

Private Letter Book

Volume X

From the 3rd November 1864

To the 26th September 1865

Singapore

3rd November 1864

My dear Sir Robert

I am aware that the King of Siam has taken umbrage at my not writing to him direct and has even attacked me on the subject in a paper now edited at Bangkok under his auspices, charging me, on what grounds I am at a loss to imagine, with discourtesy. I have not thought it worthwhile to take any notice of the matter, though had I called for an explanation some difficulty would have been experienced in affording it. For I am certain that H.M. would have been unable to adduce a single instance in which a letter from him has not been answered with due courtesy. In forwarding all letters through you as H.M.'s representative at Bangkok, I merely followed the course strictly enjoined by my instructions. Indeed had I done otherwise, you would have had just cause for complaint, as your authority would naturally have been weakened, whilst I hardly think that even as a matter of respect to himself it would have been right for me to have carried on a correspondence with him except through the channel of the Consul of my own Sovereign.

This is a point upon which the King has evidently not been sufficiently enlightened. Before a consul was appointed it was different, and of course all communications from the Governor of the Straits were then necessarily transmitted direct. I shall of course be always happy to hear from the King and to meet his wishes in every respect, but I should not consider myself justified in carrying on any correspondence with Siam without the cognisance of the British Consul. If this were fully explained to his Majesty he could doubtless acknowledge the propriety of my proceedings.

The Ex.Sultan of Lingga is dead so that there will be no more trouble on his account. Wan Ahmed seems inclined to be quiet, and I am in great hopes that the place {peace} of the peninsula will not again be disturbed. The Sultan of Tringanu wrote to mention that he intended to pay me a visit on his way to Mecca but the N. Monsoon having set in I fancy he has been weatherbound, and consequently will have to postpone his pilgrimage until next Spring.

I shall be glad to read the promised paper on the subject of the proposed railroad across the Isthmus of Kraw. I have little doubt that the work is perfectly feasible, but I should be very sorry to be a shareholder, for I am certain it would never pay the expenses, and moreover acrid {need?} of breaking bulk at both ends would be too great to admit of its attracting much of our trade that now passes down the Straits.

M P Sd O C

Sir R Schomburgk Foreign Office London

Spore 11th Novr

My dear Sir Hercules

As our transfer seems now to have been postponed *sine die*, and may possibly never take place, I am desirous of reorganizing my Postal Department and placing it upon a proper footing. I should therefore esteem it a great favor if you would kindly procure for me a Return of the Hongkong Establishment shewing the duties to be performed by each {official?} as well as a copy of any rules that may be in force as regards the conduct of business generally, or of any other Regulation connected with the Department that you may think likely to prove useful.

Sd O C

Sir H Robinson

Governor of Hongkong

16/11/64

My dear Burn

I do not quite understand the merits of the case as regards the 3 4 percent Promissory {notes?}. They must have been purchased before 1854/55, as the order for the investment of Suitors' Deposits in Treasury Certificates was in fact {force?} before that date. I can only suppose that they were transferred (not purchased) from one of the older Estates. However for the present the question of the payment of any loss owing to their depreciation is not likely to arise. Nothing (the notes?) will remain untouched, the Treasury Certificate notes only being ordered to be paid off. If they be hinged (belonged?) to one of the old Estates, they will in all probability lapse to Govt., and thus all trouble about them be avoided.

When you receive the order for the investment of your Treasury Certificates, you had better send a copy of it with the Schedule to Macpherson, and ask him to make arrangements for procuring the necessary Govt. Prom. Notes from Calcutta and leave him to make the best arrangements he can.

I hope there is a demand for the leases. It will be a great work when we have succeeded in doing away with the system of tenths. We have had no answer as yet on the subject of Mr Velge's land, but Braddell is of opinion that under the new Act I have the right, if I wish, to cause all lands to be assessed in lieu of levying tenths, and I have written up for the extension of certain parts of Act 16 of 1839 to Malacca, which if granted will strengthen your hands considerably.

Sd O C

Capt J Burn

R C

Spore 21/11/64

My dear Sir Edward

From the correspondence between the Secy for War and the Colonial Office on the subject of the proposed Garrison for the Straits I observe that a hope is expressed that in the event of the Military duties being taken by a Battalion of the Ceylon Rifles, the Corps might perhaps be able to obtain some recruits. I have therefore thought it right to send you these few lines to mention that I am afraid there would be little probability of that hope being realized and that it would be necessary to look to India for a recruiting field. The fact is that the greater part of our Malays are too indolent and too well off to think of taking service at Malacca, which is the great Malay Station. There is hardly a man who does not possess a comfortable hut and a small garden, so that he can supply all his wants by a very small amount of labour of which perhaps he makes his wife take the largest share.

In the jungle when he gets excited, a Malay will work well but he is not inclined to settle down to steady labor or steady drill, and this is the real cause of the want of success that has hitherto attended the recruiting parties in the Straits. As far as I am capable of judging, we seem to have made a great mistake in our reorganization of the Indian Army. We had almost a *tabula rasa* to work upon and should at once have placed every Native Line Regt. upon the same footing exactly as a W.I. Corps. They should have been numbered as H.M.E. Indian Corps and considered liable to serve wherever they were required. One half of the original number would have been sufficient and by doubling up the officers and seconding all who had been 5 years in Civil Employ, they would have been well officered, and England would have had really an efficient Native Army as an auxiliary to the European Force.

Although, as you know, an old irregular officer, I do not think the Irregular System will stand the test either of time or a hard fought campaign. Up to the present both officers and men have been younger than in the Regular Regiments. Hence they have behaved well but as they grow old they will require just as much leading as the old Corps, and more European officers will again be necessary. They will not however be available and by the loss of 4 or 5 officers a Corps may be rendered perfectly inefficient. The old system had its defects, but even if an officer had been years away from his Regiment, when ordered to join it on service he was not a perfect stranger, and there was moreover a bond between him and his men in their belonging to the same Corps, which can never exist in the case of a Staff Corps officer, who if ordered away from Staff appointment to an Irregular Regt. about to be employed in the Field would be perfectly unknown

to the men he would be called upon to Command as well perhaps to his Brother officers. Had the Amalgamation been properly carried out in the event of a European War, there would have been no difficulty in withdrawing the bulk of our European {forces?} from all stations to the Eastward, and replacing them by Native Regiments, whilst the latter would have been wonderfully improved by a few years Foreign Service. Caste would soon have been lost sight of.

Sd O C

Maj Gl Sir E Lugard K.C.B.

Under Secy of State for Wars

London

My dear Man

It will be a great disgrace to our Govt. if we fail to obtain their release, and I therefore sincerely trust that you will be able to manage the matter through the Perak Authorities. The right is so completely on our side in making the demand for their surrender that I would hope Che Uga {Ngah} Ibrahim would not hesitate in acceding to our wishes. He may possibly assert that the women are comfortably married and do not wish to leave Perak, I which case you might write to the effect that if they only attend at your office and mention that such is the case, they will at once be allowed to return with their husbands to Laroot or anywhere else they may wish to go.

x x x

Will you kindly consult Sir Benson as to is wishes on the subject (investment of Suitors' Deposits) and get the matter settled without delay. If he approves of remitting the money to the Bank of Bengal, it may be easily arranged by the next Mail. A single letter will be sufficient, merely transmitting the Bill upon the Bank, with a statement of the Account with the Court, and requesting that the necessary purchases for each Estate may be made in the name of the Accountant General to the Court of Judication {Judicature?} of P.W.I., S.pore and Malacca. If not you must draw Bills upon Rangoon or Calcutta, as may be most favourable for Government and place the money to the credit of the Acct. General, at the same time making the best terms you can with the Chartered Bank to remit the money to Calcutta for the purchase of Govt. 5 per cent Promissory Notes. This last transaction you may of course manage through Presgrave, as he is Ex.Officio Ag. Acct. General, but I believe it would be the best plan to take the whole matter into your own hands as soon as these investments are concluded. Willans will be appointed Acct. General and you will merely receive the money as a deposit in the Treasury {and?} dispose of it according to his instructions.

x x x

Sd O C

The Hon Col Man R C Pinang

Letter to Sir Benson Maxwell d/21/11/64, regarding the investment of the Suitors' money at Pinang and thanking him for the dedication of his Pamphlet.

Sd O C

Extract from a Letter to the R C Malacca d/22nd Novr 1864

Regrets that it is out of the power of Govt. to declare any portion of the Station of Malacca a Military Cantonment "should any house suitable for an officer's residence be offered for sale in that neighborhood there could be no objection to your representing the difficulty likely to be experienced by officers in obtaining accommodation in the vicinity of their new Barracks, and if the price is reasonable recommend its purchase. If the Govt. were to get a return of 8 or 10 percent, it would cover the expense of repairs and at the same time give fair interest on the original outlay, as we should always have a tenant.

x x x

Sd O C

22.11.64

My dear Sir Richard

I have the pleasure to return the order duly signed. I have added a Para which is I think necessary to complete it and possibly to prevent some difficulty hereafter as to the pay.

As under the orders now in force the officers of the court have been placed on the same footing as uncovenanted Servants with regard to Leave, Pensions etc., a copy of the Court's order should be forwarded to the Secy to Government, when the necessary notification will be issued in the Gazette, from which an extract should be made to accompany the first Pay Bill, and thus prevent a retrenchment by the Auditor General. Not knowing that this was necessary it was omitted the other day in Rodger's case at Pinang and the Bill was returned from Calcutta with the amount drawn disallowed for want of the prescribed voucher.

Sd O C

23/11/64

Sir R McCausland Recorder

My dear Mr Knox

By some mischance the advertisement regarding the closing of the Mail on the last trip of the "Chow Phya" escaped my notice. Hence the delay in answering your letter of the 31st Octr which I hope you will excuse.

I have always considered Tringanu and Kalantan to occupy with regard to Siam exactly the same position as Siam and Nepal with regard to China. Both these states used to send periodical Embassies with presents to the Emperor. These presents were merely the propitiation offerings from a weak Ruler to a powerful neighbour in the hopes equally of averting an attack as of securing support in time of need. But although doubtless the Chinese always referred to Siam and Nepal as tributary to themselves, no Foreign Nation would have recognised their right to interfere. In the event of war being declared against either of these countries such a right indeed can only be established under a formal engagement published to the world, and it carried with it certain responsibilities on the part of the Protecting Power, which certainly Siam has never acknowledged with regard to Tringanu and Kalantan, whilst the Chiefs of those States throughout their correspondence with this Govt. from the earliest times have always asserted their independence though never denying the circumstances of the periodical despatch of presents to Bangkok.

No allusion is made to this {subject} in Article 12 of the Treaty of 1827 {1826} but in Article 14 it is expressly mentioned that the Rajah of Perak may continue to send the gold and silver flowers, although his freedom from all control on the part of the Siamese Court is most distinctly guaranteed. Had Siam in the first instance substantiated her right of Sovereignty over Tringanu and Kalantan, our course on the occasion of the various complaints that have been made from time to time, made against the Ruler of the former country, would have been rendered Extremely simple. We should of course have called upon Siam for redress and held her answerable if it were not afforded.

I perfectly agree with you in thinking that it is advisable that the question should be definitively settled, but I hardly imagine that the F.O. will be prepared to recognise the Protectorate assumed by Siam unless she is able to support her pretensions by much more cogent reasons than she has hitherto adduced. Next year the Treaty will be open to revision and the matter might then be amicably discussed and finally disposed of.

It is much to be regretted that the Siamese are unwilling to act upon your advice as regards their relations with the French. I am afraid they will find that Mr Read's intercession will prove of little avail on their behalf.

I have seen the opinion of Sir H Cairns to which certainly little weight need be attached. He would have little difficulty were his party in power in reversing his decision on the grounds that his brief had been ill prepared and that he had consequently been misled. I have little news of any interest. The "Perseus" has I understand been ordered down to the Straits. etc.

Sd O C

M P

T G Knox Esqre

Bankok

Extract from a letter to Sir H Grant C. in C. Madras d/8/12/64

By this Mail my Asst Lt Protheroe will forward for submission to you a Memorial addressed to the Secy of State for India on the subject of his admission to the Staff Corps. If there is anything irregular in the paper I trust that you will kindly excuse it and that you will at the same time be pleased to afford the application your support. It has been made in accordance with my own suggestion as I am desirous of retaining Protheroe's services, whilst I am naturally unwilling to offer any bar to his joining the Staff Corps which he is anxious to enter.

Sd O C

H.E. Sir H Grant C. in C. Madras

Précis of a letter to Capt Burn R C Malacca d/8/12/64

Is unable to sanction the purchase of the 2 houses at Malacca. Doubts whether European Artillery will ever be permanently quartered at Malacca. Is glad to hear that Syed Saban has not obtained a slice of his neighbour's territory. Suggests that the Police organize a regular ? against the Buffaloes some night and forward a few . Considers his son right in depriving the officials of the Mosque at Malacca of more seals and to withdraw the remission of each. Considers that 4 per cent notes should be allotted to some of the Estates held in deposit in 1837, the time when the original purchase was made. Mentions that the Govt is in no way answerable for the investment of the Court's money. Is afraid the crops will be bad this year.

Sd O C

M P

The Hon Captain J Burn R C

16/12/64

My dear Col Durand

I shall feel much obliged if you will kindly enlighten me as to the proper course to pursue with regard to Despatches received direct from the Secy of State. In the case of the recent Despatch on the subject of the complaint by the Dutch Authorities against the Commander of the "Pluto", the matter being one of some importance, I have thought it right, for fear of no communication having been made to the Supreme Govt, to forward to your office a copy of Sir C. Wood's letter as well as of my reply, but I presume that as a general rule duplicates of all Despatches to

subordinate Governments are furnished per England for the information of the G.G. and consequently you only need transcripts of the answer.

There still seems to be some uncertainty as to the transfer of the Straits to the charge of the Colonial Office. From the letter which closed the correspondence in Sept last between the Treasury and Secy of State for the Colonies I was certainly induced to believe that the measure had been finally shelved but it is exported. etc. etc.

Sd O C

16/12/64

Col Durand C.B.

Secy to the Govt of India

Extract from a letter to Sir Benson Maxwell d/22nd Decr

Under the pressing circumstances of the case you certainly acted rightly in issuing the necessary order regarding the grant of the increased allowance to the Debtor Pensions without admitting the delay that a reference to this {Station?} would have necessarily caused. I sincerely hope that in all similar cases you will consider that you have my concurrence in any temporary measures you may deem it advisable to sanction.

With regard to the amount of small sums commuted with suitors' deposits in the Savings Bank I hardly think it would be advisable to come to any determination just at present, for it is quite probable that ere long an order may be received to close the accounts.

X X X

Sd O C

Extract from a letter to R C Pinang d/22/12/64

Sergeant Bennett of the Convict Dept. having resigned will be succeeded by Sergeant Boyd from Malacca and a Sergeant Carmoody is the next Senior on the List. I would wish you to ascertain whether he is desirous of being transferred. The pay of his berth at Malacca is Rs.100 per mensem consolidated, and as the Pension can be held with it, it would I fancy be better than his present situation, as he must now be almost entitled to claim his pension. Should Carmoody desire the change, he can come down next months by the "Mohr", which will be ordered to proceed to Pinang after relieving the Torch and Cape Rachado Light. In that case I would wish you to recommend a successor if you have anyone under your orders fir for the post.

X X X

Sd O C

Précis of a note to Mr. Callaghan Govr of Labuan

Acknowledges three letters from him. States that his money will possibly be sent by the "Severn", though as all offices are closed among {during?} the Xmas holidays there may be some difficulty on the way. Will apply to Calcutta for a copy of the Convict Rules for him. Requests him to mention the pay to be drawn by his Chief Constable. Will postpone the relief of the Detachment for a month or two.

