

Private Letter Book

Volume IX

From the 26th April 1864

To the 3rd November 1864

26/4/64

My dear Mr Ibbetson

I trust you will kindly excuse my not answering your letter of the 12th Inst by the "River". I had fully intended doing so but I was so busy getting off my official despatches that I had little leisure for other correspondence. It would I can assure you afford me much pleasure to be of any assistance to your son, at the same time with the limited patronage at my disposal I may experience some difficulty in meeting your wishes.

I do not know whether he would be desirous of accepting an appointment as Dy Commissioner of Police, the office to which candidates for employment are now as a general rule nominated in the first Instance, whilst he would hardly be qualified from the want of legal training to undertake the duties of a Magistrate until he had served his probation in the lower grade and made himself fully acquainted with the different Acts and Regulations specified in the Government order for the guidance of candidates issued in 1859 or 1860, of which Col Macpherson will I am certain be glad to give you a copy.

The question regarding the boundary still remains undecided, as it appears now that the Range is sometimes considered as three hills, viz Rambow, Ooloo Batang Malacca and Pungoor, and that the second instead of being the most inland is the center of the group. We have however found a letter of your to the chief of Johole which will be of use as you specially allude to our retaining the old boundary and ask him to send some people to mark it out. Now if it was once defined there can be no further doubt about the matter.

Sd O C

27/4/64

R Ibbetson Esqre

Précis of a letter to Col Macpherson R C Pinang d/27/4/64

Mentions that the pamphlet attached to the Educational Memo will be sent to him per "Pluto". Intimates that almost all our schools are to be considered as private institutions receiving grants in aid and under Govt. Inspection. Schools in the Province as {are?} Government Schools for a special purpose. Only requires one set of returns which will suffice for the Supreme Govt and Administration Report. Will be inclined to make the Dy Commissioner of Police a

Commissioner at Pinang, where Mr. W. may have a little more experience and has passed his examination. Will speak to Capt Mayne about the Police Tharmah. Considers that when the Commission to report on the boundary at Kra is assembled it might be as well to get there {them?} to revise the Province Wellesley Frontiers. Hopes the convicts who escaped to Patani {Patani?} will be discovered {recovered?} and their abettors punished. "Pluto" will leave on the 3rd.

Sd O C

The Hon Col Macpherson R C Pinang

My dear Sir Richard

I have the pleasure to return with many thanks the papers you kindly sent me connected with the case of See Ah Keat. The petition which by the bye is I think still with you does not appear one deserving of consideration.

Sd / O C

30/4/64

Sir Richard McCausland

Précis of a letter to Sir R Schomburgk 1/5/64

Regrets to hear of his illness. Is not surprised to hear of the Siamese being uneasy about the intentions of the French in their neighborhood. Does not consider that France will care to go to war with Siam. Had not before heard of the Boundary Commission and thinks that the Province Wellesley Boundary might be at the same time more clearly defined. Hears that Mr Read has been disappointed with the result of his mission as agent for Siam. etc.

Sd O C

M P

3/(5)/64

My dear Greathed

As it is not unlikely that the Report on the Defence of the Straits prepared by the Commission of which I was a member may be forwarded to your office for the consideration of H.R.H. the C.in C. I write these few lines to disabuse our mind of any idea the perusal of the Report might lead you to form that I am an advocate for the retention in regular Corps of Native Commissioned Officers. {In?} The Corps of Irregular Cavalry, where it is the object to secure the services of Native Gentlemen as Squadron and Troop leaders, native Officers are indispensable. However as a political measure it is advisable to leave an opening for the services of the Old Families who

may be anxious {desirous?} of entering upon a Military career but in a Regiment composed of the Classes of which the Straits Local Corps is likely to be formed.

Native Officers in my opinion are unnecessary and it would be better to abolish the grade, and with the saving thus effected, improve the condition of Native Non Comd. Officers and perhaps add one or 2 subalterns to the European Element. The question however to be considered is how far the abolition of the rank of Subadar and Jemadar might affect the necessity for the Regiment And prevent the services of good men being secured and from want of much acquaintance with the character of the navy, hubi Seikh being somewhat doubtful on this point, I thought it advisable in calculating the expense of the Corps to be guided by the Return received from the finance Committee.

I observe that the Parliamentary Com^{ee} have reported against the legality of the Staff Corps. I must confess I more (neither?) thought the scheme likely to conduce to economy or efficiency whilst I felt convinced it would cause much dissatisfaction.

Sd O C

Lt Col Greathed C.B>

Asst Mil Secy

H.R.H the C.in C.

Précis of a letter to Col Macpherson R.C.Pinang d/6th May 1864

Fears the news about the approval by the Home Govt of Dutch on the E. Coast of Sumatra is too true. Hopes that the official orders regarding Queday will have a beneficial effect. Considers that the recipients of the Quedah Bandahara's wives' pension must be very old woman {women}. On their demise the pension will lapse. Intimates that the Hospl at Pulo Jerajah is not under the Chief Engineer and Bennett will only have anything to do with it as Supdt of Convicts, the arrangement of the building etc. rests with the Committee. Encloses a Bill for \$40 for his subn to the Tables. Considers that if he can get 2 handsome tables ready made it would be better than delaying for others. Will appoint Presgrade an honorary Magistrate but this will in no way render it incumbent upon him to give him an appointment and his claims would hereafter be only taken into consideration with those of other candidates. Considers him right in the view he has taken regarding the Royalty charge at Larroot. Regrets to hear Logan has made such little progress with the drainage scheme. Desires him to thank Lewis for his offer to act as Sitting Magistrate. etc.

Sd O C

7/5/64

My dear Baningarten {Baumgarten?}

I have the pleasure to return the papers you left with me the other day. I find that I was mistaken in supposing that the order regarding the one third increase to Clerks when travelling on circuit was a general one. It is a special order applicable only to the clerks of the Governor. On referring to the old records I find that not only was the table money of the Registrar and his clerk formerly paid by Govt. but also that of the Govr and any other Public officer travelling on duty. This rule has however been cancelled and the only order I can discover on the subject is that contained in the Supreme Govt. order No 1002 d/14th May 1860 which is applicable to all classes. The order you will find in our Gazette No 137 d/28th Sept 1861.

Sd O C

11/5/64

C Banningarten Esqre

Registrar

Précis of a letter to Captain Playfair R C Malacca d/27th May 1864

Considers him right in endeavouring to punish the murderers of the Chinese hawkers. Thinks however that they cannot be tried in our Court as it would not appear that they are British subjects. Regrets he missed seeing the Punghulu of Johole as some arrangement might have been made about the boundary line at Batang Malacca. Desires him to write to the Punghulu to propose a revision of the Boundary line and to mention to him that Masonry pillars will be erected to mark the boundary. Fears that any appeal about his pay will be useless as the decision is by the Supreme Govt not the Civil Paymaster. Will direct Captain Mayne to send up orders regarding the commencement of land works. Mentions that the revised Survey Establishment has been received from India.

Sd O C

Précis of a letter to the Hon Col. Macpherson R C Pinang

Acknowledges the receipt of his Education Report. Mentions that he will probably be in Pinang on the 24th Inst. Does not think that Col Man will be back before September. Will take up the question of the Rajah of Quedah on arrival at Pinang. Is glad to hear that he has secured two handsome tables to accompany the large one. Supposes young Maxwell will be appointed as Senior Sworn Clerk. Is not at all sure that Plunkett will obtain leave to Europe as Rose does not appear to consider such extended leave necessary and will not countersign the certificate until he has visited Pinang. Mentions that until Waller passes his Examination it is useless his expecting promotion. Thinks that perhaps Allen would be the person best suited to act as Magistrate. Suggests that some of the Chinese Special Constables petition Govt for legislation in regard to Hooeys. Enquires whether Mr Brown of the "Mohr" would be fit to take command of her. If so Mr Thorn might be transferred to the "Tonze". Mr Wisheham is about to obtain Sick Leave and should Mr Brown be available he might be appointed to act, and the Engineer of the "Tonze" which will have to be docked for repairs be temporarily attached to the "Mohr". Does not think

that the Chief of Larroot can be interfered with. Does not expect the Transfer Bill will be brought on in the House this Session. Will apply for the services of Sergt Wilkinson to the Madras Govt.

