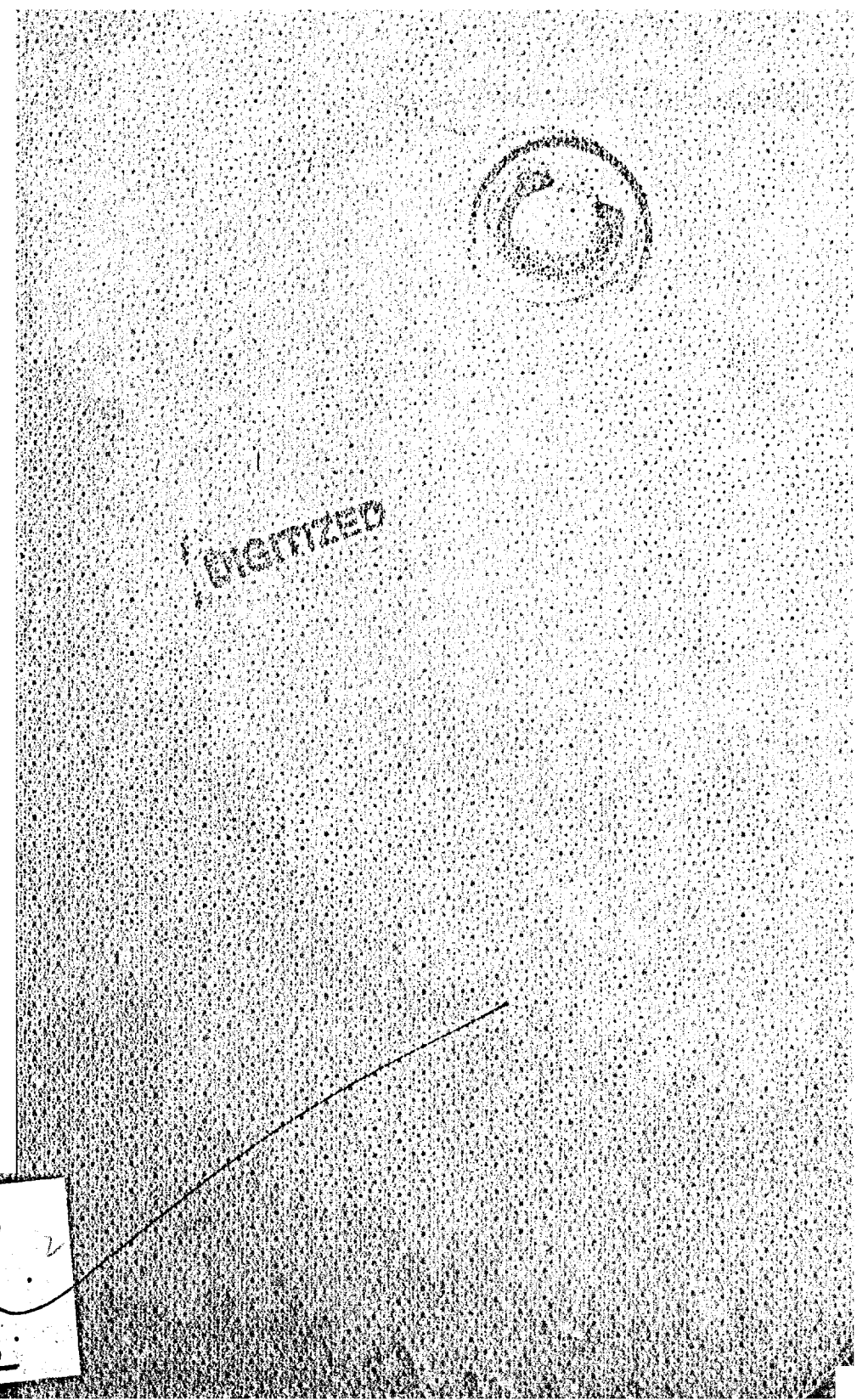




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BURMAH. (1886.)

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E

RELATING TO

B U R M A H

SINCE

THE ACCESSION OF KING THEEBAW

IN

OCTOBER, 1878.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



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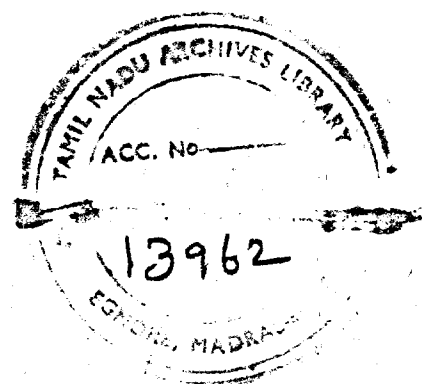
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King Theebaw in October 1878.

No. 1.

LORD LYONS to the MARQUIS OF SALISBURY.

(Extract.)

MY LORD, Paris, July 19, 1878.
I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the arrival at Paris of Pangyet Woon, as Burmese Ambassador, is announced.
I asked M. Waddington yesterday whether he was aware of the arrival of Pangyet Woon, and whether this Burmese gentleman possessed any diplomatic character, or had come on any mission from the Government of Burmah to that of France.
M. Waddington said that he had not before heard even of his arrival, but that he would make inquiries.
I took the opportunity of speaking briefly to M. Waddington of the very objectionable Treaty which was made by M. de Rochechouart with Burmah in 1874, and of the promise of the French Government that this Treaty should not be ratified.
I also mentioned to M. Waddington the objections to allowing purchases of arms to be made by Burmese Agents.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 2.

LORD LYONS to the MARQUIS OF SALISBURY.

(Extract.)

MY LORD, Paris, July 25, 1878.
I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that yesterday I spoke to M. Waddington respecting the arrival of Pangyet Woon at Paris, and the report that he had come in the character of an Ambassador from Burmah.
M. Waddington answered that all he could say was that up to this time no Burmese Embassy had announced its arrival to him, and that no communication had as yet been received by him either from Pangyet Woon or any other Burmese.
M. Waddington proceeded to ask whether he was to understand that if in fact a Diplomatic Mission from Burmah arrived at Paris, Her Majesty's Government would be disposed to take exception to its being received officially.
I answered that I did not know that any objection would be raised to the simple reception of such a Mission. But, I added, that considering the geographical situation of Burmah, and its political relations with British India, Her Majesty's Government would no doubt object to any special alliance or understanding between the Burmese Government and any other Power, and would certainly take exception to any such arrangements as M. de Rochechouart had attempted to make by the abortive Treaty of 1874.
Moreover, I reminded M. Waddington that Her Majesty's Government desired that facilities for purchasing arms should not be given to the Burmese.
In fact so recently as in 1872 and 1874 Burmese Embassies were received in France without any remonstrances on the part of Her Majesty's Government, and by the first of these Embassies a Convention was signed at Paris with the French Government.

The ratification of this Franco-Burmese Convention was authorised by the French National Assembly, but I do not know that the exchange of ratifications between France and Burmah has taken place. It was to arrange the question of the ratifications with the Government of Burmah that M. de Rochechouart was sent to that country; but instead of insisting upon the confirmation of the Convention already concluded at Paris, he took upon himself to sign as a substitute for it, or as a supplement to it, the new and objectionable Treaty above mentioned.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 3.

No. 105 of 1878.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HON. VISCOUNT CRANBROOK, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD,

Simla, October 17, 1878.

ON the 14th September last we telegraphed to your Lordship that the King of Burmah was supposed to be dying, and that his death was likely to be followed by internal dissensions and a war for the succession in Upper Burmah. We also indicated briefly the precautions which the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah had been authorised to take, or to prepare for taking, for the protection of the Mandalay Residency and of British subjects, in the event of an outbreak at the capital. For some time after receipt of news of the King's illness we were without certain information of the result; His Majesty's condition was kept carefully secret; but the alarm in the city of Mandalay continued, and two Princes, sons of the King, sought refuge in the British Residency, alleging that their lives were in danger. The Burmese Government moved troops toward the frontiers in various quarters; some forces being despatched southward, in apprehension [as the Resident telegraphed] of interference on that frontier by the British Government. On the 21st September Mr. Shaw telegraphed that he had congratulated the Thebaw Prince, who had been declared heir-apparent; and on the 1st October authentic intelligence of the King's death was at last received by the Resident. Apparently the succession of the Thebaw Prince has taken place without opposition, for the telegrams report that all is quiet. The late King's obsequies were fixed for the 7th October, and all persons, Europeans as well as natives, have been admitted to see the body lying in state. It has been announced that certain commercial taxes will be remitted.

2. This being the present situation—and since there are no signs of immediate trouble or danger either upon our frontier with Upper Burmah, or at the capital—we have, acting upon the advice telegraphed by the Chief Commissioner at Rangoon and by the Resident, held in reserve the chief precautionary measures that had been determined upon in the contingency of a disputed succession, and of civil order. The military guard which was in readiness to go up to Mandalay for protection of the Residency will not be sent; and the "Irrawaddy," which has had its armament strengthened, will not pass up the river beyond Thayetmyo unless it is summoned by the Resident. We append copies of correspondence, and of telegraphic orders and reports, which will give some information regarding the course of events at Mandalay. The Thebaw Prince, who has succeeded the late King, is the youngest of the four principal sons of the King now living at Mandalay; he is, however, said to be the only son of Royal blood on both sides, and to have been the favourite of his father. He is about 20 years of age, and has taken a high degree in examination.

3. Upon the general policy to be henceforward observed in the conduct of our relations with Upper Burmah, we propose to address your Lordship so soon as we shall have received from the Chief Commissioner and the Resident their reports [which have been called for] on the present state and prospect of affairs, and on the disposition of the new King and his Ministry toward the British Government. The latest telegrams from Mandalay appear to deprecate any immediate steps; and it would be imprudent to move prematurely, without full knowledge of the situation; although the opportunity

afforded by the King's accession should give a favourable opportunity for improving our relations with his Government. We believe the first steps necessary are to strengthen, morally and materially, the position and influence of our Resident at that Court. And to this end it appears to us of primary importance that he should be assured free access to the King himself; that he should be received in proper style, and that his representations should be understood to carry weight, and to require due and formal consideration by the Burmese Government. We also consider that the Resident ought to have at Mandalay a residence, guard, and escort more suited to his rank and office than are at present allowed to him. We are of opinion that these are preliminary steps necessary for the establishment of the legitimate diplomatic influence of the British Government in Upper Burmah. The interests of our Government in that country are mainly commercial, but they are of large and growing importance; and they are affected by the insecurity of life and property which still prevails at Mandalay, by the difficulty and delays which are opposed to applications for injuries or redress, and by the disregard, on the part of the late King of Burmah, of existing treaties. Neither the grievances of British subjects in Upper Burmah, nor the evasion of public engagements, have hitherto been pressed to a formal issue with the Burmese Government; and we believe that the time has now come for adopting a different mode of dealing with such questions. The enclosures to this despatch contain correspondence upon two cases in which British subjects have been maltreated, and which our Resident has been instructed to discuss seriously with the King's Government.

4. Upon these considerations, and with these views, we have empowered Mr. Shaw to use any opportunity of intimating at Mandalay, that the friendly understanding which we are ready to establish with the present King must depend on a proper recognition, by His Majesty, of the position and influence of the British Resident.

We have, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON.
" F. P. HAINES.
" A. J. ARBUTHNOT.
" A. CLARKE.
" W. STOKES.
" A. R. THOMPSON.
" S. J. BROWNE.

Enclosure 1 in No. 3.

TELEGRAM TO RESIDENT, Mandalay, dated October 3, 1878.

You are authorised to intimate to Ministers that general recognition and support of the Heir-Apparent by the Government of India will be proportioned in degree to his adoption of a new policy towards British Government, especially regarding free access to King, and greater consideration for position and influence of Resident.

Enclosure 2 in No. 3.

From R. B. SHAW, Esq., C.I.E., Resident at Mandalay, to A. C. LYALL, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

Mandalay, September 4, 1878.

WITH reference to my report of the ill-treatment of two dhobies (British subjects), I have the honour to report that they have been released by order of the Minister after an inquiry. He informs me that they were merely guilty of being out at improper hours without a lantern, but the circumstances under which this took place, viz., that they were returning from helping the police in catching and conveying to a police station some thieves, are confirmed by the Minister's letter. He does not refer to their subsequent ill-treatment in his letter. My account of this has to be modified so far that instead of the stocks being suspended freely by ropes which were hauled up, they were rigid horizontally, but movable virtually between two uprights. They were raised by pegs to such a height that the men had to support the whole weight of their bodies on their two hands placed behind their backs, to avoid dislocation or injury to their ankles in the raised stocks.

2. I regret to have to report that another case of tyrannical treatment, this time to an Englishman, occurred on the morning of the 2nd. Mr. Doyle, Commander of the Irrawaddy Flotilla S.S. "Chindwin," a very quiet and respectable man, accidentally trespassed on the river bund, crossing it to avoid a miry piece of road. There was

nothing to show that the beaten pathway across the bund was of forbidden access, but when called to by the Burmese police, he at once came down without disputing. He was then taken and put standing in the stocks, where he was kept for two hours in the rain until the arrival of Mr. Andreino, the Agent of the Flotilla Company. They came and complained to me.

3. I wrote to the Minister at the time requesting that the officials concerned might be punished unless there were any accusation against Mr. Doyle. The Minister replied verbally that Mr. Doyle might return to the steamer and would be summoned if wanted. But the Minister has taken no notice of my request for inquiry and punishment either in the case of the dhobies or in that of Mr. Doyle.

Enclosure 3 in No. 3.

From R. B. SHAW, Esq., C.I.E., Resident at Mandalay, to His Excellency the MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Mandalay, September 4, 1878.

THE Resident begs to express his thanks to the Minister for discharging the dhobies. The Resident now wishes to draw Minister's attention seriously to the ill-treatment suffered by the dhobies to which his Excellency makes no reference in his letter, and to the ill-treatment suffered by Mr. Doyle, Captain of the "Chindwin" steamer, which Resident has already reported to Minister, asking for inquiry and punishment.

The dhobies had, with other inhabitants of the quarter, been doing their duty by assisting the police in catching some thieves. They were returning alone from this work when they were seized by other police on the charge of going about at improper hours without lanterns. If the police had contented themselves with confining these men until the facts could be ascertained, Resident would not have felt it necessary to take any notice of this. But having got them in confinement, and before any trial had been held or sentence delivered, and when in fact the men were innocent (as Minister allows) of any offence but that of straying from the rest of their party while returning from catching some thieves, the police subjected them to torture for the sake of extorting money. They fastened their feet in stocks and then hauled their stocks up so high that their feet were above their heads, and refused to abstain from doing this unless they were paid six rupees. The men had to give their turbans in pledge in order to avoid further ill-treatment. This treatment of British subjects without fault and without sentence is a matter that the British Government will feel aggrieved by.

Secondly, the Captain of a steamer who took a path over the bund seemingly frequented, and not closed by a barrier, but which it appears is forbidden, was called back by the Burmese police. He did not disobey the call or resist, but came down at once, as several witnesses testify. Not content with this, the police took him and put his feet in the stocks, and kept him there in the sight of all the people for two hours. The Minister will understand that to take into custody and inflict a degrading punishment of this kind on an Englishman for an action in itself harmless and done out of mere ignorance, and in which the Captain did not persist as soon as he was told that it was forbidden, is highly improper and tyrannical. In both these cases the British Government will feel itself aggrieved.

But these are probably the unauthorised acts of underlings. If the Burmese Government proves that this is the case by punishing them sufficiently and speedily for their unauthorised acts, the grievance will be quite wiped out; and, moreover, the prompt action of the Burmese Government will be taken as a proof of friendship. I have no doubt the Burmese Government will be glad of this opportunity of proving its friendship.

To save time, the Resident begs to intimate that if the Minister wishes to do this, it will be sufficient if the head of the guard which tortured the dhobies will come and profess his sorrow in presence of the Resident, and will pay to each of the two dhobies the sum of Rupees 5 as compensation; and in the case of the steamer Captain, if the head of the guard who put him in the stocks is himself put in the stocks for two hours at the same place and in the same manner as the Captain was confined, or else that his offence be proclaimed in front of him in the western suburb and at the ghâts, and if he afterwards come and beg the pardon of the Resident, and of Mr. Andreino, the Agent of the Steamer Company, Resident undertakes that if this be done at once the British Government will say no more about these cases.

But if by refusing to punish the acts of the underlings the Burmese Government makes their acts its own, this will not be in accordance with the friendship which has hitherto reigned between the two countries.

Enclosure 4 in No. 3.

TELEGRAM to RESIDENT, Mandalay, dated October 12, 1878.

Your letter, 4th September, reporting two cases of serious ill-usage of British subjects. Government of India desire you to press firmly for proper amends, and satisfactory assurances for the future. You have discretion to intimate to Burmese Government that their reply and acts in this matter will be regarded as testing disposition of new King toward British Government, and that you trust opportunity will be taken of proving friendliness and establishing advantageous relations at beginning of new reign; while ill-usage of our subjects, and refusal of justice, must necessarily denote unfriendly policy towards India.

No. 4.

No. 152 of 1878.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HON. VISCOUNT CRANBROOK, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

My LORD, Camp Lahore, December 12, 1878.

IN continuation of Despatch No. 105, dated 17th October 1878, and with reference to paragraph 2 thereof, I have the honour to forward, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, copy of correspondence, from which it will be observed that redress has been obtained from the Burmese Government for ill-treatment to which certain British subjects had been subjected in Upper Burma.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON.

Enclosure 1 in No. 4.

TELEGRAM from the RESIDENT at Mandalay, dated 5th November 1878.

OFFICIALS concerned in ill-usage British subjects condemned to-day—in Dhobi case to ten stripes and restitution twice sum extorted; in Doyle's case Captain of Gateway degraded from post and imprisoned. Public admonition given at Criminal Court to Police not to ill-treat Europeans, as they are subjects of friendly Governments.

Enclosure 2 in No. 4.

TELEGRAM to the RESIDENT at Mandalay, dated Simla, November 7, 1878.

YOUR telegram 5th November about ill-treatment of British subjects. Redress appears satisfactory, though you state no opinion. If Burmese Government is really doing its best, we do not desire to embarrass, but substantial proofs of intentions are necessary.

No. 5.

No. 153 of 1878.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HON. VISCOUNT CRANBROOK, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

My LORD, Camp Lahore, December 12, 1878.

IN connection with my other despatches, regarding the affairs of Upper Burma, I have the honour to forward, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, a copy of papers, reporting the forcible seizure by armed men subordinate to the Governor of Mingyan, a Burmese official, of certain persons from on board a steamer belonging to the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company.

2. Immediately on the matter becoming known to the Government of India, instructions were issued to the Resident at Mandalay to insist on prompt inquiry into the circumstances of the affair, and to require redress for any unauthorised violence that might have been used. The Resident was further desired to inform the Government of Burma that if redress were not given in reasonable time, the British Government would have to act independently for the protection of its subjects. And Mr. Shaw was instructed, in the event of unreasonable demur to our demands, to express regret at the adoption by the Burmese Government of a policy so injurious to the prospects of the new King. The effect of this action was that the Governor has been summoned to Mandalay to answer for his conduct; and the result of the investigation is now awaited.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON.

Enclosure 1 in No. 5.

TELEGRAM from RESIDENT at Mandalay, dated November 4, 1878.

A BODY of 200 armed men belonging to Governor, Mingyan, violently took 30 passengers off Flotilla steamer on night 31st to 1st November, disregarding Captain's demand for written warrants. The order sent by Burmese Government to Governor was merely this—Ask Captain for surrender of men. I am demanding inquiry and punishment.

Enclosure 2 in No. 5.

TELEGRAM to RESIDENT at Mandalay, dated Simla, 6th November 1878.

YOUR telegram about arrest of passengers on steamer. You should insist on immediate redress. If this not given within reasonable time state plainly that British Government must act for protection of British rights and subjects with entire disregard for interests of the new Government. Express regret at policy so injurious to prospects of new King. See my telegram 12th October. Report result speedily.

No. 6.

DESPATCH to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL,
No. 4, dated, India Office, February 13, 1879.

MY LORD,

1. I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of the letters dated 17th October and 12th December 1878 of your Excellency's Government, on the subject of affairs in Upper Burmah.

2. I entirely concur in the approval which you have expressed of the proceedings of your Resident at Mandalay, and of the firm and conciliatory attitude assumed by Mr. Shaw, during the recent grave crisis at the Burmese capital, occasioned by the decease of the late King.

3. I reserve any further observations on the papers before me until I am in receipt of the report, promised in your Letter, No. 105, of the 17th October last, upon the general policy to be henceforward pursued in the conduct of our relations with Upper Burmah. I have merely to observe that the general principles on which you intimate that you are prepared to proceed with a view to the improvement of your relations with the Court of Mandalay have my full approval.

I feel no doubt that your Excellency's Government will show the utmost consideration towards the new King in any re-adjustment of those relations for which an opportunity now seems to have presented itself under most favourable auspices.

(Signed) CRANBROOK.

No. 7.

TELEGRAM from VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE,
dated February 21, 1879.

MANDALAY Resident reports slaughter of late King's sons, with mothers, wives and children, took place successive nights at prison by order of King. Ministers said to have disapproved; people greatly alarmed. I have ordered Resident to deliver to King forcible remonstrance against these barbarities, and to intimate that such conduct raises question of British Resident remaining at capital.

No. 8.

TELEGRAM from SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY,
dated February 21, 1879.

You cannot remonstrate too strongly against King's barbarity. Withdrawal of Resident however might give further scope to his cruelty and bad government.

No. 9.

No. 28 of 1879.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HONOURABLE VISCOUNT CRANBROOK, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD,

Fort William, February 28, 1879.

WE have transmitted to Your Lordship by telegraph the substance of the reports received up to date from our Resident at Mandalay, of the numerous executions that have taken place in the King's palace within the last fortnight.

2. We now inclose copies of the telegrams received up to date from Rangoon and Mandalay, and of the orders that have been issued to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, and to the Resident.

We have, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON.
" A. J. ARBUTHNOT.
" A. CLARKE.
" J. STRACHEY.
" E. B. JOHNSON.
" W. STOKES.
" A. R. THOMPSON.

Enclosure 1 in No. 9.

TELEGRAM, dated February 19, 1879.

From RESIDENT, Mandalay, to FOREIGN SECRETARY, Calcutta.

GENERAL slaughter late King's sons with their mothers, wives, children, some 80 souls, took place successive nights at prison by order of King. No provocation, conspiracy, or otherwise. Ministers supposed to disapprove; people alarmed, horrified. I threatened haul down flag if slaughter repeated.

Enclosure 2 in No. 9.

TELEGRAM, dated February 19, 1879.

From CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burmah, Rangoon, to FOREIGN SECRETARY, Calcutta.

FOLLOWING from Shaw:—

I RESPECTFULLY submit stern remonstrance ought to be made; and it is for consideration whether friendly relations ought to be maintained with so brutal and barbarous a King, and whether Resident ought not to be at once withdrawn.

Enclosure 3 in No. 9.

TELEGRAM, dated February 20, 1879.

FROM FOREIGN SECRETARY, CALCUTTA, TO RESIDENT, MANDALAY.

You should deliver a forcible remonstrance to the King from Government of India against offering any further violence to widows of late King. I will telegraph again immediately.

Enclosure 4 in No. 9.

TELEGRAM, dated February 21, 1879.

FROM FOREIGN SECRETARY, CALCUTTA, TO RESIDENT AT MANDALAY.

YOUR telegram 19th. Government of India direct you immediately to convey to King of Burmah a public remonstrance in forcible language against these barbarous executions of late King's relatives. You should exert yourself to obtain protection and release of those who still remain in danger, by protests and by warning that disregard of your intervention cannot fail to alienate British Government from the present ruler, and by declaring such barbarous conduct as he has been guilty of cannot fail to raise for consideration the question of a British Resident remaining at the capital.

Enclosure 5 in No. 9.

TELEGRAM, dated February 22, 1879.

FROM FOREIGN SECRETARY, CALCUTTA, TO CHIEF COMMISSIONER, BRITISH BURMAH, RANGOON.

FOLLOWING telegram sent to Shaw yesterday. Message begins:—Your telegram 19th. Government of India direct you immediately to convey to King of Burmah a public remonstrance in forcible language against these barbarous executions of late King's relatives. You should exert yourself to obtain protection and release of those who still remain in danger, by protests and by warning that disregard of your intervention cannot fail to alienate British Government from the present ruler, and by declaring that such barbarous conduct as he has been guilty of cannot fail to raise for consideration the question of a British Resident remaining at the capital. Message ends.

No. 10.

No. 58 of 1879.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Foreign Department.

TO THE RIGHT HON. VISCOUNT CRANBROOK, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD,

Fort William, March 7, 1879.

WE transmit copy of a letter from the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, dated 30th November 1878, enclosing correspondence relative to the assault made on the Commander of the I. F. Company's Steamer "Yankeentoung," and the forcible abduction of certain passengers from the vessel while at Meingyan on the night of 31st October 1878.

We have, &c.

(Signed) LYTTON.

A. J. ARBUTHNOT.

A. CLARKE.

J. STRACHEY.

E. B. JOHNSON.

W. STOKES.

A. R. THOMPSON.

Enclosure 1 in No. 10.

FROM R. HOPE PILCHER, Esq., B.C.S., Junior Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, to A. C. LYALL, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

Rangoon, November 30, 1878.

I AM directed to forward, for the information of the Government of India, correspondence relative to the assault made on the Commander of the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company's Steamer "Yankeentoung" and the forcible abduction of certain passengers from the vessel while at Meingyan on the night of 31st October last.

FROM G. J. SWANN, Esq., Manager, Irrawaddy Flotilla Company, Limited, to C. U. AITCHISON, Esq., C.S.I., LL.D., Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

Rangoon, November 8, 1878.

UNDERNEATH I have the honour to bring to your notice reports which have been made to me by the Company's Agent at Meingyan in Upper Burmah, and the Commander of the Steamer "Yankeentoung," with regard to the conduct of officials connected with the Burmese Government.

The former states:—The "Yankeentoung" arrived Thursday evening and anchored to take in cargo. About 7 P.M. I received a note from the Governor, which apparently was a telegram from the Ministers instructing the Woon to seize 30 men, passengers by the "Yankeentoung."

I sent the Governor word that I could not insist upon the Commander of the steamer delivering these men, unless he forwarded a warrant or written order. Captain Paterson was at my place, and when returning to the steamer about 9 P.M., he was rather rudely handled by the Governor's men who had mustered about 100 strong on the bank.

Towards morning, after several telegrams (I believe) had passed between the Hloot and Woon, two of the principal Magistrates or Thogees with 100 to 200 men boarded the steamer, informed Captain Paterson that if he made any resistance to their taking the men away, they would seize and imprison him. Captain Paterson could not do otherwise than let them do as they wished.

Eleven men and about eighteen women and children were seized.

Captain Paterson reports:—On the evening of the 31st October about 9 P.M., on coming down from the Agent's house at Meingyan, I was seized near the steamer by a large body of Burmans (some of whom were armed with dahs) and was dragged off the steamer's shore planks. In the course of the scuffle I had my ankle sprained and a gold ring was stolen from off my finger.

At 3 A.M. on the 1st instant upwards of two hundred men, every one armed with a dah, came on board the steamer and demanded the surrender of thirty passengers. I asked the spokesman of the party to show his authority or warrant for their arrest, but he merely replied that the Woon sent him. I then told him that without written authority from the Burmese Government I could not give them up, and he then said he must have them, and as I was of course unable to resist the force brought on board, I was compelled to let the passengers be taken away.

The passengers consisted of eleven men, eighteen women, and children.

In bringing this matter before you, I am, in the interests which I represent, compelled to ask the assistance of the British Government in obtaining from that of Upper Burmah such redress as is due for the gross outrage that has been perpetrated on board of a steamer carrying Her Majesty's mails and sailing under the British flag, and I must also ask for indemnity from the Burmese Government for such loss of trade as must inevitably arise through the illegality of their acts. That our trade must suffer if passengers are to be permitted to be taken by force of arms from on board British steamers without any authority whatever, but that of power, I need hardly point out to you, and I trust that the Government which you represent will not only obtain redress for the wrong already done to the Company, but will also lend its aid to the protection of trade interests in the future.

FROM R. HOPE PILCHER, Esq., B.C.S., Junior Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, to G. J. SWANN, Esq., Manager, Irrawaddy Flotilla Company, Limited.

Rangoon, November 30, 1878.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, on the subject of the assault made on the Commander of the Steamer "Yankeentoung" and

the forcible abduction of certain passengers from the vessel on the night of 31st October at Meingyan. I am to inform you in reply that the Resident has been instructed by the Government of India to demand redress, and that the Governor of Meingyan has been summoned to Mandalay to answer for his proceedings.

Enclosure 2 in No. 10.

TRANSLATION of a Letter from His Excellency the MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS to the RESIDENT at Mandalay, dated 25th November 1878.

IN accordance with Resident's letter, on the circumstances arising between the "Yangentoung" Steamer, Captain Patterson and the Talop Myo Wun* at Myingyan, the Talop Myo Wun, Thenatsare, Overseer of Ghât, (and) witnesses deputed, on the one side, and the Steamer Agent, Captain, Mate, Khalassis, Sukanni, Interpreter, and Syrang on the other, were confronted and questioned. On examining the deposition it is clear that, as regards (the circumstances) which ought not to have arisen between the Talop Myo Wun and the Captain, they thus arose, because the Talop Myo Wun and the Thenatsare were simply lax and careless in their direction and retention. Captain Patterson also, when the "Yangentoung" Steamer was at the Go-wein Ghât at Mandalay, and the Steamer Agent, Andrieno, and the people sent by the Burmese Government spoke and asked for the Royal-money-bought-servants on board in order that they should not be carried away, failed to deliver them up. That these were persons who should not be carried the Steamer Agent and the Captain ought to have known; and notwithstanding that he should have given permission for the men to be taken away (the latter) did not give the permission, (but on the contrary) entertained and carried the men away in the "Yangentoung" Steamer. On the Steamer Agent, in accordance with the spirit of the instructions of the Burmese Government, telling the Captain that the Royal-money-bought-servants should not be carried but given back, the latter did not heed, but carried (the men) and went down. On arriving at Myingyan, the Talop Myo Wun sent men to ask that the Royal-money-bought-servants on board should not be carried, and to show the order by telegraph from the Hlut to ask for (the said men), but he failed to deliver them up. On account of servants who ought not to have been carried,—at the Go-wein Ghât and at the Myingyan Ghât, at both these places,—the orders of the Burmese Government being repeated and the order by telegraph shown, and demand made, (the Captain) did not make delivery or act amicably (or harmoniously), but made pretexts on other grounds. (?) Accordingly it being clear this matter, which should not have arisen, arose on account of the Captain, both the Talop Myo Wun and the Captain are to be punished, and it is requested therefore the Resident will issue orders and send the Captain to the Hlut.

Enclosure 3 in No. 10.

From R. B. SHAW, Esq., C.I.E., Resident at Mandalay, to His Excellency the MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Mandalay, December 28, 1878.

RESIDENT has received Minister's letter (24th December 1878), regarding the case of the Myingyan Governor and "Yangentoung" Steamer Captain. When the surrender of certain passengers was asked for at Mandalay, the Captain of the "Yangentoung," according to the custom of civilized countries, reasonably asked for a written order from some competent Burmese authority. None being shown him, and nothing further being said, he at the proper time started for the next station in Upper Burmah, i.e., Myingyan. There he was again asked to surrender the passengers, and a paper was shown to him which bore no indication of its origin, although it was verbally stated to be from the Hlut. The Captain then again asked for some written authority on receipt of which he promised to give up the men. The Governor, instead of giving any written warrant, or of explaining the matter, and without even informing the Captain that he would not give a warrant, sent down a large force to the steamer to intimidate the Captain. The Captain was ill-treated and insulted, and the steamer was for a time taken possession of by the force. The Captain allowed them thus to take away the men. In all these matters the Captain is not blameable, nor was any complaint made to the Resident against him at the time, and therefore he cannot be punished.

Resident now requests His Excellency the Minister definitely to inform him whether or no the Burmese Government will carry out the demands made for redress according to the manner stated in Resident's memorandum dated 16th December 1878.

No. 11.

No. 59 of 1879.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HONOURABLE VISCOUNT CRANBROOK, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

Fort William, March 7, 1879.

MY LORD,

THE recent massacres at Mandalay, and the horror, indignation, and alarm excited throughout British Burmah by the news of them, have already been briefly reported to your Lordship. In the course of our present letter we shall endeavour to explain more fully the circumstances, so far as they are yet known to us, in which the Thebau Prince succeeded, without opposition, to the throne of Upper Burmah, and those which subsequently led to the outrages already reported.

2. The present condition of affairs in Upper Burmah is, however, so pregnant with elements of instability and agitation, and so indicative of contingencies on which the Government of India may, at any moment, be compelled to take prompt and decisive action, that, before entering into any detailed examination of this anxious condition of affairs, we desire to submit to your Lordship a general statement of our past and present relations with the Court of Mandalay; more especially of those questions which, in connexion therewith have long pressed, and are now pressing with increased urgency, for some comprehensive settlement. Such a settlement can only be effected by the adoption of a more decided policy on the part of the Government of India, or of a more conciliatory policy on the part of the Government of Upper Burmah; but a spontaneous change for the better in the conduct and demeanour of the latter Government we have at present no reason to anticipate.

3. The history of the engagements at present existing between the Government of India and the King of Upper Burmah may, for the purposes of the present letter, be thus briefly summarized. The Yandaboo Treaty of 1826 ratified the terms upon which peace was concluded between the two States after the war of 1825; and it contains, among other matters, the important stipulation that an accredited Minister, with a guard and suitable residence, shall be placed by each Government at the Court of the other. In the same year a commercial agreement, subsidiary to the main Treaty, was also signed. The records of our transactions with Burmah for many years subsequent to the date of these Treaties show that, after repeated failures, the Government of India at last abandoned the endeavour to maintain a representative at the capital, and to cultivate the germs of civilized intercourse with the Government, of Burmah. After the close of the second Burmese war a special Mission was sent to Ava and was well received; nevertheless it may be stated broadly that the regular diplomatic representation of the British Government at the Burmese Court was suspended in 1839, and not resumed until after a very long interval. In 1862 the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah negotiated, on behalf of the Government of India, a Commercial Treaty with Upper Burmah, and left an Agent of his own at Mandalay to see that the clauses relating to customs dues and free river navigation were observed. This Treaty provides that traders from British territory shall be allowed to travel in Upper Burmese territory through the whole extent of the Irrawaddy River in such manner as they please, without hindrance from the Burmese Ruler, and to purchase whatever they may require. A corresponding provision guarantees free travel and trade to Burmese traders along the Irrawaddy in British territory. The working of this Treaty was by no means successful. Although the British Government abolished certain customs duties on its side of the frontier, the Burmese indefinitely delayed performance of their part of the agreement, while the royal monopolies continued to operate greatly in restraint of the development of trade. In 1867 another Commercial Treaty was concluded, which, notwithstanding certain defects, pledged the Mandalay Government, for a term of years, to several valuable commercial arrangements, among others to the restriction of the King's monopolies. It declared that the Treaty of 1862 remained in full force; while it also conferred upon the British Resident certain civil jurisdiction, in Upper Burmese territory, over cases concerning British subjects; and thenceforward a British Resident has continuously resided at the Upper Burmese capital. Under the terms of the same Treaty a Political Agent, subordinate to the Resident, has been stationed at Bhamo.

4. If, therefore, the year 1862 be taken as the period from which our diplomatic relations with Upper Burmah were revived, it may be observed that at least some

progress has been made beyond the condition of affairs anterior to that date. The commercial and fiscal arrangements between the two countries have been placed upon a basis of reciprocity which, though evaded in practice, is accepted in theory by the Upper Burmese Government; and a British representative is now established at Mandalay, with recognized powers to watch over British interests.

5. Our relations with Upper Burmah are, nevertheless, still incomplete, unsatisfactory, and ill-assured. From time to time there have arisen various questions between the two States, some of which have been solved provisionally, in a manner needing early revision; while others press more and more every year for a speedy settlement. Thus, the principal concessions secured to us under our commercial treaties are temporary, and have never been fairly carried out; while for the strict and substantial observance of agreements in force our existing guarantees are altogether inadequate. Other questions still unsettled have reference to territorial discussions, to the proper treatment of our subjects within Upper Burmese territory, and to the necessity for a better and more effective system of diplomatic intercourse. These questions vary in degrees of importance and urgency; but they may be all classed in one category of pending cases which it is increasingly necessary to bring to a practical decision. Such a decision the Government of India has been reluctant to seek by force; but all attempts to obtain it by means of friendly negotiation have hitherto proved futile, and their repeated failure has certainly not increased the probability of a respectful response to proposals, or to remonstrances, renewed in a similar spirit of forbearance. We are, therefore, of opinion that the time has now come for considering collectively all the questions above indicated, as a preliminary to the adoption, and prosecution, of some settled policy in dealing with the present condition of affairs in Upper Burmah.

6. The only territorial question now actually in debate between our Government and that of Upper Burmah relates to a manifest and recent encroachment by the Burmese upon our Aracan frontier. The papers explaining this affair were submitted for the information of Her Majesty's Government. Lord Salisbury, while agreeing that it was not at the time worth while to provoke complications with the Mandalay Government by proposing a thorough demarcation of our boundary on that side, at the same time approved our intention to insist on the removal of the Burmese outpost which had recently been advanced across our known frontier. Since then we have been unable to induce the Upper Burmese Government to take any heed whatever of our request for the removal of this outpost. All that we have elicited is the expression of a strong doubt, on the part of the Ministers at Mandalay, as to the validity of the Yandaboo Treaty, which is alleged by them to be obsolete; and we may notice, in passing, that the same contention was set up against our claim to place a guard with our Resident under Article VII. of that Treaty. Upon the question of the guard the Ministers have, under close pressure, given way; so it is now unnecessary to examine their special argument that Article VII. has been superseded by later agreements regarding the Resident. But the Government of India cannot afford to allow any controversy upon the general validity of this Treaty, which is our permanent deed of settlement regarding the cession of the territory to which it relates and the description of the boundaries of the ceded districts. As, however, the whole line has never been precisely defined, the most satisfactory way of settling the dispute would, doubtless, be by a friendly agreement for laying down the boundary. Portions of the debateable lands are very mountainous and difficult of access; and it is clear that, without a mutual desire for amicable settlement, the attempt to survey and mark out a line would infallibly lead to delays and complications. It is just here, however, that we are met with a passive but pertinacious obstructiveness on the part of the Burmese authorities, who will neither satisfy legitimate claims, nor assist us in the friendly adjustment of disputed questions. In these circumstances our next step must depend to some extent upon the general course of action adopted with regard to our future dealings with the Mandalay Government. We ought very soon to give formal notice that, after a fixed interval, the outpost will be removed by the British Government, if not withdrawn by the Burmese; though, if it be resolved to present to the Mandalay Government any comprehensive demand for a full settlement of outstanding questions, this matter may be included in our general requisition.

7. Another, and in some respects a more important, question connected with our Burmese frontier has been formally settled on a basis extremely inconvenient, and deficient in every element of durability. When defeated in the second Burmese War of 1852, the King of Burmah refused to cede any portion of the territory conquered by the British Government; and, after some ineffectual attempts to conclude a Treaty with His Majesty, Lord Dalhousie resolved to settle the matter by arbitrarily defining the

future boundary between Upper and British Burmah. For this purpose a surveying party, under Major Allan, protected by a military escort, laid down the boundary from West to East—with little or no reference to the geographical configuration, or social condition, of the country—along a certain parallel of latitude, which had been previously selected as the limit of British possession. Lord Dalhousie had determined that the Salween river should be the eastern boundary of the annexed territory, and towards this stream the line was carried in a straight direction through a dense jungle. When, however, the survey officers, charged with the demarcation of this line, had reached the district marked on our maps as Western Karennee, they were stopped by claims on the part of its inhabitants to the recognition of their independence, an independence which the Western Karennees asserted to have been always respected by the King of Burmah. At this point, therefore, the survey operations were suspended. But Lord Dalhousie, whilst agreeing to respect the alleged independence of the Western Karennees, decided that if at any time an attempt should be made by the Ava Government to obtain possession of the Karennee country, the British Government should interpose to defeat that attempt. Now, the Western Karennee country, which contains valuable forests, is surrounded on the north by Upper Burmese territory, and the officials of Upper Burmah have frequently endeavoured to stir up trouble upon our frontier by instigating the Western Karennees to annoy us. In 1873 the late King of Burmah suddenly put forward a claim to suzerainty over the Karennees, from whom His Majesty asserted that he had always received tribute. This claim gave rise to a correspondence between the two Governments which lasted for two years. At the end of that time the late Viceroy ordered military preparations for preventing, if it should become necessary, the interference of the Upper Burmese in Western Karennee. Sir Douglas Forsyth was sent on a special mission to Mandalay, with authority to inform the King that any attempt to establish his power in Western Karennee would be dealt with as an act of war. Sir Douglas Forsyth, however, concluded an amicable agreement of which the full text is given on the margin. Thereupon the Government of India ordered the demarcation of the boundary between Western Karennee and Upper Burmah, and the King was invited to co-operate in the work; but His Majesty tacitly declined, and the operation was carried out by the British survey party alone, in the face of many difficulties raised by the Karennees at the instigation of Burmese agents. Although the immediate question was thus temporarily settled, the Government of India, acting under the express direction of Her Majesty's Government, reserved to itself the right of prolonging the British boundary on its present line to the Salween river, should it ever appear desirable to do so; and our officers in British and Upper Burmah were instructed accordingly.

AGREEMENT.—It is hereby agreed between the British and Burmese Governments that the State of Western Karennee shall remain separate and independent, and that no sovereignty or governing authority of any description shall be claimed or exercised over that State.

8. Both Sir Douglas Forsyth's agreement and the demarcated boundary referred to the country of Western Karennee, and, until the demarcation came to be settled, no question had been raised respecting Eastern Karennee, which lies between Western Karennee and the Salween river. In that part of the country the King of Burmah's influence had been always understood to prevail, though his actual claim to any definite hold upon Eastern Karennee had never come into debate with the British Government. In 1875 the Secretary of State instructed the Government of India that in the event of a right of sovereignty over Eastern Karennee being formally asserted by the King's Government, the officer making the claim should be informed that it could not be recognised. The Government of India accordingly directed the Resident at Mandalay to lose no opportunity, either by friendly negotiation or protest, of preventing the King of Burmah from establishing actual sovereignty over Eastern Karennee, or at any rate over the portion of Eastern Karennee which lies south of the parallel of six miles north of Meaday. The question has not, however, been yet raised by any action on the part of the Mandalay authorities, and the point is chiefly mentioned here as one that must be kept in view whenever our position in connexion with Karennee is reconsidered.

Sir D. Forsyth's agreement with Burmah has not had the effect of improving our relations with the Western Karennees themselves. It has always been apprehended that an arrangement which prevents the British Government from controlling the Karennees upon its border, and which leaves the tribes practically under no authority at all, would prove detrimental to the tranquillity of our frontier; and in fact the position and present state of this country enable the Karennees adjoining our border to commit dacoities with impunity and to baffle our police. Nor was it to be expected that the rule of

absolute non-interference would be observed with equal scrupulousness by both contracting parties; we have, indeed, constantly received reports of intrigues and encroachments from the Burmese side. In a recent letter the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah reports that an officer from Upper Burmah has sent several hundred men into the Western Karennee country and has urged the Chief to go to Mandalay. So long as the attitude of the Mandalay Court continues to be unconciliatory, and so long as Upper Burmah continues to be subject to unremedied misrule and chronic disquietude, the unsettled condition of this and similar questions cannot fail to perpetuate political uneasiness in our own territory. Moreover, the difficulty of satisfactorily terminating such questions will certainly be increased by the continued postponement of all serious endeavours to settle them.

9. The external relations of the Mandalay Court with other States besides India are, for the present, of minor concern to us. The interests chiefly affected by the character of our relations with Burmah are, therefore, commercial, rather than political. We have a large and active trade with that country, a trade which already employs much capital, and which is capable of rapid and wide development under improved conditions. This trade is materially dependent for its prosperity upon the fair and honest fulfilment of commercial engagements by the Upper Burmese Government, upon our power and determination to enforce the observance of those engagements, and upon the personal influence which our Resident at Mandalay can exert for the protection of British subjects and their property.

10. We have now, therefore, to bring under your Lordship's notice the present condition of our commercial relations with Upper Burmah. Your Lordship is aware that the Government of India has long desired the revision of the existing treaties of 1862 and 1867, but the overtures made with that object in 1877 and 1878 were not successful, and the negotiations were dropped under circumstances and for reasons already reported to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India. Were there any reasonable prospect of securing, by means of friendly negotiations, a fresh treaty clearly affirming and defining the contracts and arrangements which the King now manages to evade, we should deem it, on all accounts, desirable to await some little time longer the chance of a favourable opportunity for renewing such negotiations. But, whilst on the one hand no chance of such an opportunity is offered by the present condition of affairs in Upper Burmah, on the other hand, it is clear, from the experience of the last five years, that all overtures, remonstrances, and reclamations on the part of the Government of India will, as heretofore, be disregarded by the Court of Mandalay, unless they are urged in peremptory terms and supported, in case of need, by adequate material pressure. The manner in which the King is able to evade the spirit of the treaties which relate to trade may be thus briefly explained. Before the conclusion of the Treaty of 1867 the Burmese Government used from time to time arbitrarily to set apart any article of commerce, and to declare the trade in it, within Upper Burmah, to be a royal monopoly. The effect of the declaration was to debar the private trader from purchasing direct from the producer any of the reserved articles. He was compelled to buy from the Government agents, to whom the producers were obliged to sell their goods at a fixed price. By the Treaty of 1867 it was provided that, "save and except" earth-oil, timber, and precious stones, which are hereby reserved as royal monopolies," all other goods and merchandise should be subject to a duty at the Burmese custom-houses of 5 per cent. *ad valorem* for a period of ten years. The intention of this provision was to prevent the application of the old system of trade to any goods except the three articles named; and it was anticipated that the Burmese Government would not interfere with the general commerce between Upper and British Burmah in any greater degree than was essential to the collection of the prescribed rate of duty. But this intention was defeated by the unjustifiable conduct of the late King, who found means to evade fulfilling the object and substantial obligation of the treaty without any positive infraction of the letter. Although no articles other than those sanctioned by the treaty were declared to be royal monopolies, and although the King used to assert that every trader was at liberty to buy whatever he wanted, the fact really was that all purchases had to be made from the King himself, or from his authorised agents. The King was by far the largest dealer in produce in his dominions, and, until his requirements were fully met, none of his subjects were in a position to transact business with private traders. Further, in the case of goods imported from British Burmah into Upper Burmah, the Rangoon merchants complained that pressure was brought to bear upon the independent dealers to induce them to sell goods to the royal brokers, from whom alone the King's subjects were permitted to purchase what they required. The tendency of these measures has been to reduce the entire trade in the staple commodities

passing between Upper and British Burmah to a close monopoly in the hands of the King and of the few merchants able to deal with him on his own terms.

Under this system private traders are practically shut out, or are liable at any time to be shut out, from the market, for they are unable, with any degree of certainty, either to dispose of their imports from British Burmah, at remunerative rates, or to purchase raw produce for export from Upper Burmah to Rangoon. It is to be remembered that on our part considerable sacrifices have been made to develop the trade with Upper Burmah, and to secure that freedom from arbitrary interference which was a main object of the Treaty of 1867. Our frontier duties, at the time of their abolition in 1863, were yielding upwards of six lacs of rupees, and it was their contemplated restoration which induced the King to revive the negotiations for the new treaty concluded by Colonel Fyche in 1867. If the duties had been restored the present amount of income from them would exceed ten lacs of rupees. Again, under the Treaty of 1862, foreign goods brought to the port of Rangoon for consumption in Upper Burmah are chargeable with a British duty of only one per cent., while such goods* imported into British Burmah, for consumption by our own people, are chargeable with a duty of 5 per cent. This concession alone involves an annual sacrifice of revenue to the amount of some three lacs of rupees. In the matter of rice also the Burmese Government are specially favoured. This staple passes up the Irrawaddy free of duty, whereas all exports by sea are assessed with a duty of Rs. 5-1-10 per ton. During the last ten years the shipments of rice to Upper Burmah have nearly aggregated 600,000 tons, and as this amount would otherwise have been available for foreign trade, the concession represents an annual loss of upwards of three lacs of rupees.

11. We have little doubt that your Lordship will agree with us that these considerations fully justify the conclusion that either the treaty engagements of the British Government with Burmah ought to be revised, or that the King shall be brought to deal with those engagements according to their manifest meaning and intention. The merchants of Rangoon have complained frequently and strenuously against the persistent and systematic disregard of these agreements by the King and his officials at Mandalay, especially of the King's proceedings in the matter of his monopolies, which operate seriously to the detriment of our open trade. It is not probable that we shall be able to abstain much longer from strong remonstrances upon the evasion of these treaties, unless the administration at Mandalay undergoes some radical change; but we cannot remonstrate effectively unless we show a determination to insist upon reform and redress. Whenever we are resolved to take this attitude, the revision of the treaties themselves is not likely to be a matter of difficulty, especially if the proposal to revise them forms part of a general scheme for the rehabilitation of our treaty relations with Mandalay. We should take care, upon such an occasion, to bring more definitely and indisputably under our control the traffic in arms between Upper Burmah and our seaboard.

12. One other matter calls for serious consideration, and that is the disparity between the laws and official usages of British India and those of Upper Burmah, so far as this disparity concerns British subjects under Burmese jurisdiction. Instances of its injurious effect upon British subjects and foreigners in Upper Burmah have recently been furnished by the barbarous treatment to which Colonel Wyndham was subjected last year, the torture of two Indian washermen, the indignity wantonly inflicted upon one of the Captains of the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company, the forcible removal of some passengers from one of the Company's steamers, and other incidents which, with a Government less patient than our own, or in a different temper of the public mind, might have ended in an actual rupture with the Court of Mandalay. In all these cases our procedure has been to press, through our Resident at Mandalay, for explanation and redress; but these have never been conceded without delays so protracted as greatly to neutralise the practical value of their concession. There is strong reason to believe that it has always been the deliberate intention, as it has undoubtedly been the political effect, of such delays to exhibit the King of Upper Burmah to his own subjects as a sovereign strong enough to inflict indignity and damage upon British subjects without any fear of consequences injurious to himself. This spirit of bravado has been conspicuously manifested by the Court of Mandalay in the conduct of all its relations with the British Government for many years past. We, therefore, submit to your Lordship our opinion that the time is now come when the indulgence of this spirit should be effectually checked. If the Burmese Government persists in subjecting British subjects, whether Europeans or Natives, to barbarous laws, one remedy may possibly be

* With the exception of spirituous liquors, the duty on which is about 100 per cent.

found in the enforcement of extra-territorial rights for all British subjects in Burmah, and the establishment of British Courts for the administration of justice in all cases which affect British subjects. Such courts and such extra-territorial rights are no novelty in Oriental countries. However willing we may be to avoid interference with the jurisdiction of the Burmese Government, our duty to our subjects is paramount. Of course all necessity for recourse to so radical a remedy would be avoided by reasonable reforms in the Burmese judicial administration; but of such reforms there is, at present, no prospect. On the contrary, great difficulty is still experienced in obtaining any remedy for injustice, and any definite settlement of suits, through the interminable delays of the law courts and the careless indifference of the Mandalay officials.

13. In concluding this summary of our relations with the Court of Mandalay up to the date of the late King's death, it remains for us to point out what we believe to have been the principal cause of the failure of the efforts made by the Government of India to place those relations on a footing more consistent with its own dignity, and more conducive to the protection and development of the interests committed to its charge. We are convinced that the preliminary obstacle to success in this matter has hitherto been the extremely unsatisfactory position of our Resident at the Court of Upper Burmah. This obstacle must be effectually removed before we can reasonably hope to secure, by negotiation, the adequate settlement of those long unsettled questions to which reference has been made in the preceding paragraphs of our present letter.

14. Up to the year 1875 it had been the custom for the British representative at Mandalay, on the occasion of official visits to the palace, to submit to the enforcement of a ceremonial which required him to take off his shoes and to sit before the King of Upper Burmah upon the floor. When Sir Douglas Forsyth went to Mandalay upon his Mission in 1875, it was decided that he should not stand out upon questions of form which might interfere with the substantial success of his negotiations; but that he might use his discretion as to following precedent in his interview with the King. He accordingly divested himself of shoes and sword before entering the palace, and in the presence of the King he seated himself on the floor in the usual posture, with his feet behind him. When the Mission had been terminated, the question of continuing to submit to this ceremonial was raised in Sir Douglas Forsyth's report; and at the time of the visit of the Prince of Wales to India the opportunity was taken to discuss the matter with the Envoy of the Upper Burmese Government, who had been sent to Calcutta by the King to greet His Royal Highness. Accordingly a communication was made to the Envoy to the effect that, as the Supreme Government had assumed direct control of political relations with Upper Burmah, it was necessary that the Resident should be received in a manner suitable to his high rank, and more in conformity with the manner in which the King's representative was received by the Viceroy. At the same time Colonel Duncan was instructed not to take off his shoes or sit on the floor at future interviews with the King. A few days later, also, His Excellency the Viceroy received the Burmese Mission, who were wearing hats and shoes, and were permitted to sit on chairs "in the same manner as His Excellency himself." "It was impossible," His Excellency said, "that the custom observed at the Court of Mandalay should continue any longer." The matter was not to be pressed in a manner distasteful to the King, "still it would be carried through." From that time the question has practically remained in abeyance; for the Resident has never since been received by the King, who declined on his side to abate any part of the ceremonial procedure which had previously been observed. The consequence has been that for the past four years our Resident has been entirely debarred from access to the King. He now sees only the Ministers; or the Sub-Ministers; and this suspension of direct personal intercourse has been materially detrimental to British influence at the Court. With Governments in which, as in Upper Burmah, the power of the monarch is absolute, the authority and consideration which a foreign Resident can command, and the effect of all diplomatic representations, depend almost entirely upon the influence and arguments which he can bring to bear upon the King in person; and this renders the right of access to the King at Mandalay a point of cardinal importance. When the Resident is compelled to deal with the head of such a Government through the medium of subordinate agents, who are generally interested and untrustworthy, he finds that his endeavours to come to any real understanding are distorted and frustrated; while upon critical occasions he has no power of prompt and energetic interference.

All attempts to convince the Mandalay Ministers, by argument, of the impolicy and unreasonableness of insisting upon a derogatory ceremonial, have been futile. It has been pointed out to them that their custom regarding the reception of foreign representatives had been adopted at a time when the King did not himself send embassies to other countries, and when their ignorance of the rudiments of civilized diplomacy

afforded more excuse for their regarding such matters as important. But lately Burmese envoys have visited European Courts, and have been received on the same footing, and with the same consideration, as other envoys. Consequently, a practice which may have been intelligible while the Mandalay Court was isolated in position and unacquainted with the customs of other countries, has now become both inexcusable and intolerable. But the Ministers have always shown themselves greatly averse to discuss the question, and resolutely determined not to yield to ordinary pressure upon it. We are of opinion, therefore, that it is of primary and essential importance to establish for our Resident the full privilege of access to the King upon terms, and according to a ceremonial, which shall not be derogatory to a British officer, or to the Government which he represents. We consider that it was politic and necessary, in 1876, to renounce further compliance with a degrading custom; though it may be doubted whether this resolution should have been declared before the Government of India were prepared to insist effectively upon the substitution of another form of reception.

15. Such was the general condition of our relations with the Court of Mandalay at the period of the late King's death. It was our hope that this event might offer us an early opportunity of adequately correcting the unsatisfactory character of those relations. It was well known that the late King felt a very great personal reluctance to put his signature to any treaty which should record, or in any way acknowledge, the cession of any part of the territories that formerly belonged to his crown; and it was understood that this sentiment greatly strengthened his aversion to entertain any proposal for a general revision of our treaty relations. His strong and peculiar predilection for engaging in trade, which led him to extend and abuse the practice of monopolies, was also looked upon as an idiosyncrasy, producing temporary evils that might greatly diminish under his successor. But as yet nothing has occurred, either to justify the expectation of spontaneous and sincere overtures from the Government of the present King for the improvement of its relations with the Government of India, or to render any such overtures on our part consistent with the sentiment inspired by the sanguinary acts with which His Majesty has inaugurated his reign. It is true that, under strong and persistent pressure from the Government of India, the King's Ministers have been forced to withdraw their opposition to a measure which we had an undoubted treaty right to insist upon, and which the disturbed condition of Upper Burmah had rendered clearly necessary for the protection of our Resident at Mandalay. It is also true that, immediately previous to the recent massacres, there were some indications of a disposition on the part of the King's Ministers to make advances toward social intercourse with the British Resident at Mandalay; but the shocking events which speedily followed the temporary indication of this disposition appear to us to forbid all reliance on its sincerity. In every other respect the prospect of satisfactory relations with the Court of Mandalay has been prejudiced, rather than improved, by the conduct of the Court since the present King's accession to the throne.

16. The circumstances of that accession, and those of the horrible massacres by which it was so promptly followed, deserve consideration. These circumstances, so far as they are yet known to us, we shall now endeavour to explain to your Lordship. But we must premise that our knowledge of them is derived partly from popular report, and partly from the personal statements of the Nyoungyan Prince; statements which must, of course, be accepted only as those of an informant personally interested in the matters to which they refer. The late King of Burmah had about thirty sons; of whom the Nyoungyan Prince, now a refugee on British territory, was one, and the Thebaw Prince, now on the throne of Upper Burmah, was another. We are informed that doubts have always been entertained, rightly or wrongly, regarding the paternity of the Thebaw Prince; and the late King is said to have repeatedly expressed his determination that this Prince should never succeed him as his selected heir. On the other hand, the Nyoungyan Prince, of whose legitimacy there is no question, has always been, so far as we can ascertain, very popular in Upper Burmah, and was much esteemed and trusted by the late King on account of his intellectual qualities and humane disposition. According to the custom of the country, the succession to the throne follows the selection of an heir, by the reigning Sovereign, from amongst the number of the King's sons. Each of the King's sons aspired to the succession; and each of them had a political following. The late King, fearing that his selection of an heir, if prematurely proclaimed, might be the signal for civil war, and possibly for his own assassination, postponed the performance of that duty to the last moments of his life. But it is popularly believed that he frequently indicated his intention of selecting the Nyoungyan Prince as his successor; and we are informed by this last-named Prince that, in compliance with a proposal made by him to his brothers, a family compact was signed

by the late King's thirty sons, binding each of them to respect the King's selection on whomsoever it might fall. The object of this compact was to save the country from the horrors of civil war. On his death-bed the late King sent for the Nyoungyan Prince; but, in the meanwhile, the mother of the present King had made herself mistress of the palace; and the Nyoungyan Prince, apprehensive of treachery, delayed compliance with the King's summons. Shortly afterwards the mother and ministers of the present Sovereign proclaimed the regency of the Thebaw Prince; and subsequently they announced the King's death, and the Prince's accession. The Nyoungyan Prince and his younger brother sought refuge in the British Residency. The Ministers tried in vain to induce Mr. Shaw to surrender them; and at last requested that the two Princes might be removed into British territory, representing the danger and disturbance to which the throne of the new Sovereign might be exposed from their presence in or near Upper Burmah. This request was complied with; and the Princes were removed to Calcutta, where they have been living at the expense, and under the protection, of the British Government. The King's first subsequent act has been the massacre of the Royal family, as already reported to your Lordship. We are unable to say how many of the near relatives of Prince Nyoungyan have perished in this massacre. It was reported to us that no less than 80 members of the Royal family had been deliberately put to death, by the King's orders, in the course of a single night, and that the chief victims had been the relatives of the Nyoungyan Prince. It has been stated in subsequent reports that the number of the murders perpetrated on that occasion did not exceed 32, and that the Prince's mother and some other female relations, had escaped. Upon the assumption, however, that many of the Prince's near kinsfolk have been thus executed, the King's conduct is an outrage upon humanity; and considering that, at the time when these massacres took place, this Prince had, in compliance with the King's request, been removed by the British Government from the vicinity of the Burmese frontier, where his presence might possibly have prevented the slaughter of his kinsfolk, we are of opinion that these executions were intended to be a deliberate affront to the Government of India. There have been other indications which corroborate our belief that the present King of Mandalay is capable of acting with unscrupulous disregard of international obligations. Almost simultaneously with the news of the murders at Mandalay, our Resident there reported to us the prevalence of a belief at the capital of Upper Burmah that secret emissaries had been despatched to Calcutta for the assassination of the Nyoungyan Prince, upon British territory, and under the protection of the British Government. Scarcely had this information reached us, when the Prince himself represented to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal that he was living in fear of an attempt upon his life by the King's emissaries; and on inquiries being instituted the Calcutta police discovered that certain persons, who were unable to give any satisfactory account of themselves, had recently arrived here from Upper Burmah, and had been making suspicious inquiries about the Prince's place of residence. When these persons were told by the police that they were being watched, they immediately left again for Burmah.

17. The cessation, for the present, of the shocking massacres against which our Resident was instructed to protest, may possibly be due to his remonstrances; although the Ministers in their official reply to these remonstrances apparently pretended to the right of disregarding them. Since then, in consequence of the reports received by telegram from the Resident of rumours of disturbances, warlike preparations, and insecurity to foreigners at Mandalay, we proposed to despatch the "Irrawaddy" to Mandalay, without further loss of time, for their protection. But Mr. Shaw has deprecated this measure on the ground that it will, in his opinion, be insufficient to ensure adequate protection against the irritation it might possibly provoke on the part of the Mandalay authorities. We shall, therefore, for the present, confine our precautions to a reinforcement of the garrison of British Burmah.

18. We cannot doubt that, upon a full review of all the facts and considerations now submitted to your serious attention, your Lordship will be disposed to share our conclusion that it is in the highest degree impolitic, and indeed scarcely possible, to acquiesce much longer in the existing condition of our relations with the Court of Mandalay. Up to the present moment, no request of the least importance, no representation however earnest or reasonable, no complaint however well founded, on the part of our Resident at that Court, has been entertained or satisfied without such pressure as to convince the Government of Upper Burmah that further resistance would be unsafe to itself. At this point the Burmese Government will always yield to our demands; but, in relations maintained under such inconvenient conditions, every trivial misunderstanding may lead to serious complications. It is possible, no doubt, that some

unlooked-for turn of political affairs in Upper Burmah may at any moment bring into power an administration more enlightened and better disposed towards the British Government. But of such an event we can, at present, discern no prospect; and unless it speedily occurs, we conceive that our duty will be to avail ourselves of the first convenient opportunity for imposing upon the Mandalay Government a comprehensive re-adjustment of our political relations with it. In any such re-adjustment, the position of our Resident will claim our first consideration; and it will be necessary to demand for him full and free access to the King for the transaction of public business, under conditions suitable to his own official rank, to the importance of the interests under his protection, and to the dignity of the Government he represents. Whenever these conditions have been completely secured, we shall anticipate no serious impediment to the satisfactory solution of the various questions indicated in the preceding paragraphs of our present letter.

We submit, therefore, that it has become expedient to take an early occasion of conveying to the King of Upper Burmah a clear exposition of our views and expectations, and to intimate decidedly that we look for a change in his policy towards us. We propose to inform His Majesty that we desire to arrange for the improvement of our Resident's position at his Court, for a general settlement of pending differences and grievances, and for a revision of our treaty relations with his Government. We are confident that this course of action alone offers any practical issue from the difficulties of the situation which we have described in this letter; and for this course, accordingly, we ask your Lordship's sanction and support.

We have, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON.
" A. J. ARBUTHNOT.
" A. CLARKE.
" J. STRACHEY.
" E. B. JOHNSON.
" W. STOKES.
" A. R. THOMPSON.

No. 12.

No. 65 of 1879.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HONOURABLE VISCOUNT CRANBROOK, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

(Extract.)

MY LORD,

Camp Lahore, March 20, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copies of the telegrams relating to the affairs of Upper Burma that have been issued and received by the Government of India since the date of our last despatch, 7th March, upon this subject. I also enclose copies of the diaries submitted by the Resident at Mandalay, which give some detailed account of the massacres perpetrated there in February last.

2. The Government of India are still without any precise knowledge of the names and exact number of the persons who have been executed; but there can be no doubt that many persons have been put to death under circumstances of great barbarity, without any colourable pretext or excuse. There is reason to believe that these crimes were disapproved by the Ministers, who may, nevertheless, have been unable to fulfil the official assurance regarding the Princesses, of which the Resident reminded them in the conversation he has reported. The chief executive power is understood to have passed from the senior Ministers into the hands of a violent and reckless party at the Court, regarding whom the Resident has written privately that there is no calculating what they may do. This change in the real direction of affairs at the capital has prolonged the sensation of disquietude and insecurity caused by the massacres, and sensation which has been necessarily felt to some extent on our frontier, and throughout British Burma.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON.

Enclosure 1 in No. 12.

TELEGRAM, dated March 7, 1879.

From CHIEF COMMISSIONER, Rangoon, to FOREIGN SECRETARY, Calcutta.

FOLLOWING from Shaw :—Secretly warned mischief intended us twelfth instant—given for what worth.

Enclosure 2 in No. 12.

TELEGRAM, dated March 7, 1879.

From FOREIGN SECRETARY, Calcutta, to CHIEF COMMISSIONER, Rangoon.

Your telegram 7th, repeating message from Shaw. What steps for precaution would you propose under circumstances. Consult Shaw?

Enclosure 3 in No. 12.

TELEGRAM, dated March 8, 1879.

From FOREIGN SECRETARY, Calcutta, to CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burmah.

FOLLOWING sent to Shaw to-day :—

Begins. Your telegram to Rangoon about warning given for 12th March. Viceroy gives you full discretion to withdraw from Mandalay, taking assistants and guard, whenever you think this course expedient for your personal safety. You must use your judgment as to time and manner of withdrawing, but run no unnecessary risks by staying, if going is safer. If you decide to go warn the Europeans. Message ends.

Enclosure 4 in No. 12.

TELEGRAM, dated March 10, 1879.

From CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burmah, Rangoon, to FOREIGN SECRETARY, Calcutta.

Your telegram of the 7th. In my judgment, if Shaw withdraws further action on the part of the Government of India will be rendered unavoidable, but that is really independent of the present question, which depends solely on whether or not Shaw is in a critical position. It is practicable either for us to protect him or for him to withdraw, if the situation is such as Shaw describes, and I believe that to be the real situation. His position is critical. He has declined assistance, as likely to endanger him. He ought, therefore, in my opinion, to withdraw with all who adhere to him, unless withdrawal is more dangerous than remaining. Continuance in this critical position in which we cannot help him is neither prudent nor dignified, and is politically mischievous.

Enclosure 5 in No. 12.

MANDALAY CONFIDENTIAL DIARY, 1879.

FEBRUARY 17th.—Rumours began to spread that the two uncles of the Nyoungyan Prince (one of whom was the Governor of Rangoon at the commencement of the last war) had been privately executed with one or two others.

February 18th.—These rumours were confirmed, and it began to be reported that some of the Princes and Princesses who were in confinement had also been removed from the palace to the jail and had been killed. Similar reports had, however, several times prevailed before regarding individual Princes, and had proved untrue. But as the evening passed the report became more and more definite, and it was asserted that the entire number of the brothers of the present King, with the ladies of their families and even the children, were dead.

February 19th.—This morning brought full confirmation of these terrible news, which it appears are no longer denied. From the various accounts, I gather that on Saturday night the removal of the political prisoners to the jail (which had been cleared for them) commenced. Some were killed on that night and the rest on the two succeeding nights. A large hole had been dug in the jail precincts. Into this their bodies were thrown. Touching tales are told of how the women and children pleaded for their lives in vain.

Their outcries were stifled by the hands of the executioners grasping their necks till they were strangled. Others were killed with bludgeons, which in the hands of half-drunken men often required to be used repeatedly before the victims were put out of their pain. The executioners were some of the worst ruffians released for the purpose from the jail which was now the scene of their cruelties. Of the Princes, the eldest, Thongzé, alone showed courage. He is said to have laughed and said to his brothers :—"See, I told you we should have no release but death." On Sunday night (the 16th) eight cart-loads of the bodies of the Princes of the blood are said to have been conveyed out of the city by the western (or funeral) gate, and thrown into the river according to the custom. The other ladies were all thrown into the hole already dug in the jail.

No conspiracy or other provocation to such a deed has been reported. The present Ministers are said to have tried to dissuade the King, but in vain. It is supposed that this slaughter was in view when the King removed the Yenangyoung and Magwé Ministers from office, as they would have opposed it. By their removal the power of the Ministers was much weakened. The King's mother is said to have urged the King to it, but chiefly a violent military Chief lately promoted to be an Atwen Wun or Privy Councillor, and a great favourite of the King. His son, who took his place as General of the Southern Guard, was also a party to the crime, as well as the Ex-Chief of the War-boats lately promoted to be Town Governor.

Some few members of the Royal family are believed to be still alive (though reports vary), amongst them the mother of the Princes now in Calcutta, the Princess Salen Su-pya (favourite daughter of the late King), and some children of the late heir-apparent (who was killed in 1866). The terrible events that had taken place on the nights of the 15th, 16th, and 17th were not confirmed or even indicated in their full extent till after I had sent off my telegram on the evening of the 18th. I had now to think of the safety of the survivors, as great fears were entertained for them. I sent for the Sub-Minister, but after some delay he sent an excuse promising to come to-morrow. I therefore immediately sent off a letter (already prepared) to the Prime Minister (late Minister for Foreign Affairs), in which I entreated him to exert himself to save the survivors, and stated that if any further slaughter occurred, I should have to haul down my flag. I also sent Mr. Phayre to the Minister with a similar message in order to impress the matter more urgently on his mind, and to guard against a miscarriage of the letter. The Minister received Mr. Phayre courteously, but did not give any direct answer, merely saying that he would send a reply to my letter.

Mr. Phayre had just returned from a few days' shooting trip. He was escorted by officials and treated with the greatest politeness. No constraint whatever was put on his movements; on the contrary, everything was done to aid him in getting about. He has made some useful observations in the neighbourhood of Sagain. The Minister gave him a letter which ensured him every attention.

(Signed) R. B. SHAW,
Resident at Mandalay.

Enclosure 6 in No. 12.

From R. B. SHAW, Esq., C.I.E., Resident at Mandalay, to His Excellency the MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Mandalay, February 19, 1879.

RESIDENT has heard with the deepest horror of the slaying of the Princes and Princesses of the Royal family and others. Resident has not had time to ascertain who are the authors of this massacre, which will excite the horror of every nation in Europe. But he entreats the Minister to use his utmost endeavours to save the lives of the survivors. Should any further slaughter take place, Resident would not be justified in keeping the British flag flying any longer here.

Enclosure 7 in No. 12.

MANDALAY CONFIDENTIAL DIARY, 1879.

FEBRUARY 20th.—Fresh details were received regarding the previous murders, but it could not be ascertained for certain whether any more had taken place last night, though some asserted this. The previous murders appear to have been carried out in the most barbarous manner. Infants were taken from their mothers' arms and their brains were

dashed out against the wall. Others were struck on the head and thrown only half-dead on to the heap of bodies in the pit. The Queens and Princesses were stripped in order to search their clothes for secreted jewels. Some, it is said, were dishonoured before being killed, though this is perhaps untrue. All was effected under the superintendence of the personal followers of the King. No official of the Hlut or Ministers' Court was present. The remaining Ministers themselves are said to be in fear of their lives and to have no power left, although they still attend the King as usual.

An answer came from the Ken-wun-Mengji (Foreign or Prime Minister). It had been prepared under instructions from the King, I understand. In it the right of the King of Burmah as an independent Sovereign was asserted, to take such measures to prevent disturbance in his country as might be desirable, without regard to the blame of others.

I again wrote in consequence of the telegram from Government of the 19th instant, interceding in the name of the Government of India for the lives of the Queens and Princesses, and offering to convey out of the country any whose presence might be feared here. The Italian Consul called on me to-day and told me that he also had protested strongly. He asked whether I could suggest anything further. I suggested intercession for the survivors, and added that the Burmese Government might perhaps be prevailed on to hand over to me those whose presence here they feared, instead of killing them. Mr. Andreino has since suggested this to the Minister, and the suggestion met with a not unfavourable reception from him.

Enclosure 8 in No. 12.

TRANSLATION of a LETTER from His Excellency the MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS to the RESIDENT at Mandalay, dated February 20, 1879.

HAVING received and carefully perused Resident's letter, dated 19th February 1879, the Minister intimates that the Royal dominions of Burmah being governed by a distinct independent crowned head, should there be (reason to fear) a disturbance in the country, it is usual for it to perform (such) acts as, according to its own views as to advantages or evils in connexion with Church and State interests, it has a right to according to the custom of the State.

Should there be a matter which will bring on a disturbance to the country, it is not proper to pay attention to whether (the action to be taken thereon) will be the subject of some censure and blame, but it is proper to act only according to the interests of Church and State.

(For the above two reasons), having in mind only the interests of Church and State, (this) business has been done according to custom. This is intimated in conformity with the Grand Friendship, for Resident to note.

Enclosure 9 in No. 12.

From R. B. SHAW, Esq., Resident at Mandalay, to His Excellency the MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Mandalay, February 20, 1879.

RESIDENT has received Minister's letter. According to instructions from his Excellency the Viceroy, he begs Minister to convey to His Majesty the special request of the Viceroy that, as a favour to the British Government, he will be pleased to spare the lives of those that remain, especially women and children. If it be the pleasure of the Burmese Government, the Resident would take charge of any such from whom disturbance to the State may be feared, and would convey them out of reach of harm-doing.

Enclosure 10 in No. 12.

From R. B. SHAW, Esq., Resident at Mandalay, to His Excellency the MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Mandalay, February 21, 1879.

RESIDENT has the honour to inform Minister that he has just received instructions from the Government of India to present the most urgent remonstrances to His Majesty the King, in the name of the Government of India, on behalf of the Queens and Princesses,

the widows and female relatives and others, the servants of His late Majesty, the good friend and ally of the English Government, and the relatives and servants also of His Majesty the present King. Resident earnestly begs the Minister to represent in the most urgent manner to His Majesty what has occurred, so that His Majesty may interfere and issue orders to prevent any more slaughter.

Enclosure 11 in No. 12.

TRANSLATION of a LETTER from His Excellency the MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS to the RESIDENT at Mandalay, dated February 22, 1879.

THE Minister has safely received Resident's letters, dated respectively 20th and 21st February 1879. Since the Grand Friendship Treaty entered into during the reign of His late Majesty in the year 1224 (1862) between the Burmese and British Governments, there has existed a real Royal friendship, and in conformity therewith the Burmese Government always desire and hope that the dominions of the British Government may be in peace and without disturbance; and the Minister trusts and believes that the British Government do also desire and hope the same with respect to the dominions of the Burmese Government. In regard to the clearing and keeping-by matter,* (Minister would remark) that such action is taken in consideration of the past and the future, only when there should exist a cause for disturbance. It is not desired to clear away and keep-by those whom it is not feared would cause any disturbance to the country, but the wish towards them is that they may live happily and contentedly. With reference to the clause contained in Resident's letter, viz., that those whom it is not desired should live within the Royal dominions, should be made over to the Resident for safe keeping, this (sentiment) being in exact accordance with the marks of Grand Friendship, the Minister most gladly thanks the Resident.

No. 13.

DESPATCH to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

No. 11, dated, India Office, April 3, 1879.

MY LORD,

1. I HAVE received and attentively considered your despatch, No. 59, of the 7th March last, describing the present condition of affairs in Upper Burmah and submitting certain proposals of your Excellency in Council as to the policy to be pursued towards the Mandalay Government.

2. The recital of events in your despatch makes it clear that our relations with the King of Burmah are at present in a very precarious position, and Her Majesty's Government quite understand your desire to place them on a footing more advantageous to both Governments, and more conformable to the dignity of this country.

3. It is to be observed, however, that the grievances which we have tolerated from former rulers of Burmah have not been aggravated as yet by the present King, and that no action has been taken on his part which calls for a distinct change of policy on ours. The precautions which your Excellency has taken may not improbably modify any hostile intentions he may have entertained, and may possibly lead to a change for the better in his conduct and demeanour.

4. I am of opinion that the time for such a decided intimation of policy as you contemplate would not be well chosen while the young prince is in the first excitement of the possession of unbridled power, and surrounded by the worst class of counsellors. If, in such circumstances, he abstains from aggressive measures, it may be not unreasonably hoped that the display of readiness to meet them on the part of the Government of India, combined with a firm but not menacing tone, may after a time induce him to make advances which may result in a better understanding upon the various points to which your despatch adverts. Anything like an ultimatum based upon former grievances would at the present juncture appear to Her Majesty's Government highly impolitic, and calculated to give the impression that your Excellency's Government are seeking hostilities rather than more friendly relations.

(Signed) CRANBROOK.

* Viz., killing and imprisonment.

No. 14.

No. 126 of 1879.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HON. VISCOUNT CRANBROOK, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD,

Simla, May 22, 1879.

We have the honour to forward, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, copy of a diary from the Resident at Mandalay.

We have, &c.

(Signed)

LYTTON.

"

F. P. HAINES.

"

A. J. ARBUTHNOT.

"

A. CLARKE.

"

J. STRACHEY.

"

E. B. JOHNSON.

"

W. STOKES.

"

A. R. THOMPSON.

Enclosure 1 in No. 14.

MANDALAY CONFIDENTIAL DIARY, 1879.

April 14th and 15th.—The Captain of the "Shin-tsaw-boo" came and made his statement* before me on the 14th, and his Chief Officer and Engineer on the 15th. It appears that the quarrel between the Burmese passengers and the local coolies arose from the latter commencing to pile up loads of ngapi (dried fish) on the bedding and personal effects of the former. The coolies are represented as being quite out of hand, and not paying the slightest attention to the directions given them. But apparently on this occasion the remonstrances came not from the steamer people, but from the Burmese passengers; and the coolies resented them by using their bamboos, as well as pieces of firewood, on the heads of the passengers. When the Captain endeavoured to cast off his mooring-line so as to cause the combatants to separate, the coolies on shore most unjustifiably interposed to prevent what he had every right to do; and when their interference was rendered unavailing by the cutting of the line on board the steamer, they revenged themselves by seizing the lascars of another flat (not belonging to the same steamer) which was lying at the ghât discharging salt. This they did apparently under the direction of an official.

I have written to the Minister on the subject of the affray.

This is not the only recent case of the kind. A steamer only a day or two before on her downward trip had, I learn, to cast off suddenly from Myingyan, being unable to complete the landing of her cargo on account of the violence of the coolies.

It is said that a report of all the arms, serviceable and unserviceable, in the arsenals was read out before the King. This is denied by some, but statements have been made to me as to the number of fire-arms. These are variously stated at 10,000 to 15,000 in a serviceable state, with many more in a partly or entirely unserviceable state.

It appears that the King has now lost faith in the miracle-working "weiza," or seer, and has even imprisoned the attendant or disciple whom he left behind him. It is said that a rival sorcerer at Menhla (whence this seer came) has declared that the seer is no seer at all, but only quite an ordinary demon, who has been made to put on the appearance of a man (for the purpose of obtaining money) by the magic arts of a sorcerer, who is no other than his supposed attendant now incarcerated. The King now declares that although he does not trust in the seer, yet he trusts in his own glory or supernatural prestige.

The disunion continues in the palace. The Queen-mother appeals to the Dowager Queen to save her son from committing follies. The latter says she is tired of saying so. The young Queen has quarrelled with the King's sister, and apparently is no longer on good terms with his mother or her own. The old Ministers are all said

to be dissatisfied with the King's soldiering proclivities, but lack power to check them. Their explanation, given beforehand to me, about the intended reviews agree with this view of their feelings, but would also be consistent with a supposition that they approved, and yet did not wish us to take umbrage.

List showing approximate NUMBER of MEN in the various REGIMENTS in and about Mandalay.

Infantry.				North and South Wings.	Total.
“ Inner ”	{	Maraphin	- - -	850 + 350 =	1,200
		Dawè	- - -	600 + 500 =	1,100
		Tayá-ngá-zè	- - -	700 + 500 =	1,200
		Shwé-pyí-magin	- - -	- - -	800
		Nat-shin-ywé	- - -	- - -	800
					5,100
				Right and Left Wings.	
“ Outer ”	{	Gyaung	- - -	600 + 700 =	1,300
		Ywé	- - -	550 + 650 =	1,200
		Natsu	- - -	750 + 550 =	1,300
					3,800
Miscellaneous	{	Shwé-hlan	- - -	- - -	350
		Kindah	- - -	- - -	350
		Shwé-pyí	- - -	- - -	400
		Thurè	- - -	- - -	600
		Linzin	- - -	- - -	350
		Kulabyo	- - -	probably	400 ?
		Dine	- - -	do.	400 ?
		Win	- - -	do.	400 ?
		Tagani	- - -	do.	400 ?
		Hlay	} much larger number stated, but probable estimate	- - -	700 ?
Yégyi	these corps but lately drilled.			4,350	
Cavalry.					
		Shwé-pyí-tagun	- - -	probably	500 ?
		Shwé-pyí-yan-oung	- - -	do.	500 ?
		Yè-bek	- - -	do.	500 ?
		Kathè	- - -	do.	500 ?
		Other regiments	- - -	say	500 ?
					2,500
Artillery.					
		Menglá Amyauk	- - -	probably	500 ?
					500
Grand Total				- - -	16,250
Say 15,000, all told.					

Say 15,000, all told.

(Signed) F. RIDLEY, Head Assistant,
Residency Office, Mandalay.

April 19, 1879.

STATEMENT of Captain MORGAN, Commander of the Steamer "Shin-tsaw-boo."

We anchored at Simbinjun on the 8th instant; and whilst the coolies were discharging the ship's cargo, some of them dropped a portion on the property of the Burmese passengers. The passengers remonstrated, and, words ensuing, the coolies attacked the passengers with sticks. Some of my crew interfered—that is, they tried to stop the coolies from assaulting the passengers; upon which the coolies attacked my crew also, and took full possession of the flat. I mean by taking full possession that they drove away my crew, or rather that the crew ran to the steamer for protection. One

of the lascars hurriedly reported the disturbance to me, and I accordingly made my way to the scene of action, revolver in hand. My Chief Officer, who at the time of the disturbance was collecting freight on the gangway, followed my example. The Chief Engineer was there likewise. I saw two coolies armed with sticks rush across the gangway into the steamer after a number of passengers who were running away for protection. I immediately stationed myself on the gangway—the two coolies were then on board the steamer—and, presenting my revolver at the remaining coolies on the flat, threatened to shoot the first man that attempted to come across. In the meantime, my Chief Engineer and one or two others seized and took forward the two coolies who had come after the passengers on to the steamer. The coolies on the flat, however, girded up their putsos, and, brandishing their clubs, called out to their fellow-coolies on shore for assistance. Seeing that a large body on shore was gathering with the view of boarding the vessel, I gave the order to the Simbinjun Agent to let go my line. Some of the coolies, seeing my intention, rushed up to where the line was made fast; and, standing guard over it, threatened the Agent if he attempted to let it go. I accordingly gave the order to cut the line, and I sheered out into mid-stream. Whilst doing so, I saw the coolies seize the crew of a flat which had been moored alongside the bank, and removing them ashore. The syrang of the flat halloed out that, if I did not come, he and the others would be murdered. I hove up my anchor, and told the syrang to keep quiet, or do anything they told him; and that as soon as I got up to Mandalay I would have the affair settled. The two coolies on board the steamer I handcuffed with the intention of taking them to Mandalay; but, on second thoughts, I considered that my so bringing them away might be hurtful to the crew of the flat whom I had seen seized. I accordingly landed them when I anchored that night some hour and a half after leaving Simbinjun, after exacting a promise from them that, when they returned, they would influence the other coolies there to release the crew who had been seized.

After leaving Simbinjun some of the Burmese passengers—about four of them—came up to me and showed me their wounds, which they said had been inflicted by the coolies. The wounds appear to have been inflicted with sticks or billets of firewood. One had a nasty cut across the forehead; the others were contused wounds with blood issuing.

THIS statement was made in my presence by Captain Morgan, this day, the 14th of April 1879.

(Signed) R. B. SHAW,
Resident at Mandalay.

Enclosure 2 in No. 14.

MEMORANDUM from R. B. SHAW, Esq., Resident at Mandalay, to His Excellency the BURMESE MINISTER for FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Mandalay, April 16, 1879.

RESIDENT has the honour to inform his Excellency the Minister that he has received a report from the Captain of the steamer "Shin-tsaw-boo," which is corroborated by the statement of his officers, regarding an affray that took place on the 8th instant at Simbinjun. It appears that in this affray the people of the steamer had no part whatever, either as assailants or assailed. It was entirely between the Burmese coolies who were unloading the cargo and the Burmese passengers on board the flat. Owing to some misunderstanding between them, the coolies attacked the passengers with sticks and bamboos, and wounded several of them. In order to prevent his vessel and cargo from being injured by the continuance of a fight on board, the Captain gave orders to cast off the mooring-line, which was attached to a pole on shore; but the Burmese coolies assembled round the pole and prevented this. The Captain then had to cut his mooring-line in order to get away. Two of the coolies, who were most violent, and had pursued some passengers who fled into the steamer, were seized and handcuffed, with the view of delivering them over to the Burmese authorities; but they were afterwards released, on their promising to go and stop the ill-treatment of the Indian lascars of a flat belonging to another steamer which was lying at Simbinjun discharging cargo, which lascars the coolies had seized when the steamer cut her line. A man on a pony, apparently an official, was seen directing the seizure of these lascars. As for the cargo which the "Shin-tsaw-boo" had brought up for delivery at Simbinjun, the Captain was unable to discharge it owing to the violence of the coolies, and brought it on to Mandalay.

As such an affray will unsettle people's minds, and will encourage the belief that order is not maintained at present as heretofore in Upper Burma, and that unruly men are able to have their own way, Resident feels confident that the Burmese Government will properly inquire into the matter, and do what is right therein.

TRANSLATION of a LETTER from His Excellency the BURMESE MINISTER for FOREIGN AFFAIRS to the RESIDENT at Mandalay.

WITH reference to Resident's letter, dated 16th April 1879, on the subject of an affray which took place on the 8th April 1879 on board the steamer "Shin-tsaw-boo" between certain coolies and passengers and lascars while she was at anchor at Simbinjun within the Royal dominions, and requesting accordingly that an inquiry may be held in and the matter rightly adjusted:

The Foreign Minister intimates that, on inquiries having been made, it was ascertained that the affray took place, not at Simbinjun, but at Toungpaloozun village. Orders have accordingly been issued to the authorities of that place to hold an inquiry as to the coolies concerned in the affray, likewise as to the person on pony-back alleged to have been giving orders, and to bring them up to the Hlut without delay.

No. 15.

No. 146 of 1879.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HONOURABLE VISCOUNT CRANBROOK, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD,

Simla, June 16, 1879.

WE have the honour to forward, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, a copy of telegrams reporting further outrages and indignities committed by His Majesty the King of Burmah on some of his relatives.

We have, &c.

(Signed) LYTTON.
" F. P. HAINES.
" A. J. ARBUTHNOT.
" A. CLARKE.
" JOHN STRACHEY.
" E. B. JOHNSON.
" W. STOKES.
" A. R. THOMPSON.

Enclosure 1 in No. 15.

TELEGRAM, dated 7th June 1879, from FOREIGN SECRETARY, Simla, to RESIDENT, Mandalay.

FOLLOWING telegram from Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, dated 3rd. Message begins.—"I have very reliable information that imprisoned mother and sister of "Nyaungyan Prince have been loaded with irons, and it is feared will shortly succumb "to the treatment they are subjected to." Message ends. Does your information corroborate, if so, remonstrate.

Enclosure 2 in No. 15.

TELEGRAM, dated June 4, 1879, from RESIDENT, Mandalay, to FOREIGN SECRETARY, Simla.

I HEAR that late Crown Prince's sons secretly killed within last four days. Refugee Prince's mother and sister alive; but only saved by influence of Dowager Queen (s?) prompted by Ken Wun Minister. King's coronation fixed for 8th. Much anxiety felt on account of anticipated events to follow.

No. 16.

No. 156 of 1879.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HON. VISCOUNT CRANBROOK, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD,

Simla, June 30, 1879.

IN continuation of our despatch No. 146, dated the 16th of June 1879, we have the honour to enclose, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, diaries received from the Resident at Mandalay, in which some further account is given of the inhuman treatment to which certain members of the Royal family at Mandalay are reported to have been subjected by order of the King of Burmah.

2. We also forward copy of a telegraphic correspondence which passed between the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah and the Resident at Mandalay, in the month of May last, on the subject of the alleged torture of the Theinnee Princess and the murder of her son. Colonel Horace Browne, who is now holding charge of the Mandalay Residency, has been authorized to express in distinct terms to the King's Ministers the disgust and aversion with which these repeated outrages are regarded by the Government of India.

3. The Resident's diary, under date the 26th of May, reports an indignity offered to Mr. Phayre, the Assistant Resident, by some Burmese. The Resident brought the matter to the notice of the Ministers, and redress was afforded by the punishment of the principal offender.

We have, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON.
" F. P. HAINES.
" A. J. ARBUTHNOT.
" A. CLARKE.
" JOHN STRACHEY.
" E. B. JOHNSON.
" W. STOKES.
" A. R. THOMPSON.

Enclosure 1 in No. 16.

MANDALAY CONFIDENTIAL DIARY, 1879.

26TH MAY.—This morning, when the Assistant Resident, Mr. Phayre, was returning from a ride, as he was passing a group of young men (Burmese) he was jeered at and called insulting names. Being at the time attended by a small retinue bearing the usual marks of an official, viz., large umbrella and fan, Mr. Phayre must have been known to be an official. He was also accompanied by two of the police guard furnished by the Burmese Government. He complained at a neighbouring police post, and the headman sent out and ascertained the name and address of the chief offender. Such insulting conduct towards the officers of the Residency, of which there had been few or no complaints before since I have been here, have become rather common during the last month or two, but it is usually difficult to identify the offenders. I am addressing the Minister on the subject, requesting that advantage may be taken of the present instance to endeavour by suitable punishment to put a stop to such conduct.

The Sub-Minister came in after Court. He reports that the Ken Wun Minister is very unwell and unable to transact business at present. This has been stated for some days. With reference to my letter of the 24th, in reply to the Burmese Government's request for the withdrawal of our troops, he asked whether my final paragraph implied that I wished to speak to the Minister on the subject. I said that if the Minister wished to consult with me on the subject of the restoration of confidence, I was quite ready to meet him for the purpose, as I also had at heart the attainment of the same result. The Sub-Minister then said that the Minister was extremely anxious to meet me with this object, but that just at present illness prevented his doing so.

I accordingly spoke somewhat more fully to the Sub-Minister, asking him to repeat what I said. He promised to do so, but added that my own personal communication with the Minister would be more effective.

After repeating that the British Government could not discuss with the Burmese Government the disposition of the troops in British territory, as this was a matter that rested solely with the British Government to order as it judged proper and necessary, I went on to say that its judgment would necessarily be affected by the state of affairs in the neighbouring State. The warlike and blustering talk, which was constantly reported from the Palace, would not, I feared, influence the judgment of Government in the direction which the Minister desired.

Moreover, when one was asked to alter one's arrangements or plans for the benefit of another person, one naturally asked oneself: Does that other person show readiness to oblige us? If one had a friend who was always seeking means of pleasing us and obliging us, one would be ready to go out of one's way and even to incur some inconvenience to oblige him. I asked the Sub-Minister to reflect whether the conduct of the Burmese Government towards us was of such a kind as to put us under a friendly obligation. Was their conduct obliging or friendly when they sought far-fetched excuses to break their word to me in the matter of a Residency site? Was it pleasing to the English Government that, after assuring me officially that they had no wish to hurt or restrain any persons but those from whom a danger to the State was apprehended, they should still be keeping in irons the harmless female relations of the two Princes who were our guests? Was it friendly to raise up claims to sovereignty in Eastern Karennee which they knew we had always declined to recognise? I then instanced smaller matters which tended to irritate the newly developed hostile tone of the common people in Mandalay towards Englishmen, which obviously had its origin in the blustering talk of their superiors, and which could and ought to be put down. (This the Sub-Minister promised, with great apparent zeal, to take in hand, expressing his pleasure at my having reported it, and saying I might always count on him in anything that was in his own power personally to effect.) Finally I instanced the gross partiality shown in their mode of aiding Burmese subjects in the recovery of their just dues from debtors compared with the treatment of the claims of British subjects. When a Burman was the claimant against a British subject, the Burmese Government interfered, regardless of the Treaty which gave jurisdiction in such cases to the Mixed Court, to detain and attach the latter's property (of this I gave two recent instances), while if a British subject were the claimant, even under a decree of the Mixed Court, they refused to allow his Burmese debtor's property to be attached, and even allowed the latter, contrary to right, to give a merely formal security and to go at large. (In the case of Muhammad Taki there mentioned, they have not imprisoned the surety, but after much pressure have imprisoned a coolie as substitute for the surety.)

I said I regretted all these marks of unfriendliness very much, and could not understand the conduct of the Burmese Government in this respect. For whereas many of them were productive of only minute advantage to the Burmese Government, they caused them to forfeit the far greater advantages of a sincere friendship with the British Government.

As another instance I may mention that the British subjects (Indians) who were permitted to occupy some land by the late King, and who had built houses and established themselves there at their own expense, have been turned out, their houses have been made over to some Burmans, and they have received neither compensation nor permission to remove the materials of the houses. This was verified by an inquiry and report made at my request by the head of the Burmese police guard attached to the Residency.

May 27th, 1879.—Some soldiers or palace guards were lately caught in immoral intrigues with certain of the maids of honour. These men have been beaten to death I hear. The women were threatened with death by being trodden under foot by elephants. But this appears to have been only a threat. A young palace attendant was also caught in an intrigue with the unmarried sister of the King. But he fled to the house of the Queen Mother who protected him and refused to give him up.

(Signed) R. B. SHAW,
Resident at Mandalay.

Enclosure 2 in No. 16.

MANDALAY CONFIDENTIAL DIARY, 1879.

MAY 31ST, 1879.—Certain female relatives of the Nyaungyan Prince had hitherto been the medium of communication with his mother in her prison and carried money from me for her support, informing me when more was wanted. When she was lately put in irons with her daughter, and placed in closer confinement, they were no longer able to

obtain access to her, and being afraid for themselves lay in concealment for some days, and finally went away to Rangoon at the beginning of this week. I gave them money for their passage. Communication with the ex-Queen is now cut off, but I hear she is alive, and I believe is being fed by the Queen-Mother.

June 5th, 1879.—There have been rumours of fresh murders. First, it reached me from several quarters that the remaining sons of the late Crown Prince had been killed. Then that two of their sisters, in endeavouring to escape by boat into British territory, had been caught not far from the frontier, and immediately drowned by being thrown overboard. That some Princesses have been caught escaping seems pretty certain. Then there was a rumour of the death of the refugee Princes' mother; but this is certainly untrue, though it is said that on the 26th orders were about to be issued for this, but were prevented by the intervention of the two Dowager Queens and of the Ken Wun Minister. Since then, one at least of the Crown Princes' sons has been seen alive in his confinement. It is very difficult to get at the truth.

The mother and sister of the Nyaungyan Prince are, I now ascertain, with two other ex-Queens, viz., the mother of the Princes who have been in India since 1866, and the ex-Queens, in a cell bricked up on all sides with the exception of a hole just sufficiently big to admit a man. They have two irons on each leg, and are insufficiently fed. The imprisonment of five persons in such a small space without proper ventilation, in a climate where the thermometer has often been over 105°, and is seldom in the daytime under 100°, is an act of gross inhumanity.

The Sub-Minister having come to see me after Court, I spoke to him about the harsh imprisonment of the Queens and Princesses, and told him of the disgust with which such treatment of Royal ladies was looked upon in Europe. He, as usual, by his manner seemed to agree with me, but said that if I asked the Minister when I saw him he would be able to inform me whether the reported facts were true or not.

Enclosure 3 in No. 16.

TELEGRAM, dated May 24, 1879, from CHIEF COMMISSIONER to RESIDENT.

It is confidently asserted, son of Theinnee Princess murdered since date of your remonstrance, also Princess herself tortured, if not murdered. Any truth?

Enclosure 4 in No. 16.

TELEGRAM, dated May 25, 1879, from RESIDENT to CHIEF COMMISSIONER.

Your telegram of the 24th. I fear probably true; nothing definite ascertainable, but they have slipped out of sight.

Enclosure 5 in No. 16.

FROM UNDER-SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Foreign Department, to
RESIDENT at Mandalay.

Simla, June 23, 1879.

I AM directed to forward, for ready reference, copy of the telegraphic correspondence noted on the margin, which recently passed between the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah and your predecessor.

Telegram to Resident at Mandalay, dated 24th May 1879.
Telegram to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, dated 25th May 1879.

2. I am to say that unless you have reason to believe the reports contained in this correspondence to be not authentic, you should take early occasion to allude to them in speaking with the Burmese Ministers, and express in distinct terms the disgust and aversion with which these continued murders are regarded by the British Government.

No. 17.

No. 165 of 1879.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HON. VISCOUNT CRANBROOK, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD,

Simla, July 21, 1879.

WE have the honour to forward copies of correspondence with the Chief Commissioner of Rangoon, relating to the course of events and the aspect of affairs in Upper Burmah, to the condition of trade between Upper and Lower Burmah, and to the present state of our relations with the Mandalay Government.

We have, &c.
(Signed)

LYTTON.
F. P. HAINES.
A. J. ARBUTHNOT.
A. CLARKE.
JOHN STRACHEY.
E. B. JOHNSON.
W. STOKES.
A. R. THOMPSON.

Enclosure 1 in No. 17.

From R. B. SHAW, Esq., Resident, Mandalay, to C. U. ARCHISON, Esq., C.S.I.,
Chief Commissioner of British Burmah.

Mandalay, April 27, 1879.

1. I understand that the object of Government in stationing extra troops on the frontier of British Burmah is twofold: (1) for the protection of our frontier from attack; (2) for the indirect support of our influence at Mandalay during a critical time.

2. I am not aware how far facilities for immediate forward movement are essential for the purpose of simple defence. This is of course a military question on which I am not competent to form an opinion. But I may say that the effect of the arrival of the troops on the frontier has already been considerable, and that I do not in existing circumstances anticipate any sudden attack by the Burmese on our territories. How long it would take to collect the means of transport again in case of need; to what extent the troops would be crippled in their defensive action for want of them; and, therefore, how far the improbability of a sudden attack may diminish the necessity for undergoing the expense of keeping the means of transport available for immediate use, are questions which I can only indicate.

3. As regards the second object, viz., the indirect support of our influence here,—the policy which that influence may be brought to bear on may be purely preventive, e.g., to avert insults to the British Representative, or a renewal of the late barbarous massacres in defiance of our protests, or it may be directed to enforcing certain definite demands for our rights. In the former case the necessity would arise suddenly (though I do not consider it probable while we show that we are prepared for action), and this would pro tanto indicate the desirableness of having means of transport at hand. In the latter case, as the initiative would proceed from ourselves, we should be able to choose our own time, and make our preparations accordingly.

4. Thus there are three possible causes for a sudden move on the part of our troops, viz., to resist an attack on our frontier, to prevent or arrest certain occurrences at Mandalay, and to enforce our demands here. Of these the latter depends on the policy of Government itself, and regarding this, of course, I am not qualified to speak. As for the two former cases, though they are not particularly likely to occur, yet it is in great part our military preparedness which has rendered them improbable, and so far the sums spent save us far greater expenditure and worse evils which would have attended the necessity for using our forces actively. But I cannot say that the continued presence of transport and of other requirements for immediate forward movement is now essential to the effect produced. While I would venture to deprecate any too plain and sudden measure of demobilisation, I think that the steamers, &c. might be spared by degrees

and in an unobtrusive manner without encouraging the Burmese Government to defy us. It would know what an ever-ready resource we have in the steamers of the Flotilla Company. In giving this opinion, I am merely referring to the two causes for possible early movement which do not depend on the choice of Government. Of course I cannot speak regarding what may be required by the policy of Government in the matter of demanding our rights, &c.

Enclosure 2 in No. 17.

From G. D. BURGESS, Esq., B.C.S., Officiating Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, to A. C. LYALL, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, Simla.

Rangoon, May 7, 1879.

I AM directed to inform you that the Chief Commissioner, after consultation with the military authorities, has determined that the three steamers and six flats now lying at Thayetmyo under charter for the conveyance of the troops in case of the necessity for active measures arising, may be dispensed with for the present. It is calculated that the steamers and flats could be re-assembled, and that everything could be ready for a forward movement, should such be called for, in about 10 days, and the military authorities consider that a delay of so short a time would not be likely to be materially prejudicial. Arrangements will therefore be made at once to terminate the charter of the vessels now engaged at Thayetmyo. The Resident has already declined the renewal of the charter of the steamer employed to lie at Mandalay, and the arrangement concerning it ceased to have effect on the 28th ultimo. In this way the most fruitful sources of expense have been stopped.

2. With respect to the general question of the maintenance of a state of preparation, I am to say that although the Resident's letter does not contain a definite answer to the inquiries made by the Chief Commissioner, it indicates the continuance of a very precarious condition of affairs at Mandalay. The Resident states that the effect of the arrival of the troops on the frontier has already been considerable, and that he does not, in existing circumstances, anticipate any sudden attack by the Burmans on our territory, the apparent inference from which is that if the circumstances were altered by the withdrawal or weakening of the force, there might be grounds for fearing such an attack. Again, the Resident, in speaking of the second object of stationing extra troops on the frontier, namely, the indirect support of our influence at Mandalay for the purpose of averting insults to the British Representative, or a renewal of the late barbarous massacres, in defiance of our protests, says the necessity (for action) would arise suddenly, though he does not consider it probable, while we show that we are prepared for action. He thereby seems to imply that the necessity might arise if we were not prepared. He further says that although it is not particularly likely that we should be obliged to resist an attack on our frontier, or to prevent or arrest certain occurrences at Mandalay, yet it is in great part our military preparedness which has rendered these events improbable. He deprecates any too plain and sudden measure of demobilization, but thinks the steamers and flats might be spared by degrees in an unobtrusive manner without encouraging the Burmese Government to defy us.

3. The Chief Commissioner gathers from these passages, as well as from the general tenor of the Resident's letter that the Resident is of opinion there has been no material change in the disposition of the Burmese to warrant a greater relaxation of precaution than is involved in ceasing to keep ready a means of immediate transport.

4. If the Chief Commissioner is right in assuming this to be the Resident's view of the situation, he entirely concurs in it, having arrived at this conclusion from a consideration of the Resident's reports, and of the information he has obtained from a variety of sources, as already reported to you. The Chief Commissioner believes the temper of the Burmese to be such that it would be dangerous at present to withdraw any of the troops from the frontier, or materially to weaken our position. As long as the situation continues to be so exceedingly precarious, and until the Resident at Mandalay is in a position to give, with some confidence, an assurance of the peaceful disposition of the Burmese Government, the Chief Commissioner cannot advise the reduction of the strength of the garrison in this country by a single man, or the relaxation of our vigilance in the smallest degree.

Enclosure 3 in No. 17.

From G. D. BURGESS, Esq., B.C.S., Officiating Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, to A. C. LYALL, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, Simla.

Rangoon, May 22, 1879.

I AM directed to forward, for the consideration and orders of the Government of India, the annexed letter from the Rangoon Chamber of Commerce, together with the Chief Commissioner's reply thereto.

2. The Chamber of Commerce draw attention "to the serious depression in trade which has now existed for some time, and threatens, if it continues much longer, to be ruinous in its results." The Chief Commissioner regrets exceedingly this depressed condition of trade, and his anxiety on this account has led him already to bring the subject to the notice of the Government of India.

