

OUR GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

1. We have received your letter in the Foreign Department, dated 6th April 1850, No. 12, acknowledging our despatch of 16th January, No. 2, on the succession to the

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2. The Agent in his letter urged strongly the necessity of making known to him who was to be the successor of the present Sovereign, not for the purpose of giving publicity to the selection during the lifetime of the King, but in order to enable the Agent to act promptly when His Majesty's dissolution shall be at hand.

The Governor-General took occasion to confer privately with the Agent on this subject a short time ago at Simla. It appears that in the uncertainty in which the question of succession now stands, the favorite Queen, and those about her, are making every exertion to obtain possession of valuable property within the Palace, which will be appropriated by them to the detriment of Prince Fukrooddeen, unless effectual measures shall, in good time, be taken to prevent it.

3. Upon full reflection, the Governor-General has come to the conclusion that, although it is neither necessary nor expedient to declare any public recognition of Prince Fukrooddeen as successor to the throne of Delhi at present, it is nevertheless

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3. Upon full reflection, the Governor-General has come to the conclusion that, although it is neither necessary nor expedient to declare any public recognition of Prince Fukrooddeen as successor to the throne of Delhi at present, it is nevertheless desirable to settle the succession in all its parts now, and not to leave it until the King shall be at the point of death.

4. The Hon'ble Court have consented to require from the person, who shall succeed to the throne of Delhi, certain concessions as the conditions on which alone he will be recognized as King. The occurrence of any interval in the declaration of the successor, after the demise of the present King, is on every account to be deprecated; and, as it is possible that Prince Fukrooddeen may feel reluctant to consent to the concessions which are required, and which have already been refused by the King, his father, it is politic to endeavour to obtain his consent now, when existing circumstances are more favorable to the probability of obtaining it readily than they will be when the death of the King is in immediate prospect.

5. At present Prince Fukrooddeen has a competitor for the throne in the person of his brother, Prince Mirza Jewun Bukht. These pretensions are strongly urged by the King, their father, now, while they will be rendered far less formidable by the father's death or his approaching end. Although it is not the intention of the Government of India to transfer the Crown to

Mirza Jewun Bukht if Fukrooddeen should refuse the required conditions of succession, but only to withhold the Crown from the latter unless he shall consent to those conditions, still Prince Fukrooddeen will naturally regard the declared competition of his younger brother with alarm. And, as the conditions are in themselves reasonable and just, and as it is for the interest of Prince Fukrooddeen himself that he should be brought to accede to them at once, it seems prudent to take advantage of every circumstance which may incline his mind to a prompt admission of concessions which it is indispensable he should make.

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6. Those conditions are—

1st, that he should consent, as King, to meet the Governor-General of India at all times on terms of entire equality ;

2nd, that the Taicol lands should be continued entirely under the control of the Government of India, the proceeds over and above the expenses of management being paid to the King ;

3rd, that the whole body of the *Sullateen*, except as hereinafter mentioned, shall be removed from the King's Palace and shall be subjected for the future to the laws and regulations of Government. The children and grandchildren alone of the reigning King shall be permitted to reside within the Palace and shall be recognized as exempted from process.

7. In the despatch, to which the Court have now replied, it was recommended that the consent of the next possessor of the Royal title to his removal from the Palace in Delhi would be well purchased by an additional stipend of moderate amount. The Hon'ble Court have left this point to the discretion of the Government of India.

Subsequent reflection has not tended to weaken in any degree His Lordship's impression of the importance of this

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It still appears to the Governor-General that the removal of the titular King from the crowded city of Delhi to his Palace at the Kootub would be an advantage to the Government and would lessen one cause of risk to the public tranquillity.

The removal of the whole family, including its head, the King, from the Palace in the city, simultaneously, would greatly diminish the difficulty which must be anticipated in carrying into effect the peremptory directions which have now been given for the removal of the *Sullateen*, who are numerous and will not readily give in to this measure.

Lastly, the possession of the Palace will be extremely valuable for purposes connected with the public service.

8. Such portions of the Palace as are worthy of preservation for their own beauty, or for the historical associations connected with them, may be retained in their present state. The rest of the space contained within the Palace and the small fort attached to it should be used for the purposes of a magazine. The powder magazine, the Governor-General observes, has already been removed from the neighbourhood of the city, and should not be replaced, unless a thoroughly safe receptacle can be found for it in the fort.

The magazine at Delhi has long been a depôt of great importance; and, far from decreasing in consequence, it has increased in value by reason of the extension of our territory beyond the Sutlej.

The Delhi magazine has great advantages in the water conveyance which passes under its walls, and especially in the number and skill of the artificers, who cannot easily be persuaded to remove themselves so as to be available for magazines which may be established in advance.

The continuance of a large magazine establishment at Delhi has accordingly been strongly urged upon the Governor-General.

But the site of the present magazine and every thing connected with it are objectionable in the extreme. Three Commanders-in-Chief, one after the other, have represented to His

Lordship, in the strongest terms, the insecurity of this depôt, and the risks which are incurred thereby. And His Lordship has himself testified, on the evidence of his own inspection, that these representations have not been exaggerated, and that the risk is by no means visionary.

