PAPERS

RELATING TO

HOSTILITIES WITH BURMAH.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Her Majesty's Command.
June 4, 1852.

LONDON:
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HOSTILITIES WITH BURMAH.

No. 1.

The President of the Council of India in Council to the Secret Committee of the East India Company.

Fort William, November 22, 1851. (No. 8.)

WE have the honor to transmit a copy of correspondence arising out of complaints of ill-treatment, preferred by certain British subjects trading to, or resident at, the Port of Rangoon, and alleged by them to have been experienced at the hands of the Burmese Governor of that place, and to report the measures adopted by us, in communication with the Governor-General, for obtaining redress.

Under the treaties* which exist between the Governments of India and Ava, the subjects of each are entitled, in ports belonging to the other, to "the utmost protection and security." In the cases now brought to notice, it was evident, that not only had these been withheld, but that gross injustice and oppression had been practised. We have deemed it incumbent upon us, therefore, to accede to the appeal made by the sufferers, and to demand reparation, in the first instance, from the Governor of Rangoon; and, in the event of that officer refusing to make a proper submission for the injury he has done, and the insult he has offered, to demand redress from the Government of Ava.

The absence of any accredited Agent of the British Government, at the Court, or in the territories, of Ava, has made it somewhat difficult to deal with such cases; but the opportune arrival, at Calcutta, of Her Majesty's ship "Fox," under the command of Commodore Lambert, in some measure diminished this difficulty, and will, we hope, enable us to bring this affair to an early and satisfactory issue. We have availed ourselves of the Commodore's visit, to request of him to proceed to Rangoon with the ship under his command, and have placed under his orders the steamers "Tenasserim" and "Proserpine," properly armed and equipped, in order to endeavour to obtain from the Governor the reparation which is due, for the unjustifiable treatment which our subjects have recently met with at his hands. The instructions communicated to Commodore Lambert will be found in the letter addressed to him on the 11th instant, with which was forwarded a copy of the letter from the Secretary with the Governor-General, dated the 31st October, for his further guidance. The Commodore has been desired, in the event of his demands upon the Governor of Rangoon not being complied with, to forward to the King of Ava a letter, which we have addressed to His Majesty, and made over to him for that purpose. A copy, in English, of this letter forms one of the inclosures of this dispatch.

We have appointed Captain Latter, of the 67th Native Infantry, to assist Commodore Lambert, as interpreter, in his communications with the Burmese authorities. Captain Latter's military allowances, while so employed, will be

* The Treaties with the King of Burmah will be found at the end of this collection of Papers.

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made up to Rs. 1000 per mensem; and we have placed under him Mr. Edwards, an assistant in our Foreign Secretary's Office, as his clerk. Mr. Edwards was selected for this duty on account of his knowledge of the Burmese language, and of the manners and customs of the Burmese people, acquired during his employment under the former Residents at the Court of Ava.

The expedition left Calcutta for Rangoon on the 18th instant.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. Bogle, Commissioner in the Tenasserim Provinces, to F. Halliday, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India.

Moulmein, July 15, 1851.

I HAVE the honor to transmit herewith, for submission to the Government of India, a copy of a letter addressed to me on the 27th June, 1851, by Mr. Robert Sheppard, master of the barque "Monarch," of Madras, which vessel is a permanent trader between this place and various ports.

Mr. Sheppard is well known here as a quiet, steady, and highly respectable person.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

Mr. Robert Sheppard to Colonel Bogle.

THE respectful petition of Robert Sheppard, master and owner of the barque "Monarch," of the Port of Madras, humbly showeth, That on the 24th of May, 1851, was chartered by Moolah Hassen, a native merchant, residing in Moulmein, to proceed to Rangoon, and take in a cargo of grain, cutch, &c. for Penang and Singapore: the said charterer, Moolah Hassen, sent a man on board to pilot the ship up the coast, and into the Rangoon River, my being unacquainted with the coast [on the 2nd day of June, the Moulmein pilot left the ship]. At 8 A.M., 3rd of June, arrived on the Rangoon coast and gave charge to the pilot, having heard in Moulmein that he was fully competent to perform such duty; at 1·30 P.M. he got into shoal water, and did not know which way to extricate the ship; your petitioner then brought up in two fathoms low water, the wind was strong from the S.W., with a heavy sea on the bank, the ship struck aft four or five times with the lift of the sea, and unshipped the rudder out of the upper gudgeon; the crew were furling sails and getting the longboat ready in event she might be wanted; the pilot, through fear or shame, jumped overboard, first throwing a boom into the water; your petitioner was then on the poop, with three or four hands, lifting the rudder to ship it into the upper gudgeon; as soon as your petitioner heard that a man was overboard, ordered the boat to be lowered; that occupied some time, and as near as your petitioner could judge, the man must have been half-a-mile astern, as the flood-tide had made strong; the sea breaking on the bar, threw the boat against the ship's side and broke her stern and stove one of her planks; a heavy squall coming on at the time, obliged me to order the men out of the boat, or she would have swamped alongside.

Three days after the accident, your petitioner took the ship up to Rangoon, and reported the circumstance, on landing, to Moolah Ibrahim, the agent and brother of the charterer, Moolah Hassen.

Your petitioner has been obliged to enumerate the details of the case, that you may be enabled to judge of the injustice to which he was subjected, since his arrival in this port. On the second day your petitioner was ordered to wait on the Governor, and was taken by the peons to a writer of the police, and examined; he then desired your petitioner to send for the second mate, boy, William Anthony, and ten lascars; they were separately examined, and all stated that your petitioner had not thrown the man overboard; the report was then taken in to the Governor, who ordered we should be kept in confinement; the only person the Governor examined was the boy William Anthony (who speaks

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the language), whom he ill-used by making his hands and feet fast; one of his people struck him on the thigh with an iron bolt, to make him say that your petitioner had thrown the man overboard; he told the Governor he had spoken the truth. He was then liberated and again questioned by the Governor, and gave the same answer; he ordered him to be put into the blocks, where he remained all night and part of the next day. Your petitioner was kept in confinement till 8 P.M., when Captain Crisp and three or four native merchants came out to the Governor; on Captain Crisp becoming my security, your petitioner was then liberated; the second mate and crew were kept in confinement; the next day your petitioner had to attend, and again taken before the police writer. Your petitioner requested that the crew might be discharged; after paying 40 Rs. for jail-fees; they complied, and ordered them to go on board. Your petitioner was desired to attend the next day, and, as on the former occasion, was taken to the police writer; your petitioner requested through an intrepreter that he might be taken before the Governor; he would not consent, stating it was contrary to the Burmese law; your petitioner then attempted to go, but was prevented by the peons.

Captain Crisp, Moolah Ibrahim, and two other native merchants, went to the Governor; he insisted upon my having thrown the man overboard, and gave them one day to arrange the case; it was finally settled by the agent paying 325 Rs.; the case was then dismissed. This act of injustice was done, notwithstanding the evidence of the second mate, boy, and ten lascars. The accident occurred outside of the Elephant Point. Had your petitioner been guilty of the crime alleged, he would be amenable to the laws of his country and not to the Burmese, particularly as the pilot was a British subject, a native of Chittagong, and lately resident in Moulmein.

Your petitioner humbly prayeth that this report may be laid before the Supreme Government of India, as it is not only a flagrant act of injustice, but also an infringement of the Treaty; your petitioner deferred writing in consequence of a report that the man had been seen at a village near the Elephant Point, and was desirous to ascertain the fact, but without success; in all probability he may have returned to Moulmein by one of the many vessels that have left this port.

Your petitioner humbly prayeth that you will take such steps as you may deem expedient, to prevent a repetition of the many acts of injustice, oppression, and tyranny, that so frequently occur to British subjects in this port. Your petitioner trusts you may be pleased to take this in due consideration, as it would not only confer on him, but all that trade to this port, a sincere and lasting obligation. Your petitioner will, as in duty bound, ever pray.

Inclosure 3 in No. 1.

Colonel Bogle to Mr. Halliday.

Moulmein, August 8, 1851.

IN continuation of my letter to your address of the 15th July, 1851, transmitting a letter from Mr. R. Sheppard, master of the barque "Monarch," dated Rangoon, the 27th June, 1851, complaining of the treatment he had then experienced from the Burmese Governor at that place, I have the honour to submit herewith communications detailing all the particulars of the treatment experienced, not only on his arrival at Rangoon, but just before his departure therefrom.

It appears that, besides the detention of his vessel, and the heavy loss thereby entailed upon him, a sum of 1005 Company's rupees was extorted from Mr. Sheppard, and that he was altogether very ill-treated.

Of the merits of the case I know nothing more than is stated in Mr. Sheppard's protest; but I am disposed to credit what he states, because he bears such a high character at this place, and is well known to be a most quiet, inoffensive, and well-behaved man, correct and honorable in his dealings with all, and not likely to have committed any impropriety.

The lascar named Dewan Ali has been dismissed the service of Government.

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Inclosure 4 in No. 1.

Messrs. Creaton & Co. to Colonel Bogle.

Moulmein, August 4, 1851.

WE have the honor to forward inclosed, the declaration and protest of Robert Sheppard, master of the barque "Monarch," recording the sufferings of himself and crew by the unjust and arbitrary acts of the Burmese authorities at Rangoon.

We are induced to take the liberty of respectfully calling your attention to this case, by the hope that the Government of India will, on consideration of the matter, be pleased to grant that reparation which the circumstances of the case demand; and by the belief that, to the absence of protection, which has, on the part of the Government, since the withdrawal of the Resident at the Court of Ava, attended British interests in that quarter, is mainly owing the audacity that has prompted the commission of this and other instances of oppression and wrong.

We feel confident that it cannot be contemplated by the Government of India to allow this very unsatisfactory state of our commerce with Rangoon always to exist, in contempt of international rights, or to leave unredressed and uncared for those who, in prosecution of their lawful business, and trusting in the protecting power of the Government under which they live, have been exposed in person and property to the injustice and rapacity of any native or foreign Power.

It will be observed that a prime mover in these transactions is a servant in the employ of Government, and that it was through his instrumentality so large a sum of money was extorted.

We have to solicit the favor of your submitting our claim to the Supreme Government, that compensation may be obtained for the injury, loss, and expenses sustained by reason of the said acts of the Burmese authorities at Rangoon, as set forth in the declaration and protest of the master of the "Monarch," and computed at the sum of 5000 Company's rupees.

We regret to be under the unfortunate necessity of making this complaint, but our duty, as agents of the ship and master, requires us to use every means to obtain redress.

Inclosure 5 in No. 1.

Declaration of Mr. Sheppard.

ON the 29th day of July, 1851, personally appeared and presented himself before me, Henry Hopkinson, Esq., Principal Assistant Commissioner, Tenasserim Provinces, of Province Amherst, Robert Sheppard, master of the ship or vessel the "Monarch," which sailed on the 2nd of July last, on a voyage from Moulmein to Rangoon, there to load cargo to Penang and Singapore, who did solemnly declare and state as follows:—That he proceeded on his voyage without accident till the 3rd day of June last, when, at noon, off Chiner Bucker, on the Rangoon coast, in five fathoms water, the pilot running for the entrance of the river, suddenly shoaled two fathoms; hauled out to the eastward, shoaled one quarter less two fathoms; anchored and furled sails. Elephant Point N.W.½W.; False Elephant, S.W.½W. It being low water when the ship brought up, with a heavy swell breaking on the spit, caused her to strike very heavily abaft, and lifted the rudder, but apparently sustained no damage; the shock was only felt as far forward as the mizen-mast (the ship was 18 inches by the stern when she left the last port); sounded the well, found ten inches. At 1·30 P.M., the native pilot took the boom used for washing decks, and threw it into the water, and immediately jumped overboard; before the boat could be lowered, he must have been half-a-mile astern; the boat was nearly swamped alongside, in consequence of the heavy sea and flood-tide on the sand; a heavy squall coming on at the time, obliged him, this appearer, to order the people out of the boat, or in all probability their lives would have been sacrificed; and the vessel was in danger, and required the aid of all hands to work the ship into

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deep water. At 4·30 P.M. weighed, it blowing fresh, and beat to the southward. At 9·30 P.M., anchored in four and a half fathoms.

On the 7th, arrived off Rangoon without further accident, and on landing, reported the above circumstances to Moolah Ibrahim, the agent for the ship; and noted protest of the ship having grounded outside the river.

On the 9th, at breakfast-time, the Governor sent on board the ship, and he, this appearer, was taken before the police, and examined on a charge of having thrown overboard the pilot Esoph, preferred by a man named Hajim, a native of Chittagong, who stated that he was brother to the said pilot. He was then ordered to send for the second mate, apprentice, and part of the crew, for examination. The second mate and lascars were examined by a police writer, and the boy William Anthony by the Governor, by whose orders he was tied hand and foot, struck on the thigh with an iron bolt, and otherwise ill-used, by being put into the blocks, where he remained all night, and part of the next day. After being examined, the Governor imposed a fine of 600 rupees, and ordered them into confinement, under the guard of armed police peons, where he, this appearer, was kept till 8 P.M., when Captain Crisp, Moolah Ibrahim, his agent, and three other native merchants, becoming his security, he was liberated; the second mate and lascars being detained until the next day, when they were allowed to go on board, upon this appearer paying the jail-fees, amounting to 40 rupees. Afterwards, and through the intercession of Captain Crisp, Moolah Ibrahim, and the other native merchants, who had become security for him, the fine was reduced to 325 rupees, which were paid, and the case dismissed, on the payment of court-fees, 70 rupees, and interpreter, 20 rupees. Continued taking in cargo; and, on the 6th of July, being ready for sea, unmoored ship, landed the missing pilot's things, and applied for a pass, which was granted. The pass was withdrawn in the evening, and the ship detained.

Next day, the Governor refused the pass, owing to a charge brought by a man, named Dewan Ali (employed in one of the Moulmein gun-boats), calling himself a brother of the pilot, bringing forward a claim for a sum of 500 rupees, which he stated his brother had taken with him. On the 8th, he, this appearer, was ordered to attend before the Governor, with his second mate, and others of the crew, to answer the charge; and afterwards, at the custom-house, before eight native merchants appointed by the Governor to arbitrate the case, by whom he was, on the 9th, fully acquitted of the charges preferred against him, viz., of throwing the man overboard, and of stealing the money.

On the 11th, the Governor declared the verdict to be unjust, and ordered the arbitrators to attend, and again to investigate the charges in his presence, insisting that the man had the money on board, and that the sum must be repaid. The arbitrators being kept at the Governor's house, and afraid of his threatenings, ultimately gave the decision required. The following day, he, this appearer, attended the court, and the Governor ordered him to pay 500 rupees: viz., 200 rupees for himself, 150 rupees blood-money for the missing man, and 150 rupees for court expenses, which was done, there being no help for it. The order for the pass was then given, and, after he left the court, again countermanded. The next day, Sunday, the 13th, the Deputy Governor, or some one of inferior authority to the Governor, demanded 50 rupees, which he, this appearer, had to comply with, and pay, the ship having already lost eight days by these various detentions. At 6 P.M., the pilot came on board, and the ship proceeded on her voyage. Thus, having been defrauded of the sum of 997 rupees, the ship forcibly prevented from performing her voyage, to the loss and injury of the freighters, &c., and himself and crew imprisoned and ill-used by the Governor of Rangoon and his people, as detailed in the foregoing.

Thus done and protested in Moulmein aforesaid, the day, month, and year hereinbefore written.

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Inclosure 6 in No. 1.

Declaration by Edward Antram, Second Mate of the "Monarch."

I, EDWARD ANTRAM, second mate of the barque "Monarch," and on board the vessel on the said voyage, do solemnly and sincerely declare, that the contents of the foregoing instrument of protest are, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, in all things true, and make this declaration, conscientiously believing the same to be true.

Inclosure 7 in No. 1.

Colonel Bogle to Mr. Halliday.

Moulmein, September 22, 1851.

I HAVE the honor to transmit herewith, for submission to the Government of India, a copy of a letter, addressed to me, under date the 16th instant, and its accompaniments, by a Mr. Harold Lewis, master of the British barque "Champion," at the Port of Rangoon.

Inclosure 8 in No. 1.

Mr. Lewis, Master of the "Champion," to Colonel Bogle.

Rangoon, September 16, 1851.

I TAKE the liberty of addressing you, as the nearest British authority, and have to request the favour of your forwarding my case to the Supreme Government of Bengal, as early as possible.

As it is my intention, on my arrival in Calcutta, to lay the whole case before the Government, I shall now condense the matter as much as possible.

I arrived here, from the Mauritius, 11th August. A few days after, a complaint, of a trivial nature, was brought against me, before the Governor, by two Bengal coolies, who had secreted themselves on board my vessel, at the Mauritius, without my knowledge; and after five days' attendance on the Governor, to the neglect of my duty to the ship, I was persuaded by the merchants, to give the Governor 100 rupees, to save myself from further annoyance.

Shortly after this matter was arranged, seven of my crew deserted, and endeavoured, by the Governor's assistance, to oblige me to give to them their discharge, and all their wages. I was again obliged to make him a present of 50 rupees, to come to a decision; and by which he obliged me to pay to them half their demand. This case also occupied me five days.

He has now got up a case of murder against me, one of my crew having died the day I anchored off the mouth of the river; three of the deserters, and the two coolies, being evidence against me. I have taken my chief officer, doctor, and serang; these he would not examine. And I have offered to bring my whole crew; but this neither will he allow; but threatens, unless I give him 200 rupees, to detain my vessel, and write to Ava for instructions. I am ready for sea, but he has refused four applications for my port-clearance.

I have decided upon resisting this attempt at extortion, though he has threatened me with imprisonment and the blocks, and has subjected me to every insult and indignity. Having broken no laws, and committed no crime, I trust to meet with protection from the British Government.

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Inclosure 9 in No. 1.

Mr. Lewis to the Governor of Rangoon.

Rangoon, September 15, 1851.

BEFORE your court, I have been charged with murdering one of my crew at sea.

This charge is brought against me after my vessel has been at anchor off Rangoon thirty days, by a deserter from the vessel, who tried other means first of getting clear of the ship, and when ordered on board by your Excellency, brings this charge without the slightest foundation, but with the hope of forcing me to let him go.

I am an Englishman, commanding a British vessel; and on board of that vessel, one of the crew, a British subject, dies at sea. I am reported to have killed him. I can, therefore, only be tried by a British court of law. But, to leave no suspicion on my character at your court, I submitted to undergo an examination myself, and brought up the chief officer, doctor, and serang, of the vessel; these, your officers did not choose to question, but said they would call one or two of the men out of the vessel, and examine them privately. And I was threatened with immediate imprisonment and the blocks.

I now consider I have done all that, as a British subject, I have a right to do. I have broken none of the laws of Burmah; and I have conformed to all the regulations of the port.

I shall, therefore, now remain on board of my ship, and keep my crew, also, on board, until I obtain my port-clearance; and I claim your Excellency's protection from any further annoyance, under Article IX of the Treaty of Yandaboo. And I respectfully request your Excellency will, now that my vessel is ready for sea, have the three lascars, that are on shore, sent on board, as also the two coolies belonging to the Bengal Government, according to your former order.

Inclosure 10 in No. 1.

Mr. Halliday to Sir H. M. Elliot, K.C.B., Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor-General.

(Extract.) *Fort William, October* 10, 1851.

I AM directed to request that you will submit for the consideration of the Governor-General, papers regarding the ill-treatment suffered by Mr. Sheppard, master of the barque "Monarch," and his crew, at the hands of the Burmese officer at Rangoon.

The "Monarch" is a regular trader to that port, and on this occasion it seems that while the vessel was running for the entrance of the river at Rangoon, the pilot, a native of Chittagong, who had brought the vessel into a position of great danger, jumped overboard, through fear, it is believed; an attempt was made to rescue him, but from causes, over which there was no control, it was found impossible to save him. Upon the arrival of the vessel at Rangoon, Mr. Sheppard was ordered to attend at the Governor's to answer to a charge which had been preferred against him of having thrown the pilot overboard; and although, by the evidence of his crew, the accusation was disproved, he was fined and placed in confinement with his men, one of whom, a Christian lad, was most cruelly beaten and kept in the blocks for a whole night and day. Through the instrumentality of Mr. Crisp and the principal native merchants, Mr. Sheppard was himself liberated, after a short detention, but the rest remained in confinement until the following day, when they were set at liberty upon payment of 455 rs., of which 325 rs. was a fine imposed upon Mr. Sheppard. Scarcely had this matter been settled, when Mr. Sheppard was called to account for a sum of money alleged to have been left by the pilot on board. By this means a further sum of 550 rs. was extorted from him.

It appears to the President in Council, that there has been no disruption of the Treaty of 1826, or abandonment of its provisions, as affecting commercial and shipping interests, but that those provisions remain in full force, and are binding on the parties.

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While this subject was still under the consideration of the President in Council, the letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Bogle, of the 22nd of September, was received, of which a copy is also transmitted. With this letter was forwarded a statement from Mr. Lewis, of the "Champion," detailing the vexatious treatment experienced by him at the port of Rangoon, and his ultimate detention upon the serious, and evidently false, charge of murder, alleged to have been committed at sea, got up with the view of extorting money.

It appears to the President in Council that it is incumbent on the British Government to take notice of these obvious infractions of the Treaty by the Burmese authorities, and to protect, from oppression and injury, British subjects engaged in the lawful prosecution of trade in a Burmese port. His Honor accordingly has directed that these papers should be submitted for the consideration of the Governor-General.

Inclosure 11 in No. 1.

Messrs. Mackey & Co. to J. P. Grant, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Calcutta, October 21, 1851.

WE have the honor to transmit a copy of a communication* made by our Moulmein firm to the Commissioner of the Tenasserim Provinces, regarding the outrage committed by the Rangoon authorities on Captain Sheppard, of the barque "Monarch," who may be expected here by the early part of next month, when we shall again have the honor to address you, praying some measures may be taken to recover from the Burmans the loss and damage sustained by Captain Sheppard.

Inclosure 12 in No. 1.

Commodore George Lambert, R.N., to the Governor-General of India.

H.M.S. "Fox," Diamond Harbour, October 25, 1851.

A STATEMENT having been made to me by Mr. Lewis, master of the British barque "Champion," relating to injuries he has sustained by the conduct of the Governor of Rangoon, the particulars of which, he informs me, are now before the Bengal Government, I have informed that gentleman, that, however desirous I might feel of investigating his complaint, I do not feel myself justified in interfering while the subject is under the consideration of your Excellency, who, I felt assured, would fully inquire into the particulars of his case, as well as the insult stated to have been offered to the British flag.

Inclosure 13 in No. 1.

Colonel Bogle to Mr. Halliday.

Moulmein, October 4, 1851.

IN continuation of my letter of the 22nd ultimo, I have the honor to transmit herewith, for submission to the Government of India, a copy of a further letter, addressed to me, under date the 23rd ultimo, and its accompaniment, by Mr. Harold Lewis, master of the barque "Champion."

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* See Inclosure No. 4.

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Inclosure 14 in No. 1.

Mr. Lewis to Colonel Bogle.

Rangoon, September 25, 1851.

I TAKE the liberty of again troubling you in regard to the further oppression and extortion I have been, and am, suffering from the Governor of Rangoon, since last I had the honor of addressing you.

Inclosure 15 in No. 1.

Statement by Mr. Lewis.

AFTER producing the irons in open court and a man with a rattan to flog me, and threatened to send me in irons to Ava, or behead me here at Rangoon, in fact, having done all in his power to intimidate me into admitting his right to try the case, he declared that, "coûte qui coûte," he would try me, and on the evidence of the accusers alone; that should I prove guilty, he would take my life; however, by the intercession of the residents here, he at last reluctantly consented to have the whole crew examined. By the testimony of twenty-three men and officers, it was fully proved I never struck nor allowed to be struck any man on board the vessel. The Governor then acquitted me, and promised to give my pass on the following day. Two days after he re-tried me, throwing aside the evidence of the whole crew, and condemned me to pay 280 rs., detaining me a prisoner, until by the advice of the other gentlemen, I paid the amount. The next day he seized my serang, and re-tried him.

Mauritius coolies (which had been settled twenty-three days before and 100 rs. paid to the court), has thrown him into prison, and now refuses my pass till I release him by paying 200 rs. Thus at present stands the case. *Sic in orig.*

Inclosure 16 in No. 1.

Colonel Bogle to Mr. Halliday.

Moulmein, October 21, 1851.

I HAVE the honor to transmit herewith, to be laid before the President in Council, in original, a letter, dated Rangoon, September 27, 1851, from a merchant, to my address, with a memorial from the inhabitants of Rangoon, to the address of the Governor-General of India in Council.

Inclosure 17 in No. 1.

A Merchant to Colonel Bogle.

Rangoon, September 27, 1851.

I HAVE the honor to forward the accompanying memorial from the European residents of this place, addressed to the Governor-General in Council; in doing which, I am directed to ask the favour of your forwarding the same by the first opportunity, accompanied by any remarks which you may deem important in bringing this subject fully before the Governor-General in Council.

I beg, further, to state, that a copy of the memorial has been forwarded to Calcutta, by the barque "Champion," which vessel left yesterday.

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Inclosure 18 in No. 1.

Merchants of Rangoon to the Governor-General.

The respectful Memorial of the undersigned merchants, commanders of British vessels, and others, resident in Rangoon, in the Burman Empire,

Humbly showeth,

THAT your memorialists have, for a long time, suffered from the tyranny and gross injustice of the Burmese authorities;

That trade is seriously obstructed, and almost suppressed, in consequence;

That, contrary to the Treaty of Yandaboo, and good faith, a much larger sum is, on all occasions, exacted from vessels, in shape of harbour-dues, &c., and that many vessels are, in consequence, deterred from coming;

That neither life nor property is safe, as the Governor has publicly stated to his dependants, that he has no money to pay them for their services, and has granted to them his permission to rob the inhabitants, and to get money as they best can;

That, in consequence, robberies and false charges are of almost daily occurrence;

That the Governor has frequently demanded money, without any pretext, and has tortured the parties till his demands were complied with;

That now, affairs have arrived at such a crisis that, unless protected, your memorialists will be obliged to leave the country, and, in doing so, must sacrifice their property;

That your memorialists are here under the provisions of the Treaty of Yandaboo, and beg to state, with all due deference and respect, that they claim the right to seek your protection;

That they are striving, under every difficulty, to carry on a trade beneficial to Great Britain and the whole of British India; and that, in support of the correctness of their statement, out of many instances of arbitrary injustice and oppression, a few of recent date may be mentioned:

The British barque "Champion," Harold Lewis, commander, arrived from the Mauritius, to load for Calcutta, on the 11th of August, 1851. It appears that two runaway coolies secreted themselves on board the vessel at the Mauritius (this fact did not come to the knowledge of the captain till the vessel had been three days at sea), and, soon after their arrival here, they were induced by the officers of the Government to prefer a charge against Captain Lewis, for the recovery of the sum of 90 rupees, paid to him by them as passage-money; and they demanded, also, their discharge from the ship.

This case came before the Deputy Governor; and Captain Lewis's ignorance of their having been on board was fully proved, also that he never received any money from them. The case was then dismissed by the Deputy Governor, on Captain Lewis paying 100 rupees for court expenses; and, notwithstanding his remonstrance to the contrary, the Governor refused to give up the men, although informed that they were runaway coolies belonging to the Bengal Government.

On the 8th of September, seven lascars from the ship complained to the Governor of ill-treatment when on board, and demanded that he would order their discharge from the vessel, and the payment of all their wages. This charge was also proved unfounded; but, after a vexatious trial of six days, during which the Governor repeatedly stated he must have money, Captain Lewis was ordered to pay the sum of 207 rupees, and the lascars were then ordered on board.

The men were, however, detained, and induced by the Governor to bring a charge against Captain Lewis, for the wilful murder of a lascar who died at sea while under the care of the native doctor of the ship.

When the captain appeared to answer this charge, the Governor, in the first place, said to him, "Give me 200 rupees, and I will dismiss the case;" and, on Captain Lewis's refusal to do so, he was tried for murder, but the evidence of the deserters only was allowed to be taken.

Captain Lewis then remonstrated by letter to the Governor, stating that as an Englishman, in charge of a British vessel, he did not consider himself amenable to a Burmese court, but as he was forced to stand a trial, he demanded that

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the whole ship's company should be allowed to give evidence. To this the Governor objected, threatened to put him in irons, and send him to Ava; and to intimidate him, the irons were brought into court.

After repeated remonstrances from the residents in Rangoon, the Governor consented to hear the evidence of the crew (23 in number), who unanimously proved the captain's innocence, and, also, that he never himself struck or flogged a lascar, or suffered his officers to strike or flog them.

The Governor then declared the case dismissed, and the captain at liberty to proceed on his voyage, saying he would forward his port-clearance in the morning. He did not do so, however, and two days after the captain was again ordered before the Governor, and the case for murder was re-tried, and the Governor ordered the captain to pay 280 rupees for what he called "death-money" and court expenses.

He then allowed four of the lascars to be sent on board, keeping the remainder. On the following day the three men detained by the Governor preferred a charge against the serang, of having some of their money, and breaking a Braminical thread. The serang was put into prison, and the sum of 200 rupees demanded from Captain Lewis for his release, the port-clearance being withheld to compel payment. Thirteen days since the captain asked for his port-clearance. For twenty-three days he has been obliged to attend court much of the time, from 10 A.M. till 5 P.M., and has suffered every form of rudeness and indignity from the Governor and his officials, and his life has repeatedly been threatened.

Your memorialists beg to mention that a similar case of injustice and oppression occurred to Captain Sheppard, of the barque "Monarch," about two months ago.

As this case was a similar tissue of false charges and extortions, and people were induced to swear falsely, and, in some instances, tortured till they did so, your memorialists merely advert to it as one out of the many.

Three days ago, the Mogul merchants here were ordered before the Governor, to answer a charge for refusing to sell goods to retailers on credit. They pleaded their inability to do so till the debts due were paid in. There were about thirty in number put in the blocks and in prison, and their lives threatened unless they paid the Governor the sum of 1500 rupees, which they did, and were ordered to sell on credit.

Within a short time, an Englishman, the master of a vessel, was seized by the officials on the public wharf, and his pockets rifled of some 35 rupees. Two other officers going to their vessels were seized in the same manner, and by the same officials, dragged to a distant part of the city, stript of their clothes, money, and watches, and their arms bound with cords for several hours. No redress was sought, as from long experience foreigners have found that application for redress has resulted only in heavy court expenses.

Your memorialists would remark upon the small number of signatures affixed to this document, and beg to observe, that the merchants, although most anxious to sign it, are afraid to do so, dreading the possibility of its coming to the knowledge of the Governor; and indeed, should it be discovered that your memorialists have forwarded a document of this kind, the consequence to themselves it would be impossible to foretell.

We, your memorialists, humbly and respectfully pray that your Lordship in Council will take our case into your earliest consideration, and will adopt such measures for our relief, as may seem to you most expedient.

And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Inclosure 19 in No. 1.

Sir Henry Elliot to Mr. Halliday.

(Extract.) *Camp, Pinjore, October* 31, 1851.

YOUR letter, dated the 10th instant, with its inclosures, reached this office as the establishments were in the act of moving from the hills into camp. A short delay has thus been unavoidably caused in the transmission of my reply.

The Governor-General has considered the papers which have been laid before him, with a care and attention commensurate with the importance of the

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case, and with the consequences which may possibly result from it. He has cautiously examined the Treaty of Yandaboo, and the subsequent Treaty of Commerce formed between the British Government and the King of Ava. The conclusion to which his Lordship has been led entirely corresponds with that which has been formed by the President in Council.

Whether the doubts of the validity of the Treaty of Yandaboo, which were once expressed by Tharawaddy, were the results of ignorance, or a mere outbreak of passion, or of pride, is a matter of no moment. No attempt was made to insist upon those doubts; and the binding nature of the Treaty was fully admitted in all subsequent communications between the States. No doubt of any kind has ever been raised respecting the Commercial Treaty negotiated in the same year as that of Yandaboo.

The First Article of the Commercial Treaty distinctly provides, that "The Governments of both countries also shall permit ships with cargoes, to enter ports, and to carry on trade, giving them the utmost security and protection."

If the facts to which Captain Sheppard, of the barque "Monarch," has deposed, are strictly accurate, these provisions of the first clause of the Treaty have been infringed by the officers of the Government at Rangoon.

