

Private Letter Book

Volume V

From the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1862

To the 15<sup>th</sup> January 1863

3<sup>rd</sup> Sepr 1862 Singapore

My Lord

The papers forwarded with your Lordship's Letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> Ultimo, which only reached me a few days ago, have had my earnest consideration and I hope to succeed in my endeavours to carry out the instructions therein contained so as to justify the confidence with which you have honoured me.

Captain Corbett of H.M.S. "Scout" has once or twice invited me to take a cruise in his vessel, and I should have accepted his invitation had not his trip generally extended beyond the Native States which I am required to visit. Should however the "Scout" make her periodical trip to Sarawak and Labuan within the next two months, I will now take advantage of his offer requesting him to leave me at the former station whilst he continues his route. In the event of this opportunity not being afforded me, I will delay going over until the arrival of the "Pluto", when in all probability it will be supposed that the object I have in view is to make enquiries regarding the Lanoon Pirates, so as to cooperate if necessary with the Sarawak Authorities towards checking their depredations.

I have written confidentially to Captain Brooke mentioning the probability of my visit and stating that I shall feel much obliged for any Returns as to the Revenue, Trade etc. of the Settlement with which he may be able to furnish me. Although all party feeling has completely subsided there is still a difference of opinion here as to the advantages of extending our influence in Borneo. Upon the whole however I think the Mercantile Community would be in favor of the measure.

(sd) O.C.

True Copy

M Protheroe

To the Viceroy

Extract from a letter to the Govr of Labuan d/ 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1862

I have in accordance with your wishes made enquiries regarding Mr de Crespyinge's past career. He served for some time in the R.N. and was employed in these seas in "Daedalus" and

"Royalist". He was subsequently placed on half pay and sent out under the auspices of the Royal Geographical Society to explore the interior of Borneo, some of his papers on that country being read at meetings of the Society. He afterwards commanded a schooner trading between Singapore and Borneo, and then went to a group of islands called the Dairds to collect cocanuts. It must I imagine {have} been about this time Walter left the Navy as he expected to realize a fortune by his speculation and therefore was unwilling to rejoin the Service at the expiration however of 14 or 15 months. Finding his expectations not likely to be fulfilled he returned to Singapore. He has been well spoken of by several Naval Officers, amongst them Capt Reilly of the "Pioneer" and Stanton of the "Saracen". The latter has been on the survey here for the past three or four years and must have had good means of becoming acquainted with his character etc. etc.

Sd O C

(True Copy) M Protheroe

Singapore

5<sup>th</sup> September 1862

Dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> June, together with the 4 copies of the work upon Patent Screw Piles and Moorings you were kind enough to forward.

The bank upon which I am desirous of placing a lighthouse in lieu of the present Ligh vessel is situated on the North Sands, in the middle of the Straits of Malacca. The lowest depth of water is 18 feet, with a rise of 10 or 12 feet. The sand is stated to be very hard and the tides being strong in the Straits there is generally a little sea on the bank.

Some few years back an attempt was made to drive a screw pile as an experiment with the view of the subsequent preparation of a plan for a lighthouse, but failed owing to the setting in of squally weather and the difficulty experienced in getting the screw to penetrate. Generally speaking, during the S.W. Monsoon the locality is subject to squalls and there is sometimes a heavy sea, the Light vessel having once or twice been carried away from her moorings, but during the Northerly Monsoon, for four or five months may be reasonably anticipated.

If you have a design that would in your opinion suit my object, I should be glad to avail myself of the offer contained in your 2<sup>nd</sup> Para. The drawings, if not approved of by the Chief Engineer, to be returned and under any circumstances to be considered as your property and not to be acted upon by others.

Accommodation would be required, on a liberal scale to suit a tropical climate, for one European and 6 native Lightkeepers, and oil, water and provisions for one month's consumption, the light not to be displayed at a less height than that of the mast of an ordinary light vessel.

Yours etc. (sd) O.C.

True Copy M Protheroe

To

F Johnson Esqre

12 North Street

Westminster

Extract from a letter to Sir R Schomburgk Consul at Bangkok

I am glad to find by the enclosure to your official that the Siamese Government has sent orders to the Sultan of Tringanu to compel the Ex.Sultan of Ligga to return to Siam in the even of his presence causing trouble in the Peninsula. It would have been better had they ordered down one of their Steamers to bring him back, for such a demonstration of their real intentions to prevent his doing mischief wd. Have had a good effect and at once checked any malpractices of the part of his friend the Sultan of Tringanu.

You might perhaps have an opportunity of pointing out this privately to the King and Minister of Foreign Affairs. You will see by the answers to my Official that there can be little doubt that the Ex.Sultan is concerned in the attack upon Pahang. As pointed out by the Dutch Resident, he is a

restless, intriguing character, and after your remonstrance last year and, if I recollect right, the promise then made that he would not be sent to Tringanu without previous communication, the Court at Bangkok should not have allowed him to go down in one of their Steamers, a circumstance which has of course given him considerable influence.

Owing to the State of Affairs in Pahang our trade with that state is already beginning to suffer, as the Chinese are leaving the tin mines in which there seemed every chance previously of their operations proving successful. It is to be hoped that Inchi Wan Ahmed may be defeated by the Pahang men. If not it will of course be necessary for me to take steps to prevent his receiving arms and ammunition through Tringanu. Without the foreign assistance he receives he would be powerless.

Sd O C

True Copy M Protheroe

Précis of a letter to Major Man R C Pinang

Acknowledges receipt of his two last letters. Trusts that he has been successful in his trip to Sumatra. Is willing to let Capt Corbett have either of the small steamers as a tender whenever he may require them, if they can stand the seas they are likely to meet. Supposes that the Rajah of Purlis is under the Siamese Government and fancies that if he could be brought to his senses through Sir R Schomburgk. With regard to the convicts considers that Hilliard is wrong to seize a man's property without investigation and that he had no right to interfere at all if the prisoners were in the lines.

6/9/62 (sd) O C

7/9/62

My dear Playfair

I have this moment received your letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> instant and hasten to answer your query with respect to the Land. According to my reading of the Act:-

1<sup>st</sup> All cultivators or descendants of Cultivators holding land by prescription at the time of Malacca having been transferred to the British, whether as a Mutual convenience they consented to enter into an engagement to commute the Government claim or not, must be considered as Cultivators holding land by prescription. Whilst on the contrary all cultivators who since the transfer have taken land under cutting papers or any other document or deed issued from the R.C.'s offices are not considered as cultivators holding land by prescription but are liable to be assessed under Sec. 2 of Act 16 of 1839.

2<sup>nd</sup>. As long as a cultivator by prescription is willing to pay the one tenth part of the produce or the equivalent in money in commutation of the payment in kind, he cannot in any way be interfered with. If he omits payment either in kind or money, he can be sued for the amount in Court, but in no manner can he be dispossessed of his land except under a decree of Court consequent on the issue of such suit. Of course it will be necessary for you to satisfy yourself that the present holder of any piece of land really did hold it before the transfer or is the descendant of one who did hold under the Dutch before recognising his right to be considered as a cultivator by prescription or otherwise. Squatter and persons holding under our cutting papers might claim the same rights

Of course my reading may not be the correct one but I am sure if you spoke to Sir Richard on the subject he would kindly let you know whether he concurs in my views.

As regards the Estate promised to Yeam Chuan there can be no doubt that his legal representative has a moral if not a legal right to succeed to it on the terms promised to the deceased, and consequently on the payment of the prescribed sum of Rs. 5 per acre he should be granted the necessary title deed.

I think now we have furnished you with all the necessary information, forms etc. for carrying out the act and that you will have no difficulty in doing justice both to the people and the State. I am glad you have pointed out the prospect of enforcement of the Municipal tax so that there can be no doubt on that point. I agree with you in thinking that the Cultivators would be blind to their own interest were they to decline availing themselves of the option now given them. By the bye you say that all persons holding land under commutation deeds are cultivators by prescription, but are there not many who have acquired land in our time and under our sanction, owing to its having been allowed by the original holder to Government? Almost every quarter there are notices to the effect that long standing arrears have been cancelled owing to the original holder having given up the land and allowed it to revert to jungle. The person who would subsequently be allowed to occupy and release it would not of course hold under prescription.

I was sorry to hear so bad an account of the Marlimo road. This should be brought to Mayne's notice. I have just ordered him to send round a circular requiring a list of all works to be entered on the Budget for next year, so that you will have an opportunity of pointing out what new roads, buildings, canals etc. you require. The list should contain a Column containing a statement as to the object and reasons for recommending such work.

I am glad to hear that there is a chance of increased traffic to Johole. It ought to increase our revenue.

You were quite right about the "Tonze". The reduction will be made on the arrival of the "Pluto". With this modification of establishment the Supreme Govt. has sanctioned my retaining the 3 steamers.

Sd O C

True Copy

M P

To Captain Playfair Offg R C Malacca

Précis of a letter d/15<sup>th</sup> September 1862 to Captain Playfair Offg R.C. Malacca

Acknowledges his letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> instant. Considers that there is no necessity for the two prisoners being sent to Singapore as they can be committed for trial at the next sessions at Malacca. Points out that if a cultivator be in legal occupation of a piece of land, as long as he pays the tenth or the amount of Assessment, he cannot be interfered with, nor can the fee simple be sold to anyone else. An action of ejectment would only lay {lie?} against an unauthorized squatter. Intimates that the question of remuneration to Pungulus is distinct from the sale of land to them and states that the order regarding land within 4 miles of town includes the Town itself as that is within the distance.

Sd O.C.

M.P.

Précis of a letter to major Man R.C.Pinang 16<sup>th</sup> Septr 1862

Thanks him for his last two letters. Considers that it is evident that the Dutch are endeavouring to exclude British Trade from Sumatra and keep commerce in their own hands. This however is a line of policy which the present Premier will not approve, and therefore intends to submit the matter for the consideration of the Supreme Government. Regrets to hear that the Rajah of Quedah has been giving trouble but points out that if necessary he can be brought to his bearings by the stoppage of part of his monthly pension. Reminds him about his monthly treasury statement of "Material Charges" etc. Informs him that he is to keep the "Mohr" on the reduced scale. Mentions his intention of making the Marine Officers wear a distinguishing dress. Was glad to find that the Straits had gained to {so?} many prizes in the Exhibition. Enquires whether beetles destructive to cotton have been heard of elsewhere than on the Washington Estate.

Sd O.C.

M.P.

PS Enquires the Xtian name of his nephew as Mr Moniot leaves by the next mail and he will have to be Gazetted.

20th Septr 1862

My dear Sir

I trust that the National interest now taken in the extension of the cultivation of cotton in our own colonies may plead as my excuse for craving your assistance in procuring a supply of Egyptian cotton seed for distribution among the cultivators in Johore, a small Native State dependent upon my Government and in close proximity to this station.

