

Private Letter Book

Governor's Office

Singapore December 5 1859

My dear Lewis,

I shall feel much obliged by your obtaining and forwarding to me with the least practicable delay any information you can possibly procure on the following points connected with the Native State of Acheen in Sumatra.

1st. Anchorage at the Principal Port, including the nature of Bottom, Sand, Mud or Rock, sheltered or exposed at different seasons to prevailing winds, Depth of Water from two miles inwards etc.

2nd. (Neighbouring Coast) whether bold and rugged or low and swampy.

3rd. (Landing Places), sand, mud or rock. How far affected by the tides.

4th. (Rise and Fall of the Tides)

5th. (defence of the Port) number and position of the different Batteries, Stockades, how armed and manned whether by Pieces of Eight or heavy calibre.

6th. (River leading up to the Capital) whether navigable for any distance by large ships — What depths of water to be found opposite the Capital. Whether it is obstructed at the mouth or anywhere in its course, by bars or sandbanks. How far affected by the tide.

7th. Distance of the Capital from the Port and means of communication with it.

8th. (Nature of the Country between the Port and the Capital). Whether flat or undulating, dry or marshy, cultivated or uncultivated, open or jungly, easily traversed or intersected by Creeks.

9th. General features of the Acheen Coast - with those of the different places for anchorage.

10th. Salubrity or otherwise of the Coast and the inland Districts.

11th. Extent and Nature of Military Armed Force at the disposal of the Sultan, Artillery, Cavalry, Infantry, how armed and equipped.

12th. Extent and nature of Naval Armed Force.

13th. Extent and nature of commerce with other Nations.

Any general account which you may be able to furnish regarding the above State - the habits etc. of its inhabitants and the power exercised by the ruler, will be acceptable. Of course, in making your enquiries regarding the several points to which I have drawn your attention you will take care to do so in such a manner as not to attract observation. Should you be unable to procure the information I require at Penang, and have at your disposal the services of a man in whom you can place implicit trust, you are at liberty to send him over to Acheen by any favourable opportunity, but this course is not very advisable, and can hardly I imagine be necessary, as there must be many masters of Ships and Native Nakhodas who must be well acquainted with the Country and from whom valuable information may be collected, without at the same time their suspicions being excited.

Believe me etc.

Sgd Orfeur Cavenagh

JB

Singapore, December 7, 1859

My dear Grey,

Many thanks for your letter of the 25 Nov. I am afraid I shall not be able to obtain such information here regarding Acheen, the only person I can hear of who has visited it being Captain Wright who has not been there for the last 10 years; by his account the anchorage is fair, but vessels must lie some 2 or 3 miles from land, and that Men of War would not be able to cover a landing if one were necessary to be made. The Country from the shore to the Sultan's residence is apparently a mass of Jungle, so that the only means of approach to the latter is by means of the River, which is navigable for ships' Pinnaces carrying 12 Pr. Guns though there is a nasty bar at the mouth, having only three feet at low and 5 feet 6 inches at high water. Unless recently erected there are no Batteries along the shore and when a salute from a Man of War is returned it is necessary to give previous notice to enable the Sultan's people to bring down one or two old Pieces which are planted on the land. Had your letter reached me two days earlier I would have procured a good account of Acheen from Captain McClure of the *Esk* who visited the place last year — the *Esk* has left this {port?} for Labuan and Siam but she will be at Penang about the middle of next month. I shall also visit there about the same time to make my tour of Inspection and to await any orders that may be sent regarding the expedition to Acheen which will I presume start from Penang as the nearest station. I have sent privately to Mr Lewis a string of queries regarding Acheen which I have little doubt he will be able to answer and I will then reply to your official communication. All the letters regarding the Penang case and the establishment for the court will be forwarded by the next Calcutta Mail — The last proof of evidence he submitted at the investigation have just been received. I believe matters are settling down at Malacca and by the last accounts Macpherson was of opinion that the influence of the Hooeys had been materially checked.

Cavenagh

JB

Extracts from letter to Captain Macpherson

Singapore 21 Dec 1859

With regard to Mr Neubronner his advancement must now depend very much on himself, coming as he is to rather an expensive place and being I understand of somewhat expensive habits, as you take an interest, you might perhaps give him a hint that I look upon debt as a serious bar to anyone's promotion to an office of trust and responsibility.

Although Earle does not wish to leave Penang at present, I believe Barradaile will be provided for by Mr Braddell's resignation. Which I understand will take place immediately on his return from furlough. There is I think every probability of my being able to meet your wishes, with respect to allowing your temporary arrangements for the performance of the duties of Asst Resident to hold good until Playfair's final intentions are known. I hardly think he will return.

If you think Ayer Panas a better place for the Asst. to hold his Court than Kassang issue your instructions accordingly, mentioning that you have done so — I selected the latter because it appeared by your Map that there was a large Police Station and Bungalow there — I shall be happy to remit the remainder of the confinement inflicted upon the offending Punghooloos, but I would do so apparently upon your recommendation, when all the others are assembled to make their salaam, or, so I suppose you call it Kasee Jalil, this would strengthen your hand, as shewing that after all you are the actual authority to whom they must look.

I do not think there is any chance just at present of your having to take any steps with regard to your friends, the French Priests. England is now almost too well prepared although of course a spark might kindle into a flame at any moment. In the event of War being declared, you would at once send them down under escort to Singapore, where they would be duly furnished with Passports and directed to leave the British Settlements.

True Extracts JB

Sec

Copy

Singapore December 27/59

My dear Barradaile,

I am much obliged for your letters of the 25 Ulto and 20 Instant, and the information they afford on matters connected with the Province under your charge. There are many points relative to the duties performed in the Land Office, which, as far as I can ascertain will require looking into and I shall certainly institute a strict enquiry on my arrival at Penang into the cause of the delay that has occurred in issuing their grants to the peasant Proprietors, in having to dance attendance at the Office for several days, ere they receive the grants to which they are entitled; this being an undisputed fact cannot necessitate your being called upon to submit any charge against the Clerk, if there be grounds for a Charge, they will be elicited in the course of the investigation as to the cause of the delay. I am glad to find that you are making yourself acquainted with the wants of your District, (the roads should never have been placed under the charge of the Municipal Commissioners with reference to Section V of the Municipal Act, they should have been kept under the control of the Local Govt, the Commissioner as at present merely looking after those extending to a distance of three miles from the Town, on this subject enquiries will be necessary hereafter — The Commissioners have submitted a project for a new bridge, which both Collyer and Man declare would not be sufficiently strong to support its own weight.

I purpose insisting upon the Assistant in Province Wellesley holding, as has already been ordered at Malacca, his Court either once a week or once a fortnight, as may appear most desirable, at one of the out stations, so as to enable the peasantry to have their cases decided without being compelled to take a long trudge into Butterworth, at the same time by a new arrangement with regard to the Police, I hope to be able to relieve him of his duties as Coroner, which are not, in my opinion, suited to his appointment, etc. etc. etc.

Sgd O Cavenagh

True extract

27/12 J Burn

Singapore 27/12/59

To Col Thomson C B,

Commissary General

My dear Thomson,

I dare say you will be surprised at receiving this letter and somewhat perhaps at its contents. The subject I am writing about being that of procuring elephants for your Department — since I have been down here and have heard frequent mention made of the numerous Elephants to be found on the Mooar River, which runs through the Native District adjoining our Settlement at Malacca, and it has struck me that it might perhaps be worth while for the Commissariat to establish a Depot for the purpose of purchasing Elephants for transportation to India — at present no efforts are made to capture them and therefore I can give you little information on the subject of their probable cost etc., but if you consider the arrangement of having a Depot at Singapore likely to prove advantageous and will furnish me with a Memo of points upon which you will require

information I will have all your queries duly answered. I presume that you are now making arrangements for the coming Campaign in China; if we have 15,000 men employed in that quarter your labour will not be light. From all I hear the Country will supply you with little and you will have to be almost entirely dependent on your own resources; there will be great difficulties also with regard to carriage, but few beasts of burthen are procurable in China, and for the transport of your provisions and stores you will be mainly dependent upon Chinese Porters. You should have two Officers in this part of the world — one at Labuan to draw out the resources of Borneo, whence you can be supplied with Bullocks, and the other for the Straits Settlements, to extract whatever may be procurable from the Malay Peninsula and Sumatra — our own Territories, I am sorry to say, will give you nothing except by the bye Sago, Tobacco and perhaps Rum and Sugar from Province Wellesley, this latter officer should be peripatetic, etc. etc.

Sgd O Cavenagh

True extract

27/12 J Burn

Confidential No 1 Singapore 27 December 1859

To: The Secretary to the Govt of India

Foreign Dept

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter N. 6673 of the 25 Ulto and to report for the information of His Honor the President in Council that as far as I have been yet able to ascertain the anchorage at Acheen is an open roadstead sheltered by the land from the South West, but exposed to the North East Monsoon. Large vessels anchor between 2 and 3 miles from the Coast in from 9 to 14 fathoms, smaller vessels may run to about half a mile from the Landing Place.

2. The shore opposite the Anchorage is sandy and men can land easily at high water but

there would be some little difficulty with regard to guns.

3. There are a few houses near the landing place, but there are no roads leading from it to

the interior and the only means of communication is by the River. Apparently little or no opposition could be offered to our Force in the event of its being deemed necessary to land.

4. Respecting the defences I have received contradictory accounts. There is an old English Fort which commands the Mouth of the River and is said to have been recently heavily armed, and 4 Gun Battery is also stated to have been erected in the same locality.

5. The mouth of the river is protected by a natural bar covered during the spring tide at low tide by only about 3 feet and at high water by about 5 feet 6 inches of water, so that even large boats have some difficulty at times in crossing. This barrier once passed there are few obstacles to armed boats proceeding up the river to the Sultan's residence.

6. Owing to the indisposition of the Resident Councillor at Penang I have not yet received information upon several points which I was compelled to write to him to obtain, as it would be more valuable than any that could be procured here owing to there being constant intercourse between Penang and Acheen. On the receipt of Mr Lewis' reply I hope to be able to furnish a more detailed report than the present

O Cavenagh

Governor

True copy

28/12 J Burn

Secty

Singapore Dec 28/1859

To: A Sconce Esq.,

Member of the Legislative Council.

My dear Mr Sconce,

I have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 21st Ultmo

and to enclose for your information an Extract from a letter recently received from the Resident Councillor at Malacca together with copies of Office Records bearing upon the subject of the rights of the Land holders at that Station. From a perusal of the latter more especially from that of the President's Minute dated 26th November 1829 (in which as in some others I have marked the more important passages) it is I think tolerably clear, that the so called Proprietors were never granted Proprietary rights, their rights were strictly limited to the power of levying the Government dues from the Peasantry, whilst for this privilege they were bound to keep up an

efficient Police, to maintain all existing roads, canals etc. in a proper state of repair, and to cause the waste lands to be cleared and cultivated, the Government reserving to itself the right to resume the land at pleasure, in some cases however a claim is made to moderate compensation being admitted, though in others it was entirely ignored.

With regard to the redeemed grants there can therefore be little difficulty, the grantees had certain privileges, which they willingly surrendered for fixed annuities, thus their connection with the land was altogether severed, the Government has evidently the right to dispose of the land and the question to be decided is the amount to be given to the Annuitants, in liquidation of their present claims, although inclined to treat them liberally I cannot coincide with Captain Macpherson in thinking that their Annuities are worth 20 years' purchase. Government is at present paying over 6 per cent for the new loan, the Municipal Commissioners at Singapore have been paying 9 per cent and those at Penang, 12 per cent for loans contracted for Public purpose and indeed this latter rate of Interest may be considered the prevalent rate of Interest throughout the Straits Settlements; hence in my opinion, if the Government were to give the Malacca Annuitants 12 years' purchase, the arrangement would be for the Annuitants a most advantageous one.

As respects the holders of the unredeemed grants, there are certainly perhaps now some objections to our treating them in the same way as the Annuitants, still although they have held the ground for thirty years the conditions of their holdings have not altered, and if the Government had originally the rights of resumption, that right, never having been formally relinquished. Is still possessed. Moreover calculating the income they at present derive from the land, an offer of 12 years' purchase would in all probability be thankfully accepted, as they might be allowed to retain their Estates, valid Titles being given to them and at the same time an assessment being imposed upon them in like manner as upon all other land in the British Indian Territories, not being freehold, either by purchase or by special grant

I cannot discover in any of the works of reference in my Library any precise information as to the rights of the Sovereign with regard to the collection of dues upon all mines opened within his dominions, if however there can be any doubt as to the old System, under which Royalties were enforced, being still in existence in these Settlements, it would be advisable to insert a special stipulation in the grants, as the greater portion of our Revenue at Malacca is derived from the Tin Mines.

Trusting you will forgive all the trouble I have given you

Orfeur Cavenagh

True Copy J Burn

29/12/59 Sect

List of Documents transmitted

Copy - Proceedings of a Meeting held on the 10th October 1826.

Ditto for 11' October 1826.

- " - of Report on Malacca lands dated 30' Janry/28.
- " - Translation of an old Dutch order made by V W Lewis on the 30' April 1828.
- " - Statement of Lands taken by Government dated 26' November 1829
- " - Minute by the President dated 26' November 1829.
- " - Statement of Lands unredeemed, dated 23' December 1859.
- " - List of Annuities paid to Landed Proprietors in October 1859.
- " - Extract from resident Councillor's letter dated 21' November 1859..

sgd Orfeur Cavenagh

JB

Extract from a demi-Official from the Governor to Captain Macpherson, R.C. Malacca

Singapore 30' December /59

I am sorry to say that within the last few days Dunman has received so unfavourable an account of Mr Neubronner, as respects the serious nature of his liabilities that he has deemed it his duty to bring the matter to my notice, with an earnest request that I will not, as originally arranged, bring him into the Police in Mr Toomey's vacancy, as with his heavy debts, which would be at once transferred from Malacca to this place, he could not consider him sufficiently trustworthy to admit of his being placed in so important a charge as that of a District; under these circumstances it is absolutely necessary that I should refrain from insisting upon an arrangement to which I know that Dunman is opposed on conscientious grounds alone, as he originally suggested my giving him a trial under his immediate supervision with a view of course to future preferment, and consequently I shall feel much obliged by your kindly sending for Mr Neubronner, telling him candidly what I have now mentioned without of course making use of Dunman's name, and stating that it will be out of my power to take his claims to Government employ into consideration until he has thoroughly extricated himself from his present pecuniary embarrassments; this decision with reference to the remarks contained in my former letter cannot I presume cause him much surprise. I am sorry for it for his Father's sake; at the same time the public good demands that I should abstain from employing in an important Department any person in whom the head of that Department has been obliged to declare his want of confidence, owing to his notorious insolvency. Mr Toomey has been appointed Deputy Commissioner at Malacca but will I am afraid be detained for a short time owing to his having to give evidence in the recent murder case..