Not only have the utmost "security and protection," which are promised by the Treaty, been withheld, but very gross injustice and oppression have been practised.

A British subject, the master of a British ship, has been carried by the police before the Governor of Rangoon, kept in confinement, for a crime which he had not committed, and not liberated until security was given for him by others. He was then fined by the Governor. He was a second time arrested by the Governor, on a charge of embezzlement; and, though acquitted by a Court of Arbitration assembled by the Governor himself, he was a second time arraigned for the same crimes before the court, thus subjected to manifest intimidation, and was a second time fined.

The crew of the ship were subjected to imprisonment; and one of them, the boy, was beaten and ill-used. From all, money was extorted, as fines, fees, or dues.

Finally, the pass for the ship was refused until a further sum of money had been extorted.

Thus, Article I of the Treaty has, in his Lordship's opinion, been violated at every point; and a British subject and his crew have been subjected to extortion, imprisonment, and personal violence, in disregard of the obligations of treaty, and in violation of the Law of Nations.

If Captain Sheppard had offended against the laws of the Kingdom of Ava, he would, of course, have been amenable to its courts, however widely they might differ from those of the offender's own country. But if these depositions, formally made by Captain Sheppard, whose respectability is vouched for by the authorities of the Tenasserim Provinces, be true, Captain Sheppard has committed no offence; and the proceedings of the Governor of Rangoon constitute a grievous and palpable act of injustice and oppression towards a British subject.

The infrequency, or even the total cessation of late years, of all official intercourse between the Government of India and the Court of Ava or its officers, does not in any respect weaken the force of existing treaties, by which both countries are bound. In dealing with a barbarous Court, such as that of Ava, it may be expedient to pass over trifling irregularities or annoyances, though not warranted by the recorded relations between the two countries, as insignificant in their character. But British subjects and traders have, undoubtedly, a just right to expect that they shall be protected by their own Government from injustice, oppression, and extortion, such as are alleged to have been inflicted in the case now before his Lordship.

Wherefore, his Lordship feels that it is incumbent upon the Government of India to accede to the appeal which has been made to them, and to demand reparation from the Government of Ava, if its officer should refuse to make a proper submission for the injury he has done, and the insult he has offered.

The absence of any accredited Agent of the British Government at the Court, or in the territories of Ava, increases the difficulty of dealing with such

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cases as these. Experience of the course pursued by the Burmese authorities towards former Envoys, seems, at the same time, to dissuade the Government of India from having recourse to the employment of another Mission, if the object of the Government can be accomplished in any other way.

The presence of Her Majesty's ships "Fox" and "Serpent," under the command of Commodore Lambert, in the Hooghly at this moment, is opportune; and may, his Lordship hopes, enable the Government of India to bring this affair to an early and satisfactory issue.

His Lordship begs leave to suggest to the President in Council, that he should communicate to Commodore Lambert the documents connected with the cases which have now been submitted to his Lordship, and should request him to proceed to Rangoon with the ships under his command, and any other available vessels of war which he may desire (such as the "Tenasserim" and "Enterprise" steamers, and the "Proserpine," which his Lordship thinks is still at Moulmein), in order to endeavour to obtain from the Governor of Rangoon the reparation which is due to the British Government, for the unjustifiable treatment which its subjects have recently met with at his hands.

Although there seems no reason to doubt the accuracy of the depositions, or the veracity of the deponents, it would be right, his Lordship thinks, that the Commodore should, in the first instance, be satisfied on this head.

If the facts now in evidence should be established to his satisfaction, the Commodore should be requested to address a note to the Governor of Rangoon, briefly setting forth the facts of each case. He will point out that they constitute a very grave infraction of an existing Treaty. He will inform the Governor of Rangoon, that the British Government will not permit the obligations of treaty to be disregarded, the liberty of its subjects to be violated, or their interests injured by arbitrary acts of oppression and extortion; and he will demand from the Governor of Rangoon pecuniary compensation in favor of the injured parties, to such extent as the President in Council may think fit to name, on such better information as may probably be now before him.

It may be expected that the presence of British men-of-war in front of Rangoon, the obvious justice of the demand, and the indefensible character of the Governor's proceedings, may lead him at once to acquiesce in the Commodore's demand. If the Governor should unfortunately refuse to comply, the case will become more complicated.

The refusal of the Governor of Rangoon to accede to a demand of reparation for a distinct breach of the Treaty with Ava, if it should be upheld by his Government, would doubtless entitle the Government of India to proceed to exact reparation by force of arms, or to inflict such punishment on the Burmese State as circumstances might seem to require. But the Government of India could not, with justice, proceed to such extremities, until it had communicated with the Court of Ava, respecting the conduct of its servant, the Governor of Rangoon, and had thereby afforded it an opportunity of disavowing his acts, and of making the reparation which he had refused to concede.

It appears to his Lordship, therefore, that a letter should be addressed by the President in Council to the King of Ava, detailing the facts which have occurred, and pointing out the violation of Treaty which they involve.

The Government of India, desirous of acting with the justice and moderation by which all its acts are guided, has brought these facts under His Majesty's notice, in the full conviction that he will at once condemn the conduct of his officers, by whom this offence has been perpetrated, and will make to the parties who have been injured, that compensation which is most justly due to them for the injuries they have received.

And as the maintenance of friendly relations, and the mutual observance of good faith, is equally the desire of the British Government and of the Court of Ava, His Majesty will, doubtless, recognise the wisdom of removing the Governor of Rangoon from the office he has unworthily filled, in which his misconduct has tended to sow dissension between the States, and to break down the provisions of the Treaty, which it is, doubtless, His Majesty's wish most fully to uphold.

The Government of India, confident in the belief that the Court of Ava will take a just view of the circumstances which are now placed before it, and will manifest a just sense of its own duty and interests, abstains from every expression which would seem to be at variance with a spirit of friendliness.

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The Government of India looks for prompt proof of a reciprocal feeling on the part of the Government of Ava, to be manifested in its ready compliance with the requirements of the Government of India.

If these just expectations should be disappointed, the Government of India will feel itself called upon to take such immediate measures as shall enforce the rights it possesses by virtue of existing treaties; shall effectually protect the interests of British subjects; and shall fully vindicate its own honor and power.

In the event of the Governor of Rangoon refusing, or evading, compliance with the demands conveyed to him by the Commodore, the letter addressed by the President in Council to the King should be delivered by the Commodore to the Governor of Rangoon, for transmission to Ava, accompanied by an intimation that an early reply from the Court of Ava will be expected; and that, if it should not in due time be received, the Government of India will proceed to take such measures as they may think necessary and right.

The delay thus interposed is unavoidable in the present anomalous relations of the two Governments. It will, moreover, admit of the Commodore proceeding to the Persian Gulf, whither, his Lordship understands, he is under orders to proceed.

If his Lordship's anticipation of the sufficiency of the present demonstration for bringing this question to a satisfactory settlement should be disappointed, considerable preparation will be necessary for those ulterior measures to which the Government of India will then be compelled to resort. The interval will thus be profitably employed.

If his Honor in Council should think fit, or if the Commodore should desire it, an officer, competent to the duty, may be employed to accompany Commodore Lambert, for the purpose of assisting in carrying on the necessary communications with the native functionaries of the Burmese State at Rangoon.

It is to be distinctly understood, that no act of hostility is to be committed at present, though the reply of the Governor should be unfavourable, nor until definite instructions regarding such hostilities shall be given by the Government of India.

Inclosure 20 in No. 1.

Mr. Halliday to Colonel Bogle.

Fort William, November 11, 1851.

ADVERTING to your letters and their inclosures, I am directed to inform you, that the treatment of Captains Sheppard and Lewis, by the Burmese authorities at Rangoon, as represented by them, appeared to the President in Council to have been such as urgently to demand the notice and interference of the Government of India; but so many possible and grave consequences seemed involved in any steps which might be taken, that he was desirous, before moving in the matter, to consult the Governor-General on the subject.

The result of the communications which have taken place is, that it has been determined, in maintenance of the Treaty of Yandaboo, and the Commercial Treaty of 1826, to demand full reparation for the injuries and oppression to which the above-named British subjects have been exposed. In furtherance of this object, Her Majesty's ship "Fox," accompanied by the steamer "Tenasserim," will, as soon as the requisite preparations can be made, sail for Rangoon. It is proposed that the steamer "Proserpine," now at Moulmein, should also form part of this expedition, and instructions to this effect will be communicated to you through the Government of Bengal.

Commodore Lambert, under whose orders the expedition has been placed, is in full possession of the views and intentions of Government, and will be accompanied by Captain Latter, as Burmese interpreter. The object, in the first instance, will be to endeavour to obtain, by negotiation, the reparation which is due to the British Government for the unjustifiable treatment which its subjects have recently experienced. Should these negotiations fail in producing the satisfactory results which are expected from them, further and more serious proceedings will have to be resorted to. The President in Council thinks it

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necessary that you should be informed of the present position of affairs, and of what is in contemplation, in order that, without making any open or hostile demonstration, you may take what precautionary measures you may deem necessary to guard against any sudden attack or surprise on the part of the Burmese, as, although nothing of the kind is at present anticipated, it is impossible to foresee with certainty what may be result of the present remonstrance to the Burmese authorities.

Inclosure 21 in No. 1.

Mr. Halliday to Mr. Grant.

Fort William, November 11, 1851.

I AM directed to inform you, that the President in Council desires to have the steamers "Tenasserim" and "Proserpine" placed at his disposal, for a special service; and to request that you will, with the permission of the Deputy Governor, give directions to the Superintendent of Marine, and to the Commissioner of the Tenasserim Provinces, to have these vessels properly armed and equipped, and manned by European crews, with as little delay as possible. It is intended that they shall be employed, for the present, under the orders of Commodore Lambert, of Her Majesty's ship "Fox."

Inclosure 22 in No. 1.

Mr. Halliday to Commodore Lambert.

Fort William, November 11, 1851.

I HAVE the honor, by direction of the President in Council, to forward to you the accompanying copy of a dispatch from the Secretary to Government with the Governor-General, dated the 31st ultimo, together with the documents referred to; and to communicate to you the request of his Lordship, that you will have the goodness to carry out the instructions contained therein.

Orders will be at once given for placing under your command the Company's steamers "Tenasserim" and "Proserpine," properly armed and equipped, and manned by European crews, for the service on which you are about to proceed. The former of these vessels is now in this port, and the latter at Moulmein. The President in Council has also been pleased to direct that Captain Latter, an officer in every respect well qualified for the duty, shall be instructed to accompany you to Rangoon, for the purpose of assisting you, as interpreter, in your communications with the Burmese authorities.

You will observe that the Governor-General has requested that the President in Council will name the amount of damages, and other reparation, to be demanded, in the first instance, from the Governor of Rangoon. But his Honor has not before him, and has no means of obtaining, the requisite information, to enable him to decide on this point. In the case of Captain Sheppard, a distinct claim is put forward by his agents, of 5000 rupees, as compensation for injury, loss, and expenses; but how far this is an equitable claim can only be ascertained by an investigation into the extent of injury, of loss, and of expenses, which his Honor presumes will form part of the preliminary inquiry the Governor-General has requested you to make. In the case of Captain Lewis, no specific sum has been mentioned; but the reparation to which he is fairly entitled, will also, in the course of your inquiry, be made apparent; and his Honor requests that you will use your discretion in deciding what pecuniary compensation should be demanded on account of each of these parties.

The letter which, in the event of your demands upon the Governor of Rangoon not being complied with, the Governor-General has requested you to transmit to the King of Ava, will be placed in your hands before your departure from Calcutta, and a translation will be prepared by Captain Latter.

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Inclosure 23 in No. 1.

Commodore Lambert to Lieutenant-General Sir John Littler, G.C.B., President of the Council of India.

H.M.S. "Fox," Calcutta, November 11, 1851.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Halliday's letter of this date, with its inclosures, calling on me for the aid of Her Majesty's ships under my command, to co-operate with, and assist the Government of India in demanding redress for alleged insults and cruelties committed on British subjects by the authorities of the Government at Rangoon.

In reply to which, I beg to assure you it will be my most earnest desire to carry out such arrangements as may be deemed necessary to accomplish this object.

The "Fox" will be ready for sea on Tuesday next, the 18th instant, when I shall immediately proceed to Rangoon.

I shall endeavour to obtain from the Governor the redress demanded, and, failing to do so, I shall use all possible means to forward the letter referred to, to the King of Ava, allowing him a full and reasonable time for an answer, during which period I shall remain off Rangoon, for the protection of British subjects.

Should it be necessary to dispatch the letter to the King of Ava, I will immediately inform the Indian Government thereof, in order that any further wishes of the Governor-General may be forwarded to me.

Inclosure 24 in No. 1.

Commodore Lambert to Sir John Littler.

H.M.S. "Fox," Calcutta, November 12, 1851.

I HAVE the honor to inclose to you two statements of the claims made by Messrs. Lewis and Sheppard, of the British merchant-vessels "Champion" and "Monarch," for money extorted from them by the Governor of Rangoon, and also for loss by detention of their ships.

In alluding to that part of Mr. Halliday's letter touching on this subject, I beg leave to observe, that I do not consider myself a judge to decide matters relating to mercantile transactions, and would, therefore, beg to decline giving an opinion on that subject.

As regards the money extorted from Captain Lewis, I am satisfied he is entitled to the full demand he has made; but not having seen Mr. Sheppard, or anybody that was present at the moment of his complaint alluded to, I am unable at present to form an opinion, but should no further evidence be able to be gained in Calcutta, it will be a subject of consideration when I reach Rangoon; and supposing his case to be correct, the same parties that decided the claim for remuneration on Mr. Lewis's case for demurrage, could give an opinion on the "Monarch's."

The third Inclosure is a demand made by Messrs. Mackey and Co., of Calcutta, of which I am unable to form any opinion.

Inclosure 25 in No. 1.

STATEMENT of Claim against the Government of Rangoon, preferred on behalf of the owners of the "Champion," and Mr. H. Lewis, the Commander of the said vessel.

	Company's Rupees.
Cash extorted by the Governor of Rangoon at different times	700
Demurrage for detention of ship at Rangoon fifteen days, at 100 Rupees per day	1,500
Compensation for loss of freight, in consequence of being the last arrival in the market, instead of the first, which would have been the case had the ship not been detained	4,000
	6,200
Compensation to Mr. Lewis, for the continued insults and the ill-usage, as also the serious injury to his health, in consequence of daily exposure and constant anxiety from the ill-treatment of the Governor of Rangoon .	3,000

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Inclosure 26 in No. 1.

STATEMENT of Claim against the authorities at Rangoon, preferred on behalf of Captain Sheppard and the barque "Monarch."

	Company's Rupees.	Company's Rupees.
First arbitrary fine, 600 Rupees, reduced to	325	
Court fees	70	
Interpreter	20	
Jail fees	40	
		455
Second arbitrary fine of 500 Rupees: for the Governor ..	200	
Blood money	150	
Court fees	150	
		500
Third arbitrary fine, by the Deputy Governor, or some such authority		50
Demurrage of the ship, and demurrage of the voyage, by detention, put down as		4,000
Ship's claim		5,005
Captain's, officers' and men's compensation, for ill-usage and unlawful imprisonment		5,000

D. C. MACKEY & Co.

Inclosure 27 in No. 1.

Messrs. Mackey & Co. to Commodore Lambert.

Calcutta, November 11, 1851.

UNDERSTANDING from the communication made to us by Mr. Lewis, that you are about proceeding to Rangoon, we have the honor to inclose statements of our claims against the Burmese authorities, on our own behalf, and on behalf of the barque "Monarch" and her commander, the originals of which we have handed in to the Supreme Government, praying for redress.

We have appointed Captain Harold Lewis to act for us at Rangoon, should any question arise requiring any reference on our behalf.

Inclosure 28 in No. 1.

STATEMENT of Claim against the Burmese authorities or Government, on account of the "Monarch."

			Co.'s Rs.	Co.'s Rs.
1845, Dec. 29.	By balance due			2,437 13 3
	To paid Willis and Earle, printing 50 pieces silk corahs		100 0 0	
	To paid for Varnish, per Captain Songpie's note .		25 0 0	
" 30.	To paid Syed Abdoollah per receipt of Government		1,100 0 0	
				1,225 0 0
				3,662 13 3
1846		Co.'s Rs.		
Jan. 7.	To paid inward pilotage of the Shooyhautha	110 0		
	To Light dues 31 4; Magazine do. 15 10	46 14		
	To paid outward pilotage of the Shooyhautha	140 0		
" 12.	To paid Captain Songpie's order for tow-boat	9 0		
" 13.	To paid harbour-master mooring the vessel from off town to Cooly Bazar ..	25 0		
" 21.	To paid Captain Songpie's order to pilot .	150 0		
			480 14	
" 26.	To paid Syed Abdoollah's order for ship's disbursement		1,417 0	
				1,897 14 0

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Oct. 31.	To Commission on disbursement Co.'s Rs. 3,122 14, at 2 per cent.	62	7	3				
	To Interest at 10 per cent. per annum . ..	249	10	9				
	To Postage	3	0	0				
					315	2	0	
					5,875	13	3	
1847. Oct. 31.	To Interest for one year, at 10 per cent. per annum . ..				587	9	4	
					6,463	6	7	
1848. May 4.	Deduct cash received from T. C. Arratoon				1,000	0	0	
					5,463	6	7	
Oct. 31.	Add Interest on Rs. 6,463 6 7, for 6 months 4 days; and on Rs. 5,463 6 7, for 5 months 26 days, at 10 per cent. per annum				597	7	0	
					6,060	13	7	
1849. Oct. 31,	To Interest for one year, at 10 per cent. per annum . ..				606	1	4	
					6,666	14	11	
1850. Oct. 31.	To Interest for one year, at 10 per cent. per annum. .				666	11	1	
					7,333	10	0	
1851. Oct. 31.	To Interest for one year, at 10 per cent. per annum. ..				733	5	9	
					8,066	15	9	

D. C. MACKEY & Co.

Inclosure 29 in No. 1.

Declaration by Mr. Mackey.

ON this 10th day of November, in the Christian year 1851, before me, Robert Mosely Thomas, Notary Public, residing and practising in Calcutta, in the East Indies, personally came and appeared, Donald Campbell Mackey, of Calcutta, aforesaid, carrying on business there as a merchant, under the firm of D. C. Mackey and Company, and did solemnly declare and affirm, that he did advance certain sums of money to one Syed Abdoollah, an accredited agent at Calcutta for the Burmese Government, at his request, for the loading and disbursement of the ship or vessel called the "Shooyhaula," commanded by one Shurghie, which said ship or vessel then belonged to the Burmese Government; and that the said moneys so advanced by him, as aforesaid, will fully appear from the account hereunto annexed, and also from a copy of a letter to the Shebendar of Rangoon, also hereunto annexed; and the said appearer did further state and declare, that after repeated applications by letter addressed to the Shebendar of Rangoon, he received from one T. C. Arratoon, the sum of 1000 Company's rupees, as a remittance on account of his said claim, with a promise of further remittance at a future period; and the said appearer did further state and declare, that he has not received any further or other remittance or sum of money whatever, on account of his said claim, and that after deducting the said remittance of 1000 rupees, and adding interest on the said sum due and owing up to the 31st of October last past, there is due and owing to him, the said appearer, the sum of 8,066 Company's rupees 15 annas and 9 pice, being the balance as appears mentioned in the said annexed account.

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Inclosure 30 in No. 1.

Mr. Halliday to Commodore Lambert.

Fort William, November 14, 1851.

WITH reference to your letter dated the 12th instant, I am directed to inform you that the pecuniary compensation to be demanded from the Rangoon Governor, for the loss and injuries sustained by Messrs. Sheppard and Lewis, respectively, may, in the opinion of the President in Council, be fairly estimated as follows:

The money extorted from each of these gentlemen, on various pretexts, should be recovered in full, together with interest, at 12 per cent. per annum, up to the date of payment. In addition to this, there is an equitable claim for demurrage, loss of freight and market, and compensation for personal injuries and annoyances.

In the case of Captain Sheppard, the vessel he commanded, the "Monarch," is a barque of 250 tons, and he was detained at Rangoon eight days. For a vessel of this size, his Honor is informed that 40 rupees per diem would cover all expenses, including interest on the value of the vessel. The ship's demurrage, at this rate, would be 320 rupees. The loss to the shippers, in interest on the value of their cargo, and from arriving late in the market, and to the owners, for possible loss on freight, cannot be accurately ascertained, but may, his Honor thinks, be set down at 50 rupees, per 100 tons, per diem, and would amount, therefore, in this case, to 1000 rupees. For the ill-usage inflicted on the captain, officers, and men, 1000 rupees would, in his Honor's opinion, be a fair and adequate compensation. In this case, therefore, the remuneration to be exacted will probably amount to about 3,400 or 3,500 rupees.

The "Champion," which Captain Lewis commanded, is a vessel of 410 tons. In regard to the money extorted from Captain Lewis, you express yourself satisfied that he is entitled to the full amount he demands, namely, 700 rupees. He appears to have been detained at Rangoon by the Governor, 15 days, and for a vessel of 410 tons, his Honor is advised that 45 rupees a-day is the proper and fair demurrage. On this account, then, he should receive 675 rupees; and the other ship's charges, calculated as in Captain Sheppard's case, amount to 3,075 rupees. As compensation for the ill-treatment he received, his Honor thinks that 1000 rupees would be a suitable and sufficient award to Captain Lewis. In the case of the "Champion," therefore, the total pecuniary reparation to be demanded from the Governor of Rangoon will be 5,500 or 5,600 rupees.

His Honor has decided that the claim preferred by Messrs. Mackey and Co., of Calcutta, is not one which can be properly enforced by the Government of India.

Should you consider it necessary to take Captain Lewis with you to Rangoon, he might be provided with a free passage, and receive, while absent on this duty, at the rate of 300 rupees a-month, as compensation for loss of employment. The amount of this compensation, as well as his table expenses, should form an additional item in the demand to be made on the Governor of Rangoon.

Inclosure 31 in No. 1.

Mr. H. Potter, of the ship "Shilomith," to the Governor-General.

Calcutta, November 13, 1851.

UNDERSTANDING that the Government are about dispatching a naval force to Burmah, to demand reparation for injuries and insults offered to British subjects from time to time, I deem it a duty to bring to your Lordship's notice the following circumstances connected with my residence in Rangoon during a period of twenty months, from December 1849, to August 1851.

I proceeded to Rangoon, *viâ* Moulmein, per East India Company's steamer

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"Enterprise," in September 1849, for the purpose of ascertaining if I could build a ship there, and on what terms. On my arrival there I called upon the head authority, the former Governor of Rangoon, and informed him of the object I had in view; the present Governor being then the Shebandar, that is to say the Collector of Customs, and second in power. My first inquiry was, in the event of my building a ship there, what protection and security I, as a British-born subject, would receive from the Burmese Government. In reply, I was assured by both the above functionaries, that every facility and assistance in their power would be afforded to me and to my property by way of encouraging foreigners to embark on similar enterprises; and that as I was the first to set an example of ship-building in Rangoon, after a lapse of many years, they would, agreeably to an old custom, allow me a remission of duties upon all my import stores, anchorage, and port-dues. Upon this promise and assurance, I returned to Calcutta, and after completing the necessary arrangements, I sailed again for Rangoon, in the "John Hepburn," and arrived there with a portion of my building materials in January 1850. According to his promise, the former Governor permitted the same to be landed free of duty; and thus encouraged, I immediately laid down the keel of my ship, and commenced building operations. For about three months I was allowed to progress in my work without any molestation. At this time the Governor was recalled, and the present one, who was then the Collector of Customs, promoted to the supreme authority. Upon this change, I lost no time in waiting upon him, and offering him the usual formal civilities customary in the place, on which I was assured by him of the continuance of the same protection as I had hitherto enjoyed. He further voluntarily pledged himself to observe the Treaty of Yandaboo as his guide, and requested me to bring to his notice any deviation from the same on the part of the Government officers. To my utter astonishment and regret, many days had not elapsed since his assurance was given, when he commenced to interrupt my operations by all manner of petty annoyances, and under various false pretences, such as stopping my carpenters from working on the ship, &c., with the avowed intention of extorting money from me, to which, from necessity, I was obliged to submit, in order to prevent interruption to the building of my ship. Not satisfied with this breach of his engagement, he moreover levied heavy duties upon the stores I subsequently imported, in the very face of the King's order, exempting me from the payment of all duties, which I had obtained from the Court of Ava, and which was read before him in open court. A copy of the document I submit for your Lordship's information.

I respectfully, but firmly, remonstrated with him on the subject, but to no purpose; all the benefit and satisfaction that I received in return was nothing more than vile abuse, coupled with threats of castigation and imprisonment. His illegal proceedings and maltreatment lasted to the time of my departure from the place, and in the interval I was forced to submit to numberless unjust extortions. After a great deal of annoyance, delay, and loss to me, and when my ship was completed, and ready to be launched, he prevented the carpenters and all the workmen from rendering their assistance, by which alone the vessel could be launched, threatening them with the loss of their heads if they attempted it without an order or written document from him; and at the same time demanded of me the sum of 16,000 Company's rupees, before he would allow me to launch my ship. For a considerable time matters remained in *statu quo*, owing to my determination not to submit to such unheard-of imposition, in which I would have continued, but for fear of the total destruction of my ship by fire, which was of frequent occurrence in the town; an alarming instance of it I witnessed during the interval, which destroyed nearly the whole town, and from the destructive effects of which my vessel narrowly escaped. Thus situated, and having no means of protection, I was reluctantly constrained to comply with the Governor's unjust demands, and tyrannical extortions, which I could ill afford at the time.

Owing to the impositions I have detailed above, and the oppressive measures pursued against me by the Governor of Rangoon, without any cause or provocation on my part, I was detained there several months beyond the period necessary for the building of the ship, by which I suffered not only a serious loss on the spot, irrespective of the extortions enumerated in the statement I take the liberty to inclose herein; but I have been further a sufferer of several thousands of rupees, in consequence of my late arrival in Calcutta, and being deprived from

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performing a particular voyage, and benefiting by a remunerating freight, which was in readiness for my ship.

In proof of the correctness of all that I have stated above, and of many more grievances, the circumstances connected with which I cannot at present exactly recollect, the principal European and other merchants in Rangoon can bear testimony, as well as my correspondence with my agents in Calcutta.

Inclosure 32 in No. 1.

MEMORANDUM of Claim against the Government of Burmah, submitted by the owners of the "Shilomith."

Calcutta, November 10, 1851.

	Co.'s Rs.		
Amount of cash extorted from me at different periods by the Woon of Rangoon	2,916	12	0
Ditto in book-muslins	477	0	0
Cash to the authorities at Ava, for granting an order to land stores free of duty	447	0	0
Expense incurred with a full complement of officers and men, Insurance, and Interest of Money, &c., &c., by the unnecessary detention of the ship by the Governor of Rangoon	12,000	0	0
Compensation for loss on freight by the detention of my ship	10,000	0	0
	26,140	12	0

Sic in orig.

Inclosure 33 in No. 1.

A. Young, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of India, to Mr. Potter.

Fort William, November 14, 1851.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 13th instant, submitting a letter for the Governor-General, bringing to notice certain circumstances connected with your residence in Rangoon, from December 1849, to August 1851, and forwarding a memorandum of claims against the Burmese Government.

In reply, I am directed by the President in Council to state, that the circumstances now stated by you were brought to the notice of Government by the Commissioner of the Tenasserim Provinces, in February last, and, after consideration, his Honor in Council declined to interfere. There is nothing contained in your letter under reply, which induces the President in Council to depart from that determination.

Inclosure 34 in No. 1.

Messrs. Mackey & Co. to Mr. Grant.

Calcutta, November 10, 1851.

WE beg reference to the letter we had the honor to address you on the 21st ultimo, on the subject of Captain Sheppard and the barque "Monarch," and we now hand you herewith a statement* of claim against the Burmese authorities, for 5,005 Company's rupees, exclusive of any compensation to captain, officers, or men, for ill-usage.

We have also the honor to hand you a statement† of claim, which we prefer on our own behalf, against the authorities of Rangoon, for the sum of Co.'s Rs. 8,066 15 9.

We hand you these statements as formal claims against the Burmese Government, and we humbly petition for the protection and intervention of the East India Company to recover our rights.

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* Inclosure 26. † Inclosure 28.

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Inclosure 35 in No. 1.

Mr. Young to Messrs. Mackey & Co.

Fort William, November 14, 1851.

IN reply to your letter of the 10th instant, I am directed to inform you, that both the claims preferred by you have been carefully considered by the President in Council; and in regard to that on behalf of Captain Sheppard and the barque "Monarch," the opinion of the President in Council has been communicated to Commodore Lambert, of Her Majesty's ship "Fox," by whom it will be further considered and disposed of.

The claim advanced by yourselves for the recovery of a mercantile debt contracted by one Syed Abdoolah, said to be an agent of the Burmese Government, the President in Council considers to be one which could not properly be urged or enforced by the Government of India.

Inclosure 36 in No. 1.

The President of the Council of India in Council to the King of Ava.

November 17, 1851.

FROM time to time, complaints have been preferred to the Government of India by British subjects resident at, or frequenting the Port of Rangoon, of extortion and oppression exercised towards them by the Governor of that place. But the Government of India has been unwilling to believe that the provisions of the treaties of friendship and commerce which subsist between the two Governments had been disregarded by an officer of the Ava Government.

Recently, however, two cases have occurred, in which British subjects, commanding British vessels trading with Rangoon, have brought to notice ill usage which they alleged they had received at the hands of the Governor of that place. In these cases the ill-treatment represented seemed so gross and unjustifiable, that the Government of India considered it necessary to inquire carefully into the truth of the statements, and, finding the facts to be well established, deputed Commodore Lambert to demand from the Governor of Rangoon reparation for the injuries and insults he had inflicted. This demand has not been complied with.

The Government of India, desirous of acting with the justice and moderation by which all its acts are guided, has brought these facts under His Majesty's notice, in the full conviction that he will at once condemn the conduct of his officers by whom this offence has been perpetrated, and will make to the parties who have been injured, that compensation which is most justly due to them for the injuries they have received.

And as the maintenance of friendly relations, and as the mutual observance of good faith, is equally the desire of the British Government and of the Court of Ava, His Majesty will doubtless recognise the wisdom of removing the Governor of Rangoon from the office he has unworthily filled, in which his misconduct has tended to sow dissension between the States, and to break down the provisions of the Treaty, which it is doubtless His Majesty's wish most fully to uphold.

The Government of India, confident in the belief that the Court of Ava will take a just view of the circumstances which are now placed before it, and will manifest a just sense of its own duty and interests, abstains from every expression which could seem to be at variance with a spirit of friendliness.

The Government of India looks for prompt proof of a reciprocal feeling on the part of the Government of Ava, to be manifested in its ready compliance with the requirements of the Government of India.

If these just expectations should be disappointed, the Government of India will feel itself called upon to take such immediate measures as shall

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enforce the rights it possesses by virtue of existing treaties, shall effectually protect the interests of British subjects, and shall fully vindicate its own honor and power.

Inclosure 37 in No. 1.

Mr. Young to Commodore Lambert.

Fort William, November 17, 1851.

HEREWITH I have the honor to forward the letter from the President in Council to the King of Ava referred to in Mr. Halliday's dispatch dated the 11th instant, together with a copy of the English draft from which it has been translated.

No. 2.

The President of the Council of India in Council to the Secret Committee of the East India Company.

Fort William, January 7, 1852. (No. 1.)

IN continuation of our dispatch No. 8, dated the 22nd of November last, on Rangoon affairs, we have the honor to transmit for your information, a copy of the correspondence detailed in the accompanying abstract.

Inclosure 1 in No. 2.

Sir Henry Elliot to Mr. Halliday.

Camp, Kimkut, November 27, 1851.

I AM directed by the Governor-General of India to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Young's letter, dated the 18th instant, inclosing transcripts of a letter addressed by the President in Council to the King of Ava, and of the further correspondence that has taken place, connected with the recent transactions at Rangoon.

In reply I am desired to state that his Lordship concurs in the views expressed by his Honor in Council, respecting the reparation to be demanded from the Governor of Rangoon, and in the instructions which have been issued to Commodore Lambert.