Sd O C

M P

Précis of a letter to Mr Callaghan Governor of Labuan d/1st June 1864

Thanks him for his d/21st April. Mentions that the "Rainbow" instead of the "Pluto" is to effect the Labuan reinforcement. Recommends him not to send away all his guns and stores as Orientals have a great dread of these and the knowledge of his having even 2 available might be beneficial both in the case of a disturbance among his convicts or should there be any chance of external attack. Mentions the reports that the transfer is to take place on the 1st Janry 1865.

Sd O C

1/6/64

Singapore

5th June 1864

My dear Mackinon

I write these few hurried lines to mention that an appointment under me has just fallen vacant which it is possible may suit Matthew and which I should be very glad to confer upon him. It is the situation of Surveyor at Malacca. The salary is Rs 400 per mensem with a prospect of rising eventually to the post of Surveyor General of which the salary is now Rs 720 and will probably be increased to that of 800 Rs per mensem.

It would of course be necessary for Matthew to procure a certificate from the gentleman under whom he has been trained that he is perfectly qualified to conduct a survey. It should run as follows. I hereby certify that _____ possesses a good knowledge of the use of the Prismatic Compass, Chains, Theodolite and Levelling Instruments including the adjustments of the 2 latter. That he is perfectly competent to survey with the chain only, with the Prismatic Compass and Chain, and with the theodolite and chain, also to survey and take sections with the Y level and with Troughton & Simm's level, including in any case keeping field books, plotting and finishing the drawing. If he can furnish the above certificate and you think that the appointment is one that he would wish to accept, on the receipt of your answer I will at once Gazette him and he might be out here in Septr or Octr.

As there is every probability of the Straits being transferred to the charge of the Colonial Office it would of course be advisable for you before making up your mind on the subject to wait upon the permanent Under Secy, Sir F Rodgers {Rogers}, and mention that the offer had been made, and ascertain whether there would be any objection to its being accepted. At present the

patronage of the Settlement is entirely in my hands but after the transfer it will remain with the Secy of State so that it would be right to ascertain his wishes on the subject.

Sd/ O C

3/6/64

C Mackinon Esqre

Bengal Retired List

Care of Smith Elder & Co

45 Pall Mall

London

Govt House

Singapore

5th June 1864

My dear Sir

As there is apparently every reason to believe that the transfer of the Straits Settlement to the charge of the Colonial Office will in all probability take place on the 1st January next I deem it my duty to mention for the information of the Rt Hon the Secy of State that, consequent on the state of the money market owing to the severe financial pressure which the Mercantile Community at this Station is now labouring, at the recent sale of the Excise Farms, there was little or no competition, and the Revenue has therefore sustained an annual loss to the extent of £4,000 and for the period of 3 years, the term for which the Forms {Farms} are disposed of.

As the Forms {Farms} at Pinang are to be sold next year, and as far as I have been able to ascertain, there is every prospect of a considerable rise in the amount thus realized, it is quite possible that the previous calculations as {of?} the general Revenue of the Settlement may be in no way deranged by the falling off at Singapore. So long however as a doubt may exist on this head, it is probable that the Home Govt may be desirous of effecting a reduction of expenditure, in which case I trust I may be pardoned for suggesting that in the proposed scale of Establishment there are one or two new appointments for which there is no immediate necessity, and which perhaps it might therefore be advisable to delay filling up until a full assurance can be given as to the finances of the Colony being perfectly able to meet the additional expense that would be thereby entailed.

The appointments to which I particularly refer are the Judges of the Small Cause Court at Singapore and the Auditor General. The present Commissioner of the Court of Requests is quite

competent to adjudicate in all cases as {of?} which the matters in dispute may not exceed fifty dollars in value, and by extending his jurisdiction to that sum (its limit is now Thirty-two dollars) the requisite relief would be afforded to the Higher Court. In preparing the revised Letters Patent for reconstituting the Court it would be, I presume, merely necessary to make the order for Establishing as proposed a Small Cause Court with jurisdiction up to 300 dollars permissive and not compulsory, or indeed the whole question of the revision of the Letters Patent might for a time be postponed.

The Colonial Secretary if allowed, as at present, the assistance of the Governor's Secy as his Dy., might without difficulty discharge the duties of Auditors. Even now all contingent Bills, as well as all Bills connected with the Marine and convict Departments, are audited in the Secretary's office, where also are prepared all Budget Estimates and other Annual Financial Statements. A small additional Establishment of Clerks would of course be needed to check the Mily. Expenditure, which is now audited by the Madras Authorities and debited against the Straits.

In addition to the two above mentioned officers two Student Interpreters might also in the first instance be dispensed with. In fact under any circumstances it would hardly be advisable to send out 3 Student Interpreters together as the Straits Service is too small to admit of many vacancies, and there might be some difficulty in providing for three aspirants if they all passed their examination about the same time.

Trusting that my desire to place the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State in a position to form a just opinion as to the financial condition of the Straits Settlement may plead as my excuse for addressing you on the subject.

I remain etc.

Sd/ O C

To

Sir Frederic Rogers

Under Secretary

Colonial Office

Madam

In reply to your letter d/28th March 1864 I regret to have the painful task of informing you of the death of your Husband which sad event occurred at the General Hospital at this Station on the 15th Janry 1864.

It appears from the Report of the Medical Attendant that he had been long ill and had on several previous occasions been admitted into the Hospital for treatment.

Sd/ O C

To

Mrs Marion Bird

63 Devon Street

London Road

Licerpool

Direct Commissions

Singapore 6th June 1864

Sir

In returning herewith duly filled up the paper received with your letter_____ d/9th April 1864, I have the honor to request the favor of your expressing my thanks to H.R.H. the Field Marshall Commander in Chief for the favourable consideration he has been pleased to accord to my application for a Commission by purchase for my son.

Sd O C

Major Gl Forster R A

Military Secretary

Horse Guards

Précis of a letter to Lt Col Macpherson R C Pg d/8/6/64

Mentions that the Mans talked of delaying their departure till 20th June. States that he has been applied to regarding his (Col M^cP) services and has applied {replied?} that they are required in the Civil Dept. Intimates that he has postponed his departure for Pg to the 1st Prox. Hopes his Annual Returns will all arrive by the Mail. Informs him that a protest has been sent in against his retrenchment. Points out that under the Charter Rodyk cannot make any appointment without the approval of the Court.

Sd/ O C

Précis of a letter to H.E. T F Callaghan Esqre Governor of Labuan d/13/6/64

Forwards him a letter received from the Foreign Office. Presumes that the Straits will be transferred on the 1st Janry. Supposes that some arrangement will have to be made with the

Madras Government and enquires whether he has ever thought of organizing a small police Force of 50 men for the protection of his Jail and Treasury which might enable him to reduce his Military to one company again. Enquires whether he still wants a Jailer as there is a man here, a Mr Hubbard, who bears a good character. Enquires the amount of the salary of the appt.

Sd/ O C

Memorandum

Great Britain has never sought extension of territory in the Eastern Archipelago. In exerting her legitimate influence, as the Paramount Power in this Quarter over the Malay States, she has been actuated solely by a sincere desire to preserve the general Peace and thus, by facilitating the diffusion of the blessings of civilization, to increase the happiness and prosperity of the neighbouring populations. If Siam is truly influenced by the same motive and will co-operate honestly and faithfully in the work of maintaining quiet and tranquillity throughout the Peninsula, the task will be easily accomplished. If on the contrary, with the view of enlarging her territory on {or?} her power, she may either directly or indirectly endeavour to foment strife and excite jealousies and angry feelings between the Native Chiefs, in the defence of her Commercial interests which might be thereby imperilled, Great Britain would, in all probability, be compelled to interfere and, for the consequences that might ensue, Siam alone would be held responsible.

