

Private Letter Book

Volume III

From the 12th August 1861

To the 8th March 1862

Private Letter Book

Volume III

Commenced 12th August 1861

Précis of a letter to the R.C. Malacca of 8th March 1861

Points out that unless presents are offered to him in the first instance it would be etiquette for him to offer the Chief Presents. Approves of his proposition to send the "Tonze" up the Linghie and of his intention to entertain them at Govt Expense during their stay in Malacca; desires him to induce the Chiefs if possible to enter into treaties similar to that made between the Tumongong of Johore and Bandarharah; there is no objection to his ascertaining Sultan Ali's terms for taking over Moar; desires that the Bridge may be opened at once if ready; requests intelligence regarding the rival parties in Moar.

M.P.

Singapore

12th August 1861

My dear Burn,

Many thanks for your two letters of the 7th and 8th inst. I am glad to find that you have distributed the cotton seed regarding which I hope to send you in a few days several copies of a little Brochure originally published by the A.H.Society of which I shall order a reprint as it contains information relative to the cultivation of cotton which may be found generally useful. I observe that it is not absolutely necessary to wait until the pod bursts to gather the cotton but the Pod may be gathered before it opens and allowed to ripen under cover, a great advantage in our wet climate as I fancy the rain is only injurious after the Pod has burst, as before that time the cotton must be protected from its effects.

Your report on the Punghulu System is still with Macpherson but as far as I can at present judge I shall be prepared to support your views on the land act being passed. Your suggestion regarding the preparation of a Colored Map to show the different descriptions of land is a good one, and I presume Mr Quinton will duly act upon it. Just at present Moniot has plenty of work in Province Wellesley but next year it is not improbable that Malacca will be made his head

quarters. Have you any Register of applicants for land in the event of the land act being passed? If so, I should be glad to be furnished with a copy. I shall feel obliged by your impressing on Playfair the necessity for giving his earnest attention to the working of the increased Survey and Land Office Establishment, so that the result at the end of the year may be as satisfactory as it has been during the last quarter. I hope the cultivation of tapioca may not be overdone. I should like to hear of the introduction of Sugar and Coffee.

I have been looking over your Budget and I think it is possible I may be able to obtain money enough for the increase to your police force out of the contingencies (3,000 Rs) allowed for Judicial Departments. That is provided you included in your estimate the average sum of \$1,182 paid to the Registrars of the Court for fees for the Criminal Sessions. The civil fees alone ought to pay for the Establishment so that there ought to be a clear saving of the cost of our Criminal book {court?}.

There were apparently one or two errors in your Budget Estimate. You made no allowance for general contingencies for Military and Marine etc. or for that portion of the Court Establishment always paid by the State. I purpose in future having printed forms prepared so that there may be no omissions and all the returns be alike. I am afraid I shall but little money for your roads this year. By a subsequent letter from Calcutta they were duly sanctioned provided funds were available but unfortunately cash is not forthcoming and we shall experience considerable difficulty in making both ends meet. If the Government were to authorize a loan solely for the purpose of improving the communications with the interior it would I am sure prove remunerative, but as long as there is a prospect of one {our?} being transferred money will not be laid out in improving the Settlements. This Yule wrote to me when he sent down the Budget.

The European who passed through Malacca en route to Rambow and slept at Alore Gadjah is a mr. Vandeville. He is in the Employ of the Singapore spirits farmer, and also I believe in that of the Tumongong. He reached Alore Gadjah on the 3rd instant and went at once to Johole and Sreemenanti. He reported to Robertson that he had heard of the death of the Rajah of Rambow and that Syed Saban was about to commence his intrigues again and had sent to Malacca for the sinews of War in the shape of \$500. You may be able to ascertain their points (plans?) He has promised to send another Report from Rambow as soon as he arrives there, and recommends our preventing arms and ammunition being sent across the Frontier, as there is likely to be a row amongst the Malays. For this reason I shall be very glad to hear that the Frontier Police Force has been established.

I think the Pay abstract should be sent in direct. Bennett says he finds the convict forms tolerably simple how {now ?} they were originally prepared in India but modified to suit the Straits and are sent in monthly to my office. When a form is blank, it is omitted, the cause of the omission being noted in a memo. No other returns but those for the Administration Report and the Annual casualty Rolls are now needed.

From what the Judge told me there is little doubt we shall see you on the 5th by the "Hooghly" or "Tonze". Either can I fancy bring down a sufficient number of passengers to pay for the fuel.

Yours very sinly

True Copy (sd) O.C.

M.Protheroe.

Précis of a letter to the Hon'ble Capt Burn R.C. Malacca

18th August 1861

Thanks him for his letter of the 15th inst and considers that the increase to the Police Force must be deferred till next year into the budget for which the extra expenditure shd be entered.

M.P.

My dear Man,

I have duly received the two applications for the appointment at Malacca. I am afraid however neither will prove successful. I should have been glad to have advanced Gottlieb but at his age I should hardly consider him fit to take the weekly trip out to Aloor Gadjah and Kassang, and to perform other work of this description which would fall to his lot as Assistant Resident. I should feel much obliged by your letting me have your opinion as to Mr. Plunkett's fitness for this post. He know the language I presume and has had a legal education. I fancy he would be glad of the step. If he were removed, how would Mr Walker do for your Deputy? He has some local knowledge and is a gentleman — the latter a great consideration. I believe he is an applicant for Employment in the Police.

I have noticed by the papers that the prisoner from Perak has been remanded, the Recorder having expressed doubts as to the jurisdiction of the Court. It is to be regretted that before giving his opinion, he did not take the trouble to read over Act 1 of 1849 and the Charter of his Court. From the one he would have discovered that the Magistrate would not commit the prisoner for trial but could only commit him pending the receipt of my instructions and that he acts upon those instructions which are issued solely for his guidance. From the other he would have learnt that this Govt was established under the power vested in the East India Company by an Act of Parliament. As the order for the man's committal passed thro' your office, you will of course report the result, in order that the matter may be submitted to the Supreme Govt for the opinion of its legal adviser as to the validity of the Grounds upon wh. the Bill was directed to be thrown out.

I have just read the Judge's decision regarding gambling cases. It will certainly render it rather difficult for you to check gambling if your Dy. Is not to be allowed to take information. Indeed I believe that it is a mistake making the R.C. a Comr of Police at all, as it places him to some extent in a position of subordination to the Court of which he is one of the Judges. It would have been better to have made the Deputies Commissioners, acting of course under his orders.

I fancy we must pay the bill for the Ammunition for the Volunteers and debit it in our own accounts, it being entirely a local charge. Next year the Expenses of the Volunteers must be entered in our Budge Estimate.

II hope you will succeed in preventing any outbreak on the part of the Chinese Societies. If any breach of the peace is committed it will be necessary to deal stringently with all parties concerned. One or two severe examples at first will probably prevent any great display of ill feeling. In sending me up the petition from the Hai Lau Men you have forwarded no transmitting letter. I think you had better do so, expressing the opinion as to its untruthfulness which you have already given demi officially. It is clear that the Ghee kim {Hin} Gentlemen have Estimate their losses by the highest possible figure and are not entitled to get the compensation demanded though something ought to be allowed them. It would of course be very easy, if we wished, to apply a little pressure to Perak by blockading the Rivers, but this would interfere with our own trade. Moreover I fancy it is the want of power and not the want of will that prevents the Rajah from maintaining order.

I hear your Siamese visitors were much pleased with the reception you gave them. I spoke to the Minister about the state of the border.

I hear that Lewis intends giving up the Krean Scheme now that he has obtained his full Pension. I am glad of it.

Yours sincerely

Sd O.C.

True Copy

M.P.

The Honble Capt Man

R C Pinang

19th August 1861.

My dear Macpherson,

Excuse the delay in replying to your note as I have been very busy. I have read the Judge's answer; there can be no doubt that he never intended to cause you annoyance, but when he commences {comments?} from the Bench apparently he is led away and hardly knows what he says. The question in my mind is What right has he to express any opinion at all regarding parties not before the Court.

