

RECORDS OF THE RELATIONS
BETWEEN SIAM AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES
IN THE 17th CENTURY.

Copied from Papers preserved at the
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VOLUME V.
1688—1700.

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NOTE.—In some instances the spelling
has been modernised.

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Seventeenth Century
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Fort St. George the 11th
January 1687/88.

To the Honble. Monsr. Martin
Director General for the Royal
French East India Company.

By authority of his Sacred Majesty the King of England's Royal Charter and Proclamation, Mr. Samuel White his subject and late servant to the King of Siam was summoned from his service at Tenasserim with all other English to repair hither, which the said Mr. White promised by several letters from Pollicat. Notwithstanding which we hear he is departed thence and gone to the Port of Pondicherry, and intends not hither, but designs to avoid giving us that satisfaction he ought to do, which makes us doubt that his ship and goods may belong to his late Master, our declared enemy the King of Siam, which occasions our sending one of his Majesty's Frigates with Mr. William Fraser one of my Council, and Capt. Anto. Weltden to recall or bring back the said Mr. Samuel White and the ship he commands to be examined before our Court of Admiralty, wherein I earnestly request your kind assistance, though I cannot

doubt Mr. White will be so rash or imprudent
as to disobey our orders. Your respects also to
Mr. Fraser will be an obligation upon

Honble. Your Honour's most
obedient servant

'ELIHU YALE.

Fort St. George,
Records, Mackenzie
Collection, vol. LIV,
pp. 291-2.

Consultation at Fort St. George,
12th January 1688.

[Extract]

A French ship from Mergui coming near into this Road, the Government sent off the French Padre to welcome them into the Port and to learn the news of our affairs from Mergui and Siam, intending if any person of quality was on board to send off some of the Council to compliment and invite them ashore. But some of the boatmen acquainted the ambassadors on board her that one of their ships lately passed by, whereupon he returned the Padre with his excuses for not coming ashore, his business at Pondicherry requiring haste, but that he had sent the Chevalier Fourbean [Forbin] to acquaint us with the news of those parts, which was — That the King of Siam had delivered over the Forts of Bangkok on both sides of the river into the French possession, as also the block houses at Mergui, with orders to build a Fort there, for which purpose they had sent a French Raja and engineer. But he gives us no account of the late massacre there more than that it was believed it proceeded from the rebellion and mutiny of the people, the King of Siam's Governors there being sent up in irons to him. Also that Mr. Hodges and Mr. Hill were arrived at Siam and lodgings appointed them next the French ambassador's there, and that they were under no confinement. That

A French ship from Mergui comes near the Road,

A French padre sent aboard

French Ambassador on board

excuses his not coming ashore — He sent the Chevalier Fourbean.

The news from Siam.

Mr. Hodges and Mr. Hill at Siam

Two Siam men-of-war sent to Pegu

Who were saved in the massacre at Mergui.

French honours conferred on Constant Faulcon.

Captain Perriman had fitted his ship and only waited orders from Mr. Hodges and Mr. Hill for his return hither. That the Siamese had sent two men-of-war to Pegu in pursuit of the *Trivitore*, and some other private ships had gone thither. 'Tis reported they are manned with 80 Christians, Dutch, French and Mistees Portuguese besides Natives, and that they are fitting out two more ships thence upon some other design; that there were only three men saved from the massacre at Mergui, vizt., Mr. Threader, Mr. Morgan and Captain Crossley with all the women and children. That the French King had loaded Monsr. Faulcon with great honours, vizt., a Count of France and Chevalier of the Orders of St. Michael and St. Peter, and had sent for one of his children to be bred up in France.

Factory Records,
Fort St. George,
vol. 21, p. 181.

The Council at Fort St. George to the
Council at Surat.

(Extract)

Dated 17 January 1688.

The 14th inst. there came near our Road a French ship . . . which brought advices . . . that Mr. Hodges and Mr. Hill were gone up to Siam to treat of the accommodation the Right. Honble. Company proposed, . . . the French tell us they were arrived at Siam and lodgings appointed them, where they were treated with civility and freedom, but what the issue may be we cannot imagine, their going to Siam being beyond our commission, and we wish they may return safe. The French also tell us there escaped but 3 Englishmen of all that were at Mergui, who were hid and protected by some Dutch from their fury, which excused all the women and children who were about 10 persons. We cannot yet learn who were the fomentors or occasion of this, or whether by the King's order or the people's rebellion, but we hear the Governors of those parts were sent for to be taken up in irons to Siam, but no punishment inflicted on them yet as we hear of. The French news of themselves and affairs is that the ambassador brought out 6 men-of-war with about 1,400 Frenchmen, soldiers and others, to serve the King of Siam, and that the Forts at Bangkok on both sides of the river were delivered into their charge as also Mergui, and a

French Governor and soldiers sent thither to defend it, with orders to build a garrison. That the French King has loaded Mons. Faulcon with great honours and presents, making him a Count of France and Chevalier of the Order of St. Michael and St. Peter, with many other great favours.

Factory Records,
Miscellaneous,
vol. 3a, ff. 129a-
130a.

Abstract of General Letter from Fort St.
George to the East India Company.

Dated 21 January 1688.

[Extracts]

Para. 4. *Curtana* and *James* sloop, with 40 soldiers and suitable ammunition dispatched to Mergui and Tenasserim, with commission to demand satisfaction of the King of Siam, which if denied to publish the proclamation for recalling the English thence, and make war on him and his subjects, seizing Mergui. To reinforce them sent the *Pearl* with 40 soldiers and Mr. Hodges and Mr. John Hills. Wrote also to Mr. Burnaby and White acquainting them of the King's letter to them, which was not yet come to them being on the *Bengal*, yet sent some paragraphs to them of the general letter to that purpose, but Captain Weltden arriving the 25th December with them, acquaints them that he and the *James* had been at Mergui, and were welcomed by the English, to whom he delivered the letters to them and the King, making a truce for fifty days to await his answer. But 14 days after, on the 14th July, the natives broke the truce and at nine at night killed all the English they could meet. Captain Weltden and Mr. White escaped with wounds to their boat and so aboard the *Curtana*, and, cutting her cable, sailed out of the river. But their great guns playing on sloop *James* took her and some of her men. The Master and boat's crew escaped to the *Curtana*. The rest with all

the English were massacred to the number of fifty. Some women and children that hid themselves were saved. The French report this was long of Captain Weltden and Mr. White. Mr. White on a country ship stopped at Pollicat, went thence to Pondicherry, sailing for Bombay as they write us, whither they have written about him. The French ship brought letters from Captain Perriman at Mergui, advising us they were under a truce, and Mr. Hill and Hodges gone to Siam, for which we gave them no commission, yet hear the King gives them free accomodation and has sent for the Mergui officers in irons to Siam. Yet we fear that massacre was acted by Faulcon's treachery, whom the French King has erected Count of France, &ca., and sent for his child to bring up.

Para. 5. The French ambassador arrives at Siam in July with six ships and 1000 soldiers and artificers for the King's service, who has given them Bangkok Forts and the government of Mergui, where they are fortifying. A French Raja sent to Tenasserim. A great mortality among the soldiers, and the country disagrees with them. . . .

Para. 9. Captain Batten took a small vessel of the King of Siam's with some copper, and Captain Fen took one bound for Surat to Siam which Mr. Moody brought to them. She is condemned.

Factory Records.
Miscellaneous
vol. 3a, ff.138a-139.

Abstract of General Letter from Fort St.
George to the East India Company.

[Extracts]

Dated 25 January 1688.

Para. 37. Mr. Hodges and Hill went to Siam without their order, and we wish they fall not under Faulcon's cruelty, who has sent to destroy all the English in the King of Siam's Dominions. But when the General arrives at the Fort he will consider what may be done to revenge their late massacre. . . .

Para. 43. The Island Negrais they will promote for a Settlement there for its many advantages, it being a very fertile place, and fit for any ship to ride out a monsoon and to lay aground in safety, as by report of Captain Weltden, being but six days' sail from the Fort or Bengal. Captain Weltden found no inhabitants thereon, but a Siam inscription erected on a Standard which he supposed to be that King's title of possession; but the Captain burnt it, placing another inscription on tin that he had taken possession thereof in the King of England's name, for the Company's service.

Letter Book
vol. 8, p.504.

General Letter from the Court of Committees
to the Council at Fort St. George.

[Extract.]

Dated 6 February 1688.

If the news be true that the King of Siam is dead and Faulcon killed, it was a brave and just opportunity for you to seize and fortify Tenasserim (*flagrante instante bello*), and there is no doubt but to obtain peace with you and assistance from you the new Prince would be content to grant the sovereignty and customs, &ca., of that place for ever to his Majesty for the Company's use, with some convenient territory thereunto, and then you would have been admirably fitted with all requisites to the support of a naval force on that side of India. But if you have Chitagong we shall have the less need of Tenasserim, altho' in truth the latter place is of inestimable value to the English Nation, if we could have it on the terms aforesaid, by previous or subsequent consent, vizt., with such a Revenue appendent to it as would fully defray the charge of fortifying and defending it strongly at all times. But without such a certain revenue no such place can do us any good, Victory itself, when it enriches not the conquerors, that is those that pay the charge of the war, being rather loss than gain.

Factory Records,
Fort St. George,
vol. 5, p.14.

Fort St. George Diary.

2 March 1688.

(Extract)

Letter from Capt.
Betten.

Received a letter from Captain Thomas Batten at Acheen, dated the 7th of last month, advising of a ship belonging to the King of Siam having arrived there, laden with Copper, Tin, Tutanague, Pepper and Benjamin, and bound for Pondicherry; that he durst not meddle with her in that Port, the Shabander having threatened all the English if he did; that said ship had put out treasure into a small French vessel bound to Pondicherry, and that he would wait on the said Siam ship and dispute it with her at Sea.

Dutch Records,
1st Series, vol 41,
No. 1010, pp.3-16.

The factors at Batavia to the Council of
Seventeen. Dated 2 March (13 March N. S.)

1688.

[Translation]

[Extract]

At the end of our last letter on the affairs of Batavia we wrote to your Excellencies that news had come from Malacca of the arrival of the ships *America* and *Vryheyt* in Siam, which has been confirmed since in a letter from the factor, the chief merchant Keyts, and the council there, dated 23rd December of last year, and brought hither on the 3rd February by the aforesaid ship *America*; the ships arrived on the 16th Nov. and the 3rd Dec. respectively.

The further contents [of the letter] are as follows: That the head of the Siamese embassy from France had arrived there with four ships. They had previously said there was to be only a director general over their Company here in India, who was to return by way of Tenasserim and Surat. Afterwards it was acknowledged that he had the character of envoy whose name is La Loubère, a Gascon nobleman, and that besides himself another had the position of director. Cébert is his name and he is one of the twelve directors of their aforesaid East India Company. These gentlemen arrived on the 30th September and the 8th October with four ships (as previously stated). On the 2nd Nov. they were conducted with their retinue to court, bringing

with them the following presents for his Siamese Majesty : 1 large mirror, 3 saddles, 1 inkhorn, 4 parcels of garments of velvet, made after the French fashion, all set and edged with gems and pearls. Item, 4 Siamese *cabaya* of white lace curiously worked and edged with gems and pearls. Further several varieties of glassware and some hats of different colours. Five of these hats being valued by these gentlemen at a very high price, on a closer view have not been found by our people to be so costly. His Excellency the lord Falcon has also been honoured by his Majesty of France with various valuables and moreover with his portrait in gold, with a crown set with diamonds on the one side and on the other a falcon with a lily in one claw with the inscription : Be faithful. These particulars have been learnt at Malacca from the talk of the captain of the French ship *St. Louis*, which arrived there with another ship in December from Siam, without any information being given as to his further destination. But E. Keys writes that the aforesaid portrait was set with very precious stones, to the value (as was said) of quite 20,000 rix dollars and that he had worn a star on his left breast valued at 900 or 1,000 rix dollars, and that he had been raised to the rank of count and made chevalier of the order of St. Michael.

What will come of all this favour and

honour time will show. The first result is that the two years' contracts between the King of Siam and his Majesty of France, made by the Chevalier de Chaumont and working in many respects in no wise smoothly, have now been accommodated and amplified. . .

Also the ambassador from Cambodia had informed Ed. U. Keyts that the said gentlemen had been permitted to build a factory at Junkceylon.

But their wanton insolence had become intolerable to the simple nation, especially since their women in the public streets did not escape it. But the people could obtain no suitable redress from the King, nor even could the Oya Barkalong, when he complained to the King about these matters. Some eminent persons of repute, instead of obtaining an audience, were, by the King's orders, severely beaten and driven off with sticks.

However, with regard to the affront put upon the Company's chief and two other persons when passing Bangkok in their boat on their return from the Amsterdam warehouse by four armed soldiers who made a most uncalled for and insolent examination of them, the King was much disturbed, and made the envoy and director, the said MM. La Loubère and Céberty, promise that similar things should not happen in future and had given the assurance through the commandant of the said

fortress, a M. des Farges, who had been granted the title of general by the King, that the culprits and the officer who was at the time on duty should be punished. They have thus let pass this act of insolence if only it does not some day break out into something worse, against which our people must be on guard and on their side must avoid giving any imaginable cause to the people for the slightest animosity.

The flyboat *La Normande*, the fifth ship of the combined fleet which sailed from France, arrived there on the 22nd Nov. The cargo consisted, like that of the other ships, of all sorts of munitions of war, including cannon, bombs, drugs, spades and shovels, also some French piece goods, confirming the conclusion we had previously reached as to the reason of their presence here, except the building materials, which they should not have had.

This last named ship was despatched with copper and spelter to Surat, and one of the others with a cargo of rice to Coromandel.

The remaining three stayed until the envoy should have come from Lavo with the Jesuit Père Tachard, to take them home, intending to take with them as cargo much Chinese and Bengal silk, porcelain, camphor, musk, tea and other merchandise, and on the way they were to touch at Bantam, undoubted-

ly in order to spy out everything there as far as possible and to enquire into the state of that place and the disposition of the officials and the other discontented notables. However, they had evidently made this plan in the belief that nothing was yet known of them there and in that neighbourhood, and that they could continue their voyage to France, with the intention of touching also at the Cape of Good Hope, where, on their outward voyage, they had been well received and where, according to communications made by certain members of the suite, everything had been subjected to close scrutiny by the envoy during his stay on shore, marvelling at the weakness of our garrisons there, and at the carelessness of those in authority to such an extent indeed that it would have cost these gentlemen very little to make themselves masters of the place, if, on an outbreak of fire outside the castle, the majority of the garrison should have rushed out unarmed to extinguish it, leaving very few within, not enough (as he judged) to have been able to defend it.

Thus it might well happen that heed being now taken thereto the aforesaid place might, if occasion arose, suffer an attack, and no reliance could be placed by our people in the security of the 20 years' truce; they would do better to put their trust in a good and formidable garrison, and in getting the fresh water supply into our power.

The Portuguese father, Stevão de Soysa, with the Siamese envoy, having been appointed to the ship *Nossa Signora de Milagras*, which foundered on the Cape of Aguiljes (whereof mention was made in our previous letter) had given quite a different account of his reception at the Cape of Good Hope, saying that he had quite unjustifiably been frequently treated with very little respect by the commander Van der Stel, and on a certain occasion in the presence of other persons had been insulted in these words : Wat paap, soo menigen paap, soo menigen schelm [Where there's a priest there's a rogue]. And he had already previously made an accusation against his Excellency of having taken gifts from the Siamese envoy that he should give his support to his voyage to Europe with the English who were there at that time (the father having other views), and that he should put obstacles in the way of their departure, also that his suite had done the same, and that he had been compelled to return against his will.