2. Under the operation of articles 11 and 14 of the Treaty of June 1826, confirmed by Article 1 of the Agreement of 1856, the States of Tringanu and Kalantan, as well as Perak, may be considered under the joint protection of Great Britain and Siam and the State of Salangore under the protection of Great Britain alone.

3. This Protectorate, though clearly precluding any acts of aggression, with ulterior views, either on the part of Great Britain or Siam, upon the above mentioned States, has never been deemed a bar to a demand by either Power for redress for wrongs inflicted on its subjects or for any violation of the rights of neighbouring Chiefs, who may consider themselves entitled to appeal for aid in the maintenance of their position as Independent Rulers.

4. Although, in making such a demand, it has not hitherto been considered obligatory upon the one power to communicate with the other, yet, it is clear that, under the provisions of their Treaty Engagements, they would be fully entitled to call upon one another for an explanation as to the causes which may have led to any interference with a State under their joint protection, and, equally clear, that the demand from the aggrieved Power must be strictly confined to compensation for the injury suffered or, in the case of any act of hostility towards a neighbouring State, to the restoration of Peace, and that, any attempt to seek other advantages would not be justifiable.

5. Much future misconceptions might possibly be avoided by mutual understanding that, in every case in which one Power may consider that it has just cause for complaint against a Protected State, it should make the other fully acquainted with the circumstances therewith connected and allow ample time to admit of its offering its mediation, with the view to the amicable adjustment of the dispute, before adopting measures to obtain redress.

6. The Chiefs of Johore and Pahang have hitherto considered themselves, to a certain extent, under the protection of Great Britain. Should they continue to do so, any unprovoked aggression upon those States would doubtless be resented.

7. Quedah having been included amongst the Siamese Provinces specified in Article 10 of the Treaty of 1826, the Rajah has been looked upon more as a vassal of Siam than as an independent Chief. Consequent on the nature of the boundary, as at present recognised, it has never been distinctly defined, and the want of a properly organised system of Police in Quedah, of late years there have been constant complaints with respect to inroads into British territory by parties of Gang Robbers and Smugglers, who were pursued, seek shelter across the frontier where they are allowed to concoct their nefarious schemes with perfect impunity. The Rajah has been frequently warned with regard to his neglect of duty as Ruler as respects the non prevention of such incursions into a friendly country, but as he is in receipt of a Pension of 10,000 Dollars from the British Government, and the threat of its withdrawal has generally been found to act as a salutary check, when due attention has not been paid to these warnings, it has not hitherto been deemed requisite to make any representations to the Siamese Authorities upon the subject, though, eventually, it may become necessary to do so. The village of Kotah on the By. Is a notorious resort of Smugglers and gamblers, it is of little value and in the event of the Quedah Rajah not feeling disposed to incur the expense of maintaining order amongst its inhabitants and preventing their becoming a nuisance to their neighbours, it might be thought advisable to allow a slight alteration of the frontier line, so as to bring them within the British boundary, when a strong party of Police would at once be established in the neighbourhood for their due coercion.

8. Generally speaking there are but few cases of complaint against the chiefs of the other Siamese Provinces. There is however one charge brought against them, more especially against the Chief of Patani, which appears to be well founded, viz that of harbouring runaway Convicts. The matter has never yet been brought to the notice of the Court at Bangkok, an order from which would most probably lead to a discontinuance of the practice.

Sd/ Orfeur Cavenagh Col

Governor Straits Settlement

Singapore

17 June 1864

To

Sir Robert Schomburgk

late Consul at Bangkok

Singapore

21st June 1864

Dear Sir

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 10th Ultimo I would again take the opportunity of tendering my sincere thanks for the kind manner in which you have expressed your views upon the subject of my proceedings in connection with the bombardment of the Sultan's Fort at Tringanu. I trust I may be pardoned offering the following observations with regard to the position of the Governor of the Straits Settlement which may perhaps be deemed some slight justification for my having acted upon my own conviction instead of awaiting further orders.

Owing partly to there being direct means of communication with Calcutta only once a month and partly possibly to the fact that as a general rule there is no member of the Supreme Government who is either acquainted with or interested in the Straits Settlement or our political relations with the Malay States, the duty of watching over our interests in the Peninsula has hitherto, as the official records will show, devolved almost entirely upon the Governor. No distinct line of policy has ever been marked out for his guidance and he has generally on {in?} any emergency been obliged to act to the best of his judgement, reporting his proceedings by the first opportunity.

In acting as I did therefore I merely pursued the course that had been followed on several previous occasions, whilst the opinion that had been expressed by the Governor in Council in Colonel Durand's Despatch No 978 d/ 23rd October 1862 as to the propriety of compelling the removal of the Ex.Sultan of Linga and Inchi Wan Ahmed and punishing the Sultan of Tringanu seemed clearly to be my proper guide in determining my line of action, when it had become evident that the Court of Siam entertained no intention of fulfilling its promise. Had I then again referred to Bengal for orders, even supposing that my letter had been answered by the first opportunity, I could not possibly have received a reply before the end of December, by which time all hope of interfering with any success would have long passed away. The annexed extract from a letter d/23rd May 1862 addressed to the late lord Elgin will show that although not shrinking from accepting the responsibility attached to my office, I was most anxious to be furnished with instructions.

Although the operations at Tringanu failed to lead to the immediate pacification of Pahang, I believe I am justified in stating that they have not been altogether devoid of success. The Siamese Court has been taught that the remonstrances of the Governor General of India are not to be disregarded if not treated with contempt {and?} with impunity, whilst amongst the Smaller States the respect for our power has materially increased and even the present Ruler of Pahang expresses his desire to act in accordance with our wishes and seeks our advice. Had it not been for the instigation of others, the authorities at Bangkok would never have attempted to question the perfect justice of our proceedings.

In conclusion I need hardly state that in conformity with your instructions no exertion in my power shall be wanting to secure the preservation of the peace of the Peninsula.

Sd/ O C

To The Rt: Hon:

Sir Charles Wood Bt G.C.B.

Secy of State for India

India Office

Extract from Letter d/23rd May 1862(4) addressed to the late Viceroy and Governor General

Your Lordship's kindness in allowing me to allude to any matter connected with my own Govt emboldens me to remark on the want of any fixed line of policy with regard to our relations with the Native States. Since I have been in charge I have considered it my duty to encourage as far as possible the Chiefs to look to us for advice and assistance in the settlement of their petty disputes, to cause our Govt to be respected as the paramount power in the Malay Peninsula, and to maintain the general peace so as to afford no pretext for any Foreign European Interference. The Supreme Government has been pleased to approve generally of my proceedings. At the same time, I can discover no distinct rule for my guidance in this respect. Your Lordship will not I trust misunderstand me or consider that I shrink from any responsibility which must attach to my office. I should be undeserving of my position were such the case, but to a subordinate authority it must always be a satisfaction to feel that he is carrying out the general views of his superiors, and although when any emergency arises, he must act to the best of his own judgement and suffer for any error of which he may be guilty. And yet I forming that judgement he is much more likely to determine rightly when directed by some general principle than when merely reasoning on the merits of each individual case. I am happy to say that at present I have no reason to anticipate the occurrence of any event likely to give trouble. With the exception of some petty border disputes in Moar, the Peninsula appears free from disturbance and the Chiefs all well disposed.