His Lordship hopes that the appearance of the squadron in the river will procure at once the reparation now demanded.

If affairs should take an unfavorable turn, and more extended measures appear to be necessary, his Lordship will quit the camp, and proceed by dâk to Calcutta, in order to confer with his Honor in Council on the course to be adopted by the Government of India.

Inclosure 2 in No. 2.

Commodore Lambert to Sir John Littler.

Off Rangoon, November 28, 1851.

I HAVE the honor to inform you I have dispatched Captain Latter, in the "Proserpine," to Calcutta, to acquaint you with my reasons for deviating from part of your instructions in demanding redress from the Governor of Rangoon.

I have forwarded the letter intrusted to my care, through the Governor, to the King of Ava, together with a letter from myself to His Majesty's Chief Minister, stating my reason for doing so, a copy of which I inclose.

Captain Latter will inform you of the difficulties I have had to contend

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with, in communicating with a person whose conduct renders him totally unworthy of any respect.

I beg to forward a copy of a memorial, signed by many residents in Rangoon, praying for protection.

Inclosure 3 in No. 2.

Commodore Lambert to the Prime Minister of His Majesty the King of Ava.

On board Her Britannic Majesty's ship of war "Fox," at anchor off the town of Rangoon, November 28, 1851.

I HAVE the honor to forward, through the Governor of Rangoon, a letter intrusted to my care by the Most Noble the Marquis of Dalhousie, the Governor-General of British India, for the King of Ava, demanding the removal of the Governor of Rangoon.

My object in visiting His Majesty's dominions was to demand redress for the insults and injuries he has offered to Her Britannic Majesty's subjects.

Having obtained the recompense that was considered due, I should have felt satisfied; but, on my arrival here, I find such an addition of cruelties to the wrongs already named, that I have no alternative but to appeal direct to the Court of Ava, and feel sure that His Majesty will punish his subject, who has not only broken the Treaty of Peace that exists between the British Empire and the Kingdom of Ava, but has likewise insulted the British Nation, by the ill-treatment of its subjects.

Inclosure 4 in No. 2.

Commodore Lambert to the Governor of Rangoon.

On board Her Britannic Majesty's ship of war "Fox," at anchor off Rangoon, November 27, 1851.

THE object of my visit to Rangoon was, at the request of the Most Noble the Marquis of Dalhousie, the Governor-General of British India, to demand redress for insults and injuries you have committed on subjects belonging to Her Britannic Majesty Queen Victoria.

Since my arrival, so many more complaints have been made by persons residing at Rangoon, who have a right to claim British protection, that I have deemed it my duty to withhold my original demand, until I have again made known their complaints to his Lordship.

Inclosure 5 in No. 2.

Commodore Lambert to the Governor of Rangoon.

November 28, 1851.

I HAVE the honor to transmit you a letter for His Majesty the King of Ava, together with one for the Prime Minister of the King.

I shall expect that every dispatch will be used for forwarding the same, and I hold you responsible for an answer being delivered in these waters, within five weeks from this day.

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Inclosure 6 in No. 2.

Merchants resident at Rangoon to Commodore Lambert.

Rangoon, November 28, 1851.

WE, the Undersigned, merchants and others, resident in Rangoon, beg most respectfully to address you on your arrival here in command of an expedition having for its object the redress of our grievances.

After suffering for many years (dating from the withdrawal of the British Resident) the grossest injustice and oppression from the Burmese authorities, you may imagine the feelings of joy and gratitude your arrival has caused.

The European residents in Rangoon, a short time ago, forwarded to the Governor-General in Council, a memorial, praying for the redress of their grievances, and protection from further injustice.

The memorialists alluded to two cases of recent occurrence, viz., those of Captain Sheppard and Captain Lewis. They alluded to them, not because they were singular, or marked by any peculiar acts of atrocity, above others of almost daily occurrence, but because they had, through them, a good opportunity of bringing the matter at once to the notice of the Bengal Government, by having the testimony of Captain Sheppard and Captain Lewis, both of whom were proceeding direct to Calcutta.

We will now, with your permission, bring forward numerous instances where greater injustice and oppression than that above alluded to, have been wantonly inflicted on British subjects resident here.

Your appearance has emboldened us to come forward on this occasion; and the reason why no other cases appeared in detail in our memorial above alluded to, can best be obvious to those who know Rangoon, where the slightest whisper of dissatisfaction would be visited with still greater acts of outrage, and, as in a number of instances, with cruel torturing and death.

We beg to refer you to the annexed list, which contains a few of the almost innumerable acts of atrocity, injustice, and cruelty.

We feel every confidence that the determination you may come to on our case will be one becoming your rank and position; but we earnestly pray that you will bear in mind, that the privilege you now concede to us, as British subjects, of making our complaints known to you, will, on your departure, if continued protection is not afforded us, be visited on us with ten-fold cruelty and outrage.

Inclosure 7 in No. 2.

List of Grievances.

1. A short time ago a charge was brought against Aga Sadduck, merchant in this town, by his wife, who had been separated from him fifteen years. No less a sum than 5,500 rupees was extorted from him by the present Governor.

2. In the case of Goolam Hussain, a merchant of Rangoon, against whom a charge was brought of alleged faithlessness of his wife, the sum of 1500 rupees was extorted from him.

3. In the case of Goolam Hussain (deceased), who was the owner of some mineral said to have had the virtue of completing the art of alchemy, the Governor wanted to get the mineral, which was refused him. In consequence of this a charge of theft was trumped up against him. The unfortunate man was seized, flogged in the most cruel manner, from the effects of which he died soon after.

4. Against Nicholas Johannes, an Armenian merchant, a story was got up, that in a piece of ground which he had lately purchased, there was buried a jar of silver. The Government people were ordered to dig for the jar in question, when Mr. Johannes detected them in the act of slipping money into the jar. The Governor decreed that he should pay 1000 rupees for these proceedings of his own men.

5. That in the case of Ally Iskar, he had taken from him 700 rupees, for

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no other reason than that he had been agent to a merchant residing in Ava, who died, and whose property was in Calcutta.

6. In the case of Mr. Cowasjee, who, on his father dying, had to pay no less than 1500 rupees, besides 400 or 500 rupees more to prevent the Governor trying him on the false charge of the murder of his own father.

7. A schooner bound from this port to Moulmein, foundered while at sea. A man by the name of Ally Nucky was falsely charged with having shipped silver on board of her, for which 350 rupees were taken from him. On another occasion the same man had his house forcibly entered and plundered by order of the Governor, to the amount of 1500 rupees in cash, on suspicion of a similar offence. His wife was flogged to make her confess where they kept their money. Subsequently, 2 ticals of gold were missed from his house, for which he had to pay 200 rupees, besides losing the gold.

8. In the case of the principal native merchants, who, from previous heavy losses, found it necessary to agree among themselves not to sell goods on credit, a charge was trumped up, for which they had to pay the Governor 3000 rupees, and the Surrattee or retail merchants, 1000 rupees. At this present time a demand is still pending against them individually, from the Governor, for the sum of 200 rupees, which is only put off on account of the presence of Her Majesty's ships. On the above charge being first instituted, Moolah Ibrahim, Aga Juat, Aga See, were imprisoned, and Cassim placed in double irons.

9. In the case of Mr. J. M. Morris, part-owner and master of the schooner "Flora Macdonald," who was accidentally drowned in this river; after the death of her husband, the wife was required to pay the sum of 4000 rupees, as half the share of the vessel, which was subsequently proved to have been paid by her deceased husband. The King ordered the money to be returned to her, but to this day it has never been paid. The widow prays that it may yet be refunded to her.

10. In December last, when the great fire broke out in this town, the Governor himself prevented the people from putting it out; "let it burn," he heartlessly remarked. This fire occasioned a loss to the British subjects residing here, of over a lac of rupees, and from which many of them are still suffering.

11. The case of a young Armenian, Zachariah Caripet, whose father's house was robbed during his absence at the capital, of an iron chest containing about 10,000 rupees or upwards, his slaves were compelled to say that the son was the robber. On complaining of the robbery, he was imprisoned, bound with cords, and had to pay 300 rupees to escape a flogging. Besides this, by threats of still further violence, he was compelled to admit that he was guilty.

12. Frequently the servants and lascars in the employ of the merchants, are bribed by the Burmese officers, to speak falsely and get up complaints, on which charges are founded, in order to inflict fines, court-expenses, &c., to the amount of many thousand rupees.

13. In the case of debts being due to British merchants, they have no chance of getting their rights. On complaining to the Governor, with a view of recovering them, the defendant, who is generally a Burman, is encouraged to pay a bribe of a few hundred rupees, or a smaller sum, as the parties may feel inclined, when the suit is immediately dismissed.

14. On passing imported goods through the custom-house, frequent robberies take place, which we have no means of preventing; to complain is only to involve the merchant in greater trouble and expense, without obtaining justice.

15. In their purchases of goods, particularly cutch (a product of Burmah), on which a high duty is levied, the merchants are frequently robbed to such an extent, that out of 100 viss, they seldom get more than 80 viss. It is done with the countenance and approval of the authorities, and if you complain, you are subjected to a greater loss under various pretences.

16. Aga Juat, a native merchant, lost a small box belonging to himself, for which he was fined rupees 2063 8.

17. On one occasion, the Governor of Rangoon desired the merchants to send for muskets, promising them not to charge duty. On their arrival, however, he enforced payment of the duty; purchased the muskets himself; but to this day the whole of the money is not paid. The purchase was made two years ago.

18. Some time since, a Mussulman belonging to Moulmein, who was in the habit of trading between here and that port, was flogged to death by Iseet

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Hay Morugchee, because he would not, or could not, pay him one hundred rupees.

19. In the case of the merchants forwarding rubies from Ava, for which, according to custom, they have to pay 28 rupees for a pass, to insure exportation. No other charge is sanctioned at the capital; but before the rubies can be exported from this place, the merchants have extorted from them, on every occasion, from 100 to 200 rupees.

20. On one occasion, two rubies were seized on board the British schooner "Tharrawaddy Merchant," valued at 40 rupees (rubies are not contraband articles), and from the owners of the rubies, and serang of the vessel, 600 rupees were extorted.

21. In respect to pilotage charged at this port, the Governor now pockets the whole of what the pilots earn, giving, however, these hard-working individuals, such small sum, occasionally, as his caprice may dictate. This act of gross injustice dispirits and discourages the pilots, rendering them less efficient, and less careful of the interests of vessels visiting this port.

22. The barque "Cecilia," bound from Calcutta to the Nicobar Islands, put into Rangoon, from stress of weather, and having two casks of rum on board; they were duly entered in the custom-house. After having been three months in dock, Mr. Crisp, Mr. Porter, the chief mate, and an apprentice lad, named Wales, were seized, thrown into prison, and kept there four days, and tortured. They were required to pay 1200 rupees, but, finally, were released by paying 500 rupees, demanded on account of the rum which had remained on board, at the particular request of the head custom-house officer.

23. Mr. M. P. Crisp, senior, a highly respectable and very long resident of this place, has been twice expelled from the country, contrary to the provisions of the Treaty of Yandaboo, since the withdrawal of the British Resident from Ava.

24. In the case of Messrs. Trill and Crisp, whose timber-yard, appliances for sawing timber, and other property, were seized, without any show of justice, by His Majesty, the late King Tharrawaddy, by which they were made sufferers to a very large amount.

25. Captain H. M. Potter, of Calcutta, came round here, and built a ship of 800 or 900 tons burden. The present Governor oppressively extorted from him, at different times, to the amount of several thousand rupees.

26. The Rev. Charles Pachiotti, Catholic priest, was accused about two years ago, of having caused a fire to take place in his cook-house. It was proved that the story was false, yet he had to pay about fifty rupees; was put into the blocks, tortured, and his feet hoisted up several times. On another occasion, about two months ago, some incendiaries set fire to the Catholic school-house at a late hour at night, by which the building was burnt to the ground. M. Pachiotti was charged with the deed, and fined 45 rupees.

27. In the case of Mr. Lewis, ship-builder, during Mr. Lewis' absence from Rangoon, his wife was fined 400 rupees, because part of a cask of salt beef was found in the house. This beef was imported by Mr. Lewis, passed through the custom-house, and paid duty.

28. Since the withdrawal of the British Resident from the Court of Ava, the port-charges have been continually increased, and are now so exorbitant as to amount to an almost entire prohibition to vessels visiting this port.

29. By Burman law and custom, the amount of duty to be levied on export produce (Cutch in particular) is 7½ per cent. *ad valorem*. The present Governor puts any value he thinks proper on the goods (sometimes double the market price), and levies the 7½ per cent. on the value thus arbitrarily imposed.

30. In the case of Mahomed Hoosain, serang of a small schooner belonging to Moulmein; upon suspicion of his having smuggled silver on board his schooner, he was seized, tortured by having his mouth burnt, fined very heavily, and his wife, although eight months in the family-way, was most cruelly beaten, and died soon afterwards.

31. In the case of Aga, the post-office Dubash, he was fined 200 rupees for having built his house on ground a little higher than the houses around, and was compelled to pull his house down again.

32. The Nakodah of a British barque was ordered to pay 150 rupees, because

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he dipped his ensign to salute Her Britannic Majesty's ship "Fox," as she passed his vessel off Rangoon town.

33. The Governor gave orders on the main wharf, as also in his court, that any persons, foreigners or natives, who should go down to any of the wharfs to witness the arrival of Her Majesty's ships of war and steamers, should be beheaded forthwith. This order was proclaimed through the town by beat of gong and a public crier.

34. In the case of Fakeer Sahib Korosawny, his house being robbed of property to a considerable amount, he was fined by the Governor, 350 rupees.

35. In the case of Gregory Johannes and seven other Armenian gentlemen, who went to the gardens on a party of pleasure. Whilst there they were all seized, and conveyed to prison, on the charge of having gone to the gardens to concoct a petition to the Governor of Bengal, and to give him intelligence concerning the state of affairs in Burmah. Gregory Johannes and his friends were detained three days in the custom-house jail, and afterwards fined 2,600 rupees. The same person was fined 300 rupees on account of a false accusation brought against him concerning some landed property.

36. In the case of a young girl, who, by permission of the King, went to Moulmein, and was married, the present Governor has often demanded her return, and as often fined her father heavily on her account; insomuch that Mr. Johannes Sarkies, her father, was compelled to go to Ava to escape further persecution.

37. In March last, the Reverend Mr. Kincaid, and Dr. J. Dawson, American missionaries, remained in Rangoon eight days, and put up in the house of a Hindoo, Mouny Rhine, who had been educated by the missionaries. Five days after they left, the Hindoo was seized, put in irons, tortured, fined 200 rupees, his life threatened, and a threat held out that his wife and three children should be sent to Ava in irons, and sold for slaves. The poor man soon sunk to the grave, under the effects of torture and fear. His only crime was giving to these gentlemen a room in his house for eight days.

38. Three days after the arrival of the Reverend E. Kincaid and Dr. J. Dawson, they were called before the Governor, and were threatened to be put in irons, and the life of Mr. Kincaid was threatened.

Inclosure 8 in No. 2.

Captain Latter to Mr. Halliday.

Calcutta, December 6, 1851.

WITH reference to your request that I should draw up a statement, for the information of the President in Council, of the matters which I have been charged by Commodore Lambert to communicate to the Government of India, I will commence by giving a simple account of what occurred from the time the expedition anchored off Rangoon, until I left.

As Her Majesty's ship "Fox" was proceeding up the river, with the steamers "Tenasserim" and "Proserpine," and on the day before we arrived off Rangoon, and at a spot some considerable distance from the town, a boat came off to the frigate, containing a Mr. Crisp, an English resident at Rangoon, with a message from the Governor, asking for what purpose the expedition had made its appearance in the river? Commodore Lambert replied, that he came for the purpose of making a communication to the Governor of Rangoon, on certain matters which he would not then allude to. He also requested Mr. Crisp to ask the Governor to appoint a day and hour to receive the said communication.

The next day, we arrived off Rangoon, when, after some time, Mr. Crisp wrote off, to say that the Governor had appointed the next day but one, Thursday, at 11 o'clock, to receive the communications, and fixed the custom-house, which was close to the wharf, as the place of meeting, his own house being some two and a-half miles inland. The whole of the remainder of Tuesday passed, and a portion of Wednesday morning, without any of the British subjects or Europeans coming off to the frigate, and information was conveyed to the Commodore, that the Governor had threatened to cut off the heads and break

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the legs of all the foreigners, British or others, who went down the wharf to welcome the frigate. I consequently obtained the Commodore's permission to land, entirely alone, and unarmed, so as to give no cause or excuse for misinterpreting my mission, to call upon some of the English residents, and others, and to procure information of what was going on, as, from their total non-appearance, and no communications having been made from the shore to the frigate, there was no knowing but any mishap might have occurred. I landed, accordingly, and sent the frigate's boat back. No obstruction was made to my landing, further than a slight attempt to make me enter the custom-house, which I knew they would have interpreted into my having entered the frigate in the custom-house books, just as if it was a common merchant-ship. This I easily avoided. I consequently proceeded to visit several of the English residents, and they said that no boats would go off from the shore, they having been prohibited, and they likewise mentioned the threat given out publicly by the Governor.

On my way up, however, from the wharf, I met Mr. Crisp coming down the road, who stated that he was going off with a message from the Governor to Commodore Lambert, requesting the Commodore to unmoor his frigate, and to move a few yards lower down; in fact, among the mercantile shipping, the frigate having been moored a little above them, and in the middle of the stream. As I was on shore at the time, the Commodore sent for Mr. Edwards, my clerk, (who, as you are aware, was for many years the confidential clerk with the former Residencies, who was intimately acquainted with all the usages and etiquette of the Burmese Court), and asked him whether there was anything in the spot his frigate occupied, that its occupation should militate against the religious feelings or etiquette of the Court, or people of Burmah. Mr. Edwards replied, that nothing of the kind was the case, and that it was only their usual way in trying to commence a quantity of petty annoyances, such as were employed in cases of the former Residents and Agents. The Commodore consequently declined moving his frigate.

Several of the British inhabitants came off with me, and then stated their case to the Commodore.

During that day information, which appeared quite satisfactory to the Commodore, was brought off, that the Governor of Rangoon had sent for the Nakodah, or native captain, of a native Madras ship, a British subject, and had fined him 150 rupees, for having lowered the flag of his vessel, as the frigate passed up, in compliment to the Commodore's broad pendant. This appeared a second instance of what may be styled something like impertinence.

On that day (Wednesday), the British subjects who had come off, having made their complaints known, *vivâ voce*, to the Commodore, were told to put them in writing, which they did in apparently a somewhat hurried manner.

Early next morning two or three of the English residents came off with information, that during the night, information had been sent to them by one of the Governor's Council, to warn the party who were about to land, to be on their guard, as the Governor had mooted the subject of seizing the officers who landed as hostages, and if the whole expedition did not leave immediately, to threaten to cut off their heads; and what looked strange was, that the Governor of Rangoon had, that night, changed the place of meeting from the custom-house, near the wharf, within a few yards of the frigate, to his own house, some two and-a-half miles inland, and he never sent any notice of this change. Of course, as the threat of seizing the deputation which was to land, came in a very vague manner, not the slightest notice was taken of it. But, in the meanwhile, the Commodore, having weighed everything that had occurred, thought it advisable to suspend the discussion of his original demand, viz., an apology and compensation for the ill-treatment of Messrs. Lewis and Sheppard, captains of British merchant-ships, and to have a written letter delivered to the Governor by Captain Tarleton, commander of the frigate, and myself, stating that he, the Commodore, had intended to have communicated with the Governor of Rangoon on certain specific complaints made against him of maltreatment of British subjects, but that since his, the Commodore's, arrival in the Rangoon waters, many fresh instances of his, the Governor's, misconduct towards British subjects had been brought to his notice, and that he, the Commodore, thought it his duty to take other measures than those he had at first intended to pursue.

This letter was translated by me into Burmese. We landed, went to the Governor's house, escorted by some of the English residents and traders. I read

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aloud to the Governor, first in English, and then in Burmese, the letter, and Captain Tarleton delivered it. The Governor made his appearance in a somewhat informal dress; being dressed in nothing but common white clothes, and smoking a cheroot; whilst all the under Governors were in their court dresses. This was the more to be remarked, because the Governor has several gold crowns, which he wears on State occasions. The European officers were of course in full uniform. The Governor wished us to stop and sit down, but Captain Tarleton thought it more prudent to say that we had only been charged to read and deliver the letter to him, and that we had received no instructions about holding any other communication. We then bowed, withdrew, and returned to the frigate. We received no opposition either going or coming.

The Commodore thought it advisable to send up to the Court of Ava, the letter, of which he was the bearer, from the Government of India to the King of Ava, together with an explanatory one from himself to the Prime Minister. These letters, viz., to the King and the Prime Minister, were made over to a deputation sent by the Governor of Rangoon on the next day (Friday), on board the frigate, with his answer to the Commodore's previous communication. The Governor of Rangoon's answer contained merely a simple denial of ever doing any injury to British subjects. The person to whom the said letters were entrusted was represented by the deputation to be the Governor's confidential representative, and that any communication made to him was equivalent to being made to the Governor himself.

I will now proceed to state the reasons that Commodore Lambert expressed for deviating from his first intentions of demanding an apology from the Governor, and pecuniary reparation to Messrs. Lewis and Sheppard. They were, that the fresh complaints he had received of the Governor of Rangoon's misconduct to British subjects, some of which appeared to him well founded and deserving of notice, proved, in his opinion, that the Governor of Rangoon was unfit to be entrusted with the lives and property of British subjects; and he, the Commodore, appeared to think that when the Governor-General came to know of these fresh instances, he, the Governor-General, might not consider that the taking satisfaction for merely Messrs. Lewis and Sheppard's cases sufficient, but might wish to take further steps.

The Commodore likewise considered the two or three dubious and improper instances of the conduct of the Rangoon Governor towards his frigate and flag showed an inclination to give annoyance and irritation, and that there was much more chance of any discussion coming to a happy and peaceful termination, and no collision taking place, if held with a new Governor, than with the present incumbent. Thus he made his removal a preliminary to entering into any discussion.

Inclosure 9 in No. 2.

Mr. Halliday to Sir H. M. Elliot.

Fort William, December 6, 1851.

I AM instructed by the President in Council to transmit to you, to be laid before the Governor-General, the accompanying copy of a dispatch from Commodore Lambert, dated the 28th ultimo, together with a transcript of the inclosures therein referred to.

This dispatch, his Lordship will observe, has been brought from Rangoon by Captain Latter, the Interpreter to the expedition, who was charged by the Commodore to acquaint Government with his reasons for deviating from the instructions he had received, and to inform them of the difficulties he had had to contend with in communicating with the Governor. Captain Latter was requested to reduce what he had to say to writing; and a copy of the statement he has made in reply to this request is annexed for his Lordship's information.

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Inclosure 10 in No. 2.

Mr. Halliday to Commodore Lambert.

(Extract.) *Fort William, December* 27, 1851.

YOUR dispatch of the 28th ultimo, with its inclosures, was duly delivered to the President in Council by Captain Latter. Before replying to it, his Honor in Council considered it necessary to consult the Governor-General in reference to the altered circumstances of the negotiation with the Burmese authorities, consequent upon the change in your mode of conducting it. In order that his Lordship might be fully informed of the exact position of affairs, and of the reasons which had induced you to deviate from the instructions you had formerly received, his Honor in Council requested Captain Latter to draw up in writing a statement of the matters he had been charged by you to communicate to Government. This statement, which contained also a brief account of all that occurred from the time the expedition anchored off Rangoon till Captain Latter's departure, was forwarded, with the other papers, to the Governor-General.

I am directed now to communicate to you the views of his Lordship in regard both to what has been done, and what ought to be done hereafter.

Having regard to the additional long list which was delivered to you, of unwarrantable and oppressive acts committed upon British subjects by order of the Governor of Rangoon, as well as to the personal bearing of that functionary towards the Commodore of the squadron, and to his obvious intention of resorting to the usual policy of the Burmese Court by interposing endless delays, and disregard of official communications addressed to him; his Lordship is of opinion that you exercised a sound discretion in cutting short all discussion with the local Governor, and in transmitting at once to the King of Ava the letter addressed to His Majesty by the Government of India.

Thirty-five days have been allowed for the receipt of a reply from the King, and it is desirable that you should, in the meanwhile, be furnished with instructions for your guidance in every contingency that can be foreseen.

Either the King will send a reply, complying with the demand of the Government, by a removal of the Governor, and a payment of compensation to the parties whose cases have been taken up by us; or the King will give no answer, either from the known arrogance of that Court, or from his being kept in ignorance by his servants, of the letter addressed to him; or, lastly, His Majesty will refuse to concede to the demands of the Government of India.

If the King should recognise the justice of our representations, and should comply with them, all difficulty will be, happily, removed for the present. It will remain only to guard, if possible, against the recurrence of similar causes of complaint for the future.

The statements contained in the memorial presented by the British subjects at Rangoon must be received with caution; not having been made the subject of complaint at the time, these additional cases cannot now be made the groundwork of an increased demand for compensation. But it may reasonably be concluded from them, that the cases of Captain Lewis and Captain Sheppard are not isolated instances of oppression on the part of the Governor, but that there has long been a systematic course of oppression pursued by him, and habitual violation of rights and treaties.

The removal of the present Governor, therefore, will hardly be a sufficient guarantee against the renewal of such conduct by his successors. His Lordship conceives that a British Agent must be placed at Rangoon, in pursuance of the Treaty, with the guard of fifty men allowed by the VIIth Article. His influence should further be sustained, for some time to come, by stationing a war-steamer, well armed, in the river of Rangoon, which will probably insure his being treated with respect, and will, at all events, provide for the personal safety of himself and British subjects in the town, in the event of the Governor proceeding to extremities.

If, on the other hand, the King of Ava should refuse to concede the just demands we have made, or should fail, with the ample time allowed, to give any answer to the letter of the Government of India, whether through arrogance,

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indifference, or the intrigues of his servants in keeping the letter from him, this Government cannot tamely submit to the injury and the insult it has received in the persons of its subjects.

At the same time, while it is the imperative duty of this Government to maintain the rights of its people, secured by solemn treaties to them, it is a duty not less imperative, that the Government should endeavour to obtain redress by the least violent means, and that it should not have recourse to the terrible extremity of war, except in the last resort, and after every other method has been tried without success.

If the King's reply should be unfavorable, the only course we can pursue, which would not, on the one hand, involve a dangerous submission to injury, or, on the other hand, precipitate us prematurely into a war which moderate counsels may still enable us with honor to avert, will be to establish a blockade of the two rivers at Rangoon and Moulmein, by which the great mass of the traffic of the Burmese Empire is understood to pass.

To bombard Rangoon would be easy, but it would, in his Lordship's judgment, be unjustifiable and cruel in the extreme, since the punishment would fall chiefly on the harmless population, who already suffer from the oppression of their rulers, even more than our own subjects.

To occupy Rangoon or Martaban with an armed force would be easy also, but it would probably render inevitable the war which we desire in the first instance by less stringent measures to avert.

An armed ship of war should remain off Rangoon, or near enough to receive British subjects, should they be threatened. If, however, the aspect of affairs on the receipt of the King's reply, should be menacing, his Lordship thinks that British subjects should, for security's sake, be brought away at once when the blockade is established.

The President in Council apprehends that you have already ample means at your disposal for carrying into effect the instructions of the Governor-General; but should this be otherwise, his Honor in Council will be ready, on your application, to afford you any further assistance in his power. I am to remind you, that, in the event of your blockading the Salween River, on which Martaban is situated, it will be necessary for you to give notice to the Commissioner of the Tenasserim Provinces at Moulmein, of your intention to do so.

Inclosure 11 in No. 2.

A Merchant to Mr. Young.

Rangoon, November 8, 1851.

I HAVE the honor to inform you, for the information of Government, that the Governors of the principal towns, and the heads of villages will assemble at the capital in January next, to be present at a great charity which His Majesty intends giving to his subjects in that month. The Governor of this town is summoned to the capital, and will leave this in the course of fifteen days.

It would seem that the number of men capable of carrying arms, belonging to this town, is 3000; they were paraded round the town a few days ago.

Letters from the capital, of late date, mention that the American missionaries were expected to arrive. They will leave this place in all this month on their way to the capital.

Inclosure 12 in No. 2.

A Merchant to Mr. Young.

Rangoon, December 23, 1851.

I HAVE the honor to inform you, for the information of Government, that it is generally believed the letter to His Majesty would be presented to him on the 15th instant, and that an answer thereto might arrive here about the 25th

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instant. I hear from several quarters that His Majesty is subject to fits of insanity, and I also understand that His Majesty's brother, the Meing Daur Meing, heir apparent, has written a friendly letter to this Governor, after receiving intelligence of the arrival of Her Majesty's ship "Fox," in this river.

Troops are daily arriving from the surrounding districts: yesterday, about 1000 came from below Prome; 10,000 armed men are said to be located at the big Pagoda. The number, however, bears no proportion to the number assembled during the period of Colonel Benson's mission.

I have done myself the honor to forward to Commodore Lambert the current reports, as they prevail, bearing on the object of his mission.

Inclosure 13 in No. 2.

Commodore Lambert to Sir John Littler.

H.M.S. "Fox," off Rangoon, December 18, 1851.

I HAVE the honor to inclose the copy of a letter I have received from Commander Luard, requesting Her Majesty's sloop "Serpent" may be supplied with four 12-pounder brass guns, with a proportion of shell, spherical, and common case-shot for them, in the event of hostilities taking place with the Burmese Nation.

I have not the power to authorize their supply from Her Majesty's stores, as they are not included in the established armament ordered by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty for sloops of war, but I have no doubt that in river-service they would add considerably to the efficiency of the "Serpent."

I beg permission, therefore, to submit Commander Luard's application for your Honor's consideration, and suggest that the four guns required may be ordered to be lent from the arsenal at Fort William, to Her Majesty's sloop "Serpent," while she is employed in these waters.

Inclosure 14 in No. 2.

Commander Luard to Commodore Lambert.

H.M.S. "Serpent," off Rangoon, December 15, 1851.

WITH the possibility of hostilities breaking out in this river, I would suggest that Her Majesty's sloop under my command would be very much more efficient with a medium 12-pounder, 18 cwt. brass gun, six feet six inches long, in each bow and stern port.

Our ports being only eight inches above the deck, the lowest possible carriage would be required.

A supply of shell, spherical, and common case-shot, would also be necessary.

Inclosure 15 in No. 2.

Mr. Young to E. Thomas, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor-General.

Fort William, January 2, 1852.

I AM directed by the President in Council to forward to you, for the information of the Governor-General, the accompanying copy of the papers noted in the margin* on Rangoon affairs.

The necessary instructions will be issued from the Military department, for supplying Her Majesty's sloop "Serpent" with the guns and shells applied for by the Commodore.

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* From Commodore Lambert, December 18, 1851; from a Merchant, December 23, 1851.

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Inclosure 16 in No. 2.

Commodore Lambert to Sir John Littler.

H.M.S. "Fox," off Rangoon, January 1, 1852.

I HAVE the honor to acquaint you, that an officer from the Court of Ava arrived on board of Her Majesty's ship under my command this morning, and delivered a letter from the King to the Government of India, in reply to the letter which I forwarded on the 28th of November.

I also had the honour of a reply from His Majesty's Minister to my communication of that date; a copy is inclosed: from the purport of which it appears the Burmese Government have dismissed the Governor of Rangoon, and promise to settle the demands made on them by the Government of India.

I am of opinion that the King is sincere, and that his Government will fully act up to what he has promised.

The future Governor of Rangoon, vested with full-powers to settle the demands, is daily expected from Prome.

In order that the Governor-General of India may be informed, as early as possible, of the state of affairs, I have dispatched the "Tenasserim" steam-vessel to Calcutta with the letter from the King of Ava, which has been translated by Mr. Edwards, in compliance with the directions he states he received.

Inclosure 17 in No. 2.

The Burmese Ministers to the President of the Council of India.