Further, the commander, Van der Stel, is said to have enriched himself considerably by the wreck of the aforesaid foundered Portuguese ship. All these points we have made known to you in the letter now being sent by the Cape that they should be answered for to your Excellencies.

As Commissaries for the composition of

the differences between the Siamese King and the English Company, of which previous mention has been made, a Mr. William Hoges [Hodges] and Mr. Hill came by way of Tenasserim from Madras on the 14th Nov., and on the 10th Dec. arrived at the Court at Lavo. What they have accomplished there we shall probably learn before the end of this month per the *Vryheyt* which is to sail hitherwards on its way to America in 15 or 16 days' time . . . A letter was written to us by the Company's factor, the head merchant Keyts, and the council at Siam, dated 25 Jan. last year, stating that on the 4th the French envoy, M. de la Loubère beforenamed, had started on his return voyage to France with three ships, having taken leave of his Excellency the lord Faulcon . . . Nevertheless, his said Excellency followed the envoy 3 days after his departure from Lavo, thinking they would meet at Bangkok. The Jesuit father Père Tachard departed with him, not as an ambassador, but in company with 5 or 6 merchants for the furtherance of his own affairs and to report to the Pope of Rome on the state of their flourishing church in the Siamese Kingdom. It had not been possible to discover their design and to what end they went thither with so many men and were posted in the King's castles both at Bangkok and Tenasserim, although besides the French soldiers in the aforesaid fortress, the most

trusty Siamese governors and their troops have to keep watch on all their doings and to make known all occurrences in the least extraordinary, by day by messengers, and by night by beacon fires, from which one may easily gather the sort of trust in which these gentlemen are held by the natives. Also that their general, M. des Farges, and his two sons are kept usually at Lavo at the court, as is supposed more by order of the King than in accordance with the intentions of his Excellency. Otherwise he knows well how to secure the King's favour to his advantage on many occasions. For instance, with regard to their imported merchandise and munitions of war, he knew how to dispose him to buy them at the highest price, thereby also serving his own interests; but it was thought this would not last.

The common soldiers become more and more dissolute, wholly given over to debauchery, and the aversion of the Siamese to them becomes stronger. This is the fault of their officers who withheld their pay so that the worst of them took to stealing and other acts of tyranny on the public in order to obtain means for their support . . . and the better sort were compelled to beg. Disease has also made great ravages among them and is said to have destroyed half of the original number. Many of them did not get decent burial, but were flung into the river and their bodies were

carried past the Company's warehouse on their way to sea. The complaints made at court by some on their first arrival of ill treatment both at the Cape of Good Hope and at Batavia were dealt with by the above-named general at his Excellency's table, and evidences of the contrary given. The English commissaries are still very busy, but so far without having accomplished anything as far as they can see. As to the embassy from Sousankounang to the King, of which mention was previously made, nothing further is said.

Factory Records,
Fort St. George,
vol. 5, pp. 15-16.

Consultation at Fort St. George.

3 March 1688.

(Extract)

Concerning the Siam
ship at Acheen.

The Governor has received a letter from Capt. Batten at Acheen advising him that a ship arrived there from Siam under French colours, about 400 tons, 18 guns and 12 Europeans, and notwithstanding they produced a bill of sale, that she was bought by the French of the Portuguese, but upon enquiry he was informed by the seamen that she belonged to the King of Siam, as also the goods on board her, and that he intended to have taken her, but that the Shabander at Acheen declared, that if he offered to meddle, or use any hostility in their road, he would have satisfaction from the English ashore which prevented his seizing her in that place, but that he intended to wait her departure, she being bound for Pondicherry. But lest he should fail in his enterprize, she being a large ship, well manned and gunned, and we being satisfied here that that very ship did belong to the King of Siam, and went under the name of the *Eagle*, with a black Spread Eagle on her stern, which gives us great reason to believe, that the French colours are only a pretence to save her from our seizure it is therefore ordered that the *Rochester* do immediately sail for Coodaloor, and ride there in expectation of her from Acheen. It is further ordered that he seize and bring her hither, to be examined

Siam ship at Acheen
bound for Pondi-
cherry.

Rochester to ride off
Coodaloor to seize
her.

Her goods to be con-
tinued aboard her
till her return.

by the Court of Admiralty, and accordingly be disposed, and for the more expedition it is ordered that what goods she brought from Bengal be continued on board till her return, and that if he misses of her, that she then bring our goods from Portonovo, Coodaloor and Conimeer, to secure them from the dangers and troubles of the country.

Factory Records,
Fort St. George,
vol. 5, pp. 17-18.
3 March 1688.

TO CAPT. JOHN BRUMWELL

Commander of SHIP ROCHESTER.

Copy of Capt. Brum-
well's orders.

Whereas you have received his Majesty the King of England's commission, authorising and empowering you to be aiding and assisting to the Right Honble. English East India Company in making war against the Mogul and King of Siam, wherein you are to observe and follow such orders as you shall from time to time receive from the said East India Company, their General, President, Agent and Councils in the East Indies, We therefore the President and Council of Fort St. George do hereby order you upon receipt hereof, to repair aboard your ship *Rochester*, and the first opportunity of wind and weather to weigh anchor and set sail, bending your course for the speediest attaining of the Port of Coodaloor, where you are to ride in twenty fathom water in expectation of a ship and lading of the King of Siam's, under French colours, which in all probability must pass you, being designed from Acheen to Pondicherry. It was formerly called the *Eagle*, with a black Spread Eagle in her stern (as per a paragraph in a letter from Capt. Thomas Batten at Acheen, a copy whereof is herewith delivered you, wherein you will at large be informed concerning said ship and lading). And if you should have the good fortune to light upon her, either as you are in said road, or in your passage thither, you are

then to seize her and bring her to this Port, to be examined by the Court of Admiralty; the same you are to do to any ship you shall suspect to belong to the said King of Siam or his subjects. But if you do not see her in twenty days after your arrival, then you are to take in the Right. Honble. Company's goods at Portonovo and Coodaloor, as also at Conimeer. So wishing you good success, We date these presents at Fort St. George the 3rd day of March 1687/8.

ELIHU YALE, &c., &c.

Factory Records,
Fort St. George,
vol. 5, pp. 19-21.

Fort St. George Diary.

5 March 1688.

(Extract)

News from Mr. Hod-
ges at Siam.

* This letter has not
been traced.

Mr. William Hodges in a letter to Mr. John Littleton and Mr. John Styleman, dated in Lavo the 12th December 1687,* advises them that he was in hopes they should be dismissed as soon as the French ambassador was gone, whose stay he thought might be ten days longer ; that he supposes they have heard of the sad murder of the English at Mergui, but he believes not much (or anything) of truth, (in the reports), he having made it his business (to inquire) upon the place, yet knew not well what to advise, the most agreeing that there were killed 33 English and 20 Portugese. Mr. Hodges adds that Mr. Faulcon has promised to shew him a letter, signed by Cropley, Triggs and two Englishmen more, who advised that Mr. White and Mr. Burnaby designed to make their escape in Mr. White's ship, which occasioned orders to be sent to the Oyah or Siam Governor to prevent the same, that Mr. White had advised that there were ten English ships coming against Mergui, so that he had long before received orders to deface the place and go to Siam, since he thought it impossible to defend it from the English, as he had advised. Mr. Hodges further states in his letter that Capt. Weltden taking Mr. White's ship out of the Road made the Oyah consult

with some rascally Dutchmen, and he was afraid that Cropley was privy to the design of killing Mr. White and Mr. Burnaby, which when performed by a parcel of people made drunk, and mad, proceeded without any other consideration—then the more they murdered, the more would be their profit. Mr. Hodges also says that the Oyah was then in Lavo, and he was informed that when brought to examination, his flesh is to be pinched off with hot irons; that there was one Dutchman and several of the natives there in prison; that they bring them up, but by two or three at a time, to prevent a further disturbance; that the King was extremely grieved, and was resolved that all that had a hand in the murder should suffer; that there were at Mergui five companies of French and above 300 disciplined Siamese. He desires to be excused to the President and Council that he had not paid his respects in writing, but that when he came to Madras, he would acquaint them with the reasons of it. That he had just then the certain news that Cropley had been at Lavo 15 days and kept a close prisoner; that when the French are dispatched they shall know what they have to trust to, but he fears not, being as civilly treated as he can expect. That he had seen the King of Siam's declaration of war against the Right Honble. East India Company and their servants, and of liberty to all freemen that are English. That by these

French ships the King of Siam sends home his grievance against our Right Honble. Masters and their servants, and refers himself to the King of England's determination.

Factory Records,
Fort St. George,
vol. 5, p.39.

Fort St. George Diary.

20 March 1688.

[Extract]

Letter from Mr.
Wm. Hodges and Mr.
John Hill.

Received a letter from Mr. William Hodges and Mr. John Hill, dated at Bangkok the 2nd of November 1687,* giving an account of their arrival at Mergui and going to Siam, and that by the first good opportunity they will give a full account of affairs in those parts, and that Mr. Faulcon had prepared a house for them, being in daily expectation of their coming.

* See under this date for an abstract of this letter.

Factory Records,
Fort St. George,
vol. 5, p. 44.

Fort St. George Diary.

26 March 1688.

[Extract]

Rebecca from
Acheen. Ship *Rebecca*, Captain Thomas Batten
commander, arrived here from Acheen, having
left the Siam ship there, not daring to meddle
with her in that Road.

Factory Records,
Fort St. George,
vol. 5, p.45.

Fort St. George Diary.

28 March 1688.

[Extract.]

Letter from

Pondicherry.

Received a letter from Monsieur Martin, Director at Pondicherry, dated the 3rd of April 1688, wherein he writes that they were very punctual to the amity between our Royal Kings and did not protect any of our enemies' goods under their colours, and that the ship from Siam at Acheen was bought by the French ambassador and laden on his account, and did not belong to the King of Siam or his subjects.

Factory Records,
Sumatra, vol. 2.

Instructions from the Court of Committees
to Captain Benjamin Brangwin of the
Persia Merchant.

[Extract]

Dated [4 April 1688].

And in regard for the many injuries done us formerly by the King of Siam, his Ministers and Vassals, we have thought fit to make war upon the said King and his subjects in order to reprice ourselves for damages sustained through him and them. We therefore do hereby require that if you meet with any of the said King's vessels, ships or goods, that you do by force of arms surprize and take them, and at the same time deliver with them all the passengers, books and papers that shall be found on board any such ship or vessel unto our General and Council of India at Bombay, or to our President and Council of Fort St. George, in order to be adjudged and condemned as a prize ship and goods by our Court of Admiralty, if they shall, upon due proof, appear to belong to the said King of Siam or any of his subjects or vassals.

Factory Records,
Miscellaneous
vol. 3a, f.149.

Abstract of General Letter from Fort St.
George to the East India Company.

Dated 20 April 1688.

[Extract]

Para. 4. Have had no news from Tenasserim since the late tragical account, only that Mr. Hodges and Mr. Hill were forced up to Siam. It is reported Faulcon will send them to the Coast. He owns the late Massacre at Mergui. The Company's ships have met no Siamese, since the *Derrea Dowlet*, they adventure now only under protection of the French.

Press list No. 1535. [Bombay]

Extract from Public Sundries No. 3.

April the 29th 1688.

To the Honble. Elihu Yale, Esqr.

President, &ca., Council.

Honble. Sir, &ca.,

We advised your Honour. &ca., the 27th instant of the troubles that were come upon us, which still continue to the great hazard of the Right Honble. Company's concerns. We have 50 Bales of fine goods in the godown ready, which we fear they will seize on, as they make great demands for the damages they sustained by Capt. Brumwell's taking the Chouleer's ship. The Siamese now are so numerous at Pondicherry and these people so ill affected that they may be persuaded easily to do anything against us ; but we have provided ourselves as well as we can to prevent a surprize, the Rantaccours doing good service therein, for which if your please to send 2 or 3 field carriages it would do well. We desire your Honour, &ca., would be pleased to consider our condition and provide for our security. The greatest of our danger is from the Siamese ; for the country people we are indifferent, being well provided for as to them, and nothing but ships of force can secure the factory. There is another Siam ship daily expected here, which doubtless, by the toleration of

the Government, will do us all the mischief it can ; but all our hope is that your Honour, &ca., will prevent them by a timely preparation, upon consideration of what has been passed already.

Just now appears a ship to the northward which is thought to be the Siamese that lately went from Pondicherry from whom has come a report by the Avaldar, wherein he advises he intends to come here again and that he is resolved with his guns to beat down the factory and carry the Chief and Second prisoners on board, promising likewise to do no harm to the town but if any mischance should happen will give them complete satisfaction. Which is what offers at present from

Honble. Sir, &ca.,

Your most obedient servants,

JOHN NICKS.

SAML. SYNOCK

Consultation at Fort St. George.

Factory Records,
Fort St. George,
vol. 5, pp. 74-75.

30 April 1688.

Received a General Letter from Mr. John Nicks, &ca., at Portonovo, dated the 27th inst., that a ship with French colours arrived there, whose boat coming ashore two of their men fled to the English Factory for protection and offered their service to the English. They informed the Chief, &ca., that the same ship came lately from Tenasserim, and particularly belonged to the King of Siam, and was bound for Persia, several of his servants and Mandarins being then aboard, and that they intended to surprize the Factory and seize their persons and the Right Honble. Company's estate that night, and for that purpose had sent arms for twenty men in that same boat they came ashore in. This boat the Chief immediately seized and brought to the Factory, and the Captain had ashore the day before delivered them two papers in French, sealed or chopped by the Siamese, which were instructions for their voyage to Persia, upon the King of Siam's account. Whereupon Mr. Nicks endeavoured what he could to have surprized them, and taken their ship, but could not effect it; but on the contrary the said ship with French colours seized upon a ship belonging to the English and carried her away to Pondicherry, and incensed the Margetta Government so against us, that they immediately besieged the Factory, denying any

Of the Siam ship at
Portonovo.

water or provisions to be brought to them, whereby their lives and the Right Honble. Company's estate were in great danger, requiring our speedy assistance of ships and men for their relief. Whereupon it is agreed and ordered that the *Bengal Merchant* and *Dragon* here, and the *Rochester* now at Conimeer, be commissioned to proceed to Pondicherry and Portonovo in pursuit of the said Siam ship, and to secure the Right Honble. Company's servants and concerns there, as also another Siam ship expected thither, with great numbers of Siamese and French, who have undertaken great mischief against the English, at our Factory and elsewhere, and accordingly orders were drawn up, approved and signed, and one delivered to Captain Perse, with the said French papers, and another immediately sent to Capt. Brumwell at Conimeer, as also General letters to Coodaloor and Conimeer about the said business.

Ships to be sent after
the Siamese.

Orders for said ships.

General Letters to
Coodaloor and Coni-
meer.

Factory Records,
Fort St. George,
vol. 5, pp. 75-76.
30 April 1688.

To CAPT. WILLIAM PERSE
Commander of the *BENGAL MERCHANT*.

Copy orders to Capt.
Perse.

We have just now received news from Mr. John Nicks, &ca., Council at Coodaloor, that a ship of the King of Siam, under French colours, has taken the ship *Prospect* in that Road, belonging to the English, and is besieging Portonovo Factory, and attempting to murder our people, and seize and rob the Right Honble. Company's estate there. These are therefore by virtue of his Majesty's commission to us and you directed immediately to fit your ship and sail for Portonovo to assist our Factory or elsewhere in pursuit of the said ship, and to seize her and the English ship wherever you find them, either in Pondicherry road or elsewhere, this being certainly the King of Siam's ship, as the accompanying French orders do confirm, being under the Siam seal, and if the French do protect and assist them, and offend or fight you, we then order you to repel force by force, if they begin with you, and in all things behave yourselves like Englishmen, in discharge of his Majesty's commission, and these our orders. Dated in Fort St. George the 30th of April Anno 1688.