3. The Chief Commissioner, however, cannot concur with the Chamber of Commerce in attributing the commercial distress to the reinforcement of the garrison in British Burmah. The reinforcements were the result of the precarious situation at Mandalay after the inhuman massacres of 18th February. They were the effect, and not the cause, of the uncertainty of our relations with the Burmese Court, and of the danger to the peace of our own possessions, and to the lives of the Resident and the European community at Mandalay, created by the King's barbarous proceedings, and his extensive military preparations.

4. His Excellency in Council is aware that immediately after the massacres, the King began to make ready for war. On 21st February the Resident telegraphed that there was a rumour of warlike preparations by the King, and that it was asserted emissaries had been despatched to Calcutta to murder the King's rival, the Nyoung-Yan Prince. On the 24th February he telegraphed that there were rumours of mischief intended, and that fears were entertained for the safety of the European community. On the 27th February the Resident stated that a camp had been established outside the city; that there had been field manoeuvres, and that the garrison of the river forts had been increased. The following day the Resident telegraphed that the infatuated party in power desired a rupture with the British Government, and wanted an excuse for overruling the moderate party. Such, indeed, was the attitude of the Court at the end of the month of February, that it was proposed to send up the Government steamer "Irrawaddy" for the protection of the Resident, an offer which Mr. Shaw was compelled to decline on the ground that it would evoke great danger to the European community.

5. The Resident's account of the situation was founded on concurrent reports and warnings which he had received. These reports were confirmed and supplemented by information derived by the Chief Commissioner from private trustworthy sources, according to which the King of Ava had called on seven Shan Chiefs for levies, and was collecting troops at Mosobo, troops were being drilled and sent to the frontier, guns had been mounted on the river fort at Sagain, a complete change had been made in the officers of the army, which had received an advance of a month's pay, and had been armed with rifles from the palace. Again, in his telegram of the 18th March, the Resident asserted positively that though the warlike preparations were denied by the Burmese, they were none the less true, though not overtly aggressive.

6. Inasmuch as the Ministers had informed Mr. Shaw that no internal disturbances in Upper Burmah were anticipated, it appeared clear to the Chief Commissioner that these formidable warlike preparations could only be directed against the British Government. So prevalent, indeed, was this conviction among the population of British Burmah, that the Chief Commissioner was unable to charter a river steamer for the Resident without a distinct guarantee against loss or damage that might be caused by the hostile proceedings of the Burmese.

7. It was under such circumstances, and after ascertaining from the Resident that reinforcements would not embarrass him, but would probably have a salutary effect upon the Burmese Court, that it was decided to strengthen the garrison of British Burmah. To have omitted such precautionary measures under the circumstances of the time would, in the Chief Commissioner's opinion, have amounted to culpable negligence. To describe this increase to our forces as the cause of the uncertainty of our relations with Upper Burmah betrays a confusion of ideas which it is difficult to understand, and is inconsistent with other parts of the letter under consideration. The Chamber of Commerce go on to say that "it was at first supposed these additional troops were brought here for the purpose of strengthening the hands of Government in carrying

"out some definitely arranged policy decided upon with the object of placing our relations with Upper Burmah on a permanently secure basis." The Chief Commissioner does not know on what foundation the supposition referred to rests. A complete revision of our relations with the Burmese Court is undoubtedly much needed, and must be entered upon sooner or later. But he has received no intimation that any such revision was contemplated at the present juncture. The Chief Commissioner has always been of opinion that simultaneously with the increase of the troops explanation might with advantage have been demanded of the hostile preparations on the part of the Burmese, which rendered such a precautionary measure necessary, and he recommended this course. But that view does not appear to have commended itself to the Government of India, and, so far as the Chief Commissioner is aware, no ground has been given for the supposition that the reinforcements were intended for any other than defensive purposes. No doubt many unfounded rumours circulated by the public press gave rise in some quarters to a different impression. But the most circumstantial of these rumours were promptly contradicted by authority, and an announcement was publicly made explaining the strictly precautionary object with which the troops had been sent.

8. It is not easy to follow the argument of the Chamber that, in consequence of the announcement of the intention of the British Government not to interfere in the affairs of Upper Burmah, except under extreme provocation, "the measures which promised a speedy solution of all difficulties have simply added a seriously disturbing element to what would otherwise have only been a position of more or less uncertainty." What the Chamber of Commerce appear to the Chief Commissioner to mean is that the continued presence of a larger body of troops than is ordinarily employed in this country indicates the continued existence of unsatisfactory relations with the Court of Ava, and, in consequence, there are an uneasiness and insecurity, and an expectation of a possible collision, which naturally interfere with the usual operations of trade. That is quite true, and until there is a considerable change in the character of the reports from Mandalay, the Chief Commissioner cannot see much prospect of the recovery of public confidence. So long ago as the 12th April, the Chief Commissioner wrote to the Resident calling his attention to the great expense incurred in maintaining a state of military preparation, and asking whether there was any reasonable expectation that it would at an early date be safe and judicious to discontinue it. In the Resident's reply, no sign appeared of any material alteration of affairs for the better, and the Chief Commissioner, in my letter of the 7th May, to your address, expressed a very decided opinion that until an assurance of the peaceful intentions of the Burmese Government could be given with some confidence, it would be highly imprudent to relax our state of preparedness. Since that time nothing has occurred to change the Chief Commissioner's opinion.

9. While sympathizing deeply therefore with the mercantile community in their anxieties and losses, the Chief Commissioner cannot at present recommend any reduction of the reinforcements to which the Chamber of Commerce, erroneously in his opinion, attribute the depression of trade, and he must consider it his first duty to protect from peril, or the risk of peril, the lives and property of the general body of the people.

10. The statistics do not, in the Chief Commissioner's opinion, support the argument of the Chamber that the falling off in trade is coincident with and due to the reinforcement of the troops in Burmah. The figures, taken in the gross, show, with reference to the Mandalay trade, a considerable increase in the export of one per cent. goods for the months of November, December, and January, a small increase in February, and a considerable decrease in March, April, and May, and with respect to the home trade, a considerable increase in the value of goods cleared from bond for the months of November, December, and January, a small decrease in February, and a large decrease in March, April, and May. But, when examined in detail, with reference to the dates of events at Mandalay and Rangoon, they show that the serious depression had commenced before reinforcements were thought of, and is due to other causes.

11. The first intimation of the massacres was received here on the 19th February, and the news was not generally known till next day. It was not till the 6th March that the Chief Commissioner asked for reinforcements, and the first detachment of troops did not arrive till the 12th. Reinforcements were not despatched to the frontier before the 21st March. Now, the value of the goods removed from bond for home consumption between the 1st and 20th February, was Rupees 8,84,256, which gives a daily average of Rupees 44,202, while, during the eight remaining days of the month, the value fell to Rupees 342,793, or an average of Rupees 42,862 a day. The average further fell during the first twelve days of March to Rupees 30,563, the total being Rupees 366,771. During

the rest of the month the value of the goods was Rupees 553,715, equivalent to an average daily of Rupees 29,142, or a little less than the average before the arrival of the troops. Similarly the value of goods removed from bond for export to Mandalay under the duty of one per cent. amounted from the 1st to the 20th of February to Rupees 5,28,861, equal to a daily average of Rupees 26,443. After the 20th the average fell to Rupees 15,995 a day, or a total of Rupees 1,27,960. The total value for March was only Rupees 2,40,277, or a daily average of Rupees 7,750. The figures, if compared with those of last year, are not less remarkable. In November the increase in the value of one per cent. goods is Rupees 1,96,558, in December Rupees 74,528, in January Rupees 2,96,035, but in February it falls to Rupees 32,199. In goods cleared for home consumption the value increased in November by Rupees 4,30,187, in December by Rupees 1,53,297, in January by Rupees 2,31,543, but in February there was actually a decrease of Rupees 5,967.

12. Exactly the same symptoms have been exhibited by the trade of the country on previous occasions of unusual political excitement at Mandalay. One of these occasions, the time succeeding the death of the late King, is mentioned in the letter of the Chamber of Commerce. In the month of October the export of dutiable goods to Upper Burmah fell off to the extent of Rupees 3,30,023. Another occasion was when the complications connected with Western Karennie led to the Mission of Sir Douglas Forsyth to Mandalay in 1875. In that year the trade in one per cent. goods stood thus in comparison with that of the preceding and the following years for the months of March, April, and May:—

	March.	April.	May.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1874	- - - 4,35,591	4,43,761	2,77,848
1875	- - - 1,71,453	18,593	62,229
1876	- - - 5,14,721	3,53,898	2,18,893

yet neither in October 1878 nor in 1875 were fresh forces brought to Burmah.

13. The truth is, Mandalay may be said to be the pivot on which the trade of the kind referred to by the Chamber of Commerce usually turns. If there are no disturbing elements at Mandalay, everything works smoothly, but if there is the slightest derangement, the merchants refuse to send goods up country except for cash payment. Credit is stopped and commerce is immediately depressed in consequence.

14. The Chief Commissioner entirely agrees with the Chamber of Commerce that the only satisfactory guarantee against these recurring derangements of the commerce and revenues of the country, is a complete revision of our relations with Upper Burmah, and the establishment of these relations on a permanent basis.

After what has recently occurred, the sooner a definite understanding is come to with the Burmese Government the better for the interests and prosperity of this province. How long the present danger is likely to last is a question which has been put, but has not been answered. The Chief Commissioner cannot, therefore, reply to the inquiry of the Chamber of Commerce, whether there is any prospect of the present dead lock coming to an end. He agrees, however, with the observation of the Chamber of Commerce "that it would be a matter of serious regret if the present opportunity of enforcing all measures that are considered necessary for placing our trade relations with Upper Burmah on a sound and secure basis should not be taken advantage of, and he has no doubt that the Government of India will be of the same mind.

Enclosure 4 in No. 17.

FROM SECRETARY, RANGOON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, TO SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, BRITISH BURMAH.

Rangoon, May 16, 1879.

I AM desired by the Committee of this Chamber to draw the attention of the Chief Commissioner to the serious depression in trade which has now existed for some time and threatens, if it continues much longer, to be ruinous in its results. The returns of trade for the past few months show that this unusual stagnation is entirely due to the uncertainty of our relations with Upper Burmah consequent upon the recent action of Government in making a large addition to the military forces of the province and the feeling of insecurity which this has engendered.

2. It was at first supposed that these additional troops were brought here for the purpose of strengthening the hands of Government in carrying out some definitely arranged policy decided upon with the object of placing our relations with Upper Burmah on a permanently secure basis, but the publication of an official memorandum announcing that Government have no intention of interfering with the Burmese Government has dispelled these hopes, and it is now found that matters are to be allowed to go on as they were, and that the measures which promised a speedy solution of all difficulties have simply added a seriously disturbing element to what would otherwise have only been a position of more or less uncertainty. The result of this is that the natives see a large military force stationed on our frontier which they believe may at any moment be ordered to advance on Upper Burmah, and this ever-present dread of hostilities breaking out between the two countries has excited an amount of fear and distrust bordering upon panic which has seriously injured trade and threatens to paralyse industry throughout the province. It is difficult to imagine any state of matters that could be more disastrous in its results than this is likely to be.

I append statements of the value of goods exported to Upper Burmah and cleared from bond for home consumption from 1st October to 10th May, compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, and it will be seen from these that the beginning of the present depression in trade was coincident with the introduction of additional troops into the province.

After the death of the old King there was a period of uncertainty and want of confidence, which had a marked effect upon the figures for the month of October, but the administration of the Ken Wun Mingye and the reforms which he proposed to introduce speedily restored confidence, and the result of this is seen in a large increase of trade for the months of November, December, and January as compared with the same period in 1877-78.

The returns for February do not show the same increase, but the exports to Mandalay for that month are slightly in excess of those for February 1878, and the value of goods cleared from bond is only a trifle under that of February last year.

It will thus be seen that, notwithstanding the internal dissensions at Mandalay, trade continued prosperous up till March, the month when the military forces of the province were largely augmented, and from that time till now it will be seen that there has been a most serious falling off both in the value of goods exported to Mandalay and cleared from bond for home consumption. The figures in the accompanying statements, however, although they indicate the nature of the disaster which has overtaken trade, by no means represent its full extent as there are of course large quantities of goods in second hands upon which the depression tells with equal severity.

I am desired to inquire whether there is any prospect of the present deadlock coming to an end.

The causes of the depression lie so entirely within the control of Government that the Chamber hesitates to recommend any particular line of action, but I am desired to say that it would be a matter of serious regret if the present opportunity of enforcing all measures that are considered necessary for placing our trade relations with Upper Burmah on a sound and secure basis should not be availed of.

STATEMENT showing the value of one per cent. DUTIABLE GOODS exported to MANDALAY from 1st October 1878 to 7th May 1879, compared with the corresponding period of the previous year.

Months.	1877.	1878.	Increase.	Decrease.	REMARKS.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
October	6,45,996 0 0	3,15,972 15 0	—	3,30,023 1 0	
November	4,58,109 7 0	6,54,667 14 0	1,96,558 7 0		
December	5,52,199 3 0	6,26,728 2 0	74,528 12 0		
	1878.	1879.			
January	5,70,379 12 0	8,66,365 5 0	2,95,985 9 0		
February	5,55,071 2 0	5,87,270 6 0	32,199 4 0		
March	6,21,356 7 0	2,98,329 9 0	—	3,23,026 14 0	Additional troops arrived in Burmah.
April	4,15,846 2 0	3,21,700 12 0	—	94,145 6 0	
May 7th	1,23,573 9 0	34,017 7 0	—	89,556 2 0	

STATEMENT showing the value of Goods cleared from bond for home consumption from 1st October 1878 to 10th May 1879, compared with the corresponding period of the previous year.

Months.	1877.	1878.	Increase.	Decrease.	REMARKS.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
October	16,21,098 0 0	5,24,736 0 0	—	10,96,362 0 0	
November	8,88,916 0 0	13,19,103 0 0	4,30,187 0 0		
December	12,77,163 0 0	14,30,460 0 0	1,53,297 0 0		
	1878.	1879.			
January	14,92,219 0 0	17,23,762 0 0	2,31,543 0 0		
February	19,41,962 0 0	19,35,995 0 0	—	5,967 0 0	
March	17,00,178 0 0	12,92,381 0 0	—	4,07,797 0 0	Additional troops arrived in Burmah.
April	14,07,181 0 0	7,09,897 0 0	—	6,97,284 0 0	
May 10th	5,73,504 0 0	2,03,863 0 0	—	3,69,641 0 0	

Enclosure 5 in No. 17.

From G. D. BURGESS, Esq., B.C.S., Officiating Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, to SECRETARY, Rangoon Chamber of Commerce.

I AM directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated the 16th instant, and to say that the Chief Commissioner will lay this important communication, with his opinion thereon, before the Government of India by the outgoing mail.

Enclosure 6 in No. 17.

From the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF BRITISH BURMAH.

SIR,

Simla, July 14, 1879.

I AM directed by his Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letters, upon the condition of trade in British Burmah, and the present state of our relations with the Government at Mandalay.

2. Your Secretary's letter of the 22nd May forwards, for the consideration and orders of the Government of India, copy of a letter from the Chamber of Commerce at Rangoon representing that trade has been seriously depressed, and that the commercial stagnation now prevailing is entirely due to the uncertainty of our relations with Upper Burmah. The Chamber attribute this uncertainty mainly to the action of the Government in sending reinforcements to British Burmah, and in stationing upon our northern frontier a large military force which may at any time, according to general belief, advance on Upper Burmah, so that a continual expectation of imminent hostilities is maintained.

3. In forwarding this letter you remark that the commercial distress cannot properly be ascribed to the reinforcement of the garrison in British Burmah; inasmuch as the additional troops were sent in consequence of the uncertainty of our relations with Mandalay, and by reason of the danger thereby caused to our own possessions and to the lives of Europeans at Mandalay. Your view is that concurrent reports received during the months of February and March last attested the fact that the Mandalay Government were making formidable military preparations which could only be directed against the British Government; that, in such circumstances, the omission of precautionary measures for reinforcing the garrison of the province would have amounted to culpable negligence, and that to describe those measures as the cause of our uncertain relations with Mandalay is inconsistent and confusing.

4. It appears to his Excellency in Council that it would be superfluous to discuss with the Chamber of Commerce the question of our military dispositions for the general defence of British Burmah. The stagnation of trade must undoubtedly be attributed (whether directly or indirectly is not material) to the uncertainty of our relations with Mandalay. You are decidedly of opinion, not only that it was necessary to strengthen the garrison of British Burmah but also that any relaxation of military precautions would still be highly imprudent; so that, while you sympathise deeply with the mercantile community in their anxieties and losses, you consider that the reinforcements must be retained for the general protection of the Province from the risks and perils to which it

is still exposed. It is plain, indeed, that the situation is of a character which you continue to regard with considerable anxiety.

5. This being the general complexion and prospect of affairs, you have submitted your opinion that the Government of India should, as speedily as possible, come to some understanding with the Government of Upper Burmah; and, further, you agree with the Chamber that advantage should be taken of the present opportunity to enforce measures for the consolidation and security of commercial relations with Mandalay. Your latest letter concludes with a request for early instructions on all matters under reference in connection with the protection of the frontier and the improvement of relations with the Burmese Court.

6. His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council believes that, taken together, all the opinions to which you have given expression in this correspondence may be rightly interpreted as indicating that there is but one line of action which in your judgment is open to the Government of India. Assuming the state of our relations with Mandalay to be still, as you reported them to be last June, so exceedingly precarious that this Government must maintain with unabated vigilance full preparations for a war which it has no desire to provoke; and accepting your conclusion that some early solution of this unsatisfactory situation should be sought, and advantage taken of the present opportunity to enforce a revision of commercial engagements with Upper Burmah—the necessary inference is that the course recommended on your telegrams of last March, and to which reference is renewed in your letter of the 22nd May, is the course you still advocate. That course is to demand from the Court of Mandalay immediate explanations of those military preparations which have depressed the trade and alarmed the commercial community of British Burmah.

7. If it has become essential to discover an immediate issue out of the predicament described in your correspondence now before the Government of India, without doubt this can be done expeditiously and effectually by requiring the Burmese King to explain his military preparations, on the express ground that they are a standing menace to the peace of our province. To such a demand the King might see fit to defer, by reducing his levies, and satisfying us that his intentions were peaceful. In that case, the reinforcements sent for the protection of British Burmah might be withdrawn, and public confidence would be restored; although, if we desired to push our advantage further, and to use the opportunity for insisting on a revision of our commercial relations, additional pressure would certainly be needed. But it is obvious that in his present temper the King of Burmah would only submit to our demands under the strongest conviction of our determination to enforce them by arms, if the remonstrances of our representative were disregarded. Without unmistakable evidence of such a determination on the part of the British Government, he might refuse point-blank either to explain or discontinue his armaments; a refusal not unlikely to be followed by the more vigorous prosecution of them. In that case the step you suggest would have increased rather than diminished the commercial embarrassments complained of by the Chamber. The crisis would inevitably become sharper; especially if the Government's next step were to withdraw its Resident from Mandalay and to call on all British subjects to depart with him. If we are not prepared to act up to a hostile demonstration, if we intend to preserve a defensive attitude; in that case the formal recall of our Resident, following upon a demand for explanations, could only produce still greater uncertainty than now prevails as to our real policy and designs.

8. It appears to the Governor-General in Council that the adoption of both, or either, of these steps would more probably result in the unavoidable rupture, than in the immediate improvement, of relations between the Government of India and the Court of Mandalay. It need scarcely be observed that war is the natural, and in most cases the necessary, sequel to an open rupture of relations between contiguous States. More especially is this the case when, of the two Governments concerned, the one is civilized, the other barbarous, and demands deliberately put forward by the former have been decisively rejected by the latter. The question, therefore, raised by the facts you have reported and the opinions you have submitted to the Government of India, is whether they render necessary or expedient the adoption of a course calculated to increase the probability of a rupture of relations with the Court of Mandalay. The Governor-General in Council understands that your desire for speedy instructions on the whole case thus laid before his Excellency is tantamount to a request for an early and definite decision on this question.

9. In reply, I am to state that the Governor-General is unable to recognize in the present condition of relations with the Burmese Government any sufficient cause to modify the views already expressed for your guidance in regard to them. In letters

received from you, you have observed that it is impossible to remain indifferent to the King's disregard of public remonstrances elicited from the British Government by his barbarities. But the exposure of the lives of Her Majesty's subjects in an unprovoked war with the King of Burmah would not in the opinion of his Excellency in Council be justified by the fact that this Prince, whilst at peace with the British Government, has barbarously taken the lives of his own subjects or relatives. The British Government is not called upon to redress every wrong, or punish every misdeed, of which it has expressed abhorrence. Nor does the King's disregard of our remonstrances in this matter encourage recourse to remonstrance which the British Government is not prepared to support by force, with reference to the other matters mentioned in the correspondence here under review.

10. The questions connected with Karennee are local questions susceptible of local settlement. It is not desirable to complicate their treatment by associating them with others of a more general and far-reaching character. The issues raised by them are side issues to be dealt with on their own merits; and on the subject of them you have already received separate instructions.

11. The question of our commercial relations with Mandalay is much more important. The condition of these relations has been for many years increasingly unsatisfactory; nor is it surprising that it should cause considerable irritation to the representatives of the trade now suffering from it—a trade which seems susceptible of rapid and important development under any conditions less unfavourable than those which now afflict it. The Governor-General in Council recognises with regret the extent to which the trade of British Burmah has been depressed by the uncontrolled course of events beyond the frontiers of that province, and the improbability of its improvement until some serious effort has been made by the British Government for the attainment of that object. But his Excellency does not consider the present moment opportune either for undertaking the rectification of commercial relations, or for pushing to a practical issue the many minor differences still unsettled between the British Government and the Court of Mandalay. It only remains, therefore, to consider whether the King of Burmah's continued military preparations are of such a character as to necessitate or justify recourse to the steps recommended in your above-mentioned communications to this Department.

12. The Governor-General in Council is of opinion that these steps would be perfectly proper and expedient if the King's military preparations were so formidable as to be a serious danger to British territory or British lives. But such a conclusion could only be adopted on the clearest evidence.

13. It is of course impossible to calculate with confidence the probable acts or intentions of such a Government as that of Upper Burmah. Your position at Rangoon gives you special opportunities for observing and estimating the course of events; but the Viceroy can only estimate their character and tendency by careful reference to the information you have laid before him. This information has not convinced his Excellency that the Mandalay Government actually contemplates such a suicidal proceeding as an unprovoked attack upon British territory, or any serious insult or aggression, on a Government well known to be fully prepared not only to protect its possessions but also to inflict severe punishment on such an assailant. In February and March last, when the King was excited by his own barbarities, and greatly alarmed at the possible consequences of his disregard of our remonstrances, it became obviously prudent to secure the British frontier, and to support the British Resident then placed in a very critical position, by a display of military strength, and readiness to use it in an emergency. Accordingly, the Government of India, acting on the advice of yourself, Mr. Shaw, and others well acquainted with British Burmah, reinforced the garrison of the province. This measure undoubtedly fulfilled its immediate objects; for it placed our frontier beyond risk of violation; it inspired caution at Mandalay; and it probably added much to the security, and something to the influence, of the Resident. Mr. Shaw wrote in April that the effect of the arrival of the troops on the frontier had already been considerable. He said that it was, in great part, our military preparedness which had rendered improbable an attack on our Burmese border, and prevented "certain occurrences" at Mandalay. He did not then, he said, anticipate any sudden attack on British territory by the forces of the Burmese Government. The Mandalay Ministers, on their side, have not disguised their uneasiness at our attitude; they have since earnestly asked that the reinforcements might be withdrawn, and Mr. Shaw reported more than once that they were sedulously avoiding any act likely to give us serious offence. They have indeed shown, on more than one recent occasion, a desire to avoid

quarrel, and even to conciliate our representative in minor matters; though it is nevertheless thoroughly understood that upon any material question they are by no means disposed to friendly concessions. So far, in short, as the state of parties and feelings at Mandalay can be judged from reports and diaries, there is reason to believe that the Burmese are fully alive to the consequences of a rupture with the Government of India; that they have a profound distrust of the declarations made to them through the Resident that our military movements were strictly defensive and precautionary; and, that while preparing for the event of a collision, they have no inclination to provoke it.

14. The prevailing impression, indeed, on both sides of the frontier appears to be, not that the Burmese are meditating aggression upon the British possessions, but that the Government of India is contemplating some early and decisive change of its present declared policy of reserve and precaution. The Chamber of Commerce undoubtedly shared this opinion, and is much disappointed that its expectations have not been fulfilled; for the letter which you forward betrays no apprehension whatever of the Mandalay preparations; while it complains that our measures for the improvement of relations with Upper Burmah have stopped half-way. In British Burmah people have been evidently hoping, and in Upper Burmah they have probably been fearing, that we designed to use our power to force conclusions with the King upon the various matters of difference which unquestionably exist between the two Governments. The Chamber of Commerce expresses anxiety lest the present opportunity should pass without being seized by the Government of India to impose upon Upper Burmah a revision of our commercial relations; and the expression they have given to this anxiety is pointedly endorsed in your letter. It was natural, and probably inevitable, that our military movements should have produced these impressions; and they were sure to increase, for the time, the sense of agitation and political insecurity in both countries. But it is for this reason all the more essential to guard against the tendency of such apprehensions and anticipations to realize themselves; and this we can only do by steadily adhering to the line of policy already proclaimed.

15. In reply, therefore, to the letter from the Chamber of Commerce the Governor-General in Council can only instruct you to express his great regret that the course of affairs has been so unfavourable to the merchants of Rangoon, and that their trade has suffered so heavily from the strained character of relations with Mandalay. The Government fully understands that you, as Chief Commissioner of the Province, necessarily sympathize very closely with the distress and disappointment prevailing at the headquarters of your administration, and the difficulties of your position are thoroughly appreciated. Nevertheless, it is necessary to remind the Chamber that, from the beginning of these complications, you have repeatedly declared the measures taken by the Government of India to be defensive and precautionary; and that there has at no time been any authorised foundation for the presumption that they were taken with ulterior intentions. Upon the statement, in the letter from the Chamber, that the causes of the depression of trade lie entirely within the control of Government, it may be observed that while the Government undertakes full responsibility for the security of British territory, it cannot answer for contingencies dependent on the behaviour of the King of Burmah; and that the responsibility for the present unstable and troublesome condition of affairs lies mainly with his Majesty. The Government of India by no means underrates the serious inconvenience of leaving its relations with Mandalay in a state of ambiguity and suspense; but so long as the continuance of peace is, in your judgment, very doubtful, it appears impossible that you should give the Chamber a more definite or satisfactory answer.

16. On the question, however, of the present condition and tendencies of our relations with the Court of Ava it will be well that you should consult Colonel Horace Browne, whose knowledge and experience of Burmese affairs give special weight to his opinion. If, after a careful study of the situation from both sides of the frontier, you are convinced by further evidence that the Burmese armaments are assuming such dangerous proportions as to render the continuance of our present attitude disadvantageous to the security of the Province, and the maintenance of peace upon its frontiers, your views and proposals should then be submitted, in full, for the consideration of the Government of India.

No. 18.

DESPATCH to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL,
dated India Office, No. 29, August 7, 1879.

MY LORD,

1. I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of the Letter of your Excellency's Government, No 156, dated the 30th June last, with enclosed diaries from the late Resident at Mandalay, giving particulars of the inhuman treatment to which certain members of the Burmese Royal Family are reported to have been subjected by order of the King.

2. There is but too much reason to fear that further massacres have been committed, while it appears certain that several ladies of the Royal Family are treated with the grossest cruelty.

3. Her Majesty's Government share the disgust which is felt by your Excellency in Council at the King's proceedings, and approve of your having instructed the Resident at Mandalay to take an early opportunity of making their sentiments known to the Burmese Ministers.

(Signed) CRANBROOK.

No. 19.

No. 178 of 1879.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HONOURABLE VISCOUNT CRANBROOK, Her Majesty's Secretary
of State for India.

MY LORD,

Simla, August 11, 1879.

IN continuation of our despatch No. 165, dated 21st July last, we have the honour to enclose, for your Lordship's information, further correspondence on the present state of our relations with the King of Burmah, and upon the position of our Resident at His Majesty's Court.

2. Upon the death, on the 15th June last, of Mr. R. B. Shaw at Mandalay, the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah proposed by telegram to send Colonel H. A. Browne immediately to take up the duties of the Residency, until permanent arrangements could be made; and to this the Government of India agreed. The Chief Commissioner had, however, represented previously, with some emphasis, his view that the treatment of our Resident by the Court of Mandalay was becoming more and more unsatisfactory, to a degree that exposed us to actual discredit; and the subject had for some time engaged our attention.

3. The question of withdrawing our Resident publicly and formally had been considered and set aside by the Government of India, chiefly upon reasons of general policy which are fully discussed in our letter of the 14th July last to the Chief Commissioner. But the vacancy in the office caused by Mr. Shaw's death placed this question before us under a new aspect; and rendered it very doubtful whether, under the circumstances described by Mr. Aitchison and others, it would be desirable to replace him by a permanent successor, if it should appear from the reports of those best qualified to form a judgment of the state of affairs on the spot that the presence of a British Resident at Mandalay is no longer advantageous, but the reverse. The Chief Commissioner was accordingly requested to report confidentially whether he would advise, as matters now stand, that a permanent Resident should be appointed to relieve Colonel Browne of his temporary charge; and Colonel Browne himself, whose long experience of Burmese affairs gives much weight to his opinion, was desired to advise the Government upon the same point, after careful survey of the situation as he might find it at Mandalay.

4. Mr. Aitchison's confidential memorandum on the question of withdrawing the Resident forms one of the enclosures to this letter. At the time of despatching his memorandum he had not received the letter addressed to him on 14th July from the Foreign Department, and on its receipt he telegraphed that the course suggested in his memorandum would be incompatible with the policy explained by that letter. In his subsequent letter, of the 24th July, he has stated that unless the withdrawal of the Resident is to be a step preliminary to a general settlement of our differences with Burmah, he cannot recommend it. The opinion of Colonel Browne, on the other hand,

is in favour of leaving the office temporarily vacant, a junior officer being retained to carry on routine business; and he supports his view by a forceable description of the actual state of affairs at Mandalay, and of the devices by which the influence and position of the British Resident are being systematically discredited and depressed.

5. After a full review of all the circumstances and considerations represented by this correspondence, we have come to the conclusion that Colonel Horace Browne should be directed to return from Mandalay at an early opportunity, and that no permanent Resident need, for the present, be appointed to replace him. Our reasons for this decision are indicated in the confidential letter addressed by our Secretary in the Foreign Department on the 5th August 1879 to the Chief Commissioner; and this letter conveys also to Mr. Aitchison the necessary instructions for arranging the manner of Colonel Browne's withdrawal. It appeared to us evident that the appointment of a new Resident to Mandalay, with the usual formalities implying amicable intercourse between the two Governments, would only add to the embarrassment of the existing situation. The appointment does not seem necessary; it would be attended with no advantage; and the King of Burmah, in his present temper, would almost certainly misconstrue the proceeding to our disparagement. Mr. St. Barbe, the Officiating Political Agent at Bhamo, who will remain at Mandalay for the present, is quite competent to transact ordinary business with the Burmese officials upon the footing to which the intercourse between the Residency and the Ministers has now been reduced.

We have, &c.

(Signed) LYTTON.
 " F. P. HAINES.
 " A. J. ARBUTHNOT.
 " A. CLARKE.
 " JOHN STRACHEY.
 " E. B. JOHNSON.
 " W. STOKES.
 " A. R. THOMPSON.

Enclosure 1 in No. 19.

LETTER FROM OFFICIATING RESIDENT at Mandalay to SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Foreign Department, dated Mandalay, 17th July 1879.

D.-O.—The question of withdrawing the Residency from Mandalay has been answered, I think by me in anticipation, in my letter of the 10th instant, in consequence of Mr. Aitchison having previously asked me by telegram to give my views upon the matter.

You appear to have come to the same conclusion on the subject as I had, viz., that the complete withdrawal of the Residency at the present moment, unless we have some case which is considered by the Government of India sufficiently strong to warrant its taking energetic measures at once, might possibly compromise British interests.

Such a decisive step as the total withdrawal of the Residency might probably, and indeed in my opinion would almost certainly, precipitate a domestic crisis in Upper Burmah, but we must not leave out of our calculations the possibility of its not doing so—and then, as you remark, "it is not clear that the Burmese might not shut the door behind the departing Resident in a manner that would make it difficult to find a creditable pretext for returning."

Our complete departure without any prospect of ulterior measures being taken by the Indian Government, would (in the event of the King managing to tide over the excitement which such a step would cause) be a complete triumph for Theebaw, who does not conceal his desire to be rid of the presence of a British Resident in his capital, and who has been restrained from taking some steps to effect his purpose only by the urgent remonstrances, or rather the passive resistance, of the party of order, who believe that such a step would only result in bringing the Burmese monarchy to an untimely end.

The folly and ignorant arrogance of the Court party however is so great that, in the event of any successful intrigue placing the entire management of affairs in their hands, they would without doubt turn us all out, even if they did not resort to still more extreme measures.

I cannot say that I see any symptoms which would lead me to believe that there is any prospect of such an intrigue being immediately successful, but the longer the present King continues to reign, and to consolidate his power by the slaughter of all

those inimical to him, the greater will be the chance of such an intrigue coming to a head.

Although, therefore, I would not recommend the entire withdrawal of the British Residency, unless the Government of India considers that it has sufficient grounds for pushing matters to a conclusion immediately after such withdrawal, I certainly think that the retention of a high official here as Resident has anything but a good effect upon our prestige. It does not improve our position in the eyes of the people, for instance, to allow them to see me, a well-known official in British Burmah, and considered of some importance by our own subjects, reduced to a mere cipher under the shadow of the golden foot in absolute confinement as regards communication with other people, (not a single respectable non-official being allowed to approach me,) living in a compound surrounded by Burman guards and spies, and unable to obtain any information of what is going on around me, except in a roundabout and unsatisfactory manner, and generally quite unable to obtain any redress for British subjects.

Perhaps the best course to steer for the present would be a middle one between the retention of the present staff and total withdrawal. The Resident only might be withdrawn, and a minor officer left to act simply as a channel of communication between either the Government of India direct, or the Government of India through the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, and Upper Burmah.

This would give time to the few remaining British subjects (Indian or Chinese) to clear out of Mandalay, and they would not be slow I think to take the hint. In announcing this arrangement to the Burmese Government it might be stated, if the Indian Government thinks fit, that it is made in consequence of the unsatisfactory conduct and attitude of the Burman Government; or if the Indian Government does not think that the time has come for resorting to threatening and disquieting language, other excuses might be found. It might be said, for instance, that my services were required in Pegu, and no other Resident would be appointed until a new Residency has been erected for the accommodation of the Resident. The present Residency, it may be remarked, is a most uncomfortable place of residence for any one who has been accustomed to live in a decent house with a water-tight roof over his head.

I would recommend some course of this kind in preference to anything which could be construed as a menace, as the British subjects would then have a better chance of being allowed to clear out. There can be no doubt that, if any threatening language is used, every British subject will be seized and his property confiscated, and they will be lucky if they escape with their lives. This of course is supposing that the threat does not at once tumble King Theebaw off his tottering throne.

With regard to our grievances against the Burmese Government, I presume that the Government of India would not consider any personal grievances, such as gross denials of justice to British subjects, sufficient ground to pick a quarrel upon. We have borne with these so long that it would seem ungracious and inconsistent on our part to take them up seriously. Neither I fancy is the "shoe question" one for the settlement of which the Government would resort to forcible measures.

(Signed) HORACE A. BROWNE.

Enclosure 2 in No. 19.

CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM ON MANDALAY AFFAIRS, received 26th July 1879, under demi-official cover, from CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burmah.

I SUBMIT as requested my opinion on the question whether, under present circumstances, a Resident should be appointed to Mandalay in succession to the late Mr. Shaw.

2. My opinion is that no successor to Mr. Shaw should be appointed unless, and until, we receive from the Burmese Government satisfactory assurances of a change of attitude on their part and of their consent to a revision of our general relations with them. The re-appointment of a Resident at the present time without some such assurances would not only encourage the Burmese Government in their ungracious behaviour in those numerous little questions, on the satisfactory settlement of which harmonious relations greatly depend, but would be interpreted by them as a complete condonation of the disregard they have shown to our remonstrances against the inhuman executions at Mandalay.

3. Our present relations with the Burmese Government so far from being cordial or satisfactory are barely even friendly. While admitting the imperative force of the

circumstances which have compelled us for a time to accept the situation, one may be permitted to hope that the revision of our relations and the establishment of political and commercial affairs on a sound and permanent basis will not be postponed longer than those circumstances absolutely require. Every day's acquiescence in the present state of things adds to the difficulty of a quiet reform and makes us waiters upon accident. If, after all that has taken place within the last few months, we should now re-appoint a Resident or retain Colonel Browne indefinitely at Mandalay as if nothing untoward had happened, the Burmese Government could hardly fail to be inspired with the belief that we, for our part, are content to let things go on as they have been doing.

EXTRACTS from demi-official LETTERS from COLONEL BROWNE, on Special Duty at Mandalay, dated 26th June and 7th July 1879 (Confidential).

"MILITARY display and bluster seem to be confined exclusively to the capital, and as long as the First Minister retains the control of the armed force, I don't think much harm will be done. But if the Palace party could oust the First Minister, as they no doubt would like to do, the danger will be great.

"The interior of the Palace now seems to be the centre of political influence, and from that of course all foreigners are rigidly excluded. It is somewhat difficult to know what the existing Government of Burmah consists of. The First Minister, formerly known as the Keng Woon Mengyee, still manages to keep his head above water, and as long as he does so probably nothing very rash will be done as regards foreigners. But his influence inside the palace appears to be small. There the ignorant, arrogant, drunken boy-king is surrounded by a set of parvenu sycophants, the men of massacre and bloodshed, all of them ignorant and savage enough to urge him on to any further atrocities. The reinforcements in British Burmah appear to have been the only thing which has had any sobering influence on this set.

"Though I have now been here a fortnight, I have not succeeded in having any personal communication with any leading members of the Government (beyond the first ceremonial visits). It is said the Court party is averse to allowing any one to hold personal intercourse with me without an interpreter. It is believed that I have come in the Nyoung Yan's interest, and that I really have the much-talked-of ultimatum in my pocket! Requests for a visit from the Myotha Woondouk, the usual medium of communication, have been followed by the disgrace of that official. No cause for this is openly assigned, but the general impression is that they have determined that no one shall be on as intimate terms with me as that unfortunate man was with Shaw.

"I am afraid my deputation here has not been productive of much good. It seems rather to have retarded current business. The Mixed Court, for instance, has been practically closed in consequence of the refusal to allow the Myotha Woondouk to come here.

"The object now is apparently to isolate the Resident, as was done in King Tharrawaddy's time, when they shut him up on an island so that he could communicate with no one."

Enclosure 3 in No. 19.

LETTER from the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Foreign Department, to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burmah, dated Simla, the 5th August 1879.

D.-O.—I have to acknowledge receipt of your confidential memorandum on Mandalay affairs, sent demi-officially; and I have also received from yourself and from Colonel Browne a series of demi-official letters, written at different dates in the month of July last, upon the present state of our relations with Upper Burmah.

All these papers have been attentively considered by his Excellency the Viceroy in Council, with special reference to the question of appointing a permanent successor to Mr. Shaw, as Resident at Mandalay. It appears that you and Colonel Browne substantially agree in the opinion that the British Residency at Mandalay ought not to be formally and entirely withdrawn, unless the Government of India are prepared for the

contingencies that may follow such a measure. It is to be expected that a public dissolution, by such an act, of our diplomatic intercourse with Upper Burmah would be generally interpreted as the forerunner of a rupture, or at least as the outcome of some serious change of policy—and the step would probably accelerate a crisis of some kind. Or else, on the other hand, the Mandalay Government, which according to Colonel Browne desires to be rid of the presence of our Resident, might accept and register the formal withdrawal as a final removal of the British representative from its capital; so that we might find ourselves precluded from replacing him hereafter, until some radical change of the whole situation should have supervened; and this might not happen for a long time.

Upon these considerations, and after receipt of my letter of the 14th July explaining the present policy of the Government of India, you advise against the withdrawal of the Resident, and you would accept the alternative of letting matters go on their way. Colonel Browne, however, is in favour of a middle course; he thinks, for reasons given in his letters, that whenever he can be spared to return to British Burmah, it will be sufficient, and even expedient, to leave a junior officer to carry on the routine duties.

His Excellency the Viceroy is quite of your opinion that we cannot openly break off diplomatic relations with Upper Burmah unless we have calculated, and are fully prepared to deal with, the probable consequences of such a proceeding. And if we had appointed a permanent successor to Mr. Shaw, it would be a serious question whether we should now in any way recall him. But the point immediately before the Government of India is whether, on the termination of Colonel Browne's temporary deputation, on an obvious emergency, to Mandalay, a new Resident should be accredited, with all the ordinary formalities implying an amicable intercourse between two Governments, to a Court which has been treating his predecessor with studied unfriendliness and undisguised attempts to humiliate him, and to neutralize his influence.

His Excellency the Viceroy would be most reluctant to take such a step, which cannot but appear derogatory to the Government of India at Rangoon and Mandalay, unless it has been proved that it is unavoidable; and it does not appear to his Excellency, from the correspondence now before the Government, that the necessity has been established. At this moment the position of Colonel Browne at Mandalay is evidently undignified, inconsistent with the objects for which a Resident was placed there, and incompatible with the rank and prestige which the representative of our Government ought to maintain. The Burmese appear to have adopted a system of isolating him from all friendly communications with the people; and they have made new difficulties about allowing even Ministers, who are suspected of being well inclined toward our Government, to pay our Resident the ordinary official visits. This behaviour does not, as Colonel Browne observe, improve our prestige in the eyes of the Burmese; and indeed the object of the Court seems to be to bring down the influence and consideration of our Resident as low as possible.

In these circumstances, his Excellency the Viceroy cannot but conclude that it would not only be useless but positively disadvantageous at present to appoint a new Resident to relieve Colonel Browne. He would arrive as our permanent representative, and as he would necessarily fall, at the beginning, into the position to which Colonel Browne finds himself reduced, he would be thought, and our Government would be thought, to have acquiesced in it. His Excellency the Viceroy fears that this would only entangle us further in a predicament that is already difficult and complicated.

I am therefore to request that you will have the goodness to concert with Colonel Browne some arrangement by which he may take an early opportunity, without unnecessary haste, of quitting Mandalay and resuming his appointment in British Burmah. Mr. St. Barbé should remain, and to him should be made over the charge of the routine duties of the Mandalay Residency. Colonel Browne should be instructed that if when he receives your letter, or before he leaves Mandalay, there should occur any important business, or if some correspondence should be going on which it is requisite that he should conduct and finish, in regard to Karennee affairs, for example, he should use his discretion in postponing his departure. These are contingencies and considerations which you can best settle with him.

Colonel Browne need make no secret at Mandalay of his intention to leave, so soon as your arrangements are completed. In reply to inquiries or remarks from the officials or others he can reply by explaining that his deputation was from the first temporary, to dispose of and generally set in order affairs at the Residency which Mr. Shaw's death might have left disarranged. And, if the opportunity is given, he can give his opinion that the manner in which the present Mandalay Government treats the Resident makes it not worth while for the Government of India to keep an officer of high rank at the

place, so long as the duties to be performed are insignificant, and diplomatic courtesies are studiously neglected. But he should bear in mind that the Government of India desire to reserve full discretion to appoint another Resident at Mandalay whenever they see fit to do so; so that he should carefully abstain from any declaration of which the Burmese Government might take advantage as in any way affecting this right, or implying a contrary intention. The object is that Colonel Browne should leave as quietly as possible without appearing to do so surreptitiously; and his Excellency leaves all details as to time and manner of the withdrawal to be managed by you in consultation with Colonel Browne. I have not been able to write to Mandalay by this mail. Kindly acknowledge receipt of this letter by telegram, and tell me if you require further instructions.

(Signed) A. C. LYALL.

No. 20.

DESPATCH to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL
dated India Office, No. 31, August 21, 1879.

MY LORD,

1. I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of the Letter of your Excellency's Government, No. 165, dated the 21st July last, enclosing, amongst other papers, copy of a letter which you have addressed to the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, under date the 14th July, explaining your general view of the present situation in Upper Burmah, and of the policy which under existing circumstances should be pursued towards the King of Ava.

2. The views of your Excellency in Council are in entire accord with those of Her Majesty's Government, as set forth in my Despatch No. 11, of the 3rd April last. Her Majesty's Government deeply regret the injury to commercial interests in British Burmah which, no doubt, results from the continued uncertainty in regard to the probable course of events beyond the frontier. They, nevertheless, concur in the opinion of your Excellency's Government that, for the present, a policy of reserve and precaution must be maintained, and that, in the absence of plain evidence of aggressive designs on the part of the King of Ava, there are no sufficient grounds for preferring demands upon the Burmese Government, the rejection of which would almost certainly entail an open rupture of relations, and be followed by war.

(Signed) CRANBROOK.

No. 21.

No. 106 of 1879.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HON. VISCOUNT CRANBROOK, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD,

Simla, September 15, 1879.

In paragraph 5 of our despatch, No. 178, dated 11th August 1879, we had the honour to acquaint your Lordship with the reasons which after careful consideration had led us to the conclusion that Colonel Horace Browne, who had been sent to replace Mr. Shaw temporarily as Resident at Mandalay, should be directed to withdraw at an early opportunity, and that no permanent Resident need, for the present, be appointed, but that Mr. St. Barbe might remain at the capital for a time to transact ordinary business with the Burmese officials.

2. Your Lordship was informed by telegram on the 2nd September, that Colonel Browne had left Mandalay in accordance with this decision. He has telegraphed that his departure was attended by no demonstration or notice whatever on the part of the Burmese. Mr. St. Barbe, the Officiating Political Agent at Bhamo, and Mr. Phayre, the Assistant Resident, were left in charge of the Residency Office. Out of regard for their safety, Colonel Browne refrained from saying or doing anything prior to his departure likely to arouse the hostility of the Burmese Government, and therefore he

merely announced that his duties as Commissioner in Pegu required his return thither, and that the Government of India had not decided upon the appointment of his successor.

3. This was the position of affairs during the few remaining days that elapsed before the news of the late catastrophe at Kabul was received by the Government of India. It appeared to us that this intelligence, as soon as it should be publicly known at Mandalay, might to a certain degree affect the situation of British officers at that place, and add to the uncertainty of their position. We accordingly telegraphed to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, that the Government of India left it entirely to his discretion to take any steps he might consider necessary for the personal safety of the officers and escort of the Residency, and on the following day (the 7th instant) he was informed that he had full authority, upon the occurrence of any suitable opportunity, to withdraw the whole Mandalay Agency and escort whenever he should deem this step advisable on account of insecurity at Mandalay. At the same time Mr. Aitchison was instructed that, although any suitable opportunity might be taken for the removal of the Agency, this need not be done in a manner that might be misinterpreted as hasty and unnecessary. Mr. Aitchison has since replied that he has taken steps to convey to Mr. St. Barbe news of the disaster at Kabul, and that he will consult Colonel Browne as to precautionary measures for securing the safety of the members of the Residency.

4. The despatch cited in the first paragraph of this letter will have made it clear to your Lordship that, apart from all considerations of their personal welfare, we shall not view with any great reluctance, under existing circumstances, the withdrawal of our representatives at Mandalay. Our relations with the Burmese Government have latterly been of a character that leaves little hope of advantage, and some risk of disadvantage, from the maintenance of a Residency at the capital. Any further action taken in connection with the departure of Mr. St. Barbe and his companions will be duly reported to your Lordship for the information of Her Majesty's Government. The telegrams alluded to in the preceding paragraphs, and the instructions forwarded to the Chief Commissioner, are enclosed with this despatch.

We have, &c.

(Signed) LYTTON.
" F. P. HAINES.
" A. J. ARBUTHNOT.
" A. CLARKE.
" JOHN STRACHEY.
" E. B. JOHNSON.
" W. STOKES.
" A. R. THOMPSON.

Enclosure 1 in No. 21.

TELEGRAM, dated 6th September 1879, from FOREIGN SECRETARY, Simla, to CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burmah, Prome.

VICEROY wishes you to act completely on your own discretion regarding any measures you may consider necessary for personal safety of officers and escort of Mandalay Residency.

Enclosure 2 in No. 21.

TELEGRAM, dated 7th September 1879, from FOREIGN SECRETARY, Simla, to CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burmah, Prome.

In continuation of my telegram, dated 6th, please understand that you have full authority to withdraw the whole Mandalay Agency and escort whenever you think fit on account of insecurity at Mandalay. Any suitable opportunity for withdrawal may be taken.

Enclosure 3 in No. 21.

TELEGRAM, dated 7th September 1879, from CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burmah, Prome, to FOREIGN SECRETARY, Simla.

TELEGRAPH to Mandalay still interrupted.

Have taken steps to secure to St. Barbe news of deplorable Kabul tragedy reported in your telegram of yesterday; and will consult Colonel Browne as to what precautionary measures regarding Residency may be advisable.

Enclosure 4 in No. 21.

TELEGRAM, dated 7th September 1879.

From Mr. ST. BARBE, Mandalay, through Thayetmyo, to FOREIGN SECRETARY, Simla.

COLONEL BROWNE left this morning for Rangoon, and I assumed charge. No notice was taken of his departure by Burmese authorities.

Enclosure 5 in No. 21.

EXTRACT from a LETTER to C. U. AITCHISON, Esq., C.S.I., Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, dated 9th September, 1879.

ABOUT Mandalay,—it was not easy to express by telegrams exactly the view of the Government. The Viceroy would not, unless you thought the position of the Mandalay officers manifestly unsafe, or becoming so, withdraw them in a way that would look as if the Kabul affairs had alarmed us into a hasty retreat from Mandalay. This would be hardly creditable, so if no unusual cause for apprehension were perceived, you might wait for a suitable opportunity of withdrawing our whole staff and escort with safety, and without producing the appearance of a hurried retreat. But whenever that opportunity occurs, the Government would, on the whole, wish you to take advantage of it, and, unless you are opposed to the measure for material reasons, would be satisfied to learn that we had no British officers or soldiers at the present time beyond our own Burmese frontier. I need not add that the question of appearances is a minor consideration if any unusual cause for apprehension is showing itself; and that you have full discretion to remove the whole staff and escort at once, if you find that going is safer than staying, and that delay may be dangerous.

(Signed) A. C. LYALL.

No. 22.

No. 200 of 1879.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HON. VISCOUNT CRANBROOK, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD, Simla, the 15th September 1879.

WE have the honour to forward, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, a copy of a confidential diary, received from Colonel H. Browne, lately on special duty at Mandalay.

We have, &c.

(Signed) LYTTON.
 " F. P. HAINES.
 " A. J. ARBUTHNOT.
 " A. CLARKE.
 " J. STRACHEY.
 " E. B. JOHNSON.
 " W. STOKES.
 " A. R. THOMPSON.

Enclosure 1 in No. 22.

MANDALAY CONFIDENTIAL DIARY, 1879.

31ST JULY 1879.—Some Madrassi Mahomedan traders complain that a fellow countryman of theirs, one Molla Sa, has just been done to death in the Burmese Jail. He was last seen by his friends on the evening of the 28th instant. That same night he was dragged off to jail in consequence of a quarrel which he had had with his wife. His friends never saw him again, and from all they can learn they believe he died on the night of the 29th–30th instant in consequence of the injuries he had received from being beaten and kept all night in the stocks with his head on the floor and his feet up in the air. All that they could learn from the officials to whom they applied for permission to see their friend was that he had died and had been buried.

Give them a letter at once to the Foreign Minister, requesting that the man's body if he is dead may be given up to his friends in order that the usual funeral ceremonies may be performed. If the body is given up, a post mortem examination can be made.

The men return in the evening and say that the Foreign Minister, after consultation with the Khampat Meng-gyee, informed them that the body could not be given up to them at present, but that they might have it when it was decomposed. Direct them to apply again.

The captain of the Sheng-tsaw-boo reports that when he moored at Menghla on the night of the 26th instant in the usual way, *i.e.*, by fastening ropes to trees on shore, and after he had let off steam, some men, whom he believes were men employed by Molla Ibrahim, cut the ropes, so that he drifted down and narrowly escaped a serious collision with another steamer which was moored close behind him.

Write to Foreign Minister on the subject.

1st August 1879.—Receive letter from Foreign Minister in evening, saying that the Madrassi Molla Sa was imprisoned because he stabbed his divorced wife with a penknife, that he died in jail from eating opium, and that as I had requested it, the body had been given up to his friends.

Late at night his friends appeared, and said they had got the body. It was decomposed, but there were marks of wounds on the back and also on the limbs, the latter such as those which would be caused by "trussing" a man up in the usual Burman style for flogging. Various Burman officials, the friends stated, were watching their proceedings, until they buried the corpse. As there appeared to be abundant evidence to show that the man had died after being grievously ill-treated in the jail, I did not consider it advisable under the circumstances to expose the Residency Doctor to the chance of insult and possible injury by sending him down to again uncover the corpse and examine it.

This evening an angry crowd of royal servants (A-hmu-dans), whom we sometimes dignify with the name of "soldiers," appeared armed with sticks at the gate of the Residency compound and expressed their intention of beating the "Koola" who had struck a dog in the street. The gates were at once closed and three of the most obstreperous who had got inside were captured. It appears that Mr. St. Barbe, who had been out walking in the town, had struck a pariah dog, which ran at him, with his stick. He saw no demonstration against him at the time, and walked home in ignorance of his having given any offence. The crowd must have followed him at a respectful distance for half a mile or so, and did not attract his attention. A few minutes after he had returned the crowd appeared at the gate. When the gates were closed the crowd outside dispersed. The three men who were captured inside were made over to the Burman guard at the gate in order that they might be sent in the morning to the Myotha Wondouk with a letter.

This is the first time Mr. St. Barbe has been out for a walk in the city for some weeks, he having been laid up with sore eyes. I and Dr. Ferris were absent all day on a trip up the river.

2nd August 1879.—Took down the statements of some of the men who exhumed the body of the Madrassi Molla Sa or Mayandi. Their statements are quite sufficient to show that he died after suffering cruel ill-usage at the hands of the Burman jailors. The Foreign Minister's statement that he died from eating opium is of course a deliberate lie.

No. 23.

No. 209 of 1879.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HON. VISCOUNT CRANBROOK, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

(Extract.)

MY LORD,

Simla, the 25th September 1879.

WE have the honour to transmit, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, copies of instructions issued to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, directing him to arrange, as soon as may be practicable, for withdrawing from Mandalay the

officers of the British Residency at that place, together with their staff and escort. We also enclose copy of a letter from Colonel Horace Browne, dated 5th September, upon receipt of which (on the 19th September) we decided that these instructions must issue.

We have, &c.
 (Signed) LYTTON.
 " F. P. HAINES.
 " A. J. ARBUTHNOT.
 " A. CLARKE.
 " JOHN STRACHEY.
 " E. B. JOHNSON.
 " W. STOKES.
 " A. R. THOMPSON.

Enclosure 1 in No. 23, dated Prome, 8th September 1879.

From G. D. BURGESS, Esq., B.C.S., Officiating Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, to A. C. LYALL, Esq., C.B., Secretary to Government of India, Foreign Department.

I AM directed by the Chief Commissioner to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 6th instant, in which the Chief Commissioner is directed to act on his own discretion regarding any measures he may consider necessary for the personal safety of the officers of the Mandalay Residency, and your telegram of the 7th instant, in which the Chief Commissioner is informed that he has full authority to withdraw the whole Mandalay Agency and escort whenever he thinks fit, on account of insecurity at Mandalay, and that any suitable opportunity for withdrawal may be taken.

2. Immediately on receipt of the former message, a telegram was despatched to Mr. St. Barbe, to ask whether the intelligence from Kabul, when known at Mandalay, would render any special measures necessary, and if so, how the Chief Commissioner could best help him. There is an interruption in the telegraph line to Mandalay, but special arrangements were made for despatching the message at Minhla, the first open telegram station beyond the frontier, and a post copy of it was also sent to Mandalay by the first opportunity. There has not yet been time to receive a reply from Mr. St. Barbe. It is possible, judging by late occurrences, that the telegram may be delayed or kept back altogether. News has just been received that it was sent off from Minhla at 4 p.m. yesterday. To assist in keeping up communication, a signaller acquainted with the Burmese telegraph offices has been sent up to Minhla. Steps have also been taken to prevent the unfavourable news from Kabul reaching Mandalay before Mr. St. Barbe is apprised of it.

3. With regard to your second telegram the action taken has been as follows: Colonel Browne, who had returned from Mandalay a few days previously, was summoned by telegraph to meet the Chief Commissioner at Prome. After careful and anxious deliberation, a telegram, of which a copy is enclosed, and which the Chief Commissioner trusts will meet the approval of his Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council, was despatched to Mr. St. Barbe early this morning. The Chief Commissioner would naturally have preferred to give instructions to Mr. Barbe to hold fast to his post and to make preparations to protect him if necessary, since withdrawal, in the face of recent intelligence, would be open to misconstruction into an admission of weakness to which it would be desirable to give no colour. But the Chief Commissioner is advised by officers well acquainted with the Burmese Court, to whose opinion great deference is due, that protective measures would be futile, for any attempt to send the G. I. steamer "Irrawaddy" or a larger guard to Mandalay, the only practicable steps possible, would be the certain signal for the seizure of the British officers at Mandalay, and that the passage of the steamer and escort would be forcibly resisted. A similar opinion was expressed by the late Resident, Mr. Shaw, when it was proposed to send the "Irrawaddy" to his help in February last.

4. All recent reports from Mandalay agree in representing the position of the British officers there as precarious. The temper of the people at Mandalay is said to be insolent and aggressive, and significant indications of its tendencies are afforded by circumstances which have lately occurred, such as a mob following Mr. St. Barbe to the Residency gates, the ill-treatment of the clerk of the Bhamo Agency, the cruel and wanton putting to death of a British subject, a native of India, and the gross and unprovoked assault committed on the Residency Surgeon. So long as the Kinwon Mingyee and his adherents can maintain their influence, the hostile feeling, which

undoubtedly exists, may perhaps be kept under a certain amount of control, but should any event overturn their power and place the Palace party in supreme authority, it would be impossible to count upon the slightest exercise of restraint.

5. It seemed, therefore, to the Chief Commissioner that the question to be answered was whether the receipt of intelligence of a disaster such as has happened at Kabul would so aggravate the danger of a situation already uneasy as to make it imprudent to run the risk of leaving the officers of the Residency exposed to its probable consequences. Under the circumstances existing at Mandalay a much smaller matter might suffice to turn the scale. The Chief Commissioner was accordingly of opinion that if the intelligence of affairs at Kabul should appreciably increase the insecurity of the position of the Agency at Mandalay, it should be withdrawn, and he directed Mr. St. Barbe to withdraw if he considered this effect would be produced to such an extent as to lead him to ask for the assistance which, for the reasons already explained, could not be furnished without imperilling his safety.

6. At the same time it appeared to the Chief Commissioner impracticable to anticipate by positive instructions every contingency at Mandalay which might so increase the insecurity of the officers there as to render withdrawal advisable, while, in the present imperfect and uncertain state of telegraphic communication, it would be dangerous to wait for the actual occurrence of such contingencies. In addition, therefore, to the positive directions explained above, the Chief Commissioner authorised Mr. St. Barbe to withdraw if he deemed it expedient on other grounds to do so. This seemed to the Chief Commissioner to be the intention of the closing portion of your message of the 7th. The Chief Commissioner did not directly connect the discretionary power to Mr. St. Barbe with the insecurity of his position lest the effect of such a limitation should be to induce him to yield to the feeling which causes every English officer to hold to his post as long as it can be held, and to invite a danger which it was a principal object to avoid. The Chief Commissioner has no fears that Mr. St. Barbe will make an unwise use of the discretion given him, and he is confident that the Government of India will agree with him in thinking that the fairest course to Mr. St. Barbe, and the safest that could be taken in British interests, was to put that discretion in his hands.

Enclosure 2 in No. 23.

TELEGRAM, dated September 8, 1879.

From CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burmah, Prome, to H. L. ST. BARBE, Esq., Mandalay.

GOVERNMENT of India has given the Chief Commissioner full discretion to withdraw Mandalay Residency. Chief Commissioner is advised that it will be difficult or impossible without risk of hostilities or certain danger to you to send material assistance in case of need. If, therefore, publication of Kabul news at Mandalay appreciably increases the insecurity of your position so that if it were not impracticable as aforesaid to take special measures for your protection, you would apply for them, you are directed to withdraw.

If you consider it expedient to withdraw on other grounds you are also authorised to do so. In event of withdrawal you should attend to the following points. The Residency records, which should be kept ready packed, should be brought with you. Such British subjects and others whom you may consider it necessary to warn, should quietly receive notice of your intention to withdraw. The entire guard should be brought away. Intended departure should be intimated to Burmese Government with not too long an interval. If reasons of withdrawal be asked, they should be informed that it is under orders of Government, but has no hostile signification. Manner of withdrawal is left to you. Make earliest possible communication of your intentions to Chief Commissioner.

Enclosure 3 in No. 23.

Rangoon, September 5, 1879.

I LEFT Mandalay on the 29th August, or nearly a week after the receipt of the orders of Government on the subject of my departure, as conveyed in your demi-official letter of the 5th August to the Chief Commissioner.

As directed in the instructions conveyed, I took care that my departure was not surreptitious—the Burmese Ministers having had five days' informal and three days' formal notice of my intention to leave.

As regards the desired quietness of my departure, the Burmese Ministers certainly assisted me to the utmost of their power, for not a single one of them took the slightest notice of me after my approaching departure was made known to them.

A few additional shrieks for help from the unfortunate lady-captives in the Palace, and a message from the Queen Dowager, who expressed her regret at my departure, and wanted my advice as to whether she could do anything to bring about a more satisfactory state of things—were the only expressions of opinion elicited by the announcement of my approaching departure.

As the Burmese Ministers carefully avoided me, they gave me no opportunity of making any remarks, as it was suggested in your instructions that I should do, regarding the cause of my departure, but even if they had given me any such opportunity, I should have hesitated, as I informed you by telegram, to avail myself of it, out of regard for the safety of those who are left in the Residency and the other British subjects in Mandalay. Had I been able to have a private interview with the Foreign Minister I might have ventured to hint at the reasons I believed the Government of India had for feeling dissatisfied with the present position of affairs, leaving it to his judgment to communicate the information to such of his colleagues as he could trust, but such an interview I know the Foreign Minister dared not give, he himself being at present in a somewhat precarious position.

To have made any remarks which could in any way have been distasteful to the Palace party in the presence of any one of that party itself, or in the presence of any one who would be sure to convey them to the ears of that party, would have been much the same as leaving behind me a lighted slow match in a powder magazine.

There seems no doubt that such influence as the Foreign Minister and his small party have hitherto possessed is rapidly on the wane, and that the whole power of the State is being gradually monopolized by the brutalized and hardly rational human animals who form the Palace party. It is about as easy to calculate what will happen on the downfall of the Foreign Minister as it would be to fortell the several courses likely to be pursued by a number of savage animals in a menagerie if the bars of their cages and their keepers were suddenly removed. Perhaps they might attack one another. Perhaps they might select other victims. There can be no doubt, however, but that on such a contingency occurring, the occupants of the British Residency, would be in a very considerable danger. There is in fact a certain amount of danger in their position even now, as there has been for some months past, from the impossibility of knowing at what moment a crisis may occur. On several occasions before Mr. Shaw's death, and once since I have been in Mandalay, designs have been deliberately formed and preparations actually made for wiping out the Residency. My authority for believing that an attack was intended in my time is one of the princesses in the Palace, who, from the proved correctness of the information she has given me in other minor matters, has evidently good means of knowing what is going on. That none of these blood-thirsty designs have as yet been carried out may be attributed partly to the natural slowness of the Burman and his inveterate habit of procrastination when any serious enterprise is to be undertaken, and partly to the opposition of the small party of order, which has sufficient knowledge to be aware that the effect of such a coup would be fatal to the Burman monarchy. This party has hitherto succeeded in persuading the others to postpone violent action to a more convenient opportunity, and has assured them that their object can be more certainly obtained by quietly edging the foreigners out of the country, a task which they have undertaken to carry out. The disappearance of the check now maintained by this party of order over the other would of course add very materially to the dangers by which the Residency is surrounded.

The instructions given to Mr. Shaw about withdrawing were that he was to leave if at any time he considered his personal safety to be endangered. These instructions you have reiterated for Mr. St. Barbe's guidance. From the statements of those who were personally intimate with Mr. Shaw, I am led to believe that he considered that the onus of choosing a time for departure being thrown upon him might be productive of serious consequences. Since the massacres of February, there have been very few weeks during which those in the Residency have considered themselves absolutely free from danger, and every now and then they have had good reasons for believing themselves to be in imminent danger. But before adopting the serious step of leaving the Residency, it was naturally felt that to save the Resident from any subsequent unpleasant imputations of undue haste on his part, it was necessary that he should have in his possession some very tangible proof of the imminency of the danger. But the circumstances in which the Resident is situated almost preclude the possibility of any such proof being obtainable. The two chief originating causes of the periodically recurring alarms are the known

character of the "anti-humans" now in power, and the reports which are from time to time received from well-wishers in Mandalay regarding the malevolent designs which are formed against the Residency. But the character of the men in power is known to the Government of India as well as it is to the Resident, and if the Government of India does not consider this a sufficient reason for being alarmed for the safety of the Resident, obviously it would not be proper for the Resident to do so either. As for the reports and warnings received, they are necessarily of such a nature, that though the Resident on the spot might see reason to place faith in them, they would be liable to be looked upon by outsiders as somewhat flimsy grounds for forming an opinion on. Their authorship also, for the sake of the author's safety, must necessarily be kept a secret. However much convinced therefore the Resident might be in his own mind as to the actuality of an impending danger, he would feel constrained in the absence of tangible proof to stick to his post at all risks. No harm has hitherto resulted from following this policy, but it is by no means certain that if adhered to still it may not be productive of some catastrophe. In fact, I should say that, if adhered to long enough, something of the kind is certain, sooner or later, to happen.

I would beg to suggest the advisability of some more definite instructions on this point being given to Mr. St. Barbe. He might be positively ordered to withdraw, for instance, in the event of any change of Ministry involving loss of power to the present Foreign Minister. If the power and influence of his party is on the wane, as it appears to be, the Government of India, by keeping at Mandalay an European representative of any kind, seems to run a great risk of having the safety of such representative compromised by some sudden outburst of folly and frenzy on the part of King Theebaw and his chosen councillors.

As long as the present régime at Mandalay lasts, I do not see the slightest hope of any improvement in the situation.

The present anti-foreign policy of the Burmese Government is, in fact, but the natural outcome of a long course of extreme forbearance on our part, preceding the accession of a young, ignorant, and vicious King, who is surrounded by a clique of men as ignorant and vicious as himself.

If the experiment of leaving the Burmans "to stew in their own juice" does not result in another revolution, and if the present reign of terror drags on much longer, the result, so far as British Burma is concerned, will be the gradual strangulation of its thriving up-country trade, a consequent loss of revenue, and an enforced continuance of the present increased military expenditure, with the certainty of our being ultimately compelled to adopt those measures which, if adopted now, might avert all this loss.

With regard to the observations in your demi-official letter of the 12th August, about settling the Karennee question without making any direct demands upon Mandalay, I think you will find, on a further consideration of the question, that the shortest road to Karennee is via Mandalay. A man wishing to go to Karennee from Rangoon can actually get to Eastern Karennee by going up to Mandalay, as soon as he could by taking the route lying through our own territories; and the cost and trouble of sending a large expedition to Mandalay would actually be much less than the cost and trouble of sending a small one to Karennee.

When I left Mandalay, rumours of conspiracies in favour of the Nyoung-Yan Prince were very rife; whether there was any substantial foundation for them, or whether they were mere fancies bred of guilty consciences, I cannot say. There seemed to be a general impression that the plots were inventions of those in power to give them an opportunity of persecuting persons who were obnoxious to them. I received a letter, however, from one of the Princesses in the Palace, saying that they had received a message from the Nyoung-Yan Prince to the effect that they might expect him shortly in Mandalay. I do not know whether the Nyoung-Yan really has any intention of leaving Calcutta, surreptitiously or otherwise; but I would beg to suggest that he should not be allowed to carry out any such design until the Residency has been entirely removed from Mandalay. His arrival in British Burmah would certainly cause King Theebaw to give the order to "clear away" the British Residency.

A very considerable number of arrests had been made in Mandalay in connexion with these supposed plots. Many of those arrested were women, and just as I was leaving I received reliable intelligence that some of these women had been put to death the day before. There were about 40 women under arrest, and it was expected that they would all be sacrificed. The order for the arrest of the Governor of Motso-bo may prove a serious matter, as, from all accounts, he is a man who is likely to have pluck enough to offer some resistance.

There were reports also that some of the troops were much discontented at not getting their pay, and that this discontent might probably be taken advantage of by some of the Palace party to overthrow the Foreign Minister.

The position of the captive ladies in the Palace remains unchanged.

The Nyoung-Yan's mother now has three heavy fetters on each leg, but is still alive. Several others share her close imprisonment, but others enjoy a certain amount of liberty inside the Palace walls. These poor women, notwithstanding their repeated disappointments, still cherish a hope that the British Government may yet assume the form of an avenging angel, and constantly sent me letters, giving me such information as they could regarding occurrences in the Palace.

I have sent a report regarding the proposed site for a new Residency. I should not be surprised if the Ministers refuse the site on the ground that it is too near the outer wall of the city, though it is not so near as the site they originally offered. I presume no expense will be incurred in building a new Residency until matters are placed on a more satisfactory footing; but, if the site is given, it might be as well to enclose it, and plant some trees on it at once. You will observe that, in a conversation with the Assistant Foreign Minister (Myotha Wondouk), he observed that no surrounding wall could be allowed at the new Residency, *i.e.*, they intend that the new Residency shall be as defenceless as the present one. It appears to me that the right to erect a substantial enclosing wall or fence should be insisted on.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) HORACE A. BROWNE.

Enclosure 4 in No. 23.

TELEGRAM, dated 19th September 1879.

FROM FOREIGN SECRETARY, Simla, to CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burmah, Rangoon.

COLONEL BROWNE's demi-official letter, 5th September, to Foreign Secretary, just received, warns Government that change of Burmese Ministry, which he thinks approaching, will place British Residency at Mandalay in great danger; also says that system of leaving question of risk incurred by remaining to Resident is certain, sooner or later, to produce catastrophe. Upon the facts and opinion thus stated, Government have decided that whole Residency officers, staff and escort, must be withdrawn as soon as you can make necessary preparations for their removal. You should communicate with St. Barbe; concert proper arrangements for withdrawal and for announcing resolution to Ministers, at time, in manner, for reasons that may be thought best under circumstances. In these details you have full discretion; but spare no effort and lose no time in securing the safe withdrawal of St. Barbe and the rest of the Residency as quickly as possible. Acknowledge receipt of this message.

No. 24.

No. 214 of 1879.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HON. VISCOUNT CRANBROOK, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD,

Simla, October 2, 1879.

In continuation of our despatch, No. 200, dated 15th September 1879, we have the honour to forward, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, a copy of the diary noted below.

We have, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON.
" F. P. HAINES.
" A. J. ARBUTHNOT.
" A. CLARKE.
" JOHN STRACHEY.
" E. B. JOHNSON.
" W. STOKES.
" A. R. THOMPSON.

Enclosure in No. 24.

MANDALAY CONFIDENTIAL DIARY, 1879.

SEPTEMBER 5, 1879.—I learn that the authorities are still searching for the Punna Wun who escaped in the steamer of the 1st. He is the first official of any importance who has taken refuge within our territory, and is no doubt possessed of most valuable information.

He was certainly fortunate in getting away. He had lost his post some months back for his negligence in allowing the Nyaung-yan Prince to escape, when in charge of his compound. His sister, too, Ma Aung, a favourite maid of honour of the Dowager Chief Queen, had been for some weeks in confinement, owing to a charge being brought against her of having carried presents in the late King's time from the eldest daughter of the Dowager Chief Queen (and nominal wife of the present monarch) to the Nyaung-yan. On the 23rd some unscrupulous ruffian accused the girl, as most affirm, falsely, with having more recently conveyed a photograph of the refugee Prince to the same lady, and the King gave orders that both she and her brother should be killed. The executioners proceeded to the jail, where they found the girl being tended by her mother, who was daily allowed to bring her food. The old woman shrieked terribly when she learnt their mission, and was turned out of the premises, when she at once rushed off and warned her son. The girl was murdered in the ordinary Burmese fashion. Her hands were bound between her knees; two cords were fastened round her neck, by means of which a man on either side forced back her head. While in this position another man struck her across the throat with a heavy bamboo. The girl was young and strong, and they say she endured seven blows before she died. The Dowager Chief Queen in vain interceded for her life and wept bitterly when she heard her fate. When the executioners proceeded to the Punna Wun's house, they found he had fled, and they had to content themselves with looting the premises.

No. 25.

No. 235 of 1879.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HON. VISCOUNT CRANBROOK, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

(Extract.)

MY LORD,

Simla, November 13, 1879.

We have the honour to forward, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, a copy of papers regarding the withdrawal of the British Officers and escort from the Residency at Mandalay.

2. Mr. St. Barbe has carried out our orders with regard to his withdrawal from Mandalay with very creditable judgment and self-possession, in circumstances under which any mistake might have involved his party in risk and difficulty.

We have, &c.

(Signed) LYTTON.
F. P. HAINES.
A. J. ARBUTHNOT.
A. CLARKE.
JOHN STRACHEY.
E. B. JOHNSON.
W. STOKES.
A. R. THOMPSON.

Enclosure 1 in No. 25.

Thayetmyo, 11th October 1879.

From H. L. ST. BARBE, Esq., Political Agent in Charge, Mandalay Residency, to
C. U. AITCHISON, Esq., C.S.I., LL.D., Chief Commissioner of British Burma.

I HAVE the honour to submit an account of the measures taken for the recent withdrawal of the Residency from Mandalay.

Your telegram directing this measure reached me by steamer on the evening of the 25th September.

The mails for Bhamo are usually conveyed on the last day of the month, and I arranged with Captain Sevenoaks of the "Panthay" and Mr. Soltan of the China Inland Mission at Bhamo (two gentlemen in whom I knew I could safely confide), that all the European residents in the station should have notice of our intentions and an opportunity of accompanying us, and that the establishment should be discharged or withdrawn. Captain Sevenoaks undertook to return by Sunday, the 5th October, in time to take the mails down the next day, and I had settled to leave by the same opportunity. I announced this arrangement to you by telegram as soon as I was able, and in a demi-official letter of the 2nd gave more detailed information of the measures and precautions our party had agreed to adopt after much discussion and deliberation. The "Panthay" duly arrived from Bhamo on the afternoon of the 5th. The missionaries expressed their determination to remain, retiring, in case of any outbreak, to their friends on the neighbouring Kachyen hills. Part of the establishment and several British subjects were on board. The Government records and papers had been brought away, though there was no time to remove the heavier furniture. The steamer had been advertised to start the following morning. Immediately on its arrival, I apprised Mr. Colbeck, officiating Residency Chaplain, of our intentions, and made arrangements for his own departure (which I considered imperative from his well-known connection and sympathy with the refuge princes, and their hapless relations in the palace,) and for that of the fugitives still within his compound. The postmaster was also informed of our contemplated move, and directed to make no mail delivery till we reached the steampoint, but to send all his official records and valuables in mail bags at once to the wharf. Meantime letters, copies of which are attached, to all the principal European and native traders (British subjects) had been written, and were despatched by the post office peon about 5 a.m. the next morning. An hour later, I sent the notice to the Foreign Minister, and about 6.30 we commenced our journey to the wharf. Our route lay through the bazaar, and of course attracted much attention, though the real significance of our passage was only realised later on. We reached the steamer about 7.30, and at once proceeded on board. Some Europeans had already arrived, and within an hour's time a good many had assembled. I assured them that the steamer would be delayed till the next morning, and that ample opportunity would be given for everyone to join, should they consider such a step advisable. Their chief anxiety was to know whether steamboat communication would still be maintained, but on this point I was as ignorant as themselves. As a fact, every steamer we met on our voyage down has turned and accompanied us. Finally, the French and Italian residents resolved to stay, while all the Americans and English followed, with the exception of Messrs. Sutherland, who have a contract with the Mandalay Government.

At about 11 a.m. I received intelligence that a Burmese guard had been placed upon the Residency, and upon the property we had left behind. I should have mentioned that the Government records, stamps, and treasure, besides all the surplus ammunition, had been removed some days before. Several passengers about the same time complained to me that carts and coolies were no longer plying between the foreign quarter and the steamer, and that they found it impossible to remove their baggage. I applied accordingly to the Sub-Minister, and after some delay everything arrived safely at the wharf. The heavier furniture, however, was all left behind. During the night we anchored in mid-stream, and were nearly fouled by a Burmese steamer. It had been arranged that we should start the next morning at 9 a.m., but our departure was for various reasons delayed till nearly 11. The mail steamer from Rangoon, which had arrived an hour after the "Panthay," accompanied us down stream. No notice whatever was taken of our movements by any Burmese officials, and we anchored that night without accident at Mengyen.

Between the capital and frontier we met two of the King's steamers, but nothing of any moment occurred till our arrival at Menghla about noon on Friday the 18th. Shortly after dropping anchor, a minor Court official arrived on board and asked me if I would visit the Governor. I expressed my readiness to see the Wun should he care to call; and after a short delay, he arrived with four of his staff and some fifty retainers. He showed great perturbation, and asked me the meaning of such an unexpected movement. Our party then comprised four steamers of the Flotilla Company and eleven flats. I inquired if the telegraph line was not open, and if no news had arrived from Mandalay. The Wun replied that he had received a message from the capital, and that he had been instructed to inquire the reason of our departure. I explained that I had written a letter to the Foreign Minister, and at the Governor's request I repeated its

contents. At this juncture occurred the incident connected with Moung Kula, which I have reported in a separate paper. The steamer was under weigh again shortly after 2 p.m., and we arrived at Thayetmyo before dark the same evening. We observed no soldiers or military preparations in any of the forts on the river, nor was any official notice taken of us, except such as I have described.

I may mention that several of the peons attached to the Residency (including Burmese subjects) have accompanied us, not venturing to remain behind. I have disbursed a month's pay in lieu of notice to such Government servants as decided to stay in Upper Burma.

I did not consider it necessary to charter a special steamer as you authorised me to do, but I retained for the exclusive use of the sepoys and the Residency establishment the flat which had been engaged for the accommodation of the Bhamo guard. In the event of any disturbance, the soldiers would have been seriously hampered had the flat been crowded with casual passengers.

The precautions I adopted throughout this somewhat difficult movement were strictly in accordance with instructions, and, as I am assured, have met with your full authority and approval. They would not, I think, have proved inadequate had any mischief been contemplated, and may possibly have averted the measures of aggression or at least obstruction which the recent attitude of the Burmese Government, and the recent warnings we had received, fully justified us in anticipating.

Enclosure 2 in No. 25.

Rangoon, 18th October 1879.

From G. D. BURGESS, Esq., C.S., Officiating Secretary to Chief Commissioner of British Burma, to H. L. ST. BARBE, Esq., C.S., Political Agent in Charge, Mandalay Residency.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 11th October 1879, in which you report the manner in which you have carried out your instructions for the withdrawal of the agency, staff, and establishment from Mandalay.

2. The Chief Commissioner approves of the precautions you took, and the arrangements you made, for effecting your withdrawal in a satisfactory manner under circumstances of considerable difficulty. The Chief Commissioner has already conveyed to you, in telegram dated the 2nd October, his approval of the measures you adopted for intimating to the British subjects and European and American residents at Bhamo your intended departure from Mandalay, and for giving them an opportunity of joining you if they chose to do so. Your departure from Mandalay was necessarily delayed until the return from Bhamo of the steamer which carried your messages. Upon the return of the steamer, you proceeded to announce your withdrawal to the Burmese Government, and to give notice of it to the British subjects and Europeans residing in Mandalay. In deciding to wait on board the steamer for those who wished to join you instead of in the Residency, which was quite untenable in case of attack, and where it was easy to prevent your reaching the river if obstruction were intended, the Chief Commissioner considers you acted with prudence and discretion. After reaching the steamer, you detained her till the forenoon of the following day, and thus gave time to all who desired to accompany you to leave by the same vessel.

3. The Chief Commissioner considers that, under the circumstances existing at Mandalay, the precautions which you took diminished the risk of opposition to your departure, and I am to convey to you the thanks of the Chief Commissioner for the care and intelligence with which you have carried out your instructions.

Enclosure 3 in No. 25.

Simla, 11th November 1879.

From A. C. LYALL, Esq., C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, to CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burmah.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your letter, dated 18th October, forwarding Mr. St. Barbe's report of the manner in which he effected the withdrawal of the British Residency from Mandalay.

2. In reply, I am directed to say that his Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council approves entirely of Mr. St. Barbe's arrangements, which were carried out with very creditable judgment and self-possession in circumstances when any mistake might have involved his party in risk and difficulty.

No. 26.

No. 239 of 1879.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HONOURABLE VISCOUNT CRANBROOK, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD,

Simla, November 20, 1879.

WE have already informed your Lordship that an Ambassador from the King of Burma had reached Thayetmyo, and had been detained there temporarily for explanation of the objects of his mission.

2. We now enclose, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, papers which explain the nature of the mission with which the Ambassador has been entrusted, and the instructions which have been issued by the Government of India to the Chief Commissioner, British Burma, on the subject.

We have, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON.
" A. J. ARBUTHNOT.
" A. CLARKE.
" J. STRACHEY.
" E. B. JOHNSON.

Enclosure 1 in No. 26.

From G. D. BURGESS, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner and Agent to the Governor-General, British Burma, to A. C. LYALL, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

Rangoon, October 26, 1879.

WITH reference to telegram, dated the 21st instant, from the Chief Commissioner, to your address, and your telegram of the 23rd instant in reply, I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copies of the papers mentioned below:—

Telegram, dated the 18th October, from Court, Mandalay, to Thoo-htay Oo Zan, Agent of the King of Ava at Rangoon, a copy of which was delivered by Oo Zan to the Chief Commissioner.

Memorandum, dated the 24th instant, from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, to Oo Zan, Agent of the King of Ava.

Telegram, dated the 24th instant, from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, to the Deputy Commissioner, Thayetmyo.

TELEGRAM, dated October 18, 1879.

From COURT, Mandalay, to THOO-HTAY Oo ZAN, Rangoon.

INFORM Chief Commissioner, Rangoon, Burmese Ambassador Myoungla Woondouk and suite leave by Burmese steamer "Tazoungmong" * i.e., Thursday, October 23rd, 1879. lazan 10th,* with letter and presents for the Governor-General of India.

Given to me by the King's Agent, at 8.30 A.M., on 21st October.

C. U. A.

MEMORANDUM from G. D. BURGESS, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner and Agent to the Governor-General, British Burma, to THOO-HTAY Oo ZAN, Agent to His Majesty the King of Ava.

Rangoon, October 24, 1879.

WITH reference to the telegram communicated to the Chief Commissioner by the Agent of His Majesty the King of Ava on the 21st instant, the undersigned is directed

by the Chief Commissioner to inform the King's Agent that a communication will be made to His Majesty's Ambassador by the Deputy Commissioner of Thayetmyo on the arrival of the King's steamer at that station. As the Ambassador was to leave Mandalay yesterday, the undersigned is directed to request the King's Agent to be so good as to arrange that an intimation to the above effect shall reach the Ambassador en route before he arrives at Thayetmyo.

TELEGRAM from the CHIEF COMMISSIONER to COLONEL DAVIES, Deputy Commissioner, Thayetmyo.

BURMESE Agent intimates embassy under Myoungla Woondouk with letter and presents for Viceroy was to leave Mandalay in King's steamer yesterday. Go on board as soon as steamer arrives. Agent here will be desired to send notice to Ambassador en route before arrival at Thayetmyo that he may expect a communication from you. Detain embassy at Thayetmyo till further orders. Request Ambassador to explain fully to you purpose of his mission, and to show you his powers. Report fully on both points in writing, obtaining, with Ambassador's consent, copies, if possible, of any documents. Receive embassy with due courtesy, and usual hospitality, and place circuit-house at their disposal.

Enclosure 2 in No. 26.

From G. D. BURGESS, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner and Agent to the Governor-General, British Burma, to A. C. LYALL, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

Rangoon, November 1, 1879.

I AM directed to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the following papers:—

- (1.) A copy of a letter, dated 27th October 1879, from the Deputy Commissioner, Thayetmyo, to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner.
- (2.) Enclosure of the above in original, viz., a copy of the Burmese Ambassador's credentials.
- (3.) A literal translation of No. 2.
- (4.) A copy of the reply to No. 1 sent to the Deputy Commissioner, Thayetmyo.
- (5.) A literal translation of a letter, dated the 20th October 1879 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs at Mandalay, to the Chief Commissioner.
- (6.) A copy of the reply to No. 5.

2. You will observe that the only letter which the embassy bring is the one to the Viceroy. The letter is in proper form; but it appears to be only a letter of credence setting forth the object of the mission and the names and rank of the Ambassadors. It contains no full powers to the mission, either general or special, authorising the embassy to represent their Sovereign or to make any statements or proposals on behalf of the King; nor has the embassy any separate document of powers. Their functions seem to be limited to conveyance and delivery of the Royal letter and presents to the Viceroy.

3. No advantage appears likely to result from an embassy charged with a vague and general expression of desire for the restoration of confidence and the revival of trade; but neither authorised to explain and give satisfaction for the long course of unfriendly conduct on the part of the Burmese Government, which has destroyed confidence and ruined trade, nor empowered to make overtures for better relations. Under present circumstances in Burma, the reception of such a mission would not only not be understood, but would produce a false impression among the people of both Upper and Lower Burma. The immediate effect would be to induce the belief that the Government of India is dissatisfied with the conduct of its representatives in withdrawing from Mandalay. It is perfectly well known that the embassy are not empowered to make the slightest admission or concession in respect to the many serious causes of complaint which we have against the Burmese Government; but that their object is to make a grievance of the departure of the Officers of the Agency, although that step was the direct and unavoidable result of the unfriendliness of the Burmese Government. The reception of the embassy could not fail therefore to be regarded as a triumph of Burmese diplomacy, which would increase the arrogance of the King's advisers, while it bewildered our own subjects as to the ultimate intention of both Governments. Renewal of direct relations between the Government of India and the Burmese Court on any footing which does not provide for a complete adjustment of differences and afford a reasonable prospect of stability and permanence for the future cannot be too strongly deprecated in the interests of this Province.

4. The Chief Commissioner cannot, therefore, recommend that the present mission should proceed, or that formal professions be accepted from the King which are not in keeping with the public acts of himself and his ministers. Past causes of misunderstanding require to be explained and removed before confidence can be restored and courtesies of State exchanged. As the Burmese Government profess to consider the withdrawal of the Agency from Mandalay to have been precipitate, and without any special reason or ground, it might be expedient, if further action with a view to a definite settlement of our relations be contemplated, to state to them categorically the long series of events which forced the British Government very reluctantly and after much patience and forbearance to withdraw their officers and establishments. If the Burmese Government are not prepared to arm their Ambassadors with full powers to adjust the serious differences which exist, it is still open to them, notwithstanding that they have closed the usual channel of communication through the Resident, to make preliminary overtures through the Chief Commissioner who is the Governor-General's Agent here. But a ceremonial embassy, such as that now sent, which is furnished with no powers, and which quietly assumes that the King is the injured party, and that the British Government has nothing to complain of, is quite out of place, and its reception would be detrimental to our interests.

From the DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, Thayetmyo, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY
TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burma.

October 27, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your telegram of 24th instant, and to report the arrival of the Myoungla Woondouk in the King's steamer at 3 p.m. this day, a telegram to which effect has been already forwarded to you.

Agreeably to instructions, I despatched a letter to meet the Woondouk on arrival at the frontier informing him that I would visit him on board on his arrival here, and requested him to anchor near the fort.

Mr. Fanshawe went on board at Allanmyo and accompanied the Woondouk to Thayetmyo.

As soon as the steamer came to anchor, I went on board in the launch accompanied by Mr. Davidson, Superintendent of Police, and was introduced by Mr. Fanshawe to the Woondouk and the Minhla Woon, who had come down on a trip. After some friendly conversation, I took the Woondouk aside saying we will now talk on business matters. I said as the embassy was passing through a separate Government, it was the desire of the Chief Commissioner to be made acquainted with the object of the embassy to the Viceroy of India, and requested to be furnished with a copy of the letter from the Burmese Government to the Viceroy, which the Woondouk promised to send me this evening, and which will be despatched immediately by express on receipt.

I asked the Woondouk to show me any instructions he had from his Government. He said he had no separate power beyond what was expressed in the letter to the Viceroy. The general object of the embassy was to allay the uneasy feeling which existed, as he alleged, both on their and our side of the frontier, owing to the abrupt departure of the Resident by which trade has been checked and uneasiness evinced.

I asked him if either in the letter or verbally he had any power to enter into a new Treaty; he said he had no power of that nature. I asked him if he had any authority to express a wish for the return of the Resident to Mandalay; he said no; but that for the benefit of both countries, it was advisable that the return should be brought about, and that he looked forward to that result as beneficial to both countries.

I told him I would forward the copy of the letter to the Viceroy by express to the Chief Commissioner as soon as I received it, and that in the meantime, as he might require further instructions, it was advisable he should remain here, so as to be near his own telegraph office, and he had better stay here until the Chief Commissioner's reply was received to my report.

This he agreed to do, but asked if the steamer could not go down and anchor near the town. I said that the channel down there had become narrow and that the private steamers coming and going would make it difficult, and that I had selected the present spot because the Chief Commissioner's own steamer always anchored here, which quite satisfied him.

The interview was conducted with complete courtesy, and on taking leave I told him the Circuit-house was at his and the Minhla Woon's disposal, if they wished to reside on shore. He said he would stay on board his steamer, and the Minhla Woon has, I understand, accepted the invitation of the Agent for the Flotilla Company to put up with him.

The Minhla Woon was very affable, and said he was happy to meet me as both our jurisdictions adjoined. Having ascertained he was some years older than myself, he said he thought it was best that the younger officer should pay the first visit to the elder. I asked him how many children he had, and he said two; I said I thought the one who had fewest children should pay the first visit, and as I had ten, I thought he should pay me the first visit; this created a laugh all round. After some further conversation, I took leave, asking the Woondouk to let me know if he wanted anything; and in the evening I sent the Akoonwoon on board with some comestibles.

Since writing the above the Sayay Gyee has brought me a copy of the letter to the Viceroy, accompanied by the Minhla Woon. The Sayay Gyee said he desired to say a few words with reference to our previous conversation, to the effect that the Ambassador desired me to understand that although he had no written instructions beyond what were in the letter to the Viceroy, yet he was instructed to note down any points the Viceroy might wish to communicate to the King, which he was to forward to his own Government for consideration. I inquired if these points had been written down, and he said no, that the initiative was left to the Viceroy. He desired me to add this to my report, which I promised to do. He then left with the Minhla Woon to visit Mr. Brodie, Agent to the Flotilla Company.

COPY of a ROYAL LETTER from the KING OF AVA, to be given to the VICEROY OF INDIA, written on the 7th of the waxing moon of Tazoungmone, 1241, B. E. (21st October 1879.)

THE Burmese Sovereign of the Rising Sun who rules over the country of Thunaparanta and the country of Tambadeepa, with all the other great dominions and countries, and all the umbrella-bearing Chiefs of the east, whose glory is exceeding great and excellent, the master of the King elephant, Saddan, the lord of many white elephants, the lord of life, the eminently just ruler, writes, O excellent English Viceroy who rule over the many great countries and nations of India!

Writes—

At a time when in accordance with the firm and established grand royal friendship which has continuously existed between those two great dominions and countries, the Burmese and English empires, from royal father to son, from royal grandfather to grandson, and from royal great grandfather to great grandson for a very long [space of] time, the merchants and common people were buying and selling, trading and trafficking, and coming and going in peace and quietness, the English Political Officer at the Royal Gem City of Mandalay, and three other officers with their escort and establishment without any special reason, suddenly and precipitately quitted the Royal Gem City of Mandalay, and in consequence the merchants and common people who live within both empires have become uneasy in their hearts and minds, and their trading and trafficking had been interrupted and ruined.

[Therefore] as a testimony to make manifest the Excellent Royal desire that [instead of] this interruption and ruin of the buying and selling, trading and trafficking of the merchants and common people living in both empires, the merchants and common people without injury to their property or business [and] with contented and happy hearts and minds may continue to trade and go and come as they have always traded and gone and come [in time past], and that between the two great dominions and countries the state of royal grand friendship may by friendly and peaceable means be especially strengthened and established, the Woondouk, Myoza of Myoungla, Theeree Maha Gyaw Din Raza, has been appointed first Ambassador, the Secretary Mindin Theiddee Raza, second Ambassador, the Assistant Secretary Nay-myo-min-din Raza third Ambassador, and they have been sent and despatched with a Royal letter and gifts.

When the Royal Ambassadors and officials arrive, it will be manifest that the King is particularly anxious to maintain, by friendly and peaceable means, continuous royal grand friendship between the Burmese empire and the Empire of the English ruler, those two great dominions and countries.

The Sovereign of the Rising Sun, the Excellent Burmese Ruler, believes and expects that, in the same way as he himself desires that the merchants and common people of both empires should be especially happy and prosperous, so the Viceroy will have regard to the interests and the business of merchants and common people, and will well and duly receive the Ambassadors and officials who are sent.

From OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burma, to DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, Thayetmyo.

October 30, 1879.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 27th instant, in which you report the arrival at Thayetmyo of the mission despatched by His Majesty the King of Ava, and the manner in which you have carried out your instructions as to receiving them. His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General will be at once informed of the arrival of the mission from His Majesty the King and of its object as set forth in the copy of the Royal letter which was given to you, and as explained by His Excellency the Ambassador. Pending the commands of His Excellency the Viceroy, the mission should not proceed beyond Thayetmyo, where I am to request that you will be good enough to make all necessary arrangements for their comfort and convenience. You should give a copy of this letter to the Ambassador.

TRANSLATION of a letter from the MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS at Mandalay, to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burma, dated 6th day of the waxing moon Tazoungmone 1241, B. E. (20th October 1879.)

Atta-maha-senapati Ayebaing Woon-shin-daw Legaing Myoza Thenat Woon Mingyee "Min-thado-thudhamma-maha-thet-daw-she" intimates to the Ayebaing Maha Woon-shin-daw Mingyee who governs the three jurisdictions of Pegu, Tenasserim and Arakan—

That at a time when in accordance with the firm and established grand royal friendship which has continuously existed between those two great dominions and countries the Burmese and English empires, the merchants and common people were buying and selling, trading and trafficking, and coming and going in peace and quietness, the English Political Officer at the Royal Gem City of Mandalay and three other officers with their escort and establishment, without any special reason, suddenly and precipitately quitted the Royal Gem City of Mandalay, and in consequence the merchants and common people who live within both empires have become uneasy in their hearts and minds, and their trading and trafficking have been interrupted and ruined.

[Therefore] as a testimony to make manifest the excellent royal desire that [instead of] this interruption and ruin of the buying and selling, trading and trafficking of the merchants and common people living in both empires, the merchants and common people without injury to their property or business [and] with contented and happy hearts and minds may continue to trade and go and come as they have always traded and gone and come [in time past] and that between the two great dominions and countries the state of royal grand friendship may by friendly and peaceable means be especially strengthened and established, His Excellent Majesty the Burmese Rising Sun Sovereign has appointed the Woondouk, Myoza of Myoungla "Mingyee Theerec-maha-kyawdin Raza" first Ambassador, the Secretary "Mindin Theiddee Raza" second Ambassador, and the Assistant Secretary "Nay Myo Mindin Raza" third Ambassador, and will despatch them within the month of Tazoungmone 1241 (October 15th—November 13th 1879) with a royal letter and presents to His Excellency the Viceroy of India. Wherefore [this] letter is sent in order that the Ayebaing Maha Woon-shin-daw Mingyee should know.

From OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burma, to MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, Mandalay.

October 30, 1879.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter, dated the 6th of the waxing moon of Tazoungmone 1241, the 20th October 1879, which was delivered to the Chief Commissioner by His Majesty the King of Ava's Agent at Rangoon on the morning of the 29th October. His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General will be at once informed of the despatch and object of the mission from His Majesty the King and of its arrival at Thayetmyo.

Pending the commands of His Excellency the Viceroy, the mission should not proceed beyond Thayetmyo, where the Deputy Commissioner has been instructed to make all necessary arrangements for their comfort and convenience.

A further communication will be made to your Excellency when the Viceroy's pleasure and commands are known.

Enclosure 3 in No. 26.

From A. C. LYALL, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, to C. U. ARCHISON, Esq., Chief Commissioner of British Burma.

Simla, November 18, 1879.

Your Secretary's letter, dated October 26th, inclosed copy of a telegram from Mandalay announcing that an Ambassador had been deputed from the King of Burma with letters and presents to the Viceroy and Governor-General of India. You had been instructed by telegram to ascertain, at the frontier station of Thayetmyo, the object of this mission and the rank and powers of the Ambassador; and to detain the embassy at that place pending receipt of further orders from the Government of India.

2. I am now directed to acknowledge receipt of your Secretary's letter of the 1st November, forwarding the letters of credence produced by the Ambassador at Thayetmyo, and submitting your own opinion upon the nature of his mission, and upon the question of its reception by his Excellency the Viceroy.

3. It appears from the papers brought by the Ambassador, and from the Deputy Commissioner's conversation with him at Thayetmyo, that the Court of Mandalay has been disquieted by the withdrawal of the British Resident, and that the King has despatched the Myoungla Woondouk on a mission of ceremony to offer formal assurances of friendship to the British Government, in the hope of restoring public confidence regarding the state of the relations between the two Governments. But the letters of credence contain nothing beyond reference to the unexpected withdrawal of the British Residency from Mandalay, and vague expressions of a desire that friendship should be maintained and that commerce should continue; nor has the Ambassador any powers, general or particular, to make specific explanations or propositions on behalf of his Court.

4. This being the case, his Excellency the Viceroy in Council agrees with your opinion that it would be useless and impolitic to permit the mission to proceed beyond Thayetmyo. The condition of our relations with Upper Burma since the accession of the present King, and the circumstances under which the British Residency was withdrawn from Mandalay, have been such as to render altogether inopportune and inadmissible, at this time, the reception at Calcutta of His Majesty's representative, or the acceptance of amicable letters and complimentary presents.

5. His Excellency the Viceroy would not, however, desire that you should deliver to the Ambassador a categorical statement of the incidents which have compelled the Government of India to remove their officers from Mandalay, or that any detailed explanation upon this subject should be advanced. Nothing should be said, for the present, which might induce the Burmese to imagine that the Government of India invite an opening for negotiation, or that they wish, by a recital of demands and grievances, to bring on a discussion of the terms upon which the British Resident could be sent back to Mandalay. It will be sufficient, at the present stage of the affair, to give only the reasons for declining to allow the Myoungla Woondouk to continue his journey. He may accordingly be informed, briefly and generally, that the Viceroy of India has been seriously dissatisfied with the position and treatment of the British Resident at Mandalay, which have been altogether inconsistent with professions of friendship and with the exchange of diplomatic courtesies. In such circumstances, he may be told, it appears at least incongruous and premature to send to Calcutta a complimentary mission, or to assume that the mission can be received in a friendly and honourable manner in Calcutta by the Government of India, whose representative has been treated with habitual discourtesy at Mandalay. The Ambassador should be reminded that during the past twelve months our Residents at Mandalay have lost no occasion of placing fully before King Thebaw's Ministers the views and wishes of the British Government upon various questions, particularly in regard to the diplomatic privileges to which the British Resident is entitled, and his proper accommodation at their capital. Since the Myoungla Woondouk has not come with authority to propose anything that is likely to be acceptable to the British Government, in regard to these matters, or to any other points at issue between the two Governments, there is nothing to be gained by his mission proceeding onward. He may be told that, if he sees fit, he can refer to his Court for additional instructions; and in the event of his disclosing, hereafter, an intention to make any substantial overtures, you are at liberty to deal with his communications according to your opinion of their character, of their value and authenticity, and generally upon such considerations as may occur to you at the time. Otherwise the Ambassador should understand clearly that his mission cannot be

received; although it is unnecessary to request him to return across the frontier, unless you consider that there are material objections to his remaining, if he wishes to do so, within British Burma.

No. 27.

DESPATCH to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL, dated India Office, No. 47, November 20, 1879.

MY LORD,

1. I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of the letters of your Excellency's Government, reporting the transactions which have ended in the withdrawal of the British Resident and his staff from Mandalay.

2. Your letter, No. 178, of 11th August, informed Her Majesty's Government that, after full consideration of the views expressed by the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, and Colonel Horace Browne, respectively, your Excellency in Council had decided that Colonel Browne, who had been temporarily deputed to Mandalay on the lamented death of Mr. Shaw, should return to his appointment in British Burmah at an early opportunity; that no permanent Resident should for the present be appointed, and that Mr. St. Barbe, lately officiating as political agent at Bhamo, should remain at the Burmese capital for the conduct of ordinary business.

3. In thus deciding, your Excellency in Council was to a great extent influenced by the reports of Colonel Browne, which made it clear that, by the deliberate policy of the Burmese Court, the Resident was placed in a position most derogatory to the British Government, and in which he was practically useless for any good purpose, being unable either to influence the relations between the two Governments or to obtain redress for the grievances of British subjects. Under such circumstances, it was not desirable that, either by formally accrediting a Resident in succession to the late Mr. Shaw, or by allowing an officer of Colonel Browne's rank to remain at Mandalay in an undefined capacity, the Government of India should appear to acquiesce in the position of impotence to which its representative had been reduced.

4. On the other hand, there were some grounds for fearing lest complete cessation of diplomatic intercourse with the Burmese Government should be followed by acts on the part of the King of Burmah which might precipitate that open rupture which it is the policy of your Excellency in Council, equally with Her Majesty's Government, to avert as long as possible. It appears, therefore, to Her Majesty's Government that, in the circumstances as they existed at the date of your orders of the 5th August addressed to the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, and with the information before you at that time, the middle course then decided upon was that which, in a complicated and difficult situation, was open to the fewest objections.

5. The considerations which subsequently led your Excellency in Council to modify your views are fully set forth in your letter, No. 209, of the 25th September. There can be no question that the events which occurred at Kabul on the 3rd September were likely to prejudice seriously the position of the officer who had been left at Mandalay. Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that, in view of those events, and of the additional light which was thrown upon the actual and prospective state of affairs in Upper Burmah by Colonel Browne's letter of the 5th September, written after his return to British territory, it would have been imprudent to permit Mr. St. Barbe to remain at the Burmese capital. They, therefore, approve of your having directed the withdrawal of that gentleman and the whole of the Residency staff and escort as soon as the necessary arrangements could be made, and they are glad to learn that their departure has been effected without difficulty or the occurrence of any untoward incident.

(Signed) CRANBROOK.

No. 28.

TELEGRAM from VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE, dated December 9, 1879.

RIOUS assault made by Burmese, last month, on crew of Flotilla steamer in Irrawaddy; affair cannot be ignored. Very inadvisable to demand redress unless we are prepared with some measures in probable event of refusal or evasion. We propose making ordinary demand for reasonable redress, giving full time for compliance, but failing satisfaction, we contemplate cancelment of two last treaties, denial of protection and redress to British subjects constituting breach. Incident may thus be utilised for liberation from commercial engagements no longer advantageous, and for pressure

on Burmah, since fiscal arrangements can be revised adversely to Burmah and advantageously to British revenues. Action will be preceded by careful detailed inquiry, but as demand must be made early, we ask discretion to adopt this course.

