

Private Letter Book

Volume XI

From the Oct 1865

To the Oct 1868

Pinang 1st October 1865

My dear Bain

After consultation with the Recorder and in consideration of the legal expenses already paid, I have determined to commute the imprisonment of the Carpenter and Steward to a fine equivalent to two months (instead of three months) or \$60 each. I have just signed the necessary letter to Col Man authorizing him to cause the men to be released on the payment of the amount. There is no doubt that the assault was a very brutal one and consequently the men fully deserved the sentence passed upon them.

Believe me

Yours sincerely

Sd O Cavenagh

R Bain Esqre

Vice Consul for America

Singapore Oct 12th 1865

My dear Mr Knox

I have to thank you for your two last kind letters and for the trouble you have kindly taken in order to meet the wishes of the Indian Government with regard to the Kotah District.

With the view of making you fully *au fait* with the whole merits of the case I have the pleasure to enclose for your perusal an Extract from a letter from the Resident Councillor at Pinang setting forth the grounds upon which the application to the Rajah of Quedah was based, from which you will perceive that it is solely for the protection of our own Revenue and for the preservation of the peace of our own territories, as well as for the prevention of disputes with our neighbour, that it has been deemed desirable to bring the above District within our frontier.

In his correspondence with the Pinang authorities the Rajah offered no objection to the arrangement and certainly made no allusion to the fact of his Family Burial ground being situated within the piece of land which we were anxious to acquire. I am therefore inclined to believe that this is a mere excuse. I have frequently been compelled to remonstrate with the Rajah as to his allowing his District to become the resort of all the landless vagabonds in the neighbourhood, from which bands of marauders enter into our territories and plunder our subjects, and I have even been obliged to threaten that I would suspend, as was done in a former occasion, his monthly payment, and with the amount of the Saving thus effected, organise a strong body of Frontier Police and establish a cordon along the boundary line, and this threat it is quite possible that I may yet have to put into execution if the Rajah fails to make suitable arrangements for preventing invasions into Province Wellesley, for which purpose it is essential that he should in the first instance effectually sweep out all the vagabonds from Kotah which is a perfect Alsatia.

As he derives little or no pension {revenue?} from the District it was thought he would gladly intimate his Willingness to accept an offer to purchase, and it is certainly only recently that I have learnt that he is {has?} any way objected to the measure, which is the one that would have proved of mutual benefit to the Straits and Quedah. I know that Mr. Logan is the Rajah's agent and that he had written to him on the subject of the proposed {proposal?} made by the Indian Government, but I was not aware of the purport of his communication. Although he may perhaps have been acting under some misconception as to the correspondence with the Siamese Government, he is not altogether without some grounds for his assertions and may have been acting upon some casual observations made by Colonel Man.

When Sir Robert Schomburgk was here he asked me to prepare, as I had imagined solely for his own information, a paper explanatory of my views with respect to the several Native States in the Malayan Peninsula. I accordingly drew up for him a rough Memo on the subject, and one of the points touched upon was the annoyance suffered owing to the want of any control over the residents of the District of Quota and the measures to be adopted in order to its removal. Subsequently Sir Robert informed me that he had sent a copy of this memo to the Foreign Office and to the 1st King of Siam, whilst in a letter from England he mentioned that he had heard from the latter and that His Majesty would always be ready, as far as possible, to meet my wishes but hoped that instead of writing officially through you I would address {address?} him privately as my predecessor had done upon any matter that I desired to bring to his notice. In my reply I mentioned that it would always afford me much pleasure to correspond with His Majesty, but independent of the Courtesy due to the Representative of my own Government as a matter of respect to himself it was right that the correspondence should pass through the latter. As Col Man was aware of my having heard from Sir Robert to the effect that the King had expressed his willingness to further my views, it is not improbable that he may in his conversation with Mr Logan have alluded to the circumstances and that Gentleman have supposed that the communication had been made through you.

If I may be of any assistance to you in affording you information as to the Rules under which the Budget system is conducted, I shall be most happy to do so. It is certainly an admirable system and its introduction would tend greatly to improve the financial position of Siam.

As regards the maintaining the Country as an independent state, it is perhaps but right that you should know that your neighbours in Cochin China are securing Charts of the Bay and River leading to Bangkok. I have reported the circumstances in a confidential letter.

You must be glad of the departure of your troublesome colleague. Many thanks for your kind invitation in {of?} which I would gladly avail myself but for some time to come I am afraid there is little probability of my being able to get away for a month.

Believe me in haste

Yours sincerely

To Sd Orfeur Cavenagh

T G Knox Esqre

H B M Consul

Bangkok

19/10/65

My dear Sir Richard

As you may perhaps have a little leisure now that the Sessions is over, I have the pleasure to enclose for your perusal the letter on the subject of Native wills to which I referred the other day, and if there are any suggestions with reference to the proposed measure which you may feel disposed to offer, I need not say that I shall feel much obliged by your kindly mentioning them in order that they may be brought under consideration of the Supreme Govt. As far as I can judge at present the effect of the intended change would be to place the whole of India very much upon the same footing as the Straits are already. Possibly in some respects the new Act may be superior to Act 25 of 1838, the one now in force within the jurisdiction of our Court.

I also enclose a petition on behalf of the Prisoner Woodford upon which I hope you will kindly favor me with your opinion. Unless you consider that there are any extenuating circumstances in the case, I should not of course deem myself justified in interfering with respect to the sentence passed by the Court.

Sd O C

Govt House

Singapore Octr 17th 1865

My dear Lord

With reference to your previous correspondence on the subject of the vacancy at Malacca, I write to mention that intelligence has reached this {station?} of the death of poor Mr Hackett, after living only a few days at sea. Although the question of the transfer may, of course, still be considered uncertain, yet I may state that I have upon good authority every reason to believe that the Bill for the proposed change will be brought before the House next Session. This information arrived by the last Mail.

You will observe by the official communication that, subject to any arrangement that you may wish to make, I have appointed Mr Michell to act as Residency Chpalin at Malacca as a mere temporary measure, as your Lordship had already promised to attach him to your Diocese, and it is not apparently necessary that he should proceed to Calcutta for the next two or three months. The offer of his services seem to afford a favourable opportunity of providing for the spiritual wants of the Malacca Community.

In the meantime I hope you will offer my kind regards to Mrs Cotton and

Believe me etc.

Sd/ Orfeur Cavenagh

The Right Reverend

The Lord Bishop of Calcutta

Singapore

October 19th 1865

My dear Sir

I hope you will kindly accept my best thanks for your Letter of the 11th Ultimo, which only reached me a few days ago on my return from a tour of inspection at Pinang, and for all the trouble you have taken in order to meet my wishes with regard to filling up the vacancy in the Survey Department at Malacca.

I am afraid Mr Talbot's appointment is now out of the question. I have every reason to believe that a Bill for the transfer of the Straits Settlement to the charge of the Colonial Office will be brought in next Session, and it is consequently out of my power to give him the (the) guarantee he requires, as some objection might be made to his being allowed to count the whole of his Service according to Indian rules.

I lately received an application for the vacant situation from a Mr Powell. As he submitted high testimonials and appeared to have acted upon the advice of the Deputy Surveyor General in making his wishes known, I wrote to Colonel Gastrell to mention that, provided Mr Talbot did not accept the offer you had made to him, I should be very glad to appoint Mr Powell on his recommendation. I have not yet received his reply. I wish we could obtain the services of a

young Engineer Officer but of this there is, I know, no chance, as there will be plenty of occupation for Engineers in India for some time to come.

Believe me etc.

Lieut Col Walker Sd/ Orfeur Cavenagh

Offg Surveyor General

Précis of a letter to Captain Burn 26/10/65

Will allow Mr Michell a room in the Stadt house. Any assistance in the Marine Dept would be granted by Captain Ward of "Rifleman" if necessary.

Sd O C

My dear Sir

Pray accept my best thanks for your letter of the 19th August which I found waiting for me on my return from a tour of inspection at Pinang.

Although I had always too much confidence in your foresight even to doubt my having given the correct interpretation of the Treaty of 1824, still it is satisfactory to have your written confirmation of my views and subsequently {consequently?} feel much obliged for the valuable support you have afforded me in this matter.

I am afraid we shall never concur in our opinion as to the Indian Govt. It appears to me that you are contrasting the Policy of the old East India Company in 1820 with that of the Colonial Office in 1865, which is hardly just. As far as I am capable of judging, for some years past whilst the tendency of the Indian Govt. has been to become more liberal, that of the Home Govt to {in?} the general acceptance {acceptance?} of Mr Goldwin Smith's ideas, has been quite the reverse.

As regards the correspondence on the subject of the Mily. Expenditure at Hongkong, it should be remembered that Settlement has only been in existence about 20 years, that the present amount of its Mily. Contribution has only been fixed as a temporary measure, subject to revision and increase at the expiration of five years, and that moreover, considering the extent of territory to be protected, it is in comparison larger than any payment yet made by the Straits.

If you will refer to the Blue book containing the Despatches to the Ceylon Govt., you will find the principle very clearly enunciated that in future Colonies must all pay for their troops, and I

shall be agreeably surprised if, in the event of our transfer, we find that the Straits have been made an exception to this rule. The last rumour that reached me was to the effect that we were to be called upon to pay a contribution of £50,000 towards the expenses of our European troops and, as at Hongkong, increase our Police to enable them to take all the duties upon which the Sepoys are now employed. You perhaps may be aware how far this report is true.

As regards the Convict Expenditure I can only say that, although duly entered in our accounts, for the last 6 years certainly, it has always been debited against Indian and not against the Local Govt. A reference to the Administration Report will shew this, whilst previously as the Straits never paid even their own expenses, it must have been a matter of little importance against which Govt. this charge was made, as the deficit had to be met from India.

There can be no doubt as to the existing uncertainty as to our fate being extremely prejudicial to the interests of the Settlement and I shall be glad to hear that the question of the transfer has been finally settled.

Sd O C

J Crawford Esqre

Athendum {Atheneum} Club

My dear Sir

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th Ultimo and am glad that there is a probability of the question of the transfer being settled in the course of the next Session.

By this Mail I have thought it right to forward to your address Despatches, one on the subject of the intention of France with respect to extending her possessions in this Quarter, the other transmitting the registration (resignation?) of the Recorder of Singapore.

With regard to the movements of the French I may mention that it is reported that they are building an ironclad steamer at Saigon. On this point however I have been unable as yet to obtain any authentic information and the measure {?} may perhaps be a mere canard.

As the differences that existed between the Recorder of Pinang and my predecessor may probably be taken into consideration in weighing his claims for advancement, I deem it but due to Sir Benson Maxwell to state that, although we may sometimes have differed in opinion, I have always found him most ready to accord me his cordial support in any matter in which I have heeded his advice or assistance, whilst he bears the reputation of being an able and painstaking lawyer and he has acquired a fair knowledge of the language and customs of the people. Under the old Regime, owing to the Recorders on their appointment being honoured with the rank of Knighthood, a social distinction not enjoyed by the Governor, they are led to believe themselves superior to the head of the Executive Govt. Hence the numerous disputes that have taken place between them. I hope I have succeeded in removing that impression and without them

{there}being any want of cordiality between myself and my judicial Colleagues, sufficiently established the fact that Her Majesty has but one representative in the Settlement.

Sd O C

M P

To The Secy of State for India

My dear Sir Benson

I have the pleasure to return the papers in Mr Edgerton's case, an expression of my own opinion as to his conduct being attached. The documents required from the Registrar's and Magistrate's Offices are also forwarded herewith.

It is very evident that the gentleman is not a fit person to be allowed to practice at our bar, and I am aware that Sir Richard McCausland regrets that he allowed himself to be prevailed upon to admit him, and that he will not be permitted to make his appearance again in this Division of the Court. Sir Richard has determined upon returning home in March and by the Mail I have transmitted his resignation to the Secretary of State.

With my kind regards to Lady Maxwell and the other members of your family.

Believe me to be

Yours very truly

22nd October 1865 Sd/ Orfeur Cavenagh

Mr Edgerton's statement is far from satisfactory. Supposing that any reliance could be placed upon the depositions submitted, it would appear simply that Mr Edgerton promised the men that he would undertake the case provided the Commander of their ship approved of his doing so and that the same afternoon he wrote a note to the Captain, who came over and said that it was all right, but this view of the matter is contradicted by Mr Edgerton's own statement, for he asserts that the promise on the part of the Captain to pay the amount of the order was not given until the next day, not the same afternoon, and this is substaticited {substantiated} by the statement made by the men and attested by the Captain. Moreover if the Captain was to be consulted before Mr Edgerton consented to meet the men's wishes, why was any note of hand taken at all until the former's acquiescence had been obtained?

Independent of this the depositions themselves (themselves) bear internal evidence as to their untrustworthiness, for whilst one person appently {apparently} deposes that all four men at once offered to pay the money, two others assert that one man only offered in the first instance, and the others followed his example, and the remaining two state that they heard only two men express their willingness to pay \$20 each.

2. Captain Stafford represents that a fortnight after the trial the order for \$80 was presented and having apparently no cognisance of the circumstances under which it had been given, he referred the matter to the Siamese who declined paying the amount on the plea that Mr Edgerton had not fulfilled his part of the contract. It is true that the men have subsequently stated that mention of the order was made by them to the Captain the same evening on which it was given, but the specific nature of their communication is not recorded. And if any reference were really then made to the transaction it may have been of a very vague character, although I am desirous to consider that Captain Stafford's representation was in the main correct, it was made with no view of injuring Mr Edgerton but solely with the object of clearly showing the liability of his own men.

Under these circumstances I can only come to one conclusion viz that Mr Edgerton attempted to obtain money to which he knew that he was not fairly and equitably entitled, and finding his unjust demand resisted. He at once, knowing the matter would not bear investigation forbore to keep his claim. This being the case, I cannot but concur most fully in the opinion expressed by the Hon'ble the Recorder.

Sd/ Orfeur Cavenagh Coll

Governor Straits Settlement

Singapore and Judge of the Court

October 20th 1865

My dear Read

I duly received your note marked 'private' last night and mentioned the subject and (?) thereof to the governor. In reply I am desired to say that if you will make your communication in an official form and bring the charges which you say you are able to prove against the Police, every consideration will be given to them and every opportunity afforded by Govt for their investigation, but the Governor has always declined to act upon information which may be tendered privately against and {any?} official in his public capacity, and in any case he would not consider himself justified in departing from this rule.

Sd M P

27/10/65

W H Read Esqre

Précis of a letter to Col Man R C Pinang 27/10/65

Considers that the Larroot question is a purely Mercantile one and that Govt have no right to interfere. Mentions that his letter on affairs in Assahan has gone to Calcutta. Wd not be justified

in ordering a Man of War over to Sumatra. Construction of Tekum Battu Road must be delayed for a short time. etc.

M P Sd O C

Singapore

2nd Novr 1865

My dear Mr Knox

I am much obliged for your letter of the 24th Ult and for the trouble you have taken on the subject of the proposed annexation of the Kotah district to Province Wellesley. As we were ready to pay a fair price for a small tract of uncultivated land I hardly think the arrangement was calculated to cause mistrust. Indeed if I mistake not, the Pinang Authorities, upon opening negotiations with the Rajah, proposed merely to make an exchange, giving him a piece of ground in the Southern Division of the Province. As however most of our Sugar factories are in that quarter and perhaps hereafter there may be a great demand for fuel, I hardly thought it right to surrender any of our Forest land unless it were absolutely necessary, and suggested that, if agreeable to the Rajah, it would be preferable to obtain the desired interest by purchase.

I have lately received through the Siamese Consul here a printed copy of the correspondence between the Govt at Bangkok and Mons. Anbaret. The latter certainly seems to have acted in a most unjustifiable manner. Still I think it would have been better had the King abstained from publishing the facts himself and allowed them to become known merely through public Consuls {channels?}, for although the Blue Book is intended for private circulation only, its existence will hardly be kept secret.

It is rumoured here that despairing for obtaining protection from Gt. Britain, Siam is making overtures to America, and that there is every probability of their being favourably received. You are of course aware that America has established a Consulate and obtained a grant of land at Brunei in Borneo, and that the Squadron in this quarter is being strengthened.

M P Sd O C

T G Knox Esqre

Consul for England

Bangkok

3/11/65

My dear Gastrell

Many thanks for your kind letter of the 2nd Ult regarding Mr Powell. As apparently there is little prospect of Mr Talbot's coming down, it being out of my power to guarantee his being allowed to count all his former service in the event of the transfer of the Settlement to the Colonial Office, I shall be very glad to avail myself of Mr Powell's services, and if your are in communication with him, should feel greatly obliged by your kindly informing him that he will be gazetted as soon as I hear from him that he is prepared to come down to take up his appointment, and that he can therefore leave at once, as the order would meet him at Malacca. The appointment has been vacant for some time and there is a good deal in the way of arrears to be brought up.

Sd O C

Colonel Gastrell

Offg Surveyor Genl

Précis of a letter to Captain Burn R C Malacca d/3rd/11/65

In reply to his of the 24th Ult considers there must have been neglect on the part of the petty officer in charge of the party to which the runaway convicts belonged. There was nothing in old Baningarten's case to recommend him for an annuity. A good gunner can be sent up for the "Mohr". With regard to Mr Velge's case Mr Velge can appeal to the Court if he pleases. Mr de Wind to be assessed at the same rate as the others are assessed, the rate to be levied for 5 years and so long as them oney is paid no further notice to be taken of him. If the money is not paid, he must be treated in accordance with the Act. etc.

M P Sd O C

Précis of a letter to Col Man R C Pinang 9/11/65

Will despatch a copy of the Pinang Memorial to Secy of State per this Mail. Hopes to send Excise notes in papers by this Mail. Two of these possibly will have to go in manuscript. Considers there will not be sufficient money to bund the Banks of the Muda

9/11/65

My dear Sir Benson

I have now the pleasure to enclose a copy of the Magistrate's conviction and of the order of the Supreme Court in the two cases in wh. Mr Edgerton was concerned at Spore. It is as you observe a painful task to deprive any one of the means of obtaining a livelihood. Still when it is remembered that a great amount of misery may be caused by the proceedings of an

untrustworthy Law agent, and it is clear that Mr Edgerton was untrustworthy in the present instance, I do not think we could have acted otherwise than we have done.

With regard to the printing of the Magte's Guide, I am afraid it would be out of my power to authorize any Expenditure on that account, as there is no Budget head under which it would be included, but if Mr Logan would be willing to complete the work, furnishing yourself and the Govt with a certain no of copies, I fancy we should have little difficulty in arranging matters.

Sd O C

4/11/65

Sir P Benson Maxwell

Recorder

Précis of a letter to Col Man R C P d/15/11/65

Mentions that the Local Examination Committee can select a piece for dictation when the boys are examined. States that all the pupils should be present when the distribution of prizes takes place. Will pass an indent on the Surveyor General Calcutta for meteorological instruments. Enquires whether he has secured impressions of any native seals.. Hopes the question regarding the ground at Byan Lepass and Butterworth has been settled.

M P

Spore 21st November

My dear Marriott

I hope you will excuse my having instructed my Secretary, who is the corresponding agent in the Straits for the Singapore Exhibition to forward our contribution to your charge. I did not know anyone in Bombay to whom it could be consigned, and as the Exhibition is, I observe, to be opened by your Chief, Sir Barth Forer {Bartle Frere?} I thought you might possibly take sufficient interest in the matter as to oblige me by allowing one of your subordinates to make the necessary arrangements for despatching the packages to their destination etc. etc.

X X X

I observed a short time ago, in one of your papers, an allusion to your having received an order for all your Govt vessels to fly the Blue Ensign. Is this the case? If so I should esteem it a great favor if you would send me a copy of the order

. As consequent, I suppose to the Straits being out of the Indian Command and the prospect of our being transferred to the charge of the Colonial Office I have received as yet no instructions upon the subject of the Straits Steamers are therefore still flying the red.

Sd O C

Singapore

November 22nd 1865

My dear Sir Hope Grant

The reports that have reached this {station?} of the sickness and mortality that has occurred during the last hot season among the European Troops at Hongkong and which may doubtless, in some measure, be attributed to overcrowding, owing to the want of sufficient accommodation, have induced me to write these few lines to mention {that} our Barracks at Tanglin are still unoccupied, and that, as I have ordered furniture for about 500 men to be always retained in store with the view of meeting any emergency, one month's notice would suffice to enable me to make the necessary arrangements for accommodating the head Quarters and Wing of a Corps.