True Extract

Sd/ O C

True copies

M P

Précis of a letter to Captain Playfair R C Malacca d/22nd June 1864

Regrets to hear that he is still suffering from his head and considers there will be no difficulty about granting him leave on Man's return from England. Mentions that there has been some little trouble with his Returns and requests him in future to take the latest Administration Report as his guide in their preparation. Is sorry to hear that fighting has commenced over the frontier. Mentions that Mr Goddard is to do duty in the "Mohr" on his arrival in Malacca and Mr Brown is to do duty in the "Tonze" on her way down from Malacca to Singapore where he will be transferred to the "Pluto" to act as Chief Engineer. Intimates that should Sultan Ali give any

trouble by offering encouragement to smugglers he will in all probability lose his pension and the saving will go to strengthen the Police Force. Should there be any difficulty with the People in Simpang Sirkam and Tedong mentions that he should request Quinton to carry on the survey of that district at once, and a commuted allowance will be fixed instead of the tenths. Enquires whether he ascertained whether the Order in Council d/25th June 1828 containing the Land Regns was ever published and enforced at Malacca.

Sd O C

22/6/64

Précis of a letter to Col Macpherson R C Pinang d/27/6/64

Reminds him about sending down the "Mohr" to Malacca. Acknowledges the receipt of his Judicial Returns. Was glad to find that Netscher's statement was not strictly correct. Mentions that Sir H Robinson has heard from the Colonial Office that the transfer is to take place on the 1st Janry. Mentions that the convicts on the hill are to be under the Supdt and not the P.W.D. No report yet received about Mr Lewis' appointment. Points out that it is necessary with a view to accuracy that one Return should be prepared and signed by both Mate and Commissioner of Police. Points out that he cannot be made Colonel in the Staff Corps until he has been 5 years Lieut Colonel. Will take up Larroot tin question at Pinang. Is glad to hear that the Sehar Ikan Mati works are progressing.

29/6/64

My dear Mr Knox

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters of the 20th Instant for which I am much obliged. From what you say I fancy there is little prospect of our seeing the 2nd King at Singapore. I have however determined upon postponing my departure until the 5th Proximo so as to be here to receive him in the event of his really continuing his journey. Should I hear nothing further up to that date I shall conclude that His Majesty has abandoned the idea of visiting the Straits

I am afraid the Siamese are, as you suppose, leaning on a broken reed if they trust to Mr. Read's political influence for the restoration of Cambodia. It is a pity that they will not attend to your advice in the matter, although I am sure Mr. Read would not willingly deceive them. He is one of those sanguine men who are necessarily doomed to disappointment.

Sir Robert Schomburgk left this {Station?} last Sunday having been detained at Singapore longer than he expected owing to the accident that occurred to the Machinery of the Mail Steamer. Upon the whole I think he improved a little though he was evidently far from well and will not I presume ever venture out into the East again.

I hope you will accept my best thanks for your kind invitation to visit Bangkok. I should be very glad to avail myself of it but at present I see little chance of my being able to get away from the Straits, the question of our transfer being still undecided.

Sd O C

T G Knox Esqre

Offg H.M. Consul

Bangkok

Pg Augt 1st/64

My dear Simons

I have duly received the petition referred to in yours of the 24th Ultimo which I have forwarded to the Judge for his remarks, at the same time mentioning that I should be prepared to take the appeal into consideration provided he is of opinion that the case is one deserving of mercy. I have not yet been furnished with a copy of the evidence but this will be submitted. From the report that appeared in the papers much certainly sound {seems?} to depend as you remark upon the degree of credibility to be attached to the evidence of the shopkeeper.

etc. etc. etc.

Sd O C

M P

To H M Simons Esqre

Pinang 1st Augt 64

My dear Sir Richard

Will you kindly favor me with your opinion as to the merits of the case referred to in the accompanying appeal for the mitigation of the sentence of transportation passed at the last Criminal Sessions.

The petition appears to be signed by many respectable Chinese Merchants and should you deem the case one deserving of mercy I should be quite prepared to take the appeal into favourable consideration.

Sd O C

To the Hon Sir R B McCausland

Dear Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 27th June last. The Tumongong of Johore is I am aware expecting a Steamer from England but it is intended more as a Tug to tow timber vessels into the old Straits where he has a Steam Saw Mill than for Warlike purposes. I feel perfectly assured that he will not attempt to fit out any hostile expedition against Pahang without the consent of the British Government and that so long as he is not attacked he will remain perfectly quiet. I have taken every opportunity of impressing upon him the necessity for turning his attention towards the improvement of his own territories and he appears desirous of acting upon my advice. It was no doubt a mistake in the first instance allowing his Father to fall into the hands of a Mercantile Firm instead of giving him a Government officer as his Counsellor but it is now I am afraid too late to remedy this.

The Ex.Sultan of Lingga is dead and the Ex.Sultan of Johore has just started for Pahang but I hardly anticipate his giving any trouble. The Sultan of Tringanu will in all probability visit Singapore next month as he purposes making another attempt to effect the Pilgrimage to Mecca. I much regret to mention the impunity hitherto granted to the Rajah of Timerong has so far emboldened him as to lead to his attacking another British vessel and murdering the greater part of the crew. I have just despatched a report on the subject to the Supreme Government. The complaints of our Chinese subjects must of course be always taken *cum grano* but the charges against the above Rajah seem to be substantially correct.

I remain

Yours truly

Sd O C

The Right Hon Sir C Wood Bt G.C.B.

Secy of State for India

Précis of a letter to Captain Playfair R C Malacca d/7th Augt 1864

As the Commodore intends to visit Malacca requests him to offer the Stadt house to him should he wish to remain on shore. Desires him to suspend payment of Sultan Allee's pension until his return to Moar. Enquires whether he has come to terms with the inhabitants of the 3 districts.

Pinang 20th Augt

My dear Brooke

Owing to my having left Singapore on my annual tour of Inspection your letter of the 27th May only reached me about a fortnight ago, otherwise I should have acknowledged its receipt earlier.

I am very sorry to find that the breach between you and the Rajah is still as wide as ever but still hope for both your own sakes as well as for the sake of your adopted country that at some future date a reconciliation may yet take place. I am sure it could be effected. You would both be happier, for such an intimate connection as yours has been cannot be severed without some degree of pain. In justice to Sir James I think it right to mention that the notes I sent you were furnished with his knowledge, for when I told him that I wished to make extracts from his papers, as it was only fair to you that you should be made acquainted with any passage that might affect your position, he most readily acquiesced. Indeed whilst asserting that he was justified in adopting the course of action he had pursued, he has always expressed his regret at the interruption of your kindly relations with one another.

Sd O C

J Brooke Brooke Esqre

Wooton Rectory Dorking Surrey England

My dear Burn

The arrival of the Mail a day earlier than was expected has prevented the despatch of the reply to your official regarding the "Pluto" which will reach you by the next opportunity. In the meanwhile you may act upon this note and discharge all the crew on the 1st Proximo with the exception of a sufficient number to keep the Machinery etc. in order, and also should the Paddle boats be deemed suitable for the work to effect the relief of the Lighthouses. Of the officers only those who have been upwards of a year in the service should be retained. Mr Brown and Mr Goodman have no special claims upon the government and should therefore be discharged giving them a month's notice. The latter if he remains in this part of the world would be reinstated in the event of our being allowed to rebuild the Steamer, which seems to me to be the best course we can adopt. With your brother to superintend the work I have little doubt that Buyers and Co would build a really serviceable vessel. You might ask them to let you have a tender for the work, the present hull, masts, rigging, boilers, engines etc. being made over to them. Should it not exceed \$16,000 I would certainly recommend their offer for acceptance. etc.

etc. etc.

Sd O C

True copy

M P The Hon Capt Burn R.C.Singapore

Précis of a letter to Captain Playfair R C Malacca d/30th Augt. And 4th Sepr 1864

Considers that it would be a good place {plan?} to obtain some influence over the Chiefs of the Neighborhood of Malacca through the medium of the Sultan of Moar. Enquires what annuity of Count Von Rangow he refers to. Considers Mr. Westerhout's explanation satisfactory, and with

regard to the Commissariat defalcation at Malacca requests to see the accounts for May and June. Fancies he is entitled to his full pay from 9th Decr last.