No. 29.

TELEGRAM from SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY, dated December 12, 1879.

Your telegram of 9th. Demand of ordinary redress reasonable, assuming fault on part of Burmah. Time and manner left to you. Full particulars needed before decision can be arrived at as to future action on treaty.

No. 30.

No. 247 of 1879.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HON. VISCOUNT CRANBROOK, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD,

Fort William, December 19, 1879.

WE have the honour to forward, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, the enclosed copies of notes of intelligence regarding Mandalay affairs, for the weeks ending the 30th November and the 7th December 1879, respectively, received from the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

We have, &c.

(Signed) LYTTON.
F. P. HAINES.
A. J. ARBUTHNOT.
A. CLARKE.
J. STRACHEY.
E. B. JOHNSON.
W. STOKES.
A. R. THOMPSON.

Enclosure in No. 30.

NOTES.

REPORTS received from the Thayetmyo and Toungoo frontiers state that all is quiet in those quarters. Rumours of warlike preparations appear to have died out.

2. At Mandalay executions are still continued with unabated cruelty. One of the newly-created Princes has, it is said, been put to death for aspiring too high in his amours. Five sisters of Thongzai Prince have also been executed. The reason, officially assigned, is that they were in correspondence with the Nyoungyan Prince, but it is alleged that they have fallen victims to the jealousy of the chief Queen. Two Pon-nas or (Manipuri) Brahmins, with three Burmese companions or attendants, have been executed, whether for undertaking to procure poison to be used on the King, or for devotion to the Nyoungyan Prince's cause, is uncertain. It is stated that the chief Queen's elder sister, Soo-payahgyee, has been concerned in an attempt to administer poison to the King and Queen. True or false, stories such as these of palace intrigue are made the excuse for remorselessly killing off those who have incurred the displeasure of the King or his ruling favourites.

3. Vague but disquieting reports still continue to come in of the machinations of emissaries from Mandalay in Lower Burmah. One or two of our own officials are not wholly free from suspicion of complicity in these transactions. Steps are being taken to probe the reports to the very bottom and ascertain the real facts, for so far nothing tangible has been discovered.

(Signed) G. D. BURGESS,
Officiating Secretary to Chief Commissioner,
British Burmah.

November 30, 1879.

NOTES.

THE report of an attempt to poison the King, in which the elder sister of the chief Queen was said to be concerned, has been confirmed from more than one source. Two independent informants also state that the Burmese Government is busily engaged in making rifles and torpedoes, though all their operations are kept very secret. In a report of the 1st instant, which is the last received, the Toungoo frontier is said to be

quiet. The Deputy Commissioner of Thayetmyo, writing on the same date, says:—
 "The police report that Moungh Salmeh, the Sithah of Minhla, has been ordered to collect
 "700 boatmen and arm them with muskets, and that 250 men have been ordered to be
 "employed on a new work opposite Minhla." The death of the Salin Princess is
 reported, but no particulars are known.

(Signed) G. D. BURGESS,
 Officiating Secretary to Chief Commissioner,
 British Burmah.

December 7, 1879.

No. 31.

No. 6 of 1880.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HON. VISCOUNT CRANBROOK, Her Majesty's Secretary of State
 for India.

MY LORD,

Fort William, January 14, 1880.

WE have the honour to forward, for the information of Her Majesty's Govern-
 ment, copies of papers relating to a riotous assault by some subjects of the King of
 Burmah on the crew of a Flotilla steamer in the Irrawaddy.

2. From the papers now forwarded it appears that when the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company's
 steamer "Shwe Myo" arrived at Mingyan in Upper Burmah on 13th November last,
 a Surati Mahomedan came on board and attempted to force his way past a native sentry
 over the paddle-box towards a portion of the forepart of the steamer, which had been
 newly painted. Captain Vince, the commander of the vessel, who has the reputation of
 being a good-tempered and inoffensive officer, requested the Surati to go round by the
 gangway. He refused to do so, and abused the captain in the most insulting terms.
 Captain Vince therefore seized him, pulled him back on to the flat alongside, and let
 him go. The Surati immediately called several Burmese coolies, about 20 in number,
 who were armed with bamboos and billets of wood, to come on board, and on the captain
 endeavouring to seize and handcuff him, the Burmese made a violent attack on the
 officers and crew, struck the chief officer and chief engineer, and threw two lascars
 overboard. The captain went to the rescue of one lascar, who was in danger of being
 drowned, and subsequently another lascar, who was found senseless on the edge of the
 river, was brought on board in a precarious condition. Meanwhile the Surati and all
 the Burmese, except one man who was arrested and detained, escaped to the shore.
 The captain of the steamer was warned not to leave his steamer that night, but the next
 day he made a formal complaint in the Woon's Court. A summary inquiry was held,
 but as nothing was settled, and as the Woon appeared to be waiting for instructions
 from Mandalay, the steamer proceeded on its voyage. On arriving at Mandalay Captain
 Vince reported the case to his agent, Mr. Andreino, who informed the captain that the
 Kinwoongye, or Foreign Minister, had promised to telegraph to the Woon at Mingyan
 to arrest and imprison the Burmese who invaded the steamer. On the return voyage,
 therefore, Captain Vince again appeared before the Woon at Mingyan, and demanded
 redress, but no regular investigation appears to have been held. The Woon suggested
 a compromise, to which the captain refused to agree, whereupon the Woon dismissed the
 case, and no redress was obtained.

3. It is, in our opinion, beyond question that an unprovoked attack of this serious
 nature upon a British vessel in Burmese waters renders necessary a demand for reparation
 and for the punishment of the offenders. The Burmese Government is not only
 responsible for such acts according to the general usage of nations, but it is also bound
 by treaty to afford protection to British subjects within Burmese territory. To pass
 over the affair without notice would not have been creditable to the British Government;
 the omission would have given rise to comments, and probably to remonstrance, in
 British Burmah, and would in all probability have operated as an encouragement in
 Upper Burmah to some renewed and more serious affront. Upon receipt, therefore, of
 your Lordship's telegram of the 12th December, we authorised the Chief Commissioner
 of British Burmah to communicate with the Foreign Minister at Mandalay on the
 subject, instructing him to state the case as an infringement of existing treaties, and to
 prefer in moderate language a request for adequate redress.

4. But as we informed your Lordship in our telegram of 9th December, it is very
 possible that our demand for redress will be either refused or evaded; and it is necessary
 that we should consider and arrange without delay the measures which we may in that
 event be prepared to adopt. Upon this point, our conclusion, after a careful survey of

our political and commercial relations with Upper Burmah, is that the most effective
 and appropriate remedy, in the event of a failure to obtain reasonable redress at
 Mandalay, will be found in a withdrawal from the two existing commercial treaties of
 1862 and 1867 with the Mandalay Government. The ill-treatment of our subjects
 trading in Burmese territory, and a denial to them of protection by the Burmese
 Government, would constitute a breach of the 3rd and 7th Articles of the Treaty of
 1862, to which the Treaty of 1867 was declared to be subsidiary; and we consider that
 the present incident affords a just and proper opportunity of bringing to a distinct issue
 with the Burmese the question whether their Government is or is not prepared to abide
 in good faith and substantially by those engagements. The frequent infringements and
 evasions in Upper Burmah of our commercial rights have been for some time past a
 constant subject of complaint by our subjects and of futile discussion between our
 Resident at Mandalay and the Burmese Ministers. The treaties are as a whole much
 more advantageous to Upper Burmah than to our own provinces, for they were made
 chiefly with the object on our part of encouraging and opening out commercial inter-
 course between the two neighbouring States, and in the hope of permanently establishing
 our trade relations upon an amicable and liberal footing. It does not appear to conduce
 either to the advantage of our own traders, or to the dignity of our Government that
 we should continue, at any sacrifice of our own interests, to be bound by these obligations
 to a State which in no way appreciates our liberality, or reciprocates the good faith with
 which we have observed our engagements.

5. We have examined closely the probable effects upon our commerce and upon our
 general relations with Court of Mandalay of a cancellation of these treaties. With
 regard to this part of the subject we desire to refer your Lordship to memorandum
 forwarded to us by the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah with his letter,
 dated 6th December last. It is no doubt to be expected that the dissolution of the
 treaties will at first be attended with some disorganisation of trade, but there is reason
 to believe that this effect will only be temporary. The Chief Commissioner reports
 that the trade with Mandalay is exceedingly elastic, and if not further interfered with, is
 certain to recover quickly. He says that although for some time after the withdrawal
 of the Residency, trade with Mandalay almost entirely ceased, it very soon recovered,
 and is now almost as active as ever, and it is probable that the disquietude and uncer-
 tainty inseparable from any sudden abrogation of the treaties would not last long, and
 might be anticipated and controlled by proper arrangements. On the other hand, there
 can be no doubt that the measure proposed would set us free to introduce certain fiscal
 changes in our own territory which would largely increase our revenues. At present
 the joint effect of the Treaties of 1862 and 1867 is that the British Government levies at
 its seaports a duty of only 1 per cent. *ad valorem* on goods, subject to import duty by
 British law, which are declared to be for export by the Irrawaddy River to Upper
 Burmese territory. The King levies a similar rate on foreign produce passing through
 his country to British Burmah, but with this exception he imposes a 5 per cent. frontier
 duty on all goods, exports and imports alike, passing between his own and British
 territory, while he retains a monopoly in the trade of certain articles. Now that the
 period fixed by the 2nd Article of the Treaty of 1867 has expired, the King has also
 the power at any time, on giving three months' notice, to raise these duties to 10 per
 cent. These provisions are obviously very advantageous to the Government of
 Mandalay. The through overland trade with British Burmah from China and the Shan
 country, on which alone the King is obliged to restrict his taxation to one per cent. *ad
 valorem*, is insignificant compared with the imports by sea into Upper Burmah, and the
 loss to the King's revenues on account of this restriction must be very trifling. But
 the corresponding loss to the British Government in the year 1878-79 amounted to

* Duty on Mandalay goods for	Rs.
1878-79 at 1 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> -	58,470
Duty on Mandalay goods for	
1878-79 at tariff rates -	3,40,252
Increase -	2,81,782

Rupees 2,81,782,* being the difference between
 the yield of the one per cent. rate and the sum
 which would have been realised if the goods
 sent to Upper Burmah had been taxed at the
 rate paid on goods imported for consumption
 in British territory. The British Government
 has also under the treaties relinquished a revenue

of about 6 lakhs of rupees per annum in consequence of the abolition of frontier duties
 for which the Treaty of 1862 provided. One result therefore of the cancellation of the
 treaties would be, that we should be at once enabled to equalise the customs duty on
 seaborne goods for Mandalay with that levied on imports into our own territories, with
 an advantage to our customs revenue which has been estimated at nearly three lakhs of

rupees in addition to the saving which we should be able to effect in the cost of the frontier preventive establishments, and there is reason to believe that the complete freedom which the trade would enjoy from the restrictions we are now obliged to impose for the protection of our own customs revenue would altogether outweigh the increase in the import duties.

6. Moreover, the dissolution of our commercial treaties with Upper Burmah will enable the Government of India to carry out a much-needed reform of the internal revenue system of British Burmah. It has long been recognised as economically desirable to abolish the capitation tax in British Burmah, which would be immediately practicable if we could substitute for it a salt duty at the rate $2\frac{1}{2}$ rupees maund which now prevails throughout the greater part of India. The advantage of this change has recently been again brought to our notice by the Chief Commissioner, but it has been pointed out that the proposed measure cannot be adopted so long as the British Government is compelled by Treaty to supply salt to Upper Burmah at the rate of one per cent. *ad valorem* or $1\frac{1}{2}$ pies a maund. Upper Burmah is almost entirely dependent upon us for its salt supply. The quantity that can be locally made or imported otherwise than through British Burmah is not great, and but for the treaty there is no reason why we should continue to supply salt to the people of Upper Burmah at a cheaper rate than to our own subjects, who now pay a duty of three annas a maund. The difference between this rate and that at which salt can be exported to Mandalay territory is not sufficient at present to afford much encouragement to smuggling, but this would obviously at once cease to be the case if the tax were raised in our own territories so high as Rupees 2-8 a maund. And so long as the treaties are in force it is impossible for us to meet this difficulty by establishing a customs line upon our frontier, even if such a measure were otherwise practicable. The treaties therefore are a complete obstacle to the accomplishment of this important fiscal reform. It was from a perception of this fact, that when in 1878 we were considering a proposed revision of our treaty engagements with the King of Burmah, we thought it desirable to endeavour to exclude salt from the operation of Article IV. of the Treaty of 1862. So far as our own territories are concerned, we do not expect to derive any financial advantage from the proposed substitution of a salt for the capitation tax, but it is certain that the people of Upper Burmah will always be obliged to draw the greater part of their supplies of salt from our territories, and it is obvious that our revenues will benefit to the extent to which they are compelled to consume salt on which British duty has been levied. It may also be noticed that under the present arrangements the customs and excise revenues of British Burmah are exposed to the risk of a contraband trade in spirits springing up across the border. Large quantities of the cheap spirits imported into Rangoon are exported to Upper Burmah, and the light duty which is imposed upon them compared with the duty levied on spirits imported or distilled for consumption in British Burmah offers a considerable temptation to smuggling.

7. The increase in the salt and customs duties which the abolition of the treaties will enable us to effect will be immediately felt by the people of Upper Burmah. It does not follow that the pressure thus brought to bear upon their subjects will have any very direct effect upon the Court of Mandalay, which cares little for the interests of the masses of the population, but it cannot fail to operate upon and gradually to influence the views of the governing classes. It is probable at first that the King will endeavour to adopt some measures of retaliation. In the event of the treaties being cancelled, he will of course be as unfettered in his fiscal arrangements as we shall be, but owing to the nature of the trade with Mandalay his power of retaliation is limited. Under the treaties the Burmese have the right to raise their frontier duties as high as 10 per cent. *ad valorem*. If the treaties are cancelled, these duties will probably be raised much higher, and we must be prepared for the revival of many other imposts detrimental and annoying to traders. Nevertheless, it may be doubted whether the King of Burmah would, in his own interests, press his exactions beyond a certain limit, for the commodities exported from Upper Burmah, such as lac, silk, oil, precious stones, &c., are not indispensable to us, and can be procured elsewhere, while the people of Upper Burmah are mainly dependent upon British trade for the two important necessities of rice and salt. It would always be in our power to reimpose our frontier duties on these and other articles, and we might, even if we thought fit, stop altogether exports from our own into Mandalay territory. It is not probable that it will ever be necessary for us to adopt such a course as this, but in the present state of our relations with Mandalay, it may be thought useful that we should possess the power of resorting to it as an extreme measure of coercion.

8. The only point remaining for special consideration is that portion of the Treaty of 1867 under which we are entitled to place officers in British Burmah, and to invest them with certain jurisdiction. The Treaty of 1862 was purely commercial, but the Treaty of 1867, in addition to its commercial clauses, contains certain provisions regarding the extradition of criminals, the investment of our Resident or Political Agent with judicial powers, and the establishment of a Mixed Court at Mandalay for the trial of certain classes of cases in which British subjects are concerned. It also gives us the right of appointing British officials to reside at any or each of the stations in Burmese territory at which customs duties are leviable. As matters now stand, since our political agencies have been withdrawn and the Mixed Court has ceased to exist, this part of the Treaty of 1867 is in abeyance, and if the treaty is cancelled, our privileges in the matter of agencies and jurisdictions will necessarily disappear. Nevertheless, the British Government possess also, under Article 7 of the Yandaboo Treaty of 1826, the right to appoint an accredited Minister at the Burmese Court. And though, as your Lordship is aware, the Burmese Government has recently suggested a doubt whether this treaty can be held to be still in force, we consider that there is no tenable ground for contesting its validity, nor is the point of any material importance for the present, since until we can revise all our diplomatic and commercial relations with Mandalay upon an improved basis, placing our Resident in a different and higher position, we are by no means solicitous about the return of a British representative to that Court. Nor is it likely that we shall renew regular diplomatic intercourse with Mandalay, if the demand now preferred for redress be not satisfied, until our relations with that Government shall have so materially improved that there will be no difficulty in replacing our commercial arrangements upon a much more satisfactory footing.

9. For these reasons, we consider that the Government of India should be in a position to withdraw from the Treaties of 1862 and 1867 in the event of the request for redress being refused or evaded by the Burmese Government and the satisfaction we ask for denied. We shall allow a full and reasonable time for compliance with the demand which the Chief Commissioner has been directed to make, and if it is necessary to declare the treaties cancelled, we shall make the declaration in a form that will carefully preserve the distinction between the withdrawal from commercial arrangements and a political rupture. It may or may not be desirable to give notice and warning beforehand of the course we propose to adopt if redress is refused; but if there were no serious objection or reason to the contrary, we should prefer that the Burmese Government should receive an opportunity of fully considering the consequences that might follow an unjustifiable denial of redress. In any case the Government of India should know as soon as possible what ground can be taken up in the correspondence that may be expected to follow the communication already made to Mandalay; and we shall therefore be glad to receive by telegraph the decision of Her Majesty's Government.

We have, &c.
(Signed)

LYTTON.
F. P. HAINES.
A. J. ARBUTHNOT.
A. CLARKE.
J. STRACHEY.
E. B. JOHNSON.
W. STOKES.
A. R. THOMPSON.

Enclosure 1 in No. 31.

From G. D. BURGESS, Esq., C.S., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, to A. C. LYALL, Esq., C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

Rangoon, November 23, 1879.

I AM directed to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of letter, dated the 20th instant, from the Deputy Commissioner of Thayetmyo, and a copy of its enclosures.

2. The affray which occurred on board the "Shwe Myo," and which forms the subject of these papers, is a very serious one, in which several British subjects have been severely assaulted, one of them to the danger of his life.

3. According to the depositions taken by Colonel Davies, the Surati, in whose violent conduct the riot had its origin, was solely and entirely in the wrong. It is to

be regretted, the Chief Commissioner thinks, that Captain Vince attempted to put the man in handcuffs. But he appears to have resorted to this extreme measure only in self-defence and to secure the ringleader when his vessel was being boarded by the rioters, and his men were savagely assaulted at the call of the Surati. In other respects Captain Vince seems to have acted with calmness and moderation. He has the reputation of being one of the best tempered and most inoffensive officers of the Flotilla Company; and there appears to have been nothing in his proceedings to provoke or justify the attack made upon him and his crew.

4. It will be impossible long to maintain peace if occurrences like this are overlooked. British subjects travelling or trading in Upper Burmah are by treaty entitled to protection. If the Burmese Government cannot, or will not, afford protection or grant redress for outrages such as this committed by their subjects, the Treaties of 1862 and 1867 had better be declared at an end.

5. The Chief Commissioner recommends that copies of the depositions be forwarded to the Burmese Government, with a demand that the offenders be suitably punished and compensation given to the two lascars who were severely wounded.

Enclosure 2 in No. 31.

From Colonel H. NELSON DAVIES, Deputy Commissioner, Thayetmyo, to G. D. BURGESS, Esq., C.S., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

Thayetmyo, November 20, 1879.

HAVING received intelligence that a fracas had occurred at Mingyan, below Mandalay, on board the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company's Steamer "Shwe Myo" ("Golden City") on her trip up, I went on board this day on her return from Mandalay; the Commander, Captain Vince, related the circumstances and complained that he had got no redress from the Burmese officials, either at Mingyan or Mandalay.

It appears that the "Shwe Myo," towing two flats, one on either side, arrived at Mingyan in Upper Burmah on the evening of the 13th instant. After the vessel was fastened to the shore a Mahomedan, by name Mahomed, or Mahomed Ismael, came on board, and in defiance of a native sentry was forcing his way over the paddle-box towards a portion of the forepart of the steamer which had been newly painted, and the paint of which was not dry. The Captain, who is a very inoffensive man, and has been many years in command of steamers, both on the Ganges and Irrawaddy, requested this Surati to go round by the usual way; he refused, and abused the captain in most insulting terms. On this Captain Vince took him to the gangway on the flat and released him. At this period, had the Surati any complaint to make, he was free to go from the flat to shore and lay any complaint he had to make before the Burmese woon or magistrate; instead of doing this he ran aft and shouted to a lot of Burmese coolies to come on board as he was being ill-treated. Seeing the Burmese coming armed with sticks, &c., the captain thought the best plan was to seize the Surati, as he was evidently the ringleader, and a struggle appears to have ensued; one handcuff was put on the Surati; but at this moment a number of Burmese, armed with billets of wood, had commenced a violent attack on the officers and crew, and one lascar was thrown overboard, and another knocked overboard and stunned. The captain had to leave the Surati and go to the rescue of a lascar who was in danger of being drowned, and the Surati escaped on shore with one handcuff on, and appears to have gone to the woon to complain. Meantime another lascar was brought on board in a precarious state, who was found senseless on the edge of the river. The Burmese who made the assault on the crew appear to have gone off with the Surati; one Burman, however, who had knocked down the storekeeper, was arrested and detained on board. Dark had set in before the disturbance was quelled, and the captain was warned not to go on shore; there can be no question that it would have been highly dangerous to himself to have done so. The Burmese authorities did nothing for the protection of the crew.

The next morning the captain was preparing to go to complain to the woon, when the woon's people came and demanded the Burman who was under arrest on board. The captain went to the woon's court and the woon made a sort of summary inquiry, but nothing was settled; apparently he was waiting for instructions from Mandalay, as there was nothing to prevent his settling the case at once. After considerable delay it was arranged further inquiry should take place on the down trip, and the vessel proceeded to Mandalay, where the commander reported his case to his agent, Mr. Andreino, who reported it to the Kin-Woon Mingyee, who, Mr. Andreino informed the commander, promised to telegraph to the woon at Mingyan to have the Burmans who had invaded

the steamer arrested and put in prison. On the down voyage the commander again appeared before the woon and demanded redress, but no regular investigation appears to have been made; the woon recommended a compromise, saying both sides had told falsehoods and were in the wrong; Captain Vince refused to make a compromise, so the woon dismissed the case, and no redress was obtained.

From the statement of the witnesses and the nature of the injuries, it is quite clear that the Burmese made a ruthless attack on the crew without the slightest provocation. No requisition had been made on the Surati but what was just and proper. It was reasonable and right that the commander should protect the property of his employers, and I saw myself that the paint in the fore part of the steamer was quite fresh. The captain therefore did no more than his duty in insisting that the Surati should come round by the proper road, the gangway, and up to the time the Burmese rushed on board, no attempt to arrest the Surati had been made. It was this man rushing aft, when he could see the mob on shore, and shouting to them to come on board which necessitated the captain, in self-defence, to endeavour to secure the ringleader; that the Burmans were only too ready for the fray is clear enough from the brutal manner in which they maltreated the crew—men who were perfectly defenceless, and who did not even know for what reason they were attacked, and it was little short of a miracle that the lives of the two men who were struck with heavy pieces of wood and thrown overboard were saved.

This Surati is connected in business with Mulla Ibrahim, who has the farming of some of the monopolies at Mandalay, and who had several Mahomedan agents at different stations on the river, and several instances have before occurred of insolence and gross and violent behaviour on the part of Mulla Ibrahim's people, but the Burmese officials appear to side with these people and the ruffianly Burmese who they have always at their disposal.

Enclosure 3 in No. 31.

TELEGRAM, dated December 4, 1879.

From FOREIGN SECRETARY, Ajmere, to CHIEF COMMISSIONER, Rangoon.

Your letter, 23rd November, paragraph 4. What would, in your opinion, be effect of declaring treaties void and revising fiscal arrangements exclusively in British interests? Would this measure operate adversely on Mandalay with advantage or without disproportionate damage to ourselves, particularly as to facilitating equalisation of your salt duties? What is your opinion upon practicability of establishing blockade of food supply by prohibiting all exports from British Burmah as an extreme measure of coercion and reprisal in event of refusal or persistent evasion of demand for redress? Please telegraph briefly; also write.

Enclosure 4 in No. 31.

TELEGRAM, dated December 6, 1879.

From CHIEF COMMISSIONER, Rangoon, to FOREIGN SECRETARY, Governor-General's Camp.

Your telegram of 4th. Effect would be temporary disorganisation of trade, which would recover before long. Revised fiscal arrangements would affect King's subjects very adversely without disproportionate damage to ours. Customs would largely benefit equalisation of salt duties, which cannot be effected while treaty stands, would be greatly facilitated. Blockade of salt, and salted and dried fish practicable and effective as coercive measure. Blockade of rice supply practicable and would seriously touch considerable portion of population. About 16 lakhs of maunds of rice sent up yearly. But people not absolutely dependent on it, and might, though suffering, subsist in other ways. Letter follows.

Enclosure 5 in No. 31.

From G. D. BURGESS, Esq., C.S., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, to A. C. LYALL, Esq., C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

Rangoon, December 6, 1879.

I AM directed by the Chief Commissioner to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 4th instant, on the subject of the revision of our fiscal arrangements

with reference to Upper Burmah. I am to forward a copy of a telegram of to-day's date, sent in reply, together with a memorandum by the Chief Commissioner, in which his views on the matter are more fully set forth.

MEMORANDUM.

THE first and immediate effect of the dissolution of the treaties concluded with Upper Burmah in 1862 and 1867 would be the serious disorganisation of trade for a time. Every political event affecting our relations with Mandalay tells directly and at once on the local trade to a greater extent than experience elsewhere would lead one to suppose. This circumstance it is especially which interests the mercantile community of British Burmah so much in Mandalay politics, and makes them desirous of a settlement of affairs on a permanent basis, so as to avoid the extreme and sometimes ruinous fluctuations in a market so easily agitated. The present time also is the commencement of the busy season of the year. Large consignments of goods are now on their way from England. Merchants might find difficulty for a time in getting a ready market for these goods. Prices and credit would be greatly affected and considerable losses might possibly result to the firms concerned. The Mandalay trade, however, is exceedingly elastic, and, if not further interfered with, would quickly recover. For a time, after the withdrawal of the Residency, the trade with Mandalay almost entirely ceased; but it soon revived, and is now almost as active as ever. The temporary disorganisation inseparable from the dissolution of the treaties would probably be accepted if it were understood to end in a final adjustment of the political question.

2. Under the circumstances supposed, the King would, of course, be as unfettered in his fiscal arrangements as we should be. Many vexatious imposts would, no doubt, be levied to the injury of trade. But the goods which we receive from Upper Burmah are not indispensable to us, and can be procured elsewhere. In his own interests the King could not press his exactions beyond a certain limit, and it may be doubted whether, at the worst, our trade would suffer more than it did from the capricious interference of the late King and from the evasions of the treaties so justly complained of during his reign. On the other hand, the equalisation on our side of the customs duty on

* Duty on Mandalay goods for	Rs.
1878-79 at 1 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> -	58,470
Ditto ditto at tariff rates	3,40,252
Increase -	2,81,782

seaborne goods for Mandalay with that on goods imported for home consumption would bring in a large increase* of revenue, besides enabling us to reduce the frontier preventive establishment by about Rupees 20,000 a year.

3. The revision or dissolution of the treaties is a necessary preliminary to the equalisation of the salt duty. On the 5th of last month I submitted in the Financial Department proposals to abolish the obnoxious capitation tax in British Burmah and to substitute for it a salt duty at the same rate as in Bengal, and I then pointed out that this very important reform of our fiscal system cannot be carried out so long as we supply salt to Upper Burmah on payment of a duty of 1 per cent. *ad valorem* or 1½ pies per maund. Upper Burmah is almost entirely dependent on us for a salt supply. The quantity that can be locally made, or that can be imported otherwise than through British Burmah, is not great; and, the treaty apart, there is no reason why we should continue to supply the King's subjects with salt at a cheaper rate than to the people of British Burmah. The average duty at 1 per cent. *ad valorem* realised annually during the last five years from salt supplied to Upper Burmah is only Rupees 2,648, or say Rupees 3,000 in round numbers. The average quantity supplied is 422,977 maund. If full duty at Rupees 2-8 a maund were taken on this quantity the revenue would amount to Rupees 10,57,442. Accurate statistics in regard to Upper Burmah are not available; but the King's subjects are commonly estimated to number about 3,000,000. A fair average consumption of salt per head of population in Bengal and Behar is between 10 and 11 lbs., which would yield 393,750 maunds for a population of 3,000,000. A consumption of 350,000 maunds would yield us an increased revenue of Rupees 8,72,000.

4. I do not suppose the Government of India would contemplate the reimposition of the frontier customs duty formerly levied at Thayetmyo and Toungoo. Nor do I think it would be advisable except as a very temporary measure of coercion or retaliation to impose a duty on rice exported to Upper Burmah. The average quantity of rice, husked and unhusked, taken yearly for Upper Burmah during the last four years is 1,890,831 maunds, equal in round numbers to 67,500 tons. At 3 annas a maund the duty realised would be about Rupees 3,50,000. There is a good deal to be said in

favour of taxing this rice. It is diverted from other markets, on exports to which duty is levied, and so far diminishes the revenue we should otherwise realise. *Primâ facie* there is no reason why this privilege should be granted to the King's subjects. But on the other hand the rice duty will probably ere long be abolished altogether; it is not certain that the selling price of rice in Upper Burmah is directly influenced by the prices prevailing here; and it is doubtful whether the duty would not in part at least fall in the long run upon our own subjects. On the whole, I would not recommend so doubtful a measure except as a temporary expedient.

5. As regards the question of the blockade of food supply, I have already noted that Upper Burmah is almost entirely dependent on us for its salt. The stoppage of the supply of that necessary of life would be very severely felt, and would prove a most effective measure of coercion. It would be necessary, however, at the same time to stop the supply of ngapee. This condiment is a necessary of Burmese life, and to a large extent takes the place of salt. The value of ngapee and dried fish sent to Upper Burmah last year amounted to Rs. 15,73,455. The prohibition of the export of rice would also seriously affect the King's subjects, especially the riparian population. But the people are not altogether dependent on us for food grains. Upper Burmah produces wheat and other cereals in large quantities, and sends its surplus produce to British Burmah. Last year 1,280 tons of wheat and 12,680 tons of other grain were imported into our territories from Upper Burmah. All this, in the event of rice being stopped, would be available for home consumption, and there is no reason to doubt that Upper Burmah can produce food in abundance for its own population. The stoppage of the rice supply would probably produce a temporary famine and cause considerable suffering; but it would not be so effective a coercive measure as the embargo upon salt.

(Signed) C. U. ARCHISON,
Chief Commissioner of British Burmah.

Rangoon, 6th December 1879.

Enclosure 6 in No. 31.

TELEGRAM, dated December 24, 1879.

FROM FOREIGN SECRETARY, CALCUTTA, TO CHIEF COMMISSIONER, RANGOON.

YOUR letter, dated 23rd November, reporting attack on Flotilla steamer. You are instructed to communicate with Burmese Foreign Minister, stating case as infringement of treaty, and requesting adequate redress and punishment of offenders.

Use moderate language, but require early reply, and report result.

No. 32.

TELEGRAM from SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY, dated 1st March 1880.

YOUR Letter No. 6. We question expediency of denouncing treaties as proposed. Decision reserved on course to be pursued until we receive report of Burmese reply to demand for redress. Is it true that captain of steamer accepted compensation?

No. 33.

No. 60 of 1880.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HON. VISCOUNT CRANBROOK, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD,

Fort William, March 10, 1880.

WE HAVE the honour to inclose copies of correspondence regarding the Burmese Embassy, which is still at Thayetmyo, the frontier station of British Burmah.

2. It will be remembered that in November last the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah was instructed to inform the Burmese Envoy that the Government of India were not disposed, under existing circumstances, to receive a mere mission of ceremony, with formal assurances of friendship, from the King of Mandalay. The Envoy was to be told, however, that he might, if he should see fit, refer to his own Government for further instructions; and this he appears to have done. The Chief Commissioner

received, early in February, an intimation that the Envoy had been duly empowered to discuss preliminaries for a new Treaty between the British Government and Upper Burmah, and that accordingly he desired to communicate again with the Chief Commissioner.

3. Mr. Aitchison has now transmitted the draft outline of a new Treaty tendered to him by the Burmese Envoy, with his own opinion upon its contents and character. Many of the articles are, in Mr. Aitchison's judgment, wholly inadmissible, while no mention is made of the specific points at issue between the two Governments, the question of the future position and treatment of the British Resident at Mandalay, in particular, being left untouched. The Chief Commissioner has therefore caused the Envoy to be informed that unless there be reasonable expectation of more substantial overtures being made, his remaining indefinitely at Thayetmyo is inconvenient and generally undesirable.

4. We agree with the Chief Commissioner that many of the articles in the sketch Treaty cannot in any way be entertained, and should be negatived without discussion. Moreover, since the unsatisfactory and undignified position at Mandalay of the British Resident was the chief reason stated for withdrawing him, it is clear that some fresh understanding on this matter must be the first point for settlement in any future negotiation; and that it must include arrangements for the Resident's proper reception by the King. Whether it is necessary, or on principle expedient, that the Residency shall in future be entrenched, stockaded, and guarded by a British force, as recommended in the 6th paragraph of the Chief Commissioner's letter, is a question that need not be immediately examined; but a new site for the Residency appears indispensable.

5. We have, therefore, approved the reply which the Chief Commissioner has caused to be addressed to the Embassy at Thayetmyo, and to the Foreign Minister at Mandalay.

We have, &c.
(Signed)

LYTTON.
F. P. HAINES.
A. J. ARBUTHNOT.
J. STRACHEY.
E. B. JOHNSON.
W. STOKES.
RIVERS THOMPSON.
A. FRASER.

Enclosure 1 in No. 33.

Dated Rangoon, 20th February, 1880.

From G. D. BURGESS, Esq., C.S., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, to A. C. LYALL, Esq., C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

From the Deputy Commissioner, Thayetmyo, dated the 5th February, 1880, with translation of enclosures.

From the Deputy Commissioner, Thayetmyo, dated 11th February 1880, with translation of enclosures.

To the Deputy Commissioner, Thayetmyo, dated 16th February 1880.

To Foreign Minister at the Court of Ava, dated 16th February, 1880.

stated, appear to be the proposals contained in the sketch treaty submitted by the Burmese Embassy:—

Article 1.—Perpetual peace and friendship.

Article 2.—Each of the contracting parties to respect the territories and independence of the other.

Article 3.—Each of the contracting parties may place a plenipotentiary at the capital of the other.

Article 4.—The plenipotentiary of each to have jurisdiction in civil suits between subjects of his own Government residing in the territories of the other.

Article 5.—The subjects of each party residing in the territories of the other to be subject to the territorial criminal law and jurisdiction.

Article 6.—Mutual surrender of persons guilty of criminal offences on identification and demand.

I AM directed by the information of the Chief Commissioner to submit, for the Government of India, the correspondence noted in the margin.

2. So far as the Chief Commissioner can judge from the somewhat obscure language of the document, the following, briefly stated, appear to be the proposals contained in the sketch treaty submitted by the

Article 7.—Mutual surrender of political offenders.

Article 8.—British merchants may work mines in Upper Burmah (except for precious stones) on terms to be arranged in each case.

Article 9.—Right of unobstructed navigation for merchant vessels.

Article 10.—Merchant vessels to be subject to territorial law.

Article 11.—Unobstructed right of trade.

Article 12.—Plenipotentiaries to be provided with suitable residencies.

Article 13.—Goods in through transit not to be liable to examination except in doubtful cases, but to be subject to duty of 1 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Article 14.—Treaties made with other Powers to be mutually respected and principle of "most favoured nation" to be adopted.

Article 15.—Except on earth-oil, timber, and precious stones, which are Royal monopolies, the following *ad valorem* duties, exclusive of tolls, may be taken in Upper Burmah on exports and imports:—

	Per cent.
Spirits and opium	30
Rice and grain	free
Other food and liquors	5
All other goods	10

Article 16.—On merchant vessels of 150 tons and upwards entering or leaving Upper Burmah, a duty of one rupee a ton to be levied, and eight annas a ton on vessels below 150 tons.

Article 17.—Suitable landing-places to be provided for merchant vessels, and local regulations as to moving, loading, and unloading to be complied with.

Article 18.—Burmese Government to have right to procure unlimited supplies of war matériel.

Article 19.—Treaties of 1862 and 1867 to remain in force except as modified by Article 15.

3. For the reasons given in my letter, dated the 16th February 1880, to the Deputy Commissioner of Thayetmyo, the Chief Commissioner considers there would be no advantage in discussing with the Embassy the terms of this draft treaty, even if the Ambassadors be empowered to conclude it. Many of the Articles, more especially the last half of Articles 4 and 5, and Articles 7, 16, and 18, could not, under any circumstances, be agreed to. Their inappropriateness is so manifest that the Chief Commissioner finds difficulty in believing that the Burmese Government can be serious in proposing them.

4. Moreover, no proposals for a revision of treaties on any basis, which does not provide for the satisfactory adjustment of the various important questions at issue between the two Governments to which, under the instructions of his Excellency the Governor-General in Council, reference was made in general terms in the communications to the Embassy and the Burmese Foreign Minister of 29th November last, can, in the Chief Commissioner's opinion, be entertained. The Ambassadors have now been two and a half months at Thayetmyo, since the conditions on which alone they could be received were explained to them. The only result apparently, after this lengthened interval, is the submission of a sketch treaty, many of the Articles of which are on the face of them inadmissible, and in which all pending differences are studiously ignored. Under these circumstances and bearing in mind the inconveniences arising from the indefinite sojourn of the Embassy at Thayetmyo, the Chief Commissioner has informed the Ambassadors and the Burmese Minister for Foreign Affairs that, unless there be some reasonable hope that the Ambassadors will ere long be in a position to put forward substantial overtures likely to be acceptable to the British Government, it is desirable they should return to Upper Burmah.

5. If the Residency at Mandalay is to be re-established, the settlement of many matters now pending may well be postponed till the appointment of a new Resident, through whose agency the negotiations can be deducted. But it is, in the Chief Commissioner's opinion, an essential preliminary that appropriate proposals as to the Resident's position and treatment should be put forward by the Burmese Government, or at least that a basis for the friendly discussion of the question should be suggested by them. The Chief Commissioner considers that no arrangement will be satisfactory or conducive to the recovery of British influence at Mandalay which does not secure the reception of the new Resident in a manner as impressive as the withdrawal of the last was unceremonious. By their treatment of the British Resident, the Burmese Government rendered his position so uncomfortable, so undignified, and latterly so insecure, that it

became necessary to withdraw him altogether. He left without receiving any of the ordinary courtesies. The first condition of his return now should be that the Burmese Government shall receive him with the honours and with the outward tokens of respect paid to the highest of their own officers below the Royal blood. The proposals for the ceremonial of reception should be submitted to and approved of by the British Government beforehand.

6. In the next place, the Burmese Government should be required to assign, without delay, a proper and convenient site for the Residency. That previously occupied was utterly unfit for the purpose, and was the cause of many needless annoyances and disagreeable incidents to the British representative. The Burmese Government have admitted the necessity for another site, but have omitted on one frivolous excuse or another to give the land wanted. They should grant either the site selected by Colonel Browne, or such other site as may be chosen for the Residency. It will also be necessary to provide that the Residency may be entrenched and stockaded so as to be capable of defence against attack; that it may be guarded by such a British force as may be required; and that it may be visited and relieved from time to time, as may seem fit, by vessels of the British Government, whether armed or unarmed. Similar stipulations will be required in the case of the Agency at Bhamo, if that should ever be re-established. It would be imprudent a second time to leave our officers exposed to danger in so defenceless a position as that of the late Residency.

7. Another preliminary condition on which a distinct understanding must be arrived at is the manner of the reception of the Resident by the King. The Resident should be admitted as of right to audience of the King at any reasonable time whenever he may demand it; and he should appear in the ordinary dress of a political officer, and in the attitude usual in European countries. At present His Majesty requires whoever enters his presence to remove his shoes and to adopt a humiliating and servile attitude, degrading and obnoxious to any European, and especially objectionable in the case of a representative of the British Government. Of late years the Resident has not been permitted to conform to this custom, and has consequently been shut out from direct speech with the King, a state of things unknown in our intercourse with any other Power.

8. In addition to these provisions as to future diplomatic arrangements, the Chief Commissioner is of opinion that before the Residency can be re-established some stipulation should be made to prevent the recurrence of the bloodshed against which the late Resident was directed publicly to remonstrate. The barbarous occurrences of February 1879 disturbed the peace of our territories, and for a time seriously injured our commerce. But apart altogether from this special consideration, intervention to vindicate great principles of humanity and natural law is alike justified by usage and honourable to the intervening Power. In the slaughter which has taken place at Mandalay not many of the Royal family have been allowed to escape; but there are still a few, notably the mother and sister of the Nyoung-yan Prince, left, who stand in great peril of their lives, and have no prospect of safety but in the protection of the British Government. It would scarcely be humane while restoring formal relations with the Burmese Court to leave these persons exposed to the dangers which continually threaten them. After the course taken by us in February last, it appears to the Chief Commissioner impossible, and that it would be destructive to any hope of our acquiring a useful influence at Mandalay, to renew intercourse with the Burmese Court on the old footing without a stipulation for the release of the unfortunate captives who may still be alive, and an engagement that cruel and unnecessary executions, such as have made the reign of the present King infamous, shall never recur.

9. These, I am to say, are the considerations which occur to the Chief Commissioner as those which should guide him in exercising the liberty given him to deal with any substantial overtures that may be made by the Embassy in regard to the matters referred to in that letter. The communications now forwarded from the Ambassadors make it extremely doubtful whether the views which the Burmese Government may take on these subjects, if mooted, are likely to be acceptable. But the Chief Commissioner thinks we can be satisfied with nothing less. If, however, these conditions should eventually in substance be agreed to, the probability is that the new Resident would take office with a prestige that would make it a comparatively easy matter to bring to a successful settlement the minor questions which remain, and to effect a satisfactory revision of the commercial treaties which in the interests of both Governments require modification.

Enclosure 2 in No. 33.

From DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, Thayetmyo, to G. D. BURGESS, Esq., C.S., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

February 5, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to enclose, in original, a letter from his Excellency the Burmese Ambassador here informing me, for the information of the Chief Commissioner, of his having received full instructions from his Government to enter upon all matters between the two Governments. This was brought to me by the second member of the Embassy last evening, and I requested him to furnish a copy of the instructions received from his Government, for the information of the Chief Commissioner. The copy has just reached me, and I enclose it for the Chief Commissioner's information.

TRANSLATION of a LETTER from the BURMESE AMBASSADOR PLENIPOTENTIARY, WOONDOK MYOUNG-HLA, MYOZA-MIN, MINGYEE SIRI-MAHA-KYAWDIN-RAJA, to the DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, Thayetmyo, dated the 10th Waning Tabodway 1241.

HAVING carefully rendered into Burmese and submitted, for the information of His Most Great and Glorious Majesty the Burmese King of the Rising Sun, the English letter which the Deputy Commissioner, on the 4th day of the waning moon Natdaw 1241, came and delivered to the officers of the Embassy, the (following) Royal order of His Majesty's was received.

"Having empowered, appointed and sent Woondok Myoung-hla Myoza, Mingyee Siri-Maha-Kyawdin-Raja as Ambassador Plenipotentiary in order to make patent the durability of the grand kingly friendship between the two countries, the Burmese Empire and the English Empire, let Ambassador Woondok Myoung-hla Myoza and Embassy Officers be able to discuss what is permissible (or necessary) in connexion with the negotiation of a new treaty of grand friendship between the Burmese Empire and the English Empire."

Having accordingly been again royally favoured by the receipt of a Royal order, empowering and appointing (an Ambassador) Plenipotentiary, the officers of the Burmese Embassy are able duly to treat of the matter of making durable the grand kingly friendship already entered into between the Burmese Empire and the English Empire, as likewise of matters promoting extraordinarily the development of the prosperity of the two countries.

The Deputy Commissioner having informed by letter the Chief Commissioner of Pegu, Tenasserim, and Arakan of these circumstances will (*i.e.*, is requested to) intimate in reply the instructions which the Chief Commissioner may issue to the Deputy Commissioner.

TRANSLATION.

ROYAL ORDER of SIRI-PAVAR'-ADITYALOK'-ADHIPATI-PANDITA-MAHA-DHAMMA RAJADHIRAJA.

His Most Great and Glorious Majesty who rules the Burmese Empire, the Excellent Burmese King of the Rising Sun, having empowered, appointed, and sent Woondok Myoung-hla Myoza, Mingyee Siri Maha-Kyawdin-Raja, as Ambassador Plenipotentiary in order to make patent the durability of the grand kingly friendship between the two countries, the Burmese Empire and the English Empire, let Ambassador Woondok Myoung-hla Myoza and Embassy Officers be able to discuss what is permissible (or necessary) in connexion with the negotiation of a new treaty of grand friendship between the Burmese Empire and the English Empire. Royal Order of the 13th day Waning Tazoungmone 2423 of the Religious era, 1241 Burmese era, the 10th November 1879 of the Christian era.

(Signed) His Most Great and Glorious Majesty who rules the Burmese Empire, the Excellent Burmese King of the Rising Sun.

(Countersigned) AGGA-MAHA-SENAPATI, WOONSHINDAW, LEH-GAING MYOZA THENAT-WOON.
MINGYEE, MIN-THADO-SUDHAMMA MAHA-THET-DAW-SHEE,
Burmese Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Enclosure 3 in No. 33.

From DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, Thayetmyo, to G. D. BURGESS, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

February 11, 1880.

On the 5th instant I forwarded a communication from the Burmese Envoy here, Myoung-hla Myoza Min, and a copy of the letter from his Government appointing him, with two other ambassadors, to revise the existing treaties between the two Governments. On the evening of the 9th instant I received a telegram from the Chief Commissioner at Akyab asking for further information. Next morning I had an interview with the Envoys, and they stated they were in possession of instructions from their Government regarding the basis of a new treaty; also that they had power to definitely sign a new treaty, unless additional provisions were mooted by the Government of India. I then delivered a letter I had already prepared, asking to be favoured with a copy of their instructions for the information of the Chief Commissioner, and also that they would state exactly what their powers were. This they agreed to do, and this morning I have received a copy of the heads of the treaty, and also a letter setting out more clearly their powers; both of which I enclose direct to Rangoon, as subsequently wired by the Chief Commissioner.

TRANSLATION of a LETTER from the BURMESE AMBASSADOR PLENIPOTENTIARY, WOONDOUK-DAW MYOUNG-HLA, MYOZA-MIN, MING-YEE SIRI-MAHA-KYAWDIN-RAJA, to the DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, Thayetmyo, dated the 3rd waxing Taboung 1241.

[AMBASSADOR] has received letter No. 130-28 sent by the Deputy Commissioner on the 2nd waxing Taboung 1241.

The Burmese Government, with a view to the durability of a continuous grand friendship between the two great countries, the Burmese and the English Empire, and to the prospective development of the prosperity of the two countries, have designed and furnished to the Embassy officers the subject-matters for the negotiation of a new treaty.

As regards the question whether or no (the Ambassador) has plenary powers to negotiate a treaty, (Ambassador intimates) that the Embassy officers have plenary powers to negotiate and sign a treaty if the matters (under negotiation) are not disadvantageous to the two countries, but are fitting. If they be not fitting, they can, after submission to superior authority, be dealt with according to the instructions received.

Copy of the subject-matters of the treaty furnished by the Burmese Government to the Embassy officers for the negotiation of a fresh treaty is (herewith) sent to the Deputy Commissioner.

TRANSLATION.

SUBJECT-MATTERS for the Negotiation of a TREATY of Grand Friendship.

THE two countries of the Excellent Burmese Sovereign of the Rising Sun and the Excellent English Sovereign shall not quarrel or make war for a long time hence. There shall be as usual a genuine grand friendship existing in continuous succession from Royal generation to generation for an exceeding great length of time.

2. The Burmese Government shall not design or carry out anything impairing the advantage or prosperity of the empire owned and ruled by the English Government. The English Government shall not design or carry out anything impairing the advantage or prosperity of the empire owned and ruled by the Burmese Government; both sides shall, in conformity with the tokens of a genuine grand friendship, take heed thereto.

3. As a genuine grand friendship exists between the Excellent Burmese Sovereign and the Excellent English Sovereign, should the English ruler wish, for the purpose of facilitating the discussion of all political affairs, to place a plenipotentiary in the city in which the Burmese ruler dwells, he shall be allowed to do so; and should the Burmese ruler wish to place a plenipotentiary in the city in which the English ruler dwells, he shall be allowed to do so.

4. If civil causes arise between English subjects who are within the Burmese Empire, the English Plenipotentiary shall decide them according to English custom; and if civil causes arise between Burmese subjects who are within the English Empire, the Burmese Plenipotentiary shall decide them according to Burmese custom.

5. Burmese subjects within the English Empire criminally concerned shall be judged by the English authorities according to English custom; and English subjects within

the Burmese Empire criminally concerned shall be judged by the Burmese authorities in accordance with Burmese custom.

6. Those accused of appropriating goods or property by cheating or fraud, or killing men and absconding, of theft and robbery, and other criminal offences, if only pointed out and asked for by one side shall be given up by the other side.

7. Should rebels take refuge with the Agent Plenipotentiary residing within the Burmese Empire, or with the Agent Plenipotentiary residing within the English Empire, they shall not be harboured; they shall be surrendered to their own Government.

8. Should English merchants wish to prospect and work mines for minerals and precious stones within the Burmese Empire, all mines, except mines for precious stones, may, according to Burmese custom, after discussion with the Burmese authorities and the fixing of appropriate dues, be worked should there be an agreement as to terms.

9. English merchant vessels (lit. boats, ships, and flats) mooring at the shore, and coming in and going out (in the manner) usual among vessels mooring within the Burmese Empire, shall not be stopped by the Burmese authorities; and Burmese merchant vessels moving and coming in and going out shall not be stopped by the English authorities; leave to go and come and moor shall be given in conformity with the regulations and customs established in the (respective) countries.

10. Regarding vessels having to moor and go in and out and to traffic and buy and sell merchandize, they shall stop and go and come and traffic and sell and buy according to the territorial regulations.

11. As there exists a genuine grand friendship between the Burmese Government and the English Government, those from the one empire wishing to buy and sell and come and go to the other empire shall not be hindered or stopped by either side, (but) shall be allowed to come in and go out and to go about trading.

12. The ground and enclosure for the residence of the plenipotentiary placed by the English Government within the Burmese empire, sufficient for him to be able to reside, and the ground and enclosure for the residence of the plenipotentiary placed by the Burmese Government within the English empire, sufficient for him to be able to reside, shall be assigned by the (respective) territorial authorities (as they may deem) suitable.

13. Merchants who are British subjects carrying for trade merchandise of various kinds through the Burmese empire to other empires shall, if trusted, not have their bales or boxes opened, and, if doubted, shall have their bales and boxes opened and examined. Merchants who are Burmese subjects carrying for trade merchandise of various kinds through the Burmese empire to other empires shall, if trusted, not have their bales or boxes opened, and, if doubted, shall have their bales and boxes opened and examined. As regards the through transit customs of both empires, both sides are to pay an *ad valorem* rate of 1 per cent. at the stations where customs are levied.

14. The rights which the Burmese Government by treaty have already given or will in future give to other Governments and their subjects shall not be curtailed or abated: the same rights shall be given to the English Government and their subjects. (Similarly) the rights which the English Government by treaty have already given, or will in future give to other Governments and their subjects shall not be curtailed or abated: the same rights shall be given to the Burmese Government and their subjects.

15. Although the first Article of the Treaty of 1229 provides that imports by land or water to the Burmese empire from other empires, or exports from the Burmese empire to other empires shall have an *ad valorem* duty of 5 per cent. levied thereon; yet in conformity with the most durable and genuine grand friendship existing, with the exception of earth-oil, timber, rubics, and other precious stones which appertain to the Crown, on fermented and spirituous liquors and opium, an *ad valorem* duty of 30 per cent., exclusive of Maloon, Kyouk-ta-lone, and Min-goon tolls, may be levied; on the various kinds of eatables and drinkables, excepting rice and grain, an *ad valorem* duty of 5 per cent., exclusive of tolls; and on all other merchandise 10 per cent. *ad valorem*. Rice and grain shall be subjected to no duty, they shall be free. Merchandize on which duty has once been levied shall be subjected to no further duty whether on account of transit or of change of rulers.

16. Merchant vessels (lit. ships, flats, and boats) above 150 tons burden entering or leaving Burmese territory, shall pay a tonnage duty of one rupee per ton; below 150 tons a tonnage duty of eight annas per ton.

17. Merchant vessels (lit. ships, flats, and boats) from the Burmese empire and merchant vessels from the English empire having to go in and out and stop and trade from one empire to the other shall, in conformity with the marks of grand friendship, be given a landing-place in a suitable spot where they shall moor and stop and buy and

sell. As regards the mooring of vessels and the shipping and landing of goods, these shall be according to the regulations of the respective countries.

18. Agreeably with the undertaking of 1229 signed by Chief Commissioner Fytche, stating that although the eighth Article of the Treaty mentions that if the Burmese Government wanted to purchase within British territory mortars, cannon, jingalls, fire-arms, ammunition and war matériel, steam and merchant vessels, they could purchase them if the Chief Commissioner assented; yet that so long as the grand friendship between the Burmese and English Government existed (he, the Chief Commissioner) could not dissent, he would allow the purchase of whatever was wanted; and, inasmuch as, the Burmese empire being an independent empire governed by a crowned monarch, it is proper that like other independent empires governed by crowned monarchs it should be replete with weapons of warfare, whether or no there be occasion therefore in order to allow it to defend and preserve itself from internal and external danger and enemies, the English Government, in conformity with the existing genuine grand kingly friendship, will, if the Burmese Government want and purchase weapons of warfare and ships according to the above-mentioned treaty, not dissent; so long as the grand friendship between the Burmese and English Government exists, they shall be allowed to purchase whatever they want.

19. Although this Treaty of 19 Articles has been concluded in continuation, excepting the tariff according to Article 1 of the Treaty of 1229, which has been modified by the 15th Article of this Treaty, the remaining nine Articles of the Treaty of 1224 and 13 Articles of the Treaty of 1229, shall not be broken or set aside, (but) shall be observed by both parties.

Enclosure 4 in No. 33.

FROM OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burmah, to DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, Thayetmyo.

February 16, 1880.

WITH your letter, dated 5th February, you forwarded a letter from his Excellency the Myoung-hla Woondouk, dated 10th waning Tabodway 1241, together with a copy of a Royal Order, dated 13th waning Tazoungmone 1241, and November 10th, 1879, of the Christian era, empowering the Burmese Embassy to discuss what is permissible in connection with the negotiation of a new treaty between the English and Burmese Governments. His Excellency requested you to communicate with Chief Commissioner and obtain the Chief Commissioner's orders.

2. The substance of the above communication was forwarded by telegraph to the Chief Commissioner, who was then at Akyab, and on the 19th instant you were instructed by telegraph to inform the Woondouk that the Chief Commissioner was prepared to receive and consider any overtures his Excellency was authorised to make; and that if the overtures, when received, should appear to afford a substantial basis for discussion, the Chief Commissioner would communicate with his Excellency as to the time and place of receiving him. You were also instructed to suggest to the Woondouk the propriety of his moving the Burmese Foreign Minister to send the Chief Commissioner a copy of the Royal Order in reply to the Chief Commissioner's letter, dated 29th November last, if not already done.

3. Your letter, dated 11th instant, now gives cover to a copy of a letter from the Myoung-hla Woondouk, dated 3rd waxing Taboung 1241, in which he states that the Embassy have plenary powers to enter into and sign a treaty if the terms are not disadvantageous to the two countries; but that if the terms are not fitting they must be submitted to higher authority. A sketch of the proposed treaty is at the same time furnished.

4. The Chief Commissioner observes that the Ambassadors have not produced or shown to you the full powers authorising them to enter into and sign a treaty. No such powers are conveyed in the Royal Order submitted with your letter of 5th February, which appears to have been prepared before receipt of my letter of 29th November last, and which only authorises the Embassy to discuss preliminaries. This initial obstacle, however, would probably be overcome by a fresh reference on the part of the Embassy to their Government, which the Chief Commissioner would be happy to await if the treaty sketched were such as could with advantage be discussed; but the proposed treaty not only contains a number of points already sufficiently provided for in the existing treaties, but introduces several new Articles advancing proposals which could not possibly be agreed to; and which, from the first, there could hardly be any serious expectation that the British Government would entertain.

5. The Chief Commissioner further observes that the Ambassadors make no allusion to various points at issue between the two Governments in respect to which the views and wishes of the British Government have been fully placed before the Ministers of His Majesty the King; and that in particular (beyond the proposed stipulation in Article 12 of the sketch treaty, to the effect that suitable houses shall be provided for the representatives of the two Governments) no reference is made to the position and treatment of the British Resident at Mandalay and the diplomatic privileges he is entitled to, in regard to which, as the Ambassadors have been already informed, his Excellency the Viceroy of India has had cause for serious dissatisfaction. The Embassy appear to have no more authority now than formerly to propose anything that is likely to be acceptable to the British Government in regard to these matters.

6. Unless, indeed, there be some reasonable hope that the Embassy will ere long be in a position to put forward substantial overtures for a satisfactory understanding in regard to the matters mentioned in my letter, dated 29th November 1879, and referred to in the preceding paragraph, it is desirable that they should return to Upper Burmah. Their sojourn at Thayetmyo for an indefinitely protracted time, and without any proposals likely to be acceptable, is inconvenient.

7. A copy of this letter should be delivered to his Excellency the Myoung-hla Woondouk, in reply to his communications to you. A copy will be forwarded direct to the Burmese Foreign Minister for information.

Enclosure 5 in No. 33.

FROM A. C. LYALL, Esq., C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, to C. U. AITCHISON, Esq., LL.D., C.S.I., Chief Commissioner of British Burmah.

Fort William, March 5, 1880.

I AM directed to acknowledge your letter, dated 20th February, forwarding, for the information of the Government of India, copies of correspondence relating to the draft Treaty proposed by Burmese Embassy now at Thayetmyo.

2. In reply, I am directed to say that the Government of India agree with you that the Articles of the proposed Treaty, to which you draw attention, are altogether inappropriate and inadmissible. Moreover, since the unsatisfactory and undignified position at Mandalay of the British Resident was the chief reason stated for withdrawing him, it is clear that some fresh understanding on this matter must be the first point for settlement in any future negotiation, and that it must include arrangements for the Resident's proper reception by the King. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council therefore approves of the instructions which, in your letter, dated 16th February, you have sent to the Deputy Commissioner of Thayetmyo for communication to the Burmese Envoy, and a copy of which you have also forwarded direct to the Foreign Minister at Mandalay.

No. 34.

DESPATCH to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL,
No. 18, dated India Office, April 23, 1880.

MY LORD,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of the letter of your Excellency's Government, No. 60, dated 10th March last, enclosing copy of correspondence respecting the draft outline of a new treaty which the Burmese Envoy now at Thayetmyo has, under instructions from his Government, tendered to the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah.

2. You are of opinion that not only are many of the articles of this draft altogether inadmissible, but that, with a due regard to recent events, no new treaty negotiations between the two Governments are practicable without being preceded by a clear understanding as to the future position and treatment of the British Resident at Mandalay. You have accordingly sanctioned the terms of the communications in this sense which Mr. Aitchison has caused to be addressed to the Embassy at Thayetmyo and to the Foreign Minister at Mandalay.

3. In the circumstances set forth in your letter under reply, I approve your proceedings.

(Signed) CRANBROOK.

No. 35.

No. 119 of 1880.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HON. THE MARQUIS OF HARTINGTON, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD MARQUIS,

Simla, May 25, 1880.

IN continuation of our Despatch No. 60, dated the 10th March 1880, and with reference to Lord Cranbrook's Despatch No. 18, dated the 23rd April last, we have the honour to forward, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, copies of the papers regarding the negotiations with the Burmese Embassy now at Thayetmyo in British Burma.

2. Your Lordship will perceive that the Burmese Envoy has received a second Royal Order from the Court of Mandalay conferring upon him plenary powers as an Ambassador, and that he has asked to be allowed to proceed to Rangoon for the purpose of personal discussion with the representative of the British Government. He has, however, been informed by the Chief Commissioner of British Burma that, until a substantial basis for discussion shall have been settled, a meeting would be premature; and that, if his Excellency is not prepared with overtures in respect to the matters mentioned in the Chief Commissioner's previous communications to him, the Embassy should return to Mandalay.

3. We have approved all the Chief Commissioner's proceedings.

We have, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON.
" F. P. HAINES.
" J. STRACHEY.
" E. B. JOHNSON.
" RIVERS THOMPSON.
" J. GIBBS.
" ALEX. FRASER.

Enclosure 1 in No. 35.

From G. D. BURGESS, Esq., M.A., Officiating Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burma, to A. C. LYALL, Esq., C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

Dated Rangoon, March 3, 1880.

IN continuation of my letter, dated the 20th February 1880, I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the papers noted in the margin.

Copy of letter, dated the 25th February 1880, from the Deputy Commissioner, Thayetmyo, to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner.

Translation of a letter from the Burmese Embassy to the Deputy Commissioner, Thayetmyo, dated the 13th Waxing Taboung 1241 (the 21st February 1880).

Translation of a letter from the same, to the Chief Commissioner, dated the same.

2. The members of the Burmese Embassy paid a friendly visit to the Chief Commissioner during his stay at Thayetmyo, which the Chief Commissioner duly returned. They made no allusion to political affairs.

From Colonel H. N. DAVIES, Deputy Commissioner, Thayetmyo, to G. D. BURGESS, Esq., M.A., Officiating Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burma.

Dated February 25, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to enclose letters addressed to the Chief Commissioner and myself from the Burmese Ambassador, acknowledging the receipt of your communication of the 16th instant, delivered by me.

TRANSLATION of a LETTER from the Burmese Ambassador-Plenipotentiary WUN-DOUK-DAW MYOUNG-HLA MYO-ZA MIN, MENGYEE SIRI-MAHA-KYAWDIN-RAZA, to the DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, Thayetmyo.

Dated 13th Waxing Taboung 1241 (21st February 1880).

(AMBASSADOR) sends a letter for the Chief Commissioner, Rangoon, stating that the letter has been received on the subject of the Burmese Embassy, dated 16th February 1880, which the Deputy Commissioner came and delivered; that the subject of the letter has been reported to the Burmese Government; and that intimation will be given when instructions are received from the Burmese Government as to what mind they have.

(Ambassador) requests the Deputy Commissioner will greatly favor (him), and forward the letter on to the Chief Commissioner.

TRANSLATION of a LETTER from the Burmese Ambassador-Plenipotentiary WUN-DOUK-DAW MYOUNG-HLA MYO-ZA MIN, MENGYEE SIRI-MAHA-KYAWDIN-RAZA, to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burma.

Dated Thayetmyo, 13th Waxing Taboung 1241 (21st February 1880).

(AMBASSADOR) has received the English letter on the subject of the Burmese Embassy, dated 16th February 1880, which the Deputy Commissioner, Thayet, came and delivered to the Embassy.

This letter having been translated, read, and thoroughly understood, the fact of such letter having been received has been reported to the Burmese Government.

When the Burmese Government send instructions to the Burmese Embassy as to what mind they have, intimation thereof will be sent to the Chief Commissioner.

Enclosure 2 in No. 35.

From G. D. BURGESS, Esq., M.A., Officiating Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burma, to Colonel H. N. DAVIES, Deputy Commissioner, Thayetmyo.

Rangoon, April 2, 1880.

I AM directed to say that it is now upwards of a month-and-a-half since His Excellency the Myoung-hla Wun-douk was informed that, unless there were some reasonable hope that the Embassy would ere long be in a position to put forward substantial overtures for a satisfactory understanding, it was desirable that they should return to Upper Burma, and that their sojourn at Thayetmyo for an indefinitely protracted time and without any proposals likely to be acceptable was inconvenient. No further communication of any kind on the subject having been received from his Excellency up to the present time, I am directed by the Chief Commissioner to request that you will be good enough to communicate to his Excellency the Myoung-hla Wun-douk the wish of the Chief Commissioner, that the Embassy should return to Upper Burma.

2. A copy of this letter should be delivered to the Myoung-hla Wun-douk, to whom also you will give every assistance he may require to enable the Embassy to withdraw at the earliest convenient date.

From G. D. BURGESS, Esq., M.A., Officiating Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burma, to his Excellency the KEN WUN MENGYEE, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mandalay.

Rangoon, April 2, 1880.

I AM directed by the Chief Commissioner to forward, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a letter which has been addressed to the Deputy Commissioner, Thayetmyo, on the subject of the return of the Embassy from Thayetmyo to Upper Burma.

Enclosure 3 in No. 35.

From Colonel H. N. DAVIES, Deputy Commissioner, Thayetmyo, to G. D. BURGESS, Esq., M.A., Officiating Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burma.

Thayetmyo, April 7, 1880.

I RETURNED from Kama last evening, and am in receipt of your demi-official letter of the 2nd instant. The despatch referred to therein having been sent to Kama, passed me on the road, and will not reach me in time to enable me to master its contents before the mail leaves. But I infer the tenor of your official letter from your note; and as in the meantime circumstances have occurred which seem to render it advisable that I should

defer delivering your official letter to the Ambassador, I shall await fresh instructions. It is probable at least that the terms of your letter may require alteration.

Before my arrival here yesterday, the Ambassador had forwarded to Major Prendergast, to await my return, a letter from his Excellency, enclosing a copy of a communication he had received from the Court of Mandalay. This communication consists of two enclosures. One is a letter from the Prime Minister, dated 4th Labyeegyaw of Tagoo (corresponding to 28th March 1880), acknowledging the receipt of the Chief Commissioner's letter of the 30th November last, setting out that the Myoung-hla Myo-za, who had been appointed Ambassador, had now received full powers to execute a new treaty. The second is a copy of a Royal letter which purports to be a general power-of-attorney from the King, authorizing the Wun-douk Myoung-hla Myo-za to sign, in communication with any officer appointed on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen of England, any treaty which may be beneficial to His Majesty's own Government, and bears date the 11th Labyeegyaw of Tagoo (corresponding to 4th instant).

No special overtures, as apparently contemplated in the concluding paragraph of the Chief Commissioner's letter to me of 29th November last, copy of which was delivered to the Ambassador here, are set out in the Prime Minister's letter. Nor are any points for discussion, or any matters which are to form the basis of a new treaty, formulated either in the Minister's or in the Royal letter. Nor is any reference whatever made to the subject of the complaints by our Government, as set out in the Chief Commissioner's letter of 29th November last, and again referred to in the fifth paragraph of your letter of 16th February last to me, copy of which was sent to the Ambassador and to the Prime Minister, which, indeed, remains still unanswered and unacknowledged by the Prime Minister, as far as I am aware.

There is nothing apologetic as regards the treatment of our Resident, and nothing being said of the terms of the new treaty, beyond that they are to be favourable to the King. The intention may be simply to extinguish the present treaty.

As, however, the matter has assumed a varied, though substantially not a different, complexion, I have considered it necessary (supposing I correctly assume the purport of your letter) to delay delivering it till the Chief Commissioner has had an opportunity of considering the communications herewith forwarded.

From G. D. BURGESS, Esq., M.A., Officiating Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burma, to Colonel H. N. DAVIES, Deputy Commissioner, Thayetmyo.

Rangoon, April 10, 1880.

I AM directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter, dated the 7th instant, intimating that, in consequence of the receipt of a letter, with two inclosures, all of which you forward, from his Excellency the Burmese Ambassador, the Myoung-hla Wun-douk, you have delayed delivery of my letter of the 2nd instant.

2. In reply, I am directed by the Chief Commissioner to say that, as a copy of my letter of the 2nd instant was forwarded to his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs at Mandalay with my letter of the same date, it will be convenient that the letter should be delivered to his Excellency the Ambassador at once. At the same time, you will be so good as to inform the Ambassador that his Excellency's letter and its enclosures, which you have transmitted, are at present under the Chief Commissioner's consideration; and an answer will shortly be communicated to him.

TRANSLATION of a LETTER from WUN-DOUK-DAW MYOUNG-HLA MYO-ZA MIN, MENGYEE SIRI-MAHA-KYAWDIN-RAZA, Burmese Envoy-Plenipotentiary, to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burma, dated 11th Waning Hnong Tagoo 1241 (4th April 1880).

The Burmese Embassy officers having been favoured with a second Royal Order conferring plenary powers, and their being accordingly grounds for meeting and discussing with the Chief Commissioner matters contributing to the permanence of the royal friendship between the two countries, a copy of the second Royal Order transferring powers, together with a letter from Wun-shin-daw Leh-gaing Mye-za Then-at Wun Mengyee (the Prime Minister) to the Chief Commissioner, is made over to the Deputy Commissioner, Thayetmyo, for the Chief Commissioner's information.

(The Embassy officers) confidently trust to receive a letter intimating when they may come down to Rangoon, and meet and discuss matters with the Chief Commissioner.

TRANSLATION of a ROYAL ORDER by HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF BURMA, dated 3rd Waning Hnong Tagoo 1241 (29th March 1880).

KNOW all men whom it may concern by these presents, the especial confidence placed in the power, skill, prudence, wisdom, accomplishments, and right conduct of him who has been specially appointed and sent, the Head Envoy, Royal Agent, and First Plenipotentiary (Aye-banig) Wun-douk Myoung-hla Myo-za Mengyee Siri-mahakyawdin-raza.

We confidently and wholly transfer to Wun-douk Myoung-hla Myo-za Mengyee Siri-mahakyawdin-raza our powers (namely) all powers which for our advantage and welfare and good name should be transferred, to meet with one or several who on the part of Her Majesty the Queen has or have powers conferred on him or them similar to the Plenipotentiary especially appointed and sent by us, to say, move, inquire, arrange, compare, and consult (*i.e.*, discuss); to negotiate with the said one or several Plenipotentiary or Plenipotentiaries a treaty or treaties, whether temporary or permanent; to confer, discuss, arrange, consult, and dispose of, so as to settle any affair now at the present time occurring, or in future to occur, in which the two countries are involved, and all desirable great and small affairs, matters, or proposals whatsoever.

With reference to the matters of signing, of finally concluding, of making durable and lasting (confirming?) one or several temporary or permanent treaty or treaties, we having regard in conjoint consultation to all matters touching which the aforesaid powers have been transferred (for the disposal of the said) affairs, matters, and proposals, and making the aforesaid transfer of powers the basis, shall reserve for our own part the signature, according to the rulers and nobles of Burma may decide or express approval.

In witness to the aforesaid transfer of powers, we cause our seal to be affixed at foot.

Signed by us in the Golden Place at the capital of the Burmese Kingdom, on the 3rd Waning Hnong Tagoo in the year 2423 of the Religious Era and 1241 of the Kawza or Burmese era (corresponding with the 20th March 1880 of the European era).

SIRI-PAVAR'-ADITYA-LOK'

ADHIPATI-PANDITA-MAHA-

DHAMMARAJ ADHIRAJA,

His Most Great and Glorious Majesty, who has dominion over the Burmese Empire, the Burmese King of the Rising Sun.

(Countersigned)

AGGA-MAHA-SENAPATI WUN-SHIN-DAW
LEH-GANIG MYO-ZA THEN-AT WUN
MENGYEE MINTHADO-SUDHAMMA-
MAHA-THETDAWSHAY,
Burmese Prime Minister.

TRANSLATION of a LETTER from the BURMESE PRIME MINISTER, to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burma, dated 4th Waning Hnong Tagoo 1241 (28th March 1880).

INTIMATES that he has received and carefully read letter, dated 30th October (*sic*) 1879.

That inasmuch as extraordinary and special powers, together with (or in addition to) plenary powers rightfully accorded to Envoys and Royal Agents, have been conferred on Wun-douk-daw Myoung-hla Myo-za Mengyee Siri-mahakyawdin-raza, who has specially been appointed and sent (to discuss) the points contained in the letter, together with (matters) contributing to the advantage of the two countries, the Wun-shin-daw Mengyee confidently hopes that the Wun-douk-daw Myoung-hla Myo-za min and the Chief Commissioner will both meet without delay, and consult and discuss matters contributing to the permanence of the grand friendship between the Royal Kingdom and the English Kingdom, matters regarding the assistance to be given to the traders and poor people of both kingdoms so as to contribute to their welfare and prosperity, and all matters regarding which discussion is needed.

From G. D. BURGESS, Esq., M.A., Officiating Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burma, to Colonel H. N. DAVIES, Deputy Commissioner, Thayetmyo.

Rangoon, April 12, 1880.

In continuation of my letter, dated the 10th instant, I am directed to forward the enclosed letter, dated the 12th April 1880, and to request that you will be good enough to deliver it to his Excellency the Burmese Ambassador, the Myoung-hla Wun-douk, to whom it is addressed. A copy is enclosed for your information.

From G. D. BURGESS, Esq., M.A., Officiating Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burma, to His Excellency the BURMESE ENVOY-PLENIPOTENTIARY.

Rangoon, April 12, 1880.

I AM directed by the Chief Commissioner to acknowledge the receipt (through the Deputy Commissioner of Thayetmyo) of your Excellency's letter, dated the 11th Waning Hnong Tagoo 1241 B. E. (the 4th April 1880), with its enclosures, namely, a copy of an order, under the hand of His Majesty the King of Ava, conferring on your Excellency plenary powers as an Ambassador, and a letter from his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs at Mandalay.

2. In reply, I am directed by the Chief Commissioner to enquire what overtures your Excellency, in exercise of the full powers conferred, is prepared to make in respect to the matters referred to in my letter, dated the 29th November 1879, and paragraphs 5 and 6 of my letter, dated the 16th February 1880, to the address of the Deputy Commissioner of Thayetmyo (by whom copies of both were furnished to your Excellency), and more especially with regard to the position of the British Resident at Mandalay, and his proper reception by His Majesty the King. If the overtures when received appear to be substantial, and embrace proposals which are likely to be acceptable to the British Government, the Chief Commissioner will be most happy to meet and discuss matters with your Excellency.

3. I am to add that a copy of this letter will be forwarded to his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs at Mandalay for information.

From G. D. BURGESS, Esq., M.A., Officiating Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burma, to His Excellency the MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, Mandalay.

Rangoon, April 12, 1880.

I AM directed by the Chief Commissioner to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's letter dated the 4th Waning Hnong Tagoo 1241 B. E. (the 28th March 1880); and in reply, and in continuation of my letter, dated the 16th February 1880, to forward, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a letter, dated the 12th April 1880, which has been addressed to his Excellency the Envoy-Plenipotentiary Wun-douk-daw Myoung-hla Myo-a Mengyee Siri-maha-kyawdin-raza.

Enclosure 4 in No. 35.

From G. D. BURGESS, Esq., M.A., Officiating Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burma, to A. C. LYALL, Esq., C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

Rangoon, April 23, 1880.

IN continuation of the Chief Commissioner's telegram of to-day, I am directed to forward by the out-going mail the full text (in translation) of the reply of the Burmese Ambassador to my letter dated 12th April 1880.

TRANSLATION of a LETTER from the BURMESE ENVOY-PLENIPOTENTIARY to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burma, dated Thayetmyo, 9th Waning Kasong 1242 (16th April 1880).

HAVING received letter, dated 12th April 1880, of the Christian era, on the subject of the Burmese Embassy, from the Deputy Commissioner, Thayetmyo, its contents have been carefully considered.

In communications connected with political affairs for arrangement between the two empires, and in matters for consultation on both sides, if the two Plenipotentiaries do not meet, but make written communications one to the other, there can be no thoroughness or definiteness, no proper despatch or expedition. Only when the two Plenipotentiaries meet, and the one enquires and speaks to, and arranges and consults with, the other, can the communications be complete and definite, and matters properly and easily adjusted.

The original aim and purpose of His Majesty the Burmese King of the Rising Sun being the strength and permanence of the grand friendship between the two countries, England and Burma, and the welfare, prosperity, and happiness of the merchants and common people of the two empires, he, in proper conformity with the marks of grand friendship, appointed Ambassadors, and despatched them with a Royal letter and presents to his Excellency the Viceroy of India; and if all that has to be communicated and discussed has to be done from Thayetmyo, there can be no (chance) of all the

communications being thorough and definite: Wherefore, in order to properly discuss and consult on all matters that have to be discussed and consulted, the sole desire and hope entertained is, that the Embassy come down to Rangoon and meet the Chief Commissioner.

Enclosure 5 in No. 35.

From G. D. BURGESS, Esq., M.A., Officiating Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burma, to A. C. LYALL, Esq., C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

Rangoon, May 7, 1880.

IN continuation of my letter, dated the 23rd April 1880, and with reference to your telegram of the 5th instant, I am directed by the Chief Commissioner to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the reply, which has been this day sent to the letter, dated the 16th April, from his Excellency the Burmese Ambassador, the Myoung-hla Wun-douk.

2. A copy of the letter to the Ambassador has been forwarded, as usual, to the Minister for Foreign Affairs at Mandalay.

From G. D. BURGESS, Esq., M.A., Officiating Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burma, to His Excellency the Burmese Envoy-Plenipotentiary WUN-DOUK-DAW MYOUNG-HLA MYO-ZA MIN, MINGYEE SIRI-MAHA-KYAWDIN-RAZA.

Rangoon, May 7, 1880.

I AM directed to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's letter dated the 16th April, the 9th Waxing Kasong.

2. In reply, I am directed to observe that the Chief Commissioner fully agrees with your Excellency that, for the satisfactory discussion of political questions pending between two countries, personal consultation between the representatives of both is desirable. But before such consultation can be of any advantage, it is necessary to lay down certain definite preliminary points of negotiation, and to arrange a substantial basis for discussion. In the present instance your Excellency has been invited to lay down the requisite preliminaries by stating what overtures your Excellency, in exercise of the full powers conferred by His Majesty the King of Ava, is prepared to make in respect to the matters referred to in my letter, dated the 29th November 1879, and paragraphs 5 and 6 of my letter, dated the 16th February 1880, and more especially with regard to the position of the British Resident at Mandalay, and his proper reception by His Majesty the King; and it has been intimated to your Excellency that if the overtures, when received, appear to be substantial, and embrace proposals which are likely to be acceptable to the British Government, the Chief Commissioner will be happy to meet and discuss matters with your Excellency. In the absence of such overtures, a discussion of political affairs with your Excellency, whether personal or by letter, could serve no useful end.

3. In these circumstances, the Chief Commissioner regrets that he cannot accede to your Excellency's request to be permitted to meet him at Rangoon; and in case your Excellency is not prepared to submit substantial overtures, I am to request compliance with my letter, dated 2nd April, to the Deputy Commissioner of Thayetmyo, which was delivered to your Excellency by that officer on the 12th April.

Enclosure 6 in No. 35.

From A. C. LYALL, Esq., C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, to C. U. AITCHISON, Esq., C.S.I., LL.D., Chief Commissioner, British Burma.

Simla, May 22, 1880.

I AM directed to acknowledge your Officiating Secretary's letter, dated 7th May 1880, forwarding, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the letter, of the same date, which you have addressed to his Excellency the Burmese Ambassador at Thayetmyo.

2. In reply, I am to say that his Excellency the Governor-General in Council fully approves the intimation you have given to the Ambassador, that, in the event of his Excellency not being prepared to make substantial overtures respecting the several points mentioned in your previous communications with him, the Embassy should return to Mandalay.

No. 36.

No. 59 of 1880.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HON. THE MARQUIS OF HARTINGTON, Her Majesty's
Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD MARQUIS,

Simla, June 1, 1880.

IN our letter No. 6, dated the 14th January 1880, we reported the particulars of a riotous assault in Upper Burma upon a flotilla steamer in Burmese waters; and we stated our opinion that an unprovoked attack of this nature rendered necessary a demand for reparation and for the punishment of offenders.

2. On receipt of this despatch, Lord Cranbrook telegraphed that Her Majesty's Government questioned the expediency of denouncing the treaties, and reserved decision on the course to be pursued until a report of the reply of the Burmese Government to the demand for redress should have been received. Lord Cranbrook asked, also, whether the captain of the steamer had accepted compensation; and an answer was sent, on the 17th March, that the captain had accepted 100 rupees.

3. We have now the honour to report that a reply has at last been received from the Burmese Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Chief Commissioner's letter of the 5th January last. That letter invited the attention of the Burmese Government to the circumstances of the attack on the steamer, represented the case as an infringement of treaty, and requested adequate redress and punishment of the offenders. To the rumour (not at the time authenticated) that a fine of Rupees 100 had been imposed, and that two Burmese coolies had received trifling chastisement, the Chief Commissioner alluded by a remark that such punishment would be quite inadequate. On the 22nd March the Chief Commissioner inquired when he might expect to receive a reply; but no answer was given by the Burmese Government until the 19th April, when the letter, of which a copy is herewith enclosed, was addressed to Mr. Aitchison from Mandalay. In this letter the Burmese Minister briefly intimates that the case has been decided by the local magistrate, that both parties to the case have been satisfied, and that it is not the custom, in cases thus settled, to take further proceedings. Your Lordship will observe that the reply takes no notice of the Chief Commissioner's statement of the case as a grave offence that has been very inadequately punished, and as constituting, until properly redressed, an infringement of treaty.

4. It was in anticipation of some such unsatisfactory answer to our demand that we addressed Lord Cranbrook, in January last, on the subject of the steps to be taken if redress should be refused or evaded. Our telegram of the 9th December to the Secretary of State shows that the Government of India hesitated to make any demand until their ground for subsequent proceedings, if the demand proved ineffectual, should have been assured; but upon receipt of Lord Cranbrook's telegram of the 12th December, which appeared to approve the demand being made, we considered it necessary to take action, because the affair could not possibly be ignored, while it was obvious that any communication to the Burmese Government would lose almost all its force if delayed until a reference by letter to England could be made and answered.

5. In the present stage of the affair, however, all further proceedings upon the Burmese Minister's letter are necessarily stayed until Her Majesty's Government shall have considered it; and, in submitting the papers for your Lordship's orders, we may observe that, unless the Government of India are eventually authorised to deal with the case as an infringement of treaty, it must, in our opinion, be silently dropped. But we consider that such a conclusion would be very prejudicial to the honour and interests of the British Government, and that the reasons upon which we determined that a demand must be made now prevail manifestly with redoubled strength on the side of prosecuting it to some distinct issue, or at least to some understanding in regard to the future. Upon those reasons, which are given in the third paragraph of our previous despatch, we still adhere to the view that the affair cannot be creditably passed over; while we still desire to point out to Her Majesty's Government that a plain, reasonable, and advantageous course of action can be found in the procedure which in the last paragraph of our despatch we had the honour to recommend to Her Majesty's Government. It may be that the original affair is not, of itself, sufficiently important to form the basis for a dissolution of our commercial engagements; but we wish to represent, what in previous despatches has already been brought to the notice of Her Majesty's Govern-

ment, that ever since the accession to the throne of the present King the attitude of his Government towards us has been one of open unfriendliness and of frequent disregard of treaty obligations. And since we have every reason to apprehend, from long experience of the conduct and character of the Burmese Government, from the recent behaviour in particular of the King and his Ministers, and from the fact of our having no representative at Mandalay for the protection of British subjects, that the Burmese Government cannot safely be encouraged either in discourtesy to our Government or in disregard of their engagements, we are most reluctant to leave this reply without some substantial rejoinder.

6. We desire, therefore, permission from Her Majesty's Government to inform the Mandalay Court that the answer given to our demand is considered unsatisfactory, both in tone and substance; that the case is regarded as affecting our treaty relations; and that, having regard to the whole state of our present relations with the King, we consider that the honour and interests of the British Government require us to withdraw altogether from our existing commercial engagements with Upper Burma. We propose, however, in accordance with the procedure explained by the final paragraph of our despatch of the 14th January last, to give due notice beforehand of our intentions, and thus to allow the Burmese Government an opportunity of fully considering the consequences that will follow their evasion of our demand for redress.

We have, &c.

(Signed)

LYTTON.

F. P. HAINES.

J. STRACHEY.

E. B. JOHNSON.

A. R. THOMPSON.

J. GIBBS.

A. FRASER.

Enclosure 1 in No. 36.

From G. D. BURGESS, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burma, to A. C. LYALL, Esq., C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

Calcutta, 28th January 1880.

I AM directed to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the letter addressed by the Chief Commissioner to the Minister for Foreign Affairs at Mandalay, in compliance with your telegram, dated the 24th December 1879, demanding adequate redress and punishment in regard to the attack on the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company's steamer "Shwemyo"; and to say that the Chief Commissioner will keep the Government of India regularly informed, from time to time, of the progress made in his correspondence with the Burmese Government upon the subject.

Enclosure 2 in No. 36.

COPY of a LETTER from G. D. BURGESS, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burma, to His Excellency the MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, Mandalay, dated Rangoon, 5th January 1880.

I AM directed to inform your Excellency that the Chief Commissioner has been instructed by the Government of India to invite the attention of your Government to the circumstances of an attack which was made upon the officers and crew of the steamer "Shwemyo" belonging to the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company at Mingyan, in the territories of His Majesty the King of Ava, on the 13th of November last.

2. The facts of the case, as given in the depositions of the captain, officers, and crew of the vessel, which were taken on the arrival of the steamer at Thayetmyo, and of which copies are attached for your Excellency's information, were briefly the following.

On the arrival of the "Shwemyo" at Mingyan, a Surati trader, named Muhammad or Muhammad Ismail, came on board and tried to make his way over the paddle-box to the forepart of the steamer, which had been newly painted and was protected from the approach of passengers by one of the crew, who had been told off for the purpose. The commander, Captain Vince, quietly requested the Surati not to come that way, as the paint was not dry, but to go round in the usual direction. The Surati used abusive language, refused to obey, and seized Captain Vince by the arm. The commander then laid hold of the Surati and took him to the flat, where he let him go. Upon this

Muhammad Ismail went aft, and called a number of Burmese coolies on board to seize the commander. A body of twenty men and upwards then rushed on board and attacked the officers and crew; and Captain Vince, by way of self-defence, arrested and endeavoured to handcuff the Surati who had instigated the riot.

The Burmans who came on board were armed with bamboos and sticks, which they wielded freely. One man struck the storekeeper with a bamboo, knocking him down and cutting his head open. The chief officer went to arrest this Burman, who cut his ear with a blow from the bamboo, and drove him against a stanchion. Another Burman struck the chief engineer, who was trying to bar the gangway, several blows on the face and chest. A lascar was struck heavily on the head with a billet of wood; his thumb was severely cut and he was thrown overboard. He was picked up between the flat and steamer, and for some time was quite unfit for work. Another lascar was struck a violent blow on the head, which rendered him insensible, and was knocked overboard close to the shore. This man was rescued and brought on board. There was a severe wound on his forehead; and he remained in a state of insensibility for over thirty hours. Others of the crew were more or less severely beaten and injured. The Surati managed to make his escape while the officers and crew were engaged in rescuing their comrades from drowning. The following morning the Governor of Mingyan made a sort of summary inquiry, and induced Captain Vince, who wished to have the case investigated at Mandalay, to agree to have it inquired into at Mingyan on his return. On his arrival at Mandalay, Captain Vince reported the matter to the agent of his company, Mr. Andreino, who communicated with your Excellency, and was informed, it is stated, that orders would be sent by telegraph to the Governor of Mingyan, directing him to have the persons concerned in the assault put into gaol. When Captain Vince returned to Mingyan, however, although a further inquiry was held, the Governor asked him to compromise the case, and, on his refusing to do so, dismissed it with the remark that both sides had made false statements and were in fault.

3. A rumour has reached the Chief Commissioner that subsequently a fine of Rs. 100 was imposed on the Surati, and that two Burmese coolies received a trifling corporal chastisement. If this report be true, the punishment is quite inadequate to the gravity of the case.

4. By the provisions of the treaties which exist between the British and Burmese Governments, British subjects within the territories of the King are entitled to the protection of the Burmese Government. The attack on the "Shwemyo" was a very serious one, and nearly terminated in the death of two men. Acts, such as were committed on this occasion, constitute a very grave offence, which would require to be punished with severity.

5. The Chief Commissioner is instructed by the Government of India to say that this case was an infringement of treaty, and to request adequate redress and punishment of the offenders. I am, therefore, directed to inquire what steps your Excellency proposes to take in order to afford adequate redress, and bring all the offenders to just punishment. I am to add that under the instructions of the Government of India, the Chief Commissioner has to ask the favour of an early reply to this communication.

Enclosure 3 in No. 36.

From H. M. DURAND, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, to C. U. AITCHISON, Esq., C.S.I., LL.D., Chief Commissioner, British Burma.

Fort William, 3rd March 1880.

I AM directed to acknowledge your Officiating Secretary's letter, dated 28th January 1880, enclosing a copy of your communication to the Minister for Foreign Affairs at Mandalay, dated 5th idem, demanding adequate redress and punishment in regard to the attack on the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company's steamer "Shwemyo."

2. I am to inquire whether any reply has been received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs; and, if so, to request that a copy of the same may be forwarded for the information of the Government of India.

Enclosure 4 in No. 36.

From G. D. BURGESS, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burma, to A. C. LYALL, Esq., C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

Rangoon, April 1, 1880.

In reply to your letter dated the 3rd March, I am directed to say that no answer has been received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs at Mandalay to the Chief

Commissioner's communication dated the 5th January last, demanding adequate redress and punishment in regard to the attack on the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company's steamer "Shwemyo," and I am to enclose, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a letter which was addressed to the Foreign Minister upon the subject on the 22nd ultimo in accordance with the instructions contained in your telegram of the 17th idem.

COPY of a LETTER from G. D. BURGESS, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burma, to his Excellency the MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, Mandalay.

Rangoon, March 22, 1880.

I AM directed to request the favour of your Excellency's attention to my letter, dated the 5th January 1880, on the subject of an attack which was made upon the officers and crew of the steamer "Shwemyo," belonging to the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company, at Mingyan in the territories of his Majesty the King of Ava on the 13th November 1879, and, with reference to the last paragraph, to inquire when the Chief Commissioner may expect to receive the early reply therein asked for.

Enclosure 5 in No. 36.

From G. D. BURGESS, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burma, to A. C. LYALL, Esq., C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

Rangoon, April 30, 1880.

IN continuation of my letter of the 1st instant, I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a translation of the answer which has now been received from the Foreign Minister at Mandalay to the Chief Commissioner's letter, dated the 5th January last, demanding adequate redress and punishment in regard to the attack on the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company's steamer "Shwe Myo."

TRANSLATION of a LETTER from AGGA-MAHA-SENAPATI AYEBAING WUNSHINDAW LEHGAING MYOZA THENAT WUN MINGYEE MIN-THADO-SUDHAMMA-MAHA-THETDAWSHAY to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burma.

12th Waxing Rasong 1242 (April 19, 1880).

WITH reference to Chief Commissioner's letter dated 5th January 1880 (the 13th* Waning Pyatho 1241 B.E.), stating that, as the case between the captain, mate, engineers, and kalassies of the steamer "Shwe Myo" and the Surattee, Ibrahim Muhammad, was one of great violence and injury, it is proper that the committers (of the affray) should be severely punished, and asking for a reply stating what further inquiry and punishment will be made.

Intimates that in the case of the affray between the Surattee trader, Ibrahim Muhammad, and the captain, mate, engineers, and kalassies of the steamer "Shwe Myo," both sides showed their several wounds and made their statements before the Myin-gyan (local) authority, the Talope Myo-wun Min, who awarded his "decree" (civil), to which the Surattee, Ibrahim Muhammad, (and) colleagues, coolies Nga Koo, Nga Pa-gyee, and Nga Myat-San, and the steamer agent Mooney agreed and affixed their signatures; and the case was (thereby) disposed of and settled (or satisfied).

That it is not the custom to try further (afresh) a case, such as this, already disposed of and settled (or satisfied), in which both parties agreed and affixed their signatures.

No. 37.

No. 141 of 1880.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HON. THE MARQUIS OF HARTINGTON, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD MARQUIS,

Simla, June 22, 1880.

WE have the honour to forward, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, copies of papers regarding the detention of the mail steamer "Yunan" by the Burmese authorities at Salaymyo.

M 2

2. We approve the letter which the Chief Commissioner has addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs at Mandalay. With regard, however, to the question of ulterior measures to be taken, in the event of the required explanation not being received or proving to be unsatisfactory, we shall await the result of the Chief Commissioner's letter before deciding upon the course of action to be recommended to Her Majesty's Government.

We have, &c.
(Signed) RIPON.
F. P. HAINES.
JOHN STRACHEY.
E. B. JOHNSON.
W. STOKES.
A. R. THOMPSON.
JAMES GIBBS.

Enclosure 1 in No. 37.

From G. D. BURGESS, Esq., C.S., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burma, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Foreign Department.

SIR, Rangoon, June 3, 1880.

IN continuation of the Chief Commissioner's telegram of the 31st ultimo on the subject of the forcible seizure and detention by the Burmese authorities at Salaymyo of the mail steamer "Yunan" I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the correspondence.

2. The facts of the case, as gathered from the depositions of the commander of the "Yunan" and the preventive officer who was on board, are fully set forth in the Chief Commissioner's telegram, and in the letter addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs at Mandalay, and need not be recapitulated.

3. The Minister for Foreign Affairs has been requested to furnish an explanation of the conduct of the Burmese authorities at Salaymyo. As inordinate delay has occurred in obtaining answers from the Burmese Government to previous references made to them on other matters, the Chief Commissioner has informed the Foreign Minister that he will expect to receive a reply in this case not later than the 30th June. Should the required explanation not be received by the date fixed or should it, when received, prove to be unsatisfactory, the Chief Commissioner is of opinion that a formal demand for redress should be made on the Burmese Government. The demand might take the following form:—(1) the dismissal of the Governor of Salaymyo from the service of the King and prohibition of his re-employment under the Burmese Government; (2) the payment of a substantial sum of money as an indemnity for the delay and inconvenience caused by the detention of the mail; (3) the tender of a suitable apology for the violence offered to a British mail steamer.

Enclosure 2 in No. 37.

TELEGRAM from the DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, Thayetmyo, to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burma.

May 29, 1880.

STEAMER "Yunan" was forcibly detained at Salaymyo on 27th and 28th. Starting gear taken and armed force put on board. Depositions taken and posted.

From the DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, Thayetmyo, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burma.

May 29, 1880.

HEARING that the mail steamer "Yunan" had been forcibly detained by the Burmese officials at Salaymyo, above Minhla, I took the depositions of the commander and the preventive officer, which I herewith enclose. It appears that a decoy in the shape of empty jaggery baskets was set up and the usual signal made that there was cargo for the steamer, which proved false, as there was no cargo. On anchoring, an armed force was sent to arrest the captain, who was taken to the Woon or magistrate's court, and informed that as the Flotilla Company's pilots had misconducted themselves they had been arrested. Besides this unjustifiable proceeding, for it appeared the allegation of misconduct on the part of the pilots was quite false, the Woon demanded the starting-gear of the steamer which the captain had to unship, and

which was taken to the Woon's Court. Twenty armed men were then sent on board, who took charge of the vessel to prevent her leaving; and the vessel was not released till the evening of the 27th. By this delay the mail steamer is overdue; and the captain states he had to forego taking cargo which was waiting for him at other stations.

Enclosure 3 in No. 37.

From the SUB-MANAGER, Irrawaddy Flotilla Company, Limited, to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burma.

May 29, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have this day received telegraphic information that the Flotilla Company's steamer "Yunan" whilst on a downward voyage from Mandalay, and having mails on board, was detained on 26th instant at the town of Salaymyo in Upper Burma, by order of the Woon, who either directly, or through his subordinates, demanded that the engine-starting gear should be given up, alleging that war had been declared between England and Burma. After the commander, for politic reasons, had complied with this request a guard of twenty men was placed on the steamer preventing the shipment of cargo. On the 27th instant, some twenty-four hours after the first notice of detention, a subordinate official of the Woon's, attended by a large following, went on board the vessel, and having returned the starting-gear, informed the commander that he was at liberty to proceed on his downward journey.

I lay the above facts before you as head of the Local Government, trusting that you will demand satisfaction at the hands of that of Upper Burma, for the forced detention of a steamer carrying Her Majesty's mails, and an unjustifiable interference with the peaceful relations that have hitherto existed between the two countries.

Enclosure 4 in No. 37.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burma, to His Excellency the MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS at Mandalay.

May 31, 1880.

I AM directed by the Chief Commissioner to bring to your Excellency's notice the following facts which have been ascertained from the commander of the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company's steamer "Yunan," and the preventive officer on board, whose depositions have been recorded by the Deputy Commissioner, Thayetmyo, regarding the forcible detention by the Burmese authorities at Salaymyo of the British mail steamer "Yunan."

2. The "Yunan" arrived off Salaymyo about 8 a.m. on the 26th instant, and the commander, seeing a flag hoisted to indicate that there was cargo, and a quantity of jaggery baskets piled up on the bank, complied with the signal and took his vessel alongside instead of lying out in the stream as is usual with mail boats. Upon anchoring the commander was summoned to the Governor's Court by armed men sent by the Governor of Salaymyo on the pretext that the pilots of the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company had been confined for misconduct. It appeared, however, that there had been no misconduct on the part of the pilots and the baskets on the bank were empty. The governor told the commander that he could not allow him to leave the landing-place as there was war between the English and Burmese, and demanded the steamer's starting-gear. The commander informed him that his vessel was a mail steamer and that the Burmese Government would be held responsible for the detention. The commander returned to the steamer, to which he was followed by numbers of armed men and boys. The starting-gear was unshipped and made over to the governor's emissaries. A guard of twenty peons armed with guns, dahs, and spears, was placed on board the vessel. This took place about 10 a.m. on the 26th instant, and the guard was maintained on board till about 8 p.m. on the 27th instant, when it was withdrawn and the starting-gear was returned.

3. I am to point out to your Excellency that this violent seizure and detention of a British mail steamer are circumstances of extreme gravity; and I am to request that you will be good enough to favour the Chief Commissioner with an early explanation of the conduct of the authorities at Salaymyo. The Chief Commissioner expects to be favoured with your Excellency's reply to this letter not later than the 30th June next.

No. 38

No. 142 of 1880.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HON. THE MARQUIS OF HARTINGTON, Her Majesty's
Secretary of State for India.

My LORD MARQUIS,

We have the honour to forward, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, copy of a letter regarding the withdrawal of the Burmese Embassy from Thayet-myo in British Burmah.

Simla, June 22, 1880.

We have, &c.

(Signed)

RIPON.

F. P. HAINES.

J. STRACHEY.

E. B. JOHNSON.

W. STOKES.

RIVERS THOMPSON.

J. GIBBS.

Enclosure 1 in No. 38.

From Colonel H. N. DAVIES, Deputy Commissioner, Thayet-mayo, to G. D. BURGESS, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burma.

Thayet-myo, May 30, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward, in original, letter received last evening from the Burmese Ambassador here inquiring what time he could call to take leave and deliver a letter for the Chief Commissioner prior to returning to Mandalay; and also of my reply appointing 8 o'clock this morning, if that time suited his Excellency.

2. According to appointment, all three Ambassadors called on me this morning and

* This letter was returned to the Ambassadors delivered the enclosed letter* for the Chief and no copy was kept of it. Commissioner, in which they report their return to Mandalay consequent on the abortive results of their mission.

Enclosure 2 in No. 38.

From G. D. BURGESS, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burma, to Colonel H. N. DAVIES, Deputy Commissioner, Thayet-myo.

Rangoon, June 1, 1880.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 30th ultimo, enclosing a letter from the Burmese Ambassadors to the Chief Commissioner, announcing their intended return to Mandalay.

2. You will be good enough to inform the Ambassadors verbally that the Chief Commissioner very much regrets he cannot accept the final letter which they have sent to him. The reasons for this are two,—first, the Ambassadors repeat in very strong language the incorrect statements formerly made accusing the Resident of precipitate and causeless withdrawal from Mandalay, although the Burmese Government have been informed that the withdrawal was not precipitate, but was arranged and carried out with due deliberation, and although the Ambassadors have been more than once reminded that the Viceroy of India had been seriously dissatisfied with the position and treatment of the British Resident at Mandalay, which have been altogether inconsistent with professions of friendship and with the exchange of diplomatic courtesies; second, the account given in the letter of the attempts at negotiation made by the Ambassadors and of the reasons for their failure is incorrect in every particular.

3. With these explanations you will return to the Ambassadors the letter sent by them. You will add that the Chief Commissioner has been ready, since the first day the Embassy arrived, to meet and treat with the Ambassadors on their showing that they were prepared to make substantial overtures likely to be acceptable to the British Government in regard to the points at issue between the two Governments. It is entirely the failure of the Ambassadors to disclose any suitable terms for discussion

which necessitates the return of the Ambassadors from Thayet-myo to Mandalay after a profitless and inconvenient sojourn at Thayet-myo for eight months.

4. The request of the Ambassadors for four guns, 10 pounds of powder, 40 pounds small shot, and five boxes of caps, and permission to go up to Mandalay without stopping at Allanmyo may be complied with.

5. The Ambassadors' letter has been placed in a sealed packet addressed to them and is herewith enclosed.

No. 39.

No. 151 of 1880.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HON. THE MARQUIS OF HARTINGTON, Her Majesty's Secretary
of State for India.

My LORD MARQUIS,

Simla, July 6, 1880.

In continuation of our Despatch, No. 142, dated 22nd June 1880, we have the honour to forward, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, copy of a letter, enclosing a report of the circumstances connected with the departure of the Burmese Embassy from Thayetmyo in British Burma.

We have, &c.

(Signed)

RIPON.

F. P. HAINES.

J. STRACHEY.

E. B. JOHNSON.

W. STOKES.

J. GIBBS.

Enclosure 1 in No. 39.

From Colonel H. NELSON DAVIES, Deputy Commissioner, Thayetmyo, to G. D. BURGESS, Esq., C.S., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burma.

Thayetmyo, June 2, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your letter of the 1st instant, and to state that, at one o'clock this day, I went on board the Ambassadors' Steamer, and, as requested, returned their letter to the Chief Commissioner dated 7th* Lahbyeegyaw of

* 29th May.

Nayowe, reporting the intended return to Mandalay, and in presence of all the three Ambassadors communicated verbally and fully the reason for doing so. They did not make the slightest attempt to refute the reasoning, but seemed rather amused at their attempt at imposition having been detected. The only pertinent remark they made was: "Then we are to understand that the Chief Commissioner's letter, No. 508, closed the mission." I replied, "Yes, as far as we are concerned, for we have received nothing from you since, except the letter I have now returned." I then informed them that their personal request for some sporting ammunition and leave to return without being detained at the Allanmyo Custom House had been granted. At parting they intimated I might expect to see them again shortly. On my return to office I forwarded them an export pass clearing their steamer for their return voyage.

No. 40.

TELEGRAM from SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

July 10, 1880.

Burmah.—You will, no doubt, consult Mr. Aitchison as to restoration of friendly relations. We do not completely understand policy of total rejection of overture. Review of proceedings in your letter of May 25th, delayed until further information received.

No. 41.

No. 173 of 1880.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HON. THE MARQUIS OF HARTINGTON, Her Majesty's Secretary
of State for India.

MY LORD MARQUIS,

Simla, August 3, 1880.

WE have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 10th July, intimating your Lordship's intention to await further information before reviewing our Despatch No. 119 of the 25th May, which submitted correspondence regarding the Burmese Embassy then at Thayetmyo.

2. Before the present Despatch reaches England, your Lordship will have received our Despatches enclosing copies of further papers on this subject. We believe that these papers will sustain the conclusion at which we arrived, that negotiation with the Burmese Embassy, constituted and empowered as it was, would be useless and undesirable. But in order that the reasons for our proceedings may be placed before your Lordship in a clear and connected form, we have now the honour to submit a brief summary of the communications which passed between our officers and the Burmese Ambassador during the stay of the Embassy in British territory.