THEIR Excellencies the Great Ministers of State*, who transact all the affairs of the kingdom, bearing continually on their heads the two golden feet, resembling the germs of the Lotus, of His Most Glorious and Excellent Majesty, inform the President of the Council of India (war-chiefs), that they have received the letter said to have been forwarded by the President of the Council of India (war-chiefs), and which was inclosed in a tin-case and velvet-bag, with the seal of the Honorable the East India Company, from Commodore Lambert, of Her Majesty's ship "Fox;" also another letter from him (Commodore Lambert) to the Ministers of Ava. These letters having been delivered to the Governor of Rangoon, have reached the Golden Foot (City of Ava).

The purport and style of the aforesaid letter is not in accordance with friendship, or to those usually addressed [to the Burmese Government] viz., "that the British Government shall enforce the right it possesses." However, taking into consideration the great friendship existing between the two countries, a suitable reply, so as to meet your wishes and to establish peace and friendship, has been forwarded.

We consider it proper that, in the event of any future communication between the two great countries, the usual form and style, according to custom and agreement, should be carefully attended to.

Inclosure 18 in No. 2.

The Burmese Ministers to the President of the Council of India.

THEIR Excellencies the Great Ministers, who transact all the affairs of the Kingdom, bearing continually on their heads the two golden feet, resembling the germs of the Lotus, of His Most Glorious and Excellent Majesty, inform the President in Council of the Government of India† that, in the letter forwarded by the President of the Council of India, it is stated, That merchants and others who visit the Royal Port of Rangoon for the purpose of trade, are being unjustifiably insulted and ill-treated by the Governor of Rangoon; that reparation should be made to those who have been ill-treated by him; and also desiring his removal from office. Orders have been issued that, in accordance to the

* Ekka, Maha, Kena, Depadi.
† Literally, the great war-chiefs.

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existing Treaty of Friendship between the two countries, foreign merchants and others who frequent the principal Royal Port of Rangoon for the purpose of trade, should be treated justly and according to law, by the officer appointed to administer the affairs of Rangoon. A Mussulman, called Dey Mahomed, was the bearer of a memorial, said to have been forwarded by the merchants (great and small) of Rangoon, complaining of the Governor's cruel treatment of them; but while we were endeavouring to ascertain the truth of the charges against him, Dey Mahomed, a Mussulman, merchant of Moulmein, forged and forwarded another memorial, said to have been signed and delivered by upwards of forty of the principal Mussulman merchants of Rangoon, viz., Moolla Ibrahim, Mahmed Usoff, Mahomed Sayer, Mahomed Kausim, Saib Jaim, Aga Sahduk, Ally Ashkill, Mashidy Hassein, Aga Jee, Meer Jan Nenar Allolea, Aga Namessa, and others. This memorial was delivered by the Mussulmans Hassem and Joor Ally Saib. It is therein falsely stated, that the Governor of Rangoon assists and protects the merchants, and that they are allowed to remain in peace and quietness under his administration. We have, in consequence of such representation, desisted from making further inquiries; but from the letter forwarded by the President of the Council of India, we have become acquainted [with the above-mentioned circumstance]. In accordance to the great friendship which now exists, and taking into consideration the subject of the letter from the President of the Council of India, we have to inform you, that we have recalled the Governor of Rangoon to the Golden Foot (Ava). A suitable Governor shall be appointed to administer the affairs of Rangoon; and with regard to the merchants who have been unjustifiably insulted and ill-treated, proper and strict inquiries shall be instituted, and in accordance to custom it shall be decided.

Inclosure 19 in No. 2.

The Burmese Ministers to Commodore Lambert.

THEIR Excellencies the great Ministers of State inform Commodore Lambert, of Her Majesty's ship "Fox," that the letter which was delivered to the Governor of Rangoon, has been forwarded by him to the Golden Foot.* We have understood the contents of the letter transmitted by the President of the Council;† it is therein stated, that merchants and others who frequent the Royal Port of Rangoon, for the purpose of trade, are insulted and cruelly treated by the Governor of Rangoon; and, also desiring his removal from office. Orders have been issued in accordance to the existing Treaty of Friendship between the two countries, that foreign merchants, and others who frequent the principal Royal Port of Rangoon, should be treated justly and according to law, by the officer appointed to administer the affairs of Rangoon. A Mussulman called Dey Mahomed, was the bearer of a memorial, said to have been forwarded by the merchants (great and small) of Rangoon, complaining of the Governor's cruel treatment of them. While we were endeavouring to ascertain the truth of the charges against him, Dey Mahomed, a Mussulman merchant of Moulmein, forged and forwarded another memorial, said to have been signed and delivered by upwards of forty of the principal Mussulman merchants of Rangoon, viz., Moolla Ibrahim, Mahomed Usoff, Mahomed Sayer, Mahomed Kausim, Saib Jaim, Aga Sahduk, Ally Ashkill, Mashidy Hassein, Aga Jee, Meer Nan Jassur Ally, Aga Namassy, and others. This memorial was delivered by Hassein, and Joon Ally Saib, Mussulmans; it is therein falsely stated, that the Governor of Rangoon assists and protects the merchants, and that they are allowed to remain in peace and quietness under his administration. We have, in consequence of such representation, desisted from making any further inquiries. But from the letter forwarded by the President of the Council of India, it having been again represented that the Governor of Rangoon has been insulting and ill-treating the merchants and others, we have therefore recalled him to the Golden Foot, and shall appoint a suitable officer as Governor of Rangoon. With respect to the merchants who have been unjustifiably insulted and ill-treated, we have informed the President of the Council of India, that proper and strict inquiries shall be made, and in accordance to custom it shall be decided.

* The King of Ava. † The great English war-chiefs.

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We have to request that Commodore Lambert will with friendly feeling apprise us of the date of his departure from Rangoon, with the reply to the letter of the President of the Council of India.

Inclosure 20 in No. 2.

Commodore Lambert to Mr. Halliday.

H.M.S. "Fox," off Rangoon, January 2, 1852.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th ultimo, by the "Proserpine," which has this moment arrived, and I hasten to dispatch the "Tenasserim," that the Government of India may receive as early as possible the King of Ava's reply to their demands, which I am in great hopes will all be acceded to, and amicable arrangements be made with the Burmese Government.

There is one subject in the letter, suggested by the Governor-General, in which I entirely concur, that is, the necessity of establishing a Resident at Rangoon, without which neither person nor property will be secure; and I think it would be very desirable to communicate the Governor-General's views on the subject to the Court of Ava, as early as possible.

No. 3.

The President of the Council of India in Council to the Secret Committee.

Fort William, January 24, 1852. (No. 2.)

IN continuation of our dispatch No. 1, dated the 7th instant, on Rangoon affairs, we have the honor to transmit, for your information, a copy of the correspondence detailed in the accompanying abstract.

Inclosure 1 in No. 3.

Commodore Lambert to Mr. Halliday.

H.M.S. "Fox," in the Rangoon River,
January 9, 1852.

(Extract.)

IN reference to my dispatch to the President in Council, dated January 1, I have the honor to acquaint you, for the information of the Governor-General and the Government of India, that on the 4th, the newly appointed Governor, or special Commissioner from the Court of Ava, arrived at Rangoon with a numerous suite.

On the 5th, I sent Mr. Edwards, the assistant interpreter, to ascertain when it would be convenient for him to receive an officer with a letter from me, stating the nature of the claims which the Government of British India had made on that of Burmah, and that, when all had been adjusted, I should do myself the honor of personally paying my respects to him. The reply to which was, that he was ready at any time to receive communications from me; and the following day was fixed.

On the 6th, I ordered Commander E. G. Fishbourne, of Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Hermes," attended by some of his officers in their proper uniforms, and Captain Latter, of the Bengal army, to deliver my letter.

After an interval of two or three hours, Commander Fishbourne returned on board and reported to me that my letter had been rejected, and himself treated with great indignity. I immediately directed him to make his report officially to me in writing, and I beg to inclose a copy thereof.

In consequence of the deep insult thus offered by the representative of the Burmese Government to an officer of rank in the British Navy, I considered it my duty to suspend all further communications with that functionary, until I received instructions on the subject from the Governor-General of India.

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My anxiety now, was for the safety of the British subjects resident in Rangoon. I accordingly sent Mr. Edwards on shore for a few of the leading merchants. On their arrival I explained the state of affairs, and offered every person claiming British protection an asylum on board the ships in port, and informed them that the boats of the squadron would be at the Jetty at 5 P.M., to embark their persons and property.

Before dark every one had embarked, under the superintendence of Commander Luard, of Her Majesty's sloop "Serpent," without molestation.

I had stationed the "Proserpine" off the Jetty, to cover the boats, in the event of any aggression being made on the part of the Burmese.

After careful re-perusal of your despatch dated the 27th ultimo, I decided that I should best carry out the Governor-General's instructions and wishes, by stopping the Burmese trade. I therefore declared the rivers of Rangoon, the Bassein, and Salween above Moulmein, to be in a state of blockade; these being the rivers specified in your despatch.

The notification is contained in Inclosure No. 4, and I have requested the Commissioner at Moulmein to promulgate the same through the public newspapers, and otherwise.

I then moved the squadron under my orders, and all British shipping, lower down the river, and placed such merchant-vessels as desired to avail themselves of it, under the protection of our arms.

Having failed in carrying out the instructions of the Government of India, by the conduct of the Governor of Rangoon, whom I considered as speaking the voice of the Court of Ava, I could regard it as nothing but a national insult that had been offered to the British flag, and accordingly gave directions to Commander Fishbourne, of the "Hermes," to take possession of a ship belonging to the King of Ava, by way of reprisal.

My next step was to forward a letter through the Governor of Dallah, to the King's Ministers at the Court of Ava, a copy of which will be found in Inclosure No. 5.

I cannot but deeply regret that the amicable arrangements which I anticipated when I last addressed you, should have been so peremptorily broken off.

Inclosure 2 in No. 3.

Commodore Lambert to the Special Commissioner appointed by the Court of Ava.

On board Her Britannic Majesty's ship of war "Fox," anchored off Rangoon, January 6, 1852.

THE object of my visit to Rangoon has been hitherto so satisfactorily met by the prompt course the Government of Ava has adopted, in the permanent removal of the late Governor of Rangoon, for the cruelties and insults he had offered to British subjects, as to leave every assurance on my own mind, that an amicable settlement will be easily effected between myself and the officer now deputed by the Government of Ava, of the further matter to be discussed.

It would be endless to recapitulate the numerous charges made against the late Governor of Rangoon, of monies extorted from British subjects, and of insults offered to them, and could only lead to unpleasant discussions and unfriendly disputes between the two nations, which I am most anxious to avoid. I therefore shall confine myself to two specific cases, which have come under my own personal cognizance, which I have myself investigated, and of which I feel thoroughly satisfied the claims are just.

I allude to the cases of Messrs. Lewis and Sheppard, commanders of British merchant-ships, whose claims for compensation were decided, after the fullest investigation by the Government of India, to amount to 9,948 rupees.

This small sum I demand to be made good forthwith.

To avoid a recurrence of differences between the two Governments of Ava and Great Britain, I have pointed out to the Most Noble the Marquis of Dalhousie, Governor-General of British India, the necessity of a Resident Agent being established at Rangoon, in order to settle any differences, as they may arise, relative to commerce. This appointment will be left to the decision of the

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Governor-General of India, who will select a person capable of cultivating that friendly feeling which ought to exist between the two allied Powers, and conversant with the laws of general commerce.

Should these demands, which I have now added to the one already so promptly and amicably met by the Court of Ava, be acceded to in the same spirit, I shall consider my mission terminated, and trust that it may be the means of insuring a permanent and cordial feeling of friendship between the Governments of Great Britain and Ava.

Inclosure 3 in No. 3.

Commander Fishbourne to Commodore Lambert.

H.M's steam-sloop "Hermes," off Rangoon, January 6, 1852.

I HAVE the honor to represent to you that, in pursuance of your orders of the 6th instant, to me, to wait on the Governor of Rangoon, with a letter from you, and also to inquire why it was that Mr. Edwards, while bearing a friendly message, had a sword placed at his breast, and threatened within the precincts of the Governor's house?

Sic in orig.

I beg to state that I proceeded accordingly, accompanied by Captain Latter, and Mr. Edwards, as interpreter, and Lieutenant Lawrence, and Dr. McLeod, surgeon of Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Hermes."

When we arrived within a very short distance of the Governor's house, two sub-officials endeavoured to stop us. Captain Latter assuring me that this was intended rather as a slight, I did not deem it proper to stop. Mr. Edwards, however, communicated with them, on which they said that we could not see the Governor, but must go and wait on the Deputy Governor.

On arriving at the gate of the Governor's compound, there appeared to be a reluctance on the part of two or three, that we should enter.

On arriving at the foot of the stairs leading to the Governor's antechamber, there appeared at the top, Moung Pogan, a man who had accompanied each deputation to the "Fox," in the professed character of interpreter, and another, I presume, one of the Governor's retinue, the latter of whom stated that we could not see the Governor, as he was asleep, and asked if we could not wait till he awoke. This he was informed by Captain Latter that we could not do, and that the Governor, if asleep, must be waked up, and informed that the Commander of one of the ships of war, bearing a letter from Commodore Lambert, waited to see him; on this, he, together with Moung Pogan, went into the Governor's house, apparently to convey the message.

They soon after returned, the one stating that the Governor was a great man, and was asleep and could not be awaked, but Moung Pogan called Mr. Edwards on one side, and asked him to go up, and speak with the Governor; understanding this by his grimace, without waiting to be confirmed in the correctness of my conclusion, I said he could not go, whereupon Captain Latter asked me for your letter (which I gave him), that he might point to it while explaining that it was one of a most peaceful kind, and insisted upon the necessity of our being received; whereupon the attendant and Moung Pogan went again, as it were, to see the Governor, saying that we had better go and stand under the shed, a place where the common people usually assembled.

Meanwhile, expressing the great inconvenience of staying in the sun, I was going up stairs, with a view to sit in the Governor's waiting-room, but Captain Latter interposed, and said it was not according to etiquette; I was informed also that my going under the shed alluded to, for protection from the sun, would be considered by them as degrading; I refrained from going, or rather returned to my original position, at the foot of the stairs, for I had gone under the shed.

The attendant and Moung Pogan returned, the former again repeating that the Governor was asleep, and Moung Pogan again expressed a wish that Mr. Edwards should go up, and, on this being again refused, proposed that your letter should be sent to the Governor by them, which I considered it my duty to refuse; Captain Latter, at the same time, explaining that if it were proper to

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send the letter by them, it were unnecessary to have sent the captain of an English man-of-war, and the next in command to the Commodore, with it.

About this time, an officer came up, whom I recognised as one who had been on a deputation from the Governor to the Commodore; and, being anxious to have matters settled amicably, I requested Captain Latter to explain to him how improper the treatment we had received had been; that he must be well aware that every deputation from the Governor and Deputy Governor had been received by the Commodore at all times, and with courtesy; and, if it had been that the Commodore had been asleep, his principal officer would have had him awakened, and made acquainted with the fact of a deputation being in waiting for an audience with him, that he might receive it; and to impress upon him the propriety and necessity for me, bearing a friendly letter from the Commodore, being received immediately; for if I was not, I must consider it a premeditated insult, and go away and report the circumstance.

I was quite satisfied of the insincerity of the statement relating to the Governor being asleep, from the manner of the attendant, and from the fact of Moung Pogan asking Mr. Edwards to go up to the Governor, and indeed from his appearing at the Governor's when we arrived—for, when we were getting our horses, to ride up, this Moung Pogan appeared, and was asked by Captain Latter if the Governor knew we were coming, and he said he did not know; then Captain Latter said, "You had better go up, and say that we are coming;" to which he answered, "I am a subject of Burmah, and cannot take a message to my Lord the Governor, unless I had permission from him."

Finding, after some little time, that the officer alluded to above did not return, I conceived it to be my duty to return, and report the circumstance; in doing so, I returned most leisurely, to give them time to send after me with an apology; and not finding my boat at the landing-place, I waited her arrival (for the same purpose), rather than come off earlier in a merchant-ship's boat, which was offered me.

Inclosure 4 in No. 3.

Notification.

IN virtue of authority from the Governor-General of British India, I do hereby declare the rivers of Rangoon, the Bassein, and the Salween above Moulmein, to be in a state of blockade; and, with the view to the strict enforcement thereof, a competent force will be stationed in, or near, the entrance of the said rivers immediately.

Neutral vessels, lying in either of the blockaded rivers, will be permitted to retire within twenty days from the commencement of the blockade.

Given under my hand, on board Her Britannic Majesty's frigate "Fox," off the town of Rangoon, the 6th of January, 1852.

GEORGE R. LAMBERT,
Commodore in Her Britannic Majesty's Navy.

By command of the Commodore,
J. L. SOUTHEY, *Secretary.*

Inclosure 5 in No. 3.

Commodore Lambert to the Great Ministers of State of His Majesty the King of Ava.

On board Her Britannic Majesty's ship of war "Fox," anchored off Rangoon, January 7, 1852.

IT is with deep regret I have to inform you that, in consequence of the insults offered by the Governor of Rangoon, I have been obliged to suspend all further communication with the Burmese Empire, until I have received further

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instructions from the Governor-General of British India, and to declare its coasts under a state of blockade.

I have further to acquaint you, I have detained a vessel belonging to the Government, until the claims that were demanded for money extorted by the late Governor are paid.

I was in hopes, from the tone of the letter addressed to me by your Excellencies, that all differences that had previously existed would have been speedily and amicably arranged; but you may imagine my surprise and indignation, on sending a deputation to wait on the Governor with a letter, a copy of which I inclose, to learn that the officers I had sent for that purpose had been treated in a most degrading manner, and my letter rejected.

I have further to add, that the Governor actually issued orders to the British merchants, that they were not to go on board the ship I command.

Any explanation the Court of Ava may wish to make on the subject, I shall be ready to forward to the Governor-General of India.

Inclosure 6 in No. 3.

Commodore Lambert to Mr. Halliday.

H.M.S. "Fox," in the Rangoon River,
January 9, 1852.

I HAVE the honor to inclose a letter I have received from the Governor of Rangoon, addressed to the Governor-General of India, with a translation thereof by Captain Latter.

Inclosure 7 in No. 3.

Letter delivered to Commodore Lambert by a Deputation from the Governor of Rangoon.

I, MAHAMENGHLA MENG KHANNYGYAN, appointed by the King of Ava (here follow the Royal titles) and by the great Ministers of State, after due consultation, to rule all the Southern Districts (*i. e.*, from Prome to Martaban, including Rangoon), and to have my residence at Rangoon, inform the English rulers and war-chiefs:

That in conformity with the demand made by the English rulers, that the former Governor of Rangoon should be removed from his situation, on account of having oppressed and maltreated British merchants trading with the Port of Rangoon, and in order that a proper person might be appointed as Governor of Rangoon, who would be capable of protecting the merchants and poor people, the former Governor was recalled to the Royal presence. A letter was sent to the English rulers, informing them that a proper investigation into all complaints should be made, and I arrived at Rangoon.

Being actuated by the highest feelings of friendship to Commodore Lambert, whilst I was intending to send for him, the interpreter, Edwards, came and told me that he had come to acquaint me that Commodore Lambert wished to have an interview with me; and, as I was fearful that any of the others might behave discourteously, and not according to the rules of etiquette, I decreed that the interpreter, Edwards, might come with the letter or communication. But after some time, four inferior officers, an American clergyman, called Kincaid, and the interpreter Edwards, came in a state of intoxication, and, contrary to custom, entered the compound on horseback; and whilst I was asleep, and the Deputy Governor was waking me, used violent and abusive language. They then went away, and conveyed an irritating message to the Commodore; and that officer, listening to their improper and unbecoming representations, and with a manifest inclination to implicate the two nations in war, on the 6th of January, 1852, at night, with secrecy, took away the ship belonging to His Majesty the King of Ava.

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I, however, in consequence of there being a treaty of peace between the two nations, did not re-seize the vessel; and though they were the bearers of a Royal message, on account of their unjustifiable conduct. The frigate stuck on the shore near Dallah. I did not, however, molest them, or destroy them, but acted worthily to these unworthy men; and I now represent this conduct of Commodore Lambert to the English rulers, who came from one country to another, and behaved in a manner unbecoming an Ambassador. *Sic in orig.*

Inclosure 8 in No. 3.

Commodore Lambert to Mr. Halliday.

H.M.S. "Fox," in the Rangoon River,
January 10, 1852.

I HAVE to request you will inform the Governor-General, in continuation of my despatch of yesterday's date, that, subsequent to the interviews I had with the Governor of Dallah, and the other Burmese officials, of which Captain Latter will have acquainted you, I received a message from the Governor of Rangoon, to the effect that if I attempted to take the King of Ava's ship out of the river, he would fire on me. In reply to which, I recommended that, as the Governor of Rangoon had complained to the Government of India, of what had taken place, it would be advisable that matters should remain as they were, until further instructions were sent from our respective Governments. But I plainly told him, that if a shot was fired by the Burmese, at either of Her Britannic Majesty's ships, I would return it.

During yesterday afternoon a number of large war-boats went down the river, the crews of which, on passing the squadron, behaved in a very menacing manner; and being informed a considerable force of men and ordnance had been sent to the lower stockades, and as it was my intention to move to the entrance of the river, for the purpose of better carrying on the blockade, I judged it advisable, in conveying the merchant-vessels out, to place Her Majesty's ship "Fox" abreast of these stockades, for their protection.

Shortly after daylight this morning I weighed, and caused the merchant-vessels to follow me. They were assisted and guarded by the East India Company's steam-vessel "Phlegethon," and the boats of this ship. On my arrival off the great stockade, I anchored, and found it occupied by a considerable force. An immense number of large war-boats, with guns mounted in them, were also lying close to the shore, and at the entrance of a small creek, under the walls of the stockade, and were fully manned. Their behaviour was exceedingly threatening, but I refrained from interfering with them, as I had promised yesterday that I would not fire on the Burmese first.

Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Hermes," with the King of Ava's ship in tow, passed us at half-past 9, when the stockade opened a sharp cannonade on Her Majesty's ship "Fox," which was instantly returned with shot and shell, and the Burmese battery was in a short time silenced. On the smoke clearing away, not a person was to be seen on the shore or in the boats.

Our fire, I have no doubt, must have done great execution, for I have reason to believe at least 3000 men were opposed against us. One or two of the enemy's shot struck the "Fox," but did very trifling damage. Their shot in general fell short, a few only passing over us, and their small arms did no execution.

I then sent the "Phlegethon" and the boats of the "Fox" close in shore, to destroy the war-boats, which was easily accomplished, and their guns spiked, or thrown into the river. Their crews, being unable to stand our fire, had fled on the first broadside.

The "Hermes," in the meantime, engaged a stockade on the opposite side of the river, which had opened a fire on her; her heavy guns and a few rockets soon silenced this battery, and compelled the Burmese to retire.

I am now following the shipping down the river, and, when I have seen all the merchant-vessels to sea, I shall anchor in a convenient situation for blockading this port. The "Serpent" will carry out the blockade of the Bassein River.

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It is with deep regret I have had to commence hostilities with the Burmese Nation, but I am confident the Marquis of Dalhousie and the Government of India will see it was unavoidable, and necessary to vindicate the honor of the British flag.

I have the satisfaction of stating that the squadron under my orders have not sustained any loss.

Inclosure 9 in No. 3.

Commodore Lambert to Mr. Halliday.

H.M.S. "Fox," in the Rangoon River,
January 12, 1852.

I HAVE the honor to inclose the translation of a document I have just received from Rangoon by a flag of truce, to which no reply was given.

Inclosure 10 in No. 3.

Petition from the Armenian, Mogul, Soorattee, Nurrapoor, Parsee, Chuliah, and Mussulman Inhabitants and Merchants of Rangoon, to Commodore Lambert.

January 11, 1852.

THE two great countries being in peace, your petitioners have continued with their wives and children, for many years to reside and trade in this country.

The late Governor (of Rangoon) having been dismissed for unjustifiable and improper conduct, was taken to the Golden Feet (capital of Ava), in obedience to the Royal order, for punishment.

Subsequently, the Aye Bain* (present Governor) having arrived, was prepared to meet and discuss with the Commodore whatever remained to be adjusted. Not having been enabled to do so, he has sent for, and desired your petitioners to make the following representation, respecting the communication made to the Governor of Dallah, viz. :

That he is willing to abide by the provisions of the Yandaboo Treaty.

To agree to a Resident being appointed.

To pay the sum of upwards of 9000 rupees.

And to have a Residency House† erected.

In accordance with the Royal order, the above subjects were to have been discussed by the two great men, in an amicable and friendly manner ; but Commodore Lambert has not given him an opportunity of doing so.

Your petitioners and the merchants, both great and small, at Rangoon and at the capital of Ava, amount to upwards of 600 souls, "who are in a condition of being stranded in shallow water."

Your petitioners, therefore, most humbly entreat you, in the name of Almighty God, to have pity upon them, and to save and protect them from ruin and destruction.

Inclosure 11 in No. 3.

Narrative by Captain Latter.

(Extract.)

ON Friday, the 2nd of January, 1852, I arrived at Rangoon, in the Company's steamer "Proserpine," and immediately delivered the dispatches from the Government of India to Commodore Lambert. I there learned that the new Governor appointed by the Court of Ava, with plenary powers to settle

* An officer appointed to settle all the affairs of the Burmese Government, from Prome to Martaban.

† Officer's house.

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all questions in dispute between the two Governments, was hourly expected; and that the former Governor, who had been removed by the Court of Ava, was suspended from his functions, and was awaiting the arrival of his successor; also, that, during the period that had elapsed from the time of my taking up the Commodore's dispatches to the Government of India, until my return with their reply, the conduct of the late Governor had been most insolent and irritating. Among other acts, he had appeared in the town, inflamed with wine, and had threatened to murder all the European inhabitants on shore. He had also endeavoured to burn down the town; and the subordinate Governors, collecting more men than he had, prevented his doing so. The European inhabitants had, consequently, determined, at the first alarm, to take refuge in the house of a Mr. Birrell, one of their number, which being capable of defence, Mr. Birrell had placed a small 2-pounder gun on the landing inside, and had erected a large bamboo on the roof, so as to hoist a signal of distress, if necessary, for the information of Commodore Lambert. This pole on the top of Mr. Birrell's house was still a matter of discussion when the "Proserpine" arrived.

But whilst the conduct of the Rangoon authorities was so unsatisfactory, a marked exception existed in the person of the Governor of Dallah, a town on the other side of the river. Commodore Lambert, from information he had received of the favourable disposition of the Governor, had paid him an unofficial visit, in order, personally, to impress upon an officer of his rank and respectable character, his (the Commodore's) peaceful views and wishes. The Commodore was received by the Dallah Governor with the greatest courtesy and respect; and throughout the whole of the subsequent annoying transactions, the conduct of the Dallah Governor was all that could be expected from a good man and a gentleman.

As soon as information had been received from the capital, that the Court of Ava had determined to remove the Governor of Rangoon, and to appoint another, the Under-Governor of Rangoon promised to inform the Commodore as soon as the new Governor arrived.

On Saturday, the 3rd, a fleet of boats, with above 3000 men, made its appearance, coming down the river, which, of course, we concluded to be the new Governor. Information was brought by some of the English, from shore, to that effect; but neither on that day, nor the next, was any information given by the Burmese authorities, of the new Governor's arrival. This alone was a discourteous, or even contemptuous, act. From shore, information was brought that the new Governor had adopted the same line of policy as his predecessor, who was allowed to take his departure in a manner unlike a disgraced Burmese official.

The new Governor at once issued orders to prevent any communication of British subjects on shore with any vessels in the river; and it was only by means of the boats of the squadron, which he did not dare molest, that any information could be received. The subject of the gun and pole at Mr. Birrell's house he took up at once, threatening to punish him if they were not instantly removed. Mr. Birrell said that he must receive the Commodore's orders on the subject. Commodore Lambert ordered him to say that the pole had been merely erected to hoist a signal of distress, if necessary, and the gun to defend himself till he could be relieved from the squadron, as the former Governor had, in the most public manner, threatened to seize the European inhabitants, and, if the squadron did not leave, to massacre them. But that, as the new Governor had arrived, charged, from all that could be learnt, with friendly and peaceful intentions, the Commodore had directed him to remove them, and he felt every confidence that the new Governor would give every protection to the British inhabitants.

The gun and pole were removed accordingly; but in spite of this courteous act on the part of the Commodore, the new Governor proclaimed, by beat of drum, and also served a written notice to the principal Moguls and other British subjects, that they were not, on pain of death, to hold any communication with the vessels in the river.

Monday, the 5th, arrived without any, the slightest, information or official communication being made to Commodore Lambert, of the new Governor's arrival; and as he was anxious that the affair should be speedily settled, and was above allowing any foolish point of etiquette unnecessarily to interfere with

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even a chance of its being so, at my suggestion he allowed Mr. Edwards to go first to the Governor of Dallah, and inquire whether the new Governor had arrived, and whether any information of the fact was going to be sent in an official manner, and afterwards to go in an unofficial manner to the Governor of Rangoon's house, and see whether he could learn anything of his future intentions. On this occasion, I charged Mr. Edwards, on his departure, should he see the new Governor, to impress upon him, that independent of the cordial feelings of friendship which actuated the Commodore personally, as was evinced by the way in which he had always received the Burmese deputations on board the frigate, composed though they were of the humblest rank of officials, he was charged with a communication from the Government of India, of which the demands were trifling in the extreme, and couched in the most considerate and amicable language.

Furthermore, to beg of him, for the sake of peace between the two countries, not to allow himself to be influenced by any false rumours that were circulated by evil-designing persons, who were like firebrands (English as well as native), and not to consider anything as authentic, unless he received it from some Government official in the squadron. Mr. Edwards faithfully delivered these sentiments.

The Dallah Governor, on seeing Mr. Edwards, stated that the new Governor had arrived, and that he appeared to think the fact of the appearance of his flotilla of boats sufficient notice of his arrival. Mr. Edwards replied, that it was true that the show had made a very pretty appearance, but that, after all, there were only 25 or 30 boats, and at the most barely 3000 men, but that there was no knowing, until positive notice was given, whether it might be only part of his retinue, and that the new Governor, with the remainder, might be behind. The Dallah Governor acknowledged the justice of the remark, but said he had received no orders on the subject. Mr. Edwards then crossed the river to Rangoon, went to the Governor's house, stated that he had come merely to inquire whether the new Governor had arrived. At the foot of the outer steps, one of the Governor's suite drew his dagger on him, and threateningly asked him how he dared thus to approach the Governor's house. Mr. Edwards replied that he had no intention of entering without the Governor's permission. On being called into the Governor's presence, he stated that his life had been threatened, and mentioned what had occurred. The Governor sent for the offender, and punished him in the presence of Mr. Edwards, in the usual Burmese manner, namely, by having him taken by the hair of the head, swung round three times, his face dashed to the ground, himself dragged out by the hair, and pitched down stairs*.

Mr. Edwards then mentioned that the Commodore was most anxious to have the present business speedily settled, and, in fact, delivered the sentiments he was charged with. The Governor replied that he would be most happy at any time to receive any communication from the Commodore, and he moreover directed the embargo on the boats and inhabitants to be removed.

The next day, Tuesday the 6th, the Commodore directed Captain Fishbourne, commanding Her Majesty's steamer "Hermes," myself, and two officers of the "Hermes," with Mr. Edwards, to proceed and deliver to the Governor the letter containing the demands he was charged to make. I was at the time on board the "Proserpine," finishing the Burmese translation of the letter which was to be given to the Governor, and to give him due warning of our approach; and, on my own responsibility, as there was no time to spare, sent Mr. Edwards on shore to him, to give notice of our coming, and charged him to say, that as he had already shown his friendly feelings, by his amicable expressions of the day before, with a reference to any time to receive any communication from Commodore Lambert, there would be no necessity to make any display in receiving us, so that there was no necessity for any delay. The more I have reconsidered all that happened, the more do I feel glad that I was induced to take the step of sending Mr. Edwards on shore to announce our

* Captain Latter has requested that a correction should be made in his statement in regard to the meeting at which the circumstance described of Mr. Edwards having been threatened with a dagger occurred. This was not at his first interview with the Governor on the 5th, but when he went on the 6th to give notice that the deputation was coming, and, consequently, on the same day that the deputation went.

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approach, as it removed the only excuse the Governor could have had for not receiving us, namely, his not being aware of our approach.