My dear Sir Richard

With reference to your remark this morning that you purposed making a representation on the subject of the recent order regarding Court Deposits, it appears to me on reflection that I should not be justified in furnishing you with copies of my letters. As it is recognised as an established rule that transcripts of reports from a subordinate to the Supreme Govt. should not be given to any other authority. When the correspondence is closed there can be no objection to your perusing the letters and I should be very glad to send the books to you for this purpose.

As far however as I can judge the extracts given by the Financial Secy. contain the pith of the correspondence, as the points at issue are:-

First. Is the permission to remit money in Treasury Notes a right or an indulgence.

Second. If an indulgence, was it intended that the Court should be at liberty to order several accounts to be clubbed together in order to purchase our Treasury Notes? This last practise led to the complaint of the Accountant General, as it caused serious inconvenience and complication of accounts. Hence the representation on the subject.

The order for paying off the amt. already invested must I think have originated from the Home Govt. with reference to the transfer, as there was some correspondence on the subject between the India and Colonial Offices.

Sd O C

26/9/64

The Hon Sir R McCausland

October 1st

My dear Sir Richard

I have just read over clause 42 page 27 of the Charter and it appears to me that we are not authorized to withdraw any portion of the Suitors Deposit money from the Treasury except for the purpose of investment in Bills, Bonds or Securities, and consequently in the present state of the law any transfer of the deposits to a chartered bank however well satisfied we might be as to the Solvency of the Establishment, would be illegal. Hence with reference to the depreciation lately cause in Govt. Securities consequent on the quick demand for money in Calcutta, I cannot but consider that, for the interests of the Suitors, the best course for the Court to pursue would be at once to issue an order directing the amount which it is intended to keep in Govt. Securities to be remitted to the Secretary to the Bank of Bengal to be invested in the purchase of promissory

notes in the 5 per cent loan, the account of each estate to be entered under a separate head and the interest accruing from time to time to be ?

The whole amount, 800,000 Rupees might be remitted by this Mail, but it would not be wise to flood the market and perhaps cause a rise which may otherwise not occur before another 2 or 3 months, and therefore it would be better perhaps to direct the remittance to be made in 2 or 3 instalments, specifying the estates in which each set of remittances should appertain. In that case Burn, as acting here for the Acct. General to the Court would address the Secretary to the Bank of Bengal, forwarding a remittance for the total amount intended to be invested and requesting that the amount might be credited to the Accountant General to the Court of Judication {Judicature?} under the necessary headings, thus:-

Acct: Gl: James Smith

5,000 Rs.

T.Jones

10,000 Rs

and the requisite purchases he {be?} made in the Market, the notes of the numbers and dates, of which a Memo would be forwarded, being held in deposit at the orders of the Acct: Gl: for the time being. The Bank would then forward an annual Acct. for submission to the Court, and whenever any change took place with regard to the appointment of Accountant General, it would be the duty of the Local Government to apprise the directors of the Bank of Bengal of the nomination of the new incumbent to office. The Bank of Bengal being a Govt. Institution and having taken the place of the General Treasury, there can I think be little doubt that we should be perfectly justified in transacting our business through it.

As regard Burns reporting to the court the receipt of my d.o. communication maintaining that the Supr: Govt had withdrawn the indulgence hitherto allowed, I hardly think it would have been respectful to the Court for him to have done otherwise, as he does not grant the promissory note but applies to the Acct. General of India for one. In this instance he knew that his application would not be granted and it would hardly have been right for him to have kept the court in ignorance of the fact even though he was aware that the official might be daily expected.

Sd O C

The Hon Sir R B McCausland

Recorder

Precis of a note to Col Freeth R.E. Comg R.E. in Ceylon d/2nd October 1864

States that he has forwarded all the correspondence on the subject of his and Lieut Woodward's allowances whilst in Singapore to the govt of India with a recommendation that they should

receive Indian pay and allowances whilst employed upon the Commission at Singapore. Mentions that the question will probably be referred to Sir C. Wood, therefore some little time will elapse before the question can be settled.

M P Sd O C

4/10/64

My dear Sir Richard

I perfectly agree with you in thinking that the Court would have the power to invest the Suitors' money in the Securities of any chartered Bank if we thought it advisable to run the risk of doing so, but I had understood you to allude to our gazing over all deposits to the Bank instead of to the Treasury as prescribed by the Charter.

I have already addressed the Supreme Govt. on the subject of the payment of the 3 months interest, as to whether any person could legally sue or not on a note granted to a Public Officer under a special arrangements and not transferable. The claim seems to me an equitable one and is therefore deserving of support.

In issuing the order to the Accountant Genl. with reference to the writing of the Charter, I fancy he should be instructed to remit the money to the Bank of Bengal for the purpose of being invested etc. as the investment cannot be made at the Settlement, Govt. Promissory notes not being procurable here.

The sooner the money can be remitted, the better for the interests of the Suitors, as Govt Securities are low at present in Calcutta and, after the purchase of produce, they may be expected to rise again. I should be disposed did it not will me to order a large remittance to be made by every Mail until the whole amount was invested. etc.

Sd O C

Sir R B McCausland

(insert)

October 4

My dear Sir Richard

As far as I am competent to judge, as the head of the Executive Government, seen thus I should hardly be justified in interfering with respect to the investment of Court Deposits. They can no longer be invested in Local Treasury Certificates and I could not consequently hardly order the Accountant General to remit the money to Calcutta, but if the petition were modified into a request to be allowed to remit the amount of such deposit to the Bank of Bengal for the purpose of being invested in the purchase of Govt. Securities and the Court passed an order to that effect,

it would then of course become my duty to authorize the necessary Bills being drawn to meet the demand that would thereby be occasioned in Calcutta, but there my control would cease.

It is possible that in some instances the Court may not deem it advisable to order deposits to be counted {cashed?} but direct them to mature as a book debt as before the indulgence of receiving Treasury Certificates was granted, payable on demand, and this point would of course be for you to decide upon the submission of the schedule. I think Mr Baningarten {Baumgarten?} has a copy of the rules of the High Court, and they may perhaps offer some information as to the nature of the orders issued at Calcutta with regard to ordinary deposits. Estates are of course under the charge of the Administrator Genl. and his duties and powers are prescribed by a special Act. But I should imagine that he employs the Bank of Bengal, which is now the Govt. Treasury, as his Agent.

(end of insert)

5/10/64

My dear Sir Richard

I do not quite understand the purport of your note. By an arrangement entered into through the Medium of the Local Govt., the Supreme Govt., as a favor, authorized the Acct. General to the Court of Judication {Judicature}, instead of retaining the deposit money of suitors in the Treasury without interest to receive 4 per cent on all sums ordered to be invested, Treasury Certificate Notes, not transferable and payable at 3 months, being issued as vouchers for the receipt of the money. This indulgence has now been withdrawn and the Local Government directed to pay off the deposits. I have duly communicated the decision of the Supreme Government to the Court, and am prepared to make arrangements for remitting the money whenever the Court may desire, but further than this, as the head of the Executive Government, I can issue no orders on the subject but must leave the matter in the hands of the court.

Sd O C

The Hon Sir R B McCausland

Singapore

5th October 1864

Dear Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th August for which I beg to tender my best thanks. The kind manner in which you have always alluded to what you consider to have been an error of judgement on my part renders me the more anxious to vindicate my proceedings, and although with your decision the official correspondence has closed, for I should not deem it becoming to offer any further explanation, I trust I may be pardoned mentioning for

your information that the result of the operations at Tringanu has been more successful than is generally supposed.

The object of despatching the Naval Force to Tringanu, which was amply strong enough to effect its purpose well {was?}:-

First. The removal of the Ex.Sultan of Linga and the consequent defeat of the Intrigues of Siam to extend her authority over the whole of the Native States to the East of the Peninsula.

Second. The prevention of any further interference on the part of the Sultan of Tringanu in the affairs of Pahang.

Third. The preservation of the general Peace of the Peninsula.