3. The Burmese Embassy reached Thayetmyo on the 21st October 1879, and were there detained pending our instructions. As reported in the enclosures to our Despatch No. 239, dated the 20th November 1879, they came armed with no powers, either general or special, to make any explanations or proposals in respect to the differences between the two Governments. They were therefore informed that there was nothing to be gained by their proceeding further; that if they thought fit they might refer to their Government for fresh instructions; and that in the event of their making any substantial overtures the Chief Commissioner would deal with them; but that if they were not empowered to make any such overtures the Embassy could not be received. This course of action, and these instructions to the Chief Commissioner, were approved by Her Majesty's Government.

4. The essential condition antecedent to any negotiation was that the Ambassador should make advances of a kind likely to be acceptable to the British Government upon the various questions in respect to which the King had been repeatedly informed of our wishes, and more especially upon the question of the Resident's diplomatic privileges, his proper accommodation at Mandalay, and his reception by the King. Accordingly, the Ambassador was repeatedly informed that if he could produce powers authorising him to make suitable proposals, the Chief Commissioner would be very willing to receive him and to treat with him, but that until he did so no negotiations could be entered upon. The only response made was the submission, after four months, of a sketch treaty containing provisions so obviously inadmissible from the point of view of the British Government, that it seemed difficult to believe the Burmese Government to be serious in bringing it forward. No allusion whatever was made to the various points at issue between the two Governments, nor to the position and treatment of the Resident. The protracted residence of the Embassy at Thayetmyo was by this time becoming a cause of embarrassment, and as there was some ground for suspecting that members of the Embassy were engaging in surreptitious correspondence with our subjects, the Ambassador was informed that if he had no better proposals to put forward he should return to Upper Burma. This action was reported in our Despatch No. 60, dated the 10th March, and approved by Her Majesty's Government. Meanwhile the Ambassador, having referred to his Government for fuller powers, and having obtained them, asked permission to meet the Chief Commissioner at Rangoon for the purpose of there discussing matters with him personally. Before consenting, the Chief Commissioner inquired what proposals the Ambassador was authorised to make, informing him that if his overtures appeared substantial, and embraced proposals likely to be acceptable on the points which had already been brought to his notice, a meeting would be readily arranged for discussing them. The reply of the Ambassador showed that he had in reality no proposals to make. He merely urged the difficulty of properly discussing questions by letters from a distance. The Chief Commissioner, therefore,

while fully agreeing with him in this respect, pointed out that unless satisfactory preliminaries were submitted as a basis of discussion, there was no use in any discussion at all, either personal or by letter; and the request was repeated that, if the Ambassador had no definite proposals to make, he would return to Upper Burma.

5. After residing at Thayetmyo for more than six months without bringing forward a single reasonable proposal for the adjustment of differences, the Ambassador at last determined to return. Before leaving Thayetmyo he gave to the Deputy Commissioner of Thayetmyo, for transmission to the Chief Commissioner, a letter which not only showed no appreciation of the cause of our dissatisfaction with the Burmese Government, but returned to the position regarding the withdrawal of the Resident from Mandalay which had been taken up by the Burmese Government from the first. This letter was so improper, both in tone and in matter, that the Chief Commissioner declined to receive it, and caused it to be returned to the Ambassador without keeping any copy. His behaviour on this occasion, as reported in the enclosure to the Despatch No. 151, dated 6th July, showed the insincerity of his advances.

6. Such being the facts, we are of opinion that to have agreed that the Embassy should visit Rangoon, or should remain longer at Thayetmyo, would have served no good end. The only overtures ever made by the Ambassador were those set forth in the sketch treaty, which it would have been very unadvisable to entertain. From that time, although the Chief Commissioner had repeatedly and distinctly declared fresh overtures to be a necessary basis of negotiation, those overtures were never made, nor could we find grounds for believing that the Ambassador had any intention of making them. He had been more than six months in British territory, where he had been hospitably received, his daily expenses being paid. The protracted sojourn of the Embassy at Thayetmyo was not understood by the people; and while if it had been allowed to come to Rangoon, much speculation would have been again set astir as to the intentions of Government, and the trade with Upper Burma, which had been reassured by the firm and consistent attitude assumed by the Government of India towards the Court at Mandalay, would have been affected by fresh disquietude and uncertainty. Under these circumstances, we considered it desirable to inform the Ambassador that he might return to Upper Burma.

We have, &c.
(Signed) RIPON.
" F. P. HAINES.
" J. STRACHEY.
" E. B. JOHNSON.
" W. STOKES.
" J. GIBBS.
" C. U. AITCHISON.

No. 42.

DESPATCH to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.
(No. 36), dated India Office, 17th September 1880.

MY LORD MARQUIS,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of the Letter of your Excellency's Government No. 173 of 3rd August, reviewing the proceedings connected with the Burmese Embassy lately at Thayetmyo, and explaining the considerations which decided the Government of India to refuse to allow the Ambassador to proceed to Rangoon for the purpose of personal discussion with the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, as reported in letter from Lord Lytton's Government, No. 119 of the 25th May last.

2. As your Excellency in Council will have gathered from my telegram of the 10th July, I was in the first instance disposed to doubt whether the absolute rejection of the Burmese overtures, resulting in the return of the Embassy to its own country, was altogether judicious. It appeared to me, that although the Ambassador might not have been distinctly authorized to make the specific concessions desired by the Government of India, he had been furnished by the King with general powers sufficiently wide to justify continuance of negotiations, and that the personal discussion which was sought might possibly have led to a satisfactory result. The question, however, is one in regard to which the deliberate judgment of the local authorities is entitled to great weight. In view therefore of the conviction entertained by the late Chief Commissioner, shared apparently by your Excellency in Council, that the King's overtures were insincere and illusory, I am not prepared to dissent from the course which has been adopted.

(Signed) HARTINGTON.

No. 43.

No. 228 of 1880.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HON. THE MARQUIS OF HARTINGTON, Her Majesty's Secretary
of State for India.

MY LORD MARQUIS,

Simla, the 2nd November 1880.

In continuation of our Despatch, No. 173 of the 3rd August, we have the honour to forward, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, papers regarding our diplomatic relations with Upper Burma.

2. We have informed the Chief Commissioner that after all that has passed, any overtures for the revision of our relations must now come from the Burmese Government. But at Mr. Bernard's request, we have given him definite instructions regarding the particular proposals which would be considered acceptable as a basis for negotiation in the event of overtures being made.

3. Your Lordship will observe that one of the conditions which we think it right to insist upon before the re-establishment of a British Residency at Mandalay is connected with the cruel massacres which have disgraced the reign of the present King. We are of opinion that we are bound to prevent, as far as possible, the recurrence of such barbarities, and that, after the action taken by us in the matter in February 1879, which was reported to your Lordship's predecessor at the time, it would not be proper to re-establish a Resident at Mandalay until this question is satisfactorily arranged.

4. We trust that the instructions we have issued may be approved by Her Majesty's Government.

We have, &c.

(Signed) J. STRACHEY.
" F. P. HAINES.
" W. STOKES.
" J. GIBBS.
" C. U. AITCHISON.

Enclosure 1 in No. 43.

Demi-official from C. BERNARD, Esq., C.S.I., Officiating Chief Commissioner, British Burma, to A. C. LYALL, Esq., C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

Dated 11th August 1880.

I SUBMIT a memorandum on the question of the renewal of friendly intercourse with Mandalay. At present the position is very like stale-mate. We can hardly begin advances, with any hope that the King and his Ministers will make, save at the point of the bayonet, the concessions we require about the Resident's position. At the same time, the Mandalay Government can hardly move after their rebuff of last spring. I think the air would be clearer if we could announce in some way precisely what we should require as preliminaries to discussion. If after such announcement the Ava Court makes advances, then I think the Chief Commissioner might be directed to receive them in such a way as to show the desire of the British Government for a renewal of friendly intercourse under reasonable conditions.

Meanwhile, until some such advances are made from Mandalay, we must accept the present position. The coming trade season, November to May, will show whether or not our merchants and steamers can get on satisfactorily on the present footing without a Resident.

Subject to the better judgment of others, I think we shall, in the long run, find it necessary to have at Mandalay a representative of some sort. Seeing that our principal anxiety is for our trade on the Irrawaddy and to Bhamo, I think it quite possible that it might suffice to have at Mandalay a representative more of the type of a European Consular Agent than of the Indian Resident type. We do not want to interfere in, or to assume responsibility for, the internal administration of Upper Burma; but we

want to see that our traders get justice and are unmolested, so far as our agreements with Mandalay entitle them to special favour and protection. As yet there is no actual need for proposing such an arrangement. But if the present condition of affairs continues, if no rupture occurs, and if we feel the want of a commercial representative, then it may be desirable to consider whether we should not establish a commercial representative, in place of a Political Resident, at Mandalay. The representative, of whatever kind, would have to exercise jurisdiction in cases where British subjects were concerned.

Enclosure 2 in No. 43.

Simla, 18th October 1880.

From H. M. DURAND, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, to C. BERNARD, Esq., Officiating Chief Commissioner of British Burmah.

I AM directed to acknowledge receipt of your memorandum, dated the 11th August last, on the question of reconsidering the arrangements for diplomatic relations with the Government of Upper Burma, and the re-establishment of the Residency at Mandalay; and in reply, I am to communicate to you the following observations and instructions.

2. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council concurs in your opinion that the first overtures for the revision of our relations must originate with the Government of the King of Ava. After the break-down of the recent negotiations, it would be inexpedient, at the present time, to exhibit anxiety for closer relations with the King. The Burmese Government have been more than once informed in general terms by the late Resident, and, also, through the late Embassy, of the points at issue between the two Governments, with reference especially to the diplomatic privileges of the Resident; his proper accommodation at Mandalay, and his reception by the King. They are aware that the Chief Commissioner is authorized to negotiate, as soon as they disclose a preliminary basis, for the adjustment of these points, which is likely to prove satisfactory.

It must, therefore, rest with the Burmese Government to originate any further communications on the subject.

3. In the event of the Burmese Government making fresh advances for discussion, or of their inquiring what particular proposals would be considered acceptable as a basis for negotiation, I am to inform you that, subject to the further orders of the Secretary of State, who will, in the meantime, be consulted, the Government of India consider the proposals contained in paragraphs 5 to 8, inclusive, of the Chief Commissioner's letter, dated 20th February 1880, to be on the whole appropriate. The precise measures to be taken for the security of the Residency, whether by a stockade or a strong guard, are matters of detail; but the essential point in that respect is that no British Officers at Mandalay should again be exposed to the dangers which threatened the late Resident.

4. His Excellency in Council is not sanguine that the King's Government will make any substantial concessions on the points which the Government of India consider to be essential. He, therefore, does not think it advisable to make the announcement suggested by you except in reply to overtures on inquires on their part. In the event, however, of a British representative being again established at Mandalay, his Excellency in Council would not be in favour of a merely Commercial Agent or Consul, as suggested in your demi-official letter of 11th August. For the proper and regular handling of important commercial questions and interests, we require a representative who carries weight at the capital. The Burmese might be slow to appreciate the technical distinction of status between a consular and a diplomatic Agent; and the effect of sending the inferior officer might be to afford them a pretext for permanently lowering the footing upon which our Agent could claim to be treated, which would be a change in the direction exactly opposite to that in which all hopes of real improvement to our relations are to be found.

No. 44.

No. 231 of 1880.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HONOURABLE THE MARQUIS OF HARTINGTON,
Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD MARQUIS,

Simla, November 9, 1880.

IN continuation of our Despatch, No. 141, dated the 22nd June, we have the honour to forward, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, copies of further correspondence regarding the detention of the British Mail Steamer "Yunnan" by the Burmese authorities at Salaymyo.

2. Your Lordship will observe that our demands for an explanation of this affair, although made in the least exacting manner possible, have been wholly unsuccessful, and that the last letter from the Burmese Foreign Minister is so evasive and unsatisfactory as to preclude any prospect of advantage from further correspondence on the subject. The Chief Commissioner thinks the "Yunnan" affair does not, under all the circumstances, constitute so serious an affront that the demand for explanation and reparation ought to be pressed home at all hazards, and he, therefore, advises that the Government of India should content itself with an expression of dissatisfaction, reserving the point for discussion, together with other causes of complaint against the Mandalay Government, at a more convenient season. In this opinion we concur, and we have instructed the Chief Commissioner to inform the Burmese Minister for Foreign Affairs that his answer is considered to be neither satisfactory nor friendly.

3. In the meantime, we would invite your Lordship's attention to the proposals contained in our Despatches, No. 6, of the 14th January 1880, and No. 59, of the 1st June, and to our request for instructions regarding the notice to be taken of the Burmese answer to our demand for redress in the matter of the attack on the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company's Steamer "Shwemyo." The cases of the "Shwemyo" and "Yunnan" are of a somewhat similar character, and the explanations given by the Burmese have now proved inadequate in the second case as in the first.

4. In the Despatches above mentioned we requested, as the most appropriate and effective course in the event of a failure to obtain redress for the "Shwemyo" affair, that we might be authorised to treat the case as an infringement of Treaty, and to withdraw from the commercial engagements of 1862 and 1867. This course was not suggested only as a punishment for the refusal of the Burmese to meet our demands, or as a means of coercion. Though the Government of India was at the time disposed to attach to the renunciation of the Treaties, viewed as a matter of coercion, a value which, on mature consideration we are hardly prepared to claim for it, yet the proposal rested on other grounds as well. It was urged as a means of marking our sense of the want of good faith shown by the Burmese in regard to their Treaty obligations, and also as a step which would set us free to inaugurate important and beneficial reforms in our own fiscal arrangements. So long as our relations with Upper Burma were cordial, we received in this circumstance some compensation for the disadvantages arising to the administration of British Burma from the differential rates of duty fixed by the Treaties. But the aspect of affairs is entirely changed by the unsatisfactory attitude now assumed by the Burmese Government. When the protection guaranteed by the Treaties to our traders is not afforded, and when our requests for explanation of outrages upon them are evaded, it seems unreasonable that we should be prevented from introducing in our own administration very desirable reforms because of Treaties which are systematically broken or disregarded. We are of opinion that we should be justified by the misconduct of the Burmese in withdrawing from engagements the maintenance of which is no longer either binding upon us or advantageous to our interests; and we desire again to request from Her Majesty's Government authority to withdraw from these engagements if on further consideration the measure should appear to us to be desirable in the interests of commerce and of the administration of British Burma.

5. Should the authority be granted, we propose to give the Burmese Government ample notice of our intention beforehand. It is possible, though we do not think it likely, that the receipt of this notice may lead to advances on the part of the Burmese,

in which case the opportunity will be a favourable one for a general consideration of the questions at issue between the two Governments.

6. We hope that an early reply may be sent to this Despatch.

We have, &c.
(Signed) J. STRACHEY.
" W. STOKES.
" C. U. AITCHISON.

Enclosure 1 in No. 44.

From G. D. BURGESS, Esq., C.S., Officiating Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burma, to A. C. LYALL, Esq., C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

Rangoon, August 13, 1880.

IN continuation of previous correspondence regarding the detention of the mail steamer "Yunnan" by the Governor of Salay-myo, a town on the Irrawaddy in the kingdom of Mandalay, I am directed to submit translation of a further letter from the Foreign Minister at Mandalay, and of the answer which the Chief Commissioner has caused to be sent.

2. It will be seen that the Mandalay Minister, though he at first promised inquiry, has now sent an answer which states the facts incorrectly, and practically furnishes no explanation whatever. It would be open to the British Government at once to demur to the Minister's statement of the facts; to express dissatisfaction with the course taken by the Mandalay Government; to repeat the demand for explanation in categorical terms; and to indicate (as suggested in my letter of 3rd June) the kind of satisfaction which is required. But it is clearly not open to the Chief Commissioner to do anything of this kind without the express sanction of the Government of India. And it seems quite inexpedient to take such action save in the last resort, and until the British Government has decided upon the course of action to be taken in the event of satisfactory answer being absolutely refused.

3. It must be remembered that the Government of Mandalay find in the recent incursion of Prince Nyoung-Oke into Upper Burma territory some cause for soreness. Though the present King, Thebaw, has been guilty of inhuman conduct towards his relatives, and though his conduct towards the English Government has not been friendly, yet his Government is perhaps entitled to some allowance on the score of this soreness. Moreover, though the Minister's present letter is unsatisfactory, still it is a fact that the Governor of Salay-myo was summoned to Mandalay to give explanation of his conduct in the matter of the "Yunnan," and that he has been replaced by a successor in the governorship. It is also a fact that the King and his Government assist the traffic of the Irrawaddy Flotilla steamers, and that they have, since the affair of the "Yunnan," issued orders to their governors not to interfere in the Flotilla steamers, and not to put armed men on board those steamers. Under these circumstances, the Chief Commissioner deemed it best to give the Mandalay Government a further opportunity of furnishing a satisfactory answer concerning the "Yunnan" affair.

TRANSLATION of a LETTER from AGGA-MÁHA-SENAPATI A-YE-BAING WOON-SHINDAW LEH-GAING MYOZA THAYNAT WOON MINGYEE MIN-THADO-SADHAMMA-MAHA-THEYDAWSHAY to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burma, dated 3rd Waning 2nd Wazo 1242 (24th July 1880).

INTIMATES receipt of Chief Commissioner's letter on the subject of the steamer "Yunnan." The subject has received due attention. With reference to the statement in the letter that the English mail steamer was violently detained, Minister remarks that, as the merchant vessels belonging to the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company ply and trade without interruption within the Royal dominions, the Burmese Government, as the territorial authorities, are in friendly relations with the Company, and give them every succour and aid that can be rendered. During the time when over 500 dacoits and bad characters from the south side of the boundary were invading the Royal dominions and attacking and setting fire to Sin-boung-wei and the other frontier villages, the merchant vessel "Yunnan" on her way down from Mandalay anchored at Salay-myo, and the officer called the "Captain" went to the Salay-myo, and said that he was uncertain as to what was going on in the lower part of country, but the traders of all degrees who were passengers on board the vessel were anxious and alarmed. The Woon, fearing, firstly, that something or other might happen to the steamer at a

time when dacoits and bad characters were attacking Sin-boung-weh, and secondly, that there was a probability of some criminal occurrence, entered into explanations with the captain, and caused the stoppage of the vessel, and reported matters by telegram to the Hloot. In the meantime further information was received to the effect that the dacoits and bad characters had dispersed and fled, and in order that there might be no protracted stoppage of the "Yunnan," orders were issued to the Salay Woon to cause her to proceed down the river. It is well known (clear obvious) that the Agent of the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company at Mandalay has stated that a letter has been received from the Company expressing their pleasure and satisfaction at the succour and assistance given them by the issue of instructions to succour and aid the various vessels of the Company whenever succour and aid are required. The above-mentioned circumstances are accordingly communicated for the information of the Chief Commissioner.

Enclosure 2 in No. 44.

From G. D. BURGESS, Esq., C.S., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burma, to His Excellency the MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS at Mandalay.

August 13, 1880.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter, dated 3rd Waning 2nd Wazo 1242, touching the detention of the steamer "Yunnan," carrying Her Majesty's mails, by the Woon of Salay-myo on the 26th May last. Your Excellency's letter mentions that the Captain of the "Yunnan" went to consult the Woon of Salay-myo about disturbances on the frontier between British territory and His Majesty's dominions; that the Woon, being anxious for the steamer's safety, detained the steamer; and that, on receiving orders from Mandalay, he allowed the vessel to proceed.

2. I am, however, to remind your Excellency of the facts stated in my letter of the 31st May last, namely, that the "Yunnan" mail steamer was induced to call at Salay-myo, because signal was made on shore that cargo was there for her; that on the "Yunnan" touching Salay-myo, the Governor demanded the steamer's starting-gear; placed an armed guard on board the steamer, and would not allow her to start until she had thus been forcibly detained for twenty-two hours. In my letter it was stated that the seizure and detention of the mail steamer under such circumstances was a matter of extreme gravity; and I was directed to ask your Excellency to favour the Chief Commissioner with some explanation of the conduct of the Salay-myo authorities. Your Excellency's letter of the 13th Waxing 18th Wazo 1242 informed the Chief Commissioner that the Salay Governor would be examined and due judgment passed.

3. Your Excellency's present letter does not favour the Chief Commissioner with any account of the examination of the Salay Governor, or of the judgment passed thereon. The Chief Commissioner has learnt that the said Governor was summoned to Mandalay, and that another Governor has been sent in his place to Salay-myo; also that the local Governors have since been directed to treat the Flotilla steamers with consideration. If this is so, I am to ask to be informed what judgment has been passed by His Majesty the King's Government regarding the conduct of the Governor and the outrage on the British mail steamer; and whether the action taken by your Excellency will suffice to prevent similar outrages in future.

4. With reference to what is said in your letter regarding the help given by His Majesty the King to British trading steamers, I am to say that the Chief Commissioner gladly acknowledges that the Mandalay Government and its officers ordinarily show countenance to the steamers or traders of the Irrawaddy Flotilla. At the same time, in the case of the "Yunnan," a serious outrage took place on a steamer carrying Her Majesty's mails; and I am directed to repeat the request, previously made, that the Chief Commissioner may be favoured with some explanation regarding the circumstances of that outrage.

No. 45.

DESPATCH to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL,
No. 2, dated India Office, January 13, 1881.

MY LORD MARQUIS,

1. I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of Letters from your Excellency's Government, Nos. 228 and 231, dated respectively the 2nd and 9th November last, on the subject of your relations with the Government of Burmah.

2. The first of these two letters gives cover to the instructions which have been furnished to the officiating Chief Commissioner of British Burmah in reference to the preliminary conditions to be required from the Court of Mandalay, in the event of overtures for a revision of treaty relations with the British Government being made by the King of Burmah; while your later communication reports the unsatisfactory results of the correspondence which has passed relative to the detention of the mail steamer "Yunnan" by the Burmese authorities at Salamyo in February last, and requests that your Excellency in Council may be authorised by Her Majesty's Government to withdraw from the commercial treaties concluded with Burmah in 1862 and in 1867, if, upon further consideration, the measure should appear to you to be desirable in the interests of commerce and of the administration of British Burmah, due notice being given to the Burmese Government.

3. Having regard to all that has passed since the death of the late King in the autumn of 1878, I agree with your Excellency in Council in thinking that any overtures for a revision of relations between the two Governments must now originate with that of Burmah, and I consider that the basis of negotiation may reasonably include stipulations for an honourable reception of the British Resident upon his re-appointment; his right of audience with the King, untrammelled by humiliating and obsolete ceremonial restrictions; provision of a convenient site for the Residency at Mandalay; and adequate arrangements for the security of the Resident, as well as of the Agent at Bhamo, in the event of the latter appointment being revived.

4. I cannot, however, regard as essential the further condition upon which your Excellency in Council proposes to insist, in connexion with the massacres which occurred at Mandalay subsequent to the accession of the present King, or deem it politic to require an engagement that executions, such as have made the reign of His Majesty infamous, shall never recur. It will be quite right, in the course of negotiation, that every effort should be made to obtain the release of the unfortunate persons still confined at Mandalay, and I should hope that, if an understanding be arrived at on other matters, the effort would not be unsuccessful; but the question touches so closely the position of the King as an independent sovereign, and is so likely to be treated by him as of purely domestic concern, that concession of the point as a condition preliminary to negotiation can hardly be expected, while it is even less probable that a formal treaty stipulation in the sense desired would be agreed to.

5. Nor am I satisfied that such a stipulation would be expedient, in the interests of the two Governments, even if it could be obtained. While professing to bind the King's heirs and successors, its validity in practice could not be relied upon. It may be hoped that with the advance of civilisation, and the exercise of personal influence by a judicious Resident, the recurrence of such horrors upon the commencement of a new reign may be avoided; but there appear to me to be grave objections to the inclusion in a diplomatic instrument, to which the British Government is a party, of a condition which, while it could not with certainty be enforced, would, if inoperative, be a source of serious embarrassment.

6. Whether, even if all reference to the question discussed in the preceding paragraph be waived, the Burmese Government is likely to agree to the other conditions required, or to make those concessions in the interests of trade which the Government of India in 1878 desired to obtain, and to which, I presume, importance is still attached, must, I apprehend, be regarded as extremely uncertain. It must, in any case, be anticipated that some concessions will be expected from the Government of India in return; and it may well be that the demands of the Burmese Court will be such as, either for administrative or political reasons, it would be impossible or inexpedient to grant. This contingency has, no doubt, been weighed by your Excellency in Council, but I should be glad to be furnished with your views on the point, and to be informed what privileges you would be prepared to offer to the Burmese Government as consideration for those which they are expected to concede.

7. Passing now to the proposal contained in your Letter, No. 231, of the 9th November, I have to express the regret of Her Majesty's Government that, after full deliberation, they feel unable at present to accord their sanction to it. While agreeing that the conduct of the Burmese Government in the cases of the steamers "Shwemyo" and "Yunnan" has been such as to give legitimate cause for dissatisfaction, they cannot regard either of those affairs as of sufficient gravity to warrant a measure the effect of which must be, as it seems to them, to destroy all prospect of improved relations with Burmah, whether political or commercial. The scuffle on board the "Shwemyo" was not in itself of much consequence, while, in the more serious case of the "Yunnan," there were circumstances in the condition of the border at the moment, arising out of the

escape of the Nyoung Oke Prince from British territory, which to some extent account for, though they do not excuse, the proceedings of the local Burmese authorities.

8. Withdrawal from the Treaties of 1862 and 1867 is, moreover, advocated by your Excellency in Council less as a measure of coercion against the Court of Mandalay, than as an indispensable preliminary to certain fiscal reforms which you desire to introduce in British Burmah; viz., (1) the equalisation of the duties levied on goods imported into Rangoon in transit to Upper Burmah, with those payable on goods imported for home consumption, and (2) the substitution of a salt duty at the rate of Rs. 2½ per maund for the existing capitation tax in British Burmah,—a change which cannot be effected so long as, under Article 4 of the Treaty of 1862, salt, like other goods in bulk, must be passed into Upper Burmah on payment of a duty of 1 per cent. *ad valorem*, equal to only 1½ pies per maund. In Mr. Aitchison's Memorandum of the 6th December 1879 the additional yearly revenue anticipated from the equalisation of duties is stated at something over 2½ lacs of rupees, which would, however, be paid by the merchants of Rangoon where the duties are levied. The salt tax, on the other hand, as I learn from the Letter of the Government of your Excellency's predecessor, No. 6, of the 14th January last, would be of no financial profit so far as British territories are concerned, but, if levied upon the salt exported to Upper Burmah, is estimated by Mr. Aitchison as likely to result in a gain to the Treasury of from 8 to 10 lacs of rupees per annum.

9. I do not think it requisite at present to investigate very closely the soundness of the calculations upon which these estimates are based, or to discuss how far it is probable that the expected financial advantages would be realised. The result would obviously depend in a great degree on the effect which might be produced on trade by the retaliatory measures that must be expected from the Burmese Government, and upon the extent to which the population of Upper Burmah is dependent upon British territory for its salt supply. But whether the gain to the Treasury were more or less, it would be earned, in the one case, at the expense, in the first instance, of the merchants of Rangoon or Mandalay, and, in the other, at that of the Government and subjects of the King of Burmah.

10. Nor will I now express any opinion on the expediency or otherwise, as an abstract question, of the substitution of a heavy salt duty in British Burmah for a capitation tax. The arguments for and against the change are not before me; but I note that, so recently as February 1878, the measure was regarded as so little urgent that, when the revision of treaties with Burmah was then under discussion at Mandalay, the Resident was particularly instructed that the exclusion of salt from the benefits of Article 4 of the Treaty of 1862, though desired, need not be pressed. In any case, I should view the abolition of a well-established system of taxation, which is understood and cheerfully acquiesced in by a half-civilised and ignorant population, as a very serious step, not to be decided upon without mature deliberation.

11. But the contemplated measure, whatever its effects on the interests of our own subjects, would plainly be highly detrimental to the Government and people of Upper Burmah. It is contrary to the maxims of international equity accepted by civilised Governments to levy taxes on the trade of a foreign country passing in transit through their territory. Such taxes must be paid by the consumers of the merchandise of which the trade consists, and ought not to be intercepted for the benefit of a country through which it is compelled to pass by the accidents of geographical conditions.

12. Accordingly, whilst Her Majesty's Government recognise that the time may come when vexatious and arbitrary proceedings on the part of the Burmese authorities may compel the Government of India to take the course which is now proposed, and justify the adoption of such fiscal measures as may be thought proper, without reference to Burmese interests, a course by which, among other measures, withdrawal from the existing treaties may be rendered necessary, they concur with the Officiating Chief Commissioner of British Burmah in thinking that a suspension of commercial relations with the Court of Mandalay is, at present, neither necessary nor advisable. They do not gather that trade has, as yet, been materially prejudiced by any action of the Burmese Government, or that any political question of urgency is pending at Mandalay. In these circumstances, Her Majesty's Government consider that the attitude of forbearance lately observed towards the King may be maintained for the present, and that the Government of India should be slow to precipitate a crisis by measures of which neither the political nor commercial effect can be estimated with certainty.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HARTINGTON.

(NOTE.—The Correspondence relating to Burmah between 1881 and 1883 referred exclusively to the creation of monopolies by King Theebaw and to negotiations between the Government of India and that of Burmah for a revision of existing Treaties. This Correspondence will be found in Blue Book marked Burmah. (1883).)

No. 46.

TELEGRAM from VICEROY to the SECRETARY OF STATE.

May 14, 1883.

CHIEF Commissioner, Rangoon, reports departure from Mandalay of small official party on tour to great western nations, Europe; alleged object of expedition scientific and industrial.

No. 47.

No. 69 of 1883.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

Simla, June 8, 1883.

MY LORD,

IN continuation of our telegram of the 14th May 1883, to your Lordship's address, we have the honour to forward, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, a copy of a letter from the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, regarding the deputation by the Court of Ava of four high officers of State to visit Europe on a Mission alleged to be purely scientific and industrial in its objects.

We have, &c.

(Signed)

RIPON.

D. M. STEWART.

E. BARING.

T. F. WILSON.

C. P. ILBERT.

S. C. BAYLEY.

T. C. HOPE.

Enclosure in No. 47.

MR. SYMES TO MR. GRANT.

Rangoon, May 17, 1883.

I AM directed to submit correspondence on the subject of the deputation by the Court of Ava of four high officers of State to visit Europe for the purpose of gathering information relating to industrial arts and sciences.

2. The coming of this deputation, and the manner in which the Chief Commissioner proposed to act in regard to it, were reported to the Government of India by telegram of the 9th instant, and approval of the Chief Commissioner's proceedings was conveyed in your telegram of the 14th instant.

3. The Burmese officers, accompanied by a French gentleman named M. de Trevelec, arrived at Thayetmyo on the 8th instant, and were unofficially received by Mr. Pilcher, the Deputy Commissioner. They left that station on the 9th instant, and reached Rangoon on the 13th instant. On the 14th, they notified their arrival by sending their cards to the Chief Commissioner; and a short note was sent in reply offering them any assistance that they might require during their stay in Rangoon, and accommodation at the guest house if they desired it. The preferred, however, to make their own arrangements as regards house accommodation. On the 16th, the party called at Government House, and the following day the call was returned by the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner.

Political matters were not discussed on either occasion. The party leave for Calcutta by to-morrow's mail steamer. They propose to spend about a week in Calcutta, and then to proceed to Europe by an Italian steamer. They expect to spend about a year in visiting the principal countries and cities of Europe. The Atwinwoon, or Cabinet Minister, who is the officer of highest rank in the party, has never before left Upper Burmah, and has no knowledge of English. The Woondouk and Sayaydawgyee, who stand next in order of seniority, have both been to Europe before, and know English well. They were among the members of the Embassy that visited Simla last year.

No. 48.

MR. PLUNKETT to EARL GRANVILLE.

MY LORD,

Paris, August 13, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Burmese Special Mission has arrived in Paris and will, it is said, remain here about a month.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 49.

MR. PLUNKETT to EARL GRANVILLE. (Received September 8.)

MY LORD,

Paris, September 7, 1883.

I TOOK an opportunity yesterday of inquiring from M. Clavéry, the Director of the Commercial Department in the French Foreign Office, how he was getting on with the Burmese Mission.

M. Clavéry replied that he had only seen the Burmese envoys twice, and as yet nothing very definitive had taken place. They seemed to desire to renew, with some alterations apparently, the Treaty which France had made with Burmah in 1873,* but which, owing to the subsequent injudicious proceedings of M. de Rochechouart, had never yet been ratified.

As far as he was aware, they had not yet touched on any political subject, nor alluded to the presence of Prince Myngoon Mintha at Chandernagore.

Your Lordship will find in Lord Lyons' despatch of the 25th July, 1878, to the Marquis of Salisbury, the account of what took place between his Excellency and M. Waddington when Panyet Woon arrived at Paris as envoy from Burmah.

In case any questions should be asked of me at the French Foreign Department, I presume I should be right in holding the same language as Lord Lyons did on that occasion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 50.

EARL GRANVILLE to MR. PLUNKETT.

SIR,

Foreign Office, October 4, 1883.

I HAVE been in communication with Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India upon the subject of your despatch of the 7th ultimo, relative to the Burmese Mission in Paris, and I have now to state to you that I concur in your suggestion that, if questioned on the subject at the French Foreign Office, you should hold the same language as Lord Lyons did in 1878 upon a similar occasion.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 51.

VISCOUNT LYONS to EARL GRANVILLE.

(Extract.)

Paris, November 7, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to report that I had this afternoon some conversation with M. Challemel-Lacour on the subject of the Burmese Mission now in Paris.

I said that the unofficial newspapers had announced that the members of the mission had been received by the President of the Republic, but that I had not seen any notification in the "Journal Officiel" of their having had a formal audience or of their having presented letters of credence.

M. Challemel-Lacour said that he had himself seen and heard very little of them. He supposed, however, that they had brought some sort of paper giving them a diplomatic status, and he thought that they were in communication with M. Clavéry, the

Director of Commercial Affairs in the Foreign Office, with a view to making commercial arrangements between their country and France.

I remarked that, in consequence of its vicinity to British India, and of its political relations with that Empire, Burmah occupied a peculiar position with regard to Her Majesty's Government, and one which gave them a special interest in all that concerned it. I said that I was sure M. Challemel-Lacour need not be pressed to bear this in mind.

No. 52.

EARL GRANVILLE to VISCOUNT LYONS.

MY LORD,

Foreign Office, November 13, 1883.

HER Majesty's Government approve the language which you held to M. Challemel-Lacour, as reported in your Excellency's despatch of the 7th instant, on the subject of the Burmese Mission in Paris.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 53.

VISCOUNT LYONS to EARL GRANVILLE.

(Extract.)

Paris, November 14, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I spoke this afternoon about the Burmese Mission here to M. Jules Ferry, who has, as your Lordship is aware, taken charge temporarily of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

I repeated to him very nearly what I had said to M. Challemel-Lacour, as reported in the despatch just referred to.

M. Jules Ferry on his part said that he had not seen the members of this Mission himself, but that he understood that they were in communication with the Commercial Division of the Foreign Office on the subject of making a Commercial Treaty.

M. Jules Ferry said that he understood that the British authorities desired that facilities should not be given to the Burmese for the purchase of arms.

I begged that in this and all other matters relating to Burmah, his Excellency would always bear in mind the peculiar interest which attached to that country in the eyes of Her Majesty's Government, in consequence of its geographical position, and of its political relations with the Government of British India.

No. 54.

MR. GODLEY to SIR J. PAUNCEFOTE.

SIR,

India Office, November 17, 1883.

I AM directed by the Earl of Kimberley to acknowledge the receipt of a report of a conversation which has taken place between Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris and M. Challemel-Lacour on the subject of the Burmese Mission at Paris, whose object is stated to be the negotiation of a Commercial Treaty with the French Government.

In view of the importance attached by the Government of India to negotiations of this character, Lord Kimberley is glad to find that the matter is receiving Lord Lyons' careful attention, and trusts that his Excellency will lose no favourable opportunity of impressing upon the French Government the objections which Her Majesty's Government entertain to the conclusion of any agreement with the King of Burmah containing stipulations beyond those of a purely commercial character.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. A. GODLEY.

* Vide page 234 (No. 152).

No. 55.

EARL GRANVILLE to VISCOUNT LYONS.

MY LORD,

Foreign Office, November 24, 1883.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 7th ultimo, I transmit herewith, for your information and guidance, copy of a letter from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India in Council, explaining his views with regard to the scope of the negotiations which are being carried on with the French Government by the Burmese Mission in Paris.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 56.

VISCOUNT LYONS to EARL GRANVILLE.

MY LORD,

Paris, December 13, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that during an interview which I had with M. Jules Ferry yesterday, I reverted to the subject of the Burmese Mission, and asked his Excellency how matters stood with regard to it.

M. Jules Ferry answered that it was a long time since he had heard of these Burmese.

I begged him not to forget the importance which Her Majesty's Government attached to the matter. The two countries I would remind him stood in very different positions with regard to Burmah. To France, indeed, the affairs of that country were of secondary interest, but they were of the utmost concern to England.

The special political relations between the Burmese and Indian Governments, and the geographical position of the country as regarded India, gave vital importance in the eyes of Her Majesty's Government to questions relating to it. I feel justified, therefore, in making an appeal to the French Government, and in impressing upon them the objections which Her Majesty's Government entertained to the conclusion of any agreement between Burmah and a foreign Government containing stipulations beyond those of a purely commercial character.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 57.

EARL GRANVILLE to VISCOUNT LYONS.

MY LORD,

Foreign Office, December 18, 1883.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 13th instant, recording the substance of a conversation between M. Jules Ferry and yourself on the subject of the Burmese Mission in Paris, and I have to convey to you my approval of the language which you employed on the occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 58.

EARL GRANVILLE to VISCOUNT LYONS.

MY LORD,

Foreign Office, December 21, 1883.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 18th instant on the subject of the Burmese Mission to France, I have to request that your Excellency will furnish me with the earliest information that may reach you as to the objects of the Mission in question, and as to the views of the French Government in regard to it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 59.

VISCOUNT LYONS to EARL GRANVILLE.

MY LORD,

Paris, December 26, 1883.

WITH reference to my despatches on the subject of the Burmese Mission in Paris, I have the honour to report that I spoke this afternoon to Mons. Jules Ferry in regard to it.

I observed to his Excellency that the members of this Mission had now been upwards of four months at Paris, that, so far as was apparent, they had not presented regular credentials to the President of the Republic, that they certainly had not established any relations with me or with the other members of the diplomatic body, but that nevertheless they had been in communication with the French Government, and were believed to be negotiating a treaty of some kind with that Government.

M. Jules Ferry was, I said, too well aware of the delicacy and importance of the relations between European possessions in the East and the countries on their frontier to be surprised to find that this state of things had attracted the attention of Her Majesty's Government and of the Indian Government, and had given rise to various rumours in India. He would remember that I had several times spoken to him of the views of Her Majesty's Government, and I would now ask him to give me some positive information as to the state of the communications between the French Government and this so-called Burmese Mission.

M. Jules Ferry answered, that in fact the members of this mission had been in communication with the French Foreign Office, and had submitted various proposals respecting commercial matters. No progress had, however, been made. Indeed, it had appeared that they had not sufficient powers to treat seriously, and it had been proposed that a fresh Envoy should be despatched from Burmah with proper powers. M. Jules Ferry was not sure that this proposal would be acted upon; at any rate he had no reason to suppose that any new Envoy had left Burmah.

I reminded his Excellency that I had stated to him on a previous occasion that Her Majesty's Government entertained serious objections to any agreement between Burmah and a foreign Government containing stipulations beyond those of a purely commercial character. I would now, I said, beg him to consider that, in a case like this, great caution would be required lest even commercial stipulations should have effects which might not be apparent at first sight to a French negotiator. For instance, there were, I said, rumours in India that the King of Burmah sought to re-establish monopolies. Now it would be very disadvantageous if anything took place in Paris which could facilitate or encourage such a proceeding. M. Jules Ferry replied that at all events no arrangements at all with Burmah could be concluded at Paris at the present time, as there was no one here qualified to treat on the part of that country.

I begged M. Jules Ferry to bear in mind the special importance of Burmah to Great Britain, and I added that I should be very particularly obliged if he would frankly make known to me anything further which might take place between the French Government and that country. M. Jules Ferry having made a courteous answer to this, the conversation ended.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 60.

EARL GRANVILLE to VISCOUNT LYONS.

MY LORD,

Foreign Office, January 22, 1884.

I COMMUNICATED to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India a copy of your Excellency's despatch of the 26th ultimo, recording a conversation which you had with M. Jules Ferry on the same day on the subject of the Burmese Mission in Paris; and I have now to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve the language held by you upon the occasion in question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 61.

VISCOUNT LYONS to EARL GRANVILLE.

(Extract.)

Paris, April 6, 1884.

With reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 22nd January last, to my despatch of the 26th December last, and to previous correspondence, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that it is announced in unofficial Paris newspapers that the Burmese Ambassadors were received yesterday by M. Jules Ferry, President of the Council and Minister for Foreign Affairs; and that as a preliminary to the negotiations which they are charged to follow up they affixed, on the demand of the French Government, their signature to the Treaty of Commerce, the ratification of which was authorised by the French National Assembly in 1873.

The Treaty in question was signed at Paris on the 24th January 1873.

No. 62.

VISCOUNT LYONS to EARL GRANVILLE.

MY LORD,

Paris, April 10, 1884.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I spoke to Mons. Jules Ferry this afternoon of the negotiations understood to be going on between the French Government and the so-called Burmese Ambassadors at Paris.

M. Jules Ferry said that, in fact as a prelude to the negotiation of further conventions, these Ambassadors had at last ratified the treaty which had been signed here in 1873. I reminded M. Jules Ferry of the several previous conversations in which I had made known to him the sentiments of Her Majesty's Government respecting Burmah, I reminded him of the great and special importance which, from its geographical position and its peculiar political relations with British India, Her Majesty's Government necessarily attached to all that related to Burmah, and I emphatically begged his Excellency to bear in mind the serious objections which could not but be entertained by Her Majesty's Government to any special alliance or political understanding between Burmah and any other Power.

M. Jules Ferry answered, that I need not feel any anxiety whatever respecting the present negotiations between France and Burmah. He could, he said, assure me that any treaties or conventions which might be the result of them would be entirely of a commercial or consular character; and he added that they would not give the Burmese any facilities for obtaining arms. I begged him to examine very carefully any commercial arrangements which might be contemplated, and in particular to scrutinize closely any proposals of the Burmese, otherwise it might, I said, very well happen under the guise of commercial arrangements, or of concessions of consular privileges, stipulations having grave political consequences might slip in.

M. Jules Ferry repeated that I might be perfectly at ease respecting the negotiations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 63.

EARL GRANVILLE to VISCOUNT LYONS.

MY LORD,

Foreign Office, May 3, 1884.

I HAVE had under my consideration, in communication with Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India in Council, your Excellency's despatch of the 10th ultimo, in which you record a conversation with M. Jules Ferry on the subject of the negotiations now pending between the Government of the French Republic and the Burmese Envoys in Paris; and I have to inform your Excellency that the language which you employed on the occasion in question is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 64.

VISCOUNT LYONS to EARL GRANVILLE.

MY LORD,

Paris, May 21, 1884.

With reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to report that this afternoon I had some further conversation with M. Jules Ferry about the negotiations with the Burmese Representatives at Paris.

In answer to a question which I put to him, M. Ferry told me that the negotiations were going on, and that he had good hopes that they would be brought to a satisfactory issue although the Burmese were somewhat stiff and exacting. They were, he said, holding out, especially for a clause authorising the free passage of arms through their territory, but to this the French Government were absolutely determined not to agree. They were by no means disposed to facilitate the introduction of arms into Tonquin.

I reverted to the desire I had expressed to him in previous interviews, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, that no facilities for the purchase of arms should be afforded to the Burmese. I observed that it could not be necessary for me to dwell again upon the peculiar importance which the geographical situation of Burmah gave that country with regard to British India, or on the exceptional interest attached in consequence by Her Majesty's Government to everything affecting the relations of the Burmese with foreign countries. Nor, I added, could there be any need for me to repeat that Her Majesty's Government must naturally entertain the most serious objections to any special alliance or political understanding between Burmah and any other Power. I would, however, I said in conclusion, ask M. Jules Ferry to allow me to represent to him once more the importance of not forgetting, even in making commercial arrangements with Burmah, the very peculiar situation of that country in relation to British India.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.



No. 65.

No. 78 of 1884.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD,

Simla, June 20, 1884.

WE have the honour to forward, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, a copy of papers regarding the Manipur-Burma boundary.

2. Your Lordship will observe that the Burmese Government have renewed the threat which they made in 1882, of destroying and removing the boundary marks set up by Colonel Johnstone. The Chief Commissioner of British Burma has been instructed to warn them that the consequences of any such proceeding on their part might be very serious; and the Maharaja of Manipur will be encouraged and, if necessary, supported, in resisting it.

3. We do not anticipate that the Burmese Government will, in defiance of our warning, attempt to carry their threats into execution, or that any stronger measures on our part will eventually be necessary. But, in the meantime, we trust that the precautions which have been adopted will receive the approval of Her Majesty's Government.

We have, &c.

(Signed) RIPON.

J. GIBBS.

D. M. STEWART.

T. F. WILSON.

C. P. ILBERT.

S. C. BAYLEY.

T. C. HOPE.

A. COLVIN.

Enclosure 1 in No. 65.

From E. S. SYMES, Esq., C.S., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burma, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Foreign Department, dated Rangoon, June 2, 1884.

I SUBMIT for the orders of the Government of India a translation of a letter from the Foreign Minister, Mandalay, dated the 8th instant and received on the 24th idem, on the subject of the Burma-Manipur boundary. The map which accompanied this letter is forwarded in original in a tin case. English names have been entered under the Burmese names, which alone appeared upon the map when it was received from Mandalay.

2. It may be useful to review briefly the previous correspondence which has passed between the Chief Commissioner and the Ava Government upon this subject. It will be remembered that, in consequence of certain disturbances which had occurred upon this frontier, and of the doubts regarding jurisdiction which had arisen owing to the omission to demarcate precisely the frontier line between Upper Burma and Manipur, which line is described in the Kubo Valley Agreement of 1834, the Government of India determined, in the early part of 1881, to depute a commission to the frontier to mark out the boundary. On the 11th June 1881 the Foreign Minister, Mandalay, was informed of this intention, and the Ava Government were invited to depute representatives to be present at the demarcation, which, it was stated, would take place after the rainy season. In the following month the Foreign Minister replied, stating that, in the opinion of his Government, any fresh demarcation of the boundary determined in 1834 was unnecessary. On the 10th September a letter was sent to the Foreign Minister, explaining why the precise demarcation of the boundary had become necessary, and stating that the demarcating party would reach Sumjok, in the neighbourhood of the boundary, on or about the 20th November. The Ava Government were again invited to send representatives to be present at the demarcation, failing which they were asked to instruct the local officers to give reasonable assistance to the demarcating party. On the 3rd October the Foreign Minister replied, reiterating the opinion of his Government, that no demarcation was necessary, and stating that, if, notwithstanding his letter, the British Government persisted in making the demarcation, the Ava Government would not be able to agree to, or abide by it. On the 21st November the Foreign Minister was informed that the British Government had decided to carry on the proposed demarcation. "Marks," it was said, "will be put up at doubtful points in the boundary line now to be laid down, and the British Government will expect the boundary line so laid down to be respected by the Chiefs and people on both sides." On the 17th December the Foreign Minister intimated that he adhered to what he had said in his letter of the 3rd October. In November and December the demarcation was effected by the British Boundary Commission, under Colonel Johnstone, no representative of the Ava Government being present. It was ascertained by the Boundary Commission that certain villages, which had hitherto been supposed to be in Burman territory, were actually on the Manipur side of the border, and the Sumjok authorities were required to withdraw an armed post which was stationed at one of these villages. The proceedings of Colonel Johnstone and the Boundary Commission were approved, and the boundary laid down was accepted by the Government of India, and subsequently by the Secretary of State.

3. On the 25th February 1882 the Foreign Minister wrote, stating that he had received a report from the Sumjok Chief to the effect that the British Commissioners had entered the Sumjok (Burman) territory, had erected boundary pillars therein, and had requested him, the Chief, to recall the Burmese subjects living within the demarcated territory. The Foreign Minister went on to say that he had directed the Sumjok Chief to cause the boundary marks to be destroyed, and to station Burman officials on the spot for the protection of Burman subjects. This letter was acknowledged by a telegram, dated the 10th March, expressing the hope of the Government of India that the intention of instructing the Sumjok Chief to throw down the boundary marks would not be carried out, as the consequences might be very serious. It was suggested that the matter might be left for discussion with the Burmese Embassy, then about to be despatched to Simla. On the 21st August 1882 the Burmese Ambassador at Simla was supplied with extracts from the boundary report and maps. He was further informed that the Government of India could not undertake to reopen the matter; and that, whether the Burmese Government accepted it or not, "the Government of India is bound to maintain the boundary and to prevent interference with the boundary marks, or encroachment beyond the line denoted by them." No more was heard on the subject until February 1883, when the Burmese Government wrote to say that,

having sent skilled persons to examine the boundary, they had ascertained that not only had a boundary mark been advanced into Burmese territory, but that also the Kaungkan (Kongkal) outpost had been pushed forward, and a stockade erected and garrisoned within the territories of the King of Ava. Moreover, the men despatched to examine the boundary had been stopped, and had not been permitted to reach the frontier. The Foreign Minister accordingly requested that the offending outpost might be withdrawn, and that instructions might be sent to prevent any obstruction being offered to the persons sent by the King to examine the boundary. On the 13th June the Foreign Minister was informed, in reply, that it had been ascertained by inquiry that the Kongkal outpost had not been moved; that no boundary marks had been erected, except those set up by the Boundary Commission in January 1882; and that the persons sent to examine the boundary had not been turned back until they attempted to cross the frontier into Manipuri territory. It was added that the British Government had no objection to the despatch of a party by the Ava Government to examine and sketch the boundary, provided the boundary was not crossed or disturbed. If such a party was to be sent, the Foreign Minister was asked to inform the Chief Commissioner of its despatch.

4. No further communication was received from the Ava Government upon the subject until the arrival of the letter now submitted. It will be observed that the Foreign Minister expresses astonishment at our referring to the boundary laid down by Colonel Johnstone, as if it were binding as between the two Governments. He states that the Mayein range of mountains is the boundary laid down by the agreement of 1834, and that the Ava Government are not prepared to abide by any other boundary; that it has been ascertained that numerous stone pillars were erected by Colonel Johnstone's party as boundary marks beyond the true boundary; and that the Kongkal outpost has also been moved into Burman territory, and a stockade and sheds erected. He states that the Ava Government cannot permit the stockade, sheds, and boundary pillars to remain in their present position for any length of time, and requests that the British Government will order their immediate removal. He adds that, if the British Government omit or delay to comply with this request, the Ava Government will issue instructions to the Sumjok Raja to remove and destroy the boundary marks and the stockade and sheds.

5. It appears clear, both from the terms of the Foreign Minister's letter and from the map which accompanies it, that it is to Colonel Johnstone's boundary, and no other, that objection is being raised; that the boundary marks which the Ava Government threaten to destroy are the boundary marks erected by Colonel Johnstone's party; and that the stockade and sheds to which reference is made are within what was decided by the Boundary Commission to be Manipuri territory. The conclusions of the Boundary Commission have been finally accepted and approved by the Government of India and by the Secretary of State, and the Ava Government have more than once been informed that the British Government intend to abide by Colonel Johnstone's boundary, and are not prepared to reopen the question or discuss the matter further.

6. Under these circumstances, the Chief Commissioner would advise that a letter be sent to the Foreign Minister somewhat to the following effect:—

"The Chief Commissioner has received your Excellency's letter dated the 8th May 1884, in which you state that boundary marks and a stockade have been erected in Burmese territory some distance south of the true boundary line between the kingdom of Burma and Manipur, as that line was fixed in or about the year 1834. Your Excellency states that the Government of His Majesty the King cannot accept any other boundary than the old frontier line settled in 1834; you request that steps may be taken to demolish the new boundary marks, and to withdraw the Manipur guard from the territory on the Burmese side of the old frontier line of 1834. Your Excellency further adds that, if the British Government omit or delay to have these withdrawals effected, the Government of His Majesty the King will have the stockade and boundary marks removed and destroyed.

"Your Excellency's letter, with the map, has been forwarded for the information of the Viceroy and Governor-General of India in Council, who directs me to reply to your Excellency as follows:—

"The new boundary to which you refer was laid down by the Special Commission appointed by the Government of India in 1881. The Government of Ava were twice invited to send a representative to take part in that delimitation, but these invitations were not accepted by your Excellency's Government. After the boundary had been laid down by the Commission, that boundary was accepted by the British Government, and boundary marks have been erected thereon. The boundary to which objection is

now taken by you is the identical boundary laid down by the Commission; and the stockade and other buildings to which your Excellency refers are on the Manipur side of that boundary. I had, on the 21st November 1881, the honour of informing your Excellency that when the boundary should have been laid down by the Commission, 'the British Government would expect the boundary line so laid down to be respected by the Chiefs and people on both sides.' Again, on the 21st August 1882, his Excellency the Burmese Ambassador at Simla was supplied with extracts of the boundary report and maps, and was informed that the British Government could not undertake to reopen the matter, and were 'bound to maintain the boundary and to prevent interference with the boundary marks, or encroachment beyond the line denoted by them.'

"The boundary line and marks to which your Excellency now takes objection are the same line and marks which the British Government has declared its determination to maintain and uphold. To that determination the British Government adheres, and will adhere. Under these circumstances the Viceroy of India tells the Chief Commissioner to express to your Excellency his Lordship's hope that the Government of His Majesty will see cause to reconsider their decision to have the boundary marks, and the stockade within them, demolished and destroyed. If any such demolition, or if any encroachment on the line accepted by the British Government, were to take place, in consequence of the orders of the Ava Government, or of their representatives upon the border, the consequences might be very serious."

7. It seems better to couch the communication now to be made in the form of a solemn warning, rather than to put it in the form of a categorical demand that the threatening letter now received should be withdrawn. It will be much easier for the Ava Government, and it will conduce equally to the interests of peace for them to abstain from giving effect to their threat, than for them to withdraw a letter which they have sent. If the Government of Ava are convinced that the British Government really intend to insist upon the boundary being respected, they will probably abstain from giving effect to their present threat. But, unless they see troops collected and hostilities impending, they are not likely actually to withdraw the present threat which they have given, much less are they likely to give any sort of adhesion to, or acquiescence in, the Manipur boundary line of 1882.

Enclosure 2 in No. 65.

TRANSLATION of a LETTER from His Excellency the MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, Mandalay, to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burma, dated the 8th May 1884.

MINISTER acknowledges receipt of Chief Commissioner's letter, dated June 13th 1883, wherein it was stated that no boundary-marks had been set up beyond what had been made formerly. In order to ascertain precisely and definitely the accuracy of this statement, skilled men were despatched to make a survey of the locality, a map of which is now forwarded to the Chief Commissioner for his clear information.

2. With reference to the statement that no boundary-marks had been set up beyond what had been made by Colonel Johnstone, it is a matter for great astonishment that an act of demarcation of a boundary concerning two States in which both Governments were not represented, and in which Colonel Johnstone, on behalf of one side alone, set up what marks he chose, should be brought forward, and statements based thereon in a question of political boundary.

3. In order that no confusion or complication should arise in the long future in regard to the boundaries between Burma and Manipur, the Mayein (Murring) range of mountains, a natural, immovable, and conspicuous feature on the surface of the earth, was fixed as the boundary between the two States in 1195 B. E. by Wundaudaw Maha Mingyaw Raza, and the English officers Grant and Pemberton, jointly under a written agreement. By this demarcation alone should the Government of both States abide, and by it alone are the Burmese Government on their part prepared to abide.

4. On this Mayein range of mountains the boundary-line, as fixedly and definitely settled by agreement, stands the permanent outpost of Kaungkan (Kongkal) and from this the Kathè (Manipur) people having entered Humaing, situated in the territory of Sumjok, in violation of the boundary, and improperly advanced and set up a stockade and sheds and posted Kathè guards.

5. Not only have a stockade and guards been advanced and posted, but it has been clearly ascertained that in violation of the boundary, numerous heaps of stones have been further advanced and set up at will all along from the foot of the Minthami mountain to the foot of the Kyadat mountain by the English Agent, Colonel Johnstone, assisted by Kathè troops.

6. The British Government would be unable to stand by and look on patiently for any time while its boundaries, which had been accurately and durably fixed in conjunction with the Government of a separate State, were invaded and any improper act committed within their territory. In the same way the Burmese Government will be unable to allow the stockade and sheds and stone heaps which the Kathè people have advanced and set up in violation of the boundary to remain standing for any length of time.

7. Minister therefore requests that the Chief Commissioner will carefully examine the accompanying map, and consider the contents of this letter, and cause the British Government to order the immediate removal of the stockade, sheds, and stone heaps which the Kathè people have advanced and set up in contravention of the law, custom, and procedure of great nations, and in violation of the Mayein mountain range demarcation as made by both sides in conjunction in 1195 B.E.

8. If in spite of the request precisely, distinctly, and definitely preferred by the Burmese Government, the British Government omit or delay to have these withdrawals effected, the Burmese Government will issue instructions to the Sunjok Sawbwa, and have the stockade, sheds, and stone heaps all and every one of them without exception, which the Kathè people have set up in extension of the boundary as demarcated in 1195 B.E. removed and destroyed.

Enclosure 3 in No. 65.

TELEGRAM, dated the 16th June 1884.

FROM FOREIGN, Simla, to CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burma, Rangoon.

Your letter dated 2nd instant, regarding Burma-Manipur boundary. Draft letter proposed in sixth paragraph is approved.

Enclosure 4 in No. 65.

TELEGRAM, dated the 19th June 1884.

FROM FOREIGN, Simla, to CHIEF COMMISSIONER, Assam, Shillong.

MANDALAY Government again threaten to destroy pillars along Manipur-Burma boundary. They have been warned that consequences would be serious. If, nevertheless, they send troops to frontier, authorise Maharaja Manipur to resist destruction or removal boundary marks, and assist with detachment Native Infantry if necessary. Letter follows.

Enclosure 5 in No. 65.

Dated Simla, the 19th June 1884.

FROM C. GRANT, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF ASSAM.

WITH reference to the correspondence regarding the threatened destruction by the Burmese of the pillars along the recently demarcated Manipur-Burma boundary, I am directed to forward, for your information, a copy of the marginally noted papers upon the same subject.

2. You will observe that the Government at Mandalay have renewed their threat of destroying the boundary marks. It is hoped that the letter which the Chief Commissioner of British Burma has been authorised to send to the Minister will have the desired effect of preventing any such action. But as it is possible that, notwithstanding this warning, the King may despatch bodies of troops to the frontier, I am to request that you will be good enough to authorise the Maharaja of Manipur, through the Political Agent, to resist the destruction or removal of the boundary marks, and that you will arrange to support him by a detachment of Native Infantry, should circumstances render this necessary.

3. I am to request that you will keep the Government of India informed of any events of importance upon the frontier in question, and of any proceedings which you may take upon the receipt of this letter.

No. 66.

MR. GODLEY to SIR J. PAUNCEFOTE.

SIR,
 India Office, June 28, 1884.
 WITH reference to previous correspondence ending with Mr. Lister's letter of the 31st ultimo, on the subject of the negotiations now going on at Paris between the French Government and the Burmese Mission, I am desired by the Earl of Kimberley to request you to be good enough to bring to the notice of Earl Granville that Article 3 of the Franco-Burmese* Treaty of 1873, now for the first time brought into operation, provides for a reciprocal appointment of diplomatic agents of the two Governments.

Having regard to the strong objection entertained by the Government of India to diplomatic intercourse between the Burmese Court and European Powers, it appears to Lord Kimberley that it would be very desirable that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris should endeavour to obtain from the French Government a promise that the functions of any agent who may be appointed under the provisions of the article just named, would be only of a commercial character. Such a promise would be in harmony with the friendly assurances of M. Ferry, reported in Lord Lyon's despatch of the 10th April last.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) J. A. GODLEY.

No. 67.

SIR J. PAUNCEFOTE to MR. GODLEY.

SIR,
 Foreign Office, July 8, 1884.
 WITH reference to your letter of the 28th ultimo, relating to Article 3 of the Franco-Burmese Treaty now for the first time brought into operation, I am directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you, to be laid before Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India in Council copy of a despatch which, in compliance with Lord Kimberley's suggestion, has been addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, requesting him to endeavour to obtain a definite promise from the French Government that the functions of the agents whom it is proposed to appoint under the provisions of the new Treaty may be of a purely commercial character.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) J. PAUNCEFOTE.

Enclosure in No. 67.

EARL GRANVILLE to VISCOUNT LYONS.

MY LORD,
 Foreign Office, July 8, 1884.
 MY attention has been directed by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India in Council to Article 3 of the Franco-Burmese Treaty of 1873, now for the first time brought into operation. This Article provides for the reciprocal appointment by the two Governments of Diplomatic Agents as well as of Consuls and Consular Agents.

Having regard to the strong objection entertained by the Government of India to diplomatic relations between the Burmese Court and the European Powers, Lord Kimberley is of opinion that an endeavour should be made to obtain from the French Government a definite promise that the functions of any agent who may be appointed under the provisions of this Article should be purely of a commercial and not in any sense of a political character.

I have accordingly to request that you will use your best endeavours to obtain such a promise from the French Government, pointing out that it would be in harmony with M. Ferry's friendly assurances reported in your Excellency's Despatch of the 10th April.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) GRANVILLE.

* Vide page 234 (No. 152).

No. 68.

SIR J. PAUNCEFOTE to MR. GODLEY.

Foreign Office, July 16, 1884.
 WITH reference to the letter from this department of the 8th instant, I am directed by Earl Granville to transmit herewith, to be laid before Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India in Council, copy of a despatch which has been received from Her Majesty's Ambassador in Paris giving the substance of a conversation with the French Ministers for Foreign Affairs relating to the precise nature of the official character with which it is proposed to invest any French Agent who may be appointed under the Third Article of the Treaties between France and Burmah of 1873.

I am to add that should Lord Kimberley concur, Lord Granville proposes to approve the language held by Lord Lyons to M. Ferry, as reported in his Excellency's despatch.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) J. PAUNCEFOTE.

Enclosure 1 in No. 68.

VISCOUNT LYONS to EARL GRANVILLE.

MY LORD,
 Paris, July 11, 1884.
 I HAD yesterday the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch of the 8th instant, in which you direct me to endeavour to obtain a definite promise from the French Government that the functions of any French Agent who may be appointed under the Third Article of the Treaty between France and Burmah of 1873 shall be of a purely commercial, and shall not be in any sense of a political character.

I went to M. Jules Ferry this afternoon, and after adverting to the numerous representations which I had made to him respecting the special position of Burmah, political as well as geographical, with relation to British India, and reminding him of the friendly assurances he had given with regard to the negotiations which have been going on for so many months with a Burmese Mission here, I proceeded to state in the exact words of your Lordship's Despatch, the terms of the promise which Her Majesty's Government desire to receive from the Government of the Republic.

M. Jules Ferry observed that it was very difficult to draw a distinct line between commercial and political functions. The French Government would, he said, probably station in Burmah a Consul-General, or some agent of that kind; but whatever might be the title the agent bore, he must, of course, in practice have charge of French interests in general.

His Excellency went on to remark that in fact the French and Burmese were about to become neighbours.

I rejoined that most certainly Burmah could not be a neighbour to the French in any sense at all resembling that in which it was a neighbour to British India.

M. Jules Ferry then asked if there were any special treaty engagements between Great Britain and Burmah which precluded the Burmese from entering into independent political relations with other Powers.

I replied that at all events there were, as I had so often warned him, very special circumstances in the political relations between Burmah and British India, which rendered it in the eyes of Her Majesty's Government particularly objectionable that that country should enter into any particular alliance with another Power, and which warranted their relying upon other Powers abstaining, in friendly consideration of preponderating British interests involved, from seeking such an alliance.

After some further conversation I begged that M. Jules Ferry, if he did not feel able to respond at once to the request of Her Majesty's Government, would at all events consider it promptly and in a friendly spirit; and I put into his hand a paper *pro memoria* (given below).

M. Jules Ferry told me that the French Government were still in negotiation with the Burmese Ambassadors, but that notwithstanding the long time these Ambassadors had been at Paris (eighteen months he thought) they had not yet been brought to terms. They held out, he said, against the establishment of a system like that of the capitulations under which the French would be placed under the exclusive jurisdiction of French Consuls. This the French Government thought an essential matter. There were also minor points, among which he might mention one of etiquette, the pretension that the French agents should take off their shoes on approaching, not only the King, but even functionaries of smaller rank.

On the other hand, the thing which the Burmese appeared to have most at heart was to obtain facilities for supplying themselves with arms, and such facilities the French Government was by no means disposed to accord them.

I begged M. Jules Ferry not to forget in conducting the present negotiations, the frank communications I had so often made to him of the views and feelings of Her Majesty's Government, and I expressed a hope that he would ere long enable me to convey to Her Majesty's Government the promise which I had specially come to ask of him on the present occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Enclosure 2 in No. 68.

PRO MEMORIA, dated 11th July 1884.

IN the month of November last Lord Lyons had the honour to speak, first to M. Challemeil Lacour, and afterwards to M. Jules Ferry, of the mission from Burmah which had come to Paris; and he begged their Excellencies to bear in mind that, in consequence of its vicinity to British India, and of its political relations with that Empire, Burmah occupied a peculiar position with regard to Her Majesty's Government, and one which gave them a special interest in all that concerned in it.

Lord Lyons has since spoken frequently in the same sense to M. Jules Ferry. He has pointed out to his Excellency the serious objections which Her Majesty's Government naturally entertain to any special alliance or political understanding between Burmah and any other Power; and, with reference to the negotiations going on between the French Foreign Department and the Burmese Mission, he has earnestly represented to his Excellency the feelings of Her Majesty's Government, adverse to the conclusion of any agreement between Burmah and a Foreign Government, containing stipulations beyond those of a purely commercial character. Lord Lyons has, moreover, begged M. Jules Ferry to consider that, in a case like this, caution is required lest even commercial stipulations might have effects which might not be apparent at first sight; and has pressed upon his Excellency the importance of not forgetting, even in making commercial arrangements with Burmah, the very peculiar position of that country in relation to British India.

M. Jules Ferry, on his part, has assured Lord Lyons he need be under no anxiety whatever respecting the present negotiations between France and Burmah, and that any treaties or conventions which might be the result of them would be entirely of a commercial or consular character.

Lord Lyons does not know what progress has been made in the present negotiations for a new or supplementary treaty, but meanwhile he does himself the honour, in obedience to instructions from Her Majesty's Government, to address M. Jules Ferry on the subject of the treaty between France and Burmah of 24th January 1873 now for the first time brought into operation.

The third article of that treaty recognises a right on the part of each Government to have a diplomatic agent residing with the other, as well as to appoint consuls or consular agents.

It would be a great satisfaction to Her Majesty's Government to receive from the French Government a definite promise that the functions of any agent who may be appointed under the provisions of this article shall be of a purely commercial, and not in any sense of a political character. Such a promise would be in harmony with the friendly assurances already given by M. Jules Ferry.

No. 69.

SIR J. PAUNCEFOTE to MR. GODLEY.

SIR,

Foreign Office, July 19, 1884.

WITH reference to the letter from this Department of the 16th instant, I am directed by Earl Granville to transmit herewith, to be laid before Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India in Council, copy of a further despatch which has been received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, reporting a conversation with the French Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of the functions of any French Agent in Burmah appointed under the Treaty of 1873.

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. PAUNCEFOTE.

Enclosure in No. 69.

VISCOUNT LYONS to EARL GRANVILLE.

MY LORD,

Paris, July 16, 1884.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that again, this afternoon, I spoke to M. Jules Ferry of the desire of Her Majesty's Government to receive from the French Government a promise that the functions of any French agent who might be appointed under the Franco-Burmese Treaty of 1873 shall be of a purely commercial and not in any sense of a political character.

M. Jules Ferry, after adverting to the *pro memorid* which I put into his hand, observed that it was necessary to go a little towards the bottom of things. The treaty contained a stipulation that each party was free to accredit diplomatic and consular officers to the other. The present intention of the French Government was to station only a consul in Burmah, but after all, the title given to the agent was not really a matter of much consequence. It would be impossible to draw an exact line between political and commercial functions. In practice, the agent, whatever title he might bear, must deal with general questions between the two countries. For instance, there might be questions of "neighbourhood" (*voisinage*).

On my confessing that I was unable to understand how there could be any questions of that kind between France and Burmah, M. Ferry said that there were territories on the left of the river Mekong over which Burmah claimed suzerain rights, although she did not, he believed, exercise any practical authority over them.

M. Ferry went on to say that he was anxious to remove any doubts or misgivings which might exist either in India or England respecting the scope and object of the negotiations between the French and Burmese Governments.

It was, he told me, quite true that the Burmese desired to throw themselves into the arms of France, but the French Government were determined not to accept any offers of this kind. They had no intention of forming with Burmah an alliance defensive and offensive, or any alliance whatever of a special character. All they desired was to establish friendly intercourse and commercial relations on a proper basis. There were no secret communications going on. There was no question of any secret treaty. The Burmese asked indeed many things, and particularly demanded facilities for procuring arms, but to all such requests the French Government turned a deaf ear. They were simply engaged in making an ordinary treaty, with such stipulations as were usual and necessary in order to ensure the safety of Europeans in eastern countries.

In answer to a question which I put to him, M. Jules Ferry said that he distinctly authorised me to give your Lordship an assurance from him that France did not contemplate making any special political alliance with Burmah.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 70.

MR. GODLEY to SIR J. PAUNCEFOTE.

India Office, July 24, 1884.

I AM directed by the Earl of Kimberley to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, and to state that his Lordship concurs in Lord Granville's proposal to approve the proceedings of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris in the matter of the Franco-Burmese negotiations as reported in his Excellency's Despatch of the 11th July.

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. A. GODLEY.

No. 71.

EARL GRANVILLE to VISCOUNT LYONS.

MY LORD,

Foreign Office, July 28, 1884.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 11th instant, recording the substance of a conversation which you held with M. Jules Ferry relative to the negotiations at present being carried on between France and Burmah, and the desire of Her Majesty's Government to obtain a definite promise from the French Government that the functions of any French Agent who may be appointed under the Third Article

of the Treaty between France and Burmah of 1873 shall be of a purely commercial, and not in any sense of a political character, I have to state to you that your Excellency's language, as reported in your above-mentioned despatch, is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 72.

DESPATCH to the GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.
No. 70, dated India Office, 31st July 1884.

MY LORD,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of the Letter of your Excellency's Government, No. 78, dated the 20th June, reporting that, in consequence of a threatening communication from the Burmese Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Burmese Government has been warned against aggression on the Manipur frontier, as marked out by Colonel Johnstone's Commission in 1881; that the Maharajah of Manipur has been authorised to resist interference with the boundary marks, and that arrangements have been made to afford his Highness military support if necessary.

2. The proceedings of your Excellency's Government in this matter are approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 73.

No. 50 of 1884.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD,

Simla, August 29, 1884.

IN our Despatch, dated the 16th of April 1883, we had the honour to inform your Lordship that Prince Myngoon Myntha had recently escaped from Benares, where he was living under surveillance, and had sought an asylum in the French settlement of Chandernagore.

2. He remained quietly in Chandernagore until the end of last June, and during this time communications were repeatedly opened with him with the object of inducing him to return to British territory. But all negotiations in this direction failed, as it was evident that he only desired freedom of movement in order to operate against the Government of Upper Burma, where he was convinced his claims to the throne would secure many adherents.

3. About two months ago he contrived to elude the police who had been ordered to secure him, if possible, should he attempt to depart from Chandernagore, and to make his way in the French steamer "Tibre" to Colombo. Thence the French Consul sent him in the same vessel to Pondicherry, where he is reported to be still residing under the surveillance of the Governor-General of the French Settlements in India.

4. The latest information we have received of his proceedings is to the effect that he has petitioned the French Government, through the Governor of Pondicherry, for permission to visit France, presumably to obtain support in carrying out his designs against the existing Government at Mandalay. We do not consider that any serious importance need be attached to his movements; but having regard to the expected visit to London of the Burmese Embassy to Paris, we have thought it desirable to acquaint your Lordship with the facts of the case.

We have, &c.
(Signed) RIPON.
" D. M. STEWART.
" J. GIBBS.
" T. F. WILSON.
" C. P. ILBERT.
" S. C. BAYLEY.
" T. C. HOPE.
" A. COLVIN.

No. 74.

VISCOUNT LYONS to EARL GRANVILLE.

MY LORD,

Paris, January 12, 1885.

IN my despatch of the 5th instant, and in numerous previous despatches, I have reported to your Lordship representations which I have made from time to time to the French Government on the subject of their negotiations with the so-called Burmese Embassy, which has now been at Paris for about 16 months.

With reference to this matter, it may be worth while for me to quote to your Lordship a passage which appears in the French weekly paper, the "Économiste," of the day before yesterday, in a review of a work on Burmah which has recently been published.

The passage is as follows:—

"Quoiqu'il en soit, le Roi Thibau n'est pas aveugle. Les tentatives nombreuses des Anglais pour se frayer, à travers ses États, une route vers les provinces sud-occidentales de la Chine, lui ont assurément causé un déplaisir profond. Il leur en garde rancune, et sait fort bien qu'à un moment donné ses puissants voisins sauront trouver un prétexte pour le dépouiller de sa couronne. Ces craintes et ces défiances ont-elles trouvé leur expression dans l'envoi que Sa Majesté Birmane a fait en 1883 d'une Ambassade chargée de négocier avec la France un Traité Commercial, et faut-il voir dans cette circonstance le désir plus ou moins patent de réclamer notre Protectorat? L'avenir résoudra cette question. D'autre part, un homme qui a beaucoup vécu en Bermanie et qui a exercé à Mandalay les fonctions de Consul d'Italie, M. d'Avera, a cru remarquer des indices de mécontentement parmi les Birmans soumis à la domination Anglaise: ils se plaindraient de ce que les impôts vont toujours en croissant, et surtout de ce que, loin de les employer dans l'intérêt exclusif de leur pays, on les jette en grande partie dans le gouffre béant des finances de l'Inde elle-même. Il y aurait là, si M. d'Avera ne s'est point trompé, le germe pour l'Angleterre des complications futures."

The book reviewed is entitled—

"Un Français en Birmanie, rédigé sur des Notes de Voyage par le Comte Mahé de la Bourdonnais et complété par M. Gabriel Marcel, de la Bibliothèque Nationale."

M. Mahé de la Bourdonnais appears to have been attached as engineer to the works connected with a line of telegraph which the English proposed to construct in order to unite Bangkok with Rangoon and with the Indian lines, and he is stated to have had in this capacity opportunities of travelling in Burmah.

Judging from the review, I should say that the book may contain a good deal of interesting information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 75.

SIR J. PAUNCEFOTE to MR. GODLEY.

SIR,

Foreign Office, January 15, 1885.

I AM directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you to be laid before Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India in Council, copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris reporting a conversation which he had held with Monsieur Ferry, relative to the Burmese Embassy in Paris.

I am to add that Lord Lyons' language has been approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. PAUNCEFOTE.

Enclosure in No. 75.

VISCOUNT LYONS to EARL GRANVILLE.

MY LORD,

Paris, January 5, 1885.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I asked M. Jules Ferry this afternoon what was the state of his relations with the so-called Burmese Ambassadors.

He answered that the negotiations with them had not yet been brought to a practical conclusion, "n'avait pas encore abouti."

I said that, in my anxiety to prevent any embarrassing question between our two countries, I could not help adverting to the numerous representations I had made to him respecting the peculiar position in which Burmah stood with regard to British India. I proceeded to speak very much in the sense of the *pro memoria* which I gave his Excellency on the 11th July last, and I specially dwelt on the objections entertained by

Her Majesty's Government to any special political connexion between Burmah and any European Power.

On my referring to the vicinity of Burmah to Her Majesty's Indian Empire, M. Jules Ferry said (as your Lordship may recollect he did when I spoke to him some months ago) that Burmah was now also a neighbour of French possessions, and he added that it might be necessary to make treaty arrangements with regard to the frontier.

On my side, I repeated that Burmah could not be termed a neighbour to any French possession in a sense at all resembling that in which she was a neighbour to British India.

M. Ferry replied that certainly British India dominated Burmah, and had ample means of exercising a control over her. I said that the Burmese, with the astuteness of an Oriental people, would very probably try to introduce into their treaty with France some stipulation more or less incompatible with their proper relations with India. It was no doubt true, I observed, that the Indian Government had full means of bringing the Burmese to a sense of their obligations and of their proper position, but it would be very painful and very inconvenient that a question of resorting to those means should be raised by a treaty between Burmah and France.

M. Jules Ferry assured me in general terms that nothing which could produce complications would be introduced into the treaty now under negotiation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 76.

EARL GRANVILLE to VISCOUNT LYONS.

MY LORD,

Foreign Office, January 15, 1885.

I HAVE read and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch of the 5th instant recording a conversation with M. Jules Ferry on the subject of the Treaty note under negotiation between France and Burmah, and I have to inform your Excellency that the language which you used to Monsieur Ferry as reported in your despatch above mentioned is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 77.

VISCOUNT LYONS to EARL GRANVILLE.

MY LORD,

Paris, January 16, 1885.

WITH reference to my despatches of the 12th instant and of the 5th instant, as well as to previous correspondence, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Jules Ferry told me this afternoon that the Treaty which had been so long in negotiation at Paris between the French Government and the Burmese Envoys had at last been signed.

It was merely, his Excellency said, one of the common Treaties stipulating for rights of residence, intercourse, commerce, most-favoured-nation treatment, and so forth.

In answer to a question from me, his Excellency told me that the Treaty did not contain any political or military stipulations.

He added that the French Government had not even succeeded in obtaining Consular jurisdiction over their own countrymen in Burmah; that in fact this point was reserved.

He mentioned to me that the French Government would probably now send a Consul to Burmah.

Finally, M. Jules Ferry informed me that he had received from French Agents intelligence similar to that which had appeared in the newspapers with regard to an attack by the Chinese upon Bhamo, but that he knew nothing more.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 78.

VISCOUNT LYONS to EARL GRANVILLE.

MY LORD,

Paris, February 4, 1885.

A few days ago General Menabrea, the Italian Ambassador here, came to see me, and told me that he had been in communication with the Burmese Embassy, who

were going to Rome, in order, he believed, to propose to the Italian Government to enter into commercial negotiations, and that he had been asked by them to ascertain from me whether I should be willing to receive a visit from them.

I observed that they had not shown much eagerness to become acquainted with me, as they had now been here, I believed, about eighteen months, and had not, up to the present time, taken any step for the purpose; but that, nevertheless, I should be happy to see them now if they liked to come and call upon me.

Accordingly, the day before yesterday, I received a letter, signed "Pour l'Ambassade 'Birmane,'" by "Capitaine Comte de Trévelec," asking me to fix a day and hour for receiving them. I sent a message in answer by one of the secretaries in Her Majesty's Embassy, fixing to-day, and the whole Burmese Embassy, accompanied by Capitaine Comte de Trévelec, called upon me this morning.

The Second Ambassador speaks both French and English, but neither he nor his companions appeared to desire to say anything particular to me, and, in fact, they made the visit simply one of civility.

They told me that they intended to stay in Paris about ten days more, then to go to Rome, and, after spending about a fortnight there, to return to Burmah.

The number of those who came was—Capitaine de Trévelec included—six.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 79.

VISCOUNT LYONS to EARL GRANVILLE.

MY LORD,

Paris, February 4, 1885.

IN my despatch of to-day, I have reported to your Lordship that I received this morning a visit from the Burmese Embassy.

These so-called Ambassadors arrived in Paris early in the month of August 1883; but they kept studiously aloof from me, and, so far as I know, from the other foreign Representatives here; and it is only now, when their negotiations with the French Government are concluded, and they are on the eve of leaving France, that they have gone through the form of paying me a visit, which they have made one of mere ceremony.

As your Lordship is well aware, I have, during the long negotiations of these Burmese with the French Government, taken every means of impressing upon the successive Ministers for Foreign Affairs the peculiar relations between Burmah and British India, and the strong objections of Her Majesty's Government to the conclusion of any Agreement between Burmah and a foreign Government containing stipulations beyond those of a purely commercial character.

In addition to the numerous assurances which he had given to me during the course of the negotiation, M. Jules Ferry (as your Lordship is aware) informed me, on the 16th instant, that the Treaty which had been actually signed some days before was merely one of the common Treaties stipulating for rights of residence, intercourse, commerce, most-favoured-nation, and so forth; and that it did not contain any political or military stipulations.

But there can be no doubt that the aim of the Burmese was to obtain from the French Government such a Treaty as would enable them to appeal to France in case of their being involved in difficulties with England; or, in fact, that their great object, in forming relation with European Powers, has been and is to find means of emancipating themselves from the special influence and control of the Indian Government.

As I wrote to your Lordship on a former occasion, there can, I think, be little doubt that, with or without a fresh Treaty, the Burmese will endeavour to form in practice a closer connection with France than has hitherto existed. With a view to free themselves from English control, the Burmese have offered to throw themselves into the arms of France. These offers have, M. Ferry assures me, been rejected by the French Government.

But the spirit in which they have been made, will, no doubt, continue to animate the Burmese, while on the other hand, the progress of French power to the east of Burmah will add to the importance attached by the French Government to a country of which M. Ferry already speaks as about to become a neighbour of France.

Nothing has happened since to change the views thus expressed. Nor do I suppose that in the negotiations into which the Burmese are apparently about to enter with Italy,

endeavours to weaken the special position of England in their country will be wanting on their part.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 80.

VISCOUNT LYONS to EARL GRANVILLE.

MY LORD,

Paris, February 11, 1885.

On the 7th instant M. Jules Ferry laid upon the table of the Chamber of Deputies a Bill to authorise the ratification of the Convention recently concluded with Burmah.

In doing so he termed it a Commercial Convention: "J'ai l'honneur," he said, "de déposer sur le bureau de la Chambre un Projet de Loi portant approbation d'une Convention de Commerce avec la Birmanie."

I have taken steps to obtain a copy of the Convention for your Lordship as soon as possible after it is printed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 81.

SIR J. S. LUMLEY to EARL GRANVILLE.

MY LORD,

Rome, March 13, 1885.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Burmese Embassy, which has been for the last eighteen months at Paris, arrived in Rome ten days ago.

On Tuesday, the 10th instant, the two Ambassadors, attended by their suite, the Burmese Consul at Genoa, and Captain Trélenec, attached to the Embassy, were received by the King. They called on me the same day, when I asked them to a reception I had in the evening, at which they appeared in their national costume. They dine to-morrow at M. Mancini's—a dinner given by the Minister for Foreign Affairs in honour of the King's birthday—and will leave Naples on the 25th instant for Bombay by an Italian steamer.

Their object in coming to Rome is to obtain certain necessary alterations in their Commercial Treaty with Italy, but the shortness of their stay has compelled them to confine themselves to indicating verbally the modifications they require, reserving until their return to Rome at the end of the year, or the arrival of a fresh Embassy, further negotiations on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. SAVILE LUMLEY.

No. 82.

SIR J. S. LUMLEY to EARL GRANVILLE.

MY LORD,

Rome, March 24, 1885.

I AM informed that the departure of the Burmese Ambassadors has been delayed in order to permit of the negotiation of a Treaty of Commerce with Germany, which Baron Keudell has received orders to conclude in the name of his Government.

The Italian Government propose taking advantage of this delay to conclude a Supplementary Convention with Burmah, their existing Treaty, which was drawn up by a naval officer, containing several errors requiring explanation and correction.

This Complementary Convention will be based on that concluded between France and Burmah at Paris on the 15th January last; it will contain no mention of traffic in arms, the interdicting of the transit of which through British Burmah being fully recognised.

I learn that the Italian Government declined to enter into negotiations with the Burmese Ambassadors until they had received notice that certain outstanding claims of Italian subjects employed by the Burmese Government, and who had not been paid their salary for the last two years, were settled. An assurance to this effect has since been received by telegraph from Mandalay.

The Treaty of Commerce concluded with France, although signed on the 15th January, has not yet been sent to Mandalay, the First Ambassador having intended taking it with him on his return to Burmah, in order to be able personally to give to his Government certain explanations with regard to it. In consequence, however, of urgent

representations on the part of the French Government, the Third Burmese Ambassador will return at once to Burmah, taking with him the French Treaty for ratification. He starts for Naples to-day, the date originally fixed for the departure of the entire Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. SAVILE LUMLEY.

P.S.—I have, since writing the above, received a letter from the Burmese Ambassadors saying that their departure from Rome will be delayed until the end of April.

J. S. L.

No. 83.

No. 56 of 1885.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India

MY LORD,

Fort William, March 24, 1885.

WE have the honour to forward, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, copies of correspondence relative to the position of affairs in Rangoon, and the troubles prevailing in Upper Burma.

2. The subject of our relations with the Court of Ava occupies our earnest attention. It must be admitted that the present state of affairs is not satisfactory, and various measures of active interference have been pressed upon the Government of India by the British commercial community, who are suffering to some extent from the depression of trade, consequent on recent disturbances, and are alarmed by the conclusion of the treaty between Burma and France. We have been urged to annex Upper Burma or to dethrone the present King, and establish another ruler protected by us. These measures however do not appear to us to be justified by the existing state of affairs, and the commercial community have been so informed.

3. Nevertheless the question is not set at rest by the rejection of proposals for active interference at Mandalay. While other European Powers held aloof and did not seek to intervene in the affairs of Burma, the absence from the Court of Ava of a personal representative of the British Government, though in some respects inconvenient, has not been attended by any very material disadvantage. Hitherto our treaties have been, on the whole, respected; our commerce has received protection; and our officers have succeeded in maintaining friendly relations with the officials of the Burmese frontier districts. But now, by the conclusion of the recent treaty between France and Burma, the situation may be sensibly altered. Considering the objects which the parties to the treaty are believed to have in view, we cannot but look forward with some concern to its possible consequences. The presence of a French Consular Agent at Mandalay is likely to increase our difficulties in dealing with the Court of Ava, and to prove antagonistic to British interests. In these circumstances we are of opinion that something should, if possible, be done to restore our influence at Mandalay.

4. We have therefore considered whether it would not be desirable to insist upon the reception by King Theebaw's Government of a British Agent at his Court. In deciding upon such action, we are however surrounded with difficulties, the satisfactory solution of which is far from easy.

5. In the first place we distinctly informed the Burmese Government, after the withdrawal of our Resident in 1879, that any overtures for the revision of our relations or for the return of a political officer to Mandalay, must proceed from the Court of Ava. And if it should be resolved in the altered circumstances of the case to disregard this intimation, and to open negotiations ourselves, we cannot now expect the King's Government to meet our overtures with readiness. They would not, we believe, consent to receive, and to treat with proper courtesy, an English diplomatic agent except under the pressure of an authoritative demand, supported by a display of military force. The present time does not appear to be opportune for any action of this kind. Again, it is to be remembered that, if any understanding exists between the French and Burmese Governments, involving ulterior designs inconsistent with English interests, the reception and proper treatment of a British Resident in Mandalay would not necessarily have the effect of re-establishing British influence. It is even conceivable that the acquiescence of the Burmese in such an arrangement have the effect of embarrassing us, in case we

should hereafter come to the conclusion that more direct measures of interference could no longer be avoided.

6. The situation therefore is one of considerable delicacy, and we are not yet in a position to recommend to Her Majesty's Government any specific course of action. But we shall continue to give special attention to the affairs of Upper Burma, and we hope that before long some satisfactory solution of the difficulty may be discovered.

We have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Enclosure 1 in No. 83.

TELEGRAM, dated 9th October 1884.

FROM CHIEF COMMISSIONER, RANGOON, TO FOREIGN SECRETARY, SIMLA.

LAST week's mail took to you a letter about recent occurrences at Mandalay. My letter cannot reach you till to-morrow or Saturday. Citizens of Rangoon, to the number of over 800 of different races, have caused to be convened public meeting for next Saturday afternoon to express indignation at the slaughter, and to ask interposition of British Government. Committee who convene the meeting are merchants, English, German, and Asiatic, concerned in Mandalay trade, barristers and journalists. So far as I know, no officials will take part in meeting except Chairman of Municipality, who convenes on requisition of citizens. Unless I receive orders from you, I shall not communicate to the Committee convening the meeting any information concerning the reports, and the recommendation I have submitted to you regarding communication to be made to the Ava Government, on the subject of recent slaughter.

Enclosure 2 in No. 83.

Dated Rangoon, 3rd October 1884.

FROM E. S. SYMES, Esq., C.S., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burma, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Foreign Department.

I AM directed to invite attention to the appended newspaper extract giving an account of certain events that recently (about the 22nd September) occurred at Mandalay. The main features of the newspaper account are in accordance with reports which have reached the Chief Commissioner from four different sources at Mandalay. It seems that an outbreak took place in the Mandalay jail; that after the outbreak was quelled, harmless prisoners and others inside the jail were slaughtered after a barbarous fashion; that slaughter or executions of a revolting kind continued for one or two days; and that probably one or more, at the time unoffending, British subjects were among the victims, who altogether numbered 200 or 300 persons.

2. The Kingdom of Ava is independent of British control; and its Government is connected with British Government by a treaty, such as subsists between independent States of (technically) equal rank. There are accordingly obvious objections to our interposing in the internal affairs of the Kingdom of Ava, either by way of protest against what may be going on, or otherwise. But the condition of the Kingdom of Ava at the present time is peculiar. Nearly half the realm, that is to say, the greater part of the subject Shan States are in rebellion, and have been in rebellion for three years. A serious revolt occurred in the northern provinces six months ago, and it is possible that insurgents will again make head in that direction a few weeks hence. A pretender to the throne—who is reputed to have adherents in Upper Burma—is at large in India; wants to raise a revolution in Upper Burma; but is prevented from doing this because we refuse to allow British territory to be made a basis for his operations, and because he knows he will be arrested if he attempts to enter British Burma with hostile intentions towards the present Government at Mandalay. One or two other claimants to the Ava throne are in British keeping in India, and are prevented from making a dash for Mandalay.

3. It therefore seems that King Theebaw is in undisturbed possession of the throne of Ava, because the British Government actively interpose to prevent his rivals raising an insurrection or fomenting a revolution in Upper Burma. That being so, it becomes a question whether the Government of India should—in the event of the enclosed account of butcheries at Mandalay proving correct—abstain from all protest against such proceedings. More than five years ago, when the present King or his servants ordered or allowed massacres, the then Resident protested in the name of the British Government

against such inhumanity. Some years earlier, when Colonel (then Captain) Sladen was Resident at Mandalay, he protested, and on one occasion successfully intervened, against certain barbarous executions. Those protests in both cases had some effect in preventing further occurrences of the same type.

4. The Chief Commissioner submits, for the consideration of his Excellency the Governor-General in Council, his advice that on the present occasion an inquiry regarding the recent occurrences at Mandalay should be addressed to the Court of Ava in somewhat the following words:—

“Your Excellency,—The Viceroy and Governor-General of India has received reports and seen accounts of recent occurrences at Mandalay, respecting which I am instructed to seek such further information as your Excellency's Government may be willing to give.

“ii. It is stated—and the statement is confirmed by letters from trustworthy persons—that after a recent outbreak in the Mandalay jail, some hundreds of unresisting prisoners and other persons were slaughtered inside or near the jail enclosure; that this slaughter took place after the jail-breakers had either got away or had been separately dealt with; that the people—prisoners and others—were killed under circumstances of peculiar cruelty; that the slaughter of these unfortunates continued for one or two whole days; and that among the slain were certain British subjects, natives of Chittagong.

“iii. The Government of India is well aware that on an occasion such as the quelling of a jail outbreak, the subordinate servants of the State may sometimes carry vindictive reprisals too far against refractory prisoners. But the accounts which have reached the Government of India—if correct—show that the slaughter and treatment of the prisoners went much beyond this. If the accounts should turn out to be in the main correct, the Governor-General in Council desires me to say, that he shall feel bound to protest in behalf of the British Government, and in the name of humanity, against any barbarous executions such as sullied the first year of His Majesty King Theebaw's reign. The Government of India consider that they cannot look on in silence at occurrences of this kind at Mandalay; because they remember that, by their action in keeping away from Burma other claimants to the throne of Ava, they, to some extent, assist in keeping the present ruler in undisturbed possession of the throne.”

5. I am to add, that the Chief Commissioner is aware that any letter of this kind, if sent, would probably elicit a more or less complete denial, or a defence of the barbarities that are said to have occurred. But, nevertheless, the protest may do good in compelling the King and his Ministers to reflect before they ordered or allowed further barbarous executions of this kind. And it will show that the British Government, so far as it can peaceably intervene, desires to prevent the recurrence of such acts.

EXTRACT from the “RANGOON GAZETTE.”

MANDALAY.

Details of the Massacre.

WE give below the details of the massacre at Mandalay, which we briefly reported this day week, and which was then described as a jail outbreak. How far that description was from the truth, the following accounts, both given us by eye-witnesses, will show. We reserve further comment until to-morrow.

The Burmese Government, feeling alarmed at the large number of dacoities taking place in every district, and by the report that the Mengoon Prince had left Pondicherry and reached Bangkok, the Ministers decided to execute a number of notorious characters. Although this decision was kept secret, it came to the knowledge of the prisoners through their relatives, who are allowed to take food to them in the jail; and those who had reason to believe that their lives would be the first to be sacrificed resolved to attempt an escape. About 30 of them managed to break off their irons and seize the few daks and empty guns of the guards, while the latter were at dinner. They then managed to burst out of the jail, and made for the eastern gate of the city. Among them was a Let-thoon-daw called Minbyin, who was imprisoned on suspicion of having an intrigue with one of the Queen's maids-of-honour; this man went to the criminal court opposite, and gave warning to the Mayo Saray (town clerk). The men who had escaped were followed, and seven were cut down before reaching the gate, among whom was the notorious Yanmin, who was the ringleader. When wounded by a shot he took

refuge in a house, but was beaten out by the inmates. On reaching the road near the bazaar he fell down, and his head was chopped off and carried away in triumph. This is the famous dacoit who was liberated from jail to go and fight against the Shans, but instead of that, he was plundering and pillaging everywhere. He was then arrested, and was to have been publicly executed; but, through the intercession of a hpoongyee, his sentence was changed to imprisonment for life. The other runaways were followed by the Shoay Shan Myowoon, and two or three were slaughtered, but about 20 or so are still at large.

Whilst this was going on, the Ministers, headed by the Tinedah, with the palace guard, had surrounded the jail, in which there were now none but peaceable and unarmed people, and an indiscriminate slaughter began, specially directed by the Tinedah Mingyee, against those harmless people who were begging for mercy. Finding themselves fired upon from all sides, they tried to break the fence and get out. At this crisis the Tinedah gave orders to set fire to the jail at the east corner, and from the Tounge-win Mingyee's house the musketry fire was kept up. The flames drove the poor creatures to the gate, where they were hacked to pieces one after another. In the jail were the Mooneah Mee Byah, the grandson of the Maloon Prince (called the Minepyin Prince) and the grandson of the Intiahmin. The Mooneah Mee Byah, who was very ill, was carried out by her sister, who was also a prisoner.

While the butchery was going on, the King sent to inquire if the two Princes were still alive; the answer was "yes," but, as might have been expected when he sent a second time, they were no more. Their heads are now hanging in the cemetery along with that of the Yanmin.

Up till now, the number of slain is said to be 150, but executions are still taking place. Among the killed are 4 Chinese, 2 Chittagonians, 8 women and some Shans. Among the women are an aunt and two cousins of the Nyoung Yan Prince, and a Shan girl, a relation of the Mooneah Mee Byah.

The king has given orders that no one who is accused of a political crime is to be allowed to live; murders are still going on, and the governors of districts have all been ordered to send to Mandalay the criminals confined in their jails.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

A DREADFUL massacre occurred here on Sunday evening; the Government have endeavoured to make it appear as merely the suppression of a jail outbreak, headed by a band of desperate dacoits; but I have every reason to believe that this is very far from the truth; in fact, instead of posing as the representatives and vindicators of law and order, there is no doubt that the King and his Ministers ought to be denounced as the butchers who carried out one of the most unjustifiable and cruel massacres of ancient or modern times. So far from the incident having come upon the Government unexpectedly, there is every reason to believe that it was the result of a preconcerted plan concocted by themselves.

I believe that the scheme originated with some of the Ministers who have been coquetting with the Mengoon Prince. Some of their followers, who were in their confidence, had been unfortunate enough to get into prison, and their patrons became afraid that they would purchase their freedom by disclosing inconvenient secrets. These Ministers, therefore, went to the King and told him that they believed a number of the desperate characters in the jail had been conspiring against him, and although they were in custody, their departure to Neikban was desirable in case a rising occurred, which might lead to their escape and their joining the standard of the Mengoon Prince. Combined with the reports of the Mengoon's escape from Pondicherry, this naturally incensed as well as alarmed King Theebaw, who was anxious for the immediate and wholesale execution of the rebels against his authority. The Ministers, however, represented to him that in view of the present relations of Ava with Britain and France, a vulgar and barbarous massacre would not be politic, and that a little diplomacy should be used. Accordingly word was sent by a confidential man to the jailor that he might liberate such and such prisoners. As soon as he acted on these orders, another officer roused the jail-guard to quell the "outbreak," and the first man killed was the jailor himself, who was best out of the way, on the principle that "dead men tell no tales." No sooner were the first shots fired, than Ministers and officials swarmed round from all

quarters, the troops arrived from the palace, and the slaughter began. A number of the fugitives who had got outside the jail were pursued and cut down in the streets, whilst those who remained in the jail were shot down mercilessly without distinction. To make sure that none of the victims would escape, and that no assistance should reach them from outside, the city gates were closed from 4 to 10 o'clock p.m.

The scene that then occurred at the jail baffles description; the poor wretches inside it would not come out, and the monsters who sought their lives set fire to the building on the east side of the palace, and then murdered their victims one by one as they fled from the flames. No mercy was shown to either age or sex, and a number of those butchered were not even prisoners, but people who had gone to see their friends or to carry food to them. I am confident that at least three hundred people were massacred, amongst whom were 11 women, 3 Chinamen, 1 Hindu, 2 Chittagonians, some Suratees, 2 young Princes, and 1 Hypoongyee. I believe there were only 11 dacoits altogether in the jail; they were all killed, and amongst them was Yanmin, a desperate character, who, on account of his skill and bravery, was liberated some time ago to go and quell the Shan rebellion, but who instead again took to dacoity on his own account, and was again captured. This is the same man who shot Pilot Jefferson, of the Flotilla Company's service, some two years ago.

To show how little the massacre had really to do with an outbreak in the jail, I may mention that there are three jails in Mandalay, two outside and one inside the palace, and the slaughter was carried on, not merely at the one at which it was commenced, but also at the other two. A civil prisoner who had been put in jail for a debt of Rs. 15 was murdered, as well as some 15 of the jail-beggars. With respect to these latter, I should explain that it is not the custom here for the Government to feed convicts, and a certain number of those who have no friends willing and able to support them are allowed to go out and beg for food, or earn it by carrying water and doing other odd jobs for people. Those prisoners who managed to escape in the confusion are still being sought for, and not one of them who is captured will escape death.

The sequel to the massacre was as horrible as that ghastly incident itself. Some of the heads of the victims were stuck up on bamboos in the cemetery, and others were carried through the streets on poles. The scene at the cemetery when I visited it was appalling. The King gave orders that the dead were not to be buried for two or three days, so that all the people might see what a terrible thing it was to incur his displeasure, and there were the mutilated bodies lying in ghastly and festering heaps, some of them not only riddled with shot, but hacked to pieces with dahs past all recognition, whilst a number of fiends in human shape were actually chopping off arms and legs to save the manacles and shackles! Not only that, but the dead and dying had been carted off together, and in some cases the quivering of a limb told that the death agony was not yet over. When I visited the cemetery the work of interment had begun, and the carcasses were being huddled, four and five together, into shallow graves, with no more than a foot of earth to cover them. The pigs and pariahs had already been feasting on the slain, and their banquet will be continued after the sextons have withdrawn. In striking contrast to this horrible picture, I saw little children playing about, all unconscious of their dreadful surroundings.

Meantime the ruffian King and Court have been holding high festival over the event to divert the people from thoughts of the true significance of the massacre, and make them regard it as the triumph of the nation over the nation's foes. Poays are being held nightly, and the Parsee Theatrical Company have just arrived in good time to make sport in the palace. Ministers are swaggering about on elephants, and the wretched passers-by dare hardly lift their heads from the dust while in their presence; boats with bands of music on board are numerous on the river; a king's steamer gaily decorated was sent down to Sagine, and excursionists invited to take free passages; and the King has rewarded all those who took part in the slaughter, the butcher who could boast of the most victims receiving the richest reward.

What will be the end of it all I cannot say. The people who came up by one steamer went back by the next, and a number of wealthy traders are leaving the place. Oh! if the Mengoon Prince, or, better still, a British gunboat were only here!

Enclosure 3 in No. 83.

(Extract.)

Dated Rangoon, October 16, 1884.

From E. S. SYMES, Esq., C.S., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burma, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Foreign Department.

I AM directed to submit copy of a memorial (enclosure A.) which has to-day been presented to the Chief Commissioner for transmission to the Government of India. The memorial embodies four resolutions passed at a public meeting held in Rangoon on the 11th current. The meeting was convened by the President of the Municipality on a requisition by several European householders. The notice regarding the meeting ran as follows:—

“NOTICE.

“At the request of a large number of the residents of Rangoon, I hereby convene a public meeting, to take into consideration the present unsatisfactory state of affairs in Upper Burma.

“The meeting will take place at

“THE TOWN HALL,

“On Saturday afternoon, the 11th October 1884.

“C. H. E. ADAMSON,

“President of the Rangoon Municipality.”

If the meeting had been, in the first instance, called to discuss the advisability of annexing the independent kingdom of Ava, with which we have treaty relations, the President of the Municipality, who is also a Government officer, would probably have abstained from taking part in the matter by convening the meeting.

2. The meeting was held as notified, and was presided over by Mr. J. Thompson, a well-known merchant, who represents the firm of Messrs. Gillanders, Arbuthnot & Co. Annexed (enclosure B.) are two newspaper accounts of the meeting. The deputation who handed the memorial to the Chief Commissioner this morning informed him that the account given in the newspapers was in the main correct; that the meeting was attended by very large numbers of people; that it was enthusiastic, and that the resolutions were carried unanimously. It should perhaps be stated that the five elected Burmese members of the Rangoon Municipality called a meeting of their more influential constituents to consider what part they, as representative Burmans, should take at the public meeting of the 11th. At this Burmese meeting it was resolved that “the Luyis” (*i.e.*, elders of the city) consider that, as British subjects, they should only attend to the “welfare and prosperity of their own country; and they decided not to interfere with “foreign affairs.” In accordance with this decision, the elected Burmese members of the municipality took no part in the public meeting of the 11th October.