ELIHU YALE
&ca., &ca.

Factory Records,
Fort St. George,
vol. 21, p. 27,
(2d. set of paging.)

The Council at Fort St. George to John
Nicks, &c., at Cuddalore.

Dated 1 May 1688.

(Extract)

We were just now surprized with the sad news of your troubles and the Siam ship under French colours taking the *Prospect* and carrying her to Pondicherry, but we hope the Almighty has and will protect you from your feared enemies and dangers. However we have commissioned Capt. Bromwell and Capt. Pearce to come to your assistance, &ca., we hope they will soon be with you, therefore take courage and do not tamely surrender your lives and the Right. Honble. Company's estate, which if they will have, sell them as dear as possible.

Press list No. 1544. [Bombay].

*Extract from Letters from Fort St. George,
Vol. II.*

Fort St. George, May 1688.

To Mr. John Wilcox, Chief
&ca., Council at Conimeer.

We have advice from Portonovo that our friends are in great trouble there and that a ship of the King of Siam's under French colours has taken ship *Prospect* belonging to the English, which has occasioned us to commission Capt. Pearce and Capt. Bromwell in pursuit of the said Siam ships. This commission comes enclosed, which send to him as soon as possible that he may fit himself for the prosecution and not be surprized by them. You must also keep a good watch lest the Honble. Company's affairs suffer in these troubles, which is all from

Your faithful affectionate friends,

ROBERT FREEMAN.	ELIHU YALE.
THOMAS WARELL.	JOHN GRAY.
NATHANIEL HIGGINSON.	JOHN BIGS.
WILLIAM FRASER.	JOHN LITTLETON.

Factory Records,
Fort St. George,
vol. 5, p. 87.

Fort St. George Diary.

14 May 1688.

(Extract)

News from Siam.

An Englishman in the French service, lately come from Siam, brought us news that Mr. Hodges and Mr. Hill still continued at Siam, and it was reported that Mr. Hill was coming hither by way of Tenasserim ; he also brought a paper said to be a copy of the King of Siam's declaration of war against the Right Honble. Company and their servants.

Press list No. 1584. [Bombay].

*Extract from Public Consultations 1688,
Vol. XIV.*

Diary of Consultation, Thursday, May 24, 1688.

* * * *

27. Also a rumour in town that there are four ships arrived in Metchlepatam Road, with an ambassador and a present of elephants, &ca., from the King of Siam to the Mogul, but no news of it from thence.

Factory Records,
Fort St. George,
vol. 5, p. 96.

Fort St. George Diary.

27 May 1688.

[Extract]

A rumour in town that there are four ships arrived in Metchlepatam Road with an ambassador and a present of elephants, &ca., from the King of Siam to the Mogul, but no news of it from thence.

Press list No. 1627. [Bombay].

Extract from Letters from Fort St. George
Vol. II.

Fort St. George, the 23 June, 1688.

To the Honble. Francis Martin,
Director General for the Royal
French East India Company.

Honble. Sir,

I must first entreat your pardon for my thus long delaying an answer to your last letter which proceeded from no dissatisfaction or disrespect but from the arrival of a ship from Europe and several other urgent affairs that intervened, as also the consideration that some of my former letters might have been admitted an answer to many of your objections. But to give your Honour further satisfaction and to avoid and prevent all misunderstandings betwixt us, I shall with all truth and candour clear and dissipate the seeming resentments of your letter, which I hope and doubt not will conclude the dispute and engage both to such just and amicable action and correspondence as becomes us from the alliances and commands of our sovereigns and masters, and to permit no little mistakes to divert it for the future, to which I shall contribute all in my power being most desirous of an entire friendship.

And first to answer your Honour's [objection] against our ship taking the King of Siam's sloop out of your [road which] action was thus reported and proved to us — by the commander [. . .]erying a vessel out at sea with Siamese colours he by virtue [. . .] Majesty the King of England's commission pursued her into [Pondicherry road], where she had scarcely cast anchor before they [surrendered . . .] and after being brought hither was some [months' before . . .] prize in expectation of your [. . . received] all due satisfaction but now appearing the court of admiralty proceeded according to evidence and justice wherein they were very favourable to their people and her small value duly registered, which procedure in our judges' opinion can admit of no censure or objection by the laws of the nation and there was no offence. When our men-of-war wishing some of your ships which was but in a just obedience to his Majesty's commission who commands their [. . .] into all ships on this side the Cape lest they should be enemies or pirates for either we are what colours you please therefore that can be [no] affront nor protection since nothing is more common than proceeding themselves under false colours, but whenever they appeared otherwise or to belong to your King and Company they have always been treated and discharged with great respect and I believe you cannot charge our ships

with any wrong or incivility to yours but on the contrary we have been kind and assisting to them. Therefore where is the injury or disobligation of such visits? And we shall not take ill the like from yours notwithstanding your resolute expression. Though I doubt I have too much reason to complain that our commanders have been too remiss in their duties to their commissions and by their honour and respect to the King's colours have discharged and excused several ships that had no right to wear them, which is much doubted by the Black Eagle at Acheen, which was known to have—been the King of Siam's ship and owned still to be so by several of her seamen at Acheen, though we were satisfied with your Honour's protestation to the contrary.

And though we cannot commend the prudence of that action of our people lately at Portonovo, yet we may the legality of it; that ship, though under French colours, was so apparently and indisputably the King of Siam's that we have the very original commissions to her officers in French under the Mandarins' seals; therefore it is very unfit to be mentioned being therein most evident that your people have spared their colours for a protection to our enemies, which I cannot believe his Majesty of France will commend or allow of, and we have great reason to think that ship's company had some ill design upon our people

at Portonovo by the confession of some of them and their secretly bringing arms ashore; nor were their number so few but might have done much mischief by surprise or treachery. But, none happening, I shall say no more concerning it, but give your Honour thanks for any favour or kindness you did our people therein.

Nor will I speak more of our faithful friendship in your St. Thomas troubles. Your Honour was an eye-witness and can never forget it, besides the repetition of a kindness is a great diminution of it. However I must acknowledge still your courtesy of passes to our Manila ships, which we are necessitated to send under Portuguese colours, since neither ours nor any other Europeans are allowable there. But I must also acquaint your Honour that the inhabitants of the place whilst under our Government are really subjects to the King of England and his laws both civil and comical and therefore not [. . .] to the seizure of any European nation in amity with the Crown of England : being vassal to no other Government whatever and this [. . . enjoy] by good authority from the Kings of England and Golcondah [. . .] come at possession and custom which doubt not will still [.] our inhabitants.

I could also [. . .] Mr. Jearsye's ship and goods out of St. Thomas [Road ;] and sending [her] to France for which there hath

been——no reason or satisfaction given, and of——several other unkindnesses, which I forbear lest it raise disputes to no purpose and disturb our friendship, which I am rather willing to increase than diminish, being upon all occasions ready to approve myself,

Honble.,

Your Honour's most faithful friend
and humble servant,

Letter Book
vol. 8, p. 566.

General Letter from the Court of Committees
to the Council at Fort St. George.

(Extract)

Dated 27 August 1688.

If the French are really settled at Mergui we would not begin a war with them for the conquering of that place . . . :

We will pursue the war against the King of Siam until we have full satisfaction for all our damages and that wicked fellow Faulcon be removed out of place or suffer according to his deserts. And when that is done we know the trade of that place is not worth a farthing, notwithstanding the flourishes you will find about it in your general letters written us three or four years past, when Faulcon was the Darling of President Gyfford and Council, and he flattered them as much till he had, not without too much countenance from them, got a strength of English Fugitives about him, and their own as well as the Company's Estate in his hands, and then he shewed himself in his proper colours, which he did, and they might have discerned before with half an eye under his painted Coat, had not avarice and prejudice to our new conduct (as they called it) clouded their sight. And therefore, if some of you have been great losers by Siam, you have none to complain against but yourselves, and may see your sin in your punishment, for we are not at the charge of this war

to procure satisfaction for any of your losses, but only for the Company, who bear all the charge of it.

Your sending Mr. Hodges to Siam was totally without our order, who left the composing of that war only to our General and Council of Bombay, and inasmuch as you sent Mr. Hodges, we know, as well by other instances while he was before at Siam, that you thought him the most acceptable man to Faulcon, and therefore we like him the worst, and will have no more to do with him but do hereby dismiss him our service.

Factory Records,
Fort St. George,
vol. 5, p. 209.

Consultation at Fort St. George.

24 September 1688.

[Extract.]

Advice of Mr. Hills
getting away from
Siam.

By this ship we received advices of Mr. John Hills getting away from Siam with the *Pearl* frigate, &ca., and his arrival at Acheen, but no general letter from him, and only a report that Mr. William Hodges and four score English more were detained prisoners at Siam under great severity.

Press list No. 1772. [Bombay].

*Extract from Letters from Fort St. George,
Vol. II.*

Fort St. George, the 29 September 1688.

May it Please Your
Excellency.

This accompanies duplicates of our General letter per the French conveyances as also the Right Honble. Company's packet with what other particular letters we received from England for you, of which we wish the safe delivery. They were more strictly recommended to our care than usual, which made us rather make choice of this surer conveyance than those overland or by the French would in probability have been.

There has just arrived here Capt. Thomas Bowery from Acheen via Bengal, [. . . acquainted] us he left Mr. John Hill and several others there upon the [. . . frigate] we sent in September last on the Mergui [expe. . . . who were] ever since detained there and at Siam; but [. . . accident or stratagem he got] free we cannot learn having [. . .] them, only Mr. Bowery tells us he heard Mr. Hodg[son...100] more Englishmen detained prisoners at Siam (.....) treated, and the King of Siam or his (tyranicalhad sent) two ambassadors or envoys upon a French (.....) but what theirs

(.....) but when he arrives shall satisfy your Excellency, &ca., therein and then if not agreeable to honour and justice we hope you will resolve upon some course to have satisfaction for the most barbarous murder of near 80 of our countrymen, most of whom were with a judicial formality cruelly killed in cold blood, which greatly aggravates the inhumanity.

* * * *

Your Excellency, &ca.,

Most faithful humble servants,

ELIHU YALE.

NAT. HIGGINSON.

JOHN PRIGGS.

JOHN LITTLETON.

ROBERT FREEMAN.

THOMAS WAVELL.

WILL. FRASER.

WILL. CAWLY.

THO. GRAY.

Factory Records,
Fort St. George,
vol. 21, p. 83,
(2d. set of paging.)

The Council at Fort St. George to the
President at Surat.

Dated 29 September 1688.

[Extract]

This instant arrived here Capt. Thomas Bowery from Acheen via Bengal, who acquainted us he left Mr. John Hill and several there upon the *Pearl* frigate we sent in September last on the Mergui expedition, who were ever since detained there and at Siam, but by what accident or stratagem he got free we cannot learn, having no letter from them. Only Mr. Bowery tells us he heard Mr. Hodges with near 100 more Englishmen [were] detained prisoners at Siam and severely treated, and the King of Siam or his tyrannical ministers had sent two ambassadors or [envoys] upon a French ship to the King of England, but what theirs or Mr. Hill's [intentions] are we are yet ignorant of, but when he arrives shall satisfy your Excellency, &ca., therein. And then if not agreeable to honour and justice we hope you will resolve upon some course to have satisfaction for the most barbarous murder of near 80 of our countrymen, most of whom were with a judicial formality cruelly killed in cold blood, which greatly aggravates the inhumanity.

Factory Records,
Miscellaneous,
vol. 3a, ff. 146-147.

Abstract of General Letter from Fort St.
George to the East India Company.

[Extracts]

Dated 30 September 1688.

Para. 22. They hear Mr. John Hill was at Acheen in June last from Mergui, and Mr. Hodges and 80 English detained at Siam, and that the King of Siam has sent two ambassadors to England viâ France.

Para. 44. Two French ships only in these parts reported that 3 men-of-war were gone to Siam. . . .

Para 45. Their 2 ships have gone to Mergui to fortify there. They have the command of that Port under the King, as also of Bangkok. Siam ships wear French colours and passes to secure them from the English, and though examined by the English yet have deceived them. Captain Batten's fault they complain of, but they have made 20 for it. They have lost many men at Siam, the air and people and they disagreeing with them.

Portuguese Records,
 Noticias da India.
 (Translations)
 vol. 1, Pt. 2, pp.
 448-457.

Information Concerning India,

News of the Kingdom of Siam [1688].

News reached us from many sources that the King of Siam had ordered the Greek Constantine Faulcon, to whom the King of France lately gave the title of Duke, to be put to death as a traitor, but there was no proof to place the rumour beyond a doubt, as we had no letters or testimony from our Portuguese, until in the month of August of the present year 1688, there came to Macau, one Francisco Ferreira, an inhabitant of this city, who left Siam for the Coast in January of this year, and came from the Coast to this city. He reports that five ships set out from France, four of which arrived, in which there were eleven Fathers of the Company, and eight hundred men, of whom three hundred died during the voyage. Of the five hundred who arrived safely the Greek placed two hundred in a fortress called Bangkok, with three Fathers of the Company. Two or three died every day through intemperance in eating green cocoa-nuts and drinking arrack; and therefore they spoke ill of the country and of those who had sent them thither, and many of them fled, while others plundered and molested the natives until they induced their chief Talapoin, who corresponds with what the Pope is with us, to assemble many other Talapoins and go and complain to the King of the in-

solence of the French. Such was the state of affairs in Siam when this man left it.

In September there came to Canton a Soma from Siam containing various letters from certain inhabitants of this city, reporting that the King of Siam had died of poison administered by a slave of his household called Pra Pitira Chai, [Phetraja ?] who saw that the kingdom was being ruined because the King would not listen to the cries and complaints of the people against the Greek. This Pra Pitira Chai is now King, having killed two princes, the son-in-law and nephew of the deceased King. He immediately arrested the Greek and put him to the torture until he confessed that all the French and Christians were in a conspiracy with him to raise the kingdom in revolt ; and upon this confession he ordered him to be beheaded, quartered and thrown to the dogs ; he was found to be tatoood upon the arm with certain letters which they could not read. His children were also put to death, and his wife and mother-in-law are kept prisoners by the King and continually tortured to make them confess what they know. Most of his relations are in prison as traitors and their property confiscated. The Greek had mined the earth from his house to the palace, awaiting an occasion to blow it up. In his house were found many arms, gunpowder, and provisions, and a thousand pairs of mules.

Three hundred French who were in the fortress of Bangkok, upon the news of the death of the Greek traitor, made several attacks upon the villages of Siam, but the Siamese drove them back to the fortress, with loss on both sides, and reduced them to such straits that on the 15th of July 1688 they displayed a white flag, and asked through the French Bishop for ships in which to go away ; and some say the request was granted. The Bishop's College is turned into a pagoda, and the Bishop's native christians were taken prisoners and forced by the King to turn heathen again.

The King called upon the Portuguese to defend the city and his palace, and sent others to make a pallisade at the bar of the river to guard against the entrance of the French fleet ; which the Greek had confessed was to come this year much earlier than the last.

The King asked the Captains of the foreign ships which were in the port to defend the river for him. The captains of our two ships from Macau offered their ships and persons in his service ; the King accepted the offer and in token of gratitude, with his own hands, put coats upon Andre Gomes, Gaspar Franco, Francisco Ferreira and other Portuguese, promising to reward them when the action was concluded ; and thereupon our ships remained with his galleys, to defend the river.

The King ordered all the Greek's papers

to be seized, in order to discover the names of those concerned in the conspiracy, and for this purpose he arrested the Reverend Father Pedro Martyr, a religious of the Order of St. Dominic, who was secretary to the Greek, and he is continually tortured and bound with four chains. The Reverend Father Estevam de Souza, a religious of the Order of St. Augustine, who was second secretary to the Greek, escaped the torture because he was ill.

