

Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad
Selected Letters

Vol - 1



VOLUME

8

Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad Selected Letters

Part 1



Edited by
DR. EKNATH PAGAR



HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
2017

**Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad
Selected Letters : Part 1**

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१८ ऑगस्ट २०१७

BEST WISHES

Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad of Baroda, whose regime spanned over six decades, was a benevolent ruler who worked for the welfare of his people. In the pre-independence days, he experimented with modern democratic principles of governance. Because he believed that governing a State was a science, and the ruler had to be discerning and wise, he studied the science of governance the world over. The State of Baroda saw innumerable initiatives introduced and implemented successfully by him.

Today, all over the world, there are several measures that have been taken, and training imparted, at all the levels, with regards to good governance. We, too, in our country, have been doing it. On this backdrop, it is deeply satisfying for me that the State Government of Maharashtra has published, extensively, volumes of material on the Maharaja's admirable governance in his State of Baroda.

The literature will introduce to the world this iconic ruler, who was much ahead of his times and had made the wellbeing of his people his goal in life. These writings would also be inspirational to all those who believe in excellence in their respective fields of work. My hearty congratulations to Publication Committee and related all and hearty greetings for publication of volumes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Vidyasagar Rao'.

(C. Vidyasagar Rao)

Devendra Fadnavis

Chief Minister
Maharashtra



Mantralaya
Mumbai 400 032
10 July, 2017

BEST WISHES

It is, indeed, a matter of great satisfaction that a work of several volumes, dedicated to Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad, who inculcated the principles of freedom, equality and brotherhood in both his own administration as also in civic life, is being brought out by the Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad Source Material Publication Committee, State Government of Maharashtra.

While creating a model, benevolent, welfare state, Maharaja Sayajirao also made sincere efforts to bring social reforms into practice. Measures undertaken, like free and compulsory primary education, agricultural reforms, water management, clean drinking water, drought-relief measures, knowledge sources made available in vernacular languages, creation of a reading culture, education opportunities for the tribal population, an ideal legal system, empowerment of local bodies for the decentralisation of power, an encouragement to arts and culture etc, reflect the excellence of his personality.

These works will serve as effective guides to the content dedicated to his administrative, social and cultural endeavours, his speeches, correspondence, diaries, official statements and ordinances, historical expositions, series of publications and administrative reports, and will most certainly be of help to the students of history, administration and political science.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Devendra Fadnavis".

(Devendra Fadnavis)



Vinod Tawde
Minister
School Education, Sports and
Youth Welfare, Higher and
Technical Education, Marathi Bhasha,
Cultural Affairs, Minorities Development and
Wakf



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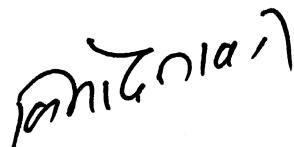
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BEST WISHES

The State of Baroda, in the history of pre-independence India, came to be known as a “laboratory of modern democracy”. Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad, who hailed from a simple farmer’s family, went on to become the ruler of a state. In his 64-year-old reign he implemented a democratic rule instead of the feudal setup that was prevalent till then. He was the first ruler to make primary education compulsory, and passed progressive laws like eradication of caste discrimination and untouchability and a law in favour of widow remarriage. His rule was based upon progressive, liberal, modern principles. In order to bring about development, he laid emphasis on infrastructural growth and a network of railways and roads, formation of co-operative banks and industries, construction of nalabunding and farm ponds for sustainable and effective water management for agriculture, the use of modern equipment for farming, education and training in agriculture for the children of farmers, a library in every town, state-of-the-art technical education, training of healthcare workers, gymnasia for women, specialised training in diet & nutrition etc. These initiatives laid down the foundation of a modern living. Maharaja Gaekwad undertook ambitious projects in the fields of literature, arts, history, research, archeology, and translations of books on science. His contribution to the progressive social movement and the development of knowledge in Maharashtra is significant. He is remembered for being a pillar of strength and encouragement to iconic figures like Mahatma Phule, Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, Vithal

Ramji Shinde, Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil, Justice Ranade, Lokmanya Tilak and the revolutionaries working for the independence movement.

The legacy of this farsighted ruler would be inspirational even on the journey to the future. That is why the State Government of Maharashtra has undertaken the project of the compilation and publication of his speeches, letters, important documents pertaining to law and administration, his other writings and papers evaluating his work. His life and times are not only inspirational to the newer generations but his work can serve as a guide to those involved in the administration of the state, researchers and management experts, lawyers as also economists who can benefit greatly from the documents related to his experience as a ruler as also his experiments with modern democracy. It is keeping in mind these facts that the State Government of Maharashtra has undertaken this initiative.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "विनोद तावडे" (Vinod Tawde) in Devanagari script.

(Vinod Tawde)



रविंद्र दत्ताराम वायकर

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२३ ऑगस्ट २०१७

BEST WISHES

The decision of the State Government of Maharashtra, to publish the biographical resources for research on Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad of Baroda, honours the remarkable work that he carried out during his reign.

As the head of the State of Baroda between 1875-1939, the remarkable qualities of this ruler and the way they touched every aspect of governance, have come into limelight with this initiative. The work that he undertook for the welfare of his people will serve as a beacon to the new generations.

After being trained by Dewan T. Madhava Rao in the administration of the State, Sayajirao started on the implementation of initiatives for the economic development in his State in 1881. He also stressed reforms in the legal system, the resurrection of the Gram Panchayats, and compulsory and free primary education to improve the levels of literacy in his State.

His work, in the field of education, gave a new direction and new hope to the people. Because he was of the view that needy students on scholarships should not remain restricted merely to bookish knowledge, and, instead, should also give a scope to the creativity within themselves, he set up the Kala Bhavan, which is an excellent example of his foresight and progressive thinking.

His contribution to the field of social reforms was significant. He brought an end to the purdah system, the practice of selling of girls, and child marriages. He also brought about progressive legislations for women's welfare and passed

laws regarding their right to ancestral property. He set up 18 schools for the children of the oppressed classes, thereby destroying the social walls between people of different castes. The Maharaja also had the honour to have awarded a scholarship to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar.

A ruler who,in that era, also supported the formation of creative and elegant social amenities, respected those who were a part of the freedom struggle, and undertook reforms to help agriculture thrive, may come across as unique in today's technology-driven days.

The introduction to the life and work of this multifaceted personality,through the publication of the biographical resources for research, is indeed a laudable effort. I extend the best of my wishes to this initiative with the hope that it will serve as a guiding light to the youth of today.



(Ravindra Dattaram Waikar)

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MAHARAJA'S LETTERS PRECIOUS TREASURE

"Historian Vishwanath Kashinath Rajwade had, four decades back, published an article listing out the names of 100 greatest personalities of the state of Maharashtra. Maharaja Sayajirao's name topped the list."

"Like Shivaji Maharaj, who fought guerilla warfare with the enemy, Sayajirao, too, found different covert means for the same purpose. I consider these men the pinnacle of the Aryan civilization. Nothing compares, in more than a century of the rule of the British, the work that Sayajirao did in his 76 years of life."

"He inspired, with his own example, great national figures like Lokmanya Tilak, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Lala Lajpat Rai, Surendranath Banerjee and Mahatma Gandhi."

"At one point in the history of the country, Maharaja Sayajirao was the only ruler from among 500-600 rulers of princely states to have played a revolutionary role in the politics of the country. This makes him a guide of other princely rulers. Not only that, by supporting the revolutionaries, he fought the British government all his life."

These quotes by G S Sardesai, one of the greatest historians in the country, are enough to demonstrate what Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad, the visionary ruler of Baroda, was capable of. Sardesai, himself known as a historian, researcher and writer, had, for 37 years, worked as a reader and the Maharaja's personal secretary, and subsequently as a tutor of the princes. He also headed the accounts department along with the department of archives and records. He worked with the Maharaja till the age of 60 and was a close witness of the administrative and familial ups and downs in the Maharaja's life. Sayajirao was very particular about discipline in work and the fact that Sardesai worked with him for close to four

decades shows his affection for and devotion towards the Maharaja. While working in several capacities in the state of Baroda, Sardesai developed his passion for writing and research and later acknowledged that the credit for his growth as a researcher and historian goes entirely to the Maharaja. Sayajirao asked him to translate 'The Prince', a 16th-century political treatise, by the Italian diplomat and political theorist, Niccolò Machiavelli. This was the beginning of Sardesai's writing career and he was later known as one of the best historians in the country as also a researcher and writer.

2.

It was in 1887 that Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad undertook his first journey to the west. He was curious to know the reason why such a small English establishment had managed to overpower and intimidate the rest of the world. Over the years, like an inquiring student, desiring knowledge, he visited the schools and colleges, various organisations and businesses there. He studied the society, the difference in the way the administration was run, the discipline in work, and realised that education and progress, by embracing science and technology, was the tool for a change for the better. He got the best from the western world into Baroda. He travelled abroad 26 times and studied foreign art architecture, museums, public parks, libraries, archives and storage of records. He knew that if history was to be understood the way it unfolded, it had to be neatly archived through newspapers. In 1916, he started a department of archives and maintained records called Charitra Sangraha. He appointed G S Sardesai as its head and handed over the work of maintaining the records of all official and unofficial written communication, old letters, diaries, descriptions of celebratory events of the royal family, his own speeches, communication related to the princes, accounts and appointments to this department. Sardesai, with the help of his staff, worked on the categorisation and editing of the material and classified it as follows:

1. The Maharaja's writings including his private letters.
2. His speeches.
3. The documents related to the princes, letters, accounts and appointments.

4. Chronological arrangement of photographs of both family and official events.
5. The Huzur Hukums or the Maharaja's instructions, both personal and also official, regarding the state.
6. Samples of the writings of the Maharaja and his sons, notes made as also a list of their collections of artifacts.

Twenty copies were made of the writings based upon the above classification and were kept in the library, palace office, the palace library, the department of archives etc.

Along with this Sardesai also meticulously made a note of significant happenings in the Baroda administration and the Maharaja's reign. He wrote several articles, reports and notes made on the Maharaja's rule after the coronation, his educational records, his campaigns, his travels within the country and abroad, the major reforms that he brought about, the official events and the events in the darbar, the royal children's birthdays and weddings, the Maharaja's own training, likes and dislikes, hobbies, the way he functioned, the construction of several buildings and monuments that was undertaken on his behalf etc. Several copies were published in order to make it easy for the future researchers-writers-publishers on Baroda and its history.

The Maharaja's correspondence:

Written correspondence played a very big role in the 64-year-long reign of the Maharaja. Personal letters, family correspondence, administrative orders, petitions, letters to and from friends and innumerable such letters were strewn all over the Baroda administration. It was not possible to publish them together. Old petitions, appeals and allied correspondence were on the verge of damage. Sardesai chose the most significant letters and compiled them. He writes, "Some of the letters were possibly troublesome considering the times they were written in. These were separated and handed over to Khaserao Jadhav, Maharaja's close associate and friend, for safekeeping." It's unclear what happened to those letters later but they were most certainly against the British government and also perhaps contained details of the Maharaja's association with the revolutionaries and hence could have posed trouble.

I tried looking for those letters with Khaserao Jadhav's grandson Suvrat Jadhav, with the Maratha Samaj, Baroda, and Nana Saheb Shinde's descendants but because most people do not have the disciplined approach of meticulously safeguarding the things associated with their heritage, or understand the historical significance of it, it was all lost in the passage of time. I feel bad that we were not able to lay our hands on some of the most explosive correspondence in the history of India.

The Maharaja wrote thousands of letters in the over six decades that he ruled the state. Initially, there were no copies made of them and that was why there was no possibility of they being included in Sardesai's compilation. Only those whose copies were available in the official records could be taken. The entire life of the Maharaja was filled with ups and downs, both in his family life as also in his political career. Because his family life was painful, and because his people's welfare was his only goal, he immersed himself in work and lived a disciplined life. There were times when he felt very stifled and hence the letters, written to his mentors and friends, as also the diary that he maintained became a source of emotional release. His letters to Elliot and his closest friends often reflect his extreme suffocation.

Sardesai has mostly chosen letters related to family, administrative and social issues. The Maharaja wrote a diary regularly. Often the diaries carried the rough drafts of his letters. Later he dictated the letters to his secretary. Only those letters that carry his signature have been included. The letters written on his behalf by the Diwan or the Maharaja's secretary etc have been left out. Sardesai feels that only one fourth of the total number of letters that the Maharaja wrote have become a part of the compilation.

The original four volumes of his correspondence have been published in English. The first volume was brought out on October 25, 1923. It carries letters from 1886 to 1901 and in all has 612 letters. The second volume was published in 1924 and has letters from the year 1901 to 1915. The letters range from number 613 to 1263. The third volume was brought out in the year 1935 and carries letters between the years 1916 to 1920. The letters included here are from 1264 to 1810.

The fourth volume was brought out in 1936 and contains letters between 1921 and 1933. It carries letters from number 1811-2195. The fifth volume was a supplement of the fourth and was brought out in 1939. It has letters from number 1811-2073, written between the years 1875 to 1915.

Volumes I-IV of the Maharaja's letters have been published. They contain 2195 letters. Some of the letters were left out of the compilation. They have been included in the Supplementary volume. Volume IV contains letters from No.1811 to 2195. The remaining letters have become a part of Volume IV (Supplementary). The Supplementary volume should have started with letter no. 2196. But it has started with letter no. 1811 and ended with 2173. There are 263 letters in the Supplementary volume. There could have been a possible repetition. There are 2195 letters between Volume I and IV and 263 more letters in the Supplementary volume. Together, 2458 letters have been chosen. The volume in English doesn't include the Maharaja's letters in Marathi. The translation of the Foreword by Dr. Eknath Pagar in Marathi into English by Gayatri Pagdi, in such short time, has been of great help.

Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad created a benchmark of excellence in the governance of his state. Throughout his life he was driven by the thought of the welfare of his people. Working for them was, for him, almost like attaining spiritual liberation. He was a generous patron of arts and culture and a rock-solid support to all those who needed to be helped. His writings, as also the writings of others related to him, are our national treasure. The State Government of Maharashtra believes that preserving, presenting, and enhancing this treasure, by sharing it with the people, is a task of national and cultural significance. This mammoth project has become a reality only with the support of Minister of Education, Honourable Shri Vinod Tawde; Honourable Shri Ravindra Waikar, State Minister of Higher & Tech. Education; Additional Chief Secretary, Shri Sitaram Kunte; Joint Secretary, Shri Siddharth Kharat; Director, Higher Education, Dr Dhanaraj Mane; Director, State Bureau of Textbook Production & Curriculum Research, Dr Sunil Magar; Controller, Shri Vivek Gosavi, Dr. Shailendra Deolankar, all the Government officials involved, as also members of the

Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad Source Material Publication Committee and all the editors and translators of the content. It is because of the involvement of all these people that the work of publishing 30 volumes on Maharaja Gaekwad, simultaneously, has been possible in such little time. I am glad that the administration has given me an opportunity to play a little role in this major initiative. This work will be inspirational to all those who work towards the welfare of the people of the state, the administrative officials who carry out their responsibilities with efficiency, and the people of this country.

Date : 27th August, 2017

* *The day of Second World Religious Conference, Chicago, 1933.*

* *Maharaja Sayajirao was President of same Conference.*

- Baba Bhand

*Member Secretary,
Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad
Source Material Publication
Committee, Aurangabad.*

INTRODUCTION

It is with a great sense of satisfaction that I present this collection of letters by Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad of Baroda. These letters were compiled during a biographical project on the Maharaja and date between the years 1875-1933. Riyasatkar G S Sardesai had classified them from the point of view of a historian and with the meticulousness of a researcher. He involved himself with this massive project due to his fondness for the Maharaja. We bring the entire work to light, once again, by the recreation of the collection of the Maharaja's letters.

Correspondence is an effective tool of communication. The letter as a literary form seems to have emerged to exchange knowledge, information, emotions, ideas, dreams, expectations, orders and appeals. Sayajirao's writings are motivated by his innovative ideas, opinions, and their expression. He had set up an entire system to organise the written notes, their copies, and follow ups of communiqué.

His letters are a reflection the socio-cultural aspects of the time as also a linguistic expression of innovative sentiments. They are a dialogue with kin, friends - both in the country and abroad - intellectuals, the most senior British officials in the country, other Englishmen, administrative officers - both Indians and non-Indians, the officials of the princely state, rulers of other states, kings and emperors. His letters, a paragraph or two from his diary, a letter by Justice Ranade, have been included here. His letters are from the points of view of the various roles that he played: A Maharaja, an able administrator, a ruler who truly cared for his people and a benefactor with a discerning eye.

The letters are an expression of the Maharaja's personality as also the life and times of the era. His developmental initiatives, his concern for the people, his desire for independence, his self-respect, intellect, his style of functioning and the success that he achieved are all on display

here. The letters are, however, only a fraction of what the Maharaja was all about. This fine collection of factual documentation is all about his historical, social, educational, political and cultural awareness of the times that he lived in, as also self-awareness and universal awareness.

The Maharaja believed that letter-writing being an art, it should be practiced skillfully, and that was why he acknowledged it as both, a science and an art.

His learning

The 12 years that he spent in Kavvana were only about being with the nature. He had no education. On May 27, 1875, on a Thursday, his adoption ceremony took place in Baroda. He was also coroneted. His earlier name, Gopal, was changed to Sayajirao (III).

His education started. A young ICS officer, F H Elliot was to be his tutor. Elliot was the Director of Education in what was then known as the Varhad region and was appointed on December 10, 1875. He set up the syllabus based on the English Public Schools. The languages that would be taught were Marathi, Gujarati, English and Urdu. The other subjects would be history, geography and arithmetic. Elliot was also assisted by the other teachers. A curriculum was decided upon and followed. Sayajirao would also be trained in art, sports, activities like swimming and physical exercise. Elliot was an excellent mentor and it was with his guidance that the young Sayajirao's love for knowledge grew multifold. Elliot also designed programmes that would encourage curiosity and achieve excellence. As regards to the young man's academic progress, Resident Melville observed that along with economics and chemistry, Sayajirao would be taught languages like English, Gujarati and Marathi, the history of England and Hindustan, as also conversational English. He was asked to write essays in English from time to time in order to improve his proficiency in English. However, he was very poor in arithmetic. Melville's words shed light on the subjects that the young Maharaja was instructed in. Sayajirao's academic as also administrative training went on almost for the next six years.

It was decided that the young man would take over the reins of the state as an adult on December 28, 1881. Three months prior to that the Diwan, T Madhava Rao, organised a series of lectures by 150 experts on different topics related to the governance of the state. The topics included administration, political science, the duties of the ruler, land revenue, justice & law, treatises of Hinduism on dharma, day-to-day workings, police force for the prevention and detection of crime, land-related conflict, military, etc. These lectures played a major role in shaping the young king. They appear in the book 'Minor Hints'.

The Maharaja was fortunate to have around him people like T Madhava Rao, Elliot and other such experts from various fields. His studious nature helped him acquire the understanding of the world and its ways. The Maharaja also had the intellectual company of Aurobindo. Historian G S Sardesai was in the service of the Maharaja for long. He was the Maharaja's reader.

In his autobiography 'Majhi Sansaryatra' (My journey through life), Sardesai writes, "The tasks like checking the Maharaja's mail and newspapers, and reading them to him as per his schedule, responding to private mail on his behalf, marking the difficult words from the books that the Maharaja read and making notes on them etc, ordinary clerical work, took about two to three hours in a day. The Maharaja quickly realised that the rest of my day was wasted. He had, at the time, completed the reading of 'The Prince' by Machiavelli and 'The Expansion of England' by John Robert Seeley. He than gave me the work to translate them into Marathi..." (pg.95)

Because he did not like even a moment wasted, he (the Maharaja) would make me sit by his side to read out or dictate letters to me even while shaving... I would have to sit by his bedside at night and read for hours. I would begin to read at about 11-11.30 and go one till 3-4am. I read out books in English and Marathi, novels, and abhangs by Tukaram. (pg.102)

He was particular to absorb each subject through his hard work and careful that no one could point out a flaw. At the age of 18, when he took over the functioning of the state, he had to learn a lot of practical things as an adult. I have taught

him fractional exponents in mathematics sitting in the Alps of Switzerland, Marathi grammar in Kashmir's Gulmarg, the Bhashantar Pathmala (an iconic work relating to English and Marathi grammar and translation) in Nainital, and 'Kale's Lessons in English Translation' in Mussoorie. (pg. 103)

The Maharaja devoted himself to the welfare of the people and brought about a lot of educational and social reforms. At the base of it was his studiousness and erudition.

Sayajirao had a fascination for new books, newer knowledge, and new subjects. He insisted that they be translated into vernacular languages and got the work done of the best of knowledge sources. He set up a separate department of translations later.

He acknowledged the significance of the committee of anthropology set up in Mumbai. He also became a member of the committee and informed the other members, "The utility of this institution will be felt in diverse ways, and it will leave a record of valuable information to generations, that will succeed the present generations that will have brought home to them a fund of information, which the former badly lacked." (*Letter No. 13*) He wanted the historical facts of various areas of life and society to be recorded and opined that "the future of the country would be shaped and influenced by the information we collect of its past and present." (*Letter No. 13*) In reality, these subjects were novel for the country at the time but the Maharaja carefully studied the ideas of newer streams of knowledge.

Sayajirao also got the best of talent in various subjects to the state of Baroda. For instance, he had asked General Watson to look for an expert in horticulture (*Letter No. 20*) and, in his letter to Khaserao Jadhav (*Letter No. 22*), he expressed his desire to set up a school of agriculture and asked Jadhav to return after getting his diploma from a university of agriculture overseas.

The Maharaja tried very hard to get books. For example, he asked his nephew Ganpatrao, who was studying law in England, that he should look for the book 'Gaekwad vansh' (the genealogy of the Gaekwads) in Sanskrit and check with Max Müller how he could obtain it. His letter to his brother Sampatrao thanking him for getting done the translation of a

book on croquet (*Letter No. 53*) is another such instance. He expressed his desire to get books on golf, the game of graces, Lacrosse, football, lawn tennis, badminton, cricket, translated into Marathi and Gujarati. He also gave a practical advice that a book ought to be saleable. He thanked Mr Ozanne for a book sent by him. (*Letter No. 76*)

When the subject of forestry was relatively new the Maharaja had decided to send a few students on a scholarship to Europe in order to study it. (*Letter No. 95*) It was his desire to include such Indian experts on newer subjects in the service of the state of Baroda.

Sayajirao also made it a point to understand contemporary issues or historical issues with contemporary significance. He was interested in the analysis of the cultural and political happenings in Europe. Let's look at his communication with Col. E R C Bradford, Political & Secret Secretary, England: "I was reading long accounts of Prince Bismarck's resignation and the surmises and expectations of his successor." (*Letter No. 98*)

The letter reflects the Maharaja's sharp and independent understanding of the possible political ramifications after Bismarck's resignation. Because India was the colony of the British then, its association with Europe was complicated and the changes in the political scenario of Europe had a direct impact on the politics of India.

The Maharaja's friends, too, recommended books to him and he procured them. He got some of the special works translated into Indian languages. In his pursuit of knowledge, the Maharaja became instrumental in the spread of reading. Lady Reay had suggested Lord Haughton's biography and Smalling's 'London Letters' (*Letter No. 107*). Sayajirao acquired the books and planned to read them. (*Letter No. 107*)

The Maharaja was deeply influenced by Bentham's 'Theory of Legislation' (*Letter No. 203*). He had made notes on it and also wanted to turn them into a book. His study of law-related books was far superior to any other ruler of the time. His passion for reading added value to the social and political decisions that he made as a part of his governance. He was also influenced by the Greek and Roman history. He hastened the process of the translation of some of the volumes of 'The

Story of the Nations' book series (*Letter No. 251*) He did not agree with the belief of keeping western knowledge at bay or discriminating against the knowledge and faith of others. He knew that bringing western writings into Indian languages would facilitate a comparative analysis and boost knowledge. His passion was to bring the best of knowledge from different parts of the world into vernacular languages. His belief was, "The more one learns, the more to spread knowledge among the poor and ill-favoured millions – this is in my view the right disposition, though I fear it would be looked on with scorn by the spirit, which considers learning as desecrated by extension." (*Letter No. 251*) What is clear from these words is his effort to create a culture of reading and a society that reads. He had read up a lot about Rome while in Baroda, eg. 'The Holy Roman Empire' by Viscount James Bryce. (*Letter No. 249*)

His letter to Yashwantrao Pandhere, who had completed his graduation from the college of agriculture in London and was preparing for the Bar exams, advising him to gain knowledge, reflects on his deep thinking. (*Letter No. 363*) He writes, "I may roughly suggest that a general acquaintance with modern European history will be useful. You should especially study the history of Germany and Italy up to date. Besides, you might profitably read 'The Expansion of England' by Prof. Seeley." He also wanted Pandhereto attend classes on the art of diplomacy. His advice to a young man who had studied agriculture and law to boost his knowledge of the world clearly points out to his experience of the world and farsightedness. His valuable advice in this letter is that reading improves your language and writing style.

His passion for reading kept him morally occupied. It was as if he had vowed to expand his intellectual horizons, to absorb the new world, new thought and experiences. Says he in a letter of May 9, 1899, to Lady Twiddle, "You cannot imagine what deep subjects I have been tackling lately. I have actually attempted the misty ocean of Philosophy, and though it was a poor little crackle-shell I sailed in, I have got some ideas of the general bearings of those waters." (*Letter No. 400*)

He wrote to Rev. Edward St. Claire Weeden about Gibbon's book, "It familiarises one's mind with the past and enables

one to appreciate and compare the influences of the past with the actualities of the present." He suggests that from the study of history one gains a perspective on the present. His craze for reading was very high at this stage and his engagements did not leave him with much time to read. He wrote, "I have indeed been working very hard. I suppose, work always increases with the interest one takes in it; and it is my natural impulse to work hard." (*Letter No. 408*)

The Maharaja made notes to give a structure to his reading, absorption, understanding and theorising. He made his responses in writing. He regularly wrote a diary, accounts and personal letters. He had placed a great emphasis on the pursuit of knowledge in his political, social and cultural dealings. He had informed the principal of the Grant Medical College, in response to the latter's invitation to him, "the advancement of the cause of human knowledge." (*Letter No. 466*) In his letter to Maharaj Madansingh Bahadur, Kishangarh, he wrote, "At present I impress nothing more on your attention than the importance of educating yourself thoroughly. Knowledge is power and you will realise this, I am sure, in due time." (*Letter No. 565*)

In a letter to his mentor, Elliot, he wrote, "If you ever come across good books, you must buy them for my library, provided they do not exceed in a year about one hundred pounds. Will you buy and send me some books on the beginning and the growth of the nation? I wish to study the question of nation from an Indian point of view. There are a few lectures on the Indian questions, which I shall send you by the next mail or so." (*Letter No. 567/June 5, 1901*)

The Maharaja's personal collection of books was extensive. He gave a prominent place to valuable books, fundamental writings on various subjects, and to libraries that accommodated writings, which reflected the times. His journey of acquiring knowledge began from diligently and earnestly studying a topic and reached independent creative thinking. He placed importance on social reformism while working on nationalism and knowledge-based Indian-ness. He rejected orthodoxy and ritualism, ignorance and superstitions. He wished to codify the Hindu law and was in the process of preparing for it. (*Letter No. 567*) His canvas of

erudition was wide. It included politics, history, religion, education and philosophy. The chief justice of Baroda, Kharshetji, had once given him the book 'World Politics' to read. The Maharaja sent him a letter thanking him for it. (*Letter No. 579*)

It was because of this passion for acquiring knowledge that Sayajirao read up on chemistry, health, medicine, technology, railways, agriculture, water conservation and its management, horticulture, architecture, museum, publishing, translations, primary education and university education, politics and history. All of this helped improve the state of Baroda and the condition of its people.

Sayajirao often gifted books to his scholarly friends, British officials, and other heads of states. It seems that many gifted him books, too. Maharaja Shri Bhupendranarayan Bhoop Bahadur (the premier of Kuch Bihar) sent him the books 'The history of Kuch Bihar' and 'Land Revenue Settlements' (*Letter No. 783/June 1904*). The Maharaja of Benaras sent him 'Hitoki' (*Letter No. 912/March 1910*), the Maharaja of Ajaygadh sent him a genealogy of the Chatrakuls (*Letter No. 945/December 1910*). Sir Hugh Daly had sent him a book (*Letter No. 1042*), the Nawab of Palanpur gifted him 'The history of the state of Palanpur' (*Letter No. 1066/October 1912*), the Maharani of Bhavnagar, Nandkunverba, sent him 'British and Hindi Vikram' (*Letter No. 1411/February 1917*), the Maharaja of Kolhapur sent him the book 'Native states and past war reforms' (*Letter No. 1556/December 1917*).

The Maharaja had sent to the political secretary of Shimla, John Wood, three books written by R C Dutt (*Letter No. 1520/October 1917*). Dutt was a noted economic historian whose thesis on India's economic exploitation was written from a historical perspective. The Maharaja was sounding out the political secretary on certain economic history. He himself was also familiar with the books' contents.

The book, 'A year with the Gaekwar of Baroda', was written by Edward St. Claire Weeden (*1911*). The Maharaja wrote to him, pointing out some obvious errors. (*Letter No. 995/March 1912*) The Maharaja did not find Weeden's understanding of Baroda deep enough. He also felt that a photograph of the Maharani should have been included. He wrote, "I should so

much like you to be with me in the districts to record my impressions. I think a very interesting book, showing the Raja's and people's life, can be produced." (*Letter No. 995*) This communication with the author is an example of the Maharaja's understanding of the creative process.

Libraries were started in the state of Baroda for the purpose of expansion of knowledge. Prior to that the Maharaja had brought out a detailed book of the regulations for these libraries. In Letter No. 839, there is a statement of intent where he says, "It is necessary and desirable to provide and encourage the spread of knowledge in small towns and villages and to create a love for reading." The regulations regarding the creation of free libraries, donations to them, gifts of books and periodicals, the local management committee, their organisation and functioning, throw light on his love for books, sharing books and his sincere desire for augmentation of knowledge.

Whether it was the subjects of the state of the staff, the Maharaja always placed importance on cultural wisdom and understanding. In Letter No. 999 he says, "A man, in these days, besides possessing thorough knowledge of his own line, must possess wide knowledge and culture to watch and study the progress of the world."

The Maharaja was an avid reader and the span of his reading was very wide. His reading included periodicals, newspapers, scholarly and light reading and political and historical reports. There is a letter available stating that he was sending in the five-year subscription amount for the magazine 'India'. (*Letter No. 947*) Letter No. 1453 states that he was in the middle of reading a novel by Walter Scott. He also felt a need for translations into Indian languages in order to be able to share and exchange information and knowledge of different languages. He wrote to his officer Ambegaokar asking that the issue of translations be given a priority and to also decide upon the guidelines for the future; to set aside a budget for it; more and more useful commercial steps should be taken for donations and the benefit of the people... These are the kinds of instructions that appear in the letter 1323. He writes, "I attach great importance to the translation of useful and healthy books from foreign languages into our

vernacular. I have asked Ambegaokar to take into consideration all former orders and experience on the subject and frame rules regarding the policies of the future... This ought to form a chapter of the Education Code which I hope is being brought to completion. I should see every year at least from ten to fifteen books translated into easy, simple Gujarati. I am writing you now to get 'A short history of Natural Science' by A B Buckley translated. If there be better books than this on the same subject, I have no objection to have one of them translated instead of this. It must be always borne in mind always that when I suggest a book for translation, the officials concerned and especially the Ministry of Education is in duty bound to suggest a better book in case there be one than the one I might have suggested from my limited knowledge and to see that the books suggested by me are fit one for a translation from all other points of view." (*Letter No. 1340*)

Other than people's tastes and wishes, the issue of the kind of information that should reach the people was taken into consideration. When he suggested a book, he would also give details of where it would be available. What was more important was that he would also give details of supplementary information. The policy was to adapt the book to the needs and traditions of the people of this country. There would be reminders sent to the Diwan from time to time. Letter 1463 carries instructions like "I am anxious to have some useful popular series translated for the benefit of our people. It is a necessary part of the development of our educational system." He was of the opinion that books should be clear, simple and of practical utility. The Maharaja would also suggest the right people for the translations. What subject should the book series be on? Sayajirao's policy laid emphasis on value-based and useful information. The clause of 'Book-translation-subjects' was also referred to Educational Commissioner Clarke. (*Letter No. 1465*) He had also presented the necessity of books on Moral Science for the lay readers. His frequent reminders to Manubhai Diwan (*Letter No. 1470*) reflect on his basic intent of encouragement and expansion of knowledge.

He had also sent a letter to Clarke expressing his satisfaction at the work of translation that was undertaken.

(*Letter No. 1696*) The Maharaja advised him in the letter that in order to reach the people a modern and comparative understanding of faith, lectures of Mrs Strong should be translated. He also declared that by reaching this literature to the people and encouraging them to think, as also to use it to solve day-to-day problems was a big achievement. It was the Maharaja's policy to alert the Diwan, senior officials and heads of education department. He had sent the translations of the Indian epics 'Ramayan' and 'Mahabharat' to the Prince of Wales. (*Letter No. 1857*)

Because history, political science and moral science were the chief subjects that the Maharaja contemplated on, he regularly read a lot of books based on the analysis of their concepts. His knowledge of history and political science, his communication with the Viceroy, Resident, British officials, his scholarly friends from all over the world, reflects his confidence and humility. He was well aware of the rules before the advent of the British, the arrangements and treaties between the rulers of princely states and the British government, and the laws relating to power sharing the world over, both written and unwritten. He had studied them with all sincerity. The references to the books of the Indian experts like the book 'Indian constitutional problems' by Sivaswami Iyar and, another, 'Rajyaneeti shastranchi Mooltatve' (The basic tenets of political science) by B T Kale (*Letter Nos. 2091 & 2109*), and the discussions on the works demonstrate his intellectual maturity. Let's look at the excerpt from the Letter No. 1900: "At Rome I met the English ambassador, the king of Italy and Mr. Mussolini. I enjoyed seeing these personages. This adds to the interest of life. I could have done a lot of the kind before, but I went more for moving from place to place and seeing nature instead of studying man, the full and developed product of nature. I will try to see something of man, though it may be a bit too late. However, better late than never."

In his 60s, the Maharaja wished to start studying human nature. The scholars, the influential and the karmayogis from all over the world were a part of the Maharaja's experience of life. He travelled to Europe, America, China, Japan and other places. Despite being a ruler of a state he devoted himself to

humanity and the benefit of the common people. In the process of teaching himself, he pursued the passion of universal learning. He did not believe that a king embodied divinity. (*Letter No. 1915*) It is through Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad of Baroda that we can see how a ruler's responsibilities and his instruction, that benefits his people, takes him from the ordinary to the extraordinary.

The variety of his letters makes his image as a benevolent and erudite king get sharper.

My dear sir...

The letters to the Maharaja's mentor Elliot always began with "My dear sir" Elliot's guidance and training as also his service to the state of Baroda gave the Maharaja much in his own life. It also lasted him the lifetime. Eliot, on his part, had the good fortune to watch the Maharaja grow as also the state of Baroda progress during his long tenure between the years 1881-1895. Because Elliot wasn't of much benefit to the British government, he was recalled.

After he took over the governance, the Maharaja assigned Elliot the duty as a Settlement Commissioner for land-related issues. The British government demoted him and Elliot returned to Europe. The Maharaja's correspondence with Elliot was the highest during this period. He always maintained very cordial relations with Elliot's family.

Letters to Elliot are chiefly on subjects like governance of the state, the interference of the British government, the functioning of the officials, new thought, social reforms and social initiatives. But because Elliot was in service of the state, the responsibilities that he was supposed to carry out were clearly marked. The Maharaja made observations like "I find that times are changing and we require more efficient personnel in all Government departments." (*Letter No. 1830 supplementary*) He also gives a candid opinion that the changes were not positive; they were rather useless.

The Maharaja kept Elliot informed on political, social, cultural and even family issues. For instance, the strike by small merchants and traders against the Modifications to the Stamp Act (*Letter No. 1850 appendix/ August 1889*), taxation (*Letter No. 1850*), the Barkhali land issues (feudal land grant) or then the Bapat episode.

When it came to Elliot, the Maharaja's writings are mostly autobiographical. He also mentioned to Elliot several personal, family situations. For eg. Her Highness Maharani Jamnabaisaheb made certain demands (*Letter No. 1902 supplementary/February 1890*). Her demands included (1) the issue of jewellery (2) the money that she spent (3) the amount given to her. The last one is very personal. Jamnabai was his adoptive mother. Barely a year after Sayajirao was adopted into the royal family, Elliot had arrived on the scene. Elliot was aware of the personal issues and family dynamics. The Maharaja kept him informed. Whether in form of his views, reactions or emotions, Sayajirao expressed himself openly. He mentions the reasons for this in one of his letters (*Letter No. 1911 supplementary/ July 1890*), "No one is so more interested than you are in anything that concerns me."

The British government created hurdles in the Maharaja's work as also his private travel plans to Europe. For instance, in 1892, it was suggested that the entire power should be shifted to the Council. This would have severely affected the state of Baroda. The Maharaja did not want confrontation, nor did he wish to come across as defiant. He sought Elliot's opinion (*Letter No. 1920 supplementary/ July 1892*)

The British stranglehold tightened and the Maharaja expressed his helplessness to Elliot in a letter "Do we live in an age of liberty or do will only possess an image of it? How helpless are we? Such thoughts often come into one's mind." (*Letter No. 1942 supplementary/ July 1894*)

The Maharaja had also sent a telegram to the Governor General asking him to send Elliot in the service of the state of Baroda. Because some of his staffers were targeted, the Maharaja thought that Elliot's presence would help. (*Letter No. 1963 supplementary/October 1894*) Resident Col. Biddulph had, in order to harass the Maharaja personally, started creating difficulties. He wasn't sympathetic and had deliberately vitiated the political environment. (*Letter No. 1968supplementary/ February 1895*) The Maharaja had studied the reports on the Bapat issue and then sent hit to Elliot to get a second opinion. (*Letter No. 1972 supplementary*)

Some of the land in Baroda was gifted off to feudal lords and certain temple trusts as a part of a type of a type of

feudal land grant. These lands were called Barkhali lands. They did not yield revenue. Elliot was appointed as the Settlement Commissioner for the redevelopment of this land. Elliot meticulously worked on the inspection and ownership documents of the land and took some hard decisions. This upset the temple trusts and the feudal lords. A staffer called Vasudev Bapat assisted Elliot in this work. Col. Biddulph and the Diwan plotted against Bapat and accused him of receiving bribe in the course of his work. Biddulph started an enquiry through the Diwan. An unhappy Elliot returned to Europe. A commission was set up against Bapat. Bapat was friends with Lokmanya Tilak and the Resident overstepped his professional boundaries and gave the entire episode a totally different hue. Pherozeshah Mehta was the government prosecutor and realised that this was a setup to frame Bapat. He refused to participate in the trial. Lokmanya Tilak took Bapat's case and fought it. After the Maharaja returned from Europe he set up a committee to look into this matter.

The Maharaja had asked Elliot to gather intelligence on the corruption in the Barkhali lands all over the state simultaneously. (*Letter No. 1/January 1886*) He had also expressed his satisfaction at the work done. (*Letter No. 17/September 1886*)

The Maharaja wanted Elliot to accompany him on his trips abroad. The British government, however, created hurdles. (*Letter No. 44/June 1888*) Sayajirao trusted Elliot implicitly. Elliot's company had added to the Maharaja's courage and self-confidence. It was Elliot's advice, guidance and friendship that had made him the Maharaja.

Elliot's work reflected his disciplined approach, restraint and honest efforts. He could gauge what the Maharaja expected out of him and how best he could get it done. The Maharaja's association with him was informal. There are a lot of references in his letters to Elliot expressing happiness as also concern. The Maharaja was involved in the Elliot family's emotional ups and downs. This further strengthened their bond. Elliot was aware of the superior status of the Maharaja. Even while shaping the personality of the young king Elliot also treated him with respect. The Maharaja had always reciprocated. For instance, let's look at the following

statement by the Maharaja in Letter No. 55: “I do not want to make any changes in the Brakhali rules, and I am not astonished to know the way you write. If the experience shows that the rules have better had some changes, I expect the rules to come from you and nobody else. I look upon the question of Barkhali as settled and it only remain with you now to carry it out.”

Or then his words to Elliot in Letter No. 58: “I am very sorry that you are to leave me for some time. I am really deeply thankful to you for the great and affectionate interest you have taken in me. I shall never be able to repay it. My people will also feel your departure as they must know or they will come to know the great and just care that you have taken of their adequate interest.”

The tax evaders in the case of the Barkhali lands had created a ruckus against Elliot. The Maharaja himself was satisfied at the honest and lawful decisions that Elliot had made. When Elliot decided to keep away from the state the Maharaja, keeping in mind all the virtues of Elliot’s personality, tried to dissuade him from leaving and invited him to rejoin his work. His works are appealing, requesting and full of trust. The Maharaja wrote to Elliot, “How I miss you here.” (*Letter No. 67/May 1889*)

The Maharaja wrote candidly to Elliot of his health issues, his personal emotional upheavals and his frustration at the growing interference by the British government. Elliot held a special place amongst the Maharaja’s trusted aides. His emotions of tenderness, anxiety, confusion, sadness, all find their expression in his letters to Elliot. Every time the Maharaja decided upon new initiatives he preferred to consult Elliot, give his own opinion on the subject and also expressed his expectations. For e.g., “Kindly propose some rules as to how you should dispose of the cash Dharmaday and Devasthan cases, which have been decided since my minority as “until further order” cases. (*Letter No. 109/March 1891*) Or “I send you by this mail, the books relating to Bapat Commission. If you have any remarks to make, you might make them. I will, of course, make much use of your remarks, as will be just. If you choose not to make any remarks, you can do so in your discretion.” (*Letter No. 147/April 1895*)

The Maharaja also informed Elliot of the mischief created by certain British officials. When, in the course of administration of the state, if there were errors made by some, in the midst of all his frustration and exasperation, the Maharaja wrote to Elliot: "I feel frightened and disgusted to take any real part in the government of the state. I begin to distrust myself and feel confused as to what I should do. The duration of the result of my labours is uncertain and causes me keen disappointment. The cause of good government must suffer by the hard treatment given to native states. I am frequently reminded by the Agent to the Governor General, of the Bapat case, and I am told that it is a serious responsibility on me." (*Letter No. 193/August 1895*)

The Maharaja involved Elliot in his own highs and lows, desires, dreams and his experiences with various people, incidents and kinds of personalities.

Letters to Diwans

In the British era, the Diwan's post was a significant administrative post. The power to make administrative decisions automatically came to the Diwan. The Diwan's position was that of an advisor and also that of an authority figure that got the ruler's orders executed with the help of the state government officials. His post was akin to that of the Prime Minister today. The Diwan was also under some pressure from the British government. He was directly in touch with the Resident and officials higher in hierarchy, as also with the Governor General. All the departments of the state came under the Diwan's authority. The king, of course, had the final say. He also had the authority to choose and appoint the Diwan. The British, too, played a role in the decision.

In his administrative career the Maharaja's major share of correspondence was directed at the Diwan. All the orders, directives, proposals for new initiatives, political and personal steps taken, form a part of his letters to the successive Diwans. Sayajirao's reign saw almost 14 Diwans: T Madhava Rao-7 years (1875-1882), Khanbahadoor Shahbuddin Kazi-4 years (1882-1886), Bahadoor Laxmanrao J Vaidya-4 years (1886-1890), Bahadoor Manibhai Jasabhai-5 years (1890-1895),

Bahadoor Srinivas Ayangar-5 years (1896-1901), Jaisingh Rao (temporary), Bahadoor Ramchandra V Dhamnaskar-4 years (1901-1904), Kershapji Rustom Dadachanji-5 years (1904-1909), Ramesh Chunder Dutt-1909 (half a year), C N Sedan-3 years (1909-1912), Biharilal Gupta-2 years (1992-1994), V P Madhava Rao-12 years (1914-1926), Ganpatrao (Acting), V T Krishnamachari -16 years (1927-1943).

The Maharaja's letters to these Diwans is a treasure-trove of the administrative, personal and the socio-political happenings throughout the times of Sayajirao's reign. They are of great historical value and display his statesmanship, decentralisation of power, and his orders and are also autobiographical in nature. This correspondence is especially significant because it sheds light on events in his personal life as also political events, administrative events, information related to his officials and the administrative staff, events related to the British Residents and the British government, natural calamities, social, educational and political developments, events related to the heads of other princely states, his experiences with those who he held intellectual meeting sessions with etc.

The Maharaja has expressed his reactions, responses to issues, emotional churning and his feelings for his own as also others, candid to the Diwans. His intent for a decentralisation of power and his desire to get good work done from others is clear in his communication. His directive that the Diwans should take all the steps in order to make the political, cultural, social, agricultural, scientific and knowledge-related initiatives come into being, remains a common feature in his letters to all of them.

The Maharaja also kept in touch with the Diwans that had retired. He used the medium of letters to express his desire for the betterment of the people and the restlessness that he felt. The Diwan played the role of the advisor as also an executive body. The Maharaja treated them with respect and friendship.

Shahbuddin Kazi, after retirement, sent him a letter with some of his observations regarding Baroda. The letter was sent in good faith and, perhaps, had some suggestions. The Maharaja wrote back to him from Ooty on July 4, 1895. He

was going through the report of the Bapat Commission. The Resident had asked for some more documents. The state officials were being cowardly. Wrote he to Kazi, "The fear or seeming fear arises out of mere self-interest. These officers are self-educated. The natives would ten times more boldness and desire to oppose the British government, if they found it growing weaker, as they are afraid of at present. I write this not as a prince discontented with the British, but give my impressions to a friend, as they strike a person in my difficult position." (*Letter No. 171*)

In the same letter he adds: "If I had been warned of the mischief that was taking place in the Barkhali, the state would have been spared the large outlay of two lakh of rupees in the case of the Bapat Commission. I seldom get an opportunity of expressing my ideas, and so I have taken an opportunity to do so. We are often abused but we seldom have a chance of retorting. Princes are often painted out as vicious demons and weak people but nobody has ever had the generosity of the plain truth and the manner in which coteries of high officials combine to do them hard and how their good acts are taken advantage of by others. Bad ones only are ascribed to their own mischievous and weak geniuses. (*Letter No. 171*)

It is obvious that even after Kazi's retirement, the Maharaja maintained friendly relations with him. In the entire Bapat episode, the high-ranking officials and the Diwan had connived to vitiate the environment. Despite the Resident and the British officers having no business to get involved in the Bapat episode, they had done it in the Maharaja's absence. The Maharaja had realised that the British officers were using the entire situation to harass him. He gave vent to his dismay in the letter to Kazi. His words reflect the extent to which he was affected by the entire sordid episode. He also knew very well that the British government tried to find reasons to defame the heads of princely states.

The Maharaja trusted the Diwans. He appealed to their conscience and sense of morality. He made arrangements whereby the Diwans took certain decisions on their own. There were certain decisions to be made regarding extraordinary expenditure. At times, he worded his directives in a way that made them read like requests and expectations. For instance,

in the letter he wrote to Laxman Jagannath regarding an increment to Elliot: “I think Mr Elliot deserves promotion on several grounds and I should be glad if you will kindly take the necessary steps to give him Rs 200 more over his present pay and in addition to his pension contribution.” (*Letter No. 42/April 1888*)

The terms like “I should be glad” and “deserves promotion” turn his directive into a request. The respect of the Diwan remained in tact and the Maharaja’s expectations were fulfilled. In this letter (*Letter No. 42*) he had initially mentioned his distress but in Letter No. 54, he has clearly expressed his opinion regarding an issue: “It is a matter of sincere regret that two or three cases against some officials in our state have been allowed to linger so long, without any final decision.” (*Letter No. 54/January 1889*)

To Laxman Jagannath he writes, “I do not myself wish that you should now think of retiring, for the administration wants a very strong minister at its head, and you know how difficult it is to get a man of that stamp.” (*Letter No. 57/Minister Laxman Jagannath*) When you note words like ‘strong minister’ and ‘retiring’, it is easy to understand the way in which the Maharaja dealt with his officials. His words held a veiled meaning of “improve upon your leadership or accept retirement.”

The several litigations and issues that surrounded Barkhali lands were leading to a new law being put into place regarding them. The letter also asks Laxman Jagannath to be ready for any eventuality. Even in the midst of his travels, he was always to be informed of the developments in the state and checked with the Diwan if there were any directives to be given. He wished for the administrative system to be dynamic under the leadership of the Diwans. (*Letter Nos. 62, 69, 74, 84 and many more.*)

If an official erred or was stubborn or violated discipline, the Maharaja took an appropriate action himself. (*Letter No. 84*) When the Diwans put forth proposals, the Maharaja studied them, analysed them and discussed them before making his decision. (*Letter No. 84*) At times he shared personal events with the Diwans considering them his friends. He was also sensitive to the ups and downs in the lives of his Diwans.

His letters carry the various events that took place then, the Maharaja's decisions with regards to them and his feelings on the issues. For instance when Manibhai Jasabhai stopped the khichdi given to the Brahmins, they complained to the Residency. The Maharaja then clearly advised the Residency to keep away since the issue did not fall under the purview of their authority. (*Letter Nos. 133, 140*)

The proposal to start local panchayat bodies in 100 villages, the desire to make the scheme applicable to the entire state, the fundamentals of a state's progress, the opinion that when people's rights are taken away, it weakens the king (*Letter No. 140*), the declaration regarding khichdi, the decision that Ambalalbhai, after his resignation from his position in the British government, should be appointed as the chief justice of Baroda, more information should be sought on legal issues, salaries and pension. (*Letter No. 130*) He also raised questions and expressed his reservation on issues like why should the state be charged for the travels of the British officers to Europe, when appointing them did not serve any purpose?

He also gave his opinion on the matters of compulsory education, the budget for it, the preconditions for the plan, educational material and accessories required for children of all castes and communities, the amount of 12 to 15 lakhs needed for the entire state under this policy, the fact that the educated looked for a strong government, the acceptance given to the plan of compulsory education (*Letter No. 126*), whether the work of translations should be given on contractual basis, who would give an explanation on the Bapat issue (*Letter No. 175*) etc.

He observed the functioning of each department minutely and made his observations on various issues. The letters carried queries like, has the written order been issued on the directive that the committee including the Diwan, Huzur Kamdar and the head of the department should file litigation regarding the Barkhali land and the reminder to file an appeal, further references needed (*Letter No. 176*), why he wasn't alerted about Bapat's behaviour (*Letter No. 164*), the one-month leave has been approved, an indirect suggestion about retirement (*Letter No. 165*) etc.

He has also issued orders regarding various other issue – for instance, a reminder of Hargovinddas' transfer to the Military Department. Hargovind Das had done excellent work and was “practical and promising” and hence had taken over as the Military Secretary, he was asked to dispose off all the recommendations made by the Education Commission, before the new director got into the way of his work. ...Who was to be the new incumbent? (*Letter No. 149*), a special permission given to him by the government to buy a house in Mumbai (then Bombay), a discussion with Ambalalbhai and Mr Pandit regarding the hastening of the Bapat issue, inquiring after the Diwan’s health (*Letter No. 206*), the need to know the names of the Sardars that had made a complaint to the Residency and the possible hand of an influential European official in this development (*Letter No. 188*), how he found Pune (then Poona) “very dull” and how Baroda had more attractions than this... the need for give and take of ideas, and why his orders could be brought back to him for second consideration in case they were not right (*Letter No. 187*)... The expectation that there should be a bound documentation of the appeals that had been placed in front of the Huzur Kamdar office etc. were other issues that he made his observations on.

Other observations include how Huzur Kamdar would give information regarding the applications towards the end of the year and how they had been disposed of. The entire responsibility of the disposal of petitions lay on Huzur Kamdar including the rectification of errors, improvements in the draft, and that points are made in writing to go on making the necessary improvement in their work, the presence of Huzur Kamdar when the Maharaja’s post arrived, the essential presence during the reading of each petition and its explanation, all the other petition, whether by post or any other source should be acknowledged by the Huzur Kamdar. (*Letter No. 186/Letters related to administrative procedures*)

Then there are also other observations. For instance, “I have read the programme of the Viceroy’s tour. I hope Col. Martelli will find out whether the Viceroy will visit Baroda.” Or “Today is the birthday of Prince Fatehsinh Rao. He commenced his 13th year. I take immense interest in the intelligent and pleasant boys. I wish Fatehsinh Rao was of

age now to take up my work. We have indeed very limited scope to do certain lasting good. My struggle at present is only to keep up the interest in all the adverse political circumstances." (*Letter No. 184*) "I have been reading the Bapat case, making a rough study of it, and have now formed a more precise idea of the subject. There is none whom I can consult with perfect safety. Everyone is known either as a partisan of Bapat or as a partisan of the prosecution; and where to find the man with requisite knowledge, whose impartiality will be above suspicion, is not easy to tell. I have asked Mr Pandit and Mr Ambalal to study the papers of the case. (*Letter No. 181*)

The above letters to Diwan Manibhai clearly trace the varied events taking place, the environment of the time, Sayajirao's efforts for the wellbeing of the people and the workings of his administration.

The Maharaja made written notes and placed importance on them. Whether the issues were political or personal, he was a man of restraint. His personality comes across as just, honest, a neutral administrator, as also a firm authority figure. The Diwans were kept constantly busy and the Maharaja himself was never idle. There was a certain system of governance of the state of Baroda that the Maharaja had decided upon and he had the determination to not tolerate lack of discipline, whether it was the workers, officials, senior officials, heads of departments, or the Diwan.

There are 37 letters available that were written to Diwan Ayanger. Some of its main points are: "The Pattan water works scheme has been sent for approval. Let an expert water works engineer decide upon its feasibility... Get the scheme of water supply in Sankheda and Bahadarpur approved and running... Ask the chief engineer needs to submit a detailed report with proper calculations and the amount of details required. As far as possible let the same establishment should do the whole work instead of having two establishments into two different places. I should like a similar, if not a better scheme, submitted to me for supplying water to Sinore. The P W Department should have a comprehensive table of calculations ready for easy reference and guidance for all such schemes, that may arise in the time to come." (*Letter No. 268/December 1896*)

"I have been seeing at almost every taluka, towns and the government buildings. I must say that systematic care has been wanting in their location. There is a decided lack of a guiding hand in fixing their locations. The buildings do not look to be smart and well kept; and their strength, considering their cost, looks, to an ordinary observer, as unsatisfactory. Conveniences in some of them do not form a main feature. I quote, as a proof, the Sidhpur Dharmashala. All these points carefully attended to can produce more satisfactory and lasting result for the money we spend." (*Letter No. 276/January 1897*)

The question of the rapid disposal of work in the office of the Diwan... "Certain well considered steps should be taken to further quicken the flow of work, instead of letting papers pile up." (*Letter No. 280/January 1897*)

The issue of the complaint of the Chief Medical Officer's complaint.... "His certain subordinates complain also of things getting worse in the department. I think the matter requires sifting and firm handling in the interest of all concerned." (*Letter No. 282/January 1897*)

Certain powers in uncontested small-cause court suits should be given to the Naxar or the Shirastedar of a Munsif or a judge's court. "It was explained at the time that the powers were merely mechanical and formal, and involved no scope for mischief... I would recommend early steps." This would lead to a saving of time of the courts and the judges. Also "I have read Mr Pandit's draft about the Village Panchayat." (*Letter No. 298/April 1897*)

His concern about Prince Fatehsinh Rao's education: "I should like that you should omit the limit of age, at which Prince Fatehsinh Rao should be able to join an English or Indian college, but simply say that, consistently with his health; his studies should be pushed on vigorously. The aim of his studies should be to join an Indian college or be legally able to enter one. Maratha boys, as a rule, soon get fond of occupations, which are detrimental to real studies and therefore special care should be taken that no time of his is frittered away." (*Letter No. 272/April 1896*)

"Cases of offenders found faulty in connection with the industrial encouragement loans. Please expedite the disposal

and submission of these cases.... Selfish and half-educated men in the western modes of thought and principles of business... claim justice and leniency as a matter of right to themselves; but they are unwilling to treat others or the State itself in the same manner. (*Letter No. 274/December 1896*)

"Kheralu, a Peta Mahal, has only 29 villages under it. Except the size of Vadnagar, and Kheralu and this ought to form one taluka." The Maharaja desired that taluka towns should be supplied fresh water either by gravitation or by means of digging wells. The subhas had informed him that relief-work had been budgeted that year. He writes, "You can see how earring and tiring is the system of red-tapism!... The fault may be more of individuals than that of the system."..."To supply Vadnagar with water has been a long desire of mine; and I should feel happy, if you can persuade the P W Department to make up their calculations and estimates and make my desire an accomplished fact before many months are over. Can the necessary engines and pipes be hand in Bombay? The P W Department should make their calculations ...so that the initial cost, the cost of maintenance, repairs, and renovation of machinery and pipes etc. should come from the coffers of the people in due time rather than make the State pay for it... As soon as the P W Department give the cost of water per head, the people will be shown the calculations of the cost, before the thing is begun... The engineers and other establishment of the water supply should always be considered as servants of the municipality rather than State servants... From the Sidhpur plan water could be supplied to Vadnagar, Mehsana and Chanasama...The scarcity of fresh water in this part of our Raj and the well-to-do population of the towns, make the question of water supply more interesting and, to a good extent, exacting." (*Letter No. 275/December 1896*)

"A ward of 15 beds should be built within the grounds of the Dufferin Hospital. It will be known by the name 'Victoria Ward'. The ward will be built, in the first instance for female patients but in case they do not come it would be used for other purposes. Five of these 15 beds will be for the accommodation of five respectable people who may have to pay the rest for occupying them... I particularly wish that

this ward should be built on very good sanitary principals.”
(Letter No. 312/July 1897)

“I have decided to put and try Mr Keshavrao Pandit as Khangi Karbhari. This post always requires a strong and independent man, who would be strict in the execution of orders... It is not enough that the Khangi Karbhari should only passively acquiesce in the policy instituted... In the absence of a firm, independent and broad-minded conduct, the policy might fail...Should the discharge of his function not be satisfactory, it may be necessary not to continue the appointment.” *(Letter No. 317/July 1897)* This letter reflects the Maharaja’s attitude towards the duties of private officials as also the Khangi Karbhari.

“Plague duties imposed upon certain officers are doing harm and it is very necessary that they should be relieved either of their usual work and placed on special duty or the reverse of it.” *(Letter No. 321/January 1898)*

“I should like the legislation to go rather rapidly and each matter brought to an effective conclusion.” *(Letter No. 324/January 1898)*

“Mr Pandit, the Naid Dewan, might be entrusted with the appeal work sent by the Huzur Kamdar... this will relieve you of that much burden.” *(Letter No. 328/March 1898)*

The Maharaja corresponded with all the Diwans and kept them busy. He gave them orders and suggestions and, if found wanting in their work, point it out indirectly to them. He also wrote to the Diwans when they were on sick leave and kept them up to date with details and decisions. Because of the administrative discipline that the Maharaja insisted upon, division of work and the Maharaja’s knack to spot the right people for the right job, the Diwan’s work was done very systematically. The Diwan would also make all the administrative officials aware of their responsibilities. Those who erred were not spared. The Maharaja himself kept in touch with his people, was always focused on the betterment of the State, gave a thought to his connection with the British and always included everyone from the Diwan to his friends in the decision-making process. He did not tolerate indiscipline and kept a keen eye on the work being faultless. If he did find the quality of work inadequate, he would point it out

through the Diwan. “It is the duty of yourself and other high officers to see that every servant of the State of whatever rank conducts himself, on all occasions, in a manner that is only proper in every way.” (*Letter No. 1279*)

“In the old days circumstances and the life the Rajas lead were different and probably they knew much more than I can do. Government is now more settled, constitutional and decentralised, and the chances for a Raja now to know are comparatively fewer in consequences.” (*Letter No. 1279*) When he writes this to the Diwan he’s trying to make the Diwan more pro-active accountable.

While communicating with the Diwans, the Maharaja insisted upon developments in administration, governance and the running of the state. He also asked for confidential reports on government servants and officials. For instance, the Abkari Report. “I think the Preventive Establishment should be improved and competent men put into it.”... “Ask the Superintendents and Abkari Commissioners to mention independently the names of persons that they may consider incompetent and their reasons for so considering. (*Letter No. 1329*) “The qualifications of the men to be entertained in this important Abkari post should be fixed and, if necessary, we may transfer from other departments, men that are likely to be useful.” ...“I am inclined to entertain him (Mr. W Beechy) in our service... provided he continues physically and mentally fit for his work and gives satisfaction in the discharge of his duties.” (*Letter No. 1329*) When an expert was to be employed the Maharaja gave clear instructions that, “Please impress upon them that they should exert and see that Government gets the utmost possible benefit by the sale and that it does not financially suffer.” (*Letter No. 1329*)

The Maharaja would, also, pay heed to the complaints that appeared in newspapers. For instance a report in ‘Sayaji Vijay’ (*September 1916*): When he read of the condition of the toilets in the third class railway compartment of the Kadi Division, the lack of punctuality of railway timings and the shortfall of adequate bogies, he wrote to Diwan Manubhai to rectify all the problems. He also made a note of it. (*Letter No. 1343*)

In September 1916, the Maharaja was in Srinagar. His insistence that the Diwan look into issues and his personal

involvement sheds light on his sensitivity. Today it might seem surprising for a Maharaja to personally look into complaints of toilets in a third class railway compartment but Sayajirao's desire for wellbeing of his people at every level prompted him to urge the Diwan to take care of the matter.

When some official erred in his work, he was fined. "Mr. K B Desai did not attend to my orders to have certain papers ready. With sorrow he is fined Rs 10." (*Letter No. 1404*)

The Maharaja insisted upon an inspection of every department and got work done. He demanded that all the reports, notes, observations and opinions would be sent to him in writing. In one of the letters he also says that the Diwan should ensure the standards of excellence of each department.

He wouldn't, however, depend only on these written reports and observations. He preferred to meet people and connect with them. After meeting in person he would give directives addressing the inadequacies and suggest possible improvements. He was of the opinion that the staffers should work sincerely. His letter to Diwan Manubhai from Mehsana, Kadi Division, (*Letter No. 1720/January 17, 1919*) is significant. He says, "I am disappointed that facilities have not yet been given to Mehsana and people of other town to extend their habitation. Time is wasted in circulation of papers from office to office, from an individual to individual. By interest and proper intelligent supervision this can be checked and should be checked." He also adds, "The police should not only have the power to bring Abkari offenders to justice but should be, I think, specially empowered to examine the liquor shops with the view to see that laws and government orders are carried." He wanted this information showed to Mr. Hurst, the then commissioner of police. He was glad that the police were "well-housed in several places and the accommodation in Mehsana was splendid." He also suggested that if there was any pending work, it should be completed with a guarantee of completion given. There should be a sufficient number of clerks under the Personal Naib-Subas. He writes, "I should like to make my visit longer and more frequent and fruitful of results by settling many questions on the spot." The Maharaja asks that the officers should be ready to put forth a matter to him.

He says, ‘The officers should be more ready and place matter before me with that view than waste my time in Tamashas.’

When he asks the officials to not waste time, it is very significant. It was important to see the real conditions instead of the pomp and show of his arrival. He had also advised Manubhai, “Our legitimate energies are wasted in attending to trifles or we are defeated in doing useful work by delays and by placing matter before us in an incomplete and unsatisfactory way. All this ultimately is doing no good except perhaps temporarily to a few dishonest people.”

In the course of this advice, the Maharaja makes a mention to three facts: 1. Energy is wasted in insignificant things. 2. Work is delayed. 3. He facts are kept hidden. The Maharaja did send this letter (*Letter No. 1720*) to the Diwan but also concluded, “I have already written you much and given vent to a some of my feelings.”

In another letter to Manubhai (*Letter No. 1746*) he writes, “With any Maharaja and particularly with a working, the Minister ordinarily works as his Secretary and be in close touch.” He concludes at the end of the letter, “The phraseology of the official correspondence is changing, which requires approval.” The Maharaja noticed in efficiency, incompetence and delay in Manubhai’s work. The words “The phraseology of the official correspondence is changing” referred to the fact that the Diwan had obviously handed over his work to someone else. He also said, “I hope you will excuse my short-comings, that you may note in this note.” In choosing his words he seemed to have wanted to show Manubhai that his career as a Diwan was on a decline.

The Maharaja had sent an important letter to Manubhai about the clerks, officers, Subhas and Sar subhas. (*Letter No. 1824/May 1921*) He expected more decentralisation in departments for the work to be done at better speed. He also added, “They should be in a position to make tippans and their superiors will then write opinion or forward by giving a pronounced status to the heads of some of the shakhas of the Sar Subha.” Today, in administrative work of the government, there is a similar arrangement. Merit should be a consideration while giving promotions, recommendations of good work done with sufficient evidence of the good work

done, suggestions to cut down on costs and better effectiveness of work... etc are the suggestions that the Maharaja gives. He has also passed an order that signature in vernacular correspondence should be in the vernacular. He says, "Our officers should be very careful in making important contracts with individuals or States. They must not only be, but prove that they are above influence and that they watch the interests of the State in a perfectly businesslike manner." (*Letter No. 1825*) When suggests, "We require more efficient personnel in all government departments" and "We should be getting only efficient men whom we would pay well" (*Letter No. 1839*), you can see the specific characteristics of the Maharaja as an able administrator himself.

The Maharaja corresponded significantly with all his Diwans. He also gauged their efficiency and capabilities. That was the reason why the administrative work had better quality workers, displaying efficiency and the desire for the betterment of the people. The Maharaja also studied minutely issues, large or small, the system of functioning, and the plan for it, and then wrote to the Diwans. His efforts to bring in more dedication and efficacy in the work of the Diwans are also very visible here.

Correspondence with the British officials

As the king of the State of Baroda, the Maharaja had to be in touch with the Resident, Governor General, the Viceroy, Minister, India office, the officers in the office of the Governor General, different British officials, the Residents in other States, army officers, the Duke of Connaught, special officers for famine-relief, the secretaries to the British government. The Maharaja always addressed all of them as "Respected Friend".

The letters are related to specific happenings, formal letters, applications seeking consent, clarifications, requests etc. The Maharaja had a significant amount of correspondence with the officers that had visited Baroda and those who had retired and gone elsewhere. A few letters reveal the lifelong association that he had with some of the Residents. The Maharaja's manifestation of feelings and thought were very

neat, disciplined, and arising out of inherent politeness and dignity.

His words display insistence when it came to schemes related to the welfare of the people. There are some letters where he has had to explain himself. When he explained his side there was a subtle persistence. The Maharaja states his position clearly on issues like the criticism regarding his appearance at the Delhi Darbar, the circular sent by Lord Curzon, the compromise of the authority of the states, the plot to malign in the Bapat issue, Resident Biddulph's interference etc. Even when it came to arguing and rendering invalid the opinion of another, the Maharaja would express his indignation with balance and politeness. He was a statesman and practiced the art of diplomacy. He suggested the value of friendly relations while dealing with the British officials. He could express his opinion firmly with offending the major power. Occasionally, he would also consult the viceroy and state his own position seriously. The letter written by him on the principle and scope of the Imperial Service System is very significant. (*Letter No. 787*) He has been careful while writing to Lord Curzon (*August 1, 1904*) to protect his state's interest and yet maintained his dignity as a ruler himself. His position was that of a ruler who would not compromise his people's interests but will also be of assistance to the British government in its time of need. He discusses the history of the Imperial Service Troops. Curzon was the viceroy of India from January 6, 1899 to November 18, 1905. The Imperial Service Troops was started in 1889, due to the Russian aggression that began in 1885. The princely states had agreed to help the British but this help was voluntary and spontaneous. They were a gesture of friendship to the British government and were expected to be temporary. It was not binding upon the kings. The Maharaja makes a reference to it (1890). He also reminds that those who helped the government in its time of need were not bound to pay the Imperial Defenses.

The letter touches upon many points like the state of Baroda's guarantee of military cooperation, a proposal for the kings to accept universal responsibility, the readiness of the state of Baroda for any eventuality, the importance of moral

responsibility, the reasons for a moral bondage (a promise of safety, security and prosperity from the British government, the imbalance in the land owned by the government vis a vis the land owned by the princely states, the presence of the foreign troops on the borders of the country), the contribution of the State of Baroda, giving up of small fight forces and certain rights, the history of the army of Baroda, the opinion that there was no reason to be afraid of the Russian army, the changed objection in the proposal, the principle of volunteers, the need for a new policy, improvements in the arms, a comparison in Indian and German princely states etc. In all, he discusses 27 significant points in the letter.

In the letters to Sir John Morly (*Letter No. 842/September 1906*) and to Lord Minto (*Letter Nos. 843, 865, 883, 990*), he states his position that the states should be allowed a greater degree of autonomy and the interference of the British government should be reduced. It is obvious that the Maharaja made the higher authorities in the British government, like the Resident and his seniors and even the viceroy himself, gently aware of their responsibilities. In a letter to Minto he responds to the allegation that seditious activities are going on in the State of Baroda, he says he would "welcome any opportunities for a close consultation in these matters with your Government whenever necessary." (*Letter No. 865*)

The Maharaja kept himself abreast of the entire goings on of the world war. He sent Rs five lakhs to Lord Hardinge in order to add to the British fleet of fighter planes. He also expressed his expectation that the "devastating war, which is doing so much harm to commerce, trade, and human life, will soon come to a satisfactory end." (*Letter No. 1233/August 1915*) He also made observations like "The Germans seem ruthless in their methods of prosecuting war" and hoped that the allies would win.

The Maharaja has written several letters to Lord Chelmsford. (*Letter Nos. 1663, 1664, 1665, 1670, 1674, 1741, 1744, 1746, 1791*) It seems the Maharaja's relations with Chelmsford were friendly. While he has given his acceptance to Chelmsford's policies, he has also stated his own position on each of the issues. He responds positively to the memorandum on the recognition of successions in the Indian

states. (*Letter No. 1665/October 1918*) He also checks will Chelmsford if there would be any objections to giving him a provisional permit to acquire some land in Simla and also hopes that such restrictions would come to an end during Chelmsford's reign. (*Letter No. 1670*)

In every correspondence of his with any of the Viceroys, there always seem to appear the topics of the situation in Baroda, famine or plenty, and the law and order. The Maharaja wanted the viceroys to pay a visit to Baroda and notice the development measures that he had undertaken. Whether he was in Baroda, at a hill station in India or travelling overseas, he always kept in touch with the Resident, the Viceroy and the Diwan. There are references to his health and treatment and his state of mind as also emotional responsibilities, the pursuit of the people's betterment, the autonomy of the states etc.

The Maharaja's relations with Lord Irwin were friendly. (*Letter Nos. 1982, 2002, 2030, 2039, 2040, 2057, 2063, 2090, 2094, 2103, 2112, 2113, 2127, 2128*) He talks of different issues, ranging from the restructuring on the army, the autonomy of the states and the British government, the prompt flood-relief measures of the State of Baroda, the rights of the states and the form of the agreements, issues concerning Baroda, an invitation to Baroda, and the good conditions in Baroda even when he was travelling overseas. He seemed to be happy with the policy of giving a responsible government to India by raising it to the status of Dominion. (*Letter No. 2090/January 1930*) The Maharaja seemed confident that Lord Irwin would implement the policy effectively. From the very beginning he had wished for a greater flexibility for the rulers of the states and less interference from the government and he had looked at the objections and studied the analysis of this issue. When Lord Irwin started the central controlling body of the Boy Scouts Organisation, he had sent a cheque of Rs 6,000 to Irwin's private secretary. (*Letter No. 2094/February 4, 1930*) The Maharaja had asked Irwin for a policy on the rights to the port in Gujarat and Kathiawar, and the right to salt in Gujarat. In the letter dated March 24, 1930, the Maharaja informs that the State of Baroda was merely asking for its rights when it came to salt. It was around the same

time that Mahatma Gandhi had started the salt agitation. The Dandi March had started on March 12, 1930 to April 1930. The march was against the British government's salt tax. It sparked large-scale acts of civil disobedience against the British government. The Dandi March passed through Baroda. While Gandhi's march began on March 12, the Maharaja has raised the salt issue on March 24. The letters written to Irwin are from then point of view of the wellbeing of the State of Baroda.