I do not quite understand what Campbell requires. He told me that what he wishes was that Bennett should superintend the repairs and see that they are well done. All other questions are I imagine provided for in the Lease. The extra servants' house etc. I think we are bound to provide and they can be erected by Convict labor whilst we are at Pinang. I have certainly asked for nothing more than the fulfilment of the conditions contained in the note written by Bennett after his final interview before the agreement was made, conditions which agreed with those in

Campbell's own note to you which I forwarded to Galle. Of course if Schreiber attempts to make an open charge I should not insist upon furniture being purchased from him, though I should expect the things supplied to be equally good. From Campbell's original note I was led to believe that matters had been arranged with Schreiber and that there was no difficulty on that score.

No allusion is made in the letter to sending back the body to Tringanu. Therefore we can hardly allude to it in our reply though you may tell Aboo Bakr that we are aware and would be glad to render assistance if it was required.

(sd) O.C.

True Copy

22/8/61 M.Protheroe

To the R.C.Singapore

Précis of a letter to Capt Man d/ Singapore

26th August

Hopes he duly received the cotton seed and has given Mr Nairne a fair share; requests him to procure some specimens of Sago from the Province; desires him to look after the Mhor; points out that wood shd be burnt for short trips.

M.P.

Précis of a letter to Capt Burn R.C.Malacca

Thanks him for his revised Budget Estimate; can find nothing regarding the powers of the Commissioners to sanction the Establishment of a Market; thinks the Govt have power to sell the piece of ground leading down to the Malacca Bridge, upon the road being altered and the bridge put up; desires him to get information relative to Sreemenanti

M.P.

To the Hon'ble Capt Man R.C.Pinang

6th September/61

Proposes certain arrangements for the despatch of Mr Plunkett to Malacca as Police Magistrate and for the performance of his duties as Dy C.P. at Pinang.

"By the bye a report has reached me that three or four country vessels chiefly from Chittagong and that coast supposed to have been lost in a cyclone last year were wrecked on some portion of the Acheen territories and that in some instances the crew escaped and are still in Acheen,

probably detained for the want of means to get away. As, in the event of the rumour being correct, it would be our duty to bring them away, I should feel very much obliged if you would kindly make some enquiries on the subject privately from Nairne and from some of the traders with Acheen, and let me know the result. One of the vessels was said to be a Chittagong vessel called the "Monarch", commanded by a Captain Caypher, a country born. She used to trade with Singapore and has not been heard of since Nov. last.

Last para regarding the loan of Govt House to the Turnbills.

Sd O.C.

True Copy

M.P.

Confidential

Singapore

6th September/61

My dear Jackson,

A report has reached me that three or four Country Vessels from Arracan and Chittagong were wrecked some months ago on the Acheen Coast, that in some instances the crews effected their Escape and are still in Acheen detained either for want of means to pay for their passage to Pinang or by their creditors, or it may be by the Sultan's orders. If the story is true, it will of course become the duty of Govt. to render them assistance. {I shall be} obliged, in the event of your survey duty requiring you anywhere in the neighborhood of Acheen, if you would make some enquiries on the subject and let me know the result. One of the vessels stated to have been lost was named the "Monarch", and commanded by a Mr. Caypher, a country born I believe from Chittagong. She used to trade with Singapore and has not been heard of since November last.

Yours sincerely,

Sd O.Cavenagh

To Lt Jackson

Comy Survey Vessel Kushua M.P.

Pinang

My dear Mr Cochet,

In reply to your note just received I beg to state that Mr Protheroe, with the view of meeting the wish he had heard that you had expressed having addressed you on a matter purely private and not in any way connected with the discharge of your official duties was in accordance with the usages of Society which entitled {him?} to receive a reply at your own hands, instead of which it appears that he was favored with an answer from your Chancelier, containing however no explanation as to the cause of your having omitted to write yourself. He was therefore in my opinion perfectly justified in pointing out to you the apparent discourtesy of wh. you had been guilty and intimating that in future whenever from indisposition or press of business you failed to reply to any private note it would be necessary that some explanation as to the reason of the omission should be afforded.

I remain

Yours truly

Sd O.C.

True Copy M.Protheroe Lieut.

Offg Secy to the Govr

Singapore

12th September

My dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your kind letter of the 2nd inst. And am much gratified to find that the King was pleased with the reception given to his sons and the Prime Minister in the Straits. The latter I found to be a most intelligent man and I was glad to have a long conversation with him on the occasion of his paying me a private visit. I have duly published your notification for general information and trust that its publication will prevent the occurrence of any misunderstanding between British subjects and the Siamese Authorities in Cambodia. I perfectly agree with you as to the necessity of our keeping a watchful eye upon the proceedings of our worthy allies, and should be very glad to hear that they had determined upon leaving this part of the world. However of this, at present, there seems but little chance, though it is evident that in retaining Saigon they are sacrificing both men and money and must continue to do so for some time to come.

I may mention that their (French) presence in these seas is one of the principal reasons of my having recently protested against any violation of Article xii of our treaty of 1826 with Siam or any Foreign interference with Tringanu and Kelantan {which?} might perhaps lead to an

application for succour to the opposite side of the Gulf, which, if acceded to might perhaps lead to complications that should if possible be avoided. With the assistance you so kindly afforded me I hope now to be able to maintain the peace of the Peninsula, but there is a great want of a strong Government over many of the Native States. Hence there are continual disturbances, and were any serious war to commence, it is impossible to say to what extent it would spread.

The ex-Sultan of Linga, who was lately summoned to Bangkok, is an intriguing restless character who requires looking after. I have little doubt that he was the instigator of the recent attack upon Pahang and that the report that he was endeavouring to supplant his relative, the Sultan of Tringanu, was perfectly correct. From the tenor of the latter's letters to me, mentioning the intended departure of his son-in-law for Bangkok, I am sure he was of this opinion, and during the whole time of the stay of the Siamese Fleet off Tringanu, he was in a dreadful state of fright. He is a shrewd old gentleman, but needs a sharp treatment occasionally, and a reprimand now and then from Bangkok will do him no harm.

I am sorry we have no Man of War now on the station, nor are we I believe likely to have one for another month. In the meanwhile I am left to protect British interests with the steamer "Hooghly" now almost worn out. I have applied to have her replaced by a more powerful Vessel and am in hopes that my request will be acceded to, in which case I should have the means of communicating with the governor of Labuan and yourself.

As long as matters continue in their present unsatisfactory state in Japan I fancy we can never depend upon one being allowed the permanent services of a Man of War in the Straits. Our new European Regiment may I believe be expected towards the close of the year, when the China Force is broken up, though, up to the present we have received no positive orders upon the subject.

I am sorry to hear there is little prospect of anything being sent to the Great Exhibition from Siam. Should you feel desirous of transmitting your private collection with that from the Straits the Sec. to the Committee at Singapore will be glad to attend to any instructions you may give regarding its ultimate disposal.

Captain Bush mentioned to me the probability of the 2nd King's visiting Singapore next year. It would perhaps be advantageous were he to prolong his trip to Calcutta. It would give him a good idea of our power in the East, which he wd. Be able to communicate to others on his return.

Many thanks for your kind invitation of which should my request for a large steamer be complied with would give me great pleasure to avail myself. I need not say that should you ever visit Singapore you will find a room at your service at Government House.

Sd O.C.

To Sir R Schomburgk

H.B.M.Consul for Siam

Bangkok

Précis of a letter to Captain Man R.C. Pinang 21/9/61

After what he has written on the subject considers that Mr Plunkett shd not be withdrawn from Pinang. States that the only remaining candidates are Mitchell and Allen and is of opinion that the latter being a Lawyer would be the better Magistrate for Malacca; requests him to communicate his opinion by return Mail. Desires him to state whether a Regimental prize is to be given to the Volunteer Corps at Pinang. Agrees with im as to the advisability of their being one system of accounts throughout the Straits and requests to be furnished with a statement shewing the amount due by the Treasury to the Accountant Gl. Of the Court for Deposits and the annual interest for wh. the govt. is thereby liable. Requests him to make arrangements for telegraphing the Dutch G.G.

M.P.

On Saturday 21st September. Letter to Capt Fraser, Bengal Engineers, Sup^{dt} Aguada Reef

Lighthouse informing him that the contract for the H.J.K courses had been made at the rate of \$1.14 per cubic foot and that a boat had been partly charged against the Lighthouse.