The Reverend Father Joaõ Baptista Maldonado, a Fleming, of the Company of Jesus, escaped being arrested by saying that he was a Portuguese. The French priests do not fare well; twenty Frenchmen, with a French Father of the Company, who came from the fortress of Bangkok in a sloop, were put to death.

The King wished to send a frigate to this city with Portuguese, but refrained from doing so for fear they should change places with the French.

The Siamese attacked the fortress of Tenasserim by surprise, and cut the throats of more than a hundred persons, including French, English and other Christians; forty French escaping by the river in a boat. The letters assert that the French will never set foot in Siam again, and also that Christianity is at an end there. The Propaganda must also be considered at an end, for Siam was its

headquarters and the residence of the Bishops and missionaries, from whence they and the subsidies were distributed among the missions of China, Tonkin and Cochin-China, and now there is no place from whence they can be introduced unless it be through Macau, or by means of the Portuguese. The designs of France are also frustrated, for they have no other place of refuge and after this no King will admit them.

The consequences of this conspiracy are all fatal, for when it is rumoured throughout these realms that the Europeans (for very few can distinguish between the French and Portuguese), under the cloak of propagating the faith, would have raised a revolt in the Kingdom of Siam, they will drive out all the missionaries and Europeans, and close all the ports to them, as was done in Japan, fearing that we will do as the French did in Siam. Thus all the missionaries, not only the French, but even the Portuguese and other Europeans, are in great danger of being expelled from China, Tonkin, and Cochin China, and other realms, to the ruin of all the Christian missions, which God forbid. The Portuguese of Siam even fear that when the war with the French is over, they will be killed or expelled, and that this has not been done already because they depended on their help against the French.

Factory Records.
Fort St. George,
vol. 5, p. 7
(2d. set of paging.)

Consultation at Fort St. George.

20 October 1688.

(Extract)

Being advised by several Masters and pilots here that our ships may very well get to Acheen this monsoon, and that being the windermost part of the Island, it is therefore thought necessary and convenient that the *Dorothy* do go to Acheen in quest of the Mogul's and King of Siam's ships, hearing they intend to send two small ones to lie in those Ports in expectation of our ships. And the better to strengthen and encourage them against those they may meet with, it is ordered that 20 soldiers be sent on each ship, well armed and fitted, as well to defend as supply the West Coast.

Factory Records,
Fort St. George,
vol. 21, pp. 102-101.
(2d. set of paging).

Elihu Yale to the Queen of Acheen.

Dated 24 October 1688.

Fort St. George

24th October, 1688.

To her Royal Majesty the Queen of
Acheen and Territory thereof
from the Honble. Elihu Yale, Gov-
ernor of Madras for the Right
Honble. English East India Com-
pany.

By a ship lately arrived from your Majesty's Port of Acheen, report confirms me of your Majesty's displeasure against us for some small acts of hostility committed by our ships upon our most treacherous, and inhumane enemies the Siamese, at or near the Dominion of your Majesty's Port, which was nowise intended out of any disrespect or affront to your Majesty, or to invade the right of your prerogative. And when your Majesty will please to hear the insufferable wrongs and affronts done to our people and affairs without any just reason or provocation, only desiring our own that we lent the King, his ambassador and servants, and that our people and concerns might justly and peaceably depart the country, which contrary to all right and laws of nations he refused, and most unjustly detains our due from us, but notwithstanding all which injustice, we, from our good inclination to peace

and truth, endeavoured all ways possible to bring him to a right understanding by fair means, and thereupon sent two small ships to Tenasserim with friendly letters to the King of Siam to do us right, in the ordering the payment of what money we had lent him and his servants, as appears by the several bills, ordering our people to do no act of hostility or unfriendliness till they knew the King's absolute pleasure therein, and accordingly made a truce with the Governor of Tenasserim for 40 days, by which time the King's answer could be returned to them and then to act accordingly. But before the expiration of 14 days, our people living quietly and unguarded ashore, suspecting no wrong or treacherous design against them, near a 100 English were in the night most barbarously surprised and murdered by the King of Siam's servants, and as they reported by his order too ; which is so notorious, wicked and monstrous a crime as cannot be paralleled by the most barbarous people, nor excused or forgiven by any nation whatever, nor by the Almighty himself, who is all goodness and mercy, yet requires justice and vengeance for the spilling of innocent blood, which I hope will satisfy your Majesty of the justness of our quarrel and excuse the fault of our people's rashness in attacking them in your Port, which they were provoked to by the many unparalleled injuries we had

often received from them, as also from that last Siam sloop that ran ashore, who threatened to take our vessels in your Majesty's Port after departure of our man-of-war and to murder all the English upon them, which undoubtedly they would have done, the Captain having the King's commission for it which we found with him. But I shall trouble your Majesty with no more but my wishes for your health and happiness, only requesting the continuance of your friendship and favour to our people and their affairs, and shall be ready to serve your Majesty upon all occasions.

Your Majesty's most faithful servant,

ELIHU YALE.

Press list No. 1808. [Bombay]

Extract from Public Sundries No. 3.

Dated November the 9th, 1688.

* * * *

There is also arrived here the King of Siam's ambassador, who, it seems by his working, has brought several complaints against the English. What they are certainly I cannot as yet learn, but this calunny he has already spread, that what ships and people have been taken for some time were by the English. To this aspersion I gave for answer that several English had been detained in his King's service and had acted according to his orders, which could be no other than them. Moreover the Ribar alleges that what was taken by the English Shabander was sent to Mr. Lucas at Madrassapatam. He is now designing to carry his grievances to the Mogul where I intend to follow him that I may answer his objections. Whatever may happen afterwards, I shall largely acquaint your Honour thereof.

* * * *

Press list No. 1818. [Bombay].

Extract from Public Sundries. No. 3.

From the prison of
Tenasserim November 20th
1688.

Right Honble. &ca., Council,

This serves to give you the trouble for to
let you understand the strange alterations that
have happened in Siam, Mergui and Tenasserim
since the departire of Mr. John Hill from
Mergui, being the 1st of May 1686 I being
bound in Company with him [.]
George with a cargo of rice bound for Atcheen
but [.] George being very crank
and leaky [.]

(subsequent pages destroyed).

Dutch Records,
A., vol. II, part 1.
Treaties &c.
pp. 456-460.

Siam, 14th November 1688. N. S.
(4th November O. S.)

RENEWED CONTRACT between the Company and the King of Siam. There shall be perpetual peace between the contracting parties, and the Company will bury in oblivion the conduct of some His Highness's subjects, on condition that the guilty will be duly punished. The Company will pay to the King 150 catties, coin of Siam, in compensation for a junk captured near Macao, and they will restore to His Highness the property taken near Pulo Uby, out of a junk homeward bound from Japan.

The Dutch are permitted to trade in all the Dominions of His Highness on complying with the established regulations. Chinese will not be permitted to navigate Siamese junks, and all vessels belonging to Siam found to be navigated by or having on board any Chinese will be considered as lawful prizes and captured by the Company. His Highness grants to the Company exclusively the exportation of Cow and Deer skins.

In the event of any debtors of the Company refusing to fulfil their engagements they will be compelled thereto by Oya Berequelong, who in case of further obstinacy will deliver the parties to the Company's officers.

Should one or more of the Dutch commit any offence of a very serious nature, the Rajah

will on no account molest or punish them, but cause them to be delivered to the Company's Resident at Siam, for the purpose of being tried and punished according to the laws of Holland. In the event of the Resident personally being guilty of serious misconduct, the Rajah will not stretch his authority any further than keeping the culprit within the factory, sending notice in the meanwhile to the Governor General at Batavia.

Whenever His Highness is desirous of sending a junk to Japan, manned with Siamese, the Company will place at his disposal, on paying the prime cost thereof, 7,000 or 10,000 deer-skins, as circumstances may permit, on condition that no other individual whatsoever will be employed, directly or indirectly, in collecting skins for such voyage.

As long as a good understanding exists between the Company and the Great Chan, the King will be allowed to send Embassies to that Monarch, accompanied by Chinese interpreters, versed in the language of Cathay — and also to dispatch junks navigated by Siamese to Macao, Canton, Manilla, and other parts, but whenever a rupture ensues between the Company and the Chan, all intercourse must cease.

All vessels bound to Siam, and all junks navigated by Siamese will be allowed freely to pass, provided they do not come from, and

be not destined to places at war with the Company.

Mutual assistance will be given to vessels of either nation in distress.

The Dutch will not attack their enemies in the harbours of Siam, the former regulations on this head continuing in force.

His Highness resigns to the Company the monopoly of Tin, reserving to himself the right of purchasing as much of that article as he requires for his own use.

[See State Papers of the Kingdom of Siam 1664-1886, London, 1886, pp. 238-239.]

Factory Records,
Fort St. George,
vol. 21, pp. 108-109
(2d set of paging).

The Council at Fort St. George to the
Council at Surat.

Dated 13 November 1688.

[Extract]

Nor farther news from Syam then what we had of Mr. Hills coming to Attchein upon the *Pearle* Frigatt, and that while there they quarrel'd with a Syam Sloop manned with French and forced her to cut and run ashore takin[g] her Captain prisoner, which act of hostility in her Port has so greatly offended the Queen that she immediately confin'd all the English upon the place, who continued so till the *Pearls* departure, which was in July, intended hither, but suppose she is fallen to Bengall, and though we have no Account of this action from Mr. Hill yet we heare 'twa[s] occasioned by the French threatening to take many English vessells after his going, whereupon went to the Queen to know if she would protect them in his absence, who returned for answer that the Siamers should have the same liberty in her Port which the *Berkley Castle* and several others of our ships had taken. Mr. Hill then replied that he was obliged to destroy them that would destroy us. Whereupon ensued the Fray which the President excused by a letter to the Queen, representing the many just provocations we have had to make war with Siam from the many great abuses and injuries done the Rt. Honble. Company, which we hope will pacify her. 'Tis reported that Faulkon has

fitted out two men-of-war manned with French to lie in wait for and take our China Ships, but we hope they will be too many for them, especially if they join their forces as ours was ordered from hence.

Dutch Records,
2nd Series,
vol. 4, No. 211.

The Council of Seventeen at Middleburgh
to the Governor General and Council of India.

Dated 21 Nov. O. S. (1 Dec. N. S.) 1688.

[Extract]

The English in the Kingdom of Siam are said to be very ill conducted, and by their extravagant and remarkable proceedings, especially in Tanassery, and from their having taken five ships of that King, are believed to have brought war on themselves. How this will turn out, and what the end of it will be, we are very anxious to know.

Since they got from the King their new Charter, under which they are permitted, among other things, to issue war loans and to use force, they have at various times acted very foolishly and made enemies. Time will show how things here will turn out.

The French have arrived in Siam with five very well provided ships with military on board, a fact which has great significance. It is very evident that their principal aim is the propagation of the Popish Religion, but other designs, of which one does well to be suspicious, may also be hidden under this object. For it is not to be expected in these days that they will pursue their work in the zealous manner with which they have begun it.*

*This last paragraph is not a translation of the Dutch transcript, but only gives the gist of the contents. The copy is obscure and has apparently some omissions.

Dutch Records,
1st Series, vol. 42,
No. 1038, pp, 1-7.

[Translation]

16 Nov. (26 Nov.
N. S.) 1688.

Narrative for the elucidation of the negotiations of the two English Commissioners, Mr. Hodges and Mr. Hill, during their stay in Siam, written by order of Ed. Johannes Keyts, factor here, by Antho. Isaaxen, who was employed by the late lord Constantine Phaulcon on the translation of all the proceedings from English into French and again into Dutch.

Mr. William Hodges and Mr. John Hill, two commissioners from Fort St. George, Madras, set out thence the.....1687, provided with a commission from the government to treat here with the court of Siam in order to come, if possible, to an accommodation with that sovereign, not knowing whether Capt. Weltden (to whose action, as some people say, the Mergui tragedy was due) would be found still near his Majesty and engaged in obtaining the objects for which he had been despatched, *i.e.* reparation for various injuries suffered by the English in various places and inflicted by his Majesty's ministers, etc., together with the burning down of the factory and books But since said Capt. Weltden has gone beyond his commission (although without the knowledge of these commissioners) in not waiting for the resolution of the court and the expiration of the appointed time, it happened that this very transgression of his

orders, before the breaking out of hostilities, had very fatal consequences for the English. These commissioners protest their ignorance of this action, and as stated above, not being aware whether Weltden was still acting in the business on which he had been sent, they, sailing along this coast, met a ship of the King of Siam manned principally by English. The two ships hailed each other and after a severe struggle as to which should be the first to strike [his flag] (which both refused to do) during which several shots were exchanged, the Siamese King's ship finally yielded and sent on board a petty officer and five rowers (meanwhile flying each his own flag) where the misdeeds of Weltden were sufficiently considered and a discord was turned into harmony. They then sailed away together to the port of Mergui where they arrived on the.....1687 and immediately stated their commission to M. Beauregard, the supreme authority at that place, in continuation of Capt. Weltden's endeavours, *viz.* for reparation for injuries suffered and restoration of all his Majesty of Great Britain's subjects, not only those in his own service, but also of those serving all foreign princes, announcing also their appointed task of demonstrating as far as possible to his Siamese Majesty their grievances and demands, and asking for a safe conduct to the court, which said M. de Beauregard

after some delay obtained for them. They thereupon appeared at court where their chief complaints have been of hindrances alleged to have been put by some ministers of state in the way of their grievances coming to the knowledge of his Majesty, who they were sure, if he had known, would not have failed to give them justice. The English estimate the loss last sustained at Mergui at about 129 Siamese cattles.

The ministers of the Crown by order of his Majesty gave answer that by premature hostilities of Capt. Weltden in anticipating the expiration of the appointed time and in seizing the King's ships, two in Acheen with their cargoes and the ship *Resolution* from the port of Mergui, his losses cannot be estimated at less than the sum of 6000 Siamese cattles without including Weltden's insolence in pulling down the fortifications of Mergui, breaking the palisades, and with armed men forcibly publishing and affixing everywhere the proclamation of the Company (but in the name of the King of Great Britain and the Company) thereby showing great disrespect to his Majesty of Siam, who demands an honorable reparation over and above all this, and also that his fugitive servant, Samuel White, be delivered into his hands to adjust his great arrears with the treasurers of the Crown. On the other

hand, that to the King of Great Britain's subjects liberty will be given to remain here or to depart, and since it is found that these two commissaries, Mr. Hodges and Mr. Hill, had not been given sufficient authority to decide everything and especially, by order of the King of Siam, to prove what minister or ministers, according to the complaints of the English, have prevented these from being made known to his Majesty, protesting further that they were in no wise willing to enter into negotiations with the Company's commissioners before the persons were produced and the time and number of such complaints stated. Whereunto these Commissioners declared that they had no authority and therefore requested that one of them should be allowed to return to Madras to obtain the said authority. Permission for this was given to Mr. Hill, who now for this purpose is departing, Mr. Hodges awaiting his return here, since this court wishes only for a good understanding with the English Company and his Majesty of Great Britain, and that the same may flourish as long as sun and moon endure, and this is all there is before me relevant to the matter in hand.

Siam, in the Dutch India Office, 26th Nov.
1688. Ant. Isaaxsen

The above documents subscribed, collated

and found in agreement with the minutes
by us.

Batavia, in the fort, 27th Feb. 1789.

Pr. Conwenburg van Belois

L. Munster

Jo. V. Loo

Dutch Records
1st Series, vol.
No. 1012, pp. 3-7.

The factors at Batavia to the Council
of Seventeen.

Dated 16 Dec. (27 Dec. N.S.) 1688.

