

Private Letter Book

Volume VIII

From the 2nd January 1864

To the 22nd April 1864

2nd January 1864

My dear Sir Hercules

I have the pleasure to return the amended Letters Patent upon which I would offer the following observations.

1st. Page 7, I would appoint a sheriff for each Station instead of one for the Settlement. Last year I ascertained that there was not one of the non-official residents who would accept the honorary office, and the present system of appointing one of the Deputies Sheriff by rotation is attended with some inconvenience and is moreover certainly somewhat of an anomaly.

2. Page 8. I would modify the Section with regard to Coroners so as to admit of their performing without a Jury all the duties performed in England by Coroners with a Jury. Coroner's Juries in the Straits involve much inconvenience to the residents who are required to sit on them, are a source of considerable expense and are moreover of little use.

3rd. No fees are now received by Coroners and as the appointment will in every case be ex.Officio no salaries will be drawn. Hence it might be advisable to omit all allusion either no {to?} fees or salaries.

4th. Page 9. The word "said" should be omitted before "Governor".

5th. Page 11. Would it not be expedient to exclude the excluding clause of the first Section? As Sir Benson Maxwell has already pointed out, its retention would be likely to prove injurious both to the administration of justice and to the General interests of the Settlement.

6th. Page 22. No reference need be made to the effects of the East India Company which are no longer found in our Treasuries.

7. Page 29. It is out of my power to subscribe to the necessity of the Court of Summary Jurisdiction, which I can only consider as an expensive luxury in the event of any great increase to our trade bringing with it an increase of litigation. It might of course hereafter become necessary but of this I must confess I see no immediate prospect.

The number of cases actually tried last year in the Small Cause Court at Singapore (having jurisdiction only up to 32 dollars) was 2,000. The number of Civil cases actually heard and determined in the Supreme Court during the same period was 205, of these last it is probable that at least one half were for sums under 500 Dollars, so that were the jurisdiction of the lower Court extended to that amount, upwards of nineteen twentieths of the civil cases would have to be brought before that tribunal.

Our litigation, I fancy, differs materially from that of Hongkong. The greater amount of the suits are for trifling sums, and it is more than probable that the present Commissioner of the Court of Requests would be able in their adjudication to afford for {far?} greater satisfaction than any Barrister fresh from England and little acquainted with the habits and language of the people. I am however of opinion that the Judge of the Supreme Court should be relieved from the adjudication on {of?} many of the petty cases now brought under his consideration. This relief could be afforded under the Bill now before the Legislative Council of India for extending the jurisdiction of the Small Causes Courts to 50 dollars with power to the Executive Govt. to sanction if necessary a further extension to 100 Dollars. This latter would at once be authorized at Singapore where there is a special Commissioner but would hardly be needed at the other Stations.

2nd Janry 1864 Believe me

Yours very sincerely,

Sd Orfeur Cavenagh

To His Excellency

Sir Hercules Robinson

P.S. I have just seen Sir Richard. He does not wish to perpetuate the present system as regards the Sheriffs but to compel some non-official resident to accept the Honorary Office. I am afraid the members of the Mercantile Community will hardly approve of this arrangement. If however the residents of other colonies are subject to the same hability {liability?}, they would have no great cause for complaint. By a recent correspondence between the Community of Calcutta and the Chief Justice it has been ruled that the Sheriff there, who receives a large sum from his fees, is not bound to attend Public meetings, and his official duties are, I imagine, almost all performed by his Deputies. A Sheriff however runs the risk of being fined if the duties are not well performed. One was once fined heavily in Pinang because order was not properly preserved in Court, and this perhaps has been the cause of the objection that has hitherto been offered to the acceptance of the post.

My dear Sir Richard

I have carefully read over the papers connected with Mr Edgerton's case you kindly forwarded for my perusal. As you observe, instead of asserting his entire innocence of the charge upon which he has been convicted upon non terminal grounds, if Mr Edgerton felt himself wronged or

aggrieved his course was plain. He should have appealed to the higher tribunal. He was indeed recommended by the Magte himself to adopt this course but failed to do so. Hence it can only be inferred that he dreaded the scrutiny to which his proceedings would have been subjected and acknowledged the injustice if not the legality of the Magistrate's decision. Under the above circumstances I think it is due to the Members of the Local Bar that the Court should make its sense of Mr. E's misconduct in a manner much more severe than the mere award of a second reprimand. I have as requested sent on the papers with your note to Burn.

Sd O C

6/1/64

Sir R B McCausland

Extract from a Letter to Captain Eastwick Indian Council India Office London d/8/1/64

"I should be very glad, under the rule prescribed in Page 28 of the Parliamentary papers dated 18th Febry. 1862, to allow my services to be placed at the disposal of the Colonial Office, either with or without pay or counting Service or not, counting service as the Secretary of State for India might desire to accept half pay with the right to return to full pay upon my relinquishing the Government or to apply for my Furlough and remain on leave until/ and promoted. The first would be the best for the Rate {State?} as my pay would be saved as long as I may be employed under the Col: Office, but to myself it is perfectly immaterial which course I may be required to pursue. All that I ask is the privilege of accepting office, should it be offered me without having to surrender my position in the Army, and this privilege which is in accordance with Regulations I believe you will consider that my wounds and past services give me some claim to expect. etc. etc.

Sd O C

Captain Eastwick

8/1/64

My dear Sir Hope Grant

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th November enclosing a note to your nephew. He has not yet made his appearance at Singapore, being still I believe with the Bishop at Sarawak. But when he arrives I will not fail to deliver it. His name is on my list of candidates for employment and it will afford me much pleasure to meet your wishes should a suitable vacancy occur. As far as I can at present judge he would be well fitted for an appointment in the Police which is the branch to {in?} which most of our officers in the Straits commence their career and from which they rise to Magistracies.