True Extract

30/12/59 J Burn

Sect

To Captain Man R C Singapore 31 Dec/59

My dear Man,

With reference to our conversation yesterday I shall feel much obliged by your furnishing me with any detailed information in your power relative to the arrangement under which the Tumongong supports to a certain extent the gunboats etc. If it was under an agreement with this Government it will be out of my power to recognize his right to withdraw from it, without submitting the question for the consideration of the Supreme Government. I have always understood that there was a mutual agreement to maintain a force to keep down Piracy in the old Straits to which the Tumongong should contribute a certain sum. If this is the case, I am at a loss to understand on what plea he can now expect to be relieved from the payment of his quota; if his contribution has been entirely voluntary, of course, he can, if he likes stop it, though even then I should think it right to report the matter to India.

Sd Orfeur Cavenagh

31/12 True copy J Burn

Sect

Confidential No 2 Singapore 4th January 1860

To the Off. Sec. Govt. of In. Foreign Dept.

Sir,

With reference to my letter No 1 of the 27th Ulto I have the honor to forward herewith for submission to his honor the President in Council, a Native Sketch of the Acheen River. Showing the positions of the different Batteries by which it is defended.

2. Owing, I regret to say, to the serious indisposition of the Resident Councillor at

Penang, up to the present he has been unable to furnish the information he was called upon to afford, and I am consequently afraid that it will be out of my power to forward any detailed account of the Acheen Coast and its defences, until my arrival at Penang which I expect to reach towards the end of the current month.

/sd/ Orfeur Cavenagh Colonel

Governor

True copy J Burn

Sect

Extract from letter from the Governor to Captn Macpherson R C Malacca

Singapore Janry 7th/60

I have not heard anything more from Man regarding the Tumongong complaint. I should certainly prohibit his making any aggressive move upon his neighbour of Mooar, we cannot allow fighting to go on near our Frontiers. (I have received a letter from Mr Cameron, the Candidate for the School Mastership at Malacca, the style of it fully bears out the Bishop's opinion regarding him, and shows his unfitness for the appointment, he would quarrel with his assistants before he had been 24 hours in charge.

JB

Singapore January 11 1860

My dear Grey,

Many thanks for the trouble you have taken with respect to the Cotton seed which has arrived safely and will accompany me to Penang whence I will dispatch it to the Rajah of Quedah.

I have little news to give you from this quarter, everything I am happy to say going on smoothly; the Punghooloos at Malacca all very penitent and anxiously awaiting my visit in the hopes of obtaining a mitigation of their punishment which I have arranged with Macpherson is to be granted upon his representation in their behalf at the Durbar which I propose holding for the purpose of allowing the Native Officials to make their salaam to the new Governor, a little clemency in this case will I think have a beneficial effect, as it is the first occasion on which the terrors of the Law have been brought to bear against Members of the Secret Societies; on this occasion certainly the common law can be used with effect and Sir Richard McCausland is of opinion that no special law is required, but (it must be remembered that in Sir Richard we have a judge who will always support the Govt if he can do so conscientiously and will certainly never wilfully oppose it) we may have a judge of another stamp, or who although perhaps equally conscientious may take another view of the powers vested in the Authorities at Common Law (there has indeed been in Singapore an instance of the Police having entered the place of assembly of a Secret Society where the President was in the act of administering the oaths to the neophytes and yet the case was obliged to be compromised because there was no one who understood Chinese sufficiently to be able to say that the oaths being administered were illegal. On the above occasion a copy of the rules of the Society was seized, it is now with a translation subsequently made in my possession, the 4th Rule is.....now although the rule may originally

have been intended only to apply to resistance to the authority of the Chinese Mandarin, when the oath is administered to our Malay subjects, it can only be deemed applicable to the Troops of the only power they recognize, viz the British, and it is certainly not advisable to admit of the possibility of the whole of the different races being banded together under a solemn oath to oppose the Government. I do not think there is now any immediate danger of such being the case, still I cannot help being of opinion that it is right to guard against such a contingency. At all the Settlements the principal instigators of the Hooey Movements are men who apparently come to the Straits with hardly any other object, having often no professed means of livelihood and no tie to the country; in fact they live by preying upon the fears of their neighbours. At Singapore and Penang Settlements that have been formed by us, the Chinese element preponderates among the population, but this {is} not the case at Malacca where the Chinese Residents are in a great measure confined to the Towns, the Peasantry being chiefly Malays, whilst the men who have been most concerned in establishing the Hooeys have been the Chinese Miners who are perfectly migratory and live as much in the adjoining Native States as in our territories. They are rather inclined to be turbulent and have once or twice given the R.C. a little trouble.

I am in hopes that I shall be able to get out in the Tin Districts, they form a very important portion of the Settlement and were an English Company established to work the mines would not only I believe yield a good revenue to Government but also a handsome profit to the Company, for want of proper Machinery for clearing out the water, the Chinese Miners are unable to penetrate to any great depth and as soon as a mine is flooded they leave it and commence their excavations elsewhere. An Engineer was sent out by a Company from England some little time ago but he would insist, against all remonstrances upon exposing to the sun etc. and consequently was attacked by fever and went home and reported that although there was no want of ore the climate was deadly, this put a stop to further operations.

(By the bye I think it right to mention that if the Indian Govt is to be held in any way responsible for a sufficient supply of coal being left at Singapore to meet the wants of the Indian steamers proceeding with Troops and Invalids to and from China, it is advisable that steps should be taken to order out a supply from England, we only retain sufficient for our own wants and at present have not more than 600 tons in store. Her M's Navy however having about 9000 which is chiefly sent out here from home, whilst the Local Store is replenished by purchases made here at a very high rate.)

True Extract

J Burns

January 11' 1860 Singapore

Copy

My dear Mr Sconce,

By the mail I have the pleasure to send you a rough sketch of the Settlement of Malacca shewing the redeemed and unredeemed lands which I think give you an idea of the tract of country for

which you are about to legislate and be perhaps found useful. In estimating the value of the annuities at about 12 years' purchase I may possibly have somewhat underrated but I should certainly think 15 years should be the maximum or it might perhaps be advisable to make some arrangements under which the old proprietors receive back a portion of the land in part payment of their present annuities. When once the Act is passed and we can form at Malacca a proprietary Class, having little ready money and a permanent interest in the soil, the Settlement will become extremely prosperous and yield a considerable sum to our Treasury, as well as furnish us at Singapore with sufficient rice for the whole of our consumption.

I am happy to say the Hooey Movement appears for the present to be effectually checked and I am in hopes that we shall not be troubled for some time to come though it is of course right to guard against all contingencies.

Orfeur Cavenagh

True Copy

12/160 J Burn Captain

Singapore 12 January 1860

To Lt Col Yule, S Govt Ind P.W.D.

My dear Yule,

I think it right to forward for the information of the Governor-General a copy of a demi-official communication lately received from Captain Collyer announcing the great probability of his having to proceed to England on Medi-Cer. in March. His departure will be a great loss to me as, independent of his scientific attainments, he is an energetic and zealous Officer and one upon whom I could always depend for most cordial assistance in carrying out any design for the benefit of the Straits Settlements or of any of the Public Departments attached at Singapore, indeed the Municipal Commissioners consult him upon all Engineering matters and he is always ready to aid them with his advice; as he is only to be absent for a year or fifteen months I should have been satisfied with Captain McNair who is a smart and intelligent Officer as his locum tenens, but he tells me there are so many Engineer Officers of undoubted claims now unemployed that such an arrangement could not possibly be expected. I trust however that you will kindly cause a hint to be given to whoever may be appointed that he is not to interfere with the system Collyer has introduced into his Department, as temporary changes are never advisable and frequently give a good deal of unnecessary trouble.

By the bye is there any truth in the Report that Chief Engineers are to become Secretaries to Government, from what I have seen of the working of the Department, I think the arrangement would be a good one and save a great deal of correspondence, here the Chief Engineer is virtually the Sect to Govt in the Public Works Dept. I always consult him before issuing any order and, except in matters of routine, his Drafts are submitted for my consideration before the fair copies are written, at the same time the whole of the work is again transmitted in my

Secretary's Office by means of a lengthy correspondence. Our Military Works here have progressed very well and by the time I return from my tour to Penang for which I plan to start on Monday I hope to find them completed. Up to the present we have not received our Guns from Madras and I have just addressed the Govt there on the subject as they have been long promised. (The principal item in our Budget for the year will be Civil Works, one, a very expensive one for the introduction of Water into Singapore, for which it appears to me that owing to great carelessness on the part of the authorities here, the Government has in a measure been pledged) It is a long story which I will give in full hereafter officially but the main fact is this — a Chinese Gentleman promised to make a handsome donation towards carrying out the undertaking, as a work of great charity to the work of the Town, without any consideration as to the expense involved, the Governor accepted the offer, at the same time however directing an Estimate to be prepared, the R C to whom the Order was issued being unfortunately an amateur Engineer, dispensed with the Estimate and commenced operations on his own judgment, upwards of £2000 has been spent in the purchase of earthenware pipes, whilst the design for the work is still unexecuted and I believe it cannot cost less than three times the sum named, and may indeed cost much more.

True extract J Burn Captain

Governor's Office 14/1/60

My dear Mr Dunman,

His Honor the Governor has passed the Secret Service Money Bill for 565 dollars, but desires me to ask if this is all right, as he does not exactly understand from the Memo on the back of your bill, whether you want the 500 dollars or not, how the Municipal Commissioners can have the power of settling it, as they have not authority (as far as the Governor knows) so to do.

A fresh bill prepared and signed

for sixty five dollars only

14/1/60 J Burn

My dear Collyer,

In continuation of mine of 13th Instant the Governor has desired me to add that as Mr Campbell got four Gentlemen to value the land on Mr Prinsep's behalf, it would perhaps be better if you were to take one or two other Government Officers into consultation with you, say the Surveyor General and Capt Man, but will leave you to do so or not as you think best, and therefore the enclosed notes are sent to you to forward or not as you like.

True extract JB

Malacca January 17/60

My dear Captain Man,

The Governor has desired me to write and mention to you that he has been thinking over the subject of granting shipping Licences to some non-officials at Singapore, and as it may to some appear a monopoly allowing the Superintendent of the Sailors' Home to have the sole privilege, he would feel obliged if you would look about you, and if you can really find a respectable and proper person to be entrusted therewith, grant him a licence.

J Burn

Penang Hill 28/1/60

My dear Mr Lewis,

His Honour the Governor desires me to state that he cannot of course correspond with the Rajah of Acheen until he receives orders regarding him from Calcutta, and he therefore requests that you will merely inform Mr Nairne that an answer will be sent hereafter.

J Burn

Penang January 30

My dear Thomson,

I have duly received your letter of the 21st Inst, from Martineau and have furnished him with the requisite orders with the different authorities at Singapore to render him every possible assistance. (There will I believe be no difficulty in affording temporary accommodation to the Native Troops during their sojourn at the Settlement as previous to my departure I sanctioned a range of sheds sufficient to shelter about 700 men being put into a habitable state for that purpose. As for supplies nothing can be procured in the Straits and it will I think be advisable for you to send down Sheep and Wheat from Calcutta. When I left none of the former, even at the rate we pay viz \$11.25 — about 26 rupees per head, were to be had. When once the troops reach China I believe it will be possible to procure Sheep and Wheat, the latter in large quantities from the Northern Provinces but I am unable at present to give you any idea of the prices, though I should imagine that they will certainly be higher than those ruling in Bengal. Martineau tells me that the Queen's Commissariat will make arrangements for provisioning the European Troops. You will therefore have no need to dispatch an Agent to Labuan to purchase carriage for the Native Troops, you should endeavour to procure Ponies from Bali and Lombok taking care however not to interfere with your colleagues in the Rajah's, who have already commenced opening up the field. Ponies may be procured at this Station from the neighbouring Native States, but the prices are high and they are not said to be as strong as beasts of burthen. The R.C. Mr Lewis is of opinion that there would be no difficulty in obtaining Elephants if it was thought desirable to establish them in China.

Sd / Orfeur Cavenagh

JB

Confidential No 3 January 30/60 Penang

To Govt Foreign Department

Sir,

With reference to the concluding Para: of my letter No 2 dated 4th Instant I have the honour to enclose for submission to His Honour the President in Council a rough chart of the Acheen River and two papers containing replies to certain queries regarding the different points with respect to Acheen which I desired the Resident Councillor at this Station to obtain information.

2. I deem it right to report that subsequent to my arrival here, I received from the

Sultan of Acheen an intimation of his having instituted a blockade of two of the Rivers in Native feudatory states adjoining his territories. Although I have directed its contents to be made known to the agents and Commanders of Vessels proceeding to the Coast of Sumatra, I have not thought it advisable, pending receipt of further instructions, to enter into any correspondence with the Sultan and have consequently not acknowledged receipt of his missive.

Governor

True copy J Burn Captain.

Sec.

Extract Penang Feby 11/60

My dear Man,

I was out in the District when the Viscount Canning passed and only received your note on my return yesterday evening. I was therefore unable to meet your wishes with respect to writing to Calcutta for a remittance, but will do so by the next opportunity, this Chinese War will damage all our calculations relative to the rate of exchange.

With regard to Mr Laforce's request I have only to say that, in the event of suitable accommodation not being available at either of the Hotels for the French C in C, His Excellency is welcome to the use of Govt House, but I should not feel myself warranted in offering him accommodation, because it is out of my power to make proper arrangements for comfort. He will be attended I presume by a large suite, whilst as you are aware there are only two bedrooms in Govt House, all the Table and Bed linen, Plate, Glass, Crockeryware etc. have been locked up

and the whole of the establishment with the exception of one Table Attendant and a Chuprassee, who are in charge of the furniture are with me here. I hope you will kindly place my carriage and horses at His Excellency's disposal to enable him to take an evening drive, my close carriage is I am afraid already at the Coachmakers' as McNair promised to get it done for me ; he has charge of my stable and if you will let him know what orders are required will issue the necessary instructions to the Coachman. I hope we may have the pleasure of General Montauban's society for an evening on the hill as Captain Gottlieb has received instructions to invite him and his family up as soon as the Steamer arrives.