Last year I procured a small quantity through the Bengal A. & H. Society, which I issued to residents at the different stations in the Straits and to the Agent of the Tumongong of Johore, although the quantity was merely sufficient to serve as an experiment in many instances. The cultivation succeeded remarkably well, and one or two prizes were awarded at the Great Exhibition for specimens of cotton produced from this seed. This has stimulated the desire of the people to increase the cultivation, and I have been solicited, if possible to procure for early use a supply to the extent of 1b. 800 (1,800 lbs?) of seed. This supply is of course much larger than I could possibly expect the Society in Calcutta to furnish, and I have therefore been induced to address you on the subject

I need hardly say that I shall feel grateful for any aid you may be able to render me in meeting the application, whilst on the receipt of intimation of the probable expense that would be thereby incurred, a remittance will be immediately made for the amount.

The Climate of the Straits is somewhat uncertain and the Egyptian cotton tree seems hardier and better able to withstand the sudden changes to which we are exposed than the Sea Islan, which is rather delicate though in one or two places it has answered very well, the highest price 2<sup>d</sup> per lb. Having been fixed for it by the Committee of the Exhibition.

Again expressing a hope that you will kindly pardon my giving you this trouble

I remain

Yours truly Sd O.C.

To

H.M.'s Consul General

Egypt

Précis of a letter to J.B.Haynes Esqre care of Manager Chartered Mercantile Bank Bombay  
d/20<sup>th</sup> Sepr 1862

Ackowled receipt of his letter of the 20<sup>th</sup> Ult and regrets to hear that he has been so unwell.

Sd O.C.

M.P.

Précis of a letter to the hon'ble Major Man R.C.Pinang d/22<sup>nd</sup>/ 9/62

Thanks him for his note of the 15<sup>th</sup>. Proposes certain arrangements in the event of Smart's departure to India. Desires him to enquire about a Mr. Denholm in the Sandilands house who was anxious for employment in the Straits.

M.P.

Précis of a letter to the Offg R.C.Malacca 22/9/62

Would have been glad to give Mr Hargreaves the vacancy in the Seamens Hospital but it is already filled up. Is not quite certain with regard to the apothecaryship of the Convict Hospital. Mentions that Kim Sing goes up per "Hooghly" and desires him not to send his convicts for the Andamans to Singapore as they can be picked up per "Hooghly" en route to Calcutta

Singapore 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept

My dear Captain Brooke

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7<sup>th</sup> Instant and to thank you for your kind offer to receive us during our approaching visit to Sarawak I heard a short time ago from Capt Corbett who mentioned that he proposed proceeding to Sarawak and Labuan with the view of enabling the bishop to make his visitation tour to the latter place immediately after the arrival of the first English Mail next month, that would be about the 13<sup>th</sup> Prox., a date that would suit me very well, as by that time I shall have prepared all my despatches for Calcutta.

From the papers that have been furnished for my guidance I gather that the Home Government requires detailed information on many points connected with your settlement, regarding which at present the statements supplied have been in a great measure hypothetical. The remark more particularly applies to the trade, revenue, expenses etc. Regarding all these there appears to be various opinions, and of course before submitting any proposition for the consideration of Parliament, it is necessary that the Ministry should feel assured that the Data upon which the proposition is to be based are correct. This being the case it has occurred to me that the best course for me to pursue would be to draw up a report on the Settlement for the past year similar to the report required from me relative to my own government.

With your kind aid I have little doubt that I should be able to prepare such a Report in a manner likely to prove satisfactory to the Home Government and admit of a decision being taken, either as respects taking over the Settlement or granting it the support necessary to its protection as a British Dependency, as styled in India "A Protected State".

The accompanying memo will perhaps give you an idea of the points to which it would be necessary to give attention {attention?} and I have forwarded also a copy of my last Administration report and of the form of our Annual statement of receipts and disbursements, both of which will shew the nature of the Returns we are called upon to supply.

My visit will be considered a strictly private one, and no one but yourself need be even aware of its object, as my enquiries can be conducted more as those of a stranger taking a trip to a new



country than of a person acting in an official character. Indeed it is right that they should be so, as it is not the wish of the Home Government that the intention of recognising Sarawak in any way should be made known until all arrangements with Sir James Brooke are finally concluded and out of the Ministry. I fancy he is almost the only person who is aware that the matter is under consideration. Nothing therefore on my part will take place likely to give occasion for remark

At the same time however Capt Corbett is merely proceeding on his periodical visit, which could have been made whether I had accompanied him or not, and is, I presume, acting under orders from the Admiralty. I could not of course interfere with respect to the salute to your flag, though if I had a favourable opportunity I might allude to your remark regarding the number of guns formerly given. I believe however that some instructions on the subject were issued last year, when the order was sent out for a Man of War to run over to Sarawak if possible every three months.

Sd O.C.

(True Copy) M Protheroe

To. J Brooke Brooke Esqre

Rajah Muda

Sarawak

Singapore

23<sup>rd</sup> Sept 1862

My dear Sir

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your favor {letter?} of the 14<sup>th</sup> Instant. I am afraid the King will begin to think me rather troublesome as we have a complaint against one of his chiefs, the Rajah of Purlis, having robbed and murdered a British subject. By this Mail I forward to you officially an extract from a despatch recently received from Calcutta which you will perceive that the governor General takes exactly the same view that I did as to the responsibility incurred by the Siamese Court in sending down the ex-Sultan of Lingga to Tringanu after it had been brought to their notice that he was a troublesome character.

I fancy you are likely to have the French Admiral at Bangkok ere long, his object being to induce the Siamese Government to aid in laying down an Electric Telegraph from Saigon to Bangkok. The Consul begged me to mention this intention to you and to state that it was with the hope that we should eventually run a line through the Malayan Peninsula to China.

I certainly consider that the proposed line is far preferable to the proposed Sub Marine line but it appears to me that no general advantage would be gained in carrying the telegraph from Siam to Cochin China until we had commenced the intermediate link to connect Siam with Europe. At

present it would only serve to increase French influence in Siam which is not perhaps particularly to be desired.

The Mail from Calcutta has brought me news of a coalition between France, Austria and Russia with the view, it is said, of checking Garibaldi. All these states are so impoverished at present and contain within themselves so much of the seeds of disaffection that it is not surprising if they are frightened of the spread of liberal ideas, and consequently it is quite probable that the alliance may really be for defensive and not for offensive purposes. At the same time it is necessary that England should be on her guard. It is to be regretted that Garibaldi is somewhat deficient in judgement. Sooner or later doubtless the Pope will be shorn of his temporal power and Italy become a United Kingdom, but the pear is hardly ripe yet, and this move of Garibaldi may prevent its ripening. The power of the clergy in France is still very great and {the} Emperor is not prepared to oppose it.

I will not fail to give you due intimation should I be able eventually to pay my promised visit to your Quarter, but I do not think I can now possibly get away for some time to come, having plenty of occupation before me for the next two or three months.

Sd O.C.

True Copy

M Protheroe

Sir R Schomburgk

Consul — Siam

Précis of a letter to Captain Smart Asst R C Pinang d/25/9/62

Acknowledges receipt of this {his?} letter of 16<sup>th</sup> Inst. Is unable to write to Sir Hope Grant direct in his favor but will give him a demi official acknowledgement of his services, of which he could forward a copy with his application for a command. Intimates the probability of Seikh Local Corps being sent to the Straits shortly, in which case his claims will be considered.

(sd) O.C.

Singapore 25<sup>th</sup> Septr 1862

Dear Sir

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Ultimo. The whole of the original staff in China having been changed I have now no friends amongst the members. I have however furnished Mr Gundry with a note of introduction to Major Stafford Comg: the Punjab Corps at Shanghai, which will I trust be of use to him. I hardly fancy he will have to chroicle much in the way of Military operations. The force is not large enough for a move into the

interior. Indeed unless we are prepared to commence a war against the Rebels on a grand scale, we ought to content ourselves by holding the Treaty ports and protecting our trade by the means of a few small steam gunboats of a sufficiently light draught for our purposes. These would be quite sufficient to prevent any annoyance being given to the Steamers bringing down the produce from the Tea and silk districts. The 22<sup>nd</sup> B.N.I. and the Belooch Regiment are now here en

route to Shanghai to relieve the 2 Native Corps in China.

I purpose sending you by this mail a copy of the Rules relative to the sale of land at Malacca. There are many thousand acres still at the disposal of Govt. and it is possible that some of our Bengal Planters may feel disposed to run down to the Straits and make enquiries regarding the land. They would find all the officials most happy to afford them any information and render them any assistance in their power.

In Province Wellesley we have disposed of almost all our land and in many places it cannot be purchased for less than \$100 per acre. One sugar estate alone I understand cleared after paying all expenses no less than \$40,000 last year. Whilst, as far as I can judge, the ground now for sale in Malacca is superior to that in the Province, and is well adapted for Rice, Sugar and Coffee. The cocoa tress also grows well and I observe that a writer in the *Calcutta Review* thinks that Indigo would answer. I have introduced the cultivation of cotton at the different Police Stations. It seems to thrive and the staple is good but it is doubtful how far a large plantation would pay, as the expenses wd. Be heavy. In the Province the Sugar Planters are now commencing to cultivate cotton alternately with sugar cane instead of allowing the ground to be fallow. It is however merely an experimental measure.

The clause regarding the royalty was inserted in the Land Rules because at present a considerable Rev. {is obtained?} from the Royalty on tin, and it is known that there are many valuable mines in the District, though from the want vof a Geological Survey their position is still undefined and we are, as it were, making the sale blindfold. Were any Company established for working mines on a large scale, so as to really develop the resources of the country, the Government would be quite prepared to take their claim for a reduction of the percentage into consideration. I may mention, by the bye, that there are hot springs at Malacca, very beneficial for persons suffering from severe rheumatic affections. There is a Govt. Bungalow near for the accommodation of patients resorting to them.

I shall feel obliged by your remembering me kindly to Mrs. Brett and mentioning that I have not forgotten the pleasure she so often amicably afforded her listeners in singing the Angel's Whisper.

Sd O.C.

P.S. Will you kindly cause this (the?) amount of the enclosed cheque to be carried to my account with *The Englishman*.

(True Copy) M Protheroe

To W Brett Esqre. Ed Englishman Calcutta

Singapore 25 Sepr

My dear Colonel Durand

By the Mail I forward to your office a report upon the recent proceedings of the Dutch upon the Eastern coast of Sumatra, which will doubtless be deemed deserving of consideration.

I was aware that something was going on in that Quarter and this was one of the reasons of my requesting Captain Corbett to visit the coast with the "Scout". His trip was extremely well timed for I have learnt from private sources that the Dutch had actually landed their Establishments with the view of taking charge of Langkat. On the appearance however of the "Scout" in the distance they were immediately re-embarked, though in the hurry apparently they forgot to remove the Flagstaff bearing the Dutch Ensign.