Sd O C

H E Lt Gl Sir H Grant G C B

My dear Macpherson

I am writing against time, so pray excuse a hurried note as regards the changes likely to take place on the transfer. I have been allowed the liberty of mentioning to you in confidence that, as there will be two appointments, one the Colonial Secretaryship and the other the Government agency at Pinang, each of which will carry with it a salary of £1,800 per annum and a seat in the Executive Council it is not unreasonable to suppose that one of the two may fall to your lot, in the event of the Secretary of State for the colonies offering you employment of which I entertain little doubt though nothing positive has as yet been mentioned on the subject.

I am afraid there is little chance of my being able to obtain an increase to Mr Dick's pay unless you can effect a saving elsewhere. Could you manage to get on with 4 stokers, two of the lascars, as in the "Pluto" being told off to assist in the Engine room Establishment when the vessel is under steam? It is very seldom that you have any very long trips to make and perhaps this might be accomplished.

I was very glad to hear so good an account of your contribution to the Calcutta Exhibition and I trust that you may obtain a little kudos for the same. You were quite right in insisting that the people of Balik Pulo should themselves make the line of road to Singie Roosa, securing a fair compensation for their labor when the work is completed. They will appreciate its importance much more than if it had been made for them. The new Thanah at Ayer Etam will be sanctioned as soon as we have the money. You could not believe, as you observe, have selected a better site than the one now occupied. The only objection is the liability to risk from fire which may perhaps be obviated, as you propose, by its having a corrugated iron roof. There need be no difficulty about the school houses as we cannot have anything like expended our assignment for the current year. You had better bring the matter to notice officially and get sanction for the requisite expenditure. I am not aware of there being any objection to my meeting yr wishes with respect to the grant of further assistance in the way of H.C. prisoners etc. to the Pauper Hospital. This also will have to be brought to notice officially and I will take care to send an early reply so that there may be no unnecessary delay.

I observe that Logan asserts that Siam deputed an emissary last year to Pinang in order to induce the Sultan of Perak to again forward the Bunga Mas to Bangkok. Could you obtain any decided information on this point? If so it might be as well to report it. You might also at the same time make an allusion to the remark made to you by the Rajah of Tongkah with regard to the Perak {dispute?} between us and the Siamese. There would be no harm in having the conversation on record.

I was very glad to hear that the tables were progressing favourably. My subscription is available whenever you need it.

Sd O C

P.S. Does Mackay intend to ask for his half pay? I take Col: Service. He has served 7 years and would {I?} suppose get the former which would be a pleasant addition to his income whilst his pension after 10 years would be better than he would get in India and he would be enabled to continue off his Mil _____ funds.

Sd O C

Col Macpherson R C Pinang

Précis of a letter to Sir R Schomburgk Bangkok d/9th Janry/64

Thanks him for his kind letters. States that he will reply in detail to {on?} the subject of the proposed railroad across the Isthmus of Kra. Does not recognize the advantage of the work as the disadvantages of breaking bulk would as regards vessels carrying cargo more than counterbalance the saving of time, about 10 days, that might be effected, and as regards the transmission of news I think there may be ere long a communication by telegraph between India and China. Mentions Kim Ching's appointment and alludes to his having furnished a copy of the King's letter regarding the departure from Bangkok of the Ex.Sultan of Lingga and his probable intention of visiting Pahang, thus confirming the correctness of the views expressed by this Govt last year.

Sd O C

M P

Janry 10th 1864

My dear Sir Richard

With reference to your charge yesterday to the Grand Jury I trust you will kindly pardon my observing that, as far as I am competent to judge, in bringing under review the question of Military expenditure and calling for Returns of the Troops you have somewhat exceeded your legitimate powers as a purely Judicial Functionary and trenched upon review as the head of the Executive Government. Any representations regarding the Jail, received rather from yourself as, when based upon their own opinion, from the Grand Jury would always receive the consideration it demanded but, with all due deference, I am unable to recognise the propriety of any Judicial Officer, however high his rank, travelling beyond his own Province in the discharge of the important duties connected with the proper administration of justice, in order to take advantage of his position on the bench to obtain political power. As, however, any {my?} knowledge of the practice of the courts at home, is comparatively speaking limited, my ideas as to the duties and privileges of a Judge may be erroneous. I propose therefore, should you see no objection, submitting the question for the consideration of higher Authority. As regards the reduction in the strength of the Guard at the Jail, it was effected, as a temporary arrangement, with my sanction and with advertence to the number and character of the prisoners at present confined in the building, the of the Jail Establishment and the proximity of the Sepoy Barracks. I certainly am not aware of there being any objection to the measure.

I have

O C

To Sir R McCausland

13 Janry 1864

My dear Sir Richard

I have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt of your kind note of yesterday. I am perfectly sure that intentionally you would not think of trenching upon my authority. At the same time I could not but consider in {an?} order to the Officer landing the Troops to furnish you with a Deposition Return of the men under his orders, as an assumption of Political Power, which I should have been guilty of neglect of duty, had I failed to bring to your notice.

I certainly should be the last person to question the right of a Judge to express an opinion as to any apparent defect in the machinery required for the due administration of justice or to bring such under consideration either of the Grand Jury or of the head of the Executive Government as one might deem fit. As however I attend the opening of the Sessions, in my capacity only of Judge, and not as Governor, it is but fair for one to mention that any statement contained in your charge I look upon as a mere exposition of facts for the information of the Grand Jury and not as representations of which I should be gratified {justified?} in taking official cognisance unless subsequently brought under my notice either by the Grand Jury or yourself.

I have an etc.

