

E/4/24

IOR: E 14 / 24

New cover A Bengal  
To the Honble the Court of Directors and  
Directors for Affairs of the Honble United Company  
of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.  
May it please your Honours. 27/3/1760

We take this Opportunity of Writing  
a few Lines as it is not improbable there may be a Vessel  
under Dispatch for Europe from the Presidency of Fort  
St George from whence this Letter will be forwarded to your  
Honours.

The Hardwick Cap<sup>t</sup> John Samson arrived here  
the 10 June with your Commands of the 3<sup>d</sup> August & 11<sup>th</sup>  
November 1757 By the last of which the Government of  
this Presidency was put in Rotation & conferr'd on Mess<sup>r</sup>  
Watts, Hanningham, Becher & Holwell.

In Consequence of those Orders Mr  
Watts took his Seat in Council as President, But as the  
Gentlemen who were appointed to preside alternately,  
conceived that many Inconveniences would arise by that  
Plan of Government at this Juncture of the Rotation  
ordered in your Commands of the 11<sup>th</sup> November would be  
very prejudicial to the Company's Affairs in Bengal as  
they are now Circumstanced, they moved the Board to give  
that

that Affair a serious Consideration & recommended to them a Deviation from those Orders for many weighty Reasons which your Honors will find entered at large upon the Face of our Consultation of the 26<sup>th</sup> June, those Reasons appearing to the Board to have great Weight in them We concurred in their Sentiments & unanimously requested Colonel Clive to accept of the Presidentship of the Company's Affairs in Bengal till your Honors think proper to appoint one yourselves Copy of the abovementioned Consultation of 26<sup>th</sup> June We enclose for your Observation & beg leave to refer Ourselves thereto for the Particulars of our whole Proceeding in this Affair

We flatter ourselves the Reasons urged in the abovementioned Consultation will appear sufficiently solid to your Honors to justify our setting aside your Directions in so important a particular to which We shall have paid the almost Deference & most ready Obedience had the Company's Commercial Concerns alone been in Question, but as the Treaty with the Nabob & our Influence at the Durbar by the late Revolution were Circumstances the highest Consequence and which your Honors were not acquainted with when the Hardwick left England We tho' our Duty to our Employers made it incumbent on us to give them the first Place in our Attention, and as nothing would have weakened that Influence more than the Rotation or in your Commands of Hardwick & by that means have

rendered the Completion of the Treaty itself precarious, We have ventured to alter your Appointment till We hear further from your Honors or till a President is appointed in the usual Method, which We hope will meet your Approbation.

It is with the greatest Concern We have heard of the Loss of Fort St David, The Particulars of this Affair you will be informed of more fully by the President & C<sup>o</sup> of Fort St George.

As soon as We heard of this Loss We gave Directions to our Subordinates and the Gomastahs employed at the Aurungs to encrase the ordinary Sortments of their respective Investments that We might in some Measure make up for the Disappointment the Loss of Fort St David will probably occasion in the Investments from the Coast.

We have not as yet been able to station the Ships now in the River, as the President & C<sup>o</sup> of Fort St George have not informed Us if they shall want one in September to be filled up & finally dispatched for Europe from their Presidency. Should they be in no Want of a Ship for that Purpose, We shall dispatch the Gloucester fully laden from hence as early in the Season as it is prudent for her to leave the River. We hope to be assisted in the Dispatch of another Ship by the surplus Pepper at Fort Malbro, of which We daily expect to receive Advice from the Coast.

The Nabob of these Provinces is now in  
Calcutta upon a Visit to the Gouvernor. We are at present  
on the best of Terms with him & have no Reason to complain  
of his Want of Punctuality in the Performance of his Agreement  
with us. The Country enjoys a profound Tranquility, &  
We have not the least doubt but it will continue so, provided  
We are properly supplied with Troops from Europe conforma-  
ble to our repeated Instances. Turnaws are given us for the  
Remainder of the Monies due to us by the Treaty, & We are  
allowed to collect in the Revenues of Burdwan Nudia & others  
Placed without any Intervention of the Governments Officers  
till the Ballance of what is due to us is discharged in full.

Since writing thus far Cap<sup>r</sup> Barton

arrived from Madras with two Letters from the President of C<sup>r</sup>  
of Fort St George by which We find they have determined to  
dispatch the Grantham to your Honors with the Bales they  
have on hand. this makes it unnecessary for us to send up a  
Ship in September to the Coast we shall therefore load the  
Ichester fully from hence & dispatch her as early in the Year  
as possible.

We have the Pleasure likewise to learn by the Letter  
from Fort St George that there will be near 700 Tons of our  
Pepper this Season at Bencoolen, which will assist us in  
returning two of the Coast & Bay Ships in case we have  
Tonnage this Season than our Investments require.

The Nabob returned to his Capitol  
Yesterday and upon leaving us made the highest Professions  
of Friendship & Esteem for the English.

Mr John Pристов Resident at Cuttack  
having proceeded to Ingeram by direction of the Select  
Committee & at the pressing Instance of the Rajah of that  
Country has wrote us that the French are dispossessed of  
almost every thing but Masulapatam & that Monsieur  
Bussy is at Variance with the Morattoes. We have in  
Consequence of this Advice desind the President & C<sup>o</sup> of Fort  
St George to send a Servant from that Presidency to Ussaga-  
patam who is acquainted with the Nature of the Invest-  
ments in that Country

We have nothing more to add and are  
with the greatest Respect

May it please your Honors  
Your faithfull Servants

Robert Clive

John Hald

Richd Buhoy  
John Franklin

Wm Mackie  
Wm Williams

Mar  
at 70

7

Port William the 26<sup>th</sup> June 1758

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June  
at 7 o'clock A.M.