Mr. Edwards accordingly told the Governor what he was directed to say. Then commenced a specimen of those slippery tactics so characteristic of Burmese Government officials. He immediately said, "he wished to receive the communication through Mr. Edwards, and no one else." Mr. Edwards replied, "that that would not be for two reasons: first, that a communication of such importance could not be made through a person holding his subordinate position, being only a clerk under my orders; and secondly, that, even if it could be so made, it was too late now, as the officers entrusted with it, one of whom was in rank next to the Commodore himself, were now preparing to come." Mr. Edwards took his leave and joined us.

We accordingly landed at about noon, and proceeded to Mr. Birrell's house to procure horses to take us up, as the distance (about two miles) was too much to walk in the sun. Whilst we were making the necessary arrangements, Moung Pogan, the recognised Burmese and English interpreter of the Governor, who had accompanied every deputation on board the frigate in that capacity, came on the pretext of seeing whether the pole and gun had been removed from Mr. Birrell's house. After having been shown that they were so, I said to him in English, "Go to the Governor's house, and give him our compliments, and say we will soon be with him, bringing letters from Commodore Lambert," &c. He replied, "I am a Burmese subject, and cannot deliver any message without the orders of my superiors."

We proceeded to the Governor's house, and on arrival near it, two under-officials made their appearance and tried to stop us, telling us we must make our communication to the Under-Governor. Captain Fishbourne, at my request, took no notice of this, and they were told that our orders were to present a letter to the Governor. On this occasion they said nothing about the Governor being asleep. I was too well acquainted with the trickery of Burmese officials not to know that the only chance of our carrying out our mission successfully, was, not to deviate from our instructions, but to go up in a firm and decided manner to the steps of the Governor's house, and there inform him of our arrival.

When arrived there at the doorway, we found Moung Pogan, the very person whom a few minutes previously we had met at our outset, and who had then declined going up to the Governor's house to give him notice of our arrival, and yet he had contrived to precede us; there were also some other subordinate attendants. I told them all in Burmese, showing them the letter which Captain Fishbourne held, that we had come to deliver it to the new Governor, and begged them to inform him of our arrival. They replied that he was asleep. I then continued, in Burmese, to say that, taking into consideration the distance we had come in the sun, and the importance of the communication we were entrusted to deliver, and the fact of our having already but a very short time previously given him notice of our intention of coming, if he really were asleep, he would be angry with them for not awaking him. Moung Pogan on this went in, and after a short time came out and beckoning to Mr. Edwards, told him that the Governor wished to see him. I said that this was out of the question, and I warned him and the rest against the gross insult they would be offering us, if they kept us waiting any longer, at the foot of the outer stairs and in the sun, and not, if we were waiting, asking us inside. To this they replied, pointing to an open shed, that we might get shade there. To this I indignantly replied, that they were well aware that none but the lowest rabble ever collected there, and that it was a shelter thrown up for the reception of persons waiting to have their cases tried, and that certainly none of us would go there.

At this moment a person of somewhat higher, though still inferior rank, passed by me to go up the steps. I stopped him, and holding his hand in mine, I spoke to him in the most earnest but kindly manner, of the madness of what they were doing; that the officer who had charge of the letter, pointing to Captain Fishbourne, was next in rank to the Commodore; that we were all officers, who held the commission of our Queen; and that the way they were behaving towards us was worse than madness; that, if persisted in, it would be visited with the most condign punishment, either by their own King, for the

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salvation of his throne, the safety of which they were fearfully perilling, or if not, by our own Government, who would conspicuously display their power to protect us, their officers, and to resent any insult that might be offered to us.

After a few minutes, followed another officer of similar rank, whom Captain Fishbourne recognised as having met in some of the deputations which had been received on board the frigate. Captain Fishbourne begged me to remind him of the way he and all others had been received; how that, however the Commodore may have been occupied, he was instantly informed of their arrival, and they were never kept in the humiliating position in which we were now. I did so; he likewise passed on. No notice was taken of our presence, and as any longer delay would have shown us deficient in the common sensitiveness of gentlemen, we were fain to turn our backs and depart.

I can conscientiously say, that whilst addressing them aloud in Burmese, so that all might hear, I exhausted every argument in the most earnest manner, to recall them to a sense of propriety.

That the Governor was not asleep there can be no moral doubt in the mind of any person of sense, 1st. Because Moung Pogan, his recognised interpreter, had preceded us. I had told him that we were going to the Governor's: 2nd. During the time we were kept waiting, Moung Pogan came out, and asked Mr. Edwards to step into the Governor's presence; but even had he been asleep, we ought to have been asked into the hall of audience, and not kept waiting outside.

Taking all these things into consideration, no person of any acquaintance with Burmese customs, will hesitate to say that what occurred was as gross and studied insult as could be devised. Nothing, in my opinion, but our knowledge of Commodore Lambert's anxious wish that everything reasonable and honorable should be done, to abstain from any misunderstanding, added to the dignity of our position, as representing an important public cause, enabling us to be less sensitive in seeing offence, could have warranted our remaining even so long as we did.

On our return to the frigate, Captain Fishbourne reported to Commodore Lambert the treatment we had received. The Commodore forthwith directed a boat to be sent to summon some of the English residents from the shore. On their arrival, he warned them to be prepared to leave the town during the afternoon, and requested them to give notice to all other British subjects. He ordered all the boats of the squadron to assist in bringing them off, and a steamer to be off the wharf to cover their embarkation. Whilst these orders were being carried into effect, three Burmese, of whom Moung Pogan was one, for I cannot call them a deputation, the highest among them being merely a *Tseetkay*, a rank which in Moulmein never sits in the presence of an European superior, came on board the frigate, apparently more for the purpose of seeing how the matter had been taken, for they were not charged with any explanation or expression of regret, further than that they tried to make us believe that the Governor was really asleep at the time, and they wanted to know whether Commodore Lambert would himself go on shore and see the Governor. Commodore Lambert replied, that after the insolence with which the Governor had treated his officers, he would have nothing more to say to him, that he would receive no apology whatsoever, but that now the affair must rest in the hands of the Government of India; that as to himself, he would be trifled with no longer.

The British subjects—men, women, and children, to the amount of several hundred, took refuge during the afternoon, on board the shipping in the river, and, before evening had set in, the vessels had commenced dropping down the river. There can be no doubt that it was nothing but the panic caused among the Burmese authorities, by the report that must have reached them through the three emissaries last mentioned, of the high indignation evinced by Commodore Lambert, and their consequent fear of provoking him to extremities, that induced them not to interfere with the embarkation of the British subjects and their families. This was a most difficult undertaking, carried out without let or accident.

As the evening had set in before all the British subjects had made their escape from Rangoon, it was dark before the Commodore issued orders to seize what was usually styled the "Yellow Ship." This vessel had been built for the

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purposes of trade, and was the property of the King of Ava; she was anchored a little above the squadron; the seizure of this ship appeared to convince the Burmese that the time for trifling had passed, and that Commodore Lambert was in earnest; they even seemed alarmed for the safety of their own heads.

On Wednesday the 7th, at daybreak, Her Majesty's steamer "Hermes" took the King's ship in tow, and the whole squadron proceeded down the river a short distance, the frigate remaining a little below Dallah. Up to this date, from the time of the squadron first entering the Rangoon waters, consisting of a period of nearly a month and a half, the Burmese appeared systematically to have adopted one line of policy, namely, never to send anybody on board the frigate to hold personal communication with the Commodore, but the lowest class of officers, thus, in their silly arrogance, making it appear as if they held him in a corresponding rank. But now their tactics changed, yet not in a manly, straightforward manner, but little by little.

During the morning of this day, the Dallah Governor came off, being sent by the Governor of Rangoon to see what he could do in the business. The Commodore informed him, that, in consideration of his (the Commodore's) personal regard for him, and as a mark of the appreciation in which he held his admirable conduct during the whole time the expedition had been lying off Rangoon, he would, in a measure, deviate from his first intentions, and that he would again open communications with the present Governor, if that officer would come himself on board his frigate, and express his regret for the insult that he had offered to the British Flag, in the persons of the deputation sent to him the previous day. The Dallah Governor took his leave, and after some hours, the Under-Governor of Rangoon, with the interpreter, Moung Pogan, made his appearance. He was the bearer of a letter from the Governor, declaring that he really was asleep when the deputation reached him; that he did not wish to see a deputation of inferior officers; that he would see the Commodore, and wished the Commodore to go to him. He did not in the slightest degree express any regret or sorrow for what had occurred. The Commodore informed the Under-Governor, that he would not swerve from the ultimatum he had already given through the Governor of Dallah, and he gave him till noon of the next day to make up his mind. A good deal more conversation took place, owing to the Under-Governor endeavouring to shake the Commodore's determination. Both he and the others contradicted themselves every few minutes; now asserting that the Governor was asleep at the time the deputation came to his door; next asking why Mr. Edwards did not come to him when he sent to call him. At one time the Under-Governor denied being at the interview in which Mr. Edwards complained of having been threatened with a dagger; then, when pressed, acknowledging that he was at the interview, but that he had neither seen or heard anything about it. It would be as tedious, as it would be unnecessary, to enter into a detail of all the lies and subterfuges they were guilty of, till at last they left the frigate, when they complained of the seizure of the King's ship. The Commodore informed them that he had seized it because it was the King's ship; that had it been a common Burmese merchant-ship, he would not have taken possession of it; and that he seized it, as much for the purpose of showing them that the acts of subordinates, if not promptly disowned and punished by those whom they represented, would be inevitably visited on the principals; that he had no doubt, that when the King of Ava became acquainted with the insolent conduct of his subordinates to those who came to make a friendly communication, refusing to receive such communication, and thus jeopardizing his Throne, he would visit them with condign punishment; that if the Governor of Rangoon wished to avoid such a fate, he had only to accede to his, the Commodore's, demands in everything; that then, when all his demands had been fully complied with, he would give back the King's ship, and salute the flag of Burmah with a royal salute. He furthermore impressively added, that until further instructions came from the Governor-General of India, of which they would be duly informed, nothing should induce him to act aggressively, unless they commenced hostilities themselves; and he concluded by saying, that should any detriment occur to the King of Ava, from what had occurred, it would wholly rest upon the head of the Governor of Rangoon.

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During the day I was engaged translating into Burmese the letter sent by the Commodore to the Prime Minister, the English copy of which has doubtless been forwarded to Government, informing the Court of Ava of the blockade of its ports, &c. This I finished towards evening, and, accompanied by Lieutenant Spratt, Her Majesty's ship "Fox," took it the Governor of Dallah to send up to his Court.

During the next day, Thursday the 8th, the Dallah Governor came on board the frigate to state that he had forwarded the Commodore's letter to the Prime Minister, given to him by me the previous evening. He added, that he was very anxious that the Commodore should give up the King's ship, as that any punishment the King might inflict upon his servants for its loss might be partially visited upon him, as the ship was taken away in the waters between his Government, and that of the Governor of Rangoon. The Commodore said that he could not give it up except on the conditions he had made known to the Under-Governor of Rangoon the day before; that he had given them up to noon of the present day to consider of it; but that in consideration of the Dallah Governor's uniform conduct, and as a mark of the personal esteem he held him in, he would prolong the time for the Rangoon Governor to accede to his terms, from noon till sunset. The Dallah Governor took his leave.

In the evening we saw from the frigate's decks several large war-canoes, containing about 100 men each, proceeding apparently to man the stockades down the river. They all carried the red flag, which, among the Burmese, is a sign of hostilities; but shortly afterwards, Moung Pogan, the interpreter, with two Burmese under-officials, came on board, bringing a letter from the Governor of Rangoon, addressed to the Government of India. This letter I translated, and it, with its translation, is, I believe, included in the despatches I have the honor to convey; it will speak for itself.

Friday, 9th.—The "Proserpine" left Rangoon *viâ* Moulmein, with Commodore Lambert's despatches for the Governor-General.

Inclosure 12 in No. 3.

Mr. Halliday to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Fort William, January* 18, 1852.

I AM directed to forward, to be laid before the Governor-General, the papers noted in the margin.

The first portion of the Rangoon dispatches, and that from the Commissioner of the Tenasserim Provinces, arrived yesterday in the "Proserpine," and, in the evening, Her Majesty's steamer "Hermes" was announced, bringing further dispatches, and having on board Commodore Lambert himself.

The Commodore has communicated in person with the President in Council, and proposes returning to Rangoon on Wednesday morning to await there the instructions of the Governor-General. Pending the receipt of these instructions, his intention is not to act on any overtures for apology or reconciliation, should such be made to him, but to refer any communication of the kind that he may receive, for the orders of the Government of India.

The President in Council will cause a wing of Her Majesty's 18th Foot, and a company of European Artillery, to be sent down to Moulmein by the steamers "Tenasserim" and "Fire Queen," which are both in harbour.

The "Proserpine" will be detained here to convey to the Commodore the Governor-General's orders, as soon as they reach Calcutta.

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Inclosure 13 in No. 3.

Mr. Young to Captain Rogers, Superintendent of Marine.

Fort William, January 18, 1852.

I AM directed to request that you will, with as little delay as possible, place at the disposal of Commodore Lambert, of Her Majesty's ship "Fox," a properly equipped gun-boat, for employment in the blockade of the rivers of Burmah.

The President in Council also desires that the steamers "Tenasserim" and "Fire Queen" may be got ready for sea, to convey troops to Moulmein, as soon as intimation shall be conveyed to you from the Military Department, of their being ready to embark.

Inclosure 14 in No. 3.

Mr. Young to Colonel Bogle.

Fort William, January 20, 1852.

IN reply to your letter of the 11th instant, I am directed to inform you, that, in accordance with your requisition, a wing of Her Majesty's 18th Regiment (Royal Irish), and a company of European Artillery, with such stores, &c., as were thought necessary, have been dispatched to Moulmein in the steamers "Tenasserim" and "Proserpine."

Inclosure 15 in No. 3.

Notification.

Fort William, January 20, 1852.

THE following notification of blockade, issued by Commodore G. R. Lambert, under authority from the Government of India, is published for general information.

(Here enter Notification, dated January 6, 1852.)

By order of the Honorable the President of the Council of India in Council.

F. J. HALLIDAY,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of India.

Inclosure 16 in No. 3.

Captain Rogers to Mr. Young.

Fort William, January 19, 1852.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, requesting that I will, with as little delay as possible, place at the disposal of Commodore Lambert, of Her Majesty's ship "Fox," a properly-equipped gun-boat, for employment in the blockade of the rivers of Burmah; and further conveying the orders of the President in Council, that the steamers "Tenasserim" and "Fire Queen" may be got ready for sea, to convey troops to Moulmein, as soon as intimation shall be conveyed to me from the Military Department, of their being ready to embark.

In reference to the above, I beg to inform you, that having received intimation from Commodore Lambert, that the steamer "Proserpine," which vessel is armed, and has an European crew, would be of great service to him in the Gulf of Martaban, either as a relief to the "Phlegethon," or for keeping up communication with different vessels, I have taken upon me to substitute the "Proserpine" for the "Fire Queen," the latter vessel being in dock, having a

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fresh coat of paint put on her bottom; and although, had the emergency required it, she could at once have been hauled out, I was anxious to have the paint well dry before she is floated.

The "Tenasserim" and "Proserpine" will embark the troops this afternoon, and take their departure this evening, or early in the morning.

With regard to a gun-boat, I have already given orders to have one of the best of our row-boats placed in the builder's hands, to be fitted for the service, and will have her properly equipped as soon as possible.

Inclosure 17 in No. 3.

Mr. Young to Captain Rogers.

Fort William, January 23, 1852.

ADVERTING to late occurrences at Rangoon, and the possibility of the Arracan frontier being threatened by the Burmese, or further reinforcements being required in the Tenasserim Provinces, the President in Council is desirous that you should take into consideration, and report on the means of conveying to those provinces, at a short notice, one or two Native regiments, according as circumstances may require.

No. 4.

The Governor-General of India to the Secret Committee.

(Extract.) *Camp, Benares, January* 25, 1852. (No. 5.)

IN continuation of my letter, dated the 9th instant, No. 2,* I have the honor to transmit, for your information, the accompanying copy of further dispatches received from the President in Council, and of their inclosures, regarding the present state of affairs at Rangoon.

It is probable that these papers may have been dispatched from Calcutta, but, to prevent any mistake, I beg also to forward them.

The reply of the King of Ava was friendly, and promised to prove in all respects satisfactory. The former Governor of Rangoon was recalled immediately, and his successor arrived; so that the Government had every reason to hope that the differences between the States would be finally adjusted.

You will be concerned, however, to know that these anticipations have not yet been fulfilled.

The acts of the new Governor were not only discourteous, but disrespectful and unfriendly to the British Government; and, latterly, his treatment of the officers deputed to him by the Commodore was so grossly insulting, that the Commodore broke off all further intercourse with the Governor, prepared to withdraw his squadron, and declared the establishment of a blockade, in accordance with his instructions.

Before quitting Rangoon, the Commodore thought proper to seize a vessel of the King of Ava, by way of reprisal. His ship was fired upon by the Burmese batteries, in consequence of this act. The Commodore immediately returned the fire, killing, as is stated, great numbers of the Burmese troops, driving them out of the stockades, and destroying their war-boats and guns.

In this state matters now stand.

You, I trust, will be of opinion that throughout these transactions the Government of India have shown no undue sensitiveness; that they have properly protected the rights of British subjects; and have properly insisted on that respect, which is necessary to insure protection for the rights and security for the persons of British traders in Ava; while, at the same time, they have evinced a sincere desire to avoid having recourse to war, if the security and respect which are guaranteed by treaty to our traders and subjects, can be obtained by any less violent means.

* This letter only transmitted a duplicate of papers sent to the Secret Committee by the President in Council.

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I still entertain a hope that a peaceable adjustment will be obtained. In the meantime, all due precautions for the defence of our eastern frontier are being taken by the Government of India.

No. 5.

The Governor-General of India in Council to the Secret Committee.

Fort William, February 7, 1852. (No. 3.)

IN continuation of the dispatch No. 2, dated the 24th ultimo, from the President of the Council of India in Council, on Rangoon affairs, we have the honor to transmit, for your information, a copy of the correspondence detailed in the accompanying abstract.

Inclosure 1 in No. 5.

Mr. Halliday to Commodore Lambert.

(Extract.) *Fort William, January* 26, 1852.

YOUR dispatches of the 9th and 10th instant, with their inclosures, having been submitted for the consideration of the Governor-General, his Lordship has recorded upon them the following remarks, in the tenor of which the President in Council entirely concurs, and which I am directed to communicate to you:

"The letter addressed by the Ministers of the King of Ava to the Government of India, was friendly in its tone, and entirely satisfactory in its tenor. The Court of Ava promised at once to remove the Governor of Rangoon, and to inquire into, in order to redress, the injuries complained of.

"If there had been any good reason to doubt the sincerity of these assurances, their prompt fulfilment must have cleared away those doubts. The offending Governor was at once removed, and his successor took his place at Rangoon.

"Although the first acts of the new Governor, as detailed in the report of Captain Latter, were undoubtedly unfriendly in appearance, and open to just objection, his communications with the Commodore bore no such aspect. He expressed his readiness to receive him, and showed a more conciliatory disposition.

"The expectations of a speedy adjustment of differences were, however, disappointed, by his conduct towards the officers who, on the 6th of January, were deputed to convey to him a letter from the Commodore. Those officers were, undoubtedly, subjected to insults and indignities, by which the Government they serve must necessarily feel itself aggrieved, for which it has a right to demand fitting apology, and which justified the Commodore in refusing to hold any further communication with the Burmese authorities at Rangoon.

"Having regard to the long-continued course of offensive demeanour and insulting acts of the Burmese officers and their people, I conceive that Commodore Lambert was justified in refusing to hold any further communication with them, after the gross public insult which was put upon his officers, on the occasion to which I have referred.

"I conceive that no blame could attach to the Government of India, if it abstained from any further efforts to bring about reconciliation between the States, pursuing such measures as it deemed necessary to enforce the reparation it required. But I apprehend that the President in Council is as desirous as myself that the breach which has been made should still be repaired, if possible, without recourse to war.

"The insults offered to our officers cannot be permitted to pass without notice; the compensation demanded must be paid; and the precautions contemplated for the future must be taken.

"Those points being conceded, the Government of India ought to be prepared to renew relations of amity with the Court of Ava."

In accordance, therefore, with the views of the Governor-General, I am directed by the President in Council, to request that you will forward the accom-

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panying reply to the letter addressed to the Government of India by the Governo- of Rangoon, and that you will transmit to the Government of India any letter which you may receive in return. It is not necessary that you should enter into any further communication with the authorities in Ava, but maintain the blockade for the present, and engage in no other hostile operations. Upon any future arrangements that may become necessary, you will be addressed by the Government of India hereafter.

My letter to the Governor of Rangoon, and the memorandum which accompanies it, are transmitted to you in an open envelope, in order that translations of them may be made, with which they will of course be accompanied, when they are delivered to the Governor of Rangoon.

Inclosure 2 in No. 5.

Mr. Halliday to the Governor of Rangoon.

Fort William, January 26, 1852.

THE letter addressed by you to the Government of India, relative to the transactions between yourself and Commodore Lambert, has been received, and at the same time letters have also been received from the Commodore and other officers, reporting the course of those transactions, to which your letter refers.

In reply to your letter, I am directed to forward the accompanying official memorandum by the President in Council.

Inclosure 3 in No. 5.

Memorandum from the President of the Council of India in Council to the Governor of Rangoon.

THE Government of India perceives with extreme surprise, that the Governor of Rangoon has listened to the falsehoods which his servants have attempted to impose upon him, relative to the conduct of the British officers who were deputed to wait upon him on the 6th of January. British officers in the discharge of their duty, are incapable of the disgraceful acts which have been basely alleged against them. The statement of his officers is a falsehood and a calumny.

The Government of India, upon its part, has just cause to complain of the treatment which these officers have received at the hands of the present Governor of Rangoon.

The letter from the King of Ava at once recognised the justice of the complaints which were transmitted to it by the Government of India. The former Governor of Rangoon was removed, and redress was promised to those who had been injured.

The Governor, Mahamenghla Meng Khanny Gyan, on his arrival, made no communication whatever to Commodore Lambert, the Representative of the British Government. He issued orders utterly at variance with friendship to that Government, and disrespectful to it. Finally, when the Commodore deputed his principal officers in order to deliver to him a letter, which he had already expressed his willingness to receive, those officers were refused admittance, and were subjected to public insult and indignity at the gates of the Governor's palace.

If those officers were inferior in rank, as the Governor now declares, and if the customs of his country were thereby violated, or any apparent disrespect were shown to the Governor, or his Sovereign, the departure from custom ought to have been properly represented by the Governor, when the error would, doubtless, have been corrected.

This was not done, but the officers were exposed by the Governor to public insult at his door. The British Government in India will not permit any officer in the performance of his duty, to suffer insult or injury without requiring reparation therefrom. It will exact the fullest reparation for every such insult, which, inflicted upon its officer, is offered to itself.

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If, therefore, the Governor of Rangoon is in truth actuated by feelings of friendship, as he declares, and if he desires to avert from the Kingdom of Ava, the evils which the recent conduct of its officers will unquestionably bring upon it, unless timely reparation be made, he will not delay in intimating his readiness to agree to those demands which the British Government is entitled to make, and some of which are mentioned in the petition of the inhabitants of Rangoon, dated the 11th of January, which the petitioners declare they were desired by the Governor to prepare.

1. The Governor will express, in writing, to the Government of India, his deep regret that Commander Fishbourne, and the officers deputed by Commodore Lambert to the Governor, should have been treated with disrespect, and exposed to public insult at his own residence, on the 6th of January.

2. He will consent to pay immediately the compensation already demanded of 9,948 rupees, for injuries done to Captain Sheppard and Captain Lewis.

3. He will consent to receive with the honor due to the Representative of the British Government, the accredited Agent whom, in accordance with the 7th clause of the Treaty of Yandaboo, the Government is prepared to appoint.

If these concessions shall be made, the British Government will agree as follows:

1. The Government of India will depute an officer of rank to proceed to Rangoon, in order to adjust the final settlement of the questions above mentioned, and to arrange the details for the reception of the Agent. The preliminaries having been settled by the subordinates of the chiefs, a meeting shall take place, and all differences shall be composed.

2. On this settlement being completed, the ship belonging to the King of Ava, which has been seized by the squadron, shall be released.

3. The blockade shall be removed, and entire concord shall be restored.

If these demands shall be refused, the British Government will thereafter exact for itself the reparation which is due for the wrong it has suffered.

Inclosure 4 in No. 5.

Mr. Young to Captain A. Phayre, Commissioner of Arracan.

Fort William, January 27, 1852.

I AM directed to inform you, that, in consequence of the unsettled state of our present relations with Ava, the President in Council has considered it advisable, as a precautionary measure, to send a regiment of Native infantry and some artillery, as a reinforcement to the Arracan Province.

Arrangements have been made for embarking these troops on board the Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamer "Precursor," and instructions have been given for landing them at Kyouk Phyoo, where they will be available for any duty on which it may become necessary to employ them.

A copy of this letter will be delivered to your principal Assistant on the arrival of the steamer at Kyouk Phyoo, that he may be informed of the object of the Government in sending these troops.

Inclosure 5 in No. 5.

A Merchant to Mr. Young.

Rangoon River, January 13, 1852.

I HAVE the honor to inform you that the first act of the new Governor, after his arrival, was to issue an order in the most public manner, that no foreigners were to visit the squadron.

The large force of 3000 men which the Governor came down with, indicated the Court of Ava's intentions to have been unfriendly to the Mission, which was further shown by the treatment of the deputation.

The Commodore's dispatches will have fully informed Government of the occurrences which took place on the 10th instant, when the Burmese fired on the frigate from the upper stockade.

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Inclosure 6 in No. 5.

A Merchant to Mr. Young.

Rangoon River, January 23, 1852.

I HAVE the honor to inform you that a few days ago, on the boat of the frigate attempting to land at a village, the headman of the village informed the officer in charge of the boat, that he had positive orders to fire on any one who should land.

On the 17th, the nakodah of a Burmah boat from Rangoon informed me that the Governor had ordered the town to be entirely destroyed; the merchants' houses had been plundered, and that the inhabitants had been removed to the new town, the defences of which were being repaired.

No. 6.

The Governor-General in Council to the Secret Committee.

February 23, 1852. (No. 4.)

IN continuation of our despatch of the 7th instant, No. 3, on Rangoon affairs, we have the honor to transmit, for your information, a copy of the correspondence detailed in the accompanying abstract.

Inclosure 1 in No. 6.

Commodore Lambert to Mr. Halliday.

H.M.S. "Fox," in the Rangoon River,
January 31, 1852.

ON receipt of your dispatch of the 26th instant, I proceeded with Her Majesty's ship "Fox," in tow of the "Fire Queen" steamer, to the anchorage off the Hastings Shoal, for the purpose of sending a boat with the letter addressed by the Government of India to the Governor of Rangoon, the distance the ships were anchored from the town being far too great for me to detach a boat, independent of the risk of its being fired at from the stockades.

However, much to my surprise, on my passing the lower stockade, at 3·40 AM., a cannonade was opened on Her Majesty's ship "Fox," which was instantly returned; in three minutes the Burmese battery was silenced, and I ceased firing, and proceeded up the river.

I regret to state a seaman* of the "Fox" lost his leg by a round-shot from the enemy.

Shortly afterwards I passed the stockade, which the "Fox" had engaged on the 10th instant, without molestation.

I beg to remark, for the information of the Government of India, that so far from anticipating that the Burmese would fire on Her Majesty's ship, the guns were not loaded; the tompions were in, nor was the slightest preparation made for such an event.

By the officer who conveys your letter to the Governor of Rangoon I shall send one from myself, of which the inclosed is a copy.

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* He died from the effects of the wound on the following day.

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Inclosure 2 in No, 6,

Commodore Lambert to the Governor of Rangoon.

H.M.S. "Fox," at anchor in the Rangoon River, January 31, 1852.

I HAVE to express my surprise that on Her Britannic Majesty's ship under my command passing the lower stockade, on my way up the river to-day, bearing a peaceable letter from the Government of India, in reply to one forwarded by you, she was fired at by the Burmese, after I had pledged my word as a British officer, that I would not act in any hostile manner until I received instructions from the Governor-General of India.

In conclusion, I beg to inform you, that if any further aggression is made on Her Britannic Majesty's ships, I shall not only silence the fire, but destroy the stockades from which it proceeds.

Inclosure 3 in No. 6.

Commodore Lambert to Mr. Halliday.

February 2, 1852.

IN reference to my letter of the 31st ultimo, I have the honor to request you will lay before the President in Council, the inclosed copy of a reply I have received from the Governor of Rangoon, to my letter on the subject of Her Majesty's ship "Fox" having been fired at by the Burmese.

The statement of the Governor of Rangoon, that I agreed to obtain the permission of the officers of the stockades, before I would attempt to pass them, is utterly false; nor had I any communication with these officers.

All communications made by me have been through the two interpreters appointed by the Indian Government; and to these my orders were, to inform the Burmese authorities, that I should not molest them unless they fired at me; and on the answer from the Governor-General arriving, it would be immediately taken up to Rangoon. During my absence from the "Fox," a message was sent from the Governor of Rangoon, to know if the answer had arrived to his letter. Commander Tarleton informed the bearer that it had not, but that, when it did, it should immediately be delivered.

Inclosure 4 in No. 6.

The Governor of Rangoon to Commodore Lambert.

February 2, 1852.

THA Doh Mengyee Maha Ming Tha Meng Khoung Gyan, the Governor of Prome and Thivedoung, and who is invested with power to administer the affairs of all the Southern Provinces, informs Commodore Lambert, with reference to his letter apprising him of having been fired at by the Burmese while passing the lower stockades of Dunout and Thilawa, that, on a former occasion, when the Royal vessel* was seized and taken away, the officers and soldiers in charge of the said stockades fired at the frigate. The officers of the frigate also returned the fire. Subsequently the Governor of Dallah and other officers were deputed to Commodore Lambert, to inform him that ships or boats proceeding up or down the river, should first obtain the permission of the officers in charge of the stockades. This was not attended to; and on your proceeding up the river, contrary to the orders issued, the officers at the stockades fired at the frigate, which was likewise returned by the officers of the frigate, as reported to him by the officers in charge of the stockades. In future, if you desire to proceed up, or down the river, you should obtain permission from the officers in charge of the stockades. I have to request that the

* Yi-thana Ye-mhoon.

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reply to the letter from the Government of India be forwarded, and their acknowledgment of the same sent to me without delay.

Written in the year 1213, on the 13th day of the waxing moon, Tahodire (2nd February, 1852.)

Commodore Lambert expresses surprise at having been fired at by the officers in charge of the stockades of Dunout and Thilawa, but it is a matter of greater surprise, that the Royal ship of His Majesty should have been seized at midnight, contrary to the custom of great nations and the rules of justice. And Commodore Lambert, after having agreed to obtain the permission of the officers at the stockades, in accordance to established usage, proceeded up the river without communicating with them. These are subjects not only of extreme surprise, but also for traditional record.

Inclosure 5 in No. 6.

Commodore Lambert to Mr. Halliday.

February 2, 1852.

I HAVE the honor to inclose, for the information of the Government of India, the copy of a letter I have received from the Commander of the Company's steam-vessel "Tenasserim," reporting his having been fired into by the Burmese in the Rangoon River.

Inclosure 6 in No. 6.

Mr. W. Dicey, of the East India Company's steam-vessel "Tenasserim," to Commodore Lambert.

H.C.S. "Tenasserim," February 2, 1852.

IN compliance with your orders received by the "Fire-Queen," I beg to inform you, that after making over charge of the Burman ship to the Company's steamer "Phlegethon" yesterday morning, I proceeded up the river to join you; and when passing the De Silva and Chokey Stockades, the Burmese opened fire on us, the shot passing close under our stern. We returned the fire; but as you directed me not to stop on the way, even should we be fired on, I accordingly made the best of my way up, and anchored near Her Majesty's ship "Fox," at 1 P.M. yesterday.

Inclosure 7 in No. 6.

Burmese Paper forwarded to Commander Luard, of Her Majesty's brig "Serpent," by the Burmese, from one of the Chokeys at the mouth of the Bassein River.

THE reply is, that, heretofore, frigates did not enter or quit the river as you* have done, and that you infringe the rules of the Preventive Establishment of a great country, in anchoring your vessel, and remaining here.