O C

To Sir R McCausland

My dear Sir Hercules

In looking carefully over the revised charter I find that there is a section "XLV Page 27" retained which has already been abrogated by Acts xiii and xiv of 1856 and to the re-establishment of which I should certainly object, as it would be merely introducing an element of discord into the Settlement. I do not know how this escaped my observation in the first instance but I fancy that being aware that the Court of Quarter Sessions had been deprived by Legislative Enactment of the power of giving any orders regarding Public Works or of appointing Police Officers I did not give the matter my attention, forgetting that the date of the new Letters Patent would be subsequent to the Acts above referred to and consequently all powers granted by the former would have due force.

If the above section was reintroduced the Quarter Sessions and not the Governor in Council would control the expenditure on Public Works.

Sd O C

My dear Sir Richard

Sir H R has but this moment left me and I trust that you will kindly excuse the delay in answering your note. I will cause Mr Dunman's attention to be at once directed to the state of the Bukit Timah District with the view of placing the Police Force in that Q^f on a proper footing.

16/1/64 sd/ O C

Sir R McCausland

My dear Sir Benson

I have the pleasure, at the request of Sir H Robinson, to forward herewith for your consideration and for any remarks you may desire to offer, a half Margin Draft of revised Letters Patent for reconstituting the Court of Judicature, which has been prepared in a great measure upon the suggestions made by yourself last year and to meet the changes in the system of Government likely to be necessitated by the transfer wh will probably take place some time in 1865. Should you approve of the Draft it will of course be merely necessary for you to attach your signature in token of such approval and return it when it would be at once transmitted to the Colonial Office.

I have also the pleasure to enclose a sketch of the proposed Colonial Pension Rules which should you think of prolonging your stay in the Straits may perhaps prove interesting as shewing the position in which you would be placed after the expiration of the first 10 years.

Sd O C

18th/1/64

Précis of a letter to Captain J O Mayne Ch: Eng: Pinang d/19/1/64

Considers that the abolition of Ch Engineer and separation of the appts. of Ex Engineer and Supdt. Of Convicts would be as expensive an arrangement as the present one unless there is to be a Dy Auditor and Acct. General for the Straits for all Departments. Mentions that Mr Logan's performance of the Selar Ikan Mati works on estimates to be approved of by the R.C. and under the Supervision of the P.W.D. has been arranged. Requests him to set Hilliard to work on the Canal across Mr. Chasserian's Estate.

Sd O C

Précis of a letter to Col Macpherson R C Pinang d/19th Janry 64

Proposes that Mr Earl should live at Tulloh Rami's in the Province.

My dear Strachey

As I hear that the P.W.D. in the Straits is about to be rearranged and that I am to lose the services of my Chief Engineer I write these few lines to point out the measure in which I believe the proposed change may perhaps be effected with the greatest efficiency and the least expense.

After the departure of Capt Mayne my Establishments will consist of the following officers:-

Capt M^cNair Ex Engineer

Mr Bennett Special Assist

Mr Evans Supervisor

Mr Maghelhaens Asst Dy

With these I shall be required not only to carry out the public works but also to superintend the Convicts at the different Stations. The plan that I would adopt is this:-

Captain M^cNair to be ex Engineer (with general control over the Department throughout the Straits) and Supdt of Convicts at Singapore with equally general charge of the Convicts at the other Stations.

Mr Bennett to be promoted to Ex.Eng: 3rd class with the charge of the works at Spore.

Mr Evans to be removed to Pinang as supervisor receiving Rs 100 per mensem as Supdt or Dy Supdt of Convicts.

Mr Magelhaens to be removed to Malacca as Asst Supervisor and to receive as at present drawn by Mr Evans 50 Rs per mensem as Dy: Supt of Convicts.

Under the above arrangements not only would Capt M^cNair be at liberty to make constant visits to the other Stations, so as to exercise a close supervision over his subordinates but in the event of anything happening to him Mr B would always be at hand to take charge of his office and prevent anything going wrong with respect either to the works or convicts. Were Bennett to be removed to Pinang as originally intended when the Ch: Eng: remained, although I should certainly have the services of a second Officer available, yet they could not always be obtained at a moment's notice in case of emergency. The Ex Engineer would never be able to leave Singapore to visit Pinang {and} Malacca, and moreover there would be a good chance of his breaking down, as the General control of the Department, the Ex charge of Singapore and the superintendence of the Convicts would be more than one man could possibly manage either with comfort to himself or advantage to the State.

As regards the Accountant's Branch of the C.E's office I have already recommended that the R.C. of Singapore should be appointed Dy Auditor and Acct General for the Straits, and if this recommendation is approved of, he would audit the Accounts of the P.W.D. as well as those of the other Depts. 2 good clerks might be sufficient for the whole work. The present system of accounts is not only extremely complicated but as far as I can discover extremely expensive, and

I am very anxious to get our financial matters placed on a better footing before the transfer takes place. Otherwise I know we shall have a great deal of trouble. As far as I can judge, unless the change of Ministry may prevent it, the transfer will be carried out in the early part of next year.

The Home Govt. has distinctly stated that no Troops are to be quartered here for Imperial purposes and that we must look to the Navy for defence in case of War. This has narrowed the proceedings of the Commission to the question of determining the strength of the Garrison required solely for the maintenance of internal order and tranquillity, a point easily settled, and as our finances will admit of our paying the amount necessary to keep up such a garrison, I suppose the Colonial Office will have no objection to taking us under its Wing.

Whether it is a wise arrangement to trust entirely to the Navy, for the defence of a valuable colony, is a question for which the Home Govt. is alone responsible. My own idea is that the instructions from India House were the correct ones, and that we should always have a sufficient force to enable us to hold our own until succour might be sent to us, as we cannot always depend upon our possessing the command of the Seas in the event of there being a coalition against us. Singapore is one of the principal links of our trade with China and were it even {lost?} only but for a few weeks, the injury we should suffer would be incalculable.