I am aware that, until the question of the transfer of the Settlement to the charge of the Colonial Office is decided, there might be some difficulty with regard to the location of Imperial Troops at an Indian Station, but this difficulty is not insurmountable. Last year the Secretary of State for India, at my suggestion, offered to place the Tanglin Barracks at the disposal of the Admiralty as a Depot for the Marines etc. of the China fleet. The offer was not however accepted, and if therefore an application were made by the War Office for the use of the vacant Buildings, there seems every reason to believe that it would prove successful.

Although, perhaps, the ordinary cost of the Wing of a Corps at Singapore might be somewhat higher than at Hongkong, yet the difference would, I fancy, be more than covered by the Saving in house rent. For two houses alone at Hongkong I am informed that Government is paying at the rate of £9,500 per annum is {and so?} that, even in a financial point of view, the measure might be advantageous, whilst, as regards the health of the men, I should suppose there can be no question as to the great benefit that would be derived from the change. However, on this point, a sound opinion can be formed from the Medical returns of the three Batteries of Royal Artillery now in the Straits, which I presume are available for reference in the Director General's Office. As respects the political aspect of the question I might observe that, when Sir Rutherford Alcock was with me, on his way to Peking, I happened to refer to the subject of the empty Barracks, and he appeared to consider that Troops at Singapore would be mere {sure?} enough to afford support to the Authorities in China and that in fact a healthy and efficient Wing here would be far better than an unhealthy and inefficient one at Hongkong.

Believe me etc.

Sd/ Orfeur Cavenagh

Lieutt General

Sir Hope Grant G.C.B.

Quarter Master General

Horse Guards

London

Singapore November 22nd 1865

My dear Dickens

On my return to Singapore I ascertained that Captain Stafford had not passed the prescribed examination for Staff employ, independent of which I found that he had no practical experience in Engineering work, so that I should hardly have felt justified in placing him in charge of a District I which a considerable amount of practicable knowledge is absolutely necessary to enable an Officer to discharge his duties efficiently. Under these circumstances I did not consider it advisable to take advantage of the permission you had kindly obtained for me and offer Captain S the vacant berth. However even if the offer had been made, it is somewhat doubtful whether it would have been accepted, as he is at present acting as Quarter Master of his Corps and, with his Colonial allowance as a Captain, which he would (would) cease to receive if holding any general appointment, must be drawing quite as high a salary as he would obtain in the D.P.W. without having the same responsibility.

I sincerely trust that you will be able to send me down a smart young Engineer to relieve Bennett as soon as possible, as, in the event of the sickness either of Mayne or Protheroe, I haven o one available to take charge of the duties they are now performing in addition to their own. By this Mail you will receive a recommendation in behalf of both these officers to receive some extra remuneration, for although, throughout my career, I have always acted upon the principle that an Officer's entire services are at the disposal of the State and, consequently, for any slight additional labor no additional pay should be expected, yet, it is but fair to offer reimbursement for actual expenses incurred, and in the present instance, I know that both Mayne and Protheroe have been put to expense on account of carriage hire. To the latter the cost must be about 60 Rs per mensem at least, for he daily leaves my Office at _ past 3 PM to visit the convict Lines, where he remains sometimes until near 6, and is unable to accompany me in my evening drive. For this he is obliged to hire a carriage, the charge for which is One Dollar. Mayne also I have seen returning home from his Office in a hired carriage, all his own Nags having been knocked up by his visits to the Works.

I hope our Budget is not to be cut down with reference to the Transfer. I am so tired of this remark and I do not think it is at all certain that the measure ever will be carried out.

Believe etc.

Sd/ Orfeur Cavenagh

To Lieutt Coll Dickens

Secy to Govt P.W.D.

Calcutta

Singapore November 30th 1865

My dear Colonel Durand

As it appears that the decision of the Commission appointed to report upon the claims of Indian officers has proved adverse to the opinion expressed by the Secretary of State, it is not improbable that the question of the reorganization of the native Army may again be brought before the Supreme Government, and, knowing that the interest you have always taken on Military matters, I do not therefore hesitate to enclose for your consideration a copy of a letter which a few months since I wrote to Colonel Baker on this subject.

Colonel Baker, in his reply, seemed to think that it would be unjust to the aspirant for the Staff Corps to keep him in probation for five years, but he overlooked the fact that, in the meanwhile, he would enjoy the honorary or official rank, with the pay and allowances attached, and if permanently posted to the Corps, his rank might be confirmed from the date of his first joining it. As regards Officers now in the Staff Corps, most of them will complete their five years service in the course of a few months, and under any circumstances it would be necessary to confirm all Officers, Staff or Local, in the rank they now hold. Many of the Staff, to whom the option would, of course, be given, would elect to rejoin their Regiments, with the view of selling out. Still in the course of next year, there would doubtless be a great deal of promotion among the Locals, which would reconcile them to the change, more especially, when it is remembered that they would again be brought on the rolls of an existing Regiment and feel themselves part of an efficient Military body.

The present position of a Local Officer is certainly most distressing. As a soldier he has nothing to look forward to, whilst the whole charm of a Military life, in the enjoyment of the society of comrades and the advantages of well regulated Regimental Institutions, has vanished. He can no longer take any pride in his profession or any interest in the men he may be called upon to command. Even the Staff Corps Officer, in many respects, is little better off, though as regards his financial position he has no cause for complaint.

It has always appeared to me that the framers of the scheme for the present organization of the Native Army narrowed their views solely to the question of establishing a cheap Local Militia, quite forgetting that India forms part of a mighty Empire, that the interests of that Empire should never be lost sight of, and that the time may come when England may be glad to avail herself of the services of her warlike Indian tribes as auxiliaries to her Native Soldiery. Under such circumstances, the Indian Army, constituted as it is now is, would prove a source of weakness instead of strength, but with 78 efficient Native Regiments, well officered, and Irregulars, if

needed, *ad libitum*, India, in case of Emergency, would be in a position to afford powerful aid to the mother country.

Even as respects the matter of economy, I am not quite sure that the new system will not be a failure.

I hope you will excuse my troubling you with this long letter. The welfare of the Indian Army is a question to which I have always given much thought, and your officers have had {not?} the advantages I have enjoyed in making myself acquainted with all the peculiarities of every branch of the Service.

Believe me to remain

Yours sincerely

Sd/ Orfeur Cavenagh

The Hon'ble

Colonel W Durand C.B.

Member of the Supreme Council

Calcutta

Extract from a letter to Sir B Maxwell Recorder of Pinang d/4/12/65

I most fully approve of your arrangement with regard to the completion of the Magistrate's guide, and the distribution of the copies when printed. Sec vi is now in the hands of the Printer and Protheroe hopes to be able to send it up to you by the "Pluto" which will probably leave this {station?} for Pinang about the 9th or 10th Instant.

I am afraid that when I asked you to kindly bring the work through the Press I imposed upon you a more arduous task than I had anticipated. There can be no doubt however that by your labours you will have conferred a great boon upon all our Magistrates who are really desirous of making themselves acquainted with the duties of their office and I must hope that this thought will repay you for the trouble you have taken.

Sd O C

(insert)

My dear Sir Richard

I have the pleasure to enclose for your perusal a note received from Mr Braddell on the subject of the suit about to be brought by certain members of the Police Force against the utterers of an

alleged libel, and I should esteem it a great favour if you would kindly let me know whether, in the event of a criminal prosecution taking the place of a Civil action, you would have any objection to the defendant's pleading a justification, should he desire to do so. In directing the accused parties to clear their character by seeking redress at the duly constituted legal tribunal my sole object is, as I am sure you are aware, to have the matter properly sifted and to show the Public that the Govt will not retain in its Service any Officer against whom a charge of dereliction of duty may remain unrefuted.

Should you be willing in a criminal prosecution to permit the justification to be pleaded, so that the real merits of the case may be made known, Mr Braddell will of course be authorized to consent to the arrangement on the part of the Crown.

Believe me

Yours sincerely

Sd/ Orfeur Cavenagh

Decr 7th

Précis of a letter to Col Man R C Pinang d/14th/12/65

Replies to his letter of 5th Instant. Is glad he spoke to young Maxwell. Requests him to send in a report of the proceedings of his friend at Telok Ayer Tawar. Enquires whether Logan will pay anything towards the cost of embanking the Mudah. Would be prepared to authorize a large contribution on the part of Govt towards it. Requests him in future in disposing of waste lands to give deeds in perpetuity or for 99 years. Is glad to hear that he is going to turn his attention to the Land Office.

Sd O C

Précis of a letter to Major Burn R C Malacca d/14th Decr 1865

Acknowledges his letter of the 5th. Mentions that there is a notice for him to serve upon Mr de Wind, so that should he refuse to agree to the payment of the assessment imposed legal proceedings may be taken against him. Supposes the assessment in Mr De Wind's case will be 30 cents per acre.

Letter to Col Walker R E Ag Surveyor G1 of India thanking him for his kindness in regard to Mr Powell. d/20th December 1865

Letter to Sir Benson Maxwell d/20/12/65

Informing him that a copy of the Return of Sums held in deposit at Pinang will be sent to him at once.

(insert)

Singapore Decr 23

States that as soon as the new Boshes are in the "Mhor" she will be required to visit Pinang regularly once a month and remain for some days, so that he will generally have a vessel at his disposal. Points out the necessity for using properly stamped paper, having a printed stamp at the head and an impressed stamp at the foot to prevent fraud as practised in treasuries by using the same paper for several promissory notes in succession. Observes that no Magistrate in other Govt offices can be appointed a Member of the Commission without the sanction of Govt unless required by an Act to officiate in his public capacity, in which case he can receive no fees for the performance of a public duty. If the amount of the bill for fees were paid to Mr Maxwell it must be retrenched. Calls attention to the non-receipt of the paper on English composition. Remarks that due consideration will be given to Logan's paper, but it must be remembered that he is already perhaps receiving some return and that land which he purchased for /3 per acre will now be worth/100.

(end of insert)

Précis of a letter to Col Man R C Pinang 28/12/65

Will not be able to decide the Mudah question till Bennett sends in an official reply to Mayne's letter on the subject. Mentions that it is a matter of importance to bring the matter within the Govr's limit of sanction and considers that the Land holders there should bear part of the Expense.

(insert) Singapore

December 22nd 1865

My dear Lord

I have delayed answering your previous letters until I should receive a reply to mine mentioning Mr Mitchell's temporary appointment to Malacca. I am glad to find that the arrangement meets with your approval.

I am almost afraid the Supreme Govt would not be willing to consent to my placing at your disposal the saving of salary effected by poor Mr Hackett's decease, towards the payment of the passage money of his successor. Such an arrangement being opposed to the ordinary system of accounts. However should you desire it, I would with pleasure submit the question.

The transfer of the Settlement to the charge of the Colonial Office would, as far as I am able to discover, improve the deposition {position?} of the incumbent at Malacca, as he would then become a Colonial Chaplain (Chaplain) and be eligible for promotion to Pinang or Singapore.

I am sorry to say that I have not felt justified in circulating your appeal on behalf of the Education Fund, as well as for our own Local Establishments. I am unable to obtain sufficient support and they have the first claim upon me. I however beg to enclose a Bill for 40 Rs which I hope you will accept as my own contribution.

Pray excuse this hurried note as the Steamer is to leave a day earlier than intended and I am consequently pressed for time.

Believe me to remain

Yours very sincerely

Sd/ O C

To

The Right Revd The Lord Bishop of Calcutta

Singapore

January 5th 1866

My dear Sir

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th October. It is to be hoped that any change in the Cabinet may not retard the submission to the power (House) of the Bill for the transfer of this Settlement to the charge of the Colonial Office, for the uncertainty is extremely prejudicial to its interests.

In the way of legislation we have been at a complete standstill for the last three or four years, as, until the question of the transfer is finally decided one way or another, the Indian Government will not grant the Straits a Local Legislative Council, whilst Bills brought before the Council of the Governor General not being of a general nature, are quietly shelved, being deemed more suitable for Local discussion. At the same time the Straits are generally specially excluded from the benefits of the improved legislation now taking place in India, and as old Acts have been cancelled, there are some points upon which, literally, there is no law at all throughout the Settlement.

I heard that there had been a difference of opinion on the subject of our Military Expenditure. If, as I have been informed, we are to have no Native Troops, and the duties now performed by the Sepoys are to be taken by Military Police, £50,000 is the utmost we could pay as a Military contribution, as considering the numerous guards to be furnished and the necessity for having several relief, the Police Force would cost at least 10 or £12,000.

Mr Callaghan has only recently left me. I shall of course be happy to afford him any assistance in my power towards the formation of his new Police, but I do not think the offer of land will prove

any temptation to men to enlist, though it might be an inducement for them to remain in the Force after the expiration of their first period of service. In the first instance high pay (pay) will be the only point likely to be taken.

I remain

Yours sincerely

Sd/ Orfeur Cavenagh

H {W ?}Robinson Esqre

Colonial Office

Downing Street

London

Singapore 8/1/66

My dear Sir

I have deemed it advisable to forward to your address by the present Mail two copies of the Straits Budget Estimate for the ensuing official year which may possibly be found useful in case of a Bill for the transfer being brought under discussion in the House in the present Session.

Although a falling off is shewn in the Receipts there has been in reality no decrease. The figures entered in the Columns for 1865/66 are taken from the revised Estimate framed by the Comptroller of Accounts in India and not from the Estimate prepared by the Local Government, in which lately the amount to be realized as Stamp Revenue was only estimated at 264,550 instead of 300,00, this difference more than accounting for the present anticipated loss.

I would take the opportunity of expressing my regret at hearing of your accident. etc.

Sd O C

To the Rt Hon

Sir C Wood Bt G.C.B.

Secy of State for India

Singapore

8/1/66

My dear Sir

By this Mail I have dispatched to your address two copies of the Budget Estimate for the Straits Settlement for the ensuing official year, which may perhaps be found useful in the event of a Bill for the transfer being brought before Parliament this Session.

The estimated falling off in the Receipts is more apparent than real. The figures entered in the Columns for 1865/66 being taken from the revised estimate prepared in India by the Comptroller General of Accounts and not from the Estimate prepared by the Local Govt, in which the amount to be realized under the head of Stamps was only estimated at 264,550 instead of 300,000 rupees, the difference in this one item alone being thus greater than the present supposed decrease.

Sd/ O C

Sir Frederic Rogers Bt

Under Secy of State: Colonial Office

Spore d/20/1/66

Sir

Your Majesty's Consul, Tan Kim Ching, having in accordance with your Majesty's instructions presented me with the Photograph of yourself and your late lamented brother, which your Majesty had been pleased to forward for my acceptance I would beg to record my due appreciation of the kindness with which your Majesty has been pleased to honor me, and at the same time to express my deep regret at your Majesty's recent affliction and tender my sincere condolence upon the melancholy event.

Sd / O C

H.M. the 1st King of Siam

Singapore

January 26th 1866

My dear Lord

I have only time to write a few lines in reply to your letter of the 13th Ult. My acquaintance with Mr Seock is very slight and I should therefore hardly feel justified in expressing a very strong opinion as to his fitness or otherwise to fill the vacant post at Malacca, but I certainly entertain doubts as to his professing {possessing?} the requisite qualifications for the office, whilst possibly the fact of his being, if I mistake not, a pure Cingalese would not act as a bar to his acquiring over the members of his congregation that personal influence which it is so essential

that a Clergyman should obtain. An untrueminded {trueminded?}, zealous and, at the same time judicious Chaplain might effect much good at Malacca.

Believe me etc.

Sd/ O Cavenagh

To

The Right Revd

The Lord Bishop of Calcutta

Précis of a note to Lt Col Man R C Pinang d/ Malacca 9th/2/66

In reply to his note of the 14th Ult returns Major Shand's note and states there will be no difficulty about the children's being removed to the Raffles Institution at Singapore. Hopes he will reduce the arrears of Land Revenue. Considers that the best plan will be to send clerks into the district periodically to collect revenue, giving notice to the inhabitants of their coming beforehand; the people will then be saved a trip to town.

Sd / O C

My dear Mr Muir

I deem it right to mention for the information of the G.G. that although I am aware that the Tumongong hopes to have the honor of being presented at one of H.M.'s levees, I am fully satisfied that he has no other object in visiting England than the one specified in my Official communication. He has frequently expressed a great desire to take a trip to Europe but I hardly expected that he would carry out the project. I believe however that he will do so on this occasion.

He will be accompanied by his Medical man, Dr Scott, a private practitioner who will act as his Secretary, and only 2 or 3 Native Servants. He has received a partial English Education, and as he is observant and intelligent, I have little doubt that he will acquire a great deal of useful information, which may hereafter prove beneficial to himself and his people. He has agents in London who will be written to with a view to their making suitable arrangements for his accommodation. His manners are very quiet and Gentlemanly and will, I am sure, obtain for him many friends. I have promised to give him letters of introduction to Sir R. Mayne and one or two other officials who may perhaps be able to prove of service to him. etc. etc.

15/3/66 Sd O C

W Muir Esqre

Secy to Govt For Dept

Govt House

Singapore March 21st/66

My dear Sir

I presume upon my former slight acquaintance in 1850, when I was in charge of the Nepalese Embassy, to introduce to your notice Dr Scott, the gentleman who is about to accompany the Tumongong of Johore in his approaching visit to England, in the capacity of Medical Adviser and Secretary and who will wait upon you for the purpose of ascertaining the pleasure of the Secretary of State as to granting His Highness an interview.

The Tumongong's sole object in proceeding to England is to improve his mind by making himself acquainted with the wonders of western civilization, for which purpose he is desirous of visiting the several manufacturing Towns, Dockyards, etc. He has received a partial English education, is quiet and pleasing in his manners, and by no means wanting in intelligence. I have little doubt therefore that he will derive much benefit from his trip.

His Highness purposes making a stay of two or three months only in England. I have reported his intended departure from this {station?} official to the Supreme Govt.

F W Kaye Esqre I remain etc.

Secy Political and Secret Dept, India Office Sd / Orfeur Cavenagh

favored {forwarded?} by Dr Scott

Extract from a letter to Mr T G Knox Consul for Siam d/25/3/66

The question of the violation of our territory by an armed party from Quedah seems to be in a fair way of being properly settled. I heard yesterday from Colonel Man that he did not accept the surrender of the leader as he was well content to leave his punishment in the hands of the Siamese Authorities, as we could only try him for the riot and assault, whilst they can punish him on other grounds.

It seems tolerably clear that the King of Siam is not desirous of appointing a second King, and if the Prime Minister can only succeed in retaining his present influence, I suppose it is in many respects advantageous that no appointment should be made.

I enclose a letter to the King in reply to one received through Mr Kim Ching which I should feel much obliged by your causing, after perusal, to be delivered in due form.

I hope I shall be able to meet the wishes of the Siamese Government regarding the powder, but we have no spare guns. I will however forward your letter to Calcutta where perhaps there may be some in store. If so and they are not needed, there will I daresay be no objection to their being

disposed of. You have omitted to mention whether there is at present any special cause for the request that has been made.

x x

PS I have omitted to mention that a Company is likely to be found {formed?} for connecting Singapore and perhaps Bangkok with Moulmein by Electric Telegraph. I have received an official on the subject which will be submitted with my support to the Secy of State. Mr W H Read is to proceed to Bangkok to ask for the King's countenance, but the promoters have not much confidence in his influence and have asked me to kindly bring the matter to your notice in the hope that you may be disposed to assist them.

H.M. the King of Siam d/25/3/66

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Majesty's kind letter of the 18th Ult.

I much regret to find that your Majesty is under the impression that my letter of the 17th Janry. Was the first communication that I have ever made in an unofficial form. I have never failed to answer the letters announcing family events with which from time to time your Majesty has been pleased to honor me, and if my replies have through any inadvertence remained undelivered, your Majesty must have had just reason to accuse me of discourtesy.

H.M. the Queen of Great Britain having appointed a representative at the Court of Bangkok, I should be wanting in respect, both to your Majesty and to my own sovereign, were I to transmit my letters direct, as this would be contrary to prescribed usage, and if I violated the rule, other subjects of your Majesty might consider that they were justified in following my example, and your Majesty might be subjected to annoyance.