When the Maharaja wrote to the Viceroy, he would discuss the issues in Baroda and the state's position. His correspondence with the higher British officials usually asked for a speedy resolution of issues placed in front of the government. The Letter No. 2138, written to Lord Willingdon, referred to the purpose of the ceded territories and the purpose of the cession.

The treaty between the East India Company and the State of Baroda in 1802 was a friendship treaty. It was on the basis of that treaty that the Maharaja had placed the legal details of the expenditure on the subsidiary force, the donations and contributions etc in his letter to Willingdon. It seems that a map of the State was also attached. According to the treaty, an amount of Rs 50,000 per annum, and cash of Rs 7 lakhs and 30,000 was decided upon. In 1805, another safety treaty was made according to which, for the expenses of the 3,000 soldiers and for a European battalion, a specific amount was decided upon. A few districts were ceded for the purpose. In 1817, there was yet another clauses added to it. A battalion was increased and two regiments of cavalry of Indian soldiers were included. The Maharaja referred to the difficulties that have arisen in the matter of administration in the State of Baroda with reference to these facts. The situation was such that the ceded regions were right in the middle of the land that fell under the authority of the State of Baroda. He also reminded Willingdon, "The object of the subsidiary force was expressed to be the protection of the person of the Gaekwar, the overawing and chastisement of rebels and disturbers of peace, the recovery of tribute and the joint operation against any power in India, with whom war may break out."

In the letters the Maharaja presented the picture of losses suffered by the State of Baroda due to the events between 1830-1841 through the presentation of documented facts. The Indian Rebellion of 1857 forced the British Government to pass the Government of India Act. The Act was followed a few months later by Queen Victoria's proclamation that called for the liquidation of the British East India Company (who had up to this point been ruling British India under the auspices of Parliament) and the transference of its functions to the British Crown. The Maharaja considered the treaty of 1802 as the one that was abiding on both the State of Baroda and the British government. He suggested that the arrangement between Baroda and the British government was different from the arrangements with other princely states. This was a treaty of friendship, not subservience. He mentioned, matter of factly, the number of soldiers deployed and the revenue issue. He expected that the status of the states should be sorted out in the new development plan. His letter was sent to Lord Wellingdon on May 14, 1931. This letter is a testimony of the Maharaja's statesmanship and his political, administrative and financial acumen. His reference to facts, their documentation and logical presentation in the letter is an affirmation of his understanding of geopolitik. Said he in another letter to Wellingdon, "I feel very strongly that if India is granted the powers of self-government liberally and wholeheartedly, it will serve, in the truest turn, the interests of India as a whole, for the greater the freedom given, the more readily will the states come to realise that their individual interests will be best furthered by joining the federation."

(Letter No. 2141/ July 2, 1931)

The Maharaja had good working relations with Lord Reading (Viceroy and Governor General). His letters to Reading were filled with details of health, work, travel and policies. The Maharaja had helped Reading in the construction of the Victoria memorial in Kolkata (then Calcutta). *(Letter No. 1852/ December 1921)* He added, "I have just returned from a tour of inspection in my Kathiawar territories. I took advantage of the opportunity of opening a large cement factory at Dwarka last week." *(Letter No. 1852)* Wrote he in another letter to Reading, "With Mr Trump in charge of Residency, I feel quite

confident that harmonious relations, which at present exist, will continue. There have been many changes of Residents within the last few years, and I may be allowed to express a hope that Mr Crump will remain in charge now for some time, so as to secure for my State the advantages of personal friendship and local knowledge. (*Letter No. 1859/March 1922*)

The Maharaja, while informing the viceroy of some of his major developmental works also spoke of his expectations. In a letter to Hardinge he wrote, "I have toured around all the famine-stricken districts and examined the works in progress, and made provision to meet distress." (*Letter No. 1020/June 1912*) In a letter dated January 1913, he wrote, "I am glad to see from the papers that Your Excellency has now almost recovered in health from the dastardly attempt to end your most valuable life." (*Letter No. 1103/January 1913*) "I had been cherishing the hope to come and see Your Excellency before my departure to Europe, and it is most reluctantly that I have to abandon the idea of doing so...due to the state of my health." (*Letter No. 1122/April 1913*) "I hope your anxieties connected with the terrible war going on, will be less... We on the whole escaped all troubles and worries. I was rather anxious for Her Highness, when she was in Austria; but, fortunately, she managed with the aid of the local officials to reach England safely." (*Letter No. 1207/April 1914*)

The Maharaja's correspondence with the Residents was extensive. He worked with a lot of them after his coronation. Many Residents thrived in their association with the Maharaja. Both the Diwan and the Resident were important officers from the point of view of the state. The Resident was a representative of the British government. He had to play a mediatory role between the government and the heads of the princely states. He was very well respected in the state. He would implement the orders and policies of the government in the states. The Maharaja's association with the Residents was good. Care was taken that there was no interference in the decisions taken by the Maharaja or the policies that he had framed, with regards to the state. Many times the Residents were officers from the army. The Maharaja's letters reflect friendliness and a concern for the people's betterment. The letters were always cordial.

The Maharaja came in contact with Col. JB Berkley, Col. F H Jackson, Col Martelli, Col. Impey, Col. Jardin, Col. Russell, Col. Wilkinson, Col. M L Crump, Col. Richard Berk. He was also on friendly terms with the Governor. He was also in touch with the neighbouring Mumbai Governor General Lord Raey. The Maharaja also made efforts to see that in his absence due to his travels, the Residents did not overstep his authority.

The Maharaja was conscious of the position that the Resident enjoyed. Wrote he, "Let me assure you of my desire to treat the British representative as befits his rank and position, and to cultivate with him every friendly relation, and more so with you in particular." (*Letter No. 153/May 1895*) He also adds in the same letter, "You will, no doubt admit, from your experience, how very necessary and important it is to safeguard the rights and autonomy of a Native State." The Maharaja was very particular about issues of revenue, agriculture, railways, water supply, financial empowerment, security and harmony, social development, and education. When inadequacies were noticed, the Maharaja made sure that they were looked into. He tried to also ensure that the Resident's role in this was positive and productive. He directed the Residency's attention at such projects and also kept at bay a Resident like Biddulph who played a less than positive role. He was particular that the Resident should not become authoritarian. The Maharaja also had the moral backing of the people through his policies and actions. At times he had a tête-à-tête with the Resident or asked him to accompany him on a stroll in the course of which he could discuss the issue in question, especially if the topic required discretion. Overall, he does not seem to have experienced any bitterness with the Residents. It's also apparent that the Residents were overwhelmed by the Maharaja's cordiality and friendship.

He seems to have written over 30 letters to Col. Martelli. They touch upon topics like expectation of excellent cooperation, the Pilwai issue and action, the arrangements of those who accompanied Martelli, a pony sent for Mrs Martelli, the issue of the royal regiments, an invitation to the race course, the reminder to follow the system to send in notes on issues, a promise to visit his residence, the information on

Martelli's visit to Bardoli, a query of how the name of an officer was recommended for a promotion when his name did not appear in the discussion? ...The policies regarding plague have been put in place and measures taken to alleviate people's suffering, the arrangements in place to receive E Buck, the clerk who made serious mistakes in the letter has been punished, the permission granted to the Maharana of Dholpur for the construction and arrangements for his accommodation, his presence in the darbar on the occasion of the Maharani's birthday, despite the understanding that a Maharaja should not give gifts to a political official, the gift of a rose water sprinkler being sent...The Maharaja also says, "We have practically no rain and I have started some relief-works." (*Letter No. 429/September 1899*)

The Maharaja did not tolerate interference from the Residents. He pointed out that "The natural desire of the Residency for information leads it sometimes into minute questioning, such as asking for the *raison d'être* of every requisition and trying to satisfy itself whether the reason for making it is strong." (*Letter No. 353/May 1898*) The Maharaja reiterated that both the Residency and the head of the state should not overstep their authorities and, instead, keep a balanced and harmonious connection.

The Maharaja's letters to the Residents and the other British officers display a feeling of friendship, affection and mutual understanding. Another significant aspect of the Maharaja's letters are the acknowledgement in his letters of the members of the family of the British officers, references to their children, and best wishes extended to them. No matter how senior the officer, he was obviously touched by the Maharaja's friendly concern.

The Maharaja also had cordial relations with the British officers that accompanied him on his trip to Europe, like for instance, Col. Fitzgerald. The Maharaja was reluctant to let these officers accompany him because their only purpose was to keep a watch on the Maharaja's activities. The British government appointed its own officers on these trips. But the Maharaja never ill-treated them. In his farewell letter to Fitzgerald he wrote, "I enjoyed your very pleasant society, above all, and your judgment and tact proved to me of great

use." (*Letter No. 125/December 1892*) Fitzgerald, too, had written to the Maharaja. (*Letter No. 218/November 1895*) The Maharaja informed Fitzgerald of his meeting with Lord Elgin and added, "He looks to be an intelligent and sympathetic person, polished in manners and gentle in speech." (*Letter No. 218*) He also spoke of the Bapat issue having come to a conclusion. Fitzgerald had written to the Maharaja in March 1897 and recommended that he receive an acquaintance. The Maharaja wrote back saying, "I wish you come here one of these seasons, so I may entertain you as an old friend." (*Letter 293/March 1897*) However, he also makes a reference to the famine, adding, "You must be well acquainted with the direful state of India caused by famine and pestilence."

Plague was rampant in those days and the attitude of the British government was that of oppression. The general population lived in fear and the Maharaja has subtly referred to it in his letter. He probably wished to inform Fitzgerald that the guests sent by him would be entertained but famine and disease was a reality and the guests should be informed of it prior to their visit. The British officers often sent their acquaintances as state guests and the Maharaja was an eager host. There would be an exchange of gifts and a discussion on the political scenario and the work done. The Maharaja's personality comes across as a generous, ruler, disciplined as also devoted to the welfare of his people.

A dialogue with contemporary heads of states

That the Maharaja's attitude towards governance and actions were very different from his contemporaries is obvious from the letters. He had a unique outlook towards the state, his people, his interaction with the British, the issues of education and social development. The letters also display many aspects of his personality. His connection with his contemporary heads of states was that of friendship, guidance and, occasionally that of an advisor. The British rulers considered all the kings as their subordinates. The Maharaja clearly voiced his opinion that the British were interfering in his personal life, his governance and in the initiatives that he took for the welfare of the people. The kings felt stifled under the pressure of the British government. There were

questions on the equation between the kings and the British, the kings among themselves, and their equation with the people. The Maharaja's response to the issues of the people and their king was influenced by the academic and cultural values that he had acquired. His self-learning, discussions with close friends, reading, and his connection with a mentor like Elliot, had made the Maharaja a dynamic personality. He had got done a Marathi translation of Niccolo Machiavelli's book, 'The Prince', an analysis of the body politics, the art of government and statecraft, from G S Sardesai. (1890) It was called 'Rajdhama' (The duties of a king). Machiavelli's book dwells on multiple issues like the duties and prudence of a prince and the princedoms, the systems of governance, defense and military, the qualities of a prince, a prince's duty concerning military matters, the strength of principalities, Ecclesiastical principates, etc. The books had a major influence on his political contemplation, his sensitivity towards people, and his response to the ruling British government.

The Maharaja's correspondence is filled with his concern for the people, the emphasis that he placed upon welfare initiatives and modesty in front of people. He was of the view that a ruler had to work for his people not out of ego but out of the feeling for his people. In his letters to his contemporary kings, he subtly refers to the king's position in the context of the welfare of his people rather than an existence out of a sense of inflated ego.

The Maharaja was closely associated with the king of Dhar, the Maharaja of Mysore, the rulers of Indore, Bhavnagar, Gwalior, Tihri, the Rana of Dholpur, Raja Kirit Singh of Nandod, the Thakur of Gondal, the Maharaja of Kapurthala, the Nawab of Rampur, the Thakur of Vadhvan, the Nawab of Junagarh, Thakur Mansingh of Palitana, Madan Singh Badur of Kishangarh, Pratap Singh of Indore, the Maharaja of Kashmir, the Maharajas of Kolhapur and Satara, the Maharani of Kapurthala, Kirti Singh of Rajpipla, the Maharaja of Kolongorh, the Begum of Janjira, the Nawab of Bhopal, the Maharajas of Dewas, Orchha, Benaras, Kota, the Thakur of Morvi, the Nizam of Hyderabad, the Maharaja of Alwar and the king of Bikaner. The Maharaja's words have a touch of emotional informality and respect. There is a query regarding

the Maharaja's wellbeing, health or an event in Baroda and a conversation is struck. Take Letter No. 36, for instance. The Maharaja visited Colombo and the king of Dhar enquired of his health. The Maharaja wrote to him, "There is nothing the matter with me and yet people will talk and discuss my health; because that is the only way they can account for my going about. It is one of the necessary evils of one in high-life, that his matters should be everybody's concern, and that things of no consequence should be magnified for him by the others into something serious." (*March 25, 1887/Mahableshwar*)

The Maharaja was also closely connected with the Maharaja of Mysore. He would visit Ooty often and met the Mysore premier. There would be invitations on the occasions of festivals and sometimes, a game of hunting. The Maharaja would discuss his family, the children and their health with the Maharaja of Mysore. (*Letter Nos. 46, 112, 177*) The Maharaja talks with appreciation of the developmental measures taken by the Maharaja of Mysore in his state and discusses the climate and agriculture in their respective states. "There has been a great deal of rain here and our Ajwa Lake has already got more supply than that of a year. I believe Mysore has got sufficient rainfall too." (*Letter No. 112/September 1891*) Gifts would be exchanged. The Maharaja had presented the Chamarajendra a musical instrument. Chamarajendra died of diphtheria and the gift reached his son, who wrote to the Maharaja thanking him. The Maharaja responded with, "I am glad that you will soon learn to play on it. Music is an excellent art for ladies and gentlemen." (*Letter No. 177/July 1895*) Chamarajendra was very fond of music and the Maharaja loved to encourage all those who were interested in aesthetic activities, arts, music and culture. He was also appreciative of the efforts made by the Maharaja of Mysore in his own state. He wrote, "I was extremely happy to visit several useful institutions while at Bangalore. They speak volumes for the administration and noble monuments of an unselfish and progressive Government." (*Letter No. 641/September 1902*)

The Maharaja was also keen to bring to Baroda worthy projects that his contemporaries might have started in their own states. He also liked to recommend good people and experts from different fields to the other states. A worker in

the cause of Hindu social reform, a Miss Carrie, wanted to increase the number of branches of the Calcutta Hindu Marriage Reform League. She also spoke out against child marriages. After her lectures in Baroda, the Maharaja recommended her expertise to the Maharaja of Mysore. (*Letter No. 968/April 1911*) The Maharaja was committed to the abolition of child marriages and had disallowed caste discrimination in his state. The Maharaja of Mysore decided to send 20 shastris for a conference and the Maharaja told him candidly that it was not a good idea, adding, “The real good not come till the people are educated, and till they understand the gravity of the situation. We are, as people acting unwisely. We should give up caste and other pernicious customs.” (*Letter No. 1075/November 1912*) and later also invited the Maharaja to Baroda in January. (*Letter No. 1092/December 1912*) He considered the Maharaja of Mysore his family. They often exchanged gifts. Once when the Maharaja of Mysore gifted him a pair of handsome bullocks, the Maharaja reciprocated by sending him a Japanese vase. (*Letter No. 1203/December 1914*) Their relations were very friendly and based on cooperation. (*Letter No. 1230/July 1915*) He also invited the royal family of Mysore invited to Baroda and offered him his house in Mumbai (then Bombay) for the stay. (*Letter No. 1252/December 1915*) The Maharaja wished to host the Mysore Maharaja but owing to the war, proposed to arrange things quietly. He would invite the Maharaja of Mysore on hearing of the likelihood of the tour undertaken by the former. (*Letter No. 444/December 1899*) When a significant number of days passed without contact the Maharaja would take and initiative to write, “I have often thought of Your Highness and have sometimes read with interest in the papers about Your Highness’ movement and the industrial and other developments in which Your Highness takes such keen interest.” (*Letter No. 1833/June 1921*) It seems as if the Maharaja was closer to the royal family of Mysore than some of his own kin.

The Maharaja met the Maharaja of Kashmir in Delhi in 1903. It turned into a friendship and the Maharaja often referred to Kashmir as paradise on earth. He also made the effort to acquire cows and buffaloes from Geer on the request

of the premier of Kashmir. (*Letter No. 682*) In April 1903, the Maharaja had wished to visit Kashmir and had sent some of his officers to Kashmir to find out more about it. In the same letter the Maharaja mentions how he had been hoping to find a bride for his son. He writes, “I only returned a few days ago from Poona, where I had been to select a bride for my son. He was also with me and we showed him all the girls, so that he may not find fault with the selection. This is a departure from our old practice and many do not like it.” (*Letter No. 703/ June 1903*) It was a private matter and yet the Maharaja shared it with the Maharaja of Kashmir. It was a new practice that he had started upon, and that was why, perhaps, he wanted the contemporary Maharaja to know of it. In July 1903, there were high floods in Kashmir when the Maharaja was on a vacation in the state. He immediately sent in financial relief and also advised him to start a floods relief fund. (*Letter No. 725*) On another occasion he writes, “As an elder brother you are quite right in mentioning to me my fault. I shall be careful in future.” (*Letter No. 732/August 1903*) His affectionate connection is seen in other letters as well. (*Letter Nos. 736, 738, 757, 1030*) The Maharaja also wrote in appreciation of his experience of the stay in Kashmir, the natural beauty and the people. He also sent an invitation for the prince’s wedding. (*Letter No. 738*) He also exchanged letters on the wellbeing of both families. One of his letters is in Hindi and it is evident that the Maharaja’s Hindi has a distinct Marathi influence. The writings shed light on how both the states were long-time friends and had mutual affection. (*Letter No. 1121*) In one such letter he wrote, “I often think of Your Highness; and the bliss of the happy valleys of Kashmere is an object very dear to my memory.” (*Letter No. 1150*) He would often exchange greetings and extend his good wishes. (*Letter No. 1163*) In yet another letter he writes, “My Bombay house will be at Your Highness’ disposal during your stay here...I shall be happy to entertain Your Highness. Your visit will be an honour to my State and will greatly cement our friendship.” (*Letter No. 1280*) Sir Pratap Sinhji Maharaj of Kashmere (Kashmir) had also visited him for a day in 1914. (*Letter No. 1287*) The Maharaja of Kashmir was a great host when the Maharaja visited his state and in a letter the Maharaja advised

him, “Better bridges will still accentuate progress in the future.” (*Letter No. 1308*) Even though the Maharaja was on a vacation in Kashmir, he observed the developmental projects there. He wrote, “For the progress and well-being of our community, it is of very great importance that our religious institutions are properly looked after; and the men who are concerned with administration thereof, are well selected.” (*Letter No. 1403/January 1917*) The Maharaja considered it essential that, for the betterment of the society, it was of importance that the religious institutions were encouraged and their administration well looked after. His own experience told him that it wasn’t easy to find the right people for the job. His feelings for the state of Kashmir and the wellbeing of its people are very much in evidence here. He also shares with the Maharaja of Kashmir details of his trip, his health, the different modes of medicine there and the happenings in his own family. (*Letter No. 1832/June 1921, Letter No. 1892/March 1923, Letter No. 1906/June 1923*)

Because the Maharaja often visited Europe and spent a lot of time of the year overseas, the Maharaja of Kashmir seemed to have given him some kind of a suggestion or advise. He explained himself with, “I look upon you as my elder brother; and even if you were younger it is but meet that we should advise and help each other, when it is wise to do so.” (*Letter No. 1912/August 1923*) This itself is sufficient to show the kind of informal relations the Maharaja shared with his counterpart in Kashmir.

Otherwise the Maharaja did not open up much in front of others. He also appreciated that the Maharaja of Kashmir was keen on social reforms and development. (*Letter No. 1990/August 1927*) He mentions the opposition that he faced in Baroda while bringing about social reform. He wrote, “Many of our old customs require to be modified and revised, though I may say that some people, who do not approve of this ideas, may be too conservative and not inclined to make a change.” He was happy that the winds of social reform had started blowing in Kashmir. The bond between the two Maharajas was that of social reform and modernisation.

When the princely states had set up The Chamber of Princes, he had sent in the subscription amount of Rs 10,000 for two years without accepting the membership.

He informed the Maharaja of Kashmir of his reasons not to be officially connected with the Chamber. (*Letter No. 2116/August 1930*) He also wrote to the Maharaja regarding communal tensions in Kashmir and how well the Maharaja of Kashmir seems to have handled it. He said, “It is a pity that unscrupulous men, who want to stir communal trouble, do not leave Indian States alone. They do not realise how dangerous such activities are even to those whose cause they profess to serve. Sooner or later, the States will have to take steps to protect their people against such propaganda.” (*Letter No. 2147/September 1931*) The Maharaja was keenly interested in the wellbeing of the people and culture of Kashmir and it is from this feeling that his friendship with the Maharaja of Kashmir grew increased.

His association with the Maharaja of Kolhapur turned into family relations. His letters to the Maharaja of Kolhapur talk of his travels, his plans of travels, health, family situations and other such matters. The premier of Kolhapur had, in 1896, travelled to south India and Sri Lanka (then Ceylon), and upon receiving his letter describing his travels, the Maharaja wrote to him saying, “I have been myself to the latter place and can, therefore, re-echo your admiration for the beautiful island.” (*Letter No. 270*) Along with sharing their experiences of travel, both the Maharajas also seemed to have exchanged gifts, thoughts and opinions of people. For instance, a young sardar from Baroda, called Dhamdhere, was sent to Kolhapur for his studies. Cautioned he to the Maharaja of Kolhapur, “I may be permitted to say that the young man neglects his studies very likely by staying for long period and Your Highness will, for his interest, not allow that fact to escape Your Highness’s shrewd observation.” (*Letter No. 416/July 1899*) The Maharaja of Kolhapur had sent a young man to Baroda and the Maharaja wrote to him cautiously about the man: “I gave a patient hearing to the gentleman sent by you and said in response to his earnest solicitations that I would think about his talk without giving any definite promise as to the fate of the case.” (*Letter No. 549/March 1901*)

Both of them invited each other for visits to their respective states. “I shall be very happy if you will accept my invitation to visit Baroda and be my guest for a week or more.” (*Letter*

No. 589/August 1901) The Maharaja was looking for a suitable bride for Prince Fatehsinh Rao. The Maharaja of Kolhapur perhaps suggested his own daughter to which he said, all the while maintaining the honour of the Maharaja of Kolhapur, “I wish your daughter was older by a few years. Have you made up your mind to give your daughter to my second son Jaisinh Rao?”

The Maharaja’s objection to demands made on the bride’s family during weddings is also obvious. In the same letter he wrote, “There is a grownup daughter of Maharaja Khanderao for whom her people, the Shirkes, are anxious to find a suitable groom. They tell me that they would be glad to wed her to the Kapsikar of your State. If it is not inconvenient to you, do you mind putting in word on her behalf? The Shirkes are not financially well off, though they are the Jagirdars of the State. I mention this simply to prevent pecuniary demands, which cannot be complied with.” (*Letter No. 701/April 1903*).

Regarding Princess Indumati Devi’s marriage he said, “I do not think I can celebrate the marriage earlier than when the Princess reaches 12 years, as it would be against the law in force in Baroda in this behalf.” (*Letter No. 966/April 1911*) When he wrote this, it was obvious that he did not believe in the practice of child marriage and that he would abide by the same law that the people of his own state did. He almost always respected the word of the Maharaja of Kolhapur and approved of things like the Fadnis-Herwadkar match (*Letter No. 1145/December 1913*) or an issue like excusing Babasaheb Khanvilkar from service for five years. (*Letter No. 1123/April 1913*) However, he put his foot down when it came to the issue of Indumati driving a car. He said, “Indumati is rather young to manage a motor; but in time she will be taught driving a car.” (*Letter No. 1407/February 1917*) He also informed that Indumati would be taught Sanskrit after she completed the fifth grade and also adds that the Maharaja of Kolhapur was free to discuss this by sending in his reaction to this news. This was how the Maharaja respected the other’s point of view and opinions on issues.

His attitude was also practical while dealing with relationships. The Maharaja of Kolhapur made certain demands for Indumati’s wedding through Khaserao Jadhav.

The Maharaja wrote in response, after thinking them though. (*Letter No. 1457/May 1917*) He found the demands exorbitant and wrote, “If they stick to it the negotiations will result in the match not coming off.” (*Letter No. 1456/May 1917*) He was ready to give “ornaments worth lakh of rupees, one lakh more to increase the value of the Inam villages to be given to the bride and the groom, and rupees 25,000 more to meet other expenses.” (*Letter No. 1457/May 1917*) He made a comparison with the expenditure and demands during Laxmi Devi’s marriage to the son of the Raja of Mudhol and wrote to Shirgaokar, “Before you leave for Baroda, you had better discuss in a preliminary form, the necessary and important details about Laxmi Devi’s marriage with the eldest son of the Raja of Mudhol. This will save time and correspondence and will help ton decide and determine the match.” (*Letter No. 1458/May 1917*) Later, in Letter No. 1551, he assured to the Maharaja of Kolhapur, “The marriage will come off in March.” (*December 1917*) He proposed to give “the village of Oslam under Karjan Taluka, formerly granted to his cousin Khashibai Saheb of the annual value of Rs 9,000 to the bride and the Gangpur village under Palsana Taluka of the annual value of Rs 3,000 to the Yuvraj making together Rs 12,000.” However, he did not wish to make a trust settlement in lieu of villages. (*Letter No. 1608/May 1918*) He wrote candidly, “Innovations like these have a tendency to impair cordiality and make for unnecessary friction.” (*Letter No. 1608*)

His letter to the Maharaja of Kolhapur when the latter lost his young son in an accident is an indication of his sensitivity. He wrote, “I am very much grieved at the sudden and accidental death your young, promising and fine son. ...As the matter is beyond our control, the best we can do is to put up with the inevitable.” (*Letter No. 1618*) Even though his family believed that he was too practical and sometimes less than generous, his words belied that he was humane, a man of generous heart and acute sensitivity.

He agreed to the Kolhapur Maharaja’s suggestion about a political tribunal. (*Letter No. 1520/October 1917*) He was also happy to acknowledge the Maharaja’s ideas on education. He wrote, “I was very interested to read your ideas on education. There is, no doubt, a very great deal of truth in what you say;

and I think your ideas are well worth considering." (*Letter No. 1645/August 1918*) Both the Maharajas shared a similar ideal of social and religious reforms and political policies. On the unfortunate demise of the Maharaja of Kolhapur, he wrote to his son Rajaram who now took over the reign of Kolhapur, giving him an advice on becoming a ruler. "A Maharaja is perforce a lonely man. He cannot, like ordinary individuals, have friends easily nor can he keep them easily." He also refused the vice-presidency of the Shivaji Memorial in Kolhapur, offered by the new Maharaja of Kolhapur, saying politely, "I feel that I should make myself free from worries as far as possible." (*Letter No. 1960/December 1925*) When Chhatrapati Rajaram's wife Indumati, stayed in her parental home for long he wrote to Rajaram, "Her Highness Indumati, your wife, has been long here and considering her age and position and the name and honour of the Kolhapur family, it is well that you arrange soon to take her and treat her well and comfortably. (*Letter No. 2106/April 1930*) Between December 28-30 the Marathi Sahitya Sammelan was held in Kolhapur. The Maharaja was to chair it but could not make it due to health reasons. (*Letter No. 2180/December 1932*)

The Maharaja's correspondence with Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj and then Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaja reflects on the socio-political situation of the time and the events in his family life. It also shows the intellectual maturity and sensitivity of the royal families.

The Maharaja was in touch with at least two generations of the heads of states and their families. There have been times when he has made a mention to the younger kings of his association with their fathers. Whenever there were problems between the heads of states and the British, the Maharaja always sided with the former. He writes to the Nizam of Hyderabad after one such episode, "My relations with your good father, the late Nizam Sir Mehbub Ali Khan, were very cordial; and it is also my good fortune to enjoy your own friendship. I would not, therefor, have failed to seize any opportunity of assisting in the furtherance of your claim to the restoration of Berar. ...I need hardly assure you that the claim, which is based on justice and equity, has my entire sympathy, and, if I judge rightly, also that of all the ruling

princes of India.” (*Letter No. 1923/March 1924*) The Maharaja also takes the opportunity to explain the issues of the states against the British government. “My own state has some similar claims against the British Government. The first of these relates to the restoration of my State of the control over the Tributary states and estates in the Gujarat and part of Kathiawar. The other claim concerns the restoration of a portion of the territories ceded to the British Government for the express object of defraying the expenses of the subsidiary troops, as the present income of these territories is considerably larger than the cost of maintaining the stipulated number of troops.” (*Letter No. 1923*) He also wrote to the Nizam in 1930, “I fear that action taken recently, especially by the Chamber of Princes, has not been in the right direction. It is my belief that a Chamber composed of princes has no utility. If India gets Dominion status or any status approaching it, the interests of the Indian state should be represented by a Chamber of Ministers, who will negotiate on equal terms, with the representatives from British India on matter of common concern...Further, in these days, the tendency appears to be to treat all States as on the same footing – the higher treaty States, being reduced to the level of the other States, instead of these latter gaining in position and status.” (*Letter No. 2096*) He informs the H. H Jamsaheb Ranjitsinhji of Nawanagar, “Baroda has not so far been consulted in regard to any action proposed to be taken on behalf of the Chamber of Princes.” (*Letter No. 2010/January 1928*) In 1939, he had decided to vote in favour of the Nawab of Bhopal. (*Letter No. 2135/March 1931*) He had also proposed that Rs 1000 more should be given to the Chamber of Princes. The Nawab of Bhopal headed the Chamber. The Maharaja wrote to the Nawab asking him to appoint Rao Bhadur V T Krishnamachari as a delegate on the committee for the consideration of federal finance. (*Letter No. 2149/September 1931*) He was also very aware of the policies of the workings of the Round Table Conference. He also tried to find out if states could come together for a mutually beneficial arrangement in certain tasks. Writing to the the Nawab of Junagadh he wondered, if they “could jointly carry out reforms or measures for mutual advantage.” (*Letter No. 2192/November 1933*) When the Nawab

of Palanpur informed him that he would need the Chief Engineer of the State of Baroda to assist with his advice regarding the details of the irrigation project, the Maharaja wrote, “I should like Your Highness to oblige me by giving Baroda State as much facility as lies in your power to promote and complete its irrigation schemes that it may have undertaken or which require completion.” (*Letter No. 1978/February 1927*) The Maharaja also offered his valuable advice and help to those who wished to undertake reforms.

The Maharaja also sent his greetings and gifts to newly coroneted heads of states. He sent one such letter to the king of Indore. “You have got a splendid opportunity before you now of moulding the Indore State to your own ideal.” (*Letter No. 1826, supplementary/July 1886*) The words “moulding the Indore State to your own ideal” are significant. He expected from the new kings new ideas, reforms and thought processes. The ultimate aim of a king’s work, he expected, was for the benefit of the people.

When some especially good work was done in a state, the Maharaja asked for a report on it. In a letter to the Thakursaheb of Bhavnagar he wrote, “Can you send me a report of Your Highness’s well governed state and of other states in Kathiawar?” (*Letter No. 1888, supplementary/December 1889*) He also asked Narayanrao Powar of Dewas, “Can I have an annual report of your State if it is published?” (*Letter No. 1890, supplementary/December 1889*) and to the Rajasaahab of Cochin he wrote, “I am thinking of paying a visit to your State...I wish to see the country and its institutions...” (*Letter No. 2035, supplementary/June 1915*)

The Maharaja read a report in ‘The Times of India’ on some disquiet in the State of Indore. The Times was always considered pro-government and yet the Maharaja could sense the people’s mood. He wrote in a letter to the Maharaja of Indore, Shivajirao Holkar, “I hope the editor is not playing into the hands of some interested people; it is very easy for the unknowing public to swallow all that is said about Indian princes. They have to pay for the past traditions and superstitions about Rajas and their deeds. They are no longer capable of committing enormities; but still the public is undiscerning and credulous, and will not fail to credit them

with deeds, that might have been possible in 1800 or long before it... I would, as a friend of yours, wish you to be more prudent in your actions and reserved in speech... You will, no doubt form a council or something like it to stop the further development of the present unsatisfactory feeling." (*Letter No. 207/September 1895*) The Maharaja provided moral support to the other heads of princely states and helped them have harmony, abundance and progress in the states. In many ways, his position was similar to an elder of a family. The Maharaja shared what the true meaning of Rajdharma was of a wise, aware and diplomatic head of a state. He often helped those states that were in trouble. His concern was not limited to Baroda alone and his top priority was the wellbeing of all the people of India.

In a letter to the Maharaja of Dhrangdhra he wrote, "I think it is so desirable that we should correspond and increase our friendship... It is a matter of congratulation that our Rajas are trying to cultivate that feeling of fellowship, which might be of great use to them." (*Letter No. 102/May 1890*) The Maharaja was always connected with the other heads of states thorough letters, gifts, photographs, reports, information, books etc. His social etiquette was impeccable and that attracted people to him. If he couldn't attend special events and functions in the other states, he would make it a point to send his representative with gifts. Even within the family, if he found himself unable to attend a family gathering or function, he would ensure that everything was carried out perfectly even in his absence. His good wishes and his tendency to remember birthdays and special dates made him very popular amongst the heads of states.

When the Raja of Bhavnagar got a son, the Maharaja wrote to him, "It pleased me most that you were blessed with a son. I pray that he may grow into a strong young man to be an everlasting source of happiness to his parents and people. I have no doubt that all your loyal subjects must have hailed the news of a son to you with great delight and satisfaction." (*Letter No. 366/September 1898*) The Maharaja's tone and emotion expressed in this shows how he went beyond the requirements of mere formality of wishing but wrote from his heart. The Raja of Bhavnagar invited him over but the

Maharaja avoided it wisely saying, “I had a great desire to see Bhavnagar and avail myself of your kind invitation; but this year I am aware that Your Highness must be equally engrossed, as I am here, in the all-absorbing work of alleviating the general distress of the poor ryots.” (*Letter No. 455/January 1900*) By promising a visit in the future when the conditions were better, the Maharaja makes it clear that he would not like to burden another state, already grappling with famine, to be further burdened by his formal visit. The Maharaja’s concern for the people in his country is obvious here and also his wisdom that in times of distress, there was no place for formality and pomp.

The Maharaja was also curious of the kinds of developmental initiatives the other heads of states undertook. He asks the Maharaja of Gwalior, “What great reforms are you contemplating to carry out in your state?” (*Letter No. 306/April 1897*) He also reminded the Maharaja of Gwalior how their relations went back to his father’s time. He writes, “I had the pleasure of making your acquaintance during the life-time of your father, I should be very glad to renew that acquaintance...” (*Letter No. 264*) He also shared details like the plague, famine and other such conditions in Baroda. (*Letter No. 334*) He also discussed certain pressing issues with the other heads of states. In a letter to the Gwalior premier he asks on the way to deal with the problem of the Rupee. (The question of exchange between Baroda and the British coin became very troublesome and, ultimately, the British silver coin was adopted even in Baroda Raj for 50 years.) He asks, “May I ask how you have settled about your Rupee difficulty?” He discussed the issue of the famine in Baorda too. “We are in the throes of a regular famine. I have started many relief works and in them some three or four little railways. Are you affected by the famine at all? (*Letter No. 432/November 1899*)

“I am busily engaged in the famine administration. I have travelled a good deal in the different parts of my territory.” (*Letter No. 483/May 1900*) He also gives an advice to the Maharaja of Gwalior: “You have given a handsome amount of money to the China war. I wish you would give an equal sum to the educational advancement of our Indian youths.” (*Letter No. 512/May 1900*)

Because it was a tradition to marry the children from royal families to other royals, the Maharaja writes to the Maharaja of Deoghad Baria regarding a proposal from Rana of Bhaji (near Simla), “I shall be obliged if Your Highness would kindly let me know the social position of the Rana of Bhaji. I should like to know whether the Rana of Bhaji is a pure Kshatriya and is held in esteem in the society of the Rajput chiefs. Is his family good enough to form marriage contracts with? Send me any other information about him which you may deem interesting.” (*Letter No. 746/October 1903*) This letter by the Maharaja reflects on the practical side of his nature and his respect for certain traditions.

Durgasinghji Rana of Bhaji had invited the Maharaja over (*June 1903*) but it wasn’t possible for the Maharaja to accept it at the time and, instead, suggested to the Rana that he come to Baroda. He also did not commit himself to anything saying, “The final consideration of the marriage idea, could not, of course, be approached immediately. It would demand long and careful consideration. You refer to some other connections between other families and mine. These and others, you can easily verify. On general consideration I see no reason why the Kshatriyas of different parts of India should not intermarry. If they have not done so, as yet so freely, I think it is due simply to the vastness of the country, want of communication and ignorance of each other. With the advance of proper education, those intermarriages are sure to come about. At the same time those to wish to bring them about, should act after due thought. ...In such matters one cannot be too plain and straightforward, as straightforwardness serves best in the end.” (*Letter No. 719/June 1903*) The words are indicative of the times and what went into having a family alliance with another royal family. Later, he candidly asked the Rana to provide details of his family and their origins. He writes, “You will kindly supply me with the history of your family and the connections it has made, with people in the plains and in Rajputana, as well as the hills, with sufficient information about the families for us to find out about them such information as is usually exchanged between the families in our country under such circumstances and form our own judgment. If I can get any information about Bhaji and its

family in any gazette, it would help me for reference.” (*Letter No. 740/September 1903*)

Correspondence with experts, friends and aides

The Maharaja was in touch with experts in various fields, his trusted physicians, the tutors to the princes, the officials that had enjoyed the hospitality in Baroda and their families, friends that he met during his travels to Europe, noted architects etc. The letters mostly reflect advice, guidance, instructions and unburdened thinking. The Maharaja also exchanged greetings. At times he would seek reports on specific events and people and share information that he had come across. The letters also discuss the conditions in Baroda, the British government’s policies and his opinions on them. These letters are symbolic of the affection that the Maharaja felt towards his friends and acquaintances and the principle of personal liberty.

Mr French was a tutor to the princes. There are more than 20 letters written to him that are available. The Maharaja’s letters talk of the education of the princes, the difficulties that the royals faced while acquiring formal education, bringing up children, the values imparted to them, the contents of the academic syllabus and expectations from the teachers.

The Maharaja was keen that along with the formal education, the children should also be instructed on moral values, vocational training and advanced education. He wrote, “I am anxious that all my children should have not only general education, but that they must attempt to learn some useful profession. I mention this to you, because there is just a chance of their education being treated as a small ornament and not so useful as to do them honour. In these days of close scrutiny and rapid changes, high ones must be as well educated as any other class... Keep a good eye on the morals of the boys and people around them, so far as regards your pupils.” (*Letter No. 136/December 1893*) He also added, “As you are placed by me in a very trustworthy post, I consider it right that I should express my wishes to you unreservedly and that you should carry them out.” (*Letter No. 138/January 1894*) He also asked for Fatehsinh’s report card (*years 1893-*

94). On finding the report inadequate, he wrote to French, "I should like you to extend the sphere of your report, and tell me as to the conduct of the servants or any other point, which you think worthwhile bringing to my notice. I should like you to mention to me as to how things were managed about the princes in my absence, and if you have to suggest anything for the future in the interest of the princes." (*Letter No. 159/ June 1895*)

He had an opinion on the methods of teaching. Wrote he to French about a tutor Shankar Moro Ranade, "I hear he makes his notes too elaborate on words and spends a great deal of time in explaining them. Kindly see that unnecessary energy is not spent in such matters, and that the teaching is not beyond the knowledge and age of the boys." He also tells French later, "You must tell freely what is expected of him as a teacher. If he does not give satisfaction, you must not hesitate to have another person. The progress of the children must, in no way, suffer for individual considerations." (*Letter No. 255*) He did not forget to ask French, who was on a holiday, to pick up some odds and ends for the princes but added that, "This you must not do as a duty, as I do not wish to impose duties, when you are going to have a holiday." (*Letter No. 314/ July 1897*) He also asked French, who was on his way to England, to pick up some good quality toys for the younger princes. (*Letter No. 392/March 1899*) On getting a report on Jaisinhrao's education from French he writes, "Jaisinhrao and Shivajirao should prepared for Bombay matriculation." (*Letter No. 465/March 1940*) The Maharaja trusted French's judgment. He discussed with French the matters related to the education of the three princes and sometimes even pays a visit to the school. At the time the three princes lived in Oxford, the Maharaja expected French to keep an eye on the princes' educational progress and the facilities available to them. (*Letter No. 504/July 1900*) He also entrusted the responsibility of giving the direction of Fatehsinhrao's higher education to French. (*Letter No. 580/July 1901*) French worked with the State of Baroda for 14 years and after he retired the Maharaja sent him a letter of gratitude: "I have always found you most trustworthy and reliable in looking after my children, and it has always been a source of pleasure to me to have

dealings with such an open-hearted and straightforward man as yourself and to know that I could always treat you with frankness and freedom. One after the other, four of my sons have now been under your care and training and I am glad to say that their education has been of as great credit to you as it has been of benefit to them." (*Letter No. 812/July 1905*) The letter reflects the Maharaja's affection for French as also his tendency to have kept French as productive as possible.

Dr J. E. Nevins was a companion and physician to the Maharaja. The Maharaja discussed with him issues pertaining to health, family, contemporary political events etc. The Maharaja enjoyed his company. (*Letter No. 106/October 1890*) Their correspondence continued even after Nevins left Baroda. The Maharaja kept in touch with him even when he was Europe. He writes, "State officers are not so well as when you were here. I attribute mainly this to the arbitrary treatment of the State by the Political Department." (*Letter No. 154/May 1895*) In one of this letters the Maharaja has spoken his heart out and referred to the Resident's interference and the Bapat episode. (*Letter No. 208/September 1895*) He also shares that the Europe trip helped him both physically and psychologically and how the Resident's meddling hurt him. He shares freely the academic progress of Fatehsinh Rao and other princes, the mentality of the officers in Baroda and their working style etc. He also said that the British governance did not let the heads of states do good work. The Maharaja discussed the happenings in his own life, political experiences, events and his own reactions to them. His words reflect the closeness that the Maharaja felt for Nevins. (*Letter No. 237/September 1896*) The Maharaja also sent him letters in his own handwriting. (*Letter No. 237*) He refers to several things like the war between the Greeks and the Turks, how the Turks were great soldiers, the princes' love for cricket, the plague epidemic, French's health, queen's study of English and her music tutorials. (*Letter No. 305/April 1897*)

After Nevins' mother passed away and Nevins wrote to the Maharaja about it, the Maharaja sent him a letter comforting him and called him his "well wishing and a constantly-remembered friend". (*Letter No. 345/April 1898*) He mentioned Fatehsinh Rao's drawing examinations, the fact that rich

children have their own dangers, the Contract Act for Baroda, the plague epidemic in Pilwai, the opposition of the people in Pilwai to their lands to be surveyed, the timidity of the officers in Baroda, the ignorance of laws, the Indian attitude of not abiding by the laws, the British government's responsibility in making the Indians behave in a certain way, the tendency to not understand the facts on ground while implementing political ideas etc. The Maharaja was very candid while expressing his thoughts to Nevins. He also mentions Lord Curzon's unfavourable response to his plans of going to Nainital out of a feeling of some sort of vengeance. (*Letter No. 555/March 1901*) He also explains himself in the Letter No. 1001, that too much was made out of his behaviour at the Delhi Durbar (*April 1912*) He gives information on the railways and the irrigation projects (*Letter No. 1101/January 1913*) He also expressed his desire to stay with Nevins in England. (*Letter No. 1894/March 1923*) Nevins was one of the trusted friends of the Maharaja.

B A English was a tutor to prince Pratapsinh. Captain Bremner was his guardian. The Maharaja sent them letters advising them on the prince's education. (*Letter Nos. 1941, 2003*) Prof. MacDonald taught Sanskrit. The Maharaja expected him to keep an eye on the education of the two princes Jaisinh Rao and Fatehsinh Rao, sent there. In a letter written to him in April 1902, he speaks of the moral and intellectual training of the princes. (*Letter No. 631*) The letters reflect the clear management that the Maharaja chalked out when it came to education) He was constantly concerned about the education of his sons studying abroad. He would take his aides in confidence and make them aware of their responsibilities.

Rev. Weeden was appointed as a Reader to the Maharaja on his travels to Europe. The Maharaja and Weeden remained in touch through letters. Rev. Weeden was highly educated and cultured and the Maharaja seemed fascinated by his intellectual pursuits. He wrote to Weeden, "In these days we attempt more for acquiring material prosperity, and so proportionately pay less regard and attention to our mental well-being; but, nevertheless, the mental quietude is, I think, of greater use and need than the other for our happiness." (*Letter No. 249/March 1896*) The Maharaja did not believe in

discrimination based on religion or community. He requested Weeden to send or mention names of books to teach his children good principles of religion.

The Maharaja had written an analytical book based on Gibbon's 'From Caesar to Sultan'. He had handed over to Weeden the responsibility of its publishing and printing. He was also entrusted with sending the copies of the book to Lord Raey, Lord Kimberly, Lord Northbrook, H Fowler, Col. C.L. Fitzgerald, Major Gordon, Sir George Birdwood of the India office, Dr Nevins, Dadabhai Naoroji, and Mr Bhavnagri of the Asiatic Member of Parliament. He wrote of reading Greek and Roman history and his plans to visit Gangotri, along with some personal details. (*Letter No. 249*) He gave details of how travelling in India is a nuisance due to famine and plague but how Baroda was spared but he had to stay back due to State necessity. (*Letter No. 294/March 1897*) In Letter No. 408 he responded with happiness that the notes on Gibbons were received well and the copies were sold out. It shows the Maharaja's intellectual acumen. The letter also carried references made to a skeleton diary or an account of what he saw in Europe, which he sent to Weeden, the epidemic of plague and the oppressive ways to prevent it, hunting of wild boars, his stay near the Tapti river in a tent, how he enjoyed swimming in the river, the historical significance of Tapti and Songad, the queen's efforts on studies, the reprinting of 'Caesar to Sultan' etc. He also apologised for his bad handwriting and explained that as the reason why he has got this letter written from another. (*Letter No. 408/May 1899*) His next letter to Weeden mentioned things like the Boer war, the famine in Baroda and the employment of 12,000 labourers daily, his meeting with Lord Curzon in Simla, and his impression that Curzon seemed "to be a very clever and business-like man." (*Letter No. 436/December 1899*)

Weeden had written the book 'A year with the Gaekwar of Baroda' in 1911. The Maharaja noted that the book lacked many details. (*Letter No. 995/March 1912*) He gave some personal details in this letter to Weeden, for instance, how the marriage of Indira Raje to the prince of Gwalior did not work out. He writes, "I thought it fair to give her more time to think. This is only between you and me." When he trusted

Weeden with such confidential information, it is obvious that Weeden was a close associate of the Maharaja. He also shared with Weeden, in another letter, "The war is a terrible affair, and everyone here wishes to see its speedy and satisfactory conclusion." (*Letter No. 1284/March 1916*) It seems that Rev. Weeden was in touch with the Maharaja for a long time, because in his letter of January 1929, the Maharaja acknowledged to having received his letter. He makes a mention of the Navsari water works and a scheme for drainage, and refers to his grandson, Fatehsinh Rao's son, Pratapsinh and his wedding. He also added, "Pratapsinh seems to be a nice lad and has got no vicious habits. I am now training him for the administrative work..." (*Letter No. 2061/January 1929*)

He was in touch with experts from the fields of agriculture, education, architecture and art, as also political leaders. His enjoyed the company of these thinking, productive personalities, and they became a part of his extended family. The principal of the Baroda College, Mr Tate, Prof. Littledale of the Baroda College, Lady Tweedale, architect Chisholm, Education Commissioner Sir George Clarke, the principal of the Grant Medical College, Dr Hatch, Commissioner of Hoogly, C E Buckland, Maj. Gen. J Watson, the officers at the India House in London etc. This correspondence is significant from the point of view of the record of the events of the times, the knowledge that it brings with itself, and is a candid expression of the people involved.

The Maharaja's correspondence with his kin

The Maharaja ruled for 64 years and lived a life of almost 76 years – a life filled with ups and downs. He found the rule of the British government oppressive. After he was officially adopted, he had new family, new relatives, acquaintances, and new responsibilities. His extended family included the British officials, his aides, teachers, experts, artistes, and the people of the State of Baroda. The Maharaja experienced a lot of things in his life of over seven decades – births and deaths, his connections with his wife, children, birth parents, his adoptive mother, grandchildren and great grandchildren, cousins, sons and daughters in law, grand daughters and grand sons in law, the children and grandchildren of his

cousins etc. New entrants to this huge family were also included in his correspondence.

He has written to Rajmata Jamnabai, father in law Sakharam Swami Mohite, brother Anandrao Senapati, brother Sampatrao, nephew Ganpatrao, his birth mother at Kavlena, Kamlabai Dhaiber Killedar (the sister of Maharani Chimnabai I), Babasaheb (brother in law, Raghunathrao, the Raja of Sawantwadi), Khashisaheb Chhatrapati, Kolhapur (niece), Matoshri Renubai Saheb, Matoshri Radhabai Saheb, Malharrao's wife Matoshri Mhalsabai, adoptive sister Tara Baba (Rajmata Jamnabai's daughter), Krishnarao Pawar of Devas, Kashibai Saheb Bhosle Nagpurkar, Bayabai Saheb (Anandrao's daughter), Bayabai Ghatge, Devas, Bhagirathibai Gaekwad Savkhedkar, Matoshri Yamunabai Pawar, Devas, Radhabai Saheb Gaekwad, Vishwasrao Ghatge, Girijabai Dhawle, Pune, Phulajirao Shewale, Khashibai Malegaokar, Dadasaheb (Ukhajirao's son), Dabhajirao (Vitthalrao Gaekwad's son Balasaheb (Anandrao Gaekwad's son), wife Chimnabai Saheb, sons Fatehsinhrao, Jaisinhrao, Shivajiarao and Dhairayasheelrao, daughters in law Padmavati (Fatehsinhrao's wife), Kamladevi (Shivajirao's wife), Vimla Devi (Dhairyasheelrao's wife), grandson Pratapsinh (Fatehsinhrao's son), grand daughter Indumati (Fatehsinhrao's daughter), grand daughter Laxmidevi (Sawantwadi), princess Kusum and prince Bal (the Maharaja's great grand daughter and son respectively, Sawantwadi), daughter Indira Raje, son in law (the prince of Koch (Cooch Behar) etc.

His letters to his family members included those who belonged to the elder as also the younger generations. The women who he wrote to had not studied much since in those times education of women was not common. He wrote to them and some of his other relatives in Marathi and addressed them traditionally, all of which reflects upon his affection and concern for his family.

His letters to the children carried his advice on education, and made them understand the importance of knowledge. He also talks of the importance of good conduct. When they were grown up and had their own families, the Maharaja talks to them of their responsibilities as royal family as also as heads of their own families. These letters show us

the man whose emotions ranged from those of a guardian, head of a family, a ruler of a state, a helpless father, a hard taskmaster, a man who was practical and careful with his money.

The Maharaja wished for his brothers, cousins and nephews to be in touch with him. He made those who were in the service of the State aware of their responsibilities. Even though such letters were semi-administrative, there would be references to personal matter. However, the relatives never got any additional favours done to them. The Maharaja was respectful towards his real brothers Sampatrao and Anandrao but, nevertheless, made them aware of their responsibilities. He asked Sampatrao to make a list of the titles by which different members of the family and officers of the state were traditionally referred to. (*Letter No. 199, supplementary/October 1905*) He also asked him to make sure that the rules regarding dead stock in the palace were followed.

Even when the family members were appointed in the service of the state, they were expected to put in serious effort. Ganpatrao V. Gaekwad was appointed as Naib Subha, Kadi and when the Maharaja told him, "Often good and deserving men cannot be given the promotions and appointments they would like to have, and their superiors would like to give them", he indirectly mentioned that there was such a possibility regarding Ganpatrao's appointment. However, he also added, "Our sense of regard for each other cannot always be rightly marked by monetary standards." (*Letter No. 2022, supplementary/May 1995*)

He is rather formal, practical and even harsh in his approach when he chides the princes for their addictions and less than correct behaviour. (*Letter Nos. 2044, 2046, 1915*) He had taken utmost care when it came to the training of the princes, the values imparted to them, and their ethical and moral education. He had also made sure that their education in reputed universities overseas, the appointments of their guardians, tutors and guides was done impeccably. However, the princes, on their part, seemed to have disappointed him. There are about 10 letters to Jaisinh Rao. Their gist includes, "You had better learn to play violin, and

if you find it hard or unless you prefer a piano, you can learn the latter. You can learn to play rackets.” (*Letter No. 661/September 1902*) Also, “I am writing to Mr Elliot to let you have a phonograph of 11 pounds. Next time I shall not let you have such an expensive toy; because I consider it bad for you to indulge in unnecessary and costly purchase... You must freely write to me any of your difficulties... I wish your handwriting is as good as Pilajirao’s... Unless you write long letters and give your impressions about things and men, I cannot measure your progress... If there is time, learn to ride and drill... You must read books to amuse yourself whenever you have time on your hand, and not throw away your books as soon as your appointed task is over.” (*Letter No. 690/March 1903*) In yet another letter he wrote, “I saw the studies of your wife... She is getting on well. It is a pity that you leave her alone without a lady (companion). She ought to take more exercise. (Your daughter) is a good amusement for me.” (*Letter No. 1261/December 1915*) He also tells Jaisinh Rao, “I have read the papers given by you on Education... I am particularly glad for the outspoken manner in which they are given. The views about treating grown-up sons do not, to speak roughly, differ from mine. There may be some mistakes; but what are they? Have you or anybody tried to set them right and should we try to do so in the future? I wrote to you a friendly note to which you did not even reply. Let us discuss matters and try to set them right. (*Letter No. 1434/March 1917*) “It is a regretful thing that you never write. The installment that is being deducted from your allowance in payment of the loan given to you out of savings may now cease to be cut. If you have any other suggestions or improvements to suggest in the present arrangements, their execution or details, you are welcome to make them; and I will attend to them with pleasure. If you conduct yourself well, there is no reason at all for me to trouble myself about your affairs. I am sending confidentially a copy of this letter to the Diwan for action.” (*Letter No. 1571/January 1918*) “One of your notes given to me is that you are not allowed to take advantage of State Leave Rules. I am not aware of any order to that effect, and if one be there, I shall be delighted to cancel it. Life without any leave would be intolerable. No one would wish to impose such restriction... I

had, I believe, suggested that I was to be previously informed before you were given leave to go to certain places like Bombay or Baroda frequently. In these places, you have shown yourself too weak to withstand temptations. So in your own interest it was thought better to let you visit these places as few times as possible. If you will conduct yourself respectively, the galling restriction will vanish of itself... If I may remind you of how you behaved on your way from Bombay to Ooty... you will see the sad fact that necessitated untoward interference, which is not only unpleasant to me but is also against my general principles. Last time you were in Bombay and not doing well, your mother sent repeated telegrams to send a man to look after you in the Taj as you could not take care of yourself. It was most inconvenient for me to find a man... I shall not mention your conduct at Delhi... As I said, you are your own enemy." (*Letter No. 1631/June 1918*) "Her Highness casually spoke to me that you are feeling uneasy about your nemnook or certain points in connection with it... If you make inquiries in a business-like way, about your interests, they will always be welcomed and explained. Making inquiries verbally, indirectly or through others is apt to cause misunderstanding which is best for all concerned to avoid." (*Letter No. 1724/January 1919*) The Maharaja had given positions of responsibility to Jaisinh Raowhose behaviour dismayed him as a father and as the head of the state. Matters of the family seemed to have left the Maharaja concerned, frustrated and disappointed.

The Maharaja had put restrictions on the money that his family members spent. He never made a mention of any of it publically but he insisted that if the payments for the responsibilities were received from the state, they had to be carried out most sincerely. He kept lazy freeloaders away.

His letters to his daughters in law are filled with advice on cultural values and traditional ideals as also code of conduct. However, he is openly supportive of pursuit of knowledge, learning new skills and new languages. The same Maharaja who appeared to be harsh with his sons was very tender and loving when it came to his daughters in law and grand children. His worry for them also made him very emotional. His letter to Fatehsinh Rao's pregnant wife Padmavati asks her to take

care of her health, to discuss it with Mrs Nixon without hesitation, to know that people try to get close for selfish reasons and to keep such people away, to spend money with prudence, to keep her husband, family members and those dependent on them as happy as possible, to uphold the honour of both families, hoping that her natural goodness of character will help her in the long run and wishing her prosperity and happiness. (*Letter No. 805/March 1905*) He also wrote in another letter, “Is Laxmi Devi’s boil better? How are their (the children’s) studies? I am glad to know that there was good fall of rain. So much depends in India on the monsoon.” (*Letter No. 1316/July 1916*)

In his next letter he said, “I hope the cholera will soon disappear and there will be plenty of rain. You must get a teacher to teach you. The country at the foot of the hill is very picturesque and pretty.” (*Letter No. 1326/July 1916*) “Amarnath itself is a greatly disappointing place... The country we passed through was very hilly, green, covered with forest and possessed plenty of running rivulets of clear water. Before long you will see these places.” (*Letter No. 1337/August 1916*) “I’m afraid the demands of Kolhapur are exorbitant. I am thinking of offering Kolhapur a lakh and 25,000 more.” (*Letter No. 1456/May 1917*) “We have sent only your brother and his wife and at the request of the Maharaja of Kolhapur, your mother. The expenses of these ought to be paid by them... Your brother and mother should not get more expense paid for them than what is customary...Your brother and his wife will return to Baroda... Your mother is allowed to stay with Indumati who is yet a small girl.” (*Letter No. 1620/June 1918*) He also advised her about the children: “Take care of yourself and pay attention to the education of Pratapsinh Rao and Laxmi Devi. Let Laxmi Devi go to school for three hours and see to it that she wears fine clothes but little jewellery.” (*Letter No. 1752/June 1919*)

When the Maharaja was out of Baroda, he sent such letters of concern to his daughters in law. The tone was that of an advice. He made a mention that Padmavati should ignore if people commented on the fact that Laxmi Devi went to school. He also mentioned the worry of inadequate monsoon. He expected his daughters in law to be prudent, sensible and

well informed. His tone, while writing to his family, was always strongly that of an advice.

His letter to his daughter in law Kamladevi (Prince Shivajirao's wife) is filled with descriptions of Kashmir. His descriptions and the history of the land come from his knowledge of it. Wrote he in another letter, "I may think of asking you and the children to join me in Europe." He adds, "You can also buy presents for your people up to Rs 2,000." (*Letter No. 1843 / September 1921*) He asks her to send him details of the children's picnic undertaken and their accounts in detail, the visits received and paid to, amusements gone to. (*Letter No. 1934 / June 1924*)

When she asked for more ornaments, he refused them reminding her of the honour of the Gaekwad family. He also added that unless the ruler's family was of high morals and the people that surrounded him were highly ethical, the ruler could not do much. He wrote to the Maharani saying, "I think you have acted wisely in starting at dispensary, instead of feeding the needy one day in a year." (*Letter No. 2073, supplementary / December 1915*)

His letter to Indira Raje gives brief description of his visit to Patna, his stay at the government wada and his trip to see Shrimant Pilajirao's paduka. (*Letter No. 438 / December 1899*) He also wrote to her about his general wellbeing and state of health. (*Letter No. 1272 / January 1916*) In Letter No. 1494, the Maharaja expressed his disappointment with 'D'. This could be Dhairyasheel Rao. He wrote, "Beyond self-indulgence and idleness, he has no idea of duty to self, to family country or humanity." (*Letter No. 1494 / August 1917*) He also talked of his annoyance with the people around him: "The officials around me caused me more annoyance than I expected. The result of annoyance lasts longer, and does more harm than when one is in good health," adding, "Your mother also thinks that I am misled, and finds faults with some people." (*Letter No. 1841 / August 1921*) It's not clear who these people were but their behaviour certainly affected the Maharaja.

The Maharaja's letters to his family members are marked by his complaining tone. He chides them as a head of the state as also the head of the family.

Some of his far off relatives came to him seeking help to send their own sons overseas for education. They hoped for this without taking into account the son's capabilities, intellectual abilities, the need for it, and their own financial status. The Maharaja, however, was generous to them and this made them reach out to him for financial assistance or scholarships for their children.

Pilajirao was a relative of the Maharaja's and had complained that the Maharaja kept his kin at arm's length. He was appointed on Rs 350 as Naib Subha. The Maharaja gave priority to the welfare of the people over the welfare of his family members. The Maharaja wrote to him, "Officers and some of our relations are very jealous of you Gaekwads. To avoid worry I have probably taken too much notice of their feeling and tried to hold the balance too nicely. Let us try to connect relations in the future as far as we can, in a suitable manner." (*Letter No. 1702 /December 1918*)

Khashibai Malegaokar sent a letter requesting some money for her personal spending. The Maharaja refused flatly. (*Letter No. 1285*)

In yet another letter to her he wrote, "Your letters, rare as they are, are never without a demand for money. It is indeed tragic that in this world, we don't even enquire after another's wellbeing without a concern for money." (*Letter No. 1742/May 1919*) At times, the Maharaja had to snub relatives who pestered him for monetary assistance. His letter to a relative called H B Gaekwad is an example of this. (*Letter No. 1130/September 1913*)

The Maharaja was humble and respectful towards the elders of the family and also suggests some work that could possibly be undertaken by them. (*Letter Nos. 646, 647/July 1902*) The letters written to two elderly females family members, Yamunabai Pawar and Revubai, ask them to keep their eyes open for a possible match for Fatehsinhrao but also, at the same time, caution them against evoking expectations in people. This shows how careful the members of the royal family were when it came to family connections. The Maharaja always gave a thought to the person on the other side of the table and was sympathetic in his approach. He admired hardworking people who pursued knowledge. He himself

always remained busy and also kept his officers busy. He encouraged people to work, asked them to carry out specific tasks and himself remained occupied all the time. This was his style of functioning. Take for example the letters written to Khaserao Jadhav. (*Letter Nos. 2, 22, 48, 77, 763, 1585, 1820, 1835, 1855, 1860, 1887, 1942, 1943*) Khaserao was related to him and was also a high-ranking officer in Baroda. He had studied agriculture abroad and served as Subha (today's Collector). He had also served as a private official, kept an eye on the education of the princes abroad, and was also in touch with the revolutionaries working for the liberation of the country.

In the year 1886, the Maharaja asked Khaserao to complete his diploma in agriculture and to return to Baroda to assist in the setting up of a college of agriculture in the State of Baroda. He wrote in another letter to him, "There is tremendous lot to be done in our State in agriculture and we must try to do it at least little by little. I wish that you should do something to induce the Songhad Dhankas (a tribe) to take to ploughing their soils, instead of roughly placing them as they at present do." (*Letter No. 48/January 1889*) There were times when he urged him for an early completion of a proposal. (*Letter No. 763/January 1904*) In another letter he asks Khaserao, "Is it for want of kindness or discipline that my sons have suffered from?" (*Letter No. 1585/January 1918*) Khaserao seemed to have played a crucial role in the formation of Maratha Samaj Shikshan Sanstha (The educational institute for the Marathas) and the Maharaja obviously helped him a lot.

The Maharaja actively worked towards a cause or handled an issue when he was approached directly, either by a letter or in person. The daughter of his niece was married to the nephew, Dabhade, of the Khasesaheb of Devas. The Maharaja wrote to him, "I think you will be doing a good and wise thing if you sent for the wife of the young Dabhade, your nephew. The girl, the daughter of my niece, is of an age, when she should stay with her husband. Petty disputes and differences should not be allowed, as you will understand, to come in between the happiness of a married couple...I'm sure with the help of your brother you would do all that is possible to

bring the married couple together. (*Letter No. 2025, supplementary/May 1915*)

The Maharaja was close to his adoptive mother Maharani Jamnabai but did not approve of some of her financial demands. Wrote he in a letter to her, "I will carry out all the responsibilities of a son but you will need to be careful of your spending and loans." (*Letter No. 61 /April 1889*) When Jamnabai, under heavy debts, demanded a separate, exclusive financial arrangement that involved breaking away from the routine allowance, the Maharaja informed her that there was no point in feeding the one who was already fed and that her mismanagement had brought her to the financial mess that she was in. (*Letter No. 63 /April 1889*)

The Maharaja's letters to his family members reflect the ups and downs that he suffered emotionally in the course of his interactions with them. They also show how he had genuine affection for his family.

Spread of education: An objective

The Maharaja, throughout his life, believed in the power of education to transform an individual, a State and a society. He kept in mind the conditions of the people at the grassroots. He was the first head of a princely state that did extraordinary work in the field of education for all. He made primary education free and compulsory and hoped that it would reach the poorest of the poor and to those who belonged to the oppressed classes. Whether it was the education of the princes or that of his subjects, he thought it through carefully and minutely. Whether it was teachers, syllabi, text books, the system of education, the medium of instruction, the learning of languages, different streams of education, scholarships, the management of the funds made available for education, the facilities like school buildings, sports, competitions, co-education, higher education, medical education etc, the Maharaja took a bird's eye view. He was personally involved in ensuring that the policies regarding education were implemented well. He urged the officials, commissioner of education and the department of education to give their best to the work. His following correspondence refers to a lot of topics like agriculture, people's welfare, his relationship with

the British, his expectations from the officials, monsoons, knowledge, arts, enterprise etc and carry his opinions and responses on the initiatives related to them. Other than school education, he facilitated the publishing of books, informative texts, translations etc. During his travels around the world he sought advice of experts in different fields and was always in the quest of additional sources of knowledge for his people. He also took the best of modern knowledge and moulded it to fit in with the traditions of this land.

He saw to it that while drawing out a syllabus, the mental abilities, the age and capabilities of the students were taken into consideration. He suggested that that the books were designed with bright illustrations and educational content was meaningful and interesting to the children. He started a schoolbooks series after giving a thought to how a subject could be taken from the simple to the more complex. In a letter to Hargovinddas he writes, "The Empire Educational Series is just the one we want. In the Primer the alphabet once learned, the child can skip on to simpleness of familiar objects illustrated and so arranged as to comprise all the alphabets in eight or ten lessons. A child soon reads words, which are known to him and takes an interest in what he's reading, for they are within the range of his comprehension. To keep up this interest must therefore be the prime condition of a good reading book and the subjects chosen must be drawn from his everyday life. Compound letters are a difficulty with the children and these must be gradually introduced; the simpler ones preceding the more complex. For books to be favourite with the children and to cultivate in them good principles and pure taste, stories of home, of child life, of love between children and parents, brothers and sisters, love for the domestic animals and such others, interspersed with sweet simple rhymes must be introduced. To facilitate their study, a vocabulary of the difficult words with the sense in which they occur should be given at the end of each lesson. By the time the child has learnt his first two books an initiatory study of grammar and geography may be introduced. To make the books attractive they must be fully and well illustrated, well bound and printed in large types. As he proceeds further, the lessons he reads must be calculated to excite in him a

thirst of knowledge, the wonders of nature, pictures of distant lands, stories of the boyhood of great men, their deeds of heroism and such like must form subjects, begetting in them love for what is honest, true and brave and a contempt for everything mean and bad... All scientific lessons must be treated in non-technical language..." (*Letter No. 1821, supplementary/ June 1886*)

The Maharaja gave scholarships to bright students and sent them abroad for higher education. Regarding the education of the Marathas, he wrote to Raja Narayan Rao Powar of Devas, "As regards the question of education of the Mahrattas, I must say that attempts must be made though they may fail pretty often. It is beyond doubt that these people don't take to education carefully. If you want to train up some people to be useful to you, the best plan would be, I think, so send two boys to Europe to study for some time for a period of not exceeding four years." (*Letter No. 1890, supplementary/ December 1889*) He offered incentives for the betterment of the Indian languages too. Wrote he in a letter to Diwan Manibhai, "I want to give Rs 500 a month to the Bombay University Syndicate for, say, 3 to 5 years, provided they gave satisfactory standing to the vernacular languages in the University examinations." (*Letter No. 1927, supplementary/ February 1893*)

In a letter to R. C. Dutt he wrote, "I should like the compulsory education scheme launched and properly worked... Let us teach the rudiments of the three 'R's to our people and thus, develop their understanding and means of getting information. Without it we cannot progress. High and low, rich and poor, must be able to discern our true condition." He also expressed his great confidence in Dutt's judgment and thought.

On August 14, 1906, a letter was sent on his behalf to H. C. Bumpus, discussing with him the Maharaja's objective to start a library for young readers. It said, "His Highness the Maharaja of Gaekwar wishes to open a library for children up to age of 14-17 and for that end he wishes you to buy books on varied subjects up to the amount of 500 dollars. (*Letter No. 2002, supplementary/August 1906*) The Maharaja felt a need for the young readers to inculcate the values of education and fine literature.

In another letter sent on his behalf to Bumpus, who was in charge of the princes' education, it was specified that the princes should not receive any special treatment for his royal status and should be treated like an ordinary student. Some of the points the letter makes are: The school selected should be excellent; in which all the influences are for the best, where there is careful oversight of the study, the habits, character and conduct of the students; great stress be laid on the English work; it did not matter whether he was placed in a boarding or a day school, the quality of the school was in important point. The letter also said, "During vacation His Highness would like his son to see as much of yourself as possible.... The company of your son would also be convenient to him... He wishes you would see that in the society in which he is, be regarded and treated not as a prince, but as the son of a gentleman... In the matter of expenditure, His Highness doesn't want him to be looked upon as the son of a Maharaja, but well-to-do gentleman. His allowance, including his personal expenses, should be modest... This restriction should be made so that the young man will not feel that he has an unlimited amount to draw on and so that he will come to understand the value of money." This is an able guardian, sensitive father and a Maharaja, all in one.

Imparting the right values and inculcating principles of life, according to the Maharaja, were a part of education. He looked at the process holistically. He said, "His Highness wishes to impress on yourself and the others who may be connected with his son that what he regards as the matter of vital importance is the best development of the young man's character. This is values far more than the mere passing of examinations... The chief object is not indulgence but that he be of the greatest service to his country... Though it is too early to see his future, the ambition of His Highness for this is, first that he be a statesman; second, that he be a lawyer. It is for this reason that his knowledge of English must be very wide and thorough... His Highness hopes that with good teaching and intellectual surroundings a taste for it may be developed." (*Letter No. 2007, supplementary/September 1906*) The Maharaja's political wish was that his heir be competent enough to serve the state. He also laid heavy emphasis on

the education in English, knowledge, values, and building up of a fine character.

The Maharaja was also insistent upon the education of girls. He told Maharaja Holkar that it was their moral duty to give education to girls. He wrote, "It pays us to educate our ladies sensibly. Women represent half the population of our country; and one cannot really do well without them. I have promised to send her some books (with reference to Her Highness and Mamisaheb)." (*Letter No. 2038, supplementary/ June 1915*) This farsightedness, this progressive attitude, was very different from the attitude displayed by other heads of princely states, the British officials and the British government. When the queen of Indore Chandravati Maharani decided to acquire formal education, the Maharaja supported her and added that without acquiring knowledge no person could make themselves productive and useful to the state. The Maharaja believed that humanity would reach its pinnacle by pursuing and acquiring knowledge. He appreciated when people discussed education and made efforts to acquire it. He always supported such people generously.