Sd O C

Col Strachey

Secy P.W.D.

My dear Sir Richard

I have been so busy for the last two or three days that I hope you will kindly excuse the delay that has occurred in forwarding for your perusal the accompanying note with enclosures from Mr Dunman, from which you will perceive that the case alluded to by the Grand Jury was an exceptional one and that apparently any increase to the Police Force on the Bukit Timah Road would be at present unnecessary.

Sd O C

Sir R B McCausland

My dear General Brice

I have the pleasure to return with many thanks the very interesting report by Dr Hathaway you kindly sent for my perusal. My experience perfectly coincides with his as to the necessity for more attention being paid to the mens' cooking. I intended introducing Grants stove into Fort Canning but on writing to Fort William to ascertain how one I had introduced there was acting, I was informed that I was the only person who knew anything about its working as no one took an interest in it and it had not been used after I left.

As to the propriety of furnishing the men with a comfortable well lighted room in which to spend their evenings there can be no doubt and it will afford me much pleasure to do anything in my power to enable the men serving within the limits of my Govt to obtain this accommodation.

Sd O C

22/1/64

Brig G1 Brice C.B.

Inspector G1 R Artillery

Singapore

23rd Janry /64

My dear Sir

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th Inst and to state in reply that Surgeon Major Rose has been for some years past Senior Surgeon of the Straits Settlement and that the application on the part of his friends at home must therefore have reference to any change likely to take place on the transfer of the Settlement to the charge of the Colonial Office.

Surgeon Major Rose is a clean and experienced Medical officer and an able administrator and in the event of the transfer the Colony would be fortunate were it able to retain his services.

Sd O C

Hathaway Esqre M.D.

Private Secy to Viceroy

My dear Sir

I have delayed answering your letter of the 6th Ult in the hopes of being able to inform you of the due delivery of the enclosure to your brother. Up to the present however the Sarawak Steamer wh has for some time past been daily expected has not made her appearance and I therefore write these few lines to mention that it will afford me much pleasure to meet your wishes on your brother's arrival.

Sd O C

Captain Grant

A D C Govt House

Calcutta

24th Janry

My dear Macpherson

I have only time to write a few lines in reply to your letters received yesterday. As regards Mr Logan's appointment to the "Mohr" I think before entering into any engagement with him it would be advisable to make some enquiries as to his Qualifications. He is I should hardly think the style of man to command a vessel and for the sum you propose offering you ought to obtain the services of a first rate Engineer of pure European Parentage. What was his former position in the Bengal Marine? And what salary did he draw when employed. He certainly could not have been of the 1st Class.

Will you kindly return Mr Logan my best thanks for his Letter on the subject of the intentions of Siam. Would he have any objection to my sending, should it appear necessary, a copy to the Govr G1 or Secy of State. It would be forwarded demi officially and not appear in our ordinary office records so that the clerks would not become aware of its contents.

You had better speak to Mayne about the Police Tharmah. We have money in hand to meet the expense and he can order the work to be commenced at once. I have written to him to come if possible to a final arrangement with Chasserian about the drainage scheme so that the necessary orders upon the subject may be issued before I leave for Malacca.

Sd O C

To Hon Col. Macpherson R C Pinang

Précis of a letter to Col Macpherson R C Malacca (Pinang?) d/25/1/64

Has obtained the services of an Engineer for the "Mohr". Proposes Mr Thorn for a Commander. Desires him to send down the "Pluto" at once. Points out that changes have taken place in Pinang Establishments without being reported.

Sd O C

26/1/64

Précis of a note to Captain Playfair R C Malacca d/26/1/64

Mentions that Capt Pibe's statement has gone up to India with a copy of his letter, that he will go to Malacca about 11 or 12 instant. Hopes that the people in the country are still taking out leases and enquires whether there wd be any purchasers for the ground by disposing of it in allotments.

Sd O C

M P

26/1/64

My dear Sir R

I trust you will kindly excuse the delay in answering your note of the 22nd. I really have not had a moment's leisure since its receipt. I most fully concur in the opinion you have expressed as to the propriety of having a Crown Counsel to conduct all cases and have always intended, when a suitable opportunity offered, of recommending a slight increase to the annual fee now allowed. With that object the fee was calculated according to the average expenditure in Tax Expenses for the past 3 years so that I was able to shew that very little additional expense would be entailed by the proposed arrangement.

If we are to remain under India I shall be quite prepared next year to recommend that the Crown Counsel be required to conduct all prosecutions both here and at Malacca, receiving a salary commensurate with his increased duties and that a Public Prosecutor be appointed at Pinang. But under present circumstances I almost think it would be premature to make the request, as in all probability I should received the stentyped {stereotyped} reply that, pending the decision of the transfer question, H.E. in Council does not deem it advisable to sanction any change. The present {proposed?} appointment was actually sanctioned at a time when it was thought that the transfer would not take place and the mere formality of the order in the finance Dept has alone been wanting for some months past

Sd O C

26/1/64 Sir R McCausland

3/2/64

My dear Sir Richard

I have the pleasure to send you a demi-offl. Memo of notes (by) Sir R {B?} Maxwell containing his remarks upon the proposed alterations of the Charter. I think there are some of his recommendations to which we might feel inclined to agree, and if you are at leisure tomorrow or Saturday I would come up and have a chat with you on the subject.

I am about to submit the papers Burn has sent me to Mr Braddell but before doing so I should be much obliged by your kindly favoring me with your opinion as to the propriety of requesting the Court to administer to him an oath of office as Crown Counsel. He and Banningarten seem to consider that it is proper that he should be sworn in and have forwarded the accompanying form of oath which they deem advisable. I am not aware whether there is any rule on the subject but am of course anxious to do what is right or correct.