I hope however that, although on this account I do not deem it becoming to deviate from the proper course, your Majesty will not the less consider that I duly appreciate the kind feeling your Majesty has been pleased to express towards me, and that it will always afford me pleasure to receive accounts of your Majesty's health and welfare.

Sd O C

M P

Extract from a letter d/ 5th April 1866 to R C Pinang

Extract from a letter dated 10th April/66 to Resident Councillor Penang

He (the Brig He, the Brigadier pays Pinang a visit by this opportunity. He is a gentlemanly soldierlike old gentleman, a great improvement I think over De Sansmany. He gets

Extract from a letter dated 5th April. /66 to the Resident Councillor Penang x x x

He (the Brigadier) he has by the bye recently received a reference on the subject of our issuing orders for salutes. He considers, and in this I agree with him, that as the Officer Commanding the Station is now the responsible person for signing the Indent, and the Civil Department no longer is called upon to pay for the powder, that the order should be essed to him, though in any case of emergency, the Artillery Officer might act upon your requisition, the necessary communication being at the same time addressed to the Senior Office {Officer?}. The salute to the Tumongong, by the bye, was not in accordance with rules, as although his name has been included in the list recently sent up for sanction, up to the present no orders have been passed upon the subject and moreover his vist to Pinang was not an official one.

x x x

As the Rajah of Quedah expressed his regret I suppose I shall have to sanction the payment of the arrears of pension though he might be warned that another time they would lapse up {if?} a similar occurrence took place.

My dear Mr Mathison

I have this moment received your note to Col Macpherson tendering your resignation of your office as one of the board for the examination of Candidates for the annual Govt Scholarships.

I cannot allow you to leave the Settlement without expressing my regret at your departure and requesting you to accept my sincere thanks for the valuable aid which you have always so readily accorded to the State in conducting the examinations, as well as for the warm interest you have taken in the cause of education generally, for which as the head of the Govt I cannot but feel deeply indebted.

etc etc

5/4/66 Sd/ O C

M P

The Reverend J Mathison

Précis of a letter to Captain Burn R C Malacca d/10th April

Hopes to have broken up the combination at Malacca to keep down the price of the Farms. Special Sessions to be held at Malacca on the 25th for the trial of the Malays who were concerned in the murder of the Chinese hawker. Requests him to take care that all the witnesses are present, jurors summoned etc. Any other case, civil or criminal, can be tried at the same time. Mentions that he can visit Langat, if he chooses, in the "Pluto".

Sd/ O C

M P

Extract from a letter for the R C Pinang d/25th April 1866

x x x

You will be sorry to hear that I am afraid I shall be obliged to place Mr Robertson under your orders and remove one of your Deputies. My present idea is to send him to Province Wellesley as soon as the house at Butterworth is ready, so that he will be under supervision. In that case Waller would, if he wishes it, come to Singapore and Earl take his place at Pinang. I would not remove Waller against his own wish, but of course by remaining at Pinang he would be giving up his chances of promotion.

Although I fully concurred in the verdict of "not guilty" given by the Jury in Police Conspiracy case, yet I equally concur in their remarks that Mr R. had been guilty of culpable indiscretion, and it is clear that it is not to the advantage of the Public Service, or even to his own benefit, that he should remain at Singapore. Under your eye in Province Wellesley he will have a chance of retrieving his character, whilst there will be a fair field for some of the good qualities as a Police officer which he really possesses, and I hope he may yet do well.

x x x

You had better report your appointment of the Signal Sergeant. You do not mention his name but I think I heard that he was a man who had been dismissed from an appointment at Malacca. I may be wrong but it would be as well if you make enquiries on the subject before promising him the permanent berth. The Signal men would have more of a claim to Lightkeeperships than to appointments in the Jail Dept.

x x x

25/4/66 Sd O C

M P

Govt House

May 2nd 1866

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th Ult which was duly delivered to me by Mr Tan Kim Ching. I need hardly observe that it will always afford me sincere pleasure to hear from Your Majesty and to meet your wishes as far as may be consistent with the proper discharge of my own duties to the best of my power.

Most fully reciprocating your M's kindly feelings.

To the King of Siam Sd O C

Spore 2/5/66

My dear Mr Knox

I have merely time to write a few lines to thank you for your two letters of the 5th and 23rd Ult and to beg you after perusal to deliver the accompanying note to the King in reply to one received through Mr Tan Kim Ching.

I am much obliged for the countenance you have so kindly given to the Telegraph Scheme. Now that the required concessions have been obtained from the King of Siam, the home Government will I think be obliged to come to some determination with regard to the extension of the line from Moulmein to Singapore, and either carry out the work under its own officers or else permit it to be completed by the Company of which Messrs Read and Paterson are the representatives. Whichever way the question may be decided, it must tend to the benefit of the community in the Straits, which is of course the object I have in view.

I was glad to learn that Mr Read had the grace to seek your assistance though I have little doubt, had he placed the matter as he ought to have, down in your hands in the first instance he would have obtained better terms. He ought to have learnt experience by this time.

Sd O C

T G Knox Exqre H.B.M. Consul

Bangkok

Govt House

Spore 4/5/66

My dear Mr Fraser

I have unfortunately no personal acquaintance with the Governors of the colonies you are about to visit, but I have much pleasure in enclosing three formal notes of introduction which will I trust meet the object you have in view.

I should be glad to hear of the Success of your mission.

Sd O C

A Fraser Esqre

Chief Agent

Netherlands Indies S N Co

Singapore May 9th 1866

My dear Sir Benson

In my giving instructions to Mr Banningarten to prepare the order of Court relative to the costs in suits instituted under Act V of 1866 {he?} pointed out to me that, when the provisions of a similar Act were extended, by order of {in?} council, to several courts in England, the order did not enter into details but empowered the courts to make such further rules as might be necessary. Having therefore a precedent, it might perhaps be advisable for us to follow it, and Mr Banningarten has therefore drawn up a revised order of Government which I enclose, with the previous one, and wh. if it meets with your approval I will adopt.

It has been prepared as far as possible in strict accordance with the form used in the orders of Council at home.

Macpherson sent me your pay bills but as your pay is fixed by the letters patent, it does not come under my audit nor can I pass any order regarding it. If however you will address me mentioning that, as the office at Singapore is virtually vacant, so long as you perform the entire {duties?} of the post in addition to your own, you presume that you will be entitled to the higher salary, or rather to a deputation allowance equivalent to the difference, I shall have much pleasure in supporting the claim and submitting the question to the Supreme Government.

Sd O C

Sir Benson Maxwell Recorder

Précis of a note to H.E. the governor of Labuan d/11/5/66

Has been unable to obtain men for his force {from?} the Police discharged at Singapore on the expiration of their service. Will endeavour now to procure respectable outsiders. With regard to the relief of the Labuan detachment, if the "Rattler" cannot do it, the "Mona" will have to be chartered by as she wd have to go o to "Manilla". He would have the two detachments with him for about 10 days. Enquires whether he has room to put them up; if not the relief must be effected in two trips. etc.

Sd O C

M P

Extract from a letter dated 18th May/66 to the Resident Councillor Penang

x x x

Did Brown, before he left. Speak to you about a scheme for a Seawall and Quay at Penang similar to Collyer's Quay here. If not it might be worth your while to ascertain what the Merchants at your Residency would think of such a measure. We would as at Singapore issue grants with a small Quit rent for all land reclaimed, and such {each?} person would have to contribute towards the expense of the reclamation rateably to the extent of his grant. It would be a great improvement to the Town. The Government might carry out the work, the proprietors of the land making from time to time such advances as might be necessary.

Singapore

20/5/66

My dear Mr Muir

I do not know whether you receive regular visits {news?} from Bangkok, and as the Governor General ought to be made acquainted with all political movements in this Quarter, I therefore write these few lines to mention that I heard yesterday from Mr Knox that the Siamese Govet. Had received an application from a Company, of which the projectors {promoters?} are French, for permission to cut a canal through the isthmus of Kra.

The King was informed of the result of the cession to Mr. Sesseps {de Lesseps} in Egypt and the project has consequently not been entertained, but although repulsed in their first attempt, the French may yet make a second endeavour to obtain a footing in the Malayan Peninsula. The matter has been duly reported by Mr Knox to the Home Govt.

We have an Italian Frigate now in harbour with a mission on board en route to Japan to conclude if possible a treaty similar to those granted to other European Powers, but this is not the sole object of the mission, as I have every reason to believe that it has been instructed to try and form a settlement out in these seas, with the view of becoming a *point d'appui* for Italian Commerce and for a future Italian Squadron should however {ever?} war have broken out in Europe.

Sd O C

Extract from a letter to T G Knox Esqre Consul at Siam d/23/5/66

I am very glad to hear that for the present the intended movement of our worthy allies upon the isthmus of Kra has been arrested. I daresay however that the design has not been entirely abandoned and that it will be necessary for you to be on your guard against any further proceedings in that Quarter. We could never allow the French to obtain such a position as would cut off the Straits from India.

The King has sent me the wedding cards of his grandson. Will you therefore kindly give him the accompanying note of Congratulation.

Sd O C

Sir 22/5/66

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the wedding cards of Your Majesty's grandson, His Highness Prince Fidgeo and beg your Majesty to accept my cordial congratulations on the auspicious event.

I have etc.

Sd O C

H.M. the King of Siam

Précis of a letter to Sir Benson Maxwell d/24th May 1866

Mentions that there will be no officialty {difficulty?} about his 8 m's leave. That his letter regarding his pay has been sent to Calcutta. When an answer is received he shall have a copy. Is not disposed to recommend the claims of the petty jurors to favourable consideration as our judicial expenditure is very heavy.

Sd / O C

M P

(insert)

Singapore 25th May 1866

My dear Burn

As the "Pluto" I believe is not to leave until 2 o'clock I find that I have time to send you a few lines in reply to yours of the 23rd.

When the road to Payah Suas is ready, I would wish you to arrange to have a small temporary Police Station erected close to the site of the proposed Boundary Pillar there. Under the protection of the Police have all the materials for the construction of the Pillar duly collected, so that when once the order is given, the work may be carried out without any delay. The Pillar should of course be of stout masonry so that it may not easily be injured, and the Police should be kept in the neighborhood until the mortar has well set. You might I think spare a Jemadar and 2 Peons from the Suloo cheena {China?} Station, and this, in addition to the extra men you have now on duty at Mallas, and who would not be required there if you establish an advanced post at Payah Suas, would I fancy place the requisite force at your disposal. It might perhaps be also as well that you should move up the two field guns at Seapang to Malos. The fact of their having been brought into the neighborhood might perhaps have a good effect. There is no necessity for any hurry in the matter so long as you make it clear that we are determined to maintain our rights.

Believe me

Yours very sincerely

Sd/ O Cavenagh

(to be entered in the private letter book)

Extract from a letter to the address of Sir P B Maxwell, recorder of Penang dated 26th May 1866.

X X X

Some of the Merchants have spoken to me about the annoyance sometimes caused by the system in force here with respect to impanelling petty Jurors. They say that whilst energy (any?) firm could afford to have one clerk absent at a time, yet when two are taken away together and their services retained for several days, the action of the office, more especially at Mail time or if the juries happen to be their best men, because {becomes?} paralysed. They consider that Singapore is quite large enough to furnish five or six sets of petty Jurymen, and that, if arrangements were made so that two men from the same office were never placed in the same set, whilst after a set had been discharged a {after?} day's duty, it were not called upon to sit again until all the others had equally sat for a day, the Court would have ordinarily the service of a completely fresh set of jurymen every day, and a considerable relief afforded to the Public.

If you concur in this opinion I might instruct the Deputy Sheriff to try and carry out the proposed change.

(to be entered in the private letter book)

Extract from a letter to Sir Benson Maxwell Recorder of Pinang d/7th June 66

I have the pleasure to forward herewith for your consideration the draft of a proposed Order of Court for carrying into effect the intended Govt. Order with respect to the extension of the provisions of Sections 2 to 7 of Act 5 of 1866 to the local Court of Judicature.

I also submit, at Mr Baingarten's suggestion, a table of fees which he thinks would prove somewhat more favourable to the poorer class of suitors, who might not, for a small sum be desirous of engaging the Services of a Local Agent, than a fixed charge of Eight Dollars. He tells me that arrears are accumulating. I purpose therefore despatching the "Rainbow" to Penang to be at your disposal as soon as she is refitted which will, I fancy, be about the 20th Instant.

Précis of a letter to Mr Callaghan G^f of Labuan d/13th June 1866

In reply to his letters of the 23rd and 25th does not consider that the 12 men who are supposed to be on a filibustering expedition to Labuan can give him any trouble as Govr of Labuan and mentions that the "Forester" is going over. Points out that he might pass an Arms Act to prevent the landing of the Arms at Labuan. The "Sampoon" will probably tender to take over the Troops at a moderate rate and if so she will be taken up. Mentions that there is a candidate for the appointment of Chief Constable, one John More, formerly in the Madras H.A. Farrier Major, subsequently in the Sappers and Miners and Madras P.W.D. He has good certificates and seems a decent man. Also states that there is a policeman recently tried for conspiracy and acquitted who might be induced to proceed to Labuan with a few men and would be willing to take them.

Sd/ O C

M P

Singapore

June 19th 1866

My dear Man

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th Instant, and with reference to your enquiries regarding the issue of Licenses to Pawnbrokers, to enclose a copy of the form used at this Station.

The only agreement that you can take from the former {farmer?} is one to the effect that he will be answerable for the payment, by equal monthly instalments, of the amount due on account of the fees on the Licenses issued. To ascertain the fee to be charged, as already printed {pointed?} out to you officially, you divide the total monthly sum by the number of Licenses you have determined to issue, and multiply the quotient by the number of months for which the License is to run. Thus, supposing the amount to be paid monthly were \$1,000, the number of Licenses to be issued 10, and the period for which the License is to run one year or 12 months, the fee to be charged upon such License would be \$1,200, and the former {farmer?} would simply become security for the payment, in 12 equal monthly instalments, of the sum of \$12,000, being the amount of fees upon 10 Licenses.

The amount of interest here is fixed by the Commissioner of Police, and no higher charge than he has sanctioned is allowed to be made without the risk of forfeiting the License. There is no monopoly, for although the former{?} may hold one or two shops, the greater number are sublet, a shop in a good situation being worth more than the cost of the License fee.

Of course I may be wrong, but I have always considered that the grant of Licenses to Pawnbrokers, equally to the Keepers of hotels etc., was optional on the part of the Commissioner of Police. In England where I fear the wording of the Act is very similar, the Magistrates refuse Licenses to Keep Beer Shops if they are of opinion that the number allowed is sufficient to meet the wants of the community. However, it is most likely {unlikely?} that, all the best localities having been occupied in the first instance, under the stringent conditions of the License, and considering the heavy fee fixed, any outsider would wish to take out a License. Should he however do so, the former{?} would be fairly entitled to have the amount carried to his credit. Of course it would have to be paid in full at once and not by instalments.

There can be no doubt that under the former system great temptations were offered to people to steal by the facilities that existed for disposing of stolen property and that this temptation has, in some measure, been removed, whilst any attempt to make undue profit by appraising the value of articles pledged at too low a rate would be sure to be defeated {defeated?} by persons selling the things to friend on the understanding that they might purchase them back.

I hope Mr Robertson will now become steady. He has had a severe lesson. His pay will of course be the full 300 Rs per mensem whilst Earl's will be at the reduced rate for Pinang (350 Rs I think) until (until) he passes, when he will draw the same amount as Waller etc. etc.

Sd/ O C

Précis of a letter to Col Macpherson d/10/7/66

Acknowledges receipt of his letter of the 7th. "Rainbow" to be sent up here at once if there is no work to be done at Singapore. "Pluto" to bring down the Judge to Pinang when he is ready. Mr Venn may be sent to Malacca vice Waterhouse and the R.C. can sanction the arrangements as Secy to Govt. Should Aaron Pillay be guilty hopes to get a conviction against him. Enquires about Chinese Prisoner whose surrender was requested by the Dutch. Mr Cuppage to write in about his office hours.

Sd O C

M P

Extract from a letter to T G Knox Consul at Bangkok d/17/7/66

X X X

In a petition submitted by the wife of Mohammed Hussain she alleged that he was a British born subject, his parents having been in exile in Province Wellesley at the time of his birth. This may be true but ever since his childhood he has resided in Quedah and has always been looked upon as a subject of that State, nor has he indeed made any avowal himself to the contrary.

I can see no objection to the arrangement proposed by the Kalahome, so long as proper precaution may be taken to prevent the peace of the Frontier being disturbed. Our Govt ought to be perfectly satisfied.

I have recently been obliged to call the attention of the Rajah of Quedah to Article 13 of the Treaty of 1826, as it was brought to my knowledge that a very heavy duty was imposed upon cattle entering our territories. As the Treaty with Quedah under which the annual payment is made to the Rajah contains a stipulation differing but little from the provisions of the above Article, I should imagine that the Rajah will recognize the necessity for observing his Treaty obligations.

Sd O C

Pinang 26/7/66

My dear Mr Muir

As it is perhaps advisable that the Supreme Government should be *au fait* with the state of affairs in Siam I have the pleasure to annex an extract from a demi official communication from our Consul at Bangkok relative to the proceedings of his French Colleague.

Sd O C

The Hon W Muir Esqre

Secy to Govt Home Depatt

Pinang 2nd August/66

My dear Sir

As it appears that the Bill for the transfer of the Straits to the charge of the Colonial Office has been brought before the Parliament, and there is therefore a probability of its being passed during the present Session, I venture to suggest for the consideration of the Rt Hon the Secy of State the expediency, if practicable, of carrying the measure into effect at the commencement of the next official year.

In many respects the present would be a very favourable time for the change. The 2 batteries of Artillery at Singapore and the Native Regiment at that Station must be relieved in the course of

another five or six months. The Batteries might be relieved direct from home, whilst if it is the intention of the Authorities at the War Office to locate the wing of a European Regt. in the Tanglin Bks, the duties hitherto devolving upon the Troops at Singapore might be temporarily performed by the Police, an extra body of Peons (constables) being raised for the purpose, to be absorbed when no longer needed, whilst the Native Regiment could be transferred to Pinang furnishing details for Malacca and Labuan. Thus there would be at Singapore 2 batteries of Artillery and the Wing of a European Regt., all of the Home Service, and at Pinang an Indian battery and a Native Regiment, to be relieved in 1868, or as soon as suitable preparations for the relief could be completed, an arrangement to which the Indian Government would doubtless be willing to accede, a fixed payment equivalent to the estimated cost being made to the Madras Government, the Presidency to which the Military in the Straits belong, from the Straits Military contribution a deduction being of course allowed on account of the Labuan detachment.

As regards the Civil Establishment it would be advisable to permit matters to remain in *statu quo*. The only additional officer that would be required would be an Accountant or Dy Acct General and perhaps one or two clerks for at least one year. Although more particularly amongst the Medical Staff, both of the Commissioned and Warrant grades, there may be one or two who would be prepared to forego the advantages of an Indian career by accepting Colonial appointments, I believe that all the Indian Servants would be willing to stay for that period or as long as their services might be deemed necessary, provided they did not forfeit their Indian rights. To this, under the peculiar circumstances of the case, the Secy of State for India could hardly object and time would thus be afforded to make arrangements for filling up any vacancies likely to occur. As I mentioned in my last letter I entertain little doubt that with proper management the revenue of the Straits will always be able to meet all demands on account of Civil Expenditure, as well as the military contribution. At the same time, with reference to the probability of an increased Pension List, it would not be prudent for the present to make any increase of Establishment not of absolute necessity.

For some years past legislation has been almost at a standstill, the Supreme Govt declining either to legislate for the Straits or to confer local powers of legislation. Hence the existing uncertainty as to the future of the Settlement is most prejudicial to its interests and any further delay in effecting the transfer is greatly to be deprecated. A sincere desire to promote the welfare of the new Colony may therefore I trust be pleaded as my excuse for now addressing you on the subject.

Sd O C

Sir Frederic Rogers Bt

Under Secy of State

Pinang 4th Augt 1866

My dear General

From the printed correspondence on the subject of the transfer of the Straits Settlement to the charge of the Colonial Office, I perceive that it has been decided that a Wing of a European Corps is to be quartered in the Tanglin Bk. I hope therefore you will kindly excuse my writing to solicit the kind exercise of your influence in behalf of the Singapore Community so far as to secure the presence if practicable of a Hd. Qr. Wing. So that the Station may have the advantage of a Band. As the Settlement is to pay a very large Mily. Contribution, the residents have some claim to the desired indulgence, whilst in a public point of view the arrangement perhaps may not be deemed undesirable considering the general salubrity of the locality and the extent of the accommodation available.