26/12/64 Sd O C

Précis of a letter to Col Man R C Pinang d/30th December 1864

Regrets he cannot raise Mitchell's pay. Points out that under the present rules for acting allowances he will draw a deputation {deputation?} allowance. Is glad one of the Xtian brothers' boys got a Scholarship. Will be happy to appoint any other gentlemen who may be anxious to serve on his examination committee. Regrets to find there will be trouble about the suitors' deposits and trusts there will be no delay enclosing {in closing?} the amounts {accounts?}. Mentions that the "Mohr" will pay him a visit shortly and requests him to send her back as soon as her work may be over. Sorry he cannot get the house now occupied by the Presbyterian Minister. Cannot allow the opium Farmer to retain his farm for another year. Desires him to advertise for sealed tenders next month. Considers there should be a rise of £4,000 in the opium Farm.

"The Supreme Govt seems inclined to take up the question of the purchase of the triangle of land at Kotah, so as to strengthen our boundary. You might make enquiries privately as to the probability of the Rajah of Quedah being willing to dispose of it, and if so what sum he could be prepared to accept. It can be worth nothing to him, and if the price asked were extravagant of course we should not be able to prevail upon the Authorities at Calcutta to sanction the arrangement. I will send you an official on the point hereafter, but in the meantime you may be able perhaps to ascertain the Rajah's views on the subject without making any final advances on the part of Govt, as nothing certain has as yet been decided and it is only in the event of our being able to arrange matter for a small sum that there is any probability of our being allowed to make the bargain".

Enquires whether he can find an acting Interpreter for the court. Desires him to send in an official about his Water Police. Calls for Bennett's report on the want of Convict labor and asks whether the Munl Commissioners intend to recommend any alteration on {in?} the Munl Act.

Sd O C

Extract from a letter to Capt Ricketts H B M Consul Sarawak d/5th Janry 1865

X X X

The great wants of Sarawak are, as you say, want of population and want of means of communication. Neither will I think be effectually removed under the present form of

Government. The Chinese have no confidence in its stability and are afraid to risk their capital in a Country in which they consider peace and security are dependent upon the life of one man, the old Rajah. One of our most intelligent, as well as wealthy, Chinese traders, the late Kim Sing, once told me that if Sarawak were to become a British Colony he would at once apply for a grant of land, but he was afraid to invest money there, so long as there was any uncertainty on this point, as he could not tell what might happen on the Rajah's death.

5/1/65 Sd O C

Singapore

6th Janry 65

My dear Sir

As apparently the question of the transfer of the Straits Settlement to the charge of the Colonial Office is still under consideration, I have thought it probable that Mr. Cardwell might be glad to obtain any information available as to the present Financial condition of the Settlement and consequently have forwarded by the Mail to your address a copy of the Budget Estimate for the ensuing year, from which it will be perceived that after payment of all Civil Establishments on their existing footing, the surplus is estimated at about £100,000. Hence after allowing £63,000 on account of Military Expenditure, and a larger sum could hardly be demanded, there will still be a probable balance of £37,000 to meet the demands on account of Public Works and the supply of Machinery that in the event of the proposed change would become absolutely necessary in order to provide the means for Local Legislature, leaving all other suggested improvements for future consideration.

The Budget Estimate on the debit side does not include the pension of Mr. Kerr (£600) nor the expenditure incurred by the Maintenance of Straits Convicts in India, but these items are I believe more than counterbalanced by the sums received at the various presidencies on Account of Straits Light dues and the surplus from the Postal Receipts which is at present credited to the Supreme Govt. of India and not to the Local Administration. No credit has been taken for the anticipated increase to the Excise Revenue, though as mentioned in my former letter there is every reason to believe that it will be considerable.

As regards the adjustment of the Accounts connected with the Transmarine Convicts now located in the Straits, it has after some correspondence on the subject been ruled by the Supreme Government that so long as the Local Authorities provide General Superintendence, Medical Attendance and Military Guards as at present, they are entitled in return to the benefit of the labor of the convicts free of all charges. This arrangement appears fair and equitable, whilst it is certainly to the advantage of the Settlement and might therefore, in case of its separation from India be allowed to remain undisturbed. The cost of transporting the convicts back to India would be considerable and the loss of their services would certainly at present somewhat retard the execution of the Public Works in progress at the several Stations. At Singapore the Court House and the Water Works have been commenced and will in all probability be completed in the course of the ensuing official year. Sanction to the construction of the Screw Pile Lighthouse

on the North Sands and the purchase and alteration of a house to be appropriated as a residence for the Governor, by which a saving of about £1,000 per annum would have been effected has been withheld pending the decision of the Home Authorities as to the Transfer.

The debt incurred on account of the Suitors' deposits is now in course of liquidation and the money is being invested in the purchase of ordinary Securities of the Indian Govt. The issue of Treasury Certificates has been prohibited for the future, so that all deposits made by the Court will be remitted to Calcutta for investment, and the interest cease to be entered as a Local Charge.

It is to be hoped for the sake of the interests of the people of the Settlement that the question of the Transfer may be finally settled this session, as there are many points upon which Legislation is needed but upon which no action will be taken by the Council of the G.G. in the present undecided state of affairs.

Sd O C

Sir F Rogers Bart

Under Secy of State

Col Office

7/1/65

Dear Sir

As from the tenor of your Despatch to the Supreme Govt on the subject of the Screw Pile Lighthouse proposed to be erected on the North Sands it would appear that the question of the transfer of the Straits Settlement to the charge of the Colonial Office is still under the consideration of H.M. Govt I have deemed it right to forward by the Mail for your information a copy of the Budget Estimate for the Ensuing year.

The above estimate shews a surplus after payment of all Civil Charges of about £100,000 to defray the requisite expenditure on ac/ of the Military and Public Works. This estimate surplus will in all probability be actually exceeded, as I have every reason to anticipate a considerable rise in the Excise Revenue at Pinang, for which credit has not been taken owing to the uncertainty as to the amount. The erection of the Lighthouse by effecting a saving of the Establishment at present required for the Light Vessel, and the purchase of a Govt. House, by abolishing the payment of rent, would also cause a reduction of expenditure to the extent of at least £1,200 per annum. Both these works will I presume be at once sanctioned if it is decided that the Settlement is to remain attached to India.

I am happy to say that the Peninsula is at present quiet and will I hope continue to remain so.

Sd O C

The Secy of State for India

Précis of a Letter to Sir Benson Maxwell. 7.1.65

States that he is sorry to hear that the high price of provisions still continues and is afraid this will be a bad season for the poor, owing to the failure of the Rice crop in Siam and the damage done by the Cyclone in Bengal. Refers to the offer made by the Supreme Govt to allow the Accountant Genl. to make the necessary arrangements for the investment of the Suitors' deposits and expresses his belief that the Savings Bank will be abolished. Intimates his hope that the proposed Chapter on the Law of evidence will be forwarded to the Press and expresses his objection {obligation?} for the trouble already taken in preparing a Work likely to be extremely useful to Civil Officers. Alludes to the question as to the right of jurisdiction over a steamer now at issue between Victoria and New South Wales.

7.1.65

Précis of a letter to Col Man

Concurs in his opinion as to the propriety of issuing rations instead of a money allowance to Lunatics. Points out that the reading of the Act is a bar to the same course being pursued with respect to Prisoners for debt. Mentions that he should bring to the notice of the Accountt Genl the rate at which most of the Suitors' Deposits must have been paid into the Treasury. States that Sergeant Aikhen would succeed to the charge of the combined Arms and a consolidated salary of 100 Rs would be recommended. Mentions that by requiring traders {tenders?} for the Farms we are likely to obtain a fair price. Gambling is discouraged and any attempt at a combination defeated.

Janry 16 1865

My dear Mr Knox

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 6 Instant. I was very glad to hear that you had insisted upon the Governor General's Letter being received with due honor. Although to an European the matter would appear of little importance, it is noted in the eyes of an Oriental and I feel convinced that the course you have pursued will have, in many respects, a beneficial effect. It is to be regretted that there should have been any informality in the document and I hope that the Governor General will accede to the King's request and forward another epistle.

By the bye, since the assumption by the Governor of the Vice Royalty, he is entitled to Royal honors and receives a Royal Salute of 21 guns instead of 19 as formerly. This perhaps might be mentioned to the King.

I have just received a letter from the Sultan of Perak in which he hints at intrigues carried on by Siam amongst his subordinate Chiefs. This may perhaps be merely a move to induce us to offer him assistance in compelling obedience to his orders. However should I hear anything further on the subject I will let you know. Some time ago, I am {was?} aware, that Siam did entertain designs against Perak and an attempt was made in an indirect manner, to ascertain the views of the British Government. The Chief through whom the overtures were made was informed that any representation the Court at Bangkok might wish to submit with respect to Perak should be transmitted through the prescribed channel. Since then I have not heard of the question having been again mooted.

Have you heard anything about Mr Lewis' appointment as Consul at Pinang. I was asked whether there was any objection to the recognition of Mr Williams as Consul. In reply I stated that {there?} must be some mistake and that Mr Lewis must be the person referred to, but though many months have elapsed no other communication has been received.

Have you read Mr Book on Cochin China, and the Section in the *Review* on the French possessions in that Quarter? You would find both extremely interesting.

Yours etc.

O Cavenagh

To

T G Knox Esq

H M Consul Bangkok

Singapore Janr 16 1865

My Lord

Having recently observed in a correspondence published by Mr W. H. Read, a member of a Mercantile Firm at this place, the above gentleman had apparently endeavoured to convince your Lordship and the Public that an attempt on the part of the Local Authorities to levy a tax upon the Shipping frequenting the port had been deported

{prevented?} through his exertions as Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, I trust I may be pardoned forwarding for your Lordship's perusal copies of Letters received from the Chamber of Commerce on the subject of the appointment of a Harbour Master, as the Local Government

merely supported the views of the Chamber, recommending however a reduction of one half in the amount of the proposed fees on Port Clearance and Pilot Licenses, with a limitation, as regards the former, to \$5 (1.2.6) for the largest vessels, a charge not likely to be objected to in consideration of the advantage to be enjoyed. Your Lordship will be able to judge how far Mr. Read's assertions are deserving of implicit credit.

It is true that through some misapprehension on the part of Officials in Calcutta, a Draft Bill for the imposition of Tonnage Dues instead of Port Clearance was forwarded for consideration, but Mr. Read has omitted to mention that, owing to the protest of the Local Government, a protest in which the necessity for maintaining the freedom of the Port was successfully established, and which elicited the thanks of the chamber of Commerce, the Bill was set aside and has never been brought before the Legislative Council.

O Cavenagh

To The Right Hon'ble

Lord Hanby

House of Commons

Singapore Janr 21st

My dear Sir

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 5 Ult. For a long series of years it has been the object of the policy of the Dutch Government to obtain a monopoly of the trade with Sumatra, and should their present pretensions to exercise a Protectorate over the Native States on the East Coast be conceded, in the course of a few years our Commerce will be in a great measure excluded from Ports in which we have some extensive dealings.

As regards the claim of Siack to consider the other States her dependencies, it is not more tenable than would be that of Holland to include Ceylon in the list of her Colonies. As far as I am capable of judging, consequent on the clear enuciation of our position by Lord Palmerston in the correspondence with the Hauge in 1841, the task that has now devolved upon the Foreign Office is comparatively easy, the argument then advanced never having been controverted and our rights having been virtually recognised by the withdrawal of the Netherlands Indies Establishment from Siack, no further reasoning on our part would appear necessary, whilst it rests upon Holland to adduce proof of any subsequent change having occurred with respect to our relations with the Native Chiefs that would justify her again taking up the position from which she formerly retired in consequences of our remonstrances.

With the exception of one or two slight disagreements between some of the minor Chiefs which are but of little account, the Peninsula I am happy to say still continues quiet.

I remain etc.

Sd O Cavenagh

To the Right Honble

Sir Charles Wood Bt G.C.B.

Secy of State for India

Précis of a letter to Lt Colonel Man

States that Dr Rose has been required to draw up a scale of rations for general use throughout the Straits. He thinks 1^{lb} 14^{oz} of rice sufficient for a working prisoner and that non laborers should receive less. Is glad to hear that he has succeeded in getting a settlement of the Suitor Deposits. The return sent by Mr Presgrave to Willans does not correspond with that previously forwarded under Plunkett's signature. Asks that satisfactory arrangements can be made for the amalgamation of the convict Lines and House of Correction. Is afraid he will have to make a deduction from the Police Estimate, as the Municipal Fund cannot bear any additional expenses. Considers 2 First Class Detectives on a staff salary of \$4 and 1 Second Class on \$3 per mensem sufficient at first. The pay can be increased hereafter if they are satisfactory. Mentions that an Official has been sent to the Court on the subject of lapsed Estates. If the Recorder expresses no opinion it will rest with the Supreme Govt to make the Indian Act applicable to the Straits. Mentions that he has made a complimentary allusion to the Christian Brothers' School in his address on the occasion of the Distribution of Scholarships.

Précis of a Letter to Capt Playfair

Authorizes the return of the "Mohr" from Malacca in the event of his being anxious to leave by the first Steamer in February. Enquires what is likely to be the result of the feud between Johole and Gamenchi. Will the belligerents revert to the *status ante bellum*? Trusts that a successor to the Sultan of Sree Menanti may soon be appointed. States that he will take the question of the sanitary condition of the Cape Rachado Lighthouse into consideration when he makes his visit and if necessary order a further clearance to be made.

Précis of a Letter to Capt Ricketts H.B.M. Consul Sarawak.

States that a Court of Enquiry has been ordered into the loss of the "Canada", the result of which will be officially communicated, that no claim has as yet been made on account of the Passage of the Crew by the "Rainbow" but any demand preferred will be liquidated by the Master Attendant and debited against the Board of Trade. Concurs in the opinion expressed as to the erection of the works required for the protection of the Town of Kuching and generally throughout Sarawak. The main building should always be of masonry, with the Lower Walls loopholed and the windows of the Upper Storey protected by strong Venetian doors. Mentions that it would be impossible to express any opinion as to the exact number of Chinese likely to invest their Capital in Sarawak if it became an English Colony but has little doubt that there would be a good many that would do so.

Singapore Janr 26: 1865

My dear Man

I find I have omitted to take any notice of the subject referred to in your Letter of the 7 Inst.. The Chamber of Commerce being always considered the representative body of the Mercantile Community it would of course be difficult to recognise any other Association. At the same time if a representation were made by several Firms to the effect that their Partners not being Members of the Chamber, they had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the contents of any communication addressed by Govt. to that body, there would be no objection to furnishing any one of their members they might select with copies of all Letters and Notifications on subjects of commercial interest, at the same time receiving any expression of their views which they might think it advisable to offer. It is however a great pity that all your Merchants do not belong to the Chamber in that its representation might carry with them the weight that must necessarily attach to documents containing the statements of the whole community. A divided house is always a risk.

I trust you will be able to succeed in obtaining the surrender of the two Chinese women, the man Lee Ah who is said to have married one of them, as well as Lee Lok San. The head of the Mining Kangsei often visits Pinang and perhaps might be induced to give assistance in the matter. If you sent for both those men and pointed out to them the serious consequences likely to ensue if the women are detained, it might have a beneficial effect. The next time the "Mohr" pays you a visit, it would I think be right for you to send down either Waller or Earl in her to Laroot for the purpose of demanding the restoration of the women. A judicious hint as to the probability of another blockade might be well applied.

I have etc. etc.