Sd O C

Sir R McCausland

My dear Leveson

I have the pleasure to return the paper you kindly sent me. I had not previously noticed the Notification. I am sorry to hear the result of your meeting as no benefit is likely to accrue from the proposed correspondence, whilst had a proper representation been made, I would have forwarded it to the Secy of State by the next Mail and possibly some change in my present orders might have been sanctioned. I observe that the last letter I received was in reply to one of mine of the 4th Septr.

Sd O C

E D Leveson Esqre

No 12

To

The Secy of State for India

Sir

I have the honor to forward herewith for the consideration of H.M. Government a copy of a communication d/4th Instant from the Chamber of Commerce at Spore on the subject of the existing restrictions upon the trade of arms with China.

2. I fully concur in the opinion expressed by the Chamber of Commerce as to the

futility of the above restrictions as a means of preventing a supply of arms from reaching the Chinese rebels, whilst I cannot but feel that their continuance may eventually lead to the diversion of a considerable portion of the trade from Singapore. At the same time, with reference to the instructions contained in the Foreign Office Despatch of 22nd Octr. 1863, when acting under the authority conveyed in your letter No.2 of 26th *Idem* and removing the prohibition against the Exportation of arms to the neighboring states in the Malay Peninsula and Eastern Archipelago, I could not deem myself justified in sanctioning their despatch to any of the Chinese Ports except under a declaration as to there {their} being intended for the use of the Imperial Government.

Sd O C

5/2/64

Secretary of State for India

Précis of a letter to Col Macpherson d/8/2/64

In reply to his letter of 27th mentions that an Engineer for the "Mohr" will be sent up per "Pluto" which will leave Malacca on the 15th. States that the pay of Dy Comr of Police Prov. Wellesley is Rs.250. Expects that the transfer will be postponed till /66, in which case hopes to go home on leave in the interim. Desires him to thank Logan for permitting a copy of his letter to go to India. Fears little will be done about the Dutch in Sumatra. The people of Pinang shd induce some M.P. to call for the correspondence on the subject or to ask what is being done.

Sd O C

My dear Sir

With reference to the proceedings of this Government with respect to the native states in the Malay Peninsula I deem it right to submit for the information a copy of a confidential letter d/19th Ult addressed by Mr Logan, a resident of Pinang, to the R.C. at that Station.

From Mr Logan's long residency in the Straits and from his being the legal adviser of one or two Native Chiefs he enjoys the advantages, not generally possessed by the officers of Govt., of acquiring accurate information with regard to the Policy likely to be pursued by the neighboring Malay states, and I entertain little doubt that his statement relative to the attempt now being made by Siam to regain its former influence over the Country of Perak, is perfectly correct. Indeed its accuracy is confirmed by the fact to which he alludes of the Rajah of Tongkah, a vessel {vassal} of Siam, having recently, when en route to Bangkok, endeavoured to ascertain the feelings of our Government by observing to Colonel Macpherson that, as the Chief of Perak could offer little opposition and owing to its tin mines, the country if properly governed would prove extremely valuable, he felt assured that Siam would be quite prepared to unite with England and seize it with the view of its being divided between them. Colonel Macpherson of course contented himself with remarking that the question was one which it was beyond his province to discuss and that if the Siamese had any proposition to make, it must be submitted through the proper channel; at the same time, with reference to our engagements with Perak, he could not suppose that any proposal for subverting the government of that State would be favourably received.

The Rajah never again broached the subject, though he doubtless communicated the purport of Colonel Macpherson's reply to the Court at Bangkok. I should have forwarded Mr Logan's communication officially but he requested that it might be considered a confidential document though he had no objection to its contents being made known to higher authority. I shall of course keep a careful watch upon the movements of the Siamese, so as to be able to give timely notice in case of any measures prejudicial to our interests being in contemplation.

Sd O C

C Hathaway Esqre. M D.

Private Secy: H.E. the Viceroy

Précis of a letter to Sir H Grant C.in C. Madras Army d/14th Febr'y 1864

Mentions that Major Hilliard, at present attached to the P.W.D. and employed at Pinang having stated that he had applied to him (the C.in C.) to be permitted to do duty with the 35th M.N.I. at Pinang with a view to succeeding to the command on the departure of Major Froedar, it is only fair to Major Hilliard to mention that he will lose his appointment merely on account of a reduction in his Department and not through any fault of his own. Intimates that he has requested the Supreme Govt to employ him again in the P.W.D. but understands that he would prefer serving in a Military capacity. Mentions that his nephew is still at Sarawak whether {where?} he has forwarded to him a letter from his brother enclosing one from the Secy to the late Viceroy.

Sd O C

Précis of a letter d/15/2/64 to Sir R Schomburgk.

In reply to his letters of the 28th Novr and 27th Janry does not consider that a railroad across the Isthmus of Kra would be a successful undertaking as the time and expenses of transshipping cargo would probably counterbalance the advantage to be gained by avoiding the Straits of Malacca. A ship canal might possibly answer but this would entirely depend upon the outlay required for the construction of the work, the nature of the Country though which it would have to pass, and the Establishment necessary to keep the canal in working order. Has heard nothing lately of the Ex.Sultan of Linga who has passed through Moar to Pahang. Considers that Inchi Wan Ahmed would if left to himself endeavour to conciliate our Govt. Mentions the movements of the "Alabama".

Sd O C

15/2/64

d/15/2/64

Précis of a letter to Governor Calaghan at Labuan

Forwards two letters to his address and a third for the Sultan of Sooloo which he hopes he will be able to forward.