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Hitherto the Governor-General has abstained from taking any active measures to remedy this evil beyond the removal of the powder magazine, partly because the question of magazines generally was under review in consequence of the extension of the frontier, and partly because His Lordship still entertained the hope of obtaining possession of the Palace on the death of the King, now nearly 80 years of age.

It is true that, if the King should be removed from the Palace in the city, some considerable expense must be incurred in adding to the Palace of the Kootub for his accommodation. But if he continues to occupy the Palace in the city, a new magazine must unquestionably be built, and the Governor-General apprehends that the expense of constructing the buildings, with their necessary defences, and the considerable additional sums which must be expended in internal repairs on the City Palace, if His Majesty should continue to occupy it, will not fall far short of the expenditure which will be involved in the repairs and additions to the Kootub.

9. The Governor-General has dwelt upon this point in some detail in order to justify his acting on the discretion which the Hon'ble Court has been so good as to leave to the Government of India, and his endeavouring to obtain the consent of Prince Fukrooddeen to his relinquishment of the City Palace in connexion with his recognition as successor to the throne.

10. The Hon'ble Court are aware that His Lordship's own inclinations and convictions would lead him to require the evacuation of the Palace as an indispensable condition of the succession, on the ground of its importance to the public interests. But, as the Governor-General formerly intimated his

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Palace by the Royal Family on the King's death, as soon as His Lordship learnt that the members of the Hon'ble Court were adverse to the measure, although they did not withhold their official sanction from it, so His Lordship will now limit his instructions to endeavoring to obtain from Prince Fukrooddeen a voluntary relinquishment of the City Palace; and His Lordship will not make it a condition indispensable to his succession, as in the case of the other demands enumerated in paragraph 6.

11. The Agent at Delhi will take an early opportunity of communicating personally and privately with Prince Fukrooddeen. He will inform the Prince that, adverting to the circumstances of the family and to the declared objects of the King, his father, it is not expedient that any public recognition should be declared at present of any member of the Royal Family as Heir-Apparent to the throne.

But, as it would be for the interests of the Prince and of the Royal Family that the ultimate succession to the throne should be determined without further delay, the Government is desirous of conveying to Prince Fukrooddeen an assurance of his being acknowledged as successor to the throne on the death of the King, his father.

Before, however, such assurance can be conveyed to the Prince, the Government of India must require at his hands certain concessions connected with the future position of the King which are called for by the altered condition of public affairs, by the dignity of the British Government, and by the true interests of the King and of his kindred.

12. The Government of India requires—

I—That the former practice of the Kings of Delhi shall be abandoned, and that the King shall hereafter meet the Governor-General as the representative of the British Government in India on terms of entire equality.

II—That the Taiool lands of the King shall remain under the direction of British Officers, and

that the whole of the proceeds thereof, after paying the expenses of management, shall be made over to the King.

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III—That the *Sullateen* shall cease to reside within the King's Palace, and shall become subject in all respects to the laws and regulations of the Government of India. From this rule shall be excepted the children and grandchildren of the then reigning King, who may reside within the Palace and shall be exempted from process.

IV—The King shall remove entirely from the Palace in the city of Delhi with the whole Royal Family. The King and those members of the family who shall be privileged, as above mentioned, shall reside in the Palace at the Kootub. Such alterations and additions shall be made to the Palace there by the Government of India as shall render it a fitting residence for His Majesty and his family. A privileged circuit shall be set apart for the Palace at the Kootub, in the same manner as it is now set apart for the Palace in Delhi. The annual revenue allotted to the present King of twelve lacs per annum shall be continued as the income for the King and the Royal Family.

The Agent will explain to the Prince, if it should be necessary, the grounds on which each of these concessions is required.

He will use his best exertions to obtain the consent of the Prince to the whole of them by such arguments and representations as his local and personal knowledge of individuals and circumstances at Delhi so well qualify him to use.

13. If Prince Fakuooddeen should agree to the three first proposals, but should demur to the fourth, which provides for

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such case, the Agent is empowered to promise that his future stipend as King shall be increased by that amount.

14. If Prince Fukrooddeen should consent to concede all the four points above mentioned, on any of the terms the Governor-General has described, the Agent will draw up a record of the matters agreed upon, under the signature of himself and of the Prince. On the part of the British Government the record will recite the recognition of the Prince as heir to the throne of Delhi, subject to the conditions above enumerated, and on the part of Prince Fukrooddeen his consent to the conditions attached to the recognition. The Agent will thereupon report the conclusion of the matters entrusted to him under this despatch.

15. If Prince Fukrooddeen should refuse to accede to the fourth proposal on any terms, or to any of the three first proposals, the Agent will forthwith report the circumstance for the information of the Government of India, who will furnish him with further instructions thereon.

16. If previous to the receipt of such further instructions the present King of Delhi should die, the Agent, in consideration of the evils which may result from delay in the declaration of a successor, after the actual death of the King, is authorized to renew thereupon his communication with Prince Fukrooddeen.