As the Bill for the transfer is unopposed, I presume that the measure will be carried out notwithstanding the change of Ministry. As regards the Mily. Changes, next cold weather will be a very suitable time for carrying them into effect, as the two Batteries of Artillery at Singapore are under orders for England and could be relieved direct from home, whilst the Native Corps here will return to Madras, and its place could be taken by the Regt. at Singapore, which would also furnish the details at Malacca and Labuan until it could be relieved by the newly raised Companies of the Ceylon Rifles. A payment would of course have to be made to the Madras Govt. so long as the Corps remained, and some additional Police wd. Have to be formed to take the Civil duties at Singapore until the advent of the Rifles, but these would easily be absorbed as soon as their services would be dispensed with, as vacancies are continually occurring in our ordinary Police force. I am afraid there is little prospect of the rifles obtaining many recruits in the Straits. The people are too well off to think of entertaining {enlisting?}

M P Sd/ O C

To Lt Genl Sir Hope Grant G.C.B.

Qr Mr Gl

Horse Guards

Pinang Hill

August 9th 1866

My dear Knox

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 15th Ultimo. Although Monsieur Anbaret may not have the ability to carry out the scheme, he seems to have at {it?} present in view, and to induce the King to place himself under French protection. Still if his design is in any way countenanced by his own Government, even although unwittingly, it will, I presume, be necessary for you to be constantly on your guard to thwart his plans an prevent his obtaining any undue influence at Court, which must be somewhat of a nuisance.

I do not wonder at the Kalahome and his friends fearing (fearing) an attempt on the part of the King to interfere with respect to the nomination of a successor to the throne, as it is not unnatural that, if possible, he should endeavour to retain the Sovereignty in his own Family.

Colonel Macpherson wrote me from Singapore that Kim Sing has asked him for assistance in procuring the Services of a Surveyor and an Assistant, to survey the boundary. Has this application any connection with the French claim to {the?} right bank of the Cambodia? I instructed Macpherson to mention that he would be glad to meet his wishes, but that it was advisable that any arrangement entered into with the Surveyor should be made through you. I suppose you are aware that the king of Siam has sent down his contribution for the French Exhibition to Singapore, with a request that it may be forwarded to Paris with the Straits collections. etc.

Sd/ O C

T G Knox Esqre

H.B.M.Consul

Pinang Hill

August 9th 1866

Sire

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Majesty's note of the 28th Jue, forwarding for my acceptance, as a token or remembrance of the deceased Prince Chira Bony Basir, a small statue of His Royal Highness and a bag containing some funeral balls. I shall not fail to prize the above gifts at {as?} a mark of your Majesty's friendship and of the kindly feelings entertained in my behalf by the brothers, Sister and Mother of the late Prince.

I remain

Sire

Your Majesty's Sincere Friend

Sd/ O C

To

His Majesty

The King of Siam

Extract from a letter to Major Burn, R C Malacca, 8th August 1866

"As Sergeant Aitken has been pensioned you can let him go at once. When he ready for a start write to Bennett to send up Macdonald and send in our {an?} official on the subject so that the necessary order may be gazetted. I can relieve {release?} Macdonald from this {station?} as there is a Candidate who seems a good man."

Extract from a letter to Sir Richard McDonnell Governor of Hongkong d/15/8/66

I have the pleasure to enclose a return shewing the realizations consequent in {on?} the introduction of the Stamp Act for the three years that it has been in force in the Straits Settlement, and the cost of the Establishments. In the first instance I had only a collector at Singapore, but with reference to the great amount of business and the necessity for having a substitute in case of sickness I was obliged to appoint an assistant, with the view however of relieving the R.C. who is also Secy to Govt. and the head of all Local Boards.

? etc. I had intended making over the charge of the Treasury to the Stamp Commissioner, giving him a suitable increase of salary. Consequent on the approaching transfer of the Straits to the charge of the Colonial Office, the Supreme Govt. objected to my making the change, which will however be carried out as soon as the transfer takes place. Unless the duties of your Treasurer at HongKong are very onerous, I should imagine that you would find a somewhat similar arrangement advantageous, both as regards economy and efficiency.

If you have a good collector who will combing {combine?} the *moditer {suaviter?} in modo* with the *foditor {fortiter?} in re*, I have little doubt you will experience no difficulty in introducing the tax. Although the Merchants in the Straits naturally objected to it, when once I succeeded in inducing them to recognise its necessity, all opposition ceased and it is very seldom that I have any complaints with regard to its working.

In all probability the revenue to be derived from the Stamp Act will place your finances on a sound footing. . There is however another Indian{?} act which if you have no analogous law in Hongkong you might perhaps find useful. It is the act for the registration of movable property in Java. It yields a very large revenue whilst it acts as a great check to litigation and is generally acceptable.

Sd O C

My dear Sir Benson

I shall of course be happy to submit your letter for the consideration of the Supreme Government, but I must honestly confess that I entertain little hope of your application being successful for the following reasons.

First that it is opposed to all the rules of the Indian Service to grant an officer, when performing the duties of two appointments, the full pay of both, and if I mistake not, in the old supreme Courts no additional salary was given to a Judge even when left alone on the Bench owing to the

absence of his colleagues, the order granting the extra pay to the Offg Chief Justice having been granted only {in?} 1864.

2. that although by the Letters Patent it is prescribed that in the event of a vacancy occurring in the office of one of the said Recorders, the other Recorder may sit in his place, yet in the section under which the salaries are defined it is declared that these salaries are to be in lieu of all advantages whatsoever. It must be remembered that although in the present instance no loss would be entailed on the State yet if you were acting in the place of a Recorder absent on sick leave there would be no lapsed salary from which you could be paid, yet your right to the extra remuneration of {if?} admitted would remand {remain?} the same. In the Colonies as in the present high courts the judges forfeit a large portion of their salaries whilst on leave. There is by the bye an error in your letter which being one of fact I shall have to draw attention to and which therefore I think it would be advisable for you to correct. The pay of the former Recorder was only \$18,000 not £4,500 per annum.

Had I known that the "Rainbow" was likely to make so long a passage I certainly should not have sent her up, and I would therefore feel perfectly justified in passing your Bill for passage money by the "Aratom appear". It should be paid at the Singapore Treasury.

Sd O C 10/8/66

Sir Benson Maxwell

My dear Sir Benson

I shall be happy to concur in the nomination of the Senior Sworn Clerk to the vacancy caused by Mr Bodik's {Rodyk's?} retirement. I presume that he will be able to return to his duty by the end of the month, when the appointment can be made and gazetted. In the meanwhile his *locum tenens* can continue to discharge the current duties of the office.

As the Steamer for Calcutta is expected on Friday I shall be busy all tomorrow, but should the case of Bayliss versus Bramner come to trial on the Friday I shall be glad to attend.

Believe me, etc

Wednesday evening, 22nd August 1866 Sd/ O C

Sir Benson Maxwell

x x x

Pinang 2nd Septr 1866

My dear Knox

By this mail you will receive an official on the subject of the heavy duty levied upon cattle coming into Province Wellesley by the Rajah of Quedah. As one of the principal reasons of the payment made to the Rajah by the British Government was to prevent any difficulty with regard to procuring supplies, we should have been justified in withholding the subsidy until the duty was removed, but as our treaty with Siam contains an express Article upon the subject, I have thought it but right to bring the matter to the notice of the King before taking any further proceedings.

By the bye I am told that instead of being kept at a distance from our Province, as mentioned in your letter of the 21st June, Mahomed Hoosim has been allowed to return to his old residence, and that the people are somewhat afraid of another disturbance. As the Rajah of Quedah is now on his way to Bangkok you might make enquiries on the subject.

Sd O C

T G Knox Esqre

H.B.M. Consul, Bangkok

(insert)

Penang Sept 25th 1866

My dear Sir Benson

I have the pleasure to enclose a fair copy of the draft of the rules you propose to prescribe, with reference to the extension to the Straits of the Section of Act of 1866 not previously in force. I presume that, after the rules have been passed by the Court, it will be necessary to publish them in the Gazette for general information. The Govt order has already been forwarded to the Press.

The case of the Convict at Malacca shall have my serious consideration, but I must confess it is one upon which it is difficult to arrive at a decision. Although the death of the murdered man may not have been intended, yet it is clear that the Act of violence, which led to the murder, was premeditated, and that the blows were not struck in consequence of sudden provocation, but in accordance with a previously concocted plan. Had the accomplice, Jones, displayed equal determination as the murderer, it is impossible to say how many lives might have been lost. In{the event?} the disturbance was suppressed. Now a convict who merely at the instigation of another, and having no wrong of his own to suppress, is prepared to commit a serious assault upon the petty officers of a Jail, must, to say the least, be regarded as a dangerous character, and, in justice to the Jail officials, it would not be right to give him an opportunity of joining in a second outbreak. Moreover if after taking the life of an officer he still continued the inmate of a Convict Jail in the Straits, it might give rise to a feeling of insecurity on the part of the Peons, that might act most prejudiciously, by causing a relaxation in the hands of discipline, the firm maintenance in a prison is most essential for the preservation of order and even of life. If in commuting the sentence of death to transportation for life, I could at once order the prisoners

removed to Andamans, a point upon which I asked Macpherson to request you to kindly favor me with your opinion, I should feel my judgment somewhat less fettered.

x x x

Sd/ O C

Sir Benson Maxwell

(end of insert)

Letter to Col Dickens Secy P.W.D. d/24th Sepr 1866

Reports Captain Mayne's departure and arrangements to be made for carrying on his duties.

Sd O C

My dear Mayne

As consequent on the approaching transfer of the Settlement to the charge of the Colonial Office it is unlikely that you will return to your present appointment. As the head of the Local Government cannot allow you to leave the Straits without recording my appreciation of the ability, energy and zeal you have displayed throughout your tenure of office as Chief Engineer and Secy to Govt.

Its waterworks at Singapore and the drainage works in Prov Wellesley besides other minor works will afford permanent proof of your skill and judgment as an Engineer, whilst the Annual Progress Reports have sufficiently attested the diligence with which P.W. generally have been prosecuted under your control, and I am well aware that in addition to the discharge of your onerous Govt. duties, including those of Superintendent of the Press you have at all times been most ready to render the aid of your professional advice to the Municipal Commissioners or to any other body even although unconnected with the State having for their object the construction of works of public improvement.

I sincerely regret the necessity for your departure and wishing you speedy restoration to health remain

Yours sincerely

Sd O C

Cap. J.O.Mayne R.E.

Secy to Govt P.W.D.

Singapore 15th Octr 1866

My dear Sir

Pray accept my best thanks for the papers forwarded with your letter of the 16th Ult which I read with much interest most fully concurring as I do in the views you have expressed with respect to the introduction of the Stamp Act into your Government. Similar objections to those you have had to contend with were raised here when the Indian Act was extended to this Settlement.

As far as I have been able to judge from the cases that have been brought to my notice, there has been no endeavour on the part of the Chinese to elude the Stamp duties. In almost every case in which a penalty has been inflicted the offender has been a Native of India, and at this moment I cannot remember one in which a Chinaman has been concerned. On this point however I will make further enquiries from the Commissioner of Stamps.

The statement with respect to the exemption from the payment of duty of Bank notes is correct. There has been a correspondence between the heads of the Treasury and Secy. of State for India with regard to the propriety of the former empowering Chartered Banks to issue notes within the Indian territories. Hence whilst the discussion was pending I was prohibited from recognising the authority thus accorded, and I was consequently obliged to ask for special exemption as respects the notes. This was granted by the Supreme Govt. and has not yet been rescinded, though it would doubtless have been so long 'ere this, had it not been for our approaching transfer to the charge of the colonial Office. The duty will be enforced as soon as the transfer takes place. etc etc.

H.E.Sir R McDonnell Sd O C

Governor of Hongkong

Extract from a letter to Major Burn R C Malacca d/13th October 1866

After giving the matter full consideration I have determined upon commuting the sentence of death passed upon the convict to Transportation for life so that you may make arrangements for his despatch to the Andamans by the next Burmah Steamer. The requisite official communication will be forwarded hereafter. Up to the present I do not think that Calendar has reached the office so that I have no official cognisance of the sentence of death having been passed.

Sd O C

My dear Sir

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your note transmitting for my acceptance a copy of "The Grammar of English Grammar". Accompanied as the gift has been with so kind an expression of your good wishes I cannot but feel that it would be discourteous on my part to

refuse it, and I would therefore beg you to assure the Brothers that I shall ever value it as a token of regard from a body whose efforts in the cause of education in the Straits entitle them to my gratitude, and towards whom I consequently entertain a sentiment of sincere esteem.

To Brother Joshua

Pinang

Extract from a letter to Dr Scott care of Messrs Servis Stewart & Co 26 Poultry London

E C d/ Singapore 20th October 1866

Owing to my absence from Singapore I have been precluded from earlier acknowledging the receipt of your last three letters. I have spoken to Dr Fergusson on the subject of your request to be appointed to act during his absence and he answers me that at present he has no intention of leaving, At the same time under any circumstances I should have hardly felt justified in making you any distinct promise, as in the first place, as I mentioned to you on a previous occasion, I should consider officers now in Govt employ to have a prior claim and it is possible that one of them might desire to be transferred to Singapore, and in the second not having up to the present moment received any instructions from the Indian or Colonial Office as to the terms under which present incumbents are to be allowed to retain office, and the regulations under which any vacancies that may occur are to be filled up, I am scarcely in a position to offer you an appointment, and my doing so might be looked upon as an act of impropriety.

I was very glad to hear that the Tumongong has been well received throughout his visit. I think it may lead to beneficial and that he will now really turn his attention towards the improvement of his country. If he can only be induced to devote a certain portion of his annual revenue to expenditure on Public Works, a great change may take place in Johore in the course of the next few years, a change that would be attended with advantage both to himself and his people, as well perhaps to the Mercantile community of Singapore. Sd O C

Singapore October 24th 1866

My dear Mackay

I regret much the disappointment your Brother is likely to experience and I need hardly assure you that, should it be in my power to compensate him in any way for his fruitless journey to Pinang, it will afford me much pleasure to do so.

I did not reply to your letter by the earlier opportunity as I wished, in the first instance, to consult with Bennett as to the prospect of my being able to offer your Brother employment in the Public Works (Works) Department. If he is qualified as a Civil Engineer I believe that I shall have little difficulty in providing for him a temporary arrangement. Although I have, as yet, received no communication on the subject from Calcutta, there can, I think, hardly be a doubt that no officer will be sent down to replace Mayne. Hence, pending McNair's return, it will be necessary to afford Bennett some relief. This I would propose doing by appointing your brother Offg

Assistant Engineer at Singapore, soliciting the sanction of the Supreme Government to the measure. The salary would be only Rs 250 per mensem, but the position is one that is ordinarily held by junior officers of the Engineer Corps, not by subordinates, and should your brother hereafter by any fortunate chance be confirmed in the Department, and prove himself deserving of advancement, his ultimate prospects would be better than in the Survey Department. The most essential qualification for a junior Civil Engineer is the ability to draw a Plan and prepare an (an) Estimate, and this, I presume, your brother possesses.

I am very busy and I am sure you will kindly excuse a short letter. With kind regards to the ladies, believe me to remain

Yours very sincerely

Sd/ Orfeur Cavenagh

The Reverend

J Mackay B.D.

Residency Chaplain

Pinang

October 26th/66

My dear Sir Benson

If you have leisure I should feel much obliged by your kindly looking over the accompanying papers connected with the case of the prisoner, Vitie, and favoring me with your opinion as to the merits of his petition. As Coll Man justly observes, the defence must rest entirely upon the credibility of the statements made by the other prisoners and the nature of the evidence adduced on (on) the trial in support of the prosecution.

If you consider the latter to have been weak, with reference to the prisoner's apparent good character, he might perhaps be allowed the benefit of the doubt. But if you are satisfied that the injured party was sufficiently sensible after the first blow to recognize his last assailant, then the representation made would have no weight.

Believe me

Yours very truly

To Sd/ Orfeur Cavenagh

The Honble

Sir Benson Maxwell

Singapore October 29th 1866

My dear Knox

The sudden departure of the "Chow Phyah" the day after my return without waiting as I had anticipated for the Mail, prevented my answering your last two letters earlier.

As far as I have been able to ascertain, the Revenue of the Rajah of Quedah is about \$50,000 per annum. For the Excise Forms {Farms} alone he received from the Farmers the following sums:- Kota Pry \$800, Muda \$12,000, Monpan \$1,900, and Kedah \$12,000, in all \$26,700. In addition to which he is entitled to the free labor of his subjects in constructing all Public Works, roads, houses etc. as well as for his own private paddy planting, so that he is free from being in the impoverished condition he has described.

He has frequently allowed the peace of our frontier to be disturbed by gangs of dacoits etc. from his territories. No steps are taken to ensure the apprehension and punishment of such offenders, and the remonstrances of our Authorities either lead to evasive replies or are allowed to remain unanswered and unheeded.

Although he is well aware that gambling is prohibited by our laws, with the view of encouraging our subjects in the vice and enabling them to violate the law with impunity, he has established these gaming houses in {on?} our immediate frontier. One I passed myself the other day on my tour of inspection. It was situated on the very boundary line, whilst on the Quedah side, there was not a single house of any description in the neighborhood, shewing clearly the object with which it had been sanctioned, viz to offer temptation to the Coolies of the large Sugar Estate in its vicinity.

The Merchants of Pinang have not moved in the matter of the duty placed upon cattle and rice. Indeed there is I believe only one, Mr. Nairne, who knows anything about the Treaty, and had the Rajah consulted him, {and?} acted upon his advice, possibly the matter might have been settled. For he at once told him that the terms of the Treaty were too clear to admit of any doubt, and he had better therefore wait upon me and ask me to arrange matters on his behalf. He however prepared {preferred?} following Mr Lewis' advice and appealing to Siam. The question of the heavy duty levied upon cattle entering our territories was brought to my notice by Coll. Man, not in a political paper but in his annual report upon the Agriculture of the Province, in which the average prices charged for cattle of every description are entered, and the reasons for any rise or fall explained.

If the Rajah would wish to pay me a visit and discuss the question, I shall of course be happy to receive him, but to admit of any deviation being made from the terms of his engagement, a reference will be either to India or the home Authorities as the case may be.

` Sd/ Orfeur Cavenagh

T G Knox Esqre

H.B.M.'s Consul, Bangkok

My dear Mackay 5/11/66

Bennett has just sent me up the accompanying Memo of the required qualifications of an Asst Engineer. The report of Mayne's intended departure was forwarded to Calcutta by the Steamer from Pinang before I left. If therefore I hear nothing from the Supreme Govt by either of the Steamers expected this month I shall take it for granted that no appointment will be made by the G.G., and if your brother reports himself qualified will be prepared at once to appoint him as Bennett's asst. I observe that the salary will be Rs 300 not Rs 250 per mensem. Of course the appointment can only be one of a temporary character, as at present it is quite out of my power to say what Establishment will be sanctioned, and moreover McNair may perhaps return before the expiration of his leave. I only wish that I had employment of a more permanent nature to offer etc. etc.

Sd O C

The Revd

J Mackay B.D.

Major General Cavenagh presents his compliments to His Exceelency the G.G. of Netherlands India and trusts that he may be allowed to introduce to His Excellency His Royal Highness the Duke d'Alençon, son of the Duke de Nemoneo (Nemours?) and cousin of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain who is making an extended tour through the East and purposes paying a sort visit to Java.

Govt House

Singapore

13th Nov 1866

My dear Macpherson

Burn tells me that Froplory was with you today and distinctly stated that he intended sending the Serang of the "Capitol" to Saigon to be tried. If so Banningarten had better make the necessary arrangements for issuing the *habeas corpus* and we could sit on Monday to hear the case. Froplory is altogether wrong even by French law, the offence having been committed on Shore he has no jurisdiction whilst by English Law he can exercise no authority over offences that may be cognisable in our Courts even on board vessels in the harbour. Sd/ O C

17/11/66 The Hon Col Macpherson R C

My dear Macpherson

I have the pleasure to send you Wheaton and the consul's Manual. In the former the special passages referred to are:-

The extension {extent?} of jurisdiction in Foreign Ports to be limited to Public armed ships ie Men of War, vide page 151, 174 Jurisdiction to extend over Private Ships only when not within the jurisdiction of any other State. Page 144, 175. French Law on this point applicable to French ports only. Page 156.