Sd O C

Extract from a letter to Captain Fraser B.E. d/23/2/64

I have this moment received your letter of the 21st and as the Steamer is about to start have only time to write a few lines in reply. I hope that I shall find you at Singapore on my return from this {Station?} which will be early next month as I hope in the course of ensuing week to accomplish all my tours of inspection into the Different districts.

I have hear nothing further about the Lighthouse. The amount of the Estimate has however been duly included in our Budget for 1864/65. In my first letter on the subject I recommended that a communication should be made to the Trinity Board {House?} to ascertain how the screw piled lighthouses under their charge have answered. Some have been in existence upward of 20 years so that the effect of the action of the water upon the iron core of its principal points, upon which we needed information, must have been discovered ere this. The Torch Lt. Vessel will not last more than another {year?} so that it is time the question should be decided.

Précis of a letter to Col Macpherson R C Pinang d/8/3/64

Considers there were some grounds for his misconception in the Sehar Ikan Mati Swamp business. Points out that he ought not to have given Logan a copy of the letter to his address. Returns the letter from the R.C. Missionary. States that he may have the wood if it is really intended for the erection of a church. Approves of the modified rates of charges for timber cutting and desires him to report the matter officially. Mentions that Mayne cannot meet Chasserian's wishes with respect to making the canal in his land navigable for boats as the difference of cost would be more than \$1,000 but the cutting necessary for the drainage will be duly completed. Mentions that Quinton or Leathall will be sent to Pinang to overhaul his Survey office shortly. Enquires whether he has a Register of cutting papers issued. Was glad to hear of the success of his application to Che Juga Ibrahim

(insert)

No

Secret To

J M

Secretary Political and Secret Department

Sir

In reply to your Letter, dated 11th January 1864, I have the honor to state for the information of the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State for India that all the vessels of the Anglo-Chinese fleet, which touched at Singapore, had left for Bombay previous to its receipt; the remainder of the Squadron has proceeded to England.

7th March O C

1864

(end of insert)

March 8th 1864

My dear Scott

I hope you will excuse the delay in answering your note. I most fully approve of the proposals made at the meeting of the Committee and trust that they may be carried into effect, for I am sure that, if acted upon, the efficiency of the Corps will be materially increased and the Singapore Volunteers really have some claim to be considered a Regiment. By allowing all classes, as in Calcutta, to join our ranks there is apparently no reason why our members upon Parade should not swell to at least 200 so as to admit of the Corps being divided into four Companies.

Believe me

Yours sincerely

S^d/ Orfeur Cavenagh

To Lt Scott

Adj^t Singapore Volunteers

Secret

To the Secy to the Govt of India For: Dept: d/11th March/1864

Sir

In acknowledging receipt of your office despatch No 3 of the 17th Ultimo I have the honor to state that the whole of the Vessels belonging to the Anglo-Chinese Squadron have left these seas and proceeded either to England or Bombay.

Sd O C

Précis of a letter to Lieut Warden I.N. d/13th March 1864

In reply to his letter of the 1st Ult informs him that his name will be registered for employment as Harbour Master at Pinag

Lieut Warden I.N.

Care of Edmund Warden Esqre

P & O Agent Shanghai

Précis of a letter to T Anderson Esqre Supdt Botanical Gardens Calcutta

Thanks him for the Wardian case of Rose trees and mentions that he does not consider Mount Ophir a good site for the planting of Chinchona owing to the want of a sufficiently

Large plateau.

Sd O C

Government House

Singapore

16th March 64

My dear Sir

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th Janry. Dr Scott not being in the service of Govt I have had no means of making myself officially acquainted with his professional qualifications and should not therefore feel justified in expressing any opinion on the subject. I would however observe that under the present constitution of the Medical Department in the Straits, the Senior Surgeon, who is also in executive charge at Singapore, exercises over the Medical Officers at the other Stations, as well as over his immediate subordinate, the Assistant Surgeon attached to the General Hospital, the same powers of supervision and control as held by Deputy Inspectors General, and his appointment is moreover the only prize to which his juniors can look forward as the reward for long service in the Settlement. Hence it would be manifestly unjust to confer it upon an uncovenanted Servant who would thus at once be placed over the heads of Commissioned officers of several years standing and with whom, as regards Medical knowledge, he could not certainly claim to more than an equality.

Should Dr Scott be desirous of entering the Govt Service, it appears to me that it would be but right to require him in the first instance to fill a subordinate office and not to appoint him to so responsible a post as the Local Head of a Department.

Sd O C

C. Hathaway Esqre M.D.

Private Sec. to the Viceroy

Précis of a letter to Sir R Schomburgk Bangkok d/Spore 19th March 1864

In reply to his letter of 17th Ult hopes that he received his letter regarding the isthmus of Kra. Mentions that the Telegraph question has been referred hom. Was not surprised to hear of the

result of Mr Read's interview with the foreign Minister at Paris. Fears there is little chance of any redress being obtained as respects the Treaty with the ruler of Cambodia. Gives him the trends of the Home news by last Mail and mentions that Mr Alabaster passed though on his way to China.

Sd O C

Précis of a letter to Sergeant Farrell d/21st/3/64

In reply to his letter of the 18th January fears that there is little chance of his being able to obtain any addition to his pension owing to the time that has elapsed since he left the service. Should he wish to memorialise Govt on the subject he should do so though the Home Government, and though there is little chance of its proving successful, permits him to refer to him (Col Cavenagh) as his Comg officer during the scrutiny {Mutiny?} and he would be glad to support his claim or to interest himself in his behalf. Mentions that he considers that his conduct during 1857/58 was very good indeed. Sd O C

Précis of a letter to Col Macpherson R C Pinang d/25/3/64

Returns the paper sent with many thanks. Considers that matters have been woefully mismanaged on the Peninsula. Trusts that the boundary position at Malacca will soon be settled. Mentions that he will receive an official to make full enquiries regarding the relations of Acheen with the neighboring countries. With respect to the demand made upon our subjects by the Rajah of Quedah's officers desires him to mention to the Rajah that he had heard of the matter and any repetition would be taken serious notice of. With regard to the Byan Lepas Hill wishes him to make advance and receive the money by the sale of the surplus land. Is of opinion that the Dy Comr of Police should be located at Butterworth. Intimates that he has written to Calcutta about his son.