To Lt Col Man

Précis of Letter to Mr Lewis

States that he has written to Mr Knox on the subject of the delay in the transmission of the orders regarding his appointment; that the order instituted by the King of Siam is that of the White Elephant and that if he wishes to accept it and wear it he must first obtain Her Majesty's permission on the subject through the Local Govt.

Singapore Janr 25 1865

My dear Sir

You have doubtless been most surprised at receiving no reply to your letter of the 16th July but your surprise will probably be increased when you hear that it only reached me yesterday. I presume that it was forwarded to Calcutta via the Cape of Good Hope and thence it was

transmitted to this place by a sailing ship in a box containing a collection of old *London Gazettes* etc.

In the event of our Transfer being effected this year I will not fail to make the merits of the *Colonial Office List* generally known to the Officers serving under this Government, and will I have little doubt be able to secure several subscribers, as well as to afford the necessary information as to the past services of all those who will thus become entitled to claim a place in your Rolls. Our list of Officials is, as you may probably have noticed from Sir Hercules Robinson's Returns, rather a long one. I observe that *The Times* has expressed an opinion adverse to the transfer. The article is cleverly written and contains a certain modicum of truth, but the arguments advanced might have been easily refuted.

I cannot help thinking Mr Crawford's reply in this instance was not to the point, the question under discussion not being as to the amount that the Straits have already cost India, this debt might be both gracefully and gratefully acknowledged, but, as to the probable future cost of the Settlement to England in the event of its being placed under the Colonial Office, and it would have been almost sufficient to have simply remarked that, in 1862-64, our Local Receipts were 195,675 and our disbursements 120,632, have {with?} a balance of 75,000 to cover our Military contribution and any unforeseen expenditure. During the past Official year our Revenue has slightly declined but I am in hope of a rise at the sale of our Excise Farms in April.

I am afraid there is little chance of any of our Chinamen putting themselves under Callaghan's wing. The delightful Island of Labuan does not offer them many advancements.

Believe me etc.

O Cavenagh

To W. Robinson Esqre

Colonial Office

Singapore Janr 31st 1865

My dear Mithcell

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 5th Inst. I cannot concur with you in thinking that the Govt. can be considered to have any claim upon Mess property of the 32 Regt. The Govt. allowance is granted for a specific purpose, viz for the maintenance of the Mess Establishment including house rent. It has I presume been duly disbursed in payments in this account and the Govt has consequently received its *quid pro quo*, the donations and subscriptions of Officers, more especially from those who were absent, men required to keep up the Mess kit. Hence they are joint proprietors in the Mess property and if it is to be disposed of, each Officer has a right to his share of the amount realized.

I have already written to say that as long as the Officers of the Corps choose to mess together I consider that they are entitled to have the use of the Mess plate etc., and perhaps the best plan would be to act upon Lowell's suggestion, making all other surviving Members of the Mess honorary Members, with a right, as far as present Assts are concerned, to retain their quota of the proceeds in the event of the Mess being hereafter broken up, of course, death or retirement to bar all claims as would be the case with a regular Member.

Believe me etc.

Sd Cavenagh

To Colonel Mitchell

Comdr 3 Regt. N.I. Mooltan

Singapore Feb 7 1865

My dear Sir Hope Grant

I trust you will accept my best thanks for your kind letter of the 11th of January and for the support you have afforded to Lt Protheroe's Memorial. Should his request to be admitted to the Staff Corps be granted, he will of course be prepared to undergo the prescribed examination. I cannot help thinking that the Madras Govt has misunderstood the purport of the last order from the Secretary of State on the subject of the admission of Officers now on the staff into the Staff Corps. At least its ruling in the matter seems to be opposed to that of the Supreme Govt., as only by the last Gazette I observed that a Lieutenant Andrew, a Cadet of 1860, who entered the Survey Department in 1862 and consequently could not have completed three years Regimental duty, had been duly admitted to the Bengal Corps.

I am sorry that we shall not have the pleasure of seeing you again in the Straits. You would I think have found the Troops healthy and in good order. I am endeavouring to arrange to give the Europeans an occasional mutton ration but am not quite sure whether it can be managed.

Our Barracks at Tanglin are still unoccupied and will remain so until the question of our transfer to the charge of the Colonial Office is decided. Should the change taken place, I believe a Wing of one of the Corps now in China and a Battalion of the Ceylon Rifles will be stationed in the Straits. As regards the Europeans I am certain that Singapore would become a much worthier Port {post?} than Hongkong. There seems to be very little sickness amongst the Artillery at Fort Canning.

I remain etc.

Sd Orfeur Cavenagh

To W.S. Lt Genl Sir Hope Grant G.C.B.

C. in C. Madras

Extract from Letter to the Hon'ble Lt. Col. Man

"I will order the "Mohr" to return to Pinang and you can then send her down to Laroot with one of your subs, and her presence may perhaps have a beneficial effect. Even if we did not succeed in securing the condition of the women, it would be satisfactory to bring them into contact with a British Officer so that we might have their story from their own mouths and assure them of protection, if they demanded it. Of course if they wished to remain it might be difficult to remove them.

Mr Mitchell certainly seems to have allowed the accounts of the Suitors' deposits to get into a very confused state, but after all the Court is to blame. The best Accountant in the world could not have carried the order of the court into effect, the amalgamation of Estates had so entangled matters. Sir Benson, and I think properly, here {has?} declined to express any opinion on the subject of the forfeiture of Estates, and the Supreme Govt. will have to extend to the Straits the provisions of the Act under which all sums lapse after 15 years.

I have styled your acting havildars "drill leaders!". If your detective Department is to work well it must be properly paid, so that I have sanctioned the same rate of action {acting?} Pay as at Singapore. What do you think would be a fair rate of "batta" to give a man if sent from our Station to another on any special duty - \$2 per mensem? Occasionally it may be found useful to send for a detective not likely to be known by the people of the locality.

You made a mistake in giving the papers a copy of your Budget Estimate. No document forwarded to the Supreme Govt. is available for publication until the receipt of orders passed upon it.

As firewood becomes scarce in the south of the Province, the price of wasted land may increase in value. It would be better therefore to endeavour to make a purchase from the Rajah of Quedah than effect an exchange."

Singapore Feb 10 1865

My dear Mr Knox

Many thanks for your letter of the 2nd Instant. The Viceroy is entitled to a Royal Salute throughout the Indian Seas, so that were he to visit Siam in a Man of War, he would receive that salute on his disembarkation.

I congratulate you on your promotion. I had heard some time back from Sir Robert Schomburgk that he had determined to retire and that you were to succeed him. At the same time the notice of the appointment in the Gazette escaped my observation. I see that your subordinates also obtain a rise.

Oriental cannot very well avoid carrying on intrigues of some sort or another but I should fancy that a little firmness was all that was needed in order to effectually check any proceedings of this description on the part of the Court at Bangkok, the more especially as in your case the King must be well aware that no subterfuge would prove of any avail. Moreover he must, I presume, in reality, be well aware of the necessity of retaining, if possible, our countenance and support. I am not surprised to hear of the amount disbursed to Mr Read. Clever lawyers are not accustomed to give cheap opinions even although they may be well aware that they are worthless.

I am not quite sure if I had been in your place whether I should have felt it necessary to make a heavy award in the way of compensation to Mr Ames' friend, unless the punishment inflicted on him had been rather unjust or oppressive, as by entering the service of a Foreign Power and agreeing to abide by the regulations of that service, I imagine that a British subject forfeits all legal right to your interference in his behalf. However if the Siamese Govt is desirous of conferring plenary powers on Mr. Ames, it ought to employ only its own subjects in the force under his orders and thus prevent any misconception as to the nature of his authority. How far Mr Ames may be a proper person to be vested with the powers is another question. At Singapore he was merely a subordinate and his authority consequently very limited etc.

I have etc.

Sd O Cavenagh

To H.B.M.Consul

Bangkok

Précis of a letter dated 10 Feb 1865 to Mr. Callaghan

Trusts that the claim of the Labuan Govt. against the Commissariat Department has been settled as Major Elphinstone perceived that there should be no delay in adjusting the demand. Will endeavour to secure the services of a good constable and send him over on the "Bantam" on the next relief. Thinks there will be no difficulty about postponing the relief of the Troops for another four or five months provided they continued healthy and the change is made during the Southern Monsoon. Has received a reply from the Sultan of Jooroo {Sooloo?}

Singapore

13th Febry 65

My dear Burn

x x x

Regarding the bad harvest at Malacca.

I hope you managed to make arrangements for obtaining the rations for the prisoners this year. We hope to be able to introduce at Malacca and Pinang the same system with regard to issues as adopted here. Although the contract is with the Commissariat the issues are direct to departments, the Court merely vouching for the correctness of the rates charged.

By the bye can you tell me whether subsequent to Playfair's making the advance of Rs 500, and before the Court agent's death, any issue of supplies was made to the convicts or other Local Civil Departments, for if so Playfair was clearly entitled to have the value of the articles issued carried to his credit. I spoke to him on the subject but he could not give me the necessary information.

I am rather puzzled about the appointment of Dy. Sheriff. The salary of the Acting Situation (Appointment?) is so small that if possible I should wish to give it to someone already holding an appointment. Would there be any objection to Houson's holding it? Mr Baningarten {Baumgarten?} has mentioned Mr Westerhout's name. If he is willing to accept office on the Salary perhaps it might be as well to offer it to him, as his duty would be almost entirely confined to looking after the Jail. I had fancied that Mr Baningarten might have had some relative who would have carried on the duty under his guidance. Please let me have your opinion on the point on an early date. You might indeed make the appointment and send it down for confirmation.

I was over the "Pluto" this morning. I doubt whether she will be ready much before the 20th Proximo. As soon as she is ready I shall come up. I have ordered the "Tonze" to be prepared to take the duty of Light Ship on the North Sands, so as to enable the "Torch" to be brought down and repaired.

Sd O C

P.S. It might be as well for you to write to the Chief of Johole to state that as it is necessary that the position should be marked, if he has no objection, you propose putting up a boundary pillar on the site of the old wall which you believe originally marked the line of our territory.

My dear Man

I have only time to write a few lines to acknowledge the receipt of your long letter of the 12th and to express regret at hearing that your residency has again been the scene of such serious disturbances between the Members of the Secret Societies. I had hoped after all the trouble you experienced on a former occasion that we had succeeded in bringing these Societies somewhat under control and that you would have saved all further annoyance. It is now clear that this is not the case and that it is absolutely necessary that some steps should be taken by the Legislature to check their power.

I wish the respectable Chinese could be {persuaded?} to submit a petition on the subject, as the Supreme Govt. might then be induced to pay attention to the representations of the Local Authorities. Notwithstanding that you were not as successful as could have been wished I preventing the destruction both of life and property, your arrangements appear to have been

admirable. I hope therefore you will duly send in an official Report which I will forward to Calcutta so that you may receive the credit which is your due.

I shall of course be very glad to make the gentlemen you propose honorary Magistrates. You have not by the bye submitted the names of those you wish added to the Scholarships Examination Committee.

The Court at Bangkok has already been sounded with respect to the sale of the Kotah District, and of course if the Rajah of Quedah was willing to accept a fair sum, the matter would then be referred through our Consul.

I do not think it is usual to require deposits with the Tenders but the Tenders should specify the names of the Securities and a proper deed has to be drawn up as soon as the tender is accepted. Macpherson can supply you with copies of the forms of Deeds in use at Singapore which should equally be applicable to Pinang.

Will you kindly tell Lewis that the necessary letter about his appointment was despatched to England some time ago from Bangkok.

Sd O C

22nd Febry 1865 Singapore

My dear Sir

With reference to the correspondence on the subject of our relations with the Native States on the E. Coast of Sumatra, I have by this Mail forwarded to your address a copy of the Dutch Official Map of the Eastern Archipelago which may perhaps be found useful to H.M.'s Government as shewing the extent of the present and intended claims of Dutch Govt. and the injurious effect which their recognition may possibly have upon our Commercial interests {falling?} under the operation of Articles II and III of the Treaty of 17th March 1824, by admitting of the imposition of a double duty upon our subjects and vessels in Ports in which we have always hitherto been upon a perfect equality with our neighbours.

I have at last succeeded in obtaining a Malay version of the Treaty between Spain and the Sultan of Sooloo. It is however written in a peculiar dialect and I am afraid some little difficulty will be experienced in preparing an intelligible translation. As soon as one is prepared it will be forwarded to the Supreme Govt. for transmission to the India Office.

The Tumongong's Steamer has arrived. Her size, for she is smaller than our little gunboats, would hardly appear to warrant the apprehension expressed by Sir James Brooke. Sir James however I imagine was guided by the report received from his Agent, Mr Read, the Tumongong's great opponent.

There are some slight disturbances at present between two of the minor states on our Malacca Frontier but I hardly think they will lead to anything serious.

Sd O C

To The Secy of State for India

My dear Mr Venn

I was on the eve of going out when your note arrived or should have answered it earlier.

I am much obliged for the information regarding the locality of the Tamil School which I will take an early opportunity of visiting.

I am sorry to hear that there has been any further trouble on the subject of the Child in the convent or that she should have been ill treated. At the same time, from what you mentioned the other day with respect to the father's resuming his intemperate habits I should hardly think that he would be {a} very fit guardian for a girl of her age.

Sd O C

The Revd E Venn M P

23/2/65

Précis of a letter to Capt Burn R C Malacca d/23rd Febr'y 1865

Acknowledges his letter of the 17th Inst. Is surprised to hear that 16 _ cents per diem is insufficient to enable a man to support his family. Suggests that he should request the shopkeepers should send out rice carts into the interior where they could dispose of their rice at considerable profit and might keep their carts at the Police Stations so as to ensure them from robbery. Will take into consideration any scheme he may submit for further aid to alleviate the present distress but requests him to arrange that the whole question may be taken into consideration at once. Desires him to reply to the Chief of Johole pointing out that Ooloo Batang Malacca has never been exactly marked out, that he has been requested to send down Officers to help British Officers to define the boundary but this request has never been complied with, that the Govr. who made the treaty states that the point agreed to was the inner point of the Hill Batang Malacca and unless he (the Chief) will attend to determine the question, the Govt. will be compelled to erect the Frontier Pillar at the well which has always been looked upon as the Boundary line. Desires him to report the Return of the Sultan of Johore when he comes back from Pahang. Cannot understand about Playfair's advance and would submit the case to the Supreme Govt. should it appear that the Court Agent bought stores and supplied them with the money advanced to him. Directs him to retain the "Mohr" for the Judge and expresses his intention of proceeding to Malacca in her on the 22nd prox. With regard to the Excise Warrant desires him to point out the opinion of the Advocate Genl: to Mr Banningarten. Desires him to send in his Stamp Returns required for the Supreme Govt. Commander of "Furi Gamas" (?) will tow down the "Torch" on his next trip for Calcutta etc.

24/2/65 Sd O C

Précis of a Letter to Lt Col Man R C Pinang d/27th/2/65

Informs him that his letter on the subject of the Secret Societies has gone up to the Supreme Govt. Considers his proposed system of registration a little too complicated and refers him to a Draft Bill on the subject prepared about 3 years ago in which 2 J.P.'s can appoint special constables and are granted extraordinary powers to punish rioters. Notices that the Police have been again animadverted upon by the Court and states his intention, should the Presentiment {Presentation} of a General Jury be sent up officially to require distinct charges to be made against the Force in order that justice may be done to them.

Sd O C

M P

My dear Man

I have only time to write a few lines to acknowledge the receipt of your letter. I am indeed truly grieved to hear of poor Mitchell's death. The govt has lost a zealous, intelligent and honorable servant. As young Maxwell was offered the appointment on a former occasion to act until Mitchell could arrive from Malacca and the offer was subsequently recalled on its being found that he was not quite of an age, a promise being at the same time made that his claim at any future period would be taken into consideration, I have considered myself bound to nominate him to the Offg berth. He has been well trained and is smart and intelligent and will I think give you satisfaction. Pray assure Mrs Mitchell of my deep sympathy in her sorrow etc.