Act {Art?} VIII of special convention with France. Page 169.

Territorial jurisdiction Page 233.

In the latter the important passages are to be found at pages 70 and 77, para 103, 104 and 125 of instructions to Consuls.

18/11/66 Sd/ O C

the Hon Col Macpherson R.C.

30/11/66

My dear Knox

Many thanks for your letter of the 10th. The young Rajah of Quedah has returned to his Capital though up to the present he has made no sign. However as Colonel Man has been furnished with a copy of your letter and enclosure he will doubtless take the initiative and call upon the Rajah to shew cause why he should not be required to fulfil his treaty obligations. On the receipt of his reply I shall be able to take the matter into consideration.

I enclose for your perusal a copy of a letter lately received from Colonel Man relative to the rectification of our boundary in Province Wellesley. You will see from the accompanying sketch the object that we have in view in wishing to include the district of Kotah within our frontier. At present it is entirely covered with Jungle, and from its position in the center of our territories it has become a perfect Alsatia offenders when pursued by the Police experiencing little difficulty in escaping across the border where they enjoy perfect immunity from all control. As I haven not yet communicated with the Supreme Govt on the subject I cannot ask you to take officially any steps towards ascertaining the feeling of the Authorities at Bangkok with respect to our exchange of territory, but if you could do so privately and let me know the probable result of my official application, I shall be much obliged.

It is of course possible that after all the Rajah of Quedah himself would prefer compensation in money instead of land. In his letter to Colonel Man in June last year, there is no allusion

whatever to his ancestral burial ground being situated within the Kotah district and I have little doubt that had it not been for Mr Lewis's advice he would gladly have accepted our offer.

Sd O C

T G Knox Esqre

H.B.M.Consul Bangkok

3/12/66

My dear Read

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your note forwarding two letters from Pahang. I should of course be happy to see you on the subject of the of the islands of Tioman Tinghee and Aor, but as far as I am capable of judging the Bandahara's claim to jurisdiction over them appears untenable.

If you refer to the Administration Report of the Straits Govt. for 1860/61, you will find an allusion made to a case of piracy tried in the Supreme Court which shews that at that time the Tumongong exercised jurisdiction over at least Pulo Tinghee, and was held by this Government responsible for the acts of his officers there. In the Treaty concluded between the Bandahara and Tumongong in 1862 the rights of the latter over the Islands were clearly recognized. The Bandahara was both the *de jure* and *de facto* Ruler of his country (indeed Inchi Wan Ahmed only laid claim to the districts of Quanton and Endow as his brother's feudatory ? Hence the engagement then made without any reference to previous rights became binding on his success {successor?} and he would have no more claim to the islands than we have to Bencoolen or the Dutch to Malacca.

I feel perfectly satisfied that it wd. Be to the Bandahara's advantage to recognize the Treaty. It would place him to a certain extent under our protection, strengthen his hands considerably as regards any aggression on the part of Tringganu, and by putting an end to the long existing dispute with Johore give confidence to his people and lead to the improvement of his country.

W.H. Read Esqre Sd O C

Singapore Decb 27th 1866

My dear Dickens

Many thanks for your note of the 18th Ult. Young Mackay who was recently appointed, as a temporary arrangement, Assistant Engineer, with the view of affording Bennett some relief, informs me that he has reason to believe that the Chief Engineer in Burmah is desirous of obtaining his services. As far as I am able to judge from the little I have seen of him, he seems likely to become a good recruit for the Department and his appointment here is of such a precarious nature that, for his own sake, I should be glad if he were to succeed to a more

permanent berth, though it might perhaps be as well to arrange that the order appointing him should have effect from the date of his services being dispensed with by this Govt, and I would take care that he should not be delayed a day longer than may be absolutely necessary.

I am very sorry to say that we have had another inundation of the Mudah River, the eighth this year. About 50 square miles of country must be under water. Several bridges have been carried away and the roads here are much cut up. When I made my tour I had to travel for miles in a small canoe, but the state of the country isn't now much worse. I have ordered operations with regard to the Pry bridge to be suspended, to provide funds to meet the repairs that are urgently needed. You will receive an official communication on the subject as soon as I can furnish the necessary particulars.

1867

Singapore Janry 4th 1867

My dear Knox

Many thanks for your letter of the 26th Ult. I saw Mr Atchison the morning of his arrival from Bangkok. He seems perfectly certain of being now able to obtain a conviction in the case, as he says that the evidence recently procured is very conclusive.

I am sorry to hear that there has been another disagreement between Monsieur Ambaret and the Siamese Authorities. It is fortunate that the latter have you at hand to advise them, although we certainly desire no extension of our authority.

I am somewhat inclined to think that it would be our wisest course to accept the King's offer and take Siam and the Native States in the Peninsula under our protection. I do not see that France would have any just cause for complaint. We did not interfere with respect to her assumption of power over Cambodia. I presume that we should not be willing to allow France to seize Siam, and if this is the case, the risk of a dispute at some future period would be lessened by our at once refusing the Protectorate. I suppose, however, the present Government, like their predecessors, have no fixed policy either in Europe or Asia, but will allow matters to drift. I hope, by the bye, that the offer made to you by the King was in writing, for I am afraid his Majesty is scarcely to be trusted, and whilst all sorts of complaints to you about Monsieur Anbaret, he may be writing to France in his ?

I suppose you know that Mr Kim Ching has been deputed to Quedah to advise the Rajah.

O C

28/1/67

My dear Sir Benson

I should esteem it a great favour if you would kindly when you have leisure read the accompanying correspondence and give me the benefit of your advice upon the question raised by the Members of the G.G.'s Council, for {to?} the best of my recollection my letter No 37 of 27th Oct 1865 was based upon a memo or note you kindly sent me after the perusal of the confidential circular regarding wills.

I may be in error but I have always supposed that the Estates of intestates have been divided in accordance with English law, with the exception of our recognising Polygamy and dividing amongst all the widows the share that in England would be given to the one. I have also thought that we permitted any person during his life time, under Sec. iv of Act xxv of 1838 to make away his property without reference to Mohammedan Law.

Sd O C

Sir Benson Maxwell

Government House

Singapore

January 29th 1867

Sire

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Majesty's kind letter of the 19th Inst., delivered by Your Majesty's Nephew, the son of His Excellency the Kalahome.

I need hardly assure Your Majesty that it will always offer me much pleasure to receive any of Your Majesty's relatives with kindness and courtesy.

I would take this opportunity of again condoling with Your Majesty on the lamented death of the late Second King, regarding whose funeral I have recently received a Circular.

In conclusion I would offer to Your Majesty the compliments of the New Year with my best wishes for Your Majesty's continued health and prosperity (prosperity).

I have the honor to remain

Your Majesty's Siamese {sincere?} Friend

Sd/ Orfeur Cavenagh Major Genl

Governor Straits Settlement

To

His Majesty the King of Siam

5th Febry/67

My dear Sir Benson

I had intended speaking to you the other day after the arrival of the Calcutta Mail about your Police Peons but forgot to do so. When all personal Mily Guards were ordered to be withdrawn after a long correspondence, as a special case two Peons were sanctioned by the Supreme Government to Sir R McCausland but it was stated in the letter that this sanction did not apply to his successor. When I returned from Pinang Mr Dunman spoke to me about the Peons, which he had not apparently reduced and he was afraid he would be retrenched. I told him that he was to write in officially and I would on my own responsibility give him the necessary authority to keep them up so long as you were required to perform the duties of both Divisions, which he did and I wrote to Calcutta accordingly, at the same time referring to the necessity for sanction to the permanent arrangement. The reply received by the last Mail simply confirmed my order authorizing their retention until Sir W Hackett's arrival, so that no further payments will be passed by the Auditor General on this account.

If you feel disposed to make any representation on the matter I shall be happy to submit it, though I should not feel very sanguine as to the result, as they do not seem inclined to spend more money in the Straits than they can possibly help.

Sd/ O C

Sir Benson Maxwell

Précis of a letter to Col Man R C Pinang 7/2/67

Should the new Regiment not arrive by the 11th requests him to send back the "Pluto" which should touch at Kallang on her way down. The "Rainbow" should also touch at Kallang on her way back with Mr Bennett. Bishop to have Govt House during his stay at Pinang. Hopes he has settled about the leases of the sites of the Police Stations.

Sd/ O C

Précis of a letter to Offg R C Malacca (Cap Playfair) d/15th Febry/67

Informs him that Mr de Wind's Counsel is not to be supplied with any papers from the R.C.'s office except he produce an order of court when the head clerk can take them to the Court and produce them. If the Crown Counsel puts them in as part of his evidence then the opposite party will have the benefit of their perusal. There is no treaty with Syed Saban about the boundary. He received his territory as a gift from us. The line marked out by the Surv General and defined by posts must be correct but Quinton can be consulted on the subject. If Syed Saban proceeds to Sungei Ujong his pension must be held in abeyance from the date of his departure. He might however be paid any sum now due if he is still in Tampin.

Sd/ O C

15/2/67

Govt House

Singapore

Febry 21st 1867

My dear Sir

As the subject of the intended transfer of the Straits Settlement to the charge of the Colonial Office has been on one or two occasions referred to in the columns of your Journal, I have been induced to believe that information regarding the proposed Colony might not prove unacceptable and have therefore done myself the pleasure of forwarding to your address by the Mail, a copy of the Report of the progress of the Settlement during the past eight years. The Report has been rendered as brief as possible but no matter of any real importance has, I think, been overlooked.

I remain

Yours faithfully

Sd/ O C

To

The Editor of the Times

London

Singapore 22nd Febry 1867

Sir

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter d/15th Decr last I have the honor to state for Lord Cranborne's information that up to the present Mr Edward Bathurst has not presented the letter of introduction therein referred to nor have I heard of his arrival at this Station.

Should Mr Bathurst make his appearance the instructions conveyed in your Letter will be duly attended to.

C B Eastwick Esqre Sd/ O C

Private Secy

Rt Hon the Secy of State for India

Singapore 22nd Febry/67

Précis of a letter to Col Man R C Pinang.

Should there be actual proof that Mr Logan is editor of the *Argus* he should be requested either to give up his Editorship or his Govt employment, which he pleases. Is perfectly satisfied with Magailhans. Ellis will make a good Master Attendant. Thinks that Gottlieb would be granted his half pension including his allowance from the Shipping Office. "Pluto" was not ordered to pay a visit to Kallang as requested. Desires him to send the "Rainbow" down there from Pinang returning if necessary to Pinang. Thanks him for Municipal Bonds. Will leave this {Station?} about 14th for Pinang. If the transfer is really to take place presumes he would want the office Establishment. If it is not to take place will bring up the office Establishment. Requests him to send in his report of the inundation as soon as possible.

Sd/ O C

Extract from a letter to Mr T G Knox Consul Bangkok d/22/2/67

Mr Kim Ching goes up to morrow vy the "Chow Phya" on the part {behalf?} of the Rajah of Quedah to endeavour to arrange matters relative to the infraction of the Treaty. The Rajah sent in some propositions wh. although they have been forwarded to the Supreme Government, I have been unable to support.

Kim Ching waited on me a few days ago to ascertain what terms I should feel disposed to recommend. I consequently gave him a memo to the following effect and told him I should write to you on the subject.

First. The Rajah to establish no opium or Gambling Station within ten miles of the frontier.

Second. The Rajah to be permitted to levy duties in accordance with a fixed tariff to be approved by the British Govt.

Third. The boundary to be rectified by an exchange of territory without loss to either party. The burial ground in the Kotah district to be duly respected.

Of course I pointed out that I could in no way bind H.M.'s Govt. to agree to these conditions. I could only promise to recommend them for acceptance. I believe they would be advantageous for both parties. It would prevent our having continued cause for complaint against the Rajah, and it would ensure to him a continuance of his present Revenue or nearly so. Kim Ching says that he does not himself derive much benefit fm. The tax upon cattle etc. Mr Kim Ching acknowledged that no immediate ancestor of the Rajah had ever been interred in the Kotah Burial Ground but that a long time ago one was supposed to have been buried there.

Sd/ O C

Précis of a letter to Colonel H Man R C Pg

Has directed Bennett to send him a copy of his letter to Govt. of India regarding the Muda Embankment. Will authorize the payment of the sum already authorized toward the completion of that portion of the bund which has been commenced. In regard to the Lehar Booboo canal should the work be fairly advanced on his arrival at Pinang will perhaps sanction an advance of money to the contractor, Mr Logan's due security of course being given. In regard to Mr Logan, so long as the connection with the paper was not brought to notice no actual prohibition should be issued against his writing for it. Wishes to meet the Rajah of Quedah on his visiting Pinang.

Sd/O C M P

Extract from a letter to Cap Playfair Ag R C Malacca d/8th March 1867

With respect to the Kallang business I think in the first instance it would be sufficient for you to write to the Sultan, pointing out that you have received reports as to the disturbed state of the Kallang District.; that there is a great deal of British property invested in the neighbouring tin mines and that, as British traders resort to his territories under the provisions of the Treaty of 22nd Augt. 1818, they are entitled to due protection. Consequently should any loss ensue owing to his not rendering them due assistance and support, you will be compelled to bring the matter to my notice. This may perhaps have a beneficial effect. In all probability I will pay Kallang a visit on my way to Pinang as I shall have plenty of time.

It is advisable that you should furnish Braddell with copies of the deeds of cession executed by mr de Wind making over his property to the British Government. To the best of my recollection he ceded all rights and titles whatsoever, but Braddell fancies he merely made over the right to collect the tenths. Under any circumstances the Act gives the govtr power to assess without any reference to previous rights, so that it is not a matter of such {much?} importance.

Sd/ O C

Govt House

March 14th 1867

My dear Prince

I am afraid, in the hurry of leaving last night I did not thank you sufficiently for your handsome present. I can assure you that I shall prize the arms you have given me highly as a mark of esteem from a valued friend. It will ever afford me sincere pleasure to hear of your welfare and of the prosperity of your country, prosperity which may I trust rapidly increase under your Highness' enlightened and majestic rule, for Johore only requires a small (small) amount of expenditure in opening up the country and due protection to traders and settlers to repay your Highness fourfold not merely as regards an addition to the revenue but as respects the well being of the people which is of far greater importance to a new ruler.

I have the pleasure to enclose one of my Photographs which I hope you will honor me by accepting to remind your highness of one who is happy to subscribe himself

Your Highness' Since Friend

Orfeur Cavenagh

Governor Straits Settlement

To

His Highness

Dateh Tumongong

Sovereign of Johore

Steamer "Pluto"

March 11th 1867

My dear Colonel Ord

I write these few lines to mention that upon my arrival at Malacca I received complaints from several of our Chinese subjects with respect to boats being stopped and plundered on the Kallang River. The complainants moreover stated that there was a good deal of British property lying at a place called Passang, a short distance up the River which they were afraid to bring down. As I had to pass the mouth of the River I thought it advisable that I should run in to ascertain the real facts of the case and to afford some protection to our people. The result of my visit, which, I am sorry to say, has not been very satisfactory is detailed in the following extract from my journal.

"About 9 a.m. entered the hellowing {Kallang?}river reaching Passang at 11. Here we found a party of Bugis located under Sulli Wattan {Suliwatang}and watched by a larger force of Malays and Batu Barra men under Rajah Mah Ali {Mahdi?}. Sulli Wattan at once came off to the Steamer where I explained to him that, although I had no intention of interfering with respect to the Rajah's quarrels, I could not allow British subjects to be molested. He promised that no molestation should be offered to them by his people.

Protheroe then went to visit Rajah Mah Ali. At first he was inclined to be sulky but, upon hearing who he was, became more Civil and mentioned that he had no wish to interfere with trade or to injure British subjects, but that he must be allowed to collect his dues. Protheroe then pointed out that dues could only be levied once and that, although we had no wish to interfere in the matter, yet up to the present we had no knowledge of his being appointed to the charge of the district by the Sultan of Salangore, who was the Ruler of the country. To this he replied that he needed no appointment from the Sultan as he was the proper Chief.

Protheroe then returned and I determined to cause his remarks to be recorded in the form of a letter to the Rajah and then to return, taking the boats containing British property in tow. Unfortunately when we were about to despatch this letter, a young Chinaman, a son of the Captain China, who had come up with us from Malacca begged to be allowed to accompany the bearer, as he said he wished to speak to the Rajah as he wanted his assistance in sending up food to the Chinese at the Mines. As he was very anxious about the matter, I at last consented and he started with the Gunner. About 2 p.m. with the change of the tide, we steamed quietly down the River, with the view of picking up the boat which was below us. On our passing however it did not come off and we consequently waited for it for some time, when it rejoined us but without the Chinaman, who had been detained by the Rajah on the plea of his not having paid his tenths.

From the place where the Steamer was lying it would have been easy with perfect impunity to have sent some shots into the Stockade and also to have destroyed the boats in the river, but after some little consideration I came to the conclusion that were I to adopt this course, the Chinaman's life might be sacrificed and the Malays exasperated without any real advantage being gained, the more especially as I was not desirous of committing the government to any particular line of policy, our object being simply to prevent our subjects being plundered and not to espouse the cause of either party so long as the intentions of the Sultan remained uncertain.

I consequently determined to cast off the boats in tow and to steam back past the stockade leaving a letter to the effect that if the Chinaman was not duly released, instructions would be sent to Singapore for the despatch of a Naval force to destroy the stockade, etc. We accordingly turned the Steamer's head up the River, and then making another turn came down nearly opposite the stockade where we remained until 5 p.m.

Although the Malays were all collected in their works, they did not attempt to fire a single shot. As it was becoming dark therefore and it was necessary to leave the River, we steamed down taking up the Malacca boats again in tow and continued our course to the entrance of the Langat River leading to the residence of the Sultan of Salangore, to whom I despatched a letter calling upon him to take immediate measures for the release of the Chinaman, and the punishment of Mat Ali.

At 6 a.m. the boat returned from Langat with a letter addressed to Captain Playfair (previously prepared) and a message from the Sultan to the effect that he was too unwell to come off to see me, but that he would immediately take measures to effect the Chinaman's release."

I have little doubt that the Chinaman will be at once released but the question to be considered is the future protection of our trade which is valuable. Rajah Mah Ali is the grandson of the late Sultan, but Rajah Dowlah, of whom Sulli Wattan is the officer, is the Chief who has been in charge of the Kallang District for many years and to whom we have always been referred by the present Sultan. If Raja Mah Ali's acts are disowned by the Sultan, then as far as we are concerned, he is a mere freebooter, following a common practice amongst Malays of taking up a position commanding some River and levying black mail upon the passing trade. If on the contrary he is acknowledged by the Sultan, the latter must be held responsible for his conduct towards our subjects trading with Salangore under the terms of the Treaty.

Rajah Mah Ali's Stockade is on a low hill a short distance from the banks of the River, but he could easily be dislodged. Possibly a Naval Gunboat and the "Pluto", the latter with some Europeans on board to work her heavy gun, would be sufficient for the operation. The Sultan of Salangore is I think most anxious to meet our wishes but he can hardly control his subordinate Chiefs.

I remain etc.

Sd/ Orfeur Cavenagh

Pinang 20th March 67

My dear Colonel Ord

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 14th Inst

On my arrival here yesterday afternoon I received my Indian Despatches containing amongst them a copy of a letter from the Secy of State for India on the subject of the transfer and also a communication from the G.G. in Council authorizing Col Man to take charge of the Govt on my departure.

I am afraid I cannot altogether acquit the officials at the Colonial Office of discourtesy in the matter of concealment as to their intentions of Govt. with regard to the changes to be made in the Staff of the Administration of this Settlement. Even in the Despatch now received the Secy. of State for India, on the 18th of January, asserts that his information is very imperfect, whilst I cannot but remember that the whole of the arrangements with respect to the troops have been based upon suggestions of mine (somewhat imperfectly carried out however) contained in a letter to Sir F. Rogers, despatched from this {station?} in Octr. Or Septr. Last, which letter remains unanswered.

With the view of rendering you any assistance in his power Colonel Man proposes proceeding to Singapore in the "Pluto", returning by the same vessel to this Station as soon as the transfer may be carried out. This arrangement will I trust remove any difficulties that may have been caused by my absence.