M.P.

My dear Sir,

I have been compelled by the necessity for getting off my Despatches by the Calcutta Mail to delay answering your letter.

I have carefully read through the whole of the correspondence submitted for my perusal and I do not hesitate to state that I must fully acquit Mrs. Allen of the charge that has apparently been preferred against her, a charge with the details of which I was previously unacquainted. In justice to Dr Cowpar, as from a remark in his last communication I am led to believe that he may have supposed to have spoken to me relative to your being excluded from Society, I deem it right to mention that no allusion was ever made by him to the subject until after the receipt of your note in May last, when in reply to a remark made by myself he expressed, for the reasons assigned in his note to your address, his regret that such should be the case. I need not observe that after the explanation now afforded it will give me pleasure to cause your name to be placed on the Govt House list.

Sd / O.C.

True Copy

M. Protheroe

Précis of a letter to Major Man R.C. Pinang

D/ 30th September 1861

Cannot promise Mr. Plunkett that he will eventually be provided for in Pinang; requests him to again offer the Ag Appointment of Magts Malacca to Mr Plunkett and if he accepts it to send him down there per "Hooghly" and put Mr Waller in to act; if not the Appt. should be offered to Mitchell and the enclosed letter forwarded to Mr. Baningarten at Malacca; requests him to report demi officially the actual state of affairs in Perak. Thanks him for the information about Capt Caypher's ship.

M.P.

Singapore 22nd October

My dear Yule,

By this Mail you will receive the report of Collyer's retirement and his application to be permitted to remain in his appointment till February. This application I have supported upon public grounds as I consider that any change just at present would be disadvantageous, and consequently as there are precedents for the measure, I hope that his request may be granted.

It will now become a matter for consideration whether it is any longer necessary to retain an officer of high rank as Chief Engineer in the Straits. I am inclined to think that, with a view to saving much needless correspondence, a Secretary and accountant being also a Chief Engineer of the 2nd Class would be sufficient and should the Supreme Government entertain the same opinion, I really believe that you could not select a better qualified man for the Office than Capt. McNair, leaving Bennett in his present position of Ex Engineer at Singapore. This however is a question for you to decide and {I?} merely ask that whatever {whoever?} be appointed that you will give me a person of sufficient energy to admit of his paying occasional visits to his out stations and supervising the work of his attention to superintending the mere details of office work.

I have now by the new act a very important country to open up at Malacca and consequently it is absolutely necessary that {I?} should either have an Executive Engineer at the Station or that my Chief {Engineer?} should run up occasionally and correct any faults committed by the Supervisor and keep him up to his work. My annual tour is not sufficient and moreover although I may be able to find fault and Collyer says that my strictures on the works both at Pinang and Malacca were correct, yet it may not be quite so easy for me always to point out how the errors are to be amended.

By this Mail I send up an explanation relative to our Excess of Expenditure last year. It is not I am glad to say so great as was first anticipated, and when it is remembered that some of the Estimates were framed when labor was much cheaper and that the item of rent was never before included in the P.W. accounts I hope the Explanation will be deemed satisfactory. I might have mentioned that Kim Ching not Kim Sing had never yet paid the Rs 5,000 on account of the Pauper Hospital, for which of course we took credit, as its payment was promised whenever the Hospital should be reported finished and made over to the Committee. However I hope to get the

money eventually. The Water Supply scheme goes up also by the Mail. It is an expensive work but I do not think that it could be managed for a less sum than entered in the Estimate.

I am sorry to say that a slight crack has shown itself again over the windows of the church. It has not however descended and is so slight that I am in hopes it will not extend. Of course a careful watch is kept over it and the dome having been covered in no further weight will be placed on the tower for two or three months to come, when the building will be well examined. There are 125 more tons of brick work to be put up, but Collyer thinks this weight might be decreased some 40 ton, by substituting a Lantern similar to the one on the tower of, I think, Lincoln Cathedral for the proposed spire. It would suit the architecture of the church and I fancy look better than the Spire. However on this point a full Report will eventually be submitted.

I hear the Accountant General is multiplying Forms and Returns in his department. I am sure that a few simple though well arranged Quarterly returns would afford all necessary information without overburthening Establishments with unnecessary office work and causing unnecessary expense.

Singapore) sd O Cavenagh

23rd October)

True Copy M.Protheroe

To Lt Col Yule

Secy to the Govt of India P.W.D.

My dear Sir,

I have observed a remark in the papers to the Effect that a Steamer is now building in Calcutta for the Service of the Straits Government. If this is the case, I presume she is intended to relieve the "Hooghly", and consequently a few remarks from me as to the nature of our wants may not be out of place. The Steamer for the Straits to be fully efficient and serviceable should in the first place have sufficient accommodation for 150 or on an emergency 200 Sepoys with their European officers.

Second, should be able to carry coal for about a week's consumption.

Third. Should have an average speed of about eight knots.

Fourth. In addition to the cabins for the first class passengers should have one or two second class cabins for the accommodation of the clerks of the different Public departments. These as in the "Hooghly" would be forward.

Fifth. She should be able to carry a couple of tolerably heavy guns.

Sixth. She should be strong enough to stand a heavy sea with Engines of sufficient power to admit of the visiting of the Horsburgh Lighthouse in the Entrance to the China Sea at all seasons.

A vessel such as I describe would not only prove extremely useful but also economical, as when not employed in the Public Service she would run between Pinang and Singapore and be always sure of freight and passengers, whilst she could effect the relief of the Troops at Labuan for which now we are obliged to charter vessels. If it should be out of your power to provide us with a steamer approaching this description, I believe it would be advantageous to keep on the "Hooghly", taking out her present engines which are old and worn out, having formerly belonged to the old "Dianne" {"Diana"}, and replacing them by new engines of greater power, so as not only to increase her speed but also to enable her to be kept constantly running, as at present after every voyage she has to be repaired, as regards her machinery an expensive and inconvenient arrangement. Her Hull etc. is in very good order and though rather small, with more powerful engines, she would answer her purpose very well, and prove a useful boat for some years to come.

I am afraid I am likely to have some trouble with the engineers of the "Tonze" and "Mhor". I shall therefore feel much obliged by your kindly informing me what are their conditions of Service and to what punishments they can be subjected for disobedience of orders. The Engine of the latter got out of order and upon the Chief Engineer of the "Hooghly", an old Govt Officer and a hardworking intelligent public Servant, being directed to examine it with a view to any defect being remedied, the Engineer, Mr Clayton, was most disrespectful and impertinent to him instead of rendering him assistance.

If the Govt. decides upon allowing a second and third class engineer for each of these boats, it would be advisable to send them down from Calcutta. At present we have a first class Engineer and an apprentice on board of the "Mhor", and merely a first class Engineer on the "Tonze", no apprentice being available.

As a Govt Steamer is likely to come down here in January with the Lord Bishop, I should esteem it a great favor if you would kindly sanction freight being allowed for some articles of furniture etc. recently ordered down for the Govt House at Singapore. The shippers would be Messrs Sherwood & Co and Baboo Budinath, Fort Adjutant's Office, Fort William. Trusting that you will kindly excuse my making this request.

Believe me

Yours sincerely

Sd O.C.

True Copy

M.P.

To Captain Reddie

Offg Secy to Govt of India

Marine Dept

Ft William

Précis of a letter to Captain Alex Fraser, Supdt of the Alguada Reef Lighthouse, Moulmein d/29th October 1861

Acknowledges receipt of his letter of the 21st August. States that the work is progressing satisfactorily. Recommends him to send down the "Walter Morris" in tow of a steamer towards the end of December when she could take away all the ready, and the remainder might be sent in January, a vessel being chartered to take her to Callagong {Chittagong?}

M.P.

Précis and Extract from a letter to the R.C.Pinang

Dated 24th Octr /61

States that he has recommended the appointment of another assistant in Malacca which will give Plunkett another opening should it be granted; points out that Mr Waller wishes to join the police, he should try and make himself acquainted with the nature of the duties he is called upon to perform. Will sanction the proposed alteration in the "Mhor", if the expense can be met out of the sum assigned to her for contingencies; requests him to report the misconduct of Mr Clayton on the occasion of Mr Williams proceeding on board of the "Mhor".

