

No. 2 of 1863.

From,

Major L. P. Arthur
Political Superintendent,
Paklampoo.

To,

W. L. Anderson Esquire
Chief Secretary to Government,
Bombay.

Dated 2nd January 1863.

Sir,

I have the honor to acquaint you for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council, that I proceeded to Puttur on an invitation from His Highness the Gaekwar to meet him on the night of the 30th ultimo. A man named Shaik Moijood Lance Naik of the 6th Regiment Bombay Native Infantry came to Mr. Jonevick Assistant to the Resident of Parosa, in attendance on His Highness, the Gaekwar, and told him that he had overstaid his leave, as a few months ago he became acquainted with the fact that one Phiroz Shah, a son of the late King of Delhi, who was in rebellion against the British Government

from his corps, having been duly communicated to and reported by the Puttur authorities appeared tolerably satisfactory evidence that his subsequent prolonged absence arose from a desire to perform an act of signal loyalty to the Government, and which he had carried to a successful issue with creditable dexterity and address.

D. This informer will be placed at the disposal of the Brigade authorities at Deesa, as his testimony will have to be given before the tribunal which may be charged with investigation of this important matter.

G. The greatest caution was observed by associating with us the Karmavisdar of Puttur in the capture of this person, to avoid any risk of giving offence to His Highness the Gaekwar within whose territories this person

capture a reward has been offered and who has sought safety from retributive justice in a life of obscurity, assuming the garb of a mendicant, stringing out a precarious subsistence by practising as a quack Doctor dealing in drugs and charms, and distributing written portions from the Khoran, which are gladly purchased by the superstitious, as alike efficacious for the cure of bodily and mental ailments.

I would beg to submit that the most ready means that occur to me for clearing up the mystery attached to this person would be by forwarding him under escort to Delhi, where there will probably be no difficulty in his identification.

The fact of the Lance Naik producing a properly signed furlough pass, and the statements made by him of his illness and consequent absence from

[Signature]

out the person from whom he says he purchased the drug at Puttera.

4. It will be observed from the translate of this person's statement, herewith enclosed, that he declares himself to be Mahomed Shah W. Dhara Pakt heir apparent of Bahadoorshah the late King of Delhi. His whole account of himself which was given with reluctance and prevarication wears an aspect of extreme improbability, for his statement of having come so many hundred miles without the means of making a votive offering to the shrine of the Makhdoomshah in Puttera, appears utterly incredible and must be viewed with grave suspicion.

5. I am respectfully of opinion that if this person is not Phiroz Shah, he is certainly an emissary from the scattered members of the late court of Delhi, or indeed he may be one of the wretched fugitives for whose capture

Government, had come to
 Putter - he stated that it was
 known amongst the Mussulmen
 of Putter that this person
 was indeed the said Phirozshah.

2. After consultation
 we determined to apprehend this
 person, for which purpose we
 proceeded together to the place where
 the supposed Prince had taken
 up his residence, captured him
 without difficulty, whilst in
 the enjoyment of neday Sista
 and the man has been forwarded
 under an escort kindly furnished
 by His Excellency the Commander
 in Chief, with a letter (copy of
 which is enclosed) to the Brigadier
 at Deesa with a request that he
 may be kept in safe custody
 pending the instructions of
 Government.

3. On the supposed Phiroz
 Shah's person being searched a
 piece of arsenic was found
 which he said he had purchased
 with the intention of using it for
 medicinal purposes. he declared
 himself to be unable to point
 out

person had sought concealment; any formal application for his surrender would have gained immediate publicity, and would have probably ended in a futile search. The greatest secrecy was observed, as we went in country carts, alighted, effected the capture, placed the prisoner in one of the carts, and returned by another route without more than two or three chance passengers knowing any thing about the matter.

I earnestly hope that His Excellency the Governor in Council may be pleased to accord his approval of the measures taken by Mr. Fenwick and myself, in the conduct of a delicate business, which appeared to us to require prompt action.

I have the honor to be

Yours faithfully

C. P. Arthur.

Political Superintendent
Pahlanpore Agency Office.

2. January 1862.

3.

C. P. Arthur