3. The movement, which ended in this public meeting and memorial, originated in consequence of reports—circumstantial accounts written by trustworthy persons at Mandalay—regarding the slaughter of 100 to 300 persons on the day of, and soon after, an outbreak in the Mandalay Jail. In my letter, No. 310, dated the 3rd instant (and in other communications by the same mail) were submitted accounts of the recent occurrences at Mandalay, so far as apparently authentic reports had reached the Chief Commissioner, and a recommendation was then submitted that inquiry should be made from the Government of Ava regarding these occurrences. If the facts were really as stated, the Chief Commissioner advised that strong disapproval of such inhumanity and barbarous slaughter should be expressed. And it was suggested that the British Government could not view such slaughter in silence, when, by our preventing claimants to the kingdom of Ava organising revolution from British territory, we are to some degree, responsible for keeping King Theebaw in undisturbed possession of his throne. Since my letter above mentioned was despatched, the Rangoon agent of the King of Ava at an interview with the Chief Commissioner gave another account of the occurrences. He says that about 100 prisoners were killed in all; that the jail was set on fire by the prisoners themselves; that the rioting prisoners had to be shot down in order to prevent their breaking out and sacking the town; and that, if unresisting, unoffending people were killed, their fate was due to the excitement and anxiety of the moment. As at present advised, Mr. Bernard believes the written reports of eye-witnesses to be more authentic and trustworthy than the account given by the King’s

agent in Rangoon. There has not been time for the Chief Commissioner to receive the orders of the Government of India on my letter above quoted; but the matter is mentioned here to show that it was not proposed to acquiesce by silence in the barbarous executions or slaughter permitted by the Mandalay Government.

4. The resolutions adopted at the public meeting are to the effect (1) that misgovernment is bringing misery and distress on the people of Upper Burma under the present King; (2) that the tranquillity and prosperity of British Burma and of Upper Burma are mutually interdependent; (3) that it is absolutely necessary for the British Government immediately to interfere in Upper Burma; (4) that British interference should take the form of annexation of the kingdom of Ava to the Indian Empire; or that, if annexation is deemed inexpedient, King Theebaw should be removed from the throne, and that Ava should be constituted a protected State under some other ruler.

The Chief Commissioner has been requested to submit the memorial embodying these resolutions with his full support to his Excellency the Viceroy in Council. He believes that these resolutions embody the sincere views and convictions of the majority of Englishmen in Rangoon. These views have been enforced by sermons from Rangoon pulpits; and the speeches at the public meeting show that humane sympathy with, and anxiety for, sufferers from cruelties in Upper Burma were the active cause of the present movement in Rangoon. It is, therefore, with much diffidence that Mr. Bernard expresses his dissent from the main resolution—in favour of annexation—to which the memorial draws attention. At the same time he considers that even the adverse opinion of the great majority of his fellow-countrymen in Burma should not make him shrink from avowing his opinion on the important questions raised in these resolutions.

5. Some people may perhaps doubt whether, in a country like India, it is wise or desirable that the policy of the Government towards a neighbouring Power should form subject of discussion at a public meeting. But so long as prominent Government officers take no part in the discussions, Mr. Bernard does not see that such meetings, though they may cause temporary alarm and disturbance of trade, can do lasting harm. Nothing more is said at such a meeting than may be—or is—said any day in the local newspapers. In so far as the meeting gave expression—strong expression—to the general disapproval of misgovernment, and to the abhorrence of cruelty felt by all true Englishmen, such a meeting as that of Saturday last may have good effect. At any rate, whether the effect is good or bad, it is quite certain that in a large European community like that of Rangoon, the local Government could not—if it wished—stifle discussion or prevent a public meeting on a question of this kind. British subjects in all parts of Her Gracious Majesty’s Empire have, and exercise, the right of meeting in public to discuss political questions; and, on the whole, it is very much better for the British Empire that this right should be unquestioned.

6. I am now to remark on the first of the four points urged in the memorial as summarised at paragraph 4 above, namely, the evils of misrule in Upper Burma. The massacres that sullied the beginning of King Theebaw’s reign, and the slaughter of unresisting prisoners, as recently reported, are abhorrent to all civilized people. So far as information is available to the Chief Commissioner, the realm and the subjects of Ava do not enjoy internal peace, and are not contented. The Shan States, which constitute nearly half the kingdom, have been in revolt for years. The border tribes beyond Bhamo were in rebellion last spring, carried fire and sword half way to Mandalay, and are expected to break out again this cold season. In Mandalay, in Bhamo, and in many cities and villages, traders and peaceful persons often suffer grievous wrong at the hands of the Government or of petty officials or of robbers. Few dare to amass or to keep wealth. The bad harvests of 1883–84 have added greatly to the troubles of the people, and caused thousands of families to migrate into British Burma. Indian or Burman subjects of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress who go to Upper Burma believe themselves to be often in great jeopardy; they are sometimes ill-treated by the officials, and they can rarely obtain redress for civil wrongs. If Ava were under British rule there would be very great improvement in the peace, prosperity, and wealth of the people.

7. The Chief Commissioner is informed that the condition of affairs in the interior of Upper Burma is worse now than it was in the time of the late King, father of King Theebaw. He cannot fully test this information, but it comes both from Burman and European sources. Possibly the removal of the British Resident and of the British Mixed Court from Mandalay may have encouraged anarchy and misrule. At the same time it must be admitted that, so far as statistics of external trade are an index of the

prosperity of a people, the case is not so strong against the present régime in Upper Burma. The comparative figures are as follows:—

Four complete years before King Theebaw's accession—

	Exports from British Burma to Ava.	Imports into British Burma from Ava.	Total Trade between British Burma and Ava.
	£	£	£
1874-75 - - - -	1,470,261	1,457,572	2,927,833
1875-76 - - - -	1,355,919	1,514,613	2,870,532
1876-77 - - - -	1,468,554	1,551,850	3,020,401
1877-78 - - - -	1,761,511	1,664,385	3,425,926
Average of the four years	1,514,069	1,547,105	3,061,174

After King Theebaw's accession—

1880-81 - - - -	1,712,302	1,613,972	3,326,274
1881-82 - - - -	1,485,886	1,303,375	2,789,261
1882-83 - - - -	1,581,079	1,670,682	3,251,761
1883-84 - - - -	1,826,114	1,705,848	3,531,962
Average of the four years	1,651,345	1,573,469	3,224,814

Thus the average value of the yearly trade between British Burma and Ava in King Theebaw's reign was somewhat larger than during the four years before his accession. The volume of imports of British goods into Ava during the second period was comparatively larger than the foregoing figures would imply; for the tariff* of values for cotton goods, silk goods, twist, and iron, was considerably lower during King Theebaw's time than during the period before his accession. The value of the traffic fell off greatly in the year 1881-82, when monopolies were established. But it recovered again when the monopolies were abolished in compliance with the representation made by order of his Excellency the Governor-General in Council. The failure of the Ava crops last season caused the importation of rice from British Burmah to reach 74,000 tons in the first nine months of 1884, as compared with an average of 20,000 tons during the four preceding years. The obligation to pay for this imported food reduced the power of the people to purchase other commodities. During the last few weeks, owing to the threatened incursion of the Myingun Prince, and to fear of a revolution, trade with Upper Burma, except in rice and other food-stuffs, has been almost at a standstill.

8. The second of the points urged in the memorial is that the prosperity and tranquillity of Upper and Lower Burma are bound up together. It is quite true that the kingdom of Ava depends for the greater part of its external trade on, and is nourished from, British Burma, which again depends on Ava for about one-eighth of its external trade. If serious anarchy and disturbance occurred on one side of the border, they would probably be felt more or less on the other side. Robber gangs from Upper Burma cross the border and harry British villages to some extent every year. The number of these forays is perhaps not more than would be committed by gangs from Central India States over a less extended border. Moreover, recent investigations by Mr. Pilcher in Thayetmyo, have shown that British villagers occasionally make predatory incursions into the neighbouring tracts of Upper Burma. No doubt murderers, robbers, and other criminals flee into Ava, when the police make British territory too hot for them; and probably wrong-doers from Upper Burma sometimes find asylum in British territory. But during the past two years there has been, thanks mainly to the friendliness established by Mr. Pilcher of Thayetmyo with Burma officials across the border, a more free

* NOTE.—At a recent investigation into the range of prices during the past ten years, the fall of prices in certain typical English goods at Rangoon was found to have been as follows:—

No. 30 Grey Twist.			No. 20 Turkey Red Twist.			Grey Shirts.		
Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
1873	3	6	0	8	2	4	14	0
1883	2	10	0	5	2	3	9	0
1884	2	8	0	4	9	3	8	0
Per bundle of 5 lbs.			Per bundle of 5 lbs.			Per piece of 7 lbs.		

The year 1873 is earlier than any of the years taken in the text. But the era of high prices lasted, and the great fall in prices did not begin, until shortly before King Theebaw's accession to the throne.

extradition of criminals on both sides. On the Ava frontier, as on other frontiers elsewhere, it is often difficult to make out promptly a *prima facie* case sufficient to procure extradition of suspected criminals. But on the whole the Chief Commissioner is not able to say that the tranquillity and prosperity of the province of British Burma have suffered seriously from anarchy and misrule in Ava. We have, unfortunately, had a good deal of violent crime in British Burma, but the worst districts have been—

Hanthawaddy,
Pegu,

Henzada,
Tharrawaddy,

all of which are far removed from the frontier.

Most of our worst criminals and leaders of robber gangs have been Burmans born on this side of the frontier. When Upper Burmans are found among robber gangs in these four districts, they are most frequently men who have resided some time in British Burma before taking to criminal courses.

9. The growth of our trade with Upper Burma has been shown above. That growth has no doubt been retarded, at times it has been even stopped, by the establishment of monopolies or by other restraints on trade. But when such arrangements or exactions are contrary to treaty, diplomatic representation has usually resulted in their eventual removal. It is perhaps worthy of note that the volume of British trade across our frontier with Ava equals 62 per cent. of the total trade across the whole land frontier of India, from Kurrachee to Chittagong. According to Mr. Hamilton's report for 1881-82, the value of the total trade across the land frontier of India with Biluchistan, Afghanistan, Cashmere, Thibet, Nepal, Sikkim, Bhootan, Manipur, and the tribes of the Eastern frontier, is valued at about 5,145,000/. Our trade with Ava, it has been seen, has averaged 3,224,814/. a year during the reign of the King Theebaw. To the credit of the Ava Government, it may be mentioned that, though the treaty allows them to take a 10 per cent. *ad valorem* import duty on British goods, yet hitherto they have levied only a 5 per cent. import duty. Additional exactions and imports of different kinds are doubtless laid on trade in the interior of the country, and traffic along minor routes in Ava is shackled in many ways. But these obstacles to free commerce would be found in a comparatively uncivilised and comparatively misgoverned State under any circumstances. And the difference between the 10 per cent. duty allowed by treaty and the 5 per cent. duty now levied is, *pro tanto*, a distinct gain to our merchants. During the five years that have passed since the withdrawal of the Resident from Mandalay the traffic of the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company, probably the largest and wealthiest river navigation company in Asia, has grown and flourished. The increase and the permanence of British trade with Ava* is largely due to the exertions and good management of this company. But the officials of the company would probably admit that they had, in the main, and with a few exceptional cases of rudeness at the hands of local officials, met with consideration, if not courtesy, at the hands of the Ava Government during the reign of King Theebaw.

10. The third point urged in the memorial and the public meeting is that it is absolutely necessary for the British Government to interfere in Upper Burma. To the Chief Commissioner it seems that, except for the cruel massacres that occurred at and after the recent jail outbreak at Mandalay, the political relations between the Government of India and the kingdom of Ava are now much as they have been any time during the last five years. Mr. Bernard has counselled that inquiry be made regarding these alleged cruelties, and that the strong disapproval of the British Government be expressed if the account is in the main true. If any protest of the kind from his Excellency the Viceroy in Council were to be ill-received or to be rejected, or if there were a renewal and continuance of such massacres, then matters would assume a different aspect. But the fact of the recent barbarities on the occasion of an outbreak in the jail at Mandalay does not, in the Chief Commissioner's judgment, give sufficient warrant for the British

* NOTE.—In order to make sure of the accuracy of the above statement, the final sentences of paragraph 9 above were submitted to Mr. Kennedy, Manager of the Flotilla Company, for remark. He advises that what is said in the text about consideration and courtesy shown to his Company by King Theebaw's Government is quite correct. But he begs that, if he is quoted at all in the matter, it may be noted that in his opinion the courtesy shown to his company is due to fear of offending the British Government, and not to goodwill. He says, too, that though the traffic carried by his vessels has increased, and has been very large this year, yet he believes the trade to Ava in British goods has decreased in King Theebaw's time; and he considers the increase in the bulk of the trade has occurred chiefly in articles of country produce, such as salt fish.

to interfere in the government of Ava. Apart from these massacres, he conceives that we have no ground of international right for interference. We are technically on terms of friendly alliance with Ava; a treaty subsists between the two countries of British India and Ava; we write to each other in friendly terms on matters of trade and of frontier management; and we generally comply with each others wishes so far as may be possible. Recently on one topic, the Manipur delimitation, a somewhat stern communication had to be made to the Mandalay Government. But so far as is known, the Ava Government has not transgressed the Manipur frontier as laid down by the Boundary Commission. King Theebaw's Government is not friendly to the British, but it apparently recognises the superiority of British power; it observes the existing treaty, and it commits no international offence, though it certainly shows no wish to contract more intimate or more amicable relations.

11. Immediate interference in the affairs of Upper Burma can be exercised only by armed intervention, or by the threat of such intervention, accompanied by actual preparation for active operations. If 5,000 troops were added to the garrison of British Burma, and the column were massed on the Thayetmyo frontier, probably the Mandalay Government would promise reform in many matters, and might accept a British Resident whose duty would be to see that those promises were performed. If a British column of 5,000 men were to cross the border with hostile intentions, King Theebaw would be either dead, or a fugitive, or a prisoner, and Mandalay would surrender to British arms within a single week and with little loss of life. But the fact that British power could thus crush the Ava Government does not warrant our threatening or invading Upper Burma without adequate cause. And so far as Mr. Bernard is able to judge, neither the recent relations between the two States, nor the slaughter at Mandalay afford adequate warrant for massing troops on the border, or invading Ava.

12. The fourth recommendation, and that on which the memorial and the representations made by the deputation lay the most stress, is that the British Government should annex Upper Burma, or, if that is not possible, that it should convert Ava into a protected or feudatory State. It is undeniable that for some years back British merchants and other Englishmen in Lower Burma have desired to see Ava annexed, and to have a strong homogeneous British province stretching from the sea to the confines of China. It has been thought that such annexation would promote trade and also improve the prosperity of the people by securing the exploitation of the coal, teak, earth oil, and other valuable products of Ava, and by opening a direct route for trade with the western provinces of China. It may be accepted that these consequences would certainly follow from annexation; it may be accepted that, so far as military obstacles are concerned, annexation could be easily effected. Also it must be admitted that men of great political foresight have predicted that sooner or later Ava would become British territory. A recent biography shows that the late Sir Henry Durand, who had served in Burma and was thoroughly conversant with Indian politics, fifteen years ago foretold that Ava would be a British possession within a very few years' time.

13. But notwithstanding these considerations, Mr. Bernard cannot see that the British have any right to annex, or have at present any sufficient pretext for the annexation of the kingdom of Ava. If King Theebaw's Government transgressed British frontiers, invaded British allies, maltreated British subjects, broke treaties, continued to commit massacres, rejected British protests, and refused redress, matters would be different. But things have not come to any such pass.

14. The alternative proposal of converting Ava into a protected State could not be carried out without threat of war, or perhaps without war itself. If aggression on the part of the Ava Government or other circumstances forced the Government of India into war, even then the Chief Commissioner would not advocate the annexation of the country, or the conversion of Upper Burma into a protected State of the regular Indian type. Under such circumstances, if they occurred, it might be right for the British to displace King Theebaw from the throne and place in power at Mandalay some Prince of Alompra's dynasty, who would be more friendly to British interests and more amenable to British influence.

15. Mr. Bernard fears that in submitting to the Government of India this long letter, he has travelled over topics on which his Excellency the Viceroy in Council may not desire counsel from a Chief Commissioner. But the public meeting of last Saturday, and the present memorial, have raised questions of Imperial moment and Imperial policy. The Chief Commissioner has been asked to support this memorial, which embodies the unanimous decisions of a large public meeting. He finds himself at variance with his

fellow countrymen in Rangoon on some of these topics. He feels bound to submit his opinion, and therefore he has troubled you with this long explanation of his views.

Enclosure A.

MEMORIAL to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burma, dated October 16, 1884.

WE beg to submit to you the following resolutions which were unanimously passed at a meeting which was held on Saturday last in the Town Hall of Rangoon, which meeting was convened by the President of the Municipality, in response to a requisition signed by 835 citizens of all nationalities which compose the population of this city, and was attended by an immense concourse of Burmese, Europeans, Chinese, and Natives of India, overcrowding the largest place of meeting here:—

"I.—That this meeting desire to bring to the special notice of Her Majesty's Government the misery and distress which the misgovernment in Upper Burma under its present ruler, culminating in the recent massacres, is entailing on the inhabitants of that country.

"II.—Considering that this province of British Burma has a population of the same nationality as Upper Burma, and the tranquillity and prosperity of the two countries are intimately associated with and bound up in each other, this meeting desires to urge upon Her Majesty's Government the absolute necessity of immediate interference.

"III.—That whilst this meeting has no desire to dictate to Her Majesty's Government, it is of opinion that immediate action is necessary, and it strongly recommends the annexation of Upper Burma, or, failing that, that it should be placed in the position of a protected State within the Empire, with a Prince, other than the present ruler, on the throne.

"IV.—That the committee be empowered to embody these resolutions in a memorial to Government, and send it to the Chief Commissioner, with a request that he will be good enough to forward it and give it the benefit of his support."

These resolutions, so that the purport of the meeting should be thoroughly understood by all interested, were published the day previously in both English and Burmese, and besides being circulated in printed form among the audience, were read in both languages at the meeting.

They were duly proposed and seconded, and carried enthusiastically without a single dissentient vote.

In pursuance of Resolution IV. we now come to you to request the favour of your forwarding these resolutions to Her Majesty's Government, and to beg that you will honour this expression of the public opinion of Rangoon with all the support which your high office, and your intimate knowledge of affairs in both Upper and British Burma enable you to give them.

We would repeat emphatically that whilst the public meeting of which we are the appointed representatives had no desire to dictate to Her Majesty's Government, yet the scheme of annexation was the measure which found most favour as the remedy for the intolerable evils complained of.

By order of the Committee,

J. THOMPSON.

T. F. PEDLEY.

W. H. WOOTTON.

JOHN E. MARKS.

DAVID M. GRAY.

W. Q. ROWETT,

Honorary Secretary.

Enclosure B.

EXTRACT TRANSLATION from an article published in the "British Burma News" of the 16th October 1884.

AN extraordinary circumstance was that, excluding the English, there were present at this meeting not so many as five persons of position among the Burmese, Chinese, or foreign community; and our English contemporaries who reported that the resolutions were passed with loud acclamation by people of various nationalities, did not, we fear, know exactly the character of the foreigners who actually composed that meeting. Excluding the English, these foreigners, as well as the Burmese present, were mostly of the lower classes, who understood not a word of what was being said, the speeches having been delivered in English. When they saw the Englishmen raise their hands, they shouted and followed suit for mere fun, very few of them knowing what was really meant by the raising of hands. In Rangoon it is not an uncommon thing to see a crowd of so many as two or three hundred turn out to see a man and wife fighting, and the persons who went to a meeting of so extraordinary a character as that of last Saturday should not therefore be regarded as *bonâ fide* representatives of the wishes of the people of the country. What is said in the English papers about the fear of respectable Chinese, Kala, and Burmese for King Theebaw's wonderful spear, and of their having been restrained from attending the meeting by the persuasions of King Theebaw's agents, are nothing but merely imaginary conceits, the real fact being that most people of standing stayed away from their conviction that the grounds were insufficient on which Dr. Marks and his colleagues took measures to stir up the Government into hostility against Burma.

No proof, indeed, is forthcoming in support of the assertion that there is no foundation for the report that it was in consequence of the outbreak, and the inevitable confusion arising, that the jail prisoners were ordered to be executed for the sake of preserving peace and order in the country.

If, in accordance with the resolutions come to, the Government were to remonstrate with the Burmese Government, and the latter were to reply that they had to take such steps as they considered necessary for their well-being in consequence of the prisoners attempting to disturb the country's peace, and were to exclaim against the English interfering with an independent nation in the performance of an act which concerned their own welfare, what steps could the British take which at the same time would be lawful? They would only be placed in an awkward position. We do not think that a reply such as this could give them a lawful and sufficient excuse to go to war with Burma.

There are many things done by the Burmese Government which we do not approve of. But to quote an old English proverb: "Rome was not built in a day," and the Burmese Government cannot be expected all at once to have arrived to such a state of perfection as to leave nothing desirable. Intercourse with European nations will no doubt gradually bring them to that condition. Meanwhile, although the Burmese subjects may have much to complain of against their Government, yet we should not necessarily believe that they are desirous of a change of rulers. There is no record in the history of Europe where the people are shown to have desired a foreign ruler over them. Let the British remember their experience of the French during their occupation of a part of France.

The argument may be uncontrovertible that the revenue to be derived by the annexation of Upper Burma will exceed the costs of administration; but does it not somewhat exhibit the motives which actuate those who put it forward to support the policy of annexation? In order to reap the kind of benefit mentioned above, the British have for a long time past followed the policy of annexing various territories; but have they ever been allowed to hold their possessions undisturbed for any length of time? Have not revolts repeatedly taken place, and have they not been harassed by the expenditure of much blood and treasure?

If the Burmese subjects really dislike their ruler, and are desirous of removing him, they are capable of doing so of their own accord, and without the intervention of any foreign Government. That they have performed such offices for themselves there are several instances to be found recorded in history.

Enclosure 4 in No. 83.

Dated Rangoon, 18th October 1884.

From E. S. SYMES, Esq., C.S., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burma, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Foreign Department.

WITH my letter dated the 16th October, is forwarded a memorial with resolutions passed at a public meeting in Rangoon. Since that letter was written the enclosed representation (Enclosure A.) has been received from the Chamber of Commerce of Rangoon, to the effect—

- (1.) That the trade and importation of British goods into Burma has fallen off greatly in consequence of the misrule in Ava under King Theebaw;
- (2.) That this year especially the falling-off has been most marked, and must be mainly due to the decreased demand for Upper Burma;
- (3.) That the recent public meeting in Rangoon, and the resolutions passed thereat, have caused general alarm, and had a serious effect on trade;
- (4.) That the best way of meeting the difficulty and promoting trade and prosperity in Burma, would be to annex Ava to the British Dominions;
- (5.) That in default of annexation it would be best for the British Government to remove King Theebaw and place his half-brother, the Nyaung Yan Prince, on the throne;
- (6.) That the feeling of insecurity must increase so long as the intentions of the British Government are uncertain, and that it is desirable that the Government of India should declare their intentions as speedily as possible.

2. In my letter of the 16th current it was shown that British trade with the kingdom of Ava had not decreased during King Theebaw's reign. The average yearly trade between British Burma and Ava was valued—

		£
During the four complete years preceding King Theebaw's accession at	- - - - -	3,061,174
During four complete years after King Theebaw's accession at	- - - - -	3,224,814

This is a large and important trade; and the Chamber of Commerce are naturally very anxious about anything that threatens the security of this trade. The Government of India and the Chief Commissioner must also be anxious to do whatever may be legitimately possible to secure this trade. But according to modern ideas of international relations it is questionable whether we have any right to interfere with the internal government of a neighbouring country, or to annex that country, because our commerce therewith does not increase so rapidly as we might wish.

The Chamber of Commerce dwell upon the decrease in the importations of British goods. The returns of import trade from England into Burma by sea before and during King Theebaw's reign are as follows:

Total value of the private import trade from the United Kingdom by sea into Burma—

		£
Three years before King Theebaw's accession	1876-77	4,709,404
	1877-78	4,644,116
	1878-79	5,922,123
Year of accession	1879-80	5,970,002
	1880-81	7,040,640
Four years after King Theebaw's accession	1881-82	6,384,893
	1882-83	6,789,635
	1883-84	7,313,451

British imports by sea into Burma have thus been much larger since King Theebaw's accession than they were before. Probably the increase would have been greater if King Theebaw's rule had been better; but the figures do not substantiate the view that British imports into Burma have decreased during King Theebaw's reign.

3. During the past few months the trade with Ava in English goods has fallen off considerably, partly because there was a failure of the rice crop in Upper Burma, whereby the purchasing power of the people has been reduced, partly by reason of the threatened incursion of the Myingun Prince, and partly owing to fear of a revolution in Mandalay.

The Chief Collector of Customs, who has been consulted regarding the decrease of imports from Europe, writes—

“In accordance with the request of the Chief Commissioner, I beg to submit statements* of the trade in the four principal articles of exports to Upper Burma during the first half of the official years 1882–83, 1883–84 and 1884–85. In twist and yarn there has been a falling-off in value in the current year of 13·84 per cent. in comparison with the year immediately preceding, and of 7·04 per cent. in respect to 1882–83, while the decrease in quantity has been 10·35 per cent., and 4·65 per cent. respectively. In cotton piece-goods the decline has been in value 25·46 per cent., and 29·67 per cent., and in quantity 30·61 per cent. and 26·52 per cent. In provisions the value and weight are less in the current year than in 1883–84, but more under both heads than in 1882–83. In silk piece-goods there has been a large increase in the past six months as compared with the six months of the previous year, and an increase in quantity against 1882–83; but a falling-off in value of 13·30 per cent.

On the total of the four articles the decrease in the last half year is less than four lakhs in comparison with 1883–84, and a little over six lakhs in comparison with 1882–83.

This decline in the trade is, I think, mainly due to the badness of the harvest in Upper Burma last year, which has led to a very large demand for rice from British Burma. The statement attached shows that the value of this grain exported by the Irrawaddy during the last six months has been Rs. 42,80,047 against Rs. 13,46,074 in the first half of 1883–84, and Rs. 11,22,433 in the first half 1882–83. The excess in 1884–85 over the previous year is no less than 29½ lakhs of rupees, much of which would, no doubt, have been available for ordinary trade but for the scarcity of food.

During the months of August and September the piece goods trade in Upper Burma was, no doubt, affected by the rumours regarding the movements of the Myingun Prince.

Trade generally has been dull during the last few months, the value of imports from foreign countries into Rangoon for the half year ending September having been 15 lakhs of rupees less than the value in the first half of 1883–84.

4. It appears that the recent public meeting in Rangoon, and the circumstances attending that meeting, have frightened the Rangoon Native dealers, in whose hands is all the trade from British Burma to Ava. Burmese handbills were posted and distributed over the town of Rangoon to the effect that King Theebaw was a drunkard and a monster of cruelty, and that a public meeting was to be held concerning his misrule. The resolutions of the meeting, to the effect that the British Government must interfere at once and annex Ava, are well known. No authoritative statement has been made on the matter; and one result of the meeting has been to paralyse still further the trade between British Burma and the kingdom of Ava. It is probable that, until it is known that the Government are not in favour of immediate interference or annexation, or until any steps upon which the British Government may decide are taken, the panic and paralysis of trade will not greatly abate.

5. In my letter of the 16th current has been submitted the Chief Commissioner's view that the present relations between Upper and Lower Burma, and the recent cruel slaughter at Mandalay, do not furnish sufficient grounds for armed interference in the affairs of Ava, or for annexing the country. At the same time Mr. Bernard has counselled that inquiry, and if necessary, protest, be made concerning the recent slaughter of prisoners and others at Mandalay.

6. In the event of the British Government deciding not to annex Upper Burma but to displace King Theebaw from his position, the Chamber of Commerce recommended that the Nyaung Yan Prince should be placed upon the throne of Ava. They believe this Prince would be the candidate most generally acceptable to those who know the requirements of the country. On this point Mr. Bernard can speak only on second-hand information, for he has met neither of these Princes. Colonel Sladen, who knows Mandalay affairs and Mandalay people better than any other English official, wrote recently to the Chief Commissioner:—“I am one of those who think we made a mistake in not utilizing the Myingun Prince. * * * I think I could have got the Prince to do anything we wanted. Working in our interests he would be preferable as a ruler to King Theebaw.” If it should happen that the Myingun Prince tried to establish himself on the Ava throne by French influence and aid, then no doubt it would be much safer for the British Government to place the Nyaung Yan Prince in the room of King Theebaw.

7. In conclusion, I am to explain that the Chief Commissioner, as stated in my previous letter, advises,—

- (1.) That inquiry, and if necessary, protest be made concerning the cruel executions at, and after, the recent jail outbreak at Mandalay;
- (2.) That we have not at present in our relations with Upper Burma, in the evil effects of Ava misrule on the affairs of British Burma, or in the recent barbarous executions, sufficient ground for annexing King Theebaw's realm to the British dominions;
- (3.) That, if King Theebaw shows active unfriendliness, or by misgovernment seriously endangers the peace of British Burma, the best course would be—after due warning—to depose King Theebaw, and put in his place either the Nyaung Yan Prince or the Myingun Prince.

8. As pointed out by the Chamber of Commerce, it would be well that the intentions of the British Government should be known at an early date. Until they are known the alarm and uncertainty caused by the recent occurrences at Mandalay, and enhanced by the recent public meeting at Rangoon, will continue to the injury of trade.

Enclosure A.

Dated October 14, 1884.

From the SECRETARY TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE to the SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burma.

I AM directed by the Chamber of Commerce to draw the attention of the Chief Commissioner to the injury being done to British trade by the misgovernment of Upper Burma, and to add the protest of this Chamber to that of the general public against the continuance any longer of the policy of non-intervention in the affairs of Ava.

The European merchants engaged in the import trade have for many months past perceived that their trade with Mandalay was rapidly falling off. Their books prove conclusively that they are not now selling more than about one-fifth of the quantity of goods for exportation beyond the frontier that they did 18 months or 2 years ago. On this point there can be no doubt, and I am directed to say that the representatives of some leading import houses are willing to give to Mr. Bernard, privately, figures from their books to prove this.

The Chamber has regarded with dismay for many months past the threatened total collapse of the once valuable trade with Upper Burma; but has hesitated to move in the matter, as they always hoped Government would spontaneously take the matter up.

That Upper Burma under King Theebaw has drifted into a state bordering on anarchy must be known to the Chief Commissioner as well as it is to the mercantile community and to the general public; all independent testimony points to a state of lawlessness beyond our borders. Dacoities are rife, and in many cases there is strong reason to suspect that the Burmese Ministers directly instigate these for their own ends. The British officials in British Burma complain of the increased spirit of lawlessness among the people of this province, and for this there can be no doubt that the misrule in Upper Burma is very largely to blame, both directly by flooding this province with its criminals, and by affording a sure and safe refuge for the criminal classes escaping from British justice, and indirectly by the evil example of unchecked lawlessness in our immediate neighbourhood. Under such a state of affairs, commerce must suffer severely, and it is impossible to believe that it is not doing so.

I am further directed to annex, for the information of the Chief Commissioner, the statistics of the exports from Great Britain to Burma of the chief articles of British manufacture for the first eight months of the present year as compared with the exports for the same period of the two preceding years. These figures are taken from the monthly shipping register published in London, and of their absolute accuracy there can be no doubt. They show a decrease on last year which is absolutely startling.

There is no reason to suppose that this decrease in the imports into Lower Burma is entirely due to any diminished purchasing power on the part of the people of this province. It is true that the value of rice, the staple product of the province, has seriously declined in Europe; but this fall in price has been borne hitherto almost entirely by the rice merchants, the prices of grain here not having declined perceptibly in response to the decline in value in Europe.

Under these circumstances the Chamber can only conclude that the decrease in trade is really due to the state of affairs beyond the frontier. In the opinion of this Chamber

the active intervention of the Government of India in the affairs of Ava is urgently called for in the interests of British trade, and for the sake of securing order in British Burma, as well as in the interests of humanity.

The Chamber has before this been twitted with their inability to make suggestions to remedy the evils they have pointed out, and they are now constrained to indicate to Government their opinion of the best manner of settling for ever the chronic difficulty of misrule in Ava. Any method which will permanently secure good government there will be welcome to all merchants engaged in trade with Burma. But I am directed to say that, in the opinion of this Chamber, the annexation of Upper Burma by the British Government would be by far the most satisfactory solution of the difficulty, and the only one likely to prove really permanent and final.

If, however, Government be unwilling to resort to such an extreme measure, I am directed to say that the Chamber considers the next best course would be to put the Nyaung Yan Prince on the throne instead of Theebaw; that he should be a tributary Prince, and should be compelled to accept the advice of a judiciously selected English Resident, and to govern the country in accordance with the methods of civilised nations. The Chamber specially mentions the Nyaung Yan Prince, as it believes him to be the one most generally acceptable to those who know best the requirements of the country. He was also one of the successors named by the late King, and as such has the best claim.

The Chamber also desires to bring to the notice of the Chief Commissioner that the recent public indignation meeting has had an effect on trade which was quite unexpected, and to point out that unless something is done at once to allay the general alarm, the paddy harvesting may be seriously hindered. The up-country trade is already paralysed, and large investments are being made in gold, the price of which has considerably advanced. This shows that the alarm is very general, and that people consider it necessary to turn their property into a form easily concealed or carried away. While any uncertainty remains as to what the intentions of Government really are, this feeling of insecurity must increase. The Chamber begs that the Chief Commissioner will urge the Government of India to declare its intentions, and to end the uncertainty as speedily as possible.

In conclusion, I am directed to beg that the Chief Commissioner will give this matter his serious attention and cordial support, and urge the Government of India to extend the blessings of settled law and civilised rule to the unhappy country now suffering so severely from the lack of these blessings.

EAST INDIA, CHINA, and JAPAN SHIPPING REGISTER.—EXPORTS from LIVERPOOL, LONDON, SOUTHAMPTON, and CLYDE to RANGOON and MOULMEIN.

—	Grey Goods.	White Goods.	Coloured Cotton.	Printed Cotton.	Grey Yarn.	Coloured Yarn.		
Total 8 months—	Yds.	Yds.	Yds.	Yds.	Value. £	Lbs.	Lbs.	Value. £
1884 - -	5,862,092	4,151,553	1,745,262	3,593,119	160,458	394,445	1,530,702	146,330
1883 - -	11,434,279	9,668,796	3,590,410	3,770,913	340,358	441,569	945,341	99,886
1882 - -	10,806,800	8,632,860	3,917,478	3,656,469	315,134	1,517,004	1,670,587	229,909
Decrease 1884 against 1883 }	5,572,189	5,517,241	1,845,148	1,177,794	179,900	47,124	—	—
Increase 1884 against 1883 }	—	—	—	—	—	—	585,358	46,444

—	Woollen.	Worsted.		Mixed Woollen.	Mixed Worsted.	
	Yds.	Yds.	Value. £	Yds.	Yds.	Value. £
Total 8 months—						
1884 - - - -	49,722	3,720	7,122	19,493	14,079	1,758
1883 - - - -	316,272	4,146	46,946	53,343	28,694	3,495
1882 - - - -	99,878	6,748	14,027	28,314	6,619	2,608
Decrease 1884 against 1883 -	266,500	426	39,824	33,850	14,615	1,737
Increase 1884 against 1883 -	—	—	—	—	—	—

Enclosure B

STATEMENTS referred to in the Memorandum by the COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS.

STATEMENT showing the TRADE in CERTAIN ARTICLES EXPORTED to UPPER BURMA by the IRRRAWADDY during the First Six Months of each Official Year ending 1884-85, also the GRAND TOTAL VALUES of the IMPORT and EXPORT TRADE by the same Route.

Articles.	April to September 1882.		April to September 1883.		April to September 1884.	
	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.
Cotton goods—						
Twist and yarn - - -	15,754	10,11,162	16,756	10,86,332	15,021	9,39,931
Piece-goods - - -	22,691	15,09,577	24,028	14,24,381	16,673	10,61,756
Provisions - - -	2,45,131	11,13,816	2,95,121	12,57,319	2,82,562	11,74,554
Silk, manufactured - - -	804	11,09,354	607	7,51,842	834	9,61,763
GRAND TOTAL { Imports -	—	69,05,469	—	63,72,156	—	77,89,629
TRADE - { Exports -	—	85,33,208	—	92,37,769	—	1,12,61,107

STATEMENT showing the TRADE in CERTAIN ARTICLES EXPORTED to UPPER BURMA by the IRRRAWADDY during the Month of April, also the GRAND TOTAL VALUES of the IMPORTS and EXPORTS TRADE by the same Route.

Articles.	April 1882.		April 1883.		April 1884.	
	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.
Cotton goods—						
Twist and yarn - - -	1,398	1,55,889	2,791	1,43,527	1,522	84,474
Piece-goods - - -	3,782	2,94,509	4,073	3,33,896	2,602	1,02,282
Provisions - - -	39,103	2,44,949	47,647	2,23,490	27,134	99,436
Silk, manufactured - - -	194	2,05,945	178	2,18,741	62	54,556
GRAND TOTAL { Imports -	—	11,96,088	—	9,68,452	—	9,46,624
TRADE - { Exports -	—	14,58,582	—	20,52,168	—	9,99,626

STATEMENT showing the TRADE in CERTAIN ARTICLES EXPORTED to UPPER BURMA by the IRRRAWADDY during the Month of May, also the GRAND TOTAL VALUES of the IMPORTS and EXPORTS by the same Route.

Articles.	May 1882.		May 1883.		May 1884.	
	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.
Cotton goods—						
Twist and yarn - - -	2,074	1,36,541	1,783	1,40,263	2,080	1,43,563
Piece-goods - - -	2,103	1,41,364	2,695	1,46,321	1,965	1,41,541
Provisions - - -	47,846	2,51,169	43,332	1,70,842	50,140	2,26,021
Silk, manufactured - - -	87	1,39,322	43	53,466	144	1,25,182
GRAND TOTAL { Imports -	—	8,03,541	—	10,70,071	—	14,46,130
TRADE - { Exports -	—	11,56,193	—	10,17,747	—	14,72,401

STATEMENT showing the TRADE in CERTAIN ARTICLES EXPORTED to UPPER BURMA by the IRRRAWADDY during the Month of June, also the GRAND TOTAL VALUES of the IMPORTS and EXPORTS by the same Route.

Articles.	June 1882.		June 1883.		June 1884.	
	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.
Cotton goods—						
Twist and yarn - - -	2,507	1,85,791	2,998	2,05,720	3,504	2,41,892
Piece-goods - - -	3,650	1,77,677	2,917	2,14,412	4,374	2,67,026
Provisions - - -	72,266	2,43,845	97,774	3,02,049	95,292	3,70,250
Silk, manufactured - - -	84	1,43,942	53	70,514	255	2,51,548
GRAND TOTAL { Imports -	—	12,95,032	—	9,42,426	—	13,77,360
TRADE - { Exports -	—	13,95,681	—	14,99,899	—	28,51,432

STATEMENT showing the TRADE in CERTAIN ARTICLES EXPORTED to UPPER BURMA by the IRRAWADDY during the Month of July, also the GRAND TOTAL VALUES of the IMPORTS and EXPORTS by the same Route.

Articles.	July 1882.		July 1883.		July 1884.	
	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.
Cotton goods—						
Twist and yarn - - -	5,867	2,89,486	3,141	2,37,050	3,645	2,34,703
Piece-goods - - -	510	2,82,652	3,087	1,68,966	3,603	1,97,114
Provisions - - -	46,723	1,76,284	61,611	2,72,508	128,969	3,04,819
Silk, manufactured - - -	156	2,55,916	137	1,68,641	116	1,42,010
GRAND TOTAL { Imports -	—	12,18,050	—	10,18,107	—	16,99,823
TRADE - { Exports -	—	15,48,309	—	15,81,067	—	23,48,349

STATEMENT showing the TRADE in CERTAIN ARTICLES EXPORTED to UPPER BURMA by the IRRAWADDY during the Month of August, also the GRAND TOTAL VALUES of the IMPORTS and EXPORTS by the same Route.

Articles.	August 1882.		August 1883.		August 1884.	
	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.
Cotton goods—						
Twist and yarn - - -	1,972	1,20,875	4,005	2,16,713	1,991	1,24,704
Piece-goods - - -	6,183	2,59,980	5,283	2,88,823	3,062	1,67,460
Provisions - - -	26,395	1,13,136	30,726	1,70,013	40,975	1,64,952
Silk, manufactured - - -	106	1,29,916	91	1,11,328	59	1,44,474
GRAND TOTAL { Imports -	—	8,72,421	—	10,81,316	—	12,76,137
TRADE - { Exports -	—	13,11,838	—	16,05,274	—	18,79,515

STATEMENT showing the TRADE in CERTAIN ARTICLES EXPORTED to UPPER BURMA by the IRRAWADDY during the Month of September, also the GRAND TOTAL VALUES of the IMPORTS and EXPORTS by the same Route.

Articles.	September 1882.		September 1883.		September 1884.	
	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.
Cotton goods—						
Twist and yarn - - -	1,936	1,22,580	2,038	1,43,059	2,279	1,10,595
Piece-goods - - -	6,463	3,53,485	4,973	2,71,963	3,409	1,86,333
Provisions - - -	12,798	84,433	14,031	1,18,117	13,533	92,284
Silk, manufactured - - -	177	2,34,313	105	1,29,152	198	2,43,993
GRAND TOTAL { Imports -	—	14,20,337	—	12,91,784	—	10,43,555
TRADE - { Exports -	—	16,62,605	—	14,81,614	—	17,09,784

STATEMENT showing the EXPORTS of RICE and PADDY by the IRRAWADDY to UPPER BURMA during April to September 1882, 1883, and 1884.

	RICE.						PADDY.					
	1882.		1883.		1884.		1882.		1883.		1884.	
	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.
April - - -	13,889	28,319	48,729	1,16,500	77,542	2,97,163	73,729	64,520	43,376	53,935	62,744	90,312
May - - -	21,378	44,383	10,332	32,151	69,318	2,53,739	109,744	1,01,248	69,220	95,611	93,931	1,52,904
June - - -	35,226	80,195	34,623	98,182	174,814	6,46,391	172,762	1,73,066	126,155	2,02,403	215,910	4,04,538
July - - -	28,935	62,478	11,808	33,242	172,340	5,61,317	95,177	1,00,904	179,115	2,46,623	177,977	4,38,684
August - - -	12,450	33,005	19,115	59,709	127,006	4,09,098	114,985	1,41,057	115,827	1,73,340	271,716	4,12,484
September - - -	63,306	1,79,478	19,197	74,264	114,760	3,83,808	144,736	1,13,782	100,140	1,60,197	154,377	2,34,679
Total	175,274	4,27,856	144,494	4,14,538	735,870	25,52,356	711,083	6,94,577	633,823	9,81,509	976,684	17,27,891

Rangoon Custom House,
October 18, 1884.

(Signed) E. DARLINGTON,
Chief Collector of Customs,
British Burma.

Enclosure 5 in No. 83.

From H. THIRKELL WHITE, Esq., C.S., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Foreign Department, dated Rangoon, January 14, 1885.

SIR,

I AM directed to submit that the Manager of the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company,

* Letter dated 19th ultimo, from Manager, Irrawaddy Flotilla Company.
Demi-official letter, dated 22nd ultimo, to Manager, Irrawaddy Flotilla Company.
Letter dated 30th December 1884, from Manager, Irrawaddy Flotilla Company.
Letter dated 9th instant, to the Minister for Foreign Affairs at Mandalay.

having represented to the Chief Commissioner that the Company's steamers were in some danger of attack by robbers, who are said to be collected in large numbers in various places

in Burmese territory, the Chief Commissioner has laid the matter before the Burmese Government. A copy of the correspondence* is submitted for the information of the Government of India.

Enclosure 6 in No. 83.

From F. C. KENNEDY, Esq., Manager, Irrawaddy Flotilla Company, Limited, Rangoon, to the SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burma, dated November 19, 1884.

I REGRET to inform you that, owing to the numerous and daring dacoities which have lately taken place in Upper Burma, a feeling of insecurity has sprung up amongst the commanders and crews of this Company's steamers when out of British territory, to such an extent that I have been earnestly asked to furnish them with arms as a means of defence. This I am unwilling to do, as it is possible, in some instances, they might be rashly used, and lead to consequent misunderstanding; but, taking into consideration the fact that the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company's vessels carry Her Majesty's mails, I think they are entitled to all moral protection that can be afforded them by the British Government, and would therefore ask you to lay my statement before the Chief Commissioner, with a request that the subject may be alluded to in his communications with the Court of Mandalay.

As an instance of, and reason for, the feeling of insecurity prevailing in Upper Burma, I may add that the Governors of various towns in the disturbed districts have asked commanders to anchor their vessels in the river under steam at nights, instead of following the usual course of mooring alongside the banks; and that, within the last 10 days, at Mimu, in the neighbourhood of Mandalay, a body of dacoits, some 700 in number, sent a defiant challenge to 1,000 King's troops, who were in the vicinity, to come out and fight. As such disturbances must have a depressing effect upon trade, besides a threatening one upon the lives of British subjects north of the frontier, I would respectfully urge upon the Chief Commissioner the adoption of such remonstrative measures as he may see fit to take.

Enclosure 7 in No. 83.

Demi-official Letter from the SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burma, to the MANAGER, IRRAWADDY FLOTILLA COMPANY, LIMITED, Rangoon, dated November 22nd, 1884.

I HAVE submitted your letter of the 19th, about the insecurity of your steamers in Upper Burma, to the Chief Commissioner.

He desires me to ask if you can give us the names of the towns where the Governors asked your commanders to anchor in the river under steam.

If you think it better not to give the names for fear of getting the Governors into trouble with their own Government, you can say so.

Also, can you give any further particulars or any specific authority for the statement about the 700 dacoits challenging the King's troops; and can you say whether the site of the occurrence was near the Irrawaddy river?

In order to address the Mandalay Government, we wish to have such explicit and accurate information as may be available. But, in any case, the Chief Commissioner is ready to represent matters to the Ava Ministers.

Enclosure 8 in No. 83.

From F. C. KENNEDY, Esq., Manager, Irrawaddy Flotilla Company, Limited, Rangoon, to the SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burma, dated December 30, 1884.

IN reply to Mr. Symes' demi-officials, dated the 22nd and 27th ultimo, and 11th instant, as well as yours of yesterday's date on the subject of the disturbed condition of Upper Burma, as set forth in my letter of 19th November, I have the honour to state that at Sillaymyo especially, and by the Wun of the town himself, the commanders of various steamers were asked to remain in the stream, and not moor alongside the bank at night time, in consequence of the disturbed state of the neighbourhood. I may add that this official was attacked in his court in broad daylight by dacoits, and narrowly escaped with his life; and it was in consequence of this attack that he very considerably gave warning to the commanders of their possible danger. As the fact of acknowledging to Europeans that his district was at all disturbed might get him into serious trouble with the palace at Mandalay, I would ask for your reticence with regard to this official's name, &c.

Magwe was another district reported disturbed at the time I originally wrote to the Local Government, and since then the Myothagyi of the town has been murdered by dacoits.

The information about 700 dacoits challenging 1,000 King's troops at Mimu or Mymu, a town on the bank of the Irrawaddy, between Mandalay and Sagaing, and consequently in the immediate neighbourhood of the former city, came from a Mr. Calogreedy, a resident of Mandalay, who was in the vicinity of Sagaing at the time the challenge was issued.

I have only just returned from a visit to Mandalay, and though all the stations south of that city seem, at present, in a comparative state of repose, still it is impossible to tell when further outrages may occur, particularly as the late attack on Bhamo necessitates the removal of Burmese troops northwards, and, consequently, gives a fair field to the dacoits. To prevent such a contingency arising, I would repeat the request contained in my letter of the 19th ultimo, and ask the Chief Commissioner to lay such a statement of facts before the Avan Government as will serve to protect the lives and property of British subjects north of the frontier.

Enclosure 9 in No. 83.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burma, to the MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS at Mandalay, dated January 9, 1885.

I AM directed by the Chief Commissioner to submit, for the consideration of your Excellency's Government, a statement of certain matters which affect the commercial relations between this province and the kingdom of Ava.

2. The Chief Commissioner has received trustworthy intelligence of the recent attack on the town of Bhamo, and its capture by certain Chinese and Kachin rebels. The result of this event is the entire stoppage of trade between Mandalay and Bhamo; nor can it be expected that this trade will revive until the country round Bhamo is once more in a settled state.

It is also reported to the Chief Commissioner that much of the country lying between Mandalay and the British frontier, and adjacent to the Irrawaddy river, is rendered insecure by the presence of numerous and powerful bands of dacoits and robbers. To such a degree has the feeling of insecurity on this account been experienced, that the commanders of steamers plying on the Irrawaddy have been advised, and have found it advisable, to remain in mid-stream, and not to moor alongside the bank at night. That this feeling of insecurity is not unjustifiable is shown by the late murder of the local Governor of Magwe, an event of which the Chief Commissioner has heard with much concern.

3. As long as this insecurity continues it is impossible that there should not be much discouragement to peaceful traders, and much consequent loss of commerce on both sides of the frontier. Should such an event occur as an attack by robbers on any of the steamers of the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company, the immediate result would be the almost complete cessation of the steamer trade between this province and the kingdom of Ava, a result which would be of serious consequence to both countries. The Chief Commissioner therefore trusts that your Excellency will be pleased to take such steps as may seem

expedient to your Excellency's Government, with a view to restoring order to the disturbed districts of His Majesty's Empire. The Chief Commissioner begs that all possible measures may be taken to protect from injury the lives and property of British subjects travelling or residing in His Majesty's dominions.

Enclosure 10 in No. 83.

From H. THIRKELL WHITE, Esq., C.S., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Foreign Department, dated Rangoon, January 15, 1885.

SIR,

I AM directed to submit a copy of a letter, dated the 10th instant, from the Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce at Rangoon, regarding the state of affairs in Upper Burma, together with a copy of the Chief Commissioner's reply.

2. The members of the Chamber draw attention to the unsettled state of the kingdom of Ava, concerning which I am to solicit a reference to my letter, dated the 14th instant, and its enclosures. They also refer to the capture of Bhamo, which has formed the subject of the correspondence ending with my letter, dated the 9th instant.

3. The Chief Commissioner does not share the apprehensions of the Chamber of Commerce, that British territory is in present danger from the formidable bands of dacoits which are infesting certain parts of Upper Burma. Still it may hereafter be necessary to place troops in the two fortified and provisioned blockhouses situate on the road east of Allammyo. The Deputy Commissioner of Thayetmyo has been asked to consider whether there is any present necessity for such a step. If this arrangement should become expedient it can be carried out at a day's notice, and without causing alarm.

4. Regarding the disturbed state of the Burmese Kingdom, and the necessity for taking steps for the protection of the lives and property of British subjects travelling or residing in Burmese territory, the Ava Government has recently been addressed by the Chief Commissioner in my letter, dated the 9th instant, of which a copy has been submitted to the Government of India. The Chief Commissioner does not see present ground for fearing that the passage of Flotilla steamers to Mandalay will be stopped by the anarchy which prevails at, and around, Bhamo. Trade steamers cannot now go up to Bhamo, to which place there is, under present circumstances, no trade. And it is impossible to deny that the present state of affairs in Upper Burma has, among other causes, contributed to cause a great decline of commerce between Rangoon and Ava during the past three months.

5. If the captors of Bhamo repel the Avan troops sent to retake that city, and if they carry reprisals down the river beyond Modang; if the rumoured attack on the Chiefship of Theebaw succeeds and causes an incursion of hostile Shans and Chinese from the east towards Mandalay; and if also the robber gangs about and below Mandalay make head further; if all or much of this happens, then we may expect much bloodshed and perhaps revolution at Mandalay. In that case there will probably be much difficulty about a suitable successor to the throne. Unless a successor is soon found, anarchy will continue and increase: and the lives of many British subjects will be in danger. If such a state of things supervened, it would probably be right for the British Government to send up the Irrawaddy a force sufficient to restore order and to put on the throne the Nyoungyan Prince, or some other scion of the royal house of Alompra. If this were done, and done promptly, with sufficient force, there would be little fighting or bloodshed, and the kingdom would settle down promptly under the new King. The British Government could make its own arrangements and treaty with the new King, before British troops left Mandalay.

6. If there should be a revolution, or if anarchy should supervene, after King Theebaw's death, or flight, the Chief Commissioner would recommend some such course as has been sketched above. But if King Theebaw remains in power at Mandalay, but is unable to put down the increasing disorders and violence, which are now disturbing his dominions, the question will be more difficult. King Theebaw is an ally of the British Government; he is not a friendly ally, but still he is an ally, with whom we have a treaty, who keeps that treaty, and who in some important matters treats our traders well. It is questionable whether the British have at present any right, save that of might, to send a force up to Mandalay and expel King Theebaw, on the ground that British trade is suffering

from the consequences of his misrule. As matters now stand, the Chief Commissioner cannot justify or recommend a course of that kind.

7. Another alternative is indeed open, and that is for the British Government to assist King Theebaw in putting down disturbances and consolidating his power. But, in the first place, it is by no means sure that King Theebaw would accept such assistance on the terms that it could be offered. In the next place, King Theebaw, though an ally by treaty, has shown no friendship for the British Government. His five years' rule at Mandalay has been sullied by horrible cruelties, and by disgraceful misgovernment. There is no ground for expecting that his Government would be better, or less cruel, or more successful hereafter, if his position were made firm by British assistance. King Theebaw would probably remain to the end unfriendly to the British. And even if any other result of interference in his behalf could be expected, it is impossible to advocate that the soldiers of Her Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress should be employed to bolster on his throne a monarch who has perpetrated, or has allowed, a series of cruel massacres such as have disgraced the reign of King Theebaw. If he should be helped through the present crisis by British assistance, there would be little guarantee against the recurrence of similar atrocities.

8. The present position may, therefore, be stated thus:—King Theebaw's throne and the peace of his kingdom are in great jeopardy; misrule therein is doing harm to British commerce; the character and antecedents of King Theebaw's Government are such as to make it impossible for the British Government to lend him succour; if there is a revolution at Mandalay, England can interpose properly, usefully, and successfully; at present there is not sufficient ground for British interposition against King Theebaw.

Enclosure 11 in No. 83.

From J. STUART, Esq., Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, Rangoon, to the SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burma, dated January 10, 1885.

I AM directed by the Chamber of Commerce again to draw the attention of the Chief Commissioner to the urgent need of interference, and that at once, in the affairs of Upper Burma.

On the 14th October last the Chamber of Commerce pressed this on Mr. Bernard's attention, pointing out that even then trade was fast being ruined; that the spirit of lawlessness engendered by King Theebaw's misrule was overflowing into British Burma; and that unless prompt measures were taken to enforce order and just Government in Upper Burma, trade beyond the frontier would be brought to a complete standstill, and the difficulties of governing this province would be greatly increased.

Nearly three months have since elapsed, but no reply has been received to the Chamber's letter; nor, so far as the Chamber knows, has any decision been come to by the Government of India as to whether the remonstrances, not only of the Chamber, but of the whole public, European and Native, against a continuance of the policy of intervention in the affairs of Ava, are to be attended to or not.

Meantime the evils complained of have increased with giant strides. It is openly asserted that the Taing-da Atwin Wun, and Shwe Daik Mingyi, ministers of high standing, are connected with bands of dacoits. There is a standing army of 1,500 outlaws at work above Mandalay. The Sagaing district is infested with them. Two or three months ago an atrocious dacoity was committed at Sillaymyo. Now they seem to have set fire to and looted Magwe, and we may shortly expect them at the frontier. The question will then be, whether our frontier authorities have a sufficient force to undertake the guerilla warfare which will be necessary to keep such numerous and powerful gangs of desperadoes in check. Their near approach to our frontier has already struck terror into the hearts of all dealing with Upper Burma. Many dealers have already lost heavily; and a feeling is abroad that safe trading, where such violent deeds are the rule, and not the exception, is at an end. The growth of lawlessness will soon make it impossible for the Flotilla Company's steamers to ply beyond the frontier, and when they cease to run even the small transfrontier trade still existing will cease entirely, and the merchants and traders of Rangoon may consider outstanding debts in Upper Burma irretrievably lost.

The capture of Bhamo by a handful of Chinese shows the absolute weakness of the Burmese Government; and if the Chinese, emboldened by success, were to push on to Mandalay, it is possible that a blow might be struck at Burmese power in that city from a quarter hitherto quite unsuspected. This is not a matter which the Government

of India can overlook. The appearance of the Chinese on the scene makes the confusion of Avan politics worse confounded, and, in the opinion of the Chamber, there is but one remedy possible, and that is prompt and effectual interference by the Indian Government.

In conclusion, I am directed to say that the Chamber earnestly begs that measures may be taken at once to put an end to the present position, which is intolerable to merchants and politically dangerous; and that such measures may be such as will effectually secure for the future in Upper Burma a Government under which it will be possible for trade to grow, and for the country to develop the numerous resources with which it is undoubtedly so richly endowed by nature.

Enclosure 12 in No. 83.

From H. THIRKELL WHITE, Esq. C.S., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, to the SECRETARY TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, Rangoon, dated Rangoon, January 15, 1885.

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 10th instant, in which the Chamber of Commerce press upon the Chief Commissioner the necessity for active intervention in the affairs of the kingdom of Burma.

2. In reply, I am to say that your letter of the 14th October last, to which you refer, was duly submitted to the Government of India. The orders of his Excellency the Governor-General in Council upon that letter have not yet been received. A copy of your letter now under acknowledgment will be laid before the Supreme Government.

Enclosure 13 in No. 83.

From H. THIRKELL WHITE, Esq. C.S., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Foreign Department, dated Rangoon, February 6, 1885.

SIR,

I AM directed to submit copy of a letter, dated the 4th February, from the gentlemen who presented the memorial forwarded under cover of my letter, dated the 16th October. That memorial was adopted at a public meeting held in Rangoon, and had reference to affairs in Upper Burma. The gentlemen who sign the present letter were appointed at the Rangoon public meeting to present the resolutions passed at their meeting, for submission to his Excellency the Viceroy in Council.

2. The enclosed letter represents that no orders have been received on the memorial of October last; that nothing has been done by the British Government to arrest misrule in Upper Burma; that anarchy and its consequences in that kingdom are getting worse and worse; that the sacking of Bhamo by the Chinese and the prevalence of dacoit bands in Upper Burma are symptoms of the disorder; that other countries, namely, France and China, are interposing in Ava affairs owing to the abstention of the British; that disorder in Upper Burma is causing ruinous disturbance and heavy failures in Rangoon trade; and this disturbance is already causing loss in the Rangoon municipal revenues, and will shortly cause loss in the provincial revenues.

The memorialists pray that action may be taken on their previous memorial, and they urge that the annexation of Upper Burma to the British Crown is the only effectual remedy for the present situation.

3. In recent communications the Chief Commissioner has submitted accounts of the sacking of Bhamo by Chinese marauders, and of the prevalence of dacoity in Upper Burma. As yet there is no sign that the Chinese Government are supporting or countenancing the robber band which captured Bhamo. As yet also the dacoit bands which are infesting Upper Burma have not spread into British territory. The return of violent crimes for the last quarter of 1884 shows one dacoity and four robberies in the two frontier districts of Thayetmyo and Toungoo, as against eight dacoities and eight robberies in the corresponding quarter of the year 1883. Still there is always a risk that the dacoits may cross over into British territory. Concerning the existence of anarchy, and concerning the present powerlessness of the Government in the interior of the kingdom of Ava, and among the chiefships on its borders, there can unhappily be little doubt.

4. Recent failures among rice firms trading to Europe cannot be attributed to the disorders in Upper Burma. But during the last two months several serious failures

have occurred among Chinese and other Native firms who deal in imported goods, and send British goods to Upper Burma. The failure of these dealers is said—probably with truth—to be mainly caused by their inability to realise their dues from Upper Burma traders, in consequence of the general anarchy prevailing. The sack of Bhamo, where all the trade is in Chinese hands, must have caused serious loss to Chinese dealers in Rangoon. Failures among Chinese and other native import houses must affect European firms who sell British goods on long or short credit in the Rangoon bazaar.

There is a nearly universal belief among English and Native merchants in Rangoon that British intervention in Upper Burma would do much towards restoring prosperity to the import trade of Rangoon. This view is shared by bankers of much knowledge and experience in Rangoon affairs. But it is questionable whether even so important an end as the improvement of the import trade of Rangoon would justify British interference by armed force in the affairs of Upper Burma at the present crisis.

5. The trade disasters and difficulties in Rangoon have certainly caused a shrinkage in the value of real property in Rangoon; that shrinkage, as well as the financial straits of many merchants, will probably be felt in the municipal revenues of the current year. As yet trade difficulties have not had effect on the public revenues, save in so far that the losses in the rice trade of 1883 and 1884 have induced much caution at the beginning of the 1885 rice season, and so have indirectly caused (and will cause) a reduction in the rice duty receipts of January to March 1885. But, if the rice harvest turns out to have been good, the whole exportable produce will probably go away sooner or later; and the full rice duty will be realised.

6. Concerning the recommendation that the Government of India should annex, or should otherwise interfere by force in the affairs of Upper Burma, the Chief Commissioner does not deem it his duty to trouble the Government of India with further remarks. He

has ventured to submit his views on the matter in the letters marginally noted. In some of those letters were submitted statistics of the trade with Upper Burma, and of the external foreign trade of British Burma. I am now to offer further statistics, showing the trade with Upper Burma for the last two quarters of 1884. The totals are as follows:—

VALUE of EXPORTS to and IMPORTS from UPPER BURMA.

—	Exports.	Imports.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Third Quarter of 1883	43,40,890	21,12,058	64,52,948
Third Quarter of 1884	58,04,046	22,28,492	80,32,538
Fourth Quarter of 1883	35,32,460	26,11,265	61,43,725
Fourth Quarter of 1884	41,74,396	31,46,006	73,20,402
Two Quarters of 1883	78,73,350	47,23,323	1,25,96,673
Two Quarters of 1884	99,78,442	53,74,498	1,53,52,940

It will be seen that the total value of the trade with Upper Burma has been, according to these figures, considerably larger in the last half of 1884 than during the last half 1883. There was some falling off in the quantity of cotton-twist and piece goods; but there was a more than countervailing increase in the quantity of silk goods sent to Upper Burma. The increase in the gross value of the trade over 1883 is mainly due to the despatch of a large quantity of rice and paddy to fill the deficit caused by failure of the Ava food crop in 1883-84.

The shrinkage of foreign imports into British Burma during the last quarter of 1884, and the failure of Chinese firms during the past few weeks, warrant the apprehension that exports of British goods to Ava during the early months of 1885 will fall short of the figures of previous years.

Enclosure 14 in No. 83.

LETTER to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burma, dated February 4, 1885.

On the 16th of October last year we presented to you a memorial submitting the resolutions which had been passed at a public meeting held in this city on the 11th of October, calling the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the misrule in Upper Burma.

It was then pointed out that the tranquillity and prosperity of the two countries are intimately associated with, and bound up in, each other, and the immediate interference of Her Majesty's Government was then urged.

Subsequent events have only tended to confirm the opinion then expressed. Nothing has been done by Government to arrest the evils then complained of; matters have gone from bad to worse. Trade, which was then threatened, has now become paralyzed. Mercantile failures are of daily occurrence, and traders see nothing but ruin before them.

No hope of any revival of trade can be entertained until order is restored, and a firm and just rule is established in Upper Burma.

Property in Rangoon is rapidly declining in value, the municipal revenues show a marked falling-off, and that the decline in revenue receipts will soon extend to the whole province we have no doubt whatever.

This state of affairs fills us with alarm and dismay.

We are therefore impelled to address you once more in the hope that something may yet be done to save the trade of this province from complete ruin.

No reply or acknowledgment has yet been vouchsafed to our former representations on this subject.

We feel that the case is serious and demands immediate attention; and we respectfully pray that the Provincial Government will speedily inform the Government of India of the urgency of our case in the hope that action, however late, may still be taken.

The form that action should take was suggested in our memorial of the 16th of October, and the events of the past three months have more strongly confirmed the opinion that annexation is the only effectual remedy.

The capture of Bhamo by banditti; the prevalence of dacoity, both in Upper and Lower Burma; the disturbed condition of the Shan States and the political interference of France distinctly show that, unless the British Government interfere promptly, Upper Burma will become the prey of dacoits or the appanage of some other Power.

By order of the Committee,

J. THOMPSON.
T. F. PEDLEY.
W. H. WOOTTON.
JOHN E. MARKS.
DAVID M. GRAY.

W. Q. ROWETT,
Honorary Secretary.

RANGOON TRADE from and to ALL PORTS (excluding PROVINCIAL PORTS).

IMPORTS.					EXPORTS.				
Articles.	1883.		1884.		Articles.	1883.		1884.	
	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.		3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.
Apparel - - -	3,38,139	5,02,079	2,66,559	4,47,513	Caoutchouc, raw - - -	57,577	23,352	9,665	7,790
Cotton twist and yarn - - -	9,92,277	13,80,588	13,38,177	10,27,693	Cotton, raw - - -	4,17,467	3,07,849	1,76,285	2,58,883
Cotton piece-goods (including handkerchiefs).	25,23,108	29,25,122	15,82,444	21,96,746	Paddy - - -	-	750	-	40,639
Metals - - -	4,88,793	5,14,478	4,47,030	4,97,136	Rice - - -	45,38,371	31,25,639	33,93,048	28,69,223
Oils - - -	3,84,426	5,14,049	8,29,650	6,29,732	Cutch - - -	3,52,969	6,23,191	3,25,415	5,19,102
Provisions - - -	8,58,209	7,10,502	8,19,468	8,91,869	Hides, raw - - -	3,98,264	3,37,643	5,90,944	4,37,052
Salt - - -	1,46,639	2,88,566	3,26,376	3,49,117	Horns - - -	28,194	34,835	39,475	48,216
Silk piece-goods - - -	9,80,017	15,75,321	15,98,149	22,08,247	Oils, mineral - - -	28,871	59,567	89,709	56,445
Tobacco - - -	10,33,965	6,40,464	6,99,400	6,37,325	Stone, jade - - -	2,28,860	1,62,000	2,20,500	-
Woollen piece-goods - - -	4,81,198	9,36,038	2,80,171	5,68,993	Tobacco - - -	16,314	24,003	23,882	15,057
Total trade (including other items not given in detail, but excluding treasure).	1,21,20,748	1,57,01,939	1,20,81,185	1,49,81,089	Wood, teak - - -	17,65,431	19,52,037	13,79,269	10,28,330
					Total trade (including other items not given in detail, but excluding treasure).	83,97,980	71,04,837	67,20,704	57,69,363

Rangoon Custom House,
February 4, 1885.

E. DARLINGTON,
Chief Collector of Customs.

□

TRADE of the PROVINCE of BRITISH BURMA from and to ALL PORTS (excluding PROVINCIAL PORTS).

IMPORTS.				EXPORTS.					
Articles.	1883.		1884.		Articles.	1883.		1884.	
	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.		3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.		
Apparel - - -	3,95,213	5,69,285	3,12,341	5,00,249	Caoutchouc, raw - - -	-	-	-	7,790
Cotton twist and yarn - - -	11,96,300	16,24,239	14,77,418	11,37,212	Cotton, raw - - -	-	-	-	2,67,133
Cotton piece-goods (including handkerchiefs).	27,18,340	31,91,324	17,10,970	23,82,013	Paddy - - -	-	-	-	1,70,846
Metals - - -	5,30,949	5,93,305	4,73,196	5,39,106	Rice - - -	-	-	-	32,50,400
Oils - - -	5,07,904	6,13,433	9,16,420	6,93,672	Cutch - - -	-	-	-	5,20,362
Provisions - - -	9,86,817	8,15,383	9,29,802	10,20,939	Hides, raw - - -	-	-	-	4,50,480
Salt - - -	1,46,639	3,17,804	3,41,112	3,49,239	Horns - - -	-	-	-	50,142
Silk piece-goods - - -	10,16,367	16,57,933	16,19,709	22,52,830	Oils, mineral - - -	-	-	-	63,792
Tobacco - - -	14,67,941	9,41,504	12,64,712	8,35,559	Stone, jade - - -	-	-	-	-
Woollen piece-goods (excluding shawls).	5,10,801	10,20,847	3,04,199	6,03,469	Tobacco - - -	-	-	-	23,851
Total trade (including other items not given in detail, but excluding treasure).	1,39,00,364	1,79,06,772	1,37,25,612	1,62,75,531	Teak - - -	-	-	-	33,01,266
					Total trade (including other items not given in detail, but excluding treasure).	1,12,42,931	1,05,36,310	94,11,321	87,33,615

Rangoon Custom House,
February 4, 1885.

E. DARLINGTON,
Chief Collector of Customs.

EXPORTS.					
Articles.	1883.		1884.		Rs.
	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Twist and yarn (European)	5,96,822	2,90,370	4,70,002	2,93,507	
Cotton piece-goods (European)	7,20,752	7,30,812	5,50,907	8,06,110	
Earthenware and porcelain	81,202	58,505	95,078	57,573	
Rice, husked	1,67,215	4,99,021	13,55,123	6,09,171	
Rice, unhusked	5,80,160	38,872	10,79,847	63,234	
Metals	1,35,343	92,529	1,37,231	61,690	
Oils	36,814	59,050	58,110	83,864	
Provisions	5,60,938	2,37,214	4,78,847	3,49,199	
Salt	46,826	62,898	1,23,532	75,247	
Silk, raw	3,99,021	2,91,186	3,34,305	3,88,395	
Silk, manufactured	4,09,121	4,49,621	5,30,477	7,17,584	
Betelnuts	1,39,270	84,026	1,12,541	1,53,198	
Sugar, refined	6,077	21,102	12,312	12,490	
Woollen piece-goods	46,620	3,00,268	61,022	2,02,943	
Total trade (including other items not given in detail, but excluding treasure).	43,40,890	35,32,460	58,04,016	41,74,396	

Rangoon Custom House,
February 4, 1885.

E. DARLINGTON,
Chief Collector of Customs.

Enclosure 16 in No. 83.

From H. THIRKELL WHITE, Esq., C.S., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Foreign Department, dated Rangoon, February 12, 1885.

SIR,

In continuation of my letters of the 15th January and of the 6th February, I am directed to submit a copy of a further letter from the Rangoon Chamber of Commerce, concerning the condition of affairs in Upper Burma, and the influence exercised by troubles there upon the trade of Rangoon. As the Chamber desired that their representation should be forwarded, the Chief Commissioner has told them that their wishes will be met.

2. In paragraph 6 of my letter of the 6th February I adverted to the trade statistics of the Irrawaddy river, which showed a larger trade between British and Upper Burma during the second half of 1884 than during the second half of the preceding year. I am now to submit a copy of a memorandum, in which Mr. R. Rowett, a leading Rangoon merchant, has examined those trade statistics, and emphasises the view that the statistics, though they may show a greater volume of trade, do in reality illustrate the decadence of the more important and solid branches of trade between the two countries. Mr. Rowett's remarks are entitled to weight, for he thoroughly understands the matters which he discusses. At the same time it must be remembered that, when a country has, by reason of failure of its crops to import a greatly increased quantity of food stuffs, its power of paying for other imported goods is likely to decrease for a time. Some decline in the exports of manufactured goods to Upper Burma was therefore to be expected as a result of the greatly increased export of rice and paddy to that country.

Enclosure 17 in No. 83.

From J. STUART, Esq., Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, Rangoon, to the SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burma, dated February 7, 1885.

I AM directed by the Chamber of Commerce to again press on the attention of the Chief Commissioner the extreme urgency of immediate and effectual intervention by the Government of India in the affairs of Upper Burma.

2. Every week increases the evils complained of in my letters of 14th October and 10th January last. The condition of affairs in Upper Burma is steadily advancing towards actual anarchy, and the position of the trading classes in Rangoon daily becomes more hopeless. Failures in the bazaar are almost daily occurrences; and the traders who were formerly most prosperous have now to beg for time to meet their engagements, while the men of smaller means are being hopelessly dragged down into the gulf of general insolvency. Credit is almost at an end, and there is no prospect of better times for the mercantile classes until an end has been put to the disorder in Upper Burma.

3. To these matters, however, the attention of the Chief Commissioner has already been drawn, and the prospect of a serious decline in the provincial revenue must now be patent to Mr. Bernard himself. On these grounds alone, serious though they are, the Chamber would not again so speedily press this matter were it not for the new complication caused by the action of France. There seems to be no doubt that a treaty of some kind has been concluded between King Theebaw and the French Government, and by this treaty some territory, including the ruby mines, has been ceded to France, while a French Consul is to be stationed in Mandalay.

4. Whatever the actual details of the treaty may be, there can be no doubt, bearing in mind the aggressive spirit which animates modern French policy in the East, that any such footing gained by France in Upper Burma, while Great Britain is excluded, is certain sooner or later to lead to the absorption of the kingdom of Ava into the French Eastern Empire, and to the diverting of its trade from British to French ports. A footing of this kind once gained, it will not be long in the present disorganised state of society in Upper Burma before the occasion arises for a more complete development of France's schemes for the alienation of the trade of Burma and the Shan States from English into French channels.

5. Such a loss would be so serious, not only to the merchants of British Burma but also to the merchants and manufacturers of Great Britain itself, that this Chamber would be guilty of gross neglect of its duty did it not protest at once, and as vigorously as possible, against any dilatoriness or trifling in so serious an emergency.

6. Although this Chamber has never approved of the policy of inaction which the Indian Government has pursued with regard to Ava, it has submitted as patiently as it could in the firm conviction that it was only a question of time for our loose hold on the

trade of Burma and the Shan States being exchanged for a firmer grasp. This change must now be made if the trade is not to pass into French hands, an alternative which the Chamber has no hesitation in saying would be considered intolerable by all the Chambers of Commerce in Great Britain and India.

7. While writing, the news of the proposed despatch of H.M.S. "Euryalus" and "Dragon" has reached Rangoon, and the Chamber hails this news as an indication that the policy of forbearance and non-intervention is at last at an end. If so, I have merely to add that the Chamber trusts that the Government of India will not content itself with an empty demonstration, but will establish some form of good government in Upper Burma on a secure basis; at the same time making it quite clear to the world at large that British influence must be paramount as far as the hills separating Burma from China, and over all the territory between this and Siam.

Enclosure 18 in No. 83.

EXTRACT from the "RANGOON TIMES," Friday, 13th February 1885.

To the Editor of the "Rangoon Times."

SIR,

IN the "British Burma Gazette" of 7th instant, the Provincial Government published a statistical statement of the Irrawaddy River trade from and to Upper Burma for the 3rd and 4th quarters of the two years 1883 and 1884, from which it would appear that, notwithstanding the reiterated complaints of merchants about the badness of trade, the total volume of trade has been greater in 1884 than it was in 1883.

A close examination of the figures, however, will distinctly show that there has been a serious falling off in many of the most important branches of the trade; and that the increase on the whole is mainly attributable to the export of large quantities of food to meet the requirements of a population which has been unable to produce sufficient for their own wants.

The fact that the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company has done an unusually large business during the year 1884 has also been used in official quarters to support the contention that trade cannot be so bad as it is represented to be; but this by no means proves that the trade between British Burma and Upper Burma has been prosperous, as an examination of the nature of the traffic will show.

In the early months of 1884 the Flotilla Company passenger receipts were increased by the melancholy fact that thousands of Burmese left their own country to take refuge in British territory from the tyranny of their rulers, and from the poverty and starvation which confronted them in their own homes.

The Flotilla Company has also profited from the large shipments of rice to Upper Burma. That these shipments were necessary is a misfortune for the people, who have been impoverished by having to buy food which their own soil failed to produce; and the British-Burma customs revenues have suffered a loss in the export duties which would have been collected in Rangoon if the rice had been sent away by sea.

The Flotilla Company has, therefore, benefited by the misfortunes of the people; but prosperity derived from such a source is not enduring or likely to promote the true interests of the company in the long run.

The trade in all kinds of British manufactures has seriously fallen off, and so have the supplies of cotton, caoutchouc, and silks of Burmese manufacture.

The increase in the supply of hides is no indication of good trade, but rather of increased mortality of cattle, which have either died from disease, or been killed for the value of the hides, and for food for a starving population.

The increase in the supply of timber is a matter which principally concerns a monopolist, and is no indication of prosperity on the part of the general trading community.

I enclose an analysis of the statistics referred to, showing the increase or decrease in each article for the period under comparison. The accompanying statement of the imports into Rangoon of piece goods and yarns from all ports, European and Indian, during the last four months of 1883 and 1884, shows that there has lately been a serious decline in the import trade of this port.

Silks have arrived in larger quantities certainly to supply the requirements of the palace at Mandalay, and to make up for the deficiency caused by the discontinuance of the native manufacture; but in yarns and cotton piece goods which chiefly affect British manufacturers the falling off is very remarkable. Notwithstanding the diminution of supply, the warehouses of Rangoon are crowded with unsold goods, and the difficulty experienced in collecting outstanding debts is a source of serious embarrassment to merchants. There is a panic in the bazaars. Many failures have already occurred

among the shopkeepers and traders with Upper Burmah, involving heavy losses to importers, and further disasters are impending.

Rangoon, 13th February 1885.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A MERCHANT.

Enclosure 19 in No. 83.

SUPPLEMENT to the "RANGOON TIMES," Friday, 13th February 1885.

ANALYSIS of STATISTICS of IRRAWADDY RIVER TRADE from and to UPPER BURMAH for the third and fourth quarters of 1883 and 1884. The figures are based upon the Statement of the Rangoon Custom House, dated 4th February 1885, as published in the Supplement to the "British Burma Gazette" of 7th February 1885.

IMPORTS.			
		Rs.	
Caoutchouc - - -	shows a decrease in 1884 of	18,982	The disturbed state of the country has interfered with the work of collection of this article.
Chinese and Japanese ware	" an increase "	33,473	This is a satisfactory item.
Cotton, raw - - -	" a decrease "	1,93,710	Shows a large falling-off in trade.
Cotton piece goods (Indian)	" "	21,154	A decreasing native manufacture.
Wheat - - -	" an increase "	35,233	A satisfactory item.
Gram and pulse - - -	" "	68,196	A satisfactory item.
Hides of cattle - - -	" "	2,08,150	A dry season, and prevalence of disease, has led to excessive mortality of cattle. This is bad for the country, though it helps to swell the volume of trade for the time being.
Oils - - -	" "	94,480	Is satisfactory.
Provisions - - -	" a decrease "	4,990	A very trifling difference, but in the wrong direction.
Silk (manufactured) - - -	" "	92,132	A considerable falling-off in an important industry.
Stone-jade - - -	" "	6,640	A trifling difference, but unfavourable.
Sugar, unrefined - - -	" an increase "	1,57,597	Is quite satisfactory.
Timber - - -	" "	266,825	Owing to extension of the Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation's operations in working the monopolies granted to them by the Burmese Government.

EXPORTS.			
		Rs.	
Twist and yarn - - -	show a decrease in 1884 of	1,23,683	This is a large decline in trade, directly affecting British manufacturers. Is satisfactory.
Cotton piece goods - - -	" "	1,03,247	
Earthenware and porcelain	" an increase "	12,884	
Rice, husked - - -	" "	13,58,055	A large demand for food. A very bad sign; impoverishing the people, and making it more difficult for them to pay for imported European goods.
Rice, unhusked - - -	" "	5,24,049	
Metals - - -	" a decrease "	25,951	A diminution of trade. Low prices, leading to increased shipments of American kerosine, which is rapidly supplanting the use of the native oil.
Oils - - -	" an increase "	46,080	
Provisions - - -	" "	29,864	This is a vague item. Large shipments made at very low prices.
Salt - - -	" "	88,855	
Silk, raw - - -	" "	29,493	Large quantities of raw silk are now in stock at Mandalay, and holders find it very difficult to effect sales. Manufactured silks show an increase, partly because inferior European goods are taking the place of the superior native fabrics; and partly on account of large orders from the palace, where they are distributed as largesse to court favourites.
Silk, manufactured - - -	" "	3,89,319	
Betel nuts - - -	" "	42,443	Is satisfactory. Calls for no remark. A further indication of declining trade.
Sugar, refined - - -	" a decrease "	2,347	
Woollen piece goods - - -	" "	82,923	

IMPORTS of Chief Articles of Piece Goods and Yarns into RANGOON from all ports, European and Indian, during the last four months of 1883 and 1884. (Figures taken from Custom House reports.)

1883.	Silks from Europe only. Cases.	T. Cloths. Bales.	White Shirting. Cases.	Putzoos. Cases.	Jaconets. Cases.	Prints. Cases.	Grey Drills. Bales.	Woollens. Bales.	Grey Twist. Bales.	T. Red Twist from Europe only. Bales.	Cold. Yarn from Europe only. Bales.
September	333	459	632	101	133	156	41	136	277	542	776
October	571	444	1,152	363	331	408	153	267	307	1,924	528
November	422	354	650	177	169	200	84	250	85	954	365
December	431	298	850	130	109	270	134	179	517	648	400
	1,777	1,555	3,293	867	792	1,049	407	832	1,186	4,068	2,069
1884.											
September	560	394	848	92	133	68	46	99	45	1,210	65
October	719	403	955	101	121	116	129	118	57	1,207	489
November	643	182	349	259	171	211	145	88	68	920	526
December	581	66	349	127	79	93	205	138	55	232	411
	2,503	1,045	2,001	669	504	488	525	443	225	3,569	2,085

Enclosure 20 in No. 83.

From H. M. DURAND, Esq., C.S.I., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burma.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters relative to events in Mandalay and the position of affairs in Upper Burma.

2. In these letters you enclose a copy of certain representations submitted by a number of residents of Rangoon, and by the Rangoon Chamber of Commerce, advocating immediate interference on the part of the British Government in the affairs of the Burmese kingdom; and you give your own opinion as to the course to be pursued.

3. I am to inform you, in reply, that the proposals set before the Government of India in these papers have been closely considered by the Governor-General in Council, and that his Excellency agrees generally in the views which you have expressed regarding the attitude to be maintained by the British Government under existing conditions. Though duly sensible of the gravity of the situation, and fully appreciating the importance of the interests at stake, his Excellency, as at present advised, does not consider that the circumstances brought to notice by your memorialists are such as to call for the adoption of the strenuous measures advocated by them. I am to request that they may be so informed.

4. I am to add that the Government of India do not think it necessary to send a letter of remonstrance to the King's Government regarding the Mandalay massacre, as proposed by you in your letter of the 3rd October. There appears to be no proof that any British subjects were sufferers in the course of the outbreak; and, moreover, it seems doubtful whether such a letter would lead to any satisfactory results. At the same time, the Government of India entirely coincide in your opinion regarding the barbarity of the executions which took place.

No. 84.

EARL GRANVILLE to MR. SCOTT.

SIR,

Foreign Office, April 6, 1885.

I HAVE, at the instance of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to call your attention to the Foreign Office despatch annexed, upon the subject of the contemplated establishment of Treaty relations between Germany and Burmah, and to request you to take a favourable opportunity of explaining to the German Government the views of Her Majesty's Government as to the importation of arms into Burmah.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

ANNEX.

The EARL OF DERBY to LORD ODO RUSSELL.

MY LORD,

Foreign Office, April 26, 1877.

THE Secretary of State for India has been informed by the Indian Government that it is said to be in contemplation to establish Treaty relations between Germany and Burmah.

Her Majesty's Government do not wish your Excellency to make at present any representation on this subject, but would desire that you should bear it in mind and report anything relating to it that may come to your knowledge. It is advisable that you should know, in case of your being consulted on the matter, that any clauses in such a Treaty providing for the importation into Burmah of arms and ammunition, or for the employment of foreign troops in Burmese territory, would be held to be prejudicial to British interests, and that it would be desirable that any Government negotiating with Burmah should be informed that arms destined for that country are not permitted to pass through British territory.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 85.

MR. SCOTT to EARL GRANVILLE.

MY LORD,

Berlin, April 8, 1885.

I HAVE the honour to state that I found an opportunity to-day of asking Dr. Busch, the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether the German Government had concluded any Commercial or other Treaty lately with Burmah, and of explaining to him the views of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the importation of arms into that country.

His Excellency informed me that the German Government had just concluded a Treaty with the Burmese Government, but that it was simply one securing for Germany the treatment of a most favoured nation, and that it did not enter into any details; there was accordingly nothing in it which could prejudice the interests of Her Majesty's Government, or clash with the necessary measures of precaution adopted by the Indian Government in regard to the importation of arms and ammunition through British territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. SCOTT.

No. 86.

SIR J. S. LUMLEY to EARL GRANVILLE.

MY LORD,

Rome, April 10, 1885.

IN my despatch of the 24th ultimo, I mentioned that the Burmese Embassy had informed me that their departure from Rome would be delayed until the end of April. A copy of this intimation is herewith inclosed.

For some unexplained reason, however, the date of the departure of the Burmese Ambassadors has again been altered, and they left Rome on the 6th instant.

The only result of their stay in this capital has been the conclusion of a Treaty of Commerce with Germany.

The proposal on the part of the Italian Government for the negotiation of a Supplementary Convention has had no result.

In view of the negotiations being carried on at Rome with the Burmese Ambassadors by Germany, M. Mancini thought it advisable that Italy should also take advantage of their presence here, but the negotiation had for its sole object the addition of the most-favoured-nation clause to their Commercial Treaty with Burmah, which, by a curious oversight, was omitted from that Convention.

Confined to this simple rectification, the proposals of the Italian Government were favourably received by the Burmese Second Ambassador, who speaks French well, and who was inclined to entertain the Italian proposal; it was not, however, as easy a matter to make the First Ambassador understand the necessity for the required addition to the

original Treaty, and he only consented to take it into consideration on condition that the engagement should be binding for a single year. To this the Italian Government naturally could not agree, and the negotiation fell to the ground.

There was no necessity for me to remind M. Mancini of the understanding arrived at between the British and Italian Governments, by which the importation of arms through British territory is forbidden by Treaty. It is true there is no law prohibiting the exportation of arms from Italy to a country in a state of peace, but such exportation is under police restriction, and can only be effected with an official permit. In the event of any attempt to ship arms for Burmah, which has only occurred two or three times, the shipper has been informed that the importation of arms to Burmah through British territory is absolutely prohibited, and at the peril of confiscation of the property, against which there is no appeal or redress.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. SAVILE LUMLEY.

Enclosure in No. 86.

BURMESE EMBASSY to Sir J. S. LUMLEY.

M. L'AMBASSADEUR, Rome, le 23 Mars, 1885.
PAR suite de nouvelles reçues de notre Gouvernement, notre départ qui était fixé au 25 Mars se trouve ajourné jusqu'à la fin du mois d'Avril.

Nous avons l'honneur de porter ces nouvelles à votre connaissance et profitons de cette occasion pour vous assurer de l'expression de nos meilleurs sentiments et de notre considération la plus distinguée.

(Pour l'Ambassade Birmane),
(Signé) WOONDOAUK TAU TANUGIELWOUNMIN.

TRANSLATION.

BURMESE EMBASSY to Sir J. S. LUMLEY.

M. L'AMBASSADEUR, Rome, March 23, 1885.
IN consequence of news received from our Government, we have postponed our departure, which had been fixed for the 25th of March, to the end of the month of April.

We have the honour to acquaint you of this circumstance, and avail, &c.
For the Burmese Embassy.

(Signed) WOONDOAUK TAU TANUGIELWOUNMIN.

No. 87.

MR. GODLEY to MR. CURRIE.

SIR, India Office, April 16, 1885.
WITH reference to previous correspondence terminating with your letter of the 21st February last, I am directed by the Earl of Kimberley to forward herewith, to be laid before Earl Granville, copy of a letter from the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, with inclosure, relative to certain mining concessions alleged to have been granted to French speculators by the Government of Mandalay.

An extract from a newspaper which has been sent to this Office is also forwarded for Lord Granville's information.

Lord Kimberley would suggest that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris should be instructed to endeavour to obtain further information on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. A. GODLEY.

Enclosure 1 in No. 87.

MR. DURAND to Colonel Sir O. BURNE.

SIR, Fort William, March 17, 1885.
I HAVE the honour to transmit, for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, the translation of a document purporting to relate to the concession of certain ruby mines in Upper Burmah to French speculators.

2. The circumstances in which the document was originally obtained are not stated, but Mr. Bernard believes it to be probably authentic.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. M. DURAND.

Enclosure 2 in No. 87.

PETITION made by the French Engineer, BONVILLEIN and his COMPANY, to work the Ruby Mines in the Districts of Moh Gont, Kyat Pyin, and Kha Thai.

(Translation.)

THAT the said French engineer, Bonvillein and Co., agreed to pay revenue at the rate of 3 lakhs a year to work the ruby mines in three districts, namely, Moh Gont, Kyat Pyin, and Kha Thai, with machinery and tools for 15 years from date of agreement, and within that period no alteration or other party may be allowed to work except Messrs. Bonvillein and Co., and beg that the said petition may be granted to them.

2. The place for working ruby mines extends west to Irrawaddy River from whatsoever place the machinery and tools may be brought in easily, and also that houses, bridges, roads, &c., may be erected and repaired in the three districts for the use of the engineers, &c., connected with the ruby mines work, and also that even rich and poor people may have a good trade. If the land belongs to Taw no revenue or tax may be demanded on it, and the land may be set forth as free land. If it belongs to poor people the value of the land or tax may be settled with them as usual compensation, and beg that the said petition may be granted to them.

3. If any forest which have not given out yet with revenue or tax to other party to work, that they may be allowed to cut bamboos and timber for the use of engineers, workmen's quarters, &c., connecting with that of ruby mines work, the officials and headmen of villages may not interfere with the work, and beg that the said petition may be granted to them.

4. That if the engineers or any of the servants connecting with the ruby mines work are in need of labour, food, furniture, from the villagers, that the officials, &c., may not put any hindrance of difficulty on procuring men, &c., and beg that the said petition may be granted to them.

5. That during the time of the Company working the ruby mines, 200 guns may be allowed to carry for the use of engineers, workmen, &c., for protection against dacoits or thieves, and beg that the said petition may be granted to them.

6. That if any ruby or rubies having robbed or stolen either at the house or on the way, the Company have the right of reporting the same to the Burmese officials of the district, as according to rule, and beg that the said petition may be granted to them.

7. That the machinery and tools for the use of ruby mines may be allowed to import from the West country (Europe) into the (Burmese territory) place where the ruby mines are, and that no duty or hindrance may be put, and beg that the said petition may be granted to them.

8. Out of the rubies which the Company have worked out, if his Majesty require any or whole, the value of the same may be given to them, which will be valued by the precious-stone dealers and well-known merchants, and if his Majesty does not require, the Company have the right of selling in or out of the territory, and that no other duty may be asked for, and beg that the said petition may be granted to them.

9. That if the time for working the ruby mines is expired, if his Majesty require to work by Taw or Royal, the Company are willing to give up all the machinery and tools, &c., at the market value, and if his Majesty does not require to work, it should not be given to other party as long as the Company are able to pay such revenue, and if the Company refuse to work the Company have the right of selling or exporting all their machinery and tools. The Company agrees to pay revenue for four years, that is, 12 lakhs, and present 1 lakh; total, 13 lakhs, out of which 4 lakhs will be paid within 20 days from date of agreement, and balance of 9 lakhs within one month.

The SECRETARY, MACCLESFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, to
EARL KIMBERLEY.

May it please your Lordship,

Macclesfield, April 18, 1885.

At the monthly meeting of my Chamber the other evening a long discussion, opened by the Mayor of the borough and carried on by several gentlemen who have travelled in India and visited Burmah, took place with reference to the unsettled condition of affairs in Burmah as being injurious to our commerce in general, and to the silk trade of Macclesfield in particular. Annexation was suggested by one member as the only remedy, but the Chamber, as a whole, was of opinion that at present annexation was inexpedient, but that this country should see that no other nation annexed Burmah, as it would prove very prejudicial to English commerce.

The Chamber passed unanimously a resolution, which I was instructed to forward to your Lordship, containing the following suggestions, and praying that your Lordship may use your influence with the Viceroy in regard thereto, namely:—

- (1.) The re-establishment of a British Resident at Mandalay with a sufficient guard.
- (2.) The re-establishment of a mixed court of justice in Mandalay, where disputes between Natives and British subjects can be legally treated.
- (3.) The re-establishment of a British Resident at Bhamo with a sufficient guard.
- (4.) The re-establishment of subordinate British Residents at the principal towns in Burmah to protect British interests.

(Signed) R. BROWN,
Secretary.

No. 89.

The PRESIDENT, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND MANUFACTURES,
GLASGOW, to EARL KIMBERLEY.

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

April 20, 1885.

THAT this Chamber, instituted by Royal Charter in the year 1783, confirmed in 1860, represents mercantile firms having important and extensive trading relations with Burmah.

That since the year 1879 there has been a great and continuing depression in the trade between this country and Burmah, and also between British and Upper Burmah. That this serious decrease of trade is largely attributable to causes which this Chamber, in common with all interested in the progress of civilization and humanity, deeply deplore.

That treaties entered into between Her Majesty's Government and that of Burmah in 1862 and 1867 are still extant, and in the opinion of your Memorialists should, as far as practicable, be judiciously enforced.

As tending to this, your Memorialists would respectfully suggest that a Resident with a sufficient European guard should be reinstated at Mandalay; that the mixed courts of judicature provided for in the Treaty of 1867 should be established, and that British stations should in terms of both treaties be constituted at Meingyan and other important trading ports on the Irrawaddy; that the presently existing restrictions on the inland transport of goods into Upper Burmah should be removed, and every reasonable facility secured for the freedom of commerce.

And your Memorialists will ever pray, &c., &c.

Signed in name and on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce and Manufactures of Glasgow, and by authority of the Directors thereof, this twentieth day of April 1885.

(Signed) JAMES BAIN,
President.

No. 90.

DESPATCH to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL,
No. 13, dated India Office 1st May 1885.

MY LORD,

1. I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Letter, No. 56, of the 24th March last, on the subject of affairs in Upper Burmah, and the relations of the Government of India with the Court of Mandalay.

2. Her Majesty's Government concur in the opinion of your Excellency that, while the present state of affairs in Burmah is not satisfactory, measures of active interference such as have been pressed upon the Government of India by the mercantile community of Rangoon would not be justified by the existing state of affairs. It appears to them, on the other hand, that both commercial and political considerations render it extremely desirable that the diplomatic representation of the Indian Government at Mandalay, which has been in abeyance since 1879, should, if possible, be restored.

3. Her Majesty's Government conceive that, under Article VII. of the Treaty of Yandaboo, the Government of India is entitled at its discretion to require the King of Burmah to receive at his Court a British representative with an armed escort of 50 men, and they are not cognizant of any communication to the Burmese Government at the time of the withdrawal of the Resident in 1879 which need operate as a bar to the adoption of that measure whenever it may be thought expedient.

4. As to the time when, and the manner in which, steps should be taken to effect this important object, Her Majesty's Government rely with confidence on the judgment of your Excellency in Council. If, as your Excellency believes to be the case, an authoritative demand supported by a display of military force would now be required in order to secure the reception and proper treatment at Mandalay of a British diplomatic Agent, the present moment would certainly seem to be inopportune for moving in the matter. In the event, however, of a favourable change, within a reasonable time, in the general political situation, or in the King's disposition, your Excellency in Council will no doubt carefully consider whether a Resident should be deputed to Mandalay under the provision of existing treaties, and without reference to the question of their revision, or whether it should be connected, as Her Majesty's Government are inclined to think might be more advisable in the special circumstances of the case, with some well devised measures which would lead to the renewal of the negotiations carried on in 1882 by the Government of your predecessor, the abrupt termination of which by King Theebaw was much to be regretted.

(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 91.

VISCOUNT LYONS to EARL GRANVILLE.

(Extract.)

Paris, May 5, 1885.

I HAVE made earnest endeavours to obtain authentic information respecting the reported concessions of mines in Burmah to Frenchmen; these endeavours have hitherto been without success.

I shall not relax my endeavours in the present case, for whatever may be thought of the reported application to the King of Burmah for a concession of ruby mines, I am far from insensible to the importance which is to be attached to the general question of French endeavours to obtain privileges from the Burmese Government.

I continue, in fact, to hold the opinions which I have already expressed.

On the one hand, I still think that the progress of French power in the extreme east, and the acquisition by France of territory or assumption by her of protectorates in the neighbourhood of Burmah, tend to make a thorough change in the relations between the French Government and that country.

On the other hand, I continue to consider it to admit of little doubt that one of the first results of an increase of commercial intercourse between the two countries will be strenuous endeavours on the part of speculative Frenchmen to obtain profitable "concessions" from the Burmese Government.

No. 92.

SIR E. MALET to EARL GRANVILLE.

MY LORD,

Berlin, May 14, 1885.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a Convention concluded between the German Empire and the Kingdom of Burmah, signed at Rome on the 14th ultimo by the German Ambassador, Baron von Keudell, and the Burmese Envoys.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Enclosure in No. 92.

CONVENTION between the GERMAN EMPIRE and the KINGDOM OF BURMAH.

(English version.)

HIS Majesty the German Emperor, King of Prussia, in the name of the German Empire, on the one part, and His Majesty the King of Burmah on the other part, being desirous to maintain the relations of good understanding which happily subsist between the German Empire and the Kingdom of Burmah, and to extend the commercial intercourse between the two countries, have decided to secure to the subjects and citizens of either country within the other country all the rights there enjoyed by the subjects and citizens of the most favoured nation. For those purposes the following Articles have been agreed upon and signed between Robert Max Felix Leopold von Keudell, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to His Majesty the King of Italy, duly authorised to that effect on the part of His Majesty the German Emperor, King of Prussia, and Min-gyee Min-maha Zaya Thin-Jun Myothit Myozah Atwin Woon-min, Interior Minister, Member of the Privy Council, Ambassador in Extraordinary Mission by the President of the French Republic, duly authorised to that effect on the part of His Majesty the King of Burmah.

ARTICLE I.

Peace, friendship, and good understanding shall for ever continue to exist between His Majesty the German Emperor, King of Prussia, and His Majesty the King of Burmah, their heirs, successors, and between the subjects and citizens of the German Empire and the Kingdom of Burmah.

ARTICLE II.

The Diplomatic, Consular, and Naval Representatives, Agents and Officers of either Contracting Party, shall in the exercise of their duties within the dominions of the other Party and the subjects and citizens of either country shall for their persons and property and with regard to commerce, the import, export, and transit of all kind of goods, the custom duties and custom formalities, to trade and navigation, and to any other matter whatsoever, enjoy within the other country the same protection, rights, privileges, advantages, immunities, and exemptions, which under the laws of that country or by Treaties are granted there or shall be granted hereafter to the Diplomatic, Consular, and Naval Representatives, Agents and Officers, and to the subjects and citizens of the most favoured nation.

ARTICLE III.

This Convention shall be ratified on the part of both High Contracting Parties, and the instruments of ratification shall be forwarded to both Governments through the German Consulate at Rangoon.

The Convention shall come into effect from the date of the exchange of ratifications.

This Convention is drawn up in the German and Burmese and English languages, with the understanding that should any of the foregoing Articles be differently interpreted, the English text shall determine the sense.

Signed and sealed in duplicate originals at once, Rome, this fourth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five, corresponding to the fifth day of the waning moon, month of Tagou Burmese Era, in the year one thousand two hundred and forty-six, and Boudhiste Era, in the year two thousand four hundred and twenty-eight.

(L.S.)	(Signed)	V. KEUDELL.
(L.S.)	(Signed)	MIN-GYEE MIN-MAHA ZAYA THIN- JUN MYOTHIT MYOZAH ATWIN WOON-MIN.

No. 93.

The PRESIDENT, MANCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, to the
EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

MY LORD,

May 20, 1885.

A LETTER has been received by the directors of their Chamber from one of its influential members trading with Burmah, intimating that a telegram has been received from Rangoon, reporting that the King of Burmah has concluded a treaty with Germany, and adding that this is no mere rumour, but conveys official information.

A few days ago a report was circulated in our newspapers that an engagements had been made to admit French manufactures into Burmah under a lower duty than that levied upon English productions. If this information be correct, your Lordship will see how very deeply the trade of this district will be affected. This news is of so serious a character, that I would respectfully ask whether Her Majesty's Government has received any information on the subjects in confirmation of these grave reports.

(Signed) JAMES H. HUTTON,
President.

No. 94.

RANGOON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE to the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

MY LORD,

June 1, 1885.

I HAVE the honour to bring to your Lordship's notice the enclosed copy of a letter which the Rangoon Chamber of Commerce has addressed to the London Chamber, complaining of the injustice and of the short-sightedness of alienating from British Burma all its surplus revenue, and leaving nothing for internal development.

I am directed to request that your Lordship will be good enough to inquire into the matter, and to exert your Lordship's influence in procuring for this Province more generous and more just treatment at the heads of the Imperial Government.

(Signed) J. STUART,
Secretary.

Enclosure in No. 94.

RANGOON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE to LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

DEAR SIR,

Rangoon, May 18, 1885.

I AM directed to acknowledge receipt of a copy of the petition on the subject of Imperial Federation, presented by the London Chamber of Commerce to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and to request that you will convey to that Chamber an expression of the hearty sympathy of the Rangoon Chamber in this endeavour to bring about the Federation of the British Empire.

Independently of the general reasons which apply to all parts of the Empire, and make it desirable that all the component parts should be knit together more closely than at present, so that the idea of Imperial unity and indivisibility may be more clearly and more generally realised than is possible while the present loose bonds are the only ones holding the Empire together; this Chamber earnestly desires a re-consideration and readjustment, on more equitable principles, of the political ties which bind the outlying parts of the Empire to the Central Government in London and to each other.

Under the present system Burma is tied to the Indian peninsula politically, though it has nothing, in common with India geographically in any way whatever. The people of Burma are totally distinct from the people of India, differing in race, in language, in religion, and differing very widely in their freedom from caste prejudices and in their readiness to accept Western methods and Western civilisation. India is thickly populated and the people are very poor and crassly ignorant. Burma's crying want is population to develop the enormous natural wealth of the country, which still lies dormant: and the people are comparatively rich and well-informed.

Although the richest parts of the Provinces have been under British rule for about 30 years only, the Burmese have already become consumers of British manufactures to a very much larger extent per head of the population than the people of India, who have been so much longer under civilised rule. In the figures annexed to the petition of the London Chamber of Commerce, the annual consumption of British produce and manufactures per head in India for 1884, is given as 16 pounds sterling. In Burma the imports from Great Britain for the official year 1883-84 were 2,830,336Z. exclusive of imports via Calcutta. In the Administration Report for that year the population of British Burma is estimated at 4,334,000 persons, giving a consumption per head of 65 pounds sterling, or four times, that of India. It is true that part of these imports are actually consumed in Upper Burma and the Shan States; but some of the imports to Indian ports also find their way beyond the frontier. The feudatory States of India alone contain a population enormously exceeding the outside population supplied from

British Burma, and presumably the population of these States is not included in the calculation which gives 167. per head as the annual consumption in India. The Native of India buys little else from the manufacturers of Great Britain than a few yards of cotton cloth. The people of Burma all spend their money freely on imported luxuries.

In spite of the great differences between the peoples and the conditions of the two countries, this Chamber would not complain of the political connexion with India, did this Province receive bare justice at the hands of the Indian Government. But so far from receiving justice it is the most heavily taxed portion of the Empire, while it is starved in its requirements on every side, and in many ways the interests of Burma are sacrificed to suit the convenience of India. The frequent changes in the officials is an instance of this. At the convenience of India, men are sent down here from Calcutta to fill important posts such as the Recordership of Rangoon, and when they have gained the local experience necessary to their thorough usefulness in Burma, they are re-transferred to India. Too frequent changes of this kind must be injurious anywhere, but are doubly so where the customs of the two places differ so much as those of India and Burma do.

Although Rangoon is the third city in the Indian Empire, judged by its volume of trade, it is still denied a high court in spite of the numerous petitions which have been sent to the Government on this subject. The existing courts are totally inadequate to cope with the existing work, and absurdly inadequate to cope with the work which would arise were the people not driven to accept any compromise out of court as preferable to enduring the delays of the law as at present administered. The existing courts were suitable enough for the requirements of the country at the time of their institution, but the country has developed so rapidly that for several years past it has been impossible for the judges to get through their work.