Although, owing to the illness and death of the ruling Bandaharah, which could not have been foreseen, Inchi Wan Ahmed has succeeded to the Chieftainship, all the objects sought have been obtained. The Sultan of Lingga, on his return to Pahang, found that his influence had ceased. The Sultan of Tringanu had advanced no further claim to the District of Quantan, and Tranquillity at present prevails, whilst Siam failed in her designs and, well aware that her conduct had justified my proceedings, would not have ventured to protest against them had it not been for European advice.

It is indeed owing to the enmity existing between two European firms at Singapore that the dissensions between the Malay Chiefs in a great measure have arisen. One firm of which Mr. W.H.Read is the representative, has espoused the cause of the Sultan, and the other, Messrs. Simons Patterson & Co., that of the Tumongong. Since the conclusion in Gl. Butterworth's time of the Treaty under which the Sultan surrendered all territorial rights for a monthly stipend, the management of the affairs of the Tumongong being in the hands of the last named, it is only natural to suppose that their connection with Johore has tended to their advantage. This has occasioned much commercial jealousy and a desire to thwart any arrangement however beneficial to which the Tumongong has been a party. Hence although much advantage would accrue to the trade of Singapore were the Treaty of 1862 between the Tumongong and the Bandaharah to remain in force, there are many who would instigate Inchi Wan Ahmed to refuse to recognise it, and endeavour to foment the feud, rather than aid in effecting a reconciliation between the Chiefs. In doing so they would possibly be actuated not only by a desire to weaken Johore, but also by the hope of themselves obtaining some monopoly with regard to the purchase of the produce of Pahang. Indeed already there is one Firm which is reported in a great measure to have reaped the fruit of Messrs Patterson & Simons' labours. All this would have been avoided had in the first instance an Asst. resident been appointed to Johore and the influence of the Mercantile Agents brought under proper control.

At present the Tumongong seems anxious to obtain my advice which I am of course always ready to give, and I am convinced that the prevailing peace will not be disturbed by any movement on his part. Ichi Wan Ahmed has also latterly abstained from any Acts of aggression, and I am in hopes that ere long friendly relations may be established between them. Certainly no efforts shall be wanting on my part to secure this desirable result.

As the correspondence regarding Timerong {Temiang?} appeared to be important, I trust I may be disposed {supposed?} to have acted rightly in transmitting copies of the Despatches direct to your office.

Sd O C

The Rt Hon Sir C Wood Bt G.C.B.

Secy of State for India

Letter sent to Mr G H Lenthall at North Shore, Sydney, N S Wales regarding the death of his son, Mr P Lenthall d/6th October 1864

Singapore 6/10/64

My dear Sir Benson

I hope you will kindly excuse my not having answered your kind note earlier. What with visitors and official correspondence I have not had a moment's leisure since my return. I am indeed much obliged for the trouble you have taken in preparing the notes for the guidance of Magistrates. They will I am sure prove of the greatest possible benefit in training officers for the Civil Service of the Straits. As soon as the Press is disregarded (disengaged?) they will be ordered to be put in hand.

Sir R. McCausland has spoken to me on the subject of the payment of the Suitors' deposits. He considered that, as under the arrangement previously in force, we could not demand the money under 3 months, equally we ought to be allowed, if necessary, three months to close our accounts before the interest should cease {on?} our money already invested. In this opinion I concur and have therefore addressed the Supreme Government on the subject.

Sir R. is prepared to invest the money at the Court's disposal in ordinary Govt. Securities, but seems to think that I, as the head of the Ex: Government, should issue the order for the money to be remitted to Calcutta. On this point I differ from him. I am quite prepared to meet any order of the Court to authorize the Local Accountant General to draw on Calcutta for any amount needed, but it seems to me that the order for the remittance to be made can emanate only from the Court and that I should not be justified in interfering.

6/10/64 Sd/ O C

M P

The Hon Sir P Benson Maxwell

Précis of a Letter to Lt Col Macpherson R C Pg d/6/10/64

Refers him to the correspondence on the subject of the sale and Lease of Land which took place about two years ago. Mentions that should the Court order money to be remitted to Calcutta for the purpose of being invested in the purchase of Govt. Securities R.C.s can draw upon the Treasury to the Extent required.

M P Sd O C

Singapore

October 7th

My dear Col Durand

With reference to my report on the Native States on the East Coast of Sumatra, I have despatched to your address by this Mail a copy of the *Singapore Free Press* of the 6th Instant, containing an account by the Dutch Resident of Rhio of the Kingdom of Delli which fully corroborates my assertion that in 1858, at the time of the conclusion of the Treaty with the Dutch, Siack exercised no authority over her neighbours, as he acknowledges that it has only through the aid afforded by the Dutch that she succeeded in retaining what he styles her rights over her dependencies, the same the mouth of the principal river of the Country and thus give them the control of its trade. As for internal commotions they never attempt to interfere. Indeed the force at their disposal would not admit of their doing so. If the purport of the Treaty of 1858 was duly made known to our Foreign Office, it seems strange that no communication was ever made on the subject to the Indian Authorities, for hitherto the Supreme as well as the Local Govt: has been working entirely in the dark. The Peninsula seems quiet and I hope will continue so.

Sd O C

To Col Durand C.B. Secy to Govt of India

Singapore

7th October

My dear Strachey

I daresay you think my proposition with regard to the purchase etc. of a Govt. House under present circumstances rather a cool one, but the fact is I do grudge most heartily paying a large annual rent for a house moreover which is hardly fit for the residence of a Governor, where he not only has to entertain a much larger Society than either of your Up Country Lt. Governors but also to offer hospitality to the Governors General and Commanders in Chief of the neighboring Spanish, Dutch and French Settlements.

As for the transfer it is not yet a *fait accompli* and as I believe Mr Gladstone's objections have not yet been entirely overcome, and there may perhaps be a change of Ministry, it may possibly never take place. Moreover I have no large works for next year's budget, anything I have asked

for having now been sanctioned and the Straits are now paying their own expenses. Last year, after liquidating all charges civil and Military I had a surplus of over £10,000.

The terms required for Mr Simons's house appear reasonable, for a large sum must have been expended in laying out the grounds, and if the offer is not accepted, it will be very difficult hereafter to obtain a good site for a government House, as every eligible spot within 2 miles of the Town has already been built upon. Captain Mayne in his design proposes to protect the sides of the Center building by balconies. Upon the whole, though verandahs might be a little more expensive, I think they would be more suitable with reference to Climate.

After next year I hope my P.W. Assignment will be susceptible of reduction and that 3 Lacs, if not less, will prove sufficient.

Sd O C

To Col Strachey

Secy to Govt P.W.D.

Singapore

11th Octr 64

My dear Sir Benson

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 10th Inst.

If you think it desirable that I should submit your official communication for the consideration of the Supreme Govt. I will of course do so, but I must honestly state that I do not believe that it will strengthen our claim, as I am afraid we must read the passage you quote by the light of the whole clause, as well as by that of a similar clause in the

previous charter. Hence, while it will appear that the E.I.C. only agreed to be responsible for the safe custody of all sums deposited in the Treasury, the responsibility of issuing orders for the investment of such deposits resting with the Court. Moreover the authority to obtain Treasury certificates on account of Suitors' Deposits was granted by the G.G. in C. to his own subordinate viz the head of the Local Govt., and being thus liable at any time to be withdrawn could hardly be construed as in any way binding upon the Home Govt. by which the agreement to be responsible solely for the safe custody of deposits was made.

I entertain little doubt that my representation on the subject of our claim to the 3 months grace will be favourably considered, though for the sake of the suitors, with reference to the present state of the money market in Calcutta, it is advisable that there should be no unnecessary delay in re-investing the deposits, the Division of the Court has already issued an order for the purchase of 5 p.c. Promissory notes. The Acct. Gl. Has asked the permission of the Court to remit the money in his hand to the Bank of Bengal for the purpose of investment, there being no notes for

sale in the local Market. If the Recorder grants the permission I hope to have a large remittance made by the next Calcutta Mail.