In July 1915, the Maharaja visited the Raja of Kollengode. Wrote he in a letter to the host later, "I remember our talk about our journey sometime to the Kollengode schools. I am asking Capt. Nimbalkar to arrange to send you a cheque of Rs 2,250 at an early date. I think two annual prizes may be given in the Raja's high school: One of them to be given to the girls and be called Maharani (Chimnabai Gaekwar) Prize and the other to the boys Maharaja (Sayajirao Gaekwar) Prize. The amount of Rs 2,000 should be invested, out of the interest of which, the two prizes are to be given. The remaining sum of Rs 250 should be handed over to the private girls' school, the girls of which showed us the Malabar dance, as a donation." The Raja of Kollengode decided to convert the two prizes into scholarships and the Maharaja responded with, "I am very thankful to you for suggesting this way of utilizing the interest in a more useful way. It was very kind of you to take all that trouble of drafting rules for bestowal of the two scholarships. Pray adopt them for the guidance of the Head Master. A scholarship of rupees four per month may prove too small. I am therefore sending you another four hundred

rupees, so that each of the scholarships may be of rupees five per month." (*Letter No. 2045, supplementary/July 1915*) The appreciation and encouragement to the girl students was an issue close to his heart.

The routine inspection of all the educational institutions and training colleges were done by an official from the department of education. Wrote the Maharaja to George Clarke, the commissioner of education, "I should like you to examine and report upon the Girls' High School and the Female Training College, compare it also in several subjects if not all, with the Male Training College. I should also like for you to go to the district and examine several Anglo-vernacular schools and high schools. What can we reasonably do to turn out better students than at present from the high schools? I want to improve the schools, so that better prepared students should come to the college, better mentally prepared to receive higher education." (*Letter No. 2059, supplementary/October 1915*) He added later, "You can visit the Anglo-vernacular schools and make a thorough inspection. Whatever we decide to keep, let it be good and efficient." (*Letter No. 2063, supplementary/October 1915*) He wrote to N K Ambegaokar, educational expert and officer, "I am anxious to set the Education Department right and prevent all waste and inefficiency." (*Letter No. 2064, supplementary/October 1915*) The Maharaja believed that it was education that led to society's progress and hence kept the officials from the education department on their toes. In his letter to Clarke he wrote, "Indian education is an important problem and I do not pretend to have studied it; but my general impression is that the present system has not produced satisfactory citizens. The education is only skin-deep. The system requires to be replaced by a better one. I should not mind to try a new system based mostly on European experience." (*Letter No. 850*)

The Maharaja believed that education, as a focal point, was a measure of a society's progress. (*Letter No. 1629*) His efforts were to make use of the expertise of European experts in the fields like education, history, and arts. He considered Mr Cotton a great educationist and a man well versed in many subjects related to India and, more so, Indian history. He wrote to Diwan Aiyangar, "I should like, if it is agreeable

to him, to make some use of his knowledge and ability in connection with our education department... He should devote all his time in studying our educational problems, and submit a report with his criticism and advice. He should study the curriculum, the state of the schools, their discipline and internal management, besides viewing if from other points, as well as the capacity of the teachers for the desired product." (*Letter No. 537*) The Maharaja studied the reports and suggestions of the experts minutely.

He asked Diwan Aiyangar to name the English schools that were not doing well and that which could be closed down without any inconvenience and open one or two vernacular language schools instead. He added, "I am also looking forward to the tippan of the female training school. I propose that ten students be sent by us to Ahmedabad or any other training school with a condition, that they are to enter our service. I shall apply the same method to the training of female teachers. I have never believed that our education department is surfeited with properly trained teachers. In case it is, we need not incur the expenditure that I am proposing." (*Letter No. 540/ February 1901*)

The Maharaja was particularly interested in women's education. In a letter to the Governor General Sir George, he wrote, "If a scheme is set on foot for founding a college for the education of Indian ladies, in the Bombay Presidency, I shall be very glad to give towards the find one lac of rupees." (*Letter No. 1041/ July 1912*) To Lady Hardinge he wrote, "I have seen just lately in the papers that Your Excellency proposes to start a medical college and hospital for women at Delhi... I should be glad to give one lakh rupees towards founding scholarships for the medical college of women." (*Letter No. 1052/ September 1912*) Because the cause of education was dear to him, the Maharaja donated generously to various educational institutions. He also wished to set up a co-educational school at Kavvana, his own birthplace. In 1909, he wrote to Clarke saying, "My belief is that primary education is wanted amongst the agriculturists to arouse their sympathies in the improvements of agricultural adaptability to new ideas, which can be facilitated by quickening intelligence." (*Letter No. 855*) He had also told

Clarke “A college of commerce ought to be most useful...”
(Letter No. 1002)

The Maharaja gave hefty donations to the Grant Medical College, Benaras Hindu University, Aligarh Muslim University and Mayo College. His position was that higher education shaped the character of people and also led to great nation-building.

In 1919, he inspected the Rajkumar College and pointed out to things that could be improved. *(Letter No. 1728)* He wrote of how the teachers were not fit for the kind of role that he expected of them; a common dining hall for students was lacking; the religious education in the college was a mere farce; the games master had to be competent; the assistant masters should be recruited from all parts of India; the boys should be kept away from all social functions except speech day or annual sports or inter-school games; at school functions old boys or parents of present boys, should, as a rule, be asked to preside rather than big officials. Every boy should be made to feel that some day he might himself be a president. It would be kind of an incentive to the boys to try and command respect from others. All of these are very valid points and bring forth the ideas of education that the Maharaja had in mind.

The Maharaja also was keen on setting up of an independent university in Baroda. He read the book ‘An outline for a scheme for a University of Baroda’ by professor A. G. Widgery, and wrote to Diwan Manubhai, “I am desirous of starting a University at Baroda, and wish that full details as to cost etc, shall be submitted to me by a special commission to be appointed for the purpose.” *(Letter No. 1966/ April 1926)* A science college was set up in Baroda in 1881. In 1949, Maharaja Pratapsinh Gaekwad started the university and named it after Maharaja Sayajirao, who was very keen on establishing a university and had checked with experts on the pros and cons of it.

The Maharaja also gave generous patronage to the institutes that worked in the field of education of the Marathas. Wrote he to the Maharaja of Gwalior, “I quite agree with you of the importance of educating the Maratha community if they are not to be thrust permanently into the

background in India, and wait with great interest and definite cut and dried scheme for attaining our objects.” (*Letter No. 1792/ April 1920*) He wrote to Diwan Manubhai, “Kindly place the interest of a lakh of rupees at the disposal of the education department to give scholarships to the students of the Maratha caste.” (*Letter No. 1862/ June 1922*) In his observation on the studies of the Maratha students to Major Grace he wrote, “Maratha boys, as a rule, are not very fond of studies. (They) soon take to sports and shooting to an extent to affect injuriously their studies.” (*Letter No. 1896/ March 1923*)

The Maharaja also ensured that adequate attention was given to subjects like Economics and History. In a letter (*Letter No. 1908*) to Captain King, he stressed the importance of learning Economics and History. To Diwan Manubhai he wrote, “Prince Pratapsinh should learn Survey and Village Accounts. These two subjects should be taught in a practical and intelligent manner.” He also added, “I think a little more education than he has already received in Algebra, Euclid and Trigonometry will certainly not do him any harm, but will help to develop his mental and reasoning powers, which is of much importance. I only wish that these subjects should be taught in an intelligent manner and not crammed.” (*Letter No. 1971/ July 1926*) In a letter to Pratapsinh on August 12, 1927, he wrote, “Education is very important in life. It is essential for both the body and mind.” This advice that looks at education as the development of both the body and mind is very valuable.

The Maharaja kept the education department of the State of Baroda very active. He would insist on the inspection of every school, ask for the reports based on the inspection and look at the issues very carefully. He gave instructions to the officials in the education department very often: “We have been corresponding much about the educational department. If people do not take legitimate interest, or do not profit by the schools opened for them by the State, there should be no hesitation in closing them, till there is a definite demand to reopen them, with a promise to take full advantage of them...Our educational officers are apt to be sentimental and, to cover their faults, are apt to make much of the Compulsory Education Act and schools going, though they may deserve to

be closed. To close schools, when they are not taken advantage of, is one of the ways to encourage education." He added, "I have seen the satisfactory proceedings of the Educational Conference convened by you...Compulsory education or any other system of work would not require useless institutions or expenses to be kept on. Why should truth be hidden?... The State must see that whatever institutions there are, are properly maintained, and the staff is really efficient. I think fewer schools manned with well-trained teachers would be more useful than many with indifferent teachers, who hardly know English or higher ideals of life. These institutions, as you know, are open factors in the progress of the country." (*Letter No. 2067/ June 1929*) The Maharaja was of the opinion that instead of starting a school in every Taluka, it would be better to start effective schools in individual localities. Some of the schools could also employ British teachers. He wanted the compulsory free education to be better implemented and insisted upon a robust, common, educational system.

The Maharaja also generously contributed to institutions outside Baroda. He wrote in a letter to Khaserao Jadhav, "I have granted Rs 200 a month to a Maratha Society established at Poona for the encouragement of education in our community." (*Letter No. 2*) This grant had started in 1886 and went on for long. Other heads of princely states, at the time, were mostly illiterate. The Maharaja gauged the need of the hour and chose to spread the interest in education far and wide in his State. (*Letter No. 4*) In his letter to the Maharaja of Mysore, Chanrajendra Wodiar, he wrote, "I was very glad to hear splendid reports of Your Highness's advancement in educational reforms." (*Letter No. 46*) He was of the opinion that education was imperative for people of all strata of the society and that education also added to the moral fibre of the people. In a letter to Diwan Manibhai he wrote, "I have had, for a long time, under consideration, the question of introducing compulsory education to some, if not to the whole extent of this state...The first step necessary before the introduction of compulsory education is to provide each locality with the necessary means of giving education and if, after that has been provided for, people fail to attend, we can think of instituting punishments for failure of attendance... In this

scheme, boys and girls of every caste and community are expected to be provided with the means of education... While carrying out this important order is to see whether people who observe the purdah system, object to send their girls to schools. It is not necessary that they should send their girls to Government schools. All that they will be expected to do, is to educate their girls and boys to the standard fixed by Government from time to time... Nothing would be worse than to pledge what you cannot carry out. I have no hesitation in saying that we cannot do better than educate all our subjects. Education is absolutely necessary for the realisation of my ambition and wishes and for the success of my policy." (*Letter No. 126/ March 1893*) In a unique move, the Maharaja approved the proposal of free and compulsory education in 1893. The measure was extended to the whole State on August 1, 1906.

The Maharaja was as concerned with the education of his grandchildren as of his own children. He sent them abroad for education or then made arrangements for excellent tutors in the state itself. He maintained a regular correspondence with these tutors who were also guardians and mentors of the royal children. In a letter to Dr Nevins he wrote, "Jaisinh Rao passed well in his examination. He is at his 3rd Marathi book... Mr French is here, teaching the boys, in whom he takes great interest and liking. (*Letter No. 208/September 1895*) Or, when Fatehsinh Rao wished to study dancing, the Maharaja wrote to French, "I do not wish Fatehsinh Rao to be initiated into the art of cutting capers yet. Good manners may be taught without bringing youngsters in too close a contact with girls and young ladies. (*Letter No. 341/ May 1898*) Or in his letter to Elliot he wrote, "Jaisinh has a splendid memory and loves like his other brother to study. I was struck with the way he explains or tells a story in English. I am thinking of sending the two younger boys to Eton. (*Letter No. 437/December 1899*) The Maharaja was deeply concerned that education, academic as also moral, was imparted to the children. He also said in a letter to Col. Meade, "...Nobles who enter the army will not command respect, which they ought, unless they received proper education, which has formed their character and morals." (*Letter No. 590/August 1901*) At times he was hard on the children so that he could

encourage them to be better at their studies. His letter to French in March 1905 stated clearly in what ways he expected improvement from Prince Shivaji Rao and the one to Elliot regarding the tutor, Mr Spooner, are clear examples of this. (*Letter No. 804, 813*) The Maharaja tried sincerely to encourage the tutors to give the task of educating the princes their best.

The Maharaja was also concerned that the princes should not fall into bad company and, in a letter written on his behalf, Ambegaokar wrote to the Diwan in 1919, “Some arrangement will have to be made, by which about 15 boys of good moral character should be selected and formed into a class with Shrimant Pratapsinh Raje.” (*Letter No. 1757*) In his letter to Major Webber the Maharaja wrote, “I noticed the other day that his handwriting was not as good as it should be. Will you tell this to the proper person and get it set right?” (*Letter No. 1776*) In his letter to Capt. King, the tutor to Pratapsinh, the Maharaja wrote, “Do not get gavaias to sing to him. While he is studying vernacular, let him understand and learn by heart some poetry. Later on, when he is able to understand better, he should be explained the different kinds of poetical compositions, such as Dindi, Arya, Shlok etc... When you think he is capable of following the lessons, let him attend, like an ordinary student, the music classes in the city. Let him practice the Modi script and hand-written Gujarati so that he will be able to read with ease the official correspondence, which sometimes is written in very intricate manner. I should like you to mention in your letters the people who have called upon Pratapsinh and also the people he goes to see, and the ceremonies he attends. The principle to be born in mind is that he should lead a quiet, healthy, school boy-life.” (*Letter No. 1874/July 1922*)

Because the princes studied at places far away from him, he gave suggestions on their education, personal development and character. When Udaysinh had to do his exams while being unwell, the Maharaja wrote to him, “I advised you sometimes that health first and study afterwards. You ...should not appear for examination merely by cramming without understanding the subject thoroughly. Sanskrit, though a bit difficult, is a very useful language for an Indian

and a Hindu, and as such, you should spare no pains to learn it. Mathematics is an important branch of study and a fine discipline to the mind. You must not get frightened at it, and cram the theories merely with an idea of passing the examination. The same remark applies to the knowledge of English. It is a foreign language and, therefore, you must take much pains in mastering it...You should be careful in mixing with people. Do not allow yourself to be wrongly influenced by them, but reason out for yourself and try to distinguish between right and wrong and good and bad." (*Letter No. 2170/July 1932*)

The Maharaja gave a minute thought to the system of education, the syllabi, the state of mind of the students, their surroundings and the environment in which they studied. His letters were less about comfort and more about giving the right guidance. In his letter to his daughter the Maharani of Cooch Behar, he wrote, 'The present education given to the princes is too superficial. ...It does not form character and critical power of judgment. The information supplied in the form of education is meager.' (*Letter No. 2171/July 1932*)

The Maharaja wrote to his son Dhairyashilrao about the latter's son Ashok (the Maharaja's grandson), "The best course... in my opinion, will be to send him later to a public school, by which time he should be given knowledge of his own language and country besides English." (*Letter No. 2173/July 1932*)

The Maharaja wasn't lost in European thinking and educational system. He was also true to his roots. He was of the belief that Indian education imparted some very significant values and principles. He denied the mere superficial aspect of European education wherever he felt the need to. This was an example of a truly progressive mind.

The travelogues

The Maharaja travelled to Europe, America, Sri Lanka, Egypt... and many more places. The journeys were undertaken for health reasons as also for practical considerations. He also travelled extensively within the country. The British government and the officers always watched his travels with suspicion and the Maharaja was often accused of helping the

revolutionaries in the course of his travels. Several restrictions were imposed upon him. Despite his travels being chiefly for health reasons, he enjoyed them and his curiosity led him to observe and understand the modern, liberal, progressive world and the changing thinking.

One of the first things that he did after taking over the governance was to understand the issues of the people of his state. He visited every possible place, looked into the problems and saw to it that the best solutions were found. When his health was affected, he sailed to Sri Lanka to get better. The Government of Hindustan offered him the title Star of India. When he returned to Mahabaleshwar he met Dr William Noon who diagnosed him with weakness of spine and advised him to travel to Europe to feel better. The Maharaja did as was suggested and also met the Queen of England. On May 1887, he reached the Bombay port. This was his first trip to Europe. By 1900 he had travelled to Europe six times. The details of more than one of his travels appear in Letter No. 485.

The observations in this come under the title as Details of trips but they relate to different periods, seasons and trips, and are not confined to any one trip. He was the head of the State of Baroda and had made some rules for himself. The Maharaja had to make appropriate administrative arrangements and did not appreciate the interference of the British government. "When a Raja wishes to leave his country for a foreign and distant one, he is expected to give information of the fact to the Government of India through the Political Agent of his court before he leaves it...This apparently information leads to queries, then criticism of arrangements for the administration, made during the Raja's absence for the conduct of business and suggestions more than mere proposals are placed by the Political Officers before the intending tourist, who nolens volens, under pressure of circumstances and influence or from conviction, does what is best under the limited scope and starts to carry out the plans of his tour. A Raja is generally made to have a Political Officer to look after him and his arrangements, with power and position, which are unknown to the persons, after whom the political officer is to look. The theory of duties and their limits and the manner of executing them varies according to

whether the Raja is easy to govern or not. I think it is a useless item of expenditure, which serves no useful purpose and only causes irritation and distrust in the mind of the Raja, to send an officer against his will at his own cost and expense, and who requires more to be pleased than gives pleasure. Sometimes Residents of the native state give instructions to European State servants to do the duties of Political Officers. This system, besides lacking courtesy to the ruler, subverts all discipline and subordination, and is fraught with mischief." (*Letter No. 485*) It was obvious that many hurdles were created in the path of the Maharaja when he expressed the desire to travel. However, every time he travelled outside the country, he remained concerned about the welfare of his state. In the same letter he describes the scenes of his family and subjects bidding him Bon Voyage: "Officers, Sardars and Darakdars, sometimes, came to bid me good-bye at the palaces and again all of them en masse came to see me off at the railway station. A scene at these places is most touching and sorrowing and one feels the full force of the Shakespearian aphorism 'Parting is such a sweet sorrow'. The crowded station, with notabilities of various grades and ranks of life... uniting in nothing more common than in the expression of Bon Voyage to the royal tourist. Some of these people, with downcast eyes, wore expressions of deep sorrow and tears in their eyes and on faces that were moved by deep-seated emotions. They bade a respectable good-bye, as the train steamed off out of the station."

Even when he travelled overseas, he always made administrative arrangements to look into issues of Baroda and to rectify them. In one letter he expressed regret to have to leave his subjects behind in hard times: "Never did I undertake a trip more reluctantly than the present one as it separated me from personally looking after the famine-stricken subjects of my State, though I have the satisfaction to feel that I have made every possible arrangement for the livelihood and the employment of the poor till and beyond the commencement of the monsoons." The Maharaja's feeling for his subjects is evident here.

The letter also made other points. For instance, there are descriptions of the ship S. S. Caledonia, the details of the

Peninsular & Oriental Company, the total investments in it, the details of its expansion, its motto, the facilities available etc.

When he travelled abroad for health reasons, the Maharaja also noted the culture, facilities, ways in which development of the region was achieved etc and then replicated them in Baroda. He used the understanding and wisdom gathered from his travels for the betterment of the State of Baroda, in fields as diverse as trade, social reform, technology, social development etc. He wrote in a letter to Lord Reay, "After arriving at Trieste on the 17th Ultimo and after stopping at some places I reached Vienna on the 26th of May. I spent there about a week. The Imperial Opera and the Hopbury theatre are splendid buildings... They seemed to have spent a very large sum on the Hopbury Theatre which is really a fine ornament to the town of Vienna. There are several buildings such as the Town Hall and others, which are well worth several visits." (*Letter No. 132/July 1893*) He often described the places that he visited and their stunning features. Wrote he of Karlsbad, "Karlsbad belongs to Austria and is situated in a little valley. The place is frequented by people who are unlucky enough to suffer from the disorders of the stomach. It will do a great deal of good to people like Jaisingrao Angre." Jaisingrao worked for the Maharaja and even though their status was not equal, the Maharaja treated him with respect and friendship.

The places abroad also reminded him of places back home. He also referred to the laziness of the people accompanying him: "A small number of attendants who are well trained, give greater pleasure to their master and to themselves, than a large number which mostly must consist of useless idle men as in our swaris." (*Letter No. 129*) His descriptions were vivid: "Trieste, as you come near and get a clear view, reminds you more of the Malabar Hill of Bombay. The houses are high, somewhat like those of Bombay in height and style of structure, but more substantial in looks. They are all built of stone. The stone of this place is very much of our Songari kind." (*Letter No. 128*) In the same letter he also described the palace called 'Miramor'. His descriptions revealed his sense of appreciation and observation of aesthetic beauty of his

surroundings: "The gold and other colours were nicely all mixed together. The rooms were 36 in numbers. There was a nice garden around this house. The Triestians often come here to spend their time. The Empress of Austria had been here a few days ago. There are many trees in the garden and a few fine plots of regular or artistic gardening, something like what we have in Makarpura. The palace has a fine view of the sea and that is why it is called Miramor (Look at the sea)." He also made the observation: "The harbour of Trieste did not strike me as very pretty. I think Bombay and Naples are far prettier." The Maharaja's eye for beauty is also evident in the following words of the letter: "As we approached Trieste early in the morning, I went up on the deck to get a view of the country and something struck me as very pleasant. At 5 'o' clock in the morning, the sun was as high as it is in Baroda at 6.30, but probably not quite so strong. The huge flood of light, that fell on the calm and oily waters of the deep was indeed very fine..." (*Letter No. 128*) The beautiful sunrise of Trieste reminded the Maharaja of the sunrise in Baroda. His writings describing his travels are striking, his descriptions of the picturesque beauty of the places that he visited are eloquent and lively.

He described his journey to Norway in his letter to Lord Kimberley in 1892-93: "I was anxious to see something of the customs and manners of life of the Norwegians, so I stayed for a fortnight in that country; but unfortunately I found that the intelligence and the courtesy of the people had been a good deal overrated, and the amount of information, which I obtained, hardly compensated for the discomforts of a country, which has not yet learned the secrets of attracting visitors. However, the scenery was fine and though there was a good deal of rain, I made the most of the bright days. It was a relief to find myself again on the continent and to see such cities as Dresden and Berlin with their wealth of art treasures and all the evidences of an advanced civilization... Most of the visitors had followed one another like a flock of sheep out of the place..." (*Letter No. 124*) The Maharaja was curious of other cultures and the lifestyles of people there. He was sarcastic about the mentality of other tourists who did not seem to explore another part of the world with the

required openness and curiosity. The Maharaja's intense desire to know and observe the cultural, intellectual and material beauty of other lands is evident here. His travels to Europe helped his physical health and opened his mind to newer thoughts and possibilities. His descriptions of Egypt, in his letter to Lord Elgin, are equally fascinating: "I went up the Nile from Cairo, through the region of the pyramids to Thebes and visited Karnack temples and other monuments. It was all wonderful and interesting; the great colossis and the temples with their fragments of history; the falls of kings and queens who were dead so many thousands of years ago; the temples with their huge columns and statues and strange intimations Egyptian belief and ritual and the unique nature of their sculptures; all this is in the most rich and beautiful country which receives a further charm by contrast with the heat..." (*Letter No. 320*)

Whenever the Maharaja visited foreign lands, he observed them carefully and wished to understand their history, geography and culture: "In certain respects and in religious life and ideas, the Egyptians seem to be very near us. I should not be at all astonished to find that these people and our ancients had more close and more intimate knowledge than we were inclined to believe in these days... The Egyptians were peaceful and industrious, who spent their energies in developing their country and in building. They did not make use of their power in invading foreign countries." (*Letter No. 368/September 1898*) This correspondence with the Maharaja of Idar is significant. The Maharaja dwelt upon the importance of the Nile and looked at the issues of irrigation. He also visited Aswan and spoke of how close the culture of Egypt was to that of ancient India.

From July 1900, he wrote letters to European friends, acquaintances, officers, the tutors of the princes, well-wishers and heads of other states. They discussed health, possible meetings, invitations, long-time friendships etc. They were mostly formal letters but some of them did carry hints of his warmth. For instance, in the letter to Sir John Watson he wrote, "I thought of you and your daughter the moment I stepped into London..." (*Letter No. 490/September 1900*) And to Duke of Connaught, "I should like so much to see you and

the Duchess. I have not forgotten you at all." (*Letter No. 492/June 1900*) The letter to Lady Tweedale said, "It was delightful to escape out of the noise and heat of London into the peaceful, cool country, and to walk through green lanes with commons, and golden gorge, instead of through dusty streets and squares. But what I thoroughly enjoyed was the freedom of English social life in the country and the opportunities of talking without constraint to so many charming ladies and intelligent men." (*Letter No. 500/July 1900*)

In his letter to Sir James Blyth he wrote, "Allow me to thank you heartily for the sumptuous and enjoyable dinner you gave me the other day. You had gathered together such interesting people and your arrangements in other respects showed great taste and finish." (*Letter No. 503/July 1900*) In his letter to Lord Reay he said, "I should like to get information about the one-rail system. After I hear from him (Prof. Beare), I shall write to the chief engineer in Baroda." (*Letter No. 505/July 1900*) His letter to John Puleston thanked him: "You have been invariably kind to me during my sojourn in this country. I am sorry you have not been well but I hope you are now faring better." (*Letter No. 508/July 1900*)

Both his informal and formal letter express his personal feelings beautifully. There is also a certain sadness that he is far away from Baroda. In his discussion on the weather, the state of agriculture, people's health etc too, his magnificent people-friendly personality shines through.

Some of the letters written in 1900 reflect his annoyance at the manner in which his health concerns were trivialised by the British government. Curzon visited Baroda in the Maharaja's absence and refused to accept the State's hospitality. He then sent a humiliating circular to all the heads of princely states that basically forbade anyone to leave the country without the permission of the British government. Even though the circular was sent to all the princes, it was subtly directed at the Maharaja. The Maharaja wrote to Diwan Aiyangar and expressed to him the need for a surgery on the Maharani because of which he had undertaken the foreign trip. He also expressed his dismay to Mrs Kent: "You all must have read the circular issued to the Indian princes by Lord Curzon and the comments made on me by the newspapers. I

do not think the Rajas are well treated in the circular. We are supposed to be Chiefs, but are treated worse than servants." (*Letter No. 515/July 1900*)

He also expressed his annoyance in the letter to Sir John Puleston: "...The circular of Lord Curzon about the visits of Indian princes to Europe may cause great difficulty. It is a cruel and humiliating treatment we Indian Rajas are put through, by the Government of India. I consider, in many respects, we are worse dealt with than servants or labourers. A Raja, if found troublesome, may be deposed or punished without any public inquiry. A Raja is asked to produce a medical certificate, if he desires to visit Europe for his health, a treatment which is inconsistent with his dignity and rights, one which lower him in the eyes of his people, besides weakening his hold on the administration. He is asked to obtain leave of absence, and this may be granted or not, according to the Government of India, or whoever may exercise that power on his behalf... I cannot see much reason in all this treatment, and I object most to the mode of this treatment... Interference also extends to his home and family... It is a paternal Government with a vengeance. Our rank and position is extolled to the seventh heaven if anything is to be got out of us in the interest of the British Government; but if we demur or out any question before we determine to do anything, we are promptly snubbed... If we refer to and rely on our treaties, we are told that they are not worth the paper on which they are written... I consider the garb of the parental interest is simply assumed, in order more easily to encroach upon the rights and privileges of people who might safely be left alone... My object in writing these cursory observations to you is this: that I long for people of your position to study Indian matters and try to do justice to the three hundred million alien unrepresented people of India." (*Letter No. 520/September 1900*)

The East India Company had lost its power after the war of 1857. One of the reasons for this war was the incessant oppression of the native kings. The Maharaja subtly made the British aware that a similar environment of discontent was likely to brew if such restrictions continued.

In his letter to Lord Reay written on October 18, 1900 the Maharaja was candid: "Laws affecting beggars and peasants are promulgated for criticism before they become a law, while the unfortunate princes of India are treated worse than men of no position and property." (*Letter No. 524*)

That the Maharaja did not mince words or underplay his real emotions is obvious here. He also sent a similar letter to Sir John Watson: "I am inclined to think that the circular is most mischievous and unnecessary. The grounds, on which some of the conclusions of the circulars are based, are in my opinion faulty and erroneous. The circular will affect the ruling power of the Chiefs and render them still less able to administer their affairs satisfactorily. It will distract their attention and prevent them from taking legitimate interest in the progress of the State...The Rajas will not be in the position to look after the true interests of the States. They must, to secure legitimate personal happiness and freedom, cringe and fawn to secure favours. Under this treatment they cannot acquire habits of independence, and possess good character... I cannot advocate the principle of absentee landlordism, but I do strongly hold that respect should be shown to the life, liberty and property of even subjugated races." (*Letter No. 527/November 1900*)

The Maharaja believed strongly in self-respect, liberation and justice. Curzon's circular had stemmed from the Maharaja's foreign trip. The Maharaja's correspondence while on his travels was significant. He also never considered himself subservient to the British. He firmly stuck to the position that the treaty between them was of friendship. He often reminded the British government of it.

His travels were always discussed and even when he went overseas for health reasons, secret police were asked to keep an eye on him and his visitors were watched. The Maharaja never hesitated to respond to the criticism of his travels. He continued to express his dissatisfaction to Curzon's circular for long. Wrote he in a letter to Col Meade, "...My visits to Europe have given me a fresh lease of life. But, in the course of those visits, my natural desire for knowledge led me to study and take as much advantage as possible of the opportunity, for intellectual improvement... Several times the

idea occurred to me of attaching myself to Oxford or some recognised university. But the forces against the execution of the idea were too strong." He also added, "Ignorant and irresponsible persons and newspaper editors have attributed several motives, sometimes even the basest, for the frequency of my visits... You are good enough to except me personally from the censure of the Indian princes, which the circular implies; and think I may honestly say that I have never been insensible to my responsibilities as a ruler and the necessity of working for the welfare of the people of my state... What cases do you refer or what do you mean by frequent visits?... The fact is that high standards of duty are held up before Princes, and the largest theories of personal responsibility and similar high sentiments placed before them, new obligations are added, while the old are not abolished, even though they be not necessary. Yet perfect freedom is not allowed in selecting and using means and facilities for fulfilling their duties." (*Letter No. 710/May 1903*) The Maharaja's words acquired an edge because of the honesty of his opinion. The letter did elicit a sympathetic response from Meade and the interference in the personal lives of the princes gradually lessened.

In the June of 1905 the Maharaja left for Europe and the United States. His letters during those travels are also concerning the welfare of the people, administration, appointments and developments in his State. A letter was sent on his behalf was sent to the Secretary of State for the United States: "His Highness is a prince of great intelligence, perfect familiarity with the English Government and its institutions, and desires to know something of ours before he returns to his own country... One of the objects of his visit to the United States is to see something of the educational institutions there with a view possibly to sending some of the youths of his country to pursue their studies in our Universities." (*Letter No. 827*) "His Highness is very desirous of seeing what he can of the workings of our republican institutions. I hope that some opportunity may arise for their Highnesses to see more of your brother, the President than would be possible in the merely formal interview." (*Letter No. 831*) "His Highness desires to know whether it is practicable

to secure the services of an expert educationalist in America... The expert should visit the Baroda State and the several educational institutions there as well as the curriculum in the different schools etc. and should make some definite and practicable suggestions regarding reforms and improvements to be effected therein." (*Letter No. 831*) "An expert manufacturer or a person competent to explore a country, who, after studying the natural conditions and facilities as well as past and present history and political and industrial circumstances of the State and people, should be competent enough to recommend definite lines of policy to be followed by the State is wanted by His Highness... His Highness will feel highly obliged, if you will find a good man with the necessary qualifications. The Baroda State is mainly agricultural; and judging from the geological report of the State, it seems that if any manufactories are to be started, they will have to be dependent mainly on such agriculture products..." (*Letter No. 834/June 1906*) It is obvious that the Maharaja's desire to travel to the west was all about the development of his people. A letter to Mr Bumpus on behalf of the Maharaja asked him to write or find someone to write a book on the industrial development of the United States, the education, agriculture, child development and the relations between parents and children, labour unions etc. (*Letter No. 839*) The Maharaja wrote to John Morly, Secretary of State for India, "...Our visit to Europe has done much good to me, the Maharanee and the children. And at the same time I have been able to see something of the educational institutions of the western countries which will help me much in improving the system of education in my own State..." Added the Maharaja, significantly, "To my mind it appears that a greater degree of autonomy is needed to secure the natural and healthy development of native states in India." (*Letter No. 842/September 1906*)

In the April-May of 1910 the Maharaja travelled to China, Japan and Singapore. A letter written to Mr Seddon (Minister) talked of the beauty of Penang of Singapore but also made observations on the civic facilities there. The Maharaja also observed, "It is really wonderful, how enterprising and intelligent rulers can be the cause of turning wild forests

and groups of huts into rich and flourishing cities...The Europeans there mix comparatively more freely with the natives, whose women they sometimes marry." (*Letter No. 913/April 1910*) He perhaps wanted to bring to the notice of Seddon that the Europeans mixed easily with the people of Java, Sumatra and Singapore. A letter by Secretary Ambegaokar written on the Maharaja's behalf described the places that he visited and his observations on them: "Canton, the real Chinese town, has very narrow paved roads, which are again so zigzag that, to avoid a certain collision, bearers of Sedan chairs and other people carrying loads go on shouting...Good silk cloth, lacquer ware and ivory work can be had here." (*Letter No. 914/May 1910*)

In 1910 he also travelled to China, Japan and then to Vancouver and Europe. He was in touch with the local officials, friends and acquaintances. Wrote he in a letter to Dean of Christ Church, Mr Strong, "I should like you to mention two or three names, in the order of their worth of such young scholars, as you may think, may suit me for literary work...A literary man, who has passed history, may be more useful." (*Letter No. 923/August 1910*) His letter to Dhanjibhai back home said, "I have been visiting a few friends quietly and seeing the English home life... I was glad to know that there was good rain on our side of India." (*Letter No. 926/August 1910*) The Maharaja did not travel the world merely to enjoy. Wherever he went he looked for the right people to visit Baroda and contribute to its development. He was also concerned with the state of the monsoons, agriculture. He believed that Indian farmer and the issue of the monsoons were closely associated. The sensitive mind that is happy to observe English home life is also delighted on hearing that it rained well in his land.

In April 1914 the Maharaja travelled to Europe on medical advice. The British government seemed to have created some hurdles in his path. It was widely believed that the Maharaja had insulted the King of England on the occasion of the Delhi Darbar. The Maharaja knew that it wasn't really his motivation. It was against this backdrop that he needed to go to Europe. He wished to meet the King for the sake of politeness but Lords Hardinge and Crew did not make it

possible. He wrote, “What we want in Baroda, is to be left alone, to carry on the good work, begun long ago.” (*Letter No. 1184*)

Even during his travels he thought of the situation of law and order in his state, the safety and security of his people, and the constant interference by the British in the administration. However, this did not mar his capacity to notice the beauty of the travels. Even in the midst of the political turmoil, he pursued knowledge. Wrote he to Resident Jardine, “Mrs Annie Besant gave a lecture on Theosophy, which was well delivered and contained good sentiments...We passed the Greek and Italian islands in the evenings or at nights; so beyond the lamps, we were not able to see anything of the land... The gardens in Monte Carlo and around it were a blaze of colour. The Prince of Monaco is indeed a fortunate fellow. He has his independence, a small bit of territory, and great revenue without much trouble in getting it. In Milan a visit was paid to the famous cathedral, the arcade, the old castle now used as a museum and a church, where the last supper of Christ is painted on the wall by Leonardo...I like the colouring and the impressions in the faces and the grouping of the figures. Naturally, in those days, biblical subjects attracted more interest than they do now. I hope everything is getting on well and smoothly in Baroda. The progress and reputation of an Indian State depends a great deal upon its political officers.” (*Letter No. 1185*)

This was written at the time when Jardine was just about getting used to his work in Baroda. Towards the end of the letter, he seems to make Jardine aware of his responsibilities and the administrative responsibilities of Baroda. Making an evaluation of Annie Besant’s speech and juxtaposing it with a reference to the role of the Political Officer is a sign of fine statesmanship. His subtle sense of humour is also obvious in his remark that because they passed the Greek and Italian islands in the evenings or at nights, beyond the lamps, they couldn’t see anything of the land. Even in the smallest of observations he said a lot about appreciation of art, the inspiration of the artists, and the reflection of the influences of the era that the painting was done. He would also discuss the initiatives in Baroda, ask for updates and give his opinion

and directives to the Diwan back in Baroda. Take, for instance, the letter written to Diwan Madhava Rao on June 22, 1914. (*Letter No. 1188*)

The Billimora-Sara Railway Terminus was proposed to be taken up to the Bunder; but the British Government disallowed it probably to secure the interests of the existing railways. If it can be taken to the Bunder, it would be a good thing... You should start workshops of our own, where we can get any many things made as may be profitable. Will you kindly hasten the railway chief engineer to submit a good comprehensive scheme with estimates etc, to start a workshop?" The British government was more interested in ensuring profits to the railways. It, therefore, tried to discourage the Maharaja's plan of expansion. This issue shows that unless there was self-sufficiency, development was not possible. The Maharaja was well aware of this and he brought it to the Diwan's observation.

The Maharaja's letters are marked not only by his astute awareness of the political process as also his wisdom but also his analysis of the practical aspects of the situation. When on his journeys abroad, his thought was never far away from Baroda. He enjoyed visiting Europe "to keep up with the progress of thought." (*Letter No. 1394*)

In September 1919, the Maharaja decided to visit Europe and wrote to local officials and well-wishers. He wrote to W.H.J Wilkinson, who had written to him about an institution where medical treatment could be undergone, "I had tried the treatment, I believe something of the kind, was tried on my eldest son, but without any effect. The patients here do not want to shake off the habit." (*Letter No. 1779*) His tone here is that of disappointment. He later wrote to Lord Reading, "I am writing this because you will be sorry to learn the death of my son, a young man of 29 years old. I learnt of it only three days ago." (*Letter No. 1789/December 1919*) The next letter is to Manubhai and is filled with grief: "We are stunned by the sad news of my son Shivaji Rao. Please see that everything is done for his wife and children. Please arrange to send Laxmi Devi to England to meet me." (*Letter No. 1790*)

The Maharaja, in the meanwhile, was undergoing treatment in different medical institutions. He wrote to Lord

Chelmsford, “I was in Switzerland under doctor’s orders taking an after-cure, after my rest-cure in a nursing home in London. I was in the nursing home for about nine weeks and I must say that, on the whole, I found the enforced rest and regularity very beneficial... but I think I began to get too self-sympathetic.” (*Letter No. 1791/April 1920*) Added he in the same letter, “When personal health becomes one’s principal business in life, I find that there is a tendency to attach undue importance to the little daily physical variation.” This is an unusually personal letter to the Viceroy. Most of the Maharaja’s correspondence with British officials, the Resident and Governor was formal.

While in France the Maharaja wrote to the Diwan Samartha telling him that he thought of him often. He gave a personal touch but indirectly also gave a directive to his officials. Whenever he came across any good project that was worthy of being emulated in the State of Baroda, he would ask the officials in Baroda to join him overseas. Take, for instance, the letter written to Diwan Manubhai, “...Please see how long it would take for Sir Vishweshvaraiya to finish the irrigation schemes he already has in hand; and if this should take a long time, I suggest some British experts should be consulted as regards other schemes pending. I understand that there is a systematic scheme of water supply to towns together with drainage adopted in the United Provinces. Please ask the Governor or other officials in authority to let Mr Raoji Patel, our irrigation engineer, and another young engineer from the department, go and study these works and other questions of policy and finance connected therewith.” (*Letter No. 1831/June 1921*)

Sir Vishweshvaraiya was a brilliant engineer and the Maharaja made the most of his expertise. However, he also kept tabs on the progress of the work from time to time. The Maharaja always gave an example of the way things were carried out better elsewhere and encouraged them to take a second look at the way they were done in Baroda: “We are spending much money on furniture in Europe, and the point is whether saving could be effected by making quite as good furniture in Baroda.” (*Letter No. 1844*)

The Maharaja made it a point to pay visits to places in Europe that were marked by industrial development. He also thought of how those initiatives in the fields of science, technology, enterprise and agriculture could be emulated in Baroda. His travels abroad brought him an awareness of democracy, progressive thinking, understanding of the modern world, and advancement in various fields. His travels and his stay abroad played a crucial role in his thinking. In his letter to Khaserao he said, "I am here since the last three days to meet Jaisinh Rao. He is not worse but the improvement in him is not yet worthy of consideration." (*Letter No. 1860/May 1922*) The Maharaja was undergoing hydrotherapy at this time in Vittel. His stay abroad wasn't very pleasant because he was always aware that in his absence the administration was affected, initiatives were delayed, and the Resident as also other British officials interfered in the governance. He asked for reports on important issues, studied them carefully, and sent directives regarding them. He also asked to know what exactly was happening in the State of Baroda, the monsoons, the status of agricultural progress, plague or any other epidemic, famine etc. Wrote he to Diwan Manubhai :

1. Your papers about the reorganisation of our troops have not yet come to me.
2. Please do not neglect to take all possible measures to put a stop to the disturbed condition of our State. Beg the Resident to help.
3. Datar has not yet turned up though I have been anxiously expecting him.
4. My health is improving gradually.
5. Kindly request the Resident on my behalf to help the State to stop the disturbed condition. It is not at all fair that the disturbance should continue."

The point of the State settling down after the disturbance has been repeated and the important issue of the reorganisation of the troops has been highlighted here. The Maharaja gave his instructions, asked the relevant officials to follow up, and then demanded reports on its status.

It was around the same time that he wrote to Maharaja Tukojirao Holkar. (*Letter No. 1869/June 1922*) The letter described various details of activities like playing golf or

bridge, listening to orchestra, shopping, theatre etc. He also mentioned that he preferred Paris to Berlin and expressed his satisfaction and optimism that the monsoons in Bombay were good. This is a letter from one Maharaja to another and hence describes entertainment facilities. However, these details are missing from the letters to officials of Baroda and his own staff.

In his longish letter from Bale to Dr C. A. L. Mayer he wrote of issues like the visit of Prince of Wales, Madras oil-bath rest-cure, a strong attack of gout, youngest son's wife and family happenings, Pratapsinh's education and the guidance he received from many people, Laxmibai's wedding, the death of the Maharaja of Kolhapur, improvements in health after reaching Port Said, Paris & Berlin, the return of the officers that accompanied him, the doctors that took care of him, new proposals on grading the medical officers, being able to complete a long letter at one go and the improvement in his health. Dr Mayer was a special physician to the Maharaja. The Maharaja benefitted from the doctor's advice. (*Letter No. 1873/July 1922*) Most of the letter carries the Maharaja's medical details and the Maharaja suggests that the stay abroad has been equally rejuvenating to the body and mind. This is a lengthy letter and has everything that one shares with one's doctor.

The Maharaja had to return to Europe in 1924 to attend to his health. He informed Col. Meade, that he would reach Europe on May 9, 1924 and would leave for Paris on the same day. He also intended to stay in Paris for more than a week and then leave for London. (*Letter No. 1927*) Even in the course of his travel the Maharaja kept himself informed on everything related to Baroda and kept in touch regularly with the State officials, British government's officers and other heads of states. The British meddled too much and the Maharaja, in his letter to Diwan Manubhai, made a direct reference to the fact: "A moderate amount of supervision, provided it is intelligent and effective, may produce more beneficial results than constant and continuous supervision, which is unintelligent and ineffective... Our people are copying British policy without much thinking. Unless the people are intellectually and morally advanced, they cannot achieve

much. When men are assembled in a gathering, as a rule, they talk much and waste a lot of valuable time...Do not let us be led away by mere appearances by such meeting in England and other countries of Europe. Some people in Europe are getting tired of this excessive talk and delay in State work." (*Letter No. 1930*)

Lord Crewe was the ambassador to Paris. The Maharaja wrote to him, "As I am interested in educational institutions and others of the like nature, I shall be glad to see at my leisure, similar institutions in Paris, and I should like you to introduce me to the proper authorities to enable me to do so." The Maharaja was keenly interested in education and hoped to get the best of the West to Baroda in terms of ideas and experts. (*Letter No. 1931/May 1924*) The Maharaja also enjoyed art exhibitions and made his observations in his correspondence. He wrote to the Raja Saheb of Sawantwadi, "Last week I finished seeing the British Empire exhibition. It has attracted a lot of people from all parts of the world, owing, perhaps, to its being very well advertised. I found it rather a poor show as compared with the Paris exhibition of 1900, which was a great deal better than this." (*Letter No. 1936/June 1924*)

The Maharaja never forgot that his main objectives were travel, peace and pursuit of knowledge. While in Paris, he had looked for a French professor for the college in Baroda and also checked if his officer could pick up some definite knowledge of the police organisation there. (*Letter No. 1897*)

To Col. Burke he wrote, "Though my primary object is to have a sort of rest and to undergo the treatment that the doctors generally prescribe for improving my health, it is impossible not to attend to innumerable engagements either by courtesy or through peculiar circumstances of one's position." (*Letter No. 1993/June 1927*) Even though he had travelled to Europe for a medical treatment, his mind was filled with the details and issues of his State. Let's look at two more details from the same letter: "I have now come to Evian under medical advice, and have started taking the waters. This is really a delightful spot on the French shore of Lake Lemon, and is one of the prettiest places... I was glad to hear from my Diwan about the satisfactory conditions of rain

fall in Baroda...It has been a source of great anxiety to me, for on it depends the happiness and prosperity of the people to a great extent. I have spent large amounts on boring and irrigation and the ways to combat the discomforts likely to attend a scarcity of rainfall. But it is always difficult to fight with nature." (*Letter No. 1993*) When he appreciated the beauty of Lake Lemon, he hadn't forgotten the issues of scanty rainfall in Baroda. Coping with the vagaries of nature was very important to him. While enjoying the beauty of nature, the fact of having to fight nature upset him.

The Maharaja constantly had his State on his mind even when he travelled to the other ends of the world and every time after he returned, he toured the State of Baroda extensively to reconnect with his people. He returned to Baroda from his travel on February 9, 1931. On March 8, he sent a letter to Gajra Raje Shinde: "After I returned to Baroda and toured the State, I told my people honestly and frankly to spread the knowledge and information they had amongst the rest of the society and undertake the work of creating awareness and wisdom in everyone. I am, forever, eager to work for the betterment of the people. You need to undertake such penance for nation-building and its progress." (*Letter No. 2132/March 1931*)

The Maharaja wished that the knowledge that he gained from his travels led to betterment of his State. That was why he travelled through the length and breadth of his State, met his people, and heard out what they wanted. This letter also made a mention that the nation was undergoing a churning and hoped that if everyone worked to the best of their capabilities, the nation would reach great heights. He left his heart with his people even when health concerns forced him to travel overseas.

In 1931, he spent a lot of time in Baroda to understand the issues of the people. He was also wise enough to know the benefits of a direct contact with the masses. He wrote to Sampatrao Gaekwad from Gstaad in Germany, "This personal contact with the people gave me a chance of seeing a real state of their feelings... I consider that in a small State, the ruler should carry out this procedure as much as possible; it is far better than dealing through sometimes unsympathetic

agents of Government..." He wrote with a feeling and also recalled the past: "As the oldest surviving member of the family, excluding myself, and who has been most in contact with me from the time I came to Baroda, I should like very much, if you could write your impressions of our early life together..." Said he of the place that he was at, "Wiesbaden lies in a sheltered hollow of sloping hills five miles to the north of Mainz on Rhine. It is surrounded mainly by forests and the open slopes are farmed on really up-to-date methods by the very healthy and apparently happy German peasants. The people are very congenial and hospitable. It is a curious fact that their regard for English now is almost as strong as their dislike for French." He also made a mention of how clean that part of Germany was: "One can drive all day in and around Wiesbaden without seeing a tin-can or a piece of paper." He also opined that the cathedral, museum and the opera house were worthy of Berlin or any other European capital. Now in the evening of his life, the Maharaja also wrote in this letter to his brother, "All our old friends either by death or retirement are dispersed; and sometimes it makes one feel lonely to think of the very few that are left." (*Letter No. 2151*) He hoped that his health would improve and that he would return to Baroda to be able to get back to his work with renewed energy.

By 1932, the Maharaja had travelled out of the country more than 20 times. He wrote to Khanderao, "I have spent a lot of time and money on 21 trips to Europe. But these trips have always been rather handicapped, not only through bad planning and lack of forethought, but by a prevalent feeling at home... therefore, since the year 1887, in spite of the feeling at home, political difficulties and the constant persecution of my staff, I return before my time." The Maharaja was attracted to the modernisation of Europe but he did not approve of blind modernisation in every sphere. In his letter to the Diwan V. T. Krishnammachari, on May 19, 1932, he wrote, "We should send our promising young men and officers to Europe systematically to learn and thus do better in helping their country. I do not admire several things in Europe, and we must do our best to avoid their drawbacks as far as we can. The true spirit of Indian civilisation and culture should

not be lost..." (*Letter No. 2162*) The Maharaja valued the core of the ancient civilisation that the country stood upon. He did not want modernisation to corrode the very basis of the Indian culture and yet he was aware that certain archaic practices had to go. Wrote he to Sir Vasudev Raja from Wiesbaden, "If our country is to progress, we must give up our ignorant and ill-founded beliefs in caste etc." (*Letter No. 2163/May 1932*) On April 7, 1932, he wrote to Sitaram Gaekwad, "Though I am advanced in age and falling in strength, I have no hankering after religion and desire to go on pilgrimages. I should like to go to some of them more to see the beauty of nature and appreciate the power that made it. My religion is to try to do good as much as possible." (*Letter No. 2159*)

For the Maharaja, to serve his people was synonymous with his faith. This thought was often reflected in his correspondence with the family members. In 1932, when in Zurich, he wrote to Shakuntala Raje, "Every person should, instead of focusing only on his tasks, also make it a point to serve the society. When each one of us realises that we have shunned laziness and have worked for the betterment of humanity, we will feel happy from within." (*Letter No. 2166*) The Maharaja was suggesting that true nature of a ruler's work was to be able to look after the entire society, not merely those of his own family. That, according to him, would bring true happiness.

He compared the conditions of the Indian states with those in Europe and found the former wanting in many ways. In June 1932, he wrote to Diwan Krishnamachari, "The conditions of the Indian states are such that they cannot bear any comparison with states in Europe, which are independent, progressive and virile. The spirit of patriotism, self-sacrifice, and the sense of exaction of rights and duties is more in Europe than we see in India...The real need of India is to improve the individual and the institutions which hamper healthy advance like wrong ideas of caste, social institutions and religious prejudices, and above all, to give them better education...Recognition of their merits and room to exercise them consistently with healthy and right traditions is what is needed." (*Letter No. 2167*)

Local hill stations

The Maharaja often travelled within the country, especially to the hill stations, for rest and recuperation and for health concerns. He stayed at Mahabaleshwar, Ooty, Dehradun, Shimla, Kashmir, Kunnur, Deolali etc. Select friends and family members usually accompanied him. However, even while on a holiday, he kept an eye on the happenings in Baroda and asked officials to visit him for discussions. He was also in constant correspondence with the relevant people regarding the administration of the State. In a letter to Maj. Gen. Watson, he wrote, “I am living at Umrath at present, where, as you know, I have newly constructed a large and spacious house. It has been fashionably furnished.” (*Letter No. 6*) The Maharaja needed a well-equipped place even while on his holidays because he was never merely on a holiday. Even during his travels he continued to hold meetings, get feedback, and ask for reports on the developmental work undertaken. In a letter to Lord Dufferin he wrote, “I hate the idea of an absentee Maharaja. I will make the best possible arrangements, under the circumstances, for the safe going of my State. I love my people and should not have chosen to be away, had it not been imperatively necessary. (*Letter No. 28*) The bond of love between Baroda and the Maharaja was very strong.

In March 1887, the Maharaja decided to be in Mahabaleshwar. Wrote he in a letter to the Duke of Connaught, “Though it is not a charming weather here as one would wish, I dare say it soon promises to be all that could be desired.” (*Letter No. 35*) To the Maharaja of Dhar he wrote, “There is nothing the matter with me and yet people will talk...that is the only way they can account for my going about...That is one of the evils of one in high life.”

The Maharaja suffered from insomnia. In April 1887, he wrote to his brother Sampatrao that he would stay in the Nilgiris for six months. He asked his brother, “I’m sorry to leave our State and cut myself off from the work, but I believe it is a prudent course to follow. What is more important in this world than health?” (*Letter No. 37*) The Maharaja also expressed his disappointment at the absence of any of the close family members with him.

In April 1888 the Maharaja was at Ooty. He informed his minister Laxman Jaganath that his health was getting better. He was also aware of certain rumours that were going around at the time, eg. T. Madhava Rao was going to return and replace Laxman Jagannath. The fact was that T. Madhava Rao was over 60 and leading a retired life. The Maharaja felt harassed by these rumours. (*Letter No. 42*) In his letter to Lord Dufferin he wrote that his health was getting better and the stomachaches that bothered him were a thing of the past now. (*Letter No. 43*) He also mentions in the same letter how his son Jaisinh Rao was born there (in Ooty) and expresses happiness that Queen Victoria sent him a telegram congratulating and enquiring after the health of Her Highness, himself and the baby. Even when the letters were formal, the Maharaja always gave it a personal touch.

To Khaserao in 1889, he wrote about his concerns regarding agriculture. The letter said, “There is tremendous lot to be done in our State in agriculture and we must try to do it at least little by little.” (*Letter No. 48*) This letter was written when he was in Panchgani, where he was supposed to be staying in order to take rest. The fact was that, no matter where he was, the Maharaja could never free himself of thoughts of the State and his people. He wrote to Col. F. H. Jackson, Agent to the Governor General, “I am studying the alienated land question of this State and hope shortly to decide it.” (*Letter No. 49*)

The Maharaja constantly communicated with his officers, the officials of the British government, his family members, friends and acquaintances. Whether it was the Bapat issue or the Barkhali land, of taxes and revenue or agriculture, the Maharaja thought things through in detail and then got his aides to give them a shape.

His letters also display a lot of genuine affection for people. He insisted that some of his family members write to him, letting him know of their wellbeing. In his letter to brother Sampatrao from Coonoor, he wrote, “You must write to me a little more frequently. I believe you are noticing some great excitement in Navsari against the Stamp Act. I have got a telegram from the inhabitants of the place. Has it rained there satisfactorily? It is raining here very often softly and sometimes pours down rather heavily.” (*Letter No. 81*)

If the Maharaja needed to hold important meetings, he would hold them at the places where he was. He invited his officers there and made arrangements for their travel and stay. After returning from Europe, he was at Ooty for a while when Col. Martelli expressed his desire to meet him. Said the Maharaja to Martelli, "I am glad that there is a likelihood of your coming to Ooty, and have every hope that better mutual acquaintance and a good understanding will be a result." There are several important issues that the Maharaja discusses in this letter, including having to hand over all his powers to the Minister in Council, the Bapat issue, the Barkhali petitions, etc. and hopes to have a personal discussion with the Resident. But he also gives details like the climate, art exhibitions and sale, the cultural performance of children. He also told Martelli, "I have no doubt that your daughters will enjoy their visit to Ooty... I shall make all the necessary arrangements for your lodging and conveyance." He also shares a personal detail of the Maharani being down with fever for two days. His letter discusses policy issues and yet it is not dry or brusque because he has given a beautiful warm, personal touch to it. (*Letter No. 165*)

The Maharaja chose the destinations for rest and recuperation according to the doctor's advice. In April 1902, Dr Demock of the Grant Medical College advised him to stay at Khandala or Lonavala instead of going to Murree and then later carry on with his travel to the north. (*Letter No. 635*) The Maharaja travelled to Lanoli-Coonoor-Ooty. The British government always created hurdles in his path every time he planned to travel long distance or overseas. The Maharaja also had to keep in touch with the British officers during his travels. When the Maharaja passed through Mysore on his way to Coonoor, the Raja of Mysore offered him great hospitality. The Maharaja thanked him warmly: "I am afraid our passing through you State must have caused you all much trouble and inconvenience. I was extremely happy to visit several institutions... they speak volumes for the administration and are noble monuments of an unselfish and progressive government." (*Letter No. 641/June 1902*)

In the August of the same year the Maharaja wished to build a house in Ooty, if necessary. He wrote a letter to the

architect R. Chisholm and mentioned that he was willing to spend about a lakh of rupees on the project. But he also added, "Politically, I am afraid we are not faring well. The grip is getting tight to suffocation and irritation of sorts is the order of the day. We are snubbed and repressed and yet wear good faces." (*Letter No. 655*) The Maharaja candidly expressed his disappointment here. There were restrictions from the government even on building new homes. The Maharaja also makes a mention of the famine in Baroda and indicates that the plan for a new home could be dropped if necessary.

The Maharaja was in Kashmir from April-May 1903 to September 1903. Lord Curzon's circular had hurt him badly and it was in this frame of mind that he had gone to Kashmir. Prior to that he had visited Lahore. He thanked the Maharaja of Kapurthala for his hospitality but mentioned that he could not visit him in Kapurthala for the reason already known to him, no doubt political interference. In a letter to Col. Meade he made a mention of this suffocation. (*Letter No. 712*) It was around this time that Aurobindo was with the Maharaja because he has written Letter No. 716 on the Maharaja's behalf.

The Maharaja visited two carpet-making factories and informed Col Meade about it. (*Letter No. 721/July 1903*) He has also mentioned the factory owner Mr Hadow, and how he was going to ask Hadow to make some carpets for the Maharaja's palace in Baroda. The Maharaja also made his observation about the Kashmiri people: "The Cashmeris are very artistic people and turn out beautiful specimens of art. The silver and wood work is admirable. Their shawl and other weaving work is such as to require great taste in its design and patience and skill on the part of the executors of the work. The country has a great future and under an intelligent government, its different resources cannot long remain undiscovered and undeveloped." That is Maharaja had an eye for beauty, and appreciated arts and crafts, is seen here.

In July 1903, there were massive floods in Kashmir and the Maharaja wrote a letter comforting the Raja of Kashmir (*Letter No. 725*) and also sent Rs 200 as aid to the floods-affected. He also suggested that a relief fund be started. However, the Maharaja was very careful to respect the dignity

of the Raja of Kashmir and expressed the hope that the Raja wouldn't consider him officious. He stated that the lake and Altapur were both very beautiful and he was very glad to have visited them. (*Letter No. 736*)

While in Kashmir, the Maharaja had decided to visit the Rana of Bhaji whose daughter was to marry his son. He wanted this to be a discreet visit but the British government and the Government of Punjab had to be informed. The British government decided to create hurdles and an upset Maharaja wrote both to the Rana of Bhaji and to Meade where he vented his frustration at this unnecessary meddling. (*Letter No. 739, 740/June 1903*)

In 1912, when the Maharaja was in Ooty, the British government created problems claiming that there was some sort of seditious activity going on in Baroda. The Maharaja wrote candidly to Blanchard, a British officer, and expressed himself strongly regarding the charges against him of insulting the King of England and letting seditious activity be carried out on his land. He also added strongly, "I shall not say much, as you will not be able to follow it without some knowledge of India." (*Letter No. 1015/April 1912*) To R. A. Willis, he wrote, "It is inconceivable for a State like Baroda to harbour sedition. It will be a suicidal policy to do so... The Government insists on settling the form and the power of the administration before a Rajah goes out of India, and so it was an ignorant Resident, who exercised increased powers and vigilance in my absence. Some people in service were called extremist and an attempt was made to punish them; but nothing satisfactory was produced against them. I do not know whether the whole attempt was not to give the State a bad name and to find fault with it. 'Give a dog a bad name and hang it', this proverb was well-illustrated, in my opinion, in the instance of Baroda." (*Letter No. 1016*) The Maharaja was always in touch with Baroda even when he travelled within or outside the country. He also mentioned to Lord Hardinge "I have toured round all the famine-stricken districts and examined the work in progress, and made provision to meet distress. The provision is ample and I have impressed upon the Famine Commissioner the need of personal inspection." (*Letter No. 1020/June 1912*)

In April-May-June, when the Maharaja was at Ooty, he met the Maharajas of Travancore and Cochin. He shared it in a letter to Col. Impy, the Resident of Baroda, and added, “I find the place very pleasant and my house very comfortable; but the weather is not bracing enough.” (*Letter No. 1227*) To Diwan V.P. Madhavarao he wrote, “...There is no hunting which is a great source of amusement here... Owing to war Ooty is quieter than usual.” The Maharaja was referring to the First World War. He also discusses with the Diwan the railway work: “Has a survey been made of our extension to join the Junagadh line and further extension to Kodinar?... The Jamnagar-Dwarka railway must also not be forgotten.” (*Letter No. 1228*) The Maharaja’s passion for work and his intent to bring about betterment in the life of his people is evident in all his correspondence.

From April-May-June till September 1916, the Maharaja stayed at Kashmir. His letter to Ella, Elliot’s daughter described Kashmir: “The climate is cooler than Ooty in the south of India and the scenery is practically Swiss. The Maharaja of Kashmere arrived here yesterday in a procession of boats, which reminded one of the streets of Venice with the beautiful buildings.” The Maharaja was of the opinion that the natural beauty of Kashmir was comparable with some of the best places in the world. His descriptions of a journey to Kashmir, as it appeared in his letter to Kamla Devi in Navsari, could be a wonderful travelogue. (*Letter No. 1306*) The letter, written on June 5, 1916, is personal. The descriptions are so good that it would make the receiver of the letter feel as if they were experiencing it themselves. The Maharaja wrote, “We left Rawalpindi on the same day and reached Murree. Murree is a hill station for the army. It is in the Himalayas and is around 8,000 ft. above the sea level. This makes it very cool... 164 miles form Rawalpindi and 127 miles from Murree, there is a place called Kohla. The British boundary ends here and the one of the kingdom of Kashmir starts. Throughout the stretch, there are tall mountains on one side and the valley on the other. As you reach Kohla, you get to see the Jhelum River. When you cross the Jhelum, you reach the kingdom of Kashmir. The river accompanies us right up to Shrinagar.” The letter is filled with details of the

natural beauty, the flora and fauns, the houseboats, the hunting sessions etc. He also mentioned that a power station had been built near a place called Rampur and the project cost 44 lakh rupees. The Maharaja did not forget to jot down his observations on the people that he came across. He noted that they were not educated and their homes were humble but the natural beauty of the place made up for it. Education was a subject that was very close to the Maharaja's heart. He was also fascinated by the sericulture work done in Kashmir.

The Maharaja also seemed to have undertaken a pilgrimage to Kheer Bhavani. He described the sacred spring and the path built up to reach it to have a holy bath. He mentioned how the colour of the water changed once a year and that the Maharaja of Kashmir visited the place once a year. To Diwan V. P. Madhavarao he wrote, "In the last two places are some famous temples, and the Pandyas or priests make every pretext for extorting money from the ignorant visitors." (*Letter No. 1317*)

The Maharaja also wrote to the Nizam of Hyderabad, describing the beauty of Kashmir. He said, "Shrinagar, the capital of the State, ...has been compared to Florence and I think it is as much a water city as Venice. The town lies at the foot of two hills, Harri-Parbat, where there is a fort built by Akabar, and Takt-i-Suleman, from which one gets an extended view of the windings of the Jhelum, the city canals, the poplar avenues, the magnificent Chenar and the lake down below... In Verinag there is a beautiful tank built by Jehangir, with inscription, wherein a Persian poet calls it a paradise on the face of earth." (*Letter No. 1319*)

The descriptions in the letter to Nizam are marked by their difference. The Maharaja also mentioned the similarity between Gulmarg and European hill stations. The beauty of the hill stations in Europe had made quite an impression on him.

The Maharaja had visited Kashmir even before 1916 and he made a mention of the developments that had taken place by 1916. (*Letter No. 1325*) He observed that new roads had been built and different areas were now connected. His optimism also made him mentioned that there was a lot of scope for further development. This land, blessed with

abundance and beautiful people imprinted itself on his mind. The Maharaja was a ruler with a modern outlook, a passion for development and a devotion to his people's welfare. His correspondence brings out all these points beautifully. He observes personally the measures of development undertaken elsewhere and analyses them. To Resident Impy he wrote, "The journey (to Amarnath) is tedious but not difficult." He was disappointed to see the cave and said, "People in their blind faith have made too much of a poor natural phenomenon. The sight of the cave creates no religious feeling of reverence because it is so simple." The Maharaja's outlook was very modern and scientific. He had travelled all over the world and seen for himself the knowledge and art of different regions of the world. He was influenced by the western, scientific outlook and had a rational, practical approach to everything.

The Maharaja also wrote extensively to his well-wishers and family members. In the summer of 1918, he was at Ooty. Wrote he to his friend called Samarth, "I feel the absence of old friends and of my brother Anandrao and one feels at times lonely and no friend to exchange views and old experiences with. (*Letter No. 1637*) The Maharaja often managed to blend the two aspects of his personality, that of a king and a sensitive man, with ease. He could be a stern parent or an elderly kin and then also turn into the most loving, generous, almost motherly figure.

Even while on a vacation in Kashmir, he worried about the monsoons in Baroda. Wrote Ambegaokar to the Diwan on his behalf in July 1919, "His Highness is anxious to know the condition of the monsoon there and I have already sent you a wire with a request for a bi-weekly report about the rainfall, that being sent for the information of His Highness." (*Letter No. 1757*) In a letter by him to the Diwan, he wrote, "I hope you are supervising well all the departments of the State, and seeing that co-operation and co-ordination is well maintained and that work is promptly attended to by the different officers of the State." (*Letter No. 1759*)

Sometimes the Maharaja visited the states nearby for reasons like hunting or excursions. On April 7, 1928, he wrote to Prof. A. G. Widgery, "I have returned today after an excursion of a fortnight in the States of Kotah and Gwalior, where I had

a very pleasant time with tiger-shooting. I was interested also in studying the nature of the country and the administration of the two places. They are well-run States and reflect great credit to their rulers." (*Letter No. 2026*)

Whenever he went to Mussoorie, Ooty, Coonoor or Mahabaleshwar, he called for the reports on different issues, studied them carefully, and made his decision from there. Insomnia, knee pain or arthritis, too, did not stop him from his continuous work. He wrote, "I leave the State with reluctance, as I take much interest in its progress and welfare..." (*Letter No. 2026*)

The Philosophy of History

The Maharaja's reign was historic. He was in the habit of analysing issues related to industry, agriculture, science, technology, culture, administration, education, finance, human relations and management. He kept a company of intelligent, erudite, accomplished people in different fields, was a voracious reader and travelled all over the world. All of this shaped his personality. He often discussed and debated with scholars the merits and demerits of issues from various walks of life. His love of history is evident in all his writings. His letter to a young man whose name, unfortunately, is not mentioned, discussing the systematic and scientific study of history, is remarkable. (*Letter No. 1966, supplementary/October 1894*) He mentioned that though it is impossible to predict the future, and many successful prophesies of great events are sufficient to assume that there is limited power of forecasting the general direction of human progress, this power is not of any use in influencing the events. He wrote, "...but we may gain from it indications of a general character of the direction, towards which we are drifting in political and social life; and if we cannot absolutely change our destiny, we may at least adapt ourselves to it and make it endurable... It may seem beyond dispute that we may be able to reconstruct the past in a manner that was not even hope for a century ago. We are getting to understand the constitution of the primitive societies by studying primitive man; we are beginning to understand the rise of agrarian laws, and laws regulating property of all kinds... Nothing is so small as to be despised,

nothing so great as to be unessayed by the historian... It is surely to be anticipated that history is bound to occupy more and more thought..." This reminds one of Subaltern studies.

The letter also makes a mention of the ways one could predict the future based on history and also plan to face the future. He suggested that from the point of view of the evolution of humanity relooking at history might be very important. For him history, and a record of history were crucial to the progress of mankind.

The Maharaja opined that Edward Gibbon was the finest historian in the world. His book, 'The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire', published in six volumes, was published in 1776. The Maharaja had written an analytical book on it called 'From Caesar to Sultan: Being notes from Gibbon's Decline and fall of the Roman Empire'. It was published on January 1, 1896. The letter was written on October 19, 1894. It was obvious that the Maharaja had Gibbon's book on his mind even then. He wrote, "With the instinct of a genius, he took one of the greatest subjects available... He was the first to reconstruct the Roman Empire... he was the first to write the true history of the Christian Church." He added, "When we consider the vast fields in the past, that remain unattempted, that fresh domains are being added in every generation, that the subject matter is as wide as human nature itself..." He opined that history could absorb within itself various streams of thoughts and, as the time passed, that became more and more clear. There were many angles to every record of history if one re-read it and every concept could be discussed in many voices. The Maharaja perhaps wanted to also suggest that recording history or writing on it is a never-ending process. He also wanted to impress upon his young friend that one who recorded history had to be ready for hard work and have patience; and a historian had to be armed with the values of research, pursuit of knowledge and information, sincerity, honesty and determination to reach his goal. He also urged the young friend to look at the content of the letter as guiding principles.

The Maharaja also felt that the standards of recording and writing history had lowered - Gibbon had taken three decades to complete his work. He also discussed the importance of

investigation and collection of facts. He wrote, “You will have to learn how to balance them accurately and how best to cultivate a critical faculty... but facts are not everything; each fact is the cause or effect of some other, and in most cases, both cause and effect. These have to again be carefully balanced and investigated. It is not so important to notice what were the reasons, the desires or the delinquencies, which made its promulgation necessary and what were its effect on the minds, the morals and the habits of the people, when it has come into force. The record of a defeat is not so important as the investigation of the relaxation of discipline, the indecision of the mistakes of the generalship, which led to it; nor is the record of a victory so important as the enumeration of the uses to which it was put by the conqueror.” He added, “A famine, a war or a pestilence in one century, may have the gravest consequences in the next... It is also most useful to accustom oneself to the study and comparison of statistics, especially in a country like India, where differences of class are numerous and sharply defined. It is also most necessary to study the balance of the political parties in past ages as well as in the present...” Making another important point, he discussed the importance of style. He wrote, “Probably the instantaneous success of Darwin’s ‘Origin of Species’ was very much due to the admirable simplicity and sustained interest in the narrative, which even the general public could follow sufficiently to understand.”

This letter gave an excellent guidance to the young historian. It is also an indication of how deeply the Maharaja had studied various subjects and how he used his knowledge to relook at different principles. When he discussed the balance of power and Gibbon’s project, he probably had the issues of rewriting of the Indian war of independence of 1857, the battle of Plassey in 1757, famine, the Queen’s ordinance, the suppression of the heads of princely states, the oppressive British government, and the imbalance of power in the State of Baroda.

Contemplation

In the Maharaja’s correspondence, a great importance was placed on his suggestions, directives and statements. Pestonji Dorabji Khandalawalla was a Khangi Karbhari from 1887 to

1896. In a letter written to him, the Maharaja said, "Patience is a great virtue and it should be practiced in every mundane affair. People are not always very logical and reasonable in all that they do and sometimes they become quite blind to good and disinterested measures when their self-interest is concerned. Never be afraid of being late in any undertaking of life, so long as you have it in view. Reason and anger in displeasure are inconsistent and therefore you should always direct your actions generally to reason. I always try to do so in my little life...Human nature is really too complex. Sometimes you have to thwart it, sometimes to encourage, sometimes to persuade it." (*Letter No. 41*)

The Maharaja himself observed the qualities of restrain, rational thinking, and idealism all his life. His words were born out of his experiences of real life. These guidance to officers, that reflect the Maharaja's own search for life, also make a universal statement on how life is to be lived. This communication with a court official has subconsciously become his own contemplation on life, an analysis of human mind and behaviour.

Another letter, this one to T. Madhava Rao, made a statement right in the beginning: 'There is nothing harder than to estimate the value of a man and to get one, who can fulfill the ideal of one.' (*Letter No. 96, supplementary/April 1890*) This observation on human mind and behavior is very balanced. The ideal is a direction, a consideration or cerebration. How can a human being always be ideal? The Maharaja wished to share the experiences and his expectations of the people who needed to be involved in the governance of the state. It was impossible for all the people to be ideal, at all times. But were there no such people at all? They were rare and the Maharaja had a keen eye to pick the right people.