There can be no doubt that the Dutch are most jealous of our commercial operations in the Archipelago and seek, as far as possible, to establish a Monopoly of trade wherever their influence may extend. At one time we had a large coasting trade with all the lower portion of Sumatra on both coasts, but it has almost entirely disappeared, the Dutch insisting that all produce shall be brought into their Settlements. Indeed coffee, of which quantity is exported from Sumatra, is now made a Dutch Govt. Monopoly and were they to take possession of the Pepper Ports, our interests wd. Suffer materially, the trade between Delly, Langkat, Acheen and Pinang and Madras being at present considerable, with a prospect, in the event of no interference being permitted on the part of any Foreign Power, of its increasing. Our right to maintain Free Trade with the Native States is undesirable (indisputable?) and we have always scrupulously acted up to the terms of the Treaty which the Dutch have not. The question was so ably argued by the present Premier when Secy to {of} State for Foreign Affairs that it is not necessary again to discuss it.

The last news I have from Saigon refers to the intention of the French Govt. to construct an Electric Telegraph line from Saigon to Bangkok. The French Consul shewed me a letter from the Admiral mentioning the above scheme, which he stated was merely to form a link in the grand chain to connect Europe with China, as it would doubtless on one side be brought into consideration {connection?} with the Indian telegraphs and on the other be prolonged to Hongkong and Canton. The idea is doubtless a good one and better than that of effecting the communication by means of a marine cable, but until our line thro' the Malayan Peninsula is commenced the only result from the construction of the Line from Cochin China to Siam would be the increase of French influence in the latter country, which is most probably the object in view, it being I understand no uncommon remark for French Officers to make that eventually we must meet at Bangkok.

I have received no very recent news from Pahang. By the last account Inchi Wan Ahmed and his People, who have crossed the frontier near the source of one of the Rivers, were suffering from want of food and the Bandaharah's force had advanced to attack them. In the meanwhile however the tin mines in the interior are deserted and out trade suffers in consequence.

Sd O.C.

(True Copy) M Protheroe

Col Durand C.B.

Foreign Secy

Singapore 29<sup>th</sup>/9/62

My dear Playfair

I was glad to hear by your letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> Instant that you were getting on with the issue of titles under the Land Act. The work must of course be got through gradually. All that was really necessary was a commencement which you seem to have made.

As regards Land in the Town held under regular title deeds from the Dutch, I should imagine that there was no necessity for proprietors to apply for any fresh grant from us, as these titles would be respected. However on this point, without seeing a copy of one of the Deeds, it is out of my power to express a very decided opinion. If you will furnish me with a copy, should I entertain any doubt as to the Nature of the right enjoyed, I would refer the question to the Advocate General.

As regards the terms "holding land by prescription" it is quite clear that it applies solely to those persons or their legal representatives who held land under the Dutch previous to the cession of the Settlement and have contrived to hold them without receiving any grant from the Dutch or from our Government or having any title further than that of possession. All other parties who have obtained land subsequent to the cession have done so by virtue of cutting papers granted from the land office, and they can of course be assessed under Act xvi of 1839 should they not wish to purchase. All other holders of land who have taken possession without authority as squatters, they can be if necessary ejected, but it would be better to give them the option of being assessed or of becoming purchasers, provided of course that they have not squatted on ground for which, previous to their occupation, a promise had been given, as in the case of Kim Singh and Yeam Chuan, to other intending purchasers. When the squatter held the land in 1839, as long as he is willing to pay the assessment, he cannot be touched or interfered with in any way, as Secs ii and iii of Act xvi of 1839 would alone be applicable to his case.

As well as I remember the promise to Kim Singh and Yeam Chuan was not until about 1857 or 1858, so that it would be only persons that settled on their grants after that date against whom notice of ejection could possibly be served. All others would merely receive Notice of Assessment and it would be solely in the event of their refusal to pay Assessments, that measures could be taken towards their ejection. Indeed under any circumstances all appearance of harshness should, as far as possible, be avoided.

I hope you will succeed in collecting money for your piers {pier?}; it is certainly much wanted. I suppose poor Yeam Chuan's heir is not likely to prove as liberal as his father and fulfil the promise he made.

I do not think you could well insert a clause in the Deed relative to assessment, that question being settled by the Act of the Legislative Council, but you might in issuing every deed at the same time give the person receiving it a copy of the translation of the Act for his information and guidance. You might order a few more copies to be struck off for this purpose.

I hear that Kim Singh intends settling a number of cultivators on his land and I have little doubt that he will make great improvements in his estate in the course of the next 2 or 3 years. I am trying to induce some of the Planters from Bengal to come down and look at the Malacca District. Two or three first class Planters would make a great change in the interior.

Sd O.C.

Your brother has obtained an appointment from the C in C.

Note to Sir R B McCausland forwarding for his opinion thereon a petition from several Chittiers in behalf of one Narrani Chitty sentenced to 3 years transportation for perjury.

30<sup>th</sup> Sepr 1862

Précis of a note to Mr R Bain Pinang/5<sup>th</sup> Octr 1862

Informs him that Col Macpherson will write to him about his grant and considers that he is quite right, as a general rule, in insisting upon the insertion of the clause relative to works being commenced. Thinks that the Directors of the Messageries Imperiales will not make any large outlay in land until satisfied that the line of steamers will prove remunerative. Mentions that the appeal to the Postmaster General has proved unremunerative. With regard to the School question thinks that the original sanction to the Grant of land particularly specified that it was to be under the usual conditions. Considers that the only reason why Mr Blundell brought the matter into Court was to clear up the doubt existing as to the right of the nominal Trustees to dispose of the property of the Institution.

(sd) O.C.

Précis of a letter to Major Man R C Pinang d/ 6<sup>th</sup> October

Acknowledges receipt of last three notes. Requests him if possible to procure copies of the letters written by the Dutch to the Independent Rajahs on the Sumatra coast and informs him that the Stamps Act is being translated and several copies will be sent to him for distribution.

Sd O.C.

M.P.

Précis of a letter to Captain Playfair R C Malacca d/7/10/62

Regrets to hear of the Murder of another Chinese Hawker and intimates that he would sanction the offer of a reward for the murderer. States that he has told Kim Sing that the clause regarding Royalty will be entered in all Malacca Land Grants. In other respects the deed he will receive will be similar to those granted for land under cultivation in Singapore. Mentions that it was never interceded {intended?} the Royalty should be given up, and when the proposed rules regarding Malacca Lands were read to kim Sing he merely claimed the right of buying the land at 5 instead of 3 per acre. States that he is endeavouring to induce some Bengal Planters to come down and look at Malacca. Points out that in calculating the value of land, he is not to include the value of any house and with regard to land the owners of which have already fee simple titles no further grant will be needed. Intimates that Mayne never intended that his cut should lead to any injury of property and Mr Evans will have to send in information on this point. Supposes that in laying out the road between Aloor Gajah and Durian Tungal he followed the old path which formerly existed. Enquires whether he has any candidates down for the appointment of Light House Keeper, as a mr Powell down here is a candidate. Informs him that the title deeds have been put in hand and that he will soon be supplied with them, also that copies of the Stamp Act in Malay and Tamil will shortly be sent to him for distribution.

Sd O.C.

M.P.

Singapore 7<sup>th</sup> October/62

My dear Mitchell

Press of business has prevented my acknowledging the receipt of your note of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Instant earlier. I am sorry that you should have been disappointed as regards your hopes of succeeding Captain Smart at Pinang. At the same time it is out of my power to make any changes in the orders issued on the subject. The facts of the case are simply these. In 1859 on a temporary vacancy occurring at Malacca, the appointment was offered to Mr Plunkett who had been educated to enter the bat. He asked for 24 hours to reflect and at the expiration of that period stated that he did not consider he possessed sufficient knowledge of the Native character and language to discharge the duties properly, and for that reason, although the step would have been very advantageous, he thought it his duty to decline it, at the same time expressing a hope that when he was really qualified he might be considered a candidate for promotion.

On Burns going home Major Man was written authorizing him to offer the Ag Assistantship to Mr Plunkett if he deemed him fit to hold it. He made the offer which was accepted but Major Man begged that if possible he might not be deprived of his services as he much needed them, and Mr Plunkett was then informed that as he was detained at Pinang for the benefit of the Public Interests, his claim to any future promotion should not be overlooked. In taking into consideration therefore the claims of candidates for the appointment now vacant, Mr Plunkett could only be looked upon as the first in the list, and Major Man's report still proving favourable, it was offered to him. How far it may prove permanent I cannot at present say, as it

must depend entirely upon the working of the Stamp Act. As in the event of Mr Williams reverting to his old position, Mr Vaughan would be removed to Pinang, when {where?} for the present Mr Plunkett will merely officiate.

I should regret much had I {in} any way led you to believe that you would succeed to the first vacancy, but on this point I certainly cannot reproach myself. I have never looked upon service as a P W Officer under the present constitution of the Department as giving any particular claim to Civil Employ. In former days the Superintendent of Convicts were really and not nominally Assistant Residents and performed civil duties. Major Man was Comr of the Court of Requests at Singapore, but such is not now the case and an ex Engineer must seek advancement in his own Dept. which in reality gives him a much wider field than formerly enjoyed, as it is not merely restricted to the Straits.

Trusting that the foregoing observations may convince you that there has been no intentional supercession in filling up the vacant appointment etc.

Sd O. C.

True Copy

M Protheroe

Captain Mitchell

Ag Asst: to the R C Malacca

Précis of a letter to Captain Playfair R C Malacca d/8/10/62

Trusts that the forms of the Deeds will be despatched to his office almost immediately. As regards the sale of land within 4 miles from the limits of the town mentions that it is not the wish of Govt. to impose any heavy burthen on the cultivators and in cases where they may wish to purchase, 20 years' purchase of the present annual payment would be a fair charge, and it would only be when holders wished to be assessed that it would be necessary to ascertain the proper rate of assessment to be levied. Considers that he had better refer this question officially. Presumes that he thoroughly understands that if a holder of ground, even though unwilling to purchase, pay his assessment or one tenth part of the produce as the case may be, he has no right to interfere with him. Considers that the permit should only be given in cases where there may be great delay in issuing the title deeds or when the land may be waste and have to be properly surveyed. In Dr Hanson's case, will be happy to confirm him, but mentions the possibility of the appointment of Dy Comr of Police at Malacca being done away with.

Sd O.C.

M.P.

Précis of a letter to Capt Playfair Ag R C Malacca 9/10/62



Proposes a scheme for the introduction of sheep into Malacca and requests his opinion thereon

My dear Sir Richard

Pray accept my best thanks for your kind note and for the copy of the notes of evidence that accompanied it. After a careful perusal of the latter I cannot but come to the same conclusion as yourself. When compared with the evidence the fallacies of Mr Cereira's (Pereira?) agreements {arguments?} are most apparent. His extracts are of course carefully selected so as to stop short of the points in the Dhobee's favor in fact representing the truth but not the whole truth.