Sd O C

28/2/65 Hon Lt Col Man

R C Pinang

My dear Sir Benson

The Burmah Steamer being on the eve of leaving as the "Mohr" arrived, I was unable to answer your note by that opportunity. I was sincerely grieved to hear of poor Mitchell's death and fully concur in the opinion you have expressed as to his merits as a public officer. It has afforded me much pleasure in fulfilment of my previous promise to nominate your son to officiate as Magte in Province Wellesley and I feel assured that he would do credit to my selection.

I have not had time as yet to carefully peruse the papers you have kindly sent me. They shall however have my earnest consideration. I am not quite certain that I shall come to the same conclusion as yourself in every case for if the tactics followed by the Chinese at Pinang are the same as those adopted at Singapore, it is quite possible for an Inspector to pass through a street and imagine the people to be perfectly quiet and well behaved, and yet a riot takes place immediately behind him. Moreover as a general rule peaceable Chinese remain quiet in their houses and keep aloof from the scenes of Hooey disturbances.

6/3/65 Sd O C

Letter to Col Man R C Pinang d/6/3/63 {65}

Calling attention to the orders issued regarding Federal and Confederate cruisers.

Sd O C

M P

My dear Rose,

I have the pleasure to send you an order from Cowpar for \$200, the balance of a fund placed at his disposal to add to the comfort of the European inmates of the General Hospital. I should be very much obliged if after communication with Fergusson you would kindly submit a scheme for its appropriation. I have endorsed it so that you can draw the amount.

Sd O C

8/3/65

Surgeon Major Rose

My dear Benrel

I shall be truly obliged if you will kindly return the accompanying box to the Lady Superioress and beg her to make my excuses to the kind donors for my not retaining the hands and cap it contains. I have always declined accepting any presents of this kind, and it would consequently now be difficult for me to depart from my rule without giving offence to others, which of course I am anxious to avoid. I trust that the Lady Superioress will assure the young ladies that I most fully appreciate their kindness which will serve to strengthen the interest I have always taken in the Institution to which their accomplishments do so much credit.

11/3/65 M P I remain

The Very Revd Ian Benrel {Beurel?} Yours sincerely

Sd O C

My dear Sir Benson

The sad news contained in your letter of the 8th Instant caused me much regret. Although my acquaintance with poor Mr Levinge was but slight, his stay here on his first visit to the Straits not having exceeded three or four days, I did not force {fail?} to give your message to Sir R McC who had however previously heard of the melancholy event from one of the passengers on board the Steamer in which he came down from Malacca.

Since I last wrote I have carefully perused the notes on the subject of recent trials which I have ordered to be sent to Colonel Man for report. I must confess as regards the first case, I am unable to arrive at the same conclusion as yourself. I believe there is no one here, official or non-official, having any experience in Chinese Street Riots who would consider the statement made by the Native Officer at all inconsistent with that of the Inspector. The Chinese invariably disperse when the Police make their appearance in any force, and rush out of their houses again and recommence the disturbance the moment they have passed, whilst as mentioned in my former note quiet bystanders are not generally to be found on such occasions.

As regards the second case, the evidence is so meagre and unsatisfactory, owing to the various discrepancies in the statements of the principal witnesses not having been cleaned {cleared?} up, that I should be very sorry to express any opinion upon it. From the fact of one of the Prisoners having been charged with murder is {it?} would however appear that he belonged to a different Kongsee from that of the generality of the Village whilst no explanation seems to have been afforded with respect to the torch, the possession or otherwise of which was apparently a material point.

Sd O C

13/3/65 To Hon Sir B Maxwell

Précis of a note to Col Man d/13/3/65

Desires him to send up officially the names of the Gentlemen whom he desires to place on the Education Committee and on the Lists of the Justices of the Peace. Mentions that he has no power as Comr of Police to make payments to indigent witnesses. States the intention of going to Malacca on the 25th Inst. Hopes he will consider the batta fixed for the detectives sufficient. Requests him to merely endorse original letters from his subordinates to this office and not to have copies made of them.

Sd O C

M P

13/3/65

My dear Sir

At the request of Lt Col French 34th Regt M.N.I. I have the pleasure to write these few lines to mention that the above officer has obtained leave of absence to proceed to Europe and is consequently at liberty to leave the Settlement by any favourable opportunity that may offer.

Sd O C

To Mon J Mege

In charge of French Consulate

Précis of a letter to Captain Burn R C Malacca d/14/3/65

Acknowledges his letter per Burmah Str. States that there will be money in the P.W.D. to give the people a little more work at Malacca. Considers that it would be useless to refer Playfair's case to the Supreme government as he did not apparently satisfy himself that the provisions bought with the Rs 500 were issued to the prisoners for several days after making the advance. Enquires whether the murderer who recently got off might not be rearranged (re-indicted?) for manslaughter. Requests him to report the case officially for the opinion of Counsel. Will probably leave this {place?} for Malacca on the 28th Inst etc etc.

Sd O C

M P

My dear Mr Knox

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd Instant. I was not aware that the man was serving under an agreement that he was only liable to punishment under the orders of the British Consul. This of course would clearly entitle him to British protection and exclude Mr Ames' authority even if he had been vested by the Siamese Govt. with power to punish the Police under his orders.

I have by the bye been informed that there are several runaway Convicts, British subjects, now residing in Siam. Do you think that under Article V of the Treaty of 1855 you would be justified in making a requisition for their detention and surrender? If so I will make further enquiries regarding them with the view of addressing a communication to you on the subject.

The old Sultan of Tringanu is here at present. He had intended going on a pilgrimage to Mecca but found that there would be some difficulty in procuring a passage in the Mail Steamer and consequently abandoned the idea.

Do you ever see the *Courier de Saigon*? In a late Number there was a letter on the subject of Cambodia which shews tolerably clearly what is to be the policy of our worthy allies in that Quarter. I observe that in a recent article published in the *N.S. Magazine* from the notes of a Mr.

Richard it is asserted that both Siam and Cochin China owe allegiance to the Emperor at Peking and that up to 1856 the former used periodically to forward the Bungre {Bunga} Mas to China. Whether the Monarch at Hue continues to do so or no, I do not fancy the French would be inclined to recognise his Celestial Majesty's rights over the provinces they have taken possession of. etc.

Sd O C

15/3/65

Précis of a letter to the Govr of Labuan 17/3/65

Inform him that he has secured the Services of an Artillery Sergeant as his Police Constable but has kept the appointment in abeyance until he hears again. Will relieve the Labuan Detachment about the end of May.

M P

17/3/65

Précis of a letter to Capt Burn R C Malacca d/23/3/65

Mentions that he is to have the money for certain Public Works and that he intends to postpone his visit to Malacca for another month. etc.

Sd O C

Singapore

27th March/65

My dear Sir

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 20th Ult. The Duke of Brabant's stay at Singapore has been of such short duration that he preferred remaining at the Hotel to taking up his residence at Government House, where of course rooms {were} placed at his disposal. H.R.H. duly received the telegram regarding his Father's illness and returned here from Hong Kong yesterday in H.M.S. "Adventure". His anxiety has been somewhat allayed by the receipt of a Brussels paper dated the 14th Ult but he will leave this {place} for Point de Galle as soon as the Steamer can be coaled. This work is now being carried out by relays of coolies and I hope that it will be completed in time to admit of his taking his departure early tomorrow.

I remain etc.

Sd O C

To H.E.

The Right Hon Sir Jms Laurence Bt G.C.B.

Viceroy and G.G.

To the R C Malacca d/28/3/65

Is glad to hear that the boundary question with Johole has been settled and wishes the P.W.D. to place the pillar as soon as possible. States that if ten people at Alloor Gajah will send in a petition for a school he will try to meet their wishes. Points out that the travelling allowance of the R.C. and Comr of the Court of Requests entered in the current Budget has only been reduced by Rs 20. Considers that if he had an opportunity he might point out to the Dattoo Klana of Soongee Ujong that if the Govt. chose it might levy a heavy duty on the trade at the mouth of the Lingee and thus the whole of the trade of his country might be stopped.

Sd O C

Précis of a letter to the R C Pinang d/28/3/65

Is surprised at the very meagre evidence on which Sir Benson Maxwell formed his opinion as to the incompetency of the police. Intimate that the Commissioner of Police is the officer who decides the amount to be paid to indigent witnesses and what witnesses are to be considered indigent. Trusts we shall be able to rectify our Province Wellesley Frontier. Will Gazette the additional Members of the Scholarship examination Committee as soon as his official report on the matter is received. Considers that Earl's appt as J.P. had better be delayed until he has passed his examination. Trusts he will be able to get him an increase of pay either this year or next. Enquires what becomes of the registration fees on Passage Boats under Act xiii of 1856. M P

Singapore

29/3/65

My dear Sir

I have the pleasure to enclose letters to Messrs Wade and Schreiber and the Baron de Meritens, and at the request of His Royal Highness the Duke of Brabant to beg that you will do his Highness the favor of forwarding them under official covers to their respective addresses.

Believe me etc

Sd O C

True Copy

M P

To H.E. The Governor Hongkong

My dear Graham

_____ Will you kindly, when you may have a leisure moment, oblige me by giving me your opinion as to the propriety of causing Crown Counsel who conduct all Criminal prosecutions on the part of Government to be sworn in and also if the measure is considered necessary by mentioning the form of oath to be administered. The question has been mooted here and I am consequently desirous of ascertaining from the best authority what is the proper course to be pursued.

I am afraid the Straits sometimes gives you some trouble by official references but our Judges stand in some respect of the Advocate Genl though when many counter to their own views they might sometimes be inclined to overrule the opinion of the Crown Counsel. Hence upon any point likely to be brought before the Court I am always anxious to obtain the decisions of the former instead of being guided entirely by my local legal adviser.

I Graham Esq. B.A.

Offg Advocate Genl

Calcutta

2nd April /65

My dear Sir

As in a memorial to your address which has lately been published by the Memorialists in the Local Journals, I find that it is asserted that whilst the Revenue of the Straits has rapidly increased, the expenditure without any obvious reason has increased in a like and sometimes even greater ratio, an assertion likely to lead to the impression that there has been unnecessary extravagance on the part of the Local Govt., I have considered it but right in self defence to forward herewith for submission to {Mr?} Cardwell a brief memo shewing the Receipts and Disbursements for the several years that the finances of the Settlement have been under my control, from which it will be perceived that, whilst the amount of expenditure has remained almost stationary — for if the omitted items for 59/60 had been included there would have been little or no difference between the disbursements for that year and those for 1860/61 — the Revenue has been raised upwards of one half. At the same time there is hardly an office in which the position of the employees has not been somewhat improved, and a greater efficiency second {secured?}.

There has also been a considerable expenditure on Public Works. The list attached to the Memo affords but a very meagre idea of our operations, for both in Province Wellesley and Malacca, but more especially the latter, numerous roads and bridges have been constructed, and I can now drive to several points to which on my assuming charge of the Govt. I could only extend my tours of inspection by being carried by bearers in a hammock.

Whilst however there has been no strict (policy?) as regards outlay received for the improvement of the country or the efficiency of the Establishment, the necessity of economy has not been lost sight of. The strictest security {supervision?} has been exercised over contingent expenditure, and it is under this head that large reductions have been effected, every bill being subjected to my own personal audit before it is passed

Sd O C

Sir F Rogers Bt

Colonial Office

2nd April 65

My dear Sir

In a memorial bearing your signature addressed to Sir F Rogers and which has been published in the Local Journals I find that it is asserted that whilst the Revenue of the Straits has gradually increased there has been a corresponding or even great increase in the expenditure. How far this assertion has been borne out by facts the perusal of the accompanying Memo will enable you to judge. From this it will be perceived that notwithstanding the great advance in the Receipts, the amount of disbursements — for were the omitted items included there would be little difference between those for 1859/60 and 1860/61 — has remained almost stationery, yet large Public Works including the construction of numerous roads and bridges in Prov. Wellesley and Malacca, but more in the latter District, have been carried out, and there is hardly an office {in} which the subordinate employees have not been placed on a more respectable footing, and greater efficiency thus secured. Whilst however there has been no strict (policy) as regards outlay for legitimate improvements, the most rigid supervision - every bill being subjected to my personal scrutiny — has been exercised over contingent expenditure, and it is under that head that reductions have been effected.

As regards the Military, the strength of the Native Infantry has been materially reduced, whilst the two batteries of Native Artillery have been relieved by Europeans, and I need hardly remind you that in former days one of the great grievances set forth by the residents of the Straits was the want of European troops for their protection. Apparently you are not aware that the great expense on account of Europeans is the cost of rations, and as a Marine receives larger rations than an Artilleryman, he would prove more expensive

I shall always be happy to afford you any information you may require on points connected with my Government, but considering that my Annual Reports are always obtainable, I conceive that I have just cause to complain of the mis-statement to which I have referred.

In conclusion I may mention that, as the expenditure on account of convicts is not debited against the Straits, vide page 28 Ad: {An} Rep: of 1863/64 any allusion to it seems perfectly unnecessary.

Sd O C

J Crawford Esqre F.N.A.S.

Athendum {Atheneum?} Club

Singapore

5th April 1865

My dear Sir

I observe in a Memorial addressed to Sir F Rogers, Under Secy of State for the Colonies, and which may probably in the event of a bill for the Transfer being prepared this session from {form} one of the papers to be laid before the House that it has been asserted that the expenditure for the Straits has without any obvious reason increased in a greater proportion than the Revenue, I have thought it right to forward by the Mail to your address a Memo shewing the Receipts and Disbursements for the past five years, from which it will be perceived that, whilst the former have increased by one half, the latter — for by including the omitted items for 1859/60 and that for 1860/61 — has remained almost stationary.

In the meantime important Civil and Military works have been constructed, and in most of the Establishments the subordinates placed upon a better footing and greater efficiency secured. But this has only been accomplished by strict economy as regards contingent expenses, every contingent Bill being subjected to my person scrutiny and full explanation with regard to all doubtful items called for before it is passed.

I hardly think the Memorialists can be deemed the exponents of the wishes of the Community of the Straits. The generality of its Members are indifferent and a large Section are decidedly opposed to the proposed change, but there seems a general desire for a Legislative Council to determine questions of a mere local nature which it can hardly be expected that the Supreme Govt should attend to.

Sd O C

Sir C Woods

Secy of State for India

Précis of a letter to Col Man R C pg 8/4/65

States that it is optional with Govt to fix the amount of fee on Pawnbrokers' licences; that the number to be issued is entirely a question for the Police to decide and that they are liable to be withdrawn at a moment's notice. Considers that the Munl fund will have to pay for the travelling

allowance of the Police during the riots but that the Govt, if the subject is requested will pay the expense incurred in urging Malays to assist the Police. Requests him should there be any money of the Assignment left to purchase some cooking pots for Govt House Pinang.

Sd O C

Précis of a letter to Mr Callaghan Governor of Labuan d/9/4/65

Acknowledges receipt of 2 letters. Sergeant Owens is still in the Service and will perhaps be provided for here. No spare copies of revised convict Regulations. Mentions that there is a general Ordinance in India prohibiting the exportation of warlike stores and certain sections apply here. Will send him spare copy of the Act or Sections. Requests him to send over a memo of the Police he requires and the rates of pay to be granted to them.