"I have forwarded through you an answer to the Rajah of Perak's letter on the subject of the lease of the new Kreaan district to Lewis. I wish it to be distinctly understood that I have no objection to the arrangement, and that in fact it meets with my approval, though at the same time, I have no wish to interfere or support Lewis in any of his proceedings that may be opposed to the auctions {sanctions?} and usages of the Country, and may lead to the outbreak of any disturbances.

As to the subordinate Chiefs, it must be distinctly intimated to them that we recognise no authority but that of the Rajah, and no communications from anyone else on Political Matter should be received. This was the course I prescribed to Lewis in February/1960, when the dispute first commenced. Considering the present state of the country, I have no doubt that it would be beneficial both for us and for the Rajah to have the Kreaan district under European superintendence, but I do not consider that Lewis acted Judiciously in omitting to conciliate the Rajah Muda. Had he given him an annual present all would have gone well."

Considers that the piece of ground alluded to by him as required by Moniot should be sold in the usual way by auction; requests him to send Braddell's note regarding the Land recovered from the sea and desires him to give Mitchell a hint to study Law and Malay.

24/10/61 M.P.

Note to Mr Lewis d/ 24th October 1861

To the same purport as above letter to the R.C.Pinang — so far as regards the Krian district and advising him to come to terms with the Rajah Muda of Perak and others his opponents.

Précis of a letter to the Hon'ble Major Man R.C.Pinang

D/ 8th Novr 1861

Desires him to submit his budget estimate as soon as possible; mentions that the "Tonze" may have to be relieved by the "Mohr" as the former has had hard work lately; considers the Engineer of the "Mohr" right to apologize to Mr Wischam for his disrespect.

"As regards the Krian business I am of opinion that as far as possible it is to our interest to support Lewis; the district is a valuable one and if well administered Pinang must profit as all the produce must come to that Port. For some time past there have been disputes regarding the Management of the Province, and last year when the Rajah Mudah sent me a letter on the subject I declined to acknowledge his authority in any way and directed Lewis to intimate to him that the British Government only recognised one ruler. It would never do for us to enter into correspondence with subordinate Chiefs whilst there can be no doubt that it is advisable that we should countenance every legitimate effort to increase European influence in the Malay States."

(sd) O.Cavenagh

Lewis if possible should conciliate the Rajah Mudah by the offer of an annual payment.

My dear Mr Cochet,

I regret to say that it has been brought to my notice that much annoyance has been occasioned to some of the inhabitants of Singapore by the conduct of the man in charge of the horses ex "Calvados", who have been seen in a state of perfect nudity bathing close to a public road. I shall therefore feel obliged by your requesting the Officer in Command of the Party to confine the exercise of the horses to the neighborhood of New Harbour so as to avoid giving any future cause for complaint. Indeed he should not have entered the town in the first instance without communicating with the Commissioner of Police and making himself acquainted with the Municipal Regulations.

Believe me

Yours sincerely

Novr 18th True Copy

M.P.

To L Cochet Esqr

French Consul

My dear Mr d'Almeida,

I have this moment received your brother's letter on the subject of the confiscated gunpowder. It would have afforded me pleasure to have taken your claims for a remission of the forfeiture into consideration had I the power of doing so, but such is not the case, and as the Law now stands I should be acting illegally.

Under the provisions of the Charter I have the power of recruiting {remitting?} all fines ordered to be levied by the Court of General and Quarter Sessions, and by Act 18 of 1855 I have authority to grant pardons reprieves and remissions of punishments awarded by any Court or officer within the Straits Settlements, but although the powder in question was confiscated in consequence of a decision passed by the Marine Magistrate, it was not confiscated by him but in accordance with Section xxxv of Act xxii of 1855, which rules that all powder found within the harbour limits shall be forfeited — the order is imperative leaving no discretionary power with the Government. Hence the only remedy is to obtain a reversal of the decision of the Magistrate as regards the punishments awarded to the Captain, where I presume the Judge would have the power of ordering the restoration of the powder, but even on this point I should be afraid to express a very decided opinion. Since my conversation with your brother at my office the matter has had my careful attention and I have not failed to take due measures to satisfy myself of the precise bearings.

(True Copy) (sd) O.C.

19th Novr 1861 M.Protheroe

To Joachim d'Almeida Esqr

My dear Lireman,

In returning this list I think it right to point out to you that were you to carry out your Idea, you would merely revert to the Old System which you so strongly and justly deprecated and establish in the office a second Srenevasaloo Pillay. No servant of the State ought to be allowed to take any contract in order to raise his salary if it is too low. To remove him from temptation bring the matter to notice with a recommendation for an increase; this is the only way to improve his position.

3/12/61

True Copy M.P> O.Cavenagh

Singapore

4th Dec. 1861

My dear Sir,

I am quite ashamed to find how long I have allowed your kind note of the 26th September to remain unanswered. I am much obliged for your promise to take an opportunity of making arrangements relative to the proceedings of the Ex.Sultan of Linga. In the hands of any Foreign European Power he might be able to cause much mischief in the Peninsula, where at present as far as I can ascertain everything is quiet.

Our neighbours at Saigon will require a watchful eye upon them for some time to come, and I trust that your suggestion will be approved of at the Foreign Office. As a colony Saigon is a dead loss and consequently it can only be held with the view of exerting political influence and as an offensive post.

The Prime Minister wrote to the Resident Councillor on the subject of the trial of his Engineer and I authorized his replying through you to mention any assistance he might be able to render in obtaining the services of respectable men of this description he would always be happy to afford. If Englishmen are to enter the service of Native Princes it certainly is necessary that they should be well behaved men and it is not advisable the Siamese should entertain {engage?} Men at Singapore without first obtaining some knowledge as to their character, upon which point the Master Attendant might generally be able to give information.

I have heard from Calcutta that it is possible the "Hooghly" will be replaced by a more powerful steamer in the course of this cold season. No Man of War has as yet arrived from China.

Believe me

Sd O Cavenagh

True Copy

M.Protheroe

To Sir R Schombergh

Consul at Siam

Précis of a letter to the hon'ble Captain Playfair

Offg R.C.Malacca d/ 4/12/61

Was pleased with the account of his trip to Batang Malacca and considers he acted judiciously there. Will sanction a reward to Tunkoo Aman when the request is officially submitted. Is puzzled about the situation of the Police Tharmah at Batang Malacca and desires that the position be not changed without due thought. Desires to know whether any steps have been taken to recover some 4 or 5 rupees due from the Revd W.Wright on account of table money.

(sd) O.C.

Singapore

9th December 1861

My dear Playfair,

I hasten to send you a few lines in reply to yours of the 6th Inst. I have examined the Treaty and there is nothing in it apparently to shew that the line drawn by Mr. Quinton is correct or that the pencil line does not denote the exact frontier. According to the Treaty the first line should be drawn from Bukit Putoos to Bukit Ulu Batang Malang and from Batang Malacca in a straight line towards from Bukit Putoos to Gunong Ledang. If the people on this side of the pencil line have always been accustomed to consider themselves as our subjects and their right to do so has been acknowledged by the authorities at Johole, we should hardly now be justified in altering without very strong grounds the Long Established line of frontier and handing over to another Government persons who have been recognised as British subjects. Of course if any objection to the location of the Police Office were to be urged by the Johole authorities on the plea of its being beyond the frontier, these objections should immediately receive all due consideration, but otherwise I hardly fancy it would be proper for us to abandon what has so long been apparently considered as British territory.

I hope the mineral specimens you have sent may turn out to be copper. A mine of that ore would prove very valuable to Malacca.

I am sorry to hear of the non discovery of the perpetrators of the two murders and trust that after all the Police ultimately prove successful in their endeavors to trace them.

Yours sincerely

O Cavenagh

True Copy

M.Protheroe

Singapore

12th December

My dear Playfair,

I have recently been referring to the correspondence on the subject of our Boundary line with Johole and find that subsequently to the first treaty a deed was executed by the Punghulu of Johole making over to the British the Whole of the District of Gemanchi. This gift however was not accepted and a letter dated 23rd August 1833 was sent by Mr. Ibbetson to the Punghulu

through the R.C.Malacca, to the effect that we did not desire any extension of territory, that the Boundary line should run from Bukit Putoos to Bukit Batang Malacca and thence to Gunung Ladang, and that he hoped he would render assistance in getting the boundary defined to prevent any future misunderstanding.