/sd/ Orfeur Cavenagh

True extract J Burn

Penang 13/2/60

Extract

My dear Sir Richard,

Many thanks for your letter of the 5th Inst. I have already informed Sir Benson that, with reference to the agreement under which Govt covenanted to pay fixed salaries to the Sheriffs' Establishment, on the introduction of his proposed table of fees would entail a loss upon the State it was out of my power to recommend its adoption, your having kindly written to the Sheriff to ascertain how the table would work, of course I have duly remitted the remainder of the term of imprisonment for 12 months to which that unfortunate young man Mr Tolson was sentenced, but as you had considered it necessary to inflict a fine of \$250, with a view to the payment of Messrs Taylor Daulsberg & Co I hardly thought myself at present justified in remitting that portion of the punishment, as it is possible that his friends may yet come forward in order to save him from undergoing another six months imprisonment. Should they not do so, we might take the case into consideration when I return to Singapore. I hope this will meet your wishes. Of course you were perfectly right to remark upon the Statement furnished by McNair (with regard to the number of heinous offences committed by Convicts, the only doubt in my mind is how far in condemning a class, we can attribute to some of its Members crimes, regarding their implication in which proof has not been afforded and consequently in comparing their conduct with that of the other classes I only felt myself justified in calling for a return of offences, actually proved. I have not the return at hand to refer to but I had imagined that the name of the man suspected of having murdered the Farrier man was included, he being considered at the time as awaiting trial. I believe there are more murders committed by the Chinese than by any other class of Natives, though possibly the Police are unable to discover them. As respects petty offences Dunman told me that his return would shew that Convicts are hardly ever brought before the Polcie, which of course they would be in the first instance, before being made over to the Superintendent for punishment, the fact indeed of large bodies of Convicts being armed and employed in restoring quiet, when the whole Country was convulsed by the Hooey outbreaks is a tolerable proof of the high state of discipline in which they are kept and the serious injury to the Settlement that might occur in the event of their removal and the consequent influx of a large number of Chinese Labourers.

JB

Penang 20/2/60

My dear Mr Robertson,

Before sending you a definite answer his Honour wishes to refer to the uncovenanted Furlough Rules, which I have sent for. I do not think however he would like you to leave before he receives an answer from the Govt. of India to the long report on the 'Meh' case, nor would he approve of Mr Ward acting for you, in so large and scattered a District as this. Should Mr Ward be hereafter deemed fit for higher employ, the Governor would prefer sending him to Singapore where he would have less active duties to perform.

J Burn

Confidential No 4 Penang 20/2/60

To the Officiating Secy to Govt, Foreign Dept.

Sir,

With reference to the concluding Para : of my letter No 3 dated 30th Ultio, I have the honour to submit to the consideration of His Honour the President in Council a copy of a Petition received from certain Traders at this Settlement on the subject of the loss to which they will be rendered liable in the event of the blockade of the Ghegian and Passangan Rivers being maintained by the Sultan of Acheen.

2. As far as I have been able to ascertain it appears that the Petitioners carry on trade with the Coromandel coast and that their Vessels, en route from India to Penang touch at Ports in Sumantra, where a portion of the Cargo is bartered for Betal nut to be delivered on the return voyage. Hence, as they will be leaving this {port ?}, in the course of next month, in case of the blockade being still in force, they will have no means of taking in the consignments for which payment has actually been made.

3. Although it would not be right to admit articles contraband of War to be sent to

Ports reported to have been blockaded, even in accordance with the rules of international law, I have great doubts as to how far we are bound to recognise Blockades instituted by petty Native Chiefs, either to give annoyance to their neighbours or feudatories or possibly to aid them in defrauding our traders of their just dues.

4. A blockade to be lawful requires the actual presence of a Maritime Force off the

Port to be blockaded, and sufficiently near to prevent communication, but, in the case of a Blockade of the description above referred to, it is most probable that the Blockading Force would only occasionally make its appearance, in the shape of a few armed Prahus in the

neighbourhood of the Blockaded Port, with a view to the plunder of any defenceless Merchant Ship that might be lying there.

JB

Penang 25/2/60

My dear Brigadier,

Many thanks for your letter of the 22 Inst. I have of course no objection to the proposed arrangement regarding the location of the Native Troops en route to China at the Chinese Pauper Hospital on Ballestier's Estate provided the measure can be conveniently carried out and is not opposed to the wishes of the Hospital Committee. At the same time I deem it right to mention that as in your official letter requesting that the old Barracks might be placed into a habitable state of repair you expressly alluded to their being required to afford accommodation to Detachments passing to and from China and I have reported accordingly to the Supreme Govt. They must be held available for that purpose. It is certainly perhaps not even desirable that the men of two armies should be quartered together but as the Seikhs will only remain for two or three days at Singapore and there is a tolerable distance between the two Lines of Barracks I should hardly anticipate their coming into collision. Sir Robert McClure has of course the entire management of the Transports, but in the event of a Detachment landing it at once comes under your orders, and it is clear from the communication received from Calcutta that it is intended if possible that all the Seikh Regiments should land with a view to enabling the men to cook.

True extract

J Burn

Penang Feb 27/60

My dear Thomson,

With reference to our former correspondence on the subject I deem it right to enclose copy of a letter I have just received from our Consul at Brunei relative to the supply of cattle to be obtained in Borneo, as in the event of our Commissariat being called upon to aid in supplying the European troops in China, Mr St John's hints may be found useful.

True extract

J Burn

Copy of Mr St John's letter sent to Colonel Kenneth Mackenzie Deputy Quarter Master General

Precis of letter to Mr Grey 29 February 1860

Reported my being ready to return to Singapore on receipt of the orders expected with regard to Acheen. Transmitted an Extract from Captain MacPhersons' on the subject of the Proclamation issued at Malacca and the remarks regarding it made by the Chinese Magistrate.

Requested that if he had an opportunity he would call attention to the proposed modification of the Shipping Act with respect to the term 'Home Going Vessels' being allowed to include all those trading within the limits of the Eastern Archipelago.

/signed/ O C True copy of Precis J Burn

(Inserted Letters)

Confidential No 9

To the Resident Councillor

Malacca

Sir,

I have been directed by his Honor the Governor to authorize your meeting if practicable requisitions that may be made upon you by the Resident Councillor at Singapore by the sale of bills upon the Continental and Trasmarine Treasurer at the most favorable procurable.

2. You will of course report to the Accountant General the amount of whatever bills you may draw giving previous intimation in the event of its being necessary to dispose of any upon the Rangoon treasury.

O C

March 5

1860

Confidential No 8

To Resident Councillor Penang

Penang 5 March/60

Confidential

Sir,

I have been directed by his honor the Governor to authorize your taking immediate steps to meet if practicable all demands likely to be made upon your treasury for the rent this month by the sale

of bills upon the Continental and Transmarine Treasurers at the most favorable rate of exchange procurable and also by the same means to afford any assistance in your power to the Resident Councillor at Singapore in the event of your necessary {sic} any requisition for that offer.

2. You will of course have {lose ?} no time in reporting to the Accountant General the amount of whatever bills you may draw giving previous intimation in case of its becoming necessary to dispose of any upon the Rangoon Treasury.

O C

Confidential No 8

To the Resident Councillor Penang Penang 5 March/60

Confidential

Sir,

I have been directed by his honor the Governor to authorize your taking immediate steps to meet if practicable all demands likely to be made upon your Treasury for the rent this month by the sale of bills upon the Continental and Transmarine Treasurers at the most favorable rate of exchange procurable and also by the same means to afford any assistance in your power to the Resident Councillor at Singapore in the event of your necessary {sic} requisition for that offer.

2. You will of course have {lose ?} no time in reporting to the Accountant General the amount of whatever bills you may draw giving previous intimation in case of its becoming necessary to dispose of any upon the Rangoon Treasury.

O C

No 6

To The Secretary to Govt, Financial Department

Confidential

Sir,

In continuation of my letters nos.....and.....dated.....andUlt I have the honor to report for the information of his honor the President in Council that as it appears from a recent communication from the Resident Councillor at Singapore that Rupees are at present unsaleable at the Settlement, there being a glut in the market, whilst by the last mail I have received instructions to commence the building of barracks for a Regiment of European Infantry, while in the purchase of ground and materials will involve an immediate cutting of at least 200,000 Rs, I have decided it my duty to confidentially authorize Resident Councillors to make as soon as possible arrangements to meet all demands upon their Treasuries for the next three months by the

sale of bills upon the Continental and Trasmarine Treasurers at the most favorable rate of exchange obtainable.

2. Had I delayed issuing these instructions until the receipt of a copy {sic} to my former communications not only might there have been difficulty in carrying out the recent orders with respect to the immediate construction of the Barracks but, upon the wants of Government becoming known, in all probability the rate of exchange would have become less favorable than at present, and thus a serious loss be entailed upon the State. Under these circumstances I think that his honor in Council will be pleased to approve of the measure I have adopted.

3. I deem it right to enclose for his honor's information a copy of a note, dated 28 Ult

received by the Resident Councillor at Singapore (from the Agent Oriental Bank Corporation in reply to a communication from that office on the subject of his wish to dispose of Rupees, at that time the only available coin in his Treasury).

O C

March 5 1860

Oriental Bank Corporation

Singapore 28th February 1860

My dear Sir,

I cannot at present take Rupees as they are quite unsaleable and I have still a quantity in hand.

Yours faithfully,

John S Scymjour {Scrymgeour ?}

My dear Colonel,

This is a satisfactory { ? } intimation considering I have nothing but Rs in the Treasury.

Yours sincerely,

J Burn

Confidential No 7

To the Resident Councillor Singapore

Sir,

In the reference to the input many demands likely to be made upon your Treasury by the Supreme Department in the demi-official communication recently received from you (on the subject of the present unreliableness of Rupees) I have been directed by his honor the Governor to authorize your taking immediate steps to meet if practicable all demands for the rent this month by the sale of bills upon the Continental and Transmarine Treasurers at the most favorable rate of Exchange procurable.

2. In the event of there not being a sufficient market at Singapore for the sale of such bills you will place yourself in communication with the Resident Councillors at Malacca and Penang, who have been directed to offer you any assistance in their power.

3. You will of course have {lose ?} no time in reporting to the Accountant General

the amount of any bills you may draw more especially should it be necessary for you to give bills upon Rangoon of which if possible you should offer previous intimation.

O C

Per Carthage Penang 8/3/60

Copy

My dear Grey,

I have this moment returned from my last tour of Inspection in Province Wellesley and find the Carthage about to leave for Calcutta. I therefore write these few lines to mention that my work here is over and i shall return to Singapore immediately on receipt of instructions with respect to Acheen which will I trust reach me at the latest by the 20th Inst, as, owing to the receipt of the order for the accommodation of European Troops there will be a great deal for me to do at Head Quarters and i do not like being longer absent.

Any Vessel with Troops on board to be employed on the Acheen Coast should of course be instructed to touch at Penang.

O C

JB

(insert)

No 10

From

The Governor of the Straits Settlements

To

The Off Secretary to Government

Foreign Department

Sir,

In advertence to any former correspondence I have the honor to enclose for submission to His Honor the President in Council copy of a letter dated 15th Instant from Mr Nairne transmitting for any information a communication (of which a translation is annexed) to his address from the King of Acheen. In the reply sent to Mr Nairne, a transcript of which I beg to forward herewith, I have of course refrained from expressing any opinion with respect to the explanation offered regarding the disrespect which Capt Haughton was treated, nor have I deemed it expedient to intimate my intention of making its purport known to the Supreme Government as I could not consider that, with reference to its form or tense (tenor ?), I should have been justified in so doing ; at the same time I think it right to mention that I have reason to suppose that a suitable apology, if demanded, will not be tendered.

2. Some of the Native Merchants here having, with reference to the contents of a letter received from the Commander of a Ship now on the Sumatra coast, represented to the Resident Councillor that their vessels will be permitted to enter the blockaded Rivers for the purpose of taking in their consignments, provided the Masters are furnished with a communication from any British Authority, in cases where satisfactory proof can be offered of previous payments having been made, I have authorized certificates to that effect being granted, though I have prohibited any correspondence on the subject being carried on with the Acheen Authorities.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Most Obed Servt

Orfeur Cavenagh

Governor Straits Settlement

Governor's Office

March 16th 1860

Dr Ming

The Governor has been sorry to hear from Mr. Babington that on the decision of the Bill given by the 22nd August. You failed to pay him the usual courtesy of recognising him as, without reference to your relative positions as Military Officers and the report {respect ?} to which the

Colonel is entitled as Commandant of this Station, his honor can hardly suppose that you would have intentionally been guilty of a pure act of discourtesy to the Officer of whose hospitality you were partaking. He is willing to believe that the omission was accidental at the same time he desires me to state that he considered it due to Mr. Babington's rank and position that you should offer him an expression of your regret that anything should have occurred to him given {giving ?} him cause to deem himself affronted.

JB

March 18 1860

Mr Babington

I have shown your note to the Governor who can hardly suppose that Dr. Ming could have intentionally been guilty of an act both of disrespect and discourtesy to an Officer of your rank and position. He has however desired me to write to him on the subject and trusts with regard to his having failed to recognise you on Friday evening as reports {regards ?} Dr Roses' omitting to call. There are, as you are doubtless aware, reasons that might induce him to explain how entering into Society and at all events from paying a visit of which the purport might perhaps be misunderstood.

JB

(end of insert) OC 18/3/60

Penang 19/3/60

My dear Sir James,

As the question of mounting our Horse Artillery and Cavalry well, and at the same time economically is one that I am convinced you will deem worthy of your consideration, I have the pleasure to enclose some papers on the subject of procuring a supply of Horses from the North Eastern Districts of Australia, which appear to me deserving of perusal, and will I think interest you. The Writer is a Mr. Earl, a Gentleman now employed under the Government in the Straits Settlements, and formerly a Government Employe{e} at Port Easington, he has travelled a good deal both in Australia and the Eastern Archipelago, is consequently well acquainted with the resources of the former Country and with the nature of the Navigation between its Northern Ports and the Bay of Bengal, and the information he affords on those points, being the result of personal experience, can be depended upon.