The Maharaja who fought on all fronts like the family situation, the suffocation due to the interference of the British, the political scenario and health wanted to study in the Oxford University. His life was pursuit of knowledge as also a devotion to the welfare of his people. His self-reflection speeded up as he faced innumerable challenges. In his letter to Meade he wrote, "Looking to the course of events in India, the difficulty seems to be to maintain even feelings of self-respect." (*Letter*

No. 760/January 1904) Here he refers to Curzon's circular. His letter to Lord Lamington is also introspective when he addressed the unfavourable criticism and gross exaggerations regarding a so-called lack of etiquette. (*Letter No. 977/January 1912*) Even when he was not in the best of health, his interest in politics remained steadfast. It was because of his long experience that he could meet the challenges. (*Letter No. 1914/October 1923*) He believed that even though a king was considered an element of divinity, he was a sensitive human being like all other people and his skill lay in his ability to remain true to his values. He wrote to Col. Meade in 1923, "Merely educating a few Rajas and individuals cannot solve the problem of the progress of a country. It is the general level of intelligence that must be raised and, above all, the people must really feel the need for change." (*Letter No. 1916*) He was certain that women's education would help get rid of harmful orthodoxy and outdated beliefs. He believed, "The Raja also has to change with the times. He should become sociable and accessible to people." (*Letter No. 1918/October 1923*)

The Maharaja was also clear that change for the better would come when every individual wanted it to come. In another letter to Col Meade regarding the princes, he wrote, "If a person chooses not to improve or cooperate in that direction with their endeavours parents can do but little to save a drowning person. The timing when bad habits were acquired, the environment, the social standing, means of indulging in them, whether a person has to work or not, are all factors to be taken into consideration..." (*Letter No. 1944/August 1924*)

One gets a sense of disquiet that the Maharaja felt when he wrote to the Diwan in a letter, "I am also buying a few race horses to serve as a diversion for me which a man in my position is often in need of, owing to work, worries and isolated position." (*Letter No. 2004/September 1927*) He referred to his son Prince Dhairyashilrao as "Dear Son," but also told him, "The position of an Indian ruler is not so easy and comfortable as many people imagine... A State does not depend on one individual, however able he may be; it has to be supported by others." (*Letter No. 2027/April 1928*) Wrote he to the Diwan, "I

wish it to be impressed upon all your colleagues and other officers that since matters or questions of work come through so many hands and offices that I naturally trust them more than if they come only through a few hands and offices. These gentlemen and officers, if not working prudently, can do a great amount of harm... I trusted in this respect, the State organisation, the Ministers, some of whom I thought, would raise alarm in time, and point out vividly that the State interests were not being well guarded." (*Letter No. 2046/July 1928*) He snubbed Dhairyashilrao, "...You have been of no assistance or use, whatever, to your family or to the State, Here I have been working for nearly two generations without any of you being of the slightest assistance... You go on expecting money without meriting it. Why should you not work and earn money instead of depending upon the State to supply all your wants?" (*Letter No. 2052/September 1928*)

The Maharaja was gradually becoming lonely. His pensive mood and his commentary of some of life's truths are reflected in his later letters: "Each one carves out his own life and preaching is not of much use." (*Letter No. 2079/August 1929*) "I should prefer a national autocratic government for the whole of India until nation-building improvements are well-established." (*Letter No. 2083*) "A weak neighbour does not find it always convenient to set up a separate standard from his powerful and numerous neighbours." (*Letter No. 2091*) 'The finances of the State must always be good and reasonable saving made to meet future bad times.' (*Letter No. 2109*) "The need for India is that her own people should be able to decide finally all questions, bearing in mind the welfare of her people." (*Letter No. 2129*) "...A ruler should carry out this procedure (personal contact with his subjects). It is far better than dealing through sometimes unsympathetic agents of Government... I do not consider that the modern tendencies of the so-called educated people to ask for a representative government are beneficial to the State." (*Letter No. 2151*) "One can take a horse to water but to drink depends on themselves and no one else." (*Letter No. 2157*) "In my opinion, the real need of India is to improve the individual and the institutions which hamper healthy advance like wrong ideas of caste, social institutions and religious prejudices and, above all, to

give them better education, more to eat, and leisure. Recognition of their merits and room to exercise them consistently with healthy and right traditions is what is needed." (*Letter No. 2167*)

The Maharaja contemplated on issues like governance, good administration, ethical behaviour, values, propriety in public and personal life, human behaviour, history, knowledge, social and political reforms etc. He wrote on them depending upon who the receiver was. He also awaited response. He focused on the present while keeping an eye on the future.

He was also not a man who looked too much into the past. He did not usually believe in remembering and talking of the past because he was too focused on the concern for the future. However, in Letter No. 2151, he asks his brother Sampatrao to remember their early days. Because his correspondence was largely about administrative matters, socio-political situations and the developmental initiatives that he undertook, there was not much focus on his own self. That angle came in only when he discussed the princes, their education, habits and the unfortunate deterioration of the character, his own health and his travels. The personal details were mostly evident in letters written to the Diwans, his own friends and family members. Other correspondence was marked by advice and expectations related to development.

In February 1932, the Maharaja, on a health-related vacation, wrote to his brother Sampatra, reminding him of their formative years. There was also a brief reply to Sampatrao from Wiesbaden in response to the poem that he had quoted to the Maharaja. In the evening of his life the Maharaja spoke of the travels undertaken in 1930, 1931, the round table conferences, of political life and also mentioned, with utter dismay, Dhairyashilrao's deterioration. He talked of their childhood, the palace and school and the early life in Baroda after he was adopted. It is obvious that he older he got, the lonelier he became and hence preferred to delve into happier times of the childhood.

The Maharaja was of the opinion that the heads of states need not lower themselves in stature in front of the British. He also saw how the interference of the British government and the restrictions that it imposed hampered development

of the states. He knew that autonomy of the states was a must in order to bring about real development. However, even when his mind was on the socio-political developments of the hour, he never forgot to give a personal touch to his correspondence to the British officials. Wrote he to Resident Col. J. C. Berkley, "I should like to know how Mrs. Berkley is. I am extremely sorry that she is suffering from fever. I hope I shall soon have the opportunity to make her acquaintance." (*Letter No. 1824/June 1886*) His letters to the other Rajas also have a mention of the latter's family members, children, their education and sports etc. This was his style and the way of connecting. It helped the Maharaja to establish closer bonds with others.

Some noteworthy letters

Many of the letters in this collection are significant because of the historical, political and cultural and insights they provide into the era. Justice Ranade had written to the Maharaja regarding the setting up of the Social Reform Association. The Maharaja responded to him. (*Letter No. 78*) Ranade had invited the Maharaja to head the Association that was to improve the social conditions of Hindus. The Maharaja was ready to be a patron. He was interested in social reforms and his thoughts on prevalent orthodoxy and superstitions were modern. He wrote, "I am inclined to believe that social reforms are of greater importance than even gaining political rights."

A letter of Ranade's (*Letter No. 1980, supplementary*) is included here. Written on February 21, 1896, it was meant only for the Maharaja's eyes. The Maharaja had invited Ranade to Baroda to take over as the Diwan. Ranade had, with courage and humility refused the offer. Kirtane had made a similar offer to him Baroda, Dadabhai Naoroji had invited him to be a member of the cabinet, and Maharaja Holkar had asked him to join him in Indore as the Diwan. Ranade had refused all these offers. This particular letter explains Ranade's reasons for refusal as also mentions the advice given to him by his friends. He wrote, "...Caste and race factions have weakened the body politic from within." Ranade had great respect for the State of Baroda as also for the Maharaja himself and made some valuable suggestions to the Maharaja:

“Something like a constitution should be devised, by which the centralising arrangements at present in force may make way for a well-organised distribution and subordination of powers; the Council members should each be in charge of their own departments, the Diwan with the councilors be responsible to His Highness; Your Highness might even over-rule them as the viceroy and the governor over-rule their councils; the council system should work like it worked in Mysore, Hyderabad and Kolhapur; Your Highness should take the people into confidence by holding Dussera assemblies and presiding over Legislative Councils; the same measures of confidence should be undertaken in the judicial department; in matters of local importance the formation of separate district-local and municipal, Baroda will relieve the central/authorities of much needless work and interest people in public affairs; form a regular budget of the State; submit a statement regarding the budget; the entire revenue system should be like the ones under the British occupation in Bengal, Madras-South and North.” Ranade had real concern for the State of Baroda and hence had pointed out ways in which improvements could take place.

During the time of the Poona Pact, A. D. Naoroji, Tata & Sons had sent a telegram to the Maharaja. He responded with, “Division in Hinduism can only be avoided by equal treatment and opportunity to rise in all paths of life to all castes alike. I regret inability to influence Dr Ambedkar. Mr Gandhi should not insist on fasting, as nothing can be gained by his sacrifice.” (*Letter No. 2176/September 1932*) The Poona Pact was an agreement between Dr Ambedkar and Gandhi, who had been protesting the decision by British Prime Minister Ramsay Macdonald to give separate electorates to oppressed classes for the election of members of provincial legislative assemblies in British India. The pact was signed on September 24, 1932. In a letter written to Widgery, the Maharaja wrote, “Things in India, though slowly, are changing. I have openly declared that the untouchables should be allowed an entry in all the government temples since quite a long time, and they have been admitted to my table at dinner publicly.” (*Letter No. 2178*)

To the Raja of Kollengode on May 21, 1932, he had said, “If our country is to progress, we must give up our ignorant and

ill-founded beliefs in caste etc.” (*Letter No. 2163*) The Maharaja was against discrimination on the basis of caste, creed or community. He made every attempt for people to understand that such discrimination led to exploitation and that was why outdated beliefs and practices based upon superstition had to be discarded.

The State of Baroda gave representation to different castes, tribes and provinces in its service. According to Letter No. 1901, written to the Diwan on May 7, 1923, they were:

Gujaratis of different castes:	15
Deccanis of different castes:	10
Non-Hindus like Parsis, Muslims etc:	5
	Total 30

The Parsis and Muslims were in a minority and the Maharaja had given them representation as well. Wrote the Maharaja, “Each caste, tribe and province has its value.” He added, “I have been thinking over this point for some time and had suggested the preparation of certain statistics; but in absence of goading by me, the object has not been carried out as yet.” He also made a reference to a Dr Shankar Parsharam Joshi, whose application, apparently, was reconsidered.

The Maharaja was always concerned with the state of agriculture and its dependence on the monsoons. To Ambegaokar he wrote, “As prices of agricultural produce have considerably gone down, and relief is necessary to be given to the cultivators, the sanctioned increase in the resettlement rates should be held in abeyance for a period of three years. The revision settlement of Okhamandal is postponed and perhaps there is not fresh settlement on hand at present or likely to be commenced in the immediate future. In view of this you should see what reductions can be effected in the establishment of the Settlement department.” The Maharaja’s sensitivity towards the farmers, who had suffered a bad monsoon, is evident here.

When he was informed of the scarcity of food and fodder, on August 14, 1899, the Maharaja ordered the relief work to be started immediately. He wrote to his officer Kershapji, “Kindly come tomorrow with the Sarsuba and the Chief Engineer to explain to me what schemes and material you

have got ready to start at a moment's notice." He also added, "Take energetic steps for the commencement of the earth-work of the different railways. They should be ready to be started at once." The Maharaja was anxious to help the people as much as he could. He knew perfectly well that if an administration was prepared before a natural calamity struck, the people of the State did not suffer as badly. His quick decision-making, his love for his people, and a concern for their welfare is all reflected here.

He was firm in his decision on discouraging child marriages. Wrote he to Diwan Aiyangar on March 5, 1901, "Please get a draft bill prepared in as complete a form as possible to prevent early marriages in our people. The subject will be fully discussed when the draft bill is submitted. The age of marriage will have to be discussed and settled. Afterwards, I think, people can be persuaded to accept a law like this." (*Letter No. 551*) The Maharaja's policy was, even before the law was brought into force, to make create awareness among the people, discuss it and prepare them for it. His policies regarding social reform were fair and just and encouraged consensus rather than confrontation. Marriage had been considered as being shaped by culture and involved individuals as also the society. It was also sculpted by traditions and faith. He took this into consideration and preferred to bring about debates and discussions on the proposed reform. A discussion on the bill sought to educate the people. A law in force did not mean that a society automatically embraced a reform. But it helped to create an understanding of a social evil. Later, when in his own family there was an issue of early marriage, the Maharaja stated clearly that child marriages were banned in Baroda.

The Maharaja's sensitivity of heart is also visible in letters 578 and 582. Newman, a young secretary that the Maharaja had got from London, passed away after a short illness. The Maharaja had made all the possible help available to him while he ailed. After he died, in a letter to Martelli, the Maharaja wrote, "We buried the poor fellow with all available honours. I went the whole way with the coffin. I do not think any Hindu Raja has done this before." (*June 30, 1901*) Newman wasn't just a staffer and employee. He was a human being.

Letter No. 582, written to Newman's father, also shows how humane the Maharaja was.

A man called Dhavale was employed as an officer with the State of Baroda. After his death there were some issues about his pension etc. Dhavale had two wives. The Maharaja's letter to Girijabai Dhavale, one of the wives, who was probably associated with the royal family, deserves a mention here. Girijabai and the other wife were ready for the settlement of Rs 600 every year and some other financial benefits that were to come from the State. But Girijabai left for Pune without informing the Maharaja and, worse, started badmouthing the State arrangements. He wrote to her, "It doesn't suit people to be two-faced. You are an elder and you should keep in mind the dignity of your age. It is always better to be straightforward and transparent in your approach. Think maturely before you make a move." The Maharaja made her understand that the decision of the State would not be changed and she would have to abide by what was decided upon. He was a just ruler and it was obvious that only because she was a part of the family, he would not give her any special concessions. Letter No. 636, written by Manubhai on the Maharaja's behalf, also snubbed Girijabai for her immature behaviour. (*May 1902*)

The Maharaja believed that one had to move with the times. He did not approve of the Purdah system that was prevalent in the royal families. His letter to R. S. Narayandas, Judicial member of Jammu & Kashmir State Council said, "My married son is now living in a separate house with his own establishment. His wife is only thirteen years old and is not in Purdah. Our people are shocked at it, but the shock will wear away in time." (*Letter No. 770/February 1904*) The Maharaja wanted to slowly break away from dated traditions. His outlook was modern. He respected the land's culture but resisted the traditions that were dated and irrelevant.

And he always encouraged sports and writings related to them. J. M. Framji Patel was writer who wrote on cricket. The Maharaja wrote to him, "Cricket has become almost a national game with us since the time of Lord Harris... I have had it taught to all my sons from professional Parsee cricketers. It is a great pleasure to watch them playing nicely and enjoying a healthy pursuit, which trains the eye and

develops muscle and activity of limbs...These amusements being the boys of different sections and classes together.”
(Letter No. 794/September 1904)

The Maharaja tried his best to get Hindi accepted as the language of all. The language had been introduced in the schools of Baroda since 1911. He asked the Jan Saheb of Jamnagar for his opinion: “Should we try to have one common language for India (except Madras Presidency) and that as Hindi? We need not give up our own vernaculars.”
(Letter No. 949/January 1910)

The Maharaja’s policy with regards to the British as also to his own people, appears in Letter No. 1124 (*April 1913*). The letter was written to Gupta, the Diwan of Baroda. He wrote, “My policy has been always to be a friend to the British government, to be a father to my people and to safeguard the dignity, rights and self-respect of the State and of its ruler, always straightforward, honest and sympathetic in dealing with subordinates and others, ever willing to do that which is right, exercising self-abnegation...taking the light of knowledge and truth from whatever quarter it may happen to come, high or low.”

The Maharaja’s successful reign saw him back his words with action. There were a couple of occasions when confrontation was inevitable with the British. The Maharaja firmly stood by his policy of friendship. Secret documents were created against him accusing him of harbouring revolutionaries. The Maharaja always kept in touch with the British higher authorities. He was a well-travelled man and had friendships across Europe, Germany, China and Japan, including those with their rulers. Barring a rare occasion, the viceroys were respectful towards him. Many a time, the State of Baroda was better than the British-occupied Indian states when it came to development. It was because of his personality and push for reforms that Baroda topped the list of states that were known for their cultural, financial, social and educational progress.

Right from the beginning the Maharaja was very particular about timely reports on the initiatives undertaken, personal meetings, statements and summaries on various issues discussed, and well-maintained records. Wrote he to Shirgaokar, the Khangi Karbhari, “I hope that 1. Everything

is well and is being economically managed. 2. Papers are not kept pending unnecessarily in all the karkhanas. 3. The inconvenience of the subordinates, if any, are being attended to and they are being given every facility, encouragement and training to do their work efficiently and conscientiously.” (*Letter No. 1359/September 1916*) He believed that inspection had to be thorough, so there were no reasons for the Khangi Karbhari to re-inspect the workings and the offices and the different departments.

The Maharaja was particular about having systems in place. It was this quality that had contributed to his success in administration of the State in a big way. After any initiative that was decided upon the Maharaja wanted clear records on the budget, the human resources, the timing of completion and expertise. He was setting the principles of the science of management into motion. The candidates had to pass the tests of the Revenue department. It did not matter if the candidate was a member of the royal family. He had to undergo the necessary examinations.

The construction works to be undertaken were also approached meticulously. The Maharaja wrote to the chief engineer of Baroda, Coyle, “Ask for the competitive design of the library to be built. The competitors are to supply plans and elevation. The cost of the design, if carried out, must not go beyond the sum fixed. If the costs go above it, the plans will have to be rejected. I wish our plans may be sent to Dr Bumps in America.” (*Letter No. 1418/March 1917*)

In a letter to Khaserao that he wrote, he had asked to find out the reasons for the way the princes had turned out to be: “Why should our princes have turned out as they are? Have they any grounds to expect better results? Where have we failed? Can we definitely or indefinitely lay our finger on the mistakes, so as to avoid them for the future and to remedy the faults in the present cases? Is this for a want of kindness and discipline that my sons have suffered from?” (*Letter No. 1585/March 1918*)

With regards to the constitutional reforms in India and the impending visit of the Secretary of State, he wrote to the Maharaja of Kolhapur of the legitimate claims of the princes (rulers of the princely states) in the constitutional reorganisation and the appropriate method of getting the views

of princes. He also laid down the principles with respect to the modus operandi. (*Letter No. 1687/ November 1918*) The letter shows his extraordinary political acumen. In fact, almost every letter of his is inspirational, a representative of a novel thought, and a crystallised idea.

Conclusion

The Maharaja wrote to Diwan Manubhai in a letter, “By not coming more in contact or by not writing to each other, we make ourselves less useful.” (*Letter No. 2051, supplementary/ October 1915*) The Maharaja’s letters demonstrate his frame of mind, the happenings of the times, and his personal life. They also bring to life his social, political, cultural and intellectual journey. His personal life does not appear conspicuously because it is always mentioned briefly, but his public life, a testimony to his patriotism, passion for nation building and love for liberation, along with the life of his people are very obvious here. He was different from the other Maharajas of his time—a wise, diplomatic, knowledgeable man with a nimble mind. The British government was well aware of this fact. His letters provide a window to the era, the events that led to the liberation of the country, and all that was required and done to make the country step into the dawn of development.

These letters are inspirational to a broad spectrum of the society: The people, the administration, those in power, and those who play a leading role in the educational and social lives. The Maharaja’s attempts at social, educational, political, and cultural reforms would serve as a definite guidance. His foresight on the balance between positive transformation and the best of the traditions is significant. The letters are important from the point of view of being in the present effectively while shaping the future. They are an exposition on the Raj Dharma or the duty of the rulers, the ideals of governance, and also trace the evolution of the society.

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*Translated into English by
Gayatri Pagdi*

OLD INTRODUCTION

Letters, orders and speeches are the three main recorded results of His Highness' mental activities, and can all be styled more or less literary productions. Of these three, letters are purely his own, while it is possible in the case of the letter two, that other hands might have supplied some contribution. These letters are very often the heart-felt outpourings of a burdened mind, and provide a clue to the power of His Highness' thinking. To grasp his mental cast, one cannot do better than to study the spontaneous flow of his free pen at quiet moments. In themselves, the letters constitute what may almost be termed his own auto-biography, as they contain reference to and often a vivid description of nearly all important happenings and episodes of a long and varied active career.

It must, however, be remembered that the letters, included in this collection, are mere selections from among a very large number, and are by no means, exhaustive. There are many letters written to friends, relations and officers, which, being more or less of a formal character, are purposely omitted. Unless there is some topic of domestic. Official or social importance touched in a letter, I have not included it in this collection.

Several long gaps, I am aware, can easily be detected in this collection; but they need not be attributed to any want of care in making the selection. In the first place, I am not sure that I have been able to tap all the preserved records, as a persistent search is leading to the discovery of new files. Then again His Highness has not always cared to write much or regularly, if he had a light and easy mood, and had no serious topics for recording in letters. I am sure, months and months passed, when he hardly wrote any important letters at all. Often times, instead of writing himself, he got his secretary or others to write for him. Whatever went under the signature of his Diwan or his secretary, has not been included in this collection, not because such letters do not

contain His Highness' ideas or orders; nay, a large number of dispatches and letters, although going under the signature of the secretary, are obviously detected by His Highness himself. But such a collection of letters and papers written by others under His Highness' orders. Will be separately undertaken, if and when this first collection of his own letters is completed and approved. Very often again, during short trips in various parts of India or long sea-journeys outside, during any long ailments, from which His Highness has suffered not infrequently, or during any long distemper or tension created by important questions taking up all his time and energy, His Highness hardly wrote much, and possibly also very many letters written by him were dispatched straight away, without copies having been kept. Perhaps, in his early career, when he was not an adept in writing and had hardly travelled much out of Baroda, he did not write much. Often again, the same ideas are repeated in very many letters to different persons. Such repetitions may, perhaps, be tedious; and hence only a few of such letters have been selected, omitting the other containing nearly the same views or ideas. I am sure, however, that over one thousand letters, which are here presented, will be enough to enable one to understand His Highness' personality fully and faithfully, notwithstanding any gaps or omissions, that may be observed in point of time. I cannot give an exact estimate of the number of letters written by His Highness in all his life; but if I can venture a guess, I should think the selection, here presented, would constitute something like one-fourth of the total, that may have been actually written and despatched.

In this first volume, some 612 letters dating from January 1886 to December 1901 have been printed; the persons addressed therein, as the index will show, number 140.

I thank all those gentleman who have helped me by putting into my hands some rare letters in their possession.

Baroda, 25th October 1923.

- G.S. Sardesai

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Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad Selected Letters

Part 1

LETTER NO. 01 TO 611
(21st January 1886 - 2nd December 1901)

MAKARPURA

21st January 1886

MY DEAR SIR,*

Many thanks for your two letters, which I have safely received and in due time. I believe Mrs. Elliot is with you in the district. Appasaheb (Punekar) had written a letter to her, intimating Her Highness' desire to spend some time in her company, but it was not received by her; from this I conclude that she is with you. I shall be, indeed, very happy to introduce her to Her Highness.

I have come to know the result of your conversation with the Minister about the Barkhali question. You are quite right in asking for the papers. A great deal of information will have to be collected. The mode of the collection of information will have to be, I believe, rather a sudden one and undertaken in all our territory almost at the same time, to prevent fraud and cheating. I lay a great stress on the careful registration of papers as well as documentary evidence in full particulars, about each piece of Barkhali land. It will be a great and momentous measure of my time. I was exceedingly delighted to hear about Khasherao's progress. I will surely write to him. I always keep up correspondence with him. I think I had ordered the Dewan to send some money to England and I also came to know on enquiry that he had done so. Mr. Sampatrao is coming to consult me, (as he would possibly like to say), about his return to England, I saw General Watson this morning. He is ordered to stay at Baroda a month more. This means he will leave Baroda on the 3rd of March. We are all in the enjoyment of sound health, except the poor little prince (Fatehsinhrao), who is slightly suffering from fever. It is not of much consequence. I hope you are all well. The paper has become dirty by the use of bad ink. Kindly excuse me for this. I am going to Ajwa on Saturday and will be back the same evening. I return herewith all letters sent by you to-day, with thanks, except the one addressed to me by you.

Of course, you don't want the company's papers and the book showing the result of examinations.

Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Mr. F. A. H. Elliot, I.C.S., formerly Tutor, to His Highness, always in these letters addressed as "Sir."*

2

MAKARPURA,
23rd January 1886

MY DEAR KHASHERAO (JADHAV)

I was glad to read that you are getting on so well and so successfully*, We always watch your progress with very keen interest and you know too well the reasons of such a feeling. I have granted Rs.200 a month to a Maratha Society established at Poona for the encouragement of education in our community; I hope the grant will be of use in furthering that great desire, I am doing very well here in every respect and wish you the same there. I will write a long letter some other time instead of a short one like this.

Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *It was managed for a long time by Mr. Gangaram Bhau Mhaskey. The grant is still going on (1922).*

3

MAKARPURA,
23rd January 1886

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I was happy to read your letter of congratulations on my marriage. It showed your interest for my welfare. I thank you for it.

Your ideas of establishing a charitable institution at Dwarka, is a laudable one and I remember Mr. Ganpatrao* Sitaram mentioning it to me. Your Highness can do nothing better than instruct your agent to be on the look out for saleable

estates, and I should be glad to render any reasonable assistance, if wanted, in the matter.

Believe me. Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

High Highness TOOKOJIRAO HOLKAR, Maharaja of Indore.

* *Mr. Ganesh Shastri Golvalkar Subha Amreli.*

4

MAKARPURA,

19th March 1886

MY DEAR KAZI SHAF ABUDDIN,

It is very kind and wise of you to bring the article to my notice. I don't share the views of the writer. Indian Princes have paid much (in the early times, cession of territories) as we all know well. Why should they be burdened again? The employment of Europeans will, as a permanent system, be of the worst measures in the interest of the States. The employment of the Goralokes will be something like the thin end of the wedge. If there be not the least objection to improving the forces of the States concerned, and if Government will not, in any way, dabble with their present shadow of independence on account of the change, I think many would do it as a matter of their own interest. The great difficulty, that is likely to be felt in the carrying out of the military reforms in Native States, will be the sad lack of trained and competent native officers. To secure these, our boys should, without delay, be sent to Europe, to prosecute the professional training. The question is whether such a step will be relished by the British Government. I hope the Native Rajas will act with foresight and consideration before they take a sudden leap. These are not the matters that must be turned for the race of "easy grain in" and vic (?) for the empty titles. What a lamentable fault that the most influential of our princes are uneducated and are not able to see the signs of the times. The subject is big and I need not bother you by a large and tedious letters.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

5

MAKARPURA,

19th March 1886

MY DEAR FATHER IN-LAW, (सखाराम स्वामी मोहिते),

Yours of the 8th from Tanjore, I am glad to learn you are doing well. I had been to Dubka and the Prince too had gone with me. It is very natural you should think of him and that he should always be before you. I dare say that business took you to Tanjore. I had learnt from Jung Bahadur that his Maha Rani was delivered of a son and I congratulated him. Births and deaths make up the tale of our uncertain life, and it makes the mind very free when we give up wishing and only think of bearing what is laid up on us and doing what is given us to do. It is getting hot here and I intend taking up summer quarters near Naosari, where, I hope, it won't be so trying. Thrusting you are well, and with regards.

Believe me,

Yours affectionately,

SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

6

UMRATH,

18, April 1886, (Via Maroli, Navsari)

MY DEAR FRIEND,

It was exceedingly kind of you to despatch a letter to my address from Aden on your way home. Col. Berkeley is appointed in your place, I think, for six months, at the end of which, I guess, Col. Ross now at Hyderabad, will succeed. Col. Berkeley is expected to-day in Baroda. I am living at Umrath at present, where as you know, I have newly constructed a large and spacious house. It has been fashionably furnished. Pity, distance makes you unable to see it, pity, until at least so long as madam Blavatsky's science has not been placed within the reach of people like us. Mr. Jaisingrao (Angre), the Palace Officer of mine, is going to England in a week or two. We are all doing well and hope you too are the same. Kindly give my best regards to Mrs. Watson

and the others. Thanks for your kind expression. I am sure your interest in Baroda will never abate. I have intimated to Kazi Saheb that he can retire from Baroda whenever he likes. He thinks of doing it by the end of June. I shall always be happy to hear from you.

Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

Major General J. Watson, V.C.C., London, England.

7

UMRATH,

19th April 1886

MY DEAR MAJOR MELLIS,

Thanks for your two letters. I should like to have the Kolhapore horses for a reasonable price, which may be a thousand or two more than the figure you propose (10,000). I had seen the horses at Poona and was charmed avec les chevaux. Give my salams to Col. Berkely if you happen to see him. I am glad to see that the work is getting on well of the Military Department. Nothing need be stopped or postponed on account of my absence there. Whatever matters require my approval, may be sent here and orders will be passed without delay. The Light Field battery and a Pega will have to be included in the P.W. Budget of 1887. I was glad to read the several other points that you mentioned in your letter, and need say nothing more but that they are all in the right direction. Thank you for your kind enquiry after me. The change has done me good and I am enjoying with all the rest here very good health. I hope you get good news of your family from Mahableshwar.

Your sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

About the pay of Naib Sir-Nobuts, I shall write you hereafter. So long as the present orders stand, all cannot get Rs. 180. The present pay-scale will have to be changed in time. S.G.

9

UMRATH,
21st April 1886

MY DEAR BROTHER (SAMPATRAO),

I thank you sincerely for your two letters. I am glad to notice that you are well on the whole. We are all well here. I am going to Bombay by "Cutch" a steamer with nearly 70 followers.

It is a novelty to Baroda. I hope I shall prove a good sailor by standing the sea. Anandrao informed me of your safe reach to England. Ganpatrao was suffering from fever for a few days, but now I hear he is improving. The climate of this place is very fine and delicious. It is doing us much good. I have a fine and well furnished house just built.

Your affectionate brother,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

11

UMRATH,
17th May 1886

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I am sorry that I have not had the opportunity of seeing you since your arrival in Baroda. I found it necessary to go to Umrath and resolutely to cut myself off from all business this hot weather. I regret that this has prevented me from seeing you, as there are some pending questions which I should like to talk over with you personally. It is, I feel, important that I should myself discuss with you such questions as the Military, Abkari etc. Since all communications through a third party give rise to the possibility of mistakes. I pay but little attention to matters of etiquette and am ignorant regarding them. If you find it possible and agreeable to yourself to pay me a visit at Umrath, please do so. You will be most welcome. If you cannot come here, I must find a day to come to Baroda, breaking through my plan of staying here at Umrath, for as I have said, I regret the time that is passing without

our having a sight of each other. I trust that Mrs.Berkeley and yourself are enjoying good health.

Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,
Col. J.C. BERKELEY, Baroda

12

UMRATH,
20th May 1886.

MY DEAR KAZI SAHEB (DEWAN),

I never dreamt of going to Baroda to celebrate my accession* day and be absent on the birth day of Her Majesty. The dates are, indeed, so close that it would certainly give room to people to talk; and besides, what would I gain by doing so?

To make invidious distinctions is, I may tell, aganist my grain, if I may say so. I hope have explained this to Col. Berkeley. If you have failed to do so, which is not likely to be the case, please take an opportunity of telling him; because he must not be apt to believe that I am capable of entertaining such absurd and low ideas. I am always ready to do honor to the Empress; because it is quite proper to do so, and it is one's duty.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *The accession day of His Highness is 27th May and the birth-day of Her majesty 24th of the same month.*

13

MAKARPURA,
25th August 1886.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have received, with pleasure your letter dated the 24th July 1886. I have already, I believe signified my willingness to be one of the members of your very useful society. This society will do a deal of good, the sure proof of which is that it has the best of men for its members. The utility of this

institution will be felt in diverse ways, and it will leave a record of valuable information to generations, that will succeed the present generations, that will have brought home to them a fund of information, which the former badly lacked.

India, as we all feel, badly wants an earlier and a real history of its own, showing the progress it made in the different departments and walks of life, and this want will, it seems, be bridged over by the endeavours of this institution. This ancient country, which contains to a great extent, the materials for the successful research of the anthropological society, is passing through a great transition and the future of it will be shaped and influenced by the information we collect of its past and its present. It will, no doubt make up a great want, which every intelligent native must have felt and the time chosen for it is very opportune. Kindly announce me at one of your meetings as a member of this institution, and assure the members that it has my full sympathies. I am glad you have written to me direct. I hope you are in the enjoyment of good health.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

The Secretary, ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Bombay.

14

BARODA,
25th August 1886

MY DEAR JAISINGRAO (ANGRE),

I have received your two very interesting letters. I envy your, indeed, very much for your visit. I should like very much to do the same thing once. I hope this will not be very long realizing. I am glad you have seen by brother (Sampatrao). I thank you for your information about him. You know, I am sure, the changes, that have taken place here. I do not know how your work has been progressing. I am going to present the pigeon house either to the Prince of Wales or to the Kensington Museum. I thank you for your suggestion in connection with this matter. When you return here, you will

find great change in Makarpura, and a great deal of this is due to my intelligent Secretary.* The furnishing of the house is all due to him. We miss your company at our dinner table; but I hope this will not be for long. Ganpatrao Gaekwad will shortly be in England. I expect the Viceroy in Baroda in November. We are all doing very well and many thanks for your kind enquiry. I hope you get good news from Poona. I hope England has not interfered with your health in any way, and has not decreased the buoyancy of your spirit.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *Mr. Pestonji Dorabji Khandalwala. Mr. Angre was then the Khangi Karbhari and visited England in 1886 on his own account. Their Highness visited England the next year.*

15

BARODA,
26th August 1886.

MY DEAR NEPHEW (GANPATRAO),

Thanks for your letter. I am glad for Bhandarkar,* who is one of your fellow passengers. He is a learned and pleasant person. I know him. It is good that men of his education by some cause or other are visiting Europe. I don't think there is anything that I can relate, which is likely to interest you. I am pleased to hear that you did not feel sea-sick though the sea was rough. Excuse me for this very teasing note.

Yours affectionate uncle,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *Dr. R.G. Bhandarkar, who visited Germany for the Oriented Congress.*

16

BARODA,
27th August 1886.

MY DEAR BROTHER (SAMPATRAO),

I am glad to learn from you that you are enjoying good health and that you are progressing well with your studies. Continue to work hard and steadily though never over-work yourself.

If I remember well, I am sure, I have written you more than once. Am I right ? You know, I believe, that there has been a change of ministers here. Kazi Shahabuddin has retired on a pension of Rs.1,000 a month; Vinayakrao Kirtane on 260 a month. Beside this, I gave him a bonus of Rs. 5,000. Kazi has been succeeded by Laxman Jagannath and Mr.Vinayakrao's work is done by Mr. Manibhai. its is always very difficult to get good men, and men in whom you can safely rely, and who have an attachment for one. I don't think the administration will, in any way, suffer by the departure of these two officers. Ganpatrao will meet you shortly and I hope you both will live and pull on amiably. We are led to believe from what we know that the Governor General will visit Baroda next November on his way to the Deccan Hyderabad, where it is reported matters are not faring well. I think the minister and the Nizam are not on the best of terms. What a pity! Unity is always and specially under our present circumstances a great strength. Manglabai* delivered a daughter a few days ago and the child died almost immediately after it was born. It is a matter of congratulations, the confinement has been smooth and safe. Our brother Anandrao has also got a daughter. I wish he had a son. His wife is well but, I am told, very weak. Our mother and all other relations are doing well. The little Fatehsinhrao is growing strong and intensely amusing. He prattles and plays charmingly. It is very good that his present mother has taken to like him, and he in his turn to her. I must wind up this letter by expressing my best regards for you and by thanking you for your letter.

Yours affectionate brothers,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *Shri. Sampatras's first wife.*

17

MAKARPURA,
8th September 1886.

MY DEAR SIR (MR. ELLIOT),

I was glad for having gone over your Survey offices. If you think fit, you might tell your subordinates that I was glad to

hear a favourable mention made of them by you. I think you might write and ask for a safe place for your records. They must be taken good care of. I thank you for taking me over yesterday. I shall come over one day again more leisurely.

Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

N.B. Get the old High School repaired. A stitch in time saves nine.

S. R. G.

18

MAKPURA,
18th September 1886.

MY DEAR DEWAN (LAXMAN JAGANNATH),

Kindly dispose of my work to-day as I do not care to work. Whenever you have to dispose of work for me, do it as much as you can, save in very important points, where you may consider it safe to let the case or question lie over, till you have ascertained my views on the point; e.g. pecuniary sanction generally unless the nature of the expenditure is questionable or doubtful, which very rarely is likely to be the case, or unless the item asked for is very large, considering or comparing with the usual sanction, that may obtain in the Department for similar other items.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

19

MAKPURA,
19th September 1886.

MY DEAR SIR (MR. ELLIOT),

Will you kindly bring with you, when you come here on Monday, the final जाहीरनामूं you have ordered to be published about the 15 years' settlement in Amreli? Laxman Jagannath told me that he had made a little change from the one I had passed, and that the change met with your approval. Just show me the letter and जाहीरनामूं before you take any steps. I write this to you privately in order to save time. I am feeling very well. I hope Mrs. Elliot has returned and is well.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

20

MAKARPURA,

6th October 1886.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

Your last letter came to hand in due course. You must really excuse me, as I have been long in replying to it. It was only the day before I returned from Mount Abu, after a week's stay. There is nothing wrong in particular with me and I sleep better than I used to, but what I feel is the after effect of hard work that I took arduously at first start. I have been advised to work moderately and of late, I am very careful how I work. I enjoyed Abu. It was cool and pleasant and I found that change refreshing. Some of the views were charming. It was a place for retirement and quiet and my coming back to the plains is disappointing, because of the contrast of the hot October sun here and of the cool breeze so conducive to health up the hill. It is a pleasure to me to hear from you, and I would ask you to keep up writing to me as you have kindly been doing. I would request you to present the pigeon house to H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, for I don't remember having promised it to any museum. I have an idea that if I could secure the services of a very clever but quiet gardener as would just be the person for working smooth in a Native State, I should think over the matter and make up my mind to get him. If you happen to know of any such capable person, please ascertain without giving any promise what so ever, if he would care to go out to India. The Geer case appeal is now before the Secretary of State, and I should feel thankful if you did not allow your interest in it to flag and watch how it progresses. Trusting this will find you and Mrs. Watson and family in excellent health.

With best wishes and regards,

Yours Sincerely,

SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAD

To,

GENERAL WATSON, England.

21

MAKARPURA,
12th November 1886.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

Many thanks for your very kind letter. I am extremely glad that our arrangements* went so well and without any hitch. I consider myself amply repaid if our endeavours met with the approval of His Excellency and our other guests. My hearty thanks are due to our European and Native friends and officers for their arduous labours. I have asked the minister to convey to them all my sense of gratitude. I believe you will learn of this. Will you also as a friend of mine, convey my best thanks to the European officers who took trouble? I will never forget the extreme kindness of Lord Dufferin.

Yours Sincere Friend.
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAD

To,

Col. J. B. BERKELEY, Baroda.

* *In Connection with the visit of Lord Dufferin in Baroda.*

22

MAKARPURA,
22nd November 1886.

MY DEAR KHASHEROA (JADHAV),

Many thanks for your letter. Excuse me for not answering it sooner. We had the Governor General here and had great doings in his honour. Everything passed off most satisfactorily. I am establishing an Agricultural School in my State. Hope it will bear goods results. I believe it will not be bad if you were to sail to India soon after you obtain your diploma, as you will require nearly quite a year to understand the agriculture of this country. It has been unusually hot here. I hope you are well.

Yours Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAD

23

BARODA,

22nd November 1886.

MY DEAR LORD REAY,

I received Your Excellency's letter and saw the French noblemen too. I enjoyed their company most, as they were very intelligent and communicative. They were splendid shots and each time they went out with their guns, they brought a large bag of bucks. I envied them in this, as I cannot do anything like them. I had called them to Dubka for which I had left Baroda on the very day of their arrival. I have been reading the accounts of the Viceroy's stay at Bombay and you must have had a busy though pleasant time of it. One can go on working for a couple of hours more, if necessary, than usual, but an hour of visitors is most tiring, specially when the visits are stiffly ceremonial. The Viceroy was very kind to me and I enjoyed a conversation with him. It was rather a pity, he happened to be indisposed in Bombay. Don't you think he undertakes or has to undertake too much travelling or moving about for one of his age? He as well as yourself must take care of your health, as a good deal depends upon your keeping well. It is extremely kind of you in warning me not to go in for too much work. This very advice was given to me by your Excellency, when we had the pleasure of meeting personally. I have been following your advice and as you must have learned from my former letter, I am sleeping very well at present. I hope it won't be long before we meet again. It is likely though not yet certain, I may go to Mahableshwar next hot season. I always feel happy when I hear from Your Excellency and Lady Reay whom I count among my best friends. Her Highness begs me to remember her to you and to Lady Reay. With my best regards to you both,

Yours Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAD

24

BARODA,
22nd November 1886.

MY DEAR NEPHEW (GANPATRAO),

Many thanks for your letter. I have read it and have not yet decided about its contains. Do not be anxious. Before I decide, I should like to know why you have been obliged to indent for more money. Can you give me an idea of the expenses you are obliged to incur? Do not fell vexed at this reasonable question. I want to know, because I must be in a position to decide your pecuniary wants, once for all, during the time you are in England. Will you let me know the subjects that you have to learn, and will have to learn in the college? Your wife and father, who are here, have been attacked with fever, but I am sure they will be well soon. It is almost as hot as we find in the summer. I have just returned from Dubka, where I did not get much shikar. I am enjoying very good health and hope you are doing the same.

Yours Affectionately,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAD

25

BARODA,
22nd November 1886.

MY DEAR BROTHER (SAMPATRAO),

I have not had the pleasure of hearing from you for sometime. I believe it is on account of the press of studies. Try to steal a few moments and do not fail to write to me as to how you are. We all here are now doing well. Anandrao had fever for a few days, but he is now free from it.

We had the Viceroy of India here for two days. We had some tamashas and so on, in his honour and every thing went off capitally. It seems he left Baroda much pleased.

Yours Affectionately,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAD

26

CAMP DHARI,

31st December 1886.

MY DEAR MR. MELVILL,

I have asked Mr. Laxman Jagannath, the present Minister, to send you a printed copy of the work known as the Geer case of this State. You must have undoubtedly heard of it, while here, tenderly looking after and aiding the healthy growth and progress of this principality. I hope you will go through the appeal and interest yourself as much as you can, and speak a few words in its favour in the proper quarters, when you can seize an opportunity to do so. I am writing this from Dhari as you will see from the post mark. I am here on a tour in my Amreli Division. I shall be back in Baroda by the 16th of January. The Prince, who is daily growing more healthy and strong, has been left in Baroda in charge of Her Highness Jamnabi, who I am sure looks after him with all possible care and tenderness. My wife is with me in the districts. We are leading a happy mannered life. You are aware, I believe, by this time that the Governor General Lord Dufferin paid my capital a short visit. Everything during his stay passed off smoothly and well. He left Baroda with favourable impressions. The hospital, which I have lately erected, has been named after Her Excellency Lady Dufferin. I should like before long to lay the foundation stone of a market fro Baroda and call it after my dear and lamented wife. The State affairs are getting on pleasantly and in a business like way. I wish you and yours many returns of the happy new year. I hope you and Mrs. Melvill are in the enjoyment of good health.

Yours Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAD

To,

P.S. MELVILL ESQUIRE, 72, Philbeach Gardens, London, S.W.

27

CAMS DHARI,

1st January 1887.

MY DEAR BROTHER (SAMPATRAO),

Many thanks for your letter. I shall not be able to give you much news in this epistle, as I have not time. I am in the Amreli Division on tour. This will be the last of my first tours in the kingdom. This province is very sterile and strong as compared with other Prants of our Raj. In certain respects it resembles Khandesh. I have left the little prince at Baroda in the custody of our relations. He is doing very well. Mangalabai is with us. Avchitrao is also with me. He is a good company, though sometimes rash, and talks too much and without purpose. With all this he is really a fine and kind hearted fellow. Who is perfect in this world? Excuse me for writing so hastily and rather on a bad paper. The latter fault I only discovered when in finished nearly the whole of my letters.

Yours affectionately,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAD

28

MAKARPURA,

16th January 1887.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

It is some time since I have had the pleasure of hearing from your kind favour. I am going to Colombo on a short sea voyage, as I felt a day or two ago seedy and unwell. It is beginning to get hot here and I believe the season will be exceptionally warm this year. I intend to spend the hot weather and the rains at Mahableshwar and Nilgiris. This will most unfortunately result in my absence from the favorite field of my labours. I hate the ideas of an absentee Maharaja. Of late, as you know I have not been able to keep such good health, as I consider necessary for a man in my position. This has necessitated my making short trips, which I need not say is one of the worst kinds of travelling. I will make the best possible arrangement, under the circumstances, for the

safe going of my state. I hope, during the period of my absence no questions of importance will be mooted and raised for settlement. I love my people and I should not have chosen to be away, had it not been imperatively necessary. However if the rest benefits my health, I shall make up the loss of my absence by renewed vigour and energy.

We are going to be engaged this afternoon in the celebration of Her Majesty's Jubilee. I wish her every king of happiness and a still more prosperous and glorious reign. Kindly convey these sentiments of mine to her on the present occasion. It is extremely kind of her to honour me with the insignia.* I heartily thank you for your congratulations. I hope you and Lady Dufferin are in the enjoyment of good health.

Yours Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAD

To,
LORD DUFFERIN.

* of the G.C.S.I.

29

MAKARPURA,
30th January 1887.

MY DEAR LADY REAY,

I have to write to you this note in conformity with the promise I made you. Considering the wants of the place here, it has been thought as unnecessary to open a school here for the training of nurses. But it more than suffices our local wants here, if we get half a dozen young girls trained in Bombay, which can be done at a good deal of less cost, as compared with the outlay, that would be necessarily entailed by opening a school. I have already ordered the sending of some girls for this useful purpose. We expect the Duke of Connaught here on Tuesday. I wish Lord Rosebury had visited, as did his Lady, at your kind and well meant suggestion. I hope before very long, I shall have the pleasure of meeting you and my friend Lord Reay. I wish I had sent this letter some time ago, but pray excuse me for the delay. I hope you and Lord Reay enjoyed your tour towards Sindh. We had a pleasant tours in

Kattyawar, except that many of my followers did not like the sea voyage. The sea was indeed unusually rough for the season. Her Highness, I think, on the whole stood very well the rolling and tossing about of the ship. She begs me to inquire after your and Lord Reay's health. Kindly give my hearty salams to his Lordship.

Yours Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAD

30

MAKARPURA,
30th January 1887.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

Many thanks for your kind letter, which I received, while travelling the Amreli Prant. Communication here, as you are quite likely to know, is most slow. I returned to Baroda by sea. We had rather a very rough sea voyage. Many people were frightened by the unusual weather we happened to come across and many were attacked by sea sickness. I was not at all sea-sick. You can dispose of the pigeon-house and the carved curtain of wood as you like, or as you mentioned in the letter. I will find out whether I can get a man (a gardener) in Calcutta, because I should myself prefer this. Things are getting on very well here. We are all in good health. Kindly remember me to Lady Watson.

Yours Affectionately,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAD

To,

Major General WATSON, St.James Square, London, England.

31

MAKARPURA,
30th January 1887.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

It is since several months that I have not had the pleasure of hearing from you. I should be happy to learn from you now and then. I only returned to Baroda a few days ago from my

Kattyawar Districts. This was my first visit to that part of the country and last of all my first official tours in my provinces, it is in this part of Kattyawar, where a tract of hilly regions known by the name of Gheer is to be found. A great portion of the Gheer, belonging to the Gaikwar, was handed over to the Junaghad State by the decision of Col. Lester, who was appointed to decide the dispute, that arose between the two contiguous Native States. You will quickly perceive how strong we are in evidence from the appeal we have made, a copy of which I send for your kind perusal. It is only a wonder, how in the face of so strong an evidence, Col. Lester had the courage to decide, as he has done. I hope you will interest yourself in the case and try your best to assist a just award. I hope you and Lady Meade are in good health. Kindly remember me to the latter. Please also give my best regards to Lord Northbrook and Lord Ripon when you happen to meet them. We are all well.

Yours Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

SIR RICHARD MEADE C.S.I., 45, Pall Mall, London, (England).

32

MAKARPURA,

16th February 1887.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I wrote you a letter some time ago, which must have reached you by this time. You can dispose of the pigeon house and the wall* as you propose in your letter. I am going to Ceylon on a very short trip. I am going to Mahabaleshwar and the Nilgiris for the summer and the rains. A long rest from work is strongly recommended by my medical advisers and friends. I don't cherish to be so long away, but I must listen to the disinterested advice given. I don't think I can come to England this year. Kindly remember me to Lady Watson. I am sorry to learn that she is not better. I think the new Minister† will do very well, though he lacks the grace of manner and deep sound education. Who is perfect in this busy world? I think he will, on the whole do very well. I am sure, you as my

affectionate friend, will be glad to know that I am to be made G.C.S.I.

Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

Major General J. WATSON, V.C.C.B, London.

* Carved curtain mentioned in Letter No. 30

† D. B. Laxman Jagannath

33

MAKARPURA,
17th February 1887.

MY DEAR SIR (MR. ELLIOT),

I believe you must have been rather vexed with the telegram of Mr. Jaisingrao. I myself disliked the idea of a change in what was settled. The truth is that the people do not like to see me run about so much. They consider the manner in which I have been out in British territory infinitely degrading, though they do not know the reasons that compelled me to go; still taking all in all, I cannot say that they are wrong. I know you have yourself repeated to me the non-utility of such short trips more than once. Unfortunately, this time a fortnight immediately after my return from the short trip, I shall leave again for Mahableshwar and the Nilgiris. Though I personally do not say anything in the matter, as I was the person, who thought of the idea in the first instance and asked you to arrange about it, till a postponement would have been better. I believe I was rather indiscreet and hasty in the matter. I must be very careful next time and curb my spirits. I am going to start tomorrow night under the circumstances. Many thanks for your congratulations. I know you fell the almost pleasure in anything good concerning me. Be most guarded in what you say to the Governor. I hope I shall have sufficient health and wisdom to carry on the affairs of my State and deserve to be liked by my people and be approved by the British Government to a still greater degree. I hope my passing through Bombay has not been known, because it would rather look awkward.

Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

34

MAKARPURA,

17th February 1887.

MY DEAR NEPHEW (GANPATRAO),

It is growing very hot here daily. I am afraid the season will be very server. We had the arena sports this afternoon and every thing passed off capitally. I have got the order of the G.C.S.I. which is highly valued by our countrymen. I hope you with Sampatrao are quite well. I am going to Ceylon tomorrow and will be back by the 4th of March. Let this letter be seen, unless you have any objection, which is not likely to be the case, by Sampatrao and communicate the intelligence of the distinction conferred on me by Her Majesty to Khasherao.

Yours Affectionately,

SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

35

MAHABLESHWAR,

25th March 1887.

MY ESTEEMED FRIEND,

It gave me great pleasure to have received Your Royal Highness' favour of the 20th Ultimo, with photographs of H.R.H. the Duchess of Connaught and your worthy-self. I should have acknowledged the present before now, but for my voyage to Ceylon whence I returned only last week. The change was a pleasant one and I enjoyed it immensely. I too am looking forward to the pleasure of meeting Your Royal Highness on the Hill, where I came up on the morning of the 21st. Her Highness the Maharanee joins with me in thanking H.R.H. the Duchess of Connaught for sending her the photos, which are so excellent. I shall be happy to give the other set to H.H. Jamnabai Saheb. Believe me,

Your Royal Highness' Sincere Friend,

SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught

P.S.Though it is not a charming weather here as one would wish, I dare say it soon promises to be all that could be desired.S.R.G.

36

MAHABLESHWAR,

25th March 1887.

MY DEAR FRIEND (HIS HIGHNESS MAHARAJA OF DHAR),

Yours of the 17th from Dhar has found me in Mahableshwar. My going to Colombo and my coming up here are more for the sake of rest from work than for the sake of my health. I may assure you that there is nothing the matter with me and yet people will talk and discuss my health; because that is the only way they can account for my going about. It is one of the necessary evils of one in high life, that his matters should be every body's concern and that things of no consequence should be magnified for him by others into something serious. I am as well as one could wish to be and I am talking life very pleasant, considering that Colombo was none the less charming resort than what Mahableshwar is. A trip to England has long been under contemplation and there is nothing. I love so much as a voyage to the European Continent. Perhaps next year may see me there. I am sorry to learn of your maternal uncle's illness, but hope he is fast mending. I see that you are still convalescent and cannot too strongly advise you to take care, because this is just the time when attention to recouping health is most needed. We are all well and are having agreeable time of it. Trusting you have good health,

Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

37

MAHABLESHWAR,

11th April 1887.

MY DEAR BROTHER (SAMPATRAO),

I must thank you for the several letters you have sent me, since the last answer of mine to your letter. I have duly read the note addressed to me by a person, who teaches you Greek. I am glad to learn from it the progress you are making in your studies. I am always interested in knowing, how you are going on and I feel genuine pleasure when the progress is good. I am anxiously awaiting the result of your first examination.

You know, I believe, by this time, that I had a three week's trip to Ceylon. I enjoyed my trip very much as I think it did me some good. I gained during the short space of time four pounds in weight, which is pretty considerable. I am at present staying at Mahableshwar and let us see what good is does to my health. I am not suffering from any particular disease; but I have lost much flesh and have suffered considerable diminution in weight, I still go on suffering from sleepless nights, though, by God's grace, the attacks are few and comparatively less severe. For all this I have determined to have a complete rest of six months. If this period does not set me up, I shall have to extend it. I am sorry to leave our State and cut myself off from the work, but I believe it is a prudent course to follow. What is more important in this world than health? From this place I have settled to go to the Nilgiris. Our good brother is at Baroda and I have none of my relatives save. Mr. Avchittrao with me here. How very funny and strange that none should show any anxiety to be with me to look after the little child and so on? I believe it is one of the numerous phases of human nature. I have asked our good brother to come and stay with me for a short period, which he, I believe will shortly do. I miss his company a great deal, but I cannot help it, as the presence of one of us in Baroda is not devoid of some good. I did not send any Til, because I did not know that you cared for the expression of feeling in that way. It is not a bad way of showing regard. You will have many visitors to England this year from India. Kindly remember me to Ganpatrao. I will now wind up the letter with my most affectionate benedictions to you.

Your most affectionate,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

38

MAHABLESHWAR,
26th April 1887.

MY DEAR FATHER IN-LAW,*

I was delighted to have received your telegram of the 22nd Instant of your safe arrival at Wathar. I have no doubt you will have a pleasant journey. I should like to hear from you as often as you can write and I am looking forward to your

early return. We all are well here and hope this will find you and the newly married† pair in excellent health.

Yours affectionately,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *Sakharam Sahib Mohitey.*

† *Sakharam Saheb's adopted son Shambhusing and his wife.*

39

BISHOPS DOWN,
15th March 1888.

MY DEAR FRIEND (LORD DUFFERIN),

I thank you very much for your kind letter, which reached me a few days ago. I was very sorry to learn from newspapers and from your own note that you are going to quite this country before the end of the present year. I am sorry that circumstances are against your longer stay and that it would not be in the interest of Lady Dufferin's health. I am sorry to say that Ooty, though a most pleasant and delightful place, is not such as would do me much good. I require a much cooler and bracing climate and I intend seeking it when circumstances will permit me to do so. My people gave me a very hearty and cordial welcome and that, in one sense, shows how necessary it is that I should get well as early as possible, in order to resume and push on the welfare of the people. I shall be very glad to send Your Excellency my portrait; and pray, accept my thanks for promising to send me one of yours. Nothing would have given me greater pleasure than to have seen Your Excellency before leaving India, but it is not at all certain, where I shall be at the time. Her Highness asks me to thank you for your message and to give her best regards to yourself and Lady Dufferin, whom she regrets not to have been able to meet. I look forth with pleasure to meet Lord Connemara*, who I believe, will soon be here. Thank you for mentioning me to him. I shall be always happy to learn from Your Excellency as to how yourself and family are doing. I remain, My dear Friend,

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *Government of Madras.*

40

BISHOPS DOWN, OOTACAMUND,

1st April 1888.

MY DEAR NEPHEW (GANPATRAO),

I was very glad to learn from your letter that you are in the enjoyment of good health.

Sampatrao's return was determined rather late and that is why he had no time to communicate to you. I find him of great assistance and his company a great comfort to me, specially at this time. Your father was rather sorry that you were alone left behind, but I explained to him that there was no ground to entertain any anxiety and that every thing would fare well with you. Our people are so ignorant that they don't like to sacrifice anything for a good object and at the same time, they would be glad to get it, if it is placed before them without any sacrifice on their part. I am quite disappointed with the climate of Ooty and I am going to leave this place at the earliest opportunity I can.

Kindly ascertain from Max Muller where you can get the book called Gaekwar vansh written in Sanskrit. He told me that it was in the library of the Secretary of State for India. He mentioned all this to me when I met him at Oxford. I refer you to him to ascertain the matter well, so that you may make no mistake when you have made yourself sure of the whereabouts of the book. Try your best to get a correct copy of the Sanskrit book and kindly forward it to me. You may spend the necessary amount of money for getting it copied correctly. If you like you might ask Bhadbhade.* All the members of our family here are well. Kindly remember me to Dr. Dhume.†

Yours affectionately.

SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAD

* Then studying for the bar in England, afterwards Chief Judge of Indore.

† Palace Physician, who had accompanied Their Hs. in their first Europe trip.

41

BISHOPS DOWN,
19th April 1888.

MY DEAR MR. PFSTONJI,*

Many thanks for your letter. Please remember well and follow it also, that reforms cannot be done in a hurry, and reforms done in a hurry and haste will never take a firm hold. I do not, in the least desire you to push on reforms in a rash and hasty manner. You may calculate at your own rate and please take your own time. Patience is a great virtue and if should be practiced in every mundane affairs. It is always a very hard thing for people, who have been wedded to a particular way of working, to give that up and follow a new one at once, which to the eye of the introducer and possibly to a reasonable person, may appear quite just and fair. People are not always very logical and reasonable in all that they do and sometimes, if not very often they become quite blind to good and disinterested measures when their self interest is concerned. We have to take men as they are and deal with them in a prudent and safe manner. Never be afraid of being late in any undertaking of life, so long as you have it in view. Reason and anger in displeasure are inconsistent; and therefore you should always direct your actions generally to reason. I always try to do so in my little life. I do not think there will be many people coming to Ooty. I hear Anandrao Is going to bring with him a dozen people. I think, the number is rather beyond his legitimate requirements. You see how people use discretion with almost the best of motives. Human nature is really too complex. Sometimes you have to thwart it, sometimes to encourage, sometimes to persuade it.†

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* Mr. Pestonji Dorabji Khandallwalla was Khangi Karbad from 1887 to 1896.

† This letter expresses valuable sentiments so carefully exemplified by His Highness in his policy, G. S. S.

42

BISHOPS DOWN, OOTACUMNUND,

25th April 1888.

MY DEAR MINISTER (LAXMAN JAGANNATH),

You will be glad to know that I am getting on very well. I have been sleeping magnificently of late. There is no reason whatever to be afraid about my health, provided I am allowed to enjoy my rest as at present. I am making, on the whole, a very good progress. Anandrao came here only two days ago and I think he likes the place. You must be finding Baroda very hot. I often see Sir Oliver St. John, who is a man of broad and liberal views, much better than that suspicious Col. Berkeley. The climate of this place has much improved after the rains we have had here. Will you kindly give my best regards to all our Chief Officers? As you must have learned, Raja Sir T. Madhavrao paid me a visit here. I think he looks very well, though he is 60 years of age. He cannot be fit for any very active work, now that he is old and physically feable.

Very strangely he suffered from nervousness too like myself. I am told there are thick rumours abroad, that he is likely to be appointed in your place, with extensive powers, to carry on the administration work in my absence.* What a folly! All this shows the morality of the people, who set afloat gossips of this kind and who listen and believe these rumours betraying thereby their weakness and standard of morality. I think Mr. Elliot desires promotion on several good grounds and I should be glad if you will kindly take the necessary steps to give his Rs. 200 more over his present pay and in addition to his pension contribution.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

P.S. Promotion of Rs. 200 commences from the last 1st May. I hope you have no objection to this. S.R.G.

* This shews His Higness' various mental troubles, G.S.S.

43

BISHOP'S DOWN, OOTACAMUND,

19th May 1888.

MY DEAR FRIEND (LORD DUFFERIN),

I thank you very much for enquiring through the Governor of Madras after my health. I am glad to inform you that my health has been gradually and steadily improving. For the last several weeks, I have been sleeping most soundly. The stomach aches, from which I used to suffer very frequently, have not appeared from the 1st of June 1887. My power of digestion has decidedly and perceptibly improved. The climate of this place has much improved since the several falls of rain. Every thing here is now quite green and picturesque and It pleases me to behold the natural scenery of the blue hills. In a certain way, it reminds me very much of Europe. I must thank you for congratulating me through Sir Oliver St. John on the birth of a son.* My wife and the little prince are doing very well and will, I hope, continue doing so. We expected the event on or about the 20th or 28th of May; but it has taken place sooner. My first son Fatehsinhrao is also doing very well and I think this climate has done him a great deal of good. Ooty is generally known to be a specially goods place for little children. Before the rains commenced here, I used to go out very often for picnics and be out of door in the open air as much as possible. Lord Connemara has been very kind and nice to us. I have been out with him riding more than once. He is a very fine rider and looks to be quite at ease, when he is in his saddle. I have also seen a great deal of the Maharaja of Mysore. He is such a charming pleasant young man. He left this for his Capital on the morning of the 17th of May. I was very much rejoiced and honoured by a telegram, that I have received from Her Majesty Queen Victoria, congratulating and enquiring after the health of Her Highness, the baby and myself. How very kind of her in thinking of us at such a great distance!

I hope you will kindly thank Her Majesty on my behalf in one of your letters if that course is not against Court etiquette. I am also sending a telegram in answer to the one I have received. I hope Your Lordship and Lady Dufferin are in the

enjoyment of good health and wish the rains will not be trying to the health of both of you. I shall send you, in course of time, a painting of mine which you asked for. I shall conclude this epistle by thanking you again for your kindness.

Yours Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *Prince Jaysinhrao.*

44

BISHOP'S DOWN, OOTACAMUND,

14th June 1888.

MY DEAR SIR (MR. ELLIOT),

Your three letters have duly reached me and I thank you very much for them.

I am anxiously waiting to know, who is the officer going with me. I have mentioned your name too and do hope that you are allowed. I don't think at all that, they should treat you as they are doing. The fact of your going with me will be of great use in acquiring the object in view. I hope you are allowed to come. In case the Government sends some other officer, I shall be highly pleased to take you with me as my friend, if you have no objection for so doing; but, any how, unless it is distasteful to yourself, I strongly desire that you should come and stay with me in Europe as long as you can. All this was not expected by me, otherwise, I should have more seriously thought of my trip, which is in many ways, most inconvenient and distasteful.

You ask me if I wish you to commence the Barkhali work after my return (which, I hope, will certainly be in December), so that you would take a short leave and return in December. This would certainly serve immensely the interest of the State; but will it not be asking too much of a kind and most willing friend ? if you find it not in any way inconvenient and if the State can pay some of your expenses caused by this action taken by you at its suggestion and desire, certainly it would facilitate the measure, the carrying out of which is the present question. To me personally, it would be most advantageous to have you there and see you carry out the measure. It would

be a great relief to me on account of your position and acquaintance with the question and one in whom I can safely rely. So if you can be in Baroda to start the carrying out of the measure, I should be tremendously delighted. Will you kindly thank Mrs Elliot and your sister for their most kind message? Will you kindly tell Mr. Bapat that I do not like the idea of losing him and that he must bear in mind that he can do as much good, if not greater, by being in the service of Baroda. Tell him not to take despondent and despairing views of his prospects in future. I want many young men of education, energy and sympathy to carry out measures benefiting the people under the Gaekwar rule. You must dissuade him from his resolution. I think he need entertain no fears for his future. I was deeply touched by the death of my school friend Mr. Gujar.* We could not have expected worse to his family than what has already be fallen. I wind up this hurriedly written note by wishing you a most hearty good bye and hoping to meet you in Poona or Bombay. I have been making splendid progress as far as my health is concerned and I feel at moments most anxious to be at Baroda and look after its progress Fatehsinhrao is doing very well. Her Highness and the little infant are faring remarkably well.

Yours Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* Son of Bapusahab Gujar, who was Mankari to Jamnabai Saheb. He was appointed as probationer in the Survey & Settlement Department.

45

31st October 1888.

MY DEAR SIR (MR. ELLIOT),

Many thanks for Your letters. I am very much touched by the loss of your brother. What is in the power of us human beings? We must put up with every thing that happens.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

P.S. Would you like to have a drive or ride with me this evening?

S.R.

46

MAKARPURA PALACE,

15th November 1888.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I thank you very much for your kind letter and your kind enquiries after me. My last trip did not do me as much good as I expected, but enjoyed it very well.

The youngest Prince* was very ill but I am glad to tell Your Highness that he is now gradually improving; only I wish the improvement to be steady. I should like to know how your little children are doing. Prince Fatehsinhrao sends you his best love. He is doing very well here. I shall probably go to Mahableshwar with the children shortly, as the doctors think it more wise to do so. I am enjoying good health. I was very glad to hear splendid reports of Your Highness's advancement in educational reforms.

Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

H.H. CHAM RAJENDRA WODIAR, The Maharaja of Mysore, Mysore.

* *Prince Jaysinhrao.*

47

PANCHGANI,

31st December 1888.

MY DEAR BROTHER (SAMPATRAO),

It was very kind of you to send me a letter, which I have received and read. I hope you will send me a catalogue of your library when finished. I am sleeping soundly and enjoying, on the whole, very good health. I hope Anandrao is doing well as far as his health and office are concerned. I hope you will come across one day Mr. Pestonji's brother,* who I believe, would be a fit man to succeed Anna Bhivrao,† whose services are to be lent for some time to the Khagi Department. Give this message of mine to our elder brother. Let us try Pestonji's brother and see whether he suits the Department. How are the children of both of you? Enquire

after Fulaji,‡ Ganpatrao and others on my behalf and tell them to take pains in their studies.

Your affectionately brother,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *Mr. Jamasheji Dorabji Khandallawalla.*

† *The then Military Secretary*

‡ *Shewale, His Highness sisters son.*

48

PANCHGANI,
12th January 1889.

MY DEAR KHASHERAO,

I have not heard from you for a long time and I always like to know about you. How are you getting on with your different interesting schemes? Before I left Baroda, I had asked that Rs.10,000/- for the present, should be put at your disposal. I hope you have got the money. There is tremendous lot to be done in our State in agriculture and we must try to do it at least little by little. I may perhaps ask you to come here for a few days and I wish that you should do something to induce the Songhad Dhankas* to take to ploughing their soils, instead of roughly placing them as they at present do.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

**A tribe.*

49

PANCHGANI,
12th January 1889.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I am at present engaged in studying the alienated land question of this State and hope shortly to decide it. The officers who are here will also return to Baroda. I am glad to note the kind assistance you give in the disposal of business. It is most useful to have good political officers in Native States, since so much depends upon them. I am sleeping very well and my general health is excellent. The children are doing well too. I hope you are enjoying good health. I wish you

happiest blessings of the new year. I must conclude this letter by bidding you adieu.

Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

Col. F.H. JACKSON, Ag.Agent to the Governor, General, Baroda.

50

PANCHGANI,
12th January 1889.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I hope you have enjoyed your stay in Europe and that it has done your health good. I am sorry that I am not at Baroda to bid you good bye and thank you for your kindness. I am also sorry to lose you. Will you kindly remember me to H.H. the Maharaja of Mysore? I may probably meet you both on the Blue Hills this year. My health is improving most satisfactorily. I am able to go through some work every day. I thank you most sincerely and at the same time, the Government of India for your last letter, which you left to be given to me. I am quite happy and willing to do as much as I can to further the cause of Native State. I wish you all the blessings of the new year.

Yours Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

SIR OLIVER ST. JOHN, Agent to G.G. Mysore.

51

MAHABLESHWAR,
21st January 1889.

MY DEAR LORD REAY,

Will you kindly let me know, to what person or authority and where I should direct the payment of Rs.5,000/- as promised to Your Excellency by me? I hope the new chair will confer much good to the Medical College* I shall not move in the matter till I hear from you. Your Lordship's address,

delivered on the occasion of the University convocation, was most learned and interesting. I hope you will kindly give my best regards to Lady Reay. We are all well here in the delightful climate of Mahableshwar. Kazi Sahab is still with me. Did you see General Prendergast?† I am asking him to come here if he likes.

Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *Donation given by H.H. for founding a chair at the Grant Medical College.*

† *Successor of Sir Oliver St. John at the Residency of Baroda.*

52

MAHABLESHWAR,
21st January 1889.

MY DEAR RAJESAHEB,

I thank you very much for your very kind letter. I hope you will always write to me. I was deeply touched by the sad news of your daughter's death. Will you kindly also tell my niece* how sorry I was to learn the sad news? I am afraid you have not got over your grief by this time. Mahableshwar is not very cold, but is delightful and pleasant. When are you likely to come here this year? You will be such a nice company for me.

Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

THE MAHARAJA OF AKALKOTE.

* *Balubhai, Rani of Akkalkote. She was a daughter of Khanderao Maharaja's daughter Hansabai, who was married to Abasaheb Killedar. Ganpatrao Maharaja's daughter Babai Saheb was also given into the Killedar family.*

53

MAHABLESHWAR,
23th January 1889.

MY DEAR BROTHER (SAMPATRAO),

I thank you very much for the fine translation of the croquet game. It is very well got up and well expressed. You will no doubt, make arrangements to pay off the translator. Let the

book be saleable. Kindly make arrangements to give me the translation of the following games in the Gujarathi Language and बालबोध letters. Some of them might be in Marathi too, e.g Golf, Les Graces, La Crosse, Foot-Ball, Badminton, Lawn-tennis and cricket. I think the croquet will be a favourable game of native for climatic seasons. Kindly translate it into Gujrathi also. How are you getting on with the study of your official work? You must correct mistakes if there be any. I think you ought to soon take a Taluka or sub-division like Khasherao and learn the details or work practically. We are all well here and wish you all the same there.

Yours affectionately,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

54

MAHABLESHWAR,
24th January 1889.

MY DEAR MINISTER (LAXMAN JAGANNATH),

Mr. Manibhai showed me the Marathi printed petition* sent by you to him. So long as no specific persons and grounds are mentioned in it, I don't know what action we can take about it. You might ask Mr. Kyte† to inquire who the author of the petition is. We can grant the request of the man on reasonable conditions, but I see no reason to accept the conditions mentioned by him. Such petitions will always be now and then cropping up and we must only give them their due weight. I think there is a great deal of delay in the system of our work and if that is got rid of many a vague idea and imaginary grievece of the people will be dispelled. You must be strong in getting rid of the evils in our system of work and wherever my assistance is required, it will be readily given. It is a matter of sincere regret that two or three cases against some officials‡ in our State have been allowed to linger so long, without any final decision. Will you see that these cases are quickly disposed of? If they are to be submitted to me,

send up the papers quick and they will be disposed of, with reasonable rapidity by me.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* Of one Mr. Ukidve of Poona. He wrote a second pamphlet and published it, trying to screw out money from His Highness. The matter was properly disposed of by Messrs Angre and Athalye, under His Highness order.

† The then Police Commissioner at Baroda.

‡ Mr. Oke, Conservator of Forest and a Judge Mr. T. Madhaorao.

55

MAHABLESHWAR,
26th January 1889.