In public works the treatment accorded to Burma is even worse. After 30 years of British rule there are scarcely any roads in the country, outside the chief towns; and the only railways are the narrow gauge line to Prome, of 161 miles in length, which was opened eight years ago, and a similar line to Tounghoo which is not yet complete. Two lines of about 160 miles each are absurdly small mileage of railway in such a country as Burma, where there are no roads through the impenetrable jungle; no means of communication except the rivers; and where it has been proved that railways pay well. According to the Administration Report, on Indian Railways for 1883-84, the line to Prome during the four years ending in 1883, yielded an average profit per annum of 4.63 per cent. on the capital expended, notwithstanding that the magnificent fleet of river steamers belonging to the Irrawaddy Flotilla Co., run in opposition to it throughout its entire length. The line to Tounghoo will have no such formidable opposition to contend against, and there is every reason to believe that it will pay even better.

The plea for withholding proper justice and for retarding public works is want of funds, but this plea cannot for a moment hold good. Burma being one of the best paying countries in the world, the surplus revenue of India having of late years been mainly extracted from this small Province. So far as Burma itself is concerned there are ample funds, as is shown by the annexed table, the figures of which are extracted from the Administration Report published by the Provincial Government. These figures are in conventional sterling, *i.e.*, Rs. 10 to the pound. They show a total of close upon six millions sterling absorbed in eight years by India, out of a total revenue of seventeen millions. This contribution of six millions by Burma is called Burma's "Share of the cost of the Central Government," but it is difficult to see what Burma gets in return for all this money. The administration of the Province might be carried on just as well, and at less than the present cost, were the political connexion with India abolished to-morrow. When extra troops are required here for Burma has to pay for them, as may be seen by the increased military expenditure in the Province during the years immediately following King Theebaw's accession to the throne. During the last eight years for which the figures are available, the connexion with India has cost Burma close on six millions sterling, and the annual contribution steadily increases. In the same period of time less than two millions has been spent on public works, whilst seven millions have been spent in the Civil Administration.

Such injustice needs no comment. The complaints of this Chamber in the matter of courts and public works has been steadily disregarded by the Indian Government, and it appears useless to appeal to the same authority again. The evil remains, *viz.*, that more than one-third of the revenue raised in Burma is appropriated by India. In such

an Empire as that of India, the Chamber is willing to admit that it may not be convenient to confine the expenditure in each Province entirely within the limits of its own revenue, but in a country like Burma, teeming with natural wealth, it is nothing short of folly to rob it of all its profits as soon as made, and to leave nothing for development.

The Rangoon Chamber of Commerce trusts that the agitation for Imperial Federation may afford an opportunity for the consideration and redress of such injustices as that from which this Province suffers; and that Burma may be constituted a Colony unattached to the Indian Peninsula. Meantime, I am directed to lay the facts of the case before the London Chamber of Commerce in the hope that that body may aid us in our efforts to secure for Burma the simple justice of having its own revenue expended for its own benefit. The matter is one of vital moment to Burma, and this Chamber thinks that it is also of great importance to the merchants and manufacturers of Great Britain. In spite of the disadvantages under which it has been compelled to labour, Burma is already a very much better customer per head of its population than any other part of India; and in the countries lying beyond it there is room for an enormous expansion of trade.

This brings us in conclusion to the difficulties this Province labours under owing to the misrule in independent Burma. Wholesale massacres take place; bands of robbers infest the country; general anarchy prevails; trade becomes paralysed; yet the Indian Government remains deaf to all entreaties for interference. The division between Upper and Lower Burma is merely an arbitrary line drawn across the map. Upper and Lower Burma are practically one country. The anarchy and misrule beyond the frontier is keenly felt here, and it has had an important effect in intensifying the present commercial crisis in Rangoon. The Burmese as well as the European residents of Lower Burma have begged the Viceroy to interfere and put the Government of Upper Burma on a satisfactory footing by annexation or otherwise, but an absolute refusal is the only reply. In this case there is not even the excuse of want of funds, as there is no doubt that the annexation of Upper Burma would pay as a commercial undertaking, whilst as to the humanity of the proceeding there cannot be two opinions.

That British annexation would be welcomed by the people of Upper Burma is proved by the enormous migration thence into British territory which took place during the latter part of 1883 and beginning of 1884. It is estimated that during these few months a quarter of a million people crossed the frontier solely for the sake of coming under British rule, and the stream of emigration from Independent Burma was only checked by the vigorous measures which King Theebaw adopted to stop it when he awoke to the danger of depopulation with which his country was threatened.

The wealth in Upper Burma, Western China, the Shan States, and Karennee is simply incalculable, and the political and engineering difficulties in the way of throwing them open to British trade are comparatively trifling. The political difficulties must be faced first; but all that is required is a firm insistence on wise and just government by the Native Chiefs under British direction. This Chamber would prefer annexation, especially in the case of Upper Burma; but until the Government of these countries has been put on some more solid basis than a dependence on the caprice of petty despots nothing can be done to develop their natural resources, and to convert them into rich markets for British produce and manufactures. The feeble and vacillating policy of the Indian Government increases the difficulties. Under it Upper Burma is fast lapsing into complete anarchy, and the whole of that country, as well as Western China, the Shan States, and Karennee remain lost to British trade. Moreover, it is clear from the intrigues of the French in Upper Burma that other European powers are alive to the possibilities of wealth locked up in these regions, and that they would gladly secure them as markets for themselves. If the present apathetic policy of the Indian Government be continued, all these rich markets will be permanently lost to the merchants and manufacturers of Great Britain.

Were British Burma a colony independent of India, not only would much more have been done by this time to develop its own resources, but a firmer policy in connexion with the petty Kings beyond British territory would have done much to extend British trade through a large part of Indo-China, and have made Rangoon one of the largest trade-centres in the world.

STATEMENT showing the disposal of the Revenue of British Burma, for eight years.

Years.	Gross Revenue.	Gross Charges in Civil Department.	Surplus in Civil Department.	Nett Public Works Expenditure.	Nett Surplus for Military Expenditure and Share of the Cost of Central Government.	Military Expenses.	Nett Surplus available for Central Government.
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1876-1877	1,766,102	704,941	1,061,161	176,013	885,148	283,339	601,809
1877-1878	1,744,539	668,644	1,075,895	110,738	965,157	270,191	694,966
1878-1879	1,909,915	755,218	1,154,697	163,407	991,290	272,341	718,949
1879-1880	2,149,373	836,322	1,313,051	140,043	1,173,008	381,559	791,449
1880-1881	2,186,430	923,404	1,263,026	217,383	1,045,643	361,623	684,020
1881-1882	2,478,516	967,103	1,511,413	353,991	1,157,422	311,577	845,845
1882-1883	2,505,735	1,070,995	1,434,740	401,441	1,033,299	274,656	758,643
1883-1884	2,639,657	1,144,054	1,495,603	332,466	1,163,137	274,474	888,663
	17,380,267	7,070,681	10,309,586	1,895,482	8,414,104	2,429,760	5,984,344

(Signed) J. STUART,
Secretary.

No. 95.

The SECRETARY, LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, to EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

MY LORD, 84-85, King William Street, London, June 4, 1885.
THE attention of the Executive Committee of this Chamber has been directed to a telegram from Calcutta under date of the 17th May, published, I believe, in the "Times" of the 18th May, which made the following statement:—"The arrival of Mr. Haas, the new French Vice-Consul at Mandalay, will be speedily followed by a proclamation reducing, according to the terms of the present treaty, the import duty on French goods to 2½ per cent., while that on English goods remains 5 per cent."

I am directed by the Committee to inquire:—

Firstly.—Whether there is any truth in the statement that a treaty has been negotiated between France and Burmah?

Secondly.—Whether, if that treaty has been concluded, it accords to French, over English merchandise, the advantages stated in the telegram?

(Signed) K. B. MURRAY,
Secretary.

No. 96.

MESSRS. MILNE & Co., Glasgow, to LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL.

MY LORD, 191, West George Street, Glasgow, July 6, 1885.
WE have the honour to enclose copy of a letter addressed by the Chamber of Commerce, Rangoon, to the London Chamber of Commerce, and beg respectfully that the proposals conveyed therein may have your Excellency's attention.

We have had the honour of frequently, directly and indirectly, drawing the attention of the Earl of Kimberley to the deplorable state of affairs in Upper Burmah.

We have also the honour to refer to a public meeting held in Rangoon on 11th October last, protesting against the massacres by King Theebaw in Mandalay, and to a petition, copy of which we have the honour to enclose, presented to the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, recommending that steps be taken to ameliorate the condition of Upper Burmah, either by annexation or by the establishment of a protectorate, or by such other means as may be deemed expedient by your Lordship.

Being largely interested commercially with British Burmah, and having considerable interests at stake there, we have the honour to inquire what steps, if any, will be taken in connexion with this matter, and to ask for such information as it may be possible for your Excellency to give on the subject.

(Signed) MILNE & CO.

No. 97.

The SECRETARY, LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, to LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL.

MY LORD,

July 16, 1885.

THE Council of the London Chamber of Commerce has had under consideration a letter from the Rangoon Chamber of Commerce (copy* of which is enclosed) containing a strong expression of opinion from the English merchants in Rangoon, advocating, for a variety of reasons, the separation of the Government of British Burmah from that of India.

Having consulted the leading firms in London who are interested in trade with Burmah and the surrounding states of the Malay Peninsula, the London Chamber has come to the conclusion that, if our relations with British and Native Burmah are to be extended and developed, some change will be absolutely necessary in the policy pursued towards those provinces. The suggestions made by the Rangoon Chamber are, shortly:—

a. That British Burmah should be constituted a separate colony governed directly from home.

b. That the Burmese revenues should be applied more strictly than they have been in the past to the extension of public works and improvements in British Burmah.

The London Chamber does not feel prepared to support at the present moment the claim for entire separation of British Burmah from India, as it is fully aware that such a step could only be taken by Her Majesty's Government after a very full consideration of the value and practicability of other courses of procedure.

Turning, however, to the second recommendation of the Rangoon Chamber, the London Chamber believes that a strong claim is made out for an improved administration, either by the Home or the Indian Governments, of British Burmah.

This course of action, in fact, was pressed upon the late Secretary of State for India, by a deputation from the London Chamber, which waited on his Lordship on the 25th March last. The Chamber is, therefore, strengthened in its opinion that the time has now arrived when the surplus revenues of British Burmah should be much more considerably devoted to internal development, instead of being so largely absorbed in the general budget of the Indian Empire.

Your Lordship is respectfully urged to consider what steps can best be taken by your Department to give effect to the wishes of the inhabitants of British Burmah, as also those of the Burmese merchants in London, for the adoption of a policy of internal development, together with a strong endeavour to put an end to the state of anarchy which prevails in native Burmah to the detriment of the commercial relations of this country with the British and Native provinces.

By adopting these measures the London Chamber of Commerce firmly believes that all need for the separation of British Burmah from the Government of India will disappear, as that step seems to have been recommended by the Rangoon Chamber as apparently the only means of amending the condition of Burmah, both in its commercial relations with this country, and in its trade across the frontier with the Native States.

As a further argument, if such be needed, in support of the urgent necessity for immediate attention to the requirements of British Burmah, and the establishment of order in Native Burmah, and the Shan States. I may refer to the Treaty of Commerce which had been admittedly negotiated between the Government of France and of King Theebaw. It is very evident that whoever is responsible, French activity in the Malay Peninsula does not intend to limit their operations to French Cochin China, Cambodia, and Tonquin, but that they will seek to extend their movements to the North-West, with a view, probably, of ultimately interfering with Siam. We trust that, under your Lordship's instructions, every means may be taken for minimising this action of the French in the Malay Peninsula, and to obtain from King Theebaw at least equal, if not more, favourable concessions to those which have been obtained by the French under the late Treaty. This Chamber further trusts, in view of the high, present and future, commercial importance of Burmah, that your Lordship will be able, notwithstanding the prominence deservedly attached to the other questions, which are at present under consideration of your Lordship's Department to give early satisfaction to the interests of British Burmah, one of the most successful sections of the British Empire.

(Signed) K. B. MURRAY,
Secretary.

* Vide p. 163.

No. 98.

TELEGRAM from SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY, 25th July 1885.

Burmah. Following has been communicated to me. *Begins.* French Government has arranged with Burmah for construction of railway from Mandalay to frontier, France providing two million sterling and completing in seven years, interest $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Also for bank at Mandalay, with capital twenty-five million rupees, Burmah getting requirements at $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and giving ruby mines and revenues of Letpet for security. Earth oil, share of profits, and Irrawaddy duties, jointly collected, pledged as guarantee for interest. Embassy proceeds immediately to France to ratify. *Ends.* Have you any confirmation of this, and what are your views as to course which should be followed?

No. 99.

TELEGRAM from VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE, July 26, 1885.

Yours 25th. In a letter dated 4th July, Bernard has reported rumour that French capital, amounting to twenty-five million francs, was, under auspices of French Government, to be subscribed, for purpose of founding French bank, putting steamers on Irrawaddy, and other commercial undertakings. He considers that half of this is talk, and that of the other half not much will come to pass at present, and that French Consul seems anxious to keep Ava from collision with England. We have heard nothing further, but I have acquainted Bernard with substance of your telegram, and requested him to send report at once.

No. 100.

TELEGRAM from VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE, 29th July 1885.

FOLLOWING telegram from Bernard:—*Begins.* "Burmese documents have reached me, which confirm account of Ava negotiations with France. Matters still in inchoate stage. If proposed arrangements concluded, French agents would dominate all trade and chief sources of revenue in Ava. Consequences to British trade and interests disastrous. Translation of documents with letter goes by to-morrow's steamer. I recommend my telling Ava that such concessions to subjects of foreign Powers will be regarded as unfriendly act, and contrary to treaties, asking at the same time assurance that such concessions will not be given. I admit that refusal of Ava to comply with our request involves us in annexation." *Ends.*

No. 101.

The PRESIDENT, INCORPORATED CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF LIVERPOOL, to LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL.

MY LORD,

July 29, 1885.

THE attention of this Chamber has lately been directed to certain complaints made by the Chamber of Commerce at Rangoon regarding the administration of British Burmah, and I beg most respectfully to ask your Lordship's consideration of the following particulars as of great importance to the well-being and trade of that country.

Under the present system of government, British Burmah is managed as a dependency of Bengal, though the people of the former are an entirely distinct race, and have nothing in common, either in religion or language, with the people of India. Officials are sent from Calcutta, at the convenience of the Government there, to fill important posts, such as the Recordership of Rangoon, and it frequently happens that after they have acquired the local experience necessary for their thorough usefulness in Burmah, they are re-transferred to India; the inconvenience of such a system and the obstruction which it causes to the administration of justice are too obvious to need further comment. In addition to this, the courts at Rangoon are quite inadequate for the vastly increased work they have to do, and the want of a high court, which is still refused, is felt to be a serious grievance.

British Burmah is much in want of ordinary roads, of which there are few or none at present; railroads, and other improved means of internal communication, but the surplus revenue which should be available for providing these is carried off annually to be added to the income of India, though the amount is now nearly a million sterling per annum, and nearly six millions, or one-third of its total revenue, have been thus taken from British Burmah in the last eight years. There is a very strong feeling that this money should be made available for the good of British Burmah, and that its appropriation by Calcutta is a great injustice.

Your Lordship's earnest attention is also requested to the serious injuries to commerce caused by the anarchy and misrule in Native (Upper) Burmah. Trade with that country is paralysed, and there is no security for life or property beyond the British frontier, while the intrigues of the French at Mandalay will, it is feared, lead still further difficulties in our relations with King Theebaw.

In conclusion, this Chamber concurs heartily in the opinion expressed by that of Rangoon, that it is desirable in the best interests of British Burmah to make it a separate Government, independent of India, so far at least as its law courts and final administration are concerned, and that such a step would conduce very materially to the development of its happiness and prosperity.

(Signed) ELISHA SMITH,
President.

No. 102.

TELEGRAM from VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE, 2nd August 1885.

(Extract.)

We are unanimously of opinion that establishment by France of dominant or exclusive influence in Upper Burmah would involve such serious consequences to our own Burmese possessions, and to India, that it should be prevented even at the risk of hostilities with Mandalay. We have not clear proof as yet that alleged arrangements between French and Burmese Governments have been settled. But, assuming that agreement is contemplated by means of which the French would dominate trade and the chief sources of revenue in Ava, we think that steps should be taken at once to arrest the scheme.

We would propose, to address Burmese Government in the terms proposed by Bernard, and to insist on reception and proper treatment of a British Resident, to whose advice in all matters of foreign policy Burmese Government should submit. If those terms were refused, we should be prepared for measures of coercion. The first thing, however, is to obtain correct information.

No. 103.

TELEGRAM from SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

August 3, 1885.

YOUR telegram, 2nd. Pending the further inquiries to be made by you, we think it better that communication to Government of Burmah should be deferred. Lord Salisbury will at once ask French Ambassador for information.

No. 104.

TELEGRAM from VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

August 4, 1885.

YOUR telegram of the 3rd. Burmah. We did not intend to move in the matter until informed of your wishes. We concluded that the first step would be to communicate with France.

No. 105.

TELEGRAM from VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

August 4, 1885.

TRANSLATION of certain Burmese documents concerning diplomatic relations between French and Burmese Governments have just arrived from trustworthy source in Mandalay. There is one document, in the form of a letter from French Prime Minister

to Burmese Minister for Foreign Affairs, dated 15th January 1885, which the Chief Commissioner is inclined to regard as genuine. It contains following passage. *Begins:*—"With respect to transport through the province of Tonquin to Burma of arms of various kinds, ammunition, and military stores generally, amicable arrangements will be come to with the Burmese Government for the passage of the same when peace and order prevails in Tonquin, and the officers stationed there are satisfied that it is proper, and that there is no danger." *Quotation ends.*

No. 106.

TELEGRAM from VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

August 9, 1885.

BERNARD reports that Burmese Ambassador to Paris has left Rangoon. Nothing further known.

No. 107.

SIR J. PAUNCEFOTE to MR. GODLEY.

SIR, Foreign Office, August 14, 1885.
With reference to correspondence respecting the relations between France and Burmah, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you herewith, for the information of Lord Randolph Churchill, copy of a despatch which has been addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Paris recording a conversation between his Lordship and the French Ambassador on the subject on the 7th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. PAUNCEFOTE.

Enclosure in No. 107.

The MARQUIS OF SALISBURY to SIR J. WALSHAM.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, 7th August 1885.

I SAW M. Waddington at the Foreign Office to-day. I brought to his attention certain information which had reached Her Majesty's Government from the Viceroy of India, and which seemed to us to deserve the consideration of the French Government. It was stated that some French capitalist had obtained from the King of Burmah, or was on the point of obtaining from the King of Burmah, a concession which would include the control over the Post Office, the railways, the steam navigation, and several branches of revenue; and it was thought that this capitalist had received some official support from some representative of the French Government. I said that the matter was one which, as his Excellency was aware, touched us closely; that Her Majesty's Government could no more admit the existence of such a contract in Burmah than the French Government would have admitted it on the part of a foreigner in Tunis; and that if such an undertaking were carried to any practical issue, the necessary consequence would be that the liberty and power of the King of Burmah would have to be materially restricted.

His Excellency replied that he knew nothing whatever of the alleged concession, and had heard of nothing of the kind; but that he would write confidentially to M. de Freycinet on the subject, and would communicate with me again. He said that when he himself was Foreign Minister a similar offer had been made to him with respect to the affairs of Burmah, and that he had absolutely refused to maintain any communication with the applicant.

I thanked his Excellency for the friendly manner in which he had received my communication."

No. 108.

TELEGRAM from VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

August 14, 1885.

BURMESE Ambassador, in conversation with Chief Commissioner's Secretary, Rangoon, admitted that question of railway had been discussed. Proposal originated with Mons. Trevelec at Mandalay. Railway to be constructed by French and English Company, who would advance money, Railway to become Burmese property after 99 years. Interest 7½ per cent. Proposal apparently made to take over land along railway line,

after American system, as security for money. The suggestion is to transfer river Customs to Company, but Burmese Government not inclined to agree. This demand forms subject of consultation at Paris. Ambassador's mission is to negotiate the project at Paris.

No. 109.

No. 143 of 1885.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HON. LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD, Simla, August 14, 1885.

IN continuation of the correspondence ending with the telegram to your Lordship's address, dated the 14th instant, we have the honour to forward, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, a copy of the correspondence, regarding the late negotiations between the Burmese Government and the French Agents at Mandalay.

2. We await a further communication from your Lordship upon this subject.

We have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.
D. M. STEWART.
T. F. WILSON.
C. P. ILBERT.
S. C. BAYLEY.
T. C. HOPE.
A. COLVIN.

Enclosure 1 in No. 109.

From C. BERNARD, Esq., C.S.I., to H. M. DURAND, Esq., C.S.I.

Rangoon, July 4, 1885.

SINCE I wrote last we have had sundry letters and reports concerning the progress of the French Consul at Mandalay. Hitherto I have believed that the French would not be willing to put down much ready money, and that therefore they would not get really valuable and serious concessions from the Ava Government. Recently, however, it has been stated—and it is believed by Italians and others conversant with Mandalay affairs—that capital to the amount of 25 million francs is to be subscribed under the auspices of the French Government; that the money is to be spent in founding a French bank, in starting French steamers on the Irrawaddy, in exploiting the jewel mines, and in establishing a traffic route from Upper Tonquin through the Shan States to Mandalay.

The French Consul has ideas of lending the King money, and of eventually occupying in Ava some such position as the East India Company held in Bengal about a century ago. They argue apparently that, even if England took the country, she would have to respect actual concessions to French subjects.

I conjecture that more than half of this is talk, and that of the other half much will not come to pass at present. But I believe this much, namely, that French agents are trying to establish themselves strongly at Mandalay, with a view to joining hands at some future time with French possessions on the upper reaches of the Red river.

This is unpleasant, and may lead to serious complications hereafter. But nothing has yet occurred which, in my judgment, warrants diplomatic representation to the Ava Court or to the French Government, though, if the Government of India felt on other grounds bound to move against the Ava King, the advantage of preventing future difficulties with France by timely action would have to be considered.

I am told that the French Consul is at present very anxious to keep Ava from collision with England; he advises them to ask for a Resident, because if they procrastinate further, a Resident will be forced upon them under British terms which they won't like, but will have to accept.

I think it probably true that, if we had gone to war with Russia, the Upper Burmans would have sent a good many dacoits and bad characters our way, and would have fomented disturbances in British Burma. The more ignorant of the King's advisers believed that Russia would have beaten us in India, and that the family of Alompra would have got their own again in Pegu.

At present it is the rainy season; and our frontier is quiet. The quantity of rice going from us to Ava is greater than ever; and the mystery is how they pay for this rice and the other goods they take. The Mandalay Government seem to be rather in financial straits; but in that respect perhaps they resemble other more civilised powers.

Enclosure 2 in No. 109.

From G. D. BURGESS, Esq., to H. M. DURAND, Esq., C.S.I.

Rangoon, July, 1885.

THE Chief Commissioner desires me to send you the enclosed copy of a letter recently received from Mandalay.

Mandalay, July 8th, 1885.

SOME time ago I wrote you regarding the intention of the French to establish a bank upon railways, mines, &c. From a conversation with Mr. Haas' Secretary, I gather that all what I have said before was in the main correct. Mr. Haas, finding the Ministers reluctant in following his views, is trying to work with the Thathnabine, who made him believe he would support him with His Majesty: at the interview he had on Sunday last, I am told he presented two petitions, one was only the usual compliments and the lists of the presents, the other was a long explanation referring to the benefit Burma would derive through the alliance with France, offering himself to work with the Ministers to organise the administration and finances of the country, and in a certain way promising the maintenance of the present integrity of Upper Burma, the assurance that as soon as tranquillity is established in Tonquin, the Burmese would have free passage for anything that they may require. The above I was only told, but have not seen the document.

Enclosure 3 in No. 109.

From G. D. BURGESS, Esq., C.S., Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burma, to H. M. DURAND, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

(Extract.)

Rangoon, July 28, 1885.

I AM directed to submit a translation of two documents which have reached the Chief Commissioner regarding certain negotiations said to have passed between the Burmese Government and the French Agents at Mandalay.

2. These documents appear to contain the heads of two agreements which it is proposed to conclude between the two Governments. The first relates to the construction of a railway between Mandalay and our Toungoo frontier at the joint expense of the French Government and a company to be formed for the purpose. The capital is to be 2,500,000*l.* (or Napoleons); the line is to be completed in seven years; and

* NOTE.—In the Burmese copy of the "heads of agreement" the interest is stated at 7½ per thousand per month. Possibly this is a mistake, and 7½ per cent. per annum is meant. the concession is to last for 70 years, at the end of which period the railway becomes the property of the Burmese Government. Interest is fixed at the high rate of 90* per cent. per annum, and its payment is secured by the hypothecation of the river customs and earth-oil dues of the kingdom.

3. The second document gives the terms for the establishment by the French Government and a company of a bank with a capital of two and a half crores of rupees. Loans are to be made to the Burmese Sovereign at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, and other loans at 18 per cent. The bank is to issue notes, and is to have the management of the ruby mines and the monopoly of pickled tea, and is to be administered by a Syndicate of French and Burmese officials.

4. So far as the present papers show, the terms of agreement are still in the proposal stage. But it is alleged that both the agreements mentioned above have already been concluded and signed at Mandalay, and that the Thangyet Woondouk is about to take the contracts with him for completion in France. The Chief Commissioner's information is not yet sufficient to enable him to speak positively on the question. But he believes that his informant's tidings are given *bona fide*, and that some such arrangements as are indicated in these papers are actually under discussion.

5. These agreements, if they were finally ratified and carried out, would give the French Government, or a Syndicate on which the French Government would be represented, full control over—

(a) the principal sources of revenue in Upper Burma;

- (b) the trade by steamers or boats on the Irrawaddy river;
- (c) the only railway line in Upper Burma;
- (d) the only route now open for traffic from British ports to Western China.

And in effect these arrangements, if carried out, would make France and French influence altogether dominant on, and would in the end extrude British trade from, the valley of the Upper Irrawaddy.

6. It seems to the Chief Commissioner that these consequences would be disastrous to British interests in Lower Burma. If Upper Burma were practically under a French protectorate with its only (or chief) access to the sea across a British railway or along a British river, there would be probability of frequent differences between English and French officials on the two sides of the Ava border; and these differences might any day become serious. The French, if established in Ava, would attempt to get other European nations to join them in (as it were) neutralizing Ava and making the Irrawaddy river open to vessels of all the world on some such footing as the Danube now is.

7. The question arises how the conclusion of these arrangements, which are at present only in an inchoate state, can be prevented. Steps to prevent such conclusion can be taken either at Paris or in Burma. It is not the Chief Commissioner's business to speculate whether remonstrances or representations to the French Government at Paris in such a matter would or would not be effectual. But he submits that steps to counteract or prevent the conclusion of the proposed arrangements should be taken here. And he advises that a letter be sent to the Mandalay Government in somewhat the following terms:—

"To His Excellency the Foreign Minister.

"Your Excellency,

"I am directed by His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council to inform your Excellency that tidings have reached the Government of India concerning an intention on the part of your Government to grant to representatives or subjects of a foreign power,

- (1.) "Concessions to make a railway from Mandalay to Toungoo;
- (2.) "Control over the levy of customs duties on the Irrawaddy river;
- (3.) "A monopoly of pickled tea, which product is largely exported to British territory.

"I am directed to inform your Excellency that the British Government will consider the concession to the subjects of a foreign power of such extensive powers over trade between the two countries as an unfriendly act, and as a breach of the treaties existing between the two countries.

"I am to ask your Excellency to favour me with any information you may think fit about the subject of these tidings, and to ask an assurance that the Government of Mandalay will not grant to the subjects of a foreign power concessions of this kind, which must restrict trade and friendly intercourse between the two countries, and which will operate counter to existing treaties between the two countries."

8. The Chief Commissioner would submit that no such letter as above indicated should be sent, unless it be definitely decided that the British Government will employ force, and will even proceed to annexation of the kingdom of Ava, if the answer of King Theebaw's Government is unsatisfactory or vacillating. Mr. Bernard has now had to examine the Upper Burma question for more than five years. He has always been averse to any project for annexing that country, mainly because we had no just cause for annexation; partly because the chiefs and people of feudatory States in and

on the borders of India might be alarmed* by our annexing a country like Burma; partly because it was doubtful whether the people of Ava wished to become British subjects; and partly because there was hope

that our relations with Upper Burma might come right without any such extreme measure as annexation. But Mr. Bernard has felt and said that, if the Ava Government threw themselves into the arms of any foreign power, or tried to place themselves under the protectorate of any foreign power, the British Government would be compelled to abandon the policy of non-intervention.

9. If the Ava Government decline to give the assurance asked for in the draft letter submitted above, or if they are so persistently evasive in their replies as practically to decline, then the Chief Commissioner thinks that for the future security and peace of British Burma, and for the avoidance of future trouble with France, the British Government must proceed to annex the kingdom of Ava. Under the circumstances of the case the alternative of setting up another Prince in the room of King Theebaw

would not appear to be open; for the French would claim or try for the revival of their influence under the new King; and they have in their power a rival claimant (the Myngun Prince) who would assuredly find much support if he were allowed to enter Ava—support, that is, against any rival claimant to the Mandalay throne, though not against the British Government.

10. If the Government of India should decide to send any such letter as has been suggested above to the Mandalay Government, then it would be necessary to make preparations for, or at any rate to face the necessity for, collecting troops on the Thayetmyo border. The force required would not be large, but a garrison would be required for the country for some time after opposition had been put down.

11. There is one matter which would have to be considered when a proposal to annex Ava comes forward; and that is the claim of China to suzerainty or quasi-suzerainty over the country. China has not exercised any such power for many years, but occasionally, at intervals of three years or more, the King of Ava used to send an Embassy with presents to Peking. On the death or accession of new Emperors or Kings, courtesies were interchanged between the two Courts. Up to 1767 or so, China used periodically to invade Burma; but since then the two nations have been more or less on friendly terms.

TERMS of a CONTRACT between the FRENCH and the BURMESE GOVERNMENTS, whereby the former propose and the latter allow the construction of a railway in Burma, at the cost of the former.

THE terms of the proposal for the construction of a railway in Burma are as follow:—

It is desired to make an outlay to construct a railway from Mandalay down to the stone boundary pillars in the Toungoo District at the end of Burmese territory. The French Government and the Members of the Company advancing the money and working the railway will have to make an outlay of 2,500,000*l.* sterling (or Napoleons) which shall be divided into four instalments. The first instalment of 625,000*l.* shall bear interest at 75 per mille ($7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.) per mensem from the date of its arrival (in the country), and the second, third, and fourth instalments shall bear similarly from their respective dates of arrival the same rate of interest as the first instalment. It is desired to complete the construction in seven years. For a period of seventy years from the date of completion, no fares shall be charged for passages on the Burmese Government service. All other fares and moneys received the French Government and members of the Company desire to take altogether for themselves. In consideration that an outlay has to be made for the expenses of construction, it is desired that the Burmese Government shall by way of the guarantee include in the "Railway Contract"

* These customs are the import customs on all European goods via the R. Irrawaddy.

the Yattanabon customs* on the right and left banks of the River Irrawaddy, and the earth-oil customs, the duties whereof shall be levied jointly by an agent commissioned by the French Government and one commissioned by the Burmese Government, and the receipts whereof shall be set off against the interest due on the outlay for expenses of construction of the railway. Should the receipts exceed (the interest), the surplus shall become money belonging to the Burmese Government. Should they fall short of the interest, the Burmese Government will fully satisfy the deficiency. On the expiry of the seventy years, the French Government and Members of the Company shall not demand from the Burmese Government the cost of the expenses incurred on the railway material and plant which shall become the property of the Burmese Government. Such are the terms contained in the contract.

TERMS of a CONTRACT between the FRENCH GOVERNMENT and MEMBERS of the COMPANY on the one part and the BURMESE GOVERNMENT on the other, whereby the former propose and the latter agree to the establishment of a Bank in Burma.

THE terms of the proposal for the establishment of a bank are as follow:—

The French Government and Members of the Company desire to lay out in Burma a capital of Rs. 25,000,000, one-half of which, namely, Rs. 12,500,000 shall be constituted the share of the Burmese Government, interest on the outlay whereof shall run at 1 per cent. Of the capital of Rs. 25,000,000, one-half, namely, Rs. 12,500,000 shall consist of silver money (or specie), and the remaining half of notes. A bank with a capital consisting of these two items amounting to Rs. 25,000,000 shall be established in Burma, and shall charge an interest of 1 per cent. on sums which the Sovereign may draw upon it for Royal expenses or Royal works, and an interest of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on

sums which private persons and traders of the country may draw upon it according to custom for trade purposes. In the event of an agreement being entered into whereby the bank may be established, the ruby mine and tea revenues shall be included in the "Bank Contract," whereunder they may be held and worked as monopolies. The working of the bank shall be managed by French and Burmese officers, and profits shall be equally divided. From the half profit shall be deducted the interest due on the first mentioned half share of capital, namely, Rs. 12,500,000, and the remainder, if any, shall be taken as the portion (of the Burmese Government). Such are the terms contained in the contract.

Enclosure 4 in No. 109.

Mandalay, July 19, 1885.

As I have before mentioned, the French Consul and the Ministers have had several private meetings, and that it was most difficult to find out what was the nature of their conversation, as no one is allowed to be present except the Ministers, and one of these gentlemen acts as M. Haas' interpreter. I have at last, however, managed to obtain a résumé of what has been discussed at the meetings, and I now enclose you two copies which were handed to me, and which you may rely upon being substantial and correct, and which will put you in possession of all I know.

The contracts are already signed and completed in Mandalay, and the Thangyet Wondouk, who is leaving shortly for France, will take with him the documents, and have them completed there by the parties interested.

Enclosure 5 in No. 109.

Mandalay, July 15, 1885.

THE following is the gist of conversation with the French Consul, of which you can make any use you think fit.

As I have already told you, it was rumoured that it was the intention of the King to try to make a row with the English in Lower Burmah, should the English get their hands filled elsewhere with troubles. This is now not rumour but truth. The Thanjo Wondouk told M. Haas it is really their intention. M. Haas told the Ministers that he thought they were impolitic in thinking so, until they had further strengthened themselves by treaties with other European nations.

I said I knew the French Government had interpellated Lord Granville about Burmah, and that Granville wrote to Ferry telling him to bear in mind that the English looked upon Burmah as the centre of operations in Indo-China, and that since they had not taken steps towards Burmah it was for reasons well known to themselves. M. Haas said he saw this letter from Lord Granville five months before he came up here, and that he had informed the Burmese Government that such were the ideas of the English.

He also said that he was pressing the Burmese Government very hard to have proper treaties made with France, Italy, and Germany, and to get each of these countries to proclaim Burmah as a neutral one, and thinks it can be carried through in about four months. Next week the Thanjo Wondouk will leave for Italy, France, and Germany, and no doubt will try to settle matters when there. Of course, should Burmah be declared neutral by these three powerful nations, England of herself would feel helpless.

M. Haas is pressing the Ministers very hard on this point, and urging on them to take advantage of the apathy of the English Government.

No. 110.

TELEGRAM from SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

August 20, 1885.

LONDON Agents of Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation state that, on false pretext of fraudulent removal of timber, fine of 10 lacs has been imposed on Company, and leases cancelled under which they have worked forests in about one half of Upper Burmah for 20 years. Action attributed to petition of French Consul to the Burmese Ministers that, if Company's leases were cancelled, French Government would take them over. Company request assistance of Government, as large British Indian interests are involved. What action do you think should be taken?

No. 111.

TELEGRAM from SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

August 21, 1885.

FURTHER telegram to Company's Agent says that if fine of 10 lacs be paid leases will not be cancelled. Company state claim is absolutely without foundation.

No. 112.

TELEGRAM from VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

BERNARD telegraphs as follows:—

August 24, 1885.

Begins:—Corporation's forest leases not cancelled, but demand of 10 lacs fine decided upon by Ava Government, though not actually made. King greatly needs cash. Stated on good authority French Consul offered to take forests, if lease cancelled. Dispute of Corporation with Ava Government about timber duties not perfectly clear. Corporation wholly denied fraud. Have abstained from suggesting arbitration, as French Consul might be put forward as arbitrator. When demand or decree is actually made, advise that I be authorised to tell Ava that British Government cannot consent to summary cancelling of Corporation's leases, or summary infliction of enormous fine; that we hope no fraud has been committed by Corporation; that, if this is the case, amicable adjustment of the difficulties between the Ningyan Forest Department and the Corporation should be possible; and that if King's Government requests, and consents to abide by arbitration we can appoint an arbitrator to investigate the matter at Toungoo and decide the differences. Till Ava decrees, or demand is actually made, it is difficult to interpose further.—*Ends*.

On the whole, we think his proposals should be accepted, subject to modification on receipt of fuller intelligence.

No. 113.

TELEGRAM from SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

August 25, 1885.

COMPANY have received telegram from Rangoon, that decree, ordering payment of fine of 10 lacs, has been issued. Company fear immediate cancelment of leases, and transfer to French Consul. It seems desirable that communication suggested by Bernard should be made at once, and should be in firm, though not menacing terms, calculated to stop precipitate action by Burmese Government.

No. 114.

MR. HORACE WALPOLE to SIR J. PAUNCEFOTE.

India Office, August 28, 1885.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, relative to French proceedings in Upper Burmah, I am desired by Lord Randolph Churchill to state that, in his opinion, a communication should be addressed to the French Government, through Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, in the sense of the unofficial conversation which the Marquis of Salisbury had on the 7th instant with M. Waddington.

Since the date of that conversation, which has not elicited hitherto any communication from the Government of France, further reports have been received from authentic sources, which clearly indicate that the French Consul at Mandalay, with or without authority from his Government, is pursuing a policy which cannot fail to encourage the King of Burmah in proceedings highly prejudicial to British and Indian interests, whether political or commercial.

The Marquis of Salisbury is perfectly informed as to all the considerations which make it impossible for the Government of India to view with indifference proceedings which aim at the establishment in Burmah of a preponderating foreign influence, essentially anti-British, even though such proceedings, avoiding the more open course of direct diplomatic pressure, assume the form of commercial arrangements, which must have for their effect the transference into the hands of foreigners of the practical control

of the Burmese Government and of the State revenues. That these considerations are also appreciated by the French Government appears from assurances which, upon more than one occasion of late years, have been received from that Government in connection with the proceedings of successive Burmese Missions to Paris.

Lord Randolph Churchill would, therefore, urge upon the Marquis of Salisbury that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris may be instructed, without delay, to communicate to the Government of France that Her Majesty's Government will not allow the King of Burmah to carry to a practical issue such commercial projects as are, without doubt, at present in contemplation, and that any further prosecution of them will necessitate such prompt and decided measures as may most effectually satisfy the paramount rights of India in the Indo-Chinese Peninsula, and protect the interests of British subjects.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE.

No. 115.

TELEGRAM from SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

August 29, 1885.

MINE, 25th. Company's Agent here states that King is pressing for immediate payment of fine, and threatens to act in accordance with Burmese custom, meaning prison and confiscation of everything, unless guarantee given.

No. 116.

SIR T. V. LISTER to MR. GODLEY.

SIR,

Foreign Office, September 14, 1885.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India in Council, a copy of a despatch which, on the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, his Lordship addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Paris, instructing him to call the attention of the French Government to the conduct of the French Consul at Mandalay in regard to affairs in Upper Burmah.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

Enclosure in No. 116.

The MARQUIS OF SALISBURY to SIR J. WALSHAM.

SIR,

Foreign Office, September 9, 1885.

SINCE the date of my conversation with M. Waddington, of which I informed you in my Despatch of the 7th ultimo, and which has not hitherto elicited any communication from the Government of France, further reports have been received by Her Majesty's Government, from authentic sources, which clearly indicate that the French Consul at Mandalay is pursuing a policy which cannot fail to encourage the King of Burmah in a course of action calculated to cause serious prejudice to his own position, as well as to the interests of this country.

The relations in which Upper Burmah has long stood towards Her Majesty's Indian Empire render it impossible for Her Majesty's Government to view with indifference proceedings which would issue in the establishment of any preponderating influence in Burmah other than that of the Indian Government.

It would not, therefore, be in their power to acquiesce in the transfer to any person who was not a British subject of control over any portion of the Burmese revenue, or of the prerogatives which, according to Eastern custom, are usually vested in the ruler of the country. The King of Burmah would not be permitted to carry to practical conclusion any commercial projects from which such a result was to be anticipated.

We are persuaded that the French Government fully appreciates the considerations which have guided us in this case, and are aware of the precautions which it is necessary to take in order to prevent confusion arising in the affairs of semi-civilised dependent states. If there were no other ground for that confidence, we should base it on the circumstance that, on more than one occasion of late years, communications have been received by us from the French Government in connexion with the visits of successive Burmese missions to Paris, and we do not doubt, upon their attention being now called

to the acts above stated, they will at once take steps to obviate the embarrassments which there is so much reason to apprehend.

You will accordingly, take the first opportunity of speaking to M. de Freycinet in the above sense, and you will, if desired, leave with His Excellency a copy of this despatch.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 117.

No. 163 of 1885.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HON. LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

My Lord, Simla, September 21, 1885.

WE have the honour to forward, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, a copy of papers regarding the differences which have arisen between the Ava Government and the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, with reference to the forest leases held by the Corporation in Upper Burma.

2. Your Lordship will observe that, in accordance with telegraphic instructions received from us, the Chief Commissioner of British Burma has addressed the Foreign Minister at Mandalay on the subject. The Government of India await the reply of the Ava Government to Mr. Bernard's letter.

We have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.
D. M. STEWART.
T. F. WILSON.
C. P. ILBERT.
S. C. BAYLEY.
T. C. HOPE.
A. COLVIN.

Enclosure 1 in No. 117.

From G. D. BURGESS, Esq., C.S., Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of British Burma, to H. M. DURAND, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

Rangoon, August 24, 1885.

I AM directed to submit a copy of correspondence on the subject of the differences which have arisen between the Ava Government and the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, in reference to the forest leases held by the Corporation in Upper Burma.

Enclosure 2 in No. 117.

From S. G. JONES, Esq., Manager, Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, Rangoon, to G. D. BURGESS, Esq., C.S., Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of British Burma.

April 20, 1885.

As you know, we have for the last 20 years leased forests from the King of Burma. During this time, and up to the 19th of October last, the revenue we paid for these leases was so much per log worked out.

On the 19th of October last, however, a new lease was entered into, for the which we had agreed to pay a lump sum revenue of four-and-a-half lakhs per annum for the Ningyan forests, and this in advance.

The unusual step I am venturing to take in addressing you on this subject must be accounted for, and excused, from a knowledge of the great interest you take in the trade, and individual trading communities of this place, and from your friendly disposition towards Upper Burma, and your anxiety to see it prosperous.

Very serious interference is likely to be caused, which might, even if persisted in, eventuate in the ruin of this Corporation, owing to most unfounded and malicious reports having been submitted to the King, accusing us of having bribed the present Governor of Ningyan with Rs. 60,000, to connive at our depriving the King of his just revenue.

This accusation has been made by a former Governor, in order to get the present man into disgrace, when he, no doubt, hopes to be re-appointed.

The awkward position for us is, that it is now quite impossible to prove our innocence; but by the hard swearing of large numbers of suborned foresters called up to Mandalay for that purpose, the King may be brought to believe that we are guilty, cancel our lease, and confiscate our property and the advances already made for the next season's working.

But even without this, the working of the forest is being seriously interfered with by the endeavours of the officials to get our foresters to go up to Mandalay and give false evidence. So far they have all refused to go, but every day more and more official pressure is being brought to bear on these men, and as we hear this morning from Ningyan, it is unlikely that they will be able to hold out much longer.

Whichever way the case is ultimately settled, these men will be away from their work just when their presence is most required, at the commencement of the rains.

Now, Sir, I need not say how obliged we should be if you could see your way to write a line to His Majesty intimating that you had heard of the trouble we were in, and of your strong conviction that we were incapable of any such dishonourable and dishonest conduct as that imputed to us, and that you believe it will in the long run be to His Majesty's interest not to break with us on account of false accusations brought against us by interested parties, seeing that after such proceedings he will find it difficult to get merchants of good standing to enter into contracts of any kind with his Government, if they are to run the risk of being upset by false charges backed only by evidence wrung by fear of punishment or torture.

And I should also be glad if you could add that you believe our work this season has already been much interfered with from various causes; but chiefly by the urgency with which orders have been sent from Mandalay to insist on our foresters leaving their work and going to give evidence, notwithstanding their protestations that they know nothing about the subject. And further, that you cannot believe that His Majesty has the whole case before him, as it could not but appear strange to him that this first season of the lump sum revenue should after so many years of peaceful working now call forth, for the first time, serious difficulties in the proper working of the forest.

Enclosure 3 in No. 117.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burmah, to the FOREIGN MINISTER, Mandalay.

April 22, 1885.

It is within the knowledge of Your Excellency's Government that one of the more important staples in the trade between His Majesty's dominions and British Burma is teak. For some years past your Government have given leases over valuable teak forests to the Bombay-Burma Corporation, who have worked those forests to their own profit, and have also paid large sums into His Majesty's treasury. The trade has been for the benefit of both countries.

2. The Bombay-Burma Corporation have now informed the Chief Commissioner that during the past few months their work in the Ningyan forests has been greatly impeded by reason of the summoning of their foresters to Mandalay to testify regarding allegations made against the acts of the Corporation. Their Manager appears to be anxious lest their work should be further stopped during the approaching rainy season, and lest the Corporation should in consequence suffer heavy losses, notwithstanding the large sums they have advanced on account of these forests to His Majesty the King's treasury.

3. The Chief Commissioner directs me to submit to Your Excellency that, if the Bombay-Burma Corporation are prevented from carrying on operations under their lease, considerable harm will be done to the trade of the two countries, and there will be risk of serious claims arising concerning the advances made on account of these leases. It is hoped that Your Excellency's Government will inquire into the matter, and issue such orders as may seem to you just and suitable regarding the Bombay-Burma Corporation's operations under the leases of His Majesty the King has given to those merchants.

Enclosure 4 in No. .

From the MINISTER for FOREIGN AFFAIRS at Mandalay to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER at British Burma.

May 17, 1885.

MINISTER has received and read Chief Commissioner's Secretary's letter, dated the 23rd April 1885, corresponding with the 2nd waxing Kason 1247 B.E., on the subject

of the representation made to Chief Commissioner by the Bombay-Burma Company, lessees under the Burmese Government of the Toungoo and Yamithin forests.

The representation, as contained in paragraph 2 of the letter, that work was interrupted in consequence of the Ningyan Thitgaungs having been summoned at Mandalay, as also the representation, as contained in paragraph 3 of the letter, that the Bombay-Burma Company had not been given full opportunity to carry on work according to the forest contract, and that they had to stop work through the prevention of the Burmese Government, are trumped up and untrue allegations, as will be seen by the Chief Commissioner from the undernoted particulars.

The Thitgaungs resident at Toungoo employed by the Bombay-Burma Company worked out and delivered over 40,000 logs in 1245,* and over 40,000 logs in 1246,† i.e., a total of over 80,000 logs according to the contract under which the Burmese Government leased the Toungoo and Yamithin forests, and yet the accounts settled and put up (by the Bombay-Burma Company) were for over 32,000 logs only. The Thitgaungs who worked out the logs were not paid the value of every log delivered. Being aggrieved and injured, they filed a plaint before the Burmese Government, praying for a just settlement of their claims against the Bombay-Burma Company's agents. With their plaint they put up a copy of statements of timber which they had obtained from the (British) Toungoo Forest officers.

It being necessary to take action upon the plaint of the Thitgaungs, so as to arrive at a just determination of the case, Andreino, the Bombay-Burma Company's Agent, was examined. His statement was that in order to enable him to put in a definite answer respecting the truth of the allegations made with respect to the timber mentioned in the Thitgaung's plaint and statement, he would make inquiries of the company after which he would be in a position to answer properly.

To settle the matter from the statements filed by both parties will cause a protracted delay through the complications and disputes thereby arising. Taking this into consideration, Minister, in order to obtain facilities for a just settlement and decision of the case, sends with this letter representatives of both parties, namely, one of the plaintiff Thitgaungs and one deputed by the Bombay-Burma Company's Agent to the Chief Commissioner, so that they may both be able to obtain accurate, complete, and authentic statements, showing in detail the number of logs of timber, with their marks, description, and dimensions floated out from the Toungoo and Yamithin forest streams, and arriving at the Toungoo and Shwegyin Forest Offices during the years 1244,† 1245, and 1246 B.E.

Taking into consideration the fact that this is a case in the settlement of which the people of two friendly Governments are concerned, and in order that both the men sent may be able with the least delay to obtain and return with the detailed statements above-mentioned, Minister trusts that the Chief Commissioner will issue such instructions as may be necessary, and hand over to them accurate, full, and authentic copies of the detailed statements for 1244 and 1245, to which the Thitgaungs had put their signatures when they formerly took copies thereof, as also the detailed statement for 1246.

Enclosure 5 in No. 117.

From S. G. JONES, Esq., Manager, Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Rangoon,
to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF BRITISH BURMA.

May 25, 1885.

I AM informed that an answer has been sent from the Ministers in Mandalay to the letter you were good enough to write at my request on the 23rd April last.

A copy of the Ministers' answer has been handed to our Agent in Mandalay, and also to the foresters who were put forward by the Taingda Mingyi to bring these false charges against us.

As from these letters it is evident that they have now shifted their ground and deny entirely the charges we made against them, and at the same time make fresh charges against us, it becomes necessary that I should justify the statement made to you in my letter of the 20th April.

We deny that Thitgaungs, great and small, have petitioned the Burmese Ministers of their own free will.

The documents marked A. are copies of royal orders sent down from the Hloot, or the Taingda Mingyi to order foresters from their work up to Mandalay.

The document marked B. is the petition presented by foresters, but it was certainly not drawn up by them, but by the creatures of the Taingda Mingyi, and was dated Tabaung Labyigyaw the 13th, nearly two months before the arrival of these foresters in Mandalay.

The foresters—

Kyauk Maw Myo Sarayay.
Nga Shoay Maung,
Nga Taw,

were men discharged by our manager in Mingyan seven or eight months ago.

Documents C. and C.I. are translations of a document signed and stamped with a royal seal which came into our hands the day after your letter was despatched to Mandalay, and has been pretty freely circulated all over the town. The number of logs exported from Toungoo in the years mentioned by them, and which numbers have no doubt been obtained from the Forest Department records in Toungoo, are approximately correct; but they do not take into account the logs neaped at and above Toungoo for which duty was paid in the preceding year, and in that respect differ from our figures.

The number of logs stated as having been paid for and settled for by us at the termination of each floating season are also correct.

They say nothing, however, about the number of short and undersized logs worked out by us in the seasons 1882, 1883, and part of 1884, and which were paid for with a lump sum of one lakh of rupees for each season under what has been called the "shorts contract;" neither do they say anything of the new lump sum lease, for which together with other advances, an advance of 4½ lakhs was paid, and which came into force on the 19th October 1884.

Document D. is the old (principal) lease.

Document E. is the "shorts" contract wrongfully forced on us against the spirit of the principal lease, in order to extract money; and

Document F. is the new lump sum lease which came into force on the 19th of October last.

The enclosed statement G. will show how the total number of logs, as per Toungoo Forest Department records, is made up by the number settled for in Mandalay, and those brought out under the "shorts" and the new lump sum lease.

We have also made a somewhat interesting Statement H. which shows how the number of neaped logs from 1882 are accounted for in the Forest Department's records in Toungoo since 1882; but, as you will easily understand, it is almost impossible to get absolute accuracy when dealing with such large numbers of logs, and there must always be a small percentage which cannot be accounted for.

It is evident that the Ministers, not knowing how to answer your letter without criminating their colleague, the Taingda Mingyi, have adopted the expedient of sending down a commission and writing such a letter, to give the appearance of there having been some cause to justify the Taingda's doings, trusting that your answer will be such as to enable them to withdraw with dignity.

Unfortunately, the records at Toungoo are not kept with such a detailed classification as would enable you to distinguish between timber worked out under one lease or the other, and as Mr. Andreino points out, on the receipt of your answer giving only the total, which they themselves have already got hold of from the Toungoo Forest Office, they will be able to return to the quibble, that the logs worked out after the 19th October should have been delivered under the old lease, and logs worked out under the "shorts" contract should have come out and been settled for under the principal lease, and thus the Taingda Mingyi will be able to make good his promises, set forth in the report from the palace marked exhibit I of the month of Tabaung, of giving us no peace to work, &c., on account of our refusing to make further advances, and thus well-disposed Ministers will be helpless against this unprincipled Minister, the Taingda.

Mr. Andreino suggests that you might be able to say, so many logs have been exported in each year of "all sizes, bad, good, fullsize, and shorts," but it is difficult to understand what useful purpose this would serve.

But I should perhaps draw your attention to the fact that any bribery or collusion between ourselves and the officials must have taken place at Ningyan, where the lists on which the yearly statements for Mandalay settlements are made up, and as our manager there is paid a bonus of six annas per log for fullsize and two annas on undersized, it is not likely that he would be a party to reducing the number said to have been worked out.

I am distressed at the length this communication has assumed, and regret I cannot condense it further, should you, however, see your way to answer the Minister's letter in such a way as to bring about a settlement of the case, I should be only too happy to come and see you any time you may be able to fix that I should call.

Enclosure 6 in No. 117.

From the SECRETARY to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burma, to His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs at Mandalay, No. 418 M.P., dated June 17th, 1885.

IN accordance with the wish expressed in your Excellency's letter dated the 17th May, the officers of the British Forest Department at Rangoon and Toungoo have been directed to give the messenger of your Government every facility for verifying the precise number of logs brought down the Sittang river by the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation. It is believed that the total figures to be gathered from the Forest Department registers will differ little from the total figures already in possession of Your Excellency's Government.

2. But it should be mentioned that the returns kept by the Forest Department do not distinguish logs neaped one year and brought down the next year. Thus, the number of logs floated out of forest streams in any season may not tally with the number of logs reaching or leaving Toungoo in that season. Again the departmental registers take no account of the quality of the logs brought out, and beyond roughly classing them as dugyis and hlawzas, take no account of their size. Yathits and short pieces are included as dugyis or hlawzas. Moreover, the registers do not distinguish between logs brought out under the several leases which your Excellency's Government have on successive occasions granted to the Corporation, namely,—

- (1.) The old or principal lease of 8th July, 1880;
- (2.) The "short and rejected pieces" subsidiary lease of 27th July, 1882;
- (3.) The new fixed rental lease granted on the 2nd of waning Tagu (B. E.) 1244.

3. From your Excellency's letter, and from the statements of your messengers, it is gathered that His Majesty's Government have been informed that the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation were in the wrong on two matters, namely,—

- (1.) In that they have not paid their thitgaungs for work done;
- (2.) In that they have not paid full duty on all the timber they brought out under the old principal lease of 1880.

Decision on these matters is within the discretion of your Excellency's Government. But as the trade and interests of subjects of both countries are concerned, the Chief Commissioner has made some inquiries.

The Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation assure the Chief Commissioner that they have settled with, and got acquittances from, all their thitgaungs, up to the end of last (1884) floating season, and they can submit these acquittances for verification either by your Excellency's Agent, or by the Ningyan authorities. The Corporation further say that some of the thitgaungs who appear to have complained, have not been serving the Corporation for some years past; while others of the apparent signatories have denied that they ever signed the complaint at all.

As to payment of duty, the Corporation hope to be able to satisfy your Excellency's Agent, or any one else, that they have paid in full the duty due under the principal lease of 1880, on all logs brought out before the 19th October 1884. The Corporation state that lists of all logs worked out under this lease each year, on which lists accounts are settled and payments are made by the Corporation at Mandalay, are prepared by the officials of your Excellency's Government at Ningyan; and that the apparent difference in numbers of logs is due to the short and rejected pieces brought out under the subsidiary lease of 1882, on account of which lease one lakh yearly has been paid in advance according to agreement; and that a large payment of 4½ lakhs has already been made on account of logs brought out under the new fixed rental lease, which took effect on the 19th October last.

4. There is one other matter which should be mentioned to your Excellency. A paper purporting to have issued under a Royal order has been circulated in Rangoon by one Maung Tun Zan to the effect that the forest leases to the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation have been cancelled, and that the Toungoo Yemithin and Thitkyet forests will be granted to others.

5. Seeing how long the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation have worked forests under your Excellency's Government; what large sums they have paid into His Majesty's treasury; and how much advantage has accrued to both countries from their timber trade, the Chief Commissioner hopes that the Corporation may be able to satisfy your Excellency on the two points above mentioned. If they can do this, then they will doubtless be allowed to work the forests under their lease to the benefit of the two countries, and no effect or importance will attach to the document which Maung Tun Zan has been circulating in Rangoon to the effect that the leases to the Corporation have been cancelled.

Enclosure 7 in No. 117.

DEMI-OFFICIALS.

From G. D. BURGESS, Esq., to H. M. DURAND, Esq., C.S.I.

Dated August 25, 1885.

WITH reference to my official letter of yesterday, Mr. Bernard desires me to send you a copy of the demi-official and private papers noted below, which help to explain more fully the position of affairs between the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, and the Burmese Government, with respect to the forest leases granted to the former by the latter.

- I.—Enclosures A, B, D, E, and F, to letter, dated the 25th May, from Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited.
 - II.—The facts concerning the attempt to get up a case against the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation from the commencement up to date.
 - III.—Report of the proceedings of three Ministers in the month of Taboung 1246.
 - IV.—Letter dated the 2nd June from Mr. Jones of the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, forwarding a proposed draft of letter to be written by the Chief Commissioner to the Burmese Government, dated 2nd June.
 - V.—Letter from Mr. Jones, dated the 10th June, with enclosure.
 - VI.—Letter from Mr. Andreino, agent of the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, to the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, dated Mandalay, the 14th June.
 - VII.—Letter dated the 17th June from Mr. Jones.
 - VIII.—Letter dated Mandalay, the 23rd June, from Mr. Andreino, of the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, to Mr. Jones.
 - IX.—Letter dated the 8th July from Mr. Andreino.
 - X.—Translation of a petition from 342 foresters to the Hloot at Mandalay received from Mr. Jones.
 - XI.—Letter dated the 15th August from Mr. Jones, with enclosure.
 - XII.—Letter dated the 17th August from Mr. Jones, with enclosure.
 - XIII.—Letter dated the 20th August from Mr. Jones.
 - XIV.—Copy of the notice therein referred to.
 - XV.—Letter dated the 21st August from Mr. Jones, with enclosures.
 - XVI.—Judgment of the Hloot at Mandalay in the Toungoo timber case.
- Note.—This last has just been received.

A.

HMAZA to TOUNGOO WOON.

INFORM Tahkeyah Tahnah Toungoo Karine Woon Mingyee Maha Ming din Yahzah as per petition made by the foresters of Toungoo and Yameithin forests that being desirous of settling their accounts in Mandalay, and therefore, the Thitkyeitkyee Tseekai Naymyo Theeree Kyawdin and Yahzah has been sent to bring up all foresters whether Myathoogyee, Kyay-ywai Thoogyee, and whoever that are working the forests (without fear), and if they have to settle timber accounts to come up to Mandalay with the Thitkyeitkyee Tseekai. Therefore, that the Toungoo Karine Woon is to make inquiries, and that not less than 10 foresters, great and small, are to be sent up to Mandalay.

A.

HMAZA calling FORESTERS again on Guarantee.

INFORM Tahkeyah Tahnah Toungoo Karine Woon Mingyee Maha Mingdin Yahzah that the bearer of this, Hmaza Aksoang Khive Nga Atoor, who is sent to bring up to Mandalay foresters Nga Tayoke, Nga Yah, Nga Prah, Nga Okine, Nga Koay Oung, Nga Moung Doung, Nga Kyab, Gine of Nakuwaigne village and Nga Atai of village, Tajimnauah district to settle various timber accounts. Therefore, at once on his arrival send up the foresters. They furnishing securities for their non-deserting on their way.

A No. 2.

ORDER from Tinedah Mingyee addressed to the following persons in Toungoo—Pyah Goung Myothoo Gyee, Kyoung Tagah, Moung Tayoke, Kyouk Amone Mayotsayay Thak-de-Kyaw-Thoo, Kyoung Pagah Moung Shway Oung, Tay sa-Kyawthoo, Think-ha Kyaw-din, Moung Kine, Moung Kyaw Nyo, Noug Paw, Moung Pouk Kine, Moung Kho, Moung Kyah Gine, Moung Pho Kyah, Moung, Aman, Moung Shway Gine, Moung Pwah, Moung Poe.

The Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, having illegally extracted large quantities of timber from the Toungoo Yameithin forest and not having paid up the revenue in full, by which the interests of the Crown have suffered, it has been decided to clear up the accounts between Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, and the Toungoo forest officer and all other timber contractors. The Thitkyeikye Sit-kai has therefore been sent to call you all to give evidence in this case according to your knowledge and without fear.

A.

COPY OF HMAZA.

HEREBY informed that Ayelah Myothoogyee Pyapgonny Myothoogyee Pahnwas Myothoogyee Mounng Taloke, Mounng Poo, Mounng Khyah Khine, Mounng Aperkyai, Mounng Aman, Mounng Shoay Gine and 100 other foresters applied to the Hloot that they have delivered at Ngaike Thillagah 8,124 logs, Yonebinzoung 19,056 logs, Yayane 5,313 logs, drift 6,536 *ownging* timber, 4,653 logs, grand total 43,695. To this quantity the Thittan Noon having received bribe from English merchant without considering his position, and not fearing the criminal breach of trust, obtained 15 viss gold and Rs. 21,000, and gave an account in the Royal Custom House 18,259 logs only, and therefore on receipt of the Hmaza that Moda Migosah Tukhayah Tahnah Toungoo Woon to make an inquiry and get full particulars, and send the result without delay.

B.

PETITION OF TOUNGOO FORESTERS.

WE the Toungoo foresters Kyoukhmaw Myo Tsayay Nga Apo Lai Mah Myo Oke Nga Shway Mounng, Lai Mah Myothoogyee Nga Pate, Nga Kyah Nyoe, Wahmoai Gone Myothoogyee, agent Nga Tsa, Ayelah Myothoogyees, agent Nga Thun Nga Himaw Nga Taw and Nga Min humbly beg Your Majesty that the petitioners worked and delivered from the Toungoo and Yemeithin forests in 1245—42,233 logs, and in 1246—47,567 logs, total 89,800 logs, but the agents of the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, did not render a correct account in the Revenue Office. The accounts which were rendered in 1245 was 18,259 logs, and in 1246—13,869, total 32,128 logs, and thus caused a great loss to the foresters, and petitioners humbly crave that an inquiry and settlement may be made in presence of Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, Agent.

(Signed)

KOUK NAW MYOSAYAY.
LAI MAH THOOGYEE NGA POTE.
WAH NWAI KONE MYOTHOOGYEE AGENT NGA TSA.
LAI MAH MYO OKE NGA SHWAY MOUNG.
THITGOUNG NGA HINAN.
NGA KYAH NYOE.
NGA MIN.
AYELAH MYOTHOOGYEE'S AGENT, NGA HMIN.
NGA SAW.

YOUR Royal servants, Thitkyeikye Myo Mounng Nga Latt Sitkeh Nga Mounng Gyee Thasyeh Sayay Hounng Nga Koo humbly beg to lay at the foot of His Royal Majesty, that Bryce and Maxwell of the Bombay-Burma Corporation, merchants, having worked in conjunction with the timber traders, the Bombay-Burma Corporation and the Thittaw Woon Nga Kyee concealed from the foresters and regardless of Royal interests, have, in settling in the Royal Revenue Office, accounted for less than the quantity of timber actually worked out from the Royal timber stations, contrary to the principles of merchant, and rendered themselves liable to the withdrawal of the revenue settled agreements.

In the event of the work of the Bombay-Burma Corporation being withdrawn and their agreements annulled, the sum over four lakhs and near five lakhs of rupees will be presented in the same way as the Bombay-Burma Corporation have done.

The chief timber traders of Moulmein, in view of the continued furtherance of Royal interest have already signed an agreement, conditional on a lease being granted to them (for the settled revenue agreement for the payment of Rs. 4,50,000 granted to the Bombay-Burma Corporation) to pay not less than the amount paid by the Bombay-Burma Corporation, and to stipulate the employment of elephants, workmen, foresters. We your Royal servants (who are) timber traders desirous of removing into the Royal dominion with (our) chatties, houses, and families, numbering over 100 houses, humbly

crave permission at the foot of His Majesty for the chief timber traders, Nga Moon Zan, Nga Shway Lay, and others to obtain work to enable them to take Royal service, and to collect and pay the revenues.

D.

LEASE OF TOUNGOO, YAMEITHEIN, and THIT CHYAIT GYEE FORESTS.

ON the second waxing moon of the second Wahso in the year 1242 (July 1880), the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, by J. Bryce and H. Maxwell, make the following application:—

Stating that the former lease of Toungoo, Yameitheim, and Thit Chyait Gyee Forests for four years from the month of Tasoungwhon of 1239 (November 1877) will expire in Tasoungwhon month in 1243 (November 1881), and that they desire to extend the lease and work the forest for a further period of three years from the expiry of the said old lease in Tasoungwhon 1243 (November 1881).

That as regards the terms of working, that no teak timber and dubbed logs (planks) from Toungoo, Yameitheim, and Thit Chyait Gyee Forests, shall be worked by or assigned to other persons for export beyond the Royal territory.

That the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation alone shall work and sell such timber.

That the authorities shall have the right to cut and work timber, if they wish, for use within the Royal territory.

That in regard to royalty revenue, &c., &c., that on the signing of this lease Rs. 50,000 shall be paid, and Rs. 50,000 more within 20 days afterward, the two items forming an advance of Rs. 1,00,000.

This lakh of rupees is paid in advance, and shall not bear interest. That this said lakh of rupees shall be taken into account, and deducted at the settlement of accounts for royalty, &c., in 1242 (1880).

After that settlement, in regard to the Rs. 80,000 payable yearly in advance and free of interest, if the advances made (on account of new lease) exceed the royalty then due (on the old lease), the surplus shall go towards the payment of the Rs. 80,000 free of interest, and any further amount decided to make up that amount shall be paid in. If there be no surplus, any balance remaining (on old account) shall be paid.

That no Royal timber formerly cut, worked, or purchased by Royal elephants or funds shall be disposed of to other parties, but sold to the Bombay-Burma Trading Co.

That the rates for said Royal timber be as follows:—

	Rs.
Middle girth being taken by the Royal cubit of 18 inches, logs of 3 cubits, 1 mike, 4 thit up to 4 cubits, 1 mike 4 thit in girth, and timber under and above these sizes, being averaged at 4 cubits girth, on doo thit logs 17 to 27 cubits length, the usual rates for Royal timber arrived in Ponglounng River, viz.	22
For similar girth Hlwathit 12 cubits to 16 cubits	11
" " " Leththit 28 " 35 "	39
" " " Ywetthit above 35 cubits	Rs. 2 per running cubit.
" up to girth but faulty doogya	14
" under girth and sound	11
" " " faulty	8-8

If the Bombay-Burma Co. do not wish to purchase the said timber it may be disposed of as the authorities may desire.

In regard to royalty on timber worked by the Bombay-Burma Trading Co.'s elephants, men, and funds, royalty shall be paid at rates Rs. 2 in advance of those provided for by the old contract.

On timber coming under the contract the advanced rates shall be —

	Rs.
For "doo thit"	10
" "hlwa thit"	6-8
" "let thit"	16
" "Ywet thit"	30
" up to girth faulty "doogya"	7-8
" under girth sound	6-8
" " " faulty	6
" slabs, per pair (sap payne)	9

For other than "doo thit," "let gyan," "ywet gya," and "blwa gya" timber, rates shall be paid the same as for good "let," "ywet," i.e., rejected let thit, ywet thit, hlwa thit. "hlwa" timber. That work shall be diligently carried on; and the Bombay-Burma Trading Co. shall get out timber by their own means sufficient to ensure a royalty of one lakh rupees per year and duly pay in the same.

That common persons and traders residing in the Royal Kingdom shall be allowed to work out, buy and sell teak and other timber as they may desire from the said forests, free of all let or hindrance, taxes or dues, not for export, but for their own use or trade only.

If this lease be not renewed at its expiration, the Bombay-Burma Trading Co. are to have 12 months to completely remove any and all timber killed, felled, or dragged by them, whether in the forests or in the water, together with their elephants, men, property, and apparatus, and for such timber the Bombay-Burma Trading Co. shall pay royalty according to this lease.

After this period of 12 months the Bombay-Burma Trading Co. shall not represent that timber and planks remain in the forest, and that they desire to remove them; there shall be no such removal, only if the lease be renewed, it shall be removable, subject to Royal order, royalty being payable.

If the lease be not renewed, at the final settlement of accounts of timber delivered, and moneys paid, if any balance is due from the Bombay-Burma Trading Co., they shall pay it; if money paid in be in excess, any surplus shall be paid to the Bombay-Burma Trading Co. without interest.

If in accordance with the contract, the various advances, values of timber, royalties, &c. are not fully and duly paid in, or if the forests be not worked, but default made, the Bombay-Burma Trading Co. shall not claim that they have a three years' lease, and the forest shall be disposed of as the authorities see fit.

But if the various moneys be duly paid and the forests worked, the forests shall not be given to other persons for three years mentioned in the contract. The Bombay-Burma Trading Co. shall work them.

(Signed) THAUDAWZIN, a Wé Kyee Woon Min
Koung gyin ten naga.
J. A. BRYCE.
H. MAXWELL.

In presence of—

WOON SHINDAW, TOUNG-GWIN MYO SA MINGYEE.
ATWIN WOON TENIGTA MYO SA MIN.
ATWIN WOON SO DENIG WOON PAGUN WOON.
KANNEE MYO SA MIN.
ATWIN WOON POUK MYEING MYO SA.

E.

TRANSLATION.

On the 13th waxing moon of Wahyoung 1244, G. Andreino, Agent for Mr. Bryce of the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, petitioned the Woon Shindaw Laikine Myotsa, Thaynat Woon Mingyee, Woon Shindaw Tounghwin Myotsa Mingyee, Atwin Woon Thammeedaw Woon Ming Myotsa Ming, Atwin Woon Thammeedaw Woon Tinedah Myotsa Ming Hlaythin Atwin Woon Tsalay Myotsa Ming, Atwin Woon Ponkmyine Myotsa Ming, and Atwin Woon Myothit Myotsa Ming, for the right to take possession of all the timber rejected under the present lease, and to work all timber under three cubits in girth, and timber not full 12 cubits in length, in Tounghoo, Yemeitheim, and Thitkyeityee Forests, on both sides of the Pongloun, on the condition that we, the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, will pay revenue at the rate of rupees one lakh per year for five years, commencing from the month of Tasoungmon 1244 (October-November 1882). And that no others are permitted to export on any terms whatever, the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, will provide men and elephants, and will work and export at their own expense, not complaining if the timber is not got out, and paying the sum of rupees one lakh per annum, half the amount, Rs. 50,000, to be paid on the day of signing agreement, and the remainder, Rs. 50,000, at the end of 12 months for first year, and for remaining years the amount will be paid by two instalments or every six months, and further, that Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, will not claim to have this amount accounted for, or deducted in any way when settling the yearly account of the previous lease, nor complain of timber not being worked or got out, but will pay and settle this

separately. The Government has the right to work timber in these forests for use in the kingdom, but if they do not so work any timber which they may require will be supplied by us on paying the usual market rates. Traders and poor people of the Royal kingdom are not to be allowed to cut timber for export beyond the frontier, but they will be allowed to work without payment for own or local use, to build houses, kyoungs, zayats, &c. within the Royal Kingdom. The timber so worked or got out under this agreement must not be mixed or taken into account with the timber so worked or got out under the previous agreement, but must be separate, and all export timber having already paid revenue, will be free from further revenue or duty, and from all Kin Customs duties. And when this lease expires, and if it is renewed we will work it on terms to be agreed, and if we (Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited) cannot agree it may be given to anyone else, but in that case we shall have 10 months' grace allowed us without payment of revenue to export all timber that may be lying in the forests and creeks. After these 10 months the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, will not be entitled to claim anything remaining in the forests, but will remove their men and elephants, to which Woon Shindaw Laikine Myotsa, Thaynat Woon Mingyee, Woon Shindaw Tounghwin Myotsa Mingyee, Atwin Woon Thammeedaw Woon Ming Myotsa Ming, Atwin Woon Thammeedaw Woon Tinedah Myotsa Ming, Hlaythin Atwin, Woon Tsalay Myotsa Ming, Atwin Woon Poukmyine Myotsa Ming, Atwin Woon Myothit Myotsa Ming, have agreed as requested and set their hands.

(Signed) THANDAW SING PANDEE WOON, THAMMEEDAW
TAKSOOMYAT PHRAGEE TSAYAGYEE BYAN
HLWAH, HLAYDAWOKE MAHA MINLA
NANDAT KYAW.

[Seal]

(Signed) G. ANDREINO,
Agent, Bombay-Burma Trading
Corporation, Limited.

Mandalay, the 27th July 1882.

F.

TRANSLATION OF SECOND AGREEMENT regarding TOUNGOO, YAMEITHEIN, and THIT-CHAIT FORESTS and CHINDWIN and MOO FORESTS.

On the first day of the waning moon of the 2nd Tagoo 1244=April 1883, the English Merchants Bombay-Burma Co., Messrs. Bryce and Maxwell, by their Agent G. Andreino represent—That the varying revenue agreement regarding long timber coming out from Tounghoo Yameithin, Thit Chaitgyee Forests will expire at beginning of Tasoungmon 1246=November 1885. And that the fixed revenue agreement for the short timber from the said forests will expire at beginning of Tasoungmon 1249=November 1888.

And that the varying revenue agreement concerning Chindwin and Moo Forests will expire at beginning of Thadingyot 1249=October 1888, and they pray that at the expiration of the said agreements, the forests in question may not be assigned (let) to any other persons. That no one else shall kill or hew teak timber or slabs (sappyeen) for export out of the Royal territory, but that the Bombay-Burma Co., Messrs. Bryce and Maxwell alone shall kill, hew, take out, and sell (the same), paying a fixed yearly rental for the said forests.

As to the yearly rental so payable.

There are two forests in which work is to be carried on.

Now so long as the three agreements for timber revenue are not expired the revenue shall be paid as usual.

But on the said agreements lapsing let all the three be cancelled.

Let the lease of Tounghoo, Yameitheim, Thit Chaitgyee Forests for long timber be extended for seven years from Tasoungmon of 1246=November 1885, and the lease for short timber from the said forest for four years from Tasoungmon of 1249=November 1888.

And let the lease of Chindwin Moo Forests be extended for four years from Thadingyot of 1249=October 1888.

Thus the periods of the three timber revenues (i.e., expiry) being thus made the same, the Bombay-Burma Co. beg to be allowed during the years specified to kill, hew, drag, and take away teak timber, as they will be paying yearly the fixed rental.

As regards the said fixed rents—

For long timber from Tounghoo, Yameitheim, Thit-Chaitgyee Forests, the rent shall be Rs. 3,50,000 per annum. For short timber from the said forests, Rs. 1,00,000. For timber from the Chindwin Moo Forests, Rs. 2,50,000.

A a 2

Yearly for the three items, a total of Rs. 7,00,000.

During the years set forth in this agreement the Bombay-Burma Co. agree to pay the said rent yearly, and to raise no question as to whether they work or not.

As to payment on the day the agreement is executed Rs. 6,00,000 is to be paid in advance and free of interests, and shall be deducted from moneys payable by the Bombay-Burma Co. under the contracts now in force at the yearly settling for timber and revenue on account of forests they now are working.

But the permanent advances lodged by us for the leases now current shall remain till the expiration of the respective contracts, for which they were granted (when they shall be refunded).

If of the timber worked out by Bombay-Burma Co. any be required for the Royal use, Hlwa, Yat, Toungto Toungshi, no matter what timber, the Bombay-Burma Co. will deliver whatever may be ordered at customary places in the water, and accept payment for the same at the ruling bank-side rate at place of delivery.

If any merchants subjects of His Majesty, resident in the Royal dominions, desire not for export but for houses, kyoungs, zayats, &c., teak timber, and wish to cut it in the forests worked by the Bombay-Burma Co., they shall do so (after informing any partner of the firm or any one of their agents) without let or hindrance, and without any demand for tax or duty, in the case of timber cut by persons resident within the district of the forest, but any timber cut by persons resident in other towns and villages, the customary town and village dues shall be paid.

And all timber cut by the Bombay-Burma Co. under this agreement shall be taken away by them without let or hindrance, or any tax or dues (at guard stations) on production of the customary permits to float.

And no other persons shall save, take, or cut up any timber on the pretence that it was stranded on the banks or floating in the rivers and creeks of the forests named in the agreement, but the Bombay-Burma Co. shall redeem such timber on paying the customary salvage. If any of His Majesty's merchant subjects desire to purchase timber cut by the Bombay-Burma Co. to use as they please (not for export), the Bombay-Burma Co. will sell to them such timber as they require whether long or short, thick or thin.

If, on the expiration of this agreement, the Bombay-Burma Co. do not again work the said forests, but they are leased to other parties, the Bombay-Burma Co. shall be allowed twelve months to remove the timber killed, hewed, and dragged by them previous to the termination of this agreement, and remaining either in the forest or in the water, together with their elephants, men, property, and apparatus, and such timber having been worked during the period for which rent will have been paid, shall not be subject to further tax or dues but shall be free.

The Bombay-Burma Co. shall not during the said twelve months kill or fell any other timber.

Twelve months being passed the Bombay-Burma Co. shall not make any claim for timber then remaining in the forest, saying that they should be allowed to remove it.

Whatever then remains shall be Royal property. His Majesty shall deal with it as he pleases.

Should the Bombay-Burma Co. fail to make the yearly payments as provided by this agreement or fail to carry on the work in the manner specified and fail in any particular, although the agreement may not have expired, the Bombay-Burma Co. shall have no claim on the agreement (not plead the agreement). Whatever timber may have been cut shall be Royal property, and His Majesty shall assign the forests to any one he pleases.

But if the Bombay-Burma Co. conform to the terms of working and to the terms of payment there shall be no assignment to other parties during the period mentioned in this agreement, the Bombay-Burma Co. shall, as agreed, pay the rent and work.

(L.S.) The WOONDOUK MALWOON THAYET HNITMYO WOON MIN and G. ANDREINO, the agent of Messrs. Bryce and Maxwell, execute this deed of agreement in the presence of—

WOON SHINDAW LAY KEING MYOSA MINGYEE.

WOON SHINDAW TOUNGWIN MYOSA MINGYEE.

WOON SHINDAW THAMMEEDAW WOON TINEDAH MYOSA MINGYEE.

ATWIN WOON THAMMEEDAW WOON PIN MYOSA MINGYEE.

ATWIN WOON HLE THIN WOON THAMMEEDAW WOON SALAY MYOSA MIN.

ATWIN WOON SHWI TEIK WOON POUK MYEING MYOSA MIN.

ATWIN WOON MYOTHIT MYOSA MIN.

ATWIN WOON KYEUK MYOUNG MYOSA MIN.

II.

The FACTS concerning the attempt to get up a CASE against the BOMBAY-BURMA TRADING CORPORATION, LIMITED, from the commencement up to date.

(A MAN of the name of) Nga Kyai mortgaged an elephant to the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, Ningyan, against which he received an advance from them to enable him to work in the (Ningyan) Forest. After working for a time, he stole the elephant which he had mortgaged, and made off with it to Mandalay.

The Toungoo Agent of the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, having received information of this, after making inquiries, sent a man after him, and who found Nga Kyai together with the elephant at Ava, and he (the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, man) put the matter before the Court. The man who stole the elephant went to the Tinedah Mingyee, and in defence of himself said that the elephant he had brought he had received from the hands of forest contractors, who (probably) during the reign of the previous King had mortgaged this elephant to the Crown against revenue due by them for working in the forest, but in whose possession it had been left by the Crown to enable them to work the forest.

At the present time there are in the Toungoo forest many such elephants mortgaged to the Crown for revenue due by contractors for working in the forest. As the man made out the stolen elephant to be a Royal one (or one mortgaged to the Crown) the Tinedah Mingyee took possession of it, and also sent a messenger commanding the Forest Officer of Toungoo to render accounts, showing the value of mortgages of a similar kind still outstanding, and to collect the amounts from all those who had not yet paid revenue in full. On receipt of this order the Forest Officer made out accounts and sent them to different contractors, showing the amounts due by them. The contractors then combined to resist what they said were unjust demands, and further agreed to bring about the dismissal of the Forest Officer. In order to attain this object they hired Nga Moungyee, the previous Tsit Kai of Thit Saikgyee as their advocate, and brought a case against him in (the Burmese year) 1245 (1883), charging him with having received bribes from the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, to the value of Rs. 15 weight of gold and Rs. 20,000 in cash, in consideration of which he had permitted them to take away (quietly) timber of very considerable value. In this case it was decided by the Hloot Daw or Court that each party had brought an unjustifiable case against the other, it was therefore ordered by the Court—

1st.—That the Forest Officer should not be blamed.

2nd.—That it was perfectly clear from receipts of amount paid in by contractors that all moneys due had been paid, and that no further sums were to be demanded.

These orders were twice given by the Court, and since then there had been no further demands.

III.

REPORT of the PROCEEDINGS of THREE MINISTERS in the Month of Taboung 1246.

THE Thay Nat Mingyee, the Toungwin Mingyee, the Tinedah Mingyee assembled in a house to the south of the Hloot Daw and sent for Mr. Andreino.

(When he came) the Thay Nat Mingyee and the Toungwin Mingyee said to him that as money was required, it would be advisable for him to give another amount. The Tinedah Myngyee, however, said:—"Don't put the request in that (mild) way, 'I will put the matter clearly, viz., if Andreino, the Agent of the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, likes to pay in with good grace the money referred to, let him do so, if he does not, the work they are now engaged in will be made so unpleasant for them that they will not be able to work at all.'" This was said in the presence of the Thay Nat Mingyee, the Toungwin Mingyee, and many other Ministers and officials heard and know of it as well. After having said this, the money wanted not being paid, the Tinedah Mingyee sent for the previous Tsit Kai of Thit Kyai-gyee Nga Moung-gyee, and his brother-in-law Moung Lat, the previous Woon of Thit Gualk-gyee, the men who had previously tried to get the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, into difficulties, and encouraged them with the following advice:—

"You must be made officials in Toungoo, you must try and get up a case in connexion with the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, work in Toungoo."

In the event of the dismissal of the Forest Officer, the probable successors to his appointment Nga Moung-gyee and Moung Lat were encouraged to re-open the case referred to in Paper No. 1, viz., that the Toungoo Forest Officer had received Rs. 15 weight in gold, and Rs. 20,000, in consideration of which the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, had been allowed to take out a large quantity of valuable timber, much to their benefit, but much against the interest of the Crown. An order was sent to call the Forest Officer of Toungoo and others, who wish to disturb our work in the forest; Nga Moung-gyee was sent to Toungoo by the Tinedah Mingyee with two orders; one from the three ministers of the Hloot Daw as per copy No. 1, and one from the Tinedah Mingyee, as per copy No. 2. On Nga Moung-gyee's arrival at Toungoo, he told all the Thitgouns, &c., that the forest was to be taken from the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, and that he had got the customs. He is doing this to destroy our influence over the contractors gouns, &c., and as the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, are this year paying a revenue of Rs. 4,50,000, they will have to suffer heavy losses owing to the difficulties that are being put in their way.

IV.

[DEMI-OFFICIAL.]

Dated Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, June 2, 1885.

From S. G. JONES, Esq., to E. S. SYMES, Esq.

HEREWITH the draft of letter which I ask you to get the Chief Commissioner to write, and I cannot help thinking that there is much, if not most of what I have said, which he might very well say if only put, perhaps, into somewhat more official language.

I have asked him to say that he has seen certain documents—these I have not sent you—they are original and voluminous, but if you will let me know when it will be convenient, I will bring them over to you, or will take them up to the Chief himself. I have sent you two copies of my draft letter in case you might like the Chief to have one, and keep the other to consider over at convenient moments.

If this Tinedah is allowed to carry on these jokes with impunity, it will be impossible for any one to carry on business with the King. By our large advances we are compelled to go on, and interference of this kind is a very serious matter. If the Chief will write some such letter as I suggest, the other Ministers who are not so much afraid of him will get the better of him, and I do not think he will be likely to try it on again with us at any rate for a month or two, by which time we shall be so far through the floating season that we shall have somewhat less at stake, and may see our way to a further advance through the other Ministers, and thereby still further strengthen their hands. Pray give this matter your best consideration, and see what you can do for us.

PROPOSED DRAFT of LETTER to be written by the CHIEF COMMISSIONER to the BURMESE GOVERNMENT, dated June 2, 1885,

YOUR letter in reply to mine of the 23rd April has been handed to me by the Commission appointed for the purpose.

I have read your letter, and have given orders that the Commission shall have every facility afforded to them by my Forest Department to get what figures and information they may require.

From your letter and from conversation with the Commission, I gather that the question at issue is one between some individual foresters and the Corporation. That portion of the Commission who represent the complaining foresters have informed me that they are not aware that the Corporation have been during the years 1243, 1244, 1245 (1882, 1883, 1884) working under any other than one lease, and that the variable revenue lease of 1242 (2nd of 2nd Wahtzo), and they know nothing of the "shorts" lease and rejected timber contract of 27th July 1882 (13th waxing moon of Wahgoun 1244), or of the fixed rental lease of the 1st day of the waning moon of 2nd Tagoo 1244 (April 1883), and this seems to account for the dispute at issue.

Your letter tells me that the Corporation have worked out—

40,000 and odd logs in 1245, and

40,000 and odd logs in 1246,

and that they have given accounts into the palace and paid duty for—

32,000 and odd logs only.

I have seen the original settlement accounts, and find that, in addition to Rs. 2,27,518-8 paid on account of these 32,000 logs, named in your letter, they have also paid two lakhs for the "shorts," and rejected timber worked out under contract of 27th July 1882 (13th waxing moon of Wahgoun 1244), and also 4½ lakhs on account of the lease of fixed rental for all logs which came out of all sizes and quality after the 19th October 1884 (1st waxing moon of Tasounmoan 1246). It does not seem, then, that the Corporation wish to dispute or impugn the accuracy of the number of logs stated in your letter, and the figures admitted by the Corporation agree as nearly as possible with the totals of the Forest Department records, after due allowance has been made for logs neaped in Toungoo between 1883 and 1884, and which therefore come into the Toungoo Forest Department records in a different year to that in which they leave Ningyan and pay duty, and also of sundry drift logs which come into the Toungoo Forest records some years after they have paid duty.

I am glad to be of some assistance to you in helping you to arrive at a just conclusion, with reference to the accusations brought against the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, with whom you have had important dealing for so many years, and I have called on this Corporation to show me their various leases and explain the figures in your letter, which would otherwise be outrageous and beyond all precedent.

That the Corporation would have defrauded the individual foresters is of course unlikely, seeing that they are dependent on them for a continuance of working their long leases. I have seen the settlements of the individual foresters for the year 1883-84 (1245-1246) each settlement signed for by the individual forester.

In 1883-84 (1245-1246), 263 foresters signed as having been paid for 29,375 logs; the balance of 3,841 logs for this year is made up by logs worked out by the Corporation's own elephants. In 1884-85 (1246-1247) 327 foresters signed as having been paid for 36,693 logs, besides which there are sundry foresters who worked out an aggregate number of 3,132 logs; the balance of 7,419 logs consists of logs worked out by the Corporation's own elephants, and logs for which they have not yet received settlements, together with a large number of logs without marks, worked out under the "shorts" contract, and rejected entirely many years before. Had there been any dispute about the number of logs the individual foresters were entitled to be paid for in each of these years, they would surely have been settled by your official in your courts at Ningyan.

From all this I am led to the firm conviction that the foresters who have petitioned you against the Corporation, having had access to the records of the settlement of the Corporation in Mandalay under the old variable duty lease, and also to the records of my forest office, and being ignorant (by their own admission) of the "shorts" and fixed revenue agreements, may perhaps not unnaturally have come to the conclusion that the Burmese Government had been cheated by the Corporation. But it is also right to inform you that some of these men were discharged for ill-conduct by the Corporation some six months ago, and also that others have been compelled by force and documents purporting to be Royal orders to go up to Mandalay and make this petition.

I am assured that men who would not admit the truth of the petition, after having been forced to go to Mandalay, were put in confinement, and that the families of some foresters, who refused to leave their work and go to Mandalay, were put into the stocks.

The documents shown me fully convince me that much interruption must have been caused in the working at Ningyan this season, owing to orders sent from Mandalay to Ningyan, calling foresters from their work to give evidence against the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited.

As your letter to me denies this fact, I accept it that it is not with your knowledge or wish that these orders have been sent. There is also a document brought down here by a certain Htoon Zan, said to be an order from the Tinedah Mingyee, and bearing a Royal seal, and with all the appearance of being a genuine document. This has been zealously circulated by Htoon Zan amongst some of the merchants and traders of this place, with a view to getting money to pay the advances and secure the lease.

This letter states that the leases of the Corporation have already been cancelled on account of their having cheated.

From your letter I gather that you have no knowledge of this document. It is needless to point out how damaging such a letter must be to the Corporation, who are known to have had such extensive dealings with your Government for so many years. Had it not been for fear of lawsuits, certain sums might have been subscribed, and your Government thereby placed in an awkward position.

I am pleased, therefore, to have this opportunity of bringing this to your knowledge, knowing how jealously it is your good custom to respect and guard any contract properly entered into between your august master and others, and I can well imagine that in this particular ^{instance} _{contract} (seeing that it was the first season's working on the new

or fixed rental system) after so many years of peaceable working on the variable revenue system, that you would have been specially anxious that nothing should occur to make it more difficult for your contractors to employ their energies successfully in working out timber without any unnecessary interference, and this more especially as the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, had placed such implicit confidence in your Government, as to pay for the whole with very large sums in advance.

May I draw your attention to another very strong point in favour of the Corporation. There has always been a high official at Ningyan, and I should suppose that it would have been quite impossible that the shortcomings complained of by your petitioners could have gone on for so many years without having been brought to his notice.

I am also informed that all the statements of the number of logs worked out, year by year under the various leases, are taken account of for the Mandalay settlement by your *own* officials appointed for the purpose, which would preclude the possibility of the defalcation of which the Corporation are accused.

On the expiry of the old variable revenue lease on the 19th October, I believe a special Commission was sent to Ningyan to take account of all logs then at the Thittagahs, which would come under that lease, leaving all logs which should come down to the Thittagahs after that date to be accounted for and settled for with the 4½ lakhs paid in advance for the new fixed rental lease.

With these explanations I doubt not you will have no difficulty in coming to a decision, alike satisfactory to your august master, to myself, and the Corporation.

V.

[DEMI-OFFICIAL.]

From S. G. JONES, Esq., to E. S. SYMES, Esq.

Dated June 10th, 1885.

SINCE writing you on the 2nd instant, and sending you a few points for the Chief's consideration in writing to Mandalay, other facts have come to my knowledge, and I have therefore taken the liberty of jotting down our case in a somewhat more condensed form, and at the same time working in these fresh points, with the hope that you and the Chief may see your way to making some use of them.

MEMORANDUM of the facts for the consideration of the CHIEF COMMISSIONER in answering letter from MANDALAY.

As requested I have given permission to your Commission to see all our books in the Forest Department, and make what extracts they think necessary.

At the same time I must inform you that our Forest Department take no notice of marks or quality and make no measurements, so that the classes or names of logs are in nowise to be relied on.

We take notice of the despatches of logs from Toungoo only, so that the numbers despatched in any one season are not likely to be the same as arrivals in any one floating season.

I understand, however, that the Corporation do not wish to dispute your figures. What they say is that all the timber which was not accounted for in the year settlement at Mandalay was included, and settled for under the shorts contract or the new fixed rental lease.

This seems most reasonable for the yearly statements of the number of logs to be paid for in Mandalay under the old variable revenue lease are prepared and endorsed by your own officials at Ningyan, and at the termination of the old lease on the 19th of October last, I understand a special Commission was sent from Mandalay to count the logs. And I have seen that the Corporation hold receipts for two lakhs paid for the shorts contract and four and half lakhs for the fixed rental lease. I find the men who have petitioned you against the Corporation have misinformed you, for they did not take copies of the returns of the logs exported from Toungoo.

Further, the men Ko Shoay Moun and Ko Kyah Nyoo are not in the Corporation's employ, neither have they worked as foresters for them during the years you name, and I have seen the receipts of individual foresters for more than double the number of logs they tell you they have been paid for. If they had not been paid for, they would not have signed the receipts, as your courts in Ningyan would have protected them.

It is unreasonable to suppose that the Corporation would cheat their foresters, for they must look to them to work to the termination of their long leases, and having made such large advances they could not do anything which bring about the risk of their foresters leaving them, as cheating most certainly would do.

As you deny that the Corporation's foresters have been sent for and called from their work, I accept it that you were not aware of the fact, and I am pleased that it was not done with your approval. There is a man, called Toon Yan, with a document purporting to be an order from the Tindaw Mingyee, and bearing a royal seal. This document states that the Corporation have been turned out of Ningyan for cheating. I presume this is also unknown to you, and not in accordance with your wishes.

VI.

From G. ANDREINO, Esq., Agent, Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, to
Messrs. BOMBAY-BURMA TRADING CORPORATION, Limited, Rangoon.

Mandalay, June 14, 1885.

In reply to yours of the 4th instant, regarding Ningyan affairs, we beg to point out amongst the enclosures advised we did not find copy of letter from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner to the Conservator of Forests; on another occasion you mentioned of having sent up the translation of Kinwoon Minghee's letter, which we have not received.

We have carefully read the copy of the draft letter you submitted for the Chief's ^{perusal} _{signature} in answer to the Kinwoon Minghee's letter; we do not think the Chief ought to have any objection, as the explanations mentioned therein are all correct and substantiated by facts which we could prove: it would not be amiss too to call the Chief Commissioner's attention that should he hesitate in giving the just support we ask, no one knows how far the Burmese will go; our present troubles are only a try-on; should they succeed with us, who are supposed to be strongest, Moun Mom Saw will come next, and after him all others who have contracts of any consequence in Upper Burma will follow; two already have been victims of the high-handed policy of the Pouk Myne Atwin Woon, one is the Shwe Lom Penin, who had contract for cultivation of paddy lands at Kyauksaye; his contract was taken away from him before the time expired, causing his entire ruination; the contract was given to another, who is unable to carry out; the second is a Mogul, called Ibrahim, who had the contract for five years for lighting the town and palace, and the right of collecting taxes called "Asook Achouk," involving a revenue of about two lakhs a year; before a year had run out the lease was taken away from him; he was imprisoned and entirely ruined; after them we come next; should we lose, which it is unlikely, all the leases made by the Minghee before the revenue passed into his hands will have the same fate.

We anxiously expect from Ningyan the special messenger who, from your telegram, ought to have left ten days ago, and has not yet arrived.

At present we have here Mr. Minus, sent from the Moo for taking up Rs. 10,000, and to buy some elephants. Mr. G. Calogreedy has also sent his man to buy elephants for the Thaington Forest; the Pyoungshoo contractors, Ko Shah, &c., who have lately returned from Rangoon, are also in search for more elephants, and in Mandalay there are none to be got for the price they are inclined to pay.

VII.

(DEMI-OFFICIAL.)

FROM S. G. JONES, Esq., to E. S. SYMES, Esq.

June 17, 1885.

WILL you kindly let me know if the Chief's letter went on Monday? I enclose a copy of telegram received yesterday, bearing on the gentlemen sent down here to investigate our affairs.

COPY of Translation of Telegram despatched from Ningyan, dated Tuesday,
16th June 1885.

12TH JUNE. Mg Shoay Mg Kya Nyoo worked for us, but were dismissed by Eisenhower Senr. as utterly useless for work, and quite unfit to trust with advance; since then they have done nothing but loaf about the bazaar, trying to do mischief, and generally misconducting themselves; they are both disreputable characters; both are Mounng Lat and Mounng Gyee's followers.

TRANSLATION.

WE, the undersigned Thitgounngs worked for the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, from 1247 (should be 1245), 1246, and 1247, having mortgaged our buffaloes and elephants to the said Corporation, advances were received by us for the purpose of working out timber, and we delivered the same at the Thittagas in the Poungloung river, where the measurement of the logs was taken strictly, in the presence of the Corporation's trustworthy man, officials, men, and Thitgounng's men, and particulars of marks are also taken at the time, and after the logs were taken over, and in the months of Tasounghon and Natdaw, the accounts were settled with us according to rates and agreed upon without distinguishing first and second contract timber deducting ounnging hire, creek charges, &c., to which we all agreed and signed our settlement accounts yearly. The Agents of the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, have never settled with us forcibly, neither without our consent. Of the applicants who petitioned in the "Hloot" that the Agents of the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, have not rendered a full account, and this caused a great loss to us, were Laimah Myoke, Nga Shoay Mounng Nga Kyab Nyoe, Nga Isa, and Nga Min of Nahnwoegone village, and Ayelah Myothoogyee. They were not foresters working on advances, and Nga Hpo, Nga Hwan, and Nga Tsan were foresters who received advances and never worked properly, and were dismissed on account of heavy debt; and as for Laimah Myothoogyee Nga Poke he is not a forester working timber, neither did he appoint Nga Hpoo Goung, nor is he the son of Laimah Myothoogyee Nga Poke.

Those people who have joined with Thitkyeit Woon and Tsitkai and who were never foresters, and whose petition to the Hloot was unjustly made.

Therefore we, the Thitgounngs, great and small, hereby certify and sign our names that the petition was made neither at our request, or without our knowledge.

Signature of Foresters.

Signed by 342 Foresters.

TRANSLATION.

WE, the undersigned Thitgounngs, of Wah Nyah Khone Myo beg to inform Mr. Andreino that the petition presented at the Hloottaw signed by over 100 Thitgounngs, regarding the 15 viss of gold and cash Rs. 20,000 which were bribed by Corporation's agent to Uha Myo Woon Thanah Poh for the purpose of working and exporting logs to their satisfaction. We beg to say that we did not know of the 15 viss of gold and cash Rs. 20,000 were given as bribe to Nha Myo Woon, so we were called and cleared this case as above mentioned before Mholah Woondouk Taw Ming.

Thitkyeitkyee Tseekai Ko Mounng Gyee told again to Thatyyah Khayine Ming that a second call is made at the Hloottaw with Hmaza as received for those Thitgounngs to come up and clear at Hloottaw as to the bribe of 15 viss of gold and cash Rs. 20,000 made to Nha Myo Woon. So we from Wah Nyah Khone village, Myothoogyee and several Thitgounngs have arranged to send up a Thitgounng Mounng Tsa from here to be examined at Hloottaw regarding the Wah Nyat Khone, and on his arrival please help him and do all you can for him in your power.

3rd waxing moon of Kasone 1247.

(Signed)

WAH NYAH KHONE MYOTHOOGYEE.
KO MIN TIN.
KYOUNGTAGA KO KYAW KHINE.
KO HPAW KHINE.
KO LAH.
KO YAH.
KO HPAW.
KO SIWAY AIK.
KO KOOTAMA.
KO MYO.
KO HPAW.
KO LAT GYEE.
KO JUN BOO.
KO YONE OH.
KO HTWAY.
KO SOUNG.
KO PIN.
KO HLET HPYAH.
KO LAH KO KIN.
KO MHO.
DOOKANEE.
KO BIKE.

VIII.

(Sic in original).

FROM MR. ANDREINO TO S. G. JONES, Esq.

Mandalay, June 23, 1885.

I AM not going back by the "Doorian" steamer, as Andreino will not let me. He is very glad. I came up to discuss matters with him, and assures me that there is no fear of my presence being taken advantage of by the Ministers to squeeze us. Under the circumstances it is better I think that I stop here for a few days, especially as the "Rangoonistes" who came by the "Doorian" steamer take up a good deal of Andreino's time, and don't admit of our talking over our affairs to-day as much as I should like.

You will be glad to hear that Andreino thinks the Chief Commissioner's letter will put an end to the troublesome matters that have been engaging our attention during the last two months. The letter is to effect on the only things that I have been able to discuss with Andreino to-day, and he is quite confident that it will, as far as we are concerned, end the matter, but he is very sorry that Mr. Bernard did not lay stress, nay, did not even mention, the Hmaza to Ningyan to call the foresters by force to Mandalay. A few words from the Chief Commissioner in reply to the Kin Woon's remarks regarding our work being interrupted and interfered with, was all the latter wanted to gain the day in his endeavours to smash the power of the Tinedaw and his party, and Andreino was very anxious that the Kin Woon should have a strong weapon in his hand to show the Tinedaw that he is able to hold his own against his (the Tinedaw's) intrigues.

I have elicited in my conversation with Andreino much more information (and satisfactory information) than any amount of letter writing could have given us; but I cannot detail this now, as the steamer is about to leave at noon. The letter to the Chief Commissioner was written at the instigation and advice of Andreino and the King's agent, who we supposed was rather a friend of Utom Zan and his clique, is a man of Andreino's own making, and the latter throws a satisfactory light upon all the doings of the King's agents; the answers he gave to Symes were what Andreino calls diplomatic answers, and were put into the agent's mouth by the Kin Woon Minghee.

Andreino is so positive as to our success that I think it would be well to let Bombay (and perhaps also London) know that there is no cause for alarm. If the "so-called foresters" come back to Mandalay, they will get a warm welcome from Andreino, who is quite prepared to exert himself to the utmost of his power to get all the men punished. Andreino's ideas are that the Tinedaw would have got his punishment had the Hmaza affair been prominently mentioned in the Chief Commissioner's letter. The King would (so Andreino thinks) have told the Tinedaw to leave the affairs of Europeans alone in the future.

Andreino mentioned that he is still of the opinion he expressed some months ago that the Corporation need not make further payment, that it will not be asked, and as it were forced to make further payments until April next.

I shall be at Thayat on Sunday afternoon, and in Rangoon on Tuesday morning.

IX.

From G. ANDREINO, Esq., to S. G. JONES, Esq.

Mandalay, July 8, 1885.

I HAVE received your letter of 29th ultimo, enclosing two copies of the French Treaty, for which I thank you.

Ningyan Affairs.—I already have told you that the Chief Commissioner's letter was read to His Majesty in presence of all the Ministers.

The Ministers have, I understand had great discussions over it, and are all now trying to throw the blame on one another, since they see how the case is likely to end. The last part of the letter bearing on Mounng Po Zan's Rangoon document seems to have tickled them most. The Tinedah Mingyee now denies ever having given out such a document. But the Myothit Atwin Woon made him clearly to understand that it was no use his trying to deny it, as he himself had seen it when down in Rangoon. The Tinedah felt rather stumped when he was so flatly made out a liar in presence of the Ministers.

I do not think it is at all likely the Ministers will answer Mr. Bernard's letter—and it is not a thing which I would care to press them to do—as it really does not call for one further than an acknowledgment. Unless they do so after the Commission returns to Mandalay, now that the case has taken such a favourable turn, there is little chance of the Burmese Government snubbing Mr. Bernard for the letters he has already written.

Tramways.—I have received a letter from Mr. Kennedy, informing me that they (the I. F. Co.) have no idea for going in for anything of the kind in Mandalay, and am therefore now in a position to act as I like regarding this new enterprise. Should you entertain any idea as to them, this would be a good time to put them in force.

X.

TRANSLATION of DOCUMENT sent by 342 FORESTERS to the HLOOT.