As far as I am able to judge the plan he proposes of sending horses purchased at Moreton Bay overland for embarkation in the neighbourhood of Allen Island in the Gulf of Carpentaria, not only seems perfectly feasible, but infinitely preferable to the course now pursued, under which horses for the Indian Market are shipped at Sydney, by which not only is the sea voyage much prolonged, but they are liable to encounter very heavy weather. Government vessels starting

from the North Coast ought to make the run to Singapore in a few days, after which, if necessary, they could obtain the aid of a Steamer to tow them through the Straits into the Bay of Bengal.

Mr Earl is apparently of opinion that, by enlisting for limited periods, we should have no difficulty in obtaining from Australia an ample supply of Recruits for our Light Cavalry and Artillery Drivers. On this point I would not be very sanguine, though it might be worth while giving the experiment a trial, the men that came up with the horses during the Mutiny expressed no wish to enter the Army and were generally not over well conducted. However on this latter score considerable allowances ought to me made for them, as they had numerous temptations and were almost perfectly uncontrolled.

I like my appointment exceedingly, the duties though tolerably heavy are not irksome and if I am able to remain for a few years I hope to introduce several improvements tending to better the condition of the people as well as to increase the Revenue of the State. At Malacca, especially, I trust to effect great changes. It is a magnificent country and, if brought under proper cultivation, ought to be a valuable possession, up to the present little has been done for it and a very large portion is covered with dense jungle. In this Province Wellesley is a rich District, and has benefitted much from European energy and capital, which I should be glad to see applied to the interior of the other Settlements. Our Malay subjects all seem contented and happy, they are however indolent, in this respect forming a great contrast to the Chinese who are certainly as a general rule most industrious.

I had hoped ere this to have returned to Singapore, but I do not like leaving Penang as long as our relations with the King of Acheen are in an unsettled state, our trade with his Territories being chiefly from this Port, I can hardly imagine that he will hesitate about tendering an ample apology for his treatment of Captain Haughton whenever it may be called for.

/signed/ Orfeur Cavenagh

J Burn

To Lieut Genl the Honble Sir James Outram Bart and LLB

Copy To Colonel Kenneth Mackenzie

Quarter Master General

China Force

19th March

My dear Mackenzie,

As it appears to me that there is every prospect of the Campaign in

China proving of longer duration than originally anticipate, it may perhaps be advisable

for our Commissariat to enter into a Contract for obtaining the necessary supply of spirits

for the Troops and i therefore write to mention that from the result of my recent tour

through Province Wellesley I am led to believe that in the event of tenders being invited

there would be no difficulty in finding a contractor. At present almost all the Rum made

in the Province is sent to England, owing to there being no demand for it here, but a

Contract for the supply of a large army would be worth taking up and consequently

tenders if called for would be sure to be submitted. There are 4 or 5 proprietors of

Factories so that there would be no want of competition. Sugar might also be obtained in

the same way and i should think at a reasonable rate. The only other articles the Straits

can supply are Sago and Tapioca for the use of the sick.

It has been stated in one of the papers that lately large droves of cattle have arrived in our Territories from the Malay States. I have ordered the Magistrate to make inquiries on the subject and should there be any chance of a permanent supply being forthcoming will let you know. When we had European Troops at Moulmein they were subsisted in a great measure from the Shan Country and possibly you might be able to procure oxen from Cambodia. The Ports are Hungkoeo and Loknoi and there is already a trade between them and Singapore. I was very sorry I missed seeing General Grant when he passed for I wished much to have had the pleasure of making his acquaintance.

Sd Orfeur Cavenagh

Mr Earl's Memo on Cattle

J Burn sent 27 March 1860

Penang 30/3/60

My dear Dickens,

I have this moment received a Letter from the Resident Councillor on the subject of the purchase of the ground at Tanglin and the Clerks are copying it so that it may leave by the Mail this afternoon. I cannot but consider the sum demanded as a great deal too high and moreover think that it will be possible to dispense with the purchase of the whole of it. I shall start for Singapore the moment after the arrival of the Calcutta Mail and send you up a report by the first steamer. If you have any orders to send me you might perhaps be able to forward them to Galle by Telegram in time for the Mail steamer and thus save delay. The Government may depend upon my issuing my utmost exertions to carry out their wishes without exceeding the amount specified, but I am doubtful as to the result.

Sd Orfeur Cavenagh

J Burn

Penang March 30' 1860

My dear Grey,

Up to the present I am sorry to say the Lancefield has not made her appearance and I am consequently still in a state of uncertainty as to the wishes of the Supreme Government with regard to the Acheen affair. Should it be deemed advisable with reference to the protection of our Trade with the Sumatra coast that I should remain here until further orders I purpose immediatley after the arrival of the Mail running down to Singapore to settle matters, if possible, regarding the new Military Cantonments, I should not be absent more than a few days and as I should be able to satisfy myself by personal inquiry relative to some points under consideration, i hope that the measure will not be disapproved of.

By this Mail you will receive a copy of a letter sent by the Sultan of Acheen to his Agent Mr Nairne. I believe that a proper apology will, when demanded, be given, but of course it is impossible for me to speak with any certainty, and if he refuses and we irritate him by seizing any of his Vessels, it will be requisite to make arrangements for ensuring the safety of our Merchant Vessels now trading along the opposite Coast.

Sd O C

JB

Memo — Admin-Official sent on Sunday the 15th April explaining the cause of the Official of same date not being numbered

Singapore 15 April 1960

My dear Grey,

Many thanks for your kind letter of the 19th March, its receipt was a great relief to me as under the circumstances, although I was most anxious to return to Singapore I hardly felt justified in leaving Penang without orders. It is evidently now too late to make use of any portion of the Chinese Force against Acheen nor do I really think such a measure necessary, I believe it would be quite sufficient to send over a Steam Frigate in order to ensure a proper apology for the insult offered to Haughton — it might perhaps be advisable for me to depute an Officer to conduct negotiations who might also arrange with the Sultan for the protection of our Trade with Sumatra so as to prevent its being interrupted by his petty feuds with neighbouring Chiefs, or if it were deemed necessary, I might run up to Penang again for a few days so as to be there for reference until matters would be settled,

You will be glad to hear that there is every prospect of our Revenue increasing this year, at the sale hereof our Opium Farm for the next two years we have gained about Rs.20,000 per mensem and at Penang also a rise is anticipated, at Malacca I am not very sanguine but I think we may gain a little by the Opium and lose by the Tin, I would rather it were the reverse. If we could only get a little capital and a few more labourers into the Settlement we might ere long pay all our own expenses including even the Military, as long as there is no interference with our Trade in the way of customd, the Community will not grumble at a little increased taxation.

(sd) Orfeur Cavenagh

JB

Extract from Governor's letter to Captain MacPherson 23rd April

The affair of the Datoos Bunder is very awkward, but as far as I can ascertain the proceeding is perfectly legal and in a great measure he has brought the annoyance on himself by prosecuting Ibrahim bin Julall in our Courts on account of transactions that occurred in Soonghy Oojong — a very unnecessary measure because, because if the charge of murder preferred against the latter is true he will eventually be handed over to his own Sovereign, if, on the contrary, that charge is proved to be false, there would be strong reasons to suppose that the pecuniary claim is also unfounded and that in fact, in order to punish the lad for not meeting his wishes with respect to his marriage, the Datoos Bunder has been playing with edge tools and cut himself. What is to be done regarding the investigation into the charge of murder, I do not quite understand how Bail was accepted in so serious a case unless there were very strong doubts as to the guilt of the accused, indeed this makes me suspect the Datoos of having attempted to make our Court the cat's paw for carrying out his own revengeful and malicious objects. If this has been the case he has no right to complain of having fallen into the trap set for him by his intended victim. I shall be glad if you will kindly send me some more information on the subject by the return mail.

I spoke to Sir Richard about the case who stated that in the report made to him there was nothing to shew that the Dattoo was an independent Chief and he it was who suggested his pursuing the course alluded to in my Official.

JB

Singapore, April 25' 1860

My dear Grey,

I duly received at Malacca whilst en route hither your office letter No 577 of the 16th Ulto. After the great change that has recently taken place in poor Lewis I am sorry to say that i could not conscientiously recommend his being exempted from the operation of the order to which my attention has been drawn, at the same time i am desirous of shewing every consideration to an old and zealous public servant. I have thought it right to write to him privately mentioning the purport of the Official communication and suggesting the expediency of his tendering his resignation specifying the date from which he would wish to retire. I have received a few hurried lines in reply mentioning that he would shortly address me officially on the subject, poor old man, although he says that he ought to have been prepared for the order he is evidently sadly depressed and writes in very low spirits. I do not propose answering your letter until i hear from him, and I am sure under the circumstances the slight delay will be deemed advisable.

I am only waiting for a statement from malacca to send you my report upon the Police etc. in the Straits Settlements after which, having i think met all your requirements I shall set to work with my administration Report.

I am sorry to say owing to the inefficiency of your {our ?} Office establishment, our work is still a good deal in arrears, the drafts of all our Diaries for February and most of those for March have been prepared by Burn and submitted to me for examination. Yet up to the present neither of the fair copies of the Home or Public Works Diaries for January have been completed. In the same way the drafts of all the Narratives for the 2# Quarter for 1859 have been prepared and approved whilst the Clerks have not finished those of the 1st Quarter and as for our Office records they are in a most incomplete State, several books not indexed for the last three years so that there is occasionally the greatest difficulty in obtaining information that may be required on any point. Yet you must not be surprised therefore if i send you a begging letter in the course of next month, and possibly I may recommend some changes in the present distribution of the Officers in the Straits so as to reduce and simplify the system of correspondence.

Since I commenced this letter I have received the report of the sale of the Excise Farms at Penang, giving an annual increase of Revenue at that Settlement of \$23,910 or about 4000 rupees per mensum. From Malacca I have not yet heard but have reason to believe that there no change will take place until the Land Act is passed and we are able to hold our {out ?} inducements to Settlers, as it is we are not almost able to pay all our own expenses putting of course aside such extraordinary charges as we have this year, one alone, the New European Cantonment, amounting to upwards of Rs. 500,000.

By the bye we are losing terribly by the present arrangement under which the Registrars of the Court are paid in Fees. I believe that the Registrar at Singapore is at present receiving a much larger income than either the Recorder or myself, so that it is not to be wondered at that he is not anxious to revert to the old system. It is certainly somewhat absurd that Govt should bear the whole of the expenses of the Court with the exception of those appertaining to one Office into which all the fees are paid. I was much obliged by your sending me down so soon Ritchie's decision regarding the appointment of Marine Surveyor, it has enabled me to comply with all the requisitions of the Act, in drawing up my rules regarding surveyors. I took for my guide those laid down by the Board of Trade at home, mutatis mutandis.

I have just heard from Lewis. He writes in better spirits than before and states that upon consideration he thinks he should like to defer sending in his resignation until called upon to do so officially. I shall now answer your letter, for many reasons I sincerely wish I could do so favourably as far as he is concerned, but his last attack has so enfeebled him that with all his spirit and he is certainly most plucky, it is clear that he is getting too

infirm for the proper performance of his duties.

I wish the question of the transfer of the Straits to the Colonial Office were finally settled one way or another. Our present state of anxiety on the subject is not a pleasant one and apparently there is little prospect of our being out of suspense for the next year or so.

True Extract

JB

Extract from letter to Mr Lewis 17/5

As soon as matters appear a little settled recalle the gunboat, reduce the Police Force on the Frontier to the usual strength and let the Hooghly, after remaining a day or two at Penang to watch the result, return to Singapore. I hope you have made Earl distinctly acquainted with my views as to the policy we ought to adopt so that there amy be no chance of his committing any error, the best plan would be to give him a copy of that part of my letter condemning Robertson to proceedings and pointing out the course to be pursued to prevent further mishaps; should it be necessary to replace the Police that have moved on from their neighbourhood of Bookit Tambon and the Jooroo you might I fancy be able to spare a few men from Town and Colonel Babington might strengthen his small party at Butterworth so that the Police Detachment there might be made available for service in the interior. Whatever arrangements are made should be effected quietly so as not to give rise to alarm either amongst our own people or the Malays across the frontier.

JB

Memorandum

For the guidance of Captain Burn shilst employed on special duty

1. Having proceeded in H.M.'s Steam Vessel Victoria to the mouth of the

Passangan and Guhing Rivers, Captain Burn will ascertain whether a Blockade is actually maintained and if so enquire from the Chief Of the Blockading Force what orders he has received more especially with respect to British Vessels, from the Sultan of Acheen. Should no Blockading Force be observed enquiries may be made from the Masters of any British Ships lying in the Roads as to the recent movement of the Sultan's armed vessels, their number etc., and whether they have experienced any visits or annoyance from them ; in this latter case, also should an invitation be received from the Chief of either District there would be no objection to Captain Burn's landing in one of the Ship's boats and paying him a visit. In case of the Chief's alluding to his differences with the Sultan, whilst allowing him full information on the subject, more particularly as to the nature of the Sultan's demands and their relative positions, Captain Burn will refrain from expressing any opinion, or inducing him in any way to suppose that the British Government should interfere in the dispute between them.

2. On arrival at Acheen Captain Burn will signify through the medium of a

Malay letter his wish to communicate with the Chief Local Authority for the purpose of making over the missive to the Sultan with which he has been entrusted ; on the arrival on board the Victoria of any Official authorized to receive the communication to the Sultan's address, it should be delivered into his charge, and he should be informed that in the event of an answer being sent within a reasonable time (three days) the Steamer will remain in the roadstead to receive it ; at the expiration of the prescribed period, a written notice should be sent to the Local Authority of the intended departure of the Vessel and she should return to Singapore. The Functionary coming on board to receive the letter may also be informed that in the event of the Salute omitted on the occasion of Captain Haughton's visiting Acheen being fired from the shore, it will be returned from the Steamer.

3. Should Captain Burn be invited to visit the Sultan and be informed that proper

arrangements have been made for his reception, he will proceed to the Sultan's residence (accompanied by the Malay Interpreter) in one of the Steamer's boats manned by European Sailors with their side arms, under the command of an officer ; in case of the Sultan's expressing any regret at the want of Courtesy experienced by Captain Haughton, Captain Burn should re-iterate the remark contained in my Letter as to readiness to submit his explanation and expression of regret for the favourable consideration of His Excellency the Right Hon'ble the Viceroy and Governor General ; he may also take an opportunity of alluding to the Blockade of the Sino Rivers, and the injury to trade thereby occasioned, at the same time calling His Highness' attention to Articles III and V of the Treaty of 22' April 1819.

