

in a few days. All is, however, quiet in the town and districts at the present time.

12. I beg to inclose a copy of a Proclamation, with appended Articles, which forms the basis of our future administration in these tracts. These will doubtless require emendation as we progress in the government of a strange people, but they seem to me at present best adapted to work upon, and have accordingly received the sanction of the Major-General Commanding-in-chief of the Force.

I have, &c.

FELIX JONES, Political Agent with the Forces, and Resident in the Persian Gulf.

*Meerza Hassan Ally Khan Dureya Beggee, Governor of Bushire, to Commander Felix Jones, I.N., Political Resident, Persian Gulf.*

2 Rubee-ool-Sanee, 1272 (December 1, 1856).

A number of vessels, both steam and sailing, have arrived, and anchored abreast of Bushire; others, too, keep making their appearance. Never before have so many ships, pertaining to the British Government, visited these parts. I have deemed it, therefore, my duty to inquire from you on what errand, and to what port, the said vessels are bound. If their destination be the Persian Gulf, I beg to be apprised of the object of their visit. I trust you will be pleased to acquaint me of the true cause of their coming.

*Commander Felix Jones to Meerza Hassan Ally Khan Dureya Beggee.*

December 3, 1856.

I had the pleasure of receiving your note of the 2nd Rubee-ool-Sanee (December 1), and understood its contents; but, unfortunately, being then proceeding to join the Sirdar General Sahib, and having no Meerzas on board the strange vessel, I was compelled to defer the answer until the present moment, for which excuse me. I must now, however, inform you that my functions in connection with Persia have ceased, by order of my Government, and, therefore, it will remain for the Sirdar himself to reply to the purport of your note.

I cannot close my own correspondence with you without expressing how much I feel this separation. Trusting, however, it will not be of long duration, I am, &c.

FELIX JONES, Political Resident.

To all Governors and Authorities in the towns and districts bordering upon the shores of the Persian Gulf.

Be it known to you that the Sirdar General Foster Stalker Sahib Bahadoor, decorated with the Order of the Bath, has been entrusted with the supreme command of a powerful fleet and army sent by the exalted Government of Great Britain to these shores. The motives of his coming it is unnecessary for him to explain, as the inclosed proclamations from the Most Noble the Governor-

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General of India in Council are sufficiently explicit and clear.

By order of the Sirdar General Sahib Bahadoor.

FELIX JONES, Political Agent with the Persian Expeditionary Force.

Dated from on board the East India Company's steam-frigate "Assaye," bearing the flag of Rear-Admiral Sir Henry J. Leeke, Knt., K.H., in Bushire Roads, December 3, 1856.

To the Governor of the Town and District of Bushire.

Anxious to save Bushire from the horrors of war, and to give to its non-combatants, women and children, ample time to escape from its walls, the Sirdar General Sahib, and the Sirdar Admiral Sahib, commanding the English combined military and naval forces before the town, have, to the present time, refrained from bombarding it; otherwise, the powerful ships of the British Government could have laid it in ashes in the short space of two hours. The dictates of humanity having therefore been complied with, they will no longer delay, unless the Governor, seeing the inutility of opposition, prudently surrender the town into their hands.

The Governor is given until to-morrow morning at sunrise to consider his position, when, should he determine on surrender, the topmast of the Persian Government flagstaff at the Chetar Boorj must be struck as the signal of submission.

The Sirdar General Sahib, and the Sirdar Admiral Sahib, commanding, &c., offer the following conditions, in case of non-resistance and honorable capitulation:—

Private property of all descriptions, including dwelling houses will be scrupulously respected; but public property of every kind, with the contents of granaries, magazines, and public buildings, including arms, ammunition, and public treasure, must be transferred, with official lists, into their hands.

The worship of Almighty God, according to the dictates of conscience, is tolerated by English law. All sects and denominations, therefore, will be free in the exercise of their religious rights, and will be protected against the least molestation.

The troops forming the garrison, and all other armed retainers of the Persian Government, will be allowed to march out of the town-gate with the full honours of war,—that is, with drums beating, flags flying, &c., after which they will pile arms immediately under the wall, left and right of the gate, and deposit all military equipments, before becoming prisoners of war. The superior officers will then approach and surrender their swords in token of submission. All captives of war, if not set free, will receive honorable treatment, clothing, and food, agreeably to the usages of civilized nations, which admit of the superior officers being abroad on "parole."

The British Government wars not with peaceful citizens and unarmed men. It fights only against the State. All such are protected in life and property, and in the exercise of their religious observances, under mild British rule. For these classes conditions are unnecessary.

Such are the terms without evasion. If accepted by the display of the proposed signal, peace will