The Writer of the Governor of the thirty-two districts of Bassein having informed his chief of the above circumstance, was ordered to convey a letter to the English officers, and to go down with quick dispatch with an interpreter. But after waiting for two months he was unable to communicate with you, as you enter and quit the river just as you please to do so. This is not in accordance to custom.

The boundaries of the territories of our King of the Rising Sun, and of that of the foreigners, have been established and defined; you should not, therefore, transgress, by entering our boundary.

If you have any communication to make, you should anchor your vessel at sea†, at the usual place appointed by those in authority, and in accordance to the custom formerly established, to state what you may wish to communicate.

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* The inferior personal pronoun is used throughout this paper.

† Outside of the mouth of the river.

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Inclosure 8 in No. 6.

Colonel Bogle to Mr. Halliday.

Moulmein, January 27, 1852.

I HAVE the honor to transmit herewith in original the inclosed Burmese letters, and have to state that just as the mail-steamer "Enterprise" was leaving this place on Thursday the 22nd instant, two messengers, bearing these documents, arrrived alongside of the Company's steamer "Phlegethon," at the time lying off Martaban, and requested to be allowed to proceed to Moulmein.

Captain Neblett, Commander of the "Phlegethon," thinking that these communications might be of great consequence, and seeing that the "Enterprise" was just starting, immediately got into his gig with the messengers, and pulled for this shore, but before he could reach, the "Enterprise" had started; he, however, proceeded to the main wharf with the utmost expedition, and caused guns to be fired, and signals of recall to be hoisted, but all in vain, the steamer was off, and nothing could be done to stop her.

The letters were then brought to me, and I now transmit them to Commodore Lambert, who will forward them by the first steamer leaving the Rangoon River for Calcutta. I adopt this course, as I have no other that promises to be equally expeditious, and I have no steamer at my disposal to send to Bengal.

Being apprehensive that some difficulty might be experienced in having the letters for the Governor-General translated at the Presidency, I considered it proper to open them, and to have them, as also those addressed to myself, carefully translated by Lieutenant Hopkinson. His translation is accordingly annexed to each document, and I trust my proceeding will meet with approval.

I have further to state that I did not think it necessary immediately to return any answer to the letters addressed to myself; but the Burmese at Martaban having seen two steamers arrive here on Sunday the 25th instant, and, probably suspecting that they brought troops, sent messengers over on Monday morning, ostensibly to remind me that I had not yet answered their previous letter; but no doubt the real object was to learn what was going on here. They became aware that a large reinforcement of European troops had arrived, which has produced a sensible alteration in their tone.

Inclosure 9 in No. 6.

The Governor of Rangoon to the English Government.

January 16, 1852.

THE declaration of Tha do Mengyee Maha Mengtha Meng Khoung-gyan Menggyee of Shewedoung, commanding the forces at Rangoon, and appointed to go and rule a large territory and brave army, having after due prostration at the Royal Feet, together with the Egah Maha Thanapatee, and the great officers and Ministers of the State, taken counsel of the Meng Tarahgyee Phooyah, who is all-powerful Lord of the Universe, Master of the T'shat-tang Elephant, and all White Elephants, and Lord of Life, he who is like unto the Lotus Flower.

As the letter transmitted by the English authorities sets forth the unjust oppression to which the merchants trading at Rangoon had been subjected by the Governor of Rangoon; that those who had been thus oppressed should receive redress; and that it would be proper to remove the Governor of Rangoon (or that a good understanding required the removal of the Governor of Rangoon). In accordance with the Treaty of Friendship, a person disposed to cherish and protect the people and merchants, was placed at Rangoon, and dispatches for the English Government, purporting that the Myowoon of Rangoon would be recalled to the Royal presence, and that a decision would be passed after due investigation, were delivered to the officer commanding the man-of-war which had come to Rangoon, and, in pursuance with these letters, the Rangoon Myowoon was sent off to the Throne, that his case might be inquired into and decided.

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After this, when I was considering how I should invite Commodore Lambert, desiring to conciliate him to the utmost, and thus establish a warm friendship, the interpreter, Mr. Edwards, came to me, and stated that the Commodore desired an interview with me very much, and begged that he might be permitted to come. As this was a proper and friendly overture, after having settled with Mr. Edwards that he should join me beforehand, that I might perfectly observe the etiquette which the visit required, there came riding into my court-yard four subordinate officers, with the American missionary Kincaid, and Edwards, the interpreter. They had been drinking, and it happened that I was asleep, just at that time; whereupon, telling the Yaywoon and the other officers present, to awake me, they returned and made a false representation to the Commodore, who gave ear to what they said, without duly considering the circumstances of the case, and unlike a man of the world (son of a great country), and actuated only by the wish to create a quarrel, he, on the first Lahpyeegyan of Pyatho 1213 (6th January, 1852), at 2 P.M., covertly unmoored and carried off the great ship "Ye-thenah-ye-moon," belonging to His Majesty Meng Tarahgyee Phooyah, the all-powerful Lord of the Universe, Master of Tshat-tang Elephant and all White Elephants, and Lord of Life.

In consequence, however, of the Treaty of Peace which subsisted between the countries, we did not attempt her recapture, lest it should lead to hostilities, but allowed her to be carried off; furthermore, when, in retribution of the wrongful and unjust conduct of one who had been charged with dispatches from the English Government, the ship in which he had come got aground, in shallow water, near Dallah, we did not annoy or molest her, but let her remain. I desire that there should be justice, where there is misrepresentation and injustice. This is not in accordance with the purport of the letters which were forwarded in the first instance. These mediators between two countries, Commodore Lambert and his officers, have violated the functions of a great embassy; therefore have I written, desiring that the facts may be known.

Inclosure 10 in No. 6.

The Governor of Rangoon to the British Commissioner at Moulmein.

January 16, 1852.

THE Commander-in-chief of forces in Hauthawadee, and the Controller of the Southern Provinces of His Majesty's dominions, Min Thada Mengyee Maha Minlah Min Goung Gyo, informs the Moulmein Mengyee, that two letters for the chief authorities (or Company Mingdo) of India in Bengal, are dispatched for delivery through the Martaban Mingyee (or Governor), which, on arrival, it is requested may be forwarded to the said chief authorities of India in Bengal, so as to reach them with all expedition.

Inclosure 11 in No. 6.

Petition from Merchants residing at Rangoon to the Governor-General.

The humble petition of the Mahomedan, Mogul, Nagore, Suratee, and Armenian merchants of Rangoon,

Showeth,

THE Naval Commander, Commodore Lambert, was dispatched with steamers and men-of-war, to consolidate the alliance and friendship subsisting between the two countries, and on his arrival at Rangoon, he transmitted a letter by a deputation of subordinate officers, to the Myowoon of Rangoon, setting forth how that he, the Myowoon of Rangoon, had been extorting money and oppressing the merchants; further also, Commodore Lambert forwarded a letter from the chief commanders of the English Nation, for transmission to the chief commanders of His Majesty of the Rising Sun. Thirty-five days was fixed upon as the time for the dispatch and receipt of the answer to this communication, and at the expiration of the stipulated period, His Majesty's mandate was delivered

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to Commodore Lambert; the Myowoon of Rangoon was recalled to Ava, in compliance with the representations of the Bengal Government, there to have the charges of extortion preferred against him, investigated and disposed of; and on the 14th of waxing Pyatho, 1213, there arrived from the Court of Ava, the Narthawady Ayabine Pyee Shuay Down Myowoon Thado Menggree Maha Meng tha Meng Khoung Kyan, with orders to proceed to Rangoon as Plenipotentiary; Commodore Lambert then sent the interpreter Edwards to him to request an interview, and the Ayabine told the interpreter that he must return to him, and tell him on what day the Commodore proposed coming. This communication took place in the morning, and at about 10 A.M., the interpreter Edwards, accompanied by some subordinate officers, who had all been drinking to excess, came riding into the Ayabine's court-yard, and overbearing all the attempts made to stop them; they were, however, desired to wait, as the Ayabine was then asleep, but they would not, and went off, and the man-of-war afterwards weighing anchor and dropping down, the Ayabine sent off the Dallah woon, the Yewoon, and Tseetkay, to her, to say that the provisions of the Yandaboo Treaty would be henceforth respected; that the money taken from the two English captains would be immediately returned; and that temporary accommodation should be provided for the Commodore, befitting a great Ambassador, and where the two authorities could meet and discuss matters. The Dallah woon, the Yewoon, and the Tseetkay, however, returned with a reply as contrary to established etiquette as it was calculated to disturb existing relations between the two countries, that the affair could only be settled by the Ayabine repairing on board the frigate. Some time after, 4 P.M. of the same day, we merchants having become alarmed, some of our wives got on board of ships, leaving their husbands behind, and husbands went, and left their wives behind, and our property altogether suffered considerable damage on the occasion. Besides all this, at 12 P.M. that night, the King's ship "Ratuna Yeng no woon" had her chain-cable cut, and was forcibly carried off by two steamers. Eight Chullia vessels were forced to quit the port without their papers, and under pain of being fired into. The crews who had been thus threatened, came ashore to communicate with their owners, but, in the meantime, their ships were forcibly carried away by the steamers, and the shipowners and masters, Wustan, Mahomed Akhbar, Marec ooddeen, and Mahomed, were left behind with some of their lascars; these vessels had neither taken in their provisions, nor had they completed their cargo, which was a great loss. In consequence, also, of the officer commanding, Commodore Lambert, carrying the King's ship off at night, with his steamers, all the merchants, great and small, both at Rangoon and at Ava, have been put to great trouble and vexation, and their occupation as merchants is gone. We, therefore, pray that your Lordship will, in equity, issue such instructions as may relieve us from our troubles, place our trade on its former footing, and restore peace.

Inclosure 12 in No. 6.

The Governor of Martaban to the British Commissioner at Moulmein.

January 21, 1852.

Tikla Myo tsa Motama Myo Mingyee (Martaban Governor), Mingyee Maha thinkha yah, informs the Moulmein Mingyee and Ayabine Ming (Commissioner and Principal Assistant Commissioner), that, forasmuch as peace and tranquillity is the sole object in view between the two great kingdoms, a friendly intercourse being established, traffic has hitherto been carried on between the merchants of the two countries without interruption. In consequence, however, of complaints having been preferred against the former Rangoon Myowoon, that he oppressed foreign merchants, certain English officers were dispatched on a mission to represent them. These officers arrived, and thirty-five days being fixed as the period within which their dispatches were to be transmitted, and the Royal answer received, while yet the mandate issued from the Shuay Shoot Tah (the Golden Royal Court) was on its way to India, there came the intelligence that the English officers had attacked and carried off the King's ship out of the port of Rangoon. Now the Governor-General of India simply appointed the

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Mission to treat; they had no instructions to fight; and, should this capture of His Majesty's ship prove the occasion of a fierce war, the trade between the two countries will be sacrificed for an unprofitable quarrel. It is not right that there should be a war. The character of those in authority depends upon peace, and a free and uninterrupted trade; hence, therefore, the dispatch of these letters; and it is requested that the English Government will return a full and explicit answer to them.

Inclosure 13 in No. 6.

Colonel Bogle to Mr. Halliday.

Moulmein, January 30, 1852.

ON Wednesday, the 28th instant, two messengers came over from Martaban, bringing a letter to the Principal Assistant Commissioner, to say that a party of our police up the Salween had attacked the Burmese village of Pagat; that the people there had driven back the police; but, being apprehensive that a more serious collision might take place, the Burmese authorities earnestly requested that measures might be taken to repress any aggressive disposition on the part of our people, and to preserve peace.

It appearing to me, from the tone of the Burmese authorities, that the intelligence they had sent was true, and that they were actuated by a very friendly feeling, and not having received any report of the matter from any other source, I thought that the best way of settling the affair was to get into a steamer, and proceed to the spot at once.

I accordingly embarked in the "Phlegethon" at 4 P.M. of the 28th, taking with me the Principal Assistant Commissioner of Province Amherst, Lieutenant Hopkinson, and proceeded up the Salween.

In passing Martaban, in the evening, we saw the Burmese messengers, who had been sent back a few hours before, with the answer which I had directed to be written to the Governor, assuring him of my unwillingness that any acts of hostility should at present be perpetrated, and of my resolution to have the matter, which he had brought to notice, immediately inquired into, just about to land; and in a very short time after this the steamer took the ground close to the Martaban fortification, and remained fast for twenty minutes, within short musket-range of the walls. The place was well filled with men, and I observed a couple of guns mounted on the ramparts; but no advantage was taken of the steamer being aground; and we remained unmolested until the tide rose, and the "Phlegethon" proceeded on her voyage.

Nor did the Burmese appear to entertain any fears that we would annoy them; the wharf near their large pagoda, and their walls on which, when passing a fortnight before, I did not see a single soul, were now crowded with men sitting quietly looking at us; the red flag—emblem of war—was flying arrogantly enough at many points all along the line; but women were also to be seen seated along the bank, which indicated perfect confidence that the steamer had not suddenly appeared within pistol-shot of the place with the intention of harassing any one.

As I passed the two gun-boats employed in blockading Martaban, I learnt from the Commanders of each, that a kind of war-boat, containing fifty or sixty men, all dressed in red jackets, had proceeded up the Salween, about two hours before. These men were, no doubt, dispatched as a reinforcement to the village of Pagat.

In the course of the night, Lieutenant Hopkinson received a dispatch from Mr. Dray, superintendent of river police, stating that, having been directed to proceed to Pagat, to reconnoitre it, in consequence of its having some days before been reported that an assemblage of armed men had taken place there, and that they were engaged in stockading their position, and threatened an attack on our villages, he had accordingly proceeded to reconnoitre the place on Tuesday, the 27th instant, but that on approaching it (it is situated on the right bank of the Salween), his party had been fired into, on which he returned the fire, and seeing one large boat of a kind commonly used for offensive purposes, though not absolutely deserving to be classed as a war-

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boat, he had seized it and carried it off, as also some six or eight other boats of a smaller description.

Next morning I arrived at the place where Mr. Dray was with these boats, but it appearing to me that they were not such as need be taken, I ordered them to be towed to Pagat, which place I reached about noon. On approaching it, a number of armed men moving about in the jungle, and hurrying towards the landing-place, with muskets on shoulder, were distinctly visible from the deck of the steamer, and among them were a good many in red jackets, some of whom, I have reason to believe, were the men who had been sent up from Martaban the day before, and they seemed prepared to dispute any attempt at landing. On getting close into the shore, it was, however, observed that some men were at the water's edge, as if awaiting a communication from the steamer; they were accordingly hailed, and told to come on board, bringing with them any headman who might be there; on which a boat immediately pushed off, without the least hesitation, and without a single armed man, and in it I was surprised to find the Martaban official, who had the day before brought the letter respecting the collision which had occurred, over to Moulmein, and whom, at sunset, I had seen landing at Martaban.

From him I learnt, that during the night he had been dispatched by the Governor of Martaban, to summon the chief of Pagat to his presence, and to take every possible measure to prevent hostilities; and he assured me, that, having pulled all night, he had arrived that morning, and had, in conformity with his instructions, dispatched the chief to Martaban, and caused it to be intimated to all the inhabitants of Pagat and the neighbourhood, that they were to conduct themselves in the most peaceful manner possible, and to do nothing that could be offensive to the English authorities; and he begged that the people on the British side might receive similar orders.

He was immediately assured that I had no other desire than that all should remain quiet and peaceful, and, as a proof of my reluctance to avail myself of the power at my command, I directed all the boats which had been taken from Pagat, to be cast adrift from the stern of the "Phlegethon," and restored to the Burmese, at the same time administering a stern warning to the recipients, that if the people of Pagat, who are notorious robbers, put a foot on the British side of the river, under the present state of affairs, they might chance to receive a less agreeable visit from the steamer, at whose crew and armament they gazed with considerable interest.

Having settled this matter to the entire satisfaction of the Burmese functionary, and received his earnest protestations of a desire to remain at peace, I visited several of our police ports and villages, where Lieutenant Hopkinson issued such orders as seemed proper; we then returned towards Moulmein, but again got aground under the walls of Martaban, and remained six hours hard and fast, within pistol-range of the shore; during the time (it was night) we could distinctly see crowds of Burmese around their watch-fires, but except just when the steam was blowing off with the remarkable noise which it always makes, they took no notice of us.

Now, coupling all the circumstances of this trip with the recent communications from the Governors of Rangoon and Martaban, noticed in my letter of the 27th instant, it appears to me probable that the pacific tone assumed by the Burmese is in consequence of orders from the Governor of Rangoon, to whom Martaban is now subordinate, or it may be dictated by weakness, and a backward state of preparation.

It is very true that a number of armed men, several thousands, have been collected in Martaban, and that smaller bodies have been collected at Pagat, and various other places along the frontier, and that these men conduct themselves with much arrogance; as an instance of which I may mention that about a week ago a message was sent, first in the morning, and repeated in the evening, to the gun-boat "Trusty," four 12-pounders, anchored on blockading duty right in front of Martaban, to say that if she did not move out of shot she would be fired into, but the threat was not attended to; and none of our posts or boats have yet been attacked; on the contrary, an apparent desire has been shown to avert hostilities, and to await in peace the fiat of the two Governments, or, perhaps, I should say, of the Governor-General alone; whether this proceeds from a pacific intention, or merely a desire to gain time, is a matter which will

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soon develop itself; in the meantime the force now here, with the aid of a steamer and gun-boats, may be considered sufficient for all probable exigencies.

A river steamer would certainly be a valuable acquisition, and if it is intended that a defensive course should be long maintained, I would recommend that one should be sent down.

Inclosure 14 in No. 6.

Mr. Halliday to Colonel Bogle.

Fort William, February 13, 1852.

I AM directed by the Governor-General in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch by the "Fire Queen," received on the 9th instant, inclosing certain letters with translations, forwarded to you from Martaban, for transmission to the Government of India.

It is not, I am directed to state, necessary that you should make any reply to the letters which the Governors of Rangoon and Martaban have sent.

The Burmese authorities having thought proper to reject the demands which the Government of India has made, that Government will proceed to exact the reparation which has been unjustifiably withheld from it.

Should any further communications be received from the Burmese authorities, you are requested to transmit them to me, with translations, to be laid before the Governor-General in Council.

You will be informed by a future dispatch, of the precise nature of the measures to be adopted by the Government of India, in order to compel the Burmese Government to accede to its demands.

Inclosure 15 in No. 6.

Commodore Lambert to Mr. Halliday.

H.M.S. "Fox," in the Rangoon River,
February 2, 1852.

I HAVE the honor to transmit a letter, with a translation by Captain Latter, which I received to-day from the Governor of Rangoon, in reply to your communication to him dated the 26th ultimo.

Inclosure 16 in No. 6.

The Governor of Rangoon to Mr. Halliday.

Rangoon, February 2, 1852.

MAHAMENGLA MENGKHOMYGYAN (with titles), Governor of Rangoon, informs Mr. Frederick James Halliday, Secretary to the Government India (with titles).

With reference to the demand of an expression of deep regret for the circumstance of the deputation of officers sent by Commodore Lambert on the 6th of January last, being said to have been publicly treated with disrespect;

With reference to the being willing immediately to make good the sum of 9,948 rupees, said to have been extorted from Captains Lewis and Sheppard, by the former Governor of Rangoon;

With reference to being willing to receive a Resident with all honor due to his rank and station, in conformity to the VIIth Article of the Treaty of Yandaboo;

That with reference to the above three points, if they are acceded to by the Governor of Rangoon, first, the ship belonging to the King of Ava, which has been seized, will be given back; secondly, the blockade now existing will be raised, and perfect concord restored.

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With reference to the above points contained in your letter, I, the Governor of Rangoon, taking them into my careful consideration, give the following reply:—

On the 6th of January, 1852, Commodore Lambert, at midnight, took away the ship belonging to His Majesty the King of Ava. On the following day, I sent the Deputy Governor of Rangoon to represent to Commodore Lambert, that the act of taking His Majesty's ship by stealth, and unjustly, was in no wise in accordance with the acts proper to two great nations.

Commodore Lambert stated in reply, that his reason for seizing the King's ship was, because a deputation of subordinate officers sent by him had not been received.

Commodore Lambert then wrote a letter to the Prime Ministers of Ava, as also a transmitting one to myself, which were delivered to one of my subordinate officers. These letters were to the effect, that he, Commodore Lambert, had seized the King's ship, because the pecuniary claims under discussion had not been satisfied.

What Commodore Lambert expressed, as above stated, both verbally and in writing, was not in conformity with the custom of great nations. This the Government of India are aware of; moreover, being aware of it, they have written a friendly letter, evincing their wish that the long-existing good understanding between the two nations should be renewed, and commerce and communication restored as they were before.

Therefore, as soon as the officer which the Government of India is prepared to appoint in conformity with existing treaties, shall arrive, a satisfactory and amicable arrangement can be made of the payment of the 9,948 rupees extorted from Captains Lewis and Sheppard; also with reference to the re-delivery of the King of Ava's ship, seized by Commodore Lambert.

With reference to the question of the disrespect said to have been shown to the deputation sent with a letter by Commodore Lambert, it should be borne in mind, that the English officers have been stating their own version of the case, and consequently, whilst shielding themselves, they have thrown all the blame on the other side.

Inclosure 17 in No. 6.

Minute by the Governor-General.

(Extract.) *February* 12, 1852.

THE dispatch of Commodore Lambert dated the 2nd instant, contains the reply of the Governor of Rangoon, to the letter from the Government of India, dated the 26th ultimo.

That letter contained the *ultimatum* of the British Government. It required—

1st. That the Government should transmit a written apology for the insult to which the British officers had been subjected at Rangoon on the 6th of January last.

2nd. That he should pay, immediately, the sum of 9,900 rupees, demanded as compensation to Captain Sheppard and Captain Lewis.

3rd. That he should consent to receive in due and fitting manner, the Agent who should be appointed under the Treaty of Yandaboo.

If the Governor of Rangoon should at once make these concessions, the Government of India agreed to send an Envoy for the adjustment of every difference, and the King's ship was to be restored.

The reply of the Governor of Rangoon, far from making the required concessions, has evaded them all.

The demand for an apology on account of the insult offered to British officers at Rangoon is practically rejected, with a remark most offensive in the inference it implies.

The reparation to the persons plundered has not been paid.

There is no consent given to an Agent being received.

The reply of the Governor, after reiterating complaints of the proceedings of our officers, simply states that the Envoy of rank, to whom reference was

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made, should be sent, and that conference would then be held regarding payment of reparation, and the restoration of the King's ship.

This letter leaves to the Government of India, in my deliberate judgment, no alternative but to exact reparation by force of arms.

If, allured by the specious appearance of a desire for reconciliation, contained in the Governor's suggestion that an Envoy should now be sent, the Government of India shall acquiesce in that request, it will suffer itself to be decoyed into a feeble and false position.

It will, in so doing, openly abandon every demand for reparation it has so peremptorily and justly advanced. It will tamely submit itself to national insult. It will give reasonable ground, for all who desire it, to assert, that the offensive accusation of its officers, by the Governor of Rangoon, must needs be true, since his treatment of those officers, and his subsequent accusation of them, are alike unresented; and not only so, but they are themselves superseded by another negotiation. In one word, the position of the two Governments will be suddenly and wholly reversed.

These acts on the part of the Government of India will, undoubtedly, be misconstrued; its motives in so acting will be misunderstood; and, in the eyes of the Burmese Nation, and of every Eastern people that is looking on, the British Government, having relinquished the demands it had peremptorily advanced, and having abandoned the officers it was bound to uphold, will, unquestionably, be regarded as having submitted to humiliation and avowed defeat.

I have sincerely desired, and have earnestly laboured, for the preservation of peace; but I cannot, consistently with the duty which I owe to the State, consent to purchase a present peace at so costly a price.

The commencement of war is an act of such solemn importance, and involves so deep a responsibility, that I consider it right to pass in review the events which have led, so rapidly and so unexpectedly, to the present hostilities with Burmah, in order to absolve the Government of India from the reproach of having lightly sought a quarrel, or insufficiently striven to avert it.

For many years past complaints, from time to time, have been made of acts of oppression and of violation of Treaty by the Burmese Governors. None, however, had been brought forward of sufficient extent or significancy, to call for the formal notice of this Government.

But a few months ago, representations were addressed to the Government of India by the captains of two English merchantmen, setting forth very gross acts of violence and outrageous violation of the rights of British subjects by the Governor of Rangoon. The facts appeared unquestioned,—the right of those persons to claim the protection of their Government, and through it to obtain redress and reparation, was undoubted.

The Government of India accordingly requested Commodore Lambert, in command of certain of Her Majesty's ships, to proceed to Rangoon, for the purpose of representing the wrong that had been done, and of seeking redress.

The rank of that officer, and his standing, not merely pointed him out as the proper officer to be entrusted with this demand, but seemed to render it inexpedient that any officer of less rank should be employed while he was present. Commodore Lambert was supplied with precise instructions for his guidance; and it was specially enjoined upon him, that no act of hostility should be committed, though the reply of the Governor should be unfavourable; nor until definite instructions,* regarding such hostilities, should be given by the Government of India.

Upon his arrival at Rangoon, Commodore Lambert found it, in his judgment, impracticable to treat in any way with the then Governor of that province; and, as the most probable mode of conducting the matter to a peaceable conclusion, he transmitted, at once, the letter from the Government of India to the King of Ava, requiring the removal of the Governor, and the reparation claimed for the injury done to the captains of the ships.

In due time, an answer was received at Rangoon from the King. It was couched in friendly terms, and promised that the Governor should be removed, and that redress should be afforded.

The Governor was accordingly removed, and his successor arrived at Rangoon.

In reply to a message which was conveyed to him on the 5th of January,

* Letter of Secretary to Government, October 31, 1851.

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the Governor stated that "he would be most happy, at any time, to receive any communication from the Commodore."*

On the following day, the 6th of January, a deputation, headed by Captain Fishbourne, the next officer in rank to Commodore Lambert, proceeded to the Governor's residence, for the purpose of delivering to him a letter from the Commodore, on behalf of the British Government.

The officers were refused admittance.

Assuming that there was, in the deputing of these officers, a neglect of strict form, although (be it observed) no such forms had been attended to on his own part, by the Governor of Rangoon, whose letter had been conveyed to the Commodore by officers of the humblest rank, and admittance had been freely granted to them; admitting, I say, that ceremonial had not been duly observed, the omission affords no justification whatever, for the insult and contumely which were publicly heaped upon these officers, the known agents, for the time, of the Government they served.

They were not merely denied admittance to the presence of the Governor, upon pleas whose falsehood was proved by his own messages at the time; but they were not permitted to enter within the door. No officer was deputed to them for explanation; one official after another passed them without notice, while standing in the public court, under the heat of the sun, and when they sought shelter from its rays, they were bidden to go under a shed provided for the lowest classes of the people when attending the courts.

No further notice was taken of their presence, and the officers, after long delay, at length were compelled to retire from the door.

The persons of the officers were known, their mission was known, their approach had been announced; and although the omission of ceremonial form to which I have alluded, might have given to the Governor a plausible pretext for declining to receive the officers in person, his own conduct in the transmission of his communications had greatly weakened that pretext; while nothing could justify the gross, deliberate, and studied affront which was put upon the British Government, in the person of its officers, conveying a communication on its behalf to the Representative of the King of Ava.

No apology whatever was made by the Governor of Rangoon; that which the Commodore required was rejected, and none was offered in any other form.

On the contrary, the Governor of Rangoon addressed to the Government of India a letter, accusing the officers, on the occasion to which I have referred, of having presented themselves in a state of intoxication; thus aggravating the insult he was bound to repair.

Since this imputation has been placed upon record, I think it right to express my conviction, that if such conduct were not altogether incredible in any British officer engaged in a formal mission to a foreign Governor, at noonday, the unimpeachable character of Captain Fishbourne is in itself a sufficient guarantee that no one permitted to accompany him could be in any degree open to so scandalous a charge. The statement is truly that which I have designated it—an insult at once to the officers employed, and to their Government, to which it has been addressed.

The act of the Governor of Rangoon, in refusing admittance to the deputation, under the circumstances of insolence and contumely which I have described, and in withholding all amends for his conduct, was rightly viewed by the Commodore as a rejection of the demand he had been sent to make. He at once established the blockade which had been enjoined as the consequence of such rejection.

No blame could have attached to the Government of India, if it had sought no further for the reconciliation of these differences, but had proceeded to exert its power for the enforcement of its rights. But the desire of the Government of India for an amicable adjustment of existing differences was genuine; it sought no conquest, or pretext for war.

The terms of the letter from the Governor of Rangoon, in respect of the conduct of the officers, would have justified the Government in treating it with contemptuous silence. The rejection of our demand for reparation would have justified an enhancement of the demand. But, in its desire for the maintenance of peace, the Government of India did not reject the letter of the Governor, or

* Captain Latter's Report.

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enhance its demands for reparation. It raised no new difficulties, and once again renewed its exertions for reconciliation.

It demanded only an expression of the Governor's regret for the treatment to which the officers had been exposed, the payment of the original compensation, and an honourable reception for the Agent whom the Treaty of 1826 entitled us to depute.

These most just and moderate terms have been, one and all, evaded; and thus the Government of India is thrown back upon the alternative, which it formally announced to the Governor, would be the result of his failing to acquiesce in our demands, namely, the exaction of reparation by our own power.

If it be objected, that the main cause of the present rupture appears to be but a question of form; that a great Government may well afford to treat such petty slights with indifference; and that it would be wise for the Government of India to pass by unnoticed as well the offence itself, as the present refusal of apology for it, rather than to be drawn by it into all the evils of a war with Burmah, I desire to record my fixed conviction, that the Government of India will commit an error, perilous to its own security, and at variance with real humanity, if, acting on this view, it shall yield to the pretensions of the Burmese, and shall now patch up a hollow and unsubstantial peace.

Among all the nations of the East, none is more arrogant in its pretensions of superiority, and none more pertinacious in its assertion of them, than the people of Burmah. With them, forms are essential substance, and the method of communication and the style of address are not words, but acts.

The conduct of the Governor of Rangoon towards the British officers, on the 6th of January, would have been felt as ignominious by the lowest subordinate at his Durbar, if he had himself been subjected to it. The ignominy inflicted on these officers, if it be not resented, will be, and must be, regarded, as the humiliation of the Power they serve. The insult has been persisted in to the last. The form of address in the letters of the Burmese officers has been that employed towards other inferiors; and in the conveyance of their official communications, a studied disrespect, the most elaborate insolence, have been exhibited.

Were all this to be passed over, and friendly relations renewed, the ground thus gained by the Burmese would be fully taken advantage of. The oppressions and exactions to which British subjects at Rangoon have been exposed would be redoubled; the impracticable discourtesies which have been the steady policy of the Government of Ava since the conclusion of the Treaty of 1826, and which have driven away one British Envoy after another from Ava, and subsequently from Rangoon (till for many years past there has been no Representative of this Government in Burmah at all), would be habitually practised towards the Agent who may be placed at Rangoon; and, within a very brief period of time, the Government of India would be reduced to the same alternative which it has now before it, of either abandoning its subjects, and acknowledging its inability to protect them, or of engaging in a war; on which it would enter with the disadvantage of having, by its previous concessions, given spirit to the exertions of the enemy, and strengthened their already overweening confidence in their means of successful resistance.

The British power in India cannot safely afford to exhibit even a temporary appearance of inferiority. Whilst I should be reluctant to believe that our empire in India has no stay but the sword alone, it is vain to doubt that our hold must mainly rest upon the might of the conqueror, and must be maintained by that power. The Government of India cannot, consistently with its own safety, appear for one day in an attitude of inferiority; or hope to maintain peace and submission among the numberless princes and people embraced within the vast circuit of the empire, if, for one day, it give countenance to a doubt of the absolute superiority of its arms, and of its continued resolution to assert it.

The recital I have given in the preceding paragraphs of the course of recent events, will show that the original demand of the Government of India for redress was just and necessary; and that it was sought in a manner respectful to an independent nation. It will show, that a gross insult having been put upon this Government in the persons of its officers, the Government has not been eager to take offence, or perverse in refusing amends. It has shown itself

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sincerely desirous to open a way to reconciliation; it has practised the utmost moderation and forbearance. Notwithstanding intervening events, it has not enhanced its original demand, and it has offered the restoration of friendly relations on mild and most reasonable terms. If the rejection of those terms shall now lead to war between the States, the Government of India must be absolved in the sight of those for whom it rules, from the responsibility of hostilities, which it cannot decline without submitting to a discredit of its power, that would place in jeopardy the stability of its authority throughout the East.