WE, the undersigned Thitgoungs, worked for the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, from 1247 (should be 1245), 1246, and 1247, having mortgaged our buffaloes and elephants to the said Corporation, advances were received by us for the purpose of working out timber, and we delivered the same at the Thittagas in the Pongloun river, where the measurement of the logs was taken strictly in the presence of the Corporation's trustworthy man, officials, men, and Thitgoung's men, and particulars of marks are also taken at the time; and after the logs were taken over and in the months of Tasaungmone and Natdaw, the account were settled with us according to rates agreed upon without distinguishing 1st and 2nd contract timber deducting aunging hire, creek charges, &c., to which we all agreed and signed our settlement accounts yearly. The agents of the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, have never settled with us forcibly, neither without our consent. Of the applicants who petitioned in the Hloot that the agents of the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, have not rendered a full account, and this caused a great loss to us, were Laimah Myooke, Nga Shwe Mounng, Nga Kya Myo, Nga Sa, and Nga of Wahuwaegone village and Ayleah Myothugyi. They were not foresters working on advances, and Ngo Po, Nga Man, and Nga San were foresters who received advances and never worked properly, and

were dismissed on account of heavy debt; and as for Laimah Myothugyi Nga Poke, he is not a forester working timber, neither did he appoint Nga Po Goung, nor is he the son of Laimah Myothugyi Nga Poke.

These people who have joined with Thitkyeit Woon and Sitkai, and who were never foresters, and whose petition to the Hloot was unjustly made.

Therefore, we, the Thitgoungs, great and small, hereby certify and sign our names that the petition was made neither at our request or without our knowledge.

XI.

From S. G. JONES, Esq., to C. E. BERNARD, Esq.

Dated Bombay, August 15, 1885.

I SEND you copy of what is likely to interest you in our letter just received from Mandalay. From this I make out that the French doings with regard to our interests are far more potent for evil than I gathered from the telegram. To say that they would take, if cancelled, is a very different and less important action than saying to such a lot as the Mandalay Ministers, we will take if you are able to find a plea to cancel.

From G. ANDREINO, Esq., to BOMBAY-BURMA TRADING CORPORATION, LIMITED, Rangoon.

Dated Mandalay, August 9, 1885.

WE are in receipt of your interesting letter of 30th ultimo, and have read with care all it contained.

Our Ningyan Affairs.—When the Commission returned from Rangoon with the account of the timber we were repeatedly told by nearly all the Ministers that we need not fear that our case was sure to end satisfactorily. Since then it appears the Pouk Myine Atwin Woon ^{is} ~~was~~ dissatisfied with the turn matters were seemingly taking, and has been doing all he knows to try and find flaws in the accounts of timber. He says there are 50,000 old logs which have come out under the shorts contract, and which ought to have been in the so-much-per-log contract, and that all the account the Forest Department took of the timber was just Hlawzars and Doogies, and consequently no logs under the shorts contract have ever been worked by us.

This, however, is only the view the Pouk Myine takes of the matter. There is to be another meeting to-day, and we hope before closing time to give you the gist of what transpires.

We have all along been at a loss to know when the Pouk Myine should so persistently try to find flaws in the account, until the other day we found out that the French Resident, on the 3rd of this month, wrote to the Burmese Government, saying that should they be able to find a plea to cancel the Corporation's forest leases, they were quite ready to take them up. We telegraphed this news to you on 7th instant.

We will try to get a copy of the letter. Should we not succeed, we may, however, get a reading of it.

You will, of course, at once perceive the effect this letter of Mr. Haas will have on the Burmese. It will entirely banish the fear of having the forests left on their hands, should they take them from us, which fear they have all along felt.

When Mr. Du Pina (the French Secretary) was in Rangoon he received three letters from Mr. D'Avera, one for the King, one for the Tinedah, and one for the Kinwoon Minghee. Du Pina went personally to deliver these letters, but the Tinedah refused to receive them.

Extract of Letter to Mr. Symes, which you kindly sent us. We cannot say who can have sent this, unless Mr. Augustine or some other party here, who wishes to know what the powers in Rangoon think of the matter.

Specie.—Chindwin people are urgently in want of funds. We expected the No. 1 launch would have been at Koonvua ere this, and intended sending Rs. 40,000 by her, in charge of Mr. Watson, to Ablone. Yesterday we had a letter from Ablone, requesting us to send Rs. 45,000 by Monday's steamer. This we are sending in charge of Mr. Watson, who will hand it over to Mr. Allen at Koonvua. We do not consider it safe leaving such a sum in charge of Esoof, should Mr. Allen not have arrived at Koonvua.

Please let us know by telegram when the Sternwheeler will be at Kooniyuah, that we may have the balance (Rs. 35,000) collected, and who will accompany the money to Ablone.

We presume No. I is not coming now.

Boat Hulls.—Yesterday we received your telegram about these. We also had a letter from Winsor on the same subject. We cannot understand how Mr. Winsor makes out that to do this work would take the labour of 20 elephants for a month. As we are informed by his clerk Ookyee, who is here at present, that the hulls are only about one day's dragging from the floating creek; and after the hulls are once there, elephant labour is unnecessary, as they will float out with the assistance of a few men.

If such expenses must be incurred as Mr. Winsor states, it might be as well to refuse the work; but after further examination, and should the work be found comparatively easy, we would recommend to do it at once if possible.

Arms.—The pass Mr. Glending had is sufficient for Mr. Andreino. At Minhla there is no difficulty; our man has a pass there to cover all our arms and ammunition.

Our letters must appear to you rather vacillating, but we only give you what really happens from day to day. Mr. Andreino has not been very well for the last few days, but we are glad to say is slightly improved now.

XII.

(DEMI-OFFICIAL.)

From S. G. JONES, Esq., to C. E. BERNARD, Esq., C.S.I.

Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited,
August 17, 1885.

It has not taken the Ministers long to make up their mind since the French petition of the 3rd instant, as the enclosed copy of letter just received will inform you. The telegrams of the 11th and 12th referred to only arrived this morning.

From Mr. ANDREINO to the BOMBAY-BURMA TRADING CORPORATION, LIMITED, Rangoon.

Mandalay, August 12, 1885.

We wired you yesterday and to-day as per copies enclosed informing you of the Minister's decision regarding the Ningyan affairs. After we had all along repeatedly received assurance from the principal Ministers that in this affair the Corporation had nothing to fear—no injustice would be permitted—we were summoned yesterday to appear. All the Ministers, Minghees Atwinwoons, and Woondouks were present; after four hours' discussion regarding the rights acquired by the Corporation under the several leases, we separated without having come to any decision; we left however with the clear impression that the Ministers were carrying on the business with a settled purpose, and that they were not free agent, but acting under pressure of their master. No arguments were neglected—those suggested by you and our own—to prove the integrity of the Corporation in dealing with everybody concerned. This morning again we pleaded anew that, according to declaration of Mr. Popert, at the foot of the Forest Department records was clearly stated that the accounts could not be taken as correct both for the quality and quantity of logs, but that the timber were taken delivery from the Burmese official appointed by the Government, and that in 1246 the Moodah Woondouk's accounts clearly show the logs delivered in the so-much-per-log lease and under the shorts contract lease. All these and other arguments were entirely disregarded, and they maintained that, as the Forest Department records show doogies, loozars, and yakthits, that the doogies and loozars are included in the lease of 1242, the yahthits in the shorts contract. They bring forward the argument that, as there being some yahthits mentioned in the Forest records, which class of timber are included in the shorts contract being worked out, they would have been recorded; they fix their argument on the 300 yahthits shown in the record, and came to the conclusion that the difference of 56,702 logs under the denomination of doogies and loozars were fraudently taken away by the Corporation. They have to-day passed a decree for the value of the above-mentioned logs, amounting according to their reckoning to about 10 lakhs

of rupees; the Ningyan lease to be cancelled and the claims of the foresters to be settled separately.

The boldness of the Burmese to issue such a decree and so suddenly clearly shows the French having had a hand in it, and also the report having been spread that the British Government will not take any steps to protect the Corporation's interest, may also have had some influence with the intention to see how far they can go against the interest of the British merchants with impunity.

We have asked for a copy of the decree, but we were refused on the plea that it was to be submitted for the King's approval.

XIII.

(DEMI-OFFICIAL.)

From S. G. JONES, Esq., to G. D. BURGESS, Esq.

Ningyan Forest Leases.

Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited,
August 20, 1885.

We asked our friends at home if they considered it advisable that we should serve Haas with some formal notice. They say with reference to your telegram give formal notice to Haas, in the event of leases cancelled, Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited; will resist others working; also will seize logs arriving British frontier until lease terminates normally. Wallace Bros. through the English Government wired to the French Government.

No doubt this will interest the Chief. Will you kindly let him have it when you next write.

XIV.

From the SOLICITORS FOR THE BOMBAY-BURMA TRADING CORPORATION, LIMITED, to
HAAS, Esq., Consul of the French Republic, Mandalay.

Rangoon, August 20, 1885.

IN consequence of certain communications having been addressed to His Majesty the King of Burma or to his Ministers in reference to certain forests in Burma, leased by the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, we have been instructed to address you.

Our clients are the lessees from His Majesty the King of Burma of the Toungoo, Yametheins, Thitkyatgyee Nethe, Ko Yova forests, otherwise called or known as the Ningyan Thitkyatgyee forests.

Our clients have accordingly through their London agents caused a communication to be made through the English Government to your (the French) Government, to the effect that they will be prepared to resist any one else working the said forests until their leases expire by effluxion of time.

If any attempts should be made by any one to interfere with our clients' privileges, the necessary steps will be taken to stop and seize any timber arriving on the British frontier and to institute legal proceedings.

It is rumoured that you have made some application to the Burmese Government in regard to these forests, and the French Government has been informed through our clients' London agents.

We are, therefore, instructed to give you notice that our clients will hold you or whoever may interfere with their rights and privileges in the forests in question responsible for all losses, damages, and expenses they may suffer or incur in consequence of any such interference.

We must further express our surprise at your action in the matter as you are French Consul at Mandalay and our clients are British subjects, and we, therefore, have lost no time in informing you of the steps taken by our clients, and of the course they are prepared to adopt if the necessity should arise.

XV.

From S. G. JONES, Esq., to C. E. BERNARD, Esq., C.S.I.

Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited,
August 21, 1885.

HEREWITH copies of our last advices from Mandalay. The decision the Ministers have come to is surely a great piece of cheek. After bothering you to give them returns, they utterly and entirely disregard all you say about these returns in your letter, and also your Forest Officer's foot-note at the bottom of the statement they took from here. I do not think you saw that foot-note, and therefore send you a copy.

The explanation of only 300 and odd yathits being named in the Forest Office Returns is very simple. The returns are a file of duplicate passes given to each raft gaung as he leaves Toungoo. In cases of drift timber the passes are made out from the drift depôt from which they start. At these stations there are so few logs to take note of that they classify them very carefully, and the 300 and odd yathits named in these drift passes are all according to their proposals that we are to get for our two lakhs paid for "shorts contract."

It is an interesting fact, and one I think I did tell you; but in going into the figures consequent on these disputes we discovered it. That the two lakhs paid for the actual timber brought out under the "shorts contract" makes the average cost per log during the two years exactly the same as the average cost per log of our good timber brought out under the old variable duty lease.

We have not yet been able to discover how they have arrived at their figures; all that is abundantly clear is that they have included 18,728 logs neaped in Toungoo at the end of the season 1881, and included in the Forest Officer's returns for 1882; and also that they have entirely ignored Popert's foot-note.

COPY of Mr. POPERT'S (Conservator of Forests) Note appended to the Copies of the Forest Department Records.

I CERTIFY that the above is a correct copy of the Forest Office Registers, but the figures taken by themselves are misleading as indicating the number of logs got out by the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, from the Ningyan forest during any given year; because all the logs worked out during one year do not necessarily come into our books during the same year, as many are neaped at the end of the floating season, and we only register the despatches from Toungoo. Of my own knowledge I can certify that a very large number of logs were neaped at the end of the floating season 1881-82, and only came in our books in 1882-83.

The registers of the logs despatched are made out in two classes, viz., doogies and loozars.

These classes are not accurate; the logs are never measured, nor is any notice taken of the quality of the timber.

The logs, which in these statements are called "drift," have already appeared in the despatches of some previous year, and the number of the drift must therefore be deducted from the total number of logs shown in these statements.

From G. ANDREINO, Esq., Agent to the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited,
to the BOMBAY-BURMA TRADING CORPORATION, Limited, Rangoon.

Mandalay, August 13, 1885.

YESTERDAY we have written to you all what has been done at the Palace; the decree passed by the Ministers was discussed last night before the King; the conclusion was that by cancelling the Ningyan lease the risk they were running would be too great, and it was agreed to cancel the clause, but to insist on the fine. The King we are told of having said that the more they ask the more they would get, and that at least four to five lakhs we would ultimately be compelled to pay; should we refuse that there would be ample time to cancel the leases and to seize the timber. According to their own ideas what strengthens the case in their favour are the 300 and odd yathits, which class of timber admit to be under the shorts contract are shown in the Forest Department records, and say that no one reasonably would admit that had we worked any other

timber under that lease would not also be registered, and therefore all doogies and loozars ought to be included in lease of 1242, and taken away fraudulently either on the quiet or wrongful convenience with their officials.

The above information has not been communicated to us officially yet, but we have heard it from very reliable source, and have therefore telegraphed to you as per copy enclosed.

From G. ANDREINO, Esq., Agent to Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited,
to the BOMBAY-BURMA TRADING CORPORATION, Limited, Rangoon.

(Private.)

Mandalay, August 15, 1885.

WE are in receipt of Mr. Jones' letter of 6th instant, for which thanks.

Mingyan affairs.—Since writing you on 13th nothing further has eked out.

The leases are not cancelled, and are not likely to be, but the money settlement is still pending.

What amount of money will be required cannot yet say, but you may prepare yourselves to meet a pretty large sum.

The Forest Department account, together with the French Consul's application, brought the matter to a sudden crisis.

What the Ministers here say is this. The fact of the Forest Office record showing 300 odd yathits points out that these 300 odd logs are all which we have worked out under the shorts contract—therefore, the difference in the account taken from the Forest Office records and their own accounts is made up of doogies and loozars, which we have called shorts, and are three cubits, and which ought really to belong to the so-much-per-log contract.

Had the Forest Office not mentioned yathits we might have got out somehow.

In all probability they will forward a copy of the decree to the Chief Commissioner when they ask us for money. Should they do this, and Mr. Bernard seems in the least to acknowledge their claim, we are of course done for.

Dated Mandalay, the 16th August 1885.

From G. ANDREINO, Esq., Agent to Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, to
S. G. JONES, Esq., Rangoon.

SINCE writing our official—*Mingyan affairs*—We have not been able to get a copy of the decision come to by the Ministers, and approved of by the King, but we have had a reading of it.

The substance of which is as follows:—"That the Forest Office records clearly show 56,702 logs under the heads of doogies and loozars worked out by us during the three years 1844, 1845, and 1846, upon which logs, according to the palace settlement of accounts, we have not paid duty; that for these logs we are to be charged at the highest rate specified in the lease of 1242, also a fine of an equal sum per log."

This means of course that we must pay over 20 lakhs of rupees. The lease is not now to be cancelled, although that was their first decision.

We do not know yet what steps they will take to execute their decision, but we see only two ways which they are likely to adopt. One is to send a copy of their decision to the Chief Commissioner for his answer. In which case, should Mr. Bernard show the least signs of weakness or want of decision, they will at once make use of his apparent weakness to make good their claim. The other way is: they will serve us the decision, and give us time to allow an answer from Rangoon. Should the reply be too long in coming, or not to their satisfaction when it does, they will stop all our timber from going down, also the working in the forest.

We do not now see that any proposal from us to try and compromise the matter would be likely to do any good. On the contrary we think whatever we say would be utterly disregarded, and our arguments would only weaken our position and strengthen theirs.

It now appears to us that the only way to try and get over the difficulty is to put the matter in the hands of the British Government, who surely would not like to see the Corporation ruined, and permit the Burmese to be guided by the French.

If steps are likely to be taken, there must be no time lost in doing so before the matter is carried further, and we would strongly impress on you that whatever steps ^{may} _{are} to be taken must be done with decision—determination. Half measures will only be ridiculed by the Burmese Government.

The Burmese Government have not money enough just now for their daily expenses, and will use any means to obtain it so long as they think they can do so with impunity.

XVI.

JUDGMENT.

In the case respecting timber between the Toungoo resident thitgaungs, Kyauk-maw Myozaye, Nga Po, Lèma Myook, Nga Shwe Maung, Lèma* Myothugyi, Nga Pòk and Nga Kya Myo, Wannigon* Myothugyi's agent, Nga Sa, Ela* Myothugyi's agents, Nga Hnin, Nga Taw, Nga Min, and their fellow thitgaungs on the one part, and the English merchants Bombay Burma Company, Bryce, Maxwell, and Agent Andreino on the other.

Nga Po, Nga Shwe Maung, Nga Pòk, and the other thitgaungs state that they worked as thitgaungs in the Thitkyeiky forests in the Toungoo Yamèthin district and handed over to the agents of the Bombay Burma Company, Bryce and Maxwell—

	Logs.
In 1245 B. E. - - - - -	42,233
In 1246 B. E. - - - - -	47,567
Total - - - - -	89,800

The agents of the company did not submit complete lists nor completely settle accounts but submitted lists and settled accounts for—

18,259 logs in 1245 B. E. and
13,869 logs in 1246 B. E.

Total - - - 32,128 logs only.

The chief and subordinate thitgaungs state that they are sufferers and submit lists. The Bombay Burma Company, Bryce and Maxwell, Agent Andreino, on being questioned state that for the two years 1245 and 1246 the Bombay Burma Company's agents settled each year's accounts for the timber mentioned in the *thitshekunshin* contract (contract for long or full-sized logs of timber under a fluctuating rate of revenue) other than the timber mentioned in the *thittokunthe* contract (contract for short or undersized logs of timber under fixed rate of revenue) and that no timber was received or taken out in excess of that submitted to the Revenue Court.

Taking into consideration the likelihood that if the items submitted by each party were to be gone into and cleared up (in Court in detail) it would occupy a long and protracted period, and that the chief and subordinate thitgaungs would suffer by having to incur further expenses, and in view of clearly ascertaining facts and deciding the case with justice, the Chief Commissioner of British Burma was asked to allow those who were sent down in conjunction by both parties, to take copies of the statements of timber floated down and arriving at the Toungoo forest office during the years 1244, 1245, and 1246, i.e., from the year when the company first worked under contract.

Copies of the statements recorded in the forest office were taken in English and Burmese, and authenticated with the forest office seal, and these showed that during the three years 1244, 1245, and 1246 there were 2,430 rafts of timber floated down which comprised—

Forest accounts—
109,669 logs,
4,388 drift,

114,057 logs,

including 18,728 neaped from
1881.

93,791 *du* logs.
20,021 *hlwa* logs.
321 *yat* logs.

Total - 114,133 logs.

The lists submitted by the Bombay Burma Company's agents once a year, under which they settled accounts, showed—

23,391 *du* logs in 1244.
18,423 ditto 1245.
14,364 ditto 1246.

Total - 56,178 logs.

44,008 *du* logs.
12,170 *hlwa* logs.

56,178 logs only.

Paid.
Principal lease—
Our account - Logs.
Ditto - 22,911
Ditto - 18,424
Ditto - 14,366

55,701

Short lease—
4,164
14,792
13,705

32,661

New (fixed) lease—
19,174

Total - 1,07,536

Comparing the two statements, there is a difference shown during the three years of—

49,783 *du* logs.
7,851 *hlwa* logs.
321 *yat* logs.

Total - 57,958 logs.

On examining the agents of the Bombay Burma Company as to this difference, they state that after the first contract had been entered into in 1243 B.E., a second contract was entered into which provided for the payment of a *kunthe* revenue (a fixed rate of revenue), viz., one lakh a year for *pè* logs (rejected logs) excluded from the first contract and for *pinyin ngokyan* logs (undersized logs) which were under three cubits in girth and 12 cubits in length; that the logs taken out under this second contract have been mixed up with the others and have occasioned this difference; that although they are termed *hlwa* logs in the statements of which copies were taken, *thitto* (short) logs of great girth alone are called *hlwa* logs, and that therefore a large number of the logs taken out under the second contract would properly be included under that term (*hlwa*).

On further examining the thitgaungs they state that the forest office records show only three kinds of timber, namely, *du*, *hlwa*, and *yat* logs; that those records contained no *thitto* logs for this reason, namely, that although provision was made in the second contract for the taking out (by the company) of *thitto* logs, yet that no *thitto* timber or timber under 12 cubits in length had been felled or worked out, and that only logs which should have been properly included in the first contract had been fraudulently taken out as coming under the second contract; that it was in consequence of this that the forest office records which showed correctly the number of logs of timber arriving in rafts showed no statement of *thitto* (short) logs. On taking into consideration the complaint, reply, and the examination of both parties, the matter is one connected with a concession made by Government (to the public) according to the rules and customs of the State, and it concerns an industry which may be productive of either benefit or loss to the locality and State, to thitgaungs, and merchants. It should therefore be decided solely on the basis of the first, second, and third contracts under which the forests were worked, and upon the statements from the Toungoo forest office authenticated by seal.

The *du* and *hlwa* logs contained in the forest office statements should not be connected, included, or mixed up with the kind of timber mentioned in the second contract namely, *thitto* logs and *yat* logs; they should be included amongst the logs felled and worked out under the first contract. Accordingly deducting from the 114,133 logs contained in the forest office statements, the following, namely, 1,457 logs with John Darwood's name, 321 *yat* logs which should properly be included (amongst the timber worked out) under the second contract, as also 56,178 logs accounted for by the company's agents during the three years, or 57,956 in all, the remainder namely,—

48,326 *du* logs.
7,851 *hlwa* logs.

Total - 56,177

is clearly ascertained to be what the Bombay Burma Company, Bryce and Maxwell's agents, have taken out in excess.

Let the thitgaungs therefore submit statements of accounts of expenses, &c., upon the excess 56,177 logs, and of whatever balance may be due to them, and let the same after examination be fully paid by the Bombay Burma Company, Bryce and Maxwell's agents.

Respecting the working and exports of timber by the Bombay Burma Company, Bryce and Maxwell's agents, the thitgaungs will file a suit against the company's agents for money due for expenses, and this will be inquired into and examined and settled. It has been clearly ascertained that in breach of the provisions of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd contracts 48,326 *du* logs, 7,851 *hlwa* logs, or 56,177 logs in all, were taken out during the years 1244, 45, and 46 in excess, fraudulently, without payment of revenue.

Duty on Royal timber,
48,326 doogies,
7,851 loozars,
if full sized and faultless,
Doogies at Rs. 22,
Rs. 10,63,172.
Loozars at Rs. 11,
Rs. 86,361

Total, Rs. 11,49,533

Excess logs so taken out, whether personal property or *pan thit* (?) logs should according to the rules of the State be confiscated to the King. Accordingly let the 48,326 *du* logs and 7,851 *hlwa* logs, or 56,177 logs in all, be calculated according to the "Royal" logs of good quality as mentioned in the first contract, and by way of penalty for fraudulently taking out the same let the Bombay Burma Company, Bryce and Maxwell's agents, pay double the amount of revenue thereon.



Judgment delivered on the 2nd waxing
Wagaung 1247 (August 12th, 1885)
by three Wungyis, five Atwin Wuns,
two Woondauks, and two other Ministers
in Council.

Enclosure 8 in No. 117.

From E. S. SYMES, Esq., C.S., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, to the
SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Foreign Department.

Rangoon, August 31, 1885.

I AM directed to submit a copy of a letter which has been addressed to the Foreign Minister at Mandalay on the subject of the claim which has been made by the Ava Government upon the Bombay Burma Trading Corporation, Limited. One copy of this letter was forwarded by post in the usual manner to Mandalay, and a duplicate was delivered to the King's Commercial Agent in Rangoon, with the request that he would forward it to his Government without delay.

2. By your telegram of the 25th instant, the Chief Commissioner was directed to forward the fullest information procurable on the subject of the dispute regarding the Burma forests. I am accordingly now to submit a statement prepared by Mr. S. G. Jones, the manager in Rangoon of the business of the Corporation, giving an outline of the dealings of the Corporation with the Ava Government from the establishment of the firm in 1867, and an account, from the Corporation's point of view, of the present dispute.

3. It will be seen that within the past few years the Corporation have been working the Ningyan forests under three separate contracts—

First.—The contract of 1880, by which the Corporation undertook to pay the King for all timber extracted from the forests at fixed rates per log.

Second.—The contract of 1882, by which the Corporation undertook to pay a lump sum of one lakh annually for the right to extract the inferior and undersized timber (*i.e.*, unsound timber and timber under 4½ feet in girth and 18 feet in length), which they were entitled to reject under the lease of 1881.

Third.—The contract of 1883, by which the Corporation undertook to pay a lump sum of 3½ lakhs annually from October 1884 for all superior timber, and one lakh annually for all inferior timber extracted from the forests.

It is in respect of the timber extracted during the past three years under these three contracts that the present disputes have arisen. Copies of the contracts will be found among the annexures to Mr. Jones' statement.

4. The present dispute was first brought to the Chief Commissioner's notice on the 20th April last, by a letter from Mr. Jones, in which he represented that the working of the forests was being seriously impeded by the action of certain officials who were concocting a false charge against the Corporation of having bribed the Governor of Ningyan to connive at their depriving the King of his just revenue, and were endeavouring to persuade the foresters employed by the Corporation to go up to Mandalay and give false evidence in the matter. Mr. Jones described the condition of affairs as serious, and asked the Chief Commissioner to write to the Ava Government on the subject.

Accordingly, on the 23rd April, the Chief Commissioner addressed the Foreign Minister, expressing a hope that the Ava Government would inquire into the matter and issue suitable orders.

On the 17th May the Foreign Minister replied. After denying that the working of the forests had been interfered with, he went on to say that the Corporation's foresters had complained that between April 1883 and April 1885 they had worked out for the Corporation 80,000 logs, but had been paid for 32,000 only. He explained that the simplest way to decide the matter would be to obtain at Toungoo and Shwegyin an account of all timber floated out of the Ningyan forests between April 1882 and April 1885; he stated that he had accordingly sent down two men, representing respectively the foresters and the Corporation, to obtain such an account; and he asked the Chief Commissioner to assist the men in obtaining the information required.

5. Accordingly, with the concurrence of the Corporation, the Conservator of Forests was instructed to give every facility to the persons sent down from Mandalay in obtaining this information, while at the same time the Corporation were invited to make any further remarks on the case. Mr. Jones communicated his views on the matter in letters, copies of which have already been submitted and on the 17th June the Chief Commissioner again addressed the Foreign Minister on the subject.

He informed the Ava Government that he was assured by the Corporation that all their foresters had been paid in full; that acquittances had been obtained from them, and could be submitted if required, and that, of the alleged signatories to the petition of complaint, some were not in the service of the Corporation at all, while others denied that they had signed the complaint. Further, that as regards the duty payable to the Ava Government, the Corporation were prepared to show that they had paid in full all that was due from them. It was explained that the apparent discrepancy between the number of logs extracted and the number paid for by the log might be in great measure due to a large number of logs having been extracted under the lump-sum contracts of 1882 and 1883, and it was shown that for various reasons, which were explained, the Toungoo records were in no way to be depended upon as showing the size and quality of logs, or what logs were extracted by the Corporation under what contracts.

6. To this letter no reply has been received, but it has been ascertained from the Corporation that the case has been decided against them by the Ministers, and that a judgment has been issued by which the Corporation are ordered to pay, in respect of the excess logs said to have been extracted during the past three years, to the Ava Government, by way of duty and fine, sums aggregating about 23 lakhs of rupees; and to the foresters sums aggregating about 5 lakhs of rupees.

7. A translation of this judgment, with a few marginal notes by Mr. Jones, is herewith submitted. It will be seen that the Ministers have ignored the records maintained by their own officials at Ningyan, and have based their finding entirely upon the figures obtained from the British Forest Office at Toungoo. They have ignored altogether the lump-sum contract of 1883, and have practically ignored the lump-sum contract of 1882. They have taken no notice of the Chief Commissioner's explanation that the rough classification of the logs maintained at Toungoo is misleading, and they have proceeded on the assumption that all logs shown at Toungoo as dugyis and hlwazas* were really full-sized logs of the descriptions named, which should have been paid for by the log under the contract of 1880. By this means they have arrived at the conclusion that during the past three years the Corporation have extracted 48,326 dugyis and 7,851 hlwazas in excess of those paid for. And they have ordered the Corporation

* Terms which are strictly speaking applicable only to logs of not less than 4½ feet in circumference, and of 30 feet or 18 feet respectively in length.

to pay for the whole of these logs double duty at "Royal rates." This means, so the Corporation explains, double the rates which were paid at the time the timber was extracted by officials of the Ava Government and delivered to the Corporation on the river; or in other words, about four times the rates which the Corporation are required to pay, by the contract of 1880, for timber extracted by their own foresters.

8. On the question whether any money is really due from the Corporation to their foresters or to the Ava Government in respect of logs extracted in excess of those paid for, the Chief Commissioner is not in a position to offer an opinion. The matter is one which could hardly be decided without a full and careful inquiry at Ningyan and Toungoo. But it is clear that the decree is based on insufficient information and inaccurate data, and there can apparently be no doubt but that the sum now demanded is very greatly in excess of what can, under any circumstances, be really due, or of what the Corporation can possibly pay.

9. It will be observed that the Corporation are of opinion that the Ava Government have been encouraged to make the present demand by a letter from the French Consul at Mandalay, in which he is said to have offered to take up the contracts for the Ningyan forests in case the contracts with the Corporation are cancelled. Under these circumstances the London agents of the firm have addressed a formal notice to the French Government to the effect that in the event of interference with their rights in the Ningyan forests, the Corporation intend, on the arrival of the logs in British Burma, to employ the usual legal remedies for the protection of their interests.

10. The Chief Commissioner, having been informed that the Government of Ava are pressing the Corporation for a guarantee that the amount demanded will be duly paid, and threatening to take immediate steps to enforce payment if the guarantee is not given, has informed the Foreign Minister by telegram of the despatch of my letter of the 28th August to his address on the subject.

Enclosure 9 in No. 117.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burma, to the MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS at Mandalay.

Dated August 28, 1885.

In previous letters the Chief Commissioner commended to the consideration of your Excellency's Government the case of the Bombay-Burma Corporation, who have for many years held forest leases in His Majesty the King's territories, but whose business had recently been obstructed by officers of your Government at Ningyan. The Chief Commissioner asked your Excellency to be so good as to see that justice was done to the Corporation, and furnished you with such information as British Forest records could supply regarding the matter in which your Government found fault with the Corporation.

2. In former years His Majesty the King's Government have treated with fairness and consideration this Corporation, whose large timber business conduces to the prosperity of both countries. It has now been ascertained that your Excellency's Government have delivered to the Bombay-Burma Corporation an order directing them to pay a sum of over 20 lakhs of rupees in respect of their Ningyan forest leases. The Corporation plead that, under no construction of the leases held from your Government or of their proceedings, can any sum of this kind be justly due from them; they are not able to pay this enormous fine, and they fear that their forest leases and their property now in the forests may be taken from them and transferred to others.

3. These matters have been reported to the Governor-General of India and to Her Majesty's Government in England. The British Government are concerned to secure that British subjects in the position of the Bombay-Burma Corporation shall have a fair and proper hearing, and shall not be ruined by the sudden cancelment of engagements, or by the imposition of an enormous fine. Under these circumstances the Chief Commissioner has been authorised to intimate to your Excellency's Government that the British Government cannot acquiesce in either the summary cancelment of the leases to the Corporation or in the summary infliction of an enormous fine, such as would ruin any trading company of the kind. The British Government trust that the Corporation have acted honestly by your Excellency's Government; and the Corporation court full inquiry, while they are ready to pay any extra forest duties that may fairly be due from them.

4. The Chief Commissioner is authorised to express the hope of the British Government that your Excellency's Government, in recognition of the friendly relations between the two Governments, and of the important trade interests between the two

countries, will see fit to suspend the realization of the decree against the Corporation, and not to order the cancelment of the Corporation's leases, until the matters of account in dispute between your Forest Department and the Corporation shall have been fully investigated and adjusted. If His Majesty the King's Government should be willing to abide by the decision of an arbitrator in the matter, his Excellency the Viceroy would be ready to appoint an officer of judicial experience to investigate the facts at Ningyan and Toungoo; to hear the statements of His Majesty the King's forest officers and the answers of the Corporation, and then to arbitrate on the points in dispute.

5. I would ask your Excellency to favour the Chief Commissioner with a very early reply on these three points, namely—

- (1.) Whether, in deference to the request of the British Government, your Excellency's Government will, for the present, suspend the decree against the Bombay-Burma Corporation;
- (2.) Whether your Excellency's Government would be willing to let the matters in dispute between your Forest Department and the Corporation go before an arbitrator to be appointed by his Excellency the Viceroy;
- (3.) Whether, in the event of your accepting the proposal for appointing an arbitrator, your Excellency's Government agree to abide by the arbitrator's decision on the questions in dispute.

Enclosure 10 in No. 117.

From E. S. SYMES, Esq., C.S., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of British Burma, to H. M. DURAND, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

Rangoon, September 8, 1885.

WITH reference to paragraph 10 of my letter, dated the 31st ultimo, I am directed to submit a copy of the telegrams cited in the margin. The telegrams from Mr. Andreino to the Corporation in Rangoon were apparently suppressed in the Mandalay Office. Post copies were received by the Corporation on the 29th August.

Telegrams from Mr. G. Andreino, Agent to the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, in Mandalay, to the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, Rangoon, dated 21st, 23rd, and 24th August.

Telegram from the Chief Commissioner to the Foreign Minister, Mandalay, dated 31st August.

2. I am also to submit a translation of an order which has been addressed to the Mandalay agent of the Corporation by the minister in charge of the Revenue Department, requiring payment of a sum of Rs. 23,59,066 to the Ava Government in pursuance of the judgment recently delivered. The Corporation are directed to pay the above amount in four equal monthly instalments, failing which their timber in the Ningyan forests is to be confiscated to the extent of the default. The order is dated 23rd August, and was received in Rangoon on the 3rd September. It will be observed that through an obvious blunder in addition the amount which the Corporation are thus called upon to pay exceeds the amount actually decreed in the judgment by Rs. 60,000.

Enclosures.

1.

TELEGRAM, dated August 21, 1885.

From MR. G. ANDREINO, Agent of the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation in Mandalay, to the BOMBAY-BURMA TRADING CORPORATION in Rangoon.

THE Pauk-myin-Atwin Wun summoned G. Andreino to-day, pressing G. Andreino give document as Agent of the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, accepting decree, and state time when money will be paid. G. Andreino refused give any document, and the Pauk-myin Atwin Wun finally granted one day for G. Andreino's final answer; says will make G. Andreino responsible; he being considered responsible for Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited. G. Andreino, in the absence of instructions from you intends to refuse give any answer. Matter is very serious. We are expecting anxiously answer to our telegrams and information your and the Chief Commissioner of British Burma's intentions.

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2.

TELEGRAM, dated August 23, 1885.

From Mr. G. ANDREINO, Agent of the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation in Mandalay,
to the BOMBAY-BURMA TRADING CORPORATION, Rangoon.

THE Pauk-myin-Atwin Wun insists G. Andreino responsible Agent, and refuses allow time to communicate with Rangoon; says will act according to Burmese custom, which means stop work, confiscate everything. We confirm our telegram of 21st August. Matters most serious unless Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation get immediate strongest possible assistance from the Chief Commissioner.

3.

TELEGRAM, dated August 24, 1885.

From Mr. G. ANDREINO, Agent of the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation in Mandalay,
to the BOMBAY-BURMA TRADING CORPORATION.

ALL our arguments exhausted; useless reasoning further with the King of Burma. We confirm our telegram of 23rd August. Unless the British Government protect us strongly immediately everything is lost. Telegraph what you are doing. Telegraph intentions of the Chief Commissioner.

4.

TELEGRAM, dated August 31, 1885.

From the CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF BRITISH BURMA to HIS EXCELLENCY THE MINISTER FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, Mandalay.

Under orders from the Viceroy and Her Majesty's Government in England, I have sent letter to your Excellency concerning the affairs of the Bombay-Burma Corporation. I hear that Corporation's agents in His Majesty the King's dominions are being pressed and threatened. I trust your Excellency will suspend pressure against Corporation's agents until your Government has received and considered my letter. If this my advice is disregarded and extreme measures in this matter are taken in a summary way, then serious consequences might arise.

(TRANSLATION.)

Order.

From the PAUK MYAING MYOZA ATWIN WUN, Minister in charge of the Revenue Department,
to the BOMBAY-BURMA COMPANY, BRYCE and MAXWELL, and Agent ANDREINO.

Bombay-Burma Company, Bryce and Maxwell, and Agent Andreino!

"While the Bombay-Burma Company, Bryce and Maxwell's agents, were engaged in working the Thitkyeik-kyi forests in the Toungoo-Yamithin district, the Toungoo *Thitgaungs* sued the Company and agents for money due as charges and expenses for working (out) the timber, and upon examination and inquiry into accounts, it has been clearly discovered that in contravention of the meaning of the first, second, and third contracts there had been exported during the years 1244, 1245, and 1246 in excess, fraudulently and without payment of revenue—

48,326 *du* logs.
7,851 *hlwa* logs.

Total - 56,177 logs.

According to the custom of the State, any timber, whether personal property or *pan thit* timber (?), which is taken out in excess is liable to be confiscated as Royal property. Accordingly let the—

48,326 logs of *du* timber; and
7,851 logs of *hlwa* timber;

total 56,177 logs, be calculated at the rate of good "Royal" timber, as mentioned in the

first contract, and let the Bombay-Burma Company, Bryce and Maxwell and agents, for having exported the same fraudulently and in excess, pay in as penalty twice the amount of revenue due thereon."

According to a judgment of the Royal Hloot, delivered to the above effect, the Bombay-Burma Company, Bryce and Maxwell and agents, shall pay in for the timber exported in excess without payment of revenue twice the amount of revenue for—

	Rs.
48,326 <i>du</i> logs @ 22	- 10,63,172
7,851 <i>hlwa</i> logs @ 11	- 86,361

Total 56,177 logs 1,179,533

i.e., Rs. 23,59,066. The said amount, viz., Rs. 23,59,066, shall be divided into four instalments, the whole of which shall be completely paid in to the Revenue Department within four months from the date of (this) order, viz., one instalment per month. If this order is not duly complied with, and the monthly instalments are not completely paid in, from the month in which payment is not complete will be confiscated to the extent of the balance as may still remain unpaid the girdled, felled, and dragged (or floated) timber in the Thitkyeik kyī forests in the Toungoo-Yamithin district.

Dated 13th Lazan Wagaung 1247.

(August 23, 1885.)

No. 118.

SIR T. V. LISTER to MR. GODLEY.

SIR,

Foreign Office, September 23, 1885.

WITH reference to my letter of the 14th inst., I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to forward to you herewith, for the information of Lord Randolph Churchill, copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Paris, reporting a conversation which he had with the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, on the subject of Burmah on the 16th inst., when he explained to M. de Freycinet the views of Her Majesty's Government, in accordance with the instruction sent to him on the 9th of September.

I am to add that the language held by Sir J. Walsham at that interview has been approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

Enclosure in No. 118.

SIR JOHN WALSHAM to the MARQUIS OF SALISBURY.

(Extract.)

September 18, 1885.

I HAVE the honour to state that the day before yesterday I had an opportunity of explaining to M. de Freycinet, Minister for Foreign Affairs, the views of Her Majesty's Government as conveyed to me in your Lordship's Despatch of the 9th instant, upon the subject of Burmah, and the policy which the French Consul at Mandalay was understood to be pursuing.

Before reading to M. de Freycinet your Lordship's Despatch, I reminded his Excellency of your confidential conversation with M. Waddington on the 7th ultimo, the substance of which your Lordship did me the honour of communicating to me in your Despatch of the same date.

I then recapitulated the chief points of that conversation, and pointed out to M. de Freycinet that, as it had not yet elicited any communications from the French Government, your Lordship had instructed me to inform his Excellency that further reports had since been received from authentic sources, which clearly indicated that the French Consul was encouraging by his policy the King of Burmah in a course of action calculated to cause prejudice to his own position as well as to British interests; Her Majesty's Government had, therefore, deemed it necessary again to submit the facts of the case to the French Government, being fully persuaded that the considerations which had guided them, in a matter of such vital importance to England, were fully appreciated, and that the French Government, on now being made acquainted with what was occurring, would at once take steps to obviate the embarrassments which there was so much reason to apprehend.

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After I had finished reading your Lordships instructions, with a copy of which I furnished M. de Freycinet, at his request, his Excellency begged me to express his best thanks to you for the friendly manner in which the views of Her Majesty's Government had been laid before him, and to assure you that the reports recently received from the French Consul would certainly not lead to the supposition that he was acting in any such way as would justify the complaints which were being made against him. M. de Freycinet could not, therefore, but think that possibly there might be some exaggerations in the communications on the subject which had been made to the Viceroy of India.

I said I should be very glad to learn that such was the case, but that I could not conceal from his Excellency my fears, based on correspondence which I had read, that there were unfortunately good grounds for believing in the correctness of the information which had reached Her Majesty's Government.

M. de Freycinet wished me to let your Lordship know that the question would be attentively examined without delay.

No. 119.

The MARQUIS OF SALISBURY to SIR J. WALSHAM.

SIR, Foreign Office, September 23, 1885.
I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatch of the 18th instant, reporting a conversation which you had with the French Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of Burmah on the 16th instant, and I have to convey to you the approval of Her Majesty's Government of the language you held to M. de Freycinet at that interview.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 120.

The MARQUIS OF SALISBURY to SIR J. WALSHAM.

SIR, Foreign Office, September 26, 1885.
THE French Chargé d'Affaires has informed that he is instructed by his Government to say that there is no truth whatever in the report that a convention has been concluded between France and Burmah by which a concession for railways, with interest guaranteed, is secured to a French company, control given to the French Government over the Customs on the Irrawaddy River, and a concession granted for the establishment of a bank at Mandalay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 121.

The MARQUIS OF SALISBURY to SIR J. WALSHAM.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, September 28, 1885.
I SAW M. Waddington to day. His Excellency said that he was specially charged by his Government to speak to me about Burmah.

When I last saw him I had expressed great solicitude about this question, and had feared that the Agreements which were being concluded, or had been concluded, by a French capitalist, with the support of the French Consul, would lead to mischief.

He was now authorised to tell me that the French Government knew absolutely nothing about any such Agreements. They had given no kind of authority for making them, and had, as a fact, no knowledge that they had been made.

If they had been made, it must have been at the instance of some speculative company.

I expressed great satisfaction at this information, for it would have been a matter for deep regret if any difference of opinion had arisen with respect to a matter which could interest France very little, but was regarded as a matter of the gravest importance by the Government of India.

No. 122.

SIR J. WALSHAM to the MARQUIS OF SALISBURY.

Paris, October 1, 1885.
MY LORD, WITH reference to your Lordship's Despatch of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to state that, from unofficial information I have received, there is reason to believe that the Burmese Special Mission has arrived in Paris.

The official journal has not yet announced its arrival, and when I spoke a few days ago to M. de Freycinet, his Excellency told me that nothing in the shape of a notification had been made to him.

I hear, but I do not vouch for the correctness of the report, that the head of the mission declares the sole object of his journey to be the ratification of the commercial treaties which have already been concluded between France and Burmah.

The commercial treaty which was signed at Paris on the 15th January last still awaits the approval of the Senate.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 123.

MR. GODLEY to SIR J. PAUNCEFOTE.

SIR, India Office, October 5, 1885.
I AM directed by Lord R. Churchill to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Lister's letter of the 26th ultimo, intimating that the French Chargé d'Affaires at this Court has, under instructions from his Government, stated that there is "no truth whatever in the report that a Convention has been concluded between France and Burmah," providing for certain concessions for railways, &c., which have formed the subject of recent correspondence.

With regard to this statement, I am to observe that, while satisfactory in itself, it cannot, in Lord R. Churchill's opinion, be accepted as a reply to the representations made on the 16th ultimo to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs by Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Paris, in which no such allegation as that denied was put forward. Upon that occasion, Sir J. Walsham represented, not that a Convention had been concluded between the French and Burmese Governments, but that according to information which had reached Her Majesty's Government, the French Consul at Mandalay, in connexion with certain commercial projects of a French Capitalist, was encouraging by his policy the King of Burmah in a course of action calculated to cause prejudice to his own position as well as to British interests, and that it would not be possible for Her Majesty's Government to permit the King to carry such projects to a practical conclusion.

In these circumstances, it will be for the Marquis of Salisbury to judge whether it is desirable to make any further communication on the subject to the French Government. In any case, Lord R. Churchill is of opinion that Her Majesty's representative at Paris should be instructed to watch closely the proceedings of the Burmese Ambassador who has recently arrived at that capital with the object stated in the marginally noted telegram from the Viceroy of India, communicated to the Foreign Office on the 15th August last.

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. A. GODLEY.

No. 124.

No. 176 of 1885.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HON. LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL, Her Majesty's
Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD,

Simla, October 12, 1885.

WITH reference to our Despatch, No. 163, dated the 21st September 1885, we have the honour to forward, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, a copy of papers regarding the dispute between the Ava Government and the Bombay-Burma Corporation, Limited.

2. No reply has yet been received from the Ava Government to Mr. Bernard's letter of the 28th August last.

We have &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.
" D. M. STEWART.
" T. F. WILSON.
" C. P. ILBERT.
" S. C. BAYLEY.
" T. C. HOPE.
" A. COLVIN.

Enclosure 1 in No. 124.

TELEGRAM, dated September 23, 1885.

FROM CHIEF COMMISSIONER, RANGOON, to FOREIGN, SIMLA.

BOMBAY Corporation Agent, Ava, telegraphs that Minister will probably decline to agree to request made in my letter. Final orders not yet issued. He added that Burmese troops are ordered towards frontier. Nothing certain known yet. Corporation have telegraphed above report home.

Enclosure 2 in No. 124.

TELEGRAM, dated September 24, 1885.

FROM CHIEF COMMISSIONER, RANGOON, to FOREIGN, SIMLA.

FOLLOWING from Bombay Corporation's Agent at Ningyan:—Begins. 21st September. Burmese soldiers insist on stopping rafts, notwithstanding Governor Ningyan's orders. He has no power to enforce his orders. Soldiers have fired at several of our rafts. Raftsmen are frightened at number of them, have been arrested, and put in stocks by soldiers. Message ends. No answer yet received to my letter to Mandalay Government. I solicit authority to telegraph to Mandalay, repeating the Ningyan tidings, reminding them of my letter, and requesting them to prevent outrage on the Corporation's servants by Burmese soldiers.

Enclosure 3 in No. 124.

(Demi-official.)

FROM C. BERNARD, Esq., C.S.I., to H. M. DURAND, Esq., C.S.I.

Dated Rangoon, September 15, 1885.

I HAVE as yet received no reply from the Upper Burma Government to either my telegram or letter concerning the Bombay-Burma Corporation affairs. Both telegram and letter reached. The Agents of the Corporation at Mandalay (who managed to see both telegram and letter almost as soon as they arrived) report that the Ministers have come to no decision and given no sign in the matter. The said Agents appear to expect that the Ava Court will recede from their demand for 23 lakhs, that they will utterly decline all idea of arbitration by a British nominee, and that they will complain that the Bombay-Burma Corporation had failed previously to make matters clear.

It is stated by the Corporation's Agents that the French Consul and another Frenchman offered their services to the Ava Court as arbitrators. But the result of that offer has not transpired.

I do not think the Bombay-Burma Corporation trouble is over yet; but I do not anticipate that it will assume a very acute form for some little time to come. So far no embargo has been placed on the export of the Corporation's timber; and no hand has been laid upon their property or their Agents. The extent of the stake which the Corporation have in their undertaking may be gauged from the fact that they have—

- (1.) Several thousands of employes, of whom perhaps 15 or 20 are Europeans, and 2,000 or so British subjects;
- (2.) 900 elephants;
- (3.) Nearly 10,000 buffaloes;
- (4.) About 150,000 logs of teak in different conditions of preparedness for export.

They have all these employes and all this property in Upper Burma. I suppose the value of their timber and plant is from 50 to 70 lakhs of rupees at least.

There is one other trouble threatening Upper Burma, and that is a complete failure of the crops over a tract stretching from 60 miles above Mandalay down to within 60 miles of our border. I have received from several trustworthy sources, American and Burman, information about the failure of crops and rain over this great tract. I am afraid there is much truth in the report, though I do not think the failure can have been so complete or so extensive as people say. I am sending up an American agriculturist to verify the facts. If there has been failure of crops there will be great trouble and something like famine for a great number of poor creatures in Upper Burma. The King's Government will be in greater trouble than ever for revenue, and trade will suffer greatly.

Up to date the kingdom of Ava has taken more of our rice than ever. The marvel is how the King's subjects manage to pay for all they take. Last week a steamer and two flats that had taken up a quantity of rice, came back almost without any return cargo. Such a thing is very unusual.

Enclosure 4 in No. 124.

FROM MR. G. ANDREINO, Mandalay, to MR. S. G. JONES, Manager, Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Rangoon.

Dated Rangoon, the 6th September 1885.

WE are in receipt of your two letters of 27th ultimo.

Letter to M. Haas.—It is now quite unnecessary to present the letter you sent.

We were informed last evening that M. Haas and M. Bonvillan have offered their services to the Burmese Government in the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited, affairs, and their service has been accepted, and that they have received a power-of-attorney. This news lacks confirmation yet, but hope to obtain it perhaps to-day, in which case we will advise you. We to-day wired you the rumour.

What makes us believe that there must be some truth in this report is that the Chief Commissioner's telegram to the Burmese Government was presented in the morning and late in the evening. M. Haas went to the Mingyi's house, accompanied by his Secretary and interpreter. Of course nothing but some important matters of the kind would have taken M. Haas to the Minister's at such a late hour.

It is now quite public in Mandalay that the French Consul has been meddling in the Corporation's affair, and it is therefore quite unnecessary to be any longer reticent in making use of the information we have, and which we know to be correct beyond doubt.

Should the French Consul be permitted to represent Burmese interests in this affair, after what we know of him it would be incredible that he could be an impartial judge.

Mr. Bernard will perceive that such a step would be a very bad political preliminary, and one which would cause a great deal of annoyance to the British Government hereafter.

We are informed that the day before yesterday M. Haas despatched a long telegram to Paris. It was in cyphers, but the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Limited's name was in plain words.

We have read the copy of Mr. Bernard's letter to you, and believe his advice to be very good. Now that the British Government have taken up the matter our best policy is to work peaceably, avoiding any collision with the local authorities, and keep within the bounds of the law. The Burmese Government, in passing judgment, also hold that, according to the lease of 1242, there is no such thing as rejected timber, although such class of logs are mentioned in the shorts contract.

No. 125.

No. 178 of 1885.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Foreign Department.

To the RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL, Her Majesty's
Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD,

Simla, October 12, 1885.

In continuation of our despatch, No. 143, dated the 14th of August 1885, we have the honour to forward, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, a copy of correspondence regarding the affairs of Upper Burma and the alleged negotiations between the Burmese Government and the French Agents at Mandalay.

We have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.
" D. M. STEWART.
" T. F. WILSON.
" C. P. ILBERT.
" S. C. BAYLEY.
" T. C. HOPE.
" A. COLVIN.

Enclosure 1 in No. 125.

From G. D. BURGESS, Esq., C.S., Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of British Burma,
to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Foreign Department.

Rangoon, August 6, 1885.

I AM directed to submit translation of a letter from the Foreign Minister, Mandalay, reporting that an Ambassador was being sent from Ava to reside permanently at Paris. The Thangyet Wun, the Chief of the Mission, arrived here on the 30th July. He called on the Chief Commissioner on the 1st, and he left for Europe on the night of the 5th current. He was not received with salute or other formalities usually due to an Ambassador; but he was shown such courtesy as the circumstances seem to warrant.

2. The Thangyet Wun is accompanied by five other Burmans, one of whom is to return after a few months. With him also go ten young Burmese lads, who are to be educated in Europe. The Wun did not specify to the Chief Commissioner the special object of his Mission; but, in conversation with others, he said that one matter he hoped to put through at an early date was the concession to a French Company, who are to make a railway from Mandalay to Toungoo.

3. No answer will be sent to the Ava Minister's letter, intimating the despatch of the Ambassador, until instructions on the matter are received from you.

From the MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, Mandalay, to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF
BRITISH BURMA.

July 26, 1885.

THE Burmese and French Governments have entered into a permanent and duly executed Treaty of international friendship for the advancement of their mutual interests. In conformity with the provisions of that Treaty, and by order of His Majesty the King, Wundaukdaw Thangyet Wun "Mingyi Minhla Maha Sithu Gyaw," has been appointed Ambassador Plenipotentiary, and permanently accredited to the Court of France.

The Chief Commissioner is informed, in accordance with the existing friendship; of the fact that Ambassador Wundaukdaw Thangyet Wun, &c., Deputy* Ambassador Saredawgyi "Maha Minhla Kyw Din," and Sub-Ambassador† "Maha Minhla Kyaw Gaung," are being despatched to Paris to take up their residence permanently at the Court of France.

Enclosure 2 in No. 125.

TELEGRAM, dated the 25th September 1885.

From SECRETARY, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, Calcutta, to D. MACKENZIE WALLACE, Esq.,
Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy.

My Committee instruct me to submit to his Excellency, through you, a resolution passed at their meeting this afternoon. Telegrams from Rangoon Chamber report that

Burmese Ambassador conveys France signed treaty, giving French Company exclusive privilege to construct railways, form banks Upper Burma. Treaty pledges customs forest revenue, and gives French right to search English ships at frontier. Rangoon Chamber made personal representation to Chief Commissioner. This Chamber, having considered telegrams, resolved that this Chamber view with much apprehension possible establishment at Mandalay by any foreign power of any such politics commercial agency as that referred to. The Chamber trust that, if information before Government confirms that received from Rangoon Chamber, it will promptly take such steps for protection of British rights, interests, and commerce as may seem to it to be called for under the circumstances.

Enclosure 3 in No. 125.

From E. S. SYMES, Esq., C.S., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British
Burma, to H. M. DURAND, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India,
Foreign Department.

Rangoon, September 24, 1885.

I AM directed to forward the text of the following telegram, which was despatched to-day:—

From British Burma to Foreign Secretary.

"Rangoon Chamber of Commerce sent influential deputation to Chief Commissioner to-day to present a letter, and make representations concerning concessions proposed or made to French Companies in Upper Burma. The gist of the letter and remarks by deputation is that proposed concessions very seriously threaten British commerce and British influence in Upper Burma; that if all proposed concessions took effect, English trade would be practically ousted from Upper Burma, which would become a French dependency. They urged immediate action on the part of British to secure legitimate British influence and trade, pointing out that all external trade of Ava is at present in hands of British subjects.

"Chief Commissioner informed deputation that proposal concessions to French Companies were known to Government of India; pointed out that England commands the only waterway and only route now possible for a railway into Upper Burma; agreed that concessions for management of Ava customs and for control over Ava trade to foreigners did seriously threaten British commerce with Upper Burma and Western China; promised to submit these representations to Government of India; and advised Chamber to leave the matter in the hands of Governor-General in Council after this strong expression of their views. Letter goes by to-morrow's mail."

2. I am now to enclose notes of what passed at the visit of the deputation, together with the text of their representation. In Mr. Burgess' letter, dated the 28th July, were submitted the Chief Commissioner's views respecting the consequences that might ensue if the wide concessions proposed in the documents submitted to the Government of India really took effect. On this point the Chief Commissioner finds himself much in accord with the views of the Rangoon Chamber of Commerce.

3. In Mr. Burgess' letter it was suggested that the Ava Government should be called upon to desist from granting to foreign concessionaires powers and rights which would empower those persons greatly to interfere with and restrict British trade with Upper Burma and Western China. It now seems that one, at any rate, of the concessions had gone further than was supposed, and that the concessions for a bank at Mandalay had been signed at Rome in April last by an Ambassador from Mandalay. It is not yet known how far such concessions have been ratified by the Burmese Government.

4. It is possible that in another matter, namely, the treatment of the Bombay-Burma Corporation, the Mandalay Government may wholly disregard the just remonstrances of, and may come to a distinct issue with, the Government of India. The present state of Upper Burma is such that, in the event of force being employed to coerce the Mandalay Government, the present Monarch, King Thebaw, will lose his throne. On such an event occurring, two courses of action will be open to the British Government,—

Either to annex Upper Burma or a great part thereof to Her Majesty's Indian dominions,

Or to place on the throne an exile Prince who will be amenable to British influence.

The second alternative would be expedient only in the event of such Prince accepting the Simla treaty in its entirety, agreeing to permit an armed river cruiser to stay at or visit Mandalay and Bhamo, and binding himself to enter into no relations with foreign powers or their subjects, save through the British Resident.

Enclosure 4 in No. 125.

DEPUTATION from the RANGOON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE concerning Upper Burma affairs.

ON the 24th September 1885 a deputation from the Rangoon Chamber of Commerce waited upon the Chief Commissioner at Government House. The deputation consisted of Mr. J. Thompson (Messrs. Gillanders Arbuthnot & Co.), Chairman of the Chamber, Mr. R. Rowett (Messrs. R. and J. Q. Rowett), Mr. S. G. Jones (Bombay Burma Trading Corporation, Limited), and Mr. F. C. Kennedy (Irrawaddy Flotilla Company).

Mr. Thompson read the following letter addressed to the Chief Commissioner by the Chamber of Commerce:—

"I have the honour to submit for your consideration the following resolution, which was passed unanimously at a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce held yesterday:—

"That this Chamber desires to convey to the Local Government an expression of its opinion that the proposed grant by the Burmese Government to a French Company, for a lengthened term of years, of the exclusive right to construct railways and establish banks in the Kingdom of Burma, and the pledge to such Company of the customs dues payable on all European goods imported into the Kingdom of Burma; involving the right to search English ships by French officials, is alike opposed to Treaty obligations, unjust to English commerce, certain to result in the destruction of the large English interests now existing in the Kingdom of Burma, and will most injuriously affect the trade and revenue of the province of British Burma.

"That this Chamber desires to urge on the local Government the necessity of protecting English commercial interests in the Kingdom of Burma, and of securing due scope there for the legitimate influence of the Government of India, and to call attention to the necessity which exists for immediate action, to prevent the Burmese Government granting the proposed exclusive concessions which are unwarranted by the circumstances of the Kingdom of Burma, where all trade is, and has been, carried on by English merchants, and where no French commercial interests exist. In the opinion of this Chamber, if such exclusive concessions are granted to a French Company it will result in the Kingdom of Burma becoming a French dependency, and in extensive and important markets being altogether closed to English goods and manufactures."

Mr. Thompson then said—

The resolution which I have now read was unanimously adopted at a full meeting of the Rangoon Chamber of Commerce on the 22nd instant.

It was thought at the meeting that it would emphasize the resolution if presented in person by the Committee of the Chamber. No doubts as to the authenticity of the Franco-Burmese schemes can now exist, as last mail from home brought a copy of a prospectus issued in Paris for the purpose of floating a company to take advantage of the concessions recently made, which place the French in the position of practically controlling the finances of the country, and consequently give them a political influence in Burma to which they are in no way entitled, either by commercial, geographical, or pre-existing political relations.

On the strength of the predominance of British influence in Upper Burma a large amount of British capital has been sunk, and it remains with the British Government to take such prompt action as shall not only save commercial capital now at stake, but shall maintain the political influence to which we are justly entitled.

Mr. F. C. Kennedy, Manager of the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company, said that his Company were much concerned in the clauses of the proposed concessions to the Company, which provide for the establishment of a line of French steamers on the Irrawaddy river. The concession might be interpreted as an exclusive concession, and might cause attempts to exclude the Flotilla Company from Upper Burma waters altogether. This Company have put half-a-million sterling into the business, and for 20 years have conducted the river steamer traffic. It would be a very serious thing for the Company and for British trade with Upper Burma if this Flotilla was to be excluded from Ava waters. The concessionaires are to be empowered to levy shore dues on the Company's steamers, and under cloak of this authority they might levy heavy differential fees, and might harass the Flotilla Company and their traffic in various ways.

Mr. Rowett pointed out that the treaty regarding the banks and railway is between the French Government and Mandalay Government, and not merely a grant to private concessionaires. Thus the draft treaty, if executed, becomes a political matter, and is a scheme for supplanting legitimate English influence in Upper Burma. Mr. Rowett considered that the time had undoubtedly arrived when strong and immediate action on the part of the Government of India is required. Unless action is taken at once it may be too late. Mr. Rowett suggested that one important step might be for the British

Government to inform other Powers that that the British could not recognize any treaties made by King Thebaw regarding the external or internal trade of his country.

Mr. Kennedy supported and enforced Mr. Rowett's remarks regarding the need for very early action.

After some further conversation the Chief Commissioner answered the deputation as follows:—

"I thank you, gentlemen, for this expression of your views concerning circumstances which may materially affect British commerce with Upper Burma and with Western China. I will at once transmit your representation on these important matters to the Government of India. The proposals for concessions by the Ava Government to French Companies, so far as they are believed to have gone, are known to the British Government. Hitherto the Government of India have exercised an exclusive, and in the long run a paramount, influence over the commercial policy of the adjoining State of Ava. British Burma commands the only possible waterway into that kingdom, and to the gate of Western China; and the only route by which a railway can enter Upper Burma for years to come lies through British territory. Therefore the Government of India is able and will still be able to exercise a paramount influence over any proposed railway into Upper Burma and over the external trade of that country. The Indian Government would not object, and I think, gentlemen, you would not object, to the subjects of an allied European nation settling for purposes of trade in Upper Burma; for it is the policy of England to allow and encourage free trade all over the world. As you point out, almost the whole external trade of Upper Burma is in the hands of British subjects; I agree with you that British commercial interests are seriously threatened, when it is proposed to make over the management of the customs and of the trade of Upper Burma to foreign concessionaires who have no present interest in the country, and whose policy might be against freedom of trade. I have no authority to say what action the Indian Government may take in such a matter. But I am sure that it is the wish of the Government to protect British trade in Burma from dangers or restrictions of this or of any other kind. I believe it to be quite in the power of the British Government to do this. And I think, gentlemen, that after expressing strongly as you have done, your views upon the subject, you may leave it to the Government of India to take steps in such way, and at such time, as they see fit, to protect British interests in the important trade with Ava, and in the still more important commerce which we hope will arise between the Burma sea-board and western China."

The deputation then thanked the Chief Commissioner for his reception of their representations and withdrew.

Enclosure 5 in No. 125.

From S. G. JONES, Esq., Manager of Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Rangoon, to the SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burma, Rangoon.

Dated the 22nd September 1885.

HEREWITH telegram just received from Mandalay. I am thinking of telegraphing the gist of it home. Kindly let the Chief know of its contents:—

TELEGRAM dated the 19th September 1885.

The King and Government of Burma extreme party prevailing, the King and Government of Burma repudiate the Chief Commissioner's proposals in his letter.

The King and Government of Burma final decision* how reply to Chief Commissioner's letter is fixed for 21st September.

* Sic in orig.

It is rumoured that the Taingda Mingyi, the Ekkabat Myo Wun going shortly to Minhla, the Kyouk Myn Wun to Ningyan with troops.

The Kinwun Mingyi intention to petition the Chief Queen's mother recommend King of Burma be moderate. Doubtful if the Chief Queen's mother will succeed.

The King and Government of Burma extreme party think the British Home Government will not insist Chief Commissioner's proposals, but think Chief Commissioner will propose or accept foreign mediation.

New Governor of Ningyan appointed. We consider him good man.

Enclosure 6 in No. 125.

From S. G. JONES, Esq., Manager of the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Rangoon, to the SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burma, Rangoon.

Dated the 23rd September 1885.

THE mail from London brings the news that our friends hear from Paris that the Burmese Bank scheme is being floated, and that subscriptions are being asked in London. Enclosed is copy of a document they send us on the subject.

CONTRACT of the ROYAL BANK of Burma.

BETWEEN the Burmese Government and the Courte A. Matie de la Bourdonnais, Engineer, Explorator in Burma, it has been agreed as follows:—

ARTICLE I.

His Majesty the King of Burma grants to the Courte A. Matie de la Bourdonnais, and to such other person who he shall designate, and who shall succeed to him, the exclusive right to establish at Mandalay a bank which will take the name of "Royal Bank of Burma."

Its principal establishments will be at Paris, at London, and at Mandalay, capital of Burma.

ARTICLE II.

The Royal Bank, being a State bank, shall have the exclusive right to issue bank notes having forced emission throughout all the kingdom of Burma.

ARTICLE III.

The Royal Bank shall equally have the exclusive right to coin gold and silver species of money. The silver coin shall have the value or the module or form of the silver coin used in India. The gold shall have the value and the module or resemblance of gold coin used in England (such as the pound sterling).

ARTICLE IV.

The value of the bank notes shall be 500 rupees, 100 rupees, 50 rupees, 25 rupees, and 10 rupees. The bank notes shall bear the escutcheon of the kingdom of Burma.

ARTICLE V.

The Royal Bank shall not be able to issue more bank notes than it will have cash and property and bills of lading in portfolio.

ARTICLE VI.

The Burmese Government issues all protection to the agents and servants of the Royal Bank.

ARTICLE VII.

The Burmese Government will supply a guard of soldiers for the protection of the Bank at the annual price of fcs. _____.

ARTICLE VIII.

The Burmese Government grants to the Royal Bank a ground of 200 metres on each side (600 feet) or more if desired, for the construction or building of the Bank and of its dependencies, for the annual rent of fcs. _____.

ARTICLE IX.

The concession or grant is given to the Royal Bank for a period of 50 years; at the expiration of this period all buildings, machinery and material, &c., &c. concerning the Bank shall become the property of the Burmese Government, without the Royal Bank having on its behalf to pretend to any indemnity.

ARTICLE X.

All the material, machinery, working instruments serving to build the said Bank or belonging to it, shall enter Burmese territory free of all taxes (custom).

ARTICLE XI.

The (social) capital of the Royal Bank will be of one million of £s. This capital may be augmented if needed for the transaction of business, without any other Royal sanction.

ARTICLE XII.

The rate of interest is regulated as follows:—

10 per cent. per year for all sums borrowed by the King.
15 " " " " " the Burmese people.

ARTICLE XIII.

Sums which may be borrowed by the King shall always be warranted either by the revenues of the custom house or all other Royal incomes, either by the monopoly of fresh tea, either by the income of the Bombay-Burma Trading Company, or by the rent paid by Darwood and Company, either from the rent derived from kerosine oil, either from the rent of the ruby mines, or other mines, and from other Companies, either from the income tax, either from the tax of capitation, either from the excise tax, either from the income derived from the Irrawaddy Flotilla, either by the income from the other monopolies, either by pledges in nature or goods which are easily realised, such as concessions of teak forests, either by the concession of coal mines, either silver mines, and other mines, either by the concession of lands to cultivate, either by the concession of railways and telegraphic lines. He will besides easily be able to grant the concession of a Steam and Sailing Navigation Company on the Irrawaddy and the Salween, or either the grant of constructing roads and canals and building bridges, &c., &c. after mutual understanding with the Burmese Government.

ARTICLE XIV.

The Royal Bank take the engagement to respect the laws of the Burmese Kingdom.

ARTICLE XV.

The Burmese Government take the engagement to give its assistance to the Royal Bank for the recovering of debts owed by the Burmese people by all legal means.

Written at Paris, the 2nd March 1885.

(Signed) CTE. A. MAHIE DE LA BOURDONNAIS
and legalised.

This contract was accepted by the Ambassador of His Majesty the King of Burma of in date of 13th April 1885 at Rome.

(Signed) WOONDOK, Ambassador of His
Majesty the King of Burma, and
bearing the seal in red wax of the
Imperial Eagle of Burma.

Enclosure 7 in No. 125.

From S. G. JONES, Esq., Manager, Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Rangoon, to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burma.

Dated the 24th September 1885.

FROM a telegram, copy of which I have just sent over to Symes, and which he has no doubt communicated to you, you will have observed that they must have commenced stopping our rafts on the 20th. As the telegram is dated the 21st, say two whole days before the first instalment of fine was demanded.

I am anxious not to importune. But the importance of every day to us is very great, and even the two days we have lost might have materially altered the aspect of affairs so far as we are concerned. Besides the floating season may be over any day now. The Burmans have had plenty of time to answer your urgent letter of 29th ultimo, and it has struck me that the matter of firing at and arresting our raftsmen might perhaps give you grounds for telegraphing or writing again. There is a mail from Mandalay due here to-morrow morning, but we know there is no letter in reply to yours by that. I shall be very glad if you can see your way to do something, but feel I must leave the matter entirely in your hands, having every confidence that you will decide for the best.

Enclosure 8 in No. 125.

From S. JONES, Esq., Manager, Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Rangoon, to the SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burma.

Dated the 25th September 1885.

We hear from London this morning as follows:—"Times" telegram we approve of. "Standard's" French correspondent telegraphs is authorised to give unqualified denial French treaties operation Upper Burma.

H.M.S. "Turquoise," 12 guns and 260 men, came in here yesterday, and is going to stay a fortnight. Her captain is the senior naval officer on the Bay of Bengal. He had instructions from the Admiral (Naval Commander-in-Chief) to send away the "Woodlark" unless I considered the presence of a man-of-war necessary. I had explained that, in the present state of our relations with Upper Burma, a ship ought to be left at Rangoon. Whatever happens, she could not go up the river at this season.

*Two 20-pounder B. L. R. guns.
Two 9-pounder M. L. R. guns.
2 One-inch Nordenfelts.
Four 0.45, five barrel Gardiner machine-guns.

But if a force is required across the frontier, the "Irrawaddy" gun-boat* would have to go up the river. Her present small crew of lascars can hardly work, and certainly could not fight the vessel; so she would have to be manned by blue jackets and naval officers. Unless there is a Queen's ship in Rangoon, we should not be able to get sailors for the "Irrawaddy" or officers to command the many launches we should have to send up the river with a force.

In consequence of my representations Captain Woodward of the "Turquoise" is going to leave the "Woodlark" here, until she can be relieved by some other vessel of the squadron.

Enclosure 9 in No. 125.

From D. MACKENZIE WALLACE, Esq., Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy,
to the SECRETARY OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, Calcutta.

Simla, 6th October 1885.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have received your telegram of 25th September concerning the affairs of Upper Burma, and that I have duly submitted it to His Excellency the Viceroy.

In reply, I am to state that the Viceroy is fully alive to the importance of the British interests involved, and the Chamber of Commerce may rest assured that the subject will continue to receive his Excellency's attentive consideration.

No. 126.

SIR J. PAUNCEFOTE to MR. GODLEY.

SIR,

Foreign Office, October 16, 1885.

I AM directed by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to transmit to you to be laid before the Secretary of State for India copy of a despatch on the subject of the relations between France and Burmah.

I am, &c.

(Signed) J. PAUNCEFOTE.

Enclosure 1 in No. 126.

Sir J. WALSHAM to the MARQUIS OF SALISBURY.

MY LORD,

Paris, September 24, 1885.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 18th ultimo, I have the honour to state that the French press published the text of a supposed secret Treaty between France and Burmah which appeared a few days ago in the "Times" and other English newspapers.

Late yesterday the "Agence Havas" inserted under the head of "Informations," which are almost always to be taken as meaning official, a direct contradiction of the report about this Treaty, and this contradiction was subsequently confirmed by M. de Freycinet himself, whom I had occasion to see shortly after I had read it in the "Agence Havas."

His Excellency, whose attention I called to this publication of an alleged Treaty, as bearing upon my recent conversation with him on the subject of Burmah and the proceedings of the French Consul at Mandalay, asked me at once if I had not seen the contradiction already given to the story, which was, he added, official.

M. de Freycinet begged me at the same time to assure your Lordship that not only was the story incorrect, but that there was absolutely not a word of truth in it, and that the French Representative in London had been authorized to make a similar statement to Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

Enclosure 2 in No. 126.

EXTRACT from the "RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE" of September 25, 1885.

"L'AGENCE HAVAS" nous communique la note suivante :—

"Une dépêche publiée par les journaux Anglais parle d'une Convention qui aurait été conclue entre la France et la Birmanie, et aux termes de laquelle la France se serait fait attribuer le contrôle des Douanes et l'établissement d'une banque à Mandalay. Ces informations sont purement imaginaires."

No. 127.

TELEGRAM from VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE, October 16, 1885.

BERNARD has received an answer from Mandalay to letter of 28th August; Burmese Government definitely declines to agree to proposed arbitration or to suspend its action against Bombay-Burma Corporation. I propose, with unanimous consent of my colleagues, to instruct Bernard to inform Burmese Government (1) that, with view of settling present dispute, we must insist upon an envoy from Government of India being received at Mandalay, with free access to King upon same terms as are usual at other Courts, and without submitting to any humiliating ceremony; (2) that if, in meantime, any proceedings have been or shall be taken against the Company, we shall take matter into our own hands without making any further communication to Burmese Government; (3) that the present and recent incidents show the necessity for an English Agent being permanently stationed at Burmese capital, with proper guard (of honour) and steamer for his personal protection; (4) that Burmese Government will be expected to regulate its external relations in accordance with our advice, as is now done by Amir of Afghanistan; and (5) that proper facilities should be granted for opening up of British trade with China *via* Bhamo. These two last items of the arrangement might be insisted on after our Agent has arrived in Mandalay. Do you approve?

No. 128.

TELEGRAM from SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY, October 17, 1885.

WE approve the terms of your ultimatum. I am strongly of opinion that its despatch should be concurrent with movement of troops and ships to Rangoon. If ultimatum is rejected, an immediate advance on Mandalay ought to be made. On the other hand, armed demonstration might bring Burmese to their senses. It is of vital importance, on account of security of many British subjects and Europeans in Upper Burmah, that Burmese should feel that any injury to them or their property would be followed by rapid punishment. In all the circumstances of the case, I do not think that considerations of expense should deter you from these precautions. I suggest that you should demand an answer within a specified time.

No. 129.

SIR J. PAUNCEFOTE to MR. GODLEY.

SIR, Foreign Office, October 17, 1885.
I AM directed by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to transmit to you, to be laid before Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India in Council, copy of the despatches noted in the margin relative to France and Burmah.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. PAUNCEFOTE.

Enclosure 1 in No. 129.

VISCOUNT LYONS to the MARQUIS OF SALISBURY.

(Extract.)

Paris, October 12, 1885.

IN the course of a conversation which I had with M. de Freycinet this afternoon he introduced the subject of Burmah.

He said that he had sent to your Lordship, through M. Waddington, assurances which must have effectually allayed the disquietude which had been caused by the statements respecting agreements supposed to have been made with the King of Burmah by Frenchmen, which would place under their control railways, navigation, branches of revenue, &c.

He had, he said, authorised M. Waddington to state positively to your Lordship that the French Government had absolutely no cognizance of any such arrangements; that they had never given any authority for obtaining concessions of the kind from the King of Burmah, and that they had no knowledge that anything of the kind had been obtained.

If there was any foundation for the allegation that M. Haas, the French Consul at Mandalay, had concerned himself in obtaining concessions of the nature described, he must have acted without any warrant whatever from his Government. At any rate, all difficulty respecting M. Haas personally had disappeared, as he had applied for leave to quit Burmah on account of his health, and leave to do so had been given to him.

M. de Freycinet proceeded to speak of the Envoy from Burmah who had recently arrived at Paris. This Envoy had come, he said, to exchange the ratifications of the treaty of January last. The exchange could not be proceeded with at once, because the law authorising the ratification had not yet been passed by the Senate here, but it seemed that the Envoy did not propose staying in Paris more than a month.

I said that it was to be hoped that, during his stay, the Envoy would be very careful not to give any encouragement to applications for concessions which could never be brought practically into effect, but which might be productive of very serious inconveniences to his Government and himself.

Enclosure 2 in No. 129.

VISCOUNT LYONS to the MARQUIS OF SALISBURY.

MY LORD, Paris, October 13, 1885.
I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a short article which appears at the head of the Journal des Débats this morning.

It draws attention to articles in the English newspapers calling for the annexation of Burmah to British India. It states that courteous communications have taken place between the French and English Governments on the subject of the allegations that France is pursuing ambitious designs in Burmah, and it concludes by saying that France can only desire the maintenance of the natural influence which her situation in the extreme East gives her in Burmah ("ne peut évidemment désirer que maintien de l'influence toute naturelle sa situation dans l'extrême Orient lui crée en Birmanie") but that she cannot think of adopting a policy which would alarm British interests and consequently increase the difficulties which she encounters in establishing her authority in Annam and Tonquin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 130.

The MARQUIS OF SALISBURY to VISCOUNT LYONS.

MY LORD, Foreign Office, October 17, 1885.
HER Majesty's Government approve the language held by your Excellency to M. de Freycinet on the subject of French relations with Burmah, of which a report is contained in your despatch of the 12th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY

No. 131.

VISCOUNT LYONS to the MARQUIS OF SALISBURY.

MY LORD, Paris, October 22, 1885.

IT is the established custom here that Envoys Extraordinary and diplomatists of lower rank, after presenting their letters of credence to the Chief of the State, write to each of the Ambassadors to request him to fix a time for receiving a visit from them.

In conformity with this custom Tan Giet Woun Doauk Min, the Burmese Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, wrote to me on the 18th instant, in the usual form, to ask me for an audience; and I fixed this day for receiving him.

On his presenting himself, I said that I deeply regretted that it was in so anxious and painful a state of relations between our two countries that I should have to make his acquaintance.

The Envoy speaks French, and after a few words in that language, he produced a letter addressed to me which he had brought with him and begged me to read it.

Having done so, I said that, acting in a spirit of courtesy I had received his visit, and that, acting in the same spirit, I would not decline to keep the letter, but that I had no authority whatever to discuss the questions at issue between his Sovereign and the Government of India; that these questions must be treated directly with that Government; that I could only express an earnest hope that by prudence and wisdom the King might settle them quickly and satisfactorily.

Some ordinary courteous expressions were then exchanged, and the interview ended.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of the letter which the Envoy left with me.

It expresses regret at the absence of direct diplomatic relations between London and Mandalay, and gives an assurance that the lives of Europeans at Mandalay can run no risk.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Enclosure in No. 131.

The BURMESE ENVOY to VISCOUNT LYONS.

(Officiouse.)

EXCELLENCE, Paris, le 22 Octobre, 1885.
JE crois qu'il est de mon devoir de porter à votre connaissance, en raison des difficultés qui divisent actuellement l'Angleterre et la Birmanie, difficultés que j'ai l'espoir de voir s'aplanir après de loyales explications, qu'il ne saurait entrer dans l'esprit de mon Gouvernement l'idée de se mettre en hostilité avec le Gouvernement Anglais. Les intérêts réciproques des deux pays sont pour cela trop similaires; aussi me suis-je empressé de télégraphier à Mandalay le conseil d'accepter immédiatement un arbitrage dont la décision pourrait pacifiquement régler le différend existant.

Il est évident que si des relations diplomatiques directes existaient à Londres et à Mandalay toutes contestations qui pourraient s'élever recevraient une meilleure et plus immédiate solution. Je sais, M. l'Ambassadeur, que mon Gouvernement verrait avec satisfaction se renouer des liens d'amitié que rien n'aurait dû troubler, mon auguste Souverain ayant exprimé le désir d'entrer dans la voie de la civilisation le plus largement possible.

Je suis également heureux, Excellence, de vous donner l'assurance que la vie des Européens résidant à Mandalay, quelle que soit leur nationalité, ne saurait courir aucuns risques.

Comptant, M. l'Ambassadeur, sur l'esprit de bienveillante conciliation que chacun se plaît à reconnaître en vous, j'ai l'honneur de vous prier d'agréer, &c.
Le Ministre Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté le Roi de Birmanie,
(Signé) TANN GIET WOUN DOAUK.

TRANSLATION.

The BURMESE ENVOY to VISCOUNT LYONS.

(Official.)

EXCELLENCY,

Paris, October 22, 1885.

IN view of the difficulties which are causing an estrangement between England and Burmah, difficulties which I hope to see dissipated after an exchange of loyal explanations, I deem it my duty to inform you, that my Government do not entertain any idea of assuming a hostile attitude towards the British Government. The reciprocal interests of the two countries are too similar to admit of such a course, and I have lost no time in telegraphing to Mandalay, advising the immediate acceptance of an arbitration, whose decision should settle the existing difficulty by pacific intervention.

It is clear that, if direct diplomatic relations existed between London and Mandalay, it would be possible to solve in a more satisfactory and speedy manner all contested points which might arise. I can assure you, M. l'Ambassadeur, that my Government would view with satisfaction the renewal of those bonds of friendship, which ought never to have been disturbed, and my August Sovereign has expressed the desire of entering upon the path of civilization in the broadest possible manner.

I am equally happy to give you an assurance, Excellency, that the lives of Europeans, of whatever nationality, residing at Mandalay, will run no risk whatever.

Counting, M. l'Ambassadeur, upon the spirit of generous conciliation, which all gladly recognize in you, I have the honour, &c.

The Minister Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the King of Burmah.
(Signed) TANN GIET WOUN DOAUK.

No. 132.

VISCOUNT LYONS to the MARQUIS OF SALISBURY.

MY LORD,

Paris, October 23, 1885.

IN the despatch which I had the honour to send to your Lordship by post yesterday, I gave an account of an interview which I had had with Tann Giet Woun Doauk Min, the Burmese Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary here.

It has appeared to me to be the object of this Envoy to treat the questions at issue between Burmah and the Government of India in Europe, or, at all events, to put himself in a position here to send information and advice with regard to the disposition of Her Majesty's Government direct to Mandalay, and to suggest there the idea that the Government of India may be overruled by orders from home.

It seems plain that the result of this would be to weaken the effect upon King Theebaw's mind of the language of the Government of India, and, to say the least, to create embarrassment and confusion.

I am confirmed in this opinion by a passage in the letter which the Envoy put into my hand, and of which I sent your Lordship a copy yesterday.

The passage in question runs as follows: "Aussi me suis-je empressé de télégraphier à Mandalay le conseil d'accepter immédiatement un arbitrage dont la décision pourrait pacifiquement régler le différend existant."

I am willing to suppose that in this passage the Envoy intended to refer only to some mode of arbitration already proposed by the Government of India; but I can hardly doubt that it was inserted with a view to eliciting from me some approval of the idea of arbitration.

At all events, I thought that I was taking the prudent course in treating, indeed, the Envoy personally with perfect courtesy, but in resolutely declining to enter into discussion or negotiation with him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 133.

LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE to LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL.

King William Street, October 23, 1885.

I BEG to inform your Lordship that, at the special meeting of the Council of this Chamber, held yesterday, a petition was presented, signed by the leading London firms engaged in trade with Burmah, requesting this association to press upon your Lordship the desirability, either of the immediate annexation of Native Burmah, or the establishment of an efficient protectorate over that province.

In the conversation to which this memorial gave rise, satisfaction was expressed at the prompt action which it was understood was, and is, being taken by your Lordship's department in connexion with the Government of India, for the protection of British interests in Indo-China.

The appended resolution was eventually unanimously adopted, and I have now the pleasure of bringing it under your Lordship's notice, enclosing a copy of the petition.

(Signed) K. B. MURRAY,
Secretary.

Resolution:—

"That this Council expresses its satisfaction that prompt measures are apparently being taken by Her Majesty's Government in conjunction with the Government of India, in the interests of the British and Indian commercial communities having business relations with Burmah, which the Council trusts will lead to the speedy and satisfactory settlement of the important questions involved."

PETITION.

"The undersigned merchants and shippers, members and non members of the London Chamber of Commerce desire to represent to the Council the necessity of urging Her Majesty's Government at the earliest possible moment, to give instructions to the Indian Government either to annex the whole of Native Burmah, or to assume a protectorate over that country by the appointment of a sovereign under British control, under such conditions as will lead to a predominance of British influence there. It will be within the knowledge of the Council that where the portion of the country now called British Burmah, was placed under British rule. Her Majesty's Government was strongly advised to take possession of the entire Burmese kingdom. Experience has since proved that it would have been very much better for the mercantile and native communities in this portion of South-western Asia; if Burmah had been entirely, instead of only partially, annexed. Burmah can, in our opinion, make a strong claim for special consideration in spite of the existence of important questions now engaging the attention of the Government, such for instance, assure relation with Russia, on account of the considerable and almost unprecedented success of its economic administration. For this and other reasons, possessing as we do, large commercial interests in the country, we desire again to lay very great stress upon the fact that under existing conditions, unsatisfactory as they are, Burmah can boast of a surplus revenue over expenditure amounting to close upon 1,000,000*l.* sterling annually. From this, it may be fairly assumed, that the annexation of King Theebaw's dominions, the assumption of a protectorate over the Shan States and other independent territories lying between Burmah and the Indian and Chinese frontiers, and the maintenance of law and order, would result in a farther increase in the revenue and prosperity of the whole of British Indo-China. It may further be pointed out that the operations of the French in Tonquin, and their evident desire to extend their territorial possessions over the Malay Peninsula, make it of paramount importance for the safety of our Indian Empire, and the extension of Anglo-Indian trade with China, to retain under our control the means of direct communication with India via Siam, as well as access in the future to South-west China. We would also remind the Council that our treaties with Burmah have never been properly carried out, whether as regards fiscal conditions, the appointment of a Resident supported by an adequate military force, or the establishment of a high court. When under the auspices of the London Chamber, a petition relative to affairs in Burmah was presented by deputation to Lord Kimberley (as Secretary of State for India), annexation was declared by several speakers who supported it, to be the only effective remedy for the evils that existed in view of King Theebaw's action to the detriment of British subjects, and his connivance with the French. What has lately

transpired only shows the necessity of meeting the situation with a firm hand, in order to institute such a form of regular government as will prevent the recurrence of the political revolutions and outrages upon life and property which have taken place in Native Burmah, and to give that security so necessary to the carrying on of industrial operations, such as the cultivation of rice, the exploitation of the teak forests, and the development of the other valuable resources with which the country abounds. In view of the national cry for the opening up of new markets as a means of overcrowding the depression of trade for which Her Majesty's Government has shown its sympathy and concern, we are of opinion that no more advantageous course could be adopted for bringing about this desirable result within the near future than the immediate annexation of Burmah by the British and Indian Governments.

(Signatures follow.)

No. 134.

The SECRETARY, GLASGOW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND
MANUFACTURES to LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL.

MY LORD,

October 29, 1885.

I HAVE the honour to enclose for your Lordship's consideration, a Memorial by the Chamber of Commerce and Manufactures of this City, on the subject of Upper Burma, which at a full meeting of Directors of the Chamber held to-day, it was unanimously resolved should be transmitted to you, along with the accompanying papers.

(Signed) WILLIAM H. HILL,
Secretary.

Enclosure in No. 134.

The Memorial of the Chamber of Commerce and Manufactures in the City of Glasgow, incorporated by Royal Charter in 1783, confirmed in 1860.

HUMBLY SHEWETH,

THAT frequent representations have for a considerable time past been made to your memorialists respecting the baneful influences resulting from misrule in Upper Burma, but your memorialists have hitherto refrained from specially urging this subject on the attention of Her Majesty's Government.

Your memorialists have also had brought to their notice, rumours of negotiations between the Government at Mandalay and another nation, tending to the injury, if not the exclusion and destruction of British trade and influence in Burma; but it is only recently they have received from a source, which they considered sufficiently reliable, to warrant their transmission, papers, copies of which accompany this memorial.*

Recent events have now, however, brought matters, commercially as well as politically, to such a crisis in Upper Burmah that your memorialists feel it incumbent on them and upon those affected by the almost total cessation of trade thereby occasioned, or who may be interested in the calamitous consequences that inevitably will ensue from their unchecked operation, respectfully, but emphatically to express their opinion as to the action, which it is satisfactory to observe Her Majesty's Government has given indication of its intention to pursue, with respect to the affairs of Upper Burmah.

Accordingly, at a meeting of the Directors of the Chamber, specially convened, it was on this date, unanimously resolved to memorialise Her Majesty's Government, and strongly to represent, that the repeated violation of its treaty engagements, its outrages against humanity, and the existing misrule in the Government of Upper Burmah, which have entirely prostrated trade in that country, and most injuriously affect commercial interests in British Burmah, necessitate the adoption on the part of Her Majesty's Government of such instant and energetic measures, as in their opinion, may be best fitted to correct the maladministration and lawlessness which prevails; to check intrigues tending to the prejudice of British influence and commerce;

* Translation of a contract between the Burmese Government and Comte Matie de la Bourdonnais, dated 2nd March and 13th April 1885. (See p. 218.)

and, consistently with international comity and justice, to bring about such a condition in the affairs of Upper Burmah as will at once accord with the feelings of its people, and effectively to permanently secure their well-being and proper government, remove all obstacles or hindrance to British trade in Burmah, enable its future development to be promoted, and afford facilities for opening up to Great Britain, through that country, and the Shan States, the valuable and important, and, it is believed, friendly markets of South-western China.

Your Memorialists, therefore, humbly pray that Her Majesty's Government may pursue such instant and effective measures as in their opinion may be best fitted for permanently securing the commercial interests of Great Britain in Upper Burmah, and the well-being and proper government of its people.

Signed in name and by appointment of a meeting of Directors of the Chamber, this 29th day of October 1885.

(Signed) DAVID GUTHRIE,
Vice-President.

No. 135.

SIR J. PAUNCEFOTE to MR. GODLEY.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, November 6, 1885.

WITH reference to previous correspondence respecting the proceedings of the Burmese Mission in Paris, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you, for such observations as Lord Randolph Churchill may have to offer thereupon, the accompanying copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, forwarding copy of a note received from the Burmese Envoy, in which, after tendering certain assurances in connection with the presumed tenour of the ultimatum despatched to Mandalay, the Envoy suggests that he should be allowed to telegraph to his Government for special authority to negotiate in London on the subject of the questions at issue between Great Britain and Burmah, and by this means prevent the effusion of blood.

Enclosure 1 in No. 135.

VISCOUNT LYONS to MARQUIS OF SALISBURY.

(Extract.)

Paris, November 3, 1885.

IN my despatch of the 23rd ultimo, I had the honour to report to your Lordship that it appeared to me to be the object of Tann Giet Woun Doauk Min, the Burmese Envoy here, to treat the question at issue between Burmah and the Government of India in Europe or, at all events, to put himself in a position to send information and advice with regard to the disposition of Her Majesty's Government direct to Mandalay, and to suggest there the idea that the Government of India might be overruled by orders from London.

I am confirmed in this opinion by a step which the Envoy took yesterday. He sent to the Embassy in the afternoon a Secretary of his Legation with one of his visiting cards on which he had written that he earnestly requested me to receive him on the same day, in order that he might deliver to me an important note.

Understanding that Her Majesty's Government and the Government of India were altogether opposed to any transfer of the negotiations to Europe, I thought it prudent to persevere in the course which I had taken on the previous occasion, that is to say, to treat the Envoy personally with perfect courtesy, but resolutely to decline to enter into discussion or negotiation with him, in the absence of specific instructions from your Lordship to do so.

Accordingly, I caused the Secretary to be requested to say to the Envoy that as I should not be at liberty to enter into any discussion with him on the contents of the note, I should be very sorry that he should take the trouble to bring it here himself; that it would be quite sufficient for him send it.

F f 2

Since I closed the preceding despatch, I have received from Tann Giet Woun Douak Min a letter, of which I have just time to send a copy to your Lordship. So far as I can see at a glance, it appears to contain an offer to apply by telegraph to his Government for special authority to negotiate in London.

I await instructions from your Lordship as to how the letter should be dealt with.

Enclosure 2 in No. 135.

The BURMESE ENVOY to VISCOUNT LYONS.

M. L'AMBASSADEUR,

Paris, le 3 Novembre, 1885.

Je suis profondément convaincu que la situation critique qui existe actuellement entre l'Angleterre et la Birmanie n'est que le résultat d'un malentendu, assui je serais personnellement très heureux de mettre en action tous les moyens qui sont en mon pouvoir pour arriver à une solution qui pourrait satisfaire nos deux Gouvernements.

C'est dans ce but que je me permets de rappeler à votre Excellence que j'ai eu l'honneur de lui remettre une note précédente qui exprimait les désirs de mon Gouvernement avant l'envoi de l'ultimatum du Gouvernement Indien, ultimatum qui, d'après les renseignements connus, est à peu près ainsi conçu :—

1. L'Envoyé, porteur de l'ultimatum, sera reçu à Mandalay avec tout le respect et tous les honneurs qui lui sont dus.
2. Le différend existant entre le Gouvernement Birman et la Bombay-Burmah Trading Company sera réglé par la voie d'arbitrage.
3. La Résidence Anglaise sera rétablie dans la Haute-Birmanie.

Pour ce qui est du premier point, je puis assurer à votre Excellence que le Représentant de Sa Majesté la Reine d'Angleterre, Impératrice des Indes, sera reçu avec tous les honneurs et tout le respect qui sont dus à l'Envoyé d'une aussi Grande Puissance.

En ce qui concerne le second point, le Gouvernement de mon auguste Souverain a déjà informé, par dépêche, Mr. Bernard, Chief Commissioner at Rangoon, qu'il était prêt à accepter l'arbitrage proposé.

Arrivant au troisième point, je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien se souvenir que j'ai eu l'honneur de remettre entre ses mains une note confidentielle, l'instruisant, que j'avais reçu de mon Gouvernement, avant mon départ de Mandalay, des ordres pour renouer les anciennes relations qui existaient entre les deux pays.

Je suis heureux, M. l'Ambassadeur, de vous renouveler cette assurance.

Mon auguste Souverain m'a souvent exprimé le désir d'entretenir des relations directes, par la voie diplomatique, entre le Cabinet de Saint-James et celui de Mandalay.

En dehors des lettres Royales qui m'accréditent devant toutes les Cours de l'Europe, je puis demander à mon Gouvernement, par télégramme—si le Gouvernement Anglais me permet de le faire parvenir—une autorisation spéciale pour négocier à Londres au sujet du différend qui nous divise et éviter ainsi l'effusion du sang.

Dans l'espoir, M. l'Ambassadeur, que vous voudrez bien user de votre haute influence pour faire prendre en considération par le Cabinet de Saint-James les propositions ci-dessus énoncées, je vous prie d'agréer, &c.

Le Ministre Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté le Roi de Birmanie,
(Signé) TANN GIET WOUN DOAUK MIN.

The BURMESE ENVOY to VISCOUNT LYONS.

M. L'AMBASSADEUR,

Paris, November 3, 1885.

I AM firmly convinced that the critical situation at present existing between England and Burmah is due merely to a misunderstanding, and I should personally be very glad to put every means in my power in motion in order to arrive at a settlement, which might prove satisfactory to our two Governments.

It is with this intention that I would remind your Excellency that I have had the honour to hand you on a former occasion a note which set forth the wishes of my Government before the despatch of the ultimatum of the Government of India, an ultimatum, which, according to well-known information, runs much as follows :—

1. The Envoy, who is the bearer of the ultimatum, shall be received at Mandalay with all the respect and honour to which he is entitled.

2. The dispute existing between the Burmese Government and the Bombay-Burmah Trading Company, shall be decided by means of an arbitration.

3. The British Residency shall be re-established in Upper Burmah.

In regard to the first of these points, I can assure your Excellency that the representative of Her Majesty the Queen of England, Empress of India, shall be received with all the honours and all the respect due to the Envoy of so great a Power.

As concerns the second point, the Government of my august Sovereign have already informed Mr. Bernard, Chief Commissioner at Rangoon, by telegraph, that they are prepared to accept the proposed arbitration.

Coming to the third point, I would beg your Excellency to recollect that I have had the honour of placing in your hands a confidential note, informing you that I had received orders from my Government previous to my departure from Mandalay, to renew the ancient relations which existed between the two countries.

I have much pleasure M. l'Ambassadeur in repeating this assurance to you.

My august Sovereign has often expressed to me his desire to open direct relations, through the diplomatic channel, between the Cabinet of St. James and that of Mandalay.

Besides the Royal Letters which accredit me to all the Courts of Europe, I can ask my Government by telegraph, if the British Government permit of my doing so, to grant me special authority to enter into negotiations in London with respect to the matter in dispute between us, and thereby to avoid bloodshed.

In the hope, M. l'Ambassadeur, that you will be good enough to exert your great influence to cause the Cabinet of St. James to take the above proposals into their consideration, I beg you, &c.

(Signed) TANN GIET WOUN DOAUK MIN.

Minister Plenipotentiary of His Majesty
the King of Burmah.

No. 136.

MR. GODLEY to SIR J. PAUNCEFOTE.

SIR,

India Office, November 9, 1885.

I AM directed by Lord Randolph Churchill to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, forwarding copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, relative to certain proposals made to him by the Burmese Envoy at that place for entering into direct negotiations with Her Majesty's Government on the questions at issue between the Government of India and that of Burmah.

In reply, I am desired to suggest that Lord Lyons should be instructed to thank the Envoy for his friendly communication, to inform him that it has been conveyed unofficially to Her Majesty's Government, and to state, with reference to it, that it is not possible for Her Majesty's Government to interfere with the direct control exercised by the Government of India over relations with Burmah; but that if, as the Envoy represents, the King of Burmah is willing to satisfy the requirements of the Government of India, it is only necessary for His Majesty so to inform the Viceroy, it not being the desire either of his Excellency or Her Majesty's Government to press with undue harshness on the King, with whom, on the contrary, they have always endeavoured to maintain relations of peace and amity.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. A. GODLEY.

No. 137.

TELEGRAM from VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

November 10, 1885.

TELEGRAPHIC message from Bernard states that Burmese Government have sent their reply to our ultimatum, which is tantamount to a refusal or evasion of its three terms. I propose, with your approval, to instruct General Prendergast to advance upon Mandalay at once. An abstract of the text will soon, I imagine, reach my hands.

No. 138.

TELEGRAM from SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

November 11, 1885.

PLEASE instruct General Prendergast to advance on Mandalay at once.

No. 139.

SIR J. PAUNCEFOTE to MR. GODLEY.

SIR,

Foreign Office, November 13, 1885.

WITH reference to your letter of the 9th instant, I am directed by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to transmit to you, to be laid before Lord Randolph Churchill, copy of a Despatch addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, relating to the proposals made by the Burmese Envoy at Paris.

I am, &c.

(Signed) J. PAUNCEFOTE.

Enclosure in No. 139.

MARQUIS OF SALISBURY to VISCOUNT LYONS.

MY LORD,

Foreign Office, November 13, 1885.

WITH reference to your Excellency's Despatch of the 3rd instant, I transmit to your Excellency herewith, copy of a letter from the India Office, relative to the proposals made by the Burmese Envoy at Paris, with a view to direct negotiation with Her Majesty's Government on the questions at issue between the Government of India and that of Burmah, and I have to request that your Excellency will make a communication to the Burmese Envoy in the sense therein suggested.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 140.

TELEGRAM from VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

November 13, 1885.

FOLLOWING is text of proclamation which I propose General Prendergast should issue:—

"Proclamation to all priests, landholders, traders, officials, and other residents in the country of Upper Burmah. In consequence of the refusal of the Burmese Government to grant redress for various injuries inflicted upon British subjects, and to accept the proposals made by the Viceroy and Governor-General of India for an amicable settlement of existing difficulties, I have received orders to advance with an armed force upon Mandalay. The decision of the Government of India to send its troops into the territory of a neighbouring State has been arrived at very unwillingly, and must be regarded as the result of a long continued series of provocations. The reign of His Majesty King Theebaw has been marked throughout by the violation of treaties, by acts of aggression on the British frontier, by outrages upon British subjects and injustice to British trade, and by external policy systematically opposed to British interests. Misconstruing the forbearance which the British Government has shown with reference to these serious causes of complaint, His Majesty King Theebaw lately attempted to impose on a British Trading Company an arbitrary fine of ruinous amount, and peremptorily refused the

conciliatory offer that the matter should be submitted to an impartial inquiry. Under these circumstances, the Government of India was constrained to address to His Majesty an ultimatum, demanding the acceptance of certain definite proposals for the settlement of this question, and for the establishment upon a satisfactory basis of the future relations between the two countries. These proposals have been met by an evasive reply, and by the simultaneous issue of an openly hostile proclamation. The force under my orders has accordingly crossed the frontier for the purpose of exacting compliance with the demands of my Government. Further, as it has become evident that there can be no hope of improvement in the condition of affairs in Upper Burmah so long as the present occupant of the throne remains in power, the Government of India have decided that His Majesty shall cease to reign. They have had the less hesitation in arriving at this decision from the fact that not only has King Theebaw exercised great oppression and cruelty towards his own subjects, but his administration has been allowed to fall into such a state of disorder as to fill the country with marauders, and to expose the neighbouring British possessions to their inroads. It is the earnest desire of the Viceroy and Governor-General of India that bloodshed should be avoided, and that the peaceable inhabitants of all classes should be encouraged to pursue their usual callings without fear of molestation. None will have anything to apprehend so long as you do not oppose the passage of the troops under my command. Your private rights, your religions, and national customs will be scrupulously respected, and the Government of India will recognise the services of all amongst you, whether officials or others, who show zeal in assisting the British authorities to preserve order."

Have you any observations to make? If so, I should like to have them soon, as it is clearly important that the Proclamation be published at once. It is now in Bernard's hands, but Prendergast will not issue it until further orders.

No. 141.

TELEGRAM from VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

November 13, 1885.

BERNARD states that purport of Theebaw's proclamation is to call on all officials and residents to expel the English, who threaten war, and intend to destroy the religion, dishonour the usages, and lower the honour of the Burmese nation. It promises neikban—beatific rest—to those who defend their country, and says, "We will march out against them in person, sweep them away, exterminate them, and take their country. We will do this with the help of our army, by land and water." End.

No. 142.

TELEGRAM from SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

November 14, 1885.

YOURS 13th. Terms of proclamation to be issued by Prendergast entirely approved.

No. 143.

VISCOUNT LYONS to the MARQUIS OF SALISBURY.

MY LORD,

Paris, November 15, 1885.

I HAVE this morning had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch of the 13th instant, directing me to make a communication to Tann Giet Woun Doauk Min, the Burmese Ambassador to the French Republic, in answer to the note which he addressed to me on the 3rd instant.

I enclose a copy of a note which I have, in consequence, written to Tanu Giet Woun Doauk Min.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

Enclosure in No. 143.

VISCOUNT LYONS to the BURMESE ENVOY.

LORD LYONS did not fail to communicate unofficially to Her Majesty's Government the letter which Tann Giet Woun Doauk Min did him the honour to address to him on the 3rd of this month. He hastens, in obedience to instructions which he has received, to thank Tann Giet Woun Doauk Min for this friendly communication, and to state with reference to it that it is not possible for Her Majesty's Government to interfere with the direct control exercised by the Government of India over relations with Burmah, but that if the King of Burmah is ready to satisfy the requirements of the Government of India, it is only necessary for His Majesty so to inform the Viceroy, it not being the desire either of the Viceroy or Her Majesty's Government to press with undue harshness upon the King, with whom, on the contrary, they have always endeavoured to maintain relations of peace and amity.

Lord Lyons begs Tann Giet Woun Doauk Min to accept the assurance of his high consideration.

Paris, November 15, 1885.

No. 144.

VISCOUNT LYONS to the MARQUIS OF SALISBURY.

My LORD, Paris, November 15, 1885.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 12th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship, extracted from the "Journal Officiel" of this day, an announcement that M. de Bouteiller, Consul of the second class, in charge of the French Vice-Consulate at Philadelphia, has been put in charge of the French Vice-Consulate at Mandalay in the room of M. Hass, who has been placed "en disponibilité" on account of his health ("mis en disponibilité pour raison de santé").

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Enclosure in No. 144.

EXTRACT from the "JOURNAL OFFICIEL" of November 15, 1885.

PAR Décret en date du 14 Novembre 1885, rendu sur la proposition du Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, M. de Bouteiller (Pierre-Guillaume-Marie-Josephe-Eustache), Consul de deuxième classe, chargé du Vice-Consulat de France à Philadelphie, a été chargé, en la même qualité, du Vice-Consulat de France à Mandalay, en remplacement de M. Haas, mis en disponibilité pour raison de santé.