4. Captain Burn should take every available opportunity of acquiring

Information as to the Political relations now existing between the several Chiefs on the Sumatra Coast and also as to the points alluded to in my confidential Letter to the Resident Councillor at Prince of Wales' Island dated 5th December 1859.

5. As in carrying out the foregoing instructions it may be necessary for Captain

Burn to consult with the officer commanding the Steamer, a copy may be furnished for his guidance.

Singapore /signed/ Orfeur Cavenagh Colonel

Governor Straits Settlements

3rd June 1860 True Copy J Burn Captain

Secretary to the Governor

This is written to inform my friend the Shah Bunder of Acheen that I, Captain Burn, Secretary to His Honor the Governor of Prince of Wales Island, Singapore and Malacca have arrived here with a letter for His Highness the King or Sultan of Acheen written by His Honor, and if the Shah Bunder or any proper officer come on board duly authorized to receive it I will make it over to him.

JB

Written on board

Her Majesty's Steam Ship

" Victoria"

June 1860

Governor's Office Singapore

June 26th 1860

My dear Sir,

I duly submitted your note of this date to His Honor the Governor and in reply am desired to inform you that, from the explanation therein given and that verbally afforded yesterday, he is perfectly satisfied that no exertions have been wanting {wanting ?} on your part to reduce as far as possible the expenditure in your Department.

With reference to the want of regular postal communication with Madras, His Honor deems it a question worthy of the consideration of the Commissary General whether

some discretionary power should not be vested in the Head of the Commissariat Department in the Straits with respect to acceptance of contracts.

I remain

yours truly

sd/ J.Burn

Secretary

To :

Captain Lineman

Sub Asst. Comsy Genl.

Straits Settlements

Singapore

27 June 1860 - to Dr Compar Copy

My dear Compar,

In accordance with the advice of Mr. Logan, whom he consulted, Barradaile has requested Mr Woods to state whether he had originated the report to which you alluded on Friday ; in reply Mr Woods distinctly denied having done so, he mentioned that the servant had applied to him for assistance in recovering some money she considered her due and that at the time she certainly made some statements regarding her Mistress, which however he had never disclosed nor would he be justified in disclosing. This being the case, in Justice to Barradaile, it is necessary that he should be made acquainted with the name either of the Gentleman who requested you to bring the subject to my notice or else that Gentleman's informant, as neither of them can claim the right of remainig unknown on the plea of the communication being a confidential one and the charge preferred is of too serious a nature to admit of the originator being allowed to continue untraced. Doubtless the servant has been the original cause of the report being circulated but if a gentleman chooses to repeat the story of a discarded maid he must accept the responsibility of being considered the author.

Orfeur Cavenagh

JB

Copy Sing. 30/6/60

My dear Mr Fraser,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your last two kind letters and to thank you for your attention to Sir James Outram, he certainly benefitted by his trip though he is still far from well.

The enclosed petition was received by the last mail. The case is one in which of course I cannot interfere in any way and I am afraid you are equally helpless as I presume they, the petitioners, having shipped under the American Flag must be held responsible to the American Law and we have no right to intercede on their behalf. By the Bye a Gentleman from Holland who was recently at Singapore mentioned that it was his intention to proceed to the Carimon Islands to work the tin mines and apparently the undertaking was in some respect under the sanction of the Dutch Govt ; now it seems to me that by Articles VI and XII of the Treaty of 1824 the Dutch equally with ourselves have no power to authorize any Establishment being formed in these Islands and I should therefore be glad to be favored with your opinion upon the subject.

True Extract

JB

Copy via Galle Sing- 3/7/60

My dear Yule,

I write these few lines to mention that the result of my application to Madras for assistance in the way of Subordinates has been that an advertisement has been inserted in the Fort St George Gazette ; this, if I am to judge from past experience from a similar advertisement for an Overseer for Penang which has been issued six months is tantamount to shelving the question. I shall therefore really feel much obliged by your kindly ascertaining from the Madras Authorities whether there is any probability of their being able to afford the desired aid, and if their reply is in the negative, asking Young to look out for some men for us and send them down by the first favorable opportunity.

Barracks still progressing favorably. I found the fourth this morning well in hand.

Sd orfeur Cavenagh

To Colonel Yule,

Sec Govt. of India, P.W.D. and Establishment

3 European Overseers

6 Native ' to map, survey, keep books etc.

Copy 10/7/60

My dear Macpherson,

Mr Aitken has been here on the subject of Ibrahim bin Julall case ; he states that he has every reason to believe that he had resided in our territories for upwards of six months previous to the requisition made for him by the Chief of Soongee Ujong ; this is a point upon which I presume you made yourself perfectly sure before you reported to me that he was not liable before a British Court, As however there will be some official correspondence on the subject it is right that you should be prepared with the requisite proof. I understand that the prisoner made a confession to Mr Toomey whilst on his way to be made over ; if so the confession should be placed on record.

If you have an opportunity of interceding so as to prevent his life being taken, it is I think advisable that you should take advantage of it.

I shall be very glad to sanction the remission of the amount of the timber used in the erection of the Mosque at Murlimo. You were quite right to order the Bungalow to be built there ; it will be found useful.

True Extract

J Burn

Singapore 12/7/60

My dear MacPherson,

As it appears that the case against Ibrahim bin Julall instituted in March 1859 was one in which the Dattoo Bunder was concerned and that the defendant was then residing within our Territories you should make a most careful inquiry as to his places of residence, between that date and the date of the receipt of the requisition from the Dattoo Klana, also as to his movements subsequent to the commission of the Murders of which he has been accused.

This may probably occupy some little time and as there may be said to be a doubt as to whether the alleged criminal was not entitled to claim the right of being tried in a British Court I would wish you to signify to the Chief of Soongee Ujong the desire of the Government that the Prisoner's life should be spared ; in the event of any doubt arising in your own mind as to the right of the culprit to demand a trial within our territories having been wrongly denied you will of course act upon the Official and apply to the Chief to restore him to your charge stating of course that he will be tried for the murder.

O C

True Copy J Burn

Copy 1/8/60

My dear Man,

I have the pleasure to enclose for your perusal a letter from Mr Braddell upon the subject of the Excise Act. Although it is a pity that the provisions of the Act are not very clearly explained, I am inclined to believe that he is correct in his reading of Section X ; had the word 'for the time being', as specified in Section XLII been inserted there could have been no doubt of the meaning. It appears however to me that under Section V, we have a hold upon the registered shopkeepers, because if the Superintendent of Police considered that there had been an attempt to defraud the new farmer he could easily withdraw the Licenses and only give them to persons subsequently recommended by the Farmer.

O C

True Extract JB

Copy Govt House 6/8/60

My dear Dunman,

I am sorry to say that from the perusal of these papers I see great cause for dissatisfaction both with Mr Plunkett and Mr Fish. The former appears to have been on unbecoming terms of intimacy with his subordinate and to have allowed him on the strength of this intimacy to utter remarks in his presence seriously affecting the character of an absent Public Officer, without any attempt to check him or to point out that the Statements thus made could not be deemed other than official and consequently would have to be substantiated, whilst the latter seems to have taken advantage of the opportunity to injure the absent party, without having the manliness to acknowledge himself openly as his accuser. If Mr Fish had reason to believe that there had been mal-practice on the part of any Member of the Police Force, he was bound in the honest discharge of his duty to have brought the matter to your notice and mention the grounds upon which his belief was founded ; this he does not appear to have ever thought of doing, as I presume the verbal report made to you about 21 months ago, alluded to in his letter of this date bore no reference to Mr Toomey, whilst the written report evidently only referred to the Clerks and the demand made by them for a portion of the reward from informers, not to their being in the pay either of Mr Toomey or of the Keepers of the Gambling Houses. As Mr Plunkett acknowledges that he permitted Mr Fish to consider the conversation a purely private one, it is hardly fair to insist upon the latter adducing proof of the truth of his assertions, some of which apparently were of a somewhat vague nature. Mr Plunkett should be warned against being on terms of familiarity with the inspectors who should all be definitely informed that on matters connected with the Police Service, no conversation with a superior can be looked upon as Private or Confidential, and that no man should blacken another's character, without being required to give good grounds for so doing.

Many thanks for sending up the Subscription List. I should hardly wish the Convict Sang to receive the full donation though I would not object to their obtaining a moiety, and should indeed be glad to hear of their getting it.

Signed Orfeur Cavenagh

To T Dunman Esq

Commissioer of Police True Copy J Burn

Copy 9/8/60

My dear Dunman,

I have the pleasure to return the explanatory letter forwarded by Mr. Plunkett and request that you will inform him that its perusal has tended to remove from my mind the erroneous impression produced by his apparently inadcertently making use of the term 'confidential' ^a in his Official communication relative to the conversation that occurred between Mr. Fish and himself. From the explanation now offered it appears that Mr. Fish adduced dcoumentary evidence in support of his assertions and that after he had been warned that his statements were of a nature that Mr. Plunkett would feel it incumbent on him to make you acquainted with them, that he furnished a list of the houses from whose owners he asserted that Mr. Toomey had received bribes, to be submitted for your information - this being the case Mr. Fish can no longer claim exemption from responsibility on the plea that hiscommunication was confidential, it is therefore necessary that you should report the matter to me officially, an investigation will be ordered and he will be called upon to shew that he had sufficient grounds to warrant his preferring such a serious charge against another Public Servant.

/sd/ O C

JB

To Lieut Barradaile,

14th Regt. N I

Sir,

I have bee desired by His Honr the Governor to inform you that it is quite out of his power to offer you any hopes of ever being employed in his Government, and he therefore requests that the note he sent you may be returned.

I am instructed to inform you that this resolution has been formed after the perusal of letters in your hand writing submitted to His Honor at the request of the person you have so deeply injured.

Govt Office /sd/

Sing. J Burn Captain

23/8/60 Secretary

Extract Sing 28/8/60

My dear Dickens,

I write these few lines to beg that you will kindly let me know by next mail what has been the result of the experiment with regard to the introduction of the Grant Stove and at the same time send me down the Standard Plan of one for half a Company. When properly attended to I found that the Stove in Fort William answered very well and the men told me their dinners were better cooked and served up better than by the old fashioned cooking place. Here the Stove ought to be well managed as the heat is not too great to prevent the Europeans from superintending their own cooking.

I shall also be much obliged if you will send me down a few copies of the new code for the treatment of Convicts which is I understand procurable in your Office. I applied officially to the Home Dept for some copies but there nothing was known of the Code, it embraces all the orders at present in force ast Sing. And will be very useful in its present form for reference as our old printed code is now rather antique.

/sd/ O C

JB

28/8/60

My dear Grey,

I have thought it my duty to forward officially by this mail a report upon Lewis's health, it is evidently quite shattered and he is no longer fitted to efficiently perform the duties of his Post more especially considering the party spirit existing at Penang which seems to have affected most of his subordinates. If the question of his retirement is not to be decided until the orders of the Home Govt on the subject of his Pension are received months may elapse ere the decision reaches the Straits and in the meantime the Station is really left without a proper head. I should at once have gone to Penang but as this is the rainy season I should not have been able to have visited the Province etc and therefore can get through much more work at Singapore. If it were possible for the Govt to grant Lewis his Pension, subject to confirmation, it would I am sure be an advantageous arrangement ; as far as I can learn he has always been a hard working and

zealous servant of the State and consequently is deserving of every consideration and it is, as you may imagine very painful to be under the necessity of continually expressing dissatisfaction with his Proceedings. He has completely broken down in the course of a few months for he was a hale old man this time last year.

/sd/ O C

JB

30/8/60

My dear MacPherson,

I have barely time to write a few lines in reply to your letter of the 24 Instant.

To enable me to answer the letter from Singapore {Selangor?} I must look over all the papers relative to our connection with that State ; the treaty does not seem to give us any right to interfere in the internal affairs of the Country so long as our own people and trade are not interfered with.

Can you give me from your records any information relative to the exact position of the Rajah of Lookoot and his powers over his subjects and territories. He deserves support and I shall be glad to afford it if possible. It is not unlikely that the Hooghly may be at Malacca in the course of another 9 or 10 days and you might keep her there cruising in the direction of Cape Rachado and the Callam Straits — this might prevent any incursion upon Lookoot. It is very probable you will have ere long a deputation from the Chiefs at Selangore, one has already visited Lewis to ask apparently for advice and assistance and he recommended an application to me ; they are still at loggerheads and I fancy opposed to the proposed Sultan - this will perhaps prevent his giving annoyance for the present. The plot regarding the case of if necessary you should depute Playfair to the Dhatoo and get his acknowledgement of the forgery.

30/8/60

My dear Colonel,

I think it would be better for you to state in reply that as a matter of courtesy you had been denied {desired ?} by me to consult with him as to the selection of the different positions for the tablets to be put in the new Church in order that they might be placed so as to meet his wishes, but that you are not justified in acknowledging any right of interference on the part of the Ecclesiastical Authorities until the Church is completed and made over to their charge.

/sd/ O C

JB

Rest about McNairne

Accounts - JB

Copy Sing Sept 4/60

My dear Sir Patrick Grant,

As Lieut Barradaile 14th Regiment M.N.I. who has for some time past been employed under my Government and for a few days on my personal staff is about to return to his own Residency {Regiment ?} I deem it my duty to make you acquainted with the circumstances under which he will leave the Straits. On my arrival here he was offg. as Secretary and A.D.C. to my Predecessor and continued with me until the arrival of Captain Burn, finding him very intelligent and feeling that he had a claim for employment I promised to provide for him. Shortly after I was able to appoint him to officiate as Assistant Resident in Province Wellesley and he left this on the 4th of November apparently with a high character as a Member of Society which character he certainly preserved in the Province and at Malacca where he was subsequently stationed. In June however Mr. Barradaile having returned towards the close of the previous month and {I ?} was informed by a Gentleman that stories detrimental to his character had been circulated about the Station on the authority of a discharged servant maid. I insisted upon his being made acquainted with the report to give him an opportunity of refuting it and also sent for him and told him that until it was refuted he could expect no Office under me, leaving it to him to take such measures in the matter as he might think proper. He at once indignantly denied there being any foundation for the Statements that had been made and afterwards wrote me a letter of which I enclose a copy ; as I had in the meanwhile discovered that in one or two instances there had been great exaggeration I felt convinced of his innocence believing him to have been merely guilty of having paid a married lady somewhat more than ordinary attention. After an admonition, therefore I again promised to apply for his services on the first available opportunity. On the morning of the 23rd Ultimo however the Senior Merchant here who had always entertained very friendly feelings towards him and considered the report that had been spread regarding him untrue, waited on me with some letters which the husband of the lady in question had requested him to shew me and which fully explored {exposed ?} the duplicity of which Mr. Barradaile had been guilty both towards myself and many others of the members of Society who had been led by his apparently virtuous indignation to disbelieve the Statements that had been made to his discredit. I of course at once directed intimation to be sent to him that his name had been removed from the List of Candidates for employment in the Straits

Lieut. Barradaile is now under arrest on a charge of disobedience of orders connected with which I am sorry to say I have had some correspondence with the Brigadier, the Senior Surgeon who was attending him having appealed to me against the discourtesy with which, under the Brigadier's orders, he was treated by the Mity. Asst. Surgeon, who in opposition to the rules of medical etiquette assumed charge of this patient and altered his treatment without the slightest reference to himself although his rank and position certainly entitled him to expect the ordinary courtesy of being consulted before the charge {change ?} was carried into effect; neither the Brigadier nor the Asst. Surgeon could plead ignorance of medical etiquette as only recently the former asked one of the Civil Officers to examine an Officer of the 40th Regiment and he

immediately waited upon the Asst. Surgeon and after consultation communicated his opinion through him to the Brigadier. Had a somewhat similar course been pursued in this instance, much unpleasant feeling between the Medical Officers would have been prevented and the Public Interests would have been better served.