[Translation]

[Extract]

The extravagant proceedings of the French in Siam have been related to your Excellencies in our previous letter and with the departure of the ship *De Lall* orders were given for a full and clear report to be made to the factor in Japan of the behaviour and proceedings of their [the French] people and of the English, especially of the number, quality and names of the Roman Catholic priests whom the French had brought over and countenanced there, whether they were staying there or had gone away, and particularly concerning their proceedings in the propagation of the popish religion in that kingdom . . .

Their arrival from Siam at the Cape with the ships *La Gaillarde*, *Le Dromadaire*, *Le Jeu* and the *La Loire* on the 23rd of April and their departure on 1st May to France was made known to us in the letter of the commander and council there, especially of their regret for the mortality that had befallen them in Siam, quite a third of their number having perished, and of their anxiety for those left behind. Further, that the elephants and rhinoceros which had been sent as presents to the French by the King of Siam had died on the voyage and that four Siamese sent with them to tend

them had been handed over by the French to the commander there that they might be able to return to their country, which had also been done.

There has been this year, as far as we know, no further despatch from France to Siam than the one ship *L'Auriflamme*, which having sailed under Captain l'Estrille with 306 men, after losing 50 by death, arrived at the Cape the 18th May with many sick, and appeared in this roadstead the 11th August, and continued her voyage from here to Siam on the 17th after having taken in water, firewood and other provisions.

They would have been glad to make use of the services of a Dutch pilot, but in obedience to your Excellencies latest orders, this was refused, and the French declared that if any mishap befell the ship we should be held to blame, as if we had intentionally given them a careless or inexperienced pilot, as in the case of the running aground of the ship *L'Oiseau* in the year 1685 in the Banca Straits the fault was laid on the pilot and much anger was shown against him. Whereupon the captain urged it no more, but declared his intention of pursuing his voyage in company of the ship *Vryheyt*.

We have ordered our factors there to avoid every kind of dispute and contention with the

French and all other Europeans and on that account only very rarely to associate with them . . .

What was necessary of the news from Batavia and Siam has been communicated to the interpreters in Nagasaki (especially the contents of the letter of the English Company mentioned above) to be made known to the governor. This appeared to arouse misgiving in them, and they were also equally disturbed by the transportation of some French and Portuguese priests from Siam to China . . .

Factory Records,
Fort St. George,
vol. 5, pp. 29-30
(2d. set).

Fort St. George Diary.

24 December 1688.

(Extract)

A French man of War arrived here this day from Mergen, and brought a letter from Mr. John Threader, confirming the death of the King of Syam and Constant Phaulkon, also advising of another cruel massacre that had lately been committed on the French at Mergen and Syam.

Consultation, 24 December 1688.

(Extract)

The Council discoursed of the news brought by Mr. John Hill . . . of the death of the King of Syam and of the expected untimely end of Constant Phaulkon, and of another cruel massacre that had lately been committed on the French at Syam.

The sending of a ship to Syam was also discoursed to accommodate differences there, but nothing resolved thereon, having no orders from the Right Honble. Company for it, tho' believed by all that it might be of good service to them. However, 'twas resolved to send an early Ship home for England to advise their Honours of the death of the King of Syam . . . being of great Importance to their Affairs.

O. C., No. 5658.

The Council at Fort St. George to the
East India Company.

Dated January 1689.

[Extract]

We lately received strange news of the great revolutions at Syam, the late King about May last being seiz'd with a tedious and mortal sickness at Levo, His General, a Syamer, some time before his death possessing himself of his Pallace and garrison, privately sending for Phaulkon in the King's name, to come to him in haste upon some pretended business, who no sooner within the Pallace gate at Levo but his guards were surprised and himself confin'd a Prisoner by the General, and after some days severe usage and torture for the discovery of his estate &c. was ignominiously brought out to a publick execution and beheaded and his body cut in pieces, and the poor mangled Phaulkon scattered among the devouring Vultures, and his great estate and family seiz'd for the Kings Service. Soon after his great Patron, the old King, died, and supposed by violence, as also his two Brothers and Creada, who he intended Successor to the crown, but the General having dispatched them all proclaims himself King, engaging all the Forces to his Interest, and soon after confines all the English and French at Levo and Syam, the Dutch remaining free, and so much in favour as made them suspected to be at least privy to the Conspiracy, the French say as-

sisting against them at the siege of Bangkok, which the French General, Monsr. de Farges, to the new Kings summons, he brought down 20000 men against it, and after a few weeks dispute brought the French to surrender upon honourable Conditions, and to supply them with Ships and provisions for their transport [to] Pullicherry, which accordingly was perform'd, the *Rebecca*, in her return from China, meeting the French General at Mallacca with four ships and about 500 Soldiers on their way hither. Their fort at Mergee is also deserted, where they lost many men in their escape aboard 2 ships in that river, whence they sailed for Bengall, where Captain Heath being inform'd that the Ships belonged to the King of Syam made prize of them, intending to send them hither to be tried and adjudged at our Court of Admiralty, which Monsr. Martin, Director at Pollicherry, highly resents in his several complaining letters, which were duly answered, assuring him of a just and fair trial for them, and we doubt not our proofs will fully satisfy them of their legal Seizure. And the truth is we have great reason to complain of their injustice to Your Honours by their owning, manning and protecting the King of Syams Ships and trade with French men and their passes and Colours, which has deceived us of many considerable prizes. But just Providence has rewarded their false services, who were lately consenting spectators to the

Syammers inhumane massacre of the English at Mergee, were soon after subjects of it themselves, and their vast charge, hopes [and] interest in the Syam Kingdome all vanished and lost, though 'tis credibly reported, that if the Syam General had not anticipated him, Phaulkon would have seized the crown for the French King and himself, the Plot wanting but a few days for execution. Mr. Hodges writes us thence that he &ca. were severely confined and used, but soon released and well treated, the King promising to furnish him with a Ship for his transport hither, and to send his Ambassador with him to accommodate our differences to a peace. If so we doubt not of a due Satisfaction for all former wrongs and injuries. Mr. John Hill but a short time before this Catastrophy was released with the *Pearle* friggot from Mergee, but the winds being contrary was forced to Mallacca, whence he is lately arrived.

Factory Records,
Fort St. George,
vol. 6, p. 3.

Consultation at Fort St. George.

7 January 1689.

(Extract)

Henry Wattson, Surgeon, and severall other Soldiers and Seamen, being the Rt. Honble. Companys Servants, some belonging to Sloop *James*, having been taken Prisoners at Syam and others from Bengall belonging to a Sloop *Hopewell*, being forced to serve those Pyrats, after being releas't, were by Mr. John Hill entertain'd at Mallacca and brought hither upon the *Pearle* friggot, having been great sufferers by their detainement.

Letter Book,
vol. 9, pp. 28-29.

The Company's Commission to Capt. John
Bonnell, Commander of the *Chandos*
bound for Fort St. George.

Dated 15 February 1689.

[Extract]

And Whereas we have of late years sustain'd great Injury's and Violences from the King of Syam and his Ministers and Officers, for which we can gain no reparation or satisfaction, besides diverse great sums of Money owing us whereof no reimbursements have hitherto been made unto us, THESE ARE THEREFORE to authorize and require you to make seizure of all such English Ships and Vessells and their Loadings, and all English men as you shall meet with trading without the Company's Licence to any Port or Places in India or elsewhere within the Limits of the Company's Charter, and also to seize upon all Ships and Vessells and their Loadings as you shall meet with belonging to the King of Syam or any of his Subjects and to carry them to Fort St. George there to be proceeded against and condemn'd in the Court of Admiralty or Court Martial.

[Note. Similar instructions were given on the 27th March 1689 to Capt. Leonard Browne, Commander of the *Benjamin*, and Capt. Thomas Burton, Commander of the *Herbert*, bound to Bombay.]

Dutch Records.
1st Series, vol. 42,
No. 1045, pp. 1-10.

The factors at Batavia to the Council
of Seventeen.

[Translation]

Dated 16 February (27 Feb. N.S.) 1689.

[Extract]

The ship *Vryheyt* returned hither from Siam on the 2nd of January with a letter from the factors Joannes Keyts and Pieter van der Hoorn and the Council, dated the 5th of the preceding December, containing a full account of the troubles in that kingdom on the occasion of the King's illness, excited mostly by or in the name of his adopted son *Momps* with the counsel and help of the Greek mandarin, Constantin Phaulcon, and the French troops stationed there. This *Momps* had already raised in secret a force of 14000 Siamese soldiers, and Phaulcon wishing to maintain his power and reflecting on the hatred of the Siamese for him and that the King, his only support, would soon fail him, went to his Majesty and advised him to summon the French troops from Bangkok for his security, which was done; but when it came to the ears of the general, Opera Pitraja, he went at once to the King to disclose to his Majesty the treachery designed therein. He forthwith obtained contrary orders for the return of the French troops who had already started; they were obliged to obey, but foreseeing evil consequences, they first placed themselves in an attitude of defence, abandoning and destroying the old fort of Bangkok, as far as possible

spiking or blowing up the guns they could not take with them, and transferring themselves, with the rest of the munitions and ordnance, to the new fort. Their general was summoned to Lavo but obeyed only when the command was thrice repeated. An arrangement was then made with him that he should surrender the fort of Bangkok to the Siamese and go to Lavo on parole with all his troops for the King's service. Although he had left his two sons behind as hostages, when he was once more in Bangkok, instead of carrying out this agreement, he held the Siamese Commissioners and rowers prisoners. When the said general had to make excuse to the court, he pretended that he had been prevented from keeping his word by the unwillingness of his men; but meanwhile he did great damage with his cannon to two junks of the King that were passing by on their way to Japan, and this with such fury that two of their soldiers, belonging to the King's service, who refused to fire at them, were buried alive and their heads exposed on the walls. Meanwhile, the two sons of the general, with 10 or twelve arrested French soldiers fled towards Bangkok, but not long after were fetched back and placed with all other Europeans in strict confinement. This being the state of things, Phaulcon, having absented himself from court for some days on a report of the King's death, was summoned thither, and two days after his appearing there,

was, as we understand, placed in confinement, together with the King's adopted son Momps, the captain of the bodyguard and some other mandarins. Also, not long after, the same Momps was beheaded and the head flung at the feet of Phaulcon with the words: "See there your king." And a few days later said Phaulcon was very severely tortured that further details of the plot might be extorted from him, and was finally cut down in shameful fashion outside the gates and buried in a shallow pit under a little earth whence the dogs rooted him out and devoured him the same night. Thereupon his English bodyguards were also put in prison. While all this was happening at court, a large force of Siamese and Malays was sent down under the Oya Wangh and *Mompan* at present Oya Berquelangh, with many galleys, cannon and munitions of war. After felling many thousands of trees, the former put the ruined and abandoned fort once more in a posture of defence with a battery thereon, quite 18 feet high, from which they were able to hit the French in their works, and also by means of several batteries on the river bank, above which the stream was occupied by many galleys and towards the sea was blocked by several sunken vessels. Then the general Opera Pitraja sent back the two sons of the [French] general with a writing that he believed the beforementioned excuse to be true and that

the King had consequently not had his sons put to death, taking into consideration only their reciprocal friendship, but gave orders at the same time at Bangkok to attack the French in force if they continued any longer in their stiffneckedness. But it did not last long. For the French becoming more and more discouraged by the loss of a certain sloop of theirs which they had sent to sea in secret to warn the French seamen on board the King's two ships cruising against the English pirates of all these occurrences, asked for a truce, and got permission to depart in the ship that had formerly been offered to them, without first going to court.

Meanwhile the King grew weaker, so that great disputes arose as to the succession, and the general Opera Pitraja seeing this, and especially that the party in favour of the King's youngest brother*...perceiving on the contrary, that in view of what had happened, he could not hand over the government of the kingdom to any other without disrepute and peril to his life, did not scruple to have the two brothers of the King beaten to death with sandal wood cudgels on the evening of the *9 July* in a pagoda, a little outside Lavo. The news of this affected the King so much that he died on *the 2nd day after*, and the said general thereupon entered upon the government and shortly

* There is an obscure passage here Probably some words are omitted from the original.

after leaving Lavo went to Ayuthia, had himself crowned King and married the late King's only daughter, into whose hands her father had given the sword of the kingdom just before his death.

The French stationed in Tenasserim with the lieutenant general, hearing the rumour of all these events, set stoutly to work, but were driven by the Siamese out of their unfinished work and together with forty men under the governor Beauregard fled to Mergui with a ship of the Englishman Jan Teyler [*? John Taylor*] which had run in there on its passage to Achin on account of a storm. The men from Bangkok got leave at last to depart without going to court on condition that they should hire or buy the ships formerly offered to them free, and that they should leave behind in Siam their bishop Don Louis with the French factor M. Veret and his subordinates as a pledge of their good behaviour. The before mentioned small ships of the King happened meanwhile to return, and their commander, St. Mary and all his men were at once taken prisoners by the Siamese to prevent a revolt, and taken to their fort at Bangkok. Also shortly after, on the 9th September, the French ship *l'Oriflamme* arrived there with its crew in very miserable condition, and forthwith five of her sailors were arrested by the Siamese for examination; they however allowed the others to depart and provided the ship's company

fairly well with provisions until they, after the purchase of two small ships and a sloop with various provisions for the sum of 1600 rix dollars, and after hiring thirty to thirty-two English departed from their fort in the south and from the kingdom of Siam, as is supposed, to the Coast of Coromandel, taking with them the Siamese hostages, after the Oya Berquelaugh had sent theirs back too soon, for which he had to remain under arrest for three days. Moreover the French are said to have left many things in their fort, coral, some clothing, also about forty persons and twenty-eight pieces of cannon, their bishop and his clergy, who are all kept in strict confinement by the King for the aforesaid detention of his hostages.

This is in brief what has happened here, but a much fuller account is given in the letter received and drawn up in Siam, according to a reliable account thereof. In it is also to be learnt what happened to the English, Portuguese and Spaniards, as to which for the sake of brevity we beg respectfully to refer you, and also to the Siamese dag register under date 20 June 1618, where you will see how our factor was asked by the general Opra Pitraja, for some accommodation, whereby we should have been drawn into some engagement with the French, but civilly refused, as to which Opra Pitraja at the time displayed some displeasure, but has since shown himself not un-

friendly to the English Company (as is true also of the Oya Berquelangh), so much so that the King has declared that he intends to have nothing to do with any Europeans in his kingdom except the Dutch. Moreover, the English Commissary, Mr. Hodges (who was put in prison during the aforesaid rebellion but was released after a few days, and whose colleague Mr. Hill was licensed to go by way of Tenasserim to Coromandel to obtain a fuller authority) will soon depart to Madras with all the rest of the English in the ship belonging to the English interloper Mr. Delton.

Factory Records,
Fort St. George,
vol. 6, p. 30.

Consultation at Fort St. George.

28 February 1689.

(Extract)

Upon Tuesday night the 26 Instant there hapned a sad accident of the Syam Ship *Loretta* running ashore, the same that was seiz'd by Captain Heath in Bengall and sent up hither as Prize, and yet in dispute in the Court of Admiralty betwixt the French and the Right Honble. Company about the legality of the Seizure . . . Mr. Fraser is ordered to save what he can of her rack or else that she be sold at a public Sale.

Factory Records.
Fort St. George,
vol. 6, p. 31.

Consultation, at Fort St. George.

4 March 1689.

(Extract)

The Judge and Justice of the Admiralty do this day declare before the Council that the Syam ship *Loretta*, Captain Heath, sent up hither from Bengall, to be a legal prize from the King of Syam, Mr. William Fraser is therefore ordered to survey and give in report thereof to the Council

Consultation at Fort St. George.

