

English Records of Maratha History

Poona Residency Correspondence

Volume 2

Poona Affairs

1786-1797

(Malet's Embassy)

Edited by

GOVIND SAKHARAM SARDESAI, B.A.,

Editor, Selections from the Peshwa's Daftar, 45 Vols., author, Marathi Riyasat 9 Vols.

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persuasion of owing his preservation to their indulgence than see him deprived of it by our power, of which power an active faction seizes every opportunity of exciting the most lively jealousy in this Court, whose narrow genius I am sorry to say is but too susceptible of such impressions, notwithstanding all my endeavors by my conversation and the most studied conciliation in the conduct of myself and all my party to counteract it

The only feasible mode by which the above objects of this Court can be prosecuted will be by the introduction of delays, of which your Lordship on the spot will be the best judge in the execution of your plans, since this Court has adopted it as a maxim that, tho' invincible in arms, we sink under the pressure of protracted expense, and I attribute to an artful design of sounding me on this point some late oblique advances that have been conveyed to me but to which I have given no encouragement, to hearken to any proposals that the enemy may communicate through the Rasta family, and in my humble opinion what is mentioned in Sir John Kennaway's letter to your Lordship of the 14 ulto. of a pecuniary proposal from the enemy to the Nazim is of the same complexion. Indeed I apprehend various arts and expedients will be resorted to by both branches of the alliance to collect the extent of your Lordship's views with respect to the prosecution of the war or the terms of a peace of which they would take the utmost advantage in their intercourse with the enemy.

I learn from Mahadji Sindia's people here that Chitore has surrendered to their master who had engaged to deliver it to the Ranna, but that contrary thereto the new garrison is partly composed of his troops under pretence of strengthening the Ranna's Government.

No. 124—Malet reports to the G. G. the Peshwa's desire to send some presents to the King and the Company of England and also expresses the jealousy of the Poona Court at the British ascendancy in the war

FROM—C W. MALET,

TO—EARL CORNWALLIS K G., GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Poona, 16th December 1791.

My Lord,

I had the honor to address you the 25 ulto.

In answer to the enquiries I have mentioned my intention of making relative to the horse said to have been raised by the Rasta Family for Tippoo, Behro Punt has assured me that he thinks the report groundless. But Sir John Kennaway's enquiries agreeable to the clue furnished in my last may throw further light on it.

I have pleasure in acquainting your Lordship that 4077 bullocks and 2750 drivers have been dispatched from here to fort Victoria for General Abercromby and advices from that place of the 30 ulto. mention that 2300 had sailed from thence for Cannanore.

Having intimated to this Court that sundry curiosities for the Peshwa sent by the Honorable the Court of Directors at the suggestion of your Lordship are arrived at Bombay, much satisfaction was expressed thereon and, in consequence of the stress I have laid on these instances of your Lordship's constant solicitude to promote the good understanding of the two States and of the good disposition of the Government at home to second your Lordship's wishes that only can be effected by a sincerity of good will and a reciprocity of good offices, the Minister yesterday signified to me the Peshwa's intention of sending by the ship now under dispatch from B'bay some curiosities of this country to his Majesty and to the Honorable Company as tokens of his respect and regard for His Majesty's person, the Company's Government and the British nation, I have in consequence requested the Bombay Govt to inform me of the practicability of the articles in question (amongst which are an elephant, a rhinoceros, an horse, some antelopes and other animals) being accommodated on the Raymond.

No. 125—This is a copy of a letter sent for information to the Resident at Poona by the Governor of Bombay, explaining what accommodation would be required to despatch the presents of large animals offered by the Peshwa to H. M. the King of England.

FROM—THE CAPTAIN OF A SHIP SAILING FOR ENGLAND ;
TO—THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY.

Bombay, 26th January 1792.

Honourable Sir,

Agreeable to your orders of the 25th I shall endeavour to accommodate the animals intended to be sent for his Britannic Majesty in the best manner the ship will admit, but at present it is impossible for me to ascertain whether they all can be accommodated with that safety and to your satisfaction that I could wish, unless some idea could be formed of the sizes of their different cages and the necessary room they would occupy. From as near a calculation as I can make, their stock of water and provisions for the passage home will be one hundred tons, which I hope you will consider as surplus to the ship. I likewise beg leave to inform you that animals of a large size cannot be put below, and that a leopard from the filth naturally attending it, is equally inadmissible between decks, as well as danzerous, and requires proper keepers to