I presume that in recording Mr Baxter's evidence there was a clerical error in substituting Soopramanien for Sutchurana, as the latter would seem to have been the perso who first made the complaint to the police, the former not having been present when the scuffle took place.

Sd O.C.

10<sup>th</sup> Octr True Copy M Protheroe

Sir Richard McCausland

To the Senior Naval Officer Straits of Malacca

10/10/62

Sir

I have the honor to request the favor of your granting me a passage for myself and family on the next occasion of H.M.S. "Scout" proceeding to the Settlement of Sarawak

(sd) O.C.

True Copy

M.P.

My dear Mr Callaghan

I have the pleasure to enclose a letter to the address of the Sultan of Sooloo which I should feel much obliged by your forwarding in the event of your having an opportunity of doing so. It is in reply to a communication received from him a long time ago, the receipt of which I have never as yet been able to acknowledge. There being at present so much trading between Singapore and the Sooloo group, I have thought of sending it to you as a *dernier* resort under the impression that Sooloo craft, either piratical or otherwise, may occasionally venture into your harbour, and if peaceably disposed, might be willing to take charge of a missive to their Chief. We are in hopes of taking a trip in your direction. Captain Corbett offered us a passage in the "Scout" to Sarawak, but as he wishes to be back here by the 24<sup>th</sup> Inst he is not likely to proceed as far as Labuan

unless the Bishop was anxious to make a visitation tour which is not probable as his Chaplain Mr Marett is still here. etc. etc.

(sd) O.C.

True Copy M Protheroe

10/10/62 H.E. The Govr of Labuan

My dear Sir

Many thanks for your kind letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> Inst and for your endeavours to prevail upon the Court at Bangkok to withdraw the Ex.Sultan of Lingga from Tringanu, endeavours which {I} have little doubt will prove successful, as I have seen a translation of a letter addressed to the Sultan of Tringanu differing somewhat in its tenor from the conversation you held on the subject, and acknowledging that I was right in sending the Sultan a warning.

The insertion of the name of Inchi Wan Ahmed in the Despatch from the Secy to Foreign De[t. was perhaps a mistake, as in no part of my correspondence had I stated that he had been sent down from Siam. However the inference that he was so {is?} perfectly warrantable from the facts of the case, as I had evidence to prove that the Steamer put into Calantan and from that place Inchi Wan Ahmed accompanied the Ex.Sultan to Tringanu. I have drawn up a reply to the observations made to you which you will I think consider perfectly satisfactory and entirely disposing of their objections to the purport of my representations to the Gov Genl.

I can hardly suppose that Mr. Knox has perused your instructions from the Foreign Office if he presumes to question the right of the Gov. Genl. To interfere with regard to the State of affairs in Tringanu and Kalantan. The treaty containing the Article relative to these states was concluded with the Government of India. All correspondence with them has always been conducted by that Govt, and from the copy of the correspondence forwarded to the Governor of the Straits on your appointment being made it appears that you are to attend to any instructions received from the G.G., instructions which could of course only relate to matters connected with India.

Whilst it cannot be denied that the preservation of the peace of the Peninsula is a question of Indian importance Mr Know in my opinion has no knowledge whatever as to the actual position of Tringanu and Kalantan with respect to the court of Bangkok, and a study of the treaty of 1826 would be beneficial. At the same time, if your supposition is really correct and he has entered into communication with the Prime Minister for the purpose of thwarting your endeavours to persuade the Siamese Govt. to {??} it is clear that he is unfit for H.M.Service, and the sooner he is removed from his present office the better. etc. etc.

Sd O.C.

True Copy

M Protheroe

Sir R Schomburgk

Consul for Siam

My dear Col Durand

With reference to my official on the subject of the recent disturbances in Pahang I have the pleasure to enclose the copy of a translation of a letter from the foreign Minister at Siam to the Sultan of Tringanu which has reached me from a Private source. The contents lead me to believe that the Court at Bangkok has become aware of the responsibility it has incurred and is now really anxious that the Ex.Sultan should be removed from Tringanu . On his return to Siam I have little doubt that Ichi Wan Ahmed finding himself unsupported will also retire and that quiet will be restored.

One of our Firms here has been rather a heavy sufferer owing to the unsettled state of affairs, having advanced a considerable sum to a contractor to work the tin mines in the interior and all operations having been suspended consequent on the unwillingness of the miners to run the risk of being attacked by Wan Ahmed and his party. Many of the Chinese Residents have also been losers from the same cause. Had the country remained undisturbed our trade with it would in all probability have considerably increased by this time.

I hope this is the last occasion on which we shall have to interfere. I entertain little doubt that fear of us has alone prevented the Sultan of Tringanu and Ex.Sultan of Linga from acting openly agt. Pahang and that in doing so they would have received encouragement from Bangkok.

As perhaps you may be glad of information relative to the position at present held by the Dutch on the east Sumatra coast I send an extract from a note containing an account of their Establishment at Bancalis, an Island opposite to Siak, where hitherto their force has been located. It would appear that they are now contemplating a move to the Mainland. Although they disclaim any intention of interfering with our trade it is evident that those of our merchants who have dealings with the Natives on that coast mistrust them.

Sd O.C.

True Copy M Protheroe

Col Durand 11/10/62

Secy to Govt Mly Dept

Singapore 14<sup>th</sup> Octr

My dear Mr Drummond

As it is possible that the question of determining the relative value of the dollar and Rupee with reference to the introduction of the Stamp Act into the Straits may be referred to your

Department, I write these few lines to point out the expediency if practicable of fixing a rate of exchange at wh: portional parts of one coin may correspond with portional {proportional?} parts of the other, that is a certain number of cents may be equal to one anna.

The intrinsic value of dollars, according to the test of the mint, is \$100=224.8.6; the rate of exchange varies. During the rice season it may be calculated at from 218 to 224 Rs. Per \$100, and for the remainder of the year from 224 Rs. to 232 Rs. per 100 dollars. Now there are three rates at which the exact value of an anna can be given in cents, viz

250 Rs. per \$100 or  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cents per anna

227.4.4 per \$100 or  $2\frac{3}{4}$  cents "

208Rs. for \$100 or 3 " "

The first is evidently very high and would entail a great loss upon the State. The third is obviously too low and would entail equal loss upon the community, but the 2<sup>nd</sup> although somewhat higher than the actual value of the dollar would not be very much in excess, and it would be worthwhile for the govt. to sacrifice a little in order to facilitate the transaction of business and prevent the Mercantile world from feeling the new tax to be not only a pecuniary burthen but also the source of constant and daily annoyance from the difficulty of calculating the exact value of the Stamps they may be required to use.

Altogether this double currency gives great trouble in the Straits and I should be very glad if we could be allowed to use only the \$ coinage in our accounts, merely giving the grand totals in rupees (in red ink) at the foot of all financial papers. It would save much present waste of time and labor. I have often advocated the introduction of an English \$, to be coined at the Calcutta Mint. From all I hear I believe the coin would be gladly received throughout the Archipelago and China, whilst a considerable profit would be realized by the State from the Royalty on the Silver forwarded to the Mint.

I wrote to poor Baird Smith on the subject of giving him all the necessary data to enable him to calculate the probable profit, but his departure, poor fellow, for the Upper Provinces prevented his taking up the subject.

Sd. O.C.

True Copy

M.P.

The Hon'ble C Drummond

Sec. to Govt.

Fin Dep

Singapore

30<sup>th</sup> October 1862

My dear Sir

Your kind letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> Instant was received on my return two days ago from Sarawak. I was sorry to hear that up to the date of writing apparently no active measures had been adopted by the Siamese Govt for withdrawing the Ex.Sultan of Linga from Tringanu. That he has been the cause of the disturbances in Pahang there can be now no doubt, as he has himself written to me claiming authority over the country and the consequent right of interfering with the management of affairs therein. I have also depositions with respect to the blockade that has been established over the Kuantan River by boats from Kamaman.

The course that I am called upon to pursue, in accordance with the instructions from the Govr.Genl. is very clear. As the Siamese Govt. have failed to remove the author of these troubles, it is my duty to protect British interests by depriving the Sultan of Tringanu of the power in future of disturbing the Peace of the Peninsula, and unless the next despatch from your office satisfies me that arrangements have been made for the immediate return of the Ex.Sultan to Bangkok, I shall consult with the Senior Naval Officer as to the steps to be taken for inflicting so severe a blow upon Tringanu as will paralyse the movements of the Sultan and his Guest and completely defeat their plans. The "Scout" and "Coquette" are both here at present, and the "Pluto" and "Rifleman" may shortly be expected, so that there would be a large force available for any operations that might be necessary.

My own belief is that the Court of Siam is attempting to deceive us. Have you been furnished with a copy of the letter addressed to the Sultan of Tringanu on the 25<sup>th</sup> Ultimo after the receipt of your remonstrance? If not it might be advisable for your to allude to it. I have secured a translation so that its existence cannot be denied. The Court of Bangkok has certainly not, as far as that missive is concerned, fulfilled the promise made to you. The Sultan of Tringanu is merely warned to be on his Guard to prevent my obtaining a cause for complaint and informed that as respects the Ex.Sultan he is to do what he considers best.

I fancy the existence of a French Settlement in Cochin China has drawn attention to the necessity of our exercising a watchful supervision over the Native States in the Malay Peninsula, and consequently that your despatches will excite a little more interest at the F.O., more especially as I imagine that the present Govr Genl, who is well acquainted with the Straits occasionally submits his views upon the subject for the consideration of the ministry. Poor Lord Canning was so fully occupied with Indian affairs that he had not time to give attention to our Politics in this Quarter. Moreover he was most anxious that the Straits should be removed from his control and placed under the Colonial Office.

Sd O.C.

(True Copy) M Protheroe

Sir R Schomburgk

Consul Bangkok

My dear Sir Richard

I find upon enquiry that the man Tallib's regarding whose case I spoke to you last night was tried at Singapore on the 4<sup>th</sup> Janry 1861 and not at Malacca as originally reported. The petit jury brought in a special verdict of Insane and he was directed to be remanded to H.M.'s Jail until the pleasure of Govt could be known. Subsequently under the usual order he was transferred to the Lunatic Asylum. Drs Rose and Cowpar now certify as to his sanity and fitness to be released and some of his relatives have entered into cognisances to prevent his committing any breach of the Peace in the event of his being allowed to leave the Asylum. Under the circumstances therefore, no actual sentence of imprisonment having been passed, it appears to me that acting on Sec v of Act iv of 1849 I should be justified in issuing an order for his being restored to his friends instead of being remanded to H.M.s Jail, the latter course apparently being only legal in cases in which a term of imprisonment may have been awarded and the insanity of the Prisoner ascertained whilst he was actually undergoing his sentence, and consequently not being applicable in this instance. I should be very much obliged by your kindly favoring me with your opinion on this subject.

