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CALENDAR
OF
PERSIAN CORRESPONDENCE

BEING LETTERS WHICH PASSED
BETWEEN SOME OF THE COMPANY'S
SERVANTS AND INDIAN RULERS
AND NOTABLES

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suzerain of India as son and successor of Ahmad Shah, the victor of Panipat, and in 1791 he wrote to Mr. Stuart that he intended to visit his Indian possessions before long (1633). His letter to the Governor-General (1635) might be construed as a thinly veiled threat of invasion, but this threat, if seriously intended, was never carried out. Even in the nineties of the eighteenth century the possibility of an Afghan invasion could not be lightly dismissed.

Kabul was far off but Kathmandu was near. It was, however, not easy of access. Girt on all sides by the Himalayas, Nepal was for all practical purposes a *terra incognita*. The Gurkhas had brought the different parts of the kingdom under their sway and their dominion rapidly expanded until the northern limits of Bihar and Oudh and the southern frontiers of Nepal came together. Under such circumstances, particularly when the boundary lines were not well demarcated, disputes about outlying villages were bound to be frequent. Such disputes had already been in existence between Bhutan and Cooch Behar, a state tributary to the Company. But the Company were anxious to establish friendly relations with the Himalayan principalities and explore their commercial possibilities. At one time it was assumed that Tibet would offer a lucrative market for western commodities, and the way to Tibet lay through Nepal and Bhutan. Though petty princes ousted by the Gurkhas from their ancestral principalities sometimes sought shelter in the Company's territories and caused unnecessary embarrassment to the authorities at Calcutta, they were not prepared to force the issue in a hurry. Friendly correspondence was therefore maintained with Nepal and Bhutan and genuine efforts were made to get all outstanding disputes amicably settled. These pacific approaches were reciprocated by Nepal also at the time though subsequently frontier feuds led to open war between the governments of Calcutta and Kathmandu. When the Governor-General abolished all export and import duties with a view to facilitating trade with Nepal, the Raja, on his part, was prepared to make a similar gesture by centralizing all such imposts though he did not commit himself to a policy of complete free trade. It was no doubt as a token of his amity and regard for them that the Raja took the trouble of catching a wild rhinoceros at the request of his English neighbours. The postscript to his letter of October 12, 1791 throws some interesting light on the Nepalese invasion of Tibet, but ultimately China intervened in favour of Lhasa and Kathmandu had the worst of it.

Oudh was a source of some worry to the Company's government firstly because they had helped the Nawab Vazir to reduce Rohilkhand and were, therefore, under a moral obligation to protect the Rohilla princes from any undue oppression. As the correspondence shows, the Nawab Vazir accused Faizullah Khan of causing trouble in Almora by lending his secret support to one of the contestants for the rajaship. Faizullah, on the contrary, denied the charge and protested that the Rohilla supporters of the Raja's brother received definite encouragement from Lucknow despite his emphatic protest. The Governor-General succeeded in patching up the differences between the Nawab Vazir and his Rohilla feudatory, for the latter, brood as he might over the wrongs

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commenced by his men. After its completion it would be open to any one to attend to any repair or construction that might become necessary in future. Sends a telescope as a present. (OR 476.)

Oct. 10.

1558. *Nawab Dilawar Jang to Mr Stuart.* Intimates that his father, Nawab Muhammad Riza Khan, expired on 2 *Safar* (1 October 1791). Is overwhelmed with grief at this unhappy event but looks upon the addressee as his support and asylum. Says that in consideration of the faithful services of the deceased, the Company had at first conferred on him an annual *mushahara* of 9 lakhs of rupees as also a *jagir* in Bihar. The *mushahara* was subsequently reduced to Rs 2,40,000. This sum being inadequate, the deceased had taken heavy loans from the *mahajans* during his lifetime to meet his expenses. As the burden of liquidating these debts and maintaining the sons, daughters and other relations and dependants of the deceased has now fallen on the writer, solicits that the office of the *Naib-Nazim* and the annual *mushahara* together with the *jagir* held by the deceased may be conferred on him to enable him to meet the liabilities of the deceased and to shoulder the responsibilities that now devolve on him. Dated 3 *Safar* 1206 A.H.=2 October 1791. (OR 477.)

Oct. 10.