MY DEAR SIR (MR. ELLIOT),

I am quite ignorant about the Pattidar Rules. I know to a certain extent that some such project as that is before my officers and that it is to be placed before me. I do not know when.

I do not want to make any changes in the Barkhali Rules, and I am astonished to know the way you write. If experience shows that the rules had better, have some changes, I expect the notes to come from you and from no body else. I look upon the question of Barkhali as settled and it only remains with you now to carry it out.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

P.S. I am sorry to learn the decision of the Government of India about your promotion. What a pity! What can we do? S.P.

56

MAHABALESHWAR,
17th February 1889.

MY DEAR BROTHER (SAMPATRAO),

You are to retain the position of my Private Secretary for the present, which is quite indefinite. You must, as you have yourself hinted, learn the details of the Revenue Administration. By patient work you will easily pick up the necessary knowledge. Make yourself well acquainted with

the details of the Revenue System at present existing and mark carefully the defects and good points of the news policy. This knowledge will be very useful to you in future. You must also learn the necessary magisterial work. Know the account system well too.

Yours affectionately,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

57

MAHABLESHWAR,
22nd February 1889.

MY DEAR MINISTER (LAXMAN JAGANNATH),

I am very thankful to you for your two very kind letters. You must excuse me for not writing to you earlier than this. To commence with your first letter.

You have had to occupy a most responsible position during my absence forced on, as you know, by the sad illness. I am on the whole on the high way of recovery and I feel it only proper that I must be given time to get thoroughly well. You are, I am told, anxious to have some rest. I have no desire whatever to load you with so much work, as to injure your health, but you must advise me how to do it, after taking all the circumstances into consideration. I do not myself wish that you should now think of retiring, for the administration wants a very strong minister at its head, and you know how difficult it is to get a man of that stamp. I look, with feelings of sincere regret and as a misfortune, upon constant changes of ministers and affairs. Avoid it as much as you wisely can. I deeply thank you for your frank and kid suggestion about my absence. I shall willingly follow the advice given by you and our other friends. Will you accept yourself and give our other friends my hearty thanks for their advice? The Raj must not be allowed to suffer; considering all the circumstances, I think it would be most prudent to have one more European Officer in the place of Mr. Elliot. Do you not think that it is useful, sometimes in important matters, to have a good European Officer as a Member in the Council? When the Barkhali measure is being worked, you must be prepared for many appeals affecting the landed interests of many people and we

shall have to give a most sound hearing to all such complaints; and to do this I propose to have a small handy committee with liberal powers. In this we must have one European Officer of good standing as a member. Will you discuss this plan when you are here?

Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

58

MAHABLESHWAR,
8th March 1889.

MY DEAR SIR (MR. ELLIOT),

Thanks for many of your letters. I had never mentioned as an order one anna for holdings previous to the year 1861. Only lands alienated before that year were to be, in the right of a sovereign, taxed and quite as a part of your enquiry. I think the least we can tax is up to H.H. Khanderao's limit. I have seen your application for leave. I am quite willingly inclined that you should return and take up the important part of the enquiry, provided some easy steps are set in motion while you are here and some work goes on while you are away. I propose this in order to save time, as time makes matters difficult for us. I am very sorry that you are to leave me for some time. I am really deeply thankful to you for the great and affectionate interest you have taken in me. I shall never be able to repay it. My people will also feel your departure as they must know or they will come to know the great and just care that you have taken of their adequate interests. I beg you to accept my most affectionate and grateful regards for all your kindness. I am enjoying good health and Dr. Hojel* says that I am all right except that I am getting fat. I am at present 10 st. in weight. I hope I shall be able to see you before you go. I shall send back the Barkhali papers in a day or two. The place is very hot since about a week. I do not know how it is there.

Your Sincere and affectionate Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* An eminent physician of Bombay. He was invited to examine & treat H. H.

59

MAHABLESHWAR,

28th March 1889.

MY DEAR NEPHEW (GANPATRAO),

Many thanks for your kind letters. I hope you will so get rid of your cold. You must take great care of your health. I liked the note book very much. I shall let you know about the watch drawings. Avchitrao has married last Sunday Miss Scindia* of Kudal, a village near Panchgani. Dadasaheb has been married to Miss. Kadam. Both the families are respectable. The newly wedded brides are young and nice, though I have not seen them yet. We must wish them all happiness. I shall be removing to Nilgiris soon. Your father is here and is quite well. We are all well.

Yours affectionately,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* Sister of Nana saheb Shinde. Present Police Naib Sabha.

60

MAHABLESHWAR,

28th March 1889.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I thank you for your letter. I am glad to learn that you were pleased with the arrangements made for you here. I hope you will have a pleasant time at your new place.

Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

GENERAL SIR, H.H.D.PRENDERGAST, K.C.B.V.C.R.E., A.G.G.

Baroda.

P.S. It is satisfactory to learn that Mr. Ozanne* is coming to Baroda. When do you think he will be there? S.R.

* *A Civilian of the Bombay Service, temporarily lent to the Baroda Government, as Survey & Settlement Commissioner to act during Mr. Elliot's absence in Europe.*

62

MAHABLESHWAR,

24th April 1889.

MY DEAR MINISTER (LAXMAN JAGANNATH),

Will you kindly arrange to send some work such as, by our rules, require orders from me? I should like to have something useful to do. Let the papers of the different departments come regularly and in a finished and complete form. In preparing Tippans they cannot be too careful.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

P.S. You must all keep me well informed with all that may be going on there. I have not, for some time, heard from Baroda of late, why?

S.R.

64

MAHABLESHWAR,

27th April 1889.

MY DEAR BROTHER (SAMPATRAO),

I was very much touched by the sad event that has taken place in our family. Mangalbai was young and was just beginning to enter into real life, when she was most unfortunately made to quit it. What hope of life and of enjoying it must she have had? The family has been most unfortunate, I think; her father dying in England and her poor mother out in India after a long illness. You must try to get over the most sad event. You better come here for a few weeks.*

Your affectionate brother,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* Letter of condolence upon the death of Shri. Sampatrao's first wife, Mangalbai, Laxmibai, daughter of Bapusaheb Ghatge of Tanjore, who died in England. Bapusaheb's brother Ramsaheb Gahtge and his wife Tarabai served in Baroda for long time. Shrimant Sampatrao soon after went to Mahableshwar, where his second marriage with Shri. Sitabai (Sister of Her Highness the Maharani) was arranged. It took place at Poona in the month of June 1889.

65

MAHABLESHWAR,

1st May 1889.

MY DEAR BROTHER (SAMPATRAO),

I think it would be better if you can take up some definite work in the Revenue Department. The Minister proposed that you should be attached to the Sir Suba's office, but I think this is hardly desirable, as I think you would learn very little there. The object of placing you at Naosari was simply to make you acquainted with the details of Revenue work and no sooner had you mastered them or got acquainted with them than you were to be placed in charge of some district work. To learn the work itself you must have some responsibility. I had discussed the whole matter with Mr. Dhamnaskar when he was here a short time ago. No one is more willing that I to furnish you with all facilities to make you learn your work. If there be any defects you must quickly point them out. Even the fact of your being attached to the Revenue Department must mean that you have work and I defined that work as learning for some reasonable period to come.

Your affectionate brother,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

66

MAHABALESHWAR, PARK HALL,

20th May 1889.

MY DEAR MR. REYNOLDS (CHIEF ENGINEER),

I thank you very much for your very interesting and kind letter. The railways, it seems, are making indeed very good progress and so is your good drainage scheme too. Many thanks for your kind congratulations. I hope you will give my best regards to Mrs. Reynolds and I wish her a pleasant stay at Mount Abu. I am getting on beautiful and feel sure to be perfectly well by the time I return to Baroda. As a matter of fact, I am quite well now; but I must better make it quite sure. I get now all my work here and get through it every day.

I should be happy to be amongst you all for the good of the people. I hope the rains will be satisfactory this year.

Your sincere friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

67

MAHABLESHWAR,

21st May 1889.

MY DEAR SIR (MR. ELLIOT),

Quite by this time you must be enjoying the society of your family and breathing the delightful air of merry England.

How I miss you here? This season I have seen very few people, because they scared by measles in our camp. I should have gone to Ooty long before this, had not the children got ill. They are both now perfectly well and are better than they were in Baroda. I went and paid a visit to Umrath and Baroda just a month ago. I met and saw many officers and people at Umrath and from thence, only for 24 hours, I went to Baroda to pay my respects to the elders of the family. I went to Umrath and returned the same way by my yacht the Zingara. The yacht is a well trimmed and beautifully got up steamer. She is very convenient and has beautiful decks. I look forward with pleasure to make full use of her. I hope, after your return you will also get a chance of sailing in her. She, I think, rolls a little more than I should like. I have taken to my work again and enjoy going through it. My health is very satisfactory and I sleep soundly. Sleep is a very great necessity and a great blessing. The Reays have several times asked me whether I have heard from you. There are many princes here this year. Therao of Cutch is here too. I hope all of you are quite well. Kindly give my best regards to all of them and remember me specially to little Teddy. Her Highness is in good health too. Poor Sampatrao lost his good wife and we all are very sorry. He is with me now for a few days. The doctor* I have got, is 28 years old and is very pleasant and very affable. I like what I have seen of him, I must now stop as the carriages

and gentlemen are waiting to start for a picnic. I hope to hear from you constantly.

Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *Dr. J. Ernest Novine.*

68

PARK HALL, MAHABLESHWAR,
24th May 1889.

MY DEAR AND VALUED FRIEND,

Let me congratulate you on this happy and auspicious day.* I wish the much beloved and revered Empress many returns of this happy day. May she be long spared to us all to rule over her vast empire. I hope you will kindly convey to Her Majesty my good wishes with my best respects. Kindly give my Salams to H.R.H.the Duchess.

Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

His Royal Highness, THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT, Mahabaleshwar.

* *Queen of Victoria's Birth-day*

69

MAHABLESHWAR,
27th May 1889.

MY DEAR DEWAN SAHEB (LAXMAN JAGANNATH),

I am desired by His Highness the Maharaja Saheb to make a confidential inquiry whether Your Excellency has issued any circular to the effect that the State Officers should not accept any honours, rao Bahadur etc, from the British Government without taking the permission of the State Government.

Yours very Sincerely,
SAMPATRAO GAEKWAR,
Ag. Private Secretary.

70

MY DEAR LADY REAY,

I shall do myself the great pleasure of calling upon you both to-morrow afternoon at 4:30 o'clock. I was thinking of doing the same in a day or two; but it is most kind of you to think of me. Probably this is our very last visit and therefore, you will excuse me, if I thank you both for the great kindness shown to us by you both and for the friendly interest you have taken in us. I count you as my great friends and hope we shall be writing to each other. If there has been any omission or shortcoming on my part, you will, I hope, excuse it, as it could not have been intentional. With my best regards to Lord Reay and yourself.*

Yours Sincere Friend.

SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* This Letter is written at the retirement of Lord Reay from the Governorship of Bombay. He retired on 12th April 1890. The sincere friendship, alluded to in the letter existed to the last as will be hereafter noticed in the correspondence. Lord Reay died in 1922.

G. S. S.

71

4th June 1889.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

Allow me to state, to start with, that nothing has been done in connection with the return visit of H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught and of the Governor, with any intention of avoiding the respect due to them. We shall be most careful next time. The Minister will probably talk to you about the matter. We are always willing to respect the high officers and so on of the British Government. I am sorry that the matter of reception should have caused you trouble.

Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

Col. F.H.JACKSON, Resident, Baroda.

POONA,

6th June 1889.

MY DEAR SIR (MR. ELLIOT),

Many thanks for your very kind letter. I heartily thank you for your kind and very prudent action in the Abkari matter. I fully concur in the views expressed by you. It is next to impossible to do without some drink. I am very sorry that Mrs. Elliot's health is not good. I am sorry your well earned holiday will not be quite so free from anxiety as I should have liked. I am on my way to the Nilgiris to spend the rains there. I was thinking of stopping here only upto the 8th or 9th on account of Sampatrao's marriage, which is going to take place on the 7th with Her Highness' younger sister. But we will find it impossible to remove Jaisinhrao, who is suffering from a strong attack of fever and is therefore, quite weak. We shall now have to take note of this before we leave this place. We would be quite unhappy without him. The Barkhali is getting on well and nearly I am told, two hundred notices have already been issued to holders. Four months time is given in the notices, out of which nearly two are over. Mr. Ozanne with the Minister and Bhatawadekar came here for a few days to get my orders on some points, which were satisfactorily decided. The questions were whether extritorial Girasias land cases were transferred to the Survey Settlement Department or not and the second was whether the cases of Watan and Devasthan with allowances should be transferred to the new department. All these are to go to the Barkhali, as it is impossible conveniently to separate the cash and land in Devasthan and Watan Tenures. All cases of this nature are to go to the Barkhali. The question of the Export duties has not been forgotten and I am going shortly to have the views of the Sar Suba, who has asked Mr. Ozanne's opinion. The Sar Suba, I am told has made many changes in his views from the once he expressed while you were here. I shall get the question decided. My health is splendid and so is that of others except Jaisinhrao, who is always ill. Her Highness is quite well but feels now and then rather poorly. Kindly give my best regards to Mrs. Elliot and others.

Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

73

POONA,

6th July 1889.

MY DEAR LADY REAY,

I am leaving here for Ooty on Monday next at 5:30 pm. I very much regret, I am unable to accept your kind invitation for Tuesday next. I should, however very much like to see you and Lord Reay and shall see if Monday will suit me.

Your Sincere Friend,

SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

74

MINISTER'S LODGE, COONOOR,

13th July 1889.

MY DEAR MINISTER (LAXMAN JAGANNATH),

We arrived here at 10:00 o' clock on the morning of the 11th July after a very pleasant journey. There has been, I think considerable rain here as all the jungle looks green and fresh. Have you got a pamphlet called उकिडवे प्रकरण?* Probably you have seen the most important letter of H. Chintamani addressed to the Editor. I do not know how the affair of the coinage machinery was arranged, because it seems It has not resulted satisfactorily, Cannot we manage things better I hope things are really going on well at Baroda. I am anxious now to return to the State and this will shortly be done. You must let me have rest as much as possible, though some work will do me no harm. Please write to me fully as often as you can.

Yours affectionately,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* Of one Mr. Ukidve of Poona. He wrote a second pamphlet and published it, trying to screw out money from His Highness. The matter was properly disposed of by Messrs Angre Athalye, under His Highness' order.

76

MINISTER'S LODGE, COONOOR,

16th July 1889.

MY DEAR MR. OZANNE,

Thanks for your letter and the book you sent. I am glad to learn that you are improving. I shall let you know by and by when to bring your cases. I am doing very well and so are the children. Her Highness is fairly well. The climate here is rather damp but very pleasant and the scenery round this place very picturesque. Ooty is colder than this and has many and longer drives.

How does the season promise this year in our part of the country? We had a most pleasant journey to this place. I am just going to Ooty for a day only.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

77

COONOOR, MINISTER'S LODGE,

18th July 1889.

MY DEAR KHASHERAO,

I hope you are quite recovered from the fever, from which , I am told you suffered. How is the season in Gujarat this year? The weather here is nice and delightful. We are all enjoying very good health. I have already caused a letter to be written to the Minister on the Songad people and you must discuss the subject with him and see what we can prudently do for the Kadi Praja. Write to me now and then as I like to hear from you. I should like soon to be amongst you all.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

78

MY DEAR MR. RANADE,

Your letter in regard to the forming of a Social Reform Association. I take a very great interest in such movements. Any step, that would ameliorate the social condition of the

Hindus, has my support. What you propose, though little and narrow in action is however something towards loosening the fetters of tradition. Where and how to make a beginning will involve great caution. In removing one evil, we must take care that another does not creep in and that something better takes its place. The success of such measures must mainly depend on individual convictions and what one is prepared to sacrifice for them. In matters of this nature, we have to bear in mind the interest of the many instead of that of the few and of one's self. I prefer to be a patron than a President of the Association.

If I hail at all with pleasure the Congress movement, it is because it affords a splendid opportunity for discussing and bringing to light our social wants and wrongs. I am inclined to believe that social reforms are of greater importance than even gaining political rights.

I fully appreciate the honour done me. I hope my observant calculating subjects will also take to such movements and better themselves.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,
R.B. Mahadeo G. Ranade.

81

MINISTER'S LODGE, COONOOR,
28th July 1889.

MY DEAR BROTHER (SAMPATRAO),

I thank you for your kind letter. You must write to me a little more frequently. I believe you are noticing some great excitement in Navsari against the Stamp Act I have got a telegram from the inhabitants of that place. Has it rained there satisfactorily? It is raining here very often softly and sometimes pours down rather heavily. I like the climate. It is doing good to every body. How are your wife and child? Give my best regards to Anandrao when you write to him. I have heard from Ganpatrao and it seems that he is doing very well.

Yours affectionately,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

82

MISTER'S LODGE, COONOOR,
28th July 1889.

MY DEAR NEPHEW (GANPATRAO),

Thanks for you letter which I read with very great interest. I am glad to know that you are getting on so well. When is your second examination again? every body here is doing very well.

I think Sir Leppel Griffin's speech was most one sided and not at all fair. It can be very easily proved that, what he asserts does not hold true beyond Central India and Cashmere. Our Bombay and Madras sides are very well advanced. You refer to the Native State Army question too. There is not at all a joint action in our people; and to expect it at present is a mistake. There has been a strike in Baroda of all the Mahajans as we have introduced a revised Stamp Act. I hear things are getting on well on the whole in Baroda.

Yours. Affectionately,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

84

COONOOR,
29th July 1889.

MY DEAR MINISTER (LAXMAN JAGANNATH),

Your telegram to hand early this morning and one from the Mahajans a little before. It appears they did not give in gracefully and as they have gone all possible length, don't you think, as I do, they have displayed anything but a commendable spirit? Had they quietly submitted to what was enforced more in the interest of good Government than with any the least desire to oppress them, we should have received their grievances in a kindly spirit. But as it is, they have shown how refractory they are; and I would for the sake of teaching a lesson to them, hold to my own. As you know, our best endeavours have been and will, I hope, be for some time to come, to lighten their burdens; and if we have removed many obnoxious little taxes and duties, I see no reason for them to grumble. On the contrary, they ought to cheerfully bow to what is intended for the good of the many. They are

more like spoilt children in the manner of their demand for the removal of the Act. The more kind we are to them, they ask more. They must learn to view these measures in a correct spirit and ought to understand the motive, that dictates the Government to impose such light taxation. If this is how they behave in the face of all reasoning and treat Government orders as they have been doing, there will be an end to all administration. They have no idea of how many matters there are, that need reform; and at the very outset, a small measure meets this reception, there is little to be expected in the coming future. After your recommendations on the subject are submitted, a final decision will be arrived at, as to what modifications are needed in the present law. What time would be the best for the carrying out of these, rests with you to determine and suggest. I should be delighted to give my best attention to any reasonable recommendations you make in dealing with such subjects, we must not only assume a just and fair attitude, but act up to it in an impartial spirit. You may send me a full report on the subject, giving in detail all possible information as to individual actions too, during this time of agitation. I am glad you kept up the cold attitude you assumed from the beginning. I must take this opportunity to thank you very much for your firmness. Will you kindly convey my best thanks to Col. Jackson for his cooperation? You show the letter, if you choose, to him. When you submit their petition, setting forth in full what they have to say, with your recommendation, I should not mind interviewing two well-behaved Mahajans wherever I may happen to be. You of course, know I shall not be long returning to Baroda. We are all well and hope you are in good health.

Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

85

MINISTER'S LODGE, COONOOR,
29th July 1889.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

It seems that you are having a little trouble in Baroda. I hope it will now subside. This will just give an idea how

difficult it is to impose new taxation, however fair it may be. Native States have to fear most in removing existing taxation. If there be any drawbacks in the present measure, we should be too glad to settle them reasonably. Is Mr. Ozanne now in Baroda? I must thank you for your valuable help in this strike matter. We must be very strong in connection with our Barkhali work, it is a matter of great satisfaction that we have good men like Ozanne over the department. The weather here is very pleasant, though a little damp. Will you be able to visit the Nilgiris you think? I should like to talk to you so many matters. I am fortunate in having you in Baroda.

I am glad to know that the season promises to be good in Baroda. I have lately heard from General Watson and Mr. Elliot, who are doing very well.

Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,
COL. F. H. JACKSON, Resident, Baroda.

86

COONOOR,
31st July 1889.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I thank you very much for your kind letter. I am glad to know that you like the Dabhoi book. I am getting on very well and have determined to be in Baroda before the 15th November. There has been a strike in Baroda of all traders against the revised Stamp Act, which is to be in force from the 1st of August. We have taken a determined attitude and will not give in to the people. They are quite foolish in their demand; and to give in at this period would be to encourage them to be recalcitrant. They have given in to the Government now, as a matter of fact. I am glad to learn that Lady Watson is better than she was ever. The works you refer to in your letter, are progressing well and I look forward to their completion with great interest. The climate here is very nice and pleasant, though a little damp. Will you kindly remember; me to Lady Watson and others of your family whom I know? I

shall be writing to you in future I conclude this letter by wishing you all happiness.

Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

*To,
General Sir, I. Watson, Sussex, England.*

87

LAXMI VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

25th February 1890.

MY DEAR NEPHEW (GANPATRAO),

It was with utmost joy that I received the news of your success in the examination* last month. I am glad to read both of your letters received by the last two mails. Since I received your first telegram, I was expecting a detailed letter from you, giving particulars of your examination and the time of your return to India. As I did not receive your letter long enough after the result of your examination, I grew rather anxious as to when you would be able to return and telegraphed you to that effect. I am sorry my telegram made you so uneasy, but there was no other object for it. You must have also received, after the dispatch of your second letter, my telegram communicating to you the news of your parents good health. I am very glad to learn that you are coming back in the month of May I am so anxious to see you after such a long time.

We have had a beautiful weather here upto now and it is just the commencement of hot season. It is a fortnight since I have come to stay here in the new palace.† This is of course, a temporary stay simply to see what conveniences are required. The palace, though big, will not hold all the attendant people, who will have to stay somewhere outside. I am not going out of my territory during the coming hot season, which I mean to pass at Umarath.

You must have learnt that at my desire Lord and Lady Reay visited Baroda‡ and seemed well pleased with the reception. The Raja of Akalkote is our guest here at present and leaves tomorrow. Prince Albert Victor is coming here on the 13th proximo and leaving after a day's stay.

I am enjoying very good health and gladly take my office work daily. Her Highness and the Princes are also quite well. I hope you are quite well.

Yours affectionately,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* Of Bar-at-law.

† First residence at the Laxmi Vilas Palace took place on 10th February 1890

‡ On 30th December 1889.

88

MAKARPURA PALACE,
Baroda, 9th March 1890.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I am sorry Your Royal Highnesses have not been able to come over to Baroda on account of your numerous engagements. Kindly accept my best thanks for your kind wishes. I wish Your Royal Highnesses every happiness and a bon voyage. We feel very sorry at the thought of Your Royal Highness leaving India. Will your royal Highness give my best regards and compliments to Her Royal Highness the Duchess and my best respects to Her Majesty the Queen Empress when you see her?

We expect H.R.H. Prince Albert Victor on the evening of the 12th Instant here. I hope his stay will now be pleasant.

Y.R.H.'s Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

H.R.H. THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.

89

MAKARPURA PALACE,
Baroda, 13th March 1890.

MY DEAR MR. PESTONJI. (KHANGI KARBHARI),

The arrangements to-day were most discreditable, as no body knew whether I or the Minister were to be present or not. It seems no body was acquainted at what time exactly the review* was to commence. The Agent to the Governor

General had to wait. None of your Khangi officials were present to tell us as to what was to take place. If things were permitted to go on like this, it would be nothing else but disgraceful. I don't understand at all why this happened so. You must manage these things better or personal interest ought to be greater. If you did not come, why did you not send one of your subordinates when you have so many of them? Kindly state the matter to me.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *Review of troops in connection with the Prince of Wales' visit.*

90

MAKARPURA,
25th March 1890.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I take this opportunity to send this letter with your Highness servant who has driven me several times in the steam tricycle which I have bought as Your Highness knows. It is very pleasant driving in that carriage, provided it steered well. I am starting tomorrow for Umrath, a place of mine on the sea side and only four hours journey from Baroda by rail. I hope Your Highness and children are doing well.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,
His Highness the MAHARAJA OF MYSORE.

91

MAKARPURA,
25th March 1890.

MY DEAR MINISTER (LAXMAN JAGANNATH),

It gave me a great shock when I learned the sad news of your daughter's death. I sympathies with your sad loss, but hope you will try to pull through it as well as you can.

Your Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

92

MAKARPURA,

25th March 1890.

MY DEAR RAJASAHEB,* (OF AKKALKOT),

I thank you for your letter received a few days ago. I was glad to learn of your safe journey to Bombay. His Royal Highness Prince Victor was here and his visit seems to have passed off very well.

Prince Fatehsinhrao had a rush of measles these few days last, but now he is all right. Prince Jaisinhrao proceeds to Umrath tomorrow and the rest of us will follow on the 26th Instant for the hot weather. It is growing unbearably hot here now. Hoping you are all right. I remain,

Your Sincere Friend,

SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *Sr. Shahaji Raje Bhosle, husband of Balubai Sahib. Daughter of Houshabai Dhairbar. Daughter of Maharaja Khanderao. They came and stayed as guests at Motibag.*

93

UMRATH,

30th March 1890.

MY DEAR MR. OZANNE*,

Will you kindly accept these views as a souvenir of your stay in Baroda? I am sorry at the thought of your leaving us soon. I wish you could have stayed here longer. I shall always remember the pleasant hours of business I had in your company. I hope your wife and children are doing well. Many thanks for the photographs you have given me.

Your Sincere Friend,

SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *Temporarily acting for Mr. Elliot on leave.*

94

UMRATH,

31st March 1890.

MY DEAR COL. JACKSON,

I am sorry I have not had time to answer your letter before this, I have given orders to the Minister about giving promotion

to your Head Clerk and I have no doubt he will get it. As to giving him a place, I am sorry to say that the service is at present crowded that it is next to impossible to find a suitable place and again the subordinate officials have had very few promotions of late and it is desirable that they should get them.

Umrath is very cool and nice at this time of the year. Children seem to be enjoying very good health. Fatehsinhrao, who had an attack of measles in Baroda is gradually improving. Mr. Elliot is expected in Bombay today. It is a pity we are losing Mr. Ozanne. He has done so well. I believe you will soon be acting in Baroda for the General. Mr. Manibhai is to succeed the present Minister,* who will retire not before long I believe our present Suba† of Amreli will be going to Naosari and Mr. Dalal will succeed him. I hope you are doing well.

Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *D. B. Laxman Jagannath.*

† *Mr. Anant Gangadhar Khot*

95

UMRATH,
11th April 1890.

MY DEAR MINISTER (LAXMAN JAGANNATH),

Will you kindly enquire privately with Mr. Tait* and send me a few names, to select from of boys with the necessary information, to be sent to Europe for education in forestry? He must be a permanent subject of Baroda†.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Principal, Baroda College*

† *Messrs Amin and Medivala were sent*

96

UMRATH,
12th April 1890.

MY DEAR SIR MADHAVRAO,

I thank you very much for the letter you sent me some days ago. There is nothing harder that to estimate the value of a

man and to get one, who can fulfill the ideal of one. Mr. Elliot has returned from England and had taken charge of his office, which is a very important one, just at this time, as it deals with alienated land questions and makes the Revenue Settlement of the different Talukas. Mr. Laxman Jagannath has been very unfortunate in his domestic affairs as within a very short time past he lost his wife, a daughter and a grand child. Mr. Manibhai will succeed him when he retires. Hope the appointment will be a success. I have been here for the last fifteen days and the climate has been very pleasant except for the last two days. Since Thursday there is a great deal of wind, but it is very hot. We expect to have a change in this and to get cooler breeze instead. Fatehsinhrao, who had an attack of measles, is now quite well, though he has not yet recovered his former strength and Jaisinhrao is getting on beautifully. I have been enjoying very good health and am able to get through my work without any fatigue. Will you kindly give my best regards to Lady Madhavrao, who I hope, Is doing well? Will you kindly accept the views of Baroda (sent separately)?

Yours Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,

RAJA SIR T. MADHAVRAO, K.O.S.I., Mylapre, Madras.

97

UMRATH,
12th April 1890.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

Will you kindly accept the views of Baroda? They have been quite lately taken by a man from Culcutta. I hope Your Highness will like them. I believe you must be by this time enjoying the delicious climate of Ooty. The place from which I am writing to you is near Surat and has a very cool and nice sea climate on the whole. I find the place very convenient as it is so near to Baroda. Sir, H. Prendergast* leaves today for Europe on three months leave. Lady Prendergast has, all along her stay here, been enjoying bad health, which necessitates

this move. I hope the change will do her good. I should like to know how you and your children are doing. Will you kindly remember me to Sir Oliver St. John† and your Minister? My son Fatehsinhrao gives you his respects.

Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,

His Highness THE MAHARAJA SAHEB, G.C.S.I. of Mysore.

* *The A.GG.*

† *A former A.GG. of Baroda*

98

UMRATH,
15th April 1890.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

You must have reached England by this time and been glad for being relieved of your responsible charge. I believe the Prince himself must be feeling happy to be back again in the cold and bracing climate of England.

When you were in Baroda, I think we happened to talk casually about the demand of the Congress in soliciting the introduction of elective principles in the Councils of this country. I do not know, whether, in the hurry of the moment, I made myself clear to you. I look upon the introduction of the elective principles as a grave change in the policy followed up to this time in the Government of India. It is clear that the principle being so great should be but cautiously followed. I am in favour of granting a limited number of elected member. A combination of elected and nominated members in proportion ought to meet all requirements for the present. I should have a certain number of persons as permanent members, to represent the significant and well spread interests of India, like agriculture, commerce etc. and add special members whenever a special question is raised. An attempt should be made always to secure members of the class actually following the profession, instead of people who don't follow the interests of the avocation they are expected to represent. Sir. H. Prendergast left Baroda for England on

three months leave, as his wife was unwell. I was reading long accounts of Prince Bismarek's resignation and the surmises and expectations of his successor.

It is a very important change in the political personalities of the European continent. It would be interesting to watch at least for some time the career of his successor. We are having a fairly hot weather and one feels a pleasant change whenever the sea breeze is blowing. Will you kindly give my regards to Lord Cross and General Watson, who I hope are in the enjoyment of good health? Mr. Elliot has come back and taken charge of his former duties. I hope you found Lady Bradford doing well after your return from India.

Your Sincere friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,

*Col. Sir, E.R.C. Bradford, * Political & secret Secretary, Office of the Secretary of State For India, England.*

* Officer in attendance on H.R.H. Prince Victor of Wales in his Indian tour.

99

UMRATH,
17th April 1890.

MY DEAR SIR (MR. ELLIOT),

If your coming is in no way inconvenient to you or to your work, can you come here for a day as you paid a most flying visit to this place on your way to Baroda. The weather of Umrath since the 15th of this months has changes for the better. Except few hours in the morning and at night there is always a breeze blowing. I had a letter from Dinshaw,* in which he expresses his regret in not being appointed minister as he was once of the candidates. He is indeed a strange person. Reynolds† is here on his way Songad. How do you find your department after your return? I have got some appeals of the village cases to be decided. I think it desirable to dispose of them as soon as possible. You will be able to see the appeals and so I need not write more about them. Will you tell Col. Jackson that I would be glad to see him here? Her Highness Jamnbaisahe's case has not yet come to an end but it will soon come. I should be happy to see her state

of affairs improved. I shall do all I can to bring on that desirable result. Hoping to hear from your,

Yours sincere friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Mr. Dinshaw Ardeshir, Taliyarkhan, Municipal Commissioner, Baroda.*

† *The Chief Engineer*

100

UMRATH,
29th April 1890.

MY DEAR SIR (MR. ELLIOT),

I had spoken to the Minister a few days ago to submit it and take my orders on the Jarode Report. I have passed orders on the report today. I shall be glad to see you here. It is always a great pleasure to me to have you with me. I have given orders to the Minister to send two boys to Europe to study forestry.* They ought to be leaving India very shortly. I shall probably also give a chance to Anandrao Pandhare to go to Europe for General and Military Education. He has consented to go, but we better wait and see. Col. Jackson is here.

Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Messrs Amin and Medivala were ment.*

101

UMRATH,
17th May 1890.

MY DEAR COL. STRONG,

Many thanks for your letter. I do not know the scale of pays of the Indian staff corps. Can you kindly supply that information as it is necessary for decision in the matter.

We have to take the permission of the Government of India before any European is entertained in our service; and till this has been done, you will not kindly disturb in any way the young gentleman, as I should not like to cause any inconvenience to him. Will Mr. Spencer have any objection to wear the uniform of the rank we give him in the army? We consider the point important. I think it would be better for

both the parties to have the option of terminating the contract, if they choose to do so; and I shall thank you to let me have your views regarding the conditions of the gratuity etc. on hearing from you on these points, I shall address you definitely.

The horse has arrived in Baroda and I shall see him as soon as I get an opportunity to go there. I remember very well the pleasant ride we had to Powagar with Mrs. Strong.

Will you kindly give my best regards to her? I wish her a pleasant and enjoyable voyage to England.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

*To,
Col. J.E. STRONG, Bombay.*

102

UMRATH,
22nd May 1890

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I was indeed very glad to get a letter and a photograph from Your Highness. Many thanks to you for thinking of me and of our first visit at Mahableshwar. I shall feel most happy to receive you as my guest at Baroda, if you can come there at any time convenient to you. I should so much like to meet you again. The climate here is very nice and pleasant, though different from that of Mahableshwar. Will you kindly accept a photograph of mine? I am sorry I have not got a smaller one at present than the one I am sending Your Highness. I hope you will keep up the correspondence so kindly and wisely begun by you. I think it is so desirable that we should correspond and increase our friendship. It is a matter of congratulation that our Rajas are trying to cultivate that feeling of fellowship. Which might be of great use to them. I beg to remain,

Your Highness Sincere Friend
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

*To,
His Highness the MAHARAJA OF DHRANGADHRA.*

103

UMRATH,
22nd May 1890.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I am sorry Your Highness has had an annoyance, of late from the conduct of the Brahmachari. I am now glad to notice that, that miscreant is likely to suffer a defeat and to get a deserved punishment. It is needless on my part to ask you to treat the matter with perfect scorn and pay no heed to such foolish undertakings. I think under such circumstances a bold front, as has been shown by your Administration, does a great deal of good in shattering and checking such foolish attempts. I hope Your Highness soon is doing well. How are you doing as far as your health is concerned .

Your Sincere friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,

His Highness THE MAHARAJA OF BHAVNAGAR.

104

MAKARPURA,
5th June 1890.

MY DEAR BABASAHEB (RAGHUNATHRAO, RAJA OF SAVANTWADI),

It is nearly two years since we had the pleasure of receiving you and my sister at Baroda. My mother and we are very anxious that you should come here and pay us a visit as soon as you can. I think you need entertain no fears about the climate of Baroda in the rains. We are enjoying excellent health and hope you are doing the same. I hope you will comply with my invitation.

Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

105

BARODA,

1st August 1890.

MY DEAR DEWAN BAHADUR (LAXMAN JAGANNATH),

I thank you for your telegram and your good wishes for the baby prince.* Your letter of the 5th Ultimo has remained unrepplied owing to my being of late very busy. The question of finance, which is not in a satisfactory state, is drawing my special attention to itself. However, when there is a little time, I shall try and write to you.

We have had very good rain here throughout Gujerath, although It has verged a little towards excess in some parts as Gandevi, Naosari etc. Nature is green all over; and the tanks are trying to fill up. I believe the advantages of the water works scheme will soon be realized by the people of Baroda.

I am keeping good health, although there is little cold, which I expect, will soon disappear.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

**Afterwards named Shivajirao.*

106

MAKARPURA,

17th October 1890.

MY DEAR DR. NEVINS*,

Many thank for your kind letter. I was glad to know that, on the whole, the children are doing so well. I think you did very wise in advising them to be removed. There have been many cases of bad fever this year here. The mornings are getting cool and pleasant though the middle part of the day still continues to be hot. We were going to remove to the new Palace, but we have given up the idea, as the place could not be got ready before the next Saturday and again it is thought advisable for Her Highness health, as she will have to walk on the terraced floor. I believe this is merely a groundless belief. I am not sorry for not having gone to the new Palace,

as some portions of it yet require to be finished. It is most annoying to feel that the Palace is not yet quite finished and that the occupation puts off the completion. I should so like to run up to Bhagur (Deolali), but for some petty reasons and holiday occupations. I think there need not be many days now before you come back with party to Baroda. I wanted to get you to have the pleasure of your good company again. I am doing fairly well. Thanks for your enquiry. I hope Prince Fatehsinhrao is getting on with his lessons and that Sardesai attends to his studies. Her Highness and the little are faring well. The little baby promises to be very healthy. I hope you continue receiving good news of your people from England. With very kind regards.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* Companion and Physician to His Highness; in attendance, at the time of the letter, on Princes Fatehsinhrao and Jaysinhrao at Deolali.

107

MAKARPURA,
25th January 1891.

MY DEAR LADY REAY,

Many thanks for you kind letters. I reciprocate in my mind, as I write to you the good wishes you send us for the coming year. I can quite understand the keen interest you take in the stormy politics of the day. What we have lost in the Bombay Presidency, I trust, will be gained in England by the addition of Lord Reay and yourself to the number of wise and kind hearted Politicians, who are required to influence in these times of excitement. Thank you for advising me to read Lord Haughton's life and Mr. Smalling's London Letters. I shall send for the books.

Indeed, it appears to me that I am likely to have even too much leisure to read. I am beginning the New Year badly, being confined to my room with consequences of a cold in my chest.*

Her Highness has also been suffering from a fever some time since, though your friend Mr. Peechy Phipson, who paid her a visit, reassures us. But do not think us all ill. My third

boy promises well and Fatehsinhrao, whom you so kindly remember and Jisinhrao are doing remarkably well.

I regret that my indisposition has rendered it impossible for me to receive Lord Harris† here and the Czarevitch‡. Remember me kindly to Lord Reay and tell him from me that work is getting on. My branch railway to Pattan is half-finished and repaid progress is taking place in the line, which will connect Mehsana with Viramgaum in Kathiawar.

The Palace is all but finished and furniture is gradually going in, while Mr. Goldring is laying out the garden in a fashion quite new to this country. From the Ajawas§ reservoir drinking water has actually reached Baroda, but I do not intend to indent on the store till after another rains. But I must not weary you with these matters, now become indistinct memories. The memory for your friends, however I hope, will not grow dim to Lord Reay and yourself and among them please place Her Highness and myself.

Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* His Highness suffered from pneumonia contracted on a journey to Umrath and was confined to bed at Makarpura from December to February. It was a serious illness, for which Dr. Nevins was considered responsible.

† Governor of Bombay, successor of Lord Reay

‡ Afterwards the late Emperor of Russia.

§ A grand ceremony of opening the Ajwa water works was performed near the present Nyaya Mandir on 29th March 1892; and the Baroda public were delighted to see a unique phenomenon of the first shoot of clean sweet water in plenty, as will be seen in Letter No. 116.

108

MAKARPURA,
24th February 1891.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I am sorry owing to press of business I could not answer Your Highness letter earlier. Your Highness will, I hope excuse me. It was very kind of Your Highness to have telegraphed to me and inquired about my health. I have been suffering from cold in the chest and bronchoitis. Since this illness I have been confined to my room, although, for the last few days, I go out for a short drive when it is sufficiently hot. I am nearly all right, but will require some days to regain

my original strength. On Tuesday last I made my first entry into the city, which I may say, was after about two months and a half. The scene was very interesting and the people received me very kindly. Baroda had very cold season this year and the cold breeze made the climate very severe and unwholesome. We hardly had so cold a season for the last few years. The thermometer fell some time to 40. The Vasant* Panchamy has, however made a change and we feel we are making our approach towards the warm climate of summer. Hoping this finds Your Highness in the enjoyment of good health. I hope your children are doing well. I am,

Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,

His Highness the MAHARAJA OF MYSORE.

* Friday 13th February 1891

109

MAHABLESHWAR ,
27th March 1891.

MY DEAR FRIEND (MR. ELLIOT),

Many thanks for your letters. I have asked Vaniker* the to answer some points out of them.

Mr. Papamiya is to be tried and if he does not do well he can easily go back to his place.

I am gradually improving and go out for a walk of two hours every day and find that it does me no harm. I hope you get good news from England. Her Highness and children are doing well. I believe Sir Harry is now coming here. Is he coming alone? I was glad to know about the progress of the Gharania work. Kindly keep me always informed about the work of your department. I take great interest in its results. Kindly propose some rules as to how you should dispose of the cash Dharmaday and the Devasthan cases, which have been decided since my minority as "until further orders" cases. Hoping always to hear from you.

Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* Then the Private Secretary.

110

MAHABLESHWAR,

9th May 1891.

MY DEAR SIR (MR. ELLIOT),

Many thanks for your letter sent from Bombay. I am enquiring about a competent man in accounts. There is a certain Bengali gentleman named Roy*, who is said to be a good man too. I hope you will enjoy your trip and come back soon. I hope you are having good news from England. Let me tell you frankly that I don't wish you at least for some years to come to leave Baroda, as you are making yourself most useful to the State. I am doing well. I wish Her Highness the Maharanee was better than what she is.

Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Mr. Rajaninath Roy, who inspected the account system of Baroda and built the present one.*

111

TEMPLE HALL, MAHABLESHWAR,

17th May 1891.

MY DEAR GANPATRAO,

I must thank you for your kind letter, which I received some time ago and to which Vanikar wrote a little answer. I should have written this before now, but for my extreme laziness, for which I ask you and other friends too to excuse me. My laziness is causing me more mimics than probably other things. We are rather growing anxious about Bayabai's* marriage but a telegram and a letter from the Senapati Saheb allayed the excitement. Will you kindly remember me to our relations and friend in Baroda? We shall be leaving this for Mysore on our way to Coonoor. His Highness the Maharaja (of Mysore) has been kind enough to invite us to visit his capital. The late Minister† has been here for some days and was doing and looking very well, but all of a sudden, he got a

passing stroke of paralysis, from which he is at present free.

Yours affectionately,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* Eldest daughter of the Senapati Shrimant Anandrao Gaikwar, who died on 21st June 1917.

† Laxman jagannath.

112

BARODA,
3rd September 1891.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I thank you very much for the photographs you have so kindly sent. Most of them are very good. There has been a great deal of rain here and our Ajwa lake has already got more supply than that of a year. I believe Mysore has got sufficient rain fall too. It is very hot here. Bangalore must be delightful at present. I have lately visited Jodhpur* and enjoyed my stay there very much. The Jodhpur Maharaja and his present Minister are indeed very nice people. We shall never forget the very pleasant days we spent in Mysore. I hope you and all your children are doing well. We are doing only fairly well. Will you give my best regards to the dear little children† who, I hope remember us all? Give my Salam to the Minister‡ and Sir Harry.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,

His Highness the MAHARAJA OF MYSORE

* In the autumn H.H. visited Ajmere and Jodhpur for some 2 or 3 weeks.

† The present Maharaja of Mysore and his brother the Yuvaraj.

‡ Sir Sheshadri Aiyar.

113

BARODA,
30th January 1892

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I thank you most heartily for your very kind present. I shall always bear in mind the pleasure I had in meeting you. The

horse is indeed very handsome. I shall, for some days, ride and then think of using him as Your Highness suggest. When are you going back to Palitana? I shall always be happy to hear from you. I hope you are well.

Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

H.H. the Thakore Saheb of Palitana.

114

13th February 1892

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I thank you very much for your kind letters of the month of December. I should have certainly answered them long before this, had I not been unable by my bad health.* As you must have heard, I have had a severe illness, from which I am just quite free. I am sorry you will soon leave this country. We may meet in Europe probably before very long, but of course we cannot be sure. I should be, indeed, very happy to meet you again. How are your daughters and Lady Prendergast? Will you kindly give them my regards? The climate here is at present very nice and pleasant. The children are fortunately doing well on the whole. Many thanks for your letter. I hope I will again hear from you.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

General Sir H. N. D. Prendergast

* A severe attack of dysentery from which His Highness suffered for over two months. He had two severe illness successively in 1891 and 1892 during the cold season.

115

BARODA,
14th February 1892

MY DEAR SIR (MR. ELLIOT),

I am glad you have come back. I can easily understand your feeling of being tired after heavy work. You ought certainly to rest. A letter from you sent from Visanagar has reached me. You do not seem to understand my talk about accounts in

connection with the village service. I shall speak to you when we meet, and it is not of very great importance, but a trifling internal detail. I shall meet you to-morrow at 5.30 p.m. on my way back from the Residency.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

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LANAULI,
26th April 1892

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I know you will be glad to get some news of us. I have been staying here for the last few days on account of the immense heat in Baroda. The climate of this Ghat is well and pleasant. I am glad to let you know that my mother Jamnabai Saheb is doing well and is staying at Naosari. Tarabai is away with her husband and is enjoying good health. I am sorry to say that poor Radhabai Saheb is not at all well. She is suffering from the terrible disease of consumption. My children, who all are four, are doing well. The last child, which we got only two monts ago, is a little girl.* I am thinking of starting, in a few days, for Europe, where, I hope, I shall have the pleasure of meeting you frequently. I am glad to inform you that we have after all succeeded in bringing pure water into Baroda at a cost of 30 Lacks. We had a great tamasha at the time of opening it and never did I feel happier than at that time. I have lately also sanctioned a Municipal Scheme, which embodies in it the rules and principles of education. Let us see how this works. I hope you have found the last winter very bracing and pleasant. How is Lady Meade? Are any of your sons in England or are they all out in India? Will you give my best regards to Lady Meade? Will you also kindly remember me to Lord Northbrook, when you happen to write to him or see him? I am enjoying at present a fair amount of good health.

Yours Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,
Generael Sir Richard Meade, London

* Indraraja

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LANAULI,
26th April 1892

MY DEAR FRIEND,

It is indeed a very long time since we have written to each other and I take this opportunity of writing. I know you will be glad to hear of the completion and opening of the Ajwa Reservoir, the first sod* of which was turned by a person, who is well-known to you. I am sending a book of the water-works and a copy of the speech I made on the occasion and which, I know, you will be glad to peruse on account of your immense interest in all concerning Baroda. Before many weeks are over, I may be in London and have the immense pleasure of meeting you. I am accompanied by my wife and a few followers. I hope you will be able to assist me by your kind advice, so as to be able to steer well and pleasantly in the society, with whom I may have to come in contact. My friend Mr. Elliot is not coming with me. I am anxious to see whether the English climate suits my constitution. If it does, I should certainly enjoy to be there for some time. Will you kindly give my regards to Lady Watson and your young people?

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

Major General, Sir. J. Watson, V.C.C.B., East India United Service Club, London S.W.

* *The ceremony of turning the first sod of the Ajwa reservoir was performed at the hands of Lady Watson, wife of Sir J. Watson, Resident at Barods, on 9th January 1885.*

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LANAULI,
4th May 1892

MY DEAR MR. ROY,

I must thank you very heartily for your very kind letters and for the charming photos of your very pretty children. I thank you again for the fruit you so kindly sent. Lanauli is indeed very pleasant at present, though, of course, it cannot

be expected to be bracing. I don't know whether I shall be able to get away to Europe as a few questions have arisen. The condition of Native States and their nominal Rulers, the poor Rajas, is worse than our Indian Drum, the Dhol. They can be blamed for any thing and any how. If they make earnest endeavours for reform, they are disliked for not being servile; and if they lag behind, they are taken to task for not keeping with the times. It is a strange state of things and requires radical change before things can be as they should be. I shall always remember the time I have spent in your very pleasant and genial company. You must give us the pleasure of your presence here whenever you can. Is Culcutta very hot? With kind regards to you,

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

*To,
Baboo Rajaninath Roy, Calcutta.*

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LANAULI,
6th May 1892

MY DEAR MAHARAJA,

I thank you heartily for your very kind telegram of to-day. I am leaving our country for Europe with my wife and two sons. Will you kindly remember me to your son? I hope I shall hear from you often. You have had grand doings in Bhavnagar when the Governor was there. Lanauli is a very nice little station, very much frequented by our people.

Yours sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

*To,
His Highness The Maharaja of Bhavnagar.*

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LANAULI,
6th May 1892

MY DEAR MAHARAJA,

I am starting for Europe to-morrow with my wife and two sons. I will let you know from there, how long I propose to

stay there. Kindly enquire and look after my two children, who are being left behind. I thank your heartily for the 'Sharkarayukta Till you have so kindly sent. How are you? Is Indore very hot? I am very anxious to pay you a visit while you are at Indore. We must arrange for it after my return. Give my Ashirwads to the children. Believe me,

Yours sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

His Highness The Maharaja Shiwajirao Holkar, G.C.S.I., Indore.

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LANAULI,

6th May 1892

MY DEAR ATHALYE,*

I am glad that there was a mistake in the date of the marriage; because it would have been a pity your not being there on the spot on such an auspicious occasion. You stuck to me too long on account of your kindly feeling for me and did not try, to be sure, to be present at the event. I do not mind your physical body not being here, as I know your mind is here. I have had a long talk with the Minister.† Think of me often as I shall of you. Keep every thing straight and specially the Barkhali.

Yours sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* Mr. Y.V. Athelye, an eminent pleader of the Bombay High Court, was employed in Baroda since 1887 to his death in 1894. He worked as a High Court Judge and by His Highness on account of his deep scholarship, devoted service and high character. His untimely death was deeply felt by High Highness. (G.S.S.)

† D.B. Manibhai Jasbhai.

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LANAULI,

6th May 1892

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I thank you very much for your kind message.

I hope I shall have a good time there. I shall be very happy if I can be of any service to Your Highness, and if you wish

me to do any thing, I will gladly do so. Remember me to your children and give them my Ashirwads. Please remember me to your good Minister. hope you are enjoying Ooty. Does the Maharani liike it? I am glad to learn that you have taken her there this year.

Your sincere friend
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

His Highness The Maharaja of Mysore, Ooty.

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**THE GROSVENOR HOTEL, VICTORIA STATION,
BELGRABIA, LONDON. S.W.,**

19th June 1892

MY DEAR LORD NORTHBROOK,*

I shall call upon Mr. Gladstone on Tuesday at the time mentioned by him. Kindly let him know. I shall, in all probability, leave this place for Switzerland as recommended, and so I shall like very much to know about some persons, who might serve as tutor to my son. I know I am hurrying the matter.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* Once the Viceroy of India, who had sanctioned the installation of His Highness the Maharaja in 1875 and who ever afterwards shewed great regard for him.

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Without date, 1892

MY DEAR LORD KIMBERLEY,*

I have been moving about so much and have had so many occupations that, I am afraid, my private correspondence has been somewhat neglected; however, I take this opportunity to write to you these few lines as you know the great event of my tour was the voyage to Norway, which I enjoyed very much and which did me a great deal of good. It would have been best to stay on board the ship the whole time as it was comfortable and as much was done for the convenience and

amusement of passengers; but I was anxious to see something of the customs and manners of life of the Norwegians, so I stayed for a fortnight in that country; but unfortunately I found that the intelligence and courtesy of the people had been a good deal overrated, and that the amount of information, which I obtained hardly compensated for the discomforts of a country, which has not yet learned the secrets of attracting visitors. However, the scenery was fine and though there was a good deal of rain, I made the most of the bright days.

It was a relief to find myself again on the continent and to see much cities as Dresden and Berlin with their wealth of art treasures and all the evidences of an advanced civilization.

The weather was, however, too hot to make a long stay enjoyable (the Opera House at Dresden was closed one night on account of the heat), so, to make sure, I went again to my tried friend St. Moritz. Although most of the visitors had followed one another like a flock of sheep out of the place, the weather was delightful and I had many invigorating excursions over the glaciers and mountain passes.

Your sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *Secretary of State for India*

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GRAND HOTEL DE' ORIENT, BRINDISI,
18th December, 1892

MY DEAR COLONEL FITZH GERALD,*

I am sorry to think that within a few hours we shall have to part, but hope to meet you again.

I must thank you, before going away, for all you have done to make my trip enjoyable. I enjoyed your very pleasant society, above all, and your judgement and tact proved to me of great use. I shall watch your advancement with great personal interest and pleasure. If you found any omissions anywhere in our relations, let me assure you that they were not at all intentional.

I hope you will be able to join me again if I return to Europe. Will you kindly accept a few thing as a souvenir from me? I shall always be happy to hear from you.

Your sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *An officer deputed by the India Office to be in attendance on His Highness during his travels in Europe.*

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BARODA,
16th March 1893

MY DEAR DEWAN SAHEB (MANIBHAI),

I have had for a long time, under consideration, the question of introducing compulsory education to some, if not to the whole extent of this State.

After several meetings between myself and my various officers, I had the pleasure of getting the necessary information Yesterday. Presuming the information to be correct and the estimates to be more liberal than tight, I proceed to give an order, which must be sensibly carried out and watched from every point of view. Defects discovered, while working the scheme, must be thought over and remedied; shortcomings in estimates set right. We do not wish to be mere enthusiasts, doctrinaires or hobbyists, but rather the reverse. We are most willing to set our mistakes right. I must say that it will be a serious question whether the State will be able to afford much money. We are already spending almost as much as our income, and this is not satisfactory. Knowing that we can afford to spend a few thousands without incurring serious responsibility, I direct that schools be supplied to all the villages of the Amreli Mahal. The cost of this as made out by Hargovinddas Dewarkadas is Rs. 31790-8-0. The basis of these calculations are generally approved. I say 'generally', because the item of scholarship must not be given or promised to be given, without the previous sanction of Government. I should like to see people do without it.

The first step necessary before the introduction of compulsory education is to provide each locality with the necessary means of giving education, and if, after that has

been provided for, people fail to attend, we can think of instituting punishments for failure of attendance. I believe the large portion of the population, if not the whole, will send their children to school voluntarily, thus mitigating the necessity of a law.

In this scheme, boys and girls of every caste and community are expected to be provided with the means of education. The only point that I should like the Director to keep in mind, while carrying out this important order, is to see whether people who observe the Pardah System, object to send their girls to schools. It is not necessary that they should send their girls to Government schools. All that they will be expected to do, is to educate their girls and boys to the standard fixed by Government from time to time.

The future extension of this first step towards the introduction of compulsory education must depend upon the means of the State. The cost of providing the means of education to the whole Raj will vary from twelve to fifteen lacs. I wish to keep myself perfectly free. I cannot determine a policy, till I can definitely find out by experience whether the State can bear the burden of such an expensive plan of education. Nothing would be worse than to pledge what you cannot carry out. I have no hesitation in saying that we cannot do better than educate all our subjects. Education is absolutely necessary for the realization of my ambition and wishes and for the success of my policy. The only one important point, that we must bear in mind, is that educated people require a stronger and firmer government, a want which I hope, our successors will try to meet. Our native governments, as they at present are, are extremely weak and unsatisfactory, not because they are carried on by means of native agencies, but to a great, if not to the whole, extent because of the ridiculous, unenviable, and anomalous political situation.

I approve and sanction the scheme of compulsory education,* but the carrying out of it depends upon the financial condition of the State.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* This measure was extended to the whole Raj on 1st August 1906.

May 1893

MY DEAR MINISTER (MANIBHAI),

I am sure that you will be glad to hear that we have safely arrived as far as Brindisi*. The voyage has been, on the whole, very pleasant except three days, which were rather rough. I have been more often out of sorts in this voyage than I ought to be, considering the reason. We expect to reach Trieste on Wednesday morning, but one cannot be sure of it as this steamer has not been able always to stick to its wishes.

I hope you have got my telegram about the extension of the services of the Forest Officer. You told me that, there were some cases of importance in your office, which required the services of a competent officer, in order to be written out, so as to be forwarded with our representation to the Government for disposal. Kindly arrange to select an officer of legal knowledge from our service and let him finish these cases. Time is of great value in all cases and especially in these. I would also advise you to give four cases to some good and able legal practitioners in Bombay, so that no time need be wasted in their preparation.

Please give two good hard and complicated cases to Kanga, who was once in our judicial service, and the other two to some other good man. Let the payments, to be made to these people, be certain and reasonable. There should be a condition in the agreement to be entered into with these people, that the cases must be finished satisfactorily within so many days from the date of their commencement. All our papers should be so arranged that no time should be spent in searching for them.

I hope things are getting on well in Baroda. I was sorry to learn that the Director did not travel this year as much as he did the last, and according to the rules laid down. This indeed is very bad. I have very often told the Heads of Departments and yourself that, in order that, they should be better able to carry out their work well, I have given them assistants and suggestions as to how to arrange their offices, so that they may not find it inconvenient to go out on tours of inspection. I have no faith whatever in their saying that they were required

to be bodily present in Baroda. Good assistants ought to minimize the necessity of their presence in Baroda. I hope schools are fast being opened in the Pattan Taluka, according to the compulsory scheme of education that I have sanctioned.

You cannot be too quick in carrying out these orders.

I hope you are enjoying good health.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *Left Baroda on 1st May 1893 by S.S. Imperatrix. Her Highness and the children remained in India.*

128

GRAND HOTEL, ADLESBURG IN CORNIALA,
19th May 1893

MY DEAR MINISTER (MANIBHAI),

After all the sea and a long voyage of 17 days, we safely arrived at Trieste on the 17th of this month. We got along the dock between 7 and 8 o' clock in the morning. The British Pro-Consul was waiting for our arrival with some letters and telegrams for me from London. One of the letters was from the India Office, intimating that I should have to bear the expenses of a political officer, as he was attached to my suite at my request. the expenses will be £40 a month, besides travelling. Certainly, as you know, I am not anxious to have a political officer, who is of no use and who is to be paid by me and yet not be my servant. All that we wrote was that, if any officer was to be attached as a political officer, let him be ready, so that no time be wasted in searching for one. My own experience of travelling in Europe is that, if a native prince has his own competent officers, he requires no political officer. The Government of India must only intimate their local representatives to render such reasonable assistance as might be required of them. If the British Government wish to appoint any one as an officer to look after the travelling of the Native Princes, let them do so at their own expense, instead of saddling the prince. If the prince want an officer, then it is quite a different matter. I am going to write back and say that as far as I am concerned, I want no officer.

The harbour of Trieste did not strike me as very pretty. I think Bombay and Naples are far prettier.

As we approached Trieste early in the morning, I went up on the deck to get a view of the country and some thing struck me as very pleasant. At 5 o' clock in the morning, the sun was as high as it is in Baroda in winter at 6.30, but probably not quite so strong. The huge flood of light, that fell on the calm and oily waters of the deep, was indeed very fine, without being unpleasant to the eyes. We could see many a little fishing boat with its sail hoisted before. We were near to the harbour. The effect of these sailing crafts on the smooth waters was very entertaining. They looked as if they were simply gliding and had no other movement at all. The light of the sun falling on some of the partly red and partly white sails was very effective. The sails looked like a strong fire. The morning was unfortunately misty and therefore we could not see for a long distance, but still, judging from what we saw of the coast that was to our right as we came, the country was good. The coast was green and wooded, having some villages and well tiled houses on its bank. There is a residence of an Archduke on this side, which rather prominently perched on the top of one of the many hills. Trieste, as you come near and get a clear view, reminds you more of the Malbar Hill of Bombay.

We did not much drive into the town, as it is not so attractive a place after one had seen many good towns of Europe; but the little we saw of it was good. The streets are very clean and the roads well-paved with stone. The houses are high, somewhat like those of Bombay in height and style of structure, but more substantial in looks. They are all built of stone. The stone of this place is very like that of our Songari kind, but probably the rain and the weather generally have less effect in changing its white colour. There is a nice palace here built by the brother of the present Emperor. His Majesty's brother was a sailor by profession and stayed here when he was a Rear Vice-Admiral. This was the same person who was elected as Emperor of Mexico at Napolean's suggestion. He first refused to accept the Mexican crown, but his wife who was jealous of the present Empress, goaded him on to accept. He was very unwilling to go, but still amidst French salutes

and honours he left this place never to return again. As soon as he was installed, Napolean withdrew his army and left him to manage the Mexican affairs. The party that was opposed to Maxmillian was or did prove more strong than the one that was in his favour. The one that was opposed to him wanted a republic. A state functionary, Maxmillian, was murdered by the populace and his wife had to return to Europe. She is an imbecile now and liives in Brussels the capital of her parent's country. We saw this palace and I thought it very nice. The apartments are not as large and as numerous as those of the palace, but still they are very comfortable and richly furnished. The panelling of the ceiling was very fine and has various patterns and designs embossed in gold in the wood. In one room they had all the colours of different nature done inward. The gold and other colours were nicely mixed all together. The rooms were 36 in number. There was a nice garden around this house. The Triestians often come here to spend their time. The garden and the house are left open to the public view. The Empress of Austria had been here a few days ago. There are many trees in the garden and a few fine plots of regular or artistic gardening, something like what we have in Makarpura. The palace has a fine view of the sea and that is why it is called Miramor (look at the sea).

Trieste is the head-quarter, as you know, of the Ausrtrian Lloyd and Co. They had provided a steam launch for us to be taken to Miramor and other places by their manager Mr. Yani, who was for many years in Bombay. He only returned from the East in March last. He has brought a Surti servant with him who is already, he told us, picking up a little Italian. Mr. Lyani is a Jew. After seeing Miramor, we want to see the dry dock of this company. After I had my dinner at about 7 in the evening, I went with a certain Bessovi to his house and after seeing his wife we went to a few cafes. After this I came home and went to bed. I am afraid I am tiring you with too long a letter and therefore must close now. I am just starting to see a stud which is near. I am feeling very well. I hope every thing is getting on well in Baroda and that you are enjoying good health.

Your sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

129

HOTEL METROPOLE, VIENNA,

30th May 1893

MY DEAR PESTONJI,

Many thanks for your kind letter. I am sorry that arrangements are, it seems, being made for Her Highness and the children to go to Belgaum. I am writing to Lanauli about this.

Unless there is a real necessity we must run from one place to another as little as possible, and specially under the present circumstances of Her Highness, as I believe, she will have to return to Baroda before the Middle of July. A nearer place ought to have been chosen. The Swari expenses are increasing very rapidly, and therefore, please remember we cannot be too careful in reducing them by various means. First let the swaris be undertaken when really required for health, and Secondly have as few followers in the Swari as possible.

A small number of attendants who are well-trained, give greater pleasure to their master and to themselves, than a large number which mostly must consist of useless idle men as in our swaris. I am glad you suggested nearer places. In future, I should like to be consulted before a move is made, so that I shall direct such steps to be taken as will be reasonable. I hope Belgaum will be liked. You must keep me informed how things are getting on and not consult your own dear interests in choosing the matters to be made known to me. I hope the order I left with Aappasaheb Punekar is working well. You must bear in mind, that order only relates to ordinary matters and not to such important matters as deserve from their nature to be and can be referred to me. If they are important and cannot be referred to me, then the minister will have to dispose of them. In matters relating to Her Highness and the children, she must be consulted and her wish given due weight before the matter is decided. If Her Highness is ever mistaken in arriving at a sensible decision you must explain straightforwardly and with politeness what the other side of the question is. I am slightly nervous that some of you will not probably advise her with sufficient

frankness. I am having a very good time here and glad that I came, so far as my health is concerned. I hope you are feeling well.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

130

CARLSBAD,

6th June 1893.

MY DEAR MINISTER (MANIBHAI),

I arrived here only 3 days ago. Karlsbad belongs to Austria and is situated in a little valley. The place is much frequented by people, who are unlucky enough to suffer from the disorders of the stomach. Many fat people too come here to get themselves reduced in size. It will do a great deal of good to people like Jaysingrao Angre. I hope things are getting on peacefully in Baroda. You cannot be too careful in keeping things smooth. The Adnyapatrika tells me about the Jahirnama of the Khichdi. Be prudent in its execution and just in the principles. I shall be sorry to know that the matter has been badly managed. You must be relied upon as you are on the spot. I fully believe that you are a thoughtful and perfectly safe officer and therefore I don't feel so anxious as I would be, If I know that the affairs are carried on by an inexperienced go ahead young man. I hope you will be have the burst of the monsoon by the time this letter reaches you. As you know we had a talk when I appointed Ambalal bhai as the Chief Justice of our courts, that he might be expected to resign the British service if it may be found useful to do so. You know very well the position Col. Biddhulph assumes about the lent British Government officers and you also know the inconvenience we have at times in dealing with these servants. I think it not unwise to ask Ambalal Bhai to resing the British service on the understanding between himself and our Government, that he would get the same pension as he may be entitled to by the British rules as applied to British officers lent to Native States. I think these servants have their pensionable pays fixed once for all by the British Government. I understand that they cannot get pension on more than a certain pay. I

am asking this gentleman to resign not as an act of unfriendliness to the Resident, but merely as a matter of convenience to our State. If you agree with me, let me know by wire saying "Yes". After you hear from me you can send on his application.

What would it cost us to ask Dhamnaskar to follow the same course? This you might let me know by letter.

I am doing as usual.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

131

CARLSBAD,
10th July 1893.

MY DEAR SIR (MR. ELLIOT),

Many thanks for your kind letter. My health is just as it used to be in India, except that I have caught a little cold and have sore throat. It is not worth much and will soon disappear. I have been receiving good news from India; Her Highness with the children is doing well in Poona. I am glad that W. is likely to go to Baroda. It is most satisfactory to know that your children are making good progress. We know W. has been thinking of marriage since some time. Kindly remember me to Eruckhauks and to Dr. Erichisen and Dr. Buller. How long will you be at Etrelat?

If you see the Reays, give them my best Salams. I had a very good interview with Lord Lansdowne. We talked about railways, about the Imperial Service Troops and I explained to him the unfortunate necessity for my absence from Baroda. Nothing will come off about railway matters, I believe. The Imperial Service Troops question is to be dropped at least for the present. Lord Lansdowne and I sat talking about an hour and a half. About my absence he mentioned to me his pity and said that, if necessary for my health, I must go but hoped that I would return soon. I explained to him that I myself felt the pity of my absence and that I was of the same opinion as he himself about the great need that the princes should be in their own countries. Let me assure you how keenly I feel the necessity of such an advice being administered to me.

Fortunately my health is now good enough to allow me to go and have a prolonged good stay in Baroda in the next cold weather. I enjoy being in my country. When do you think it would be good for me to start back for India?

I have heard little from Mr. Maconochi* who says that your department is getting on smoothly.

I am inclined to think that the administrative arrangements of this time are not worse than the previous ones.

Do you see any reason for me to return to India before October (of course presuming that I get no call from India)

Kindly give my regards to Mrs. Elliot. I get a few papers for orders from India.

Yours Sincere Friend.
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Acting as Survey and Settlement Commissioner for Mr. Elliot in his absence.*

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CARLSBAD,

11th July 1893.

MY DEAR FRIEND (LORD REAY),

I sit to write this letter with great pleasure. I should have written long ago but for pressure of work.

After arriving at Trieste on the 17th Ultimo and after stopping at some places I reached Vienna on the 26th of May. I spent there about a week. The Imperial Opera and the Hopbury Theatre are splendid buildings and the acting that we noticed there was indeed very fine. They seem to have spent a very large sum on the Hopbury Theatre which is really a fine ornament to the town hall and others, which are well worth several visits. There was to be a large Imperial procession and we were looking forward to see it, but as the weather was not favorable, we heard to our regret, that it was postponed to some other day.

There have been a few letters between me and the India Office about the appointment of a political officer on my staff. In the official letter that was sent by my Minister to the Agent to the Governor General at Baroda all that was stated was that if the Government of India thought of attaching any

political officer, they should do so soon. The object of the letter was to give them time to select an officer. I did not express any wish whether to have any political officer or not. I thought it unnecessary to mention my wish as we are never consulted in such matters by the local officers.

I should not have known who the political officer was to be, had I not casually asked Col. Biddulph about the matter, just after we left Saharanpore. Political Officers are supposed to help Native Princes in their tour, but in what matters they are to help, is never known to the Princes, who have always to have their dealings with them in perfect ignorance. In what matters the Political Officers should help not being known to the Princes, it is often settled by the character of the Political Officer himself. Some even consider it their duty to interfere in private matters such as the engagements of servants. Some officers require to be furnished with programs containing the names of hotels, the period of stay and the date of starting. This certainly cannot always be done with ease and convenience.

I have sanctioned a scheme of compulsory education to be continuously tried in one of my provinces and I am looking forward to see how it is received by the people.

I have been here since a week and I am taking the waters and baths of these places.

I am glad to say that I had an interview with H.E. Lord Lansdowne and explained to him the sad necessity of my absence from Baroda. he himself, of course, regretted the necessity and said that if it was necessary for my health, I must take it. He hoped I would be soon back. I was glad that I had an opportunity of explaining myself in person; because I feel more than any body the evils of my absence from Baroda.

Fortunately, my health has much improved and will soon be quite well, which will avoid the necessity of my absence.

I shall be obliged to you if you will kindly let me know, at any time, the desirability of returning of India. I shall take the advice in the best of light. Kindly mention this to Lord Kimberley too.

I should like to send a present to the Duke of York at his wedding, if you and lady Reay agree with me. Will you kindly let me know in what shape I should send the present?

Excuse me for this long letter. Kindly remember me to Lord Kimberley. Will you kindly give my best compliments to Lady Reay, who, I hope, is perfectly well? Mr. Elliot is on leave and is in London. I hope you are enjoying excellent health. I shall be here for some days more.

Yours Sincere Friend.
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

P.S. I have written about the Political Officer just to let you know and not by way of a compliment. S.R.

133

CARLSBAD,
22nd July 1893.

MY DEAR MINISTER (MANIBHAI),

I was extremely sorry to learn that you have again been troubled by a death in your family. How painful that you should be so very unlucky! The mother of your grand daughter cannot feel the pangs of sorrow more than yourself. A poor human being cannot do much but console his fellow being by saying that one of us must quietly submit to the inevitable decree of Providence.

I got your telegram about the Khichadi; I think, not that I mind it the Brahmins have not showed their gratitude by running up to the doors of the Residency for clemency and protection. If they have done so, the Khichadi is no more a charity than an exaction. I did not know that the order was to be published just when it was. I am sorry Major Snell wrote you the letter about the train. Your must not allow any room for the Residency to interfere in our affairs, as the tendency to do is destructive of good government. In views like this, I am moved by no unfriendly feelings towards the Residency; but the weakness of a Native Government requires that he (A.g.g.) should absolutely let matters alone, unless to create difficulties, be the object. Judging from Major Snell's tone (in his letter), I don't like the position they want to assume and I have no doubt that you will not let them have it. I hope you had a good to Lanuali. My health is improving. I have been trying the waters of this place; but yet they have produced no

good result. I shall go from here to Zermatt. I hope you will have plenty of rain by the time this letter reaches you. I am,

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

134

GRAND HOTEL ADELSBEG,
19th May 1893.

MY DEAR ATHALEY,*

I have no doubt that you must have learned by this time about our arrival at and even departure from Trieste. The Italians, who are the inhabitants of this town, are very anxious to go over to Italy. Their feelings are against the Austrians, who try to check, even in a theatre any expressions of good will towards the Italian Government. The late king of Italy and the nation he represent, have laid to their heart the acquisition of this town and there are chances of its being acquired. There are theatres in this place; but the day we were there i.e. Wednesday, every thing seemed to be closed except cafes. People often at night congregate at these cafes and spend their time in listening to some from of music and drinking beer and coffee. Beer is the ordinary common drink of the country. Beer has very little of alcohol in it. The society in these places is indeed very mixed. You often see many women of questionable repute, who like their society. There were here nearly 100 people generally of the middle and lower classes. Cafes are very common in any European town. This is one of the ways, in which the people here spend their leisure time. The morals are to be noticed here. I hope you are having a good time in Baroda and that your eye is better.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* See note on letter 121

135

S.S. HIMALAYA,

22nd October 1893.