17. If the Agent should still find that no exertions on his part will induce the Prince to consent to the fourth proposal, on either of the conditions above stated, he is authorized to relinquish that proposal, and to declare Prince Fukrooddeen successor to the throne on His Highness executing a formal consent to proposals I, II and III.

18. The proposals I, II and III are absolutely indispensable. If the Prince should refuse to execute his formal consent

Having so done, the Agent will report the state of affairs immediately for the information of the Government of India, and will await further instructions thereupon.

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19. The Agent will observe himself, and will impress upon the Prince, the expediency, for his own sake, of observing entire silence on the subject of these communications upon the succession to the throne of Delhi.

2. *From Sir THEOPHILUS METCALFE, Bart., Agent, Lieutenant-Governor, North-Western Provinces, Dehlee, to J. THORNTON, Esquire, Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces, Agra,—No. 79, dated Camp Khurrur, between Hansee and Hissar, 8th December 1851.*

ON the evening before last (yesterday) I received from Sir H. Elliot, K.C.B., copy of the despatch in the Secret Department, No. 72, addressed to you, and dated 30th November.

2. I am thus far on my way to Fazilka to join the Camp of the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor, but with reference to the 3rd, the concluding portion of the 4th and the 11th paragraph of the above despatch, I have the honor to address you with a view to ascertain whether I should at once proceed to Dehlee for the purpose of giving effect to the instructions of the Most Noble the Governor-General, or delay the execution of these orders until my return during the course of next month in company with His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor.

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4. From Sir THEOPHILUS METCALFE, Bart., Agent, Lieutenant-Governor, North-Western Provinces, Dehlee, to J. THORNTON Esquire, Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces, Agra,—No. 7, dated Dehlee, 24th January 1852.

THE Prince, Mirza Futteh-ool-Moolk, commonly called Mirza Fakhrooddeen, having expressed a wish through my Assistant to pay me a visit, I received him yesterday at the Kootub immediately after his interview with the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor, and I took that opportunity of communicating with him on the subject of Sir Henry Elliot's despatch to your address, No. 72 of the 30th November last.

2. I found the Prince well disposed to meet the wishes of the Most Noble the Governor-General; but he at the same time earnestly begged of me to submit for His Lordship's favorable consideration certain requests, which will be hereafter noticed, a compliance with which will naturally tend to improve his present position, both as regards respectability and comfort.

3. The original deed of agreement executed by the Prince and duly signed and sealed by him in the presence of myself and Assistant, and attested by a confidential friend of his, who accompanied him to my house, but was not present at our interview, I have the honor to forward herewith, with a translate, and I trust it will be considered satisfactory. By this deed the Prince binds himself on his succession as head of the Timoor Family, if invested with the Title of King and permitted to assume the externals of Royalty,—

1st, to receive the present and all future Governors-General on a perfect footing of equality;

2nd, to vacate with his own family, and the whole body of *Sullateens*, the Palace at Dehlee; to transfer it to the British Government; and to

* In the area of which the Kootub Minar is situated. make the environs of mouzah Mehroulee* his future place of residence, provided the British

Government will erect a suitable Palace for him; and

3rd, to surrender to the British Government all the
Taiool Estates, the revenue to be paid to him,
the management to remain entirely with the
British Government.

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4. The particular requests to which I have before
alluded, and which the Prince is most anxious should meet
with favorable consideration, are—

1st, that he receive for the future the salary of an Heir-
Apparent, with the arrears now in deposit ;

2nd, that the Guards at the Palace gates be drawn
out to salute him whenever passing to and from
the Palace ; and

3rd, that the Agent be instructed to visit him.

As a compliance with these requests would be a virtual
acknowledgment of the Prince as Heir-Apparent, I felt that
I could not under the instructions conveyed in the concluding
portion of the 11th paragraph of Sir Henry Elliot's despatch
give him any hope of success ; but, considering the readiness
he had evinced to meet the views of the Most Noble the
Governor-General, I could not withhold a promise of making
his wishes known to superior authority.

5. The indignities to which he has long been subjected
through the machinations of the chief eunuch, who is
entrusted with the charge of the favorite son, Prince Juwan
Bukht, will be increased so soon as it be ascertained that he has
entered into an engagement with the British Government.
In public opinion he will be considered as the undoubted
successor of the present King, and as the long-cherished hopes
in favor of the favorite Prince must now be relinquished
even by the King himself, I would venture to submit an
opinion that a public acknowledgment of the Prince Futteh-
ool-Moolk as Heir-Apparent would not now be attended with
any objectionable results, and would most materially tend to
increase his respectability and comfort, and confirm him in his
gratitude to the British Government.

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6. There was a fourth point on which the Prince was anxious to obtain my concurrence, *viz.*, that on his succession he should be entrusted with the distribution of the Royal stipend.

I apprized him that the arrangement as it now exists is considered very objectionable and is not likely to be continued hereafter. At any rate, the question might well be postponed until circumstances should render its discussion necessary.

7. No allusion was made at our interview to an increase to his personal allowance when King of a quarter of a lac per annum, as suggested in the 13th paragraph of Sir Henry Elliot's despatch; but I am of opinion that such a mark of consideration on the part of the British Government would not only be gratefully received by the Prince, but would be highly extolled by the native public.
