the Govr of Labuan d/10/5/63

Mentions that Major Lireman's object in agitating the question of the insurance of specie en route for Labuan was to have it distinctly determined as to the debits of the cost of insurance. Intimate that the deaths of the 40<sup>th</sup> at Labuan are 8 per cent and at Spore 2 per cent.

Sd O C

My dear Simons

I have been thinking over the subject of our conversation yesterday and am of opinion that the following is the most advisable course to be pursued.

Let the Tumongong send in a letter pointing out the exact state of affairs in Pahang; that the country is thoroughly disorganized and the Bandaharah's followers disheartened owing to the continued attacks upon them, from which they have now suffered for nearly six years; that consequently, whilst Inchi Wan Ahmed is receiving assistance from the neighbouring states, more especially from the district of Kamaman in the Territory of Tringanu, the support of the Bandaharah's cause falls almost entirely upon the Tumongong; that in accordance with the terms of the Treaty concluded under the sanction of our Government he has hitherto afforded the Bandaharah every assistance in his power, but that the maintenance of even a small force in Pahang causes a continual drain upon his resources, which they cannot stand much longer, and he therefore solicits aid and advice for his future guidance.

If I receive this communication in time I will despatch it to Calcutta by the "Lightning" on the 17<sup>th</sup> Inst and ask for decided orders. If these orders are to the effect that Pahang is to be considered under our protection and the Bandaharah supported, there will be little difficulty on the return of the squadron next month in settling the matter in such a way as to effectually prevent the peace of the Peninsula from being again disturbed.

M P (sd) O C

H M Simons Esqre

14<sup>th</sup> May/63

My dear Burn

Many thanks for your three letters but more especially for the long one on the subject of the assessment on the Land at Malacca.

I perfectly agree with you in thinking that instead of interfering with the Peasants, we should if possible make an example of one of those Gentlemen by whom they have been influenced and instigated to oppose the introduction of New Land Regulations. In commencing operations however it is essential that you should be perfectly sure of your footing and run no risk of defeat. In the first place therefore you must be perfectly satisfied that the land was not occupied {vide Para 3 Letter 400 dated Novr. 28<sup>th</sup> 1862} at the time of the transfer of the Settlement and that the holder therefore has no right to claim a title by prescription, but bears his present title solely upon a commutation deed or other document received from the British Government. At the same time it must be remembered that his acceptance of a commutation deed has in {no?} way invalidated his right to claim a prescription title, if that title was at any previous period possessed, so that in fact there may be many of the present holders of commutation deeds who are perfectly justified in reverting, if they desire it, to the old system of payment of the tenths, and with them you have not the power of interfering, although, if I remember rightly, I have pointed out this difference to Playfair in my demi officials, it may perhaps have escaped his notice. It is however a very material difference and great caution should therefore be observed in fully ascertaining the nature of the original title under which the holder of a commutation deed possessed his land before taking any proceedings against him.

In Mr Velge's case I should hardly suppose that the ground is held under a prescriptive right and he would therefore be a very good person upon which {whom?} to make an attack. Before however taking any decided steps in the matter I would wish you to institute minute Enquiries as to the nature of his claims, the tenure under which he holds the ground etc., and let me know the result, so that if necessary I may get the opinio of the Advocate General before adopting legal measures against him.

I fully concur in your opinion as to the propriety of avoiding, as far as possible, all chance of causing a feeling of irritation amongst the people, and as Quinton still has plenty of work before him and you will consequently probably not be in a position to issue leases generally for some time to come. Where you find a disinclination to later leases you might tender the sanction accorded in Para. 5 of letter 175 of 25<sup>th</sup> June 1862. {ie?} continue to allow the land holders to pay their tenths as at present, intimating to them however that their tenths will be most rigidly exacted. If we act upon this principle, I doubt not that long before Quinton will be prepared to survey the ground, the people will be prepared to apply for their leases.

I have already authorized your renewing the leases for 20 years, and I should be ready, should you after due consideration deem yourself justified in recommending the course, to extend that period for the further term of 30 years, and on the same conditions as at present. Beyond that term my power under Act xvi of 1839 does not reach. I am far from being anxious to dispose of the whole of our land, and indeed would almost prefer receiving the amount of a fair assessment. As Singapore would of course benefit by the improvement of Malacca, we might easily make any advances that might be necessary for the payment of the demands of annuitants from our surplus Revenue.

By the bye I hope you have sent down by the "Pluto" the Forms to be filled up by the so-called Countess Von Rangow, as I am anxious to send them over to Batavia for signature, so as to get her claim adjusted.

I am sorry I have been unable to send up the Sergeant for the Lighthouse but I find that he cannot obtain his discharge before the 24<sup>th</sup> July. Perhaps you may be able to arrange for the performance of his duties until then. Klyne might take the Rachado Light and the Gunner of the "Torch", if at Malacca, the Station Light, as a temporary measure. Man as you have no doubt heard etc. etc.