Now it is quite possible that on the receipt of this letter, some measures were taken both by the Authorities at Malacca and the above Chief, and that the frontier now recognised by the Natives was then laid down, in which case it is the one that should be adopted. No point on Bukit Batang Malacca was specified by Mr. Ibbetson, and it is therefore clear that the Exact spot to which the line from Bukit Putoos was to be drawn, was then undefined. It is always dangerous to raise a question of jurisdiction unless the matter is beyond a doubt, whilst here apparently the testimony of the people is in favor of our rights and it had not even been disputed by the Chief.

I hope your budget has been despatched, as the statements from Singapore and Pinang have been received. The P.W.D. allotment can be filled in here for the Chief Engineer's Office.

Yours sincerely,

O.Cavenagh

To the Hon'ble Capt Playfair

R.C.Malacca

True Copy M. Protheroe

14th Decr 1861

My dear Collyer,

The tiled verandah round the Sepoy Hospital is unnecessary at present. A new verandah was only put up a few months ago and it must last until it requires renewal.

If the two wells with their pumps will supply sufficient water for Fort canning, the Guttering and Reservoir might for the present be disposed with, or at all events only partially used for the officers' Quarters above.

The ponies for the mountain train can at present remain where they are. The guns are not attached to the European Company and would be close to the Arsenal with the guard, establishment etc.

If you can find a suitable house the new Police Tharmah might be postponed, but you will have to allow for the rent. I believe there is one available in a good position. Mr Robertson can give you all particulars and mention the rent for which you will have to provide.

The North Campong Malacca roads alluded to are I presume those just below Institution Hill. It is possible that we may get the work done by Private parties, allowing them the ground for a trifling sum with a quit rent, on the condition that they filled up according to Plan. I do not quite understand your Estimate as with the Wall it costs only \$11,700, but without it nearly double the sum. The North Campong Wall should be completed with Entrance of the Creek, and Proprietors can then be called upon to pay up, and if they do not do {so?}, the land will be resold. You might perhaps include the whole distance to the Coal sheds in the Estimate but assign only the requisite portion for the Budget for 1862/63, the remainder being finished in 1863/64. The mouth of the creek must be left open thus:

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These reductions will enable you to complete the Water Works which are very necessary. The Hospital out offices are the only buildings for which money must be reserved at Tanglin, as they are absolutely necessary to enable us to receive a Regiment. The other works might be entered but no assignment made.

Have you taken any credit for any convict labor in your river Wall Estimate? Here it would be useful. The Bomb proof for Fort canning should be entered even although no money is reserved for it.

Where are the gun lascars now? Their barracks seem somewhat expensive for a small detail.

Yours very sinly

True Copy Sd O.C.

M.Protheroe

Singapore 18th Decr

Précis of a letter to Captain Reddie, Secy to Govt Mar Dep.

Acknowledges receipt of his letter of 20th Ult; informs him that the question of substituting a more powerful steamer for the "Hooghly" was mooted some months ago. Mentions that Mr Clayton has tendered his resignation which was accepted and that the services of a second and third class Engineer had been secured in his Stead. States his intention of applying for the same establishment in the case of Mr Oliver's resigning his appointment and intimates that the officers and crew of the "Hooghly" could be transferred to any other vessel that might be ordered to relieve her or might take her up to Calcutta and bring down the relieving steamer.

M.P.

Singapore

18th Decr 1861

My dear Sir,

I deem it right to send you these few lines to mention that the Island of Pulo Condore in the China Sea off the Coast of Cochin China has been taken possession of by a party of French troops from the Force at Saigon. This Island was formerly a British \settlement but abandoned by us in 1704, since which period I presume it has been considered as belonging to the Cochin Chinese Empire. In case of war it would be well situated for interrupting our commerce as the greater number of vessels trading with China pass {within?} rather a short distance of it. Out worthy allies appear now to be permanently establishing themselves in this Quarter.

By this Mail I have despatched an Official Memo in notification of an error in the Report on our relations with Native States which will I trust reach you in time to admit of the necessary connection {correction?} being made.

I was very glad to find that Mr Ritchie's opinion so entirely coincides with my own as to our jurisdiction over the Straits; in no place is the channel between the Island and the Mainland more than three miles broad.

Yours etc.

True Copy sd. O.C.

18/12/61 M.Protheroe

Colonel Durand C.B.

Secy to the Govt of India

Précis of a letter to Col Yule Secy to Govt of India

Acknowledges receipt of his letter of 28th Ult. States that he was unable to report Col Collyer's intended resignation, and mentions the return of Captain McNair who has been studying practically at home and had visited several Convict Jails.

M.P.

Singapore

23rd Decr 1861

My dear Sir Hercules,

I have for some time past been thinking of recommending the reduction of my Treasury Establishments and the adoption of the Colonial System of keeping a Public Account with one or two of the Chartered banks. I have however been unable to ascertain the course to be pursued in order to exercise over such establishments the supervision necessary in order to guard against the probability of loss, and should therefore esteem it a great favor if you would kindly supply me with a copy of any Rules there may be in force at Hong Kong bearing on this subject.

Yours very truly

(sd) O.C.

True Copy

M.Protheroe

Singapore

23rd Decr 1861

My dear Playfair,

As far as I am able to judge at present you appear to have mistaken our position with respect to the boundary between our territories and Johole. Had that boundary never been defined and we were now called upon by our neighbour to lay down a line in accordance with the treaty, doubtless you would be quite correct in drawing such a line thro' the highest parts of the mountains by which the Frontier is marked, but such seemingly is not the case. A frontier line in no way opposed to the letter of the Treaty if not actually defined by Commissioners, a point not clearly proved by the records, has at least been recognised by both States for about 20 years. No doubts have ever been expressed by the Chief of Johole as to its being incorrect {correct?}, and the people on one side of it have always considered themselves as British subjects. Hence we should not be justified in mootng the question solely because it does not agree with the line

drawn by our Surveyor under the supposition that it ought to have run through a certain part of a prominent hill.

It is clear from the letters received from Johole that they were anxious we should take the whole of Gumanchi and consequently, if the Chief came down as requested by the Governor to mark out the boundary in communication with Mr. Gailing, it is quite possible that he may have taken the rear of the hills instead of their summits as the points through which the line should be drawn. In Province Wellesley our Frontier is anything but straight, still our rights cannot be doubted, having been marked out by the Siamese Ambassadors. etc. etc.

Yours sincerely

(sd) O.C.

True Copy

M Protheroe

Singapore

23rd December 1861

My dear Sir Hope Grant,

I trust you will kindly excuse my writing these few lines to solicit your kind influence in behalf of the claim of my A.D.C. to be admitted to the Staff Corps. In October 1860 my former A.D.C., having been removed to another appointment, I made enquiries regarding the qualifications of the different officers serving in the Straits, and the event led me to offer the vacant berth to Lt. Protheroe of the 40th N.I., then almost a perfect stranger to me. The Officer omg his Corps however having objected to his removal owing to the scarcity of Officers, it was arranged with the Brigadier Commanding that he should merely act on my staff, and his services remained available for Court Martial and other duty of that description and he remained in this position until a short time ago, when he was permanently appointed Secy and A.D.C. with effect from the date on which he assumed charge of the duties of the office. Hence, had it not been for the exigencies of the Service, he would have been on the Staff before the date of the Royal Warrant, and consequently could not have claimed admittance into that Staff Corps. Now however his claim has been negatived on the plea that he was not on the Staff when the Warrant was issued and has not completed the three years Regimental duty required from outsiders. Hence his service from October 1861, though both Staff and Regimental is not apparently to count as either one or the other, a decision that may militate seriously against his future advancement, and against which I have therefore officially appealed. I need not say that I shall feel grateful for any support you may be able to give to my representation.

Yours sincerely

Sd O.C.

True Copy

M.Protheroe

To

Lt General Sir Hope Grant G.C.B.