Sd O C

Précis of a letter to Captain Playfair R C Malacca d/25/3/64

Desires him to send up the convicts who ran amuck the other day to Singapore if his warrant will admit of it. Also reminds him of the Ooloo Batang Malacca boundary question.

Sd O C

My dear Sir Richard

I have the pleasure to return Mr West's note. His name has been duly entered on my list but in the event of the Transfer, the nomination of officers to the Local Corps will rest entirely with the War Office or Horse Guards, and the Local Govt. would have no voice in the matter. I also send the copy of a communication made to Mr Braddell in reply to my application submitted through him by the relatives of a person deceased to be allowed to retain their own Counsel for the Prosecution. As it is the duty of the Crown Counsel to conduct such Prosecution it appeared to

me that he could not permit a duty for the performance of which he is responsible to devolve upon any other member of the Bar and that all that I could sanction would be availing himself of any assistance in the way of obtaining evidence etc. that might be afforded him. To this I imagine there can be no objection tho' of course I shall be happy to be guided by your opinion on the point.

Sd O C

25/3/64

The Hon Sir R McCausland

5/4/64

My dear Lewis

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th Ult. I am afraid it will be quite out of my power in making arrangements to fill poor Leathall's vacancy to provide for your son, as it is necessary that his successor should be a duly competent Surveyor and none of the Juniors in the Dept are qualified for the Post. Hence it will be requisite to obtain a person either from India or England and I have already written to the Surveyor General of India on the subject. I am very sorry to hear of the injury that has been inflicted by the drought at Pinang etc.

W T Lewis Esqre Sd O C

Précis of a letter to Col R Macpherson R C Pg. D/8th April 1864

In reply to his letters of the 29th and 31st Ultimo informs him that Govt has lost about \$1,800 by the Farms, monthly. Thinks there must have been some understanding amongst the competitors. Mentions that the letters from Assahan and Battu Barra have been forwarded to India but does not consider that much will be done in the matter unless it is taken up in the House. Is going to send the "Pluto" to Pinang toward the end of the month with instructions to run along the Sumatra Coast. Is of opinion that it would be an advantage to revise our boundary with Quedah but does not think the Supreme Govt would sanction the question being mooted. Intimates that the Central Committee are awaiting his Scholarship Exam papers. Returns the letter from Brother Sotharie and mentions that he has no power to sanction a grant for building purposes.

Sd O C

Wednesday 13th April

My dear Sir Richard

With reference to the remarks contained in your charge the other day I hope you will not consider me travelling beyond my province in mentioning that I believe it has been ruled (*Rawlins v Ellis* 16 Mason and Wellesley's Reports page 172) that the Statute 29 Ch: 2nd C.7

does not prohibit the execution of Police Warrants on Sunday it being held that breaches of the Peace as exempted under the Act included constructive as well as actual breaches of the Peace and that the 6th Section merely referred to Civil Process. I do not know whether this decision was given prior or subsequent to an authority you quotes but perhaps you may have the power of ascertaining. As well as I can remember however a case occurred in England about 1835/36 in which smugglers were seized by a Revenue cruiser on a Sunday. The case is impressed upon my memory from the fact of Mr Thorn, a madman who styled himself William Courtenay having asserted that he was near the spot when the smugglers were captured and that the tubs they were seen to throw overboard had been floating about before they reached the neighborhood. He was tried for the perjury and sentenced to imprisonment at the Maidstone Assizes.

I have thought it right to mention this that if you should consider the Police to have been in error you may not at all events suppose that they have acted entirely without caution. The question of making arrests on Sundays was mooted some time back and referred to the Advocate General, a copy of his opinion being forwarded to the Commissioners for their guidance.

Sd O C

12/4/64

The Hon Sir R B McCausland

Précis of a letter to Sir R Schomburgk d/14/4/64

Does not consider that the right of Siam to suzerainty over Kalantan and Tringanu will be again brought under consideration until the treaty is revised. Mentions that the Ex.Sultan of Lingga is in Pahang on not very friendly terms with the Bandahara. Hopes that he will go to his former protectors, the Dutch. Presumes the Court at Bangkok will not again meddle with the Peninsula. Hopes he received the letters regarding the Isthmus of Kra.

Sd O C

Précis of a note to Sir R McCausland d/15/4/64

Forwards the copy of Judge Advocate's opinion regarding arrests on Sunday and mentions that perhaps it will be well to allow Col Macpherson to adjourn the Court at Pinang should Sir Benson Maxwell not return in time to open it.

Sd O C

M P

My dear Sir Richard

I am afraid the office is closed but I will not fail to send you a copy of the Advocate General's opinion tomorrow. As you had stated in your charge that you considered the case of the assault

on the Police ought to have been decided by the Magistrate and not submitted to the higher Tribunal, and in his report on the different cases to be brought before the Sessions Mr Braddell had previously expressed a somewhat similar opinion, I thought it right on Mr Dunman's representation to permit a *nolle prosequi* to be entered, the more especially as I could not approve of a large body of Police attempting when in disguise to make arrests and then {thus?} perhaps lead the offenders to offer resistance. I am of course aware that at times disguise is absolutely necessary, but then this disguise should be of such a nature that it can be easily thrown off on the necessary force ?? {being used?}.