/sd/ O C

JB

Sep 5/60 Singapore Copy

My dear MacPherson,

I have this moment received your letter of the 2nd Inst. I have little doubt that Mr. Aitken will bring up plenty of witnesses to swear to anything that he may wish to prove, you made a mistake in acceding to his request to see the papers, in dealing with an unscrupulous Lawyer, whose profession is to prove that Black is White, you should concede nothing. I furnished him with a copy of your original report and my reply, this was all that he was in any way entitled to, he is naturally anxious to see the papers to enable him to make up a case, if he had an honest cause he would be content to prove his own statements but now until he sees the papers he does not know what Statements he should put forward. I have just answered your Public Letters and hope Burn will be able to send them off this afternoon. I think they will meet your wishes in every way. I had directed you to send Playfair to Soongee Ujong but I have little doubt that it would be better if possible that you should interview yourself with the Datoe Klana and therefore you can use your discretion on this point. If you do go you can of course take the opportunity of speaking to the Klana regarding the Letters on the subject of Ibrahim. Mr. Aitken is evidently quite safe in producing any letters he pleases, as it would be difficult to prove the Forgery, the Datoe Klana not being liable to be summoned as a Witness. I do not think it is advisable that the Govt should take any steps towards interfering in the Civil case, it is one in which it has no concern, whilst the Court has no power to issue any orders relative to the surrender of a Foreign Criminal to a Foreign Power, so that the affair need give you no anxiety. If you depute Playfair to see the Datoe let him also make enquiries regarding the letters and furnish you with a report of the result on his return. If Mr. Aitken has not yet seen the papers you ought to tell him that on consideration you are of opinion that you would not be justified in shewing them without my authority, and refer him to me. I have given a Count Von Rangow a letter to you, he may be able to give you some valuable hints about the improvement of the Country, for he is a good practical and theoretical Agriculturalist but you should be very guarded in all your communications with him as he is not to be, I believe, depended upon.

If the Datoe Bandara arranged for the surrender of Ibrahim how was it that the Datoe Klana received him the Datoe Bandara being all the time at Malacca ?

JB

Singapore 11/9/60

My dear Wanchope,

The enclosed was sent to me by the Governor of Hongkong, it relates to some children in charge of the proprietor of a Circus, Mr. Lewis, who I believe recently left this {town ?} for Calcutta. The writer evidently deserves no consideration nor do I see how he can expect any interference on the part of the Authorities, but as it is reported that Lewis ill treats the children, for their sake perhaps you might give him a nint that you have heard about his goings on and will give him no countenance unless you are satisfied that the poor things are properly taken care of.

Sd. O C

JB

Extract from Admin Or{ ?} to Captn MacPherson

If Mr. Aitken should express a wish to accompany you to Singapore you must decline acceding to his request, as his position gives him no claim to the privilege of accompanying the Representative of Government to hold a conference with a Native State, and his presence might ber misinterpreted into an acknowledgment of his right to interfere in Political matters, an acknowledgement which you should be most careful to avoid ; surrounded as you are by Native Chiefs any recognition of a separate power beyond the limits of the Court's Jurisdiction might weaken your influence and prove extremely prejudicial to the interests both of Government and the people, If Mr. Aitken loses his case against the Datoos Bunder, which is evidently the result of a bare faced conspiracy, he will lose much of his present influence at Malacca, having failed to save Kim Sin's nephew from transportation, this must have been a severe blow to him more especially as he was instrumental in the first instance in causing the recognition as a valid instrument of the forced deed.

Copy Sing Sept 24/60

My dear Mr Sconce,

I shall be much obliged if you will kindly favor me at your leisure with a line to let me know whether there is any prospect of your being able to submit the Bill regarding the law {land ?} tenures at Malacca for the consideration of the Legislative Council. There are numerous applications for grants of land at that Station and there can be little doubt that as soon as a Bill is passed removing the present uncertainty regarding the right of Government to dispose of the commuted states, a large portion of the District will be brought under cultivation and will ere long become oe of our finest Provinces. It is sad to see such land lying, as it is at present perfectly neglected, the greater part {of} it being covered with dense jungle.

I have already commenced laying out new roads, bridging the rivers, etc so that there need be no delay in issuing the grants and making over possession, when once the long expected authority is obtained. From all I hear most of the representatives of the old proprietors will be very glad to take advantage of the liberal offer to commute their present stipends ; they are too small for them

to live upon whilst the want of ready moey prevents them embarking in any trade or profession from which they might derive a suitable income.

JB

Copy 25/9/60 Sing

My dear Sir Robert,

Speaking to Man the other day relative to the appointment of a Locum Tenens for Mr Vaughan the Master Attendant who has obtained a year leave to England on Sick Certificate, he mentioned the Master of the Esk as a very fitting person for the appointment and added that he believed you had a high opiion of him and would be glad to promote his interests ; if this is the case and he would like the berth and you can arrange to place his services at my disposal I shall be very glad to confer it upon him ; during Mr Vaughan's absence he would receive half of his Government Salary viz 250/rs per mensum, he would also be entitled to one half if not the whole of the sum (200 rs) allowed from the Shipping Fees and I understand that there are some private fees for surveying vessels etc., that generally fall to the Master Attendant, but on this point perhaps the Master will be better acquainted than myself from his long stay at the Port. The question of Mr Vaughan's claim to receive any portion of the shipping fees during his absence has been referred for the consideration of the Supreme Government and it is quite possible it may be given against him, such allowances being generally considered the right of the person by whom the duty for which the fees are paid is actually performed. How far there is a prospect of the permanent berth becomig vacant I cannot say but of course there is always a chance of such a contingency. Mr Vaughan left this {Port ?} a few days ago so that the Master of the Esk could be inducted into the appointment the moment he reported himself at Singapore if this report is true.

I shall be very glad if you can give me any intimation before hand in the event of it being determined to land any of the invalids from the Expedition at Singapore so that the authorities here may be prepared for them, I have retained the Pauper Hospital in my own hands so as to be ready to meet any emergency and a fortnight's notice would be sufficient to enable the requisite arrangements to be made for their accommodation.

(inserted letter)

My dear Sir,

I enclose for your perusal the Letter of the Datoh Klana of Sungei Ujong addressed to Raja Inmahats {Jumaat ?} of lookoot, which I mentioned to you yesterday when i had the pleasure of seeing you, as being in my profession {possession ?}, dated the 8th of December 1278 (last months) and as this is the 14 of Feb I

It is just one month and no days old. You will see that it bears the Chop which the Klana now pretends he has not used for about seven months !

I promised to return the Letters and will be glad to have them back at your convenience.

Yours very faithfully

Alex M Aitken

Sigapore 29th September 1860

My dear Mr Aitken,

I have the pleasure to return the letter received with your note. Unless my donation of the Arabic numerals has completely failed and the letter is dated in the year of the payment {Propher ?} 1276, not 1278 as you suppose.

O C

October 6th 1860

My dear Sir R Macausland,

Will you kindly oblige me by favoring me with your opinion as to the events of the accompanying Petion in favour of Vince Leighs nephew.

If the case is one that you may deem worthy of consideration for the sake of the high character borne by members of his family, more especially by his uncle I should not feel indisposed to extend some slight degree of mercy to the culprit.

Believe me etc

Sd O Cavenagh

Singapore

12th October 1860

My dear Mr Sandilands,

I write these few lines to mention that with reference to the circular letter from the Supreme Government recently published in the Indian Papers ; I think it would be advisable in the event of your being able to raise a troop of the required strength (50 Members) at Penang, that you should no longer delay submitting your wishes for consideration. Although I have not received a copy of the Letter, most likely owing to the fact of its being known that a corps has been long established at Singapore, I have little doubt that the Governor General would be pleased to accord to the Residents of your Island the same advantages as promised to those of Stations in India ; at all events I shall be most happy to give your application my earnest support. This Mail

takes up Captain Man as Mr Lewis' successor. I have little doubt that his Engineering knowledge will prove extremely useful to your Municipal Commissioners.M

MP Believe me etc

(sd) O Cavenagh

Singapore 24th October 1860

My dear Burn,

I have the pleasure to send you the { ? } containing hints for your guidance ; if there are any points upon which i have omitted to remark, I hope you will bring them to notice, so that I may rectify the mistake. ; your time will, I think, be occupied for some months to come, in obtaining the information required, but when it has been obtained, you will be in a position to offer the most valuable suggestions towards improving the district under your charge. Regarding Nanning Especially, it appears to me that we know little or nothing, and the people are left almost entirely to govern themselves, for they have no police and no roads ; all this will, I trust be altered ere long. I am sorry to hear that the free school is not flourishing, it struck me on my last visit, that the instruction imparted was very superficial, and it was on that account I asked MacPherson to place himself in communication with Purvis with a view to the introduction of the same system education as adopted here. I visited the Institution quite unexpectedly yesterday morning, and found Mr. Bayley engaged in teaching his class the elements of Mechanics, and the way he questioned them occasionally branching off into different subjects not at all connected with that branch of their studies shewed that the boys werewell grounded. I had however the same complaint of their being withdrawn whilst still only half educated. By the bye you must inform Mr. Hackett that, as the charge of the schools forms no part of his appointment as Chaplain, and that he was only permitted to hold it as a temporary arrangement, it is out of my power to sanction his drawing the salary of Head Master as long as he is unable to perform the duties. He is not entitled to Privilege leave, not having served the prescribed period and indeed I am doubtful how far it would be granted under any circumstances considering how little he has done. Mr Wright I undertstand thinks of coming out again. If I find the Supreme Government willing to expend a little money in the cause of education, I should be inclined to recommend the appointment of Inspector of Schools ; headquarters to be at Malacca, and to have charge of the School there, the 2nd Master looking after it during his occasional absence on tours of inspection. His Government pay as Inspector, say 400rs per mensum added to that of Head Master ought to secure the services of an able man. You were quite right to make to make short work of Mr Lucery Bunder. I am a good deal astonished to find that he was ever employed in the Public Works department. I do not wish Mr Evans to be directed to assume charge of his duties as Dy Superintendent of Convicts until the arrival of the order ; in fact you might give him a hint that, unless he exerts himself a little more, he is not likely to have the appointment ; his excuse to Col Faber about having no lime was a most lame one as he could easily have written to Singapore to have some limesent up. I have not passed the Bill for repairs etc to the Studt House, for I agree with you i thinking that it is not necessary to remat the whole of the rooms, as well as I remember the mats generally speaking were in very fair order, moreover if it might be requisite to renew some of them in the large rooms they would scarcely admit of being cut up for the

small ones. I am much grieved at your account of the state of the country, it is difficult moreover to relieve the peasantry when in distress owing to the murrain amongst their cattle, as they seem disinclined to give you much assistance towards your proposed jetty ; much however must depend upon the amount which the Residents at Malacca are willing to subscribe towards the work. Collyer proposed to execute by a Joint Stock Company without Government aid ; he was of opinion that it would pay well as a commercial speculation.

By the mail you will receive the letter for the Sultan of Salangore. I have not thought it necessary to ask for his formal sanction to the cession of Cape Rachado because his communication to me states that he is pleased to hear that I am going to build a Lighthouse and cannot oppose my wishes. I have therefore thought it advisable to thank him for this proof of his general good will, and you can send the grant to him for confirmation. This will I fancy satisfy him that we have no wish to interfere with his rights or treat him with discourtesy. I am sorry to hear that Soongee Ujong is still disturbed but that it is not to be wondered at, as long as there is a division of authority in the government. The country must be rich in mineral wealth, and would doubtless under our rule become extremely remunerative, but it appears to me that our hands will be full for some time to come in managing our own territories. If we could only induce some of the other Chiefs it would be a great point gained. I am glad you have turned your attention towards the drill of our Police. They will be much more efficient when they know how to handle their arms and have confidence in them ; you were quite right to avoid if possible using force against the recusants at nanning, moreover it was almost too much to expect persons to come such a distance to town, and it is much better that the court should assemble in the District. I sincerely trust that your plan of adopting 'enavitee in modo' {suaviter in modo} has fully succeeded. I am afraid I can hold out little prospect of Mr Logan's being employed as a Dy Commissioner of Police. His antecedents are hardly such as would warrant my appointing him to a place of much trust. I have not yet received any orders on the subject of the proposed appointment for Province Wellesley and when the order does arrive I shall entirely be as you suppose, at a non-plus to fill it up. I have been speaking to Sir Richard about Toomey's Case, he is of opinion that a charge might be sustained in his court and if so that would be the best tribunal to dispose of it, as an acquittal there would be accepted both by the Public and by Government. I have desired Protheroe to send you an official extract from the Gazette of your appointment as Marriage Registrar ; this will enable you to splice all the expectant couples off hand ; I hope you will give them some good advice. I have looked at the Income Tax act again, and it appears to me that with reference to the Rules prescribed under Schedule 3, it is your duty to deduct Income tax at the rate of 13 per cent from all Interest paid by you in {on ?} Government Promissory notes, and to enable the recipients to claim exemption, they must satisfactorily prove that they have not 200 Rs. Per annum. I think some of the School Fund is invested in Company's Paper ; if so, report it officially, and under Secs. Cxxxiii I will exempt it from payment, subject of course to confirmation by the Supreme Government.