The necessity for exacting reparation from Burmah by force of arms having been established, it has been necessary to consider the mode of operation.

I do not by any means intend to intimate that hostilities should be entered upon even though the demands we have made should be previously conceded by the King or his officers.

If, on the arrival of the force off Rangoon, the required apology shall be actually made, it may be accepted; but the former reparation demanded is not now sufficient. The expenses of the war, and the probable claims for compensation, must be provided for.

If, therefore, overtures of peace should be made before the war shall actually commence, it is my opinion that we must now require:

1. The apology previously demanded.
2. The payment of 9,900 rupees, formerly demanded for Captain Sheppard and Captain Lewis.
3. The honorable reception of the Agent at Rangoon.
4. In consideration of the expenses of the expedition, and of compensation for property, ten lacs of rupees.

If these demands are complied with, and paid at once, the force should be at once withdrawn. If they are agreed to, but the larger sum is not producible, the possession of Rangoon and Martaban, until the payment of the specified sum, should be insisted upon.

If these demands shall be rejected, or if the possession of Rangoon and Martaban, until they are fulfilled, shall be refused, operations of war should commence.

The course to be pursued by the Government of India, in the event of the Burmese policy rendering it necessary to attack and occupy Rangoon and Martaban, will be considered, and determined upon before the expedition shall be dispatched.

Inclosure 18 in No. 6.

Mr. Halliday to Commodore Lambert.

(Extract.) *Fort William, February* 13, 1852.

THE Burmese authorities having now finally rejected the demands that were last transmitted through you, the Government of India has determined to proceed at once to exact by force of arms the reparation which it has failed to obtain by other means.

In the hope that a severe blow struck at once may possibly have the effect of bringing the King of Ava, or his officers, to reason, and of thus averting a protracted war hereafter, the Governor-General in Council has directed the assembly of such a force as the present distribution of troops in Bengal and Madras, and the present season of the year, will permit.

It is expected that a considerable force from Bengal and Madras may be dispatched soon after the 20th of March. The troops from Madras will be conveyed, it is expected, by the steamers from Bombay. As many steam-ships as can be made available will be in like manner required for the conveyance of troops from Calcutta; and I am directed to request that you will dispatch any such vessels as you can dispense with, so as to be here by the 15th of March.

I am further desired to request that you will be so good as to specify the points at which the ships from Madras and Calcutta may most conveniently rendezvous.

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Inclosure 19 in No. 6.

Colonel Bogle to Mr. Halliday.

(Extract.) *Moulmein, February* 8, 1852.

ON the 6th instant, a letter was sent over to me, stating that a special messenger had just arrived, in eleven days, direct from the capital, with a letter from the King, to the address of the Governor-General, which the Governor of Martaban was, in accordance with the orders he had received, most anxious to deliver to me, for transmission to Calcutta; and that if I would receive it, he would depute the two Tseetkays to wait upon me with it, at any hour I pleased.

It was arranged that it should be delivered to me at 11 A.M., yesterday, at my court-house. The officials mentioned accordingly arrived, with three gold umbrellas, and were duly conducted to the place of meeting, when, after delivering the letter with all proper ceremony, they entered into some discussion on the present state of affairs, and expressed the great anxiety of their Government that the existing differences should be amicably arranged, and the Treaty of Yandaboo maintained.

They were most particularly desirous that further negotiations should not be conducted through Rangoon; and that I would do all in my power to procure a reply from the Governor-General, and transmit it through Martaban; in reply to which I told them, that I could do nothing more than send on the King's letter; that if an answer came to me I would, of course, forward it to Martaban with all dispatch; but that I thought it more probable it would be sent through Commodore Lambert and the shorter route of Rangoon; and that I had no control whatever in a matter of the kind. They did not seem at all pleased at this, but at once suggested that I might at least enable them to communicate direct with the Indian Government, by sending the Principal Assistant Commissioner (Lieutenant Hopkinson) with them to Calcutta, in which case they were prepared to do without negotiators, and go and deliver the letter themselves. Of course I declined to depute my Assistant with them, but offered them a passage in the steamer.

They expressed great regret that affairs had not been settled peaceably at Rangoon, and that the King's ship had been taken; but I clearly pointed out to them, that I had no power to enter upon the discussion of matters connected with that place; and explained to them, that, if there was any sincerity in their professions of a desire for peace, they should shape their conduct more in accordance with them; and that if their Government really desired a settlement of differences, it should lose no time in forwarding proper persons with sufficient powers to Commodore Lambert, with whom alone negotiations could be carried on.

To this the Tseetkays expressed some dislike, and strongly dwelt upon the circumstance, that everything having taken an unsatisfactory turn at Rangoon, it would be much better to forget all that had occurred there, and to begin the negotiations at the beginning again. I took some pains to have it clearly explained to them, that I had no power to do more than simply forward the King's letter; but that, as regarded all negotiations, the duty of conducting them had been assigned to Commodore Lambert, and it was to him that their Government must address itself; but the more I dwelt upon the propriety of following this course of proceeding, the more they urged the expediency of setting aside all that had already occurred, and beginning anew.

The circumstance of the King of Burmah having sent a letter to the Governor-General at all, and with such haste, is remarkable; and that he should have chosen this route, probably under the supposition that, with a blockade established, there might be difficulties on the Rangoon side, would indicate much anxiety to obtain an early reply; and from what the Tseetkays said, there is no doubt that the answer will be looked for with great impatience. I may as well mention, that on my alluding to the stoppage of trade and intercourse as one of the evils that had already overtaken them, consequent on the acts of their rulers, the Tseetkays expressed the most perfect indifference to that, and treated it as a matter of no moment whatever.

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For the same reasons which induced me to open, and have translated, the last letters for the Governor-General, I have opened this letter also, and beg to transmit with it a translation prepared by Lieutenant Hopkinson, Principal Assistant Commissioner; and as I have no other means of communication, I have forwarded the packet to Commodore Lambert, that he may transmit it to Calcutta by a steamer, or otherwise dispose of it as he may think proper.

Inclosure 20 in No. 6.

The Burmese Ministers to the English Government.

THE Egga Maha Thanadee Patee, and the great officers and Ministers of the State, who are ever prostrate at the royal feet of the Meng Tarahgyee Phooya, who is all-powerful, Lord of the Universe, Master of the Tsat-tang Elephant, and all White Elephants in the Burman Dominion, Lord of Life, who is like unto the Lotus Flower, declare that—

Commodore Lambert, the officer in command of the war-vessels of the Queen of England, came to Rangoon, in the Burmese dominions, with a letter requesting that certain merchants who had been unjustly oppressed by the Governor of Rangoon, should have reparation made them, and suggesting the propriety of the dismissal of the Governor.

In accordance, therefore, with the great friendship existing between the two countries, the Atwengdaw-mre (perpetual Privy Councillor), Mahameng Gyam, and the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Menggyee Mengteng Raza, were deputed with letters to the officer in command of the war-vessels, Commodore Lambert, and with a dispatch to be transmitted by him to the English Government, to the effect that the Governor of Rangoon would be recalled, and a fit person appointed in his room.

On the 12th waxing Pyatho, 1213 (2nd January, 1852), the officer in command, Commodore Lambert, wrote and delivered a letter to the Deputy Governor of Rangoon, urging that equal promptitude should be shown in the final settlement, as had attended the dismissal of those officers, who had been the cause of the misunderstanding between the two countries.

While thus the original business was in a fair way of adjustment, there came from the Commodore Lambert, the interpreter Edwards, and some superior officers, with a letter, but in consequence of their not immediately finding the Ayaboing of Hanthawadee Pyee Shewedoung Myowoon Thado Mengyee Maha Mengtha Meng Goung Gyo (the present Governor of Rangoon), the Yewoon (Deputy Governor) and other officers requested them as they were about to return, to leave the letter with them; this they refused to do, and after they had gone back, they made a report so calculated to breed discord, that the Commodore, saying that he felt angered and insulted, took possession of the King's ship. The Governor of Dallah was then sent to wait upon the Commodore, who informed him that he desired that the sum of 9,948 rupees which Captains Lewis and Sheppard had been required to disburse to the former Governor of Rangoon, should be repaid, when the ship might be returned.

To this a reply was made, that to prevent any misunderstanding arising between the two countries, the sum of 9,948 rupees should be repaid, but that His Majesty's ship must be brought back to the place whence she was removed.

Intimation was then given that the negotiation would be proceeded with, upon the Ayaboin Pyee Shewe Doung Myowoon repairing in person on board the [Commodore's] vessel, which was met by a proposition to provide temporary accommodation at some place half-way (between the Viceroy's house and the Commodore's vessel), where the two Plenipotentiaries might confer together; but the officer in command of the war-vessels, Commodore Lambert, making no reply whatever, and persisting in silence, a subsequent message was sent to him on the 5th Pyatho waning (10th January, 1852), begging him not to take away the vessel; to which he replied, that he would not carry her off, and that she might be sent for and taken back; but before the persons sent to take her could arrive,

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the Commodore went off with her in tow, and, being opposed by the military posts on the way, a conflict ensued.

This communication is now made with the view of eliciting, in reply, the intentions of the English Government; and it cannot be determined whether it has deputed Commodore Lambert simply to dispose of the question relating to the merchants, or whether he has been sent to begin by an attack, which should have the effect of bringing on hostilities between the two countries.

Inclosure 21 in No. 6.

Commodore Lambert to Mr. Halliday.

H.M.S. "Fox," off the Island of Negrais,
February 9, 1852.

I HAVE the honor to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a report I received yesterday from Commander Luard, acquainting me that Her Majesty's sloop "Serpent," under his command, had been fired at by the Burmese in the Bassein River, and of a letter addressed to him by the Governor of Bassein, with the reply I sent to that functionary.

Inclosure 22 in No. 6.

Commander Luard to Commodore Lambert.

H.M.S. "Serpent," in the Bassein River,
February 8, 1852.

I HAVE the honor to inform you, that, on the 4th instant, I left Diamond Island, in order to return to the anchorage inside Negrais; and whilst entering the Western Channel, the stockades on the mainland opened fire upon the ship, which I returned with one broadside of shot and one of shell, and afterwards sent the armed boats under charge of Lieutenant L. W. Hammet, to destroy the stockades, which he effectually accomplished. The two upon the hill, mentioned in my last letter, were supported by four others lower down, almost entirely concealed by the jungle, and might have been defended against a much superior force.

Three small guns, a large quantity of rice, and shelter for about 500 men, were destroyed with the stockades; four war-boats, and one large cargo boat loaded with rice and stockading tools, were also brought off, and have since been destroyed.

On the following morning, after having examined the south end of Negrais, and the opposite shore, without finding either of the stockades marked down in the old chart, I proceeded up the river, and, on opening the village of Negrais, perceived that a stockade had been built up during our absence. I immediately anchored, and sent an officer to inquire if this stockade also had orders to fire upon us. He returned, bringing off an interpreter, who stated they were quite ready to fight. The stockade, however, was so completely under our guns, and so full of men, that being unwilling to cause such a great loss of life as must have ensued, had we commenced firing, I sent the interpreter back to his chief to tell him I would give him till sunrise the next morning, by which time, if the stockade was not pulled down, I should most certainly destroy it. About 9·30 that evening, the stockade opened fire upon us, and was evidently immediately deserted. In the morning, I again sent the armed boats, in charge of Lieutenant Hammet, to pull down and burn this stockade, which was done without opposition. No single article of private property has been touched, and the priest's house, together with a building covering some images, although inside the stockade, were scrupulously protected from injury.

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The village, although at present deserted, will, I have no doubt, be soon re-occupied by its inhabitants.

The accompanying is a translation of a Burmese document received this morning, the bearers of which are now on board, awaiting an answer.

Inclosure 23 in No. 6.

The Governor of Bassein to the English Officers.

January 26, 1852.

I, MAHA THA-MIMDAN RAJAH, Governor of Bassein and its thirty-two dependent districts, an inner Minister of State of His Majesty the King of Ava [here Royal titles], give this order.

English Chiefs—Ye came to our country for the purpose, apparently, of giving a letter (from your Governor) to our Monarch; but not daring (in other words afraid) to hold any communication on matters with the Governor of Rangoon, who has been appointed to the charge of all the lower districts, in a manner unbecoming the sons of a great nation, you secretly stole, and took away the ship belonging to the King of Ava. Therefore, lest you should make your appearance at the mouth of the Bassein River and the Island of Negrais, I, who have charge of Bassein and its thirty-two dependencies, in conformity to my orders from my Royal Master, have assembled upwards of 10,000 fighting men, capable of expelling you and destroying you. They have cannon, and blunder-busses, and bombs, and muskets, swords and spears, gunpowder, bullets, flints, and, in fact, all the munitions and appurtenances of war, and all placed on guard around. Moreover, in all those parts of the river below Bassein, in which there is any difficulty for ships to come and go, there are at different points upwards of thirty armed positions, each under a different chief, and on the alert.

The man-of-war has no right to remain anchored within the Island of Negrais. If, relying on the strength of your right arm, you are anxious to fight, you should bear in mind that your vessel is a very small one. If you do not wish to fight, you must not remain at anchor inside of our outpost. Even if you remain where you are without fighting, or doing harm, the interests of my King require that I should attack you; and drive you out, and this is to give you notice of the same.

Inclosure 24 in No. 6.

Commodore Lambert to the Rajah Governor of Bassein.

H.M.S. "Fox," off Negrais, February 8, 1852.

I HAVE to inform you, that in compliance with instructions I have received from the Governor-General of India, I have placed the whole coast of the Burmese territories, from Cape Negrais to the Salween River, under a state of blockade.

But, pending the negotiations that are now going on between the Government of India and the Governor of Rangoon, I have given directions to the different officers serving under my orders, not to assume any hostile measures against the Burmese, unless they commence firing on Her Britannic Majesty's ships, which they have done on two occasions, by firing on Her Britannic Majesty's ship "Serpent," and for which her commander has my full approval for having destroyed their stockades.

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Inclosure 25 in No. 6.

Commodore Lambert to Mr. Halliday.

Off Diamond Island, Bassein River,
February 10, 1852.

I HAVE the honor to inclose the copy of a letter I have just received from the Commissioner of the Tenasserim Provinces, forwarding a letter he had received from the King of Ava, addressed to the Governor-General of India.

I have, in consequence, dispatched the "Phlegethon" steam-vessel to Calcutta, and desired Commander Neblett to deliver it to you, with this dispatch.

I also transmit an explanatory letter from Captain Latter, as to certain false statements made in the said letter from the King of Ava.

Inclosure 26 in No. 6.

Colonel Bogle to Commodore Lambert.

Moulmein, February 8, 1852.

IN charge of Captain Neblett, of the Company's steamer "Phlegethon," I have the honor to transmit herewith, a letter from the King of Burmah, translation of which is inclosed, for your information, to the address of the Governor-General, together with a mail-packet; and I take the liberty of suggesting that, should the exigencies of the service admit of it, a steamer may be dispatched with them to Calcutta.

The letter from the King is inclosed in an ivory case and a red velvet cover: it reached Martaban in eleven days, and was brought over, by permission, and delivered to me yesterday, with all proper ceremony, by the two officers next in rank to the Governor of Martaban, and who are entitled to use golden umbrellas.

For what passed on the occasion, I beg to refer you to Captain Neblett, of the "Phlegethon," Lieutenant Lawrence, of Her Majesty's ship "Hermes," with Dr. Macleod, who did me the favor to be present at the interview.

The circumstance of the Burmese Government having sent a letter to the Governor-General at all, and the speed with which it has come, would certainly indicate a desire that hostilities may be averted, at least for the present; and the very convenient opportunity which this letter will afford the Indian Government of categorically detailing its demands and intentions, induces me to attach more importance to it than it would otherwise, perhaps, deserve.

Inclosure 27 in No. 6.

Captain Latter to Commodore Lambert.

Bassein River, February 10, 1852.

IN conformity to your suggestions, I beg to submit to you the following remarks on the letter from the Burmese Government, the English translation of which has been forwarded to you by Colonel Bogle, Commissioner of the Tenasserim Provinces.

With reference to the remarks in its 5th paragraph, that the Deputy Governor of Rangoon begged us, on the occasion of the deputation of which I was a member having been kept waiting for a full quarter of an hour in the sun, to leave the letter with him; it is a statement entirely against the fact. The Deputy Governor never was seen by any one in the squadron until next day, when, for fear of his master, he came on board the frigate, to try and get back the King's ship. No officer of any rank came to us, or spoke to us. One of inferior rank passed up the steps, and I urged him to the necessity of giving us some sort of a reception.

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The statement in the 6th paragraph is likewise without a particle of truth. I was present at every communication, verbal or written, made to you by the Burmese authorities, and no statement of the kind was made.

The same may be said of the 7th paragraph; there was no proposition of the kind made, and there is not a particle of truth in the whole of it.

The communication is what any one, with a knowledge of the Burmese, might have expected; truth not being considered a desirable quality among them, and falsehood looked upon as the highest art of diplomacy.

P.S.—The observations I have made in this letter, with reference to the incorrectness of the statements contained in the letter from the Burmese Government under consideration, of course apply to the representation which the present Governor of Rangoon must have made to his superiors.

Inclosure 28 in No. 6.

Mr. Halliday to Colonel Bogle.

February 18, 1852.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, dated the 8th instant, accompanying the letter from the King of Ava.

The Governor-General in Council approves of the course you pursued in receiving and forwarding the letter from the King, while, at the same time, you informed the messengers from Martaban, that you were not empowered to enter into any negotiations, or to engage in any discussions with them.

His Lordship desires me to request that you will continue to observe this course, unless specially instructed to the contrary.

You will be so good as to cause a translation to be made of the reply addressed by the Governor-General to the King, and will forward the English letter, with the translation, in the accompanying case to Ava, through the parties who delivered the King's letter from Martaban.

While, however, you continue to hold the same language to these functionaries as before, and refuse all negotiation with them, you are at liberty to inform them, that it consists with your knowledge, that the Government of India is preparing for the immediate exaction of the reparation which has been refused, and that if they desire to avert from the Kingdom of Ava, and from themselves, the blow which is impending over them, they will exert themselves to obtain from Ava, with every practicable speed, full compliance with, and performance of those conditions on which alone a war can be avoided.

If in due time a reply should be received, through the same channel, complying with the demands of the Government of India, you will be pleased to receive the letter, distinctly intimating that you are not empowered to declare the difference between the States adjusted, but that you will transmit the letter to the Governor-General in Council, whose final reply will be communicated to them as soon as received. You will inform the Burmese authorities, at the same time, that you are not authorized to receive the money, which must be paid at Rangoon to the British officer who may be appointed to receive it there.

Under all circumstances any letter from the Court of Ava should be transmitted, and always with a translation.

Inclosure 29 in No. 6.

Mr. Halliday to Commodore Lambert.

Fort William, February 18, 1852.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatches by the "Phlegethon," dated the 9th and 10th instant, with their respective inclosures.

To the letter from the King of Ava forwarded by you, a reply has been transmitted, in which are set forth the enhanced conditions on which alone war can now be averted.

In the meantime, the Governor-General in Council has neither relaxed

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the preparations in which he was engaged, nor will he delay the dispatch of the expedition, nor will he enter into any further negotiation, or abstain from action, unless the conditions he has put forward shall be not only acceded to, but fulfilled.

You are, therefore, requested to abstain, for the present, from all correspondence, if such should again be commenced with you.

The conduct of Captain Luard in the respect shown for private property, after Her Majesty's ship "Serpent" had been fired upon by the Burmese, is, his Lordship desires me to observe, very honorable to that officer, and to his crew.

Inclosure 30 in No. 6.

The Governor-General to the King of Ava.

Fort William, February 18, 1852.

I HAVE received the letter which your Majesty caused to be addressed to me, relative to the events which have recently taken place at Rangoon, and which was transmitted through the hands of the Governor of Martaban.

Your Majesty desires to elicit a declaration of the intentions of the British Government, and inquires whether Commodore Lambert was deputed simply to dispose of the question relating to the merchants, or whether he has been sent to begin an attack which should have the effect of bringing on hostilities between the two countries.

If your Majesty's servants at Rangoon had been faithful to your Majesty's interests, and had conveyed to you a truthful report of all that passed between them and the British officers on the occasion to which reference is made, your Majesty would have seen no cause to inquire what were the intentions of the Government of India, or to doubt the pacific character of its mission. Your Majesty's officers have not correctly represented to you the events which occurred, but have concealed from your knowledge their own misconduct, which has compelled the British Government to change its language, and to prepare for compelling, by force of arms, the reparation it sought by a friendly representation.

The reply which your Majesty addressed to the letter from the Government of India was, in all respects, worthy of a just and sagacious Ruler. It admitted the justice of the claims which had been advanced, directed the removal of the Governor of Rangoon, and promised redress by the hands of a new Governor, fully armed with powers to afford it.

That redress has not been granted by your Majesty's servant at Rangoon; on the contrary, gross and repeated insults have since been offered by him to the British Government, in the person of its officers, and every amende has been evaded or refused.

When Commodore Lambert, on the arrival of the new Governor, proposed to renew negotiations relative to the merchants who had been oppressed, the Governor intimated his readiness to receive, at any time, a communication from Commodore Lambert upon the subject. On the following day, a letter written on behalf of the British Government, was addressed by the Commodore to the Governor of Rangoon. Although the present Governor and his predecessor had not observed the respect which was due, nor the custom of their own country, and had sent their letters by the hands of men of no rank or consideration whatever, yet these persons were not rejected by the Commodore. And when he dispatched his letter to the Governor of Rangoon, it was sent, not by the hands of any such inconsiderable persons, but by the officer next in rank to himself, accompanied by officers of the army and of the fleet.

Yet the Governor of Rangoon presumed to refuse all admittance to these officers, bearing a letter to him on the part of the British Government.

He not only presumed to refuse to them admittance, but he offered to them insult and indignity. The Deputy Governor did not approach them, as your servants have falsely reported to your Majesty. No officer was deputed to them. They were approached only by the lowest; they were compelled to remain beyond the door; and were publicly subjected to disrespect and insolence, such as would have been regarded as ignominious by the meanest subordinate in your servant's Durbar. The Governor of Rangoon aggravated the injury he

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thus offered to the British Government, by the audacious and offensive assertion, that British officers, thus deputed on an important duty to a high officer, at noon-day, presented themselves at his residence in a state of intoxication.

A deliberate insult can never be offered with impunity to the British Government, or to its servants.

The Governor of Rangoon having persisted in refusing to express his regret for the conduct of which he had been guilty, Commodore Lambert rightly considered that the negotiations were at an end, that the demands of the British Government had been refused, and he proceeded (as your Majesty had been informed he would do, if the demands of this Government should not be complied with) to take such measures as should enforce the rights conferred by treaties, should effectually protect the interests of the subjects of the British Government, and should fully vindicate its honor and power.

This Government would thereafter have been justified in rejecting all communication with the Governor of Rangoon; but having no secret intentions, and seeking no pretext for war or conquest, it once more endeavoured to effect an adjustment of the differences that had arisen.

The Government of India added nothing to its demands. It required only the reparation it originally specified, together with the indispensable condition that the Governor of Rangoon should express his deep regret for the insult he had put upon the officers of this Government.

These most moderate and just demands have been rejected by your Majesty's servant, whom you deputed with power to settle the differences between the States.

Its demand having thus been rejected by your Majesty's servant on your behalf, the Government of India resolved at once to enforce its rights, and to vindicate its power. For that purpose, large preparations were at once commenced, and are now in progress. The receipt of your Majesty's letter has not interfered with, and will not delay, or diminish, these preparations.

It is still within your Majesty's power to avert from your kingdom the disasters of war; but this can only now be done by a prompt disavowal of the acts of your Majesty's servant at Rangoon, and by a full compliance with the several demands which are hereinafter enumerated:

1. Your Majesty, disavowing the acts of the present Governor of Rangoon, shall, by the hands of your Ministers, express regret that Captain Fishbourne and the British officers who accompanied him were exposed to insult at the hand of your servants at Rangoon, on the 6th of January last.

2. In satisfaction of the claims of the two captains who suffered exactions from the late Governor of Rangoon; in compensation for the loss of property which British merchants may have suffered in the burning of that city by the acts of the present Governor; and in consideration of the expenses of preparation for war, your Majesty will agree to pay, and will pay at once, ten lacs of rupees to the Government of India.

3. Your Majesty will direct that an accredited Agent, to be appointed in conformity with the VIIth Article of the Treaty of Yandaboo, and to reside at Rangoon, shall be received by your Majesty's servants there; and shall, at all times, be treated with the respect due to the Representative of the British Government.

4. Your Majesty will direct the removal of the present Governor of Rangoon, whose conduct renders it impossible that the Government of India should consent to any official intercourse with him.

If, without further delay, negotiation, or correspondence, these conditions shall be consented to, and shall fulfilled on, or before, the 1st day of April next, hostile operations shall be stayed, peace between the States shall be renewed, and the King's ship shall be restored.

But if—untaught by former experience; forgetful of the irresistible power of the British arms in India; and heedless of the many additional proofs that have been given of its might, in the successful fall of the powerful Sovereigns of Bhurtpore, of Scinde, of the Sikhs, and of many other Princes, since last the Burman Rulers vainly attempted to resist the British troops in war—the King of Ava shall unwisely refuse the just and lenient conditions which are now set before him, the British Government will have no alternative but immediate war.

The guilt and the consequences of war will rest upon the head of the Ruler of Ava.

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No. 7.

The Governor-General in Council to the Secret Committee.

Fort William, March 8, 1852. (No. 8.)

IN continuation of our dispatch of the 23rd ultimo, No. 4, we have the honor to transmit, for your information, a copy of the documents enumerated in the accompanying abstract, relative to Rangoon affairs.

Inclosure 1 in No. 7.

Additional Notification.

THE Baragu River, and other outlets of the Irrawady, are included in the blockade declared by me on the 6th instant.

Given under my hand, on board Her Britannic Majesty's steam-sloop "Hermes," in the Bassein River, the 25th of January, 1852.

G. R. LAMBERT,
Commodore in Her Britannic Majesty's Navy.

Inclosure 2 in No. 7.

Messrs. Thomas A. Apcar and Stephen Gabriel to Sir H. Elliot.

WE have the honor to wait upon you with the accompanying memorial from the Armenian inhabitants of this city; and as the prayer of it is of the greatest importance to us, we beg to solicit the favor of your laying the same before the Governor-General in Council, with as little delay as practicable.

Inclosure 3 in No. 7.

Petition of the Armenian Inhabitants of Calcutta to the Governor-General of India in Council.

THAT intelligence of the most distressing and alarming nature has reached your petitioners from Rangoon, concerning their unfortunate countrymen in that place. That all their houses, including the church, have been burnt down to the ground, or otherwise destroyed by the Burmese. That the property of the wretched sufferers has been plundered, or taken possession of by the local authorities, without the least regard to law or reason. That all the Armenians, thus unmercifully reduced to a state of utter destitution, have been made prisoners, and subjected to every manner of hardship and surveillance. That the number of the Armenians residing at Ava is nearly 40, and that of their fellow-countrymen now at Rangoon, is upwards of 60. That the aggregate amount of their property is very considerable, and is supposed to be about ten lacs of rupees, which they have been dispossessed and deprived of. That your petitioners are not unaware that Commodore Lambert had warned the Armenians of Rangoon to quit that place, and to go to Moulmein; but the notice of this warning was so sudden and so short, that, with but a few solitary exceptions, they could not in time come out of the Burmese territories, and place themselves under British protection. That several of the Armenians, now at Rangoon and Ava, are relatives and friends of your petitioners, to whom it is natural keenly to feel for the most critical and dangerous situation in which they are placed, and deeply to sympathize with them for the hardships to which they are subjected.

That having thus briefly stated above the subject of their humble petition, your petitioners most respectfully but earnestly beg your Lordship to take into consideration the lamentable condition of their unfortunate countrymen in Burmah, and, by an exercise of the native benevolence for which your Lordship is so eminently and so deservedly distinguished far and wide, to adopt immediate and prompt measures for the liberation of the Armenian Christians in Rangoon and Ava from their imprisonment, and for the restitution of the property, of which they have been thus spoliated. Convinced of the innate goodness with which your Lordship is so solicitous to insure the welfare of the millions placed under your Lordship's mild rule and fostering care, your petitioners entertain

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hopes that their prayer will be humanely responded to, and that their humble request will be complied with, in such a manner as may appear most expedient and politic to your Lordship.

That, in conclusion, your Lordship's petitioners take the liberty to inclose, in the shape of a memorandum, and for the information and guidance of your Lordship, a paper containing the names of the Armenians now at Rangoon and Ava, and a statement of the respective property, both real and personal, which each of them is, by a pretty near guess, supposed to have been possessed of. And your petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray for your Lordship's health, prosperity, and happiness.

Inclosure 4 in No. 7.

Statement as to the Property of Armenians in Ava.

Calcutta, February 12, 1852.

	Houses, Lands, and Personal Property.	Personal Property.
Armenians at Rangoon.	Co.'s Rs.	Co.'s Rs.
Late Arrakil Ter Mines, who after being driven from the old town, is reported to have died by cholera, in the middle of last month, his wife and son, sister and her daughter, sister-in-law and her daughter	50,000	
Mrs. George Aviet	..	8,000
Mrs. Gregory Sarkies Manook, and her daughter	..	10,000
Mrs. Alexianus Ter George, and her three children	..	3,000
Mrs. Arratoon Jacob, and her son	30,000	
Mrs. Carapiet Jacob	1,50,000	
Mrs. Aviet Bejann, and her two children		3,000
Mrs. Mangasar Carapiet, and son	..	8,000
Mrs. Moses Zacaria, and her son	..	2,000
Esaiah Manook, and his wife	10,000	..
Gabriel Eleazar, his wife, daughter, and two sons	1,00,000	
Nicholas S. Johannes, his wife, and children	20,000	
Galston Mackertoom, his wife, and one child	..	5,000
Carapiet Zacaria, and his wife	50,000	
Arratoon C. Zacaria, his wife, and two children	..	5,000
Stephen A. Calchick, and his seven children	10,000	
Calchatoor J. Arratoon, his wife, and six children	15,000	
David Arrakil, his wife, and brother-in-law	..	5,000
Arratoon P. Varden	..	10,000
Stephen Arratoon	..	1,000
Nazar Johannes	..	2,000
Carapiet Chatoor	..	2,000
Chatoor D. Galston	..	2,000
Thomas Serges	..	1,000
Rangoon Armenian Church	30,000	
	4,65,000	67,000
Armenians at Ameerapoora (Ava).		
Carapiet Ter Mines, his wife, and three children	..	10,000
Mackertich Ter Mines, his wife, and two children	1,00,000	
Isaac Ter Mines	..	10,000
Avdal Gregory, and his wife	..	5,000
Sarkis Galstan Mackertoom	..	5,000
Isaac Jacob, his wife, and children	..	10,000
Behnan Elias, and his wife	..	1,000
Johannes Sarkis, his wife, and children	..	20,000
Mercer David Abraham, and children	..	20,000
M. J. Mines, and children	..	20,000
Gregory Sarkies and Manook	1,50,000	..
Alexianus Ter George	10,000	..
Pogose Thevakalian	..	5,000
Stephen Agabab	..	5,000
Galstan Cajamal	..	5,000
Moses Sarkis Manook	..	2,000
Elias Galstan	..	5,000
Johannes Sarkis Manook	..	2,000
	7,25,000	1,92,000

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List of those Armenians who departed to Moulmein from Rangoon.	Houses, Land, and Personal Property.	Personal Property.
	Co's Rs.	Co.'s Rs.
	7,25,000	1,92,000
Mrs. Melitus Pogose	3,000	
Gregory Johannes	5,000	
Cavona M. Avetoon	10,000	
Arratoon Araham	10,000	
Mines Anthony	..	3,000
Peter Gregory	..	2,000
Kerakoose Ter Mackertich	..	1,000
Martinose David	..	5,000
Parsie A. Petroose	..	1,000
Navasara Nicolus	..	1,000
Co.'s Rs.	7,53,000	2,05,000

Inclosure 5 in No. 7.