At a Consultation present  
The Hon<sup>ble</sup> William Watts Esq<sup>r</sup>. President  
Chas Manningham & Rich<sup>d</sup> Becher Esq<sup>r</sup>.

Mess<sup>r</sup> Matthew Collet

Will<sup>m</sup> Mackett

Thomas Bodham

The Consultations of the 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> being wrote fair were now  
read, approved & signed.

Mess<sup>r</sup> Watts, Manningham & Becher desire  
leave to acquaint the Board their most serious attention  
has been devoted to the Commands of our Hon<sup>ble</sup> Employers  
naming a rotation of Governors for the future conduct of  
Affairs at this Settlement, and having duly weighed the nature  
of this Regulation with all its attending Consequences a sincere  
conviction of its being in our present situation and circumstances  
repugnant to the true interest of our Hon<sup>ble</sup> Masters and the  
welfare of this Settlement in general, obliges them (tho with the  
utmost respect & difference) to believe had our Hon<sup>ble</sup> Employers  
been apprized of the present State of their Affairs in this Kingdom  
they would have placed the Presidentship in some one person  
as the easiest & clearest method of conducting their concerns as  
well as preserving & maintaining the weight and influence  
the late happy Revolution has given us with the Subah of  
these Provinces, on which at the present period the interest and  
welfare of the Company at this Settlement in the highest de-  
gree depends. The difficulties we may be liable to by a rotation  
in the executive part of Government with its Consequences are  
sufficiently obvious in our present state of Affairs however they  
shall only mention a few points. — The treaty with the Nabob  
not perfect in all its branches, the possession of the lands  
incompl<sup>t</sup>ent the Settlement in no posture of defence the  
French considerably reinforced with Military & a Fleet and  
their designs with respect to Bengal unknown the impossi-  
bility of impressing a proper idea of this divided power in the  
minds of the Subah and others in this Kingdom who have  
at all times been accustomed to the government of a single person.  
A little reflection on these Particulars will introduce many  
more and clearly evince the necessity of this Motion —  
They have the highest sense of gratitude for the honour  
conferr'd on them by their Employers in their appointment  
and deem themselves in Duty bound at this juncture of  
Affairs to waive all personal honours and advantages which  
might accrue to themselves and unanimously declare it  
as their sentiment that a rotation in the executive part  
of Government would be highly prejudicial to the real inter-

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Port William <sup>the</sup> 26 June 1758.

of the Company And they hope this Sentiment with its motives will be received conformable to their intention as the clearest proof they could possibly give of their sincere attachment to the welfare of their Honble Employers & the settlement in general. They lay these particulars before the board & request their Councils and Judgment on the occasion and if they agree till necessity of what they have the honour to lay before them shall render no difficulty will arise on the subject. The Count of Dib in their commands of the 3 Aug last by naming Col Clive head the Committee they then Order for Affairs here his eminent abilities and Merit together with his superior weight & influence with the present Subah and his Officers are motives which have great force with them on this Occasion and all concur in pointing Col Clive as the person best able to render our Honble Employers the necessary service at this Juncture till they make their further pleasure known by the appointment of a President for their Affairs here. And they beg leave to add they have great pleasure in observing that their attachment to the true interest of our Employers & the welfare of this Settlement has as it ought to have the due preference to any personal honour or advantage we might receive by the consideration.

The Board having considered the foregoing proposal with due attention and concurrence entirely in the sentiments of those Gentlemen with respect to the prejudice a rotation in the executive part of Government may be attended with at this Juncture and being unanimous in Opinion that a deviation from the Honble Company's Commands in this Instance in our present circumstances will be for the true interest of our Employers - Colonel Clive likewise for the reasons set forth in the minute made by Messrs. Wall, Manningham & Decker) appearing to the Board the Person best able at this time to render our Hon. Masters necessary service -

Resolved that an Application be made to Colonel Clive from the Board to accept of being President of the Company's Office in Bengal till a Person be appointed from Europe and the same views at large be given him for his acceptance of that trust of these terms -

Adjourned till nine o'clock that the letter to Colonel Clive may be prepared & engross'd fair -

The 26 June at 9 A.M. -  
The Council being met according to Adjournment and letter to Colonel Clive being engross'd fair was now read, Approved & sign'd - Agreed it be sent to Col Clive directly and that he be requested to give an immediate answer if possible -

The 26 June at 10 A.M. -

Colonel Clive having returned an answer to our letter read at the Board - Ordered it be entered after this day's Consultation -

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Fort William the 26<sup>th</sup> June 1758.

The Colonel having therein accepted the Offer made  
him by the Board of Presiding in the Company's Affairs  
in Bengal till a Person is appointed from Europe —  
Agreed the Charge of the Factory with the Honble Compa-  
ny's Books & Papers the ballance of Cash and one of the Keys  
of the Treasury be delivered him as President and Governor  
of this Settlement. —

Wm Hales

(Mannigham  
Rich: Bachd)

" Collet

"

"

J. Broadam

To the Honble W<sup>m</sup> Watts Esq;  
and the rest of the Gentlemen  
of the C<sup>o</sup> of Fort William

Gentlemen

I have rec<sup>d</sup> your Letter of this Date & cannot sufficiently express the grateful sense I have of the favourable opinion you are pleased to entertain of me the which has induced you to desire my acceptance of the Presidency at this critical time.

Tho I think I have cause to be displeased with the Court of Directors for laying me aside in their new form of Government without any reason apparent after having named me as Head of the General Committee in the letter of the 3<sup>d</sup> Augt last, yet a mind by the noble example of publick Spirit which you have set me I have determined to leave all private Considerations where the General good is concerned as there is no doubt that the Government of a single Person involved as we are now with the Country must have infinite Advantages over the Complicated form of Government established from home. I shall by that motive tho both my Health and private connections require my returning to Europe accept the offer you have done me the honour to make me till such time as our Employers have appointed President in the usual Form.