Sd O C

True Copy M P

The Hon Capt Burn

Malacca

Précis of a letter to Mr Jackson B.C.S. Pinang

Acknowledges the receipt of his letter d/2<sup>nd</sup> Inst and regrets his inability to place Govt Bungalow at his disposal as he is shortly going to Pinang.

18/5/63 Sd O C

Précis of a letter to Lt Col Man R C Pinang d/19<sup>th</sup> May 1863

In reply to his letter of 11<sup>th</sup> inst wishes to reach Pinang before his departure. Proposes to put Protheroe in to act at Spore for Macpherson who will have to leave the next day so as to admit of the "Pluto"'s returning in time for the Govr to embark on the 6<sup>th</sup>. She would bring Burn from Malacca. If Govt House on the hill is ready would leave this {place} before Macpherson and, as all payments would be made from his treasury before his departure, Hilliard might be put in to act. Enquires whether Mr Blackburn has resigned the appointment of Coroner.

Sd O C

M P

19/5/63

My dear Bain

Although there was nothing in my note which you were at perfect liberty to communicate to anyone interested in the question to which it referred, and indeed it was written, as you say, for the purpose of allaying any unnecessary excitement at Pinang, and consequently with a view to its contents being made known to the residents at that Station, yet I am entirely unable to recognise the propriety of your furnishing anyone with a copy, without first ascertaining my wishes on the subject. For instance, had you in the first instance informed me of the use you intended making of my communication, I should in all probability thought it necessary to enter into a somewhat more detailed account of the circumstances under which the proposition from the Chamber of Commerce originated, and the nature of the correspondence that took place between the Chamber and the Resident Councillor. The great advantage of demi official correspondence is that it enables a Public Officer to not only communicate facts for the truth of which he is of course just as responsible as if they were noted in an official document but also to express his own opinion in an unreserved and friendly manner, but this advantage would of course be lost were he to suppose that his correspondent felt himself at liberty not only to communicate the facts but to furnish other parties with copies of the letter converting it in fact into an ordinary public document.

Sd O C

M P

To Bain Esqre

Piang

Precis of a letter to Sir R Schomburgk Consul Siam 19<sup>th</sup> May 1863

Has heard nothing through India regarding Tringanu but considers that some orders must be issued, as until the question of Tringanu and Clanatan's dependence or otherwise is settled there will be a difficulty in obtaining redress for British subjects in those states. Considers that Mr Knox seems to misunderstand his position and appears to act more as an officer of the Siamese Government than as one of his subordinates. Regrets to hear of his illness and enquires whether he is coming to Pinang. States that the omission on the part of the Secy of the A & H Society to acknowledge the receipt of certain plants must have arisen from carelessness and mentions that he shall be informed of it.

Sd O C

M P

My dear Brigadier

I have at last succeeded in getting hold of Brigadier M<sup>c</sup>Leod's letter. The correspondence had been mixed up in the Military and Public Works departments and it was first somewhat difficult to trace it.

The quarter was not condemned as being unfit for occupation but the Brigadier states as follows. "The Bugler, a married man for whose accommodation a portion of the hospital was partitioned off, complains of the indelicacy of the female portion of his family having to pass the Hospital patients every time they have to go to the Cook Rooms and necessary {facilities?} formerly belonging to the hospital, besides seeing themselves washing themselves in an almost state of nudity".

This would of course hardly justify the remark that the Quarter had been considered uninhabitable by the Brigadier, whilst the only just cause of complaint, viz the dripping from above on the part of the Native Officer could easily be remedied by prohibitory {prohibiting?} there etc etc. of the portion of the upper room as soon as it were made known.

Sd O C

P.S. I find on perusing the whole letter that Mr {Brig?} M<sup>c</sup>Leod recommended that the Native Officer should be allowed to occupy the Bugler's Quarters on the latter being otherwise provided.

My dear Froplory

I will not fail to give Mr Berthire's case my earnest consideration. I am not however at all sanguine as to my power to aid him, as I fear that during his service with the Police he never subscribed to the Superannuation fund, in which case his claim to receive relief from that fund could not be admitted, and there is no Public source from which assistance could be afforded.

Sd O C

True Copy M.P.

Mons Froplory

Consul for France

Précis of a note to Captain Burn R C Malacca d/7/6/63

Trust he will be able to leave Malacca on Thursday and then Macpherson can leave on Monday. Will not be able to submit his appeal for deputation allowance. Mentions that he can commence courts of Inquiry at Spore during the Govr's absence. Desires him to supervise the printing of the Administration Report.

M P

Pinang 7<sup>th</sup> June 1863

My dear Brigadier

I spoke to Major Carter immediately on arrival here, and stated that in the reply to your letter I had refrained from mentioning the strength of the detail to be sent down by the "Pluto", so as to give him an opportunity of despatching a few more than the number (20) mentioned in your official instructions. In the course of the afternoon {conversation?} he told me he had ordered 25 which he trusted would be sufficient as he could not well spare more.

I have already written to the Offg Govr of Labuan and hope that the necessary sanction may be given to the proposed augmentation.