I am sorry to hear that you have not yet received the Return for {from?} the Acct. Gl.. In addition to the verbal instructions given before I left, an official has been despatched to Col Macpherson to the effect that Mr Plunkett cannot be allowed to inact himself of his Leave until his accounts have been duly ordered {audited?}.

I hope that your work will be in the Press next week. A fair copy is being made in the office which will assist the Printer and thus possibly diminish the number of errors in the Proof sheet. Capt McNair states that he has typed sufficient to admit of his locking up 7 or 8 pages so as to enable them to be forwarded without inconvenience to Pinang for correction. I hope you will find the press work executed to your satisfaction.

I am much obliged for your suggestion with respect to asking Rodgers' assistance in separating the dead estates from the living ones and will write to Col Macpherson on the subject. I am sorry to hear that your session (was) a heavy one. Here the Calendar had been vy light. I am endeavouring to establish a small detective force. etc. etc.

Sd O C

The Hon Sir Benson Maxwell

My dear Mr Knox

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th Ult with the accompanying newspaper.

There can be no doubt but that there is only one proper channel of communication between British Authorities and the Court at Bangkok, that is through yourself, as H.M.'s representative at that Court, and if the King takes offence at my pursuing the course which is not only followed but actually prescribed throughout India, it cannot be helped. I am well aware of the evils that must necessarily arise from officers corresponding direct with the Siamese Authorities, of which one of the most serious would be the weakening of your authority and thus perhaps the frustration of your endeavours to protect British Interests when your interference may be invoked.

I am satisfied that if a representation on the subject were made to the Governor General, the practice of corresponding with the Siamese Court without your knowledge would be prohibited. I am sure, notwithstanding the charge the King in his organ brings against me, he has no cause to complain of any want of courtesy on my part and would find it rather difficult, if called upon for an explanation, to substantiate his assertion. I have seen the number of the Journal containing the translation of the letter from the Sultan of Tringanu upon which the King loses {bases?} his claim to the sovereignty of that State. I am afraid, if such a document is sufficient to prove a Sovereign right, we shall have to look upon Siam as subordinate to the Emperor of China and the King himself merely a dependent Chief, as for a long time, if not up to the present state {date?}, Siam equally with Nepal despatched a periodical Embassy with tribute to Peking, at least such is the report and in the case of the latter Country I know it to be true. I have little news to give you from this {Station?}. etc.

Sd O C

T G Knox Esqre

H.B.M. Consul Bangkok

22/10/64

Dear Sir

With reference to the official correspondence on the subject of the Claims preferred by the Authorities at the Hague under the provisions of the Treaty of 1858 with Siak to jurisdiction over the several Native States on the E. Coast of Sumatra, I have considered it my duty to forward for your perusal a copy of the *Singapore Free Press*, containing an account of the State of Delli written by the Dutch Resident of Rhio which fully corroborates my assertion as to the want of authority on the part of Siak to make the alleged cession, as Mr Netscher openly acknowledges that Siak had ceased to exercise any power over the neighbouring states and that it was only in 1862, four years after the conclusion of the Treaty with Holland {that?} she succeeded, with the aid of the Dutch, in again bringing them under her sway.

A report has reached Pinang that 2 Dutch gunboats were despatched to Timerong to make enquiries regarding the British vessel that had been plundered. The Bandaharah (Native Chief) however refused to afford them any information on the subject, at the same time stating that he would be quite prepared to attend to any requisition we might make, as the vessel having belonged to one of our subjects we had a right to demand redress. Under ordinary circumstances I should of course have deemed it right to have sent over one of our small Steamers, but at present I naturally feel precluded from taking any action whatever in the matter until the receipt of further instructions.

Although it may be difficult to prove any violation of the treaty of 1824, the fact of the injury inflicted on our Trade by the Proceedings of the Netherland Indian Authorities appears to be undoubted. I may mention that formerly a large quantity of coffee from Sumatra was imported at Singapore and of dried Fish and Fish Roes at Malacca. The former importation has almost

entirely ceased whilst the latter has suffered a considerable reduction. At Pinang in 1862 the importation of black pepper amount to 31,328 piculs and of white 1,683. During the 9 months of the present year only 15,363 piculs of the former and 487 of the latter have been received. Only a few months ago moreover the Master of a ship trading to Siack promised to supply the Chief Engineer of this govt. with some timber for building purposes. He subsequently stated verbally his inability to fulfil his promise owing to all the timber having been secured by the Dutch. He was however unwilling to place this on record, evidently fearing that if it were known that he had made such a report, it might lead to interference with his private trade.

Trusting that the importance of the question of any undue interference with the trade of the East Coast of Sumatra to the interests of the Settlement, with the charge of which I have had the power {honor?} to be entrusted may be allowed to plead as my excuse for thus troubling you.

I etc.

Sd O C

Sir C Wood

Secy of State for India

Précis of a letter to Mr L Nairne Pinang d/26/10/64

Returns to him certain papers regarding the Dutch proceedings in Sumatra and mentions that the transfer is postponed.

Sd O C

To L Nairne Esqre

Extract from a letter to Captain Playfair R C Malacca 26/10/64

As regards the Dhatu Klana's request, in the event of affairs for the direction of Sungei Ujong wearing a favourable aspect, there would I fancy be no harm in complying with his wishes so that you can send on his letter officially. Of course there will be some delay as the question will have to be referred to the Supreme Government. As you say, if he attempts to try experiments with shell he is rather likely to astonish himself more than his enemies and it might perhaps be wise to omit shells from the List of Articles to be supplied.

The Court Accounts rather puzzle me but as far as I can judge, if between the dates of receipt of the advance and that of the Agent's death, he furnished articles to the Civil Department to the value of Rs 500, which articles were paid for out of the advance, you are entitled to recover the amount from the Bills subsequently submitted, and if you failed to do so in the first instance, you could do so now and leave Elphinstone to submit the matter. Of course you must satisfy yourself that you have the rights on your side before you make the deduction, that is you must be able to prove that the sum you deduct was actually expended by the late Agent before his death and after

he had received the money from you in supplying articles duly issued to Civil Establishments and which were duly paid for to the people in the bazaar by whom they were originally purchased.

Sd O C

My dear Sir Richard

With reference to our conversation of yesterday evening I hope you will excuse my pointing out for your consideration the great advantage that would accrue to the interests of the suitors in allowing, should you deem it an arrangement justifiable, the Government Promissory Notes to remain in the hands of the Calcutta Agents of the Oriental or any other Chartered Bank in lieu of being held in deposit in Singapore.

First, as the exact value of a Govt. note including interest thereon up to the day of purchase which the purchaser has to pay can never be calculated exactly by any person at Singapore, in giving the orders for the investment a certain Margin must be left for each Estate, and consequently a certain portion of the amount thereto appertaining may remain uninvested and have to be remitted back to the Straits to be re-entered in the Accountant General's Record as a book debt, the suitor losing both ways by the Exchange. For instance suppose the suitor to deposit with the Acct. General \$10,000; with this he purchases on the market a bill for Rs. 2,200 or makes the amount over to the Local Agent of the Bank, who credits him with that sum, but the purchase of the paper, including premium and interest, may be Rs. 2,100, leaving \$400 uninvested. This man (sum?) will be forwarded with the notes to Singapore but the Acct. General will not receive for the {Rs.} 400 the same no. of dollars that he paid for them. If the notes and the uninvested balance were allowed to remain in Calcutta, the loss in the exchange would be avoided.

2. Considerable delay would be prevented as regards the investment of such balances, and the moment the accumulation of interest added thereto made a sufficient sum to admit of the purchase of a note for Rs. 500, the lowest amount procurable, it would be at once invested without further orders. If on the contrary, the notes are deposited in the Treasury here, the Acct. General must, whenever he thinks he has sufficient to buy a note remit the money to Calcutta, losing possibly by exchange and should it happen that owing to there having been a sudden rise in the value of Court paper his calculations had proved incorrect and the amount remitted was insufficient, it would either have to be sent back or he would be charged 10 percent for any advance made by the Bank to pay the deficiency.