C. in C.

Madras

Précis of a letter to the R.C.Pinang d/ 24th Decr 1861

Thanks him for his letter of the 18th inst; refers to the transfer of the Settlement and explains his views with regard to the Local Military force, to be kept up in the Atraits. States that Mr Clayton has refused to rejoin his appointment and trusts that something will shortly be settled about the Kreaan Lands.

Précis of a letter to Capt Haughton Supdt of Fort Blair

Acknowledges receipt of his letter of the 17th Augt and states that the seedlings will be sent from Pinang.

M.P.

My dear Read,

Thinking over our conversation of the other day, it struck me that no reference was made to the Claim of the Tumongong of {to?}Muar. Now whatever his claims may be, they will have to be taken into consideration, and it would be unjust to fling him aside altogether. Although our Government might feel disposed to take over the Govt of Moar, paying all surplus revenue to the Sultan, I hardly think just at present it will feel disposed to pay down a larger sum on the chance of their being a surplus.

Yours sincerely

(sd) O.C.

True Copy

M.Protheroe

W.H.Read Esqre

Précis of a letter to Col Collyer Ch. Eng.

Dated 6th January 1862

Mentions that he has traversed the route via Batu Barundun to Durian Tungul, which requires levelling but is otherwise substantial. Wishes to reopen an old road between Durian Toongul and Aloor Gadjah and states that the new Jail which is now open should have an upper communication between the Jailer's Quarters and the Guard room; states that the former is already connected with the centre building, the Debtors Jail, by a gallery and a similar one should connect the latter building with the Guard Room. Requests him to send up Bennett to superintend the erection of the iron bridge.

M.P.

Précis of a letter to Lt Col Collyer Ch Eng 10/1/62

With regard to Mr Schreiber's demands points out that there was a jug broken of one set and a toothbrush stand of another which he will pay for himself. Tables alluded to were sent to the Convict Departt. Billiard table was found full of white ants last 24th May by Mr. Stewart when he removed it. This is a matter to be submitted to arbitration. All other articles to be repaired in the Convict Departt, such as chairs which may have become unglued etc. Whitewashing where necessary, may be executed by the Convict Dept.. Following articles not in the list signed by Playfair. Lamp with glass drops, small jug and basin, Stand in the lamp room and a second teapoy in the verandah. Acknowledges receipt of budget. Finds great want of supervision in the Interior. Considers it advisable that Evans should send in monthly statements of his several journeys.

MP

Précis of a letter to Col Macpherson R C Singapore

d/15th/1/62

If the Brigadier can start at an earlier date from Singapore than the 10th Febry, wishes "Hooghly" to tow the Bishop of Calcutta back to Pinang by her; if not desires him to arrange for the "Tonze" to tow the Bp to the Torch Lightship, and upon hearing from him the R.C., the "Mohr" would be sent down to meet him there. Desires him to obtain from the "Pioneer" any admiralty order regarding the firing of minute guns for Prince Albert's death and he can act upon it. Approves of his having made the advance to the Alguada Reef Lighthouse. If a formal order is necessary for the consecration of the Church desires him to give it as Secy to Govt and forward draft of his letter for record in this Office. Asks whether Jeam Chuan ever recovered the deed of cession of Cape Rachado.

15/1/62 M.Protheroe

D O to Mr Grey Secy to Govt of India, H D, regarding Kim Sing's and Yeam Chuan's claims to purchase of land in Malacca at Rs 5 per acre.

21/1/62

Two letters received one from Mr Lonch No 12, Buckingham Street, Adelphi, London of 18th Nov 1861, and the second from Mrs Harriet Green, No 30, Regent Street, Cambridge, of Novr 15th, enquiring after one A W Green who died in Hospital at Singapore. Replies sent to both of the above from Pinang dated 23rd January 1862

M.P.

Précis of a letter to the Hon'ble Col Macpherson R C Singapore of 25th Janry 62

Hopes he has made arrangements for placing the "Singapore" under the Master Attendant's department and relieving the crew employed to watch his firing the minute guns on account of Prince Albert's death, as the notification made no mention of this, and an order for minute guns can only be issued by the G.G. in C. Capt. Strode was requested to show the despatches relative to the respect to be shewn to the memory of the deceased Prince, as he would then have been justified, in the absence of directions from Calcutta in acting upon them. However will endeavour to get over the mistake by merely republishing the Governor General's orders and not issuing any further one himself.

Requests him to inform Brigadier Babington that he has directed Colonel Bayley to hold his orders in abeyance. Informs him that the "Mohr" will leave there on Monday to tow the Bishop up from the Torch. Desires to know if he has made any further enquiries regarding the *modus operandi* of the banks in the event of the Treasury being transferred to one of them. Did not see Mr Parker. Requests a memo of the price of the pistol given to Syed Aman at Singapore as the matter is to be reported to the Supreme Govt. Desires him to mention to McNair that his coachman can leave, making over charge of all the stable appurtenances, including livery to Campbell's coachman, as also the balance of money for the horse food etc.

M.P.

Précis of a letter to Lt Col Collyer Chief Eng.

Singapore of 25th/1/62

As he did not forward a Medical certificate from Cowpar has alluded to his demi official in his letter granting him leave to go by the 22nd Feby Steamer. With regard to Schreiber's demand, if it is in accordance with the terms of the lease it must be paid, but he has written to McNair for a list of the Articles injured by his own family, so that the Expenses may not fall on Govt. Mentions that only one table has been injured and that was through the falling in of the ceiling. Concurs with Hunter thinking that sufficient labour is not got out of the convicts; trusts he will send up the design of the Church Tower before leaving.

25/1/62 M.P.

Extract from a letter to Sir R B McCausland Recorder of Spore

"Will you kindly oblige me by favoring me with your opinion as to the merits of the accompanying Petition from a prisoner now in the House of Correction at Malacca.

Sd O.C.

True Copy

M.Protheroe

Pinang

27th January/ 62

My dear Sir

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your interesting letter of the 23rd ult which owing to my absence from Singapore I have not had an earlier opportunity of answering. The fact of the seizure of Condore I had previously brought to the notice of the Governor General, but your letter contains much information on many points, some perfectly new to me, and others regarding which my intelligence has hitherto been of rather a vague description, being derived from rumours afloat amongst the Mercantile community.

French commerce does not, as far as I can judge, require the protection of a large Force in these seas, nor is it in any way increasing. Hence it is clear that the present proceedings of our worthy neighbours can only be attributed to some aggressive design, and that design whatever it may be, must if successfully carried out be prejudicial to our interests. It is quite possible that the disturbed state of Poland and the collapse of the French Financial System may for the present have baffled the machinations of the two autocrats. No alliance between them can ever bode but evil to England, and I entertain little doubt that such an alliance will be formed on the first favourable opportunity, and if Mr Seaward and his party should be rash enough to plunge their country into war with us, and however such a proceeding may appear, it is right that we should be prepared for it. This favourable opportunity will ere long be afforded. When the Officer ordered to relieve Admiral Hope arrives at Singapore I shall not fail to make him fully acquainted with the strength of the French Naval Force of which I keep a detailed list.

I have seen it mentioned in the papers that immediately upon the possibility of a rupture with America becoming known an augmentation was ordered to the Chinese fleet and that several Frigates and other vessels were expected to leave without delay for this quarter. At present the Americans have only one small gunboat, the "Saginou", in these Waters and a Northern Privateer furnished with Letters of Marque. As I understand expected these two could of course be easily disposed of, but it is probable that letters of Marque may be sent out to several of these Merchant Vessels over whose movements it may be necessary to keep a watch.

I should be much obliged for any information you might be able to afford me regarding any vessels now at Bangkok, more especially as to which Division North or South of the States they belong.

Ere this the Prussian Ambassador Count Enlenburg {Eulenburg?} will I presume have left for Singapore. I shall be glad to hear that he has succeeded in the objects of his Mission. You will I am sure have much enjoyed the story of the Mission.

(sd) O.C.

True Copy

M.P.

Précis of a letter to the Governor of Labuan

of Pinang 28th January 1862

Points out that as yet he has been unable to supply Mr Patmore's place but will write to Singapore and direct the Executive Engineers to send over a man and communicate direct with him on the subject to save time. Mentions that the "Pioneer" has gone to Batavia and that the Royal Navy have been directed to make all reliefs of troops in Labuan and perform any political duties necessary in the China Sea.