Mr. Thomas to Messrs. Apcar & Gabriel.

Fort William, February 20, 1852.

I HAVE the honor to inform you that I have received and laid before the Governor-General in Council your letter, without date, forwarding a memorial from the Armenian inhabitants of Calcutta.

In reply, I am desired to request that you will inform the memorialists that his Lordship in Council sympathizes with their anxiety regarding the condition of their relations and connexions in Ava; but he trusts that the measures about to be adopted for asserting the power and authority of the British Government for the redress of the grievance of its subjects trading to Rangoon, will ultimately lead to a satisfactory settlement of affairs between the two nations, without compromise of the security of any of those in whom the memorialists are interested.

Inclosure 6 in No. 7.

Commodore Lambert to Mr. Halliday.

H.M.S. "Fox," off Diamond Island, Bassein River, February 12, 1852.

I HAVE the honor to inclose, for the information of the Governor-General of India, a copy of a letter I received this morning from the Governor of Bassein, and of my reply thereto.

Inclosure 7 in No. 7.

The Governor of Bassein to Commodore Lambert.

I, MAHA THAMIENDAN RAJAH, appointed by the King of Ava [here follow the Royal titles], Governor of Bassein and its thirty-two dependencies, a nobleman, and inner Minister of State, send this communication:—

On your Government making a charge against the late Governor of Rangoon, for oppressing and maltreating British subjects trading to Rangoon, my Sovereign, the King of Ava, sent down the Prince Mahamengthla-meng-khoung-gyan, Governor of Prome, as a Plenipotentiary, to inquire into the truth of these charges; and he removed the former Governor from his post, and recalled him to the Royal presence, where he now is. And you, though sons of a great

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country, without having entered into any of the business for which you came, took away secretly the King's ship; and having come without giving information, and anchored within the outposts of Negrais, in the district of Bassein, which is guarded by upwards of thirty military posts, I sent a messenger with a letter to inform you that it was improper for you to remain there as long as the Rangoon business was unsettled; but he did not find you. But on your again coming without giving information within the posts of Pagoda Point and Thay, the messenger was again sent to you, but before he reached you I am informed the outposts of Pagoda Point, Thay, and Negrais, attacked you without giving notice. If these outposts should act on the aggressive, you must let me know, and not attack them, and burn them down. I have reported to the King the actions with the Stockades, and shall be able to receive his orders in forty days.

Moreover, if you really are the legitimate forces of Her Majesty the Queen of England, you ought to act in conformity to Article III of the Commercial Treaty of Yandaboo, and not prevent traders and merchants coming and going in their boats and ships; for this reason you ought to anchor beyond Pagoda Point, where there is seven fathoms of water.

Inclosure 8 in No. 7.

Commodore Lambert to the Governor of Bassein.

COMMODORE LAMBERT has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Governor of Bassein's letter. He is glad to find the Governor of Bassein has given directions to his officers not to fire on Her Britannic Majesty's ships, which will prevent any further hostilities, as Commodore Lambert has already given directions not to fire on the Burmese, unless they first fire at the English flag.

The blockade has been established by order of the Governor-General of India; and until Commodore Lambert receives further instructions, it is not in in his power to permit any vessels to enter any of the ports or rivers belonging to the Burmese.

Inclosure 9 in No. 7.

Mr. Thomas to Commodore Lambert.

(Extract.) *Fort William, March* 3, 1852.

I HAVE received and laid before the Governor-General in Council your dispatches of the 9th and 12th ultimo.

In reply, I am directed to inform you, that the letters from the Governor of Bassein deserve no notice from the Government of India; and that as the Governor-General in Council has finally addressed the King of Ava, it is essential for the prevention of all misapprehension or misrepresentation, that no communication whatever should, at present, be held with any of the officers of the Burmese Government.

I am directed to request that you will, therefore, give no reply to, and take no notice of, any letters any of them may address to you, but merely transmit to the Government any communication which may appear to be of sufficient importance, an occurrence which is extremely improbable.

I am instructed to acquaint you that the ships and transports will be ordered to rendezvous at the mouth of the Rangoon River.

I am further directed to acquaint you that Lieutenant-General Godwin, C.B., has been appointed to the command of troops selected for the expedition; and that as soon as any decision can be formed as to the details of military operations, you will be fully informed of the same.

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No. 8.

The Governor General in Council to the Secret Committee.

Fort William, April 6, 1852. (No. 14.)

IN continuation of our dispatch No. 8, of the 8th ultimo, we have the honor to forward herewith, copies of the further correspondence relative to Rangoon affairs.

We beg to draw especial attention to the minute recorded by the Governor-General, containing an exposition of his views as to the course of policy to be pursued towards the Burmese Government, and the measures to be adopted for the speedy termination of hostilities.

The letter of instructions to Lieutenant-General Godwin, who has been nominated to the command of the land force, provides for every contingency which may arise in connexion with the present expedition.

A further communication on the same subject will be addressed to you by the ensuing mail.

Inclosure 1 in No. 8.

Colonel Bogle to C. Allen, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India.

Moulmein, March 26, 1852.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt, on the afternoon of the 27th ultimo, of your letter of the 18th ultimo, inclosing a letter from the Governor-General to the King of Burmah.

As soon as a translation could be prepared, I caused it to be intimated to the Burmese authorities, that an answer to the King's letter had arrived, and that I would be ready to receive a deputation at 2 P.M., of the 1st, and to deliver it to them for transmission to the capital.

I would have named an earlier date and hour, but the translation occupied much time, and Sunday intervened.

The two Tseetkays of Martaban, who brought over the letter to the Governor-General, were accordingly deputed to wait upon me, but instead of arriving about the hour of meeting, they came over before 11 A.M.

On their reaching my court-house I received them as on the former occasion, and very fully and distinctly explained to them the circumstances attending the present misunderstanding between the two Governments, and the evils which would inevitably result from a non-compliance with the demands contained in his Lordship's letter. I also pointed out to the Tseetkays, the expediency of the Burmese Government avoiding a course which must compel the British Government to adopt coercive measures; and in delivering the letter to them, I strongly impressed on them the importance of their forwarding it to the capital with the least possible delay.

It was very distinctly explained to them, that the sum of money mentioned in the letter of the Governor-General, was to be paid at Rangoon, and that full and complete compliance with all the terms mentioned must be signified by the 1st of April.

The Tseetkays appeared to be much grieved that further negotiation was not to be permitted, and that their case was closed. They immediately left Moulmein, and I am informed that the Governor-General's letter was that evening sent off towards the capital. I however regret to say, that no answer has as yet been received, and it is reported that preparations for resistance are being made at Martaban, as well as Rangoon.

There is no doubt that at the latter place extensive works of defence have been constructed; but at the former nothing seems as yet to have been done of material consequence. On the 19th instant I proceeded up the Salween in the steamer "Phlegethon," a little beyond Martaban, in company with Commodore Lambert, Colonel Reignolds, C.B., commanding the troops, and Major Reid, commanding the artillery. We passed close along the front of

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the place, and reconnoitered it with tolerable certainty; but although it was evident that a good many men had arrived since I last passed it, and that some works were in progress, we were unable to discern anything of importance.

Inclosure 2 in No. 8.

Mr. Allen to Commodore Lambert.

Fort William, March 22, 1852.

WITH reference to Mr. Thomas's letter, dated the 3rd instant, I am directed by the Governor-General in Council to transmit for your information the accompanying statement, exhibiting an outline of the naval and military force it is proposed to employ in the expedition against the Burmese.

Troops ordered from Bengal:

1 Company European Artillery.	Her Majesty's 80th Regiment of Foot.
Her Majesty's 18th Royal Irish.	40th Regiment Native Infantry.

Troops ordered from Madras:

3 Companies European Artillery.	Her Majesty's 51st Regiment of Foot.
2 Companies Sappers and Miners.	3 Regiments of Native Infantry.

Steamers from Bombay:

	Tons.		Tons.
Mofuzzur	1,440	Berenice	7
Feroze	1,440	Zenobia	1,000
Sesostris	900	Medusa	300

Steamers available in Calcutta:

	Tons.		Tons.
Erin	about 900	Fire Queen	about 570
Tenasserim	700	Phlegethon . ..	400
Enterprise	570	Exclusive of Hermes.	

Transports:

	Tons.		Tons.
Futtay Allum	609	Lahore	535
Futil Rozack	519	Favorite	403
Tubal Cain	787	Monarch	249
Bengal	667		

Inclosure 3 in No. 8.

Minute by the Governor-General of India, concurred in by the Members of the Board.

(Extract.) *March* 23, 1852.

THE preparations for the expedition which it was resolved to dispatch to the Coast of Burmah, have been carried on in every quarter with great alacrity, and with such success, that we are in a condition to commence operations even earlier than I had anticipated.

The troops from this Presidency have either been dispatched, or are ready to embark. The wing of the 18th has sailed to rejoin the head-quarters at Moulmein.

A wing of Her Majesty's 80th has also sailed. The other wing will garrison Fort William.

The company of Artillery has also arrived. The 40th Regiment of Native Infantry is here. The Ordnance and Commissariat stores are embarked, and the whole will be ready to sail on the 25th instant.

Lieutenant-General Godwin has been nominated to the command, and the Staff appointments have been filled up.

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The troops from Madras, if they have not already sailed, will sail in accordance with instructions from this Government, about the same date.

They will be conveyed by a squadron of steamers, powerfully armed, which has been provided by the Bombay Government with the utmost promptitude, and in the highest efficiency.

The 67th Regiment, which was intended to form part of the expedition, must of necessity be kept in Arracan for the present, in consequence of the 38th Regiment having declined either to volunteer for Burmah, or to proceed to Arracan by sea. The 67th will be relieved, however, or its place taken at Rangoon by another Madras regiment, which that Government has been requested to send.

With this exception, the whole force will be at the rendezvous in the Rangoon River, by the 1st of April.

It is necessary to furnish Lieutenant-General Godwin with general instructions for his guidance.

Having regard to the advantage of uniting all authority upon such occasions in one person, and having confidence in the ability, judgment, and experience which General Godwin will bring to the duties with which he is to be entrusted, I would propose that the whole political authority connected with the expedition should be vested in him, as the officer commanding the troops in the field.

The instructions of the Governor-General in Council, while they leave General Godwin unfettered in all details of military operations, should clearly indicate the general objects of the Government, and should, as far as possible, provide for every contingency which may arise in connexion with the present expedition.

The Government has declared that it directed the assembling of this force, in the hope that a powerful blow, struck promptly now, might reduce the Burmese to reason, obtain compliance with our demands, and avert war upon a more extended scale at the end of the coming monsoon. To this end, the speedy termination of hostilities, all the efforts of the force should now be directed; while in any negotiations that may be opened, no demands of unnecessary severity or extent should be advanced by us, which would tend to avert a settlement, and thus to defeat the object of our present movement.

General Godwin, having been put in possession of this leading principle in the views of the Government of India, should be informed that the ultimatum of the Government, some time since transmitted to the King of Ava, was to the following effect:

"1st. Your Majesty, disavowing the acts of the present Governor of Rangoon, shall, by the hands of your Ministers, express regret that Captain Fishbourne and the British officers who accompanied him, were exposed to insult at the hand of your servant at Rangoon, on the 6th of January last.

"2nd. In satisfaction of the claims of the two captains who suffered exactions from the late Governor of Rangoon, in compensation for the loss of property which British merchants may have suffered in the burning of that city by the acts of the present Governor, and in consideration of the expenses of preparation for war, your Majesty will agree to pay, and will pay at once, ten lacs of rupees to the Government of India.

"3rd. Your Majesty will direct that an accredited Agent, to be appointed in conformity with the VIIth Article of Yandaboo, and to reside at Rangoon, shall be received by your Majesty's servants there, and shall, at all times, be treated with the respect due to the Representative of the British Government.

"4th. Your Majesty will direct the removal of the present Governor of Rangoon, whose conduct renders it impossible that the Government of India should consent to any official intercourse with him."

Upon arriving at the rendezvous, and before moving to Rangoon, General Godwin should ascertain, by an ordinary flag of truce, whether any letter from the Court of Ava to the Government of India is forthcoming.

If there should be such a letter, General Godwin should be authorized to examine its contents.

If the letter should accede to the demands of the British Government, and if effect should at once be given to it by the King's officers, hostilities will be stayed. In that case, General Godwin will intimate to the Burmese officers,

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that it is his intention to proceed to Rangoon for the purpose of receiving the fulfilment of the terms.

If this shall be duly accomplished, General Godwin will finally arrange a meeting with the chief officer of the King of Ava at Rangoon, for the purpose of formally placing in charge of his functions, the officer who shall be appointed to act at Rangoon as the Agent of this Government. The forms of such meetings should be arranged previously, and a record made of them; it being understood that they are to be the recognised forms of reception of the British Agent for the future.

When all this has been done, and not before, the King's ship should be restored to its place, and former friendly relations will be renewed.

If the letter from the Court of Ava should not, distinctly and at once, concede all the demands, but should express an intention of doing so, General Godwin should construe it in a fair and liberal spirit. If he shall consider that it is the real intention of the Court of Ava to meet our demands as soon as it is practicable for them to do so, he is authorized to suspend hostilities. But if General Godwin should see good cause to believe that the Court of Ava is attempting to practise the same evasive policy of which General Godwin has himself had experience, and is seeking merely to gain time against us, General Godwin should proceed to act in concert with the officer commanding the Naval Forces.

If again there should be no letter from the Court of Ava, or if it should directly refuse, or manifestly evade our demands, General Godwin in like manner will proceed to act.

It has been the earnest desire of the Government of India, from the commencement of these differences with the Court of Ava, to avert, if possible, another war. I have already said that the object of dispatching promptly the present force is to seize the last chance of preventing the necessity for sending a large army hereafter. It is in my judgment equally the policy and the duty of the Government of India to adhere to that principle, in every one of its acts, in this untoward affair.

Our demands have been based on a resolution to obtain full compensation for the injuries inflicted on British subjects, and reimbursement of the expenses to which the State has been put by the proceedings of the Burmese Government. The sum of 10 lacs was not set down arbitrarily, but was the result of calculation, so far as it could be made.

More time will have elapsed before a reconciliation can be effected, and the heavy current expenses must be provided for. Moreover, if hostilities be commenced, if actions be fought, the charges of the Government will be greatly increased.

I therefore beg leave to suggest, that as the conditions of peace offered immediately after the capture of these places, we should demand:

1st. The payment of 15 lacs of rupees. Such a payment would not be beyond the means of the Burmese Government, and it will most certainly not do more than afford the compensation and reimbursement to which we are entitled.

2nd. To obviate any attempt at evasion, by delay, and to meet the strict justice of the case, an additional payment should be demanded of 3 lacs for every month which may elapse after the 1st of May, until satisfaction of our demands is afforded.

3rd. Until these payments are made, the British troops shall remain in undisturbed possession of such captured places as they may choose to retain.

4th. If these conditions are not complied with, the Government of India will take such measures as it may think necessary and right.

I conceive that these conditions afford the best and safest solution of the difficulties of our present position.

With regard to the 1st and 2nd I have already said that the demand is just, and within the means of the Burmese Government.

The 3rd condition enables us either to retain possession of the whole we may have captured, or, without disadvantage or discredit, to retire from Rangoon, if it should appear desirable to do so.

The general terms of the 4th condition leave it open to the Government to adopt whatever course it may prefer, after the monsoon shall have passed, or the season for operations shall again approach.

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Inclosure 4 in No. 8.

Mr. Allen to Lieutenant-General Godwin.

(Extract.) *Fort William, March* 24, 1852.

THE force which has been placed under your command for service upon the coast of Burmah being now complete in all respects, you will be enabled to proceed to the rendezvous selected by Commodore Lambert, at the mouth of the Rangoon River, upon the 25th instant.

The Governor-General in Council has the honor to address to you the following instructions for your guidance.

Having regard to the advantage of uniting all authority in one person upon such occasions as the present, and having confidence in the ability, the judgment, and experience which you will bring to the duty with which you are to be entrusted, the Governor-General in Council has resolved that the whole political authority connected with the expedition should be vested in you, as the officer commanding the troops in the field.

The Governor-General in Council has directed the assembling of this force, in the hope that a powerful blow, struck promptly now, may reduce the Burmese to reason, may obtain compliance with our demands, and so may avert the necessity for war upon a more extended scale, after the close of the coming monsoon.

The ultimatum of the British Government, transmitted to the Court of Ava some time ago, was to the following effect:

"1st. Your Majesty, disavowing the acts of the present Governor of Rangoon, shall, by the hands of your Ministers, express regret that Captain Fishbourne and the British officers who accompanied him were exposed to insult at the hand of your servants at Rangoon, on the 6th of January last.

"2nd. In satisfaction of the claims of the two captains who suffered exactions from the late Governor of Rangoon, in compensation for the loss of property which British merchants may have suffered in the burning of that city by the acts of the present Governor, and in consideration of the expenses of preparation for war, your Majesty will agree to pay, and will pay at once, ten lacs of rupees to the Government of India.

"3rd. Your Majesty will direct that an accredited Agent, to be appointed in conformity with the VIIth Article of Yandaboo, and to reside at Rangoon, shall be received by your Majesty's servants there, and shall, at all times, be treated with the respect due to the Representative of the British Government.

"4th. Your Majesty will direct the removal of the present Governor of Rangoon, whose conduct renders it impossible that the Government of India should consent to any official intercourse with him."

Upon arriving at the rendezvous, you are requested to communicate with Commodore Lambert, in command of the naval squadron there. The accompanying letter to Commodore Lambert contains a copy of the instructions now conveyed to you, and a request that he will cooperate with you in every way for securing the successful performance of the service with which you have been entrusted.

The Governor-General in Council entertains the fullest confidence that Commodore Lambert and yourself will act together in entire harmony and concert upon a service, where you have as your common object the protection of British subjects, and the maintenance of the honor and power of our name.

Before moving up to Rangoon you are requested to ascertain, by such means as may seem best, through a flag of truce, whether any letter from the Court of Ava to the Government of India has been received. If there should be such a letter, you are authorized to examine its contents.

If the letter should accede to the demands of the British Government, and if effect should at once be given to it by the King's officers, hostilities will be stayed.

In that case you are requested to intimate to the Burmese officers, that it is your intention to proceed to Rangoon for the purpose of receiving the fulfilment of the terms.

If this shall be duly accomplished, you will finally arrange a meeting with

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the chief officer of the King of Ava, for the purpose of formally placing in charge of his functions the officer who shall be appointed to act at Rangoon as the Agent of this Government.

The forms of such meetings should be arranged previously, and a record made of them; it being understood that they are to be the recognised forms of reception of the British Agent for the future.

When all this has been done, and not before, the King's ship should be restored to its place, and former friendly relations will be renewed.

If the letter from the Court of Ava should not distinctly and at once concede all our demands, but should express an intention of doing so, you are requested to construe it in a fair and liberal spirit.

If you shall consider that it is the real intention of the Court of Ava to meet our demands as soon as it is practicable for it to do so, you are authorized to suspend hostilities. But if you should see good cause to believe that the Court of Ava is attempting to practise the same evasive policy of which you have yourself had experience, and is seeking merely to gain time against us, you should proceed to act, in concert with the officer commanding the naval forces.

If, again, there should be no letter from the Court of Ava, or if it should directly refuse, or manifestly evade, our demands, you, in like manner, will proceed to act.

It is assumed by the Government, that operations would be most effectually directed against Martaban and Rangoon.

If the result of that operation should be in accordance with the hopes of the Government, and if the Burmese should either make overtures for peace, or should be supposed likely to accept them, you are authorized to agree to, or to offer the following terms of accommodation:—

1st. The payment of 15 lacs of rupees.

2nd. The payment of 3 lacs of rupees, in addition to the above sum, for every month which may elapse after the 1st May, until full payment is made.

3rd. Until these conditions shall be fulfilled, the British troops shall remain in undisturbed possession of such captured places as they may choose to retain.

4th. If the conditions shall not be fulfilled on or before the 1st October, the Government of India will take such measures as it may think right.

Upon the acceptance of such overtures being reported, the Government of India would transmit to you such further instructions as might be required.

Inclosure 5 in No. 8.

Mr. Allen to Commodore Lambert.

Fort William, March 24, 1852.

I AM directed by the Governor-General in Council to acquaint you, that the land force, which has been prepared with a view to active operations in Burmah, being about to sail, Lieutenant-General Godwin, C.B., has been appointed to the command.

As there appears to be little probability of the demands of the British Government being acceded to by the Government of Ava, except as the consequence of successful operations by the military force which has been dispatched, the Governor-General in Council, having regard to the expediency of uniting every power in the hands of one person on such occasions, has resolved to invest Lieutenant-General Godwin, the officer in command of the troops, with the whole political authority connected with the expedition.

You are requested to place the services of Captain Latter, Burmese interpreter to the expedition, at the disposal of Lieutenant-General Godwin.

A copy of the instructions addressed to that officer is transmitted for your information.

In addition to the steam-vessels which have already been under your orders, those named in the margin* will join you at the rendezvous.

* Feroze, Mozuffer, Sesostris, Zenobia, Medusa, Berenice, and, probably, Hugh Lindsay.

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In soliciting your cooperation for accomplishing fully the objects of this Government, the Governor-General in Council has only to repeat the expression of his perfect confidence that the officers commanding the naval and military forces respectively, will act together in entire harmony and concert upon a service in which they have for their common object, the protection of British subjects, and the maintenance of the honor and power of our name.

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Treaty with the King of Ava.

Signed at Yandaboo, February 24, 1826.

TREATY of PEACE between the Honorable East India Company on the one part, and His Majesty the King of Ava on the other, settled by Major-General Sir Archibald Campbell, K.C.B. and K.C.T.S., commanding the Expedition, and Senior Commissioner in Pegu and Ava, Thomas Campbell Robertson, Esquire, Civil Commissioner in Pegu and Ava, and Henry Ducie Chads, Esquire, Captain, commanding His Britannic Majesty's and the Honorable Company's Naval Force on the Irrawaddy River, on the part of the Honorable Company; and by Mengyee-Maha-Men-Klah-Kyan-Ten Woongyee, Lord of Lay-Kaeng, and Mengyee Mahah-Men-Klah-Shee-hah-the-Ahren-Woon, Lord of the Revenue, on the part of the King of Ava; who have each communicated to the other their full-powers; agreed to and executed at Yandaboo, in the Kingdom of Ava, on this 24th day of February, in the year of our Lord 1826, corresponding with the fourth day of the decrease of the Moon Tuboung, in the year 1187, Mandina Era:

ARTICLE I.

There shall be perpetual peace and friendship between the Honourable Company, on the one part, and His Majesty the King of Ava, on the other.

ARTICLE II.

His Majesty the King of Ava renounces all claims upon, and will abstain from all future interference with, the Principality of Assam and its dependencies, and also with the contiguous petty States of Cachar and Jyntia. With regard to Munipore, it is stipulated that should Ghumbheer Singh desire to return to that country, he shall be recognised by the King of Ava as Rajah thereof.

ARTICLE III.

To prevent all future disputes respecting the boundary-line between the two great nations, the British Government will retain the conquered Provinces of Arracan, including the four divisions of Arracan, Ramree, Cheduba, and Sandowey, and His Majesty the King of Ava cedes all right thereto. The Annonpeeteetonmien, or Arracan Mountains (known in Arracan by the name of the Yeornabourg or Pokhengloung range), will henceforth form the boundary between the two great nations on that side. Any doubts regarding the said line of demarcation will be settled by Commissioners appointed by the respective Governments for that purpose, such Commissioners from both Powers to be of suitable and corresponding rank.

ARTICLE IV.

His Majesty the King of Ava cedes to the British Government the conquered Provinces of Yeh, Tavoy, and Mergui, and Tenasserim, with the islands and dependencies thereunto appertaining, taking the Saluen River as the line of demarcation on that frontier. Any doubts regarding their boundaries will be settled as specified in the concluding part of Article III.

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ARTICLE V.

In proof of the sincere disposition of the Burmese Government to maintain the relations of peace and amity between the nations, and as part indemnification to the British Government for the expenses of the war, His Majesty the King of Ava agrees to pay the sum of one crore of rupees.

ARTICLE VI.

No person whatever, whether native or foreign, is hereafter to be molested by either party, on account of the part which he may have taken, or have been compelled to take, in the present war.

ARTICLE VII.

In order to cultivate and improve the relations of amity and peace hereby established between the two Governments, it is agreed that accredited Ministers, retaining an escort or safeguard of fifty men, from each, shall reside at the Durbar of the other, who shall be permitted to purchase or to build a suitable place of residence, of permanent materials; and a Commercial Treaty, upon principles of reciprocal advantage, will be entered into by the two High Contracting Powers.

ARTICLE VIII.

All public and private debts contracted by either Government, or by the subjects of either Government, with the other, previous to the war, to be recognised and liquidated upon the same principles of honor and good faith as if hostilities had not taken place between the two nations; and no advantage shall be taken by either party, of the period that may have elapsed since the debts were incurred, or in consequence of the war; and, according to the universal Law of Nations, it is further stipulated, that the property of all British subjects who may die in the dominions of His Majesty the King of Ava, shall, in the absence of legal heirs, be placed in the hands of the British Resident or Consul in the said dominions, who will dispose of the same according to the tenor of the British Law. In like manner, the property of Burmese subjects, dying under the same circumstances in any part of the British Dominions, shall be made over to the Minister or other authority delegated by His Burmese Majesty to the Supreme Government of India.

ARTICLE IX.

The King of Ava will abolish all exactions upon British ships or vessels in Burman ports, that are not required from Burman ships or vessels in British ports; nor shall ships or vessels, the property of British subjects, whether European or Indian, entering the Rangoon River or other Burman ports, be required to land their guns or unship their rudders, or to do any other act not required of Burmese ships or vessels in British ports.

ARTICLE X.

The good and faithful ally of the British Government, His Majesty the King of Siam, having taken a part in the present war, will, to the fullest extent, as far as regards His Majesty and his subjects, be included in the above Treaty.

ARTICLE XI.

This Treaty to be ratified by the Burmese authorities competent in the like cases, and the ratification to be accompanied by all British, whether European

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or native (American) and other prisoners, who will be delivered over to the British Commissioners. The British Commissioners, on their part, engaging that the said Treaty shall be ratified by the Right Honorable the Governor-General in Council, and the ratification shall be delivered to His Majesty the King of Ava in four months, or sooner if possible; and all the Burmese prisoners shall, in like manner, be delivered over to their own Government as soon as they arrive from Bengal.

LARGEEN MEONJA WOONGHEE.	(L.S.)	A. CAMPBELL, Major-General, and Senior Commissioner.
[Seal of the Lotoo.]	(L.S.)	T. C. ROBERTSON, Civil Commissioner.
SHWAGUM WOON ATAWOON.	(L.S.)	H. D. CHADS, Captain Royal Navy.

ADDITIONAL ARTICLE.

The British Commissioners being most anxiously desirous to manifest the sincerity of their wish for peace, and to make the immediate execution of the Fifth Article of this Treaty as little irksome, or inconvenient as possible to His Majesty the King of Ava, consent to the following arrangements, with respect to the division of the sum total, as specified in the Article before referred to, into instalments, viz.: upon the payment of twenty-five lacs of rupees, or one-fourth of the sum total (the other Articles of the Treaty being executed), the army will retire to Rangoon; upon the further payment of a similar sum at that place, within one hundred days from this date, with the proviso as above, the army will evacuate the dominions of His Majesty the King of Ava, with the least possible delay; leaving the remaining moiety of the sum total to be paid by equal annual instalments in two years, from this 24th day of February, 1826, A. D., through the Consul, or Resident in Ava, or Pegu, on the part of the Honourable the East India Company.

LARGEEN MEONJA WOONGHEE.	(L.S.)	A. CAMPBELL, Major-General, and Senior Commissioner.
[Seal of the Lotoo.]	(L.S.)	T. C. ROBERTSON, Civil Commissioner.
SHWAGUM WOON ATAWOON.	(L.S.)	H. D. CHADS, Captain Royal Navy.

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Commercial Treaty with Ava.

Signed November 23, 1826.

A Commercial Treaty, signed and sealed at the golden city of Ra-ta-na-para, on the 23rd of November, 1826, according to the English, and the 9th of the decrease of the moon Tan-Soung-mong, 1188, according to the Burmans, by the Envoy Crawfurd, appointed by the English Ruler the Company's Buren, who governs India, and the Commissioners, the Atenwoon Mengyee-thi-ha-maha-then-Kyan, Lord of Sau, and the Atenwoon Mengyee-maha-men-lha-thi-ha-thee, Lord of the Revenue, appointed by His Majesty the Burmese Rising Sun Buren, who reigns over Thu-na-pa-ran-ta-Tam-pa-di-pa, and many other great countries.

According to the Treaty of Peace between the two great nations, made at Yandaboo, in order to promote the prosperity of both countries, and with a desire to assist and protect the trade of both, the Commissioner and Envoy Crawfurd, appointed by the English Company's Buren, who rules India, and the Commissioners the Atenwoon Mengyee-thi-ha-maha-nauda-then-Kyan, Lord of Sau, and the Atenwoon Mengyee-maha-men-lha-ti-ha-thu, Lord of the Revenue, appointed by His Majesty the Burmese Rising Sun Buren, who rules over Thu-na-para-Tam-pa-di-pa, and many other great countries. These three, in the conference-tent at the landing-place of Ze-ya-pu-ra, north of the golden city of Ye-ta-na-pura, with mutual consent completed this Engagement.

ARTICLE I.

Peace being made between the great country governed by the English Prince the India Company Buren, and the great country of Ya-ta-na-pura, which rules over Thu-na-para-Tam-pa-di-pa, and many other great countries, when merchants with an English stamped pass from the country of the English Prince, and merchants from the Kingdom of Burmah, pass from one country to the other, selling and buying merchandize, the sentinels at the passes and entrances, the established gatekeepers of the country, shall make inquiry as usual, but without demanding any money; and all merchants coming truly for the purpose of trade with merchandize, shall be suffered to pass without hindrance or molestation. The Governments of both countries also shall permit ships with cargoes to enter ports and carry on trade, giving them the utmost protection and security; and in regard to duties, there shall none be taken beside the customary duties at the landing-places of trade.

ARTICLE II.

Ships whose breadth of beam on the inside (opening of the hold) is 8 Royal Burmese cubits of $19\frac{1}{10}$th English inches each, and all ships of smaller size, whether merchants from the Burmese Country entering an English port under the Burmese flag, or merchants from the English country with an English stamped pass entering a Burmese port under the English flag, shall be subjected to no other demands beside the payment of duties, and 10 ticals 25 per cent. (10 sicca rupees) for a chokey pass on leaving. Nor shall pilotage be demanded, unless the captain voluntarily requires a pilot. However, when ships arrive, information shall be given to the officer stationed at the entrance of the sea, in regard to vessels whose breadth of beam exceeds 8 Royal cubits, and remain, according to Article IX of the Treaty of Yandaboo, without unshipping their rudders or landing their guns, and be free from trouble and molestation, as Burmese vessels in British ports. Besides the Royal duties, no more duties shall be given or taken than such as are customary.

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ARTICLE III.

Merchants belonging to one, who go to the other country and remain there, shall, when they desire to return, go to whatever place and by whatever vessel they may desire, without hindrance. Property owned by merchants they shall be allowed to sell, and property not sold and household furniture, they shall be allowed to take away, without hindrance or incurring any expense.

ARTICLE IV.

English and Burmese vessels meeting with contrary winds, or sustaining damage in masts, rigging, &c., or suffering shipwreck on the shore, shall, according to the laws of charity, receive assistance from the inhabitants of the towns and villages that may be near, the master of the wrecked ship paying to those that assist, suitable salvage, according to the circumstances of the case; and whatever property may remain in the case of shipwreck, shall be restored to the owner.

(L.S.) J. CRAWFURD.

[King of Ava's Seal.] ATWENWOON MENGYEE-THI-HAMAHA-NAUDA-THEN-KYAN, *Lord of Sau.*
ATWENWOON MENGYEE-MAHA-MEN-THI-HA-THU, *Lord of the Revenue.*

Ratified by the Right Honorable the Governor-General, on the first day of September, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven, A.D.

A. STERLING, *Secretary to Government.*

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