7 March 1689.

(Extract)

The design of sending our fleet to assault Mergée was again renew'd, consider'd and debated, the Honble. Company being inclined thereto as Per their general of [blank] all circumstances agreeing with the report then erroneously raised by the French the King and Phaulkon cut off, and the great revolutions and distractions in the country's Government give great opportunity of assaulting and conquering Mergée, which there is little doubt of effecting. But the greatest difficulty appears to us in the keeping and maintaining it, as by the great and sad experience the French have had in the Fort of Bangkok, where they were extremely well fortified, with near 600 well train'd European soldiers, notwithstanding which they were at last forc'd to a mean surrender thereof and to a poor and ignoble flight from Mergée, in which they lost many of their men, all their treasure and ammunition, so that there is little hopes of better success from our small and unexperienced number, but 'tis recommended to further consideration whether we shall not send one Ship either to Syam or Mergée to demand the Rt Honble. Company's debts from the new King, and satisfaction for the many wrongs and Injuries we have received from the old King and Minister, Constant Phaulkon, as also to fetch off Mr. William

Hodges and the rest of the English remaining at Syam, which are about eighty Persons, and Mergee, or else to continue war with them.

O. C., No. 5671.

The Council at Bombay to the
East India Company.

Dated 7 June 1689

[Extracts]

The King of Syam, as formerly we wrote your Honours, is deceased, and Constant Phaulcon soon after ended his dayes miserably. However, we shall not think otherwise than of prosecuting the war with the Syamers till we can come to an Honble. conclusion with them. Your Honours are much in the right, there is no delaying in India, for if any Europeans that are minded to make war with any Prince in these parts, it's fit to lay hold of Opportunity, to begin at such time as they may take good purchase, which will certainly give them the best end of the staff, and this woeful experience has told us by the bad success we have had against the Mogul.

* * * *

In Syam now Faulcon is dead we account there will be no entertainment for those idle sort of people that wander'd thither formerly to that naughty man Faulcon. . .

O. C., No. 5676.

The Council at Fort St. George to the
East India Company.

[Extract]

Dated 20 July 1689.

We have heard that in June last Mr. Hodges and most of the English were arrived in a Ship at Atcheene bound for this Port with overtures of Peace from the new King of Syam, but here nothing of her as yet.

And are advised that the remaining English at Tenassery are set at liberty and coming hitler on a French Ship.

Letter Book,
vol. 9, p. 71.

The Court of Committees to the Council at
Fort St. George.

[Extract]

Dated 11 Sepr. 1689.

From Siam we have the news of Phalkon's death, which happened not unforeseen to some that observed his wicked wit and want of honest wisdom, and now that the fugitive English and French are banished thence there will be no Nation to cover their shipping and effects as the French did, we hope they will soon be compelled to make peace with our General upon honourable terms, and if they will give us the Port and Customes of Mergen for ever in satisfaction of all demands we shall be therewith contented, and condition with them never to take above five per cent custom for the goods of all places going up that River into the King of Siam's Country.

O. C., No. 5679.

The Council at Fort St. George to the
East India Company.

[Extract]

Dated 21 September 1689.

Our several Letters has largely advised your Honours of the Merge Negotiation commenced by President Gyfford &c. who sent thither Capt. Weltden on the *Curtana* friggot, and the *James* sloop with the 50 Soldiers Your Honours ordered in your letter of the 22d. October '86 : to which upon the arrival of the *Williamson* we adventured to send 35 more upon the *Pearle* friggot with Mr. Hodges and Mr. Hill to assist Capt. Weltden in that design, who before their arrival met with that cruel misfortune which Your Honours have long since been advised of, and for Mr. Hodges and Mr. Hills going to Syam to treat of peace, they had no Commission or Instruction from us for it ; 'twas an act solely of their own heads, which upon examination they alleg'd they were forced to by the French and Syam Government at Mergee.

Factory Records,
Fort St. George,
vol. 6, p. 70.

Fort St. George Diary.

(Extract)

17 November 1689.

Ship *Ruby*, Captain Henry Lawrence Com-
mander, . . . arrived this day from Siam
viâ Atcheen and Bengall . . . we are in-
formed . . . that Mr. William Hodges
died aboard said ship in Ballasore Road.

Dutch Records,
1st Series, vol. 43,
No. 1053, pp. 7-8.

The factors at Batavia to the
Council of Seventeen.

Dated 19 Dec. (30 Dec. N. S.) 1689.

[Translation]

[Extract]

Concerning the state of the war in France and England and your Excellency's orders given with reference thereto, and the importation of two French ships to the Cape, the necessary information has been given to Siam as also of the decision come to by the French at Pondicherry (as is apparent from the French papers taken possession of at the Cape), not only to warn the ships which they expect from France for the furtherance of their Siamese interests of the change in their affairs in the Kingdom of Siam by a small cruiser at the Sunda Straits, but also to seize a post at Junkceylon with their present force. And orders have been given to make this known to the King and the Berquelang for their information.

O. C., No. 5665.

An Abstract from Lemuel Blackmore's
Narrative relating to several Voyages.

[Extract]

1689-1690.

1689

Had very stormy weather in Tonqueen, by which many goods received damages, no ship arrived as was expected from our Masters. Having then a great quantity of good and bad goods lying on our hands was the main reason concluded by William Keeling and Lemuel Blackmore for to buy a vessel of about 100 Tons and let her to freight for a voyage to Siam with the Rt. Honble. Companies goods, which consultation was kept by the Chief; All things being shipped, invoices and bills of loaden signed, had our dispatches.

1689/90 January 1st.

Put to sea, and within 20 days arrived at the port of Siam. Immediately dispatched Letters to the Chief ministers of state, rendering them an account whence I came and what was loaden, upon which was welcomed with the Royal word of a King no affronts or abuses should happen to me or mine from any of his Subjects, but this continued not long.

1690 May 1st.

The Master William Sams was seized and taken out of the Jouncke or Vessell by force, and carried away to prison, he being formerly a Mate in the ship *Tywan* which belonged to that King and was cast away in Tonqueen, the Captain, or Cape Merchant, [n]ever returning to give an account thereof. Whereupon he,

the said Master, William Sams, should, and if not able to make satisfaction, he was my servant and could work it out. Therefore clapped an embargo on vessel and goods and in short was forced to disburse the forty-five Catts : for his releasement, as appears now in the account given in, having had perticular orders from Mr. Keeling for to disburse money, in case said Sams should have occasion.

August.

Wee left Siam . . .

O. C., No. 5700.

The Council at Fort St. George to the
Council at Bombay.

[Extract]

Dated 20 January 1690.

The French Fleet of five Sayle with their
General &c. that were routed at Siam, and
after went up on a design to conquer and
settle at Junkselone, we hear are defective
thereto and are gone to Bengall.

Letter Book,
vol 9, p, 79.

The Court of Committees to the
Council at Bombay.

Dated 31 January 1690.

[Extract]

We take it for granted that Phalkon is killed, and the French being gone our war is at an end with those people, the rather because the last advice we had from Siam was that the new King was sending an Ambassador to the Fort to compose all differences, which we hope took effect accordingly ; if not fully concluded we would have you take the first honourable occasion for concluding a firm Peace with that King, not that we have any esteem for the Trade of that place, but because, if it may be with honour, we should be glad you could see all India in a full peace and settlement before you return to your native Country.

O. C., No. 5698.

The Council at Fort St. George to the
East India Company.

[Extract]

Dated 1 February 1690.

Para. 27.

We expected a large account of the Syam Revolutions and affairs by Mr. Wm. Hodges, who in his passage thence upon a free ship design'd hither, was by contrary winds forced into Bengall, where he died at Ballasore ; upon examination of whose books and Papers here, we find little or nothing of any new overtures or business from the King of Syam or that Government, nor any letters from the King &ca. relating thereto, or about the late King's debts to Your Honours ; but the English, that are arrived thence upon said Ship, tell us that both they and their concerns were very kindly treated by the new Government, who freely permitted their departure, as also liberty to the English that were confined at Mergee, the Berkalon assuring them that the English nation should be freely welcome to trade there as formerly, and that they should have all former privileges and due encouragements therein, so that we have thoughts of sending a free ship upon particular trade thither, and to make demands of the old King's debts to Your Honours, which we hope to be successful in. The French forces and interest is totally extirpated from that Country, none of them remaining except some few Priests, who are cruelly condemned to miserable labour and slavery,

upon whose misfortunes the Dutch have greatly advanced themselves, and are now the sole Europe nation settled there and have engrossed the chief trade of the place, excepting Mergee and Tanasseree, which are under its native Government.

Dutch Records,
1st Series, vol. 43,
No. 1068, pp. 6-7.

The Council at Batavia to the Dutch
East India Company at Amsterdam.
Dated 4 March (15 March N. S.) 1690.

[Translation]

[Extract]

Nothing has been heard in Siam of the French except that General des Farges has been with four ships and seven boats before Junkceylon, partly to take possession there, and partly to attempt a reconciliation with the King, to which end he had sent back some of the Siamese hostages with whom he had sailed away last year, but without success on either count, for in the letter we have received and the dag-register which, as far as October 31, has arrived, no information is given as to their departure, nor of any attempt they may have made, but the statement is made that the King has no mind to admit them to his land again, but on the contrary to give up the French subjects and ordnance and other things left behind and detained there, provided that his subjects, both those in General des Farges' hands and those in France, are duly restored to him with the ships he lent and the money expended on their maintenance.

Since the 20th January 1689 when the English commissary William Hodges, having failed in his mission, set out for Madras by way of Malacca on the yacht *Robin*, and the free merchant Francis Delton in his ship *George* for Malacca, no English ships have been seen in Siam and there are only six or

eight English left in the kingdom, some of them imprisoned as Phaulcon's servants and some detained for debts due to the late King.

Factory Records,
Fort St. George,
vol. 6.

Consultation at Fort St. George.

12 June 1690.

(Extract)

There being an opportunity of a Country Vessell going for Syam the President wrote the following letter as entered next after this Consultation to the Barcalong or Chief Minister of State to the King of Syam to demand the old King's debts to the Right Honble. Company.

Prest : Letter to the PRESIDENT'S LETTER to the
Barcalon of Syam.

BARCALON of SYAM.

To his Excellency the Barcalon to his Imperial
Majesty the King of Syam.

May it Please your Excellency

This is the first opportunity that has offered for the expressing my Joy and Satisfaction for the better altered Government and to congratulate his most Imperial Majesty to the illustrious Crown and throne of the Kingdom of Syam, whom no Doubt the Allmighty has placed there for the good of the Country and his Subjects ; and his great and virtuous character promises no less than Justice also to our Rt. Honble. Company and nation by a due Satisfaction for all the Injuries and wrongs we have lately received by means of that unhappy, malicious instrument, Constant Phaulkon, as

also for the Several Summs and Debts due to us from the late King on several Accounts, as well for money lent his Embassadors in Persia and here for his services, and reputation of his people and nation, as appears by the copies of their several obligations and accounts herewith sent you, which you may be fully informed in by Hodjee Sellin, the Last King's Embassador, which I humbly entreat Your Excellency to recommend effectually to his Majesty ; and to recover the same for us to be sent by this ship, which will encourage to our sudden return and trade and a cessation of all differences and hostility, and endeavours always to oblige and secure your friendship, but if those Just desires are disregarded and denied us, we must then of necessity have recourse to such ways and methods for the recovery of our rights as we are unwilling to ; but I am well assur'd your Justice and prudence will prevent any such new trouble, but rather study and contrive all ways to promote the good Honour of your King and Country, which within the Humble Duty to His Majesty and respects to your Self, wishing him a Long and happy reign and your Self great honour and felicity I humbly remaine

Your Excellency's Most Faithful

and Obliged Servant

ELIHU YALE,

Letter Book,
vol. 9, p. 139.

The Court of Committees to the Council at
Fort St. George.

[Extract]

Dated 18 February 1691.

Syam never did nor never will bring the Company two-pence advantage, but many thousands of pounds loss. It serves the Dutch well with Deer Skins for their Japan Trade and with Provisions and Timber for Batavia, and may serve you and particular Merchants for Sale of some Choromandel Commodities, and therefore spend none of our Money about it.

Fort St. George
Records, Mackenzie
Coll : vol. LVI,

Diary of Fort St. George,

20 February 1691.

(Extract)

This morning arrived Ship *Boa Vista*, Don Thoordore Commander, from Manilla, with a small narrative from Mr. Samuel [Lemuel] Blackmore of his misfortunes at Syam and Malacca in the following manner. They having a considerable quantity of goods by them at Tonqueen, and no probability of remitting them home for Europe, did adventure sending them to Syam, where they hop'd to have found a Peaceable settlement and a good market for their goods, and according upon their arrival found to answer their expectations by many demonstrances of kindness and civility to them, and invitation for our free Trading there, which continued for some small time, but soon relapsed demanding satisfaction for a late loss they sustained by an English Pirate alleging because was an English man, must be answerable for the goods others had taken away, offering if he would lay down to the Value of 2000 Dollars might have the Embargo taken off that was laid on his Vessel and goods which otherwise it could not be expected they should : From Syam he attempted from Tonqueen but the lateness of the season would not permit him, but forced to Pullocondore, whence he proceeded for Mallacca. . .

Factory Records,
Surat, vol. 110, p. 76.

Lemuel Blackmore to the Council at Surat.

Dated Mallacca 2 April 1691.

[Extract]

The hard fortune I having met withal, being a servant to the Rt. Honble. English East India Company, engages me to write to your Worship &ca. that so you may be inform'd and take care of the unreasonable dealings of the Syamers and Dutch, which last I was forc'd upon as you will perceive by the following discourse, begging your Worships pardon for the presumption and what errors you may chance to find therein, hoping you will do me the justice to belive the reality of what is faithfully and nakedly laid down to you, and commiserate the hard condition of an unfortunate man, who is a true Servant to the Rt. Honble. Company and your Worship.

On the primo January 1690 (having had no Shipping at the Port of Tonqueen that year) having great quantity of Goods, some of which were damag'd lying by us, did resolve to send them on a China Junk of our own to Syam, hoping to have found a Factory there and the Peace renew'd between the Rt. Honble. Company and the Syamers. Upon my arrival at the Barr several Mandorines and the English Lingua were sent down to me to invite me in their King's Name to come up the River, giving me assurance in that King's name, not only of my kind and civil usage, but of a particular kindness and satisfaction that his

Majesty had upon the news of my arrival. Accordingly I went up and was very well received and many demonstrations of a hearty welcome and good treatment till the beginning of May, when by an order from Court the Officers came on board my Vessel, and took away my Pilot, Mr. Wm. Sams, who was formerly Mate of the *Tywan*, Capt. Brewster Commander, belonging to the late Lord Phaulkon and lost upon the Coast of Tonqueen by the violence of the Monsoons. Of him they demanded an account of the Cargo, which was saved, where it was, &c. which he not being able to do and no ways concern'd it, was carried to Prison where he was kept about forty days, neither durst I go anigh him or send to him, nay I hourly expected to be seized on my self (though under the protection of that King, having no less than his Royal word for my security) on account of some goods taken out of Domingo Lopez's Ship in Mallacca, by some English Pirates, as she was going from Goa to Syam, alleging that as I was an Englishman I was obliged to satisfy for what they had taken; but in conclusion the result was that if I would lay down forty Cattees, which is two thousand Dollars, they would take off the Embargo which had been laid on my Vessel and goods (the King's Chop having been put on all); if not I must lie another year. This business was by their tedious proceedings three months

in agitation, and then I was forc'd to conclude it by paying down their unconscionable demands, on Capt. Brewsters and Mr. John Chappell's Accounts, besides what I was forc'd to give in Presents, to get my busyness dispatched, amounting to upwards of two thousand Dollars more. Yet all this while these barbarous people pretended to treat me with courtesy, telling me that they had no war with particular Merchants but the Company only, and what they had forced from [me] was on Captain Brewster's and Mr. Chappell's Accounts. In a word, Sirs, they abuse and slight the English on all accounts, and publickly say that 'tis none but the Dutch they are afraid of, and indeed they do what they will there; nor must the English expect any thing but Ill usage till they have beat them into better manners. I pray God the three Ships which I hear are gone thither this year don't evidence the truth of it. They are hourly expected here, but as yet no news of them.