(sd) O Cavenagh

(A true copy)

M Protheroe Lt

Off Secy

Memo for

Captain Burn's Guidance

- i. To obtain as far as possible full information on the following points connected with the neighbouring Native States :
 - 1st. Existing form of Government.
 - 2nd. Political relations of the Ruler with the British Government and with other Native States.
 - 3rd. Amount of population and names and customs of the people.
 - 4th. Amount of revenue collected and how divided.
 - 5th. Mineral and vegetable products.
 - 6th. Means of communication.
- ii. To make himself thoroughly acquainted with the working of our own Police so as to be able to bring to notice any reforms that may be needed.
- iii. To ascertain the extent of his power, the actual condition of our own subjects, the value of labour, cost of subsistence, social relations etc.
 - iv. To make enquiries as to the progress of education so as to be able to furnish a list of the different vernacular schools throughout the districts, the mode and extent of instruction and emoluments of the teachers, and afford any further information required towards the preparation of a scheme for diffusing as far as practicable, the blessings of sound useful knowledge among the peasantry.
- v. To acquire full information as to the amount of traffice through the different Districts, so as to be prepared to cooperate with the Engineering authorities in drawing up a scheme for improving present, and opening up new lines of

communication, either by land or by water.

- vi. To ascertain the nature of the soil in the different districts, the vegetable products and mode of cultivation including the cost per {acre} of raising different crops and the net profit accruing to the peasant.
- vii. To prepare a list of the different mines, the periods for which they have been worked, the depth of the shaft, if any, the quantity of ore annually extracted, the mode and cost of working each mine, and the average amount of profit realized by the Speculators or as he is styled in miners' phraseology the adventurer.
- viii. To make particular enquiries as to the state of the people in the Nanning District with a view to the introduction of a new system as to the tenure of the land, the one now in force being apparently beneficial neither to the people nor to the Government ; the holdings are much too small to admit of the land tax being collected except at great expense, whilst for the want of Revenue, government is precluded from organizing a Police for the protection of the peasantry and from amking proper Roads through the country to enable them to carry the produce to the best markets.
- ix. To ascertain what areas of Revenue may be deemed irrecoverable so that they may be struck off and a fair start made with, asnear as possible a clear balance sheet, great care being taken to prevent the accumulatio of arrears in future.
- x. To enquire into the coduct of the different Panghuloos and ascertain their respective character
- xi. To obtain, if possible, information regarding the Secret Societies, their rule, names of office bearers, etc.

- xii. To ascertain the extent to which gambling is carried on.
- xiii. To ascertain and bring to notice the wants of all Public institutions, charitable or otherwise.
- xiv. To prepare a list of the different descriptions of timber procurable with a statement of the properties of each.
- xv. To ascertain the average annual produce from cereals throughout the Settlement, the quantity retained for home consumption, and the quantity Exported.
- xvi. To collect information as to the number, quality, etc. of the different domestic animals bred in the Settlement.

(sd) O Cavenagh Colonel

Governor Straits Settlements

22nd October 1860 (true Copy)

M Protheroe Lieut

Offg Secretary

My dear Adams,

I have the pleasure to enclose for your perusal a semi-Official from Captain McPherson on the subject of the Pirate Junk of which mention was made in the "Straits Times" and regarding which I asked him to institute inquiries.

I shall be much obliged by your letting me know your opinion as to the calling of the above vessel and the probability of the "Victoria" being able to find her if necessary. Should you think it advisable to ascertain her character, I will, if you wish send you an official on the subject

Yours sincerely,

MP (sd) O. Cavenagh

Extract of a letter from Colonel Cavenagh to Hon'ble Captain Burn R.C. Malacca of 1st Nov 1860.

"I have received your letter of the 26 Ulto, there can be no doubt that our land office establishment at Malacca ought to be placed on a sufficient footing and I shall be quite prepared to submit for sanction any application you may make for additional aid; one of the great things to be done is to ascertain all irrecoverable arrears so that they may be only {duly?} remitted and removed from our accounts and such arrears not again allowed to accumulate."

My dear Sir Richard McCausland,

Will you kindly favour me with your opinion regarding the accompanying application and oblige.

Yours sincerely,

Sd./ O Cavenagh

Extract of a letter to Capt Burn R C Malacca of 4th November/60.

"As soon as H M's Jail is completed prisoners shd be removed, the stores moved into the present Jail premises and the present convict godowns pulled down; if you then build a flight of steps leading to the River somewhere near the church, the distance for which carriage would be required could be very trifling. I have unaudited the bill sent in for the arbitration fee for the land taken for a burial ground as this must be paid by the Commissioners; it is not a Government charge. Moreover I think considering that Rs 10 per diem only is given to the Magistrate or other person acting in a court of Inquiry, etc that \$16 is far too large a sum to be admissible and possibly when the Commissioners find that they have to pay it they will think so too. As regards the application from the 2nd Quarter {Master?} at the School I think the best plan would be to grant them all additional allowance as long as he is in charge but at the same time distinctly inform him that a head master will hereafter be appointed.

The last letter from the Sultan of Salangore was a most satisfactory one as regards Cape Rachado, so that you need have no scruples now about taking possession though I shall be glad to hear that he has sent you a formal deed of cession."

Sd O Cavenagh

MP

Extract from a letter to R C Penang

The Sheriff's jail is susceptible of much improvement we which may effect gradually as repairs are needed; there is plenty of room but it is not well arranged and it is as you say very badly ventilated. I am afraid Mitchell has been filtering away his resources somewhat in the Province; it is impossible for him to put all the roads into order at once and he must content himself for some time to come in looking after the main line.

MP Sd O Cavenagh

Extract from a letter to Captain MacPherson R C S'pore.

"The Master Attendant should be warned that he will be held responsible for the payment of any charge on account of any distressed seaman who has been any length of time at the home without being shipped. I have no objection to the loan of the dredge being given provided due precaution is taken for any damage that may occur to her.

MP Singapore November 25th

My dear Burn,

The question contained in your letter of the 30th Ult is one not very easily answered as I find by reference to act xvi of 1859, the act upon which all our rules regarding the issue of grants of land are based, that its provisions do not extend to cultivators and tenants at Malacca holding these lands by prescription which I presume is the case with all the defaulters you have to deal with. In the commutation deed no mention whatever is made to the power of transfer and the agreement between the Government and the subject is binding upon Representatives and assigns of the latter; now I do not exactly know what is the legal definition of an assign but I should fancy that in the event of a deed holder making over his rights under that deed to another party, that party would be his assign and liable to the extent of the limited liability act, to be called upon to pay up all arrears due. As long as the revenue is paid I hardly think you have the power of interfering with any arrangements made by the land holders as they do not seem to be bound to register their transfer of their rights; perhaps therefore it would be advisable for you at present merely to issue a circular to Punghulus pointing out to them that it is their duty to take measures for ensuring the due payment of all Government demands and that those who fail to exert themselves in the performance of this duty will be removed from their appointments; they might also at the same time be directed to warn the people within their respective districts that legal proceedings will be taken against all Defaultees on the next 15th March which appears to be the Pay Day according to the Deeds; you might then submit the question officially to ascertain what legal steps can be taken to recover arrears and I would ask for Ritchie's opinion on the subject; the matter was brought to notice by one of your predecessors and I will send you a copy of this paper on the subject of Malacca generally as you will find it useful; there is no name attached so that I do not know who is the writer but I fancy it must have been either Mr Garling or Lewis by the allusion to the Singhie Quallah road. As regards the Sheriffalty I think Mr Baninggarten {Baumgarten?} had better not send in his resignation until the question as to the eligibility of Mr Gottlieb to be reappointed is decided. I will speak to Sir Richard on the subject. The act of apparently merely precludes a person being compelled to serve a second time as Sheriff within three years; as at home it is a most expensive office.

MP Sd O Cavenagh

To the Hon'ble Captain Burn R C Malacca

.....The question of Mr Banungarten's resignation of the Office of Sheriff has been settled by another reference to the Charter although provision is made for a vacancy by death or departure from the Settlement, no allusion is made to resignation. Hence the inference to be drawn is that a

Sheriff cannot legally resign. I was much interested in your account of your trip to Ayer Panas and fully approve of your proceedings en route. I asked Coll. Faber to prepare for circulation among his subordinates a memorandum relative to the measures to be adopted in laying out new roads; the quantity of land to be reserved on each side for repairs etc being distinctly specified. I do not know whether he has complied with my wishes but if so I will forward a copy of the circular to each Resident Councillor for information and guidance. The Punghooloo question is beset with difficulties that the present system is altogether wrong cannot be denied but in the present state of your finances it is rather difficult to find means for remedying it; it would be too expensive to give handsome salaries to all the Punghooloos at the same time it would be harsh and perhaps also impolitic to replace them by a few government Officials. I am almost inclined to select a few of the most influential and intelligent and appoint them with suitable emoluments as Punghoo Mookims making over to them entirely the duty of collecting the tithe and giving them power over the Punghooloos whose sphere of action should be restricted entirely to rendering assistance to the Police for which a slight remuneration might be annually accorded in addition to their being exempted from the payment of their own Govt. dues. In the event of a Punghooloo Mookim becoming defunct his successor would be selected from amongst the Punghooloo; this might induce them to display a little zeal occasionally.

Your letter of the 7th Inst has somewhat puzzled me; had there been anything wrong the Opium Farmer would hardly have informed Mr. Baxter that he was about to visit the Magistrate to intercede for the Gamblers, but no Magistrate should allow parties to attend at his private residence in order to bias him with respect to a case under trial and I shd. Suppose he must have been biased by the lenient sentence passed. The Daily Occurrence books of all Police Officials are public documents and subject to inspection. I have been examining those of Singapore. As well as I remember I told MacPherson he should occasionally inspect those of his subordinates and attach his initials as a proof of his having done it; at Penang a written order was given on the same subject; as I shall certainly call for both Mr Toomey's and Mr Baxter's. When he came up I think you acted judiciously in returning that of the latter but I hope you have kept a copy of the Extract.

Secs li, lxiv and lxxxi of act xiv of 1856 ought to give you the necessary power to improve the drainage of Malacca. As Mr Banungarten's proposed marriage is not illegal I fancy you are bound to accede to his request.

Sd/ A Cavenagh

Singapore

13th Nov 1860 MP

To the Acting Fort Adjutant - Calcutta

Dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to enclose two letters relative to questions connected with any large office which should have been made over to you, but was forwarded by mistake to S'pore. I presume that long ere this Sergeant Quick must have received the amount of his annuity.

Sd/ O Cavenagh

19th Nov 1860 MP Late Town Major

My dear MacPherson,

I should inform the Manager of the Borneo Company that the finding of the Committee has been duly confirmed, that you see nothing in that finding attaching blame to Capt Macmillan for the want of evidence and consequently must decline addressing the Committee on the subject and that he is at liberty to publish whatever he pleases. I have just seen the Brigadier who says he must send for this 27 Sepoys if we require 3 sentries for the convicts; I think therefore we might reduce the sentries to two so as to allow of the guard being limited to 18 Sepoys to be increased at Penang should any more convicts be placed on board. The Prison should be well made and strict instructions should be given to the Captain not to allow too many prisoners to be on deck at once and to have their irons examined daily.

19th November 1860 sd O Cavenagh

MP

My dear Macdonald,

I have the pleasure to send you a list of the plants from the Government garden at Buitenzorg which are at present under the charge of Mr Fraser at the Hotel D'Esperance who will order them to be delivered to anyone you will send with a note for them. The inspector of horticulture has forwarded a list of plants as requested from our Society, most of them I understand are procurable at Malacca and I will therefore endeavour to obtain them from that Station.

19th Nov 1860 sd / O C

MP

My dear Man,

-----I hope Mitchell is getting on with the Jooroo Bridge for it is a work much required. I am going to make three more Sections, two in the South and one in the North of the main road in the Province this next year. I should like to do something about the drainage of the Swamp but am afraid the plan and estimate cannot be prepared in time for the Budget. They have cut me down again a good deal making me pay for all my new military buildings out of my annual allotment. I hope to be with you about the 13th as we propose starting on the third prox., and shall remain a week at Malacca.

23rd Nov 1860 MP Sd O C

To Mr Grey Esq Secy to Govt Home Dept

My dear Grey,

By this mail you will receive the account of the Ratification of the Treaty at Peking. We are to receive 8,000,000 Taels as an indemnity for Expenses of the War, one half to be paid at once and the remainder to be received from the custom dues. Tientsin is to be opened to our trade; that portion of Kowloon now occupied by us is to be ceded, the question of the Residence of our Ambassador at Peking is to depend entirely upon Her Majesty's pleasure and certain stipulations have been entered into with respect to emigration from China to our Colonies. The French treaty differs but little from our own, in lieu however of a cession of territory they obtain a protectorate over the Roman Catholic Churches in China. We have throughout received cordial assistance from the Russian representative who furnished us with information on various points and offered to endeavour in person to rescue our prisoners upon hearing of their having been confined in Peking. The Prussian Embassy is still in Japan. The French and English Consuls General have I believe induced the Ambassador to insert one or two articles in his proposed treaty of which we should be able to take advantage under the "most Favored Nation" clause of our own treaty and to these articles the Japanese have been hitherto opposed but it is supposed that the news from China induced them to yield.

Loch with the Treaty arrived from Peking the evening before last and will leave this {us?} at noon today. As he will reach Galle before the "Fiery Cross" will arrive at Calcutta, he will send you a telegram for the Governor General's information. He and Mr Parkes are the only British prisoners who have been saved. The proposed distribution of Troops is as follows. H.M.'s 31st, 60th and 67th with possibly the 8th Punjab Infantry and a Corps of Irregular Cavy. With some artillery to be located at Tientsin. H.M.'s 44th Regiment at Hong Kong and H.M.'s 99th at Canton; the 1st Royals, 2nd Queen's and 3rd Buffs also the 87th Fusiliers leave for England direct; the K.D.Gs and Native troops return to India and will embark without delay. Lord Elgin will remain another month in China so that we shall expect him in the Straits in six weeks time; he will make the trip in the "Feroze". I have little local news to report; there have been some awkward rumours regarding one of the European Members of our Police Force. I intend to have the charges investigated by the Court. The result will be duly reported. A rumour has reached me that there is a probability of the Siamese making a move in Tringanu. If the movements affect our trade in any way we should have to interfere it being contrary to an Article of the Old Treaty. Should I receive any specific information on the subject I of course will send you an official report. I hope you will be able to give us a good steamer but I trust you will not burthen us with the "Clyde" gunboat she is fit for nothing, cannot sail, nor afford accommodation either for passengers or her own coal. Mr Fraser, our Consul for Batavia is over here and leaves for Calcutta in the "Fiery Cross". Should you meet, you will be much pleased with him and he will be able to afford you a good deal of information on points connected with this Settlement and the Archipelago generally. I have been speaking to him on the subject of the Law under which landed property is transferred in Java as I think it would be applicable to the Straits and give satisfaction whilst a considerable revenue would be derived from it; he has promised to procure for me a copy of the Regulations on the subject. Thence should I think it possible to base a good

scheme for the Straits upon them I will prepare one and submit it for consideration. The Dattoo Klana has again written to me on the subject of our taking over Sempang which he is very anxious to place under our charge. I hope to be able to get off the correspondence today, if not it will be forwarded by the "Arracan" a Man of War steamer ordered to Calcutta with Despatches and now daily expected.