Sd O C

M P

Copy of part of a letter to Mr Knox Bangkok

x x x

I am much obliged for the information about the Convicts. I will tell Captain McNair to endeavour to secure the services of a man who may be able to identify them and will then address you on the subject of their rendition.

Mr Kim Ching, the Siamese Consul here, is about to take a trip to Bangkok and I hear afterwards, under the auspices of the King, to proceed to Kalantan and endeavour to open up some tin mines there. He was very profuse in his offer to render any assistance or to execute any Commissions for me at Bangkok, and mentioned that he had written to the King on the subject of some alleged exactions on our subjects at Kalantan and been informed in reply that any expression of my wishes would be at once attended to. In answer I merely observed that, if it were necessary for me to interfere, I should of course place myself in communication with you, but that at present I was doubtful how far I should be justified in referring any question connected with Kalantan to the Authorities at Bangkok. Upon this he remarked "Oh, I know Kalantan does not form part of Siam, but the Rajah is now very submissive to the King and the King is always anxious to meet your wishes and would consequently advise him to do whatever you considered right". I expressed my pleasure at hearing of this satisfactory state of affairs and the conversation ended by his informing me that the King was very anxious about the intentions of our worthy allies and could only look to us for protection in case of need to be there. {Whether} this communication was spontaneous or under dictation from Bangkok I cannot say, but it is just as well that you should know of it

9.4.65

O C

13/4/65

My dear Mr Luce

As I believe you are on the eve of your departure from the Settlement I think it but right to address you these few lines in order to bear my testimony to the ability and earnestness with which you have performed the duties that have devolved upon you during the last few years.

As regards your attendance at the General Hospital and H.C. I can of course testify from Personal Observation, and with respect to your labours among the shipping I have the evidence not only of general report but in many instances of persons who have benefited by your ministrations. In expressing therefore the opinion above recorded I am merely doing you justice.

Whilst regretting your removal from Singapore I cannot but congratulate you upon your approaching advancement to a higher position in the Church those {than?} you have hitherto enjoyed and feel assured that wherever you may be stationed the functions of your sacred office will be faithfully and zealously discharged.

Sd O C

The Revd Luce

(insert)

My dear Sir Richard

I have carefully perused the whole of the papers you kindly sent for my consideration, as well as the statement made this morning by the Prisoner to Dunman, and although I cannot but consider that strong {suspicions?} attach to the head man of the Red Flag Society, I am afraid there is little prospect of our being able to obtain a conviction against them upon the charge of being accessories to murder.

As regards however the likely to be much more conclusive than at first anticipated provided Dunman in secrecy the attendance of the witnesses who may possibly be able to furnish any important evidence in his for the purpose of making enquiries regarding them and hopes to be more successful in the course of next day. I must say that I have never heard of a man who the murder of the dead man may never be heard from

April 23/65 To Sir R B McCausland

(end of insert)

My dear Braddell

Many thanks for your notes on the subject of the charge against Sheik Mussah. You have done all that lay in your power towards securing his conviction and we must hope to obtain further evidence in corroboration of Rama Sami's statements before the next session. Had Rama Sami not taken so active a part in the murder I should have felt justified in commuting his sentence in order that he might be produced in Court when Sheik Mussah's trial comes on, but as it was, it seemed to me that I could hardly have shewn him mercy without extending it to his companions, and thus the whole of the perpetration {perpetrators?} of a most cold blooded murder would escaped the penalty so justly awarded as the punishment of the crime of which they were found guilty.

Sd O C

T Braddell Esqre

Crown Counsel

My dear Sir

The Tumongong of Johore having represented to me his intention of proceeding to England by the next Mail I trust I may be pardoned furnishing him with these few lines to your address. His Highness informs me that he proposes remaining in England about 4 months and that he will avail himself of the opportunity thus afforded of making himself acquainted with the sources of our greatness by visiting all the important manufacturing Towns, Dockyards etc. As he is observant and intelligent I trust that his visit may result in benefit both to himself and to his country. I feel assured that he will gratefully appreciate any assistance that may under your instructions be afforded him for carrying his views into effect.

Sd O C

The Rt Hon Secy of State for India

3rd May 1865

Précis of a letter to Col Man R C Pinang d/21st May 1865

Informs him of the steps he should take to obtain casual leave and requests him to report fully in his Annual Report on the conduct of the Chinese during the street riots.

M P

Précis of a note to Sir B Maxwell d/21/5/65

Informs him that arrangements will be made to pay out of the Treasury monies ordered to be paid by the Court without waiting for a reference to the Accountant General at Singapore.

Sd O C

(insert) Malacca May 12 1865

My dear Colonel Durand

As it is possible that you may not have received any Despatch from our Consul at Bangkok regarding the Treaty recently concluded between France and Siam I have the pleasure to forward a copy of the confidential; communication, with annexures, addressed to me on the subject.

The Treaty certainly leaves nothing undetermined, in this respect being superior to the Engagements which we are in the habit of entering into. You will have observed from the enclosure to the first official on the subject of Tringanu and Kalantan that formerly those States were always looked upon as being solely under British protection and that it is only of late years, perceiving that we took no interest in the matter, that Siam has perceived {proceeded?} to advance any claim to consider them as Tributary Provinces.

May 25

The post of Surveyor at Malacca, of which the pay is Rs 400 per mensem having remained vacant for several months, owing to my inability to secure the services of a duly qualified person to hire to take it, I am induced to write these few lines to enquire whether it is in your power to recommend a fitting candidate. Some time back I wrote to W.N. Thurlin on the subject but at that time he had nobody on his list that he considered suitable for the post. The candidate should possess the requisite qualifications for carrying out the ordinary operations of a revenue Survey and have some knowledge of the Native character and personage, and I should wish him to be a gentleman so that he may be eligible in turn to succeed to the higher post of Surveyor Genl of the Straits Settlement which may probably become vacant soon for years hence and of which the salary will be Rs 700.

I shall feel much obliged if you can afford me any assistance in this matter as there is a great deal of work to be got through at Malacca and the services of a Surveyor are urgently needed to enable the Surveyor General to superintend operations at the other Stations.

O C

To The Offg Surveyor Genl

Précis d/25th May 1865

States that the Surveyor General should define the boundary line as soon as possible so that the other boundary pillars may be erected on the bank of the Kessang. Should it be considered advisable to have a third on any other point the matter should be brought to notice. The redistribution of the Assignment for Vernacular Schools has been sanctioned, but as soon as the school is established at Alore Gajah the circumstances should be reported

O C

The Hon Captain Burn

R C Malacca

(end of insert)

Letter to Captain Ricketts Consul Sarawak d/26/5/65

Acknowledges receipt of his letter of 15th May.

There can I think be little doubt that the great desideratum for Sarawak is a strong and energetic Govt., for provided its resources were properly developed the country contains all the essential elements of prosperity. Money however is wanting and as long as the Govt. remains upon its present footing, so much depending upon the life of a maybe {elderly?} man, capitalists will not be imbued with a sufficient feeling of confidence in its stability to induce them to embark their money in speculations for the improvement of any portion of the large tract under its control.

I feel assured that the Old Rajah is perfectly aware of the real state of the case, and that one of the reasons for his urging the necessity for recognition or rather protection or annexation is his anxiety to guard against any complications that may ensue after his death. So long as he is alive his influence, both with the people of Sarawak and with our Govt. at home will be sufficient to preserve the country either from internal dissensions of Foreign aggressors, but should anything happen to him, and he is now an old man, it is doubtful whether his nephew wd. Be able to keep the chiefs in order, and it is certain that unless restrained by the fear of giving umbrage to our Govt., the Dutch would at once commence operations with a view to bringing the Country under their sway, and any disturbances that might arise along the frontier would of course give them a plausible pretext for their proceedings.

I agree with you in thinking that there would be no opposition on the part of the people to the transfer of the Settlement to the British Crown and that the measure would be in every respect advantageous. I am certain however that the Rajah will be much surprised and annoyed at the decision at which his nephew seems to have arrived. Nothing has as yet been settled about the transfer of the Straits.

Sd O C

Extract from a letter to Mr Knox H.B.M. Consul Bangkok d/31st May/65

I am much obliged for the copy of the French version of the Treaty with Siam forwarded with your letter of the 20th Instant wh. duly reached me a few days ago.

As far as I am competent to judge, the arrangement seems to be in many respects highly satisfactory. The position of Cambodia with respect to the contracting parties is now clearly defined and further complications probably leading to extremely unpleasant results ought thus to

be avoided. It certainly would have been a great advantage if, acting on your suggestion, the Court at Bangkok had secured the recognition of the Independence of Cambodia in lieu of acknowledging the protectorate of France, but possibly there would have been considerable opposition offered by the French authorities to the re-exertion {re-insertion?} of an article to that effect. The attempt however might have been made. I am afraid now there is little chance of any amendment being made.

Nothing seems to have been as yet decided by the authorities at home to the position to be occupied by Tringanu and Calantan. I may mention however for your information, as it is right you should know that in 1837 the Court of Siam addressed the governor of the Straits to enquire whether those States were considered under British protection or not, and the result of the correspondence would certainly seem to establish very satisfactorily the fact that they are in no way under Siam. Indeed the very question put by the Siamese Minister as to whether we claimed jurisdiction over them affords tolerably convincing proof on that point.

x x x

Sd O C

Précis of a letter to Lt Col Man R C Pinang d/31st May 1865

Replies to his letter of the 20th and 23rd Instant. Requests more information regarding Mr Brown's ground which he offers. Officers' quarters not to be built this year. Considers that until further restrictions come down it will be better to follow the old system of accounts in the Straits. Considers that Mr Logan had better write in regarding the Bond. Considers the investigation regarding the Farm was loosely conducted.

Sd O C M P

Précis of a letter to Col Man R C Pg 4/6/65

Considers it advisable that Mr Earl should return to Province Wellesley but would not sanction any permanent arrangement as regards Mr Presgrave's performing the Bukit Tamboon Magisterial duties. Hopes the Rajah of Quedah will cede the desired territory by purchase as he is averse to any exchange of land. Requests him to send in his land Revenue Returns or if they have come in to transmit duplicates as they must have been mislaid. Is puzzled what to do about the Larroot people. Intimates that he can draw his pay. Has heard nothing further about the transfer.

Sd/ O C

Singapore

7th June 1865

Sir

In accordance with your Royal Highness' request I do myself the honor of forwarding my Photograph. I regret the delay that has occurred in meeting your wishes. It has been in a great measure occasioned by my unavoidable absence from this station on a tour of inspection at Malacca

On referring to the Memo of Receipts and Disbursements of the Straits Settlement prepared for your Royal Highness' information, I find that owing to it not being subjected to usual revision it contains a typographical error, the amount expended by the municipality in 1863/64 having been only Rs. 392576 Rupees. The tiger skin which your Royal Highness was pleased to accept has been delivered to Mr Cateaux and will I trust reach you in safety.

I hope I may be pardoned expressing my pleasure at hearing that the accounts of the state of health of H.M. your Father received by your Royal Highness at Galle must have proved more favourable than you anticipated and have thus in some degree tended to allay the anxiety caused by the first report from Calcutta.

I remain etc.

Sd O C

To H.R.H.

The Duke of Brabant

Précis of a letter to Col Man R C Pinang d/12/6/65

Requests him to let Dr Monat have Govt House for 10 days and to procure a full set of pots and pans for the Kitchen. Desires him to send down his remarks upon the trade etc. of Pinang during the past year either officially or demi-officially.

Sd O C

M P

(in French)

Monsieur l'Annial

Selon le desir m'experience {expressé?} par Monsieur l'Annial Grandière j'ai le plaisir de vous envoyer une copie du plan que j'ai dessiné de la maison du Government a Singapore et que Monsieur l'Annial Grandière a trouvé très convenable pour la climat tropique.

Agreez etc.

12th May/65 Sd O C

H.I.

To Rear Admiral Roze

Govr and Comr in Chief

Saigon

My dear Captain Ricketts

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st Instant. I am sorry to hear that our Government has abandoned the idea of taking Sarawak under its protection. In the event of a European war there can be no doubt that the possession of the North Coast of Borneo would prove very advantageous to our interests, but the fact is that the present Government has no policy either in Europe or Asia, and will not therefore take the trouble to guard against future contingencies. Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof is evidently one present motto.

By this Mail the Marquis Giacomo Corie, with 2 companions, leaves this (place) for Borneo. Their ostensible object is a scientific tour and they talk of remaining for a considerable period so as to visit the whole of the interior. I have furnished them with a note of introduction to you. They have been duly accredited by Sir J. Brooke to his Authority at Sarawak and it is possible that besides conducting their scientific researches they have been instructed to make enquiries as to the extent etc. of the territories under the Sarawak Govt. with a view to their eventual transfer to Italy. This however is a mere vague surmise on my part. The Marquis is an intelligent agreeable man, so you will I have little doubt be pleased with his acquaintance.

Our transfer to the charge of the Colonial Office seems to me to be quite at an end. It is clear from the reply to Lord Stanley that the question is not even under any consideration.

I am afraid it is out of my power to give you any detailed information regarding the Dutch Naval force in these seas but I should fancy it numbers about 15 vessels of various sizes and descriptions. Since the defeat of the Lamons {Lanoons} by the "Rainbow" in 1862 I have heard of no piratical attack either upon our vessels or vessels sailing under Dutch colours. I believe the Spaniards now keep a considerable naval force in the neighborhood of the Sooloo Islands, and this may perhaps have prevented their fleets from leaving on any piratical expedition. Formerly they generally started with the Northerly Monsoon and passing to the South of Borneo made their appearance in this quarter in May or June.

The question of the Dutch Encroachments in Sumatra is I believe under discussion. One great argument is that the Treaties concluded by us with the native States contained special articles precluding the chiefs from placing themselves under the Authority of any European power and that these treaties are still in force, the treaty of 1824 with Holland having only postponed effect. We protected {protested} against the proceeding of the Dutch in 1842. They immediately retired. They recommenced their advance in 1858/59 and as soon as it became known to the Straits Authorities, the matter was at once brought to the notice of the Home Government.

Sd O C

14/6/65

Captain Ricketts

H B M Consul

Sarawak

Singapore June 21st 1865

My dear Colonel

As I observe that the question of the rights of Indian officers is again under discussion and the necessity for adopting measures to remedy the grievances complained of may therefore be again brought before the council, I have not thought it out of place to submit for your consideration a scheme which would I believe combine simplicity, efficiency and economy and which would, I honestly think, give general satisfaction both to the Government and to the Army.

I have, as you know, served on the Staff both of Regular and Irregular Regiments, as well as on the General Staff, and although my Field Service has been with Irregular Corps and consequently I have naturally a strong feeling in favor of Irregulars, yet I must confess that the idea of an Irregular Army has always struck me as being the mere dream of a mild {wild?} visionary like General Jacob, who, if I remember right, never saw Native Troops under a heavy cannonade, and not the scheme of a practical soldier. Years ago, in a Memorandum submitted to Lord Canning (just before the Mutiny) I pointed out the fallacy of supposing that Irregulars were better than Regulars, and the cause of their temporary superiority, and I am convinced that the Irregular system will never stand the test of time or any sudden pressure, whilst an Irregular Army will in no way add to the military strength of the Empire, and this is the point which, in the present state of affairs, should certainly not be lost sight of.

And now for my scheme in which I will take up the several supposed grievances *seriatim*:-

1st Grievance

Reduction in the number of General Officers by the transfer of 7 Lieut. Generals and 5 major Generals to Her Majesty's Army.

Remedy

Complete the list of General Officers to the number duly authorized before the Amalgamation or else, on a casualty occurring amongst the officers transferred, promote an officer of the Indian Army.

2nd Grievance

Supercession (supersession?) of officers by the formation of the Staff Corps.