From Syam, after a fruitless attempt to gain my passage for Tonqueen, the lateness of the season oblig'd me to go into Pullo Condore . . .

O. C., No. 5768. The Council at Surat to the East India
Company.

[Extract]

Dated 4 May 1691.

Some time since we received certain advices from Madras that the new King of Siam had treated several of our English ships with much civility and kindness, and was very desirous of a peace with us, and your Honours desiring the same in yours of the 11th February, and having no employment for your ship *Benjamin* we have thought good to send her thither on Freight, and shall now only sound the King's inclinations towards us without proceeding to any demands till we understand what he offers. What success we shall have therein shall advise you hereafter.

Press List No. 1825.

Extract from

Public Sundries Vol. III dated 29 Nov. 1688

Subject :—J. Cropley to P. Large relative
to the troubles in Siam.

[Pages corresponding to this destroyed
in the original].

Press list No. 528.

Extract from

Public Consultations 1697. Vol. XXV.

Consultation, Thursday, May 13th, 1697.

* * * * *
* * * * *

Translate of a letter from Hojee Mahomod Allee requireing a Passe for ship Nassaret Shay belonging to the King of Siam on which Assid Cawn sends Presents, with an answer thereunto read & approved.

* * * * *
* * * * *

Factory Records,
Surat, vol. 93.

The Council at Surat to Captain
Leonard Bloome,
Commander of the *Benjamin*.

[Extract]

Dated 19 May 1691.

The best of our endeavours has not been wanting of employing your Ship one way or other to the most of the Rt. Honble. Companys advantage . . . At the proposition of Mr. Richard Stanley we with yourself &ca. have raised a stock of 56,000 Rups. on freight for Syam, in hopes of such a fair overture having been made amongst us English was to be hoped it would have indued other country Merchants to have freighted considerably on her also to Atcheen and Quedah, but upon that point we find ourselves very much disappointed, but it must be contributed only to the default of these troublesome times, and therefore . . . do now enorder you . . . that you weigh your Anchors and make the best of your way for the Port of Atcheen . . . You are to consider whether it be for the Rt. Honble. Companys Interest for to go to Quedah, and if so found by your joint opinions then to proceed thither . . .

Consult with Mr Stanley for your further proceedings and leaving said Port, but still your sailing orders are in your owne power as to the time for the Port of Mallacca, Jehore, Pattana or any such Ports between that and

Siam, where you may judge our goods to be vendable. And we very much recommend to you that before you come to Siam that you dispose of all our goods if possible, but if not, then to proceed to the said Port, where God sending you safe, keeping your Ship in the best posture of defensive or offensive as occasions may require, till you are assured of what the present King's Inclinations may really be towards our Nation; but without very reasonable assurances of his Friendship towards us, do not stir out of your Ship . . . and having dispatch'd your business in as little time as may be, with the advice of Mr Richard Stanley, you are to weigh your anchors and make the best of your way towards us . . .

We have as you will see in the Instructions to Mr Stanley and your self in your proceedings at Siam to engage to that King, that if he be inclinable to peace, and that he admits of your peaceable trade in this voyage, then no acts of hostility shall be acted against him or his subjects, on our sides, which we enorder you to forbear; but in case he obstinately refuses to admit of this overture of Peace, and that you cannot trade with him, then we order positively that you seize upon all that you can find belonging to him or his Subjects, and you have our full power to sink, burn, take or destroy any Vessell and goods be-

longing to him and his Subjects, and to bring what ever effects you so take to Bombay, and there to be proceeded against according to Law, but observe that your Inclinations are rather for peace with this King then War; and you are to be sure to spend no more time whether war or peace then conveniently may be to return to us.

Factory Records,
Miscellaneous,
vol 3a, ff.
216a-217.

Abstract of General Letter from Fort St.
George, to the East India Company.

Dated 23 May 1691.

[Extract]

Para. 3. They have lately had letters from Mallacca, sent by Mr Lemuel Blackmore of Tonqueen, advising that they, supposing the Company had peace with Syam and a factory there, Mr Kelsey [Keeling] sent him on a junk loaden with the Company's Tonqueen goods to dispose of there, but he sold but little, was unkindly used, 2000 Dollars seized on, on pretence of a Ship of the old King's cast away at Tonqueen commanded by Mr Brewster. After paying this Mr Blackmore was designed back to Tonqueen, but the season being late, he was forced to Mallacca.

O. C., No. 5777.

The Council at Fort St. George to the
East India Company.

[Extract]

Dated 20 November 1691.

The President last Monsoon wrote to the New King of Syam,* demanding satisfaction for the late King's debt to Your Honours, for what lent his Embassadore in Persia and here, and on sundry other accounts, to which the Barkaloan gave answer by letter† that Phaulkon and White had wronged the King greatly and owed him much, whose estates were carried thence to England, from which your Honours might take satisfaction and pay yourselves what due to you, for that this King had no money of the other's to discharge his debts with ; so that if that course will not do, the only way to repair your selves is by continuing the war against them and sending two small Vessels well fitted and manned to Syam river's mouth or some adjacent Island to wait for the Junks. There's little hopes of right otherwise, and if they should fail taking those Junks or other, their Vessels, which can hardly be avoided, your Ships may soon after that season go to China and take in a lading of Sugar, Alum, Tutengue, China root and gruff [bulky] goods, to bear the charge of the Voyage, and this course to be yearly practiced till you are righted, and 'twill bring them the sooner to compliance;

* See *ante*, 12 June 1690.

† This letter has not been traced.

and to differ with them can be no prejudice to Your Honours Europe trade, that Country affording few or no goods proper for England; besides their late rebellions and revolutions has ruin'd their trade, their outrages and exactions frightening most from dealing with them, and here is a late flying report, that the new King is cut off too and a new Rebel in his place, if so their divisions and confusion will make them and their ships the easier conquest. They are really and justly greatly indebted to your Honours and to several particular Persons, who would willingly contribute towards your Honours charge for the recovering your own and their debts, which we humbly refer to Your Honours consideration and orders therein.

Fort St. George,
Records, Mackenzie
Coll: vol. LVI.

Fort St. George, 29 January 1691/2.

At a Consultation.

(Extract)

Proposed to attach
the king of Syams
concerns Supposed
to arrive on an
Armenian Ship

Senr. John De' Mark an eminent Armen-
ian Merchant being late arrived from Tan-
assaree with Tin, Copper, Tutenague and Ele-
phants, on whom we are advised, there are
Several of the King of Syams Servants sent
from the French Bishshop to Padre Ratheer
at Pullicheree, to treat with him about their
Affairs, and being reported that the Merchants
had brought on the Kings account two Ele-
phants and about 150 Chests of Copper which
in consideration the King of Syam is Debtor
to the Rt. Honble. Company, 'twas proposed
whether an attachment of said goods should
be made on John De Marks hands, which if
he acknowledges or can be proved otherways,
whether we should make Seizure or not, by
reason the Syam Affairs are referred so by
to Surratt who we hear have sent the *Ben-
jamin* to Syam with some other Vessels and
Englishmen there.

Fort St. George,
Records, Mackenzie
Coll : vol. LVI.

Fort St. George, 24 March 1691/2.

At a Consultation.

(Extract)

According to an order of last Consultation having duly considered the danger of Attaching the King of Syam's Goods in Joseph de Mark's hands, since there are many English and Ships now in Syam, which possibly may cost their lives and Estates, besides, there being a small sum, not exceeding 1500 Pagodas, 'tis thought best not to meddle therein, but take some better opportunity to right the Honble. Company for what due to them.

O. C., No. 5665.

An Abstract from Lemuel Blackmore's
 Narrative relating to several Voyages

[Extract]

1692.

August.

Proceeded for Amoy in the Ship *Morning Star*, carrying with me a pilot in hopes to get a Vessel or passage by Chinamen for Tonqueen, which not meeting with returned back on her to Mallacca, where found the Junk or Vessel Mr. William Sams waiting for me, which came out in February 1691/2 from Tonqueen bound for Mallacca and Atcheen, instead of which the Master goes to Siam and did not return the same monsoon in June or July, which he might have done very well, and come to me in the same month of November or December following, which opportunity loses and comes directly from Siam to Mallacca, where lies till my arrival, which was about the 10 of January 1692/3.

Factory Records,
Miscellaneous,
vol. 3a, f. 242a.

Abstract of General Letter from Fort St.
George to the East India Company.

Dated 12 June 1693.

[Extract]

Para. 26. Mr Keling and Mr Blackmore have several years traded to Syam &ca. with the Company's stock but unsuccessfully. The *Bencoolen*, by loosing her passage &ca., made a two years voyage thither and back, returning March last $\frac{3}{4}$ empty, most of her cargo very mean.

Fort St. George
Records, Mackenzie
Coll: Vol. LVI.

Diary of Fort St. George,

16 July 1693.

(Extract)

In the evening information being given that Mr. Baroon had been tampering with some of the Soldiers of our Garrison to draw them with him to Siam, whether he designed so to go speedily and for the better carrying on his design had left his Lodging in Town and liv'd two days in a Parriah Portuguez house in the Copang, where the Siam Embassador (so called) has been in private with him, the Commissary ordered the Captain of the Guard to bring him, who upon examination owning that he designed for Siam, and had discoursed with one of our Soldiers, the Captain of the Guard was ordered to secure him for a further examination.

Dutch Records
1st Series, vol. 50,
No. 1287, pp. 3-6.

The factors at Batavia to the
Council of Seventeen.

Dated 24 Jan. (4 Feb. N. S.) 1695.

[Translation]

[Extract]

Concerning the designs of the so-called new English Company for the furtherance of their trade in Siam, the well known Samuel Baron, who has gone there from Madras by way of Queda and Ligor on his own affairs, has made certain statements, but hitherto nothing has been attempted. It is not even clear that the Siamese will admit them until they have satisfied certain outstanding claims against the old Company . . . As to the doings of the foreign traders, we have advices that, since the beginning of the year 1693, besides five Canton, Macao, Batavian or Chinese junks, there appeared at Tonquin on the 30th Sept. 1693 the English yacht *Pearl* and a special agent sent by the Governor of Madras to be present at the transfer of the property of the Old Company to the New, and then to remain there for a time, on which occasion it had been discovered that Mr. William Kilmy [*sic*], the English factor, was short of about 90,000 taels in his administration, which, if it is true, must be a hard pinch to his friends. The said Lilmy [*sic*] showed great unwillingness to obey the orders of the said agent William Watz [?Watts] to go to Madras, and the said Watz resolved therefore to request the King to allow him to compel said

Lilmy thereto by his authority. The King granted his request, adding that it could make no difference to him who resided at Siam as chief on their behalf . . .

Meanwhile the English had suffered a great insult to their flag, which had been taken down from their factory by the King's orders and, on the pretext that it had a popish cross on it, had been publicly burnt in the presence of the governor van Heen, and for that reason they have sent word to Madras that they will not stay longer than the end of the year ; but but time will show.

Factory Records,
Bombay, vol. 11.

The Council at Bombay to the East
India Company.

[Extract]

Dated 3 December 1695.

We are informed from the Dutch that they have three small Vessels come from Holland with advices of some great designs that the French have upon the Molucca Islands, Malacca and Ceylon ; two of those small Ships is arrived that we have account of, one at Surat, the other at Tuta Carine. The French news by them says they had 14 Sail of Ships ready to sail for India when they departed [from] Holland, which was the 24th March : it also says that they had all manner of necessaries of War for 6000 men ; that Mounsr : Martin in Bengal was to provide 50 flat bottom'd boats for them ; that a Jesuit who has been some time in Siam was ordered to go to the Mogul with great Presents to incense him against the Dutch Company, from thence to Bengal, and so again to Siam ; that two Princes of the Macosseres were to revolt ; that a messenger was to be sent to the King of Candy to promote a rebellion there ; and that the King of Siam is said to have promised the French satisfaction for their Losses to the value of 60 or 70000 pound ; also that the members of the French Company have subscribed and paid in money largely upon the great pretences of the benefit of this design.

Factory Records,
China, vol. 5,

Report on the Trade of Cochin China.

Mr. Bowyear to the Council at Fort
St. George.

[Extract]

Dated 30 April 1696.

[Cochin China imports] from Siam, Petre,
Sapan, Lack, Necarie, Elephants teeth. Tin,
Lead, Rice.

Factory Records,
Fort St. George,
vol. 33, p. 152.

The Factors at Tonquin to the Council at
Fort St. George.

Dated 24 November 1696.

[Extract]

The Portugueze Padres say they had advices from Syam of an English Ship bound for Tonqueen that touched at Camboja last year to supply some wants she had, but that a great many boats coming down she cut her cable and run, fearing a surprizal. What this Ship should be we can't conjecture, except one bound for Cochin China, since both the French and Portugueze via Syam by a small sloop come thence this year, positively affirm the English to be gone to settle there.

Factory Records,
Calcutta, vol. 6.

The Council at Chutanutta (Chatanati) to
the Council at Fort St. George.

(Extract)

Dated 15 January 1697.

Padre Tachard, we understand, sailed from Bengal last month for Mergin, but cannot learn upon what Account he is gone. His business has all along been kept very private, and himself not so much as discoursed of by any Persons that have been to visit us.

Factory Records,
Fort St. George,
vol. 33, pp. 101-102.

Claus Voogt and Council for the Danish
East India Company at Tranquebar to
Nathaniel Higginson and Council at
Fort St. George.

[Extract]

Dated Dansborg Fort, 17 April 1697.

Without any doubt your Illustrious persons know of those malefactors which robbed the ship of the Royal and respectable English Company that was designed from Bombay to the Island of China, and that about the Latitude of Acheen they mutined and went to the Port of Mergin and there took one of the King of Syams Ships, and took what they pleased out of her, after which they let the said ship go, writing to the Governor of Mergin the reason why they had taken the King of Syam's Ship and the things they had taken. The fundamental Points they alleged were, that some of their companions upon disgust were run away with some money to Tanassary, and that the Governor could procure their satisfaction from those fugitives, upon which they were caught by the Governor of the Country, together with two persons more of those Pirates which were from Acheen, and arrived at the port of Tanassary and there join'd with the others that were there, and with their practices and inventions they got some money out of the others.

Factory Records,
Fort St. George,
vol. 33, p. 117.

Translation of a letter from Haji Muhammad

Ali to the Lieutenant General of India,

Nathaniel Higginson. No date or place.

[Received at Fort St. George, 10 May 1697.]

I enjoy good health, wishing to hear the same from your Honour. Lately I received a letter from Syam, wherein it mentions that the Ships which went from [?here] (being the King of Syams) which were bound to Tennassaree, on whom Nabob Zullphaker Cawne sent horses &ca. rarities as a present proper for the King of Syam, but in the way some English ships follow'd after them and plundered them and took out all the Cloth and money which were in the Ship, about which it is reported all over the Country that they are great rogues upon the sea, about which they have wrote to the Nabob. But such a report of the English is not good, 'tis a great disgrace to them. There is another Ship of the King of Syam at Metchlepatam from whence he is bound to Tennassaree, of which Mahomud Sadick Rayber wrote me, on which Nabob Assid Cawne has sent some horse, cloth &ca. as a present to the King of Syam. This new moon they design to set sail, therefore advise you to send a pass to said ship; if you do 'twill be well for you. I desire you to send it with all speed. The ships name is Nasaret Shaye, a three mast ship and 55 covets

long, 19 covets broad and 9 deep: The Naquedahs name Mahamud Sadick, the Pilots name Dew'd Nina, the Serangs name Esmail.