Sd O.C.

True Copy M.P.

Sir R B McCausland Recd

Précis of a letter to J Brooke Brooke Esqre Rajah Mudah of Sarawak d/1/11/62

Forwards forms of agreement used in land office at Singapore. Mentions that in his agreements a clause regarding mineral produce will be necessary reserving it to Government as otherwise he might be involved in difficulty either with the Borneo Company as proprietors. Also encloses brochure on cotton; will be happy to be of any use to him should he at any time require advice.

Sd O.C.

M.P.

My dear Sir

In case the appearance of our Man of War off Tringanu should have had the desired effect of inducing the Ex.Sultan of Linga to return to Bangkok on board the "Coquette" I write these few lines to mention that by the next opportunity I will forward you a full report as to the causes that have induced me to take active measures without waiting a reply to my last despatch. The principal {cause?} has of course been the approaching changes of the Monsoon and the consequent necessity for allowing the Sultan of Tringanu to become acquainted with our

intentions before all means of communication with him might be cut off. I have received another Despatch from Calcutta to the same purport as the last, so that it is clear that our proceedings in this Quarter meet with the G.G. approval. Pray excuse this brief note.

Sd O.C.

True Copy

M.P.

Précis of a note to Lt Col. Macpherson R C 5/11/62

Mentions having sent above letter to Sir R Schomburgk for the "Coquette" to take on in case she goes to Bangkok. Directs him to take care that the "Tonze" has her full complement of coal so that she may steam back if necessary. Hopes Patterson has given him a man to identify the boats. If any doubt should be felt about these they might be taken into the Senior Naval Officer's charge until enquiries could be made regarding them at Quantan River.

Sd O.C.

M.P.

My dear Sir Richard

I have the pleasure to return with many thanks the depositions in Tallib's case you kindly sent me. After some consideration I have authorized his being made over to the charge of his wife and the two securities {sureties?} desiring Dr Rose when they make their appearance at the Asylum to receive him to impress upon them the necessity of keeping a strict watch upon him and immediately reporting any unfavourable symptoms they may notice. etc. etc.

Sd O.C.

True Copy M.P.

6/11/62

My dear Sir Richard

Referring to the Calendar received from the Registrar's Office it appears to me that the course you mention in your note of yesterday has been pursued. The prisoner Talib had a true Bill found against him by the Grand Jury whilst a special verdict of insanity was recorded by the petit Jury, so that apparently he could not again be brought to trial for the same offence. Had not this been the case he would have been recommitted to the Sheriff's custody.

Sd O.C.

7/11/62 True Copy

M Protheroe

My dear Sir Richard

I have the pleasure to return the copy of your notes with many thanks. I overlooked the Statute referred to at the foot and had imagined the Jury had found a special verdict under Sec ii of the Indian Act iv of 1849 for the safe custody of Criminal Lunatics. However I am glad to find you think I am justified in allowing his friends to have charge of Talib. They will of course be warned to exercise strict supervision over him.

Sd O.C.

10/11/62 True Copy M.P.

Sir R McCausland

Singapore 10<sup>th</sup> Novr

My dear Sir

As in the event of orders being forwarded by the next Mail for the introduction of the Stamp tax into the Straits it is a matter of considerable importance that the decision of Government should be obtained on the question of the "rate of exchange" and Stamps on bank notes recently submitted for consideration, I should feel much obliged if you would kindly communicate the instructions of the Govr General in Council on these points by means of a telegram to Galle to be transmitted to Singapore by the O:land Steamer. By this means a delay of some 10 or 12 days may be saved. It is useless writing by this route, as in all probability your letter would be detained 15 days at Galle and would not reach me until after the arrival of the direct China Steamer.

There is another subject to which I would beg your kind attention, viz the transfer of our European Convicts to the Andaman Islands. Although the Supreme Govt has approved of the arrangement and the rolls of the 2 men were submitted some time back, I have not yet received the final order for their removal and I cannot act with {without?} it. It is a pity to keep them in confinement here when they might be useful and comparatively speaking contented at Port Blair.

Sd O.C.

True Copy M.P.

To Secy to Govt H D



Calcutta

Précis of a letter to Lt. Col. Strachey Secy to Govt P.W.D. d/11<sup>th</sup> Novr 1862

Thanks him for his letter of the 26<sup>th</sup>. States that Captain Mayne will sign himself as Secy to Govt in the P.W.D. Regarding his query respecting vessels proceeding to Port Blair. encloses a note from the Master Attendant at Singapore on the subject. States that some of his orders have been rather puzzling of late as the Financial Dept. has to be satisfied before items of expenditure can be transferred from one heading to another.

Sd O.C.

Précis of a letter to W.S. Atkinson Esqre M.A. Director of Public Instruction

D/11<sup>th</sup> Novr 1862

Requests him to transmit a copy of rules regarding Scholarships prescribing the Standard to be obtained for Junior Scholarships and the course to be pursued with regard to the selection of candidates to whom they are to be awarded. Enquires whether he knows of any one qualified to take charge of a large school and requiring a situation as there is a vacancy at Malacca. Salary Rs. 250 per mensem.

Sd O.C.

M.P.

Précis of a letter to Captain Playfair R C Malacca d/11/11/62

Encloses a note addressed to Capt. Reddie (précis infra) and desires him to forward with it a draft for Rs.250 after perusal if he knows of no one better able to purchase sheep in Calcutta. Enquires what is being done about the sale of or assessment of land held under cutting papers. With regard to Kim Sing considers that if his title deeds are ready he should be addressed officially regarding his land and directs him to issue a circular to all occupiers of land under cutting papers warning them that they will be assessed under Act xvi of 1839 unless they purchase. Desires him to give the "Mohr" to Sd John Hay should he require her.

Sd O.C.

Précis of a letter to Capt. Reddie Supt of Marine Calcutta d/11<sup>th</sup> Novr 1862

Desires him to request the officer Comg the "Pluto" to purchase and bring down from Calcutta to Malacca as many grass fed sheep as he can for Rs. 250 in the proportion of one Ram to two Ewes and states that the R.C. Malacca will enclose the necessary purchase money. Mentions that one of the Engineers from Bombay will have to be discharged for drunkenness and states that there are vacancies in the Straits for one or two more.

M.P. (sd) O.C.

Précis of a letter to Mr Callaghan Governor of Labuan d/22<sup>nd</sup> November 1862

Forwards a letter from Admiral Hope to his address.

Précis of a note to Major Man d/24<sup>th</sup>/11/62

Mentions that he has answered the Sultan of Acheen's letter.

M.P.

(insert)

Précis of a letter to Major Man R C Pinang d/21<sup>st</sup> Novr 1862

Acknowledges receipt of his note of 11<sup>th</sup>. Will make the necessary alterations in his Budget. Remarks that the letter from Acheen is wrongly sealed and will be returned. Hopes Major Mayne has made himself acquainted with the wants of his residency. Enquires whether Dr Monut has written to him regarding the Andamanese.

M.P.

(end of insert)

My Lord

In accordance with instructions conveyed in your Lordship's letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> August I have now the honor to transmit a Report on the Settlement of Sarawak drawn up in the form of an Administration Report of an Indian Province. I have adopted this form as one admitting of a suitable division of all subjects of interest and consequently easy of reference, whilst it is perhaps better adapted for conveying detailed information without at the same time being discursive or verbose, than a Report of a more pretending and elaborate character.

I have found myself unable to express any opinion as to the relative cost of the two first of the alternatives mentioned in your Lordship's communication because on this point so much must depend upon the Constitution of the Government that would be granted to Sarawak in the event of its being taken possession of as a colony and the matters of the countenance and support which it would otherwise receive if merely taken under our protection. In either case I presume that a gunboat would be stationed on the Borneo Coast for the protection of trade.

From the perusal of that Section of the Report having reference to the financial state of the Settlement your Lordship will probably consider that {the sums} specified in Mr. St. John's memo as required to meet the demands on account of the public Debt and the claims of Sir James Brooke are somewhat over rated. What the actual amount of the former may be I have been unable to ascertain, but I believe there is only one creditor, a personal friend of Sir James

Brooke, and that the sum was advanced solely for the purchase of the "Rainbow", a formal acknowledgement being taken in order to avoid its being considered as a gift. The exact amount must be stated in this deed and this sum, which cannot be large, should certainly be repaid.

As regards the Rajah's own claims I am induced to believe that they would be covered by the assignment, either for some fixed period or for the lives of himself and his nephew, of the Annual sum of £1,500 paid by the Borneo Company for the privilege of working the Antimony mines. I have little doubt that the Sultan of Bruni would accept £10,000 and even perhaps less in satisfaction of all his rights, and this with the guarantee of the British Government might easily be raised at 5 per cent, thus materially reducing the amount of the Annual Disbursement.

The yearly accounts of the Sarawak Government might then be roughly estimated as follows:-

Receipts Disbursements

Local Sir James Brooke

£17,000 £1,500

Borneo Company Interest on Debt

£2,000 £500

Balance to meet local charges

\_\_\_\_\_ £17,000

£19,000 £19,000

The above balance would certainly suffice to carry on the Government on its present scale, whilst there would be fair reason to suppose that, as soon as Sarawak became a British Colony, there would be an influx of Chinese and a corresponding rise in the revenue.

If Sarawak however is to be formed into a separate Government to meet the requirement of the Home Authorities, a considerable increase of Establishment would be needed, but in the event of the Straits being transferred to the Colonial Office, there can be no doubt that both as a measure of economy, and with the view of ensuring

(ensuring?) unity of action in the Archipelago, it would be desirable to make Labuan and Sarawak Lt. Governorships, subordinate to Singapore. This arrangement would not only obviate the necessity of increasing at Sarawak, but lead to a reduction at Labuan, as the Lieut Governor there would I presume equally with those at Malacca and Pinang conduct Ex Officio the duties of the Treasury and Land Office. They cannot be very heavy and would merely require the services of a Medical Officer, and an Assistant to act as Police Magistrate and Commissioner of the Court of Requests, all important cases being either referred to the Lt Governor as Judge of the Court, or

committed to the Sessions which might be held once a year by the Recorder of Singapore, the Recorder at Pinang taking those at Malacca.

Sarawak is not yet ripe for the introduction of English Law and it would be necessary for some time to come to retain it as what might be styled a non Regulation Province, defining however the powers of the Assistants, which would be exercised in accordance with some fixed though simple code, and subjecting all civil cases involving sums beyond a certain amount and all criminal cases when the punishment might exceed a certain term of imprisonment to revision, not as respects the mere legality but as regards the Equity of the decision with reference to the Evidence adduced, of the Singapore Court, of which the governor and Resident Councillor are members. This would possibly act as a sufficient check upon Magistrates, without at the same time introducing into the colony an {?} Element which it is certainly not yet ripe to receive.