MY DEAR SIR (SIR GEORGE HUNTER),

I am very sorry in missing you. My health up to a month ago was very fine; but at present it is very bad . I never had such shocks before. This trip has done me much harm. I hope to be soon back in England or Europe and stay there for some years. It was very kind of your wife in expressing her sympathy. We had a very good passage except 2 days in the Red Sea. The steamer in full of passengers and they are very nice people. We expect to be in Bombay on Friday morning. If this steamer reaches Bombay as expected, she will prove herself to be the fastest. I believe you must have been to Scotland, when I came to London for a few days. I hope you will allow me to write to you now and them.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

136

CARTHAGE,

20th December 1893.

MY DEAR MR. FRENCH,

I hope all the children are getting on well in health as well as study. I must mention to you again, to avoid any mistake, that the health of the children should be considered first and then their study. The latter must not be neglected beyond what is absolutely required for the health of the boys. I am very anxious that all my children should have not only good general education, but that they must attempt to learn some useful profession. I mention this to you, because there is just a chance of their education being treated as a small ornament and not so useful as to do them honor. In these days of close scrutiny and rapid changes, high ones must be as well educated as any other class. My health is fair. Fortunately I sleep very well, but cannot stand any worry. Will you kindly give my regards to Mrs. French? Let Fatehsinhrao write as often as possible, but do not let be too great a trouble for him.

I often think and feel for the little ones. Keep a good eye on the morals of the boys and the people around them, so far regards your pupils.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

137

CARTHAGE,
26th December 1893.

MY DEAR COL. BIDDULPH,

We have had a very slow and cool passage upto now. We are at present in the Canal and will have to wait here till a coaling. Steamer, which has stuck, is able to move. We expected to reach Port Said tonight and leave it at about 6 in the morning; but I am afraid this cannot be now. It is very cold here and there is a good deal of wind. My fingers are quite stiff and move with the pen only with an effort. I hope the Mediterranean is not rough. Will you kindly remember me to Mrs. Biddulph? I hope things are getting smoothly in Baroda. My health is slightly better. Her Highness is doing very well. I hope the little children are doing well in Baroda.

Yours Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

138

HOTEL DES ANGLAIS, NICE
27th January 1894.

MY DEAR MR. FRENCH,

Your letter to hand. I am glad that, on the whole, the children are well. I hope Jaisinhrao will soon be well. I agree with you in the opinion that children should be out of doors as much as possible and that every reasonable care should be taken of their health. If Fatehsinhrao's eyes are not yet better, then I propose he should be taken to Bombay for a day and shown to an eye doctor, so that we may know what is the matter with him. You must not neglect his education. I attach very great importance to his mental training. I mention this a second time to you; because I do not wish you to follow a school of

men, which attaches no weight to mental development. As you are placed by me in a very trustworthy post, I consider it right that I should express my wishes to you unreservedly and that you should carry them out. I am glad that you spend some time with the babies. Kindly remember me to Mrs. French. I think Fatehsinhrao might try to write his letters a little longer. Remember me to Littledale and his wife when you happen to meet them. I hope Fatehsinhrao writes Modi (મોદી). If he neglects it now, he will never learn to write well.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

139

HOTEL DES ANGLASIS, NICE

27th January 1894.

MY DEAR SAMPATRAO,

Many thanks for your letter and the news it contained. I am sorry you are so prone to catch cold. I am not satisfied with the progress of my health. I was glad to learn that Yusufalli had passed his examination.* I hope he will prove an honest and faithful servant, when he goes back and will not exhibit those evil qualities which men of lesser brain so easily catch in Europe.

Yours affectionately,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Of the Bar-at-Law.*

140

CERCLE DELA MEDITERRANEE, NICE

28th January 1894.

MY DEAR MINISTER (MANIBHAI),

I have been elected a temporary member of this club. I generally come to spend my long evenings in this place. I like to come and read here. The life is so good. Since yesterday we have been seeing some of the doings of the Nice people in connection with the festival of the carnival. It reminds one a great deal of our Holi and other institutions. It is a great pity

that with a kind of western education our old and popular institutions are being deprived of their British places and it is to be deplored. It is our right interest to try to preserve our national customs. They have grown by ages and have history in their favor. My remarks do not apply to foolish customs like Ramana (रमण), which fatten one caste only at the expense of many and without any return whatever. The weather is good and there is always a bright sunshine. All the members of the party* are getting on well. I find them too many. They are most willing to do any work, but have none, as far as my health is concerned. They can but do little good. In time I shall probably reduce the number and the waste of expense. My principle is that a Raja should freely spend money for his enjoyment, but should not spend in such ways as do not give him any pleasure. It is too early to think over these matter. I hope the Barkhali is working well. Do not slacken or alter the policy. I hear Mr. Elliot has made his report on the Barkhali measure. If so, kindly tell him to have it sent for me to Mr. Abbas. Let it be printed for me. Tell Mr. Elliot that he must at least in 100 villages, introduce the *elective village councils* before he leaves India. I am deeply interested in that measure and wish to extend it to all my State. Do not believe that I am going to have other elective bodies like that. I am going to work on the spindle genius with reasonable modifications. I hate to have a constitution, which will weaken the hands of the already feeble Rajas. In their solid strength lies the interest of the people. The policy of a curtailment of people's rights hower is weakening the Raja but this is done for selfish reasons. Kindly give my regards to all your colleagues and tell them that my health is better than what it was in Baroda, but yet I am not well.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* The party consisted of their Highnesses. Shri Anandrao Gaekwad, Dr. Nevins, Mr. Vanikar, Mr. Khasherao, Dr. Jadhav, Mr. K.B. Pradhan, and two servants.

141

GRAND HOTEL EDEN, PALLANZA,

10th March 1894.

MY DEAR LORD REAY,

I have been reading with great interest the different ministerial appointments after the retirement of Mr. Gladstone I have seen in one of the newspapers that you are appointed as Under Secretary to the India Office. I do not know whether the news is quite correct. If is true, allow me to congratulate you on account of your getting in. I hope it will prove only a stepping stone to higher appointments. I wanted to write to you a long account of my recent experiences at Baroda but as I am not quite well, I have postponed giving you the information. I wanted to write to you only to show how things strike us an the result of the way we are treated. It was not for any action or as complaint, though the material is ample to do so. I hope you have got the report, in sending information about matters concerning Baroda, I write to you as your old friend and not, in any way, to worry or trouble you. My health is *slowly* improving. What I want at present, is complete quite. Will you kindly give my best regards to Lady Reay, who, I hope, with yourself is enjoying perfect good health? Will you kindly remember me to Lord Kimberley and give my congratulations to Lord Roseburry, to whom I should have written a line of congratulation, but probably he may not care for it? Her Highness is still a little weak after the influenza. Mrs. Elliot, who is with us, is also doing well. I like Capt. Gordon.

Yours Sincere Friend,

SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

142

LUSSANE,

13th April 1894.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I thank you very much for your very kind letter. I am glad to say that my health is steadily improving and that I am feeling much better than before and that judging from the way I feel,

I should not at all be surprised if I be back in Baroda at the beginning of the next cold weather. Will you kindly give my regards to Mrs. Biddulph, who I hope, is doing well?

Yours Sincere friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,
COL. BIDDULPH,

143

BARODA,
2nd March 1895.

MY DEAR SIR, (MR. ELLIOT),

I thank you for your letter of the 15th December and one previous to that. I had a letter from Mrs. Elliot and have already answered it. I had asked Vanikar to send the two wires. The one from Bombay was sent in case you might not have got the one from Suez. You need have no misgivings as to their genuineness. One was but from me; because there might be no mistake of its not being dispatched.

The Bapat Commission*, as you know is over. The three gentleman are writing out their decisions. I have not gone into the matter in any way and will have to wait for some time. Bapat sent me a letter for maintenance allowance; and thinking he was in Baroda, I was going to answer him to the effect that he might come and see me; but I was told that he was in Poona, where I was told not to send the message. Biddulph and Maconochie both have left Baroda. Biddulph has done a great deal of mischief, the effect of which will last for a very long period. His conduct has weakened immensely my power and position and rendered good Government most difficult, if not possible. Machonochie left for Simla, where he is going to be married, I saw here the lady who is going to marry him. I do not think her to be handsome, though she is sprightly. She is the sister-in-law of Captain Montgomery. Nobody here dare talk of Bapat Case. Everybody is outwardly afraid of having any connection with him. I now have talks after my return and he gave me his petition, which will shortly be submitted to me for orders. I have seen no others, who have been in trouble. I am sorry Mrs. Elliot is not well. I have

been feeling much better the last few weeks than when I came. I am much happier here than I was in Europe. In my recent trip, I was never so unhappy as I was during the last trip, when I wanted much sympathy and help. I got the reverse from the Baroda Agent to the Governor General. I have seen Col. Martelli twice and judging from that (safar and wiser not to form any opinion in such a short time) he looks to be a pleasant man. You must have heard, by the time this letter reaches you, the decision of the Government of India about Mrs. Elliot's remuneration. They have disallowed it. It is indeed more than a hardship; however, no good can be got by referring it back to them. Do you think you will come here where you are kindly remembered by many? All the children except little Dhairyashilrao are doing very well. Kindly remember me to your children and Mrs. Elliot. I hope you will soon get well and strong.

Yours Sincere friend.
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *The Commission consisted of Mr. Jamsetji Ardesar Dalal (President), Mr. Gb. K othare and Shri. (now D.B.) Ganpatrao Gaekwad (members)*

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BARODA,
4th March 1895.

MY DEAR MR. OZANNE,

I thank you very much for your letter, which I received some time ago. I have moved in the matter of Mr. Middleton.* I have not come to any decision adverse to the one recommended by the Council. I have not in any way lost my interest in agriculture.

I am sorry I did not answer your letter earlier than this. It is only a few days ago that I went and inspected the Model Farm. I enjoyed my visit immensely. Col. Biddulph and Maconochie have both left Baroda. I see by the state of things here that Biddulph did a great deal of mischief and has rendered good Government impossible; if not impossible, at least certainly difficult. Even after my return, I found he had many wrong notions of things. It was useless to attempt to correct him. He was pledged to a certain line of action.

Maconochie is engaged to be married. I saw the future Mrs. Maconochie. She is a sprightly looking girl. She has gone to Simla. Atmaram Patel† acts in his place. Elliot has been very ill and I do not know whether and when he would come. I am going tonight to Umrrath for 2 or 3 days. I have not seen the place 3 or 4 years. I hope your son and wife are well. Is Mrs. Ozanne out in Poona? Was she in England? It is getting hot here. I hope you will not find this letter too long. I have written so much for your kind interest in Baroda. The Wadiwala Gaekwar's case again has been raked up in my absence, though when you were here, I think you went, with my knowledge and talked over the matter with Col. Jackson before I decided it.

Yours Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* Professor of Agriculture

† Once a teacher to His Highness

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BARODA,

18th April 1895.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

I hope you are having a good time at Abu and that your daughters are enjoying themselves in the cool climate. Since yesterday it has been very hot here as there is no wind. I shall probably leave this place on Wednesday or Tuesday next. I am not very happy to go away this time; because I find a state of affairs, which is not at all ensuring of quiet and steady progress.

I am astonished at the change wrought in the people during the last 12 months. Government is weak and the people are wrought under an influence, which might be turned to mischief. *Khatpat* is very rampant. How one is forcibly reminded of old *Khatpati* Baroda? Without a strong hand, every legitimate inheritor will not get its due. Without a great change, which I am afraid, cannot be safely postponed too long, I cannot expect thorough sympathy and honest help. I don't think I am faithfully and rightly served by those, from whom I have a right to expect. I have spoken to you on several

of these matters and therefore, I do not trouble you again. I went out for a ride here on the race course and found not a soul. One does feel inclined to take much exercise. I am looking forward for a good sail to Calicut. My youngest son*, who has always been sailing, has been sent on to Bombay and from thence for a sea trip, probably to some place. I hope it will do him good.

Yours Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* Prince Dhairyashilrao, who, in company of Dr. batukram, had a sea-trip to Australia and Japan.

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BARODA,
21st April 1895.

MY DEAR MANIBHAI,

As you know I shall be soon leaving for Ooty. I consider it necessary to have some conversation with you and so I wish you to come to Ooty for a month or so.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

147

BARODA,
23rd April 1895.

MY DEAR SIR (MR. ELLIOT),

I send you by this mail the books relating to Bapat Commission. If you have any remarks to make, you might make them. I will, of course, make much use of your remarks as will be just. If you choose not to make any remarks, you can do so it your discretion. There is one point I should wish you very much to answer and that is, if Bapat was bad i.e. taking bribes, why you, at the head and treated as head, did not report or mention the matter to the legitimate authorities over your department. I hope your remarks will reach me in three or four weeks after the letter reaches you.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

148

COONOOR,

1st May 1895.

MY DEAR PESTONJI,

Mr. Appasaheb Punekar might go to Baroda on duty for since time; a little close acquaintance with the working of the Khangi Department will do him much good. After you would go, Pandit should come as Swari Kamdar and also relieve, if necessary, Mr. Puranik.

After my return from the ride I shall go to see the house, which we are thinking of engaging. I wish 10-30 will do.

In future , you should always send Khangi servants. I wish the house was cleaner. I have just returned from a nice ride.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRRAO GAEKWAR.

149

OOTACAMUND,

5th May 1895.

MY DEAR DEWAN SAHEB (MANIBHAI),

We have all arrived here safe. I have by now seen Lord Wenlock and Mr. Bliss, Member of the Council. I had an invitation to Lady Wenlok's at Home; but there was mismanagement. I find that it is not so now a days as it used to be, when proper attention was paid to a distinguished visitor. The weather is good, but does not quite agree with me. I believe I have to get used to it. I have communicated to you, through Mr. Pestonji, before this, the transfer of Mr. Hargovinddas to the Military Department. I have not yet studied the educational department report submitted to me; but from what little I have known of the man, I believe he is practical and promising, though he has not had a high class education. As he has exercised independent powers in his capacity as Director, a change to the military office in a subordinate capacity is not a desirable thing and it is under constraint I have temporarily appointed him to the post. I should much rather place him, where he can exercise free control , unless he has shown himself unfit for such a trust.

Mr. Ganpatrao and he have to bear it very strongly in mind that the military department is not to be over ridden by the Karcoons (civil) element. They have to zealously guard all the rights and privileges of the military. The tendency in Baroda is for the clerical element to preponderate, and this was what obtained in the military before I took it in hand and weeded it of the evil. Even if Mr. Hargovinddas has taken charge of the Military Secretary, he may be asked to dispose of all the recommendations made by the Education Commission, as it will be some time before the new Director gets into the way of his work. He and Mr. Kershaspji had better finish this work sharp and send in report soon after they have done it. I do not go with you in considering Mr. Hargovinddas's position as that of a Subha. He is above a Subha and may be looked upon as Minister of Education in general, English, Vernacular and Technical. This ought to have been fixed down before now; but with that characteristic weakness of not facing a ticklish question when it arises, this was allowed to drop. It amounts to carrying out an order partially and not in its entirety. And this may be said generally of the way in which most of my orders are given effect to. It was with that view in particular that Mr. Hargovinddas was given extra powers and it was complied that he was to do be the head of the whole of the Educational Department. It may be urged that, perhaps, Mr. Hargovinddas was not a first class scholar and could not fill the big post with credit. If such a misgiving arose, then the question ought to have been started. The new incumbent must now start as the Minister of Education, under whose control will lie all the Educational Institutions of the State. By a Minister of Education, I, of course, understand one, who does the work of a Director of Education too. The next question, that will seriously engage our attention, is, who is to be the new incumbent? I have some men in view, whom I shall appoint not permanently, but long enough for them to let me know the state of the department and to give us the benefit of their experience, throwing fresh light on the subject. This has been roughly sketched out by me and I would ask you to let Messrs. Kershaspji, Ganpatrao and Hargovinddas see it, as it concerns them.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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OOTACAMUND,
11th May 1895.

MY DEAR LORD KIMBERLEY,

I have learnt, with great sorrow, the death of Lady Kimberley announced by Reuter. It is a great trial, perhaps one of the greatest, to be bereaved of one's beloved wife, especially at a time of life, when you can ill afford to lose her sustaining hand. But we all have to bow before a Sovereign will, who giveth and taketh away. If the condolence of sympathizing friends is any calm to your bereft soul, my sympathy is with you. You have to take comfort in the thought that she is an angel in the land of the blessed, her sweet peace undisturbed, hearing you to mourn her in hope.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,

LORD KIMBERLEY, Foreign Office, London.

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OOTACAMUND,
18th May 1895.

MY DEAR COL.MARTELLI,

Many thanks for yours of yesterday and the one before I left Baroda. it is good of you writing me so cordially. Let me assure you of my desire to treat the British representative as befits his rank and position and to cultivate with him every friendly relation and more so with you in particular. You will, I have not doubt, admit, from your experience, how very necessary and important it is to safeguard the rights and autonomy of a Native State, specially when a fairly competent management of its affairs is expected of it. The upholding of the corporate rights and privileges of the allied and protected States is due to the magnanimous and liberal policy of the British, born of their unshaken love of justice and fair play.

I expect the Minister* to be here by the end of this week, and shall speak to him to adopt a courteous tone of

correspondence. I would also ask you to avoid putting on paper anything, which may tell with detriment on the administration, and at a time when things look a little out of joint. I can understand the people petitioning to the Residency and the Foreign Office. I may mention to you as a friend that recent events during my absence have disturbed the quiet of Baroda.

The grip of authority is so firm; because officers, lacking in vigour or wanting in discernment, through fear or interest, do not care to keep up the dignity of the State. These fits are a passing disorder and are an outcome of what people have learnt within the past few months. One of the many stories I have heard of the doing in the State, is that of professional agitators going about inducing people to complain, by which they eke out a living. It is a painful incident in political criticism that the Prince, who sets himself forth zealously to work reforms and do good in his State, should not only be refused his meed of praise, but unnerved for want of moral support from that liberal quarter, whence he expects it most. There is much, I can say, about the present state of affairs; but I would fain not express myself.

This is a place of great natural charms. The houses are rustic but neat, nestling among shady hills with the softest possible contours, bordered over by a soft atmosphere. I wish you were here. Do try and come up by the beginning of June, and it will be such a change from Aboo. There is more life here, the meet of the hounds, the races, at homes, to keep the tread-mill of society going, and I am sure your daughters will enjoy themselves. Later on, I may be disposed to move out, the hill not doing me the good, I expected. The princes are doing very well, I am happy to say. I enjoy nothing so much as I do my rides. I am at present studying the question of Port dues, which I have no knowledge of, and hope to be posted up in the subject soon. Trusting this will find you in health and looking forward to the pleasure of seeing you soon.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Manibhai Jasbhai*

OOTACAMUND,
19th May 1895

MY DEAR NEVINS,

I thank you very much for your kind letters and inquiries. I had received one of your epistles in Europe and was always thinking of answering, but that fatal feeling of want of energy prevented it.

Woreshoffen is a wretched little place, but fairly frequented by invalids of all sorts and specially those, that have derived no good from proper medical aid. I cannot say that it did me any good. I used to take a kind of cold baths, which are not the same as I once used to take in St. Moritz. The prelate, who has done so much for the usage, has written books containing his advice and treatment. When I was there, we heard that many people had derived benefit from the treatment. I believe the extreme quiet and the healthy life, that one is led to follow, coupled with long rest, is what ultimately does good. I think the Europe trip did me much good, though I did not realize it at the time. My sleep is almost all right; but the wretched stomach often goes wrong. It is that which, I think, does me more harm. Than anything. I think I am less peevish and irritable than before.

I have got a nice little house. The rooms of which are clean and smart. We get a nice view from here. I often go for hunting with the hounds with Fatehsinhrao, who rides very well. State officers are not so well as when you were here. Attribute mainly this to the arbitrary treatment of the State by the political Department. The Central Government and the Authority are very weak and the Residency froms a support in the eyes of the people. Complaints are received by the Agent to the Governor General before the people have applied to the State Authorities; but the State cannot exist and continue to rule under such treatment. I am not feeling the treatment so much now as I did before; because the treatment is too bad, in a way, we depend on chance and luck. Skill is of no use here.

There was a very painful tragedy at Powagar, a little near Baroda. The wife of Mr. Leister, who you know, was a tutor to

the Sardesai of Savantwadi, shot him dead. Littledale happened to be just at the time on Powagar with his wife. The cause of the murder must be love. The little woman Mrs. Leister was staying with Mr. French just before joining her husband at Powagar. She was at the station when I left for Ooty. She was a smart little woman; but nobody thought that she was capable of murdering.

Mrs. French is now in England for three months and will be back here probably in August.

I hope your father and mother are well and did not find the winter too trying. How is your salvation brother? Will you remember me to your sister and others? With my affectionate regards to yourself.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* Professor, Baroda College.

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OOTACAMUND,
20th May 1895.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

To escape the hot weather, I have come for the season to the Blue Hills. Life here is more social than in cities. The easy-going part of the world, bent on holiday making, come to enjoy and want to know each other. There is outlet for youthful energies in hunt, polo and tennis, and the new woman figures in these just as much as the feminine man. Lord and lady Wenlock are here, and I have known them. They are pleasant people. I am glad to receive yours. I note with pleasure that your interest in Baroda has not flagged. We are getting on haltingly. I believe it cannot be otherwise. The policy, pursued by the Political Department, contributes to such a result. Educated ambition is provided with little scope, some new limit being set to it every day by a preventive line. Monotonous labour and the elaboration of minor details of administration alone are left to stimulate the energies of a young, high-spirited administration. A little discontent there will always be; for there is that in the nature of reform, which ruffles men's minds at first. But that need not expose one to the criticism of an ill-informed, ungenerous Burrasab. The

problems, which engage the attention of a Native Ruler, become yearly more perplexing. Hedged in by difficulties and restrictions, he loses some of his self-respect and a large share of personal influence, which were the heritage of his present and the prospects of the future, if he is less hopeful and confident, more hesitating and less inclined to embark in new enterprise for the benefit of his people, he can, I venture to think, hardly be blamed. It is only bare justice that the Imperial Government should realize these facts, and not depend simply on those smooth and carefully edited official versions they are served with by the Residency.

It is deliciously cool here, and the princes are having their life delightfully. Two of the elder ones ride out to the hunt and keep their seats remarkably well for their age. The youngest baby of a year and a half* has gone over the wide sea to Shanghai, the doctors having recommended a long voyage to do his chest and liver good. What an age of new-fangled notions we are living in? Who would have believed such a trip possible only 20 years back? The education of the eldest prince under Mr. French is getting on very satisfactorily. The young Maharaja of Mysore was here, and I was charmed to see him. He is an intelligent grave little fellow. It was such a sad loss, the death of his father. I go out rowing on the lake here, and enjoy the spin very much. All in all, this is a beautiful hill and there are extensive rides and drives that one can take spell of. The Laxmi Vilas Palace, though a grand pile of building, is, you will be surprised to learn, one, where the comfort of the inmates has been least consulted. Instead of a suite of rooms to answer my requirements, I find them scattered all over. This is a positive discomfort and though the finances of Baroda can ill admit of adding a new wing to my taste, I mean to undertake building one at a reasonable cost. The administration is getting expensive and it does tax the brain to devise means to curtail the expenditure. Trusting this will find you and your family in the best of health.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,

General Sir JOHN WATSON, LONDON.

* Prince Dhairyashilrao.

OOTACAMUND,

21st May 1895.

MY DEAR NEPHEW (GANPATRAO),

I thank you for your letter and wire, and your well meant advice to me for not worrying. You must remember that the rules and principles laid down, indicated in my order in the Military Department, were done in the multifarious course of business and in the hurry of time, so I should not be at all surprised that many of these may require modification or entire annihilation when practically applied to cases; and this must be done as necessity arises. Whenever you find that my orders are wrong, get them corrected, The points of petty references you mentioned in your letter, are good. Whenever a good idea of reform comes into your head, carry it out and do not be afraid.

To be able to use authority is a great virtue and one, that ought to be cultivated.

Whenever a case in business comes before you, find but and fix the principles, that apply to cases. Always try to determine principles instead of dealing with individual petty cases. Our affairs, as a rule, are like the latter. They are more like the Karbhars than administration.

Do not attempt to centralize every thing in your own hand, like our old people, but, try to decentralize and teach every subordinate of yours to do his work and to use brain and authority.

On account of my position, and faulty system of work, I have not been able to carry out these myself as much as I should like. My great misfortune has been in the fact that I have had no very highly trained men with me. Try to get the best men under you, as they will save plenty of trouble and suggest you many reforms.

I do not care much for the weather here. It has not rained freely as usual and people are feeling the want of it.

I often go out hunting and that it does me much good. In June, Sampatrao* is returning to India. I have reminded him to return too. Solaskar† will come after a few months. I hope

your children and wife are doing well Remember me to Senapati‡ Saheb.

Yours affectionately,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* Then in England on leave.

† Learning agriculture and Electricity in England.

‡ See note on Letter No. 111.

157

OOTACAMUND,
21st May 1895

MY DEAR SIR (MR. ELLIOT),

It is since a long time that I have written to you except a solitary letter just sent to you before leaving Baroda. I have been duly receiving your letters and have read them all. I shall read them again carefully when the case comes before me. Tole's and Patwardhan's cases are being enquired departmently, instead of , in a regular court of law. Some of these cases have come before me, though the people have been under supervision for a long period. However, I hope they will soon be disposed of. When is your leave up, and are you likely to come here?

I am not at all pleased with the state of affairs here; and things must get from bad to worse, unless steps are taken to set matters right. Col. Biddulph's policy is not quite given up by the Agency, though they are, it seems, more careful.

I have done nothing, since my return, to interfere with things, since there is not only one got but more. Before long, I shall have changes of some individual officers, but doubt whether that will help much, unless our particular treatment become more sensitive and regardful of the rights of others and consistent with sound principles. I have liked what I have seen of Col. Martelli, though I have had no business connection with him of any importance. My health is not as I should like, and circumstances are, in every sense, against my getting well, still I try to be cheerful and patient.

Sampatrao Gaekwad has, for the present, taken the place of Anandrao Gaekwad, and V. M. Pandit that of Athley. He looks to be a firm and strong-minded man. I find my time

goes fairly and feel no ennui. I wish the climate was bracing and had less worries from too many servants. Will you kindly remember me to all your people and let me know as to how you and they are doing?

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

158

OOTACAMUND,
26th may 1895.

MY DEAR JAYSINGRAO ANGRE,

I hope you are already in Baroda by this time; I am sure you must have enjoyed you leave. It is good to have a holiday now and then. I believe you must be doing the work of the Minister. I am expecting him* here today.

Mr. Dalal has been receiving an allowance of Rs. 200 a month. He was brought to Baroda, in the first place, to do the census work. He has been, as you know, employed on more than that work; and his stay in Baroda has practically become indefinite. There is no valid reason why the allowance should become indefinite, too, like his stay. I pass these remarks as no comment on Mr. Dalal. His allowance should cease from the 1st of the next month.

Is Mr. Trimbakrai† going to retire with certainty or will some more reasons be found out for him not to retire? I hope you will constantly write to me as officers of your rank ought to do.

I do not care much for the weather here. Pestonji left this place yesterday.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Manibhai Jasbhai*

† *Trimbakrai Vrajraj, for a long time Subha of Baroda.*

159

OOTACAMUND,
2nd June 1895.

MY DEAR MR. FRENCH (TUTOR TO THE PRINCES),

I have just read your report of 1893-94 on the education of Prince Fatehsinhrao. I should like you to extend the sphere

of your report, and tell me as to the conduct of the servants or any other point, which you think worth while brining to my notice. You might get the necessary information from Salunke, who, I hope, has been doing his duty diligently and carefully. Again I should like you to mention to me as to how things were managed about the Prince in my absence, and if you have to suggest anything for the future in the interest of the princes. You know that surrounded as we are with various interest, races and characters, we have to take great care as to the influences, that are brought to bear on the tender minds of the children. I look upon you with proper assistance to carry out my wishes as to the bringing up of my children and to suggest from time to time, any defects, that might come within observation.

You might bring up the report upto date as mention in it any points as you have written to me in your letters. In future, I should also recommend you to give more information about the other boys. I shall communicate to you my views on the report after I get the additional information. The dates of your report might, in future, be the same as the other departments of the Raj. Our official year begins in August.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR,

160

OOTY,
4th June 1895.

MY DEAR MR. MANIBHAI,

In answer to my query of this morning about Mr. Trimbakrai, Mr. Keshavrao Pandit told me that Mr. Trimbakrai would retire from such date as I might determine, everything else being settled except the date. This was what you told him to say. I think he might retire from the 15th of June 1895.

I hope no hitch will be raised to this.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

161

ST. ANNS, OOTACAMUND,
6th June 1895.

MY DEAR JAISINGRAO ANGRE,

I was very glad to get a latter from you and to learn that affairs in Baroda are getting on well.

I was under the impression that Trimdakrai Vrajrai was acting as Sar Suba, since you were doing Dewan's work.

I should certainly have allowed Trimbakrai to continue to act till the 15th instant. However, the time for his retirement is so close that it would be useless to ask him to act. It is certain that you are doing some work of the Minister; there should be somebody doing your work. The climate here is nice and cool. I expect Dhairyashilrao here in a day or two from his sea-trip. He has much improved, as seems from the report. The Minister* is doing well in this climate and takes long walks every day.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

**Manibhai Jasbhai*

162

ST. ANNS, OOTACAMUND,
7th June 1895.

MY DEAR MR. MANIBHAI.

It would help me much to recall past incidents of business, if you will kindly put down, in a convenient form, the long conversation we had to-day in the carriage in the form of notes. My object is only to get informed. Kindly draw up these notes quickly, so that I may ask for more information on any particular point.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

163

ST. ANNS, OOTACAMUND,
9th June 1895.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

Many thanks for your letter of the 29th Ultimo. I am glad that there is a likelihood of your coming to Ooty, and have every hope that better mutual acquaintance and a good understanding will be the result. As to the first topic in your letters, that of the petitions, particularly, full power to deal with them, has all along lain in the hand of the Minister. I had requested him to have frequent recourse to the late Mr. Athalye's advice in the Barkhalie petitions particularly, so as to minimize any chance of mistake and injustice. During my absence in Europe, I was made by the Residency to hand over all my powers to the Minister in Council, and whatever were my powers in this respect were exercised by them freely. I have not disturbed the procedure in the least after my return. For the present, I am informing myself on the subject and getting to know its bearings.

Of course, you will take whatever steps you think proper under the circumstances, but I believe you will agree with me that it will be as well if we have an opportunity of discussion before you form any fixed views on the subject. I shall write to you after wards about the Bapat Commission papers; or reserve them till your arrival here. Lastly, as to the Port-dues, I shall like this question to be talked over personally between us, when you come to Ooty. I think it could be dealt with more satisfactorily, if that were done. But there is no objection on our part to a prompt disposal of the matter. I hope to see you here before very long. Personal discussion will them enable us to arrive at a clear mutual understanding and assist the better disposal of these and other questions. For there are many and of great importance, which I should like very much to talk over with you, as no benefit but, rather inconvenience, if not mischief, is likely to result form their further postponement. The fact of making me hand over my powers as on the last occasion, has done incalculable harm to the State, and deranged its internal machinery and weakened the central authority.

I have been driven by this experience to think it the better way for me to take a diminished interest in my own affairs. I shall not trouble you with a narration of my difficulties, which are many.

The climate here is just now somewhat trying and there has but little rain, and, consequently, the heat is greater. Fortunately, since a few days, there have been a few showers; and let us hope that these are the first of a series.

Yesterday there was a pretty sale of art -things, and in the evening a performance, which the children have enjoyed very much. The principal excitement lately has been some good boat- races, in which Baroda in the person of Mr. French succeeded in carrying off one of the events. I have no doubt that your daughters will enjoy their visit to Ooty and, above all, the hunting.

I shall make all the necessary arrangements for your lodging and conveyance. I hope you have been receiving good news from Mrs. Martelli, and that your daughters are enjoying the season at Abu. Kindly remember me to them all.

My children here are in good health and spirits. I have not been sleeping well here, which is a great nuisance. Her Highness has been laid up, since last two days, with fever, but hope she will soon shake it off.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

164

ST. ANNS, OOTY,
18th June 1895.

MY DEAR MR. MANIBHAI,

I have had a talk with you on the subject of Bapat, that is, the non- judicial side of it, in which I asked you why you did not warn, tell or report to me about his conduct. Your answer was that you did not tell me, because you did not know of it; as it was not a subject so widely talked about, as to come to your ears. The first intimation you got of his misconduct, was from the cases sent in to us by Col. Biddulph, the then Agent to the Governor General. I should like to know whether my

impression of your meaning is quite correct. You will oblige me by an early answer.

Your sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

165

ST. ANNS, OOTY,
23rd June 1895.

MY DEAR MR. MANIBHAI,

In reference to our conversation of yesterday evening, I have to write and say that I have no objection to grant you a month's leave. You know, I have also been thinking whether you should not retire from the post of the Minister of Baroda. I think it would be probably better that a change should take place; and I shall fill up the different vacancies with the view of your retirement. I shall be most happy to grant you a pension and the amount of it will be fixed before your leave is over. The arrangements will be brought into force from about the 6th of August next. It pains me much to come to this conclusion on various grounds; but still I shall look upon you with feelings of kindness and interest.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

170

ST. ANNS, OOTY,
4th July 1895.

MY DEAR BROTHER (SAMPATRAO),*

I hope this letter will reach you in Bombay and find you in good health and spirits. Your wife will welcome you very much. Your son† is here and will meet you in Baroda. He is a nice little boy though very delicate. My health is not very strong. And there is very circumstance to prevent it recovering. And strength. Affairs in Baroda are not quite so good as they should be, i, e, there is much party-spirit, a threatening motive and desire to find fault. The Residency is ever on the watch to take advantage of my seeming defects in our native

administration. I have done next to nothing since my return and left things almost as they were in my absence.

The officers are too selfish and will not apply the same criterions to others as they would to themselves. Education has not much advanced the morality of the so-called educated natives. However, it is perfectly useless to boast. Each one must do the best under given circumstances.

I believe you must have found the Indian Ocean very rough. The climate here is very nice and cool, though certainly not so bracing to my liking.

I wanted to go to Kashmere, but had to give up the idea, as the Residency was on the path of opposition. It is a question of practical hobbies, whether it is the ruin of Indian Princes to take much active interest in their affairs. The treatment they get, is most demoralizing and disappointing to earnest and serviceable workers.

I was glad to read your speech at the meeting of the Indian National Association.

Yours affectionately,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* Returning to India from England.

† Sitaram alias Abasaheb born on 20th May 1894.

171

ST. ANNS, OOTY,
4th June 1895.

MY DEAR KAZISAHEB,

I thank you for your well-meant letter. It will have my due attention. I shall try and stop in Poona to make Lord Sandhurst's acquaintance. I shall see whether I can invite Lord Elgin to Baroda. I must make his personal acquaintance, as many of my friends tell me to do so, though according to my experience, nothing important comes out of these expensive and stiff formal visits. The Bapat Commission* Report has been with me for some time, and I have not yet studied it in any way. I shall soon begin to go into it. I shall ask more than one person to go into the case and tell me their views on it so that I may find it easy to decide and to justice to all concerned, if that be practicable.

The Residency has asked for certain papers of this case and the Minister is of opinion that some of them we should give. The officers are much more afraid of this Residency now than I have ever seen them so. This fear or seeming fear arises from mere self-interest. These officers are self-educated, Natives would assume ten times more boldness and desire to oppose the British Government, if they found it growing weak, as they are afraid of it at present. I write this not as a prince discontented with the British, but give my impressions to a friend as they strike a person in my difficult position. Agitation is still kept on about the Bapat Case in some of the papers. This is an article in the Gujarati of 30th June 1895, which is indeed very significant and portrays the feeling of a certain portion of the Baroda State. The article is not an honest exposition of facts, but is misleading and mischievous and is designed to draw attention to the Bapat Case, which I have not yet seen.

There was also a letter about a Taluka-Fouzdar of Gandevi, which mostly has been written by a Parsi of Billimora.

Mr. Manibhai is held up as a good man, and it is I, who, with the advice of bad men, wish to interrupt the course of justice. This is written to frighten me and to draw attention to this case. If the Minister showed equal vigour and energy in the enquiry of other cases as he has done in this, he will deserve much praise, and officers would not retrograde. If the Education Commission's Report had been disposed off in due time instead of waiting till now, probably the prosecution of the Ahmedabad Times by the Baroda Director would not have taken place. If I had been warned of the mischief, that was taking place in the Barkhali, the State would have been spared the large outlay of two lacks of rupees in the case of the Bapat Commission. I seldom get an opportunity of expressing my ideas, and so I have taken this opportunity to do so. We are often abused, but we seldom have a chance of retorting. Princes are often painted out as vicious demons and weak people, but nobody ever has the generosity of stating the plain truth and the manner, in which coteries of high officials combine to do them harm and how their good acts are taken advantage of by others. Bad ones only are ascribed to their own mischievous and weak geniuses.

I am afraid I have written too much and must stop here now. I hope this letter will find you in good spirit and health.†

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* See note on letter 143

† This letter, written to an Ex-Dewan Kazi Shahbuddin, is an illustration how His Highness eases his burdened mind by writing so frankly. (G. S. S.)

172

ST. ANNS, OOTY,
5th July 1895.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

I hope you have had a comfortable journey, and you and your daughters are not the worse for it. I am so glad that you have come.

I learn by means of newspapers that H. E. the Viceroy* is likely to visit Mysore and Hyderabad in his next cold weather tour. I should be so glad if he will visit Baroda on his way, as he is very likely to pass it. I hope you will find every thing comfortable. If I can do anything to make your stay here more pleasant, I shall be happy to do it. With my kind regards to yourself and your daughters,

Your sincere Friend.
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* Lord Elgin.

173

ST. ANNS, OOTY.
5th July 1895.

MY DEAR PESTONJI,

I received your letter yesterday. Some portion of it does not deserve to be answered at all. Part of your letter can be answered, but I do not choose to do so at present. As to your warnings for my downward course, I as a gentleman, thank you for your kindness. It is not words or theories that can help me much; but the right and thorough performance and comprehension of your duties will help me. I was quite right in getting annoyed with you, while you were here, for not

having kept yourself informed of the contents of the diaries. I am glad that you have felt my annoyance and the serious warning I gave you for improvement. You also mention that you did not enjoy quite a good health here, and that you are still suffering from the results of it. I think it would be better for you to go away on three months' leave and recruit your health and spirits, and then think of retirement. I do not want to close terms at once with you as to your retirement, as it would be tantamount to taking advantage of you ill-health and low spirits.

I may say as one, who has known you for a pretty long time, that you never had a very robust health, and latterly its evil effects have told on you in many ways. You can be on leave from the time that this letter falls in your hand. Keshavrao Pandit, as usual, will act for you.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

174

OOTACAMUND,
9th July 1895.

SIR (DEWAN MANIBHAI)

I am directed by His Highness the Maharaja Saheb to communicate to you his views regarding the state of the budget and its consequences, which I accordingly do as follows:-

The (Samvat) year 1951 is drawing to a close and still the budget for 1952 is not submitted for sanction to His Highness. While looking over the diaries, for some time past, of the Minister's and the Council's work, His Highness was surprised to see that a large proportion of matters disposed of by them, consisted of sanctions beyond the budget. The amounts vary from below a hundred to above two lacs. Instances have occurred where thousands of rupees have been sanctioned for several Mahals. Sanctions have been asked for works, which could very easily have been anticipated, when submitting the budget; and they have been accorded without question; in some case, sufficient amounts do not seem to have been sanctioned even for Nemnukee Kharcha. Several other varieties can be cited.

This result may principally be due to one or more of the following causes:-

- (1) Sufficient care not having been taken by the Heads of Departments, when submitting their budgets, to anticipate and include the whole of the year's expenditure in the budget.
- (2) The Accountant General's Department, not properly scrutinizing the budget and making proper recommendations with regard to what must be sanctioned and what may or may not be sanctioned;
- (3) Those, who have to accord final sanction to the budget, not bestowing that care upon it, which such an important document deserves;
- (4) The authorities concerned, not exercising proper discretion when granting fresh sanction beyond the budget Other causes may be in operation to produce this result.

There can be no doubt that this result is very unsatisfactory. The practice of indiscriminately sanctioning matters beyond the budget, tends to make the departments careless in framing their budgets and encourages them to make all sorts of demands beyond it. To frame a budget so as not to leave enough to meet expenses, that must be incurred , is merely self-deception and necessarily tends to fresh demands. Not to anticipate and include the year's expenses in a budget argues want of care and capacity.

The effect of the present system, if it can be called a system is to add this kind of unnecessary work to the proper work of the Huzur Officers and not to leave them enough time for the latter. Much time and labour are spent in framing, scrutinizing and sanctioning the budget without proportionate advantage being secured. The state of the finances becomes so uncertain and unsatisfactory that it requires to be closely looked after.

His Highness the Maharaja Saheb has recorded observations and passed orders with regard to the budget on several occasions; but they do not seem to have been carried out. If they were carried out, and it may be worth while inquiring why they were not carried out, the defects, alluded to above, would have been avoided.

Experts may find out further defects and disadvantages; but His Highness trusts that the preceding observations will suffice to induce all to make the budget as complete and final as circumstances will allow, and expects that the budget for the ensuing year will be submitted to him free from all avoidable defects.

In conclusion, I am to request you to submit to His Highness whatever observations you may have to make with regard to the present state of the budget.

Yours sincerely,
C.M.PANDIT., CHIEF OFFICER.

175

ST. ANNS, OOTY,
10th July 1895.

MY DEAR MR. MANIBHAI,

I was glad to have you talk yesterday about Manilal* the translator. I was strongly under the impression that he was employed as a State servant, though my orders were that the work of translation was to be done by contract. As you know, I am always against employing men as servants when the work can be done by contract. By employing people as servants, Government do not get enough out-turn for its money.

I hope you will tell me to-day as to who ought to explain to me the Bapat Case. Even for such a small matter, you have been cogitating and discussing with your colleagues more than perhaps is sometimes the case, when the life of a poor murderer is concerned.

I think you should leave for Baroda to-morrow, though personally I should be glad to keep you by me.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Mr. Manilal Nabhubhai Dwivedi of Nadiyad, a Sanskrit Scholar, who was enstucted with some translation work.*

176

ST, ANNS, OOTY,
11th July 1895.

MY DEAR MANIBHAI,

As you know, the appeals or petitions made to me or you are practically disposed of by a Committee, consisting of the Dewan, the Huzur Kamdar and the Head of the Department, to which the petition belongs. For the petitions and appeals of the Barkhali, besides this usual practice, I had ordered that the Legal Naib Dewan was to be consulted, as the interests concerned were important. Is this impression of mine right, and is this order written, and can you cite the date of it? When the appeals of the Head of a Huzur Department were to be set aside, then along my orders are solicited, otherwise they are practically disposed of by you in the Committee. Am I right in my ideas? Kindly set me right by dropping a line if I be wrong.

Yours sincerely,

SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

177

ST. ANNS, OOTY,
13th July 1895.

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (OF MYSORE),

I was very glad to get your nice letter of 29th june from mysore. I am glad you liked the little present. I have bought it for your dear father*, who was very fond of music. I am glad that you will soon learn to play on it. Music is an excellent art for ladies and gentlemen to learn. My second son has also begun to learn it.

Please thank your mother on my behalf for her kind enquiries and also give her and your little brother our best regards. The children are doing very well; but Her Highness is not doing well. Her health will necessitate her soon to leave this place. I am afraid I have to give up the idea of seeing the Kheddah† on account of Her Highness's health. I

shall let the Dewan know about it so as to save him any further trouble.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *The Ex-Maharaja of Mysore Chamarajendra who died of diphtheria in 1895 at Calcutta*

† *A forest in south-east corner of the Mysore State, nearly sixty miles from the Capital. It abounds in wild elephants, the chase and capture of which affords exciting sports. many distinguished persons who have at one time or another visited the operations including, among others, the Duke of Clarence, the Prince and Princess of Wales and several Viceroys of India. Although Their Highnesses could not avail themselves of this opportunity in 1895, they visited the place and enjoyed the Shikar later on in 1917 from 30th November to 6th December. (G.S.S.)*

178

ST. ANNS, OOTY,
13th July 1895.

MY DEAR BABASAHI (THE RAJA OF AKALKOT),

I thank you very much for your letter of the 25th June. I should indeed like to visit your place very much. Will you find it convenient to make the necessary arrangements if I give you 14 days' notice beforehand?* Kindly let me know this, so that I may give the date I am likely to fix.

Her Highness is not doing well, and so we shall soon leave this place for Poona on our way to Baroda.

I hope your children are doing quite well. Kindly give my regards to my niece.†

As you know, I wanted you all to visit me in Baroda just about the time I returned from England; but as the hot weather was approaching, and as I was not quite sure of my stay there, I could not ask you; but I am anxious to get you there as soon as I can. The children here are doing well.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Their Highnesses visited Akalkot on 6th August 1895 and stayed there for a few days.*

† *Shri. Balubai Saheb.*

179

ST. ANNS, OOTY,
14th July 1895.

MY DEAR SIR SHESHADRI IYER,*

I greatly regret to say that I find myself, after all, unable to take advantage of your kind invitation to see the Kheddah in the Mysore territory. I had a very strong desire to avail myself of the opportunity you provided me with; but unfortunately Her Highness' health has greatly changed for the worse, so much so that I shall have to leave Ooty earlier than I had intended. I am sorry that you should have taken so much trouble for me in vain. On another occasion, if one offers and your kindness holds, I hope I shall be able to take advantage of it; but at present, much to my regret, circumstances make it impossible for me to do so.

Kindly communicate the contents of this letter to Her Highness,† and remember me to her, the princes and princesses. Please give my Salams to Mr. Lee Warner.

Your sincere friend.
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Dewan of Mysore.* † *The Dowager Maharani of Mysore.*

‡ *Resident of Mysore, author of the "Protected Princes of India."*

180

ST. ANNS, OOTY,
15th July 1895.

MY DEAR SAMARTH,

I have to thank you for your letter and its contents. I am quite of the same opinion with you about the Bapat Case. As far as that is concerned, I do not anticipate any difficulties and so long as justice is concerned, I shall be perfectly contented. Mr. Manibhai left here two days ago.

The changes, of which you speak, will, in all probability, take place somewhere about the middle of August. That these changes must be a great nuisance to me, a man of intelligence and good practical experience will easily understand. No amount of cleverness can enable a man to get acquainted at once with new work and new surroundings. He has to become

familiarized with his superiors and subordinates, and get into the regular groove of work. All this takes time. Moreover, these changes are not easily compatible with the continuity essential to satisfactory administration; and the man himself has no time to acquire a genuine interest and pleasure in his work. Another thing, which is equally true, though it may seem people around, towards whom he has a particular good or ill will. These he is sure to benefit or injure, either in a straightforward or in a crooked and underhand manner according to the measure of his moral strength. These evils, already existing, are further multiplied by a large number of changes. Yet another disadvantage is the extra expense incurred by the State in pensioning officers so frequently. However, when it is necessary to make the changes, we must perforce put up with the evils incident to them.

The necessity is caused by the unsoundness and confusion of the management is my absence; the machinery has been thrown out of gear by neglect in some directions and unnecessary disturbance in others; and we cannot, therefore, carry on our work without adjusting it. If we look, for instance, at these charges of corruption and misdoings in the Barkhali Department, they have apparently been going on for a long time, yet the Head of the Department never thought fit to make me acquainted with the matter; and if heads of departments do not report such things, how is it possible for me to take any action? The knowledge will not come to me spontaneously or by intuition. Justice also has been administered with great dilatoriness and this in spite of my instructions that the people should have Justice given them with all possible promptness and dispatch. In this year I find the work done in the Varisht Court, to be about 30 per cent less than was formerly the case, and in spite of the trouble I have taken to go into the matter and give directions. Huzur appeals are lying undisposed of by the hundred, mostly of a trouble to decide. A greater annoyance and inconvenience to the people cannot easily be imagined. Again, I find from circumstances, which have come under my notice that matters in the Accounts Department have not been at all what they should be, It appears that all instruction have been thrown aside and all steady progress suspended, in order that the little energy, which the administration seems to have had at

its disposal, might be concentrated on a single matter. All this makes up a picture of mismanagement, which is certainly of no trifling character. It is, therefore, that these changes, though change in itself may be undesirable, must be made.

With regard to my ministers, I have been specially unfortunate in the frequency, with which changes have had to be made, much, I may say, against my own desire, First, Sir T. Madhavrao left me, not expecting, I suppose, to be always entirely satisfied with the course things would take. It is not easy for a man, who has ruled a States with super me authority, and stood, in fact, almost in the position of a Raja to step down to a less commanding level, where his will would not be so entirely absolute. He, therefore, took leave for his health's sake, while I was absent in Calcutta, and never returned.

Kazi Shahabuddin left me, not because we had any desire to part, for, ai had every reason to be satisfied with him and every wish to prolong his tenure, but because of increasing years, failing health and fear of paralysis.

Finally, in the case of Laxman Jagannath, it was not any fault of his that made me think it wiser for him to retire, or any dissatisfaction on his part that made him wish to do so. I was well pleased with his work and would have been willing that he should stay. I had, however, a feeling that there ought to be entire harmony, without any cause of complaint or pulling in opposite ways, between the prince and the people. Perhaps, I was wrong. You know we cannot get experience in a moment or learn to appreciate things at their proper value from the very beginning. Perhaps, with my present perception of things, I should have acted differently; I might not have shown so much deference to their wishes if I had known the levity, with which the people think and act, and the real value to be put on their feelings and sayings. But, I think the motive cannot be taken exception to in itself, though the people may not have been worthy of it. Of the present condition of things, I need not repeat what I have already described.*

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* In this excellent letter written to a trusted officer, Mr. Samarth, then the Subha of Baroda District, His Highness has frankly criticised his past Dewans and the irregularities of the administration of Mr. Manibhai, showing thereby how anxious and single-minded he himself had been to promote the welfare of his subjects. (G.S.S.)

181

ST. ANNS, OOTY,
15th July 1895.

MY DEAR MANIBHAI,

I have been reading the Bapat Case, making a rough study of it, and have now formed a more precise idea of the subject. As I have repeatedly said from the beginning, I am exceedingly reluctant to have my Secretary* at all concerned with the case; and if I could think of any other way than the only one left to my option, I should be glad to adopt it. But matters have come to such a pass that there is none, whom, I feel, I can consult with perfect safety. Every one is known either as a partisan of Bapat or as a partisan of the prosecution; and where to find the man with requisite knowledge, whose impartiality will be above suspicion, is not easy to tell. You will remember that I had a talk with you and Mr. Pandit on the very subject about the time of your departure, and we found the same difficulties, coming in the way of a definite conclusion. Under the circumstances, I have taken the only way left for me; and, for the present, I have asked Mr. Dalal to write a memorandum, instructing Mr. Pandit and Mr. Ambalal to study the papers of the case. As I say, I do not see any other way, or I should have been glad to adopt it.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Mr. Jamsetji Ardesar Dalal.*

182

ST. ANNS, OOTY,
17th July 1895.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

I received your letter of to-day after my return from the hunt. I am expediting the decision of the Bapat Case and specially as the Foreign Officer takes so much interest in it. The great difficulty I have, is to get men, who are independent in every way. It has been so conducted that there is hardly any officer of position, who is believed to be free from some

interest in the case by the public. I am doing my best under the peculiar circumstances. I shall be at the Sylks Hotel at 4 p. m. this after-noon.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAD.

183

ST. ANNS, OOTY,
20th July, 1895.

MY DEAR JAISINGRAO (ANGRE),

I have to thank you for your various letters, sent while you were in charge of the Minister's duties. I am glad, you find that things are getting on smoothly. I have read what you have written in your letter of the 16th instant.

It is most strange that the people you refer to, do not understand, or pretend to do so, the generous and unprecedented liberal treatment they are having. Kindness is interpreted by them as weakness on our part. The recent events in Baroda have mostly upset the balance of power and ruined my prestige. It is a serious question, how the race feelings and the rampant intrigues will get less. Unless the ruler is respected and bad people punished, no Government is possible. Multiplicity of Governments cannot conduce to happiness and respect legitimate rights. Morality and natural laws cannot, with safety, be long ignored without their inevitable consequences to society.

I shall be soon back and see how affairs are. Keep yourself well-informed of how the people behave, and suggest steps to me before they go too far and find retreat from their questionable ways. Thanks, I am better. I hope this letter will find you in good health and cheerful spirits. I hope Dhamanaskar is well. Remember me to Kershaspji, who, I hope, is getting on well with his arduous duties, not sacrificing the public interest for transient popularity.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAD.

184

ST. ANNS, OOTY,
23rd July 1895.

MY DEAR MR. MANIBHAI,

I was very happy to get your tow letters. I have read the program me of the Viceroy's tour. I hope Col. Martelli will find out whether the Viceroy will visit Baroda.

I am glad and indeed happy to know that things are quiet in ruffled Baroda. Nothing can conduce to the relief of my unfortunate health better than the smooth working of affairs in my State. To-day is the birth-day of Prince Fatehsinhrao. He commences his 13th year. I was only 13, I believe when I was adopted and had to commence my Sri Ganeshay Nam He has almost finished his Marathi and learns the 3rd English book. I take immense interest in the intelligent and pleasant boys. I shall be so happy to see them grown and well educated men. I wish Fatehsinhrao was of age now to take up my work and relieve me of its complications and greatly fruitless responsibilities. We have indeed very limited scope to do certain and lasting good. I hope we shall soon meet. I shall so like to be able to live in my people, who very naturally wish that I should be amongst them. They cannot understand, and their education will not permit them to see, how unfortunate I have been in that great gift of health.

Timely remedies would have set me right and enabled me to continue my labour of love, which is to advance their solid, intellectual and material welfare. It is hard for anybody but myself to see how ardently I feel for them. My struggle at present is only to keep up that interest in the adverse political circumstances. I start from here to-morrow for the plains. I hope they will not be too hot. Kindly supervise more the different departments and see that they do their work nicely and in time. I hope this letter will find you in good health and spirits. Hope your children are doing well.

Yours sincerely,

SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

185

FLORA VILLA, POONA,
28th July 1895.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

Will you come and have a drive with me this evening at 4-30 p.m.? I learnt to-day and also Mr. Mane learnt before, that some Sardars are khatpatting in Baroda. I had mentioned to you that some khatpat was being prepared in Baroda.

I simply wish you to know this. This state of people's mind is, I find quite unjust, and one that must be discouraged. I have received a rather unusual application from the Nabob of Baroda. It is a very typical letter.

Your sincere Friend.
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

186

POONA,
28th July 1895.

MY DEAR MINISTER (MANIBHAI),

All petitions, that are received in my office (Huzur Kamdar), should be noted down word for word in carefully bound books. At the end of a year, the Huzur Kamdar will give information in a reasonable and a business-like form of all these applications, and how they have been disposed of.

It is a fact, which requires no repetition, that I have all along lain so much stress on the due disposal of petitions. The Huzur Kamdar is the person solely responsible for this work; and it is his duty to rectify mistakes, if there be any, and to improve such points as admit of improvement. I have partly verbally mentioned these points to Mr. Dalal.

I sometimes write these notes, in order to remind constantly the officers concerned to go on making the necessary improvements in their work, and partly because I like to see my different departments and particularly the Huzur Kamdar's office in an ideal order. These suggestion really need not immanate from me at all.

The Huzur Kamdar has been asked to be present near me at the time I receive my post. But, lately, there have been

some omissions, and these you must not allow to occur. He should be always present to read and to explain any petitions, that may come to me by post. If I do not read my Tapal, he must do all, that may be necessary in connection with the petitions that are received by post or in other ways.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

187

FLORA VILLA, POONA,
31st July 1895.

MY DEAR MINISTER (MANIBHAI),

I find Poona very dull. Baroda has more attractions than this. They say the Tamashas will commence here within a week. I do not feel very strong and energetic; however, this will pass away. Some people talk a great deal of Baroda. I do not think they know everything rightly. Please remember that, under such circumstances, I should always be willing to exchange my views with you and listen to yours, I like your talk with me freely, as you did, to some extent, at Ooty. Your experience of the world is greater and closer than mine, and so I always listen to you with immense interest. I hope you are enjoying good health, and that your song are well, too. I always expect you to bring to my notice any orders of mine, if they are not right, and deserve second consideration. I have always impressed this principal upon many, that came in contact with me; and this should particularly be done now; because I look into business a little less carefully then before. If I am wrong in any thing, I wish you to bring it to my notice.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

188

MAKARPURA,
13th August 1895.

MY DEAR MANIBHAI,

Will you kindly give me the names of the Sardars and the origin of their agitation, who, as you said (I have also heard

from other sources), have complained to the Residency? It seems to me from what you said that there is or was an influential European Officer in putting up these misguided fellows to petition. You might show the names of the Senapati before you send me the list, I shall keep this information supplied by you confidential.

I found this place yesterday very hot and oppressive; but I have put on less clothing to-day, and so find it less hot.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

189

MAKARPURA,
13th August 1895.

MY DEAR CAPTAIN GORDON,*

I have received your two letters, for which I sincerely thank you. I was going to answer your first letter, which I received in Ooty, and was thinking of writing now after all the movements. I am glad that lady Tweedale is coming to India for certain. Nothing would give me greater pleasure than to receive her here. Kindly drop me a line a few days before she comes, so that no mistake might occur. I am sorry to see that you do not appear to be happy with your lot at Jhalawad Patan. I wish you had a more cheerful Raja to deal with. How delighted you must be feeling with your taste for music! How dull and trying you would have found your present life without it!

I fairly enjoyed my stay at Ooty, and feel, on the whole, better for it. I returned here only yesterday, and find the place warmer than Poona. The giddiness, of which, as you know, I used to complain of so much, has now practically disappeared, though now and then I feel that dreadful sensation to a little extent still. My stomach gets now and then a little disordered; and, to-day, that important organ, which has so much to do with our temper, is rather upset. We are jogging here fairly. Col. Martelli seems to be a patient and cheerful man, and I like the little that I have seen of him. The state of affairs is the reverse of what exists in Jhalawad Patan. Here progress is rather checked by criticizing measures like the educational, by the exhibition of sympathy

to frivolous complaints, by showing interest in and giving advice to petitioners, who, in the interest of the greatest number, might be left alone, and by giving easiest access to complainants, who have learned the advantage of crying the loudest, though they may have the least reason to complain as compared with some, that are silent. The Raja has been wanting to go ahead; but it has been thought wise to slacken the speed of his career. Col. Snell, who was an assistant to the Agent to the Governor Genera! here, left Baroda for Rajpipla. Many of the officials, if their word is to be trusted, are glad that he left; because he was believed to be a little Khatpati. He thought, I am told, that he was an able police Officer, having learnt that useful art in the malicious districts of Burma.

In an atmosphere like this, where people, on account of their long and continued disuse of the habits of self-reliance and personal discretion, have a great tendency to understand methods, there is much intrigue and maligning of people's character and motives. In an unsettled state like this, there are always persons ready to offer their services and advice, which they pretend to give out of love and patriotism, though, in their heart of hearts, they watch whether it has been received with the effect they wish, and at their own valuation. I shall not weary you any more with my comments on human affairs and nature, They are not as bad as they strike us, and fortunately, I take them to be not very serious in Baroda.

I shall be looking forward to see you here in the next cold weather. Her Highness asks me to give you her best compliments. Some of the articles, which I asked Mr. Emanuel the Jeweller to prepare for me, have arrived in Bombay. I have sent a clerk to fetch them. I have no doubt that the taste of workmanship and finish must be excellent. I expect to get the cigarette case with these articles, which I very much wish you to accept as a sincere token of my regard for you. I hope you have no Sarkar difficulty to do so.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* Who afterwards joined Baroda Service as General and for a time was a Companion to Prince Fatesinhrao. Also he was Political Officer attached to His Highness in the preceding Europe trip.

190

MAKARPURA,

14th August 1895.

MY DEAR MANIBHAI,

You and the Senapati with anybody else you like, can come to talk to me at 1 P.M. to-day. You must save me personally as much trouble as you can; because these matters must be settled by you. I should like to have you told me, while at Ooty, you were going to write. Not knowing the nature of it, I do not know what to style it. I should like to have it to-day, if it is ready. It will probably take some time for me to go through it.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

191

MAKARPURA,

16th August 1895.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

The Minister told me yesterday that you wanted some more copies of the Bapat Commission Report, and you also wanted Mr. Maconochie's confidential report. In the interest of the State and its prestige, no such demand should be made, as such enquiries always do harm to the State and particularly when it is weak. I hope this will not be made to serve as a precedent for demand in other cases. Even to make such a simple statement like this requires a great deal of boldness on the part of some of my officials, and they will not mock me if they can escape it. You will, no doubt, take this in its proper light, and see that it is not actuated by any bad motive. I have already given you a copy of it privately, and will give some more, and also the report of Mr. Maconochie. I wish, for some reasons which I need not mention here, that you should know about the matter as much as possible, if not as much as myself.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

192

MAKARPURA,

16th August 1895.

MY DEAR CAPTAIN GORDON,

I send you a little cigarette case and a match box, which I want you to accept from me as a present. It will, I hope, remind you of our stay in Europe. I cannot express to you my feelings for your great sympathy towards me and the interest you took, and I hope you will always take. I reckon you as one of my best friends, and wish you look upon me in the same way. I lack grace in expression; but my heart is extremely warm towards you, and so you must imagine my feelings instead of the manner of the expression. The cost of the case is £. 63. I have only received it to-day. I wish you a long life and happiness, and hope that whenever you see the box you will remember.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

193

MAKARPURA,

18th August 1895.

MY DEAR SIR (MR. ELLIOT)

I came here from Ooty only seven days ago. I did not enjoy my last bit of the stay there and even here. I am not feeling very energetic and strong. The weather is heavy and cloudy. It is a very dull place as nothing is going on. I met Mr. Birdwood and Mr. Nugent this after-noon. Mr. Birdwood looked very well, while Mr. Nugent struck me rather the reverse. It seems from his (Birdwood's) talk that you will not return to Baroda. I have not heard from you about it, as you know, except a little in one of your letters. Col. Martelli was asking me whether you were such a person as he would pull on with. The Agent's existence is now much more felt than probably was the case before, though he was never absent from the peoples' mind. I am very much dissatisfied with the strength of the native government. I feel myself alone without much support lift to my unaided resources. I consider what took

place in my absence as equivalent to revolution in the feelings of the people towards its legitimate government. I do not refer in this to the Bapat Case. I feel really frightened and disgusted to take any real part in the Government of the State. I begin to distrust myself, and feel confused as to what I should do. The duration of the result of my labours is uncertain and causes me keen disappointment. I can write much; but what good can I do? Sampatrao told me you are much better in health. I was glad to learn that. He gave me your message too, I fully sympathise with you. The cause of good Government must suffer by the hard treatment, that is given to Native States. I am frequently reminded by the Agent to the Governor General of the Bapat Case, and I am told that it is a serious responsibility on me. The tale of discontent is not yet dropped. The main points of Biddulph's action are not yet lost sight of by the Residency, though they are certainly ushered into one's notice so frequently, so obstinately and so perversely. Col. Snell has been permanently transferred to Nandod. This gentleman who values himself very highly as a Political Officer and behaves firmly in his detective abilities, is very anxious to join his new post. The Minister expresses his great pleasure at Snell's transfer. I have written this letter very hurriedly; but I hope you will not find it impossible to read it. With kind regards to all of you,

Your sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

194

MAKARPURA,
19th August 1895.

MY DEAR MR. MANIBHAI,

You told me on 14th instant that you were not able to finish the note you were writing account of pressure of work, as the official year was drawing to a close. I am sorry that the end of the year should have interfered with the progress of the note you are drawing up. I once again touched slightly on the question of your taking leave, when you said that you would like to continue till the end of the Bapat Case. You were very anxious, it seems to me, on this score. I cannot see the force

and relation of the argument. Still, I have not forgotten your wish, as you are going on leave alone for two months, liable to be extended a month more if convenient to the State, and if asked by you. While you are on leave, you will come to Baroda, whenever the State wants you for any work for consultation. Angrie will act when you are on leave. I hope you will have a good time, and feel the benefit of rest. I shall always be happy to do anything reasonably in my power. I have taken your interests into calculation in the writing of this note. I think you will be acting wisely in following this note; however, you must know your interests better than myself. The leave will begin from the 21st of this month.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

195

MAKARPURA,
20th August 1895.

MY DEAR JAISINGRAO (ANGRE),

I have just seen the Minister, Mr. Manibhai. He is at present going to Bombay; but if during his leave, he goes to petlad or anywhere in our Raj, he should be paid all the marks of his post, i. e. the Minister.

I write this; because I do not know in what way a high person like the Minister is treated, when on leave. I wish to treat him thus amongst many other reasons; because he is a subject of mine. I hope this kind treatment of mine will induce many of my future Ministers to become the subjects of the Baroda Raj. For this very and other reasons, I always wish to treat Mr. Manibhai well. I have always chosen to treat my ministers well, very kindly and considerately. You must, while you are acting, conduct yourself and your business in a loyal manner to your master, and be always honest and straight forward with the people, with whom you may have to work.*

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* This letter contains a very valuable expression of His Highness's consideration for his officials. (G.S.S.)

196

MAKARPURA,

20th August 1895.

MY DEAR COL. MARATELLI,

The Minister Manibhai goes today for the present on two months' leave. Jaisingrao Angre will act for him. I write this; merely because you would be interested in knowing the news of the day. If you do not mind, will you kindly give me the address of Mrs. Martelli as I wish to write to her? This is the real object of this note. I was thinking that we might meet in the Camp on the polo ground, where we played today. When we next meet, I shall show you a book, which may interest and amuse you. It is dreadfully hot. I hope this heat will not be long.

Your sincere Friend.
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

197

MAKARPURA,

21st August 1895.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

I thank you for your letter, which has just reached me (minutes past 12 p.m.) I am surprised that you should be astonished at the Minister's taking leave just at this time. I have talked to you many times about his retirement and other points about him. You will remember that, during our walk in Poona, I had told you that you should be prepared to hear the change within a week or two. You also asked me as to what sort of arrangements I was going to make after he goes. I shall not repeat the answer, as you know it. Will you join me at the public Park at 5 p.m. today? I shall be there at the time mentioned above. This will save you a long drive.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

198

MAKARPURA,

28th August 1895.

MY DEAR MR. WEEDEN,*

I thank you very much for your kind letter. I am glad that you appear to be happy and well. I returned here only a few days ago, It is at present in Baroda steamy hot; but still, I try to play polo occasionally. I am feeling more cheerful and happy then probably I did before. The great thing for me is to be left unhampered in dealing with my affairs. The Minister Manibhai has been on leave since the last few days, and will not probably join his post again. People foolishly write here much about Baroda in the native papers. Some of them have even compared me to the Prince of Bulgaria. All this is due to what took place during my absence. To-day is the mail day, and so I shall write more in the next week. Kindly get the notes well printed with contents and marginal Notes. I cannot thank you much for your troubles in the matter. I will supply the necessary expenses. Mr. Wiggins will pay the bill you will give to him. Print 100 copies and retain some for yourself.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* Rev. Mr. Weeden a friend of His Highness, some time reading for him in his travels in Europe.

199

MAKARPURA,

29th August 1895.

MY DEAR MRS. MARTELLI,

I should, by this time, have written to you more than once. I am sorry to confess that, as only too often happens, what should be, has not been. I was at Ooty during the entire hot season, and indeed for a month and more of the rains. It lies in the bosom of the Niigiris, the blue mountains on a spacious level, looked down, upon all sides, by the peaks of the hills.

It is at a height of perhaps 8000 ft. above the sea-level; so far have we in India to climb to get at a really pure and health-giving climate. The extent of plateau, its clear and

cool air and lovely surroundings mark it out as an ideal site for a mountain city, and there is quite room enough and to spare for building space, and largest area characteristic of the place. Amusements are here in great plenty. In this respect, it is not much inferior to any hill-station. There is a small but very pretty lake, where rowing and boat-races go on. Cricket, the Englishman's game, is, I need hardly tell, in full swing, as well as tennis, polo and races. Col. Martelli and your daughters were at Ooty for a short time, and, I believe, enjoyed their stay. From Ooty, we went to Poona, but left it, after no very long residence, for Baroda. Here there is over-burden of steamy heat, a most oppressive contrast to Ooty. But still, there are always compensation. Here at least, I have the enjoyment of settled comforts and the sense of being quietly at home. Here, too, there is the blessing of a good garden; and only those, who have lived in a well furnished house with a good garden, can realize what blessings these things are. A really pretty garden is being laid out at the Residency by the State gardener and will when completely increase, by its look of cheerfulness and brightness, the attractions of the plan.

I am sorry to here that my photograph did not escape damage in transit. I have asked the same photographer to send you another. I hope he will pack this more carefully.

I expect Col. Martelli and other Europeans of the station to dinner to-night and afterwards to witness plays of the magic lantern.

Your sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

200

MAKARPURA,
29th August 1895.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I am exceedingly glad that you are going to revisit India. I hope you are not coming alone; but will bring your daughter with you. Of course, I shall expect you to come to Baroda and stay with me, not on a flying visit, but a good long one. I want you to manage a little commission for me, if it will not be

giving you too much trouble. I had some black English horses, very large and handsome ones, which struck the people. These were more like small elephants than horses. They had splendid appearance especially at processions and were very much admired and praised. I want some six fine carriage horses of the same kind and, if possible, the same colour. If you will kindly let me know what price would be required, I can then write about them finally. Besides these, I want a horse for riding, a good handsome charger. His height should not be, as far as possible, beyond 15 hands; and the colour should be neither black nor grey, as I have plenty of horse of these colours. I am prepared to give £300 to 500 for it. I wish you to select and buy for me a horse of the above description and pay such price as you may deem necessary. So long as it does not exceed £500, the Branch of the Bank of Bombay will be authorized to pay the sum, whenever you want it. I should be glad. If you would bring the horse with you, or arrange that it should be put on board about the same time. The Minister Manibhai is on leave, and I do not think that he will return. After all that has happened, it is advisable that he should retire. If he had acted discreetly and in time, he would have saved the State from the troubles, whose results would last for a considerable time to come. The Bapat Case is being studied by two best available judges of the place, and will, I have no doubt, be duly disposed of. Had Mr. Manibhai at all hinted to me (which he confesses he never did) the alleged misconduct of Mr. Bapat, the matter might have been disposed of without special laws and judges; and the sum of two lacs of Rupees might have been better utilized. A permanent reduction of Rs. 800 per annum would not have been an unwelcome item to the poor and supposed-to-be-harshly-treated alienees.

One of the results of the recent commotion is that certain classes of the people and courtiers are inclined to press their demands in rather an obtrusive manner and hinted at appeals to the Agent to the Governor-General, in case they are not complied with.

In connection with the latter point, I should be surprised, if they try to improve on their methods, in order to get what they want.

I spent the summer this year at Ooty, from which I have not very long ago returned. Col. Martelli was for some time with me there. I have come to know him well and we are on very amicable terms.

My friends here are very anxious that I should find in him as good a friend as they think I had in you. You have probably heard that I have extended the period of Mr. French's services. The three boys go every day to Motibag, where they study and play with Mr. French. They are getting on, I think, very well, and also making good progress in health. I am feeling myself stronger and more cheerful than I did when my last letter was written to you.

Will you kindly give my and Her Highness' kindest regards to your daughter and son ? Please also remember me to your sister, whom I had the pleasure of meeting at your house.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,
GENERAL WATSON, England.

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MAKARPURA,
6th September 1895.

MY DEAR MR. LITTEDALE,*

Thank you for your information. I have not heard anything from Mr. Elliot. Practically, new are counted as nothing in such matters. I expect Jaisingrao Angre to put the whole matter about your appointment before me in a few days, What a nuisance it is for a Raja, even in making an ordinary change† like this!