1559. From Nawab Dilawar Jang. To the same effect as the foregoing. (OR 480 ; TR 31, pp 366-9, no 251 ; AR 6, p 7.)

Oct. 10.

1560. Nawab Dilawar Jang to the Members of the Governor-General's Council. To the same effect. (OR 481 ; TR 31, pp 369-71, no 252 ; AR 7, p 8.)

Oct. 10.

1561. From the King. Acknowledges the receipt of a letter from his lordship informing him about the capture of Bangalore and some important places near Seringapatam and his lordship's decision to wait till the termination of the rains for a further advance into the enemy's stronghold. (ORs 478-9 ; TR 31, pp 363-366, no 250 ; AR 6, p 12.)

Oct. 12.

1562. *The Raja of Nepal to Mr Stuart.* Has received his letter recommending the remission of the duties (levied in Nepal on imports and exports from the Company's provinces) which would tend to increase and improve commerce. Says that he is not aware of the amount of duties that are collected in the *muffasal* but he will find it out by enquiry and then centralise the levy at the *sadr* and abolish it in the districts. States that Terakkarda,¹ Amgachhi, etc. have always appertained to the district of Morang and that some time ago Mr Smith had confirmed this after a thorough investigation. But the Collector of Purnea has not yet suffered the *amala* of the writer to take possession of those places. The Raja's *vakil*, Dinanath Upaddhaya, thereupon complained against him to the Council, who directed that an *amin* be appointed on the part of the writer to settle the question. Says that a decision had already been given upon the evidence of the witnesses on oath. If it is to be set aside then what other mode of arriving at the truth was available. Requests the addressee therefore to write to the Collector asking him to abide by

¹ *Pargana* in Purnea.

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the former decision and to direct his *amala* not to interfere with the abovenamed places.

Says that this year the writer, having overthrown the Raja of Kumaun, has taken possession of that district. The boundary of his country now adjoins that of the Nawab Vazir. Informs the addressee of this fact beforehand in order to avoid any future dispute that might arise in this connection.

Will be obliged if the addressee would inform him when the Governor-General is expected to return to Calcutta.

As requested by him the writer has been on the lookout for a rhinoceros. His people have caught one in the forest. As the animal is perfectly wild just now it is being tamed and will be sent down to Calcutta after the rains in the month of *Kartik*.

P.S. Three years ago the writer was engaged in a war with Bhutan and Lhasa countries and got possession of several places belonging thereto. Afterwards the Chief of Lhasa through the mediation of Chian, the Qiladar, agreed to pay tribute for those places. An agreement was accordingly drawn up which was ratified by an oath to the effect that neither party would depart from the terms of it. The aforesaid Chief paid one year's tribute according to the engagement and the writer relinquished the places he had taken possession of. When a demand was made for the tribute for the second year he (the Chief) prevaricated and evaded payment. Shamarpa Lama, who has for many years been residing with the writer, was sent to Lhasa to realise the tribute. On his arrival the Chief of Lhasa proceeded to Kuti¹ and requested the writer to depute some trustworthy officers to him at that place to negotiate with him on the subject. The writer accordingly deputed his *Diwan*, Taksari with Shamarpa Lama and his other servants to Kuti for the purpose. When the negotiations commenced the Chief of Lhasa said that the writer should allow Shamarpa Lama to remain with him and to hand over the engagement that had been executed between them. The writer's servants replied that the Lama was a protege of the writer and that the engagement, that he (the Chief) had executed of his own free will and accord, could not be given up. The Chief wanted to act in a perfidious manner towards his servants, who getting scent of his designs, seized Dhoran, the Chief's *Diwan*, and Itu and Chianak Lochan. They are all now in his custody. Whenever the Chief shall be inclined to act justly and pay his tribute as stipulated in the engagement they would be released. The Chief will represent matters differently to the Governor-General. Informs the addressee therefore of the circumstances beforehand. (*OR 482.*)

Oct. 12.

1563. *Nawab Dilawar Jang to Mr Stuart.* Acknowledges the receipt of his letter condoling with him on the death of his father. Says that he has already written to him about his distressed situation. Hopes that the addressee will now extend his helping hand towards him in order to enable him (the writer) to maintain the good name of the late Nawab and his family. (*OR 483.*)

¹ Town in Nepal, situated at a distance of 6 miles from the left bank of Bhutia Cossye river and 63 miles from Katmandu.