I trust that your Lordship will find that the necessary information on every other point to which my attention was called has been duly embodied in the Report. I had wished to have personally inspected the mines, and had made all the arrangements for a trip into the interior for this purpose, but in consequence of the sudden heavy rain the river became so swollen that both Capt. Brooke and the Agent of the Borneo {Company} considered that it would be impracticable for me to reach the mining district, whilst the attempt would be attended with considerable risk, and I was therefore obliged to abandon the idea, as I could not delay my return to Singapore until the River subsided.

My expenses of the trip were but trifling and I would therefore merely request your Lordship to kindly move the F.O. to authorize the payment through the Admiralty of the prescribed Table Allowance to Captain Corbett Commanding the H.M.S. "Scout" for {the time?} occupied by our passage.

In conclusion I deem it right to record my acknowledgement of the kindness and courtesy experienced from Captain Brooke. As far as the records of his Office admit every paper I required was most readily placed at my service, and he was always prepared to afford me any assistance in his power in conducting any enquiries. Although at first there were naturally some surmises in the Public Journals as to the cause of my proceeding to Sarawak, I believe it is now generally supposed that I had no special object in making the trip, further than that of visiting a settlement in which I must naturally take some little interest.

Sd. O.C.

True Copy

M Protheroe

H.E. the Rt H. Ld Elgin Govr General

My dear Commodore

I have the pleasure to enclose two letters for Tringanu which you have kindly allowed the "Coquette" to convey to their destination. It is reported though I do not know how with much truth that matters are already assuming a more satisfactory aspect in Pahang and that Inchi Wan Ahmed is falling back. etc.etc.

Sd O C

True Copy

M Protheroe

Commodore the Rt Hon'ble Lord Hay

Comg E.I. Station

Précis of a letter to Captain Playfair R C Malacca d/1<sup>st</sup> Decr 1862

Acknowledges receipt of his two letters d'13<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Ultimo. Is glad to find he has remitted the money for the sheep. Approves of his scheme for the disposal of the land at Malacca with some slight modifications. States that Kim Sing has not yet sent in his appeal against the royalty. Mentions that there is no chance of Govt's yielding to the request of the Petitioners whose representations he has lately submitted. Desires him to send in an official on the subject of the Canal. Intimates that Capt Mayne will shortly go to Malacca about the new Bks for the Eur Artillery. Has no objection to the reading of the Koran in the new school for an hour a day and considers that he should avail himself of the services of the old schoolmasters. Mentions that the "Tonze" is to go to Pinang with the order for the Stamp Act for Major Man.

M P.

Singapore 1<sup>st</sup> Decr 1862

My dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to enclose a letter to your address from Admiral Hope reporting his having delivered over the command of the China and Sudin

{Eastern?} Squadron. He passed through this {place?} a few days ago en route for Calcutta. He mentioned that he hoped that we should have ere long a couple of gunboats stationed at Singapore, in which case with the Corvette and Surveying vessel, as well as the local Government steamers we should always have a strong naval force in the Straits.

By the last Calcutta Mail I received a letter to the effect that as far as my

proceedings go with regard to Siam had been reported, they had been fully approved and the matter reported to the Home Government.

I have received a communication from the Sultan of Tringanu promising in future always to attend to our wishes. I have written to inform him that we are not unwilling to extend our friendship again to him but he must distinctly understand that we will have peace and tranquillity throughout the Peninsula, and anyone who attempts to disturb it must be prepared to suffer the consequences. I have received the copy of another letter addressed to the Sultan of Tringanu showing that the Court at Bangkok have no real intention of fulfilling the promise made to you of withdrawing the Ex.Sultan of Lingga. There can be no doubt that the document is an authentic one, for it is accompanied by a copy of one of my letters, and of one for yourself, and the former has a remark in the King's own handwriting in the Margin to the effect that Wan Ahmed did not come in the Steamer to Tringanu, but joined the Ex.Sultan at that place by land. I fancy this was never intended to meet my eyes. An offer was made by the King to buy up the *Singapore Times* to advocate his cause. Negotiations were entered into through a Mr. Vanderville, a Dutchman I fancy, well known to the Rhio Authorities, but the offer was not accepted.

I think the visit of the Commodore to Bangkok will have a very good effect. It might perhaps be as well to give the King a hint that it would not be advisable to keep him waiting when he has his audience, as he would not I am sure submit to any want of courtesy on this point, nor indeed is it right in his position that he should do so, and it would be awkward were he to leave the Palace without waiting to have an interview.

(sd) Orfeur Cavenagh

True Copy

M Protheroe

To Sir R Schomburgk

H B M Consul Bangkok

6<sup>th</sup> December 1862

My dear Sir Richard

I have gone carefully over all the papers and it appears to me that neither the Judicial nor the Executive Authorities at Singapore are bound to take any action in the matter of a person charged with the commission of an offence in Siam. That action must be taken in the first instance by the Consul who, in accordance with sec xxii of the Order in Council is bound to make over the Prisoner with the necessary warrant to the Commander of one of Her Majesty's Ships of War or other British Vessel.

I have yet to read over Act 98 6 & 7 of Vic: which however I have sent for, but I presume that Sec 4 equally with 13 Geo 3<sup>rd</sup> Ch63 admits of evidence duly recorded and authoritaded by the Consul being used before the Court, and deemed as good evidence as if the witness had been present. If so, all that would be necessary would be for the Consul to submit the evidence taken before him in ap roper form, and the Court here could take cognisance of it. Some of the

questions put to the witnesses were somewhat irregular but are not I fancy illegal. There is one point however I cannot quite discover viz — even the latter depositions taken from witnesses for the Defence or Prosecution.

Of course all expenses connected with the trial must be defrayed from the Treasury, and a Bill submitted to the Imperial Government. If you approve I will write to Sir R Schomburgk mentioning that his letter has been transferred to me and pointing out the apparent course to be pursued.

Sd O.C.

True Copy

M.P.

Sir R B McCausland

Recorder

Spore 6<sup>th</sup> Decr

My dear Sir Richard

I find that Sec 4 of Act 94 6&7 Vic: only applies to witnesses for the defence but sec xxiii of the Order in Council confers upon the Consul the power of making regulations for defraying the costs of criminal prosecution, so that apparently it would rest with Sir Robert Schomburgk to make arrangements for sending down the witnesses. All that this Government could do wd be to make such advances to them as Sir R may instruct.

Sd O C

There seems to be no authority for compelling the presence of witnesses before the Court at Singapore.

Sd O C

To Sir R B McCausland Recorder

True Copy

M P

Précis of a letter to Mr Callaghan Governor of Labuan

Forwards a despatch of 25<sup>th</sup> Octr received from the Foreign Office. States that the Commodore will not visit the Borneo Coast and considers that probably a gunboat will be sent for the protection of the Coast of Borneo.

M P

Singapore d/7<sup>th</sup> Decr 1862

My dear Sir

I find that I have two letters of yours viz those of the 8<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Ult remaining unanswered.

I am sorry that my proceedings at Tringanu should have in any way disconcerted your plans, but I am perfectly satisfied that the course pursued was the correct one, and that the Siamese Government had no intention whatever of fulfilling the promise made to you of withdrawing the Ex.Sultan of Lingga from the Peninsula. Indeed it is quite possible that the Steamer would not have left Bangkok even by the 17<sup>th</sup>, had the Court not received the intelligence of the arrival of our Man of War off the coast, a special messenger being sent from Tringanu with this information on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

As regards any irregularity with respect to dealing with Tringanu and Calantan direct instead of through your office, the records of my office distinctly shew that for the last 30 years all communications with the Chiefs of those states have been direct and that we never recognised the right of Siam to interfere. In 1858 Mr. Blundell went up the coast and warned the Sultan of Tringanu that if he persisted in interfering with the affairs of Pahang he would be punished. I did the same last year. In Colonel Butterworth's time also he was threatened with punishment for having caused the execution of some British subjects, but it was subsequently considered that he might have really been under the impression that they were, as he alleged, Pirates, and the punishment was consequently not inflicted. In fact you will not find a single reference to either of the two States above mentioned in your office, whilst it can be distinctly proved from my records that, as stated in my official letter, from the signing of Captain Burney's treaty up to the present day there has been constant correspondence between this Government and Tringanu and Calantan, whilst on the contrary all correspondence with the rulers of countries subject to Siam have been duly conducted through the authorities at Bangkok.

I am well aware that for some time past the Kings of Siam have been endeavouring to usurp authority over the other two States, and it is quite possible that Mr. Knox, having been in the Service, may have somewhat fostered the idea, but on such points opinions are of no avail and facts alone can be weighed. The matter may be easily determined by putting one question to the Prime Minister — has the British Govt ever in any way acknowledged the Court of Bangkok as the channel of correspondence between its officers and the Chiefs of Tringanu and Kalantan? If such has been the case, state the occasion of its occurrence.

Lord Elgin has already sent home the correspondence which I fancy contains a couple of letters from the Siamese Court to the Sultan of Tringanu not to be found among your collection, one at



least of them shewing that the Bangkok Authorities had no intention, if it could possibly be avoided, of fulfilling the promise made of recalling the Ex.Sultan of Lingga from the Peninsula.

You will perhaps be rather agreeably surprised at finding that for once, both the papers in the Straits most fully support the Policy of the Government, notwithstanding the bribes offered by Siam. Even complains more of the general policy than of the present action, as he considers we should put the present Sultan on the throne and rule the Peninsula in his name. This course might perhaps have been adopted some thirty years ago but at present it is perfectly impracticable.

I have sent you an official on the subject of the trial of Capt. White which will I trust carry all the information you require. I however enclose a note received last night from the Clerk of the Crown which perhaps you may find useful.

Ere this the Commodore must have reached Bangkok. I shall be glad to hear that his reception has gone off well. I should think your position would be much strengthened by the occasional visits of our Men of War.

Sd O.C.

Sir R Schomburgk

Consul Bangkok

Précis of a note to Major Man R C Pinang 8/12/62

Informs him that the Pirates affair will be enquired into by the Siamese. Mentions that the convicts from this {place} will be sent per "Dalhousie" to Bombay.

M.P.

Précis of a letter to Captain Playfair R C Malacca dated 13<sup>th</sup> December 1862

Acknowledges his letter of the 11<sup>th</sup> Instant. Desires him to write officially regarding the omission on the part of the Calcutta Authorities to supply him with stamps, specifying the

date of his indent and of any subsequent letter on the subject. Mentions that all the indents have not been fully supplied yet. Considers that if land has been held under a commutation deed for 20 years without any claim being preferred, the holder of the Dutch title has forfeited his right. If the question be raised requests him to report the matter officially and the opinion of the Advocate General can be obtained in the matter. Desires him to keep the pistol as it may be required hereafter. Mentions that Mr Pereira should be informed that the paper held in his client's name will be made over to anyone authorized to receive it and he (the R C) should take no further steps in the matter, as the Court only can issue orders regarding deposits. A periodical statement of Accounts is submitted by the Accountant General, and if Mr Lewis's proceedings are to be objected to, the matter should have been noticed earlier. Regarding the land the question is what is its present value. An extra Rupee has recently been charged per acre for survey fee. Was glad

to hear that the first annuity had been sold. With regard to the unjust seizure of property by Rambow people desires him to write to the Rajah that if restitution be not made the matter will be brought to the Govr's notice. Thanks him for official regarding schools. Considers that Fridays and Sundays should be holidays.