Remedy

Add a clause to the Staff Corps Warrant to the effect that the period of the first five years served in the Staff Corps is to be considered as one of probation, at the expiration of that time the officer to have the option of reverting to his Regiment or joining the Staff Corps permanently, in the latter case, his rank, which would previously be only honorary or official to be confirmed and his name removed from his former Cadre.

3rd Grievance

The abolition of the Regimental system.

Remedy

There were formerly 156 Corps of the Line in the Native Army. Reduce this number to 78, the Indian Government selecting the best Corps for the purpose, let them be numbered from 1 to 78 of Her M's Indian Army, to be, eventually, on the same footing as West Indian Regiments and liable to serve in any part of the world when their services may be needed. In forming these Corps take the Cadres of two Battalions of Officers, add them together as Wings in the same manner as in the old European Regiments, promotion going to each Wing until one Cadre is absorbed, when all promotion would be Regimental. This arrangement, according to the present strength of Cadres, would give two Lieut. Colonels, two Majors, fourteen Captains and, upon the average, about eighteen Lieutenants. The future establishment of a Regiment might however be fixed, say at one Lieut. Colonel, one Major, eight Captains, twelve Lieutenants and four Ensigns, the reduction being effected by absorption, as in the case of the two Lieutenants absorbed in 1835, the corps to be allowed death vacancies and retirements but no promotion to be made in the room of a Staff Corps Officer removed, and no Ensign to be posted until the reduction had been completed.

4th Grievance

Supercession caused by the Last Warrant.

Remedy

This has caused endless annoyance and heartburning and the only remedy is to cancel the Warrant and allow Officers to retain their present rank but to be honorary only.

The above plan would be entirely in consonance with the Regulations of the Old Indian Army, and by requiring an Officer to serve five years in the Staff Corps before being permanently posted to it, promotion would be more equalized than by striking Staff Officers of {off} at once, whilst eventually, the Indian Government would have at its disposal 78 really efficient Regiments, capable of being sent, in case of War, to Garrison the Cape, Mauritius etc., and thus obviating the necessity of reducing the strength of our European Army in India, whilst they

would serve as nurseries for the Staff Corps. Employment would at once be provided for a large number of dissatisfied officers who are now idle, merely doing duty at the several Stations, and a very great reduction would be made in our Military Expenditure, for at the present we are paying high Staff Salaries for the performance of duties for which Regimental Officers are available.

Believe me to remain

Yours sincerely

Sd/ O Cavenagh

P.S. In forming the new Regiments the 1st and 38th Bengal would be the first East Indian Regiment. 1st and 27th Madras the Second, 1st and 16th Bombay the third and so on

Colonel W.L. Baker

Royal Bengal Engineers

India Office

Victoria Street

Westminster S.W.

London

Précis of a letter to Lt Col Man d/22/6/65

Mentions that the "Pluto" will leave this {place} with Troops on Tuesday for Malacca and Pinang to bring down Labuan Detail. Hopes to leave for Pinang on the 5th or 6th July. Requests him to send up his memo about commerce and agriculture. Observes that in his letter to the Rajah of Quedah he mentions that a communication had already been made to the Siamese Court regarding the certification {correction?} of the Frontier. Enquires whether he refers to the correspondence in the first instance as there has been none of late years. Considers Brown's offer to sell the whole piece of ground as fair and reasonable and purposes submitting it for the consideration of Sup. Govt. If he is prepared to exchange it for the 2 pieces worth \$3,000 this might be done at once leaving the further purchase an open question.

Sd O C

Précis of a letter to the R C Malacca d/28/6/65

In regard to the Boundary Pillars the first thing to settle is the position of the Pillar on the Kassang River. The intermediate Pillars can be filled up hereafter. Refers him to Mayne for the clearance of any of the Malacca Rivers as well as for the preparation of an irrigation scheme to counteract the present droughts. Desires him to consult the Ch. Engineer about the removal of

the collection of night soil in Convict Jail. Sanctions his incurring the award for the reception of the Ceylon Convicts if necessary. Desires him to send up a list of works he may want for Mr Keasberry. Desires him to send in a report of the land at Tanang {Tanah} Merah pointing out that the people have no title and wish to take out leases. Is sorry to hear of the distress of the people and wishes him and the Ch. Engineer to devise some plan to give the people employment whereby their distress wd. Be relieved. No chance of a gratuity to Mr Hackett's family should anything happen to him. Will send up an order about Sultan's arrears in a day or 2 but desires him to point out that they cannot be paid without he gives receipts under his own seal.

Sd O C

Précis of a note to Col Man R C Pinang 28th/6/65

Does not agree with him and Logan about the embankment of the Mudah. Does not think we can interfere in the affairs of Perak. Considers his report on the Police most satisfactory.

Sd O C

M P

Singapore July 5th 1865

My dear Sir

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th May. Whilst fully recognising the kindly feeling in your allusion to my own interests I cannot allow your remarks with regards to the Indian Government to pass unnoticed, as otherwise it might be supposed that I concurred in the opinion you have expressed, which is certainly not the case, for I honestly believe and my belief is, if I mistake not, showed in by you {shared in by?} the greater number of the European residents in the Straits, that the Government under which the Settlement has risen to its present state of prosperity, has been a most liberal one, and that there is no Colony in Her Majesty's dominions that has enjoyed so many advantages with such a light taxation. Even at present, Hongkong, a Colony established almost entirely for a political purpose, is as heavily taxed as the Straits, the Government there receiving from the land the benefits that are here enjoyed by private proprietors.

Whether the time has arrived to sever the connection that has so long existed between the Straits and India is a point upon which there may be some difficulty in expressing a decided opinion, but at all events, should the separation take place, it should not be forgotten that for a long series of years the Settlement proved a heavy burthen upon the finances of the governing Power, and that some gratitude is due for the fostering care with which it was treated in its early days and which has enabled it of late to make such a rapid advance and establish a fair claim to future independence. I will now answer your several charges against the Indian Government *seriatim*.

1st. The expenditure in 1859/60 having been 812,529 + 200,00 Public Works + 9,125 Singapore Institution + 50,000 Court Establishment + 35,000 Interest on deposits amounted in all to

1,106,654; the Receipts were 1,254,531. In 1863/64 the Expenditure was 1,206,326; the Receipts amounted to 1,956,758. *Ergo* the former did not increase in the same or a larger proportion than the latter.

2nd. As already mentioned in my former letter the original increase to the Military Force in the Straits was made solely in consequence of the representations of the Community as to the want of sufficient protection to life and property in the case of a Chinese *emeute* and not in the case of an attack from a Foreign enemy. Chinese *emeutes* still occur and only lately one broke out at Pinang which was not suppressed before twenty lives had been lost and a great deal of property destroyed. The presence of the military and the Police saved the Town and the rioters fled to the Country where they were eventually hemmed in and dispersed. Our force at present consists of almost the exact strength named by the chamber of Commerce, viz 200 Europeans and 1,000 Natives, but we have to make all advances for the Detachment at Labuan and this causes our Military Expenditure to appear heavy. This {the} amount of their {these} advances is, of course, eventually recovered by the Madras Government, against which we debit all Military payments. The numbers of Officers doing duty with the Native Troops is less than we should have with a local Corps, but owing to the amalgamation arrangements we have now more Field Officers doing duty than authorized by regulations. This is however a mere temporary pressure which we must share with the resto f India, and considering the long period that we paid nothing towards our Troops I fancy we have no great cause for complaint.

3rd. The "Diana" and the "Hooghly" were both worn out in the Straits Service and, when the latter Steamer was condemned, the Indian Government sent down the "Pluto". The Straits have had the use of these three Steamers and not a penny has the Local Government been called upon to pay for them. In 1860 petty piracy was so bad all along our coasts that even our very Harbours were not safe. Had this state of affairs continued our local trade must have suffered. Two small steamers, which only arrived from England in 1858, were then in China under Admiral Hope, and the Admiral was requested to place their services at the disposal of this Government. As soon as they could be dispensed with he did so, and they have proved extremely useful, whilst petty piracy between Malacca and Pinang, where it was most rife, has almost entirely ceased, the Natives knowing that the Steamers can pursue them up the Rivers and Creeks. One Steamer as a matter of economy has been placed out of employment.

The average Annual cost of the maintenance of the Establishment of the Steamers, including the Singapore Water Police, has been about £8,200, not £15,000 as mentioned in your letter, but these vessels have to perform the whole of the duties connected with the relief of all the Light Houses in the Straits, upwards of 200 Miles apart, the Transport of Troops, Stores and Civil Establishments, and the Circuit tours of the Governor and the Court, but a very small portion of the assignment on their account would therefore be fairly debitable against the Heading "Suppression of Piracy".

4th. I find I have omitted to notice your reference to the convicts. The cost of the Convict Establishment has never been charged against the Straits. The Accounts connected with it have always been kept distinct from the Local Expenditure. The Straits have therefore enjoyed the advantage of gratuitous labor of all the transmarine prisoners, the results of which is to be found in Roads, Sea Walls and Public Buildings such as few Colonies can boast of.

I trust the foregoing observations will convince you that your attack upon the Indian Government has been both ungenerous and unjust, if not even impolite {impolitic?} by leading the Authorities at the Colonial Office to suppose that they would have to deal with an unreasonable and discontented Community when the fact is the very reverse. Indeed I feel convinced that if the transfer does take place, the Straits, whilst imposing no burthen upon the Imperial Revenue, will give less trouble than a Small West Indian Island. I have just completed my Administration Report and you will be glad to hear that there has again been an increase, though slight, in our Receipts, with a decrease of Expenditure.

Believe me

Yours sincerely

Sd/ Orfeur Cavenagh

J Crawford Esqre etc. etc.

London

Précis of a letter to Col Man R C Pinang d/7/7/65

Will leave for Pinang about the 17th. Requests that all his letters may be sent down accordingly. Hopes that he made Captain Fox embark the Troops in his own boat as no bill for that purpose will be passed. Will discuss the question of the Embankment of the Mudah on the arrival of the governor at Pinang. Hopes he has issued the necessary orders regarding the cooking utensils at Govt. House.

Précis of a note to Mr W F Lewis Pinang d/10th July 1865

Returns a note from the foreign Office and mentions that he has merely to write an official announcing his appointment as Consul for Siam at Pinang when he will be duly Gazetted.

Sd O C

9/7/65

My dear Sir

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th Ultimo and thank you for your kind attention to my request. To enable Mr Talbot to count his previous Service, to draw his pay en route and to receive the ordinary rate of passage money it is necessary that his transfer should be made with the sanction of the Supreme Government and not that his appointment should take place under the mere orders of the Local Government, as originally intended.

For this sanction I shall be happy to cause the requisite application to be made, and indeed would have directed a letter to be despatched by this opportunity, but there is again a rumour of the

probability of the Settlement being transferred to the charge of the Colonial Office and that the Bill to carry out the measure will be introduced this Session, and I have therefore thought it advisable to defer communicating with the Supreme Government until the point is determined, as in the event of Mr Talbot's having only joined a few months before the transfer, there might be some difficulty raised against his counting his sixteen years Indian Service.

I trust that Mr Talbot is not under the impression that there is any immediate prospect of promotion to the appointment of Surveyor General. It certainly was not my intention to convey the idea as the present incumbent will doubtless remain in office for some years to come. But in checking your kind offers to fill up the existing vacancy in the Survey Department I believe it possible that you might be able to recommend some young officer of three or four years Service who might be able to wait for some little time for further advancement. With many thanks.

Believe me to Remain

Yours sincerely

Sd O Cavenagh

To Lieut Col I T Walker R.E.

Offg Surveyor General

My dear Mr Hackett

Your note of the 5th only reached me this morning whilst I was in Court. It will of course afford me much pleasure to meet your wishes by applying for a passage for you in the Steamer "Taman" {Tamar?} and to exert any personal influence I may have with Captain Sirling in your behalf but it is now too late for me to write to the Admiral on the subject and I much fear in her crowded state, with an express order from Admiral May, there is little prospect of a passage being granted and that it would therefore be advisable for you to endeavour to secure accommodation on board one of the Merchant Vessels destined for England now in harbour instead of placing any reliance on your chance of getting leave by the Transport. I haven't yet received any official communication from Captain Burn but the preposting leave he has granted you will be confirmed. Regretting much etc.

Sd O C

The Revd W. Hackett

My dear Braddell

I have carefully given {read?} over the Draft Excise Act and believe that it will fully answer the desired purpose. There are however three points to which I would request your attention.

First. Section XIX. Will it not be difficult to fix and equitable fee for a permit that may include any quantity of Spirituous Liquor from one bottle to One Hundred? If so I think it would be better either to omit the fee or to allow it to be charged only when the Liquor may exceed a certain quantity, say a Dozen or Half a Dozen.

Second. Section XXVII. Would it not be better to omit the word "so" in the concluding Proviso?

Third. Section LXX. Technically speaking, which is the most correct expression to use — "shall become nonsuit" or "shall become nonsuited"?

Yours sincerely

Sd O Cavenagh

T Braddell Esqre

My dear Dunman

As both you and Braddell are of opinion that there is little hope of a conviction being obtained in the case of Sheik Mussah, you are authorized to withdraw the prosecution.

Sd O C

Précis of a note to Captain Ricketts Consul Sarawak d/17/7/65

Believes than an American Consul has been appointed at Brunei.

Sd O C

M P

Précis of a letter to Mr Callaghan d/17/7/65

Was unable to defer longer the relief of the Labuan Detachment and hopes to send him some Arms Act Notifications by this opportunity.

Sd O C

M P

Singapore d/21st July 1865

My dear Sir

I have to thank you for your letter of 27th May which I had the pleasure of receiving by the last Mail. I regret much to hear that the question of the transfer of the Straits to the charge of the Colonial Office is still undecided, for there can be little doubt that the existing uncertainty is in many instances prejudicial to the interests of the Settlement. Under the impression that we are about to be severed from India the Council of the Governor General, whilst abrogating Acts now in force specially exclude us from the operation of new Enactments, so that already on many points of considerable importance we are actually without any law whatever. Hitherto no practical inconvenience has been experienced, but at any time a case may arise that may cause some trouble. For instance, as notes in India are only circulated by Government Establishments, there are no rules on the subject of the issue of notes by Chartered Banks. The Lords of the Treasury, under the impression I presume that some control over their proceedings is exercised by the Local Government, have granted permission to several Banks to issue notes in the Straits. These banks may therefore circulate any quantity of paper without their cash chests being subjected to any inspection to shew the amount of specie available to meet their liabilities.

By this opportunity I hope to despatch to your address some copies of my Administration Report for 1864/65 fm which you will perceive that there has again been a slight increase in our Revenue and decrease in our Expenditure. This is satisfactory considering the Commercial Crisis through which we have lately passed.

Sd O C

To Sir Frederic Rogers Bt

Under Secy of State

Colonial Office

Singapore 21st July 1865

My dear Sir

By this Mail I hope to have the pleasure of forwarding to your address some copies of the Administration Report of the Straits Settlement for 1864/65, shewing, I am happy to mention, a slight increase in our revenue and decrease in our expenditure. As we have recently passed through a severe Commercial crisis and both our Stamps and Excise receipts have been affected, the result may be deemed satisfactory.

The fear at {and?} existing uncertainty as to the transfer of the Straits to the charge of the Colonial Office is in many respects injurious to the interests of this Settlement. As regards legislation we are almost entirely ignored by the Council of the Governor General, and as many Acts formerly in force have been abrogated whilst

the new enactments do not extend to the Straits. On many important points we are already without any law whatever. We are excluded from the benefits of the Penal Code, and consequently from those of all those Acts of which the penalties prescribed can only be enforced under the provisions of that Code, and even the Act for the Registration of the transfer of movable and immovable property, which was in reality originated on a suggestion of my own was not extended {to my own} to my Government.