Sd O C

14th/4/64

To Sir R McCausland

Singapore 20th April/64

My dear Quinton

I trust you will excuse the delay in answering your letter of the 4th Instant which has been occasioned by my having been very busy when I received it.

I should be very happy to be of assistance to Mr Pasley. At the same time I should not feel justified in appointing to the post of surveyor any person who had not a practical knowledge of the duties of the post, and this I gather is not the case as regards your brother-in-law, as you merely allude to his being a good mathematician and draughtsman.

At present I have no one on my list qualified for the appointment and have written to the Surveyor General in India to enquire whether he knows of any one likely to be suited for the berth, mentioning the qualifications that would be required.

Sd/O C

D Quinton Esqre

My dear Playfair

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th Instant. Since I last wrote to you I have seen a map published by ? subsequent to the conclusion of the last Treaty with Johole in which three hills ? Ooloo Batang Malacca and Bukit Pangoor are distinctly shewn though not named and the Boundary line, as supposed by Mr. Ibbetson, is drawn through the one most inland and I have little doubt that both by the British and Johole Authorities it was intended that the whole of the hill should be within our territories.

I now send you for reference a copy of the Letter despatched by Mr. Ibbetson with the Treaty to the Chief of Johole, from which as well as the previous correspondence you will find that no

alteration was to be made as regards the Boundary in the direction of Batang Malacca but only as regards that to the Northward so as to exclude Gaminchi.

You will also observe that the Chief was requested to render assistance in defining the boundary so as to avoid future disputes. If that request was complied with, then the boundary must have been clearly marked out and no change can now be made. If it was not, then we ought to ascertain what the old Boundary was. In the letter the word Batang Malacca only is used and we have the interpretation put upon the word Ooloo by the person by whom the Treaty was signed, as well as the reference to the former Boundary, so that I think we should be wrong, merely upon the result of your recent investigation, to withdraw the frontier line.

I should therefore wish you to send a copy of Mr. Ibbetson's letter, of which I fancy there is a translation in your office, to the Chief of Johole and ask him to depute an officer or to come himself to define the boundary alluded to by Mr. Ibbetson, in order that you may have proper frontier pillars put up and thus all room for future doubt effectually removed.

I am glad to hear that your Chinese rows have ended peaceably. You were quite right to dismiss the Police Interpreter as no active member of any Society should be allowed to remain in the government Service.

I dare say you will experience a little difficulty at first with regard to the Municipal Assessment. It was fortunate that I insisted upon the insertion of the last clause in the Land Act, so as to make it clear that the Assessment was perfectly distinct from the Govt Revenue. I dare say Tuan Beran will find it advisable at last to give way.

By your official received this morning I notice that you have just purchased another annuity. I fancy this will be the last for some time though, if the annuitants were wise, they would not fail to sell now that the money market is so tight. They will not have so good an opportunity again for many a long day.

Boyd has been sent back after getting a good jobation as he has applied for his Pension and we can no longer obtain the services of a man from the effective supernumeraries. I think you had better submit an application for an increase of pay to the overseer of convicts so as to include a sum about equal to that Boyd receives with his Military pay making it a consolidated salary. This may perhaps enable us to secure the services of a good man.

Have you made any enquiries as to the probability of our being able to obtain Tringanu sheep and to dispose of the few remaining Bengal ones?

By the bye I should wish you to furnish amongst the annual papers a report as to the result of the Experiments, pointing out as far as possible the reasons of its having proved a failure.

I forget whether I mentioned to you that I had heard from one of the members of the Indian Council that he believed any officer who chose to remain in the Straits would be permitted to detain {retain} all his rights as an Indian officer and be considered as still serving in India.

Sd O C

M P

Captain Playfair R.C. Malacca

Extract from a letter to Col Macpherson R C Pinang d/22nd April 1864

Leveson told me the other day that Netscher had mentioned that the correspondence between Lord John Russell and the Authorities at the Hague had been brought to a satisfactory conclusion, the English Ministry declaring that, provided the Ports were left free as at present and no additional or unequal duties imposed, there was no objection to the Dutch bringing the whole of Sumatra under subjection, and that we should not interfere, and that in consequence of this declaration five Residents were about to be appointed for Employment on the East Coast. If this is true, the Merchants at Pinang should lose no time in trying to bring the matter before the House, for although the Ports may be perfectly free, there may be Government Monopolies and out trade may be interfered with in many ways.

Under the new interventions system now ordered there can be little doubt that our trade will gradually dwindle away. I haven't failed to place a very strong opinion on the subject on record, so that it cannot be said that there has been any want of information afforded by the Local Authorities.

With regard to the Quedah gentleman, it is time that he should understand that continued disregard of his Treaty obligations will not be passed over and it is advisable that you should write to him pointing out that although he is bound to seize and make over to us all offenders that may take refuge in our {his?} territories, he has for a long time failed to do so and consequently it will be your duty to bring the matter to my notice, when in all probability you will be instructed to discontinue the payment of his monthly allowance. This perhaps will bring him to his senses.

By the bye you have never I think answered my question about the Pensions given to the family of the late Bandahara of Quedah. It was granted in 1822 and I should imagine that all the widows and the must have died ere long. This and the pension was not intended for their descendants in perpetuity.

I hope that the tables for the Princess of Wales are progressing favourably.

Sd O C

M P

My dear Sir Richard

I have the pleasure to enclose for your perusal a Petition addressed by the wife of a Prisoner, La Ah Keat, now undergoing sentence of transportation, to the Governor General, and shall be much

obliged by your kindly letting me know whether in your opinion there were any circumstances connected with the man's case that would render him deserving of any consideration. I observe, by the Administration Report, that the injured party was the reputed head of a Hooey and therefore presume that the Culprit belonged to a Rival Society.

Sd O C

Sir R B McCausland