I do not think that practically the arrangement would in any way affect the jurisdiction of the Court over the suitors' deposits, or even if the Promissory notes were placed in the Treasury, upon the receipt of an order from the court to pay over the amount of a deposit, the Accountant General would have to forward the notes to Calcutta for sale, there being no market for them here. Of course the Great point to be considered is the safety of the notes. This must depend upon the integrity of the Agent, so as to ensure the notes being endorsed in the name of the Acct. General and the Solvency of the Bank to meet any losses incurred by neglect on his part, and although perhaps private Chartered Banks may not afford quite the same security as the Bank of

Bengal, yet there would be hardly any risk in allowing the notes to remain with such an Establishment as the M.B. However this is a matter for you to decide and I have merely thought it right to bring it to your notice.

Sd O C

Sir R B McCausland

Recorder

26/10/64

Extract from a letter to Mr E J Leveson d/28th October 1864

With regard to your remark regarding the missing letters despatched by Syme & Co, I would mention that, to the best of my recollection, some time back I was informed (informed) that very strong suspicions attached to a baboo employed by a Firm here and, I think it was Syme & Co, of having destroyed a letter he had been directed to post, a portion of the document having been found in a hired carriage which he was known to have employed. As I understood that the matter had been reported to the Police and that quiet inquiries were being made on the subject I did not think it right to interfere, but I will now ascertain the facts of the case. It would much weaken the force of the appeal from the Chamber, if, instead of merely calling attention to the necessity, consequent on the increased business, of adding to the strength of the Establishment, it were to bring a charge against the present (present) staff and that charge be refuted. I hope therefore any such mistake may be avoided, as it might neutralize my efforts to secure greater efficiency.

Sd O C

M P

My dear Sir Richard

You have mistaken my meaning in supposing that I recommended the employment of the Bank of Bengal or referred especially to the investment of the sums now in hand. I merely wished to point out the benefit that must eventually accrue to the suitors from allowing the notes to remain in the hands of the Calcutta Agent of the Chartered bank entrusted to make the requisite purchases on this account and the disadvantage that might arise from requiring the notes to be kept in deposits at Singapore.

With respect to the present investment, there will I think be no difficulty, as it would be sufficient to order a certain number of the notes to be only for Rs. 500 each and no note to be for more than 3 or 4,000 Rs., so that when the notes arrive they may be allotted to each Estate so far as their value will admit. This might be arranged in a couple of hours.

I was not aware that you had not sent the order to Burn. This will enable him to consider investment to be made by the Steamer expected here tomorrow or next day. I am afraid every

day's delay is now of consequence. However we shall be able to calculate with certainty when we receive the Calcutta Mail.

29/10/64 Sd O C

To Sir R B McCausland

(insert)

My dear Sir Richard

In a report of the proceedings of the court that appeared in yesterday's paper, I observe that it is stated that you had asserted that Burn had acted contrary to the provisions of the Charter. If the report is correct I hope you will pardon my begging you to let me know the grounds upon which the assertion was made, as I must confess that I have been unable to discover them. The Charter is rebutter. The subject of Treasury Certificate notes request.

Under the sanction accorded in the Supreme Government's Letter No. 30 dated 13th January 1841, I alone, as Governor, became authorized through my subordinate officers, the Resident Councillors, to issue acknowledgements of deposits. When this authority was withdrawn, out of courtesy to the Court, I ordered the official communication to be forwarded but only to the two divisions. This delayed the despatch of the official orders to the Resident Councillors, but in the meanwhile, as usual in such cases, I advised Burn that the indulgence of obtaining Treasury Certificates had ceased and consequently, as Resident Councillor, he would issue no further acknowledgements, as Secy. For the Accountant General, he possessed no authority to demand them. Hence as far as I am capable of judging he could only pursue the course he did, report to the Court his inability to procure the Treasury Certificates and submit further orders, for the investment of the money.

I feel afraid that Burn will feel the remark and consequently am desirous that if there has been any misconception it should be removed

(end of insert)

Singapore d/1/11/64

My dear Sir Benson

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 18th Instant. As you have allowed me to exercise my discretion with respect to sending on your letters, I have merely replied to it, mentioning the fact of my having addressed the Supreme Govt. on the subject of the abrupt cessation of payment of interest.

Here the Court has issued an order directing the investment of suitors' deposits in 5 per cent Promissory notes to be purchased through the Local Agent of the Chartered Bank, and I believe a large sum will be remitted to Calcutta tomorrow for this purpose.

I am much vexed to hear of the irregularity with regard to the accounts of your Dy. As I cannot completely absolve myself from all blame in the matter, but the fact was these accounts not appearing in any of my annual Returns for a long time escaped my notice and it was only in Major Smart's tenure of office as Acct: Genl: that I commenced making enquiries on the subject, and note then {noted them?}. Subsequently on my calling for a return, the difficulty in making the calculations was the plea advanced in submitting it, and I consequently took it for granted that the Court's order regarding the re-investment of interest had been duly attended to, as the mere drawing up of a tabular statement ought not to have occupied the clerk more than a few hours.

I hope, in the course of another month or so, when the money here is invested, to be able to appoint Mr. Willans Accountant General, the R.C.s at Pinang and Malacca merely receiving the deposits on his account.

By this Steamer you will receive the first batch of the Proof sheets of your Magistrate guide. In returning them will you kindly let me know what no of copies of the work you would wish for your own use. I was very sorry to hear of the postponement of the Libel case as I feel convinced that whatever might have been the result the mere investigation would have had a beneficial effect.

Sd O C

Sir Benson Maxwell

Letter d/1/11/64 to Supt of Botanical Gardens Calcutta regarding chinchona to be tried at Pinang Hill.

Private Govt House Spore

1st Novr 1864

Sir

In acknowledging the receipt of your Letter of the 13th Septr last I have the honor to inform you that according to the Statement given by Soon Hong, a respectable Chinese Resident at Singapore and the father of Neo Swee Quan, it appears that his son left this {Station?} about a year ago to take service under the opium farmer at Saigon, and that whilst there he was arrested in an unlicensed gambling house and for this offence transported to Reunion.

If the above statement is correct, although we may consider that the treatment of Neo Swee Quan has been somewhat harsh and the punishment out of proportion to the offence, I am afraid that it would be out of our power to interfere, as it is quite possible that he may have been punished in accordance with the Law of the colony, which as respects gambling — the national vice of the Chinese — are doubtless somewhat severe. There could however be no objection to your submitting a representation on the subject of his case, with the view of allowing the French Authorities to offer an explanation as regards the alleged illegality of his transportation. Soon

Hong expressed his intention of making the necessary remittance to his son to enable him to return to Singapore

I have etc.

Sd O C

To H B M Consul

Réunion

Singapore

3rd.11.64

Dear Sir

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th of September.

I am happy to say that the Malayan Peninsula is still perfectly quiet and will I trust continue undisturbed. The death of that intriguing Chief and protégé of Siam, the Ex.Sultan of Lingga, has removed the principal cause of the uneasiness that has so long existed amongst the neighboring Native States. The setting in of the Northerly Monsoon has apparently prevented the Sultan of Tringanu from startin on his intended trip to Mecca, and consequently he has not yet paid me his promised visit.

As regards the Timerong {Temiang?} affair I presume that no steps can be taken towards demanding redress for the wrongs inflicted on our subjects until the question of the recognition of the jurisdiction claimed by the Dutch is finally determined. Should it however eventually become necessary for us to take the settlement of this matter into our own hands, I should anticipate little difficulty in obtaining due reparation. I am inclined to believe that any just demand we might make would be acceded to without demure {demur}. If not, with the aid of the 2 local Steamers of Light draught to enter the river, a single Man of War would in all probability be found sufficient to enforce it and indeed to overawe any attempt at opposition.

Sd O C

The Right Hon

The Secy of State for India