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* Professor, Baroda College.

† Of the ministry.

MAKARPURA,

6th September 1895.

MY DEAR JAISINGRAO (ANGRE),

If it be safe to act on what one hears in casual conversation, I may tell you that I have not been hearing good accounts of the Judge* Naosari. The persons, who spoke to me, spoke about it most guardedly, and I believe it. I merely let you know for such munasib (मुनासब) steps being taken, as you may think fit from your position as Minister.

When will the appeal of the Mill Officer† be disposed of, and also the press affair about Joglekar?‡ I am only interested in their quick and due disposal, as delays in suchmatters, rightly, I think, give food to people to criticize the administration unfavourably. Many person judge of things at once and without hearing both sides. It is only a few persons, who have a judicial turn of mind. I have asked Dahyabhai¥ to send you a worthless petition, as he terms it. I do not know how far to trust safely my oen judgment in such matters; and so, I cause it to be sent to you. This petition is against the judge§ of Amreli.

I hear near Rs.30,000 are annually spent by Mr. Dinshaw• in watering the streets in the Baroda City. This water is drawn from wells. What I want to know from Mr. Dinshaw• is, why he should not utilize the Sayaji Sarovar water, provided Jagannathjis¶ can, with certain safety, afford it, after meeting all the necessary wants of the people and the Sarkari gardens. I want to know definitely whether Jagannathji can supply this water for sprinkling it on the road. I have also read in the newspapers some kind of complaint about the water rate. What is it? Is there room to create an improvement in the matter? Why is so much more water used in Baroda then in Ahmedabad? This, of course, is based only on the assumption that it is said more than three times the quantity of Ahmedabad is spent here. Do we spend a great deal more

water than Ahmedabad? I think this is quite enough for to-day. Kindly send an answer quick.

Your sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Mr. Ramchandra Dinkar Fadke.*

† *Mr. Lallubhai Dalpatram Kavishwar was the Secretary in the Government Mill at Baroda. It was alleged that he purchase raw materials for the mill through his own relatives. He was, therefore, transferred to the Engineering Department.*

‡ *Mr. Joglekar was the Manager in the Government Printing Press. It was found that the prices for the press machinery he purchased, were exorbitant. He was, therefore, transferred.*

¥ *Dayabhai Harjivandas, Huzur Kamdar.*

§ *Mr. Rughunath Sakharam Daly.*

● *Mr. Dinshaw Ardesar Taliyarkhan, Sudharai Kamdar at Baroda.*

¶ *Jagnnath Sadashiv, the Water Works Enginner, who constructed the Ajwa Reservoir for supplying water to Baroda City.*

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MAKARPURA,
9th September 1895.

MY DEAR MR. LITTLEDALE,

I have some notes on Bentham's Thoeory* of Legislation, and I am thinking of printing them for my own use, for time to come. These notes are not complete, some parts of the book being omitted. Will you kindly take notes for me of the portion and thus complets that book, which has had a tremendous affect in forming my character, or more correctly in shaping my line as I require it?

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *This and other eminent authors in law have been very carefully and laboriously studied by His Highness with great scholars like Mr. Ambalal, Mr. Athalye and Mr. Gadgil, not to mention other subjects. (G.S.S.)*

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MY DEAR SAMARTH,*

I thank you for your letter, which I have just received and read. I shall creat your letter confidentially, so far as a man in my position legitimately can. I think the views you express, deserve deep consideration. I shall set the ball rolling.

There are many points like the one you mention and many others in our State, which deserve pressing otherwise; but the state of uncertainty and suspense, in which I am placed, debar me from taking the legitimate action. Rajas are taken to task for action as well as for not acting. Rajas are taken to task for action as well as for not acting. The unwritten and (I am afraid) prejudiced and interested standard of judging their merit, is one that must tell on good Government and on the position of the Raja and officers. I write this to you quite privately and as an old secretary.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Subha of Baroda District at the time.*

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MAKARPURA,
11th September 1895.

MY DEAR MR. WEEDEN,

I write as I had promised in my last letter. The number of the copies of the notes on Gibbon* may be increased at your discretion from 50 to 500. Mr. Wiggins† has been instructed to pay you the necessary expenses; and you will kindly ask him to pay you, whenever you may require the money.

I shall now tell you something about the place, where I spent my hot weather. The height of the hill is about 8,000 ft. above the sea-level, and the temperature of the place is about the same as that of Lucerne in summer. I think Lucerne will be about 70 degrees. It is, I think, cooler than we found on the lake of Geneva last year at Lausanne in the hotel on the lake. From this comparison of temperature, you must not conclude that we had here all the comforts of a travel in Europe, where only you have to pay, and you are served without any fuss or worry. Here I have to carry about 250 people, and take for them and for us about six houses and innumerable tin or corrugated iron sheds. The people in India, on account of their poverty and the nature of the climate and also because they have not seen anything better, are satisfied with very miserable accommodation. I have seen people here, who are

more ready to put up with inconveniences than take a little trouble to make themselves comfortable. There are only two or three places here, which are called hotels; and I believe they are not a whit better, possibly worse, than the stables.

There is a pretty littly lake at Ooty, artificially formed, and surrounded by plenty of blue games and good roads. This lake is used for pleasure-rowing and boat-races. The great attraction of the Nilgiris, besides its climate, scenery, plenty of roads and a fair amount of official European society, is the hunting field. The Europeans keep hounds and go out several times in a week. The natives, except a very few Rajas, do not partake in this amusement at all. From here, we came down to Poona, which is much frequented by people in the rains. The Bombay Government has its Head-quarters in Poona for half the year. It is the strong hold of the Deccanee Brahmins, who are always on the look-out for the fault of the Government, and specially such as affects their own interest. These people are not always liked by the officials; because they criticize their actions and analyse their motives. What struck me most, was the colour of the European ladies as compared with those in Ooty. In Poona, thay looked altogether pale and washed out and deserved compassion and pity for not possessing a good and healthy clime like that of Europe of Ooty. Mr. Vanikar‡ is now an Acting Collector or suba as we term him. He is, I think, quite pleased with his work and post, and does not sometimes mind to state its serious responsibilities and burdens. It is considered worldly wisdom by many, to magnify the nature and amount of one's own work. Dr. Jadhav‡ is in Baroda, and I hear he is quire happy but has not grown, to all appearances, more fat and plump. I do not think he takes any more physical exercise than he did, when we were together. Mr. Pradhan‡ who by the way he bears himself, shows as if he defies all the cares and fruitless aspirations of this miserable world, is working in the Accounts Department. I heard only a few days ago from Gordon and think, notwithstanding his great resources. Buoyancy of spirit, and wife the *Cello*, he seems to be down in the dumps. Poor fellow, I expect to see him in October, when Lady Tweedale§ will be in Baroda. What a pity, you will not come to this part of the world! I hope you will be quite successful in your clerical

examinations and be soon a full blown Padri (Paterfather)
How are your sisters? Is the one, who went to be a nurse in a
hospital, with you or has she stuck to a charitable avocation?
Where is your sister, that was married to Lord Queensbury?
I ask these things, because I as a frined, take interest in you
and yours. Am I right in thinking that Marquis Queensbury
was your brother-in-law or some other titled name?

I am afraid I have given you too long a letter, and will now
conclude it by expressing my and Her Highness' best regards
for you.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,

E. S. WEEDEN ESQR; Park Villa, Eastbourne, England.

* His Highness studied Gobbon's "Fall of the Roman Empire" with Mr. Weeden and personally prepared some notes, which have since been printed in a nice volume of some 400 pages, forming quite a useful key for the study of Gibbon.

† Mr. Wiggins was for some time an agent doing purchases and other jobs in England for His Highness; originally, he was an employee in the firm of William Whiteley, who looked after Their Highness's travelling arrangements in England, before Thomas Cook & Son or Messrs Horne & Birkett came to be employed in later days, for a similar purpose.

‡ Messrs. Vanikar, Pradhan and Dr. Jadhav were in attendance on His Highness in Europe in 1894, about whom Mr. Weeden had a reference in his letter, to which His Highness wrote the present reply, containing these humorous remarks.

§ Lady Tweedale is an old and long acquaintance of Their Highnesses.

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MAKARPURA,

11th September 1895.

MY DEAR MANIBHAI,

I have not written you a line since you have been on leave, except a verbal enquiry after your health and that of your son, through Mr. L. G. Mane, who went to Bombay on business. Things are getting on here as usual. The Government of India have, as a special case, allowed me to buy a house in Bombay. I was glad to see your son after his return from Bombay. He is quite a different person in looks. If he feels well, I think, it is good that he has lost his fat. I am going to ask him to come and see me. An answer has come from the Government of India about the Sarkhad Case. It is against us. I only spoke

yesterday to Ambalalbhai and Mr. Pandit to expedite the study of the Bapat Case, The sooner it is disposed of, the better; but as I do not know law enough, I cannot press very strongly on them. They told me that they would finish it by the end of this month. To me, this looks rather long. I have been to Ajwa with Col. Martelli and a few other friends. Mr. Reed is expected here to-marrow, I believe. I have to let Dahyabhai go more frequently to the Minister and other to discuss the Giras Question.

I have been reading lately a history of the Moghuls of India* and find it very interesting.

I hope you are enjoying good health and spirit. How do you spend your time? Do you read much? If you find Bombay too dull, you ought to run upto Poona; because this is the season there. Have you seen Laxman Jagannath? I believe he is in Bombay. We are all doing well; and I feel happy to be amongst my people and enjoy well the comforts of home and settled life. I may go to Laxmivilas† for a few days a little before Dassera. Hoping to hear from you,

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* Holder's Mogul Emperors.

† Soon after this, His Highness began to live mostly at the Laxmi-Vilas Palace visiting Makarpura only occasionally.

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MAKARPURA,
12th September 1895.

MY DEAR MAHARAJA,

I have sent you some present of guns, which, I hope, will reach in due time with my letter. I wrote to you about this present matter from Ooty; but there has been some delay in getting the Parvana from the Residency; and that is the reason of the delay. I have been reading some account of Indore affairs in the vernacular papers, but did not attach to it much weight. The other day, however, I saw an article in the Times of India, which seemed rather serious. I hope the Editor has not been playing into the hands of some interested people; it is very easy for the unknowing public to swallow all, that is

said about Indian Princes. They have to pay for the past traditions and superstitions about Rajas and their deeds. They are no longer capable of committing enormities; but still, the public is undiscerning and credulous, and will not fail to credit them with deeds, that might have been possible in 1800 or long before it. It is useless for an individual or a few of them to fight with the stupid credulity of the public; but public men have to take the world, as it is, and adapt themselves so far as their principles will permit of it. If it is not a mistake to gauge the public feeling from the article of the Times, I would, as a friend of yours, wish you to be more prudent in your actions and reserved in speech. I know how easy it is to advised and specially in a general from. But Your Highness will, no doubt, see that, being ignorant of positive facts, I can only indulge in generalities. I think the advice of the Times deserves consideration; and you will, no doubt, form a council or something else like it, so as to stop the further development of the present unsatisfactory feeling.

I hope this letter will find you in good health. If I can help you in any way, I should be happy to do it,

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,

His Highness the Maharaja SHIVAJIRAO HOLKAR of Indore.

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MAKARPURA,
24th September 1895.

MY DEAR DR. NEVINS,

Many thanks for your interesting letter and kind enquiries. I am in much better health then formerly; and, as for bothers, the only serious one I have had, was in the Bapat Case, which has been, no doubt, a great worry from beginning to end, but is now, I am happy to say, practically over. Great has been the fuss and annoyance over this business. The most provoking thing is that it was quite unnecessary. Never was there such a signal instance of much ado about nothing. If only the Minister and officers had consulted and informed me about the matter, I should have been only too glad to have got it

inquired into and disposed of in the most direct and simple manner. Instead of this, they kept me consistently uninformed and then, in my absence, took a very hasty initiative. It has really been a case of a sort of a big soap bubble and really insignificant matter. Blown out to look immense and conspicuous; and it has been a costly bubble, too. Two or three lakhs does not seem a small sum for such a matter. The interest of that is, I believe, about Rs. 8,000 a year; and if such a sum were to be given away, it might much better have taken the form of a reduction in the taxes rather than a plum for lawyers and solicitors. If the people and the land-holders were to be pleased, that would have been a much more effectual way of doing it; and, at the same time, it would have saved a great waste of time, temper and trouble. However, the whole affair may be now reckoned as done with.

We have found it necessary on the evidence to acquit Bapat; but, for reasons of State Policy, he has not been retained in the State Service. There is still what, I hope, is the last reverberation of the affair in the newspapers; but though they give plenty of room for a damaging answer, I have thought it better to let the whole agitation come to a much needed rest, which will not happen quickly, if we keep the pendulum of controversy swinging. Mr. Maconochie, too seems to have been keeping up a quite extra-ordinary interest in the affair. He appeared yesterday in a letter to the Bombay Gazette written in his usual imaginative style; but it is, after all, too paltry to take notice of. I have been greatly set up in my health by my last Europe trip. I am now taking a great deal of exercise, riding, polo etc. and have been shooting also, which, as I can now practice funnily enough only since the shooting season is a new attraction for me. All this I owe to the accession of strength and health I got in Europe; and if it continues, I shall try and stay as much as possible in Baroda. I am, indeed, sorry that the insecurity at Baroda, the studied indifference, with which my wishes were treated, and the ignorance, in which I was kept, should have forced me back so much earlier than I had at all intended. If I could have safely followed my own wish and the wise advice of doctors, I should have, I believe, returned to India with my health completely and permanently recovered. I am of opinion that, had not the

Residency forced my hand to delegate practically all my powers to the Council and the Agent to the Governor General, all the mischief in Baroda would have been avoided as well as those circumstances, I have mentioned above, by which my return was unduly and cruelly hurried on.

I am glad you have enjoyed your continental trip, in spite of your bad quarter of an hour in the French police office. You must be congratulated on having been able to convince the two zealous constables and avoid an addition to your experiences, which would have been more vivid than pleasant. I was also at Brussels for some time, and found it a very pleasant and cheerful place. Its gaiety made it look a sort of Paris in miniature. I hope your change of residence will bring good luck with it.

Fatehsinh has certainly grown bigger than when you saw him last. He is also stronger and greatly improved in health. At Ooty, he used to ride with the hounds and ride fearlessly and excellently. He is also clever at bleycling, an exercise of which he is very fond. I now take him out for shooting also. He is getting on very well with his studies. Just before the Diwali, he was busy with his examination. "The examiners Messrs. Littledale, Dhamanskars, Hargovinddas and Ranade thought his progress very satisfactory. He is in the 4th standard and has completed his Marathi 6th standard. It was an idea of mine to send him to England and enter him at Eton or Harrow; but I abandoned that idea, as it would be necessary for him to work very hard to get entered; and I do not think it wise to subject him to a much greater strain than he is bearing at present. I now think of letting him attain a certain standard in his studies, after which he may reside at one of the English Universities.

Jaisinhrao passed well in his examination. He is at his 3rd Marathi Book. He, too, has grown since you saw him, but not so much as his brother Shiwajirao. He is more delicate than Shiwajirao. The latter is stronger, full of fun and life. The baby (Dhairyashil), which used to be persistently ailing has taken a wonderful turn for the better since his last trip. In which he went almost as far as Japan. I thought an actual sea-trip would do him good; and it has had such admirable results that I think of sending him again in the next hot weather.

Mr. French is here teaching the boys, in whom he takes a great interest and liking. His wife will be soon back from Europe. The minister Manibhai is on leave, and will retire from the 20th November. Jaisingrao Anger is acting for him. Mr. Vanikar is acting for the Suba of Naosari, and Dahyabhai, a gentleman whom you do not know, is acting as Secretary. Another officer, Who has only lately retired, is Trimbakrai, about whose retirement correspondence was going on for 4 years. Delay in such matters makes the servant half-hearted, and so impairs the efficiency of the administration. Manibhai's retirement will necessitate several changes in important parts; and I think it advisable, besides, to make some alterations in the personnel of some of the departments. I shall, I suppose, experience some appreciable difficulty in getting good and competent men to come in from outside, in case I want to indent for some. As you can easily imagine, the recent conduct of affairs and the usual weakening effects of double Government, have not been of a kind to inspire confidence.

Under such circumstances, good government in Native States is well-nigh impossible, and those who desire to have one are bound to be disappointed. Since two days, we are having cold breezes and very cloudy skies, to some extent, resembling one of the sunless west.

I am sending you a photograph of Makarpura, which, I think, is a very pretty one. I hope you will accept it and get it safe and then hang it up in your room. Please remember me to your people and thank them for their good wishes.*

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,

Dr. J. E. NEVINS. 32 Princes' Avenue, Liverpool.

* This frank and interesting, describing the various activities and ideas of His Highness' truly depicts His Highness personality. (G.S.S.)

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FLORA VILLA, POONA,
6th November 1895.

MY DEAR LORD SANDHURST,*

If agreeable to you, I shall be very glad to call upon you tomorrow or on any other day may suit Your Excellency. I find Poona much cooler than Bombay.

I have been reading, with much interest, the account of your district tour. I hope you enjoyed your first official tour vey well.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* Governor of Bombay.

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FLORA, VILLA, POONA,
7th November 1895.

MY DEAR MR. OZANNE,

I send two little books for your perusal. Kindly finish perusing them as soon as you can and then return them. I have no copies of them. My remarks are not all exhaustive, and they are started merely with the desire of verifying facts in Bapat's case and these notes have practically no connection.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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FLORA VILLA, POONA,
8th November 1895.

MY DEAR LADY TWEEDALE,

I am so glad that you have finally come to India. You will find this part of the word so different from the West. The travelling conveniences will be perceptibly less than what one finds in a great portion of Europe. I am indeed , extremely sorry that I shall just miss you, while you are in Baroda. I have instructed my officers to show you all, and see that you

are quite comfortable. I shall try to come to Baroda while you are there but it hardly looks feasible. Kindly give my remembrances to miss Wilson and to my friend captain Gordon. Her Highness will be delighted to welcome you to Baroda. Before you leave India, you leave you must, as an old friend of ours, pay us a second visit. I hope the long sea-journey has not done you any harm.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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FLORA VILLA, POONA,
8th November 1895.

MY DEAR SIR (MR. ELLIOT)

I thank you for letter of the 29th October 1895 I had read Mr. Maconochie's letter in the times of India of 2nd October. I did not like some portions of the letter, and felt a great desire to contradict it and with this view, I spoke to some people but they thought that it was best to take no notice of it

In a certain way, the letter is very characteristic of Mr. Maconochie's conduct in Baroda, to misrepresent and grossly to exaggerate facts, to paint wrongly and maliciously the straight forward relations of officials, to draw preconceived or favourite conclusions by merely a show of facts. Such as been the line of conduct on the part of Mr. Maconochie. I shall be leaving this place, probably, the latest on the 13th Instant. I was very glad to see Mr. Ozanne. His interest in Baroda and the departments has not suffered by long absence. He spoke well of you and Bapat I was told, I think, more than once by a high authority in Baroda that Ozanne had repeated to a Naried man that he thought Bapat was guilty. I told this news to him, and he laughed at it, and told me a return message to that gentleman. I have not been sleeping well here since the last two nights. I may possibly send you two letter- books for friendly perusal. Remember me to your people in England.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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FLORA VILLA, POONA,
8th November 1895

MY DEAR MR. OZANNE,

Thanks for your letter. Send Sathey here on Sunday at 6 p.m

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

P.S. Please do not let Sathey know why I wish to see him. S.R.G.

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FLORA VILLA, POONA,
8th November 1895

MY DEAR MR. NUGENT,

I am here only for a few days but still I should like to see you and Mr. Birdwood in a friendly manner. Can I come and see you on Sunday at any time you may choose? The afternoons here are very close. I mention Sunday, as I believe I am likely to be free on that day.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,

His Highness the RAJA of Akalkote.

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POONA,
8th November 1895

MY DEAR SHAHADI RAJE,

As you probably know, I am now leaving Poona in a short time. I shall be very glad, if you will let me know, when you and my niece will be able to pay me a visit at Baroda.

I hope you are well. I write this, because I am starting at once to pay a visit to the Viceroy. I shall leave this latest on the 12th of this month.

Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

His Highnesses the RAJA of Akkalkote.

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FLORA VILLA, POONA,

11th November 1895

MY DEAR MAHARAJA,

I hope you will excuse my not coming to your place for invitation. I think if you be here at 30 minutes to 11, it will be quite in time. We shall have to finish all our business a few minutes before 12. At 12, I must start the Ganeshkhind. I do not like this hurry, but can't help it.

Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

The Maharaja of Kolhapur

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FLORA VILLA, POONA,

12th November 1895

MY DEAR SIR (MR. ELLIOT)

I am on my way back to Baroda. I have only a few moments to drop these few words. I had a long chat with lord Elgin and Mr. Cunningham. I told them the evil consequence of the last governmental administrative arrangements during my absence. I spoke about you and your work, and asked for your services to finish the work, and besides, said that sue to your good work, you deserved encouragement for Barkhali work. Lord Elgin said that these were the points, on which they did not like discussion in the office, and showed unwillingness spoke very well of your work and did not say anything against your return, save that you were too senior. The Agent to the Governor General did not quite cherish it. If pressed a bit, they will let you come back.

I may also tell you that I on the spur of the moment, asked your Cunningham, , if they had any objection if I engage you after your return. He said, he had not thought of that I asked whether they thought you had any undue influence over me, as I said, In that case, I should be the first person not to ask for you, in my own and also in your true interest. They said they had no impressions of that sort. I told them also about

the Barkhali petitions and the conclusions I drew from them. For work and work principles, they have nothing to say. I do not know where they stumble or what is the hitch.

Lord Elgin and Cunningham both impressed me as pleasant men, but cautious in speech. I write this confidentially, as I know you would like to know what has passed about you.

Ozanne spoke about you and Bapat's guilt plainly to the foreign Secretary. Time is up I must close this with my kind regards to you. The books promised in a previous letter will be sent.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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MALBAR CASTLE, BOMBAY,
12th November 1895.

MY DEAR COL. FITZHGERALD,*

I was extremely happy to receive your letter of the 20th October 1895. I have just received it, and hasten to answer it at once. I had also received some communications from you before this and I was going to send you a long letter but several important state affairs and my visit to Poona have interfered with that pleasant and agreeable task. I shall write to you again when I am in Baroda. I have only a few hours to spare here and in that time, I have much to do. I want to see some houses with the idea of buying them. I have to see some polo points, driving teams, and, besides manage to receive a friend or two. I have to start at 4 PM It is already nearly 1.30 PM and I am here from Poona, after seeing the Viceroy Lord Elgin He looks to be an intelligent and sympathetic person. Polished in manners and gentle in speech I was glad I had an opportunity of meeting him. Mr. Cunningham looks more like a smart military officers of a Majors rank than a civilian, when compared to his predecessor .He has nice manners, an intelligent face , keen eyes and a prepossessing look this was my first interview with him. I do not know whether you remember Mr. Babington Smith, who is now the private secretary of Lord Elgain. We met him in Brussels at dinnertime at sir Edward Manson's dinner party.

The Monetary Conference was the cause of his presence in the gay and bright little European capital. I have decided the famous (made unnecessarily so) Bapat Case. I was out of justice obliged to acquit him. He would have probably made his defence much stronger, had there not been such a dead set made against him by Col. Biddulph, Manibhai and others. I have thought it prudent, as a meter of mere policy to dispense with his services. This was done for various reasons. I have written more than I first intended and so must not weary you with more information and details. I do not think I can write to you at once from Baroda, and that I will do myself the pleasure of jotting a few lines again in due time. I shall be happy to welcome your friends, the monks, and give them ration and shelter in my cottages at Baroda.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *The officer, who was deputed by the India Office to be in attendance on His Highness in his Europe trip in 1892.*

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
17th November 1895.

MY DEAR MR. FRENCH,

You better see for yourself how Mr. Ranade* is working with the boys. I her he makes his notes too elaborate on words and spends a great deal of time in explaining them. Kindly see that unnecessary energy is not spend in such matters, and age of the boys I have not beyond the knowledge and age of the boys. I have not got a clear idea of the mode of Ranade's teaching and so it is impossible to criticize it .I shall come over to see him teaching Marathi to-Morrow, if you will let me know the exact hour.

YOURS SINCERELY,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Mr. Shankar Moro Ranade, temporarily transferred to the Princes' School.*

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MAKARPURA,

25th November 1895.

MY DEAR JAISINGRAO (ANGRE)

I was thinking on the Wadiwala Gaekwar's case, after we parted from Nazarbag. I think it wise to reinstate the Gaekwars in the village Vanadra. I wish it clearly to be understood that this action of mine in no way, intended to compromise the legitimate interests of the state. Mr. Manibhai would have acted wisely if he had placed his conversations with the Agent to the Governor General on paper in connection with this case.

It is a great pity that for the mistake or negligence of individual officers, the state should be made to suffer. I wish the Gaekwar's be put in possession of the village (of course, subject to the disputed matter of the case) conditionally and a complete and careful representation be prepared without any loss of time.

YOURS SINCERELY,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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MAKARPURA,

25th November 1895.

MY DEAR CAPTAIN GORDON,

Will you kindly write to me how lady Tweedale is? I hope the climate agrees with her. What a pity she felt so unwell in Baroda! I am afraid she must have been badly impressed with the climate of Gujerat.

I shall be soon going out in the districts, but shall never be away more than a fortnight at a time from Baroda.

Mrs. Martelli will be here to-morrow. Her Highness begs me to remember her to young Lady Tweedale and others.

Will you accept yourself and give to Lady Tweedale, Miss Wilson and others, my best regards?

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

222

MAKARPURA,

30th November 1895.

MY DEAR FRIEND (GENERAL WATSON),*

I was glad to get a letter from you some time ago I am looking forward to meet you. I hope your daughter is also with you. If it is not difficult for you to tell me, may I ask the probable date of your arrival in Baroda? I want to know this as, I am going out for a week in the districts. I hope Mangalkhan† will meet you in Bombay. You can keep him as long as you like. I hope you have had a pleasant voyage. I am enjoying fairly robust health, and pretty often go out quail shooting. If I can do anything for you in India, I shall be very happy to do it. I was so sorry about the loss of your sister however the only consolation is that death is a debt every body must pay. With kindest regards to yourself and miss Watson,

Yours sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* A friend and former Resident of Baroda, at this time again coming out to India.

† A clever butler serving General Watson in Baroda. He was taken up into the palace service upon General Watson's retirement. He long served His Highness in India and Europe, as a competent table-boy.

223

BIJAPUR,

8th December 1895.

YOUR HIGHNESS.

As, in all probability, I shall shortly be leaving India and no steps taken by me can influence any pending trial of others, I have the honour to make you following request.

My services were lent to the Baroda state very many years ago and with one brief interruption, they continued to be so but till about two months ago when I received the following telegram from the foreign office of the Government of India Your services are replaces at disposal of Bombay Government The request I have respectfully to make, is that I may be informed of the reasons for the transfer of my services and I

shall feel under a great obligation to Your Highness, if that information is given me. I have never been told that Col. Biddulph, the then Agent to the Governor General, reported adversely to the Government of India in 1894 on certain land-alienation abut you have never been apprised of the contents of his report. Since then, several assistants and subordinates in the settlement Department more especially Mr. V. S. Bapat, were prosecuted by my former assistant Mr. A F. Maconochie for corruption, bribery and, perhaps, extortion. But of the results of Mr. Maconochie efforts, I have no certain knowledge. I am left in doubt if col. Biddulph report or the enquiries into the charges of corruption etc. have in some way, reflected upon the mode, in which I presided over the department placed in my charge. It is true that the only passages I can distinctly remember coming across, which might raise such doubts in my mind are certain gross and palable misstatement made by Mr. Branon, Counsel for the only prosecution in the Bapat case , and certain others made by Mr. Maconochie in a public print, together with some nonsense deposed in the trial of a few so called bribers and three or four orders of mine, were misquoted or misrepresented. Still, doubts have been raised in my mind as probably much has been written, with which I am not conversant. I shall, therefore, feel obliged to Your Highness, if you will obtain for me the favour I ask in this letter.* I have the honour to remain, Your Highness most obedient servant,

F. A. H. ELLIOT, I. C. S.

* This letter of Mr. Elliot to His Highness the Maharaja is purposely put in, as it throws light on the Conduct of the Bapat case.

224

MAKARPURA,
9th December 1895.

MY DEAR FRIEND (SIR J. WATSON)

I hope you will find every thing comfortable in the guest House, Where you will be put up. I shall be at the Guest House at 9 a.m. and will see you and your daughter, if you are up please do not disturb your rest. I am so much looking forward to meet you. You must tell me whatever you would

like to do in Baroda I hope you will not be the worst for your journey.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

225

MAKARPURA,

13th December 1895.

MY DEAR SIR (F. A. H. ELLIOT)

I have not acknowledge your letter and the other one enclosed in it I have not asked for any other Civilian to take up your post. Though I was told, during my stay in Poona, that the Government of India and of Bombay would try to help me. In case I applied for one Civilian but you know what there views were about yourself.

I have not asked for any other Civilian, as I wish very much to see you come back and work for some time. If the Government of Bombay is short of officers, as some officer hinted me in Poona, I wish that they should allow you to join my service after you retire. The other day, I had a talk with Col. Martelli on the subject and told to ascertain from the Government of India, if they had any objection, if I kept you in my service after your retirement Col. Martelli asked me what work I proposed to give you may have to finish the Barkhali work, or that I might ask you to do some revenue work. I have been feeling the treatment very much of my affairs during my lat absence and the complete subjection they keep me under and how this affects any national steps that would lead to better Government. I have not put not put my request on paper about you in particular or any other Civilian because I feel there is not sufficient sympathy to strengthen the affairs of Baroda, and that refusals to my request are not based on the knowledge of local circumstances. All this deters me from doing any solidly useful work.

I am quite willing that you should come back. If there was delay in the decision of the Bapat case, it was inerly a result of extreme caution on my part arising from the fear of the Residency. If this case had been treated in an ordinary judicial

and rational way the state might have been saved a sum of Rs between 2 to 3 lakhs, besides preventing factious khatpat ill feeling, distrust, uncertainty, absence of any good government and other poignant evil effects which, I am afraid, will take decades to be forgotten.

I shall think over your letter to the Resident and If I find that it is not likely to do more evil than good I shall give it to Col. Martelli. It will be necessary for us to have a personal discussion before you in good health.

YOURS SINCERELY,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

TO,
F.A.H. ELLIOT Esqr Collector, Bijapur.

226

SINORE,
14th December 1895.

MY DEAR JAISINGRAO (ANGRE)

While casually talking yesterday about our financial condition it seemed to me that you did not seem to realize the gravity of the results of our extravagant (spending more than the income) policy. We have on an average, been spending four lakhs of Rupees more than our income. This has been spending four lakhs of Rupees more than our income. This has been going on at least since the last three years. You said that it was due to extraordinary expenditure I asked to cite some tangible instances but you could not on the spot do so. Granting for the sake of an argument that was extraordinary expense, could that be only four lakhs or good deal more than that?

The real expenditure we have to curtail is not a few thousands or lakhs, but nearly 1/4 of a crore. This would be in keeping with my former orders. I base all these arguments on the facts laid down by Dahyabhai the other day.

I am inclined to believe that Pitamber* Jetha, a person of nice manners and good disposition, will not be the man to set right this unsatisfactory state of things He strikes to me a good and competent accounts but not a wise financier. How is it that he could not see this?

Unless you think my doubts and impressions are wrong I propose to let Pitamber Jetha go back to a subahip and put in there some other safe, discreet and strong man. You can think over this and write to me after a day or two.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Acting Accountant General.*

227

BARODA,
20th December 1895.

MY DEAR JAISINGRAO (ANGRE)

Let Karandikar go for three months, to the Revenue Department and Keshavrao Pandit take his place as Military secretary, while he is away. I make these changes, merely because they should know the working of other departments than the ones they have been in. If office know the Revenue Department well, they would be more extensively useful. They will be expected to give advantage of their experience to their successors. We shall talk about giving them more pay but this need not come in the way of your issuing out orders.

Is Dinshaw Taliarkhan* going on leave as you had suggested? If he is taking leave it, might interfere with these proposals.

* *Sudharai Kamdar*

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

228

BARODA,
20th December 1895.

MY DEAR MR. PESTONJI,

I think better to put down on paper what we talked this morning. I have approved of the ground plan drawn up by Mr. Chisholm (F.R.I.B.A) at my desire. The only modifications I have made, are as follow:

1st. A passage running from East to West has been struck off to secure more privacy and incidently to reduce cost;

2nd. I have increased the size of the chowks to 25ft. in breadth instead of 16ft.

The ultimate treatment of these Chowks will be such as to secure coolness with soft light and ventilation to the Central Hail or Mazghar. this is I believe, quite consistent to what I have been wishing from the beginning in the beginning, I shall start with leaving these Chowks open and lay out in the form of beds of flowers and fountains as the courts in the Laxmi-Vilas; but if experience will show that I cannot get the advantage of a Mazghar, then I shall ask to close up the necessary portion of them.

If Mr. Chisholm thinks that these chowks are so big as surely to destroy the advantages I am seeking in a Mazghar, then I would let him decrease them in size, or if closing them afterwards would be too expensive, then too, he may reduce them in size.

There is another object I have kept in view in connection with the Chowks. If some rooms are required to be added, these courts can be utilized for that purpose; but I may say that this contingency is so improbable that we may attach no weight to it.

3rd. The location of the main stair-case, as suggested by you in one of the large central rooms, has been approved of by me. This will reduce the nine rooms of the ground plan to eight which I do not grudge.

Besides the above points, I wish that the provision for the following accommodation must be made in the plan:

One more stair-case should be added to be used by male servants; but this must be so provided that it may be used, if necessary, by Their Highness and visitors of distinction. There should be a third stair-case for female servants. At least, two W.C.s with small rooms to wash should be provided for ladies and gentlemen attending on Their Highnesses, and visitors. Some more W.C.s should be added for Their Highnesses, in case they do not care to use the ones already provided in their dressing rooms.

The size of the Central Hall in Mr. Chisholm's plan, I am told, is 40 ft. broad. This, I hope, means the biggest that formed one end of the Central Hall or block; if its size was

bigger than 40 ft., then the other two rooms, one of which will now contain the stair-case, should be of the same size.

I have mentioned so many details; but it must not be understood that Mr. Chisholm and yourself are debarred from providing such other accommodation as may be essential for the building of this size and purpose. In providing the little details, no encroachment should be made on the number of rooms; but extra space may be provided for them.

I have been told that the cost of this wing will be, besides E. and W. terraces, about 5 lakhs, and I do not wish to spend, if I can help, more than this; because already a huge gigantic sum has been unfortunately spent a Laxmi-Vilas. Mr. Chisholm may draw the ground plan embodying the suggestions, I have made and such other little additions as he may consider necessary. I hope it is not necessary for me to tell that I do not wish by this letter to be understood, as if, I am encroaching on Mr. Chisholm's discretion, which he must have as an Engineer and Architect.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

P.S. The biggest rooms at present lie from N. to S.; make them lie E. to W.; of course, they will be in the centre. This will save unnecessary waste we are making in one of the bigh rooms being turned into an Entrance Hall and a smaller room will take its place.

S.R.G.

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BARODA,
23rd December 1985

MY DEAR JAISINGRAO (ANGRE),

Mr. Keshavrao Pandit can take up the place of Mr. Karandikar; he will get as promotion Rs. 50 a month over his present salary. I have known Mr. Pandit long; and there is no person, who knows the Kangi Department more than himself; and for various other good reasons I am afraid I shall not be able to spare him long from that important department. And so he must ever be ready to revert to it. Mr. Karandikar will also get Rs. 50 more from the date of his transfer. Keshavrao Pandit must be very strong and strict in the new place he is

going to, and that the experience and good knowledge of the working of the Military Department would make him more valuable.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

P.S. As Mr. Dinshaw is going on leave, but for a short period, Mr. Pestonji, who ought to have very light work of the Khangi, can take up, in addition to his present duties, the work of the Municipal Commissioner.

S.R.G.

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BARODA,
24th December 1895

MY DEAR JAISINGRAO (ANGRE),

You have already got the order, I believe, in the case of Mamasahib Ghatge*, the father of Her Highness.

Please read Rs. 7,200 instead of Rs. 6,000 to be continued to the adoptive son of Mamasahib.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* Bajirao Mamasahib Ghatge Sarjerao came from Dewas. He lived in the house, now called Saroj (सरोज), where the Huzur Kamdar's Office was for a time located. Mamasahib was an impressive well-built gentleman of a large heart and good manners, with prominent eyes and a noble face, which his daughter certainly inherited. He died on 21st September 1895. His wife Mamisahe, Her Highness' mother, was the sister of Mr. Anandrao Powar's father. She died on 1st February 1898, and the adoption Mr. Vishwasrao Ghatge took place on 16th March 1896.

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BARODA,
25th December 1895

MY DEAR COL MARTELLI,

I write this little note only to wish you and all your family a most happy Xmas and many returns of the same. Please also give my good wishes to those friends of ours, who are enjoying your generous and open-hearted hospitality. If you mention any day for Cheeta-hunt, the Minister has been begged by me arrange on my behalf.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

232

BARODA,

25th December 1895

MY DEAR LADY TWEEDALE,

I thank you and Capt. Gordon for his and your king letters. I was glad to know that you were all right and that you were going to stop in India till March. Mr. and Mrs. Fraser have been here since yesterday and, after a few days more, they will start to pay you a visit. I was glad to see them in Baroda. I had gone out in the districts, but had to hurry back on account of the sad death of my cousin,* who was married to one of the late Raja of Kolhapur. She was 53 years of age.

I hope Miss Wilson is well and likes her stay in India. I have had rather a bad attack of nervousness for 4 or 5 days; but I am all well. Her Highness is fairly well and the children are doing splendidly. I wish you all a most happy new year.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* Death of Shrimant Khashibaisaheb, Maharani of Kolhapur and daughter of the late Maharaja Ganpatrao Gaekwar, occurred on 14th December 1895 at Baroda. She was married to Shiwajirao Babasaheb, who died in 1866.

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BARODA,

25th December 1895

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

I send you the letter, as Mr. Elliot has requested me to send it to you. You know very well what my wish is about his joining my service after his retirement. I hope you have found out the wishes of Government of India on the subject.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

234

BARODA,

26th December 1895

MY DEAR LORD ELGIN,

I take this opportunity of the season to write in order to wish you a pleasant New Year.

Since I returned from Poona, I have been staying at Baroda, which is now at its pleasantest with the cold weather. I intended making a tour in the districts this month and had gone as far as Sinore; but owing to a domestic occurrence,* I had to abandon the tour for the time being. I was also expecting visits from the Maharaja of Kolhapur and the Chief of Akalkote; but these also have been prevented by the same unhappy circumstance. I shall, however, make a tour after Christmas.

I have followed your movements and doings through the south of India, and read your speeches made in Hyderabad, Mysore and Madras with a great deal of interest.

The late Maharaja of Mysore was a great friend of mine, and I have also had the opportunity of making myself acquainted with the young Maharaja, who struck me as a very affable and bright lad. I am just now sending him two ponies as a present. I notice that you saw the Khedah† operations in which elephants are caught. I was invited last June by the Maharanee for the Khedah; but the animals refused to be allured; and, thus, I lost the opportunity. It must have been very pleasant and interesting to yourself and Lady Elgin, as, indeed, to all, who were seeing it for the first time. Last year about this time, I was in Constantinople, which was so quiet and sleepy a place, with every thing so perfectly at a dead stand-still that no one could imagine the scenes of riot and bloodshed and general excitement, which were to make so wonderful a contrast within less than a year. One hopes that the new year will find a peaceful solution from this Armenian trouble, which is disturbing the peace of Europe.

Bombay is a present occupied with the voluminous speech of Mr. P. Mehta, whom you must know so well, at least, within the bounds of the Legislative Council. A tone is, perhaps, raised a little too high by the praises of his fellow-citizens; but it is, in many respects, exceedingly instructive and interesting;

and particularly one or two points he raised about, must be of public interest.

I suppose Calcutta must now be very lively in X'mas festivities.

My Children are looking forward with great eagerness to our X'mas time. Of course, to them, it means sweetmeats and play-things. I suppose you and Lady Elgin will be having the same sort of thing with your children. Lady Elgin must be feeling more keenly at present her separation from her other children, who may happen to have been left in England.

This letter will be too late for X'mas Greetings; but I am in time to wish you, Lady Elgin and all yours, many happy returns of the new year.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *Death of Khashibaisaheb.*

† *See note on letter 177.*

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THE RESIDENCY, BARODA,
27th December 1895

MY DEAR MAHARAJA,

With reference to your letter of the 25th Instant, I think Mr. Elliot should, if he wishes to know why his services were replaced at the disposal of the Bombay Government, address that Government on the subject.

Would you kindly let me know in what capacity you wish Mr. Elliot to return to Baroda on his retirement from Government service and what salary you propose to give him as I must inform the Government of India of these particulars? I return the enclosure to your letter.

Yours sincerely,
V.C. MARTELLI

236

BARODA,

27th December 1895

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

I have just received your note. I can supply to you the information you want; but before going into any details, I should like you to find out for me, if the Government of India is disposed to allow me to entertain the services of Mr. Elliot. I shall ask him in case he comes, to finish the Barkhali, and do some important Revenue work or revision of establishments. At the proper moment, I can give you definite information.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

P.S. I have not sounded Elliot at all on the work I propose to give him.

S.R.G.

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

1st January 1896

MY DEAR DR. NEVINS,

As it now 1896, I sit down to write a new year's letter, to wish you many happy returns of the season and a pleasant new year. We have been staying at Baroda pretty constantly since our return from the summer trip to Ooty and to Poona. Early in November, when the Viceroy* was making his tour through India, he visited Poona and I went down there, for about a week, to meet him and make his acquaintance.

After I returned, I was contemplating a tour in the Baroda Division; but I was interrupted, immediately after starting, by the sad decease of Her Highness Khashibaisaheb† at Baroda. I had only gone as far as Sinore, the first stage in my tour. I have not, however, entirely abandoned the idea. The same sad event has postponed the visits of the Chief of Akalkote and the Maharaja of Kolhapur, who were to have been in Baroda about this time. We had arranged for several sports to entertain the visitors; and there was to have been a polo-match between Baroda and Kolhapur. As I told you in my last

letter, I have owing to my recovered strength, been able to take to shooting, riding etc. with greater zeal than before. Polo I have been playing steadily for the last two or three months. I have just purchased a number of new ponies for the polo-club here; and if our people can only acquire really hearty taste for the game, Baroda ought to turn about a polo-team before long.

As you will see, I am writing from Laxmi-Vilas Palace. I am going to have a new wing‡ added to the Palace, the designs for which Mr. Chisholm is preparing for me.

We are all in pretty good health here. The excitement of Xmas has been raising highest expectation for a little while past. All, whom you know here, are, I believe, doing well in health and otherwise. I hope this letter will find you, your sister, brother and parents in health and spirits. You must not judge from the handwriting of this letter that I feel or think less of you. I wanted very much to despatch this to-day and I had many other engagements. I have just seen Mr. Ozanne. He looks well and sweet. He told me of the reception of your grand and old father the Germany. Remember me to him.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* Lord Landdowne.

† See note on Letter No. 232.

‡ Since completed, where Her Highness the Maharanisaheb's Darbars and dinners are usually held.

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

2nd January 1896

MY DEAR JAISINGRAO (ANGRE),

The Mill has note been paying in the form of profit as much as it ought to. Taking this into consideration, I think the cost of establishment ought to be reduced to the safest minimum extent. I am told that there is room for reduction in the establishment. I know nothing positively, and so can only suggest a line of action. I suggest the line; because I feel that Government interests in the Mill have not been sufficiently

and keenly watched. Kindly show this note to Kavishwar* and let him report merely for information whether he has reduced expenditure. I shall see him a week hence and ask him as to what he has reduced.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *Lallubhai Dalpatram, the then Secretary in the Government mill.*

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

4th January 1896

MY DEAR SIR (MR. ELLIOT),

I was glad to get your letter of 1st January. I send you a letter, which I had sent to Col. Martelli about your nature of work, in case I was able to have you. I am looking forward to meet you.

Sampatrao's little boy* was poisoned by mistake of a servant. He was given Belladonna instead of the right drug. Fortunately, Dr. Batoonkram has made him all right. I had sent Fatehsinhrao to Naosari to open a shool, and they had a great Tamasha there. He made his first little speech in English.

Mr. Kelkar† retires and Khasherao takes his place for the present in Amreli. Shridhar Bajaji‡ is at present with me to inspect things when I am in district.s Dahanabhai is Huzur Kamdar. I write these things as they ought to interest you.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *Sitaram alias Abasaheb, born on 20th May 1894.*

† *Raghunath mahadev Kelkar, Subha, Amreli. He died on 8th March 1907.*

‡ *An old Naib Subha, died on 19th November 1904.*

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

4th January 1896

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (KOLHAPUR),

I could well understand your silence. The death of my sister* caused us all extreme pain. However, as Your Highness

says, we have all to submit to the inscrutable ways of God. Death is a debt, which every one has to pay. If not now, I shall be most happy to welcome you any other time, that may be convenient to you. I hope all your state- affairs are going on well; and your Maharani and yourself are enjoying excellent health.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *Khashibai Saheb.*

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
4th january 1896

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (MYSORE),

I was very glad to get your letter of the 2nd January. Your Highness is always in my memory; and it is a genuine pleasure to do anything for you. I shall give your messages to the Maharanee.

I hope your children are doing well. How is your own health? I am visiting some Taluka towns of my State for inspection. We are very sorry to leave Khashibaisaheb of Kolhapur. I expect the Raja of Akalkote to arrive here to-morrow. He is a very nice fellow.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
7th January 1896

MY DEAR JAISINGRAO (ANGRE),

As you know, I am trying to fill up some of the places, that are being occupied by officials as acting. The Council and others have done wrong in not sticking to the order of mine, which directed a surplus of 15 lakhs. Now-a-days one of the great evils, that a Native State has to complain of, is the evil of want of continuity in its policy, that may be laid down even after mature consideration. The evil if forced on by internal

defects and by external meddling. I think Pitamber Jetha should revert to his permanent appointment of Subha, and a gentleman should be appointed as Accountant General. Mr. Pitamber Jetha should be stationed in Baroda, as his advice will be required at times in account matters.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

243

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
8th January 1896

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

I am very sorry to learn that you have lost your father. Please try not to make yourself unhappy on the event, as that is the fate in store for us all. Let me express my great and sincere sympathies in the paternal loss you have suffered. Can I help you in any way to make you forget the loss? I can arrange for you to go to Dabka earlier than intended; the change might be good for you.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

244

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
10th January 1896

MY DEAR JAISINGRAO (ANGRE),

My Dear Shridhar Bajaji has very roughly mentioned to me the contents of a memo he has made against Madhavlal Changanlal, who was Vahiwatdar at Sinore. In December. The case can be disposed of by you as it is in your power; and kindly decide it without any undue delay and let it be reported to me by Shridhar Bajaji. If you differ from him in the matter of punishment, then only I wish the case to be submitted to me for orders. The case arises out of my inspection, of course, done by Shridhar Bajaji; and hence I want to see its rapid disposal.

Your sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

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BARODA,

12th January 1896

MY DAR JAISINGRAO (ANGRE),

I think it would be good, if the powers of the Munsiffs of Small Courts, are increased. The maximum at present is Rs. 50 should raise it to Rs. 75 or 100. The power of Rs. 100 should be given, if necessary, at once, but after much experience. There are some Munsiffs, whose powers might be increased unless they are unfit. The Varishtha Court will have, in its power, to grant these powers without reference to the Huzur.

Your sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

15th January 1896

MY DEAR MR. MANIBHAI,

I thank you for sending us the Tils. I accept them with great pleasure and express the feelings that generally accompany this social interchange of gifts. I hope you are enjoying sound and good health. I am always glad to hear from you.

Your sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

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BARODA,

15th January 1896

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

I am sorry you cannot come earlier. How sad is the news of Capt. Errington's death! Is this the same gentleman, who was the father of the little boy, whom we used to see at the Gymkhana?

From the information I have got in my possession, it seems that Hargovinddas'* time of pension is well nigh over and I

am thinking of making him retire. The service is, I feel, overstocked; and men, who have ever imagined to be hardly treated, cannot do justice to their work. I am not feeling quite well, but hope the change will do me good. I have asked Jaisingrao to give you a bit of message, which I hope, he will do. I hope Mrs. Martelli will be soon well.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *Military Secretary*

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BARODA,

21st February 1896

MY DEAR BROTHER (SAMPATRAO),

I was extremely glad to get your letters. It is a matter of no small rejoicing that your infant son* recovered from the effect of poison. Dr. Batookram took much trouble in connection with the child. The Maharaja of Bhavnagar† died very suddenly. He was ailing only for two days, they say. His son is a well educated young man. I am glad you are doing well and that the weather is mild. Krishnarao, the Raja of Dewas, is here. He is about 45 years of age and of a nice disposition. I only returned this morning from Petlad, where I was for two days. I have not been sleeping very well, but still feel fairly well.

Your affectionate Brother,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *Sitram Alieas Abasaheb*

† *Takhtashinhji, the grand father of the present (1923) Minor Maharaja Krishna Kumar Sinhji and fathehr of Bhavsinhji, who died in 1919.*

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MUSSOORIE,

March 1896.

MY DEAR REV. MR. WEEDEN,

I was extremely glad to get your letters and to learn from them that you are doing well and have got settled in life and adopted one of those learned professions, to which any learned

man may be proud to belong. Your high education, culture and many accomplishments will now stand you in good stead, as you will (and I heartily wish you to do) rise in your profession. Religion is of immense importance to the happiness and well-being of the great majority of our fellow beings. There is nothing more satisfactory and ennobling in this transient life of ours than to be able to promote to whatever extent, either material or mental, happiness of our kind. In these days, we attempt more for acquiring material prosperity, and so proportionately pay less regard and attention to our mental well-being; but, nevertheless, the mental quietude is, I think, of greater use and need than the other for our happiness. Nothing brings this peace of mind more at home to the suffering multitude than a good faith. I think, with all our worried activity and restlessness, we feel more intensely the need of good and learned Padris (priests); and I hope you will fulfil this to the utmost of your energy.

We, in India, have a hereditary class or more correctly caste, which is pitifully short of our present aspirations, needs and requirements. If our existence continues greatly as at present under pure Britania, we shall have soon to strive earnestly to improve our religious status. The great majority of our children go without any religious teaching and pick up mere forms, by simple observation. I wish to teach my children the good principles of religion; and, therefore, I shall be thankful, if you can send or mention to me the names of such books as may help my object. I shall not write any more on religion, as I understand nothing about it and may say something unwittingly, which may horrify you as a Padri. If I have said so much on the sacred subject, it has been encouraged

By your very friendly and frank intercourse and our hearty feeling for each other.

Let us return to our unavoidable mundane subjects and interests. You can send two hundred copies* serviceably bound to Baroda and the rest 50 you may keep, some for yourself, and give some to your friends. Please do not forget to give your friend, whom you introduced to me at Zermatt, and one to the other, you introduced in London. By the by, may ask whether your would-be barrister friend and the writer of

love- songs has got married yet ! this is the former of the two I have mentioned about kindly send a book to each of the following gentlemen:

Lord Reay, Lord Kimberley, Lord Northbrook, Sir H. Flower, Col .C.I. Fitzgerald, Major Gordon, Sir George Birdwood of India office, Sir J. Watson, P. S. Melvill, who was Resident in Baroda in my minority, Dr. J. E. Nevins of Liverpool, Mrs. Elliot.

If any of these gentleman happen to be in India, you send the books to me and I will dispatch them. You must keep a few copies carefully because I may trouble you in future to print more of them. You may get 50 copies well bound and distribute them to others and to those stated above. You can use your discretion and not stick to my limits rigidly. I am looking forward to the notes very much and cannot thank you too much for your great trouble and pains.

I have been reading a great deal of Rome in Baroda too, and have got a very fair idea of the general history, besides what I had learned from you. I have read Bryces Roman Empire and other works. My next ambition is to read and get a good idea of the History. Of Greece. I wanted very much as a boy to read the Histories of Rome and Greece, and it makes me happy that I have got at least a faint idea of one of them.

I have been here for nearly a fortnight and find that the climate is driver and more enlivening than that of Nilgiris as for roads, this place is several- fold than the steep rugged Zermatt. It is considered a great luxury to get a bit of land level enough to pitch a small picnic tent. There are plenty of house here perched on every available cliff. You must never think of riding but you can wood-cutter path. Her Highness will join me on about the 20th of this month. I shall very probably send my children to Lenah a place not far from Baroda. I have done this as I find the place for mild Hindus. The trip will take about a month. I expect to find these glaciers much larger than we have seen either in Zermatt or St. Mortiz. I shall tell you, in my future letter, the account of my trip.

If I did not answer your letters much earlier than this, it was not due to any cold feelings. It was not due to the sense that out of sight out of mind but I was so nervous in the trying heat of Baroda that I did not induce or force myself to do my

pleasant task of writing to you. It is a feeling, which very people can comprehend without experience have appointed Shrinivas Reghava Ayangar of Madras as my Minister but he was not yet joined his post. It is an awful business of selecting ministers. I am afraid I have written so much that you will rather feel worried in reading my letter and so conclude with my best wishes for your happiness and success. Please write often.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

P.S. Send three copies to my brother Sampatrao, who is in London. His address is c/o W Whitely, Baystbpecle queens Road, Shipping Department, London. Give one to Dadabhai Naoroji late Indian Member of parliament and he one to Mr. Bhavnagar, the present Asiatic Member of Parliament.

S.R.G.

* *Of notes on Gibbon - "From Caesar to Sultan."*

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MAKARPURA,
14th October, 1896.

MY DEAR DR. NEVINS,

I was very glad to your letter and to learn that every body of yours was well. please remember me to them. I was sorry to see that you were confined to your room with measles. I hope by this time you are up and well. You can make use of my letters. I must finish this with my every kind regards to you, as my Sanskrit teacher* will be here in a second. After that, I have to go to several temples, as to-morrow is the Dussera procession.

Your sincere friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Mr. Shankar Moro Ranade.*

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MAKARPURA,
14th october, 1896.

MY DEAR SIR (MR. ELLIOT)

I am sorry that I have not been able to fulfill my promise earlier than this. It was postponed not for want of desire to

write, but due to lack of energy. You are constantly in my mind I wonder when Jed* will join his military duties first. He must bee looking forward to join it with great eagerness. I was, by a European gentleman here, told that Ella† was going to take to singing instead of the beautiful and and melodious instrument violin, to master which she has taken so much pain and trouble.

We have got a French painter here called M. Duaty, who has been in this country nearly for a year. He says he was been deputed to paint Indian views by the National Gallery of Paris and the French Government. He has painted, amongst other scenes, a picture of the Raja of Jetports procession. It was not quite finished, so one could not form an opinion of it with certainty. I felt that the picture looked something and they looked so hard. It is believe, very difficult o draw an effective picture with the glaring un, the bare dry earth of India and the poor general aspect of the country. I found this, at least, in M.D. s picture. I am going to see his pictures of Baroda to-morrow at the pavilion of the public Park. He is living with captain Cox.

We are all going on fairly, smoothly and quietly in Baroda and have nothing to complain of except the weather. The new Minister‡ has now been for two or three months. And though it is early yet, it is not be safe in forming a sanguine judgment, since every thing looks especially bright when it is new, yet so far all has been going very satisfactorily and the appointment seems likely to turn out well. the popular imagination is to be entirely inactive, does not at present find in him as abundant material for gossip as might have been expected.

The Viceroy is coming here at the end of November; and Baroda is to burst out into transient glory of fetes and Tamashas, so far as a lakh and a quarter will allow. Preparation and anticipation will, therefore, be soon in full swing.

For myself, you will hardly guess what I am engaged upon just now. Can you imagine me in the light of a rectifier§ of religious abuses? I fear however, my motive is not religious abuses? I fear however, my motive is not religious, but much more social. I have for some time been gathering information

about the religious ceremonies performed in the palace and I find that of the two ceremonial types the Vedic and the puranic the one being of a higher and being of a higher and the purer sanction according to our scale of authorities, the other a corruption of mere priestly times, our ceremonies conform to the letter This however, is the result of an imposture. For I find from paper belonging to times, of the old maharajas that they fully believed the forms to be Vedic Even now people, who do not know Sanskrit, have very little protection against dupery in ignorance superstition and military affairs, was considerably cashier. The priests¶ versed in sordid and selfish motives will stoop to any dodge which will bring them money, and relying on the general ignorance, do not scruple to back up their practices by the merest lies. When questioned, they pretend that every thing is done and repeated according to Vedas; but when questioned more closely, they fall back on the less obvious lie that the ceremonies are a mixture of the two. Personally of course I have very few religious preferences, and really could not say whether I think the Vedas authoritative or the Bible or the Koran or the Avestha. But socially the people attach a high importance to these ceremonies. It is a great pity that they are so sunk in ritual as never to understand the principles of their religion. In their apathy, they fall in blindly with the interested inventions of the priests. It is with this view I want to make the change. I think it better, since importance is attached to forms, to have the right one, which clearly conforms with religious principles than acquiesce in an imposture, which only feeds self interest and fattens craft.

As to more solid matters, I have been deep in the perusal of Roman History, After which I mean to go on to the History of Greece. I can imagine no more interesting or necessary study. I consider that every man of any education should have the knowledge of it his disposal, and with that object I am getting works on the subject translated£ into the vernacular. This is one of my hobbies, a sadly un-brahmanical one, I fear. The more one learns, the more to spread knowledge among the poor and ill favored million, is, an, my view the right disposition, though I fear it would be looked on with scorn by the spirit, which considers learning as desecrated by

extension. All this in really prostrating weather. We have had no rain for, I do not know, how long. There is fear of famine in many places, scarcity everywhere and in Baroda prices are going up. Kindly give my kind regards to Mrs. Elliot and others.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* Mr. Elliot's son.

† Mr. Elliot's daughter.

‡ Mr. Ayangar.

§ This letter alludes to the introduction of the Vedokta in Baroda.

¶ Rajaramabova, the Devghar Kamdar and the Shastries are here alluded to.

£ Some of the Vols. of the Story of Nations Series are here meant.

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MAKARPURA,
5th November 1896.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

I received your note yesterday and gave it to the Minister too. I am sorry you should have been led to complain. I told the minister to settle the necessary points and to issue orders to prevent any mistakes in future. I am always glad to welcome you and to see you enjoying Tamashas. I may just remark, without pushing it as an excuse for that days mishap that such occasions are not to be interpreted as durbars I have notwithstanding this told the Minister to do the right. I am inclined to think that it was nothing but a mistake.*

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* This is a reply to the complaint made by the Resident about the want of attention showed to him and the other European guests, who were invited to the Military Sports at the Warasha ground, on 4th November 1896. Immediately after the sports were over, His Highness left the ground; and much difficulty was experienced by the Resident and the European ladies and gentlemen in getting their carriages to return home.

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MAKARPURA,
9th November 1896.

MY DEAR FRIEND (GENERAL SIR J. WATSON)

I have received more than one letter from you about the horses. Your letter of 22nd October is now in my hand and I

drop these few lines in answer to it, so as not keep you waiting, I am handing the letter to the Khangi Karbhari with instructions to make the money reach you as possible I asked you as my friend to buy the horses and I do not wish you to be treated in any other capacity but that. It is yet very hot here and prices of corn are very high. I am looking forward to see the horses. I have to thank you for all your kindness. Please give my kindest regards to all yours and also accept yourself.

Yours Sincerely.
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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MAKARPURA,
17th November 1896.

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (SHRINIVAS AYANGAR),

I shall be glad if you will kindly ask Jaisingrao Anger to explain his conduct as Sar-Subha in allowing the negligent and grossly careless manner of doing work in the advancing of money to encourage industrial undertakings. The system of doing business and, particularly, in ascertaining sureties etc. has caused serious pecuniary loss to the state, besides producing worse results than the mere destruction of the benevolent policy a policy, which was started for the good of the people only.* The explanation must be complete and embrace all the necessary issues. I shall pass orders on this explanation without making any future queries .You will see that I get this explanation in a week.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* Loans amounting altogether to Rs. three lakhs were given by way of encouragement to local industries, such as the manufacture of soap, ice, bricks, oils, scents, embroidery etc. Most of the recipient failed to give proper securities and soon turned out bankrupt, this causing a loss to Government of nearly all the money advanced. The following are some of the names of persons, who received the loans:-

1. Ameedudding Jeevabhai; 2. Najarani Taibali; 3. Sarafali Alibhai; 4. Faijmahomad Ameeruddin; 5. Yadavrao Tarage; 6. Meeyakhan Abdulali.

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MAKARPURA,

17th November 1896.

MY DEAR MR. FRENCH,

I spoke to Mr. Ranade* and he gave me to understand that he was willing to do the teaching work You better now have him and to do all the work wanted of him. You can have him entirely on the staff of the school You must tell freely what is expected of him as a teacher. If he does not give satisfaction you must not hesitate to have another person. The progress of the children must, in no way, suffer for individual for himself on account of his work in the Khangi.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Mr. Shanka Moro Ranade.*

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MAKARPURA,

18th November 1896.

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB, (AYANGAR)

I have been reading Mr. Kershaspji's* progress report and should like, if you and he can arrange to push on the work. Without pressing for undue hurry, I should be happy to see the work completed as soon as possible. I do not mean by this to indicate very unsatisfactory remarks on the present staff. Famous ado about nothing has greatly retarded the work of this department in particular. I should like to know what way you have settled to push on the work. There are many reforms to be undertaken; and should handle them notwithstanding the severe discouraging treatment I have experienced on my part to effect reforms.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Survey and Settlement Commissioner at this time.*

MAKARPURA,

19th November, 1896.

MY DEAR SIR (MR. ELLIOT),

I need hardly express how pleased I was to get your kind letter. I wanted to answer it earlier and to give you plenty of information. I am collecting it and will have it in a few days; but I feel ashamed for the neglect of duty in not even partly answering your note earlier.

I have been reading a progress report of Settlement Department submitted by Mr. Kershaspji. Besides Petlad, he has 6,034 land-barkhali cases throughout the whole Raj, and to finish this hob, he will require, according to his report, one year. Petlad has about 15,000 cases; and their discussion will depend upon how we will decide about the Narwa Tenure. He is submitting your report on Petlad with is noted on it. I would like to see the Taluka settled after due consideration and weighing of all interests. The chief point difficult to settle will be about the tenants of the Narwadars. I know people or tenants of certain villages are most anxious to get their Narwa broken up. I can understand them. They must find it very hard to submit always to the exactness of the rapacious Narwadar, the middle man between the State and the really toiling cultivator. Great many of the Narwadars would be more than indignant if they were to know that their Narwa would be broken up. They attach great honors to the fact of being Narwadars.

In Native States, even strength in good directions is disapproved by the people of the State and other persons, who place themselves effectually between the Raja and his subjects. Discontented and factious people can, at times and when required, do a great deal to worry the Native Authority. This feeling of uncertainty more hampers the solid growth of good and honest Government. The feeling of a few Native Officers is very great and that they have to please more than one master, is constantly present to their calculating mind. Cash-cases are really over.

There is one point I have learnt from reports and information from the department, viz. how to utilize Darkhdars and some Sardars, who receive large amounts.* We spend large amounts annually for them and get no return from it whatever. The Vatan cases have not been handled and that, too, Mr. Kershaspji is now going to do. The agitation of the Vatandars, which was carried on during the last few months of your departure from Baroda, from the information that he gave me, amounts to nothing at all. The amount, upto which Vatan can be bought according to the rules during your time, is very high and will include half the number of the total Vatans. Of course, some Vatandars would like to get emoluments and work. I am going to hasten the execution of all these measures just now. The minister, who is a careful, discreet and shrewd officer as, has been drawing up a draft speech for my approval to be made at the coming festivities.† I shall be glad to get the Tamashas off, on or about the 1st of December next. I shall be starting for Patan and will stay there for nearly ten days. I had an idea of making an extended tour in that direction; but I have been persuaded to give it up on account of the high prices. The season and the crops have not been bad in Baroda. But the famine in other parts of India has made living dearer. It is one of these leveling effects of Railways and other changes going on in mild and easily satisfied India. We have sent in a letter about letting us undertaken Godhra and Baroda Railway instead of Imperial Government doing it. The only advantage we shall get by this, is that we shall find a lucrative field for investment. With few industries and poverty of the people, and competition with foreign capital, investment in India is becoming very difficult and wretchedly paying. I can write much now that I have begun it; but it is now 4-30 p.m. and it is getting dark; and people are waiting being Thursday‡ to see me. Besides, I have to go to some temples. I shall write to you again by the next mail.

Sampatrao has, after all the vicissitudes, troubles and worries, attained the summit of ambition in passing the bar-at-law examination. I hope he will have a long life to enjoy the fruit and dignity of his profession.

With my kindest regards to yourself, Mrs. Elliot, Ellavine and Jed,

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* A most noteworthy point of policy which deserves to be remembered in Baroda.

† The visit of the Viceroy Lord Elgin, that took place on 27th November.

‡ Visitor's day.

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MAKARPURA,
23rd November 1896.

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB(AYANGAR),

I would be glad to get a complete list of the reform or changes needed in each department, corresponding to the list shown by you of the reforms or changes effected. Please let this be made as complete and convenient as possible, without wasting too much time in its preparation.*

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* This shows how His Highness has been watchful as a Ruler.

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MAKARPURA,
24th November 1896.

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AYANGAR),

I think, in future, the custom of ladies* visiting each other should be knocked on the head. The proposed change is much more in consonance with our ideas. Once these things commence, we find it very difficult where to stop. This is only a suggestion for the future.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* That is, Her Highness and other palace ladies paying ceremonial calls upon the wives of Governors and viceroys, when they happen to be together at any station as during Lord Elgin's forthcoming visit. The practice since this time has been entirely stopped in Baroda, on the ground of purdah. The point has much excited the British Government about the attitude of Her Highness the Maharani of Baroda.

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MAKARPURA,

27th November 1896.

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AYANGAR),

I have been thinking over our last night's conversation. I should like to have some copies of the noted of information prepared by you for yourself and me. These copies I should like to have, after expunging the reference to Lord Dufferin's speech. I don't think it to be a good taste to refer to it. No copies of this note should go beyond ourselves; and if they are perused by anybody but ourselves, that fact must not be treated as precedence, in future, to furnish information, on account of our past and future deeds and activities. In India. Where the bureaucracy is extremely strong, there is always the fear of even a casual event being treated as a precedence and guidance for the future. The argument of *Dakhla* is, at times used by some people with irresistible force; and the weaker, with the desire to live in peace, has to submit to the argument, though he known at times that the argument is farfetched and twisted.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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BARODA,

27th November 1896.

MY DEAR LORD ELGIN,

This is a note compiled by my new Minister for his information, as he is quite new to the affairs of Baroda, As you have just come to Baroda he first time, some of the information contained in the note is likely to interest you. I, therefore, privately send it for your perusal. I hope you will have a good night's rest after your long journey.

Yours sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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BARODA,

29th November 1896.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

Your note just to hand. Kindly thank the Viceroy for his sympathies with the unfortunate sufferers. We will convey his message to the sufferers in hospital. I think the Viceroy needs not trouble himself about aiding them pecuniary. I shall give them some monetary gift. I was extremely sorry myself to learn of the accident this morning.*

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *There was a party arranged at the public park in honour of the Viceroy's visit, in the evening of November 28th to be concluded by fireworks. It being the people's fete, a vast concourse of people had assembled at the public park and the roads outside were fully packed with crowds. A little before 8, when the fireworks were over and the guests began to depart in the midst of the din and a few showers of accidental rain, the narrow bridge inside the front gate, was so packed with crowds of carriages and passers-by that several fell over the parapet on both sides of the Nullah and were crushed to death. The accident was due, it is said, imperfect police arrangements. Mr. Taliarkhan was the police commissioner. (G.S.S.)*

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BARODA,

1st December 1896.

MY DEAR MAHARAJA,*

I beg you to excuse me for not answering your very kind letter of September earlier. Of late, we were much occupied with the preparations of the Viceroy's visit, which successfully terminated yesterday.

Nothing would give me greater pleasure than to ripen our acquaintance into cordial friendship. I should so much like you to pay me a visit to Baroda. I was not very well for some days after leaving Mussoorie. The heat of the plains did me some harm. Now we are having a fairly good cold weather, though I am afraid it will not be as cold as usual. At least, it has been so up to this time. Our cold season lasts till the end of February; kindly write me so. I am afraid there has been some mistake about your first letter to me. My secretary is

ill, and so I shall let you know more about it, if necessary, later on. Again asking to be excused for not answering your letter earlier.

Your Highness' sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *His Highness the Maharaja Kiratisinh Bahadur of Tehri, He helped the Maharaja Gaekwar in his trip to Gangotri.*

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BARODA,
1st December 1896.

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (GWALIOR),

As you probably remember I had the pleasure of making your acquaintance during the life-time of your father; I should be very glad to renew again that acquaintance, and, therefore, I invite you to Baroda during this cold weather. If you can manage to pay me a visit, I should like to know the date. The Viceroy left this place yesterday. I am glad to say the visit went off very well, except an unfortunate accident, which caused the loss of lives of some men. The cold weather here does not look to me very bracing. I hope you are enjoying excellent health and having a good time. I am going into my districts for about ten days from the 16th December to 26th; and so kindly fix your date, so as to enable me to carry out my plans, which are too advanced to change.

Yours sincere Friend
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

P. S. I. am thinking of requesting the Kolhapur Maharaja to pay me a visit; but I shall do that after I hear from you. S. R. G.

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MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

I was very glad to get the photos of Their Excellences. I think they are very good likenesses. Kindly arrange to send to Lord Elgin the carved wooden curtain as a memento of his visit to Baroda. This will reach you soon.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

MAKARPURA,

2nd December 1896.

MY DEAR SIR, (MR. ELLIOT),

I feel inclined to pen you a letter and send it by this mail. I give way to inclination with pleasure. You will read much about Baroda this week. It was literally *en fete* on account of the Vice regal visit. The Viceroy left Baroda yesterday for Surat to turn the first sod of the Tapti Valley Railway. From thence, he goes to Indore via. Baroda during the night. He will be staying in Surat, only a few hours. The arrangements in connection with the visit went off very well, except a sad accident on the big bridge of the Park. The crowd of people here, who wanted to go to two different directions, got so thick that nearly 30 people lost their lives and some were injured. There has never been such an accident before. The crowd on this occasion was unprecedentedly great. The Viceroy in public is extremely recent and has mastered well all or almost all the imperial gait of walk and dignity of bearing, which are supposed by some to suitable manners for the east. In private, he is frank and strikes one as much more pleasant. I believe he must have got a good heart and a well-meaning one. Lady Elgin is very delicate, I should think, very kind, Quite and sympathetic. His daughter is pleasing young lady without any side. He had two of his young some with him, who enjoyed the scenes heartily.

Mr. Cunningham was with them too; but, except on Durbar occasions, we did not meet. I hear the Wadiwala Gaekwars met, and Dosumiya and one or two other people wanted to make his acquaintance. This is only I the way of a gossip. Cunningham struck me as looking older than I took him to be last year. I send you two printed notes, one by Capt. Cox and the other prepared for the minister, who is, as you know, new and wanted to know the progress of affairs. He advised me to let Lord Elgin see the note. I sent it to His Lordship privately, as I thought he may be interested in knowing things, as he had just arrived in Baroda. Let us hope that this furnishing casually of noted will not, in future, be treated as a matter of right by the smaller officials. I was glad that the

visit ended successfully yesterday, as, for the last few days, all public business was at a stand-still. Everybody was employed in doing some work in connection with the visit.