In organizing your Govt you will I am sure derive every assistance from Col. Macpherson whose thorough knowledge of the people has proved of invaluable aid to me during my tenure of office.

I trust that some distinct line of policy is to be pursued in respect to our relations with the Native States. The want of this has hitherto acted as a drawback to our acquiring that political influence which we ought to exercise and wh. would be most beneficial not only to our own interests but to those of the Native States also.

If there is any point upon which it may be in my power to afford information I shall always be most happy to give it or indeed to be of any service to you. Any letter addressed to the "Junior United Service Club" will always find me.

Sd/ O C

H.E. Colonel Ord C B

Singapore

22/3/67

Sire

As I am about to resign the govt of the Straits Settlement I would venture to express a hope that Your Majesty may be pleased to extend to my successor in office the same kindly feeling that has been so long displayed towards myself.

With an earnest wish for your Majesty's continued health and happiness and the increased prosperity of your Kingdom

I have the honor etc.

Sd/ O C

H M The King of Siam

Pinang 22nd March 1867

My dear Sir

I trust I may be pardoned taking the liberty of addressing your Excellency in behalf of those officers who have been serving under my orders in the Straits and who having by their exertions raised the Settlement to its present state of prosperity find themselves without any reason having been assigned for the measure suddenly removed from appointments they have long filled with credit to themselves and advantage to the State to make room for Colonial Office nominees of less than half their standing and experience, no arrangements moreover having apparently been made for their being provided with suitable employment elsewhere.

I feel perfectly assured that my advocacy is not needed to secure for the claims of the above officers Your Excellency's favourable consideration. At the same time I cannot but deem it my duty to adopt every means in my power to bring those claims to your notice.

In conclusion as regards my own case I would merely observe that I have felt deeply the discourtesy with which I have been treated, discourtesy from which I am induced to believe that my rank and past services ought to have saved me.

Sd/ O C

H.E. the Rt Hon Sir J Lawrence Bt and G.C.B.

Viceroy and G.G.

Extract from a letter to Sir Gaspard de Marchant C in C Madras d/24th March 1867

"The arrangements made for effecting the relief of the Madras Troops appear to me to be very imperfect. I duly pointed out to the Home Authorities the necessity for raising a body of armed Police to take the duties at Singapore which it will be impossible for the Europeans to perform, but this suggestion seems to have been entirely lost sight of and I am afraid there will be difficulty in withdrawing the whole of the 8th Bt N.I. upon the arrival of the Wing of the 9th Foot from the Cape.

x x x

Sd/ O C

As consequent on my proposed embarkation tomorrow for England the Services of my Secy and A.D.C. Lt Protheroe will be at Your Excellency's disposal I hope you will kindly excuse my recommending him to your favourable consideration. I would not do so were I not satisfied of his work as an able, zealous and energetic officer who will always strive to do his duty well in every position in wh. he may be placed.

Sd/ O C

24/3/67

No 1

Junior United Service Club

Charles St London May 31, 1867

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch dated 22 February 1867. Whilst expressing my sincere gratification at the flattering terms in which Lord Ha b was pleased to refer to my service as governor of the Straits Settlement I trust I may be pardoned forwarding herewith for submission to the Right Honble the Sectr of State in Council copies of the addresses presented to me by all classes of the inhabitants of the several Stations in the Straits Settlement, testimonial as to the success of my Government which I cannot but value, not with a feeling of mere egotism but with a spirit of fervent pride, as the expression of the sentiments entertained towards me by those men, the administration of whose public affairs I have long enjoyed the honor of presiding.

I have etc. etc.

O Cavenagh Major Genl

Bengal Staff Corps

To

Norman ? esqre C.B.

Under Sectr of State

India Office

No 2

Junior U S Club May 31 1867

Sir

In acknowledging the receipt of your despatch No 2986 of the 23rd Instant, with enclosure, I would beg the favour of your expressing to the Right Honble, the Secretary of State, my appreciation of the honor conferred upon me by His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and {Chandos?} , of the assistance which it has been in my power to render in effecting the transfer of the Straits to the charge of the Colonial Office, and at the same time conveying my assurance that it would always afford me sincere pleasure to furnish his Grace with information upon any point connected with the Settlement regarding which my local knowledge might be deemed likely to prove of value.

I have etc etc.

O Cavenagh Major Gen

To

TheUnder Secr of State for India

India Office

No 6

Princes Street

Hanover Square, June 3rd 1867

My dear Mr Kaye

As I have heard nothing further with respect to the subject of our conversation on the 13th Ult. and my future plans are in some degree dependent upon my nomination to the order of the Star

of India, I hope I may kindly be excused enquiring whether it is in your power to let me know the probable date of my being gazetted.

Although I have certainly felt somewhat mortified at the non recognition of my services, of which I ? a brief memo, in the distribution of the numerous rewards and honors that have been conferred upon Indian Officials under other circumstances, I should not have presumed to urge my claims upon the consideration of the Secy. of State, but should have been content, as I stated to you, to serve on, in the hope that eventually I might be thought entitled to the honor of the berth, but now that owing to my summary removal from Office, without any fault of my own, not only has my official career been brought to a close, at all events for a time, but I may be said to have been in some measure disgraced in the eyes of the Public, who cannot be aware of the circumstances under which I was so discourteously suspended, I cannot but feel desirous of obtaining a mark of Her Majesty's favor as a proof that my past labours have not been deemed undeserving her gracious approval.

I remain etc

To J.B.Kaye Esqre O.Cavenagh

Secr Political Dept

11 June

My dear Sir James Fergusson

I am much obliged for your kind note of the 6th. Although the Uncovenanted servants of Govt in the Straits Settlement have strictly speaking no claim upon the Revenue of India, yet as so long as the rule is to be held applicable only to the higher grades and not to extend to the whole body of Clerks in the different Public Offices, the payment will be but small. I am really very glad to know that the Indian Govt will be prepared to bear a suitable proportion of their pension. This will effectually {deprive?} the Colonial Office of all excuse for declining to return {retain?} their services.

Should you find Mr Campbell's letter I hope you will kindly return it to me as I should wish to answer it, and I am not aware of his address.

I have the pleasure to send you the précis of the correspondence on the subject of the proceedings of the Dutch in Sumatra. It may I think be found useful either in the Indian or the Foreign Office. After it has been copied I should be glad to have it back, as I may hereafter be anxious to refer to it, in the event of my being called upon for any information regarding our policy in the Eastern Archipelago. The rough draft was prepared by my Private Secy but it has been kindly transcribed and kept. Protheroe was too busy, on the eve of our departure, to revise the clerks' work as carefully as he could otherwise have done.

I observe that there is a probability of a Commission being appointed to report upon the subject of Prison discipline in India. I would venture to suggest that the Commissions

{Commissioners?}, if the idea is carried out, should in the next {first?} instance be required to visit the Straits. The system introduced into the convict Lies at Singapore is , *mutates mutandis*, perfectly applicable to the Jails in India. The Establishment is, in a great measure, self supporting, whilst the order and regularity maintained is, I believe, quite equal to that observed in the best regulated prisons in England. The visitors book is filled with encomiums, from men of all ranks and countries, whilst the Governor General of Java begged, as a favor, that I would allow him to depute one of his high officers to Singapore to make himself acquainted with our system of prison management, with a view to the introduction into the Dutch territories.

Believe me etc.

O Cavenagh

To Sir James Fergusson

Under Secy of State

India Office

Junior U S Club June 12

My dear Sir

With reference to my personal application to you yesterday I would mention {venture?} to express a hope that my son, Mr, Orfeur James Cavenagh, may be summoned to appear before the Examiners at their sittings next November. I have already made the prescribed official report as to his being prepared to pass his examination in that month.

After eleven years of continuous absence on Foreign service I am naturally anxious to have my son with me. At the same time until he has been declared gratified {qualified?} to hold a commission I should hardly feel justified in withdrawing him from the charge of his present state. Under these circumstances I trust my request may not be deemed inadmissible. Should it be complied with, the time that may slacken {elapse?} between my son's passing and his being gazetted to a Regiment shall not be misspent, as I will myself superintend the continued prosecution of his studies, more especially as regards Military and Fortification.

I remain etc. etc.

To O Cavenagh

Lt Gen W N Forster R.W.

Mily Secr

6 Princes St

June 15

My dear Mr Kaye

I regret extremely that owing to my remark yesterday to Sir Stafford Northcote I would have inadvertently rendered you in any way open to answer {censure?}, and my regret is the greater as I am satisfied that to your own kindly feeling towards me I am indebted for my name having been placed on the list of Officers recommended for the honor of the Star of India.

I was certainly under the full impression that Sir Stafford was aware of the purport of our conversation on the 13th Ult. At the same time I had no intention of speaking to him on the subject, though I proposed calling on him to pay my respects after my visit to you, as however I had waited about two hours and it was near 3 o'clock I was led to suppose that you had been prevented from attending office and that I consequently should not have an opportunity of seeing you. Hence I was induced to mention the matter. I should have called today to give you this explanation, but I was under an engagement of some standing to accompany an officer on a visit to one of the new Transports.

6 Princes Street

June 15

My dear Sir

With reference to our conversation yesterday I trust you will kindly pardon my representing that upon the admission to the order of the Star of India of the Tumongong of Johore, a comparatively speaking petty Malay Chieftain residing in the territories over which I so long presided as her Majesty's representative, no other remuneration was made, whilst there are, I believe, many instances of honors being conferred singly upon officers returning from Ports (posts?) in which they have given satisfaction.

I could not have ventured to urge my claims upon your notice had I not felt that by my summary removal from Office I have been in some measure disgraced, whilst from the failure on the part of the Indian Council to protect me from the discourteous treatment to which I was subjected, I am induced to believe that my services have not received that consideration.

I hope I may not be deemed egotistical in pointing out that had it not been for my foresight, in January 1857, when but few suspected the temper of the Native Army, in all human probability the Capital of our Indian Empire would have fallen into the hands of the Mutineers, whilst throughout the Mutiny I discharged the whole of the arduous duties connected with the Military command by the Governor General of the Troops in Calcutta and Fort William.

Sd O Cavenagh

To

The Right Honble Sir Stafford Northcote C.B.

India Office

Junior U S Club June 18

My dear Sir

I thank you most sincerely for your kind letter of the 4th of April which only reached me a few days ago. I have now the pleasure to enclose for your consideration a list of the officers who have been removed from their appointments in consequence of the transfer of the Straits Settlement to the charge of the Colonial Office, as able and zealous Public servants. I am happy to say that it is in my power to recommend them all most strongly to your Excellency's notice.

The duties of Resident Councillors and Assistant Residents in the Straits corresponded generally with those of Commissioners and Asst. Commissioners in new Regulation Provinces, the law administration however being that of England, with certain modifications made by the Indian Regulation {Legislative?} Council.

Believe me to remain etc.

O Cavenagh

List of Officers.

Colonel H. Man

Lt. Col. R Macpherson

Major J. Burn

Capt. Playfair

Capt. J.G. Mayne

Lt.. M. Protheroe

Lt. Mitchell

Forwarded to Leveson with reference to article in *China Express*.

On the 16th of March Genl Cavenagh, then on his way to Penang to meet the Calcutta Mail previous to his embarkation for Europe touched at Malacca where he received a deputation from some of the most respectable members of the Chinese community, who represented that in

consequence of the dissensions between two petty Native Chiefs, Rajah Mah Ali {Mahdi?} (a relative of the Sultan of Salangore) and Rajah Dowlah, {Abdullah?} the Chief entrusted with the charge of the district of Kallang {Klang?}, a large quantity of tin, British property for which the duty had been duly paid to the Officers deputed to receive it, had been detained in the Kallang River. No other Steamer being available General Cavenagh at once determined to proceed in the "Pluto" to the scene of contention for the purpose of protecting British interests and making himself personally acquainted with the circumstances of the case.

On the 17th March the "Pluto" steamed up the Kallang River and passed the stockades of the contending parties. It was found that Rajah Mah Ali had taken up a position before that occupied by the Officers of Rajah Dowlah and prevented any boats from passing down whilst desultory fighting was being carried on between the two.

Rajah Mah Ali was at once informed that although the British govt. had no wish to interfere with respect to the internal administration of the country, yet that the only Ruler it could recognise was the Sultan of Salangore, with whom a treaty existed and who was the acknowledged Sovereign, and as no intimation had been received from the Sultan of his having made over the charge of the district to him, he would not be allowed to distract {disrupt?} British trade nor levy duties in addition to those already paid to the Sultan's receivers (treasuries?). Consequently the blockade could not be permitted and British subjects would be at liberty to remove their property under the protection of the Steamer.

After the lapse of a sufficient interval to admit of the whole of the tin belonging to British subjects being placed on board country boats, these boats were taken down the River past the stockades and well out to Sea, clear of all danger. General Cavenagh then proceeded to the mouth of the Langat River, leading to the residence of the Sultan of Salangore, and late at night despatched a letter to the Sultan, reminding him of his treaty obligations, pointing out the unsatisfactory state of affairs in the Kallang River, and requiring him to take measures to prevent any further interference with British subjects. In the course of the morning of the 18th, a verbal message was received from the Sultan to the effect that he was prevented by illness from coming off to the Steamer to pay his respects, that the contents of the letter would receive due consideration, and he hoped soon to forward a satisfactory reply.

As the Sultan would have to consult his advisers and possibly to enter into some negotiations with Rajah Mah Ali, his answer would hardly be expected to be received during General Cavenagh's tenure of Office. Nothing further therefore could then be done and General Cavenagh continued his voyage to Penang. At the same time with the view of giving his successor the benefit of his local experience he immediately furnished him with a detailed report of his proceedings, and to enable him to act upon the receipt of the Sultan {'s reply?} he then pointed out that if the Sultan recognised the authority of Rajah Mah Ali over Kallang in supervision (substitution?) of Rajah Dowlah, then under the terms of the treaty he would himself be responsible for any urgent demands made by the former upon British subjects. If, on the contrary, the Sultan disowned Rajah Mah Ali, then the Rajah could be treated as a mere freebooter and his stockades should be destroyed and the River opened, for which duty two armed Steamers would be sufficient.

Although the sultan's decision must have been known early in April, no action was taken upon it until May. In the meanwhile a blockade had been established of the mouth of the Kallang River by Rajah Dowlah by means of an English Steamer, the "John Bells", engaged at Singapore. The Steamer has been ordered away and a Man of War sent up to enforce the order, but as the blockade has been resumed by the native Gunboats, matter may be said to have been left *in statu quo*.

District of Moar

The question of the cession by the Sultan of Johore of the District of Moar (not Kassang) was submitted to the Supreme Govt three or four years ago, but, as the Sultan demanded the payment of a large advance, the Indian Govt, with reference to the prospect of the transfer, refused to sanction the arrangement.

No 3

July 11th 1867

Sir

In reply to your Despatch No 3456 dated 4th Instant I have the honor to state for the information of the Right Honble the Secry of State for India in Council that up to the date of the transfer of the Civic Govt to the charge of the Colonial Office, no arrangements having been made for the relief of the Indian troops serving in the Straits Settlement, no steps could be taken for the transfer of the Military stores belonging to the Indian Government, which necessarily remained at the disposal of the Officio Comr. And under the charge of the several Departmental Authorities specified before {below?}

Ordnance Stores Depy. Assistt. Comr. Of Ordnance

(including Burmah {Barracks?}furniture in store)

Offg Depy. Asst. Commay. Genl.

Burmah furniture in use Executive Engineers

2. I regret the delay that owing to my absence from home on a visit to has taken place in acknowledging the receipt of your communication.

3. I take the opportunity of mentioning that my present permanent address is "Newbury house, Falmouth, Cornwall".

I have etc. etc.

To

The Under Secr of State for India

India Office

London

Newbury house, Falmouth, July 20

Sir

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 17th Inst I have to express my best thanks for the kind wishes then conveyed as well as for the very flattering allusion made to my Public service in the columns of the *Medford Independent*.

I remain etc.

Sd O Cavenagh

To Mr J.E.O. Cavenagh

28 High Street Medford

Replies to addresses present at Malacca and Pinang and Singapore

Gentlemen

I thank you most sincerely for the kind sentiments expressed in your address. I shall always cherish with the greatest pleasure the remembrance of your good will. If I have in any way conduced to the increased prosperity of your beautiful Settlement I can assure you that I have been amply repaid for my labours by the expression of your regard and esteem. I earnestly trust that having made an advance Malacca may continued to thrive and prosper until she eventually her Settlements. Most fully reciprocating your good wishes I bid you farewell.

Pinang

Gentlemen

I trust you will permit me to offer you my heartfelt thanks for the kind sentiments embodied in your address as well as for the testimonial of which you beg my acceptance. I can assure you that it will ever prove a source of the greatest pride and pleasure to me to remember that during my administration of the Govt. of the Straits Settlement, I was fortunate enough to succeed in receiving the good will and esteem of the inhabitants of Prince of Wales' Island and Province Wellesley, and that it needed no testimonial to remind me of the happy days I have passed among them. If my exertions have in any way conduced to the increased prosperity, I have indeed been more than amply repaid by this token of your regard, whilst I cannot forget that any success that may have attended my labours must be chiefly attributed to the valuable aid I have

received from the Local Authorities and the cordial support you have all been ready to accord to the Govt.

In again thanking you most sincerely for the kindly feeling you have expressed towards me, with an earnest hope for the increasing prosperity of your Station, I will now bid you farewell.

Singapore

1st.

Gentlemen

It is indeed a source of the highest gratification to me to find that during my administration of the Govt. of the Straits Settlement I have succeeded in gaining the esteem and good will of the inhabitants of Singapore. I can claim but little credit to myself for the success that has attended my superintendence of the affairs of this important Settlement, for, as I have already publicly stated, I have been most zealously assisted by the able and energetic Public servants under my orders, whilst I have received any {all?} possible support from the general community. I shall ever retain the most pleasurable recognition of my connection with Singapore, and I look forward with heartfelt pride upon the friendly feeling that have been expressed towards me by its inhabitants.

Gentlemen, I thank you most cordially for the honor you have done me, and with an earnest wish for the continued prosperity of your flourishing Settlement, bid you farewell.

2nd. To Messrs. Anderson etc.

Gentlemen

I have received your address with sincere pleasure and beg to return you my cordial thanks for the kindly feeling you have expressed towards me.

For my endeavours to raise the standard of education in the Straits I have been more than amply repaid in the success that has hitherto attended my labours, and for this success I cannot but feel that I am much indebted to the interest that you have also taken in the good work. That the course of education may continue to steadily progress throughout the Straits Settlement is, I can assure you, my earnest wish, and it will ever afford me the highest gratification to hear of its continued advance.

With my best wishes for your future happiness and prosperity I remain, Gentlemen,

Etc. etc.

Sd O Cavenagh

March 14 1867

Newbury house, Falmouth

Augt 5 1867

My dear Sir

Having heard from Sir Benson Maxwell that he has submitted an application to be transferred to one of the high Courts of India, as the governor for so many years of the Straits settlement, and in that capacity ex officio President of the court of which Sir Benson was one of the Recorders, I trust I may not be deemed obtrusive in mentioning for your consideration that during my tenure of Office he was always ready to afford me the advantage of his great legal knowledge and rendered me vast able assistance with respect to matters unconnected with the discharge of his more official duties.

Consequent in {on?} his kindly consenting to act as arbitrator I the satisfactory settlement of a long pending dispute between a Native Chief and a British subject. He drafted a {or?} revised the drafts of several Bills for submission to the Legislative Council and at my request prepared a Guide book for the use of Magistrates, a

work which must have necessitated much thought and labor and proved of great service to the Junior Civil Officers, for upon examination it latterly formed one of the text books

.

I remain etc.

To O Cavenagh

The Right Honble Sir Stafford Northcote C.B.

Secr of State for India

Newbury house, Falmouth Augt 8

My dear Sir James Fergusson

As I observe that mention is made in the papers of your removal to the Home Office I trust that you will kindly excuse my writing to remind you of my wish that the paper containing the précis of correspondence on the subject of the Dutch encroachment in Sumatra should be returned to me for further reference.