Sd O C M.P.

13/12/62

Extract from a letter to Admiral May Commander in Chief Batavia

You must indeed have been sadly disappointed at the abandonment of the proposed scheme for a combined attack upon the Sooloo Islands. It is clear that both Holland and England were perfectly in accord on this point and the opposition was offered by Spain alone. I have not yet received the final correspondence on the subject.

It is hoped that Spain has engaged to employ a sufficient force to keep the Lanoons in check. I do not anticipate the pirates making their appearance in this quarter this year, as whenever they may happen to meet with disasters, such as they lately experienced, they generally remain quiet for a season. However I am sure the Senior Naval officer will be happy to cooperate with you, and I will make him *au fait* with your proposed arrangements whenever I hear from you on the subject.

Sd O C

True Copy

M Protheroe

Précis of a letter to Capt Playfair R C Malacca d/18<sup>th</sup> Decr 1862

Intimates that he has made a great mistake regarding the Stamp Act in not indenting for stamps. Directs him to send papers to be stamped to Singapore. States that there is no chance of the petitioners obtaining the land at rs. 5 per acre. Will speak to Capt Mayne about Police Tharmah.

Sd O C M.P.

Extract from a letter to Major Man R C Pinang d/22/12/62

I trust you duly received the copies of the Gazette containing the order for the postponement of the introduction of the Stamp Act. Lieut Pengelly promised that he would run into Pinang and deliver it in the event of his not obtaining a good opportunity of forwarding it. It was perfectly impossible that we could have brought it into force here on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The demand for stamps and impressions was so great. Willans has already paid into the Treasury about Rs. 12,000 and he tells me he still has ten days hard work before him to comply with the requisitions upon him in full.

I am told that in all probability our Estimate of Receipts, which for Singapore we have only entered as 180,000 will be considerably exceeded, and I daresay the total collections in the Straits will be not less than 350,000 Rupees, which ought to cover all our legitimate expenses. With regard to any sums that may during the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> have been received at Pinang, provided the purchasers can satisfy you that the Stamps (or stamped Paper), are not in their possession, I think you will have to make a refund. This rule would of course only apply to stamps actually brought into use on those days, and not to any that people may now be using for their own convenience. For instance all my cheques since the 9<sup>th</sup> Instant have been stamped, as I prefer using my new cheque book to writing out orders on unstamped paper, but for this expense I could have no claim for a refund, it being incurred for my own convenience.

The best plan will be to take no steps in the matter unless a claim is made. It should then be carefully enquired into and, if found correct, noted for recommendation, a list of all claims being eventually sent in for orders. It is possible that no one may care about asking for a refund in the event of the sums disbursed not being very large.

As regards the custody of the Dies, I think that they ought always to be deposited in the Treasury in a chest with double locks, so that one key would be under your charge and another under that of the Stamp Collector. As regards the value of Rupees and Foreign Money, you had better adopt the table that has been fixed at Singapore after communication with the Banks. Were we to allow a fluctuating rate of exchange the trouble both to the Public and to the Stamp Collector would be enormous.

As regards the Purlis affair your proposal to send Jeremiah and the Krani with our people appears to be a good one. It is right that the petitioners for justice should be

accompanied by a number by a number of our own Police, who will remain in charge and bring them back in safety to our own territories etc.

Sd O C

(True Copy) M Protheroe

Singapore

22<sup>nd</sup> Decr 1862

My dear Sir

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 20<sup>th</sup> Instant transmitting for my information a copy of the Regulations which it has been found necessary to establish in order to check the contraband sale of arms and ammunition to the inhabitants of the French possessions in Cochin China. These regulations shall be duly published in the govt Gazette for general information.

Sd O C

True Copy M.P.

Précis of a letter to Capt Playfair R C Malacca d/23<sup>rd</sup>/12/62

States that he has directed Sunday to be kept as a holiday as it is right that Natives should see that we pay proper respect to our Sabbath. Trusts the vernacular schools will prosper. Enquires what steps have been taken to procure a Head Master for the Free School. Offers to write to Calcutta on the subject and states the extra allowance is not to be drawn till a new Head Master is appointed. Requests him to send a quantity of the wild hemp called Rami, as it may be advisable to send it home for report. Remarks that any information regarding it will be acceptable.

Sd O C

My dear Sir Richard

Although the Statements contained in the letter from the Chamber of Commerce is not exactly borne out by your table, I think we must grant that as a general rule the Mail gives employment on the 5, 6 and 7 of the months holding the sessions on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Although the Grand Jury may be dismissed I suppose we may calculate that the criminal {sessions} will not be over as an ordinary rule before the 7<sup>th</sup> and consequently that the services of the petty jury will be required up to this date, and as the petty juries are generally composed of clerks, possibly inconvenience is thereby occasioned to the Mercantile community. Under these circumstances I think that I should be inclined to direct a reply to be sent to the effect that if, after satisfying themselves that notwithstanding the servicing of the new line of French Steamers, the 9<sup>th</sup> wd be the date most convenient to the Mercantile Community for discharging their duties as Jurors, taking into consideration the peculiar nature of the Postal communications between the colony and England, the Court would be disposed to accede to their request and to grant the desired indulgence. etc.

Sd O c

M.P.

24/12/62

Sir R B McCausland

My dear Sir

By this Mail I send you all the correspondence connected with the introduction of the Stamp Act. The rules now in force with respect to regulating the rate of exchange will I have every reason to believe work well and give general satisfaction, and at the same time, for the reasons stated in the concluding Para of my letter of this date prove remunerative to the state. Under these circumstances I sincerely trust they may not be disturbed.

As far as I can judge at present we have under-estimated our Revenue from this source and it is not unlikely that next year the Straits will pay their legitimate expenses.

I shall esteem it a great favor if you will kindly let me know by telegram if my arrangements have been approved of, as I should not feel justified in making any changes until the subject of the letters now forwarded has been considered by H.E. the G.G. in C.

Sd O C

True Copy

24<sup>th</sup> Decr 1862 M Protheroe

Secretary to Govt Home Dept

My dear Colonel Durand

The Northerly Monsoon having fairly set in for some time past all communication with the East Coast of the Malay Peninsula has been cut off, but by the last Account from Pahang the Chief of the State was in great hopes of being able to repel the assailants. If he succeeds in doing so this time, I have little doubt that the disturbances which for the last 4 years have given so much trouble will cease.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> Ult., when apparently all chance of landing at Tringanu was at an

end, the Siamese Govt., in fulfilment of their promise, despatched a vessel to withdraw the Ex.Sultan. I understand she was not very well adapted for standing heavy weather and up to the 19<sup>th</sup> Instant no tidings have been received of her and it was feared that she had been lost. I have this moment received a letter from Sir Robert Schomburgk, enclosing one from the minister at Bangkok in which he claims on the part of Siam the right to exercise authority over the States of Kalantan and Tringanu. Of course in my reply, a copy of which will be duly forwarded by the Burmah Steamer, I shall merely observe that as it appears by my records that that right has never yet been admitted, I should not be justified in recognising it without the Governor General's orders. I am

afraid in some of their pretensions, more especially as regards their disregard of the Governor Gl's wishes, they have been supported by at least one of the members of our own consulate.

It is stated both here and at Bangkok that in the bombardment of the Fort at Tringanu, one or two shells ricocheted and bounded over the hill on which the fort stands, doing some injury among the inhabitants of a Chinese Village behind, the existence of which was not known. Sir R Schomburgk doubts the truth of the report and at Singapore we have been unable to obtain any positive information on the subject. I therefore trust it may prove untrue. I am certain Capt Corbett took every precaution in his power to prevent any accident and, although the only building near the fort, the Rajah's residence, must have been almost in the exact line of fire, and there was a great deal of motion on board of the vessels from the heavy sea, we are aware from

the report of an eye witness that it was only once struck. It had of course been evacuated some time before.

By the last Chinese Mail a rumour has reached this {place?} of a treaty having been entered into between Russia and China under the terms of which the former guarantees to aid the Imperialists in suppressing the rebellion with 10,000 Troops in return for the cession of the Island of Chusan, which is to become a Russian possession. I do not know what foundation there may be for this report but it seems to be generally believed.

Sd O C

True Copy

24<sup>th</sup> Decr M Protheroe

Col Durand

Secy to Govt Foreign Dept

My dear Sir

In order to prevent delay I have ordered your letter to be immediately sent on to the Commissioner of Police who is also a Magistrate at the same time. I would mention that applications for the apprehension of deserters are made under the law direct to Magistrates who alone can issue the order for their arrest, this power not being vested in the head of the Executive Government.

Sd O C

To Monr Froplory Consul for France

26/12/62

Confidential

3 Enclosures Singapore Decr 26<sup>th</sup>/62

Sir,

In returning herewith the enclosures to your letter of this date I need hardly observe that every assistance in my power will be gladly given towards carrying out the proposed object of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty therein referred to.

Taking into consideration however the severe loss inflicted upon the Pirates by the Sarawak steamer "Rainbow" I cannot but believe that there may be some doubts as to their making their appearance on the N.W.Coast of Borneo during the ensuing year and

that the results of the intended arrangement may consequently not prove as satisfactory as might otherwise be anticipated.

I have etc.

Sd O C

Commodore Rt Hon'ble Ld J Hay

My dear Colonel Durand

Since the despatch of my last letter I have received private information that the Siamese Steamer "Alligator" was compelled to put in at Singora, one of the Northern Ports of the Peninsula, where she has remained in safety. As it is stated that the Ex.Sultan of Lingga has also made his appearance at the same place, it is supposed that he is about to return to Bangkok. If this supposition proves correct I have every reason to believe that the peace of the Peninsula will not again be disturbed for some time to come and the different Native States will prosper.

The Japanese Ambassadors arrived here yesterday en route from Europe. They have not landed as yet. We have one or two Russian Men of War in harbour. They are waiting for the arrival of the Admiral in China, who is returning home, his tour of command having expired, and their intended movements seem somewhat uncertain.

They may perhaps pay Moulmein and Calcutta a visit. The Senior Officer informed me that they would depend entirely upon the orders expected by the Mail. I have not seen him since the O:land Steamer came.