If the question of the transfer were decided in the negative a saving in Military expenditure might be effected by moving the Native Troops to the empty barracks at Tanglin, where the officers would be provided with quarters, but at present of course I do not feel justified in making any recommendation on this point.

The Native States are generally quiet but Perak still continues in a state of anarchy, and unless order is restored I am afraid our trade will suffer. The Dutch Resident from Rhio paid me a visit this morning. He has just returned from the Sumatra Coast. He did not however make any allusion to his proceedings in that Quarter.

Sd/ O C

The Rt Hon

The Secy of State for India

Précis of a note to Lt Col Man R C Pinang d/21/7/65

Regrets to hear of the state of Perak but considers it advisable not to interfere until a clear case of breach of International law has been committed and then the Supreme Govt may be induced to take the question up. Fears there will be difficulty in filling up Earl's berth. Captain Metcalfe would be a good person were he doing duty in the Straits etc. etc.

Sd O C

M P

My dear Lord

At the request of Mr Waterhouse I have the pleasure to enclose a letter he has written on the subject of the performance of the ecclesiastical duties at Malacca during Mr Hackett's absence. I shall of course be happy as far as practicable to make arrangements for Mr Waterhouse's proposed Quarterly visits to that Station. Mr Hackett's papers have not yet come before me but as soon as the receipt of the report of the Medical Committee may enable me to judge as to the probability of his ever acquiring sufficient health to admit of his returning to duty, of which I am afraid there is little hope, I will address your Lordship on the subject of the appointment, if necessary, of a successor to his office.

Sd O C

The Bp of Calcutta

Murree Panjab

Précis of a letter to Captain Mayne C.E. Spore d/7th/8/65

Would there be money enough House at Butterworth to be Magistrates at a rent of \$25 per mensem and a new one built for Comr of Police. Is going to consider revised plan of convict lines at Pinang. New barrack in the fort to be built in continuation of the other building. Proposes that the peasantry in the N. of Province Wellesley shall reopen a Canal. Bennett to give them the benefit of his guidance and the people to be rewarded with a feast costing fm \$50 to \$100.

Sd O C

My dear Sir Benson

Under the rules laid down for my guidance it is essential that in filling up Appointments I should always make arrangements for securing the services of a Covenanted or Commissioned Assistant to succeed to the office of R C in the event of its becoming vacant. Consequent on poor Major Mitchell's death I have now no covenanted or commissioned officer available and serious inconvenience would accrue to the public Service in case of any one of the R C's being compelled to leave. Under these circumstances I regret to say that it is out of my power to meet your wishes by appointing your son to the vacancy caused by poor Mr Earle's death, as it will be necessary for me to make a selection from amongst the Military Candidates.

I hope this year Sir Charles Wood may be induced to sanction the appointment of one or two student interpreters to be eligible to succeed to the higher appointments.

Pinang Hill Augt 15 1865

My dear Mr Knox

As Mr Laurence has kindly promised to take charge of my letter I take the opportunity of answering yours of the 7th Ult.

I was very glad to hear that the Admiral's visit passed off so well and have little doubt that his presence at Bangkok will have a good effect. I am afraid however we shall notice {not see?} him again in this quarter until the end of his commission.

Your local papers alluded to the correspondence between the Siamese Govt, and the French Consul, though apparently they were not aware how completely the schemes of the latter had been deputed {defeated?} through your judicious management. Perhaps however it is just as well that there should be no suspicion as to your ability to influence the police of the Siamese Court,

as it might lead to a display of jealousy on the part of the French which it is advisable to prevent if possible.

From all I hear France has made a great mistake in attempting to establish herself in Cochin China. She has flung away much blood and treasure, and gained literally nothing. The Trade of Saigon, notwithstanding the growths (great?) flourishes in the Local Journal, is rapidly decreasing, whilst in the interior in many places it is quite deserted, the inhabitants preferring to leave their villages and cross the frontier to remaining under French rule. A Foreign Merchant who has been for some years in charge of a House at Saigon, and who was lately calling on me, gave me a most miserable account of the place and reported that his Firm would long since have abandoned all operations in Cochin China, had they not unfortunately in the early days of the French Settlement become properties {proprietors?} of several lots of ground which they found it impossible to get ride of.

I fancy there is little prospect of our Govt taking Siam under its protection or indeed reviving any interest on {in?} our policy in this part of the world.

Do you know whether the Rajah of Quedah has consulted the Siamese Government on the subject of meeting our wishes with regard to the purchase of a small district mixed up with our territories and which has become a species of Alsatia? I believe that Sir Robert Schomburgk brought the matter to the notice of the first King. At least he promised to do so and the Indian Govt seems instead {inclined?} to sanction the

purchase provided the Straits are not to be transferred to the charge of the Colonial Office.

Sd Orfeur Cavenagh

To

My dear Sir Benson

I find that there are only 2 Native States that can demand the rendition of offenders, Quedah under the provisions of the Treaty of 1802, Articles 8 and 9 referring to murderers and fuges, and Salangore under the Treaty of 1825, Article 5 which is of a general nature. There are other Treaties, for instance those with Rambow and Siam, authorizing Native Rulers to request the surrender of Criminals but allowing the British Government full liberty to accede to their wishes or not as may seem advisable.

I have ordered a list to be prepared of the countries with which we have arrangements for the mutual apprehension of Seamen deserting from Merchant Vessels, with the dates of the several Orders in Council of which I think our Courts take cognisance equally as of a Gazette.

Sd O C

Sir B Maxwell

17/8/65

My dear Burn

Many thanks for your letter of the 10th Instant which reached me today. I am sorry to find that you do not seem to understand the system to be adopted with regard to accounts. It is true that in the first instance payments for or by other Residencies are entered as adjusted Receipts, but the last year's Report, which R C's were specially directed to refer to for information as to the heading under which Receipts and Expenditure were to be adjusted, charges were changed to Local Remittances merely because the of the provisions was forced to refer to Provinces not under the Local Govt, such as Burmah, Oudh etc. If however you had duly entered all sums paid as your account as an adjusted receipt from another Province and as previously directed given the necessary information in a footnote, at the same time entering the total expenditure both at Malacca and elsewhere under the proper service as a Disbursement, we should have had no difficulty whatever in preparing the General Abstract, but the mistake you made was entering money spent at Singapore as a receipt but omitting to return the amount as an expenditure on A/c of the Dept for which the outlay was incurred. Supposing for instance you asked me to pay at Singapore \$50 and I reported that I had done so would you not enter in your private Acct book re Orfeur Cavenagh \$50? The same principle holds good in all accounts however. I have drawn up a sketch abstract wh will I think explain the matter to you at once.

Your remarks regarding my last year's return are quite new to me. The last balance corresponded with the Receipts and disbursements and was accepted as being perfectly correct. Had the discrepancy between it and the Qrly returns been discovered at the time our explanation would have been at once called for, but I was of course very busy and did not think of comparing the documents.

As far as I can at present tell, Captain Fox has misled you with regard to the "Polka". You may depend upon it your brother would not have sent her up if she had not been fit for her work and he will be very much vexed when he finds she has been sent back. I find by a reference to the Article on Lighthouses in McCulloch's Dictionary that the Bull Sand Is. Vessel carries bow to stern only 21 feet above the Water level and shews a light for a distance of 2 miles. Now I do not think the light of the "Torch" can be seen for a greater distance than the "Polka". It would have been a great elevation. I have little doubt that your brother will arrange for the early return of the "Polka" and if so when the "Pluto" reaches Malacca with the Recorder you had better detain her for Light duties until the Sessions are over, when she can return to S.pore and send the "Mohr" up to Pinang. I shall require her about the 1st Prox. To enable me to visit the new hospital at Pulo Jerajak and take one or two trips in the Province.

As you have received no complaints about the duty levied on the tin we need not I fancy take any notice of the report that has reached you. So long in fact as the duty is light we should hardly be justified in interfering in the matter.

X X X

I hardly suppose it would be advisable for the Govt to make any advances on account of the purchase of seed, as we should have {lack?} a security that the money would be purposely {properly?} expended.

X X X

Protheroe will send you the proper form of certificate to be granted by Quinton to draw the travelling allowance for the Sub Surveyors. In his official he made no allusion to Mr Mowan and has afforded no explanation as to the necessity for his being regularly detached in Field duty. Therefore I am not prepared to sanction the full allowance. Quinton must only employ {him?} in the neighborhood of the town, giving him an occasional trip beyond 5 miles so as to let him draw the lower rate. Next year, if due necessity is shewn, the higher rate may be granted and the Budget assignment for travelling allowance be increased accordingly.

Sd O C

Captain Burn

R C Malacca

My dear Leveson

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 12th Instant. I have drafted the official transmitting your application for a Govt contribution to the funds of the A. & H. Society and did not fail to make a reference to the bad views expressed by the Society to try the chinchona. I hardly expect that you will get the \$100 per mensem but I think the Govt will pay the increase of \$50 to Mr Nairne.

I shall be very glad to sanction the proposed alteration to the Gordon road. I think it will be a decided improvement.

I can arrange for a notice being made early next Session for a settlement of the question of the transfer, but of course before taking any steps in the matter I shall await some decided expression of the general feeling for or against the measure, so that the notice may be made accordingly. It is certainly time that the existing uncertainty should cease. There was a recent letter or article in the Free Press on the subject of our Military Establishment subjects, as he referred to the number of non Comd Officers, not being apparently aware that the ordinary prescribed proportion is one to 10 privates in the Artillery. It is larger being about 1 to 5 Gunners. We have at present 1 Colonel and 2 Majors in excess of our complement but I fancy just at present, owing to the recent changes everywhere throughout India, there must be more field officers than they know what to do with.

The letter from the Chamber of Commerce about the adulteration of Gambier will of course receive consideration, but from what you mention I am afraid the question will be a difficult one to deal with.

The application from the Railway Company has been received. As far as I can tell at present there is no reason why both companies shd not be started. The filling up of the Tellok Ayer Bay formed no part of either scheme. The Railway Co requires a roadway and ground for a terminus. The Tin Coy requires ground its warehouses. There seems to be plenty of room for all purposes. However the question will be duly considered by the Commission which will be appointed under Sect 13 of Act 22 of 1863.

Sd O C

Précis of a letter to the Hon Colonel McP R C Singapore d/21/8/65

Mentions that the Railway company have no claim to the Telok Ayer Bay, as they were informed that Govt. was at liberty to enter into arrangements with any other parties that might come forward. As the Railway merely requires a roadway and terminus it might be arranged by giving the company the ground remaining close to Teluk Ayer Street, the railway being brought round by a gentle curve. Points out that the scheme for filling in Telok Ayer Bay was no part of the original scheme of the Railway Coy. And that their Capital of \$20,000 is not nearly sufficient. Doesn't require his forms of Convict Bills. Is annoyed about return of the "Polka". Alterations to her should have been executed at Malacca. "Pluto" to be detained at Malacca after taking up the "Polka" and Recorder to taking down Recorder again. Was right in returning the salute fired by French Man of War in honor of Emperor's birthday. What answer did he give French Consul regarding the Ad Report? Returns Mr Netscher's letter. Informs him that holders of scholarships forfeit them on leaving school except P.W. apprentices.

Sd O C

My dear Mayne

This road was entered in the List of Works and sanctioned but the carrying out of it was postponed as Macpherson said that Mr Hericolt could wait for the money. I hear however that as Man mentions he is at present in distress for want of ready money and the work must therefore be authorized and payment made. I will direct Bennett to take it over at once. It ought not to have been allowed to get into bad order again and it is a necessary work.

Sd O C

Captain Mayne R.E. Ch. Eng.

My dear Lord

I write to mention that poor Mr Hackett has left for England in H.M.Steamer "Taman" As far as a memo attached to his certificate by the Medical officer at Malacca {goes?} it would appear that there is little hope of his life being prolonged beyond a few months, and I believe that he seemed to be sailing {sinking?} fast before he left Singapore and was hardly expected to reach the Mauritius. It would hardly be advisable for the present to take any steps towards filling up the temporary situation. Should a permanent vacancy occur and your lordship deem Mr Carden a

suitable person to fill the office I should be much obliged if you would kindly cause it to be offered to him, as he might prefer it to his present post. In the event of his non acceptance of the office I shall be most happy to confirm any other nomination that your Lordship may be pleased to make.

With reference to the classes of which the community at Malacca is composed your Lordship will I am sure agree with me in thinking that it is essential that as the incumbent of the office of Residency Chaplain should be an English gentleman and not an elior {scholar?} of the college in Calcutta.

Sd O C

Pinang Augt 31st

My dear Sir Benson

Although I am quite willing to admit that you have grounds for your incredulity, I am not, as yet, prepared to acknowledge that you are altogether in the right.

2. The enquiry in the Court was restricted to the determination of the guilt as {or?} otherwise of certain parties accused of having ravished a young girl. That in Col. Man's office was instituted to enable him to report upon the conduct of a Police Officer charged with neglect of duty. The statement made to you by the Punghooloo "that he could not act without the orders of his Superior Officer" is perfectly reconcilable with the assertion made in his defence before Col. Man "that the woman had dissuaded him from attempting to recapture her daughter that night and that he had therefore sent her on for orders".

3. Had the question before you in Court been that of the neglect of the Police instead of the offence of the ravisher, naturally, when you were informed by Inspector Hervey that there was no rule prohibiting a Punghooloo from acting without the previous sanction of his Superior, you would have enquired from the Punghooloo — what was the peculiarity of the case that necessitated a reference to the Inspector? The answer to this query would have decided the point, but it would have been perfectly irrelevant to the matter with which you were certainly dealing where the Punghooloo's conduct was under your notice.

4. As regards the probability of the truth of the story, from what I have heard of the circumstances of the case I can believe that it is possible that the mother may have considered the ultimate recovery of the girl of more importance than the prevention of the violation, which, under any circumstances, might have taken place before the Punghooloo could have interfered. My own opinion is that the Punghooloo thought there might be bloodshed, and therefore evaded taking the responsibility upon himself of acting. Hence he deserved censure, but he can hardly be said to have remained immovable, as he at once made arrangements for sending on the woman in a carriage with an escort to the Inspector.

Sd O Cavenagh

To The Hon'ble

Sir Benson Maxwell

My dear Man

I have the pleasure to return the Petition and notes you left for my perusal on Friday. There is nothing in the arguments advanced by Logan that can in any way change the opinion I have already expressed. The disturbances in Larroot originated in a faction feud amongst the Chinese and to these disturbances the losses sustained by the Petitioners must be mainly attributed. We have no more rights to claim compensation from the Perak Government than would the Emperor of China have to claim compensation from me as for injuries suffered by his subjects during the Jeluton riots.

The Chinese are now suffering from a display of that turbulent and factious spirit in which they have so long indulged in this quarter and I cannot say that I have any compassion for them.

Sd O C

Hon Col Man

R C Pg

Sept 5th 1865

My dear Sir Benson

Many thanks for your note. I am quite sure that we have the same object in view, viz the efficiency of the Police. At the same time, as I previously mentioned, I am hardly prepared to admit that it is altogether fair to judge of the conduct of its members solely by those answers to queries connected with cases under trial in Court, when unnecessarily {necessarily?} it may often happen that only a portion of the truth has been elicited.

I have been thinking a good deal of the Punghooloo's case and from my own personal knowledge of the localities, I am inclined to believe that, as regards the prevention of the violation of the poor girl, he was powerless, as even if he had started at once, he could not have reached the house in time to have prevented the deed. On this point however I intend to fully satisfy myself on my approaching visit to the Province. So long as I am responsible for the general well being of the people, I cannot but take the strangest {strongest?} interest in the due working of any part of the machinery of justice and feel truly grateful for the assistance which I am certain you are always anxious to afford me in this matter, although we may perhaps differ in opinion on any particular question.