Sd O C

True Copy

M P

Gov Ho Pinang 8/6/63

Sir

Lt Col Hervey having left the Straits Settlements and returned to the Madras Presidency, I beg to return the enclosure to your letter dated 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1863

Sd O C

Mr R E Pench

8 Bridge Street

Bath

(insert)

Précis of a letter to Capt Burn R C Singapore d/23/6/63

Has no objection to Captain Anderson being placed in charge of the "Mohr" on trial. States that Cowpar's leave will be sent down by next opportunity. Ferguson's acting until Maingay's arrival

will have to be arranged with the Brigadier. Desires him to ascertain whether the probable expense of the fuel of the "Pluto" to Labuan will be more than the Passage money by the "Lizzie Webber" of the 25 men.

Sd O C

(end of insert)

Extract from a letter to Captain Hilliard I.N. d/20/6/53

I am afraid it will hardly be in my power to keep the appointment of Master Attendant at Singapore open for another year, but I shall be glad to stretch a point in your favor in the hopes that your health perhaps may be sufficiently restored to admit of your coming out to a climate like that of the Straits which is not so trying as that of India sooner than your medical advisers now anticipate.

Should therefore nothing occur to render any change from the arrangement now in force immediately necessary I shall allow matter to remain in status quo until I hear from you again. If you think that within three months from the date of your receipt of this letter you may be able to leave England to join your appointment, send me a few lines to that effect and I will have you gazetted. If on the contrary there is no hope of your being able to return to duty by that time. Will you kindly write to Captain Pengelly of your Service, the next on my list who is now at Singora and mention to him your inability to accept office and my readiness to give him the berth, provided he may be able to come out within a month the receipt of your communication.

Sd O C

True Copy

M P

Précis of a letter to Captain Playfair .

Authorizes his making over the proposed ground to Mr Velge on the terms mentioned, to be however reported officially for sanction. Is glad to learn that leases are being taken and believes the Recorder takes the same view as the Govt regarding the nature of prescriptive right. Mentions that a letter has been sent to Kim Sing informing him that a revision of 5 per cent Royalty will be made in his favor. Is glad to learn that Sultan Ali is living comfortably. Trusts he will succeed in arranging with the Datu of Johole to secure a district boundary.

Sd O C

3/7/63

Précis of a letter to Capt J Burn R C Spore

Mentions that the Recorder specified prescriptive right and let right from time immemorial, thus taking the same view as the Govt in the Malacca Land question. Advises his requesting the Recorder to allow matters in the Accountant General's office to remain in *statu quo* until the whole question is settled, as probably consequent on the reference on the business, the Supreme Govt may prohibit Treasury rates being granted except when an Estate may exceed 500 Rs. Asks him to mention to Daveston that the Volunteers should submit the names of officers to fill the vacancies occasioned by Read's retirement that they may be gazetted.

Sd O C

3/7/63

My dear Sir Benson

I should indeed be very glad to learn that you had kindly accepted the office of Arbitrator in the matter at issue between the Rajah of Perak and Mr Lewis. In fact I cannot but consider that in doing so you would confer an obligation upon the Government, as in submitting the question to Arbitration the Rajah has followed the advice which I deemed it my duty to give him when Mr Lewis' claim was first brought to my notice.

Sd O C

True copy

M P

Sir R {P?} Benson Maxwell

Recorder

Pinang 9/7/63

My dear Simons

In consequence of my being on the Hill I did not receive your letter of the 29<sup>th</sup> Ult. in time to answer it by the "Pluto".

The death of the Bandaharah has completely deranged my plans, and it is now rather difficult to decide as to the course that it is most advisable to adopt. If Inchi Wan Ahmed would be content to act as Regent or even to hold the govt. for life, appointing the late Bandahara's Eldest son his



heir, our policy would be very plain, but under the present circumstances it is not so clear and I am afraid we must practice patience and trust to the Chapter of accidents.

As regards your own affairs I would suggest in the first instance your applying to Wan Ahmed for the promised permission to recommence working the mines, pointing out to him that unless placed in the same position that you were before your operations were {suspended?} you will have a claim for compensation for the losses you have sustained, which it will be necessary for you to submit for the consideration of your own Government in order that you may obtain redress. If on the receipt of your communication, the desired permission is accorded of your property. I presume that you will be satisfied and will soon be in a position to recover all your advances. If on the contrary you receive an unfavorable reply, you should bring the matter to my notice and I will do my best to secure you justice. I have already alluded to your claims in my last letters to the Supreme Govt.

Inchi Wan Ahmed, you may be assured, will not be allowed to disturb the peace of the Peninsula by attacking Johore. It might be advisable for you, on the part of the Tumongong, to make enquiries as to the despatch of Arms and Ammunition from Singapore to Pahang, as in the event of an attack upon Johore by anybody rendering Wan Ahmed assistance {he?} would render himself liable to transportation under Act X of 1839, an Act that possibly few people think about but which would certainly be enforced

Sd O C

True Extract M P

H M Simons Esqre

Singapore