I cannot omit testifying my acknowledgments Gentlemen to you all in general for Zeal you have discovered for the service of our Masters on this occasion but in particular to you who have been nominated in the rotation of Governors. I have made such a sacrifice that few if any I ever can be shewn of the like you have of your own accord parted with the dignity of Government and all the advantages therunto annexed because you apprehended that the Company's affairs could not properly conducted under a Government so constituted.

Unqual as I am to the weighty task of directing this Presidency especially in civil matters to which I have never been able to give due attention on acct of my Military avocations I am now Gentleman to beg the assistance of your advice and hope you will however in the zeal you have hitherto so abundantly shewn and that none of you but more especially Mr. Watt can render me considerable service from his thorough knowledge of the Politicks of the Country will entice a thought of leaving me till affairs are finally determin'd from home.

I am Gentlemen your most obedt<sup>d</sup> Humble  
Robert Clive

Calcutta  
26 June 1758

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W. H. C. G.

To the Honble the Court  
of Directors for Affairs  
of the Honble United  
Company of Merchants  
of England trading to  
the East Indies

13

May it please your Honours

The opportunity of a Dutch  
Ship bound directly for Europe offering, We  
have embrac'd it to tranomit you a Triplic  
ate of the Letter we wrote under date the  
26 August and to inform your Honours  
of such other Circumstances as we esteem  
material and necessary for you to be early  
acquainted with

The Pitt Cap<sup>r</sup> Wilson arrived  
the 18 of Sep<sup>r</sup>. at Fort St George. She left the  
Ships destin'd for China with his Majesty.  
Ships Grafton & Sunderland off the Madei  
ras and steer'd for the Island of St Jago.  
but finding three large french Ships at

Anchor

Anchor in the Harbour Cap<sup>n</sup> Wilson made  
best of his way to S<sup>t</sup> Augustines Bay in the  
Island of Madagascar. When the Pitt left  
that Bay She met the London & Warren go  
in We have therefore great reason to hope  
all the above Ships imported safe at Madag  
in October

By a Letter from Mr Johnstone  
to the Select Committee We have the pleasure  
to learn that the Merchants at Vizagapo<sup>m</sup>  
are willing to contract with Us for the deli  
very of 200 Bales of Cloth this Season, and We  
imagine from what Mr Johnstone writes th<sup>t</sup>  
that they might be prevail'd on to contract  
for a much larger quantity after the arriv<sup>g</sup>  
of the Forces under Col. Ford. In case thereof  
these favourable advices shoud be further con  
firmed from thence, & the President & Council  
Fort. S<sup>t</sup> George decline sending any Servants  
with Treasure from that Presidency, for car  
ing on the Northern Investments as usual  
We propose to send one of your Covenanted  
Servants on this Establishment with mon  
& proper Orders, for providing as large a  
quantity

5

quantity of the Company's Sortments of Cloth  
the ensuing Season as can be procured. This  
Measure we flatter ourselves will meet your  
approbation

As we have great reason to expect  
that two of the Ships sent with Troops to the  
Coast will return the latter end of this month  
or the beginning of next, we propose immediate-  
ly on their arrival to proceed in lading them  
with Bales, and make no doubt of being able  
to dispatch two Ships from hence by the middle  
of Jan<sup>t</sup> with one thousand Bales on each,  
compleating the rest of their Tonnage with  
Salt Petre.

We hope likewise to dispatch  
two more from hence the latter end of the Sea-  
son, with an equal number of Bales, compleat-  
ing the rest of their Tonnage as above, with Red  
Wood, & Salt Petre, which will make four Ships  
this Season with 4000 Bales from this presi-  
dency

At Fort Malborough they are  
likely to have 700 Tons of Surplus Pepper  
this Year which will provide for two Ships in  
case there should be more Tonnage arrive  
than

than is sufficient for the Investments of the  
Coast & Bay Presidencies

We have freighted on the Ilm  
wick/a country Ship belonging to Bombay 40  
Bags of Salt Petre for the use of that Presi  
dency & shall compleat the 500 Tuns they have  
indentured for by such other conveyance as we  
after proceed to that Place

as the Major part of the Ge  
tlemen in Council have thought of returning  
Europe We judge it proper to give your Hon  
ours early advice of their intentions

We meet with no material  
interuption in collecting the Sums for which  
the Government have given Us Juncans on  
the Rajahs & Zemidars of some of the Provi  
ces, and We have not the least doubt of get  
ting the whole of the Treaty with the present  
Nabob punctually perform'd in case your  
Honours send Us out the Reinforcement  
Troops We have repeatedly requested

The Salt Petre this Year  
We have the pleasure to acquaint your  
Honours has been provided at a very low

Price

F  
O  
The sum  
received  
17 July

Price by our Servants at Patna, by Virtue  
of an exclusive Pervannah We have obtain-<sup>no</sup>  
of the Subah for the sole purchase of all  
the Petre produced in the Province of  
Bahar. This advantage added to the Inve-  
ments of Cloth the Chief & Council are pro-  
viding there, will make the Patna Factory  
prove a very profitable Establishment to the  
Company

May it please your Honours  
Your faithful Servants

Fort William

Oct<sup>r</sup> 22. 1758

The same we dated the 9 Novemr. 1758  
received Chap Paschoud was read in Court  
18 July 1759.

John Clive

H'lyd

Richd' Broth

W'stanland

W'leachell  
Holland





22 October 1755.

Duplicate  
Letter to the Court of  
Directors.