No. 145.

TELEGRAM from VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE, November 15, 1885.

PRENDERGAST reports:—Yesterday, "Irrawaddy" and launch, after sharp encounter with fort at Sinbougweh, captured a King's war vessel. One man, Robert Hutchinson, "Turquoise," wounded.

No. 146.

TELEGRAM from VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE, November 18, 1885.

GENERAL Prendergast reports:—On 16th, engaged battery at Nyounghin-more, with gunboat and troops. Enemy returned fire of gunboat and retired. Eight guns and stores destroyed. Also on right bank troops destroyed stockade at Sinbougweh. No casualties. On 17th, attacked and carried forts, Minhla right, and Yuegyoung Kanyo left bank. One officer, Lieutenant Dury, and three men killed; four officers and 24 men wounded.

No. 147.

TELEGRAM from VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE, November 18, 1885

PRENDERGAST telegraphs, 17th. I attacked Minhla on the right bank and Gue Gyoung Kanyo Fort on the left bank to-day simultaneously and successfully. Lieutenant Dury, 11th Bengal, and three men killed; Lieutenant Wilkinson, 12th Madras, dangerously wounded, Lieutenant Sillery, 12th Madras, seriously wounded, Major Macneil, Staff, slightly, Lieutenant Young, 12th Madras, slightly, 24 men wounded.

No. 148.

TELEGRAM from VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE, November 19, 1885.

At risk of giving you information already received, I send following particulars reported by Bernard:—Singbougweg and another stockade were shelled and burnt on 16th; on 17th, one British and three Native regiments and mountain battery landed on left bank Irrawaddy, and marched seven miles through jungle to rear of Gurgyong Fort. They rushed barracks outside fort, whereupon garrison fled and fort was taken without loss. On right bank three Native regiments landed without guns, and after three hours sharp fighting took Minhla Fort. Town of Minhla accidentally burnt down by shells directed at fort. Thirteen guns have been taken near Singbougweg. Steam launch capsized, and was lost, with two Native sailors. Armed launch "Kathleen" nearly destroyed by explosion of a ruined barge fixed by Europeans, believed to be Italians. Casualties reported up to date, one officer killed, four wounded, three men killed, 24 wounded.

No. 149.

TELEGRAM from CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burmah, to SECRETARY OF STATE. November 21, 1885.

No further news from General Prendergast. Press correspondents telegraphed from Magwe, 20th, taken chiefly by Clutterbuck with Naval Brigade, after slight resistance. Three Italians captured. Army proceeding up river. Head quarters reached Membo. Next engagement expected at Sagaing.

No. 150.

TELEGRAM from CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burmah, to SECRETARY OF STATE, November 23, 1885.

PRENDERGAST telegraphs: "Civil officers placed Minhla. People and priests coming in and willingly accept new situation. High officials not likely to submit till Mandalay falls.

No. 151.

TELEGRAM from VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE, November 24, 1885.

Prendergast telegraphs, 23rd:—*Begins.* Two Italians, Commotto and Molinari, surrendered yesterday. Commotto belonged to Italian Navy; Molinari is an Engineer. They have become Burmese subjects, and there is proof that they fought against us at Nyoung-Binmaw fort and at Minhla. Their surrender was necessitated because Burmese accepted their guarantee that British troops would not be able to pass frontier forts constructed or fortified by them. They are treated considerably, but as prisoners of war. *End.*

VISCOUNT LYONS to the MARQUIS OF SALISBURY.

MY LORD,

Paris, November 26, 1885.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship, extracted from the "Journal Officiel" this day—

1. The promulgation by the President of the Republic of the law authorising the ratification of the Convention entitled "Convention Complémentaire de Commerce," signed at Paris on the 15th January 1885, between France and Burmah.

2. A Decree announcing that the ratifications of this Convention were exchanged yesterday, and ordering the full and complete execution of it.

The text of this Convention of the 15th January 1885 and the text of the Convention of the 24th January 1873 are embodied in the Decree.

(Signed) LYONS.

Enclosure in No. 152.

EXTRACT from the "JOURNAL OFFICIEL" of November 26, 1885.

Loi portant Approbation de la Convention Complémentaire de Commerce, Signée à Paris, le 15 Janvier, 1885, entre la France et la Birmanie.

Le Sénat et la Chambre des Députés ont adopté,

Le Président de la République promulgue la Loi dont la teneur suit :—

Article Unique.—Le Président de la République est autorisé à ratifier et, s'il y a lieu, à faire exécuter la Convention Complémentaire de Commerce signée à Paris, le 15 Janvier, 1885, entre la France et la Birmanie.*

La présente Loi, délibérée et adoptée par le Sénat et par la Chambre des Députés, sera exécutée comme loi de l'État.

Fait à Paris, le 24 Novembre, 1885.

(Signé) JULES GRÉVY.

Par le Président de la République,

Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères,

(Signé) C. DE FREYCINET.

Le Président de la République Française,

Sur la proposition du Ministre des Affaires Étrangères,

Décète :

Article 1^{er}. Le Sénat et la Chambre des Députés ayant approuvé la Convention Complémentaire de Commerce, suivie d'un Article Additionnel, signée à Paris, le 15 Janvier, 1885, entre la France et la Birmanie, et les ratifications de cet acte ayant été échangées à Paris, le 25 Novembre, 1885, la dite Convention, dont la teneur suit, recevra sa pleine et entière exécution.

Convention.

Le Président de la République Française et Sa Majesté le Roi de Birmanie,

Désirant consolider et accroître, par une Convention spéciale, les avantages résultant pour les deux pays du Traité d'Amitié et de Commerce, signé à Paris, le 24 Janvier, 1873, ont nommé à cet effet pour leurs Plénipotentiaires, savoir :

Le Président de la République Française, M. Jules Ferry, Député, Président du Conseil des Ministres, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères ;

Et Sa Majesté le Roi de Birmanie, Ming Ghie Min Maha Zaya Thin Gian, Myothit Myosah Atwin Woon Min, le Premier Ambassadeur, Ministre de l'Intérieur du Palais et du Conseil Privé, Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté le Roi de Birmanie ;

* Le texte de la Convention sera promulgué officiellement après l'échange des ratifications des Parties Contractantes.

Lesquels, après s'être communiqué leurs pleins pouvoirs, trouvés en bonne et due forme, sont convenus des Articles suivants :—

ARTICLE I.

Il y aura paix constante, amitié perpétuelle, et pleine et entière liberté de commerce et de navigation commerciale entre la République Française et l'Empire Birman.

Les ressortissants des deux États ne payeront pas, à raison de leur commerce et de leur industrie, dans les ports, villes, ou lieux quelconques des pays respectifs, soit qu'ils s'y établissent, soit qu'ils y résident temporairement, de droits, taxes, impôts, ou patentes, sous quelque dénomination que ce soit, autres ou plus élevés que ceux qui sont ou seront perçus sur les nationaux ; et les droits, privilèges, et immunités dont jouiront en matière de commerce, d'industrie, de propriété industrielle et de navigation commerciale, les citoyens de l'un des deux États, seront communs à ceux de l'autre, sous réserve des exceptions contenues dans le présent Traité.

ARTICLE II.

Les ressortissants de chacune des Hautes Parties Contractantes auront, réciproquement, de même que les nationaux ou les ressortissants de la nation étrangère la plus favorisée, la faculté d'entrer, avec leurs navires et chargements, dans tous les ports et rivières des États respectifs de voyager, de résider, et de s'établir partout où ils le jugeront convenable pour leurs intérêts, d'acheter, de posséder, et de vendre des maisons, boutiques, magasins, et toute espèce de biens meubles, d'exercer toute espèce d'industrie, ou de métier, de faire le commerce, tant en gros qu'en détail, d'expédier, et de recevoir des marchandises et des valeurs par toute voie terrestre, fluviale, ou maritime, et de recevoir des consignations aussi bien de l'intérieur que de l'étranger, le tout sans payer d'autres droits que ceux qui sont ou pourront être perçus sur les nationaux ou sur les ressortissants de la nation la plus favorisée.

Les Français en Birmanie pourront acheter des terrains, les vendre, les posséder, les exploiter, y élever des constructions, le tout en se conformant aux lois du pays dans la mesure où ces lois seront appliquées aux citoyens de la nation étrangère la plus favorisée.

Les ressortissants de chacune de Hautes Parties Contractantes auront le droit, dans leurs ventes et achats, d'établir le prix des marchandises et des objets quels qu'ils soient tant importés que nationaux, soit qu'ils les vendent à l'intérieur du pays, soit qu'ils les destinent à l'exportation.

Ils auront la faculté de faire et administrer eux-mêmes leurs affaires, ou de se faire suppléer par des personnes dûment autorisées, soit dans l'achat ou la vente de leurs biens, effets, ou marchandises, soit dans leurs propres déclarations en douane pour le chargement, le déchargement, et l'expédition de leurs navires.

Les transactions commerciales seront entièrement libres en Birmanie. Les ressortissants Français ne seront, en aucun cas, obligés de se servir des courtiers Royaux ("pouézas"), ou intermédiaires quelconques qui existeraient sur l'Iraouaddy et sur les marchés Birmans.

ARTICLE III.

En vue de faciliter les voyages et l'établissement des ressortissants Français dans toute l'étendue de la Birmanie, et d'assurer leur sécurité, il est entendu qu'ils devront être munis d'un passeport délivré par les autorités Françaises ; ce document sera revêtu du visa des autorités Birmanes, qui ne pourront le refuser.

Toutefois, les ressortissants Français en Birmanie ne seront soumis à l'obligation de produire un passeport qu'autant que tous les ressortissants étrangers y seront également assujettis.

ARTICLE IV.

Les ressortissants Français en Birmanie et les Birmans en France seront exempts de toute contribution tant ordinaire qu'extraordinaire ou de guerre, qui ne serait pas imposée aux citoyens de la nation la plus favorisée.

Ils seront également exempts de tout service personnel soit dans les armées de terre ou de mer, soit dans la garde ou milice nationale, ainsi que de toute réquisition au service de la milice.

ARTICLE V.

Le Gouvernement Birman s'interdit de créer des monopoles et d'en autoriser, directement ou indirectement, l'établissement sur les articles de commerce autres que le thé destiné à être consommé à l'état frais. Le commerce de tous autres articles sera libre.

Il est d'ailleurs entendu qu'il n'est pas porté atteinte aux droits de propriété de Sa Majesté le Roi de Birmanie sur les produits naturels, par exemple l'huile de pétrole, les pierres précieuses, le jade, et le bois de teck, &c., qui se trouveraient sur son domaine privé.

ARTICLE VI.

L'or et l'argent monnayés ou en lingots, et les effets d'usage personnel, seront exempts en Birmanie de tout droit à l'entrée et à la sortie.

Toutes les autres marchandises seront soumises, à l'entrée et à la sortie, aux mêmes droits que ceux qui sont ou seront perçus dans ce pays sur les importations ou exportations similaires de la nation la plus favorisée.

En aucun cas, les droits perçus en Birmanie, tant à l'entrée qu'à la sortie, ne pourront excéder 5 pour cent *ad valorem* avant le premier jour de l'année Birmane 1257, correspondant au 1^{er} Avril, 1895, sauf pour l'opium, qui pourra être frappé d'un droit de 30 pour cent.

A l'expiration de ce terme, le Gouvernement Birman pourra, en tenant compte des circonstances et des besoins du commerce, augmenter les dits droits de Douane, sans qu'ils puissent cependant dépasser 10 pour cent de la valeur sur quelque marchandise que ce soit, à l'exception de l'opium, ainsi qu'il est dit ci-dessus. Dans le cas où le Gouvernement Birman ferait usage de cette faculté, il devra communiquer au Gouvernement Français, six mois à l'avance, le Tarif qu'il se proposait d'établir.

ARTICLE VII.

Pour la perception des droits de douane, la valeur des marchandises importées d'une contrée dans l'autre sera établie d'après le prix d'achat au lieu d'origine ou de fabrication, auquel se joindront le fret, la commission, et les charges d'assurances.

L'importateur devra produire les lettres d'envoi et factures de ses marchandises.

Si la Douane Birmane estime que la valeur exacte des marchandises n'a pas été déclarée par l'importateur, elle aura le droit de choisir entre les deux manières suivantes de procéder : (1) ou préempter les marchandises en payant aux déclarants, dans un délai de quinze jours, une somme égale à la valeur déclarée et le cinquième en sus, la préemption devant toujours être faite au compte de l'Etat Birman ; (2) ou soumettre la contestation au Consul de France et à un fonctionnaire Birman compétent, lesquels, après s'être adjoint chacun un ou deux négociants comme assesseurs, s'il le juge convenable, régleront l'objet de la contestation suivant l'équité.

Il ne pourra être appelé de leur décision, qui sera obligatoire pour les deux parties.

ARTICLE VIII.

Les objets servant d'échantillons qui seront importés en Birmanie par des fabricants, des marchands, ou voyageurs de commerce Français, et réciproquement, seront, de part et d'autre, admis en franchise temporaire, moyennant les formalités de douane nécessaires pour en assurer la réexportation ou la réintégration en entrepôt.

Ces formalités seront réglées d'un commun accord entre les deux Gouvernements.

ARTICLE IX.

Chacune des hautes Parties Contractantes s'engage à faire profiter l'autre, immédiatement et sans compensation, de toute faveur, de tout privilège ou abaissement de droits de douane, qu'une d'elles a accordés ou pourrait accorder à une tierce Puissance.

Les Hautes Parties Contractantes s'engagent, en outre, à n'établir, l'une envers l'autre, aucun droit ou prohibition d'importation, d'exportation, ou de transit qui ne soit, en même temps, applicable aux autres nations. Le traitement de la nation la plus favorisée est réciproquement garanti à chacune des Hautes Parties Contractantes pour tout ce qui concerne la consommation, l'entreposage, la réexportation, le transit, le transbordement de marchandises, le commerce, et la navigation en général.

ARTICLE X.

Les navires de commerce de chacun des deux pays jouiront, dans les eaux des États respectifs, de tous les droits, privilèges, et immunités qui sont ou seront accordés aux navires des nationaux, ainsi qu'aux navires des nations étrangères les plus favorisées.

Les susdits droits et privilèges seront exercés en se conformant aux lois et aux règlements de Douane du pays, dans la mesure où ces lois et règlements seront appliqués aux ressortissants de la nation la plus favorisée.

ARTICLE XI.

Les navires de commerce arrivés à la Douane de la frontière Birmane ne pourront conserver à bord que les armes et munitions portées à l'inventaire du navire et nécessaires pour la sûreté de l'équipage.

Les armes et munitions constituant des articles de cargaison devront être mises à terre et laissées à la garde du service des Douanes Birmanes, qui en sera responsable et devra en faire la délivrance au départ du navire.

ARTICLE XII.

Les officiers de la Douane Birmane seront autorisés à réclamer, à l'arrivée des navires de commerce Français à une station fluviale en territoire Birman, la représentation du titre de nationalité et des autres papiers de bord.

Dans les vingt-quatre heures de l'arrivée, de capitaine du navire devra remettre à ces officiers le manifeste ou état général du chargement, lequel indiquera : le nom et le tonnage du navire, la composition de l'équipage, le nombre des passagers, les nombre, marques, et numéros des colis, ainsi que la nature des marchandises.

L'autorisation de débarquer devra être donnée dans un délai de trois heures à partir de la remise du manifeste. Ce délai expiré, le débarquement pourra avoir lieu sans autorisation.

Le défaut de représentation du manifeste dans le délai fixé, et le déchargement des marchandises sans autorisation avant l'expiration du délai de trois heures indiqué ci-dessus, pourront donner lieu à une amende qui ne devra pas excéder 200 roupies.

ARTICLE XIII.

Les consignataires et les expéditeurs seront tenus d'assister par eux-mêmes ou par leur représentant, à la vérification des marchandises déchargées ou embarquées.

De leur côté, les officiers des Douanes Birmanes doivent procéder sans délai à cette vérification.

ARTICLE XIV.

Si un Français fait faillite dans le Royaume de Birmanie, l'Agent Français prendra possession de tous les biens du failli et en opérera la liquidation au mieux des intérêts des créanciers.

ARTICLE XV.

Si un Birman refuse ou élude le paiement d'une dette envers un Français, les autorités Birmanes donneront au créancier toute aide et toute facilité pour recouvrer ce qui lui est dû ; de même l'Agent Français donnera toute assistance aux sujets Birmans pour recouvrer les dettes qu'ils auront à réclamer des Français en Birmanie.

ARTICLE XVI.

Les ressortissants Birmans jouiront dans les Colonies ou possessions Françaises du traitement de la nation étrangère la plus favorisée.

ARTICLE XVII.

En attendant qu'un arrangement spécial soit intervenu entre les deux Gouvernements, conformément au Protocole, signé à Paris, le 24 Janvier, 1873, correspondant à l'ère

Birmane 1234, Piatho 11, de la lune décroissante, il est entendu que les ressortissants Français pourront réclamer en Birmanie, en matière de juridiction, le traitement de la nation la plus favorisée, dans le cas où les ressortissants d'autres pays viendraient à obtenir à cet égard des avantages particuliers.

ARTICLE XVIII.

Tout sujet Birman qui sera revenu en Birmanie, après s'être rendu coupable d'assassinat, de meurtre, d'incendie, de pillage à main armée, de vol avec ou sans violence, sur le territoire ou dans les possessions de la République Française, devra être jugé et puni conformément aux lois Birmanes.

Réciproquement, les ressortissants Français qui seront revenus sur le territoire, ou dans les possessions de la République, après s'être rendus coupables d'assassinat, de meurtre, d'incendie, de pillage à main armée, ou de vol avec ou sans violence, sur le territoire Birman, devront être jugés et punis conformément aux lois Françaises.

ARTICLE XIX.

Les autorités Françaises et Birmanes se livreront réciproquement les Birmans réfugiés en France ou dans les possessions Françaises et les ressortissants Français réfugiés en Birmanie qui seront accusés d'avoir commis dans l'autre pays un des crimes ou délits énumérés ci-dessus. Les demandes d'extradition devront être faites par l'entremise de l'Agent Diplomatique ou du Consul, et il y sera donné suite à moins d'objection tirée du caractère politique des faits incriminés ou de la divergence des législations.

ARTICLE XX.

Les deux Gouvernements s'entendront pour adopter, d'un commun accord, tous Règlements qui seraient jugés nécessaires afin d'assurer l'observation des stipulations du présent Traité.

ARTICLE XXI.

La présente Convention entrera en vigueur à partir du jour de l'échange des ratifications, qui aura lieu dans un délai d'un an, ou plus tôt, s'il est possible.

Elle demeurera exécutoire jusqu'à ce que les deux Gouvernements se soient mis d'accord, un an à l'avance, pour y introduire des modifications ou en faire cesser les effets.

En foi de quoi, les Plénipotentiaires respectifs ont signé la présente Convention et y ont apposé leurs cachets.

Fait en double expédition, à Paris, le 15 Janvier, 1885, correspondant à l'ère Boudhique 2428, et à l'ère vulgaire 1246, Piazio 15 de la lune décroissante.

(L.S.)
(L.S.)

(Signé)
(Signé)

JULES FERRY.

MING GHIE MIN MAHA ZAYA THIN GIAN,
MYOTHIAT MYOSAH ATWIN WOON MIN.

ARTICLE ADDITIONNEL.

Il est entendu que le Traité d'Amitié et de Commerce, du 24 Janvier, 1873, mis en vigueur par la Déclaration signée à Paris, le 5 Avril, 1884, entre la France et la Birmanie, demeurera exécutoire, comme la Convention complémentaire, jusqu'à ce que les deux Gouvernements se soient mis d'accord, un an à l'avance, pour y introduire des modifications ou en faire cesser les effets.

Fait à Paris, le 15 Janvier, 1885, correspondant à l'ère Boudhique 2428, et à l'ère vulgaire 1246, Piazio 15 de la lune décroissante.

(L.S.)
(L.S.)

(Signé)
(Signé)

JULES FERRY.

MING GHIE MIN MAHA ZAYA THIN GIAN,
MYOTHIAT MYOSAH ATWIN WOON MIN.

ANNEXE.

Convention Commerciale du 24 Janvier, 1873, entre la France et la Birmanie.

Le Président de la République Française et Sa Majesté le Roi des Birmans, désirant établir entre la France et la Birmanie des rapports d'amitié et de commerce qu'ils se réservent de consolider et d'étendre, au besoin, par la conclusion d'arrangements ultérieurs, ont nommé dans ce but, pour leurs Plénipotentiaires, savoir :

Le Président de la République Française, M. Charles de Rémusat, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, &c. ;

Sa Majesté le Roi des Birmans, Mengyee Maha Sciythoo Benwoon Mengyee, son Ambassadeur,

Lesquels, après s'être communiqué leurs pleins pouvoirs, trouvés en bonne et due forme, sont convenus des Articles suivants :—

ARTICLE I.

Les Français en Birmanie et les Birmans en France pourront librement résider, circuler, faire le commerce, acheter des terrains, les vendre, les exploiter, y élever des constructions, le tout en se conformant aux lois du pays. Ils jouiront d'une pleine et entière protection pour leurs familles et leurs propriétés, ainsi que de tous les avantages et privilèges qui sont ou seront, par la suite, accordés aux sujets de la nation la plus favorisée.

Les missionnaires Français jouiront en Birmanie des mêmes faveurs et immunités que les missionnaires de toute autre nation.

Les Français voyageant en Birmanie dans l'intérêt de la science, géographes, naturalistes, et autres, recevront des autorités Birmanes toute l'assistance dont ils auraient besoin pour le succès de leurs explorations. Les Birmans jouiront réciproquement en France des mêmes facilités.

ARTICLE II.

Les marchandises que les Français importeront en Birmanie et en exporteront, et, réciproquement, les marchandises que les Birmans importeront en France ou en exporteront, ne payeront pas d'autres ni de plus forts droits que si elles étaient importées ou exportées par des habitants du pays ou par des étrangers appartenant à la nation la plus favorisée. Les produits Birmans en France et les produits Français en Birmanie jouiront du même traitement que les produits similaires étrangers les plus favorisés.

Le Gouvernement Birman, voulant encourager le développement des échanges commerciaux entre la France et la Birmanie, s'engage à n'établir sur les articles échangés aucun droit de douane dont le taux excéderait 5 pour cent de leur valeur. Après le payement de droit d'entrée, les marchandises, en quelques mains qu'elles puissent passer, n'auront plus à supporter en Birmanie ni taxe ni charge d'aucune sorte.

ARTICLE III.

Les deux Gouvernements se reconnaissent réciproquement le droit d'avoir un Agent Diplomatique résidant auprès de chacun d'eux, et de nommer des Consuls ou Agents Consulaires partout où l'intérêt de leurs nationaux l'exigerait. Ces Agents pourront arborer le pavillon de leurs pays, et ils jouiront dans leurs personnes, aussi bien que dans l'exercice de leur charge, de la même protection et des mêmes immunités et prérogatives qui sont ou seront, par la suite, accordés aux Agents du même rang de la nation la plus favorisée.

ARTICLE IV.

Le Gouvernement Birman, désirant faciliter, autant qu'il est en son pouvoir, l'établissement des Français en Birmanie, il est convenu que les autorités Birmanes n'interviendront pas dans les contestations entre Français, qui devront toujours être déférées au Consul de France, et que les contestations entre Français et Birmans seront jugées par un Tribunal Mixte composé du Consul et d'un fonctionnaire Birman de haut rang.

ARTICLE V.

Dans le cas de décès d'un Français en Birmanie ou d'un Birman en France, les biens du décédé seront remis à ses héritiers, et, à leur défaut, au Consul de sa nation, qui se chargera de les faire parvenir aux ayants droit.

ARTICLE VI.

La présente Convention demeure obligatoire d'année en année, tant que l'un des deux Gouvernements n'aura pas annoncé à l'autre, un an à l'avance, son intention d'en faire cesser les effets.

ARTICLE VII.

Elle sera ratifiée, et les ratifications en seront échangées dans le délai d'un an, ou plus tôt, s'il est possible. Elle sera mise en vigueur dès que cet échange aura lieu.

ARTICLE VIII.

En foi de quoi, les Plénipotentiaires respectifs ont signé la présente Convention et y ont apposé leurs cachets.

Fait en double expédition, à Paris, le 24 Janvier, 1873, correspondant à l'ère de Bouddha 2416, et à l'ère vulgaire 1234, Piatho 11^e de la lune décroissante.

(L.S.)	(Signé)	RÉMUSAT.
(L.S.)	(Signé)	MENGYEE MAHA SAYTHOO KENNOON MENGYEE.

Art. 2. Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères est chargé de l'exécution du présent Décret.

Fait à Paris, le 25 Novembre, 1885.

(Signé) JULES GRÉVY.

Par le Président de la République,
Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères,
(Signé) C. DE FREYCINET.

TRANSLATION.

EXTRACT from the "JOURNAL OFFICIEL" of November 26, 1885.

LAW sanctioning the Supplementary Commercial Convention between France and Burmah. Signed at Paris, on the 15th January 1885.

THE Senate and the Chamber of Deputies have passed, the President of the Republic promulgates the Law of which the following are the terms:—

Single Article.—The President of the Republic is authorised to ratify, and, if there should be occasion for it, to cause to be carried out, the Supplementary Commercial Convention between France and Burmah, which was signed at Paris on the 15th January 1885.

This present Law, which has been discussed and passed by the Senate and by the Chamber of Deputies, shall be carried out as a State Law.

Done at Paris, this 24th day of November 1885.

By the President of the Republic,
(Signed) JULES GRÉVY.
The Minister for Foreign Affairs,
(Signed) C. DE FREYCINET.

The President of the French Republic, on the proposal of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, decrees:—

ARTICLE I.

The Senate and the Chamber of Deputies having approved the Supplementary Commercial Convention, followed by an Additional Article, signed at Paris the 15th January 1885, between France and Burmah, and the ratifications of that instrument having been exchanged at Paris on the 25th November 1885, the said Convention, of which the following is the text, shall be of full force and effect.

CONVENTION.

The President of the French Republic and His Majesty the King of Burmah, desiring to consolidate and increase by a Special Convention the advantages accruing to the two countries from the Treaty of Friendship and Commerce signed at Paris on the 24th of January 1873, have with that object named as their Plenipotentiaries the following; that is to say,—

The President of the French Republic, Mons. Jules Ferry, Deputy, President of the Council of Ministers, Minister of Foreign Affairs;

And His Majesty the King of Burmah, Ming Ghic Min Maha Laya Thin Gian Myothit Myosah Atwin Woon Min, First Ambassador, Minister of the Interior, of the Palace, and of the Privy Council, Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the King of Burmah;

Who, after reciprocal communication of their full powers, which were found to be in due and proper form, have agreed upon the following Articles:—

ARTICLE I.

There shall be lasting peace, perpetual friendship, and full and complete liberty of commerce and of commercial navigation between the French Republic and the Burmese Empire.

Those who may resort from one to the other State shall not be liable, in respect of their commerce and industry, in the ports, towns, and all other places whatsoever belonging to their respective countries, whether they be permanently settled or temporarily resident in such localities, to pay any dues, taxes, imposts, or duties of any denomination other or higher than those which are or shall be levied on the subjects (of the two States); and the rights, privileges, and immunities to which the citizens of either State shall be entitled in matters of commerce, industry, industrial property, and commercial navigation, shall be common to the citizens of the other State, subject always to the exceptions mentioned in the present Treaty.

ARTICLE II.

Those resorting from (the dominions of) either of the High Contracting Parties to (the dominions of) the other, shall, reciprocally enjoy, in the same manner as the subjects of or resorters from the most favoured nation, the right of entering with their vessels and ladings all the ports and rivers of the respective States, of travelling, residing, and settling in all places where they may deem it suitable for their interests, of purchasing, holding, and selling houses, shops, stores, and all sorts of moveable property, of pursuing any kind of industry or calling, of carrying on trade, both wholesale and retail, of despatching and receiving merchandise and valuable commodities by land, river, or sea, and of receiving both home and foreign consignments, without payment of other duties than such as are or shall be leviable on the subjects of or resorters from the most favoured nation.

Frenchmen in Burmah shall be competent to purchase lands, to sell, hold, and utilise them, and to raise buildings on them, conforming themselves throughout to the laws of the country, in so far as such laws shall be applicable to the citizens of the most favoured nation.

Those resorting from (the dominions of) either of the High Contracting Parties to (the dominions of) the other shall have the right, in their purchases and sales, to fix the price of the goods and commodities of whatever nature, both imported and native, whether they sell them inland or destine them for exportation.

They shall be empowered to carry on and administer their business themselves, or to depute duly authorised substitutes, whether for the purchase or sale of their goods, effects, or merchandise, or for their own customs declarations in regard to the lading, unloading, and despatch of their vessels.

Commercial transactions shall be entirely free in Burmah. Those who resort there from France shall in no case be forced to employ royal brokers (ponézas) or any middlemen there may be on the Irrawaddy and in the Burmese markets.

ARTICLE III.

In order to facilitate the voyages and settlement of Frenchmen who may resort thither throughout the length and breadth of Burmah, and to ensure their safety, it is agreed that they must be provided with a passport issued by the French authorities; the said document shall be furnished with the visa of the Burmese authorities, who shall not be competent to refuse it.

Nevertheless, Frenchmen resorting to Burmah shall not be under an obligation to produce a passport, except in so far as foreigners resorting thither shall be similarly liable.

ARTICLE IV.

Frenchmen resorting to Burmah and Burmans in France shall be exempt from all contributions, whether ordinary or extraordinary, or for war purposes, which may not be imposed on citizens of the most favoured nation.

They shall be equally exempt from all personal service either in the land or sea forces, in the national guard, or in the national militia, as well as from all requisition for service in the militia.

ARTICLE V.

The Burmese Government binds itself not to create monopolies, nor to authorise, directly or indirectly, their imposition on any article of commerce other than tea, intended for consumption in the fresh state. Trade in all other articles shall be free.

It is, moreover, agreed, that no violation is intended of the rights of property possessed by His Majesty the King of Burmah over the natural products, such as petroleum oil, precious stones, jade, teakwood, &c., which may be found on his private domain.

ARTICLE VI.

Gold and silver, either coined or in bars, and effects for personal use, shall be exempt in Burmah from all import and export dues.

All other kinds of merchandise shall be subject, on entering and leaving, to the same duties as are or shall be leviable in that country upon similar imports and exports in the case of the most favoured nation.

In no case shall the duties levied in Burmah, either on entering or leaving, be permitted to exceed 5 per cent *ad valorem* before the first day of the Burmese year 1257, corresponding to April 1, 1895, except upon opium, which may be taxed to the extent of 30 per cent.

On the expiration of that period, the Burmese Government shall be competent, whilst making allowance for circumstances and for the needs of commerce, to increase the said customs duties, but nevertheless not so that they shall exceed 10 per cent. on the value of any merchandize, except opium, as above stated. In the event of the Burmese Government availing themselves of such faculty, they shall be bound to communicate to the French Government, six months beforehand, the tariff which they may propose to put in force.

ARTICLE VII.

For the collection of customs dues, the value of the merchandize imported from one country into the other shall be calculated upon the purchase price at the place of origin or manufacture, to which shall be added the freight, the commission and the insurance charges.

The importer shall be bound to produce the letters of advice and the invoices of his merchandize.

If the Burmese customs should consider that the exact value of the merchandize has not been declared by the importer, they shall be entitled to make choice between the two following methods of procedure: 1st, either to exercise the right of pre-emption of the merchandize by paying to the declarers, within 15 days, a sum equal to the declared value and an additional fifth, the pre-emption having always to be charged to the account of the State of Burmah, or (2) to submit the dispute to the French consul, and to a competent Burmese functionary, who, after each has chosen as his assistants one or two merchants as assessors, if he should think fit to do so, shall jointly decide the question in dispute according to equity.

There shall be no appeal from their decision, which shall be binding on both parties.

ARTICLE VIII.

All patterns which shall be imported into Burmah by French manufacturers, merchants, or commercial travellers, and *vice versa*, shall, on both sides, be temporarily admitted free of duty, subject to the customs formalities necessary to ensure their re-exportation or re-delivery to store in bond.

These formalities shall be settled by common agreement between the two Governments.

ARTICLE IX.

Each of the High Contracting Parties engages to enable the other to profit at once, and without compensation, by all favours, privileges, or reductions of customs duties, which either of them may have granted or grant to a third Power. The High Contracting Parties engage, moreover, not to impose, as regards one another, any duty or prohibition on importation, exportation, or transit, which shall not be at the same time applicable to other nations. The most favoured nation's treatment is reciprocally guaranteed to each of the High Contracting Parties in all that concerns consumption, warehousing in bond, re-exportation, transit, transhipment of merchandize, commerce, and navigation in general.

ARTICLE X.

The trading vessels of each of the two countries shall enjoy, in the waters of their respective States, all the rights, privileges, and immunities which are or shall be accorded to native vessels, as well as to the vessels of the most favoured foreign nations.

The above-mentioned rights and privileges shall be exercised in conformity with the laws and with the customs regulations of the country, in so far as such laws and regulations shall be applied to those who resort there from the most favoured nation.

ARTICLE XI.

Trading vessels arrived at the Burmese frontier custom house, shall not be allowed to retain on board any arms and munitions, save those inscribed in the ship's papers and necessary for the safety of the crew.

Arms and munitions constituting part of the cargo must be landed and left in charge of the Burmese customs guard, who shall be responsible for them and deliver them up on the departure of the vessel.

ARTICLE XII.

The Burmese customs officers shall be authorised to exact the production of the certificate of nationality and other ship's papers, on the arrival of French trading vessels at a riverain station in Burmese territory.

Within 24 hours from its arrival, the master of the vessel shall deliver to the said officers the freight list or general bill of lading, which shall record,—the name and tonnage of the vessel, the composition of the crew, the number of passengers, the amount, marks, and numbers of the packages, and the nature of the merchandize.

The landing permit shall be issued within three hours from the delivery of the freight list. At the end of that time the landing may take place without a permit.

Failure to show the freight list within the time fixed, and unlading of the merchandize without a permit before the expiration of the three hours' delay above mentioned, shall expose (the offender) to a fine which shall not exceed 200 rupees.

ARTICLE XIII.

The consignees and the shippers shall be bound to assist in person or by deputy, at the verification of the merchandize loaded or unloaded.

On their part the officers of the Burmese customs shall lose no time in proceeding with the verification.

ARTICLE XIV.

If a Frenchman becomes bankrupt in the kingdom of Burmah, the French consul ("agent") shall take possession of all the property of the bankrupt, and shall carry out the liquidation of the estate as best he can for the interests of the creditors.

ARTICLE XV.

If a Burman refuses or avoids payment of a debt to a Frenchman, the Burmese authorities shall afford every help and facility for the recovery of what is due; in the same manner the French consul ("agent") shall give every assistance to Burmese subjects for the recovery of such debts as they may have against Frenchmen in Burmah.

ARTICLE XVI.

Those resorting from Burmah to French Colonies or Possessions shall enjoy there the most favoured nation treatment.

ARTICLE XVII.

Pending the conclusion of a special arrangement between the two Governments, in conformity with the Protocol signed at Paris the 24th day of January 1873, corresponding to 1234 of the Burmese era, Piatho 11 of the Waning moon, it is agreed that those resorting from France to Burmah may claim there, in matters of jurisdiction, the treatment of the most favoured nation, in the event of those resorting there from other countries obtaining particular advantages in this respect.

ARTICLE XVIII.

Every Burmese subject who shall have returned to Burmah, after rendering himself guilty of assassination, of murder, of arson, of armed pillage, of robbery with or without violence, on the territory or within the possessions of the French Republic, shall be tried and punished according to the laws of Burmah.

On the other hand Frenchmen who shall have returned to the territory or to the possessions of the Republic, after rendering themselves guilty of assassination, of murder, of arson, of armed pillage, or of robbery with or without violence, on Burmese territory, shall be tried and punished according to the laws of France.

ARTICLE XIX.

The authorities of France and Burmah shall reciprocally deliver up to each other Burmese subjects taking refuge in France or in French Possessions, and French "resorters" taking refuge in Burmah, who shall be charged with the commission in each other's country of the crimes or offences above enumerated. Applications for extradition shall be made through the channel of the Diplomatic Agent or of the Consul, and shall be complied with in the absence of any objection derived from the political character of the offences charged or from deversity of legislation.

ARTICLE XX.

The two Governments shall come to an understanding with a view to adopt, by common accord, such regulations as may be deemed necessary to ensure observance of the stipulations of the present treaty.

ARTICLE XXI.

The present Convention shall come into force from the day on which the ratifications are exchanged, which shall take place within one year from this date, or sooner, if possible.

It shall remain operative until the two Governments shall have come to an agreement, 12 months beforehand, as to the introduction of modifications or for terminating its operation.

In faith of which the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Convention and have affixed to it their seals.

Done in duplicate at Paris, this 15th day of January 1885, corresponding to 2428 of the Buddhist Era, and to 1246 of the Vulgar Era, Piazo 15 of the Waning moon.

(L.S.)	(Signed)	JULES FERRY.
"	"	MING GHIE MIN MAHA ZAYA THIN
		GIAN MYOTHIT MYOSAH ATWIN
		WOON MIN.

ADDITIONAL ARTICLE.

It is agreed that the Treaty of Friendship and Commerce of the 24th January 1873, between France and Burmah, put in force by the Declaration signed at Paris on the 5th April 1884, shall remain operative, in the same manner as the Supplementary Convention, until the two Governments shall have come to an agreement, 12 months beforehand, as to the introduction of modifications, or for terminating its operation.

Done at Paris, this 15th day of January 1885, corresponding to 2428 of the Buddhist Era, and to 1246 of the Vulgar Era, Piazo 15 of the Waning moon.

(L.S.)	(Signed)	JULES FERRY.
"	"	MING GHIE MIN MAHA ZAYA TIN
		GIAN MYOTHIT MYOSAH ATWIN
		WOON MIN.

ANNEX.

COMMERCIAL CONVENTION between FRANCE and BURMAH, of the 24th January 1873.

The President of the French Republic and His Majesty the King of the Burmans, being desirous of establishing between France and Burmah relations of friendship and commerce, which they reserve to themselves power to consolidate, and, if necessary, to extend by the conclusion of subsequent arrangements, have, with that object, named as their Plenipotentiaries the following, that is to say:—

The President of the French Republic, M. Charles de Rémusat, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

His Majesty the King of the Burmans, Mengyee Maha Sciy Thoo Benwoon Mengyee, his Ambassador;

Who, after reciprocal communication of their full powers, which were found to be in due and proper form, have agreed upon the following Articles:—

ARTICLE I.

The French in Burmah and the Burmese in France shall be competent to reside freely, to move from place to place, to trade, to purchase land, to sell it, to utilize it, to build on it, conforming themselves throughout to the laws of the country. They shall enjoy full and complete protection for their families and their properties, as well as all such advantages and privileges as are or shall be hereafter accorded to subjects of the most favoured nation.

French missionaries shall enjoy in Burmah the same favours and immunities as the missionaries of any other nation.

Frenchmen travelling in Burmah in the interests of science, such as geographers, naturalists, and others, shall receive from the Burmese authorities all the assistance of which they may stand in need for succeeding in their explorations. Burmans shall enjoy, reciprocally, the same facilities in France.

ARTICLE II.

The merchandize which the French shall import into and export from Burmah, and, reciprocally, the merchandize which the Burmese shall import into or export from France, shall not be subject to other or higher dues than if it were imported or exported by the natives of the country, or by foreigners belonging to the most favoured nation.

Burmese products in France and French products in Burmah shall enjoy the same treatment as the most favoured foreign products of a similar kind.

The Burmese Government wishing to encourage the development of commercial exchanges and barter between France and Burmah, binds itself not to impose on the articles exchanged any Customs duty the amount of which shall exceed 5 per cent. on their value. After the payment of the entrance duty, the merchandize, into whomsoever's hands it may pass shall not be liable in Burmah to taxation or charges of any kind.

ARTICLE III.

The two Governments reciprocally recognise each other's right to have a Diplomatic Agent accredited to one another, and to appoint Consuls or Consular Agents in all places where the interests of their "nationals" may require it. Such agents shall be competent to fly the flag of their country, and they shall enjoy, personally, as well as in their official character the same protection and the same immunities and prerogatives as are or shall be hereafter accorded to agents of the same rank belonging to the most favoured nation.

ARTICLE IV.

The Burmese Government, desiring to facilitate, as far as may be in its power, the settlement of the French in Burmah, it is agreed that the Burmese Authorities shall not intervene in disputes between Frenchmen, which shall always be referred to the French Consul, and that disputes between Frenchmen and Burmese shall be tried by a mixed tribunal composed of the Consul and a Burmese functionary of high rank.

ARTICLE V.

In the event of the decease of a Frenchman in Burmah or of a Burman in France, the estate of the deceased shall be handed over to his heirs, and, in default of them, to the Consul of his nation, who shall undertake to forward it to the parties properly entitled thereto.

ARTICLE VI.

The present Convention shall remain in force from year to year during such period as one of the two Governments concerned shall not have given notice to the other, 12 months beforehand, of its intention to terminate its operation.

ARTICLE VII.

It shall be ratified, and the ratifications shall be exchanged within a year from this date, or sooner, if possible.

It shall be put in force as soon as the said exchange shall have taken place.

ARTICLE VIII.

In faith of which the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Convention and have affixed to it their seals.

Done, in duplicate, at Paris, this 24th day of January 1873, corresponding to 2416 of the Buddhist Era, and 1234 of the Vulgar Era, Piatho 11e. of the Waning moon.

(L.S.) (Signed) RÉMUSAT.

" " MENG YEE MAHA SAYTHOO KENNORU
MENG YEE.

ARTICLE 2.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs is charged with the execution of the present Decree.

Done at Paris, this 25th day of November 1885.

By the President of the Republic,
The Minister of Foreign Affairs,
C. DE FREYCINET.

(Signed) JULES GRÉVY.

No. 153.

TELEGRAM from CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burmah, to SECRETARY OF STATE, dated November 27, 1885.

TELEGRAM just received from Prendergast announces military post with civil officer established Pagan. Enemy appeared in force at Myingyan, where river bank was entrenched and guns mounted on three batteries. These were silenced by gunboats between four p.m. and nightfall on 24th. Next morning, three brigades landed, but found place evacuated. Military post was established with civil officers. Force was expected to arrive off Ava to-day. Prendergast adds:—

"We have fresh and unmistakeable evidences that our advance in force is looked upon by the people as a deliverance from past and present evils. They are flocking back into the town from which, they say, they were driven by the extortionate exactions of the Mandalay soldiers. Priests and people say openly, and with evident signs of satisfaction, that they willingly accept English rule, and hope for its speedy establishment."

Another correspondent states our loss at Myingyan two severely and five slightly wounded

No. 154.

TELEGRAM from CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burmah, to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Rangoon, November 30, 1885.

ON 26th, Royal barge with flag of truce, met flotilla 30 miles below Mandalay, with letter begging for armistice. Prendergast replied, demanding surrender of King's army and Mandalay. Next morning, Envoy returned with orders from King to accede to all demands. Army surrendered Ava forts, 28 guns, and laid down arms. Prendergast intended to proceed to Mandalay on 28th.

No. 155.

TELEGRAM from SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

November 30, 1885.

I AM commanded by the Queen to express to your Excellency the pleasure with which Her Majesty has received the news of the result of the military operations in the Irrawaddy Valley, so effectually organised by your Excellency's Government and so brilliantly carried out by Her Majesty's forces under the command of General Prendergast.

No. 156.

TELEGRAM from SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

November 30, 1885.

HER Majesty's Government offer to your Excellency their cordial congratulations on the conspicuous success which has attended the expedition against the King of Burmah, as directed by your Excellency's Government, and are glad to express their profound satisfaction that the immediate objects of the military operations have been attained with so little loss of life.

No. 157.

TELEGRAM from GENERAL PRENDERGAST to SECRETARY OF STATE.
November 30, 1885.

MYINGYAN. On afternoon of 24th, fleet approached Myingyan. Enemy visible in force about two miles inland and batteries on left bank of river. Naval brigade and Royal Artillery went forward and engaged enemy at 4 p.m., and continued in action until after dark. On 25th prepared to land troops, but position was found to be evacuated during the night. Twenty guns of small calibre destroyed. The batteries were the most formidable as yet encountered. Casualties: First class petty officer Cooper, H.M.S. "Turquoise," severely wounded; Private A. T. Bayley, R.M.L.I., severely wounded. 500 men and two guns garrison Myingyan. Priests and people seem content. Fleet proceeded northward.

No. 158.

No. 215 of 1885.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Foreign Department.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

MY LORD,

Agra, December 1, 1885.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, a copy of certain correspondence relating to the recent outbreak of hostilities in Burmah and to the subject of our relations with the Government of Mandalay.

2. The treaties between the British Government and the kingdom of Burmah provide that British subjects shall be free to travel and trade in the Burmese dominions; that they shall, while resident in those dominions, be treated and protected as if they were Burmese subjects; that the British Government may establish a political agent in Burmese territory with a suitable residence and escort; that there shall be no monopolies in goods and merchandise passing between Burmese and British territories, excepting as regards earth-oil, timber, and precious stones; and generally that relations of peace and amity shall be maintained between the two Governments, each being careful to observe the conditions of a firm and lasting friendship.

H h 4

3. Your Lordship is aware that for some years past we have had grave cause to complain of the manner in which these obligations have been fulfilled. In 1879, the Government of India submitted to the Secretary of State a statement of the various matters in respect to which the proceedings of the Burmese authorities had been open to objection of a more or less serious character. The unsatisfactory nature of the relations existing between the two countries was clearly demonstrated. It was shown that the principal concessions secured to us by our commercial treaties had never been fairly brought into effect; there were no sufficient guarantees for the strict and substantial observance of the engagements in force; that territorial rights claimed by us were refused recognition, or pertinaciously obstructed; that British subjects in Upper Burmah were exposed to ill-treatment and indignity; and that there was grave cause for dissatisfaction at the position of the British Resident, who was excluded from personal access to the king, in consequence of the degrading ceremonial upon which the Court insisted. The despatch also referred to the circumstances under which King Theebaw had lately come to the throne, and to the horrible massacres by which his succession had been signalled. The opinion was expressed that it would be in the highest degree impolitic, and indeed scarcely possible, to acquiesce much longer in the existing condition of affairs. No request of the least importance, no representation, however earnest or reasonable, no complaint, however well founded, on the part of our resident at Mandalay, had been entertained or satisfied without such pressure as to convince the Government of Upper Burmah that further resistance would be unsafe to itself. At that point the Burmese Government would always yield to our demands, but in relations maintained under such inconvenient conditions, every trivial misunderstanding might lead to serious complications. The Government of India therefore submitted that it had become expedient to intimate decidedly to the King of Upper Burmah that they looked for change in his policy towards them. They proposed to inform His Majesty that they desired to arrange for the improvement of the British Resident's position, for a general settlement of pending differences and grievances, and for a revision of their treaty relations with his Government.

4. In reply, the Secretary of State observed that the recital of events in this despatch showed our relations with the King of Burmah to be in a very precarious position, but his Lordship was of opinion that such a decided intimation of policy as was contemplated by the Government of India would not be opportune while King Theebaw was in the first excitement of the possession of unbridled power, and was surrounded by the worst class of counsellors. It was pointed out that the grievances which we had tolerated from former rulers of Burmah had not as yet been aggravated by the new king, and that no action had been taken on his part which called for a distinct change of policy on ours.

Under these circumstances, Her Majesty's Government considered that the despatch of anything like an ultimatum based upon former grievances would be impolitic, and they expressed a hope that His Majesty might after a time be induced to make advances which would result in a better understanding upon the various points to which the Government of India had referred.

5. King Theebaw has now been more than six years upon the throne, and it cannot be said that he has availed himself, or manifested any serious inclination to avail himself, of the opportunity which was afforded to him. Our relations with his Government have during that time been to the full as insecure and unsatisfactory as they were in 1879.

A year after King Theebaw's accession it was found impracticable and unsafe to retain a Resident any longer at his Court; and as the efforts of Lord Ripon's Government to come to a satisfactory understanding for the restoration of diplomatic relations were frustrated by the unreasonable nature of the Burmese demands, we have never since had a representative in Burmese territory. At the same time causes of complaint similar to those which were enumerated in the Despatch of 1879 have continued to recur. British subjects in Upper Burmah have been maltreated, and adequate redress has been persistently refused or delayed.

The commercial privileges secured by treaty have been infringed. The Burmese Government have shown a disposition to encroach upon our borders and upon the protected State of Munnipoor; and the general disorganization into which their country has been allowed to fall has proved in many respects gravely prejudicial to the peace of our own borders and to the interest of our subjects.

6. Nor were the foregoing the only circumstances which occasioned us anxiety in regard to Burmah. *Pari passu* with the development of King Theebaw's persistent hostility towards ourselves, unmistakable indications were not wanting that the Government of Mandalay was bent upon welcoming to the Upper Valley of the Irrawaddy extraneous influences, which, if allowed to become established and dominant, could not

fail at some future time to trouble the political tranquillity of Lower Burmah, and engender complications extending even beyond our frontiers.

7. These various circumstances were occupying our attention, when the Burmese Government rendered some definite action necessary by imposing an arbitrary fine of ruinous amount upon a British Trading Company. So far as we could judge from the information submitted to us, the demand was altogether unjustifiable; but we desired to afford King Theebaw every opportunity of explaining his proceedings, and to bring about, if possible, an amicable settlement of the dispute. With this view the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah was instructed to address to the Burmese Government a representation, couched in temperate terms and devoid of all appearance of menace, by which King Theebaw was invited to refer the case to impartial adjudication, and was informed that in the mean time the Government of India hoped he would abstain from taking final action against the Company. We received in reply, a letter refusing to entertain any proposal for arbitration, and distinctly informing the Chief Commissioner that on no account whatever would there be suspension of any order which might be passed upon the case. Under these circumstances we thought it necessary to adopt a more decided tone, and after full consideration, we resolved that the opportunity should be taken of placing our future relations with King Theebaw upon a more satisfactory basis.

8. Accordingly, we directed the Chief Commissioner to despatch to Mandalay a communication containing three demands. These were briefly as follows:—

- (1.) That an envoy from the Viceroy and Governor General should be suitably received at Mandalay, and that the present dispute should be settled in communication with him.
- (2.) That all action against the Trading Company should be suspended until the Envoy arrived.
- (3.) That for the future a diplomatic Agent from the Viceroy should be allowed to reside at Mandalay, with proper securities for his safety, and should receive becoming treatment at the hands of the Burmese Government.

Failing the acceptance of these demands, we announced our intention of taking the matter into our own hands without any further attempt to prolong a fruitless negotiation. At the same time we thought it fair to warn King Theebaw that the Government of Ava would be expected for the future to regulate the external relations of the country in accordance with the advice of the Government of India, and to afford reasonable facilities for opening up British trade with China. These last two requirements, however, did not form an essential part of our ultimatum, because we did not deem it right to insist upon an explicit answer with regard to them, until our Agent, after his arrival at Mandalay, should have had an opportunity of explaining their real meaning, and of meeting any objections which might be made to them by the Burmese Government. We therefore asked for nothing more than a general acquiescence in the principle of these demands.

9. Notwithstanding the unsatisfactory nature of King Theebaw's reply to our first proposal, we still hoped that His Majesty might not be so ill-advised as to throw away the final opportunity of coming to an amicable understanding which had thus been afforded to him. At the same time we considered it expedient to prepare for every eventuality, by fitting out and sending to Rangoon a military force sufficiently large to show that we were prepared in case of necessity to follow up our demands by decisive measures.

10. As your Lordship is aware, the Burmese Government refused to accept our proposals, and accentuated their refusal by issuing a Proclamation of an unmistakeably hostile nature.

General Prendergast, who had been appointed to the command of the expeditionary force, was therefore directed to cross the border of Upper Burmah, to issue the appended Proclamation, and to advance on Mandalay.

11. It is needless for us to assure your Lordship that we have embarked with extreme reluctance on the line of action above described. In spite of the urgent representations made to us by the mercantile community of Rangoon, we have steadily refused to admit that the misgovernment of King Theebaw within the limits of his own dominions, even when it had an injurious influence on our commerce, was a sufficient justification for invading his territories; but, on the other hand, when the Mandalay Government proceeded to overt acts of flagrant injustice upon a scale it was impossible to overlook, we felt bound to protect Her Majesty's subjects from further wrong at the hands of a semi-barbarous and arbitrary ruler. With this view we once more resorted to diplomatic representations, and when these failed of their effect, we repeated them in such a form as to leave no doubt in the minds of the Ava Government of our being in earnest. The demands themselves were both moderate and reasonable. It had become necessary on

many accounts that the Government agency at Mandalay should be reconstituted. All that we imperatively insisted upon was that our representative should be allowed to return, exempted from those humiliating requirements which had forced his predecessor to quit the Burmese capital, and that the proceedings against the Trading Company should be arrested until our Agent should have been given an opportunity of discussing on the spot with the King's Government the merits of the case. To our great regret, our efforts to avoid a recourse to arms have been unavailing. But, however disappointed we may be at such a result, we feel convinced that no other course was open to us, and that to have prolonged our forbearance further in the face of the many provocations to which we had been exposed, would ere long have superinduced a crisis which would have had to be met under conditions far more embarrassing to ourselves, and more likely to entail heavy sufferings upon the inhabitants of Upper Burmah than those we are now called upon to encounter.

12. In conclusion, I beg to state that by acting with promptitude and decision, by refusing to be amused by vain pretexts invented merely to prepare resistance and secure delay until the unhealthy season, and by the despatch of a force sufficiently large to render opposition vain, I hope to circumscribe, to the smallest possible limits, the expense, the losses, and the duration of the campaign. General Prendergast has been invited to remember that he is about to operate in a country inhabited by a people kindred to our own subjects in race, in religion, and in their material interests, and that he is attacking not a hostile nation, but a perverse and impracticable Court. I am happy to say that, so far, General Prendergast has succeeded, by his skilful and humane arrangements, in making considerable progress up the Irrawaddy without sustaining much loss himself or inflicting any severe punishment upon the enemy. I hope to hear before many days that he is in possession of Mandalay, and I shall then endeavour to submit as soon as possible final proposals with regard to the future administration of the country. Before doing so, however, it is my intention to proceed to Burmah in person, with the view of examining on the spot the elements of this most important question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Enclosure 1 in No. 158.

LETTER from His Excellency the MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS at Mandalay to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burmah, dated the 3rd October 1885.

MINISTER has received and carefully considered the Chief Commissioner's letter, No. 612, dated the 28th August 1885, corresponding with 3rd Waring Wagaung 1247. As the statements contained in the letter are based on interested representations made by one party only, namely, the defendants in the case between the foresters of Toungoo Ningyan and the agents of the Bombay-Burma Company, Minister, in reply, sends, for the clear understanding of the Chief Commissioner, an account of the actual circumstances of the case wherein the Burmese Government passed a decision in accordance with the customary laws of the State, based on the complaints, answers, and examinations made with the concurrence of both parties. The various foresters of Toungoo Ningyan, in felling and delivering timber to the Bombay-Burma Company in accordance with the contract granted to the Company by the Burmese Government, floated and delivered in 1245, 1884, upwards of forty thousand logs, and yet for the two years the Company submitted accounts for upwards of thirty-two thousand logs only, the foresters who had worked out the timber did not obtain payment of the amount due to them for the number of logs they had delivered. Being aggrieved, they petitioned for a just settlement with the Bombay-Burma Company, filing, as exhibits, copies of timber statements obtained by them from the British Toungoo forest officer. Upon the plaint and exhibits filed by the foresters, Andreino, the agent of the Bombay-Burma Company and a party to the forest contract was examined. His statement was that no timber had been exported and taken in excess of the quantity for which annual accounts had been submitted. With respect to the allegations made by the foresters in their plaint, he stated that he would be prepared to undergo examination, and submit his reply after having made certain inquiries of the members of the Company. If each party had been called upon to submit accounts and replies, the dispute between the two parties would have become more complicated and protracted. Furthermore, the statements exhibited by the plaintiffs purported to be copies of statements from a British forest officer, i.e., an officer of the same nationality as that of the defendants. If such statements were actually existing in the forest office, the agents of a British company could not dispute their correctness. Taking these facts into consideration, the parties were asked if they would

settle matters by taking copies of the forest office records and comparing figures. With their concurrence, and with the object of obtaining facilities for arriving at a just decision and settlement of the dispute, men furnished by both sides were despatched to the Chief Commissioner with a letter so as to enable them to take copies of statements of the timber which arrived at the Toungoo forest office from the year when the Bombay-Burma Company first worked out and floated down timber on their first contract down to the year 1246 (1884). The Chief Commissioner instructed his forest officers to permit the taking of copies of statements, and the parties accordingly obtained from the forest officers the papers they required, certified with the office seal, namely, statements showing in detail the rafts of timber which had arrived at the Toungoo forest office. These statements were submitted to the Burmese Government. When the figures contained in the forest office statements for the three years were compared with the number of logs for which accounts had been submitted during these years, and for which royalty had been paid, the royalty-paid logs were found to be few, while the logs contained in the forest office statement were many. After making all necessary deductions, upwards of 56,000 due and Halwa logs were found to have been exported without payment of royalty; and when Andreino, the forest company's agent and a party to the contract, was further examined, he was not able to give any sufficient explanation to show that the excess number of logs as contained in the forest office statement were logs which could have been lawfully exported. The examination of both parties conducted in each other's presence, and the consideration and comparison of the statements of both sides on the subject of the first and second contracts entered into by the company, and the copies of statements received from the Toungoo forest office, resulted in clearly bringing out the fact that the excess timber exported was timber which could not have been lawfully exported under any condition or circumstances whatever. It having been clearly ascertained that the Bombay-Burma Company had exported upwards of 26,000 logs royalty unpaid timber, the foresters were ordered to file their statement of accounts in order to enable them to recover the balance of their just dues for the working out of the timber, besides settling these claims for the working of the timber, the Hlutdaw supreme court decreed in its judgment with reference to the ascertained export of a large quantity of timber without payment of royalty, that as the timber was timber which had been fraudulently exported in contravention of the laws of the State, twice its value, viz., two million rupees and upwards, should be paid as compensation by the agents of the Bombay-Burma Company. In accordance with the judgment of the Hlutdaw, the agents of the Bombay-Burma Company have been ordered by the revenue authorities to pay the amount adjudged by monthly instalments, and they have been definitely informed that if the amount be not paid the Company's timber in the Toungoo Ningyan forests will be attached in satisfaction of the decree. These are the circumstances of the case, and if the Chief Commissioner will carefully consider them, as well as the fact that the two parties have been lawfully examined with their concurrence, and that a lawful decision and settlement have been come to, he will clearly perceive that the representations made to him by the Company are untrue, and that the Company's agents have, inconsistently with the usages of people belonging to great nations, acted unlawfully and fraudulently in their forest transactions. With reference to the statement made in the letter No. 612, namely, that the British Government cannot remain indifferent to the cancelment of contracts without investigation and the levy of fines without inquiry, as also to the statement that the British Government trusts that the Bombay-Burma Company have acted honestly in their dealings with the Burmese Government; Minister believes that these statements have been inserted in the letter in consequence of a one-sided and interested representation of the Bombay-Burma Company alone having been heard, and that they would not have been so inserted had all the circumstances of the case and the representations of both parties as mentioned herein been fully considered. It has been clearly ascertained that the Bombay-Burma Company have in the working of the forests conceded to them by the Burmese Government contravened the laws of the State, and fraudulently exported, without payment of royalty, timber which should have paid royalty. They have thus clearly rendered themselves liable to criminal punishment, and the Hlutdaw has inquired into and passed judgment in the case. Under these circumstances, the English Government should know that there is no occasion for asking whether or not the Burmese Government are willing to place the case before an arbitrator to be sent by the Viceroy, and whether or not the Burmese Government will be able to abide by the arbitrator's decision, and that there is no occasion for answering those questions. Taking the above statements into consideration the Chief Commissioner is distinctly informed in reply that on no account whatever can there be any suspension or modification of any necessary order or action against the Bombay-Burma Company in accordance with the judgment of

the Hlutdaw in the timber case between the Toungoo Ningyan foresters and the Bombay-Burmah Company.

Enclosure 2 in No. 158.

TELEGRAM FROM SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Foreign Department, to CHIEF COMMISSIONER, Rangoon, dated the 19th October 1885.

PLEASE write at once to Mandalay Government acknowledging receipt of their letter. Say that the reply they have sent cannot be accepted; and that we must now insist upon an envoy from Government of India being at once received at Mandalay and upon settlement of present dispute in communication with him. He must have free access to the King, and must not be asked to submit to any humiliating ceremonies. Secondly, please inform Mandalay Government that they must meanwhile abstain from enforcing their claims against corporation, and that if any action of the kind has been or should be taken we shall act in such way as may seem best to us without further communication to them. Thirdly, tell them that the present and other recent incidents show the necessity for permanent retention of an English diplomatic Agent at Mandalay, with proper residence near river and British guard, and, if you agree, a steamer. The three conditions enumerated above are essential, and the Government of India will enter into no discussion about them. Further, you should warn Mandalay Government that for the future they will be expected to regulate their external relations in accordance with our advice, and that we shall also expect them to afford complete facilities for opening up British trade with China via Bhamo. These last two stipulations can be worked out hereafter when our envoy has been received, but they should be communicated at the same time as the others, though perhaps in a separate document. The Viceroy's object in drawing this distinction is to avoid presenting to Mandalay Government at once a formal ultimatum containing terms which Burmese would be likely to refuse unless the nature of the proposed arrangement were more definitely explained. They must, however, be warned of our wishes from the beginning. Fix a reasonable time for receiving a reply, allowing Burmese Government three or four days for consideration; and inform them that if a reply is not received on or before the day fixed the Government will take matter into its own hand. They should also be clearly warned that any reply short of an unconditional acceptance of our three first demands, and of a general acquiescence in the two last, will be treated as a refusal. It is useless for them to propose sending a mission or other measure of the kind. In the meantime I am to inform you that orders will be issued for immediate preparation of a force numbering probably about 10,000 men. With regard to Europeans and British subjects in Upper Burmah, Viceroy would be glad to know your views. He is inclined to think they should come away at once if possible, and in any case, Burmese Government must be solemnly warned of the consequences of doing them any injury. Please acknowledge receipt of this telegram, and make any suggestions on whole case which you may think desirable. The intention, if Burmese answer should be unsatisfactory, is to march at once on Mandalay, and probably annex country.

Enclosure 3 in No. 158.

TELEGRAM FROM CHIEF COMMISSIONER, Rangoon, to FOREIGN SECRETARY, Simla, dated the 21st October 1885.

LETTER conveying ultimatum, in accordance with your orders, will be delivered in Mandalay on 30th. Another copy will be delivered here to King's agent, to-morrow, and can reach Mandalay by same date. Letter says no reply will be satisfactory unless it contains unconditional acceptance of first three demands, and acquiescence in two other requirements. Letter states that a chartered steamer will, if unmolested, remain at Mandalay till afternoon of 5th November for reply. Steamer will leave under any circumstances by 6th November. Letter says that if steamer comes away without satisfactory reply, and if no satisfactory reply reaches me otherwise by 10th November, then British Government will be free to act as though terms were refused.

As to Europeans and British residents, a special steamer goes up single handed, passes mail steamer which carries ultimatum, and warns Europeans and British subjects at certain riverside stations. I have authorised Flotilla Company to keep off Mandalay, at Government expense, a steamer with banked fires to bring away refugees. I have left it to discretion of Mr. Andreino when to come away and how to warn others. His judgment and courage may be trusted. Letter imparts special warning to officials, soldiery, and others, against injury to Europeans or British subjects trading in Upper Burma. Our official letter to you, dated 16th October, submits my views as to measures advisable if King Theebaw is dethroned. I trust troops may move on Burma quickly. At present, case stands thus:—If older Ministers prevail, ultimatum will be uncon-

ditionally accepted. If Tinedah Minister retains power, we may expect refusal, followed by outrages. I believe most, perhaps all, Europeans will get away safely, if flight is necessary. I am grateful to Viceroy for giving explicitly terms of ultimatum. My letters will explain how I guard against our precaution for safety of refugees forming ground for repayment of losses from public treasury.

Enclosure 4 in No. 158.

LETTER FROM OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, dated the 22nd October 1885, to the FOREIGN SECRETARY.

SIR,

I AM directed to submit copies of the letter which has this day been addressed to the Foreign Minister, Mandalay, in compliance with the orders contained in your telegram of the 19th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. S. SYMES,
Officiating Secretary.

LETTER FROM OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER to His Excellency the MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS at Mandalay, dated the 22nd October 1885.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 3rd October, on the subject of the decree for 23 lacs of rupees which was passed by your Government against the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation. In my letter of the 28th August you were informed that the British Government could not acquiesce without further inquiry in the imposition of this enormous fine upon a British company. You were accordingly asked whether the Government of Ava would consent to refer the matters in dispute to an arbitrator to be deputed by his Excellency the Viceroy, and your Government was further requested to postpone for the present the execution of the decree. Your letter definitely rejects the Viceroy's proposal to refer the questions in dispute to an arbitrator, and refuses to permit any postponement in the execution of the decree against the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation.

2. I am now to inform you that the Viceroy and Governor General of India in Council is unable to accept this your reply. As the offer to depute an arbitrator has been rejected, the British Government must now insist upon the reception by your Government at Mandalay of an Envoy to be sent at once by his Excellency the Viceroy, and upon the settlement of the present dispute with the concurrence of the British Envoy. It will be necessary that the Envoy of the Viceroy should have free access to his Majesty the King, and that he should not be asked to submit to any humiliating ceremonies inconsistent with the diplomatic usage of Western nations.

3. Pending the arrival of the Envoy at Mandalay, I am to request that your Government will abstain from enforcing their claims against the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation; and I am to intimate that, if any action of the kind has been or should be taken, the Government of India will act in such a way as may seem best to them without communication to you.

4. I am further to inform you that the present and other recent incidents have shown the necessity for the permanent retention of a diplomatic Agent of the Viceroy at Mandalay. The Agent will be supplied by the Government of India with a British guard of honour, and a British steamer will be furnished for its use. Your Government will be requested to provide him with a suitable residence near the river, and to accord him the honourable treatment to which he will be entitled as the Agent of his Excellency the Viceroy.

5. There are two other matters which I am to mention to you. The British Government will expect the Government of Ava in future to regulate the external relations of the realm in accordance with the advice of the Viceroy of India; and they will expect your Government to afford complete facilities for opening up British trade with China. These are matters the details of which can be settled hereafter by discussion between your Government and the British Envoy; but his Excellency the Viceroy desires to receive at once an intimation of the general acquiescence of your Government in his wishes on these subjects.

6. The present letter will be forwarded to you by the steamer "Ashley Eden," and will reach Mandalay by or before the 30th October. A second copy will be delivered to-day (the 22nd October) to Sayedawgyi Maha Mindin Kyaw Thu, the Commercial Agent in Rangoon of the Ava Government. The Chief Commissioner will expect to receive an answer on or before the 10th November. The steamer "Ashley Eden" has been chartered by the Government, and she will remain at Mandalay, provided she

be unmolested, until the 5th November, in order to bring away your answer to my present letter. She will leave Mandalay without fail by the 6th November. If she does not bring a satisfactory reply from you, and if no satisfactory reply reaches me by the evening of the 10th November, the British Government will proceed to such action as they may deem fit.

7. Regarding the position of the servants of the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, and of other Europeans and British subjects now resident or trading in the dominions of His Majesty the King, I am to convey a solemn warning that any detention, injury, or ill treatment of these persons by officials, soldiers or other persons under the control of your Government will entail most serious consequences to the perpetrators, and also to the officials or others who may countenance such action.

8. In conclusion, I am to request that you will be good enough to state clearly in your reply whether his Majesty the King accepts unconditionally the three first proposals now made, that is to say:—

- (1.) That an Envoy from the Viceroy and Governor General shall be suitably received at Mandalay, and that the present dispute between your Government and the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation shall be settled with his concurrence.
- (2.) That all action against the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation shall be suspended until the Envoy arrives.
- (3.) That for the future a diplomatic agent from the Viceroy shall reside at Mandalay, who shall receive becoming treatment at the hands of your Government, and shall be supplied by the British Government with a British guard of honour and a steamer.

I am to inform you that the Government of India will not be able to take into consideration any counter proposals for the despatch of a mission to Rangoon or Simla, or the like, or to enter into any discussion regarding the three requirements of his Excellency the Viceroy above summarized. Any reply other than an unconditional acceptance of these three requirements, and a general acquiescence in the wishes of the Government of India on the two subjects referred to in paragraph 5 of this letter, will be regarded as a refusal of the proposals now made by the British Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. S. SYMES,
Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner
of British Burmah.

Enclosure 5 in No. 158.

TELEGRAM FROM FOREIGN SECRETARY TO CHIEF COMMISSIONER, Rangoon, dated the
22nd October 1885.

YOUR telegram of the 21st received. The Viceroy desires me to say that he entirely approves of what you have done with regard to steamer and other measures proposed for securing safety of Europeans and British subjects. You may depend upon his Excellency's support in your efforts in this direction. Are the Europeans beginning to come out? Please keep me informed upon this and other points of interest. Orders have been given for the despatch of 10,000 men to Rangoon.

Enclosure 6 in No. 158.

TELEGRAM FROM CHIEF COMMISSIONER, Rangoon, to FOREIGN SECRETARY, dated the
26th October 1885.

I AM arranging to send with expeditionary force four civil officers conversant with Burmese. One of them would be available for General Prendergast to leave with the commandant of each fort which he may take and garrison as he passes on. The civil officer would then arrange for pacifying the country through the existing Native officials. He would be under orders of the local commandant. I would give them written orders after consulting General Prendergast. I have warned four young officers for this duty. Each will have with him two of our Burmese officials. I solicit permission to arrange on these lines when necessity comes. Nothing would be done without General Prendergast's assent; but I had better select men. If Colonel Sladen is to go as chief civil officer, he should leave Akyab by next steamer, which will reach this on 6th November. May I order him down? He would understand that he went as civil officer under General Prendergast's orders, and not as separate Envoy.

Enclosure 7 in No. 158.

TELEGRAM FROM FOREIGN SECRETARY TO CHIEF COMMISSIONER, Rangoon, dated the
30th October 1885.

If troops advance on Mandalay, Sladen will be Political Officer, but chief Political as well as chief Military authority will rest with General Prendergast, who should correspond direct with Government of India, Foreign Department, repeating all telegrams to you and sending you copies of all letters. You can send with Sladen any civil officers required.

Enclosure 8 in No. 158.

TELEGRAM FROM FOREIGN SECRETARY TO CHIEF COMMISSIONER, Rangoon, dated the
3rd November 1885.

FOLLOWING is the text of the instructions issued to General Prendergast:—Begins. From Viceroy to General Prendergast, dated 3rd November 1885. You are doubtless aware of the general nature of the ultimatum lately sent to the Burmese Government. If the terms offered in that ultimatum are refused, or if the answer is evasive, you will be informed by the Chief Commissioner. You must then hold yourself in readiness to advance on Mandalay in accordance with any plan of operations prescribed by the Commander-in-Chief. But the actual order to cross the frontier will be sent to you from hence (hereafter).

From the time that you enter the enemy's territory you will be vested with supreme political as well as military authority. Colonel Sladen will be placed under your orders as Political Officer, and will be accompanied by some junior officers of the Burmese Commission. With regard to political matters, you should correspond direct with the Government of India in the Foreign Department, repeating all telegrams immediately to the Chief Commissioner and sending him a copy of all letters simultaneously with the despatch of the original.

You will understand that after you cross the frontier, no offer of submission can be accepted or can effect the movement of the troops. Mandalay must be occupied, and Theebaw dethroned. You should announce this definitely to the Burmese authorities and population. You will be informed hereafter whether Upper Burma is to be annexed. If so, the Commissioner will go to Mandalay and assume civil control. Meanwhile, it seems desirable that you should leave in any important fort or other place taken and garrisoned by you, a civil officer, who should, under the orders of the commandant, enter into communication with the local Burmese officials, and through them pacify and administer country, giving assurances that Theebaw will not remain in power.

These instructions are subject to modification at your discretion in points of detail; but you should communicate freely, by telegraph, with the Government of India, and you should, so far as the circumstances of the case allow, submit to the Government for approval any measure involving important political consequences.

I trust that you will make full use of Colonel Sladen's services, his experience and knowledge of Burmese affairs being very exceptional. I hope also that you will work in communication with the Chief Commissioner, and that you will meet his wishes whenever practicable.

The immediate objects of the expedition are the occupation of Mandalay and the dethronement of King Theebaw; and it is extremely desirable that these objects should be attained rather by the display than by the use of force. An unopposed occupation of Mandalay would be more satisfactory and more acceptable to the Government than any number of victorious engagements in the field. You will, therefore, be careful to avoid, as far as possible, all conflict with the population at large, and you will do everything in your power to secure without bloodshed their acquiescence in any administrative or political changes which may be found necessary. At the same time, you are to understand that the above-mentioned conditions should not be allowed to hamper you in taking the measures which may be requisite, from a military point of view, for the security of the troops under your command and the definite success of the expedition.

I hope the foregoing instructions will suffice to make you acquainted with the general objects and wishes of the Government of India; but if you desire more detailed explanation on any point, refer to me by telegraph. Ends.

Please deliver these instructions to General Prendergast on arrival at Rangoon.

Enclosure 9 in No. 158.

TELEGRAM from CHIEF COMMISSIONER, Rangoon, to FOREIGN SECRETARY, dated the 9th November 1885.

My telegram of this morning told gist of reply to ultimatum. Following is text of translation of important parts:—

On demands, one and two answer runs,—

“His Majesty was pleased to say that although the judgment against Corporation was one passed in conformity with the law of the State, yet if the Bombay-Burma Corporation presented a petition on the subject of the money decree against them, he would be pleased to look after and assist foreign merchants and traders, so that they should not suffer any hardship. Therefore, with reference to the first and second points, regarding the Corporation's forest case, the need for discussion or negotiation is at an end.”

On the third demand the answer says,—

“The Burmese Government, through their wish to maintain friendly relations between the two countries, did not act in such a way as to restrict or put to hardship the British Agent formerly stationed at Mandalay, and yet he left of his own accord, and there has been no Agent since. If the British Government wish in future to re-establish an Agent, he will be permitted to reside and come in and go as in former times.”

On the fourth demand the answer says,—

“The internal and external affairs of an independent State are regulated and controlled in accordance with the custom and law of that State. Friendly relations with France, Italy, and other States have been, are being, and will be maintained. Therefore, in the question as to whether one State alone can prefer such a request, the Burmese Government can follow the joint decision of the three States, France, Germany, and Italy, who are friends of both Governments.”

On the fifth demand the answer says,—

“The friendly relations of the two countries are based on assistance to be rendered for the increase of trade and exports and imports from one country to the other. If, therefore, merchants and traders, whether of English or other races, ask the Burmese Government to endeavour to facilitate trade and the increase of exports and imports with China, they will be assisted in conformity with the customs of the land.”

The translation has been carefully made and verified. I consider it correct. Steamer “Captain” reports that to all appearance the Burmese are not ready for, and do not expect immediate invasion. The position of European residents at Mandalay is risky, but they are staying in despite of warnings and arrangements for their departure.

Enclosure 10 in No. 158.

From the MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS at Mandalay, to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER, British Burma,—dated the 12th waning Thadingyut 1247 (the 4th November 1885).

MINISTER has received the letter dated the 22nd October 1885, corresponding with 14th waxing Thadingyut 1247, sent by the Chief Commissioner's Secretary Symes. The contents of the letter have been considered by the ministers and nobles (constituting the) Burmese Government in full Council, and this is their reply to the several points contained in it.

1. The judgment passed against the Bombay-Burma Company, decreeing the payment of a fine in connexion with their forest case was not passed by the Burmese Government in an arbitrary manner. In consideration of the fact that they (defendants) were of English race, the records of an English Forest office were taken as a basis, and the judgment was passed in accordance with the laws of the State on the merits of the case. This has already been intimated in previous letters to the Chief Commissioner.

2. His Majesty (titles) was informed that under a judgment passed in this manner against the Bombay-Burma Company a sum of Rs. 23 lacs and upwards (including the punishment for excess exportation of timber) had to be levied from them and paid into the Royal treasury, and His Majesty was pleased to say that although the judgment was one passed in conformity with the laws of the State, yet, taking into consideration the fact that the Bombay-Burma Company had served for many years working the Toungoo forests, and paying revenue, and that they would continue to serve hereafter for the mutual benefit of both countries; that if the Bombay-Burma Company presented a petition on the subject of the money decreed in the judgment against them, he would be pleased to look after and assist foreign merchants so that they should not suffer any hardship. Therefore with reference to the first and second points of letter No. 438

regarding the Bombay-Burma Company's forest case, the need for discussion or negotiation (between the two Governments) is at an end.

3. With reference to the appointment of a diplomatic Agent, the Burmese Government, through their wish to maintain friendly relations between the two countries, did not act in such a way as to restrict or put to hardship the British Agent formerly stationed at Mandalay, and yet he left of his own accord, and there has been no Agent since. If the British Government wish in future to re-establish an Agent he will be permitted to reside and come in and go out as in former times. With reference to the second point in the fifth paragraph of the letter respecting assistance to be given for the success of British trade with China, the friendly relations between two countries are based on assistance to be rendered for the increase of trade and of exports and imports from one country to the other. If, therefore, merchants and traders, whether of English or other race, ask the Burmese Government to endeavour to facilitate trade and the increase of exports and imports with China, they will be assisted in conformity with the customs of the land.

4. With reference to the first point in the fifth paragraph of the letter about the future regulations of the Foreign relations of Burma (the Chief Commissioner is informed) that the internal and external affairs of an independent separate State are regulated and controlled in accordance with the customs and laws of that State. Friendly relations with France, Italy, and other States have been, are being, and will be maintained. Therefore in determining the question whether or not it is proper that one Government alone should make any such claim, the Burmese Government can follow the joint decision of the three States, France, Germany, and Italy, who are friends of both Governments, and Minister is confident that the British Government will be of the same mind as the Burmese Government on this point.

Enclosure 11 in No. 158.

PROCLAMATION of KING THEEBAW, dated 7th November 1885.

To all town and village thugyes, heads of cavalry, heads of the Daings, shield bearers, heads of jails, heads of gold and silver revenues, mine workers, settlement officers, heads of forests, and to all royal subjects and inhabitants of the royal empire:

Those heretics, the English kalas barbarians, having most harshly made demands calculated to bring about the impairment and destruction of our religion, the violation of our national traditions and customs, and the degradation of our race, are making a show and preparation as if about to wage war with our State. They have been replied to in conformity with the usages of great nations, and in words which are just and regular. If, notwithstanding, these heretic kalas should come and in any way attempt to molest or disturb the State, His Majesty, who is watchful that the interests of our religion and our State shall not suffer, will himself march forth with his generals, captains, and lieutenants, with large forces of infantry, artillery, elephanterie, and cavalry, by land and by water, and with the might of his army will efface these heretic kalas and conquer and annex their country. All royal subjects the people of the country, are enjoined that they are not to be alarmed or disturbed on account of the hostility of these heretic kalas, and they are not to avoid them by quitting the country.

They are to continue to carry on their occupations as usual in a peaceful and ordinary manner; the local officials are to be watchful, each in his own town or village, that it is free from thefts, dacoities, and other crime; the royal troops to be sent forth will not be collected and banded together as formerly by forcibly pressing into service all such as can be obtained, but the royal troops who are now already banded into regiments in Mandalay will be sent forth to attack, destroy, and annex. The local officials shall not forcibly impress into service anyone who may not wish to serve. To uphold the religion, to uphold the national honour, to uphold the country's interests, will bring about threefold good; good of our religion, good of our master, and good of ourselves; and will gain for us the important result of placing us in the path to the celestial regions and to Nibban Nirvana. Whoever, therefore, is willing to join and serve zealously will be assisted by His Majesty with royal rewards and royal money, and be made to serve in the capacity for which he may be fit. Loyal officials are to make inquiries for volunteers and others who may wish to serve, and are to submit lists of them to their respective provincial Governments.

Order of the Ministers of the Hlutdaw. Names follow. On the 7th November 1885. Burmese date recorded by the Wetmasut Wundauk Daw, issued by Secretary Mah Mindin Minhla Sithu.

Enclosure 12 in No. 158.

TELEGRAM from FOREIGN SECRETARY to CHIEF COMMISSIONER, Rangoon,
dated the 13th November 1885.

PLEASE inform Prendergast that, as Burmese reply to ultimatum is unsatisfactory, he should advance upon Mandalay whenever his military preparations are complete. The military authorities will be informed of the wishes of the Government of India, and will doubtless issue final detailed instructions.

No. 159.

TELEGRAM from GENERAL PRENDERGAST, Ava, through Minhla,
to SECRETARY OF STATE, December 1, 1885.

KING's war boat, bearing a flag of truce and containing the Minister of the Interior, met us on 26th. He was empowered to make terms, and begged for an armistice. I replied that I was not empowered to grant an armistice, but that if the King would surrender himself, his army, and Mandalay, and if the Europeans at Mandalay were unarmed, I would save the King's life. I gave till 4 a.m. 27th, for reply. Advanced at 6 a.m. 27th. When in sight of Ava the Envoy returned with orders from King that Burmans were not to fire on fleet, and that the King would accede to all my demands. This day has been spent in finding a passage through the obstructed channel between Ava and Saguin redoubt on the right bank of the river, opposite to it, in putting the arms of the Burmans, 28 guns, and some hundreds of Martini and other rifles on board the fleet. The Burman soldiers made no difficulty about giving up their arms after they saw the Royal mandate. After disarming Saguin and Thalayidan redoubts, it is proposed to advance on Mandalay to-morrow.

No. 160.

TELEGRAM from SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

December 1, 1885.

I HAVE received the following telegram from Her Majesty the Queen:—*Begin.* Pray express my warm thanks to General Prendergast and admiration of the skill with which he has conducted the whole expedition. *End.* Please communicate Her Majesty's gracious message to General Prendergast.

No. 161.

TELEGRAM from VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

December 1, 1885.

THE Government of India is very sensible of the kind expressions of approval which your Lordship has conveyed to it on behalf of Her Majesty and Her Government. General Prendergast deserves the utmost credit for the skill, humanity, and decisive promptitude with which he has conducted the whole business. It is a matter of great importance that the objects of the expedition should have been attained without engendering any hostile feeling between ourselves and the people of Upper Burmah, who are akin to our own Burmese subjects in race, religion, and material interests. I propose to convey to General Prendergast, and to the officers and troops who have so nobly seconded their commander's efforts, the thanks of the Indian Government, and I venture to hope that some mark of Her Majesty's favour may be bestowed upon General Prendergast himself. I have instructed our Agents in Upper Burmah to administer the country provisionally in Her Majesty's name.

No. 162.

THE LIVERPOOL GENERAL BROKER'S ASSOCIATION to LORD
RANDOLPH CHURCHILL.

B 8, Exchange Buildings, Liverpool,
December 2, 1885.

MY LORD,

THE Petition of the Liverpool General Broker's Association, by their President,
sheweth,

1st. That your petitioners are largely engaged in commerce with India, China, and elsewhere.

2ndly. That they view with satisfaction the success of Her Majesty's arms in Upper Burmah as by the removal of the late tyrannical sovereign, the opportunity is afforded to this country of obtaining a great extension of trade on a secure basis.

3rdly. That to render the advantages complete and permanent, Upper Burmah ought to be annexed and made part of Her Majesty's Indian Empire.

4thly. That whilst looking to the commercial benefits to be attained by this country, the liberty and material advancement of the Native population will be also secured.

Your Petitioners therefore pray, that Her Majesty's Government will not entertain any idea of a Protectorate, but that they will resolve on the immediate and permanent annexation of Upper Burmah.

Signed on behalf of the Liverpool General Broker's Association,

EDMOND BROWNHILL,
President.

No. 163.

TELEGRAM from GENERAL PRENDERGAST to SECRETARY OF STATE,
December 2, 1885.

ON 28th I continued advance on Mandalay, leaving troops to dismantle forts of Sagaing and Thalayadan and shore batteries; 32 guns were destroyed at Sagaing, and 14 at Thalayadan. No communication being received from the palace, I landed the troops at 1 p.m. and surrounded the city and palace. The first minister, Kin Woon Mengyee, met me on the way and asked for Colonel Sladen to go to palace at once to quiet anticipated panic. At 5 p.m. the minister came to me with Colonel Sladen and tendered submission of the King. I placed guard on palace and arranged to come up on following day to receive the King's formal submission.

On 29th I had an interview with the King and Queen in the palace. The troops formed on each side of the road while I led the Royal family through the throne-room to the east, or royal gate of the palace. They then entered carriages, and were conveyed under escort of a brigade to the "Thooreah steamer," in which they will proceed to Rangoon under escort of two companies, Liverpool regiment. Five regiments and a battery are on duty in the city to-night to keep order. The Italians Camotto and Molinari will also be delivered.

No ill feeling to the British has been shown by the Burmans, but they threaten to plunder one another; hence the large force in the city. The four Woon Mengyees were present at the palace during my interview with Theebaw, and the exodus of the Royal family from the palace. They all remain in office. The King is accompanied by the two Queens and some of the ladies of the court.

No. 164.

TELEGRAM from CHIEF COMMISSIONER, Rangoon, to SECRETARY OF
STATE, December 2, 1885.

KING Theebaw arrived British territory.

No. 165.

TELEGRAM from GENERAL PRENDERGAST, Mandalay, dated Thayetmyo, to SECRETARY OF STATE, December 3, 1885.

THE King, Queen, Queen mother, the Kin Woon, two members of Council, three Woons, sixteen princesses and maids of honour, forty-three followers; total, including King, sixty-eight, and much valuable property, are on board the "Thooriah."

The Kin Woon is allowed to go so that the ministry may be strong, the opposition weak. Mandalay is quiet, but strictly patrolled.

No. 166.

TELEGRAM from GENERAL PRENDERGAST to SECRETARY OF STATE, December 6, 1885.

THE disarmament of Mandalay is being carried out by the Ministers effectually. People are returning to their homes and avocations. The city is quiet, with the exception of bands of dacoits in the suburbs. According to the reports of all officials, political and military, not a murder has been committed since the British force arrived in Mandalay.

No. 167.

TELEGRAM from GENERAL PRENDERGAST, dated Thyetmyo, to SECRETARY OF STATE, December 9, 1885.

7TH December. Military situation unchanged; no armed resistance to authority except from small bands of dacoits in neighbourhood. Two moveable columns, composed of Mounted Infantry, one company British, and two Native Infantry, and two guns, are being sent out to clear country for about 12 miles around city. A column for Bhamo and for Tounghoo has been organized if required. I have had no mail from Rangoon since 1st. Telegraphic communication with the frontier will probably be restored within four or five days. I have, at the wish of the Ministers and of the Princes themselves, sent five of the Royal Princes to Rangoon, as their presence here would be likely to have a disturbing effect on the country; their names are Prince Moungh Pyen, Prince Moungh Hypoo, Prince Moungh Tsit Moungh, and his wife, Prince Moungh Sitnine, Prince Moungh Bah, and his wife. The Archbishop is cordially supporting me, and has issued a special proclamation to the priests and people to submit to my authority, and that the Buddhist religion will be respected.

No. 168.

TELEGRAM from VICEROY, Lucknow, to SECRETARY OF STATE, December 9, 1885.

FOLLOWING information just received from Prendergast. A good working ministry, composed of two Mengyis, four Ministers of Interior, and seven Under Secretaries, has been established and work loyally and successfully in restoring order and pacifying the country. Opportune departure of the Kinwoon Mengyi with the King removes all opposition. Sladen has presided at two Council meetings, and believes members are honestly endeavouring to assist us. A disarmament proclamation has been issued and large quantities of arms are being brought in. Looting, which had begun in several places, has been stopped. City is quiet, and people are returning to ordinary avocations. Officials report that not a single case of murder has occurred since arrival of British troops. Cases of marauding may occur for some time, but no reason to apprehend any settled disturbances. Present political situation, on the whole, is regarded by Prendergast as satisfactory and promising.

No. 169.

TELEGRAM from VICEROY, Lucknow, to SECRETARY OF STATE, December 10, 1885.

THEEBAW left Rangoon to-day for Madras, whence he will be sent on to Ranipet.

No. 170.

The SECRETARY, LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, to LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL.

MY LORD,

December 11, 1885.

REFERRING to the communications which I have lately had the honour of addressing to your Lordship in connexion with Burmah, I ask permission to bring under your notice the fact that the subject was again discussed at the monthly meeting of the Council, on further representations from important East India merchants in the city. As a result of that discussion, I am desired to state that this Council feels more and more strongly, that the only policy which will prove ultimately satisfactory to the commercial interests of the will be such as ensures to British influence a paramount position, both in Burmah, and, if possible, in the independent states which intervene between the north and north-west frontiers of Burmah, and also of the Burmese Shan States which intervene between Native Burmah and the south-west frontier of China. The reasons which have caused the Council's opinion to become so decided in favour even of annexation if necessary, are as follows:—

Firstly.—The importance of British trade with Upper Burmah itself (which has been developed by the steamers already plying upon the Irrawaddy, and also by the existing railway system), will, under a policy of law and order, probably increase and extend as rapidly and as satisfactorily as has the trade of British Burmah.

Secondly.—The important trade which proper government, and its consequent security, would create with the Shan States tributary to Burmah.

Thirdly.—The certain increase of the caravan trade in the Upper Irrawaddy valley from Assam and Eastern Thibet and Western Yunnan, through the old trade routes now closed, and by Bhamo and other trade routes to and from Yunnan. When these trade routes which are now closed mainly by the depredations and warlike tendencies of the Singpho tribes, are reopened under British control, the probability is, that, not only will considerable barter ensue, but the present unobtainable cheap labour will be largely forthcoming for the development of British tea gardens in Assam.

Fourthly.—The great importance of the extension of railway communication from the head lines already existing in Assam to the Irrawaddy, and thence southwards by a junction with the Burmese system at Tongho.

Fifthly.—The effective command of the Burmese Shan States through which the only practicable line of railway communication with China must eventually run. Such railway communication would be, it is believed, of the very highest importance, as through these States only can railroad communication between India and China be satisfactorily maintained.

In conclusion, the Council is given to understand that China has so completely changed its previous policy, with reference more especially to an alliance with England, that the approach of our frontiers would now be welcomed, rather than opposed, by the Government of that populous Empire; and keeping in view the necessity for the extension and development of British trade, which of course is the principal object of the Chamber's action, there can be little doubt as to the desirability of strengthening official intercourse between India, China, and England upon the friendly basis on which it is believed such intercourse may now be conducted.

(Signed) K. B. MURRAY,
Secretary.

No. 171.

TELEGRAM from VICEROY, Dinapore, to SECRETARY OF STATE, December 15, 1885.

In a telegram, just received, dated Mandalay 12th, Prendergast reports that no communication has yet been established with Bhamo, and that his authority is recognized only as far as gunboats have gone up the river, that is about 50 miles. He proposes to send up, about 19th instant, a force composed of one Mountain Battery, a half battalion Welsh Fusiliers, a half battalion Native Infantry, and one company of Sappers, and to leave as garrison the whole of this force except two companies of Fusiliers. Catholic missionaries lately arrived from Mandalay report native Governor well disposed to English. I have authorised Prendergast to advance as proposed.

No. 172.

TELEGRAM from VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE, December 17, 1885.

TELEGRAM just received from Prendergast, dated 12th December, reports that provisional Government is working satisfactorily, a revenue beginning to come in. The Governor of Montshoboo has sent in distinction sword and two sons as tokens of submission, also a prince whom he has captured. The Ministers report that troops despatched to Tounghoo frontier at commencement of hostilities are returning, and will lay down their arms. A good deal of dacoity in outlying districts, but nowhere an enemy in the field.

No. 173.

TELEGRAM from VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE, December 20, 1885.

Your telegram of 18th. At outbreak of hostilities there were sixteen Europeans in Western Burmese forests. Of these Antram and G. Calogreedy reached Mandalay in safety shortly after the surrender of the town. Concerning the others the only trustworthy information is the following telegram just received from Rangoon:—*Begins.* Ross, in letter to Prendergast, dated Mingin 7th December, states that he, Roberts, Allen, Bates, Hill, O. Ruckstuhl, Moncure, and Gois surrendered to Mandalay official Thandawzin 21st ult. He, Bates, Hill, and Ruckstuhl were placed in gaol at Mingin, but released and well treated by Woon on new arriving of the capture of Mandalay. Roberts, Allen, and Moncure, who remained in launch, are said to have been murdered. Messenger who brought Ross's letter states he saw them cut down. Gois was taken up country by Thandawzin, to work the launch at Kindat. Morgan, J. Ruckstuhl, and Bretto were placed in gaol. British expedition left Mandalay for Chindwin 13th December, in "Tigris." *Telegram ends.* Our political agent at Manipur is likewise endeavouring to render assistance. The only Europeans of whom no intelligence has yet been received are S. Calogreedy, Gray, and Minus.

No. 174.

TELEGRAM from VICEROY, Calcutta, to SECRETARY OF STATE,
December 21, 1885.

POLITICAL Agent, Manipur, has received a letter from Morgan, stating that himself, Bretto, two Ruckstuhls, Hill, Ross, and Baker are well and safe, but that Allen, Moncure, and Roberts had been murdered.

No. 175.

TELEGRAM from SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

December 21, 1885.

EVERY effort should be made to rescue any Europeans still in danger. Circumstances attending murders should be immediately strictly investigated. Any Burmese official implicated should be tried in accordance with terms of proclamation.

No. 176.

TELEGRAM from VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE, December 22, 1885.

BERNARD telegraphs, apparently 20th or 21st, that expedition to Bhamo started that day with Prendergast. Crops about Mandalay and in country generally reported good. Although disorder and dacoity prevail, there is no national resistance anywhere. Local officials are submitting and being sent back or replaced by others with authority and means to restore order.

No. 177.

TELEGRAM from SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

(Extract.)

December 24, 1885.

HER Majesty's Government, by Command of the Queen-Empress, propose with your concurrence, to authorise you to proclaim Upper Burmah part of Her Majesty's dominions and to administer the country during pleasure of Crown.

No. 178.

TELEGRAM from VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

December 25, 1885.

Your telegram of 24th. We will at once set about preparing Proclamation.

No. 179.

The SALT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, Northwich, to LORD RANDOLPH
CHURCHILL.

MY LORD,

December 30, 1885.

WE have the honour to hand you copy of resolution passed at a council meeting of this Chamber yesterday—Tuesday the 29th instant:—

"This Chamber having fully considered the state of affairs in Burmah, and how British interests are thereby affected, is of opinion that Upper Burmah should be annexed to British Burmah, and strongly urges Her Majesty's Government to take this step, believing that it would tend not only to confer the blessings of settled government on the natives but to the development of British industries; that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister and to the Secretary of State for India."

On behalf of the Council of the Salt Chamber of Commerce,

We have, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT VERDIN,
President.
THOMAS MOORE,
Secretary.

No. 180.

DESPATCH TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL,
No. 34, dated India Office, December 31, 1885.

MY LORD,

HER Majesty's Government having determined, by command of the Queen-Empress and with the concurrence of your Excellency in Council, that the territories of Upper Burmah formerly under the rule of King Theebaw shall become part of Her Majesty's dominions, to be administered, during the pleasure of the Crown, by your Excellency, I think it necessary to acquaint you in a more complete manner than has been possible by telegraphic communication with the views they hold on this important question.

2. At the accession of King Theebaw to the throne of Burmah in 1878, the relations between the Government of India and that of Mandalay were unsatisfactory. Life and property within Burmese territory were insecure; applications for redress of wrongs to British subjects were disregarded; the treaties then in force were not respected; and British commercial interests in the Irrawaddy Valley were seriously injured. That the accession of a new ruler might bring about some amelioration of this state of things was the hope of the Government of India, who looked to the establishment of their Resident at the Burmese Court in a position befitting the Government he represented, for an improvement

in the serious condition of affairs. Far from this being the case, King Theebaw's dislike to the British alliance increased; outrages on British subjects occurred; atrocious massacres of men, women, and children were committed by his Government, notwithstanding the strong remonstrances of the resident, who was debarred from personal access to the king. So difficult did the position of the Resident become, and so insolent and menacing the temper of both ministers and people towards him and his officers, that the Government of India deemed it prudent in October 1879 to withdraw him from Mandalay.

3. After the withdrawal of the British Mission, the attitude of the Government of Burmah grew more hostile. In November 1879, an unprovoked attack was made by Burmese on the captain and crew of a British steamer whilst it was lying at anchor in the waters of the Upper Irrawaddy. A demand for redress was so ill received by King Theebaw that the Government of India recommended the renunciation of all treaty engagements with him. Her Majesty's Government, however, at that time considered that a crisis should not be precipitated by measures of which neither the political nor commercial effect could with certainty be estimated. Shortly after, the King sent an Envoy into British Burmah with the object of proposing new treaty relations with the Government of India. The articles of the draft instrument were found on examination to be so inadmissible, and the King's overtures so insincere and illusory, that the Envoy was not allowed by the British local authorities to proceed to Rangoon. Another outrage, on a British mail steamer, which was seized and detained by officials of the Burmese Government, on the pretext that a rebellion instigated by the Government of India had, at that moment, broken out in Upper Burmah, produced a further demand for redress which proved as unsuccessful as the former one.

4. The relations between the two Governments remained at a dead lock; fresh atrocities took place at Mandalay; bands of armed dacoits roamed at will; raids were made into British territory; Upper Burmah became completely disorganized. In the spring of 1882, an Envoy from Mandalay arrived in India, bearing new proposals for a treaty. Notwithstanding previous occurrences, a most friendly reception was accorded to the Burmese Mission, and your Excellency's predecessor took the utmost trouble and pains to bring the negotiations to a successful and satisfactory issue. King Theebaw, however, suddenly recalled his Envoy, and expectations of a renewal of friendly intercourse between the two powers were again disappointed.

5. The Court of Ava developed its policy of menace and hostility to the Government of India by the despatch of a mission to Europe, seeking alliances with foreign powers for the purpose of attaining political and commercial arrangements which could not but conflict very seriously with British interests and lead to intrigues by foreign agents at Mandalay, the initiation even of which Her Majesty's Government could not for a moment tolerate.

6. As long as the kingdom of Ava occupied an isolated position the British Government could afford to submit to much provocation, but when the external policy of the Burmese Court indicated designs which, if prosecuted with impunity, could only result in the establishment of preponderating foreign influence in the upper valley of the Irrawaddy, it became impossible for Her Majesty's Government any longer to view the situation without considerable anxiety.

7. In August last the following occurrence left your Excellency no choice but to resort to prompt and decided action. King Theebaw, instigated in all probability by counsellors outside the Burmese Government, attempted to impose a preposterous and ruinous fine on a British Trading Company which had for many years held forest leases in His Majesty's territories, and followed up this action by a threat of confiscation of the whole of their valuable property in default of payment. Your Excellency desiring that British subjects in the position of this Company should have a fair and proper hearing, and should not be ruined by unjust and arbitrary measures, caused a communication to be addressed to the Burmese Ministers, expressing a hope that the King would allow the matter in dispute to go before an arbitrator who should be appointed by the Viceroy of India.

8. Your Excellency's reasonable proposal was rejected by the Ministers of King Theebaw, who in their reply of the 3rd October questioned the right of the Viceroy to raise the subject. Thereupon, with the full approval of Her Majesty's Government, your Excellency in Council addressed an ultimatum to His Majesty, demanding the acceptance of certain definite proposals for the settlement of existing disputes and the establishment of satisfactory relations with Ava, which was accompanied by a warning that in the event of these proposals not being immediately accepted, your Government would take the matter into their own hands. These proposals were—(1) that, with a

view to settle the dispute immediately in question, your Excellency in Council insist upon an Envoy from the Government of India being received at Mandalay, with free access to the King upon the same terms as are usual at other Courts; (2) the proceedings against the Bombay-Burmah Corporation should be meanwhile suspended and (3) that an English Agent should be permanently stationed at Mandalay, with a proper guard for his personal protection. The King's Government was, at the same time, informed that hereafter it would be required to shape its external relations in accordance with the advice of the British Government, and to give proper facilities for trade with China and elsewhere.

9. Your Excellency's Government judiciously made the despatch of troops to Rangoon concurrent with that of the ultimatum, with the view of convincing King Theebaw that your Government was in earnest, that any injury to British subjects or to their property would not be overlooked, and that he would be no longer allowed to indulge in undisguised hostility to the British Empire. The result justified the precautions taken by your Excellency. Your proposals were treated with contempt by the King, who, simultaneously with the despatch of an evasive reply issued an openly hostile proclamation. The time had come for terminating the deplorable state of things which had grown up at Mandalay. Had the Government of India delayed action, a situation would have been created in Upper Burmah most prejudicial to the commercial and political interests of the Empire, and with which it might have been difficult hereafter to deal.

10. Major-General Prendergast was therefore instructed, with the approval of Her Majesty's Government, conveyed to you in my telegram of the 11th November, to advance upon Mandalay, and to issue a notification which, setting forth the reasons for this step, and declaring the reign of King Theebaw at an end, should proclaim that the private rights, the religion, and the national customs of the Burmese people would be scrupulously respected. The operations so effectually organized by your Excellency's Government were carried out with much skill and with complete success by Major-General Prendergast and the gallant British and Indian troops of Her Majesty under his command. The capital was occupied within ten days; the King surrendered himself a prisoner; the immediate objects of the expedition were attained with comparatively little loss on either side. Her Majesty's Government derived special gratification on learning from your Excellency that the British force was welcomed by the inhabitants of the country as a deliverance from past and existing evils, and as the prelude for the establishment of British rule, for which the people, according to the reports received from the Commander of the expedition, evinced a genuine desire.

11. The annexation of Burmah to the dominions of Her Majesty was the inevitable result of the deposition of King Theebaw. It is certain that any action short of annexation would speedily have reproduced all these evils with which the Government of India has for years endeavoured fruitlessly to cope. The arrogance and barbarity of a Native Court, the oppression of British subjects, the hindrance to British commerce, the intrigues of foreign nations, are for ever terminated in Upper Burmah. It may be anticipated that the same development of industry, wealth, and prosperity which, in spite of many difficulties, has been so marked in the adjoining British territory, will gradually be substituted for the anarchy which for so long has persecuted the subjects of the Court of Ava.

12. Her Majesty's Government desire to leave your Excellency a large discretion as to the precise methods by which you may think proper to re-organize the Government of Upper Burmah, and your Excellency will, in the course of time, determine the number of troops which may be necessary for the due preservation of peace, and for the suppression of bands of dacoits which still continue to infest the country. I content myself for the present with the expression of a hope that it may be possible to introduce a simple form of government, utilizing in the management of local affairs the native element which is to be found at Mandalay and elsewhere to the utmost extent which may be practicable and safe. This course of procedure is, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, rendered all the more incumbent by the probability that the revenues of the country may not for a considerable period meet the expenses of administration.

13. Her Majesty's Government await with interest your Excellency's views on these matters, with which you are in a better position to deal definitely than themselves. They commit the Government of Upper Burmah into your Excellency's hands,

in the fact that the judgment and decision which have signalized your proceedings hitherto will continue to guide the accomplishment of one of the most important and anxious tasks ever undertaken by the Viceroy of India.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RANDOLPH S. CHURCHILL.

No. 181.

PROCLAMATION, dated January 1, 1886.

By Command of the Queen-Empress it is hereby notified that the territories formerly governed by King Theebaw will no longer be under his rule, but have become part of Her Majesty's dominions, and will during Her Majesty's pleasure be administered by such Officers as the Viceroy and Governor General of India may from time to time appoint.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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