M.P.

Précis of a letter to Col Collyer Ch Eng of 1/2/62

Considers that with regard to the Church it wd. Be better to raise the platform of the communion table to the level of the portion under the apse. Mentions that he ordered Hilliard to make the weir for the watercourse 6 inches lower than in the plan and requested him to send in our estimate for the repair of the Sluice gate of the fort ditch.

M.P.

Letter of Captain McNair per "Arracan" regarding Govt House furniture and his appointment. Also requests him to have a list made of all the furniture in Campbell's house.

Précis of a letter to the R.C.Singapore dated 2/2/62

Requests that every assistance may be given to Captain Fraser and that he may be allowed the services of the "Tonze". Remarks upon some of the items upon the Bill for the prosecution of the junks, the charges not apparently being for the performance of duties of a strictly legal nature. States that the necessary orders will be issued hereafter as to the disposal of the \$400 received from the Tumongong on account of the Padang piracy.

Précis of a letter from H.H. the Governor to Lt Col Collyer Ch Eng S.S. of 11/2/62

Is sorry to hear that the Captain's Quarters are not progressing at Tanglin; considers that there is no immediate hurry for the alteration of the seats in the Church. Desires him to put up the Lord's

Prayer and Beliefs on their arrival. Supposes he does not intend to complete the height of the Rachado's Lighthouse tower as Stanton considers it high enough. Intends to visit the Juru bridge next week; has no opinion of Mr Scully and if there has been any neglect on his part will recommend his return to Madras. Forwards letter given below.

Penang 12th/2/62

My dear Collyer

I cannot allow you to leave my Government without expressing my thanks for the valuable aid I have so often received from you. This aid has not been confined merely to matters connected strictly with your professional duties, but has always been most readily accorded on every occasion by your being able in any way to advance the interests of the Settlement.

I need make no remarks with regard to your professional abilities, for they have been acknowledged by authorities much better able to judge of your attainments as an Engineer than myself, but I deem it right to place on record my testimony as to the unremitting zeal and energy with which those abilities have been exercised during the period of your connection with the Straits and I do not hesitate to state that I consider your departure as a public loss.

Trusting that you will regain your health and wishing you every joy in our native land.

Believe me

Yours very sinly

To Col Collyer Sd O.C.

Ch Eng SS

Précis of a letter of 10th Febry 1862 to the R C Singapore.

2. If the "Tonze" cannot proceed to Malacca a crew for the Singapore gunboat must be formed and that vessel sent up to effect the Torch Relief if soon necessary; if not the "Mohr" can be sent down for the purpose or the relief effected by the "Hooghly" on her way up.
3. Requests him to send a copy of Stanton's letters to Collyer.
4. Approves of his acting in concert with the Navy in lowering the flag.
5. As there are no instructions respecting the Japanese Ambassadors, the precedent of the Siamese Ambassadors can only be acted upon and therefore he will be quite right in providing accommodation for them during their stay in Singapore; suggests the house taken for the Sultan of Tringanu.

6. Mentions that Sir R Schomburgh has promised to watch the Sultan of Linga and will write to him regarding the disturbances in Pahang if the Sultan of Tringanu or the Rajah of Kelantan are concerned; approves of his having warned the latter on this matter.
7. Presumes that Abu Bakr will conclude the treaty between Johore and Pahang recently sanctioned; mentions that the stipend of the Tumongong must cease pending further instructions from the Govt of India.
8. Wd. Be sorry to hear of the arrest of the Sultan but does not think it possible to assist him.
9. States that the letter regarding the guns refers to the three gunboats, so Abu Bakr cannot retain those under his charge.
10. Usual authority for him to sit and act in Court will be sent down.
11. Intimates that no charge can be made in a Government Church without Government sanction.
12. Considers that he has acted more judiciously with regard to the Chinese Family.
13. With regard to the Institution Hill considers that the Trustees had no other course open to them though he considers the proceedings somewhat unjust to Dr Little.
14. Desires him to keep one set of the works sent out by Mr. Blundell as they can subsequently be made over to Malacca for Cape Rachado.
15. Regrets to hear of Captain Wilkinson's state of health; in case of his death considers the arrangement he proposes a good one. Wrights to act as Master Attendant and Noyes to command the "Hooghly", but it would be necessary to look out for a commander for the "Tonze". If Dunman does not intend remaining for any length of time after his return in the Service Ames will be confirmed.
16. Arrangement for the relief at Labuan. "Hooghly" to go to Pinang after landing the Judge and return taking to Spore the Company of the 20th for Labuan, and after landing them at Singapore to take one copy of the 40th to Malacca; to come on again to Pinang with one copy of the 20th from Malacca, return for the Recorder and then come back bringing the other company of the 20th from Malacca, and dropping a copy of the 40th there en route. Presumes that Chesney will be sent for trial to Madras.

M.P.

11/2/62

Precis to Captain Lireman D.A.C.G.

Cannot do anything for his conductor unless he can do without his conicoply and writer paid for by this Govt and then some increase might be allowed; suggests his again representing the matter to the new Comy General Madras.

M.P.

My dear Sir Richard,

I have the pleasure to return with many thanks the copy of the evidence in the case of the Prisoner Lee Ah Yet. It is quite possible that he may not have been aware of the criminality of his act, it being as you say difficult to convince Asiatics that Slave dealing or rather the purchase of a concubine is a crime. On this score on some future date if he conducts himself well some slight mitigation of the punishment might be allowed, but for the present certainly it could not be contemplated for an instant.

Sd O.C.

To Sir R B McCausland

Recorder Spore

Pinang 12/2/62

Letter to W H Read Esqre of 15th Febry 1862

Acknowledges receipt of his letter of 22nd ult.

I have received the communication from the Sultan relative to the transfer of Moar, but I am much afraid in the present state of the country and our ignorance as to its actual resources that his terms will be considered too high to admit of his offer being accepted.

Although it is true that the Tumongong of Muar is a chief of no very great pretensions, yet it cannot be denied that for years past he and his forefathers exercised absolute rule over the country, whilst the sway of the Sultan has been merely nominal, and indeed for a long time his claims to sovereignty were allowed to remain dominant {dormant?} and no attempt was ever made to enforce them. Had I a *tabula rasa*, such as existed in General Butterworth's time, to operate upon, my line of policy would certainly have been to have supported the Sultan's pretensions and have governed Johore by a British Political officer, acting in his name, and in this moreover exercising influence over the surrounding native states, but the day for this {is?} past. The States have become disunited and notwithstanding the assertions of the intriguers by whom he is surrounded, and by whom what {ever?} means the poor man possessed have been dissipated, the Sultan's influence over the Malayan Peninsula has, I can assure you, ceased to have any existence, and can no longer be restored. Hence it is necessary that another course should be pursued in order to build together the bundle of sticks styled the Malayan States. This course as far as I can judge is to induce the several chiefs to enter with our sanction into treaties with one another, under the provisions of which our Govt. being recognised as the paramount

power, shall be constituted the arbitrator in all disputes, whilst a system of mutual reference shall be established. How far I shall be able to succeed in carrying out my views, it would at present be premature to say, but I hope in time to obtain the desired object.

Our worthy allies appear to be now going ahead at Saigon and I dare say great improvements will be effected in the course of a few years. Still looking at the speculation in a purely mercantile point of view, will it pay? That is the great question, and I must say I entertain great doubts on that head. Cut off as they are from all support, they must always maintain a large force to guard their territories from attack. The Expense of this force must be very great, far greater than the measure to be received from the Settlement is ever likely to be able to cover.

As a commercial entrepôt there is little probability of Saigon ever becoming of much importance in the hands of the French. Hence its chief value must be politically as a menace to our trade in case of war. At the same time I really think that for some time to come at least we are quite safe from a rupture with France. I truly believe that the Emperor, however ready to commence hostilities, should he consider it necessary in order to maintain his own position, is really desirous of peace. The state of his finances must not only impose some restrictions on the expenditure of France but also in a measure constitutionalizing her form of Government, a change which must materially affect her relations with us, and tend to produce an amicable feeling between the two Nations.