N<sup>o</sup> 2

Recd at Ilchester  
23<sup>rd</sup> September 1759

To the Honble the Court of  
Directors for Affairs of the  
Honble United Company  
of Merchants of England  
trading to the East Indies.

<sup>21</sup>  
same  
as  
preceding  
letter

May it please your Honors

1 The opportunity of a Dutch  
Ship bound directly for Europe offering.  
We have embraced it to transmit you a  
Triplicate of the Letter we wrote under date  
the 26<sup>th</sup> August and to inform your Honors  
of such other Circumstances as we esteem  
material and necessary for you to be early  
acquainted with.

2 The S<sup>r</sup>t Captain Willson  
arrived the 14. September at Fort St George.  
He left the Ships destined for China with  
his Majestys Ships Grafton and Sunderland  
off the Madiras, and steered for the Island  
of St Jago, but finding three large French  
Ships at Anchor in the Harbor, Captain  
Willson made the best of his Way to Saint  
Augustine's Bay in the Island of Madaga-  
car - When the S<sup>r</sup>t left that Bay, he met  
the London and Warren going in: We have  
therefore great reason to hope that all the  
above Ships imported safely at Madras in  
October

3

By a Letter from Mr Johnstone  
to the

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to the Select Committee, We have the pleasure to learn, that the Merchants at Vizagapatam are willing to contract with us for the Delivery of 200 Bales of Cloth Season; And We imagine from what Mr. Johnstone writes that they might be prevailed on to contract for a much larger Quantity after the Arrival of the Forces sent under Colonel Hodge. In case therefore these favorable Advices should be further confirmed from thence, and the Desider and Council of Fort St George decline for any Servant with Treasure from that side for carrying on the Northern Department as usual, We propopose sending one of our covenanted Servants on this Establishment with Money and proper Orders for providing as large a Quantity of the Company's Tackments of Cloth the ensuing season as can be procured. In Measure We flatter ourselves will meet with your approbation.

4 As We have great reason to expect that two of the Ships sent with Troops to the Coast will return the latter end of this Month or beginning of next purpose immediately on their arrival proceed in loading them with Bales, and make no doubt of being able to dispatch two Ships from hence by the middle of January with one Thousand Bales on each compleating the rest of their Tonnage Red Wood and Salt Petre.

W.C.D.

5

We hope likewise to despatch  
two more from hence the latter end of the  
Season with an equal Number of Bales, com-  
pleating the rest of their Tonnage as above  
with Red Wood and Salt Petre, which will  
make four Ships in the whole Season with  
4000 Bales from this Presidency.

6

At Hout Marlbro' they are  
likely to have 700 Tons of surplus Pepper  
this Year which will provide for two Ships  
in case there should be more tonnage arrived  
than is sufficient for the Investments of the  
Coast & Bay Presidencies.

7

We have freighted on the Hare-  
wick a Country ship belonging to Bom bay  
4000 Bags of Salt Petre for the use of that Pre-  
sidency and shall compleat the 500 Tons  
they have indent'd for by such other Com-  
veyances as hereafter proceed to that place

8

As the major part of the Gen-  
lemen in Council have thoughts of return-  
ing to Europe We judged it proper to give  
your Honors this early advice of their In-  
tentions.

9

We meet with no material  
Interruption in collecting the sums for  
which we government have avowed  
summons on the Rajahs and Zamindars  
of some of the Provinces: And We have not  
the least doubt of getting the whole of the  
Treaty with the present Nabob punctually  
performed in case your Honors send us out  
the Reinforcement of Troops We have repre-  
-sently requested.

The 1st

22

The Salt Petre this Year we  
have the pleasure to acquaint your Honors  
has been procur'd at a very low price by  
our Servants at Patna, by Virtue of an ex-  
clusive Perwannah We have obtained of  
the Subah for the sole purchase of all  
Petre produc'd in the Province of Bahar.  
This Advantage added to the Investmen-  
t of Cloth the Chus and Comnit are provided  
there, will make the Patna Factory pro-  
a very profitable Establishment to the  
Company.

Fort William  
the 9. Nov. 1758.

Fort William Nov. 1758  
Recd by Capt. Paschano  
via Holland 10 July 1759  
to the Court of Directors

V. 2

Rec'd by Capt. Paschano  
via Holland 10 July 1759

Post 4.

May it please your Honors  
your faithful Servants

Robert Clive

John Hall

Manningham

" Rich: Bahar)

Paul Richardson

H. Collet

J. Mackill

G. Bradam

Rec'd C. A. C.

To the Honble Secret Committee  
for the Affairs of the Honble  
East India Company

Honble Sirs

Our last address was under date the  
2<sup>d</sup>. March and the Governor & Council wrote the Court  
of Directors the 26<sup>th</sup>. of August last advising you of the  
alteration they thought proper to make in the go-  
vernment here. We now lay hold of the opportunity  
of a Dutch vessel to acquaint you with an Expedition  
we have undertaken in the Deccan Country, but as  
the conveyance is uncertain & the notice we receive  
but short we must beg leave to defer describing in  
particulars till the dispatch of our own ships.

2 The President having had informa-  
tion that Mons<sup>r</sup>. Bussy was much involved in trou-  
bles in the Province of Golcondah and received impor-  
tant letters from the Principal Rajah of those Countries  
requiring our assistance he judged we could not more  
effectually serve our Employers than by lending our  
aid to bring about a revolution in those Parts

3 The removing the French from  
Golcondah / from whence they have drawn im-  
mense resources during the whole War / has long been a pri-  
ncipal object of the Companys attention, we therefore  
thought it our indispensable duty to embrace so fa-  
vorable an opportunity and flatter ourselves with

the chance

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the force we have sent. We shall be able, if not wholly,  
entirally to dispossess the Enemy from the Province, to distress  
them considerably as to render the Possession of it  
of little use to them.