Sd O Cavenagh

Sir Benson Maxwell

Précis of a letter to Captain Burn R C Malacca d/6/9/65

In reply to his letter of the 1st states that the "Mohr" will be detained for at least a fortnight at Pinang. If he can make out a strong case for establishing a Frontier Police Post at Linghee would support his application to the Supreme Govt. When Syed Saban returns he can draw his arrears of pensions. Enquires who the man is who has returned from Bombay. If the reward for the recapture of runaway convicts is not sufficient, it might on recommendation be increased. Has no intention of changing the Magistrate at Malacca but Mr Banning can never be confirmed. He is to insist upon Mr de Wind's taking out his lease. Considers that a Policeman on the Frontier need not wait for orders from Malacca to arrest an offender provided the Prisoner and Witnesses be at once sent in to Malacca. Should he even be a foreigner, fair grounds being shown, a Policeman wd be justified in seizing him. Sorry to hear that Mrs Burn has been subjected to annoyance in visiting the school of Miss Williams at Malacca. Unless a change takes place will have to withdraw the Govt Grant in aid.

Sd O C

M P

Pinang September 11th 1865

My dear Lord

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th Ultimo.

Your question, as regards the probable picture of the Straits, is one that it is extremely difficult to answer. The letters that I have received from the Colonial Office on the subject have been most contradictory.

As far as I can judge at present, the case stands thus. Sir Charles Wood is desirous that the transfer should take place. Mr Cardanell {Cardwell has no objection to the measure, but the War Office has not come to a determination as to the strength of the Garrison, and Mr. Gladstone is not satisfied as to our being able to pay all our expenses and consequently is opposed to the change. In the meanwhile, with respect to the residents of the Straits, a revolution of feeling has taken place. Throughout the whole Settlement I hardly think there are a dozen advocates for the change, whilst a very large proportion of the European Community are very much averse to it and in favor of continuing in connection with India. How far this may affect the action of the Home Government it is impossible to say, but I have represented the injury to the Settlement causing {caused?} by the existing uncertainty, and I am tolerably confident that the point will be decided, one way or another, in the course of the next Session.

If the transfer does take place. I believe that there is every probability of the Straits and Labuan being brought under one diocese, possibly under one Government, and the arrangement seems to be the most natural one, whilst, although Bishop McDougal may have his fratches {quarrels}, as we all have, I hardly think they are of a nature to render him generally unpopular or to preclude the extension of his See. Sarawak is merely three days voyage from Singapore, so that he would

experience little difficulty in making frequent tours of visitation, whilst equally in the Straits as in Borneo, the Malay language is current amongst the various nationalities towards whose conversion Missionary efforts in this Quarter must be directed.

I will now reply to your second query — the Salary of the Chaplain at Malacca is 350 Rs. per mensem, and as regards Pension and Leave, he enjoys the same advantages as Members of the Uncovenanted Service, so that, I imagine, in that respect he is almost on a better footing than the Clergymen under the Additional Clergy Society. For instance, whilst on Sick Leave Mr. Hackett receives 210 per mensem. If we remain attached to India I should be most happy, on your Lordship's recommendation, either to apply for an increase, to the extent of 50 Rs. per mensem, to the pay of the Chaplain, or to suggest, as you propose, that the amount of the present Salary should be handed to the Additional Clergy Society and that they should provide a Clergyman. But, at present, it would be advisable to allow matters to remain *in statu quo*, both as regards poor Mr. Hackett's state of health and the doubt as to the transfer.

Sd O Cavenagh

Bishop of Calcutta

Pinang September 11th 1865

My dear Dickens

By the Steamer just arrived from Singapore I learn that the state of the health of Captain McNair, the Executive Engineer at that Station, is such as to necessitate his immediate return to Europe and that he will, in all probability, be compelled to leave by the next Mail. I have as yet received no official communication on the subject, but Capt Mayne will take care that the necessary reports are forwarded to you for the

information of the Supreme Government by the first opportunity, and in the meanwhile I write these few lines to mention that I believe with respect both to efficiency and economy in making arrangements to fill up the temporary vacancy, it would be advisable instead of appointing an officer from India to Singapore, to promote Mr Bennett to 3rd Class and or {order?} him to relieve Captn McNair, sending down a youngster to take his place at Pinang.

You are, of course, aware that at all the Stations in the Straits, the Executive engineer holds also the appointment (*ex officio*) of Superintendent of Convicts, so that, in addition to his professional qualifications, it is essential that he should possess the requisite attributes to enable him to rule over a large body of Prisoners. This is more particularly the case as regards Singapore where about 1,600 men are ordinarily confined within the precincts of the Jail.

Poor Captn McNair's illness is most inopportune, as I am now on my tour of inspection, and was anxious that Mayne should have joined me, as we have some important drainage works in hand, and there is a question as to the propriety of allowing embankments to be raised to guard against the inundations of the River Mudah. I am somewhat opposed to the arrangement and think it would be better to endeavour to carry off the Surplus water.

The transfer of the Straits is still in abeyance, and, as far as I can leave {judge?}, there is no certainty that the measure will ever be carried into effect.

Sd/ O Cavenagh

Colonel Dickens

Secy to Govt, D.P.W.

Pinang Sepr 19th 1865

My dear Leveson

I find that I have two of your Letters to answer.

I shall of course be most happy to support the views of the Chamber of Commerce on the Subject of the prevention of the adulteration of Gambier, and concur with you in thinking that it would be advisable to make the adulteration, or rather perhaps the knowing offering for Sale {of} adulterated Gambier, a Police offence punishable by a fine, so that if you agree with a man to supply you with a certain quantity of gambier and, in the fulfilment of the agreement, he offered you the adulterated article he would be liable to punishment.

I have now very little faith in Mr. Crawford's assertions. For the last three years he has been writing out to his friends, to the effect that the transfer is just about to take place, whilst I know that Sir Charles Wood's illness had nothing to do with the postponement on this occasion, which was owing solely to the non-determination of the question as to the strength of the future garrison and the consequent opposition offered to the measure by the Treasury.

Mr. Read would I think experience considerable difficulty in establishing the truth of his statement that the delay in bringing the Bill before the house can in any way be attributed to the Straits Government officials, but this remark is on a par with his observation that Ceylon paid £30,000 per annum towards our Military Expenditure.

Although I think it is to be regretted that the Chamber refrained from expressing an opinion, either for or against the proposed change. I have written so strongly, both to the India Office and the Colonial Office, deprecating any further continuance of the present state of uncertainty, that I am in hope that the question really may be settled next year, though of course I do not like to feel too certain.

I have already drafted the order for convening the Committee to report upon the schemes of the Pier and Railway. The Government will, of course, be opposed to granting anything like a monopoly to either Company, so that the reclaimed land at Teluk Ayer will be required, if valid objections are not raised to either project, to afford Sites for Pier Warehouses and the Railway terminus.

I am much obliged for the interesting abstract of our Exports you have so kindly sent me one, and also for your offer to prepare a Similar Return for next year's Report, of which offer I will gladly avail myself, if it is not asking (asking) too much from you.

Sd O Cavenagh

E.T.Leveson Esqre

Singapore

Pinang September 19th 1865

My dear Mitchell

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th Instant, mentioning your wish to be again considered as a candidate for the vacant appointment in Province Wellesley. It would {have} afforded me much pleasure to have met your views on this point, but, unfortunately, the berth has already been offered to an officer at Madras and I believe there is little doubt as to his accepting it. He has already applied to be posted to do duty with a Corps in the Straits to enable his services to be placed at my disposal and it is consequently not (not) improbable that he may arrive by the next Steamer.

Sd/ O Cavenagh

D.T.Mitchell Esqre

34th Regt. M.N.I.

Singapore

Pinang Septr 21st 1865

My dear Gastrell

It is {so} long since we have met that I dare say you have almost forgotten me. However I do not scruple to write these few lines on the subject of an application I have just received, apparently in consequence of a communication from you, from Mr John Powell for the vacant berth of Government Surveyor at Malacca. Some time back I wrote to Colonel Walker (Walker) regarding the appointment and he mentioned that Mr Talbot would be glad to accept it provided to reckon all his past service. On this point, with reference to the possibility of the Straits being transferred to the charge of the Colonial Office, there was some doubt, and I presume that Mr Talbot is no longer a candidate. If this is the case, and you can recommend Mr Powell as a duly qualified person, which would seem to be the case from his testimonials, to conduct the duties of the Office, I shall be happy to confer it upon him, and will order him to be gazetted on the receipt

of your reply. I am anxious that he should come down as soon as possible (possible) as the work is a good deal in arrears at the other Stations owing to the present necessity for the Surveyor General remaining at Malacca to superintend the Survey at that Residency.

Sd/ O Cavenagh

Lieut Col J E Gastrell

Calcutta

Pinang 22nd Septr 1865

My dear Sir

I have deemed it advisable to forward to you direct, by the Mail, some further correspondence on the subject of the aggressions of the Dutch in Sumatra. It is evident that they purpose bringing the whole of the Native States on the East Coast under their rule. With this they, in the first instance, incite the petty Chiefs to rebel against their Superiors {and} when the latter attempt to re-establish their power over their contumacious feudatories, the Dutch interfere and call them to account for attacking their Allies and disturbing the peace. In the meanwhile the wrongs inflicted upon our subjects remain unredressed by Her Majesty's Government. With regard to the Native States on the East Coast of Sumatra, in my correspondence with the Netherlands Indian Authorities, whilst I have always introduced a reference to the existing engagements between Great Britain and the Chiefs, I have scrupulously refrained from committing myself to the expression of any opinion on the subject of their proceedings.

With the exception of Pahang, where the Chief, Wan Ahmed, had been driven out by his people and, I believe, again compelled to seek refuge in Tringanu, and Perak, where the State of anarchy and discord seems to be rapidly becoming chronic, the Peninsula appears to be quiet.

In consequence of there being a prospect of a railway to new Harbour, the Temengong, I hear intends to leave Singapore and to reside permanently on his own territories. This will be an advantage in many respects.

Sd/ O Cavenagh

To Right Hon'ble

Sir Charles Wood Bt & G.C.B.

Secy of State

Pinang Septr 22nd 1865

My dear McNair

I much regret that the state of your health necessitates your proceeding on leave to England, and sincerely trust that after a temporary residence in a temperate (temperate) climate you may find yourself sufficiently recruited to enable you to resume charge of your appointment but, as it is, of course, possible that your medical advisers may be opposed to your returning to the tropics, I take the opportunity of placing upon record my hearty appreciation of the value of the Services you have rendered during your tenure of office under my Government.

The warm encomiums upon the state of the Jail under your charge entered in the Visitor's Book is a sufficient proof both of the excellence of the system adopted and the satisfactory manner in which it has been carried out, and I honestly believe that there is no prison in the world where discipline has been more strictly enforced and coercion so little resorted to, and when it is remembered that about 50 Europeans and upwards of 2,000 Natives have been fully controlled by the means simply of 4 free Wardens, all the other subordinates being Convicts, it cannot be denied that the perfect order that reigns throughout the Establishment must reflect great credit upon all the officials, but more particularly upon the Superintendent, and no other testimony is needed as to his qualifications for his post and the zeal and ability with which he has discharged his duties.

Sd/ O
Cavena
gh

Captain McNair

Ex Engineer and Supdt of Convicts

Pinang 24th September 1865

My dear Captain Ricketts

I am afraid you must have felt somewhat surprised at receiving no reply to your long letter of the 22nd June, but the fact is that it only reached me a few day ago, having been missent to England.

There (there) can be little doubt that the throwing open Macassar as a free port has to some extent affected out trade with the Celebes. Still the freedom of the Port alone would now {not?} have attracted Native traders to it, but the whole influence of the Dutch has been exerted to induce them to resort to Macassar instead of Singapore, and to this influence many have succumbed though the majority still prefer carrying on business with their old customers, even though en route they may often be subjected to vexation and interference on the part of the Dutch Authorities. For instance, if they are armed they are accused of being pirates, whilst if they are unarmed they invite attack.

As far as I have been able to ascertain it is clear that in many of their engagements with the Native States, the Dutch have violated the Spirit, if not the letter of Article IV of the Treaty of the 17th March 1824 by requiring the Chiefs to promise not only to give them the preference as

regards the purchase of produce, but to prevent produce being disposed of to merchants of other Nations without their permission.

Macassar is I believe the only Dutch free Port at present. The great object of the Dutch at this moment is to resort {to} force on the trade of the East Coast of Sumatra, and as our Government does not seem sufficiently alive to its importance, it is extremely probable that they will Succeed, in which case the produce of the Coast, which now flows into Pinang and Singapore, but more especially to the former will be diverted to Rhio. With this view a large Expedition, consisting of some Six or Seven Steamers and Seven hundred Troops is now employed in coercing the Rajah of Assahan, the only Chief in that Quarter who has hitherto refused to acknowledge their authority.

So long as there is a fair field and no favor as regards our communication with the Native States throughout the Archipelago, I should anticipate little injury to Singapore from java being made a free port, but in the event of the trade of the Celebes, Borneo and Sumatra becoming a Dutch monopoly, which is quite possible unless we act with a little more energy than we have hitherto done, we certainly might suffer.

I do not know whether we have a spare copy of my Administration Report of 1861/62 but if so I will order it to be sent to you together with the report of last year. When I return to Singapore I will have a memo prepared of the articles forming the Exports and Imports between Singapore and Java, Celebes and Sumatra for the last two years.

From what I hear I am led to believe that our worthy Allies are on the lookout for an extension of their territories in this part of the world. It is I (I) think to be regretted that our Cabinet cannot come to any determination as to the course of policy to be pursued in this Quarter. We may be losing many valuable opportunities.

I am hardly sufficiently acquainted with the state of the cultivation of the Pepper vine in Sumatra to be able to express a very decided opinion as to the probability of the supply of pepper being always enough to meet the demand, but I know that our imports of Pepper have increased of late and that it is generally supposed that the soil of Sumatra is extremely rich and not likely to be exhausted.

Many thanks for your kind offer to send me some orchids. I am sure Mrs Cavenagh would find them very acceptable and I hope she will be with me shortly. Pray offer my kind remembrances to Mrs Ricketts.

Yours sincerely

Sd/ O Cavenagh

Captain Ricketts

Sarawak

Pinang September 26th 1865

My dear Sir

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th Ultimo. A short time back I heard from Colonel Walker that Mr Talbot had expressed a desire to be considered a candidate for the appointment of Government Surveyor at Malacca. I believe however that he has changed his mind upon the subject and I have accordingly written to Lt Col Gastrell to state that should this be the case, I shall be happy upon his recommendation to Gazette you to the existing vacancy.

The pay of the office is 400 Rs per mensem, with a prospect of rising to the post of Surveyor General, of which the Salary has recently been recommended to be raised from 720^{Rs} to 800^{Rs} per mensem.

Should (should) the reply from Lt Colonel Gastrell prove favourable I should wish you to come down to the Straits as soon as possible after the completion of your present engagement. Your best plan would be to proceed by one of the Burmah Steam Company's Vessels direct to your Station, Malacca, by which you will effect a Saving both of time and expense.

I have, for the present, caused the enclosures to your letter to be retained in the Office of the Secy to Government in order that they may be returned to you hereafter.

I remain

Yours faithfully

Sd/ O Cavenagh

J Powell Esqre

Care of

Messrs Mackay & Co

33 Jackson Street

Calcutta