By your account Pulo Condor is not a very desirable acquisition, and as we relinquished apparently our rights so long ago, I fancy they are not likely to be revived.

In the event of the vessels you mention leaving for Europe and China the Naval Force will be considerably reduced, a proof that at present it is not likely to be used against us.

(sd) O.C.

True Copy

M.Protheroe

Pinang 17/2/62

My dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to enclose extracts from the letters received from Bangkok and Saigon which, as giving an account of the state of affairs at these places, may perhaps be deemed interesting.

I believe that the question at issue between the French authorities and the Govt of Siam has been settled tho' I have received no authentic information on the subject. If as stated by my correspondent, the French Naval Force I Cochin China is being rapidly reduced, it is clear that for the present, consequent doubtless on the financial crisis in France, all aggressive designs against our possessions in this quarter have been abandoned, though, except as a standing menace against our Eastern trade in case of war, it is difficult to imagine what object can exist

for keeping up so useless and costly a Settlement. France has little or no commerce, whilst the expense of the large Military Force necessary to maintain their position in Cochin China, cut off as it is from all support, must far exceed any Revenue likely to be realized for years to come. Indeed the sum of money that has already been expended is enormous.

I was glad to find that the Administration at Washington had not allowed their judgement to be overruled by passion and had acceded to our just demands. At present the United States have only one gunboat and one Privateer Steamer in these Seas, so that they could not have done much damage. By enlisting the services of a portion of the men of every Merchant Vessel in harbour to aid in working the guns in position, I should have been quite able to have protected the Shipping at Singapore, even from the attack of a Frigate.

Sd O.C.

True Copy

M.Protheroe

To Coll. Durand C.B.

Secy to Govt: For: Dept.

Calcutta

Pinang

15th Febry 62

My dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to forward herewith a B/L for Rs. 26 etc. etc.

By this mail I have despatched an envelope containing a sample of the produce of the Egyptian cotton seed you kindly furnished me. I have not yet been able to visit the plantation, but hope to do so next week. Some of the plants are, I hear, thriving remarkably well though a good number were blighted owing to their having been very heavy rain shortly after the seed was put into the ground. The Gentleman who owns the plantation expressed himself however satisfied with the result of the Experiment, and possibly with greater experience of the nature of the climate any future trial may prove more successful.

Sd. O C.

To The Secy A.H.Society

Calcutta

Précis of a letter to the Hon'ble Lt Col Macpherson R C Singapore of 26th Febr'y 1862

Is glad to hear that the Japanese Ambassadors have passed through and that little or no expense has been incurred on their account; care to be taken against hading over any ground to the Navy until the receipt of positive orders for the formation of a Dock Yard; desires him to send all letters he may receive as Secy to Govt up to this office for the Diaries; directs him to open all officials to his address; considers that if Read goes home, under Sec:xvii of Act xxvii Mr Woodford will have to be appointed in his place. Points out that Abu Bakr has been formally recognised Tumongong of Johore in the letter addressed to him after his father's death; has already addressed the Supreme Government regarding the continuation of the pension to the Tumongong's family. If the funnels for the "Tonze" do not come down by this Steamer, a new one should be made for her. Approves of his proposal for filling poor Wilkinson's place; should anything happen to him, provided Fox is qualified to command the "Tonze"; does not approve of the position of the seats in St. Andrew's Church. Hopes that the Artillery will soon move into Fort Canning. Enquires whether any offer has been received for the police Court.

(sd) O.C. M.P.

27/2/62

Prêcis of a letter to the Hon'ble Captain Playfair Ag Resident Councillor Malacca

Hopes to send him Malacca Land Rules and leave to sell the Land to Kim Sing and Yean Chuan by next P & O Mail to Spore. Mentions that Moniot and Quinton will probably be nominated commissioners of land under the vii Clause of the Land Act. Considers that there is no great hurry for the settlement of the boundary question and requests him to find out from the people what is generally considered the frontier between Malacca and Johole. Approves of his not having collected the revenue at 4 cents per gantang but desires him to make it known that this indulgence is not to form a precedent. Is of opinion that the appointment of gunners in the "Tonze" should be offered to the former Gunner of the "Singapore" Gunboat. Requests him to refer the question of retrenchment and a reply will be sent to the effect that he was ordered to perform both duties. Considers that the other retrenchment is incorrect and directs him to refer the Accountant General to Fin Rls No 33 of 29th April 1859 and G.O.G.G. of 17th Novr 1854 Para 13. Reminds him to send down his police estimate for the ending year. Inquires how the works are going on in the H.C. Points out that he never attached a treasury receipt to the Statement of the amount paid into the Treasury on account of the labours of the local prisoners. Mentions that Tikang Bandar shd. Not have been allowed to go to Singapore and desires him not to interfere in the quarrel at present going on in Muar, as the Malays have justice on their side; British subjects to be warned against taking part in it. Directs him to inform the Acct General that the charge for rattans etc. could be defrayed out of the cost of articles sold but that under the new forms ordered by the Supreme Govt all charges and Receipts have to be separately exhibited and the latter paid into the Treasury without any reduction.

M.P. 26/2/62 Sd O.C.

Précis of a letter to Capt McNair Pinang

Offg Ch Engineer S.S 26th febry 1862

Enquires at to what is being done about the Fort ditch. Will be glad to hear that the Artillery have been moved into Fort Canning as Cholera is flying about Spore. Writes to know how the sea wall is getting on and asks whether arrangements have been made for the continuation of a small pier.

Sd O.C.

M.P.

Précis of a letter to Lt Col Yule Secy to Govt of India P.W.D. 26th Febry 1862

As Collyer was very unwell and the Doctors recommended his departure reports his having sanctioned his departure. McNair being appointed to act as Ch Eng subject to confirmation until the arrival of Collyer's successor. In appointing the successor desires that he may be styled Secy to Govt: S.S. and not Sec: to the Governor, a similar change having been made in the Gl. Department

M.P. 27/2/62 sd O.C.

Précis of a letter to Sir R B McCausland

Informs him that he has thanked the Bombay Govt. for sending back Fatimah and requests him to send down his copy of the Charter corrected as soon as possible.

27/2/62 M.P. (sd) O.C.

Saturday

1st March 1862

My dear Mackay,

I have the pleasure to return the testimonials received with your note. I can assure you I needed not their perusal to induce me to accord my hearty support to any application you may submit for the appointment of Archdeacon in the event of the office being established and the bishop honouring me by consulting with me on the subject.

I deem it right however to mention that there is one chaplain whose claims on public grounds, for my personal, acquaintance with him is slight, I should consider superior to your own, Mr Norman. I believe however there would be little prospect of his becoming a candidate for preferment in the Straits as he has no wish to leave the scene of his arduous labours in 1857/58 where he did so much to alleviate the misery of the Sick and distressed amongst our European troops and their families.

Yours etc

Sd/ O.C.

True Copy

M.Protheroe

The Revd J Mackay B.D.

My dear Mr Campbell,

I shall of course be most happy to record my support by any measures having for its object the collection of subscriptions with {to the?} Albert Memorial fund. At the same time it appears to me that it would be premature to enter into any arrangement for the purpose until the receipt of a communication on the subject from the Home Committee. As regards, for instance, the amount of subscription much must depend upon the nature of the Memorial, a point upon which we are at present perfectly ignorant, the question, if I mistake not, not having been decided when the Mail left. The subscription required for a mere statue would differ materially from that needed for some large Public Institution. I have little doubt that as usual on such occasions I shall receive by the next Mail a communication from the Home Committee specifying the purpose to which subscriptions are to be appropriated and requesting my aid in making it known to residents in the Straits. In the even of such being the case the necessary notification would be made in the Gazette and most probably a committee of Gentlemen be formed for the purpose of receiving subns and corresponding with the Committee in England, this having been the case pursued with respect to the Wellington Fund which was established under similar circumstances.

(sd) O.C.

True Copy

M.Protheroe

To R Campbell Esq

Ch: Mer: Bank

Pinang

Letter to Col Macpherson directing him to send up the "Hooghly" again as soon as possible

Pinang

8th March 1862 M.P.