4

We have indeed in a manner dra  
ourselves that nothing might be wanting for the  
use of the Expedition and this Settlement is almost  
desenceless; however so perfect a tranquility reigns  
in these Parts that we have as yet little or nothing  
apprehend, and by the visit with which the Sub  
of this Province has lately honored us, his attack  
to & confidence in the English appears so strong  
that we can hardly doubt but that the treaty  
between us will be exactly fulfilled by him.

5

Colonel Forder to whom we have  
given the command of the Expedition embarked  
300 Europeans (artillery included) and 2000 men  
on board the Company's ships Rochester, Newcastle  
& Hardwicke two sloops of a hundred ton each  
up by us for that purpose; the whole left their  
the 9<sup>th</sup> of last Month. We sent Mr. Johnstone a  
copy brevet some time before to Izagapalam  
to get every thing ready against their arrival  
here with send you a copy of our Instructions  
Colonel Forder which will fully explain to you  
design & scheme of the Expedition.

6

The 6<sup>th</sup> instant we recd a letter  
and from Mr. Johnstone advising us of his arri  
at Izagapalam; He found every thing there  
satisfactory.

favorable as he could wish the People entirely in our Interest the French being drove out thence & all the adjacent Places.

7

The few forces they have which we however reason to believe do not exceed 300 Europeans are by no means in the Rajah Mundiun District, and now commanded by Mons<sup>t</sup>. Conflans, Mons<sup>t</sup>. Bussy with Morapuri the late chief of Masulipatam being gone to the southward and having taken apart of the Troops with them; We have heard of Mons<sup>t</sup>. Bussy's being actually at Madras by a pass on his way to Pondicherry, but where the Forces are he carried with him We have no certain Account of

8

We hope the pressing letters wrote you for supplies of Men & Stores will have had the desired Effect; however we beg leave to repeat ~~the~~ our Request A Reinforcement of troops is absolutely necessary to secure to you the great acquisitions you have here made, for tho' Matters are perfectly quiet at present 'tis hard to say how long the Calm will last & such is the Nature of this Country government that the only certain Expedient of securing their Friendship is by keeping up such a force as will render it unsafe for them to break with us & the large addition of territory you have acquired by the late treaty has afforded you the means of maintaining a Body of Troops sufficient for that purpose, we shall only further add that such an Opportunity can never again be expected of

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for  
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Aquandizing the Company & by speedily rendering  
the proper succours you will hereafter have it in your  
Power to execute any Plan you may think  
necessary for the Service of the Company —

Weau with respect

Honble Sirs

Your Most Obedient humbly

Robert Clive

W<sup>m</sup> Walks

C<sup>o</sup> Manningham

Rich: Clutterbuck

Fort William

this 10<sup>th</sup> Nov, 1758

*Letter from the Select Committee to the Secret Committee.*

Vol

Rec'd Captn Pachaud  
at Holland 10 July 1759

ing to the Honble the Secret Committee  
for Affairs of the Honble East India Company)

Honble Sirs —

29  
same  
as  
preceding  
letter

Our last address was under date the  
2<sup>d</sup>. March & the Governor & Council wrote the Count of Bi-  
nector the 26<sup>th</sup>. August last advising you of the alter-  
ations they thought proper to make in the Gover-  
nment here we now lay hold of the Opportunity of  
which I shall to acquaint you with an Expedition  
we have undertaken in the African Country, but  
as the Conveyance is uncertain of the Notice we  
received but short, we must beg leave to defer de-  
cending into particulars till the Dispatch of  
our own Ships —

The President having had Informa-  
tion that Mons<sup>r</sup>. Bussy was much involved in  
trouble in the Province of Golconoda & received  
repeated Letters from the Principle Rajah in  
those Countries requiring our Assistance, We  
judged we could not more effectually serve our  
Employers than by lending our aid to bring  
about a Revolution in those Parts, the removing  
the French from Golconoda from whence they  
have drawn Immence resources during the  
whole war has long been a principal object of  
the Company's attention, We therefore thought it  
our indispensable duty to embrace so favorable  
an opportunity, & flatter ourselves with the force

Original

30

We have sent, & shall be able if not wholly to extirpate the enemy from the Province, to distress them so considerably as to render their possession of little use to them.

We have indeed in a manner divined ourselves that nothing might be wanting for the success of the Expedition, & our settlement is almost despatched, however so perfect a tranquility reigns in these parts, that we have as yet little or nothing to apprehend, & by the spirit with which the rabble of this Province has lately honored us, his attachment to our confidence in the English appears so strong, that we can hardly doubt but that the trust between us will be exactly fulfilled by him.

Colonel Forde to whom we have given the command of the Expedition, embarks with 500 Europeans artillery included & 1100 seafarers, on board the Company's Ships of war, Worcester & Hardwick & a Country ship taken up by us for that purpose, the whole left their Ports the 9<sup>th</sup> of last Month, we send M<sup>r</sup>. Johnstone a Company's servant soon after to Vizagapatam, to get every thing ready against their arrival, we shall with send a copy of our Instructions to Colonel Forde which will fully explain to you the Design & scheme of the Expedition.