(sd) O C

P.S. I suppose you are now in charge of the foreign as well as the Home Department. I hope (D.V.) to leave then on my tour on the 3rd Prox. Will you therefore order your despatches to be addressed to Penang. We shall reach that station about Christmas.

Spore O C

23rd Nov. 1860 (True Copy) MP

Extract from a letter to A Sconce Esqr Calcutta

of 23rd November 1860

"I am very much obliged to you for your kind letter of the 14th Ult and for the trouble you have taken in preparing a bill to legalize the sale of land in Malacca; it is indeed a sad sight to see a fine district so much neglected and should your bill become law the inhabitants of that Settlement ought to feel extremely grateful for your exertions. I am doing what I can by remaking and reopening Roads to improve the Country but it is uphill work. I have not failed to follow your advice and to forward another letter on the subject by this mail to the Clerk of the Legislative Council which I hope will prove of some effect.

(sd) O C

True Copy

MP

My dear Macpherson,

I have the pleasure to return the paper you sent me. I am afraid we can do nothing about the Sultan's son at present; you might write to the father mentioning that you had heard that he was not allowed means of support and pointing out that his present state reflected on his (the Sultan's) own dignity and rank. As regard the Law he had better address the Consul himself and you forward the Petition mentioning that the Petitioner is a British subject residing at S'pore. You will have received the Bill for the money from the Borneo Company on account of Nakhoda Kalain.

(True Copy) sd/ O C

MP

My dear Burn,

I find I have two letters of yours dated respectively the 14th and 19th Inst. To answer; in the former you allude to the orders regarding the convict godown. In the design prepared by Collyer the present godown is to be dismantled so as to have a clear space between the Parade ground and the Convict Lines, the two storied building forming at present a portion of the Sheriffs Jail and abutting on the right flank of the Convict lines becoming the new Godown so that the Guard stationed in the upper story will command the interior of the lines. There will still if I recollect right be a large portion of the Jail unoccupied and that is to be converted into a house of Correction. If Lireman has adopted at Malacca the system introduced here of issuing rations under the terms of the contract at the place of distribution and by the Contractor's own people the necessity of weighing there at any other place but the spot at which the Contractor is bound to ensure delivery would be obviated; the new Godown would be so close both to the barracks and the Lines that all rations might be issued there.

I am glad to find that you have succeeded in inducing the Commissioners to put a stop after the 1st Mar to interments in the old Burial Ground, the Notification appeared in the last Gazette; this will prevent any display of sectarian feeling which might probably have been otherwise elicited. You are I think right to allow the Second Master of the School to draw the pay of the Head Master whilst he is doing the duty and commencing from the 1st Inst. The date from which Mr Hackett ceased to have any claim to it. I find from MacPherson that he did not by the bye retain the whole of the pay but allowed Mr de Souza a portion. I have had Mr Blundell's letter which I have the pleasure to return; it is very clear that the question of the collection of Land Revenue at Malacca is a most complicated one; I am in great hopes that Mr Sconce will be able to bring in his bill next month. In accordance with his advice I have not failed to address an earnest letter on the subject to the Clerk of the Legislative Council by the Mail which left there on Friday. {I} am rather puzzled with regard to the meaning of the order issued by the judge with respect to the Piratical Junk, under Sec. Vii of act 12 of 1857. The Junk was condemned and forfeited and that order must hold good whether the owner or any other person has been convicted or not. The Law does not recognise any right on the part of the Court to order a Vessel to be sold and the proceeds paid either to the owner or any other person. It can only be forfeited and condemned; had it not been so condemned it ought to have been restored to the parties who were in possession and not have been ordered to have been sold. I have not heard how the case against the pirates was disposed of, but I fancy the Bill was thrown out by the Grand Jury at the suggestion of the Recorder and therefore no trial took place, but ever {even?} if they had been acquitted, they would have no claim to the proceeds of the Sale of the Junk, she having been condemned upon a perfectly distinct proceeding of the Court. I have desired the Colonel in preparing the Budget to make an allowance for Malacca drainage. As regards the low state of your finances, I am sorry to say MacPherson can render no assistance, bills upon Malacca not being procurable whilst the

Hooghly is still undergoing repairs and will not be ready until a day or two before we start. MacPherson says the opium farmer is always ready to give an advance if necessary. (sd) O C

S'pore 25th Nov 1860 (True Copy and Extract) MP

My dear Macpherson,

It appears to me that Mackenzie has made a regular mess of it and has only himself to blame; the Govt. promissory notes were actually in his possession and would have been in your Treasury bearing interest to this day had he not on his own authority returned them to Kim Ching and accepted his promissory note instead, as Kim Ching positively denied having paid the 1806 Rs. To Mackenzie for any other purpose than as a part donation to the Hospital, the Government has no option in the matter but as already has been done, order the money to be paid to the D.P.W. We may yet lose the 5694 entirely through Mackenzie's unauthorized act, the Govt notes having been once made over to him should never have left his hands until he was ordered to dispose of them. At this moment, I fancy including the Interest they would have been worth about 6600 Rs. If not more so that in the event of the Rs. 1800 having been credited to Mackenzie's account the hospital would have suffered a considerable loss, even now the gain is slight while the risk is heavy. As regards the Mail bag I think in the first instance you had better direct Mr Cuppage to communicate with the Mail agent on the subject as he may perhaps be vested with authority to open the bags. Had the Mail been one made up in India, I would at once have issued the order but I do not know what are the rules of the English Post Office in such matters. The Mail agent will at all events know whether there is any objection to their being opened. Please let me have the letter regarding the same received from the Chinese theatre before we leave. Will you kindly tell Dunman that his Police Station must be at Soonghie Ayer Rajah instead of Passer Panjang; the former is a large village and only about a quarter of a mile beyond the latter. I have ordered the road to be carried on as Bennet tells me the Expense will be very trifling. Are the new Sampans ready? They were sanctioned ages ago and one of the gunboats ordered to be moored in the River under the charge of the Master Attendant If the Sampans are well managed they ought to check petty piracy in the neighbourhood of Shangie and Teluk Blangah.

Etc etc

(True Extract) (sd) O C

MP

To Colonel Faber Malacca 9th Dec 1860

My dear Colonel,

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 5th and 6th inst. It is a great pity that Palmer was unable to submit his plans for the out offices prior to my departure the more so as I am sorry to say I cannot approve of his design, nor do I think with reference to the recent order regarding those on Government bill that it will be approved of by the Supreme

Government. I would prefer, if in your opinion the arrangement is unobjectionable something like the following:

A.A. Barracks

aa covered passages

B. Kitchen to be divided if necessary into two parts one for each - company.

D Necessary.

Thus while the Necessary would not be connected with the other buildings the distance between it and the Bathrooms would be so slight that a man would be but slightly exposed whilst moving from one to the other; the waste water from the bathrooms might be carried by puckah drains into a cistern near the Necessary so as to be available for cleansing the latter. Protheroe has written an official on the subject of the advance for the Apparatus for the Cape Rachado Lighthouse; as far as I can judge all that is necessary is to be prepared to pay the money on the receipt of the bill of Lading. This is the usual custom with regard to private orders and there seems to be no absolute necessity for departing from it in the case of an order given by a Government which must be a surer paymaster than any private individual. Upon the authority now given Collyer will be enabled to give the necessary order to the Firm by which he wishes the work to be executed and will then write out to specify the date on which the Apparatus may be expected to be ready for shipment by which date we can arrange to have the money ready for payment. This will probably be at home and the remittance can be made through him. Had Collyer thought it essential to have the money remitted at once I think he would have alluded to the subject in his letter to me received by the last mail. As I hardly expect the building will be ready to receive the light before the end of next year, although it is a matter of importance that all instructions should be given by Collyer to ensure its being of the description required, the speedy execution of the order is not of much consequence, more especially as he will probably leave a paper with McNair to enable the latter to ascertain whether his orders have been properly fulfilled.

With regard to the Church, under the circumstances mentioned I cannot but agree with you that it is advisable its opening shd be postponed until the arrival of the Memorial Windows as it would be better to have the main body of the building complete before making it over to the Clerical Authorities; you might write officially to Mr Nicolson stating that owing to the non-arrival of the windows the building will not be ready for Divine Service as soon as anticipated. I am sorry to say I have not been at all pleased with Mr. Evans' work. The masonry at the new jail even to my inexperienced eye seems very inferior and I am sure either you or Collyer would be much dissatisfied with it: What I think is styled the proper pointing of the brickwork has not been attended to and in some places there were quite holes between the bricks, from the want of a sufficient quantity of mortar. Mr. Evans' remark was quite that of a Native Mistree viz. that when it was plastered over it would not be seen (Khoob plaster dega baraber ho jaega). I told him he had better rectify the defects before he put on the plaster to not conceal it by them, a view of the question that did not appear to have struck him before; altogether there is evidently a want of

energy in Mr. E. which I do not approve of; on visiting the brick kiln, although the Pug mill had not been used for some days and will not perhaps be required for another fortnight I found it nearly full of hard clay which of course would not improve the iron work of the mill which ought to have been thoroughly cleaned during the time that the work was closed, yesterday also I had to get out of the carriage at Subau Gugah because a small wooden bridge which merely required a few planks nailed across it, was impassable and Burn told me that this had been brought to Evans' notice about three weeks ago; when I leave this I shall send you an official regarding the Department at the Station. Tomorrow I propose D.V. making a trip to Marlimo and on Wednesday to Alore Gadjah whilst on Tuesday and Thursday we make some excursions in the steamer to the new Leper Hospital on one of the adjacent islands and one frontier post at Quallah Linghi. Yesterday we visited the Jacoon Settlement and Thursday we drove about 10 miles along the Kassang Road returning by water down the Malacca River so that I shall have seen a good deal of the country by the time we leave for Penang.

O C

MP

My dear Playfair,

In the course of his inspection of the Police Records His Honor the Governor observed the remarks contained in the accompanying paper noted in the "Occurrence Book" of the Inspector mr Baxter; as if allowed to pass without comment they are calculated to excite suspicion as to your permitting your decisions to be overruled by others not connected with the Court. His Honor has deemed it but just to give you an opportunity of offering an explanation as to the circumstances under which you were induced to award such lenient punishments to persons convicted of the crime of gambling.

Yours sinly

Malacca 11/12/60 M Protheroe

Extracts from the "Occurrence Book" of Mr J Baxter, Inspector of Police, Malacca

October 12th. "Received a gambling warrant to enter the house of "Ah Kiew" at Camong Pantei; executed it at 9.30 P.M. had to break open the door, apprehended 5 Chinamen; seized 5 poh mats, 1 poh, 1 Lamp, 2 Poh boxes, 1 gold finger Ring, 29 silver dollars, 22 cents and a quantity of counters and Chinese cards.

October 15th. (v. case of gambling October 12th 1860). Defendants fined 5 cents each; money and ring returned; owner or occupier not to be prosecuted by orders of sitting Magistrate. Saw a vonveyance belonging to "Ah Kiew" opium farmer pass the Police Office at 9.30 A.M. with windows closed and stopped at the house of the Sitting Magistrate; the latter came to Office shortly afterwards and then passed the said conveyance with windows open and Koh Keng inside; the Magistrate passed a remark during the investigation of above case of gambling that mostly in every Chinaman's house such articles seized and of same description were to be found.

8.30 A.M. Koh Keng visited my house and spoke the very same word here written and said he was going to house of Sitting Magistrate to ask assistance for the gamblers (vide Police Act xiii of 1856 Sec 58 and 59).

November 17th. In attendance at Police Office Dy Commissioner of Police sailed for S'pore in Sch "Dalia". 3 gamblers fined 10 Rs each, one Rs 50 and owner of house "Noma Goh" Neoh" Rs 100. 2 P.M. Lee Boon Teong and Chan Hoot Lim entered the Magistrate's private Room in the Police Office, called him and had conversation together for some time. When the two farmers went away and the Sitting Magistrate recalled Noma Goh Neoh and reduced his fine to Rs 20 and the one that was fined Rs 50 his was reduced to Rs 30. The vagrants were each sent to the house of correction for three months each. Lamar P.P.2 dismissed from the Force for slothful habits, drill as usual. Night round from 11 to 1: found all correct.

Malacca — 12th Dec

My dear Playfair,

.....I was out with the Governor at Alore Gadjah when your letter came this morning and would have answered it before. His Honor has requested me to state that he never suggested you were being actuated by any improper motives but had the remarks been allowed to remain without your being given the opportunity of offering an explanation regarding them they might have occasioned you some annoyance hereafter and consequently in justice to yourself he deemed it but right to let you know that such remarks existed in a Public Record. At the same time he is of opinion that in the event of anyone whether Native or European wishing to speak to the Magistrate himself in behalf of a prisoner under trial, that the court is the proper place for him to present himself at and his statement should be publicly not privately made as any private recommendation especially among Orientals is certain to give rise to unpleasant remarks.

We are going onboard of the Str Hooghly to start for Qualla Linghie this evening otherwise the Governor wd have been glad to have seen you tomorrow.

12/12/60 MP

dated Oct 15th and Nov 17th

Written across the remarks in Inspector Baxter's occurrence Book, copied above

"Satisfactory explanation afforded by Sitting Magistrate"

Malacca By order M Protheroe

15/12/60 Off Secy

My dear Burn,

I am desired by His Honor the Governor to request that you will point out to Mr Baxter that the entries in his Occurrence Book shd. Be restricted to matters connected with the discharge of his own duty.

Malacca MP

15/12/60