Sd O Cavenagh

To Sir James Fergusson Lieut

Under Secy of State Home Office

Newbury house, Falmouth

Augt 25

My dear Duke

Having observed in the *Indian Telegram* the announcement of serious riots having occurred at Pinang, although I can hardly believe that these disturbances deserve the importance that has apparently been give to them, I deem it my duty to mention that should Your Grace require any information relative to the Island and the neighbouring district of Province Wellesley which it may be in my power to afford, I am prepared to proceed at once to {London?} for the purpose of attending at the Colonial Office at any time you may be pleased to approve.

I remain etc.

Sd O Cavenagh

To His Grace the Duke of Buckingham

Secretary of State

Colonial Office

Newbury house, Falmouth Augt 27 1867

Sir

I have the honor to forward herewith the last Pay Certificate granted to me by the Authorities in the Straits Settlement as well as copies of the General Orders, dated 14th of Febr and 21st of March 1867 granting me leave of absence and beg the favor of your obtaining for me the requisite sanction of the Right Hoble the Secr of State in Council for my being allowed to draw my pay, as Major Genl in the Staff Corps, in accordance with prescribed rules for three months and five days, or up to the 30th of September, at the Indian (12,455 per mensem) and after that date at the English (1.55 per diem) rate.

Upon my obtaining my original leave I found that, owing to the crowded state of the Steamers, it was impossible to secure a passage direct to England, and I was therefore obliged to apply for permission to proceed via Bombay. Upon my arrival at Galle however arrangements were made by the P & O Company's agent at that Port, to admit of my continuing my journey by the Calcutta Steamer, of which I availed myself, duly reporting the change in my plans and my

embarkation on board the above Steamer on the 1st of April, to the Supreme Government. My embarkation on the above date was subsequently notified in the Gazette of India, though I am unable to furnish an authenticated copy of the General Order now having been transmitted to me.

Sd O Cavenagh

To C.B.

Secr Mily Dept

Newbury House, Falmouth Sept 4 1867

My dear Mr Kaye

I have lately been employing my leisure hours in reading with a great deal of interest your work upon the Mutiny.

As you refer to the rumours of the intention of the Sepoys to rise on the 10th March, whilst you make no allusion to their design, which I frustrated, to seize Fort William on the 26th June 1857, I am induced to believe that it is possible you may not be fully aware of all the circumstances connected with the latter Inst. (incident?) and, if so, that the annexed extract from my diary may not be uninteresting to you as shewing the early date on which the Sepoys had matured their plans. That Fort William would have fallen into their hands on the night of the 26th had I not taken due precautions is proved by the evidence given by a Native Officer before a Court of Enquiry held in April or May at Barrackpore, in which it is distinctly reported that the Fort would have been seized on that night had the Sepoys not thought that I had discovered the plot as they observed that, in the morning, the Guards were quietly doubled. At this time I had but a very weak wing of H.M. 53rd Regt. as half my Europeans.

Barracks had been {pulled?} down and were in course of being rebuilt. I had only two European Guards, the Main Guard and the Arsenal Night Guard. These were the Guards I doubled. At each of the Gateways there was only a Non Com Officer to receive the soldiers' passes. I directed that towards evening a second should stroll down, as if merely to have a chat with his comrade, but that he should remain so that one man should be always awake to keep a watch upon the movements of the neighbouring Native Guard and report anything suspicious at once to the officer comd. The Main Guard. These precautions were taken so quietly that but four people were in the fort were aware of any change, as I was afraid of causing any unnecessary alarm.

My journal, of course, contains a mere précis of my conversation with Lord Canning. I had been warned by a Native friend of the ill feeling existing amongst the Sepoys in the Upper Provinces. I had remarked their altered placing {bearing?} before I had been twenty-four hours in the fort on my return from Sick Leave in July 1856, and I felt assured that we should have to guard against the intrigues of Russia, working through Persia, from the commencement of the Crimean War early in 1855. I wrote to Major Banks, then {Private?} Secr to the Governor General, pointing out that we should have to move into Persia either as friends or foes, to counteract the machinations of Russia, that, as my knowledge of the Persian language and Persian character

might be useful, ill as I was, I was prepared to give up my leave and join the Expeditionary force if I could be employed. The answer was to the effect that there was little chance of a Force being ordered to Persia.

In January or February 1856, when my health was somewhat recovered, I wrote to Mr. Waterfield at the Board of Control, again offering my services to accompany any force ordered for Persia. The reply was very similar to that received from poor Banks, yet the same year War with Persia was proclaimed and I believe that papers found in the Persian Camp when it was taken by Outram's force proved that I was right. I learnt a good deal about Russian designs when I had charge of the Persian Governor of Kerman, Agha Khan Mihlatin.

The report relative to the intention of Govt. to place (?) were four guns referred to by the two Sepoys in Fort William was, of course, a mere invention on the part of those by whom the Mutiny was instigated, but it evidently had answered the purpose of exciting the Sepoys to attack the Fort. The papers found on the Spy we hanged proved the impatience {importance?} attached by the Mutineers to the possession of the Fort and the destruction of the Magazines etc.. The man who made his escape on the 14th June equally alluded to the desire to take Fort William, as also the one who was hanged at a later period for inciting the Commissariat Guard to rebel.

The cartridge question was the same spark that set fire to the train, but the train had been laid months before the formation of the Depots. From the beginning I saw what was coming, for I had been expecting it for years before, but poor Edmonton (?) was the only one of those about the Governor General who argued with me, many of my propositions for neutralizing the peons {plans?} of the Native Troops, providing for the wants of the European Troops expected etc. were set on our side in the first instance, when they would easily have been carried out, only to be enforced in a great hurry when it was almost too late. This was the case to the very end, even as regards the new Company's European Regiments, although I pointed out the evil results that must necessarily occur.

I could get no orders issued and the men arrived literally in thousands without Officers, Non Comd. Officers, Clothing or Arms, whilst no preparations whatever had been made for their reception. I think at one time I had under run {comd?} between 1,500 and 2,000 men with only three Officers, of whom one was sick and one under , the Non Comd. Officers being new boys like the Recruits themselves.

I observe that the Secretary of State has lately received a deputation from the Indian . I sincerely trust that Sir Stafford will never relax the rule requiring the examination of candidates for the Civil Service to take place in England. {Facilities?} might be afforded for instance to study in this country and they would have little to complain of considering that they would return to serve in their Native land, whilst the English competitor, if successful, is expatriated for the best years of his life. To qualify them for high posts, Native must the ideas only to be gained of an English School. No amount of book lore will be sufficient.

I am sorry to say that neither Col Man nor Major Burn have, as yet, been provided for in India. From a letter received by the former from Calcutta it would appear as if the Govt. was awaiting

the result of the recommendation that pensions should be granted in compensation for the loss of their offices. They have both deserved such {much?} of the State.

I remain

To J W Kaye Esqre Sd O Cavenagh

Secr Political Dept

Newbury House, Falmouth

October 7

Sire

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Majesty's letter delivered by Mr Knox and to offer Your Majesty my best thanks for the friendly feeling towards me therein expressed. I take the opportunity of requesting Your Majesty to accept an expression of my sincere condolence on the sad bereavement you have recently {suffered?} in the death of your eldest son whose loss is so generally deplored. The {esteem?} in which the memory of the late lamented Prince is held may, I trust, prove of some solace to Your Majesty in your deep affliction.

With an earnest wish for Your Majesty's continued health and happiness and an anxious desire for the increased prosperity and welfare of your Kingdom

I have the honor to be

Sire

Your Majesty's Servant

Sd O Cavenagh

To

His Majesty the King of Siam

Major General Orfeur Cavenagh, late Governor Straits Settlement, presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State and trusts that he may be pardoned requesting that the enclosed (open) reply to a letter received from His Majesty the King of Siam may be forwarded to its address through the British Consul at Bangkok.

Newbury House October 7 1867

Newbury House, Falmouth Nov 27 1867

My dear Leveson

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 16th Instant I have the pleasure to submit for the consideration of the Committee the names of three Artists, of whom mention has been made to me, as fitting persons to be entrusted with the task of painting my portrait for the Singapore Town Hall.

As I am naturally desirous that the painting should be worthy of the handsome Building in which it is the intention of the Singapore Community to honor me by placing it, should the Committee select any other Artists in preference to Mr. Hodges, I should be quite prepared on the next occasion of my visiting Town, to remain for some little time in order to give the necessary sittings.

I trust that you will do me the favor of intimating to the Committee my sincere appreciation of the kindness and good will evinced towards me by the residents at Singapore in the desire expressed to present me with some article of plate to be handed down as an heirloom in my family. As it would be a source of pride and pleasure to me to be able to display at the same time both the marks of esteem with which I am to be honoured by the inhabitants of the Straits Settlements, I have instructed Mr Stephen Smith, 35 King Street, Covent Garden, to prepare with the least practicable delay, at a cost not to exceed £200, designs for a , to be complete in itself (with two end strands, to bear such inscriptions etc. as may be deemed appropriate), and at the same time correspond with the centrepiece, forming the Pinang Testimonial. Those designs will be forwarded for the consideration of the Committee immediately on their receipt.

I remain etc.

To E J Leveson Esqre Sd O Cavenagh

1. Street

My dear Sir

As through some mistake the contribution from the Straits Settlements was not noticed in the {catalogue?} of the Indian collection for the Paris Exhibition, I trust that you will kindly excuse my expressing a hope that the omission may be rectified in my {any?} catalogue that may be now in course of preparation under your superintendence.

I remain etc.

Sd O Cavenagh

To Dr F Watson

India Museum, house, Whitehall

Memorandum

Penang, the oldest Settlement in the Straits and {of?} Malacca was originally established as a naval Station for the purpose of affording protection to our Commerce in the East.

The realization of a Local Revenue sufficient to meet the Expenditure was therefore, in the first instance, deemed comparatively speaking {of?} little consequence. A Civil Government was organized on an absurdly grand scale, maintained almost entirely at the expense of the Indian Revenue. When however the East India Company was deprived of the monopoly of trade, the Straits Settlements, as far as the Company was concerned, hit {lost?} much of their importance. Hence measures were adopted for the purpose of curtailing, as far as possible, the demands upon India for their support. A great reduction was effected in salaries and Establishments, and the Govt. was placed under the order of the governor of Bengal.

The Indian Authorities, little acquainted with the wants of the Straits Communities, looked upon the Settlements simply in a commercial point of view, and that view certainly was not favorable, for notwithstanding the large reductions to {these?} Revenue still proved inadequate to cover the expenses. Moreover the arrangement under which all disbursements were made in Dollar currency caused complications of accounts, which it was thought desirable to get rid of, and an order was given for the substitution of the Rupee coinage. This order was which was issued without due consideration seriously affected the merchants, whose business transactions were all carried on in Dollars, and who, owing to the prejudices of the Chinese traders, were precluded from making any charge. In this respect there was consequently much dissatisfaction, and, although the obnoxious order was soon cancelled, agitation for the transfer of the Settlements to the charge of the Colonial Office commenced.

After Lord Dalhousie's visit to the Straits in 1850, upon his Lordship's recommendation, the Straits Settlements were removed from the charge of the Bengal Government, and again found itself a separate Government, subordinate only to the Governor General in Council. There was still however a deficiency in the Revenue, and therefore little money forthcoming for the prosecution of Public Works. The Establishments were kept on the lowest possible scale and the Government employees were generally underpaid.

Thus {Then?} occurred the Indian Mutiny. The Supreme Govt. could ill spare funds to meet the requirements of the Straits, whilst the European residents considered that at least the Wing of a European Regiment should have been located at Singapore for their protection. This measure, which would have entailed considerable expense, was not at that time likely to meet with much favor with the Indian Authorities. The agitation for the transfer was renewed, but soon subsided, under the idea that, in the event of the Settlements becoming a Colony, the whole of the Military expenditure would be borne by the Mother Country and thus the necessity for any further taxation be obviated. It however recommenced upon the proposed introduction of the Stamp Act.

After the Stamp Act had been fairly {finally?} introduced and its provisions were found not to press so heavily upon the Local trade as had been first anticipated, the desire for the transfer, as regards the generality of the inhabitants, at all three Stations, but more especially at Pinang and Malacca, entirely erased {ended?}. Indeed, even at Singapore, it may be said latterly to have been confined altogether to less than a dozen persons.

With the increase to the Revenue and the gradual extension of the powers of the Local Government under the wise {wise?} system of decentralization then introduced throughout India, the position of the Straits was much improved. The Garrison was rendered more efficient by the

substitution of Europeans for Native Artillery. The Civil Establishments were generally placed upon a better footing, and considerable sums were expended in Public Works. Just grounds for complaint against the Indian Govt. still however existed.

First. As regards the difficulty experienced in effecting legislation relative to questions of mere local importance

Secondly. With respect to the apparent want of interest evinced regarding our Political relations and the Development of our trade in the Malayan Archipelago and Peninsula.

This seeming lack of consideration for the interests of the Straits Communities was, it must be acknowledged, mainly attributable to the feeling entertained by the Authorities in India that the transfer to the Colonial Office might be accomplished at any moment and consequently that there would be no advantage in interfering in matter connected with a Government about to be removed from their control. Hence the representations of the Governor relative either to Political questions or to local legislation in many instances either remained unanswered, or elicited a reply to the effect that no orders could be passed upon the subject referred to, pending the receipt of the decision of the Home Govt. as to the transfer.

Had however the project for the transfer been definitely abandoned, this would not have been the case. Under the Indian Councils Act a Local Legislative Council would have been granted, and Straits Officers would have received due consideration on the part of the Governor General in Council, and been moreover brought more immediately under review by the Secretary of State, to whom all diaries(?) {records?} of proceedings etc. would have been forwarded direct, instead of through the channel of Calcutta.

With these modifications it is a question how far the position of the Straits Settlements as a minor Government of India would not have been superior to that they now hold as a Colony. It is true that the Legislative council would not have exercised any direct control over the finances of the Settlement, but, from the date of the imposition of the Stamp tax, there has been no inclination displayed by the Supreme Government to increase taxation. The Municipal funds moreover were managed by Ladies {bodies?} of Gentlemen of whom the Majority were the representatives of the ratepayers, whilst any representations emanating either from the Grand Juries or the Chamber of Commerce, generally meet with every consideration. Besides it must be remembered that the control now exercised by the governor I Council is after all merely nominal, the real power being vested in the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and that, as regards Regulations, an Indian Council, in some measure, would have possessed more power than one established under the present Constitution, as although our enactment might be vetoed, it could not be passed against the opinion of a Majority.

An advantage has been gained by the adjustment of all Military Expenditure at a certain fixed rate, but this arrangement is specially stated to be open to revision, and in the event of its being found necessary in time of War to increase the strength of the proposed Garrison, which is much weaker than that maintained by the Indian Government, there is nothing to prevent the Home Govt. from calling upon the Colony for an increased Military contribution, as although, as in case of emergency, troops would at once, upon the requisition of the Straits Authorities, be

despatched from Calcutta or Madras, the Indian Govt. being no longer responsible for the protection of the Settlements, from the date of their embarkation their pay would be debited against the Colony. Including the pay of the extra Police that will be needed, the present payment moreover varies but little from that actually required by the Indian Government, as although, owing to the cut {cost?} of the Garrison, the amount formerly disbursed on account of the troops from the Straits treasuries was greater than the sum now demanded, yet there was considerable expenditure in the way of pay pensions cut of Convicts, stationery, Machinery, etc. made in India and England on behalf of the Straits, which was not recovered from the Local Government, whilst any deficiency in the Straits treasuries was made good by Bills upon India.

The present Civil Establishment is much more costly than that allowed under the old regime, whilst doubts may be expressed as to its being equally efficient. Government servants were formerly divided into two classes. One was composed of member of the Indian Civil or Military Service, who were alone eligible to succeed to the post of Resident Councillor. This class which was small was recruited generally from Subalterns doing duty with their Corps in the Straits, who had acquired a knowledge of the Native languages and shewn some aptitude for the performance of Civil duties. The other class, which was more numerous, consisted either of young gentlemen connected with the Straits, who commenced their career in subordinate posts or of men who by their ability and diligence had raised themselves from being mere clerks to positions of trust in the Treasury department. For some years past all employees of both classes were appointed in the first instance only on probation and were not confirmed in their offices until they had passed an examination in the Malay and one other Native language, and in the Laws applicable to the Settlements.

As, with the exception of the appointments in the Public Works Department, the whole of the patronage was vested in the Governor for the time being, for his own credit he was naturally desirous of making a good selection to fill any situation that might become vacant, whilst the fact of the advancement of any Officer being dependent upon the Governor's approbation, acted as an inducement to Officers to shew themselves deserving of promotion by their zeal and assiduity in the discharge of their public duties. Under the present system local knowledge and experience may prove of no avail. All the patronage connected with the various Civil appointments above the rank of mere Clerkships rests with the Secretary of State, who must often make use of his power to provide for the funds of Parliamentary supporters, without the slightest reference to their qualifications or to the claims of deserving Officers serving in the Settlements. Home influence must alone prove the standard of merit and with that influence, however incapable an Officer may be, he will be tolerably sure of promotion. Already Officers perfectly ignorant of the language and habits of the people have been placed in positions requiring an intimate acquaintance with both, and the result has been a serious outbreak at Pinang, in which from 4 to 500 lives have been lost and about 1,000 houses burnt down, an outbreak that would never have reached to such an extremity had proper precautionary measures been adopted, as on former occasions when the ill feeling between the Rival Chinese Societies first displayed itself. The only remedy that can be applied to this serious defect in the Colonial office system is the formation of a Local Civil Service, from which service all appointments must be filled up, the patronage of the Secretary of State being rigidly restricted to the nomination of Cadets, their future advancement being determined by the Local Government.

+ The pensions of those Officers equally with those of the Medical Officers and Chaplains formed no charge against the Straits but were debited against the Indian Revenue, whilst they were liable to be replaced at the disposal of their respective Governments in the event of their giving dissatisfaction.

Newbury House, Falmouth, Decb 23

My dear Sir James Fergusson

With reference to the movement, should it be considered advisable to place any restriction upon the sale of arms etc. it has struck me that possibly you might find it advantageous to refer to the Indian Arms Act, some of the provisions of which might be deemed suitable for introduction into this country. It was originally passed in India in a great measure upon a representation of my own pointing out the property {propriety?} of placing some check upon the sale of Arms and Ammunition during the Mutiny.

I believe it has worked well. It can hardly be considered an undue interference with the liberty of the subject requiring all sellers of arms etc. to take out an annual Licence, and to keep a register of all sales, so {or?} to prohibit the removal, except in any {very?} small quantities, of gunpowder, or any highly explosive or combustible substance, such as nitroglycerine, without a permit from a Justice of the Peace or other duly constituted Authority.

I observe that the efficiency of the Police system is under review. I have had some experience in Police matters and I am inclined to think that persons are apt to compound {confuse?} the detective Policeman with the Police Spy. The former I am satisfied should be detected {selected?} from the Police Force for the {their?} intelligence, courage and integrity. The latter may be taken from any class and should receive no regular pay but be awarded {rewarded?} according to the information he awards. It is the most important part of the duty of the detective to sift that information and ascertain personally how far it is worthy of credence. This is a dangerous task and the detective should therefore be well paid.

Trusting you will excuse my obtruding my ideas upon you.

Believe me etc. etc.

To Sd O Cavenagh

Sir James Fergusson Bt

Under Secy of State Home office

Extract from letter dated 17 Janry 1868 to Leveson

"I was pleased to find that notwithstanding the predictions of the *Straits Times* as to the result of the Tumongong's disposal of his farms at a moderate rent last year, the Singapore Farms, as I felt assured would be the case, have again risen considerably. It is always an advantage to Singapore

to have the Johore farms let at a fair rent, for then the Johore Farmer can afford to pay a larger sum for the Singapore Monopoly, whilst if he loses the {latter?} he is not obliged to meet his payment to the Tumongong by establishing a system of smuggling into the British territories. The Tumongong naturally wished to drive a hard bargain with his farmer, but I persuaded him from doing so and to content himself with a fair and reasonable demand as being advantageous to all parties. The system of inviting traders for the sale of Farms was introduced either two or three years ago and is not new."

Newbury House, Falmouth Janr 17

My dear Bain

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th Instant with enclosures. Of course my opinion as to your claims can now be of little value, but, as a friend, I would offer the following remarks for your consideration upon your Letter of the 20 March.