The 6<sup>th</sup>. instant we over land received a letter from Mr. Johnston advising us of his arrival at Nagapatum, he found everything there as favorable as he could wish, the people entirely in our interest, the French being drove out thence & all the adjacent places. The few forces they have, which we have reason to believe do not exceed 300 Europeans, are by what we learn in the Rajah Mundram's District of Aranou Commanded by Mons<sup>r</sup> Lans, W. Ruffy with Morassim the late chief of Massulipatam being gone to the southward, & having taken part of the troops with them; We have heard of Mons<sup>r</sup> Ruffys being actual ly at Madras by a pass on his way to Pondicherry, but where the forces are he carried with him, We have no certain account of -

We hope the preceding Letter will find you for supplies of men & horses will have had the due effect, however We beg leave to repeat this our request; A reinforcement of Troops is absolutely necessary to secure to you the great acquisitions you have here made, for though matters are perfectly quiet at present, it is hard to say how long the calm may last, such is the nature of this Country Government that the only certain expedient of securing their friendship is by keeping up such a force as will render it unwise for them to break with

37

with you & the large addition of Territory<sup>41</sup> have acquired by the late treaty has afforded you the means of maintaining a body of Troops sufficient for that purpose. We shall further add that such an opportunity can never again be expected of aggrandizing<sup>42</sup> Company & by speedily sending the present succours you will hereafter have it in your power to execute any plan you may think necessary for the service of the Company.

Fort William  
November 1<sup>st</sup> 1758

Wards  
Honble Sirs  
Your most Obedient Hum<sup>r</sup> Servt

Robert Clive  
Wm. Ward

Richd. Clarendon

Copy of a Letter  
of Robert Clive dated Nov.  
11<sup>th</sup>, 1758, from the General  
Headquarters  
Redditch Oct 1759.

To The Honorable Court of Directors for Affairs  
of the Honorable United Company of Merchants  
of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable,

Words can but poorly express  
the sentiments of my heart on receipt of  
Your General Address; please to accept in  
return all that the most lively gratitude  
can offer, and be assured my utmost  
endeavors shall be exerted in the service  
of those, who have done more justice to my  
merits than they can pretend to deserve

Accept also my warmest  
thanks for the Honor done me in Your  
appointment to this Presidency, and for  
the additional Salary of £1000 £ annum.  
Your Honors may be persuaded my  
assistance

34

assistance shall not be wanting in putting  
the civil and military affairs of the  
Company on such a footing as is consistent  
with their true interest.

After the battle of Plassey I  
thought my Commission of Commander in Chief  
would have ended there, and that I might have  
returned to the Coast, and from thence to  
England; but when intestine trouble arose,  
and the situation of Your Affairs required  
my marching up the Country, I did not  
hesitate an instant to give my Services  
where they were so justly due: the same motives  
of Gratitude and Attachment have induced  
me to continue in Bengal another year, and  
flatter myself I shall bring home with me  
the agreeable news of the Treaty with the  
new Subah being entirely completed.

I am with the greatest  
Respect,

Honorable

Calcutta,

30. Decr. 1758

Your most obliged  
humble Servant

Robert Clive

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30. Decem. 1759

Duplicate Letter from Colonel  
Robert Clive to the Court.

N<sup>o</sup> 5

Rec'd at Worcester  
15<sup>th</sup> Novem<sup>r</sup> 1759

To the Honble the Court  
of Directors for Affairs of  
the Honble United Company  
of Merchants of England  
trading to the East Indies.

31<sup>st</sup> Decr: 1758

May it please your Honors.

1

We have addressed you twice this  
Season under Date the 26 August and 27 October last  
as We had only time by those Opportunities to write  
few Lines, We were obliged to confine ourselves to such  
Subjects as were the most material & necessary for your  
Honors to be early advised of. Copies of those Letters are  
forwarded in this Packett.

2

We have now the pleasure to acquaint  
you of the safe Arrival of the London & Warren in the  
River, on which We congratulate your Honors.

3

By these Ships We were favoured  
with your Commands of the 3<sup>d</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>d</sup> March & 11<sup>th</sup>  
April, to which We shall pay a due Obedience & shall  
reply in the Course of this Letter to such Parts as require  
being answered.

4

As this Address is designed to be  
transmited by the Ships dispatched immediately to  
Europe

Europe from hence We shall in it give your Honors  
a Detail of the Transactions at this Presidency since  
Departure of the Elizabeth (who left Ingollie the 9<sup>th</sup>  
March) ranging the same under the usual Establish-  
Heads, And

### First of Shipping

5 Both the Ilchester & Worcester having  
been aground in their outward Bound Passage, they  
ordered up to Town and their Bottoms examined &  
surveyed by our Master Attendant, whose Reports  
entered in our Consultations.

6 The Boscauer, Guanham & Post  
having taken in about 2000 Bags of Saltpetre each  
for the use of Fort St. George Presidency, and as many  
Stores for His Majesty's Squadron as they could  
carry, they were dispatched to the Coast on the 5<sup>th</sup>  
On board those Ships we consigned the President  
Council of Fort St. George 75 Chests of Bullion & 20  
of Gold.

7 Immediately after their Departure  
a Rumor being spread that a French Ship was cruising  
in Ballasore Roads to intercept the Country Vessels  
in from the different Parts of India, the Board directed  
Secretary to send Captains Sedd & Siddeman and  
to get their Ships in Readiness to fall down the Roads

upon the first Notice; Intending to have sent them into Ballasore Road for the Protection of our Trade had the Report above mentioned been confirmed from good Authority, but as We heard no more of the Vessel which was supposed to be a French Cruiser, our Orders to the Commanders of the Rochester & Worcester went no further.