Sd O C

Col Durand

Secy to Govt Calcutta

My dear Rennie

I had heard a very bad account of the way in which the repairs of the "Pluto" have been executed and as, in the event of any of her bottom plates requiring removal after her arrival in Singapore, the expense of docking her would be considerable, and we might moreover be subjected to great inconvenience from the temporary loss of her services I should indeed esteem it a great favour if you would kindly intimate to your subordinates that you expect her to be in really good order before she starts for the Straits. A hint of this sort from the Head of a Department is generally most effectual. I hope you have selected 2 good officers for me. You must have a wide field now for selection so many of the Bengal Marine Vessels having been put out of employ.

Sd O C

Capt Rennie C.B.

Secy to Govt Mar: Dep:

Précis of a letter to Major Man R C Pinang d/31/12/62

Acknowledges three of his letters. Considers that the alterations to the "Mohr"'s Engines should be executed here. Enquires whether the cost can be met from his Budget Assignment. Permits him to grant Mr Earl a free passage to Spore should a government Steamer be coming down but mentions that he will have to pay his own table money. Trusts he is ready for the Stamp Act. Hopes he has a good stock of Stamps on hand as it will not do to run out at any time. Intends to establish 5 scholarships open to all the Straits to be competed for under certain rules and allowing each station a small sum annually for prizes to be distributed at the discretion of R.C.'s. Considers the proposition of Mackay's holding service on the Hill inadmissible. Trusts that his Chinese processions are at an end. States that the Commodore leaves for Malacca, Pinang and perhaps Acheen Head tomorrow. Considers that his presence at the last place will do good. Desires him to ask Nairne to persuade the R of Acheen to allow the survey party from India to remain there some time. Mentions that he has sent a copy of the Sultan's letter to the Rajah of Assahan to India and to the Commodore.

Sd O.C.

M.P.

3/1/63

My dear Sir

I have this moment received a verbal report from the Commissioner of Police regarding the verdict of the Coroner's Jury on the case of the men alleged to have been concerned in the sad affair the other evening. I write these few lines to beg your kind aid in securing their apprehension as well as the attendance on {at?} the trial of Monsieur Francois Engentin, the witness whose evidence is considered of importance. I will forward a formal application to you in the course of the day but as I am aware that the "European" is about to leave Singapore and I am afraid of causing any unnecessary delay in her departure I have thought it advisable to communicate with you at once. Trusting you will excuse this hurried note.

I remain etc.

(sd) O C



Mons Froplory True Copy

Consul for France M.P.

Singapore 5<sup>th</sup> Janry 1863

My dear Colonel Durand

As the state of affairs in Cochin China may be a matter of interest to the Supreme Government, I think it right to inform you that the reports relative to his {the?} insurrection in the French Provinces have been confirmed. As far as I have been able to ascertain it appears that the whole country is in open rebellion. In many places the crops have been destroyed, and two out Stations, Mitho and Tunkin, the last within a few miles of Saigon, have been attacked although the assailants were repulsed with considerable loss

The French Expedition against Joronda?, which is now found to be strongly fortified, has necessarily been postponed until the arrival of reinforcements. The total French force in Cochin China is estimated at about 3,000 efficient men. Admiral Jaucais, the new Naval C. in C., has left for China with the view of bringing down some of the French Troops from that Quarter, and it is said, though I do not know on what foundation, that an application has been made to France for 6,000 men {more?} soldiers and that ultimately an advance on Hue is now contemplated.

The last accounts I received from Pahang were favourable, Wan Ahmed having been again driven back, as apparently from want of support from Tringanu his followers are said to be leaving him. I trust by this time peace and quietness has been restored and that we shall have no more disturbances in the Peninsula.

Sd O.C.

Col Durand M.P. True Copy

Sec. Mil. Dep.

Singapore 7<sup>th</sup> January/63

My dear Playfair

As you have written to the Bp. Relative to the appointment of a head Master to the Free School, I think perhaps it is advisable that for the present I should defer addressing the Inspector General of Education o this subject, but I will do so hereafter should there be any difficulty on the Bp.'s part in making a selection.

Malays are naturally so apathetic that we can hardly expect that at first they will take much interest in our new schools, and we must trust to time to teach them the advantages of a good education. They will discover the benefit when they find that a man who can read and write is always sure of advancement.

I have altered the form of your deed somewhat to make it correspond with the other forms so that *Mutatis Mutandis* there will be as it were but one form for all documents regarding land issued from your office.

If the Gunner of the "Torch" is really a good man and has given satisfaction in his present berth, I should have no objection to his being appointed to the Rachado Lighthouse. He must however understand that, in the event of the Screw Pile Lighthouse being sanctioned instead of the "Torch", he would have to take his tour of duty there. |In fact there would be in all probability the same system as at Singapore. There {Then?} one would be appointed and would be on duty alternately at the Screw Pile Lighthouse, Cape Rachado, and Malacca, so that one month in every three the Lightkeeper would be at home. Sd O.C.

Captain Playfair

R C Malacca

Singapore 7<sup>th</sup> Janr/63

My dear Sir

Although the cotton seed did not reach this {place?} by the last Steamer I cannot allow the Mail to leave without writing a few lines to thank you for your kind attention to my request and for all the trouble you have taken towards meeting my wishes. From the result of the Experiments already made in the Straits there seems to be fair reason to hope that with proper precautions cotton may not only grow here but yield a fair profit to the Cultivators. On some of the Sugar Estates they are now sowing cotton as a rotation crop and the Planters appear to be sanguine of Success.

Sd O.C.

To Sidney Smith Saunders Esqre

Consul General Egypt True Copy M.P.

Janry 9<sup>th</sup> 1863

My dear Sir Richard

I beg to enclose for your perusal and return a letter received from the French Consul relative to the three unfortunate men accused of the murder of the Native near new Harbour.

M. Froplory has waited on me to mention that having become aware of the erroneous impressions that existed with regard to the Prisoners and noticing the Report of your charge to the Jury, in justice to his countrymen whose case might be prejudiced were it not removed before the trial he considered it his duty to represent their true character and also to assure me that the prevalent idea with regard to their being convicts was erroneous.

I informed him in reply that he might be perfectly satisfied that as no feeling now existing would be allowed to operate in any way against his countrymen and that I was convinced, when the trial was concluded, that he would himself acknowledge that it had been conducted with the greatest possible regard to justice and impartiality, but at the same time as equally with yourself I had in the first instance been led to suppose that the generality of the men concerned in the disturbance were convicted prisoners pardoned on the condition of their serving in the East, I would not object to making the subject of his communication known to you, as I was assured that when the case came before you, you would remove any bias that might apparently remain in the mind of the Jury against the Prisoners.

Sd O C

True Copy

Sir R McCausland M.P.

Janry 10<sup>th</sup>

My dear Sir

I write these few lines to mention that I have heard from the Hon'ble the Recorder that he has received the depositions in the case of your unfortunate countrymen and that the charge against them will be delivered to the Grand Jury on Monday when should you have leisure to attend the court, you will I am sure be satisfied as to the impartiality with which the evidence is reviewed, and the justice with which the proceedings are conducted. Should any bias at present exist against them in the minds of the Jurors, it will I am certain be entirely removed.

Sd O.C.

Monsieur Froplory

Consul for France

Singapore 10<sup>th</sup> Janry 1863

My dear Sir Robert

I find that I have two letter of yours to answer, the one relative to Mr White's case and the other to the affairs at Tringanu.

The trial of the former will in all probability take place early next week, and the witnesses will most likely return by the "Chow Phya". I should consider that as apparently you have not the power to compel them to leave Bangkok to give their evidence, they would be entitled to receive some compensation for their loss of time, though not at the rate you propose. From what I hear of the relative positions occupied by them in Siam I should imagine that 2 dollars *per diem* each for Messrs Ordman and Buchanan and one dollar *per diem* for Mr Kemp would be ample. On such

occasions I believe the usual plan is to ascertain the monthly income of the parties concerned and allow them an equivalent after deducting a fair sum on account of the cost of their maintenance which has been defrayed by the States. I presume the Siamese boatmen could not have been in receipt of more than four or five Dollars a month, and that sum might therefore {suffice?} to fully satisfy their claims.

I have replied officially to your letter regarding Tringanu. I think it is right to mention that the intentions of Siam to claim sovereign rights over Tringanu and Kalantan were well known at Singapore last year, and a full report regarding them submitted to the Supreme Government. In fact so important did I consider the matter that I despatched a steamer especially to watch the Siamese Fleet, and it was owing to her presence that the Kalahome remained such a short time in the Port and came on direct to Singapore, instead of proceeding to Pahang as originally proposed.

The Court at Bangkok seem to be hardly aware of the dilemma in which they have placed themselves. If Tringanu was not, as we believe, under Siam, the King had no right whatever to send orders to the Sultan to receive the Ex.Sultan of Lingga. If on the contrary Tringanu, as the Siamese say, is a Siamese Province, then we have a right to demand redress for the attack, unprovoked as far as Siam is concerned, upon Pahang, for which — it having been made from their territories — the Kings of Siam themselves become responsible.

I am sorry to say from all I hear that I cannot but agree with you in thinking that Mr. Knox has been the great agitator in the matter, his object being to advance his own interests at your Expense. Had your representations been attended to, the Siamese Court would have been saved all humiliation, but it is evident that the King has acted throughout with duplicity, and the surmises expressed in your letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> October has proved perfectly correct. The promise to despatch a Siamese Steamer was a mere subterfuge.

I have not seen Mr. Ames. I believe however that there is no reason for your withdrawing your favourable countenance from him, though I am not aware whether he is to revert to his former position or continue in command of the "Alligator". Mr and Mrs Lewis propose paying Siam a visit by the "Alligator". He is a gentleman of considerable attainments and has a knowledge of Oriental History and has travel almost over the whole world. You will I am sure find him a most agreeable companion.

Yours etc.

M.P. Sd/O.C.

Sir R Schomburgk

15<sup>th</sup> Jnary 63

My dear Mr Blackburn

I trust you will excuse my not having answered your letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> Ult earlier. Press of business has prevented my doing so. I regret that I can hold out little hope to you of obtaining the appointment of Post Master at Pinang, there being many reasons for its continuing to be held conjointly with that of Master Attendant. Eventually possibly the two offices may be separated, as at Singapore, but the necessity for the arrangement is not at present imperative and the State of our finances hardly admits of our incurring any additional expenditure.

Sd O.C.

True Copy

M Protheroe

J Blackburn Esqre

Extract from a letter to Capt Playfair R C Malacca d/15/1/63

I hope you take care to forward your indents for Stamps in good time to admit of your new supply before the old one is exhausted.

Sd O C

15/1/63 M.P.

Extract from a letter to Major Man R C Pinang d/15/1/63

I hope you have taken good care to keep a large stock of stamps in store and to submit your indent for a further supply in good time. Here owing to the neglect of the Authorities in Calcutta we are already out of one anna stamps.

Sd O.C.

M.P.