First. I cannot find from the correspondence any admission, as stated in Para 5, that for years the Govt had supplied its wants from your bill. To the best of my belief it appeared upon enquiry that the had been first taken under Capt Mayne's order, when he was acting for Capt McNair towards the end of 1865. I cannot of course now speak positively on this point. However Protheroe's Letter simply states that for any damage done you have a claim against the State. This is no acknowledgement to the accuracy of your statement.

Second. Legally speaking your right to the land in Campong Malacca had lapsed, as you had failed to take out your grant. The arrangement under which the Govt. took upon itself the burthen of making roads and a River Wall and also permitted the postponement of the payment of the balance of the purchase money, an arrangement which was extremely profitable and advantageous to the purchasers, formed no part of the conditions of sale, but was made subsequently by Mr. Blundell with a deputation representing the purchasers, and not with individuals.

To enable the Chief Engineer to carry out the promise thus given, a rearrangement of the ground became necessary. Hence, before commencing the work, a plan was prepared and submitted, either by circulation or otherwise, to all the purchasers at Singapore. There was no want of publicity in the matter. Indeed I believe there were one or two discussions between the Chief Engineer and the purchasers before the exact position of the roads was clearly defined.

Now it seems to me that if you considered the Govt. bound by a simple promise made after the sale to a deputation (having no legal status) from the purchasers, and consequently omitted, in accordance with the law, to take out your grant pending the construction of the River Wall and roads, equally you ought to look upon the subsequent agreement between the Govt. and the majority of the purchasers as binding. You can scarcely repudiate the one and hold to the other, both being made by third parties on your behalf.

If, in conformity with the terms of Act XVI of 1835(?) you had paid your money into the Treasury and taken out your grant, your individual rights would have been secured and could not

have been infringed. As it was, you had no legal status, and had merely a small right as one of a body with whom the Govt. had entered into an agreement through one or two of its members. Of course you were fairly entitled to claim a deduction from the purchase money equivalent to the deduction made from your lots, but you could hardly insist upon the Govt. making a road and then demand compensation for its being made.

Third. The Resident Councillor is legally empowered to issue grants and leases of land, but under no law is he vested with authority to make roads or construct other public works. Indeed that authority, as regards the roads within a certain radius, has ceased to be exercised by the Govt. itself tow years before the execution of your agreement with Mr. Mackenzie. That agreement therefore had no legal force. The only claim you could possibly advance was on moral grounds, but then it must be remembered that you were as equally guilty of {default?} as Mr. Mackenzie, and that for nine years you took no steps towards paying {bringing?} the transaction to the notice of Mr. Mackenzie's sapience {successor?}.

I am sure you are wrong in supposing that Macpherson acted towards you in an unfriendly manner. Your first letter is dated 26 Febry and possibly did not reach him until the 27, on which day the Calcutta Steamer arrived with of course numerous letters for the R.C. from the Indian Authorities. The Mail Steamer came in on the 2 March, the 3rd was Sunday and your communication was sent in on the 4th Monday, so that there does not appear to have been any unreasonable delay in its transmission to my Office. Moreover Macpherson was most anxious that I should accede to your request with respect to the ground near Mosque Street, but, knowing the absolute necessity, for sanitary reasons, for retaining open spaces in towns in the tropics, after due consideration I could not feel myself justified in making over the plot of land your required for building purposes. Had you represented your case a couple of months earlier, I have little doubt that matters would have been amicably arranged. Indeed I should have been very glad, under certain conditions, to have made over some of the ground near Merchants' bridge as its neglected appearance was rather an eyesore.

In considering any question of claims against the State a {official?} has simply to place himself in the position of a private individual holding office as a trustee and to act accordingly. etc. etc.

I have etc.

Sd O Cavenagh

R Bain Esqre

3 Mayfield Terrace

Edinburgh

Newbury House, Falmouth Janr 26

Dear Sir

On the 5th Instant I forwarded to 37 {your?} Rev a paper upon the subject of our Military , a subject which has long occupied my attention and which I cannot but consider in the present state of the Political world one of very great importance. I trust I may be favored with an expression of your opinion as to the merits of the same {said?} paper as in the event of its not being deemed worthy of discretion {inclusion?} in the Magazine under your editorial charge, I would wish to bring my views to the notice of the Public through some other channel. From an article that appeared in Standard it would seem that, on one point at least, my ideas are likely to be in accordance with those entertained by the present Government.

I may mention that in Para 6 of my manuscript I believe I omitted the word "spare" between "their" and "time". In Para 10 "delegating" would perhaps be more correct than "deputing".

I remain

To the Editor Sd O Cavenagh

Blackwoods Review

45 Page Street Edinburgh

Extract from Letter to Leveson dated 31 Janry

"I am utterly at a loss to understand the object of the allusion to the freedom of the Port in speech, with anything like ordinary prudence and economy he ought generally to have a huge surplus Revenue, so that in the course of a few years he should have a fine accumulation in the Treasury to meet any emergency. I am certain that with proper management, the Straits ought to be the most flourishing Colony in the world, and I am equally certain that any interference with the freedom of trade would prove very prejudicial to the interests of the Settlement. I cannot of course obtrude my ideas upon the Authorities at the Colonial Office unsought, but if requested to wait upon the Secretary of State I would always most gladly do so if I could in any way assist the Govt. or benefit the Straits".

Newbury House April 18

My dear Bain

x x x

I am afraid you will find that as respects the conditions of sale of the land at Campong Malacca, my {memory?} is more to be depended upon than Mr Blundell's. Although I had a {no?}

personal acquaintance with the circumstances of the sale I have often perused the correspondence on the subject and that correspondence included a long letter from Mr Thurch {Church?} by whom the sale was conducted, in which he distinctly reports that the only conditions were then {those?} specified in the Advertisement and that it was not until after the sale had been completed that he mentioned his intention of recommending the construction of the roads and river wall. For your sake I wish this were not the case but knowing of the existence of the letter I should not be acting a friendly part towards you were I to keep you in ignorance of the contents. etc. etc.

Sd O Cavenagh

To R Bain Esqre

3 Mayfield Terrace

Edinburgh

Newbury House. Falmouth April 21 1868

Sir

I have the honor to request the favor of your submitting my name to His Excellency the Commander in Chief as an applicant for a Good Service Pension.

2. I would beg respectfully to state that both as regards Army rank and Length of Service I am senior to many who have already obtained the {award?}, that I have served in two Campaigns, that I have on several occasions received the thanks of the Supreme Government, and that I am, I believe, the only Officer in Her Majesty's Service who after having his leg carried away by a round shot and receiving other severe injuries by his dead horse falling on him has continued to discharge the duties of Second in Command of a Corps of Cavalry until again disabled by a second wound depriving him of the partial use of an arm.

3. The required detailed statement of my services has already been transmitted to your Office.

I have the honor etc.

Sd O Cavenagh Major
Genl.

To The Adjutant General Bengal Staff Corps

of the Army Headquarters (?)

Newbury House, Falmouth April 23

My dear Bain

Many thanks for your letter of the 20th Instant. If you will refer to mine of the 17th January you will find that Read corroborates the statement contained in the second para, as to the circumstances under which the Govt. agreed to construct the River Wall and Roads. Had this been one of the conditions specified in the advertisement of the sale, there would have been no necessity for any deputation visiting on the Governor. I mention this not to oppose your claim to compensation for any loss you may have suffered but to shew that in making the necessary the whole circumstances of the case would have to be considered, as the sale would have been equally valid even if Mr Blundell had refused to consider the desired form, after leaving govt House, to prevent misconception. Read addressed the Secr in writing and his letter and Capt Barradaile's reply are recorded in the Office. Major Burn was generally so careful in his work that, if he made the subsequent arrangement, I am surprised he overlooked your rights. I was at Pinang when the arrangement was made and fancied that it had been settled with the Chief Engineer as he submitted the plans and Estimates.

I have etc.

To R Bain Esre Sd O cavenagh

3 Mayfield Terrace

Newbury House, Falmouth May 15

My dear Mr Kaye

In accordance with my promise I have the pleasure to forward by Book post a paper containing Extracts from my Journal for 1857 relative to the feeling amongst the troops {and?} the measures taken for the preservation of the peace of Calcutta and the intrigues on the part of the followers of the King of India {Oudh?}, those being the subjects that may possibly interest you.

I have not thought it worthwhile to include any remarks as to the arrival and departure of troops. The numerous rumours amongst the Native population generally, although they are mostly recorded, as I used to solicit information from various sources, so that by soliciting {collating?} the different reports that reached me, I was enabled, in some degree to test their accuracy. My principal informant was an old Govt. who

had been Sir John M 's, and who was the person who warned me in Decr 1856 of the ill feeling towards us prevalent in the North West and amongst the Native soldiery. Detailed information regarding the that took place in Fort William can I presume be obtained in the Military Department. The bulk of my papers are still at Liverpool, but as I have taken a house in York terrace, Regents Park, I shall have my boxes sent up to me when I come to Town next month, and if I find any document worth your perusal, I will let you know.

I should have forwarded these Extracts earlier but I have been a great deal on the move lately in search of a suitable residence. etc. etc. etc.

I was very glad to read Sir Stafford Northcote's speech in reply to Mr Furnalt. Sir Stafford takes the right view of the question. Amongst the Natives of India there are of course men whom everyone would require to see placed in high situations, but those are the exceptions. Of those educated in India there are hundreds competent to pass the necessary examinations for the Civil Service who would be utterly devoid of the moral qualifications required in a Ruler. Though the Bengali is the worst type of Native, he has the most precocious intellect. The Up Country man, on the contrary, is upon the whole a very fine fellow but he does not devote much thought to study.

I may mention that I obtained from proof of the truth of the statement made by the , to the Sepoys that arrangements had been made for blowing up the Steamer despatched from Calcutta with Ammunition.

I remain etc.

To J W Kaye Esqre Sd O Cavenagh

India Office

Newbury House, Falmouth May 20th

Sire

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Majesty's friendly letter of the 7th Decb last for which I trust that you will be pleased to accept my sincere thanks.

It is indeed gratifying to me to know that the friendly relations that, during my time of Office, it was ever my anxious desire to maintain between Your Majesty and the head of the Straits Settlements have been confirmed by my successor, on whose part I feel assured no endeavour will be to conduct his duties in such a manner as to strengthen the alliance between Siam and Great Britain.

With every wish for the continued health and happiness of Your Majesty and for the increasing prosperity of your people and country

I remain Sir

Your Majesty's Sincere Friend

Orfeur Cavenagh Major Gen

To His Majesty

The King of Siam

No 35 York Terrace, Regents Park

London Augt 3 1868

Sir

Under the operation of G.O.G.G. No 613 of the 17th June 1868 I have the honor to request the favor of your soliciting the sanction of the Right Hon'ble the Secy of State in Council to my being granted an extension of Leave for six months viz from the 1st of October 1868 to the 1st of April 1869.

I have etc. etc.

Sd O Cavenagh Major Gen

Bengal Staff Corps

To The Secy Mily Dept

India Office

35 York Terrace, Regents Park Janry 20

My dear Bain

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 15th Instant with enclosure. Re the latter there are two points to which exception might be made. First. That for years the govt. had taken from your Estate. As already pointed out I believe this statement to be incorrect, Second. That the conditions of sale of the land at Campong Malacca were verbally modified from Thurch {Church} in his recorded statement distinctly reports that his promise to recommend the more favorable terms was given after the sale had be {been?} effected and in consequence of the high price realized. It is to be regretted that the questions at issue were not brought before me in 1866. They might then have been easily settled

Statement

Of

Major General Cavenagh's Service

Passed the examination at Addiscombe on the 12th June 1837 and early in 1838 joined the 32nd Regt. N.I. In 1840 passed the prescribed examination at the College of Fort William. Appointed as Interpreter and Quartermaster to the 41st Regt. N.I. Attached to the Force employed in watching the Nepaul frontier 1840/41.

In 1842 appointed as Adjutant to the 2nd Regt. Irregular Cavalry employed against the insurgents in the Saugor and Nerbuddah Territories. Subsequently transferred to the 4th Regt. Irregular Cavalry.

In 1843 engaged at the Battle of Maharajpore. Left leg carried away by a round shot, and otherwise severely injured by his charger, which was killed, falling on him.

For upwards of a year compelled to use crutches. Continued however to perform all his duties even those of parade, being placed upon his horse and taken off again by his orderlies. During this period compiled the Abstract of General Orders, for a long while the standing book of reference for the Army, the profits of the compilation made over to the Lawrence Asylum. Appointed 2nd in command of the 4th Regt. Irregular Cavalry, and, for a short time officiated as Pension Paymaster at Meerut.

In 1845-46 employed with the Army of the Sutledge, and, at the relief of Loodianah by the Division under Sir Harry Smith again severely wounded losing the partial use of his left arm. Whilst still on the Sick List and unable to sit on his horse without being held, at the particular request of the late Sir Hugh Wheeler, took charge of the whole of the native sick and wounded, many of whom were in great distress, owing to the want of proper food and clothing. Drew and issued the requisite advances, visited the hospitals and personally conducted the accounts of several hundred of men of various corps.

Appointed Superintendent of the Mysore Princes and subsequently of the Ex-Ameers of Scinde and Sikh Sirdars, as well as of the Ex-Governor of Kerman, the Persian nobleman, Agha Khan Mehlatee.

In 1850 selected for the political charge of the Nepalese Embassy. On his return from England accompanied it to Kathmandoo, and afterwards prepared a report on the State of Nepal. Received the thanks of the late Court of Directors and of the Supreme Government.

For many years a Director of the military and Orphans Funds. Compiled and edited the Bengal Army List, containing the services and dates of commissions of every officer — the profits of this work made over to the Orphan Society.

In 1854, at the special request of the then Governor General Lord Dalhousie, accepted the appointment on his staff of Town Major of Fort William. In this capacity as the Governor General's representative, recommended the numerous alterations in the European Barracks and other buildings as well as general sanitary improvements, which have led to the ordinarily satisfactory state of health of the Garrison.

On the 26th January, 1857, frustrated the design of the Mutineers to seize Fort William (*vide* statement of Jemadar Durrion Sing, 34th Regiment, N.I.).

Throughout the Mutiny discharged all the arduous duties connected with the command of Fort William and Calcutta, including the charge of the state prisoners, the raising a Corps of Volunteers, the organisation of a body of Native Servants for the use of the troops arriving from

England, the management of a large Military Canteen, the protection of the town, the control of all Public Departments, Military Buildings, Hospitals, etc., and the entire charge (arming, clothing and victualling) of all European invalids and recruits, numbering several thousands, of the company's service. On four occasions received the thanks and commendation of the Supreme Government.

At the close of the mutiny, appointed Governor of the Straits Settlements. In addition to the ordinary duties connected with the Government, specified in the report forwarded to the India Office, obtained from the Sultan of Acheen an apology for the insult offered to the Governor General's Envoy, Major Haughton; prepared a special report upon the resources of the State of Sarawak and carried out the secret instructions for preventing the exportation of arms and ammunition to Japan and the North of China. For the efficient performance of these duties received the thanks of the Secretary of State and the Governor General of India.

Received through the Secretary of State, the thanks on two occasions of the Emperor of France for assistance rendered to French vessels, and also the thanks of the Secretary of State for the Colonies for the valuable aid afforded in effecting the transfer

of the Straits Settlement.

O Cavenagh Major General

Bengal Staff Corps

Augt 8th 1868

35 York Terrace

Regents Park

Augt 8th/68

My dear Sir

As I have every reason to believe that there will be two retirements among the Military members of the Council of India in November next, I trust I may be pardoned expressing a hope that, in filling up the vacancies, any claim which I may be deemed to possess for re-employment may receive consideration. The annexed statement of my Services will shew that few officers can possess my varied experience as regards both civil and Military duties.

I have served with and commanded Troops of all arms European and Native, Regular and Irregular. During the Mutiny not a single soldier of the thousands that passed through Calcutta, that I did not personally inspect the accommodations provided for him and satisfy myself that his wants had been attended to. In the Straits Settlement I controlled every Department, Civil and Military, whilst I believe I am the only instance of a British Governor who after giving satisfaction both to the people and the Home Government, and raising his Colony to a high state

of prosperity, has been removed from office without experiencing the courtesy of being informed of his intended removal before the arrival of his successor.

I remain

Yours faithfully

Orfeur Cavenagh

To The Right Honble Sir Stafford Northcote

Secy of State for India

20 October 1868

My dear Start(?)

With reference to our conversation the other day I have the pleasure to subjoin a sketch of my scheme for reorganizing the Indian Army, a scheme which could I believe be carried out without any present additional expense and with much future efficiency and .

First. The Officers of the two Cadres to be amalgamated as in the case of the two Old European Regiments to form the Corps of Officers of each new Native Line Regiment.

Second. Promotion to be carried on, for the present, in each Cadre exactly as formerly, that is for any Major of {or?} Captain that may retire etc., a step to be given to subordinate ranks. Should the Officer promoted belong to the Staff Corps, the promotion would of course be merely nominal.

Third. At the expiration of five years from the date of the new organization, the names of all Staff Corps Officers to be removed from the Cadres, and promotions, when necessary, made in their stead, but at the same time the number of Officers to be reduced to the proposed permanent strength of the new Regiment, say 1 Major, 8 Captains and 12 Lieutenants.

Fourth. All Officers in the present Cadres who have joined the Staff Corps to have the

Option, within twelve months of electing to rejoin their Regiments retaining
However any Army Rank with the advantages of increased pay they may actually
now enjoy.

Fifth. No Officer to be newly posted to a Corps until the number of Officers may be
reduced to the proposed compliment {complement?}, but Lieutenants belonging
to old Cadres or to the General List to be permitted to be transferred at their own
request with the view of equalising the strength of Cadres.

Sixth. All Officers of both Cadres not otherwise employed to be ordered to join their
Respective Regiments. When on Regimental duty their to be
Determined by their old Regimental rank and position, Staff Corps Officers
however drawing their Staff Corps Pay and retaining their Army Rank. In the
Guards Lt. Gl's command Companies, so thus they would be a precedent for
the arrangement.

As an illustration of the working of the scheme, take the Cadres of the 32nd and 64th Bengal
Infantry which would become the 73rd East Indian Regt. When the new Regt. would be formed
there would be 2 Majors, 14 Captains and 4 Lieutenants, or in all 20. There would therefore be
one vacancy to be filled up by a transfer from another Cadre or from the General List, in wh.
manner in the event of the death or retirement etc. of a Major, the Senior Capt. of the Cadre to
which he belonged would be promoted to Major and the Senior Lieutenant to Capt., whilst a new
Lieutenant would be posted to the Regiment, not to the Cadre. This would go on for five years, at
the expiration of which period all the Staff Corps Officers would be finally struck off the
strength of the Cadres, but one Major and six Captains, three in each Cadre, would have to be
absorbed, so that the promotion would not be so very rapid, though the prospect would perhaps
be sufficiently good to induce many of the Staff Corps Officers to elect to rejoin their Regiments.
Others would take the same step with the view of bettering themselves on retirement, either by
obtaining a small bonus from their pensions or by taking advantage of the old rule granting
Pensions for Regimental rank after 22 years service.

Lieut. Colonels would, of course, in the first instance be posted to Regiments from the General
List, but it would be a tion whether it might not be advisable eventually to make them also
Regimental Officers.

I can conceive no great difficulty in introducing the new organization.. Whilst personal interests would be protected an immediate saving would be effected by the abolition in 78 Regiments of Wing allowance, and the services of a large number of unemployed or doing general duty Officers would be utilized. Moreover in the (space?) of five years there would be really an efficient Indian Army, capable not only of performing its own more legitimate duties, but also of affording aid to the Empire in time of need.

I am

To ? Sd O Cavenagh

35 York Terrace Regents Park

My dear Sir

With reference to my note of the 8th Augt. May I beg the favor of your informing me whether my claims to succeed to a vacancy in the Council of India so far suit {meet?} your approval as to have induced you to place my application upon the records of your late Office.

I regret much to trouble you on a personal matter but, in the absence of any reply to my note, I am of course ignorant as to the consideration given to the statement of my services, to which, as the only Officer occupying a prominent position both during and after the Mutiny whose services have not received no {any?} recognition but who, as the reward for those services, has been summarily removed from Office, it may perhaps hereafter be an object of importance to one to be able to refer.

Hoping that you will kindly accept my apologies for this intrusion upon your time

I remain

Yours Faithfully

To Sd O Cavenagh

The Right Hon'ble

Sir Stafford Northcote Bt C.B.