8

Upon a Report delivered in by the Master Attendant that the Fort S<sup>t</sup> George Sloop was in want of more Repairs than she was in reality worth & that the Dragon Sloop purchased at Tulta was not capable of riding in Ballasore Road, We ordered him to put them both up to Sale the 30<sup>th</sup> April, & to sell them to the highest bidder, which was accordingly performed & the amount of what they sold for has been brought to your Credit in Capt Wedderburn's Acc<sup>ts</sup>

9:

On the 21<sup>st</sup> April imported in this Month  
The Sloop Cap<sup>t</sup> Samuel Elliott, a small Vessel freighted by the Gentlemen at Fort Malbro to carry some Advices to the President & Council of Fort S<sup>t</sup> George. That Vessel had left Bencoolen in January but not been able to fetch to Windward of Madras & being in great Want of Provisions & Water, the Master of her thought it more eligible to bear away for this Place; We supplied him with Stores & Provisions & advanced him at different times 1000 Auncot Rupees, intending to have dispatched her in Aug<sup>t</sup> to the

to the Coast with the Bencoolens Packett, but just as We  
were on the point of dispatching her, the Master wrote  
a Letter to the Board informing us She had broke from  
her Moorings, had lost all her Anchors, her Mast & Bo  
om, & had likewise received much Damage in her  
Hull, to repair which would require a great deal of Tim  
& Expence: Whereupon We thought it adviseable to dis  
charge her from the Company's Service, as she was an useles  
s Charge to them, Duplicate of her Packett having been  
received at Madras sometime before by the Dutch

10 The Fanny now which had been  
sent to Actin & the Streights of Malacca for Intelligence  
returned hither on the 5<sup>th</sup> June with Information, That  
French Ships or Vessels had been seen or heard of on  
Coast.

11 Under this Head it may be proper  
inform your Honors, that after the Departure of the  
Squadron & dispatch of all the European Ships, the No  
attendant with Capt Brohier & some Commanders  
the Country Service and Pilots were desired to take  
Consideration & report to the Select Committee the most  
effectual Method for destroying an Enemy's Fleet in  
case an attempt should be made by them to enter into  
the River & attack the Settlement. This Report was  
in to the select Committee, & by them laid before the

Board; The Substance of which was, That five Boats  
should be prepared to be filled with Combustibles in  
order to burn their Ships in case they advanced up the River,  
that the Pagoda at Ingelie should be washed black, the  
great Tree at that place cut down, & the Buoys removed or  
their Positions altered. The Master Attendant & Captain  
Prohier were accordingly ordered to purchase Boats &  
Materials for the abovementioned purpose & to prepare  
everything for the Execution of the Scheme in case of an  
Enemy's Fleet advancing up the River. A Sloop was  
likewise ordered to lay at Ingelie to black the Pagoda  
cut down the Tree, and the Buoys were taken up. But in the  
Month of June the Buoys were ordered to be replaced &  
the Sloop at Ingelie withdrawn. We had certain  
Information of the Enemy's Forces being landed on the  
Coast, & that our Squadron was superior to theirs, which  
removed our Apprehension of their coming directly to  
the Bay & rendered those Precautions less necessary.  
The Boats & Combustibles were purchased before we  
received the above advice & are now in the Company  
Stores.

12

We have already advised of the Arrival  
of the Hardwick Capt. John Lamson & of the Dispatch  
of the Mermaid Sloop to Fort St. George with the  
Pachett for that Presidency received p Hardwick.

The

The Mermaid left Madras the 18 October & is daily expected to be expected in the River

13

Upon the Application of Cap<sup>t</sup> Tedd put on board the Ilchester as soon as she was off Shore 200 Tons of Petre, as we have done likewise on the Wards & Hardwick which will facilitate their Dispatch upon Return.

14

In the Month of March we required the Gentlemen at Madras to inform us as early as possible how far they would be assisting in the Dispatch of any of the Ships to Europe this Season and whether it would be agreeable to them to have one of the Ships then in the River sent up in Sept<sup>r</sup> with her Charter Party Rice Wood & Saltpetre & 1 or 500 Bales from hence to be filled up & finally dispatched from their Presidency. In answer to which they acquainted us they had no destination of the Grantham Cap<sup>t</sup> Oliver as they were in want of a Vessel to carry home some Ads. of Importance, & for tonnage for near 1800 Bales. We had in Hand instead therefore of dispatching her to Canton, they should send her directly to England in or August with a compleat loading of Bales, as by Information we found it unnecessary to station a Ship to be filled up in September on the Coast. We purpose to have sent the Ilchester to Europe early in December

a compleat Loading from hence; But the select Committee having desired the Board to give the Commanders of the three Ships then in the River Directions to obey their Orders in an Expedition to the Southward. We acquiesce with their Request as we were assured by them it would be of the greatest Importance to the Company's Affairs to send a Body of Troops to Visagapatam which could not be effected without the Europe Ships were permitted to transport them to that place. We are in hourly Expectation of the arrival of two of them at least & shall proceed in loading them for England the moment they arrive in the River.

15

It being necessary to send two small Vessels upon that Expedition for the Conveniences of landing the Men & Stores, we purchased the 100 & 110 ton Sloops for that use, the Company's Carpenter & Master Attendant having first surveyed them & reported to the Board their Condition & Value.

16

Captain John Tedd departed this Side of a River on the 22 July & we have confirmed James Ward late Chief Mate of the Gloucester in the Command of that Ship.

507

On the Arrival of Capt: James Ward the Board informed him of your Honours Appointment of him to the Office of Master Attendant & directed him to take

3

to take the Charge of the Marine of this Settlement &  
such which he accordingly did.