Factory Records,
Surat, vol. 113.

The Council at Bombay to the
Council at Surat.

[Extract]

Dated 22 October 1697.

The Dutch Shabunder at Malacca wrote the General under the 28th January N. S. 1696/7 that the *Moko* Frigate, ere she went to Tennasseree, did several mischiefs on the Coast at or near Syam. Where she and the other are gone since they left Zeilone and Callicutt we don't know, but are apt to think into the South Seas.

Factory Records,
Bombay, vol. 28.

The Council at Fort St. George to the
Council at Bombay.

Dated 8 January 1698.

[Extract].

This serves to . . . enclose an abstract of an Account we have received concerning the *Mocho* Frigate from one Wm. Willocks, Master of the Bengal ship taken by the Pirates last year, and detained on board the *Mocho* till on the 22d past : they permitted him to bring from Negrais a ship which they had taken in the straits of Mallacca belonging to the Captain of the Chinese of Japparra, on which ship the Pirates put on board several Moors and others which they took in a Siam Ship, as sailing from Metchlepatam for Merjee, and other ships, which being about 27 are come ashore in a very forlorn condition.

FORT St. GEORGE January 1697/8.

At a Consultation, Monday,

(Extract)

17th January 1697/8.

Goods demanded by some Moormen.

The Governor acquaints the Council that on the 14th instant two Moormen and three Siamers belonging to a Siam Ship lately arrived at Pollicat came to him and made a demand of a Cable and Anchor and Jars which belonged to the Siam Ship last taken by the *Mocha* frigate, and which they were informed were aboard the Japparra ship in the Road, and of several pieces of Paintings and Cloth which they said were in possession of several persons belonging to the Japparra ship; whereunto the Governor answered that the Cable, Anchor, and Jars were aboard, and should be delivered to them when they please, and as for the Paintings if there were any belonging to them, they might be seen at the sea Gate if they would go and view them, being kept there for the right owners and will be delivered when claimed. They promised to come the next day but did not. Also William Willocke, Pilot of the Japparra Ship, being called before them to know if they had anything to charge against him, one of them positively affirmed that he was in the Siam Ship which last year went from St. Thoma and was taken by the

Pirates (*Mocha* Frigate) last year near Murgén, and that Willocke was the man that took the ship. And desired time till Monday to deliver his demand in writing. Concerning which it is known that this Willocke was Master of the ship *Satisfaction* belonging to Mr. Stanley &ca. which sailed in January 1696/7 from Bengal and was taken on the 23d of Ditto month near Cape Comerine by the *Mocha* Frigate, who had sailed thither directly from Murgén after the plundering of the said Siam ship.

Dutch Records,
1st Series, vol.
53, No. 1642, pp. 1-2.

The factors at Batavia to the Council
of Seventeen.

[Translation] Dated 21 January (1 February N. S.) 1698.

[Extract]

The well known French Jesuit Père Tachard arrived in Siam from Bengal by way of Tenasserim in the spring of 1697 in a native ship, but the requests he made of the King were refused because some years ago at Pondicherry, when asked by the Siamese Court to go thither, he had refused to do so in any ship except one belonging to his King. Now, on the contrary, he had made use of a native ship for his transport, which brought about a perverse and altered feeling in the King towards him. So he departed again, with his objects unattained, in the same Bengal ship, as also all the French prisoners, according to the report of the factor who has come hither. Thus, on permits given at various times by the King, all have retired and gone their ways thence.

Dutch Records,
1st Series, vol.
55, No. 1507.

26 June (7 July N. S.) 1698.

[Translation]

- Reply in writing made by his Excellency the Oya Berckelang . . . concerning the conversation between one Jacob Jans de Roy and Père Tachard given by E. Boom and Sr. Gidion Tonit, [? and] Mr. Moses Brouchebourde, in order to make it known to the Oya Berquelang as the only means of notifying the King.

Concerning the affairs of the French which the Captain has explained and made known to us through Mr. Moses, we have thoroughly expounded the matter at the feet of his invincible Majesty, and by the ingenuity and skill of the lord general the said general has understood the doings of the soldier Jacob de Roy and Father Tachard, and how he, Tachard, had declared his secret thoughts to de Roy, and that orders had been given to this captain to make known to his Majesty through us that the old friendship has done good service and it accords well with the engagement of the lord general and also with the intelligence of the captain that he has declared this perfidy to us. Still, provided the French do well by the friendship, the Siamese will repay the same well-doing, but, if the French do ill by the friendship, then the Siamese will repay the same with ill-doing . . . and all the French should be able to accomplish should be at sea

only, and no merchant should be allowed to cross the sea in order to trade here. On the other hand the French have none but large ships, so they cannot take them into shallow water, wherefore they should not be allowed to land in their boats, but forts should be built on the Siamese coast in order to prevent their landing, and then the French would perish through lack of food and would suffer great loss.

Factory Records,
Pombay, vol. 29.

The Factors at Calicut to the Council
at Bombay.

Dated 9 January 1699.

[Extract] •

The 30th past arrived here Captain Thomas Cane in ship *Wanstead* from Bengal bound to Persia, belonging to his Worship Beard at Ballasore. Said ship met 2 French ships, sailing in a very weak and sickly condition. They command'd him aboard and stopp'd the ship about a month to assist them with necessaries from the Shore. They came from Negrays. Their intentions were to make an attempt on Tenassary, but losing their Admiral's ship at said Negrays and sickness increasing forc'd them to leave that design.

Dutch Records,
1st Series, vol. 54,
No. 1679, pp. 6-8.

The factors at Batavia to the Council
of Seventeen.

[Translation]

Dated 30 January (10 Feb. N. S.) 1699.

[Extract]

In the letter of the 30th August last to Siam we had given orders to make known to the King the facts as to the designs, or at least the idea, of the French in going to Tenasserim according to the conversation between Jacob Jans de Roy and the Jesuit Tachard, which our Ministers have notified to the Berquelang through our interpreter and the King's surgeon, Moses Brouchebourde. The said Berquelang sent the written answer to our people, stating that our notification was regarded as a proof of our sincere friendship, and moreover that the French, if they behaved well, would be requited with friendship, but if ill, they would be treated in the same way and kept away from the country; but time would show. Shortly after, on the 7th Nov. news came to Siam from Tenasserim of the arrival there of four ships with the said Père Tachard as Ambassador from his King, whereupon there was great misgiving at court, so that application was made to our Ministers for advice. They referred the court to the account furnished by the aforesaid Jacob Jans de Roy and recommended that the French should be given no firm footing in the kingdom. What will now ensue time will show. The King has agreed

that said envoy Tachard may come from Tenasserim to Siam, that the King may learn what his commission is. The men who came in the French ship *l'Amphitrite* have not been seen in Siam, but in Canton. According to the report of the Chinese who have arrived here, they say that an envoy came in her also and intends to journey to Peking.

Factory Records,
Fort St. George,
vol. 10, p. 108.

FORT St. GEORGE June 1699.

(Extract) At a Consultation, Thursday, 22 June 1699.

King Siam's ribar complains of a robbery on his master's ship by an Inhabitant of this place.

The King of Siam's robar having complain'd to the Mogull that Augustin Hart an Inhabitant of this Place had in October 1697 at the Inland of Negraies robb'd his master's Ship of several goods to a considerable amount, for which he has obtained the Mogulls Husbulhookum for demanding satisfaction of us whereof he has advised the Governor by Letter from St. Thoma.

Govr. and Council in Town hall to hear and decide said Complaint.

It is resolv'd that on Wednesday the 28th inst. a Court be held by the Governor and Council at the Town Hall for the hearing and deciding said Complaint And the Attorney General is order'd to draw up a charge against Augustin Hart.

Factory Records,
Fort St. George,
vol. 10, p. 125.

FORT St. GEORGE, July 1699.

At a Consultation, Monday, 26th July 1699.

(Extract)

A charge exhibited against Augustin Hart in the Town Hall and judgement given against him.

The Companys Attorney General having on the 28th past exhibited a charge against Augustin Hart before the Governor and Council in the Town Hall where were summon'd the King of Siam's ribar and the principal men of all nations residing here where upon a full examination and clear evidence, he was found guilty of what was charg'd upon him, as by the particulars of the Trial (to be sent the Company by the first Ship) more plainly appears, upon which judgement was given against him, to pay the King of Siam two thousand pagodas, and two thousand pagodas to the Company, which is paid by Augustin Hart this day into the Company's Cash, as also five hundred pagodas Augustin sent the Governor the night before his trial.

Factory Records,
Fort St. George,
vol. 10, p. 140.

FORT St. GEORGE August 1699.

At a Consultation, Monday, 21 August 1699.

(Extract).

Pagodas 2000 received in part of King
Siam's debt.

We having received into the Right Honorable Company's Cash two thousand pagodas adjudg'd by the Court to be paid by Augustin Hart to the King of Siam, which sum his Ribar demanding he was acquainted that his master was indebted to the Rt. Honorable Company Pagodas 7972. 3f. 1c. lent his Ambassador by their Agent of Persia and their Governor and Council here and that we thought 'twas reasonable he should pay this in part, which he at length consented to.

It is order'd that Copies of the Obligations he given him in Persian attested and that a receipt be given him for the money, Copy whereof to be enter'd after this Consultation.

Factory Records,
Fort St. George,
vol. 10, p. 141.

FORT St. GEORGE August 1699.

(Extract)

Receipt for 2000 pagodas received of the King Siam in part of his debt to the Company.

We the Governor and Council of Fort St. George for affairs of the Rt. Honble. East India Company do acknowledge to have received of Mahomed Zadock Ribar for the King of Siam the Sum of two thousand pagodas new Currant money of Madras, which Sum of two thousand pagodas is in part of Seven thousand nine hundred and seventy two pagodas three fanams and one Cash due from the said King of Siam, for so much lent by the Right Honble. Company's Agent and Council of Persia and Governor and Council of Fort St. George to Hodgee Selim Ambassador for the King of Siam to the King of Persia, as appears by his several obligations copies whereof are now deliver'd to Mahomed Zadock. Witness our hands and the Seal of the Rt. Honble. Company in Fort St. George the twenty second day of August 1699.

Factory Records,
Miscellaneous,
vol. 3a, f. 382a.

Abstract of General Letter from Fort St.
George to the East India Company.

Dated 1 and 13 October 1699.

[Extract]

Para. 32. In 1697 the Pirates took a Ship of the King of Siam and plunder'd her of several goods, then let her go. Afterwards one Aug : Hart, an inhabitant of Madras, went on board and plunder'd her also. The King of Siam Ribar complaining of it to the Mogul, he gave his Husbul Hookum demanding satisfaction of the Company. They summoned said Hart to appear before them, and upon a full hearing he was found guilty, and was adjudged to pay the King of Siam 2000 Pags : , and as much to the Company, which with 500 Pags : he presented the President is paid into Cash.

Para. 33. The King of Siam being in the Company's debt, on account of money his Ambassador in Persia borrow'd of the Company's Agent, and showing the Ribar the Bills, after some demur he agreed the 2000 Pags : should be paid the Company in part of that debt.

Dutch Records,
1st Series, vol. 55,
No. 1549, pp. 5-7.

The factors at Batavia to the Dutch East
India Company at Amsterdam.

Dated 12 November (23 Nov. N. S.) 1699.

[Translation]

[Extract]

In our last present to the King and Oya Berquelang we again included some cloths and firearms in order therewith to allay and to meet their vain expectation of such things from the fatherland as, according to the contents of Your Excellency's esteemed letter of the 27th Oct. 1697, it cannot be satisfied, whereof we have forbidden our servants to give any idea at court and we have also written to the Oya Berquelang on that subject with equal discretion. Moreover, the Berquelang in his last letter had shown how acceptable the cloths and firearms previously sent had been at court, and it is certain that we must indulge the King in every way, especially at this time, now the French are again striving to work their way in there and possibly also other Europeans. As to how things stand concerning Père Tachard, nothing favourable was reported in the later letters from Siam, of the 6th and the 25th January, but on the contrary. On his arrival there on the 24th Oct. 1698 he at first expected to be received with even greater state than the Chevalier de Chaumont on a former occasion, but finally condescended to be introduced as the King of Siam should please. Further, that he was not at all ac-

ceptable there, but was kept by the King in suspense, because he had let fall his intention of getting permission, in accordance with the promises of the late King, to build a fort at Tenasserim and a factory at Pipli, westward of the Siamese river, whence it is possible to travel to Tenasserim by land. This, when it was reported to his Majesty, caused him such disquiet that he at once sent troops to both places to defend them from all invasion. What success the transactions of this Tachard have had in Siam we shall be able to say in our next with more certainty than we can report from the contradictory tales of the French and of said Père Tachard. Meanwhile, we have recommended to our servants in Siam, in a letter of the 1st May last, the sort of conduct they are to observe in future towards the court, for the preservation of the King's favour, and to the French and other foreign Europeans for the furtherance of the Company's trade and of their other interests.

O. C., No. 6988.

An Account of the Trade of India, derived from 12 years experience, written by Sir Nicholas Waite in 1699 on board the *Montague*, bound to Surat.¹

(Extract)

Syam produces fine Tin, Sapan Wood, Lack or Cherung, Cow Oil, Deers hides, which last the Dutch has by agreement with the King ingrossed, Augula wood, Elephants Teeth and Beetle Nutt.

The product of Syam Exported—
Europe—Tin carried annually thither per the Dutch, at least Two hundred Tuns to our Prejudice.

Bengal—Tin, Elephants Teeth.

Suratt—Tynn, Elephants Teeth, Augula wood.

China—Sapan Wood, Augula wood, Beetlenutt.

Japan—Hides carried by the Dutch, Lack some, Sapan Wood, Augula Wood.

Syam vends several sorts of India Callicoes and are fully supplied by the Moors &c.

¹The document is unsigned and has no heading. Its authorship is evident from remarks in the body of the document.

Dutch Records,
1st Series, vol.
56, No. 1555, pp. 2-3.

The factors at Batavia to Council of
Seventeen. Dated 5 February

(16 Feb. N. S.) 1700.

[Translation]

[Extract]

We have been informed of a great rebellion in that kingdom [Siam] of such a character that not only was the strong frontier town Corsina [Korat] taken from the King (which town he was unable to recover with his army and foreign engines of war), but also his troops, despatched in succession, went over to the other side in disgust at his cruel government. And the King, because the enemy came marching south, found himself obliged to withdraw all his forces and the foreign merchants into his capital Ayuthia and to plant his cannon on the outer works. The secret of the identity of the author of this revolt has been kept very strictly from our resident, but very different rumours are current, some affirming that it is the brother of the late King who judged this to be the time for him to reveal himself; others say that it is the King's oldest son, Prince Souzoussak [Surasak], who has long been suspected of such intentions, (although there are rumours of his having been poisoned), or at least that the deliberations with this object had reached such a point that he was bound ere long to take this course. Time will show.

O. C., No. 7287.

Allen Catchpole and Factors at Chusan
to the East India Company.

[Extract]

Dated 21 December 1700.

We humbly offer to Your Honours Consideration the Setling our Factory at Pullo-Condore lying in the Latitudé of about 8^D: and 40^M: North. Ships coming and going to and from China and Japan pass by in sight thereof, as did our Ship, so that in respect of it's situation 'tis far better than this or any other part of China to settle upon in respect of all the Coasts in India, because it will be an intercepting Port to and from China and Japan, both which Countries will doubtless go no farther than Pullo-Condore for Trade, if they can find a plentiful market of buying and selling there . . .

The Inhabitants we are informed are only a few fishermen coming thither for some certain Season of the Year from the Maine. 'Tis claimed by none, but if any has the right thereof, it's thought to be the King of Siam, or the King of Cochinchina, rather the former, who takes no care or regard to the same . . .