18

Sometime after he delivered in a  
Letter to the Board with some proposals for the Reg-  
ulation of the Poch Head & a Reduction of the Expence  
the Marine. Upon a due Consideration of the said  
Report (which is entered after our Consultation of the  
Sept<sup>r</sup>) the Board were of Opinion that most of the Prop-  
were proper & that they would tend to the Benefit of  
Company and Settlement in general. Capt<sup>r</sup>. Barton  
therefore directed to put them in Execution with such  
Alterations & amendment as the Board at that time  
We flatter ourselves that We shall be able to reduce the  
Branch of the Company's Expence still more, when  
we come to take the particular parts of it more immediately  
into our Consideration. We hope to acquaint your Hon<sup>r</sup>s  
before the Departure of the Ships of this Season, the Re-  
sults of our Examination.

19

The Company's Sloop Cuddalore  
Capt<sup>r</sup>. Baker being sent on a Cruize of Intelligence  
the Governor & C<sup>o</sup> of Fort S<sup>r</sup> George, fell to seawards  
that port on her Return & put into Bengall: & the  
Master Schooner arrived here the 23<sup>rd</sup> October from th<sup>e</sup>  
after a very tedious Passage. Upon a Representation  
the Master Attendant concerning those two Vessels

ordered the Hunter Schooner to be sold at Outcry & directed Capt Barton to convert the Cuddalore Sloop into a Schooner.

20

The President & C<sup>o</sup> of Bombay wrote to us in April & May to supply them with 500 Tonns Petre. In Consequence of this Request We have sent 1000. Badds on the Hardwick Capt. Hatcham & 200 Badds on the Bombay Frigate Capt. Crichton. The Remainder shall be forwarded by such other Conveyances as may proceed to that Presidency.

21

In our Letter of the 22<sup>d</sup> October We acquaded your Honours of the Advices We had rec<sup>d</sup> concerning the Quantity of surplus Pepper there was likely to be at Fort Malbro this season, & that We should dispatch two Ships to that place to be filled up in case the annual Ships of this Season arrived in time; We have accordingly stationed the London to fill up with Pepper at Bencoolen & should have made the same Appointment of the Warren, if Capt<sup>t</sup> Glover had not informed us it was necessary to heave her down, which will detain her too late in the Season.

22

Since writing thus far the Ilchester imported from Vizagapatam this Ship We are now lading with Spales & shall be able to dispatch her from hence the last Week in December. We may likewise expect the Worcester in a very few days, as she was to return as soon

24

as ever she had landed the Cannon & Military Stores, w<sup>ch</sup>  
which she & the Hardwick was sent to the Ward of Uzapp

23

As the Warren must come up to  
& cannot on that account be dispatched to Bencoolen  
We have determined upon sending her in January  
Fort S<sup>r</sup> George to be filled up & finally dispatched to  
Europe from that Presidency

24

We had determined before upon sending the Worcester to Bencoolen, to fill up with Pepper but as Wedsteem it of more Importance to forward the Investments from this Place on the earliest Conveyances, We shall on her arrival immediately proceed in lading her with the Bales We have in our Warehouse, & hope to give the Captain his Dispatch by the 20 Jan<sup>r</sup>. Instead of the Worcester, We propose to order one of the Ships still expected from England to Fort Mallrō to take in the surplus Pepper at that Settlement if those Ships arrive in time to be returned to Europe this season via Bencoolen.

25

The Hardwick will in like manner be returned in February with a compleat Loading from this Place, & We flatter ourselves with the hope of being able to dispatch another Ship from hence this season conformable to what we wrote your Honours in our Letter of the 29 October.

Colo

26

Colonel Forde having recommended  
 Capt: James Ward very strongly to the Board for his  
 Readiness in doing every thing in his Power to his  
 Satisfaction, & for his good treatment of the Officers, and  
 Men who were Passengers in his Ship, We sent for  
 Capt: Ward, & in Consequence of Col: Forde's Request  
 returned him the Thanks of this Board for his Beha-  
 viour; We beg leave likewise to mention Him to  
 your Honours as a person very deserving your Notice,  
 We wish we could say as much of Capt: Samson,  
 whose Behaviour is much complained of by Mr:  
 Johnstone,

27

The Requests of Letters rec'd from  
 Capt: Tidd & Ward with the Master Attendant's Reports  
 & Surveys of the Ilchester are transmitted in this  
 Packett under the Numbers annexed to them in the  
 List of the Packett.

28

Secondly of Goods from Europe  
 or from one part of India to another:

Your Honours will find by our  
 Consultations of the 20<sup>th</sup> March that We have referred  
 the Deficiency of Copper & Grantham & Fox to be  
 settled between the Company & Owners of those Ships  
 in Europe, & that for the following Reasons, The Parcer-

4

of the Grantham had objected on the Bill of Lading  
to the Weight of the Copper laden on that Ship & as your  
Honours had accepted the Bill upon those Terms, & had  
not wrote us anything concerning it. We were of Opinion  
that in Justice We could not insist upon Capt Oliver  
paying for the Deficiency, & therefore delivered up his  
Bill of Lading. Capt Hume applied to us by Letter  
to have the amount of his Deficiency referred to Euro<sup>pe</sup>  
as the Copper turned out right in Sale, which We com-  
plied with the Short weight of it being but trifling.

By the enclosed account sales of  
29 Broad Cloth & Copper made the 18<sup>th</sup> June you will  
observe those Articles have sold at a very high  
Price, particularly the Copper & Aurora Broad Clo<sup>th</sup>  
which are still in great Demand; We much  
request therefore that our Indents may be punctually  
complied with, as the Company will We shall  
Ourselves reap great Benefit by their Imports  
this Settlement in future.

30 Upon the Arrival of the London  
& Warren We advertised a publick Sale of  
Broad Cloth, Lead & Copper for the 27<sup>th</sup> Decr  
what was sold in June being mostly clear  
out.

31 As the ordinary Broad Cloth  
& Pepper