I think too much time and too many officers in the way of committees and individually were deputed in the way; this manner of doing work naturally interfered with their legitimate duties. In future, I have suggested a line of action, which, if properly conceived and sympathetically worked, will bring about a good management of Tamashas as was the case on the present occasion and also (I think) on previous similar ones, but without much ado and waste of energy of hands. The Residency took, hold off the tents long before. This stopped the tours of some officers. The Viceroy did not visit Nazarbag; but I got some of the best ornaments for him to see at Laxmivilas. The Darbar at the Laxmi-Vilas Palace and in the hall of the Chimnabai Gaekwar Nyaya-Mandir was a very imposing and splendid sight. Laxmivilas with the electric light looked splendid, and the mosaic on the walls looked pretty and elegant, without being unduly ostentatious. Mr. Lynn* worked extremely hard at the installation and has shown very good taste in converting the old candle chandeliers into electric ones. It is very pitiable that the rest of the rooms of Laxmivilas Palace are not as well designed and shaped as the hall. What a pity the Viceroy does not stop a little longer, after all the Tamashas and ceremonies are over! The effect of the Tamashas on me has been to upset my stomach; otherwise, notwithstanding my love for a quiet life, I have borne my share creditably. Fatehsinhrao is growing into a nice lad. He is very fond of cricket and earns his lessons well. He has got splendid memory. He likes the same kind of subjects as I did. His other brothers are learning well. They are all devoted to their studies.

Her Highness is fairly well and studies every day with the lady,† who has only lately arrived from England. With my kind regards to you all

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *The chief engineer.*

† *Miss Vivaseur.*

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BARODA,

5th December 1896.

MY DEAR MRS. MARTELLI,

I had an idea of going to the Residency and thank you in person for all your successful arrangements about the visit of Lord Elgin. As the visit for some reason or other is being postponed, I convey my thanks to you and to other gentlemen and ladies, who shared your troubles and undertakings. Kindly convey the same thought to Col. Martelli too.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

P. S. I shall like to know how your daughter is. What a pity she was ill during the Tamashas:

S.R.G.

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BARODA,

6th December 1896.

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AYANGAR),

I hear the Pattan Water-Works Scheme is already sent on to you for getting my sanction. Under any circumstances, you will kindly hasten the completion of the scheme. It is a question whether, before we sanction the execution of the work, it ought not to be passed as sound and feasible by an expert water-works engineer.

I hear that the scheme of supplying water to Sankheda is ready and the pumping machinery etc. is put up, and that the only want is to get an establishment to work it. Kindly sanction it to-morrow, if you can. If it requires my order. You can sanction it on my behalf. I have wished, from the beginning, not only to supply Sankheda with fresh water, but also to extend the same boon to Bahadarpur. Kindly ask the Chief Engineer to submit this extended scheme with proper calculations and the amount of sanction required. As far as possible, the same establishment should do the whole work, instead of having two establishments, into different please.

I should like a similar, if not a better scheme, submitted to me for supplying water to Sinore. These schemes must be

self-supporting, and, if possible, should give a rational dividend on the capital invested in them, besides their cost of maintenance. I wish to go and pay a flying visit to Sankheda and see the water-supplying machine. I hope to be enabled to do this before I go to Pattan.

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

P.S. I should cause the P. W. Department to have a comprehensive table of calculations ready for easy reference and guidance for all such schemes that, may arise in the time to come. S. R. G.

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BARODA,
8th December 1896.

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AYANGAR),

I have given orders to Mr. Pestonji to buy certain sets of dinner plates and other table requirements from P. Orr and sons of Madras. I wish you to see that the order given to them is clear, and with proper description and specification, the object of the clear order being to avoid any chance of misunderstanding, in the future, on both sides. I should let Mr. Lynn see one of the persons to know the order, so that his knowledge of the different kinds of plates may be of use to us, when we get back the articles.

You had better give the order under signature and also receive the articles when made. You can go into the details of the order and see that everything is properly valued etc.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

270

BARODA,
8th December 1896.

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (OF KOLHAPUR),

I was very glad to get your letter of 4th December, 1896. I was delighted to learn that you enjoyed your trip in Southern India and Ceylon. I have been myself to the latter place and can, therefore, re-echo your admiration for the beautiful

Island. I have not yet thought of visiting Europe next year. It is such a worry and trouble arranging about it.

Except for the sad accident, the viceroy's visit, which cost us nearly Rs. 1,50,000, went off very well.

Thanks, I am doing fairly well. I shall be soon starting for a short tour in my Raj. I hope you are well and also your children. Let us hope that we shall soon have an opportunity of meeting again. The cold here is fairly good.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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BARODA,
12th December 1896.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

I have been out duck-shooting and have just received your note. The service is over-crowed with men of education; and many are receiving stipends without real work. Under these circumstances, you can well imagine the difficulty of providing for Mr. Decruz. However, I will show *votre* letter a le minister. I do not know whether you know that Mr. Decruz has got his son transferred, for the present, from the police into the army here by constant dining and requests. I, then imagine rather, the reverse of his present wish.

Thanks, we are well. We have not met, of late; and I propose that you and the Camp ladies and gentlemen come and spend some time with me on Monday at Laxmi-Vilas. I am arranging a tennis-party that day.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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PATTAN,
18th December 1896.

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AYANGAR),

I should like that you should omit the limit of age, at which Prince Fateshinhrao should be able to join an English or Indian College, but simply say that, consistently with his health; his

studies should be pushed on vigorously. The aim of his studies should be to join an Indian College or be legally able to enter one. I believe he cannot do this, unless he passes the Indian Matriculation. Maratha boys, as a rule, soon get fond of occupations, which are detrimental to real studies; and, therefore, special care should be taken that no time of his is frittered away. I take immense interest in his studies; and hence this note. We are all well.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

273

CAMP PATTAN,
23rd December 1896.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI.

I was glad to receive your note. I should be glad, if the Shikar at Dabka is postponed to some convenient day in future when I may be able to take you all. I shall return to Baroda 14th days later than I had first intended. The climate here is good; and not much Shikar to be had. I wish you and all yours many returns of a happy Christmas. Maharaja Scindia will be in Baroda in the first part of February 1897.

Yours sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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CAMP PATTAN,
24th December 1896.

MY DEAR DEWANSHEB (AYANGAR),

I think you must have got a case in cases of officers found faulty by Mr. Dhamanskar in connection with the industrial encouragement loans. Please expedite the disposal and submission of these cases. It will have a good result, if they are quickly disposed of. I, certainly, do not wish to do injustice to anybody; but, at the same time, it would be encouraging carelessness and probably worse vices and offences if offenders are not adequately punished. I want to see the decisions of Dhamanskar and inform myself as to individual

cases and from them the general manner, in which things have been managed.

In Native States and particularly States situated like Baroda, people claim justice and leniency as a matter of right to themselves; but they are unwilling to treat others or the State itself in the same manner. However, this is only a side remark and particularly applicable to selfish and half-educated men in the western modes of thought and principles of business.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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CAMP VADNAGAR,
27th December 1896.

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AYANGAR),

I came here yesterday afternoon, from Kheralu, which is only about 20 minutes ride by rail from here. This is a Peta Mahal of it and has only 29 village under it. Except the size of the town of Vadnagar, Kheralu and this ought to form one Taluka. The sizes. Of the Talukas here differ very much as far as the number of villages under them is concerned. Their proximity to each other is very striking. It is a question whether the Talukas ought not to be reformed. According to my wont, I have been seeing some of the people of this historical and picturesquely situated little town. They desire water may be supplied from the tank by pipes. You know that I have been thinking, for some considerable time past, of supplying some of our Taluka towns with fresh water either by gravitation or by means of digging wells etc. constructed, so as to enable the people to have house connections, if they choose. There is a tank here, which contains proportionately the same amount of water for this town as Ajwa does for Baroda. The tank of Vadnagar ordinarily contains two year's supply. The channel, which supplies water to this lake, has been ordered to be repaired, so that we can command a considerable quantity of water, with certainty. I am told that this was one of the points suggested, to be undertaken by me during my last tour in this district, which was in 1882. The

Suba tells me that this has been budgeted during this year as a relief-work. If these facts be correct, you can see how wearing and tiring is the system of red-tapism! I am afraid that this evil is growing in smaller states, with just as much bounds and leaps as in very large and complicated States. I think the system initiated in Native States is a mistaken one and might be altered to better advantage in certain few reworks. However. The fault may be more of individuals than that of the system. To come to the point, I am anxious to supply the people with water by machinery on the same lines as at Pattan. The water here should be enough for domestic and drinking purposes. The P. W. Department is apt to err in stinting the number of gallons per head and then, afterwards by experience, be willing to rectify its mistakes. Let us, from the beginning, start on very liberal calculations, so that the mistake of less or insufficient quantity may be avoided. We should have digging wells here only so constructed that people may be able to have house connections. A filtering and settling tank will be, I think, required, as the natural process of filtration of Pattan is not available here. To supply Vadnagar with water has been a long desire of mine; and I should feel happy, if you can persuade the P. W. Department to make up their calculations and estimated and make my desire an accomplished fact before many months are over. The problem for the P. W. Department is most simple. Can the necessary engines and pipes be had in Bombay? The P. W. Department should make their calculations on perfectly business principles, so that the initial cost, the cost of maintenance, repairs and renovation of machinery and pipes etc. should come from the coffers of the people in due time rather than make the State pay for it. I think if you can make the P. W. Department prepare a comprehensive table, that is usually required for such undertakings, you will be helping and facilitating the consideration and early commencement of such. Useful and beneficial measures. Last but not of the least importance, is what should be the tax per head so as to make the thing self-supporting. The system of taxation in Vadnagar will be the same as in Ahmedabad. The engineers and other establishment of the water supply should always be considered as the servants of the municipality rather than State servants, notwithstanding the fact that the

municipalities are entirely provided with funds by the State. As soon as the P. W. Department give the cost of water per head, the people will be shown the calculations of the cost, before the thing is begun.

As you know, I wish also to know whether Sidhpur can be supplied by water-works. I extend this wish to Vadnagar, Mehsana and Chanasma. The last, the Executive Engineer tells me, can be supplied very easily at the cost of about 20,000. The scarcity of fresh water in this part of our Raj and the well-to-do population of the towns, make the question of water supply more interesting and, to a good extent, exacting.

I hope to be back in Baroda in the first week of the next month. Mr. Dhamnaskar, with many of the powers of the SarSuba, would be, if willing, able to do a great deal of good and accomplish certain measures within a measurable time. Yusufali will end a short order of Mr. Dhamanskar's appointment here as suba.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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SIDHPUR,

1st January 1897

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AYANGAR),

I have been here only a few hours. I was extremely sorry to learn the sad death of the young Raja of Akalkote.* I have been seeing, at almost every Taluka, towns, and the Government buildings. I must say that systematic care has been wanting in their location. There is a decided lack of a guiding hand in fixing their locations. The buildings do not look to be smart and well kept; and their strength, considering their cost, looks, to an ordinary observer, as unsatisfactory. Conveniences do not form in some of them a main feature, I quote, as a proof, the Sidhpur Dharamshala. All these points carefully attended to can produce more satisfactory and lasting result for the money we spend.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *Raja Shahaji III, husband of Shri Balubaisaheb.*

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SIDHPUR,

2nd January 1897

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (OF GWALIOR),

I have already informed you that the date fixed by you will suit us admirably. In order to avoid any mistake, I may state that we expect your wife and mother to accompany you to Baroda. I am starting tomorrow for Baroda after a short and hurried travel in this province. You will kindly let me know the necessary details about your visit, so that we can make every arrangement. I hope this letter will find your all in excellent health.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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BARODA,

5th January 1897.

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AYANGAR),

I am ready any day to discuss with you the question of your office with the view of facilitating rapid disposal of work, I should like very much to have a well classified clear list of the work, that comes to you from different departments and sources, I would only draw your legitimate attention, in making your suggestions, to the large number of men that are in our service. I think, as you yourself stated, the time is come, when certain well considered steps should be taken to further quicken the flow of work, instead of letting papers pile up.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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BARODA,

6th January 1897.

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AYANGAR),

Dhamnaskar, as you know, goes to kadi as Suba; and, in order to push on certain works and measures, I wish to give

him for the present Sar-Suba's powers with certain few and necessary reservations. By this, the Sar-Suba's office, in no way, ceases to look after him as a higher authority, for taking appeals, submitting tippans etc, These extended powers are given as a temporary measure. I must clearly state that this step is, in no way, taken at Dhamanskars suggestion. I remark this to avoid any heart-burning.

Dhamnaskar will, no doubt, use his powers with tact, judgment, discretion and firmness. What particular powers should be reserved, should be kindly submitted for my approval by Jaisingrao. Only he should lose no time in doing so.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

P.S. Jaisingrao has seen this note.

S. R. G

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MAKARPURA,
15 th January 1897.

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AYANGAR),

I wish that you will please let me have the reorganization scheme of your office at least two days before we actually discuss the question. I want to be prepared for the discussing. The scheme must be prepared in such a way that it will show the present strength, cost, distribution and the defects as well as the proposed strength, cost and distribution, you will please show what difference it will make in the relations of the Heads of Departments with His Highness and the Minister, It will be quite advantageous, if the work of the Minister's office is also shown in a classified and convenient form. This must include the work that comes from the different departments of the State.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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MAKARPURA,

16th January 1897.

MY DEAR GANPATRAO (GAEKWAD),

I am told you have not yet found it convenient to explain your notes of our travels in Europe.* You must get these finished without any further loss of time. If necessary, you can give powers to Hargovinddas of your work (as Senapati). So as to relieve you to finish the notes.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *He was with his Highness in Europe in 1893 and these notes were consequently long overdue.*

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MAKARPURA,

16th January 1897.

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AYANGAR),

The Chief Medical Officer* has complained to me several times about certain questions pertaining to his department. His certain subordinates complain also of things getting worse in the department. I purposely do not refer to the particular points of complaints. I think the matter requires sifting and firm handling in the interest of all concerned. I write this in order that you should take such necessary steps as will bring about a satisfactory solution of the points of complaints.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Dr. Shamsuddin.*

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BARODA,

5th January 1897.

MY DEAR LORD REAY,

I was about to write to you on receiving the kind messages in Lady Reay's letter to Her Highness. In the meanwhile,

two of your letters reached me. I take this opportunity of heartily wishing you and Her Ladyship a very happy new year. I am glad to say that by dint of taking plenty of exercise, I have, on the whole, kept very good health since my return from England.

Her Highness and myself went to Mussoorie for two or three months last hot weather, and thence to Gangotri. I flatter myself I am the first Raja, who has been to the actual source of the Ganges, a climb, which reminded me of some of my Swiss expeditions.

I have been recently travelling in the northern part of the Baroda state, through a country I have not visited, since I was quite a young man. I find I greatly enjoy a shoot of two or three hours in the morning; and I know of nothing better to keep the liver in order. I was much pleased to have the honour of welcoming the Viceroy to Baroda. There was great excitement over the event; and it is said some forty thousand came in by train to the people's fete, at any rate, the crowds were enormous; but the sad catastrophe, that occurred in the Public Park, terribly marred the enjoyment of the visit. A court of inquiry is sitting to find out, if possible, where blame is to be attached. The effect of the famine on Baroda will be indirect, as there is very little failure of crops; but owing to the large exports of grain, we have to set off against the blessings of a railway system. We are thinking of opening relief-works, if it should prove necessary; and shall probably have to raise the stipends a little for the low-paid servants. I do not think it will be necessary to make remissions. In fact, but for the railway, we should probably have suffered hardly at all from the famine.

I am afraid the results of the Baroda Agricultural Class have not come upto expectations. The attendance is very small, not more than 2 or 3. Agricultural students only get a diploma at the University and are not as much thought of as those, who have a degree. As education is looked upon chiefly as a means of earning a living, students are not much attracted to the agricultural class. The one consideration, which used to draw a few students, was the prospect held out of their being engaged on certain salary in the State service, but the service is now over-crowded, nor are these students found to

be equally competent with those, who receive a good general education. It is, therefore, useless to hold out promises, which cannot be carried out. Without doing harm to the service and causing heart-burning and injustice. I am anxious to continue the system of giving agricultural education; but it may have to be remodeled. Even the agricultural classes at Poona and elsewhere are doing probably worse than ours.

My eldest son's education is going on satisfactorily. He passed his annual examination with great credit a little while back and now he is beginning to learn the main part of his studies in English, with a view to sending him to an Indian University or more probably to Oxford in a few years. He and his brother are very fond of cricket, in which his tutor encourages them; and I have let him have one of the Parsee eleven to coach him in the game. He is turning out good rider and promises well both mentally and physically, though we had an alarm some time back as to his heart being a trifle enlarged,

The Resident Col. Martelli, who has succeeded Col. Biddulph, is a very pleasant gentleman and, evidently, anxious to work matters smoothly. He has not the independence of character to fight out for the views of Baroda, against the surrounding political officers and others. This is one of the results of the Residency being reduced to a lower grade. However, his pacific attitude has helped to allay the agitation, that once threatened run so high. When Col. Biddulph left, all the elements of weakness, ripe in a Native State at the present day, were in a state of pronounced and vigorous action. Unhappily, of such elements there is a trifling layer, first the old weakness of our people. There is the division into innumerable castes, further multiplied by division according to race, Language, sects, and territories, not to mention those, that are created by individual and official likes and dislikes. There is the lack of a broad public spirit and a disinterested and abiding love of genuine progress. There is the disposition to uncharitable censoriousness, which, in a small society not of a liberal mind, naturally grows from too close an intimacy with one another's failings. There is the want of awe, generated by the highest authorities, being too close and accessible to wrap themselves in the impressiveness of

mystery and distance. There is a great desire to criticize, on the part of the people like pleaders, journalists, raw young men, who consider themselves educated by the degrees they may have got, but not the tact, knowledge and temperance to criticize justly and usefully. There is the existence of numerous immunities and privileges attached to particular castes and classes, which a broader scheme of Government, more or less modeled on the British must necessarily deal with, in order to equalize burdens. Then there is the power of the nobles and influencial officials, whose capacity of creating troubles and the new conditions has, to say the least, not diminished. There are weaknesses attaching to our society, which the growth of western ideas ought to have corrected, but has not. They have, on the contrary, become exaggerated, certain old elements of old order have been impaired without being replaced, and fresh weaknesses have superimposed themselves on the old. For instance, the new ideas have loosened the old reverence for authority and have emphasized the influence of the Mohamedan system, which tended to measure the respect of the governing power by the extent of the physical force. Now a days, therefore, our people have respect only for such orders as overawe them by a combination of great intellect and physical superiority. Of the latte.. the administration of Native States has none, and of the former, what small amount it has, it cannot always utilize. The fact is, while the old ideas, which were systematically and profoundly felt, are fading, and the new ideas have established themselves without being thought out and, as is always the case, with imperfectly assimilated notions, which have been powerful to destroy, but not unite and reconstruct, Thus, the old weaknesses remain, while the old strength is perfectly lost.

On the top of this come the imperfections of the political system. This seems to me by its character to be created more by a blind succession of historical events than by an intelligent adaptation to actual needs and existing conditions. Its effect has been to weaken the old basis of power without satisfactorily replacing them. To take some details, the ease, with which the princes are made and unmade without much inquiry or are compelled to temporarily transfer their powers

to the political officer and rarely to their own servants, the small respect shown to their last wishes and dispositions, the manner in which their servants are rewarded with titles without the least reference to the Government, which employs them, so that officers, really not well-inclined to the State, can easily, by ingratiating themselves with the political officer, at once aggrandize themselves and show the weakness of the State. It is obvious how all these are disintegrating elements, which forcibly break the continuity of rule and destroy that sense, which once existed, among the people, of the certain and abiding presence of the Raja and his family. The system, in short, brings liberty to the subjects and more accurately gives them the means of using it effectually, but leaves no safe guards against their misusing them. For instance, the use of physical power to quell a disturbance can only proceed from the conviction of the political officer. The post, telegraphs and railways are not in the ruler's hand, so that the people can use them for objectionable messages and materials; while the ruler cannot conveniently turn account these blessings and tools of civilized Government, in order to prevent mischief and consolidate authority. This has the further effect of limiting the expansion of the sources of revenus as in the case of salt-opening parts etc., while the expenses of the State, according to present wants of good Government, are increasing by leaps and bounds. Then there is the unsympathetic attitude of some political officers towards attempts at progress on original lines, which leads people to think that solid progress is not zealously favoured, but that while copies and bad copies of British models will be tolerated, even a slight departure from them is, at times, looked upon somewhat as an act of presumption to be discouraged.

All these circumstances, our own natural weakness, the one sided effect of western ideas and the weakening influences of the political system are so many shackles upon the energetic and progressive ruler. They render progress uncertain, slow and ineffective and deprive the ruler of all power to do real good. People wonder whether the old Rajas, who did nothing and were content, as a Rule, with women and drink, were not individually better off than the new, who

labour and worry themselves without, after all, being able to effect much, that is worth effecting. And so, the healthy peace and quiet, resulting from that sound progress which removes all causes of trouble, not being attained, the tendency is to sink back into that other unhealthy quiet of stagnation, which can be so easily attained by folding our hands and doing nothing. This is a dreadfully long exposition, as I think you call in Scotland; but I thought it might interest you. If not, I can only hope to be forgiven.

I feel the loss of Mr. Elliot deeply; and I think the manner, in which it was brought about, has a demoralizing effect by making officials more timid than usual, inclined to look upto the Agent to the Governor General for approval, before launching a scheme of any boldness.

I cannot tell whether I can go to the Jubilee.* It depends on many circumstances and chiefly what conditions the Foreign Department of India may think it wise to impose. I again wish you and Lady Reay, on my part and that of Her Highness, all health and prosperity throughout the coming year. You both will be touched to hear the sad and untimely demise of the young Raja of Akalkote.†

Your sincere Friend.
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,

*Lord D. J. M. Reay S. B., G. C. S. I., G. C. I. E., Carolside, Earlston,
Berwickshire, England*

* *The Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897.*

† *This letter graphically describes the political troubles of an Indian Ruler.*

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L. V. PALACE, BARODA,
22nd January 1897.

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AYANGAR)

As I was nearly to away from your office, Jaisingrao (Angre) and I talked about the framing of rules etc. He said we tried to work, if possible or so, on original Lines. Please tell him as well as others, that we may make use fully, without shame,

of the British and other sensible experience, and waste less time, money and energy in trying to strike out original path. With this to guide them, I hope, they will produce more result in their work.

It is not to be understood from this that wherever necessary, we shall not differ from them. Native States should differ, with advantage to themselves, in certain instances; and, particularly, they should be careful in giving rights. They cannot acquire new rights without extreme trouble. Britash Land Laws and Rules are printed in the vernacular too; and Mr. Raje* or the Sar Suba had better with legitimate aid by the light of these laws, finish the endless task of making rules for the Revenue Department. The same might, with advantage, be said as regards the Judicial and other departments. We did, at one time, think in the way Jaisingrao was pointing out; but it deserved to be set right. Our casual hints and conversations often twisted and exaggerated the foibles of others. I hope the desire for originality has not made our rules and regulations less perfect and stringent than what the well regulated public and Government require.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Mr. Balasaheb Raje, who was expert in revenue rules.*

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
22nd January 1897

MY DEAR GANPATRAO (GAEKWAR),

I think it is nearly three months since the Head-Quarter of the Naosari Senapati Kamdar has been removed to Baroda. This step was taken in order to see whether any difficulties arose by so doing. If none arose, then the Kadi Senapati Kamdar was also to be brought here. I wish to know now, if there are any objections to carry this out. If you agree in the desirability of the step, I would recommend you to act. If you differ and object to this being done, kindly place your views with reasons on paper, After these Senapati Kamdars are brought to Baroda, I should abolish their places and put the

whole force under one of the Huzerat Naib Sar-Nobat, say Kale with Avchitroa as Head. Avchitroa and his Lieut, except in matters of succession and other important points, should be given, roughly speaking, all the Military Secretary's and many of the Senapati's powers. This would free the Senapati and his assistant from much useless work and would give them time to attend and to superintend important affairs. A good Karkoon or two will have to be kept in important places in the districts to dispose of imergent questions.

I should put at once the Naosari Senapati Kamdar under the Huzerat Sar-Nobat and make the two offices into one. The papers, record, correspondence and accounts of the Huzerat should be kept distinct from the Sardar Shilledar force.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

3rd February 1897.

MY DEAR LORD NORTHBROOK,

I was very glad to get your letter, as it is always a pleasure to me to hear from you and know of your continued interest in the State. There have been two changes of great importance in the years since my return. One is the change of Dewans.

We have now a Madrasi gentleman in that capacity, a British officer and author of a well-knows book on progress in the Madras Presidency. The other is the departure of Mr. Elliot, of which you must have heard the particulars. I consider it a deplorable loss to the State. Of course, officials, who wanted to get rid of him, began to talk, of late, of his being my tutor and of his exercising an absolute influence over me. This sort of political report, especially when first started by Residents and other European officers, will always serve to blind the people and give a handle to those, who wish to take advantage of such impressions. The open and official reason given for his removal was his conduct in connection with the Bapat Case. I had noticed for some time that. Mr. Elliot's relations with me and his visits were being jealously and

closely watched before the crisis came on. It is said in support of such treatment and such suspicions that former Residents also recorded unfavourable opinions against Mr. Elliot. It is the misfortune of such confidential communications that the persons affected are quite in the dark about them, so that they have no opportunity of refuting erroneous statements about them; and the Resident himself lost the chance of correcting impressions he may have formed upon incorrect, biased and interested information. I think the truth is that the Residents were jealous of the trust reposed in Mr. Elliot, and the native officials still more. Mr. Elliot also stood up, according to them, too warmly for the State and its policy. His loss would, under any circumstances, have left a void; but its effect went beyond itself. The manner of his departure and the circumstances, under which it was brought about, have had a very demoralizing influence on the administration. You can no longer get people to do progressive work, which goes against the grain of the people to do progressive work, which goes against the grain of the people with an honest and unflinching courage. And at the best of times, there was always more danger in the State timidity and want of initiation than of excessive boldness and forwardness in undertaking measures. However; what is done is done; but it is not easy for people outside to realize to what an extent my hold over the state and my prestige have been weakened during my last absence. Still, things have much improved from what they were, when I first came. This has been chiefly due to the kindness and sympathy of Col. Marthelli.

I have returned from a tour in Kadi, the first after an interval of 14 years. I received petitions, at times personally, and heard what the people had to say. I was struck by the fact that, comparatively with the last visit, there were no complaints against the much abused Barkhali or alienation Department. There were very few indeed. This was rather surprising after the highly coloured picture, which had been drawn of agitation and discontent in this Division. I partly attribute this fortunate result to the sympathetic attitude of the Government of India towards the measure.

There were several things in the nature of cesses etc, which I wished to revise and put on a sound footing in accordance

with the principle of good and equal taxation; but the marked cessation of reform and work during my last absence, the tendency to find fault with the policy of the State as too active and the want of men of courage under these peculiar circumstances, has hampered us in this and other undertakings. I write these things to you and sometimes to other friends more in the free exchange of thoughts and not from a wish to find fault with persons and authorities, though, of course, there must inevitably be a few things I should like to see a little altered. You must have been hearing a great deal of the plague and famine in our midst. We have been lucky enough in Baroda to escape the former, and even by the latter, we have not been directly affected to any extent; but owing to the great export of grain, we have to suffer from high prices. You are very kind in promising me to send the life of Sir R. Meade.* I shall await it with much interest. With all good wishes for yourself and my best regards to your daughter,

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* Resident in Baroda in His Highness' minority.

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

7th February 1897

MY DEAR MR. TAIT (PRINCIPAL BARODA COLLEGE)

I was extremely glad to get your letter to-day of January 21st 1897, and one previous to that I was not unmindful of your first kind letter and would have answered it earlier, had not some of the distinguished guests of Baroda occupied my attention. I find out about your health by enquiries from Tapidas* and others. I am glad that you have been progressing well. I am at one with your friends and relatives, who advise you to prolong your stay in the bracing and salubrious climate of the West. I think you will be committing a great piece of indiscretion in returning to India in May. I shall do my best to consider your application for leave as favourably as possible.

My health is fair and not such as to stand hard work, of which there is any amount. The State affairs are being carried on as usual, but I do not find the same bold and tacit obedience and respect for the State's authority and prestige, as was the case before Col. Biddulph showed himself in the affairs of the State I have not yet decided where to go for the approaching summer. I have decided, in the interest of the State, not to go to Europe this year and, let us hope for many to come. We have too much to pay for these visits, though we have unprecedented means of communication in the 19th civilized century. With my best regards to you and to Mrs. Tait,

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

**Professor of Mathematics.*

288

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
18th February 1897.

MY DEAR KHASHERAO,

I am sorry that you have been ill. You must take care to get quite well. I am leaving for Dabka today, where I shall spend a few days. I have not been feeling quite the thing for the last few days. I have read your few words on Amreli affairs. I am anxious only to do justice, provided circumstances allow me to do it.

Yours sincerely.
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

289

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
18th February 1897

MY DEAR CAPT. GORDON.

I have to thank you very much for your letter. I failed in writing to you, not on account of the reasons shown by you, but others. I have been thinking of writing to you these lines for the last few weeks; but something pressing turns up just the last moment to prevent its execution. Besides, since a

few weeks, I have been feeling out of sorts. I hope my apology will soften your heart. Maharaja Scindia paid me a visit.* He is a very jovial young prince, full of hopes and aspirations for ameliorating the condition of his people. I wish to send him a few presents and I wish you to choose some for me. I ask you because I know you will do your best in selecting them and also I have trust in your good taste. Please buy me a nicely fitted dressing bag for giving it to the Maharaja.† I shall send his arms to be engraved on the articles. I hope you will not mind the trouble I am causing you. Please give my best regards to Lady Tweedale.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

P. S. The price of the bag will be £. 250/-

S.R.G.

* *The visit lasted from 29th January to 2nd February.*

† *Scindia.*

290

DABKA,
19th February 1897

MY DEAR MR. FRENCH,

I think the letter I enclose here-with, is from Lord Bredalbain. Kindly invite him by wire on My behalf and, in communication with Appasaheb Mohite, see that every thing is properly and well done. If His Lordship can come to Dabka, I shall be most happy. I hope you and the children will be able to come to shikar here. It is extremely lonely here; and I feel the absence of my people.

Yours sincerely.
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

291

DABKA, 19TH FEBRUARY 1897.

MY DARE MRS. MARTELLI,

The *Haka* is on Sunday and also on Monday. The colonel and you can come on any one of the days. I should welcome you so much. I had nearly 6 hours' boating today. I was glad to shoot a deer this morning. I send you a boar and one for

the Mess. You are very kind in wishing me a good stay here. With my regards to the Colonel and to all of you.

Yours sincerely.
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

P. S. On reading your note, I will arrange for the Haka on Monday and Tuesday. The party can be here from Sunday to Thursday. S.R.G.

292

DABKA,
7th March 1897

MY DEAR COLONEL MARTELLI,

I shall be happy to have a walk and a drive with you tomorrow. I shall be at your place at 5-30 p.m. I propose to give a Lawn-tennis party to all Europeans in Camp on Wednesday next. Will you kindly come with your family and ask the camp people on my behalf? Your letter about the house is sent to the Minister.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

293

BARODA,
25th march 1897

MY DEAR COL. FITZ-GERALD,

I have to thank you for your letter. It was a pleasure to receive a person recommended by you. I wish you come here one of these seasons, so that I may entertain you as an old friend. You must be well acquainted with the direful state of India caused by famine and pestilence. We are as yet lucky in escaping from the rigor of these evils. I am sorry to say that I shall not be able to be present in London for the Diamond jubilee; but we shall celebrate the occasion here. I am going to Ooty this year for the hot season. Kindly remember me to the Elliots and our other mutual friends. I have not been doing very well for the last few days; but it is not very serious.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,

Col. C.Y.O. Fitz-Gerald, Dunmore, Carlisle Road, Eastbourne.

294

BARODA,

25th march 1897.

MY DEAR REV. WEEDEN,

I am sorry that I have not written to you and also not acknowledged the notes on Gibbon. I again take this opportunity to thank you for your trouble in connection with the book. I have asked my Secretary to send you as a present 75 on my behalf. I hope you will kindly accept this as a friend's gift.

I have not been feeling very well for the last few weeks and that is one of the reasons for my silence. I have made arrangements to go towards Madras for this hot weather. Travelling in India is a great nuisance this year on account of the famine and the plague. We in Baroda are lucky in greatly escaping both the sources of devastation. Many people high and low thought that I was sure to avail myself of the jubilee occasion of Her Majesty and fly away to Europe. I had facilities given to carry this out; but I, on the ground of state necessity, thought it wise to remain here. Again the mocking about in the Tamashas will not suit my health. These are some of the reasons amongst many others. It is wonderful how hard it is to change people's prejudices once they are formed. How are your sisters? Do you often get away from your work? I hope you are enjoying very good health and spirits and find your work interesting. Remember me to Gordon, when you see or write to him.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

295

BARODA,

26th march 1897.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

Hearty thanks for your call. Though I have an engagement this evening, I will postpone it in order to enjoy your society.

Will you and the few remaining ladies and gentlemen come and have a quiet friendly dinner here and then go with me to a theatrical party? If convenient to you, I propose Tuesday for

this function. Mrs. Martelli was very kind in sending me a note. I shall be at your place at 5-30 P.M. to-day.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

296

BARODA,

1st April 1897.

MY DEAR MAHARAJA RANA (MAHARAJA OF DHOLPUR),

I was very glad to get your Highness' letter. I shall take two or three days to consider your question. I have no hesitation that I should heartily interest myself in any befitting memorial of Her Gracious Majesty's Jubilee.

I must take time to consider whether a Pasteur Institution would be of the greatest benefit to our country and people. If you can, I should like to know what is likely to be the approximate ultimate cost of this undertaking. I put this querry merely to suggest that whatever we decide to do in the end, it should be done thoroughly and well. If you will excuse my suggestion for its being out of season, I propose that the Government of the Institute should be representative according to the sum of money given, I was glad to know that you are well. I hope the Maharaja of Palitana will be all right soon.

Please remember me to your son. Can you let me know what other movement we can undertake, in case the Pasteur Institute is not cared for? I hope I am not asking too much. What a pity you would not come to Baroda! I have not forgotten my promise to ask you.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

298

L. V. PALACE, BARODA,

15th April 1897.

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AYANGAR),

During the course of our discussion yesterday with Messrs. Ambalal and Pandit, you suggested that certain powers in

uncontested Small-Cause Court suits should be given to the Nazar or Shirastedar of a Munsif or a judge's Court. It was further explained at the time that the powers were merely mechanical and formal, and involved no scope for mischief. I would recommend you to pass early orders on the subject. The object of this change was, as came out yesterday, merely to save the clerical work of an highly paid official. You also mentioned (and from which the other gentlemen did not seem to differ), as there were no Munsifs at Amreli and Naosari, Unimportant appeals were filed in the Varistha Court on the decision of the District Judges, and this took up Unnecessarily the time of the Varistha Court Judges. To avoid this, you suggested that the Baroda District. The idea is a good one, as Mr. Ambalal said it would perceptibly and with advantage lighten the work of the Varistha Court. I would recommend early steps. There is only one suggestion I have to make in connection with it and to which you are not likely to object. There is, as you know, a Magistrate at Naosari, where jurisdiction extends over Gandevi too, I would give a Munsif's powers to this gentleman and give his magisterial powers to the Vahiwatdar or Vahiwatdars. Drop this as a suggestion to you as to came into my head. I have read Mr. Pandit's draft about the village panchayat. I shall today go into Mr. Ambalal's memo, on the same subject.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

299

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
16th April 1897.

MY DEAR MR. FRENCH,

Will you go, if Mohite wants, to the Dewan and explain to the minister what Druet* was saying to me this morning? You had better take him with you, so that the things might be elucidated without delay. I am sorry to trouble you today; but the pressing nature of the matter is the only excuse.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* A French painter, for whom sittings were given by his Highness and the other members of the royal family.

300

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

16th April 1897.

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AYANGAR),

Mr. Bruet complained to me bitterly of the Khangi Department and how his payment had been delayed. I wish you to inquire fully and tell me, if the Khangi Officials are in fault and what should be the punishment to prevent such conduct, in future. Mr. Druet hinted in his conversation that the idea of bakshis was mentioned to his boy. See whether it is so. All this took place before Mr. French; and you can send for him, if necessary. Kindly let Druet know the necessary result of the inquiry. Kindly see him paid today. Appasaheb will give you this not personally. I wish the matter to be disposed of without delay and red-tapism.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

302

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

27th April 1897.

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AYANGAR),

Dr. Batookram has taken great and intelligent interest in my health and has tried to make me cheerful and happy more than our ordinary country gentleman would do. Of course, my comparison is with the people I have happened to come across. To appreciate a friendly feeling is now and then good. I am bad at expressing things gracefully and do little justice to my feelings. I suppose Dr. Batookram will not only take the same interest, but will take more, in future, and get further honours and emoluments. I wish to give him an asami, which will last during his faithful and good conduct and upto his life. The asami to be per annum 1,320 Rupees. This includes a Ú\$eerceMeeue allowance. I am feeling better and will be glad to see you at 1 p.m. for a short while. Kindly take the necessary steps in connection with this order.

Yours sincerely.
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

303

BARODA,

28th April 1897

MY DEAR MAHARAJA RANA (OF DHOLPUR)

I am much obliged to Your Highness for your letter of the 5th instant and the information therein contained regarding the Pasteur Institute.* Kindly excuse the delay in replying to it. I find that in 1897, when I was in Europe, a movement was started to establish a Pasteur Institute in India under the auspices of the Government of India and native sovereigns and princes; and public subscriptions were invited. Whether the movement was given up or in what stage it is, I have not been able to ascertain. However, this may be, as I have already intimated to You, I should be very glad, indeed, to heartily join in any movement having, for its object, the establishment of an institution of permanent and extended usefulness to the country at large, which would serve as a fitting memorial of the Diamond Jubilee of the beneficent reign of Her Majesty the Queen Empress. The precise form, which the memorial should take and the arrangement, which should be made for the government of the institution must, I believe, be left for future discussion and settlement. I may, however, at once state that I shall be glad to subscribe upto fifty thousand rupees towards this object. Any time that your feel inclined to pay a visit to Baroda, you will be quite welcome here. I have communicated your messages as regards the pony to the children, who are mightily pleased with it. Kindly give my love to your children and believe me

Your Highness' sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* See Letter No. 296.

304

BARODA,

29th April 1897

MY DEAR COL. FITZGERALD,*

It is a long time since I have not written to you. You will notice from this note of mine that I am still in Baroda. It is

indeed very hot here; but I have been bearing it well as yet. I generally go and have a slight game of cricket with my boys in the evening every day. I have taken some houses at Ooty for this summer; but the day of my departure is yet to be fixed. We have been fortunate to escape, on the whole, upto this time from the dire famine and from the horrors of plague. We had a few cases here; and the steps, that Government took in imitation of those taken in Poona and other places in British territories, frightened the subject folks extremely. My boys have been suffering from fever almost by turns. The attacks of fever, that people get at present, are severe, but do not last long. I hope this letter will find you and yours in excellent health and spirits. I conclude this note with my best regards to you and with a hope that you will heartily enjoy all h Tamashas of the Diamond jubilee.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* See Note on letter 218.

305

BARODA,
29th April 1897.

MY DEAR NEVINS,

I have no penned you a letter since a long time. You must be all very much interested in the Greek and the Turkish war. The Greeks must be much excited over their chance. I believe the poor Sultan must be very unhappy in watching over his affairs and the fate of the little war. He is a very nervous and sickly looking man. He cannot talk in any other language but his own. The Turk makes a splendid soldier; but the poor fellow is badly looked after by his officers and government. Your interest in England must be very great in the Jameson and Cecil Rhodes trial. I had an opportunity offered to visit England this year on account of the jubilee; but I did not avail myself of the chance. The Government of India promised to give me evecy help and facility, in case I wanted to go. I have bean keeping good health and spirits upto this time, notwithstanding the great heat. I generally go

and have a game of cricket every evening with my sons. I feel so well after a reasonable exercise. Fatehasinhrao and his brother as are devoted to cricket. They all play well. Fatehsinhrao is getting stronger every year and shows satisfactory development in every respect. Shiワajirao and the other little ones had their turns of fever, but all soon got well. Her highness studies English and music and takes great pains in learning them. The doctors have been in great demand here as well as elsewhere on account of the bubonic plague. We have temporarily engaged half a dozen doctors here in Baroda. The Frenches are doing well, though Mrs. French feels the heat. Mr. French will be going on leave for three months during the course of this year. Will you yourself accept and give to your people my best regards? I hope this letter will find you and all yours in splendid health.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

306

BARODA,

29th April 1897.

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (OF GWALIOR),

Since you left Baroda, we have not exchanged any letter. It is there months since your left Gujerat. I hear you have shot some very big tigers. Samptrao shot a panther on the Narbada banks a few days ago. He is quite pleased with his first experience in this line. I hope your mother and your Maharanee are doing well. What great reforms are you contemplating to carry out in your State/Col. Martelli's family left for Simla this morning. I and the princes are all doing well. I hope this letter will find your in very good health.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

307

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA

1st May 1897

MY DEAR KIRITSINHJI (OF NANDOD)

Many thanks for your photos and letter. I have spoken to Usufali to arrange to send photographs asked by you. Thanks

for inducing me to visit the jungles of Nanded. Some day I am likely to pay it a visit. I shall write to you later on about a suitable place for you. I do not know what your definite idea is about salary. A correct knowledge might make decision clear. I was quite charmed with your splendid manners and bearing, and will always welcome you as a friend. Baroda is, indeed, very hot. I hope all your people are well. Hoping this note will find you in good health.

Yours sincerely.
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

308

BARODA,

7th May 1897.

MY DEAR CAPTAIN GORDON,

I have to thank you for your letter of the 9th April 1897 from 24, Cadogan Square, London. Many thanks for your united regards. You will observe from this note that I am still in Gujerat.* It is getting very hot and makes one feel dull and disposed very little to apply seriously to anything. My children have suffered more than I expected. Mrs. Martelli and her daughters have left for Simla. They will be back by about August. It is very gratifying to notice in papers that the plague is markedly deceasing in Bombay and Poona. You speak in your letter in a most enthusiastic manner of dressing bag. You can buy it for me and a money order will be despatched to you without any delay. I heard only a few days ago from Weeden. He does not seem to care much for his present scene of work. Will you kindly give Lady Tweedale and also accept yourself our very kind regard. Please mention in one of your Letters to Mr. F. Tytter that the guns sent from Edinburgh have reached my hands and we all like them. I shall also write to him.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* This year Their Highnesses did not move to any hill-station and spent their summer in Baroda.

BARODA,

24th june 1897.

MY DEAR SRI (MR. ELLIOT),

I was delighted to get a letter from you and to read its contents. I shall bear the purport of the letter in mind. You will be deeply sorry to learn the sad news of Tarabai's* death. She died on the 15th of this month of a liver complaint. Her life has been a sad and unhappy one. Her death has come, quit when people are generally in the prime of life and full of their energies and vitalities. Her Highness Jamanabai Saheb is also very ill and is extremely weak. She cannot digest her food. We had Dr. Bhalchandra here for consultation about her health. He has given a serious view of her condition.

He said her liver was enlarged, her heart affected and her intestines were ulcerated. I brought her from Karnali to Motibag and go to see her every day. On account of Tarabai's death, we have not been able to celebrate the Jubilee in a very pronounced style. We only liberated a large number of criminals. Some of the ceremonies we are going to perform on the 1st of July. We have had a few inches of rain upto this time and are anxiously waiting for some more. It gets cloudy almost daily; but there is no fall of rain. We have plenty of cool wind which is not a very good sign. Trees and grass are looking fresh and green. The roads are quite washed and all the mettle laid on them previously is very sharp and slippery. It is very unpleasant either to ride or drive hard on them. My wife and children are, on the whole, doing very well the former is nurasthenic has felt the summer of Baroda. I am astonished at the manner, in which I have kept health and stuck to my duties and functions. I am only sorry that I am getting very corpulent and I feel evenly cheerful, a feeling which is, I consider, a great boon. I read fairly and have been reading the Indian Law of Contract. Where is Jed? How does he enjoy his military life? Do you often see him? I hope Ella is perfectly well and has been making good and satisfactory progress in singing. You must give them and Mrs. Elliot my best regards and wishes. You must be seeing lot of Indians in London on account of the memorable Jubilee. It is Just 5 p. m. and I

have to go to my old school building, where I have to play cricket with the boys and manage to get exercise and see the boys as much as possible. I got your letter and subsequently a telegram about Dr. L. Brown. I see Major (now Col.) Mellis is knighted. Push does a wonderful amount of good in this world. With best regards to you and with the hope that you are in good health, I conclude this note.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *Shri Tarabai, daughter of Her Highness Maharanee Jamnabaisahib, born on 5th July 1871, was married on the 21st December 1879 to His Highness the Raja Ragunathrao Babasaheb of Savantwadi, who died in 1899. She died on the 15th June 1897 after a rather unhappy life.*

311

L. V. PALACE, BARODA,
30th June 1897

MY DEAR RAJASAHEB (CHHATRASINHJI OF NANDOD),

I have received your letter of the 6th instant, and the two cubs so kindly sent by you. Please accept my best thanks for the same. I am very glad to learn that you think of visiting Baroda. I shall, indeed, be pleased to meet you and cultivate your acquaintance into something more than that.

The season is some what changed; but we have had only a little of rain. More is wanted. We are doing well, except the late family bereavement in the premature death of Her Highness Tarabaisaheb. I think every thing is quite well with you.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

312

L.V. PALACE, BARODA,
1st July 1897.

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AYANGAR),

You will be pleased to hear that I sanction by this letter a ward of 15 beds to be built within the grounds of the Dufferin Hospital. This ward will be known by the name of "Victoria

Ward" The conditions and manner, in which the ward will be used, will be regulated by the State from time to time. The ward will, in the first instance, be built for female patients; but in case they do not come, it should be used for other purposes. Five of these 15 beds will be for the accommodation of five respectable people, who may have to pay accommodation of five respectable people, who may have to pay rent for occupying them and observe other conditions. I am inclined to think that without this new ward, the medical wants of the city are fully supplied. This new ward, the medical wants of the city are fully supplied. This will be a slight luxury. This addition may do away with prospective and present accommodation of certain hospitals. I particularly wish that this ward should be built on very good sanitary principles. Dr. Batookram will be chiefly responsible to see that this and other necessary conveniences are satisfactorily provided.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

313

L.V. PALACE, BARODA,
22nd July 1897

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AYANGAR)

I have had long pending with me the papers of an establishment demanded by you. I will require some further consideration before I can permanently and fully dispose of the question. However, I am anxious that, at least, part of the demand may be sanctioned to further the disposal of work. I have several ideas as to the way, in which the Minister may be rationally and effectually relieved of petty and routine work; but I reserve this for further and exhaustive discussion. For the present, you may have a superintendent and seven clerks. This will, of course, be quite separate and independent of the English Branch. By this sanction it is, in no way, to be understood that the responsibilities of the Heads of departments, in any way, change. The sanction only emphasizes that the Minister and his establishments have to see that every paper is well and carefully prepared. I think whatever defects are found out in the working of the subordinate departments, should be carefully noted and

communicated for future guidance of the mistaking officials.
I shall close this without adding to it.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

314

L.V. PALACE, BARODA,
22nd July 1897.

MY DEAR MR. FRENCH,

As you know I wish very much that you should get good and reliable certain educational information. To enable you to get it, I allow you to have ten days more than your leave. I wish you a good voyage and a very pleasant trip.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

P.S. If Dr. Nevins happens to meet you, give him my best regards. You have sixty pounds at your disposal to buy odds and ends for the school and the boys; only this you must not do as duty, as I do not wish to impose duties, when you are going to have a holiday.

S. R.G.

315

BARODA,
31st July 1897

MY DEAR MR. PESTONJI,

I am sorry I did not answer your letter earlier, But I have felt greatly at a loss what to write and how to put it to you, when you insist on the down-right and unvarnished statement of the impression I had formed about yourself. As it must necessarily include something more than a credit side, this is not an easy task, when there have been kindly relations such as ours have been. I will just state with great diffidence what appeared to me to be your strong and weak points and you can take my impressions for what they are worth, and you must always remember that whatever your short-comings were, I was very foud of you. Your great fault was that you were too credulous and your judgment was wanting in balance and measure. Your belief in astrology and other mysterious agencies was really pitiable in a man of your education, who

ought to have been immeasurably above such wild superstitions. Many of these defects I am inclined to attribute largely to your weak physical organization. With all this, I found in you many of the best and most amiable virtues; frankness, cheerfulness, a sympathetic nature and willingness to exert yourself were generally found in all your health and temperament and you now feel stronger and more cheerful. It will always be a pleasure to me to hear from you of your welfare and that of your children. Yesterday was Fatehsinhrao's 15th birth-day; and he is both physically and mentally turning out splendidly. I trust your children are getting on well. How is Mrs. Pestonji? As to your pension, I think you had better draw it without expecting any further orders in the matter.* I am going to send you a little present, which, I hope, you will value as a souvenir of our connection of over a decade.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Mr. Pestonji still draws Rs. 164 pension per mensem; he was but expecting much more and hence was given Rs. 50 per month from pocket money of his Highness over and above his pension. He is still enjoying a happy old age. (1933).*

316

BARODA,
28th September 1897.

MY DEAR, AHARAKA (OF GWALIOR)

I am sending with this letter a dressing case and a few articles, which, I hope, will please you and which I wish you to accept as a small present from me. I hope you have been keeping good health yourself and enjoying the pleasant and seasonable weather. We have been fortunate in Baroda in getting rain. There has been a short heat followed by a great down-pour and some more showers are still promised.

I have unfortunately had a bad spell of fever, from which I am just now recovering. I intend to start for Egypt in a few days to get back my health and shall return after a short stay. With all good wishes for your health and welfare,

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

BARODA,

1st October 1897.

MY DEAR DEWAN (AYANGAR)

I have decided to put and try Mr. Keshavrao Pandit in Mr. Pestonji's place as Khangi Karbhari. This post always requires a strong and independent man, who would be strict in execution of orders and policy; and such qualifications are more particularly necessary in view of the trifling change as to the form of religious worship,* to which what appears to me, an undue importance has been attached by the Deccani Brahmins of Baroda. It is not enough that the Khangi Karbhari should only passively acquiesce in the policy instituted; he should be in active sympathy with and prepared to carry it out with earnestness and firmness. In the absence of a firm independent and broad-minded conduct, the policy might fail; and should such a thing happen, I should hold that officer responsible. Of course, certain Brahmins and others will, in this connection, be inclined to hold Mr. Pandit in distrust and this can only be overcome by sincere and straight forward action. Sometimes, officers are apt to express sympathy with a policy and inwardly to entertain feelings of opposition; but I hope Mr. Pandit will be above any similar conduct.

I have conversed in this sense with Mr. Pandit and he has engaged to enter on the responsibilities of his office, with due activity and earnestness, to be independent of cliques and to attend to the comforts of the Royal Family, which I consider to be the most important part of the Khangi Karbhari's work. Should the discharge of his functions not be satisfactory, it may be necessary not to continue the appointment. A further point is that the organization, by which the Naib Karbhari is the executive officer and the Khangi Karbhari exercises mainly duties of superintendence, is a new one; if it does not work satisfactorily, further changes may be necessary. I have spoken of all this to Mr. Pandit; but ask you also to read this to him; because it is fair to him that he should not enter on his duties without fully and clearly realizing their seriousness. The duties of the Khangi Karbhari are, I am aware, onerous

and difficult and I hope he will have every success in discharging them.

Mr. Fadake will revert from the Javerkhana to the Account Department; and the changes in the latter viz, his reversion and the appointment to the treasury, may be arranged by you in consultation with the Accountant General. You will read this over with Mr. Pandit and communicate the orders to him and to the other departments concerned.

It will be well to add that this form of writing has been especially employed that the knowledge of possibility of changes may not go farther; and the evils of uncertainty, which will hamper Mr. Pandit in working smoothly, may be avoided. It is not intended by suggesting these possibilities, in any way, to discourage and frighten Mr. Pandit, but solely to guard against contingencies, which are not impossible, but are, I think, very improbable.

If possible, you might show this to Mr. Pandit before my departure. A copy of the vernacular order of his appointment accompanies this letter.†

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* This reference to what is termed Vedokta.

† This letter explains His Highness ideas about the duties of the Khangi Karbhari and his Naib. The same arrangement has more or less obtained ever since in the working of the Khangi Department.

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BARODA,

December 1897.

MY DEAR NIECE,

I have just received your letter. I am sorry you are not happy. I regret very much that we did not meet in Bombay. My advice will be at your service whenever you want it. Only you must remember that advice alone cannot do much. I shall answer the other portions of your letter later on.

I am afraid I cannot effectually write to any quarter either in Calcutta or Bombay about your business; Please accept my best Ashirvads yourself and also give them to the dear little children. I feel very much for your health. You better

come and spend a month or so here. I shall be happy to welcome you.

I am looking forward to going to Amreli; but this I mention merely as an information, which may interest you. Let me know when you can visit Baroda. I shall try my best to lodge you out of the city. The city has at present a few plague cases. My health has improved by my trip,* though it was too short.

Your affectionate Uncle,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,

HER HIGHNESS BALUBAI. Rani of Akalkote.

* *A short trip to Egypt in October and November 1897.*

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MAKARPURA PALACE, BARODA,
14th December 1897.

MY DEAR MR. BUCKLAND.

I have to thank you for your letter and hope this is only a beginning of many, in future. I was really glad to come in contact with you on board.* I have written to get some stamps of Deccan Hyderabad. Barods has no separate postage from the British. The old Rajas, as a rule, did not understand the value of separate well-organized postal arrangements. It is always difficult to deal with the Customs Department. It sticks to its customs in preference to those of others. I am glad that you are shortly going to Calcutta. You will have a better and a wider society to live in and deal with. For some time after my return, I could not sleep well, but since the last few days I have been free from disturbed nights. We are having a little plague here and we are doing every thing to stamp it out. In a few days I intend to go on a tour in my Kathiawar districts. We have recently built splendid offices† there which can also be converted into a residence for me. It will interest me very much to see the condition of my Kathiawar subjects as it was the first district in which we introduced the new Land Revenue Survey and Settlement. Our settlements came to an end after 15 years. The Amreli district will be shortly

ready for a revision of the settlement. In a few days the new year of 1897 will set in and you will not mind my wishing you and yours every happiness and prosperity though it may be a little early.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,

C. E. Buekland esq., C.S., Commissioner, Chensura, Hoogly.

* During a trip to and from Egypt.

† The present Subha offices.

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BARODA,

29th December 1897.

MY DEAR LORD ELGIN,

I wish you, Lady Elgin and your children a happy new year and many returns of it, I trust that the year which is about to open will be a more cheerful and less anxious one than the preceding ones. Here in Baroda we have fully entered into the cool season. Unfortunately this is no longer an unmixed blessing as with the progress of the cold weather on hears of nothing but plague and rumours of plague. I have, as you know, only lately returned from Egypt. I went up the Nile from Cairo through the region of the pyramids to Thebes and visited Karnack temples and other monuments. It was all wonderful and interesting; the great colossis and the temples with their fragments of history; the falls of kings and queens who were dead so many thousands of years age; the temple with their huge columns and statues and strange intimations of Egyptian belief and ritual and the unique nature of their sepulchres; all this is in the most rich and beautiful country which receives a further charm by contrast with the heart. I had not as much time as could have been wished but I was so interested that I viewed these things with considerable minuteness. It was very kind of you to wish me by wire a bon voyage. My health is now better than before though I cannot yet manage to have good and undisturbed nights. The seavoyage and in fact the whole trip, was rather too short to

produce any lasting good results. I hope you and Lady Elgin are well.

Your sincere friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

321

MAKARPURA,

4th January 1898

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AYANGAR),

I think the plague duties imposed upon certain officers are doing harm and it is very necessary that they should be relieved either of their usual work and placed on special duty or the reverse of it.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

322

MAKARPURA,

6th January 1898

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI

I think you get unduly agitated. We are taking all the precautions that are necessary, in order to carry no infection towards Kathiawar. It is very inconvenient to chop and change one's programme everyday. Many of my men have already left for Amreli; but still to give no chance of the disease spreading, I have countermanded my orders and my people will return.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

323

MAKARPURA,

12th January 1898.

MY DEAR MANIBHAI,*

I have received your kind letter of the 11th instant. I thank you very much for the kind wishes expressed in your letter. Please accept mine also in return. I am enjoying good health

and wish you are doing the same. We have a little plague in the city. I was thinking of going to Amreli for a short trip; but owing to this plague raging here, I have at present postponed my tour.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Ex-Dewan of Baroda.*

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BARODA,
20th January 1898

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AYANGAR)

I should like the legislation to go rather rapidly and each matter brought to an effective conclusion. At present, I have to take undue trouble and the result is not as quick and effective as compared with the trouble and worry I have to go through. I think, business ought to go faster than it does in certain matters. I mention this in no carping spirit, but merely to draw your attention to it. I know, once you know an evil, you will attempt to remedy it.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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MAKARPURA,
25th January 1898

MY DEAR MRS. FRENCH.

I was glad to read the contents of your letter dated the 20th January 1898, Today is the 25th; now why should I have got this letter? I will make inquiry in the matter so far as the Secretary is concerned. We had a splendid trip to Jehur; and I think the boys enjoyed seeing the eclipse.* I have just got up from business; and so I do not feel inclined to write a long letter. I hope the trip will do much good to Mr. French. With my kind regards to both of you,

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Total solar eclipse was seen at Jehur for 19 Minutes on 22nd January 1898.*

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MAKARPURA PALACE,

4th February 1898

MY DEAR COL. FITZ-GERALD,

Thanks for your kind letter of the 6th Ultimo and the good wishes conveyed in it for the new year. I wish you and yours in return good health and prosperity. I have not forgotten you; but the thing is that, of late, I have been in different health and that is why I have not been able to reply to your previous letters. My short trip to Egypt has not done me sufficient good and I am still not quite well. I now and then do some shooting.

I hope your son will come in for some honours of the frontier war.

Baroda, after all, has been touched by the plague; and we are redoubling our efforts to stamp it out. I regret to say that baroda has had no separate postage stamps from the British.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

327

UMRATH,

4th March 1898.

MY DEAR BROTHER (SAMPATRAO),

I am sorry you are thinking of parting with your boats and brougham. I should like to buy the brougham very much according to your terms. Though I buy it, still I hope you will be able to make use of it. I shall let you know later on about the boats, You ought to find them of much use in Sinore. Remind me about the matter after the lapse of some time. I hope you have not lost the beautiful Australian; you had a nice pair in the Arabs. The sum I want to present to you is to be Rs. 10,000 ten thousand instead of seven thousand. I am starting for Baroda to-morrow morning. I have given the necessary orders to Yusufalli about the matter contained in this better.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

328

UMRATH,
4th March 1898.

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AYANGAR),

You know that I have passed lately some important orders about giving finality to the decisions of the different revenue authorities and other officers. I hope they will give satisfaction to all concerned; and if there be any defects, the officers, who have to apply them, will point them out from time to time with a view of improvement. Mr. Pandit, the Naib Dewan, is a thoughtful, judicious and careful officer. He might be entrusted with the appeal work sent by the Huzur Kamdar as a matter of internal arrangement of your office work, and this will relieve you of that much burden. Mr. Pandit will, I hope, use plenty of dispatch in the disposal of these cases and see that my orders are carried out.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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MAKARPURA PALACE,
6th March 1898.

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (KRISHNASINH OF TEHRI),

I have to thank Your Highness for your very kind letter dated the 19th Ultimo. Your advice is, indeed, very sound and I will follow it. I have received your letter only to-day. It seems to have taken too long time to come here. I hope you will be able to pay me a visit some other time. The plague has been a great nuisance to us all concerned. The people do not like the plague laws; and one can easily understand their feelings. We expect the plague to disappear as soon as the hot weather sets in properly. Are you likely to go to Mussoorie this season? The trip to Egypt was very enjoyable though rather short. The Egyptians were great and splendid builders. They have left some very fine temples. Their religion seems to resemble the Hindu religion a great deal.

I had taken my three sons with me and they enjoyed the voyage and sight-seeing a great deal. I hope this letter will find you in excellent health.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

330

UMRATH,

12th March 1898.

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AYANGAR)

I have received a letter from you only this morning. I read all about Jaisingrao (Angre.) I am not very impatient about the matter and will a wait his epistle quietly. Will you kindly send on Chintaman Narayan Muzumdar's case and that of Narayanrao Raje Pandhre's successor? I do not like to send for cases generally; but one of these two cases has been long pending, a little more dispatch than exists at present will be beneficial. It makes me happy to say that I have been sleeping very well since my return. I am glad that the plague is much decreasing. I hope this letter will find you in good health.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

331

UMRATH,

14th March 1898.

MY DEAR JAISINGRAO (ANGRE),*

Your letter dated 18th; March 1898 Just to hand. All your requests mentioned in it will have my careful and sympathetic consideration. Till you hear from me, you are to conduct your duties as usual and try not to let yourself be disturbed in any way.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* Sar-Subha.

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UMRATH,

14th March 1898

MY DEAR LORD ELGIN,

I read, with great regret, the sad death of dowager Countess of Elgin. Please accept my sincere condolences for this

domestic affliction, which has fallen on you. You will be glad to know that the death rate in Baroda has gone down a great deal. We are all inclined to think that within a short space of time, we shall get rid of that epidemic. Dr. Dyren of the Bombay service paid us more than one visit. I have been here for some time and I like the quiet of this place. In a few days, we shall be starting for Simla. I hope you will have a peaceful and quiet season. Kindly remember us to lady Elgin and your daughter. Her Highness joins me in our regards to you.

Your sincere friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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UMRATH,
20th March 1898.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI

I have the pleasure of receiving your letter just a day or two ago. The chief matter, you referred to in it, was about the sea-ports. I am writing to the Minister to hasten its disposal, The subject will be carefully gone into by me.

I am very likely to go for a sea-voyage towards Japan and even remotely beyond that island, if found convenient and necessary for my health and rest. I shall, in all probability, Leave India about the 7th or the 10th of April. I am giving the Minister sufficient powers to carry on the ordinary administration and more than that he will be given sufficient powers to meet any emergency. Important matters. Which require my orders, will be referred to me as usual. I hope you will give the Minister* best assistance and particularly in such serious matters, as he may refer to you. With my kind regards to you all.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* Mr. Ayangar.

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UMRATH,

23rd March 1898

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (OF GWALIOR),

I have the pleasure of sending you a little diamond watch made to order in Geneva. I hope you will not mind to present it to your wife, on behalf of Her Highness and myself. It took a long time to come, otherwise it would have reached you before this. We have not forgotten your visit* to Baroda and your pleasant company. We have been here for some time on account of the plague in Baroda and the hot season. We do not know where to go exactly this year. I am personally not very anxious to move; but my doctors tell me that I must have a sea-voyage. This letter is written at my dictation by Fatehsinhrao, who, with all his brothers and sister, joins us in our best regards to you and yours. I am,

Yours very sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* See note on Letter No. 289

335

UMRATH,

4th April 1898.

MY DEAR NEPHEW (GANPATRAO GAEKWAR),*

Many thanks for your letter of the 3rd April 1898. I shall fully consider what you write about the Nemnook of pandhre. I have also read your remarks and views about the Shirastedar If he is asked to do more responsible work, undoubtedly for himself as well as for the work, he should be paid higher. Though according to my orders, it is not necessary to give him more powers than what a man of his pay should have, still I shall allow you to give him some day a little more pay than he does draw at present. This to a certain extent I shall do; because to encourage good work etc; I do not know whether it is clearly put so in the order or not, that the items, in which or upto which the Shirastedar and Barve are

to be given power, are merely minimum. In practically carrying out order, I should not give him or them more power than what would be safe for men in his position under peculiar and tempting circumstances. Again the real Sarkar's interest must not be neglected. To start with, I should give powers of enquiry to the Shirastedar more than the maximum of Rs. 300 Besides the pecuniary limit, I should have also a limit as to the class of suitors, Only the petty and menial servants alone of Sardars should go before him and no others. The summary powers should also be limited to petty and menial servants of Sardars. This power is to be increased by yourself alone. If your Nazar is unfit, certainly do not give him the power. I have not been sleeping well of late. I hope this letter will find you in good health. When the matter is referred to me, I shall pass the necessary orders. The matter is no really very important. I have only given hints and not orders, roughly speaking.

Yours affectionately,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *The then Senapati.*

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UMRATH,
9th April 1898.

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AYANGAR),

Many thanks for your kind letter and suggestion for me to run up to Baroda. I have not been sleeping well since the last few days; but I hope that state will soon disappear. I shall let you know when I can think of coming to Baroda. I myself would like to see you all once again. I hope this letter will find you in good health and spirit. I hope you are receiving good news from Madras and particularly form your son, who has been ailing. Many thanks for the books.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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UMRATH,

15th April 1898.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

Mrs. Martelli was quite right in telling you that you were to let me know when you were to come here. I was thinking of running up to Baroda; but I cannot do so at present as Her Highness is laid up with fever. Kindly let me know three days before you start and what day I am to expect you. I shall do my best to make you and those accompanying you as comfortable as possible. I hope Mrs. Martelli and your daughter are well,

I am writing to the Dewan about Captain Cox' African proposal. I feel that I have kept him too long waiting. The truth is I am hard pressed for time.

Your sincere friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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UMRATH,

15th April 1898.

MY DEAR THAKORESAHEB (OF GONDAL),*

I cannot commence this letter before begging for an apology for you for not answering your favour sooner. The truth is, besides falling a prey to that pernicious habit of procrastination, I feel a peculiar lack of energy and inclination on account of the heat to write letters. You as a doctor, can understand this much better than any number of expressions on the part of the lay-man I have been stopping here since February last account of plague in Baroda. I enjoy much better sleep here than I did at Baroda after my return from the land of the Nile. I was thinking of going away to some cold and bracing place this summer; but I have postponed the idea on account of the prevalence of plague in Baroda. I am glad to write to you that this foul disease is, at least for the present, and, I hope, for good, driven away from Baroda.

I wonder whether you are going out of Gondal to any seaside place for the hot weather. I have sent all my children to

Japan on a sea-voyage.† I expect them to be back in Ooty, about the first week of June next. If you have not seen Ooty, it is one of the places that you ought to visit with Her Highness, How is Lilaba and your other dear Little children? I wonder whether Kiritsinhji remembers me. I hope you are receiving good news of your other children, who are in England. Will you kindly accept yourself and give to Her Highness my very kind regards and tell her also that I have very pleasant memories of ur short voyage?

Your sincere Friend.
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAD.

* *The Thakore Saheb paid a visit to Baroda on 9th March 1907.*

† *All the children, after the thread ceremony of the first three Princes was performed at Umrath on 28th March 1898, had a sea-trip to Japan in the company of Mr. and Mrs. French, and Messrs. Narayanrao Ghadge and Dadasaheb Gaikwad.*

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UMRATH,
15th April 1898.

MY DEAR KIRITSINHJI,*

I was very glad to learn from you that you were enjoying sound health. Have you been taking any medicine since the return of Dr. Batukram from Ahmedabad?

Yes, I was very unlucky with the hunt. I did not see the animal at all. Her Highness has been suffering from fever since the last two days; but she is almost well to-day. I hope you are receiving news from your mother. Kindly give her my best Namaskar. Have you been to Nanded to select a village of not yet? When do you propose to do so? It is no at all improbable that I may ask you to come here, if you are well. How is your daughter Chandrakore? I have had good news of the children.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAD.

* *Brother of the Raja of Nandod, who was for a time taken into Baroda Service and who accompanied Their Highness to Europe in 1900, when the Paris Exhibition was on.*

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UMRATH,

27th April 1898.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

Mrs. Martelli can have the ponies and the little carriage. Please only look after the health of the tiny Scotch quadrupeds. I have no objection, if Madhavrao Baji (Deviwale)* was given a decoration. I am sur it will please all concerned. I had fever yesterday, but feel better today.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Originally of Indore Service, and subsequently taken up for the Baroda Army. He served on the frontier in the Tirrah Campaign and was given a decoration. He retired from Baroda on 18th February 1913 on a monthly pension of Rs. 205, which he is still enjoying (May 1923)*

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UMRATH,

2nd May 1898

MY DEAR MR. FRENCH,

I was glad to get your several letters. I am glad that every thing seems to be going on well. We are all looking forward to the return of the party. It has been fairly nice here I have been very busy with the Contract Law and hope to finish it in 2 or 3 days.*

Her Highness has not been doing well. We are preparing to start for Ooty. I am likely to stop there only for a couple of months, I do not wish Fatehsinh Rac to be initiated into the art of cutting capers† yet. Good manners may he taught without bringing youngsters in too close a contact with girls and young ladies. Please give my regards to the boys and Mrs. French.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *His Highness utilized his long and quiet stay at Umrath in studying the Law of Contract and making a new one for Baroda. Messrs. Ambalal Sakarlal and Anant Narayan Datar lived at Umrath for this work.*

† *On boardship during the voyage to Japan, Prince Fatesinhrao wished to learn dancing, to which His Highness refers.*

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UMRATH,
7th may 1898.

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AYANGAR)

I have to thank you for your kind letters. I am afraid this will reach you only in Madras. I hope you will have a good time, while away from business.* I have heard nothing about Vijapur and Saoli. I hope they will quietly settle down, I shall much miss your discreet and thankful advice. I shall be looking forward to meet you upon your return, with anxiety.

I shall issue the necessary instructions on the several points noted in your letter. I shall be soon going to Baroda for a few days. Ambalalbhai will be soon leaving this for Baroda. I hope this will find you and yours in very good health.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *The Dewan Mr. Shrinivas R. Ayangar was having a short leave and rest at this time.*

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UMRATH,
8th May 1898.

MY DEAR THAKORE SAHEB (BAVNAGAR),

Please accept my hearty thanks for your kind invitation. I hope all marriage ceremonies will go off well. Please express my cordial wishes to the young couple, for their future happiness. It will afford me great pleasure, if you can stop at Baroda and be my guest on your way to or back from Nandod, I cannot positively say that I shall be at Baroda when you come, but that will make no difference in your reception. Her Highness is not well and I have to hasten with her to Lanouli. I hope this letter will find you in very good health. I send a book with this, which you will kindly accept.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

UMRATH,

8th may 1898.

MY DEAR NEVINS,

A latter has been long due to you from me. The letter of 20th April has spurred me on to do my duty to a very kind and well-wishing and constantly-remembered friend. I was extremely sorry to learn of your mother's death. I remember her well. Please accept yourself and give to your aged good father and others my sincere condolence, I have been here since February, and to-morrow I have it for Baroda, and thence for Lanouli and Ooty. This time the place had done me a wonderful amount of good. After my return from Egypt, I could not sleep at all at Baroda. I was getting very much frightened. My liver was bad; and change to this place has done me much good. You will be astonished to learn that I often go out for long walks. I have sent all my boys to Japan for a sea-voyage. They have safely reached Yokohama.

Fatehsinhrao has his drawing examination, but certainly not as high as I was led to believe. I hope this will not be the case in his other examination. *Rich children have their own dangers.*

I have been working very hard with the Contract Act for Baroda. Her Highness has not been well since a pretty long time and that is why I have to leave this place. It exists in the districts. Saoli people opposed the plague measures and some troops had to be sent to over-awe them. We are having a row at Pilwai, a village in Kadi. Plenty of troops have been sent there to aid the police. The people opposed their village being surveyed, and hence the row. In Maharaja Khanderao's time it was surveyed. Our officers, as a rule, are very timid themselves and, besides, prevent others from acting. They are very fond of legal (and often ill-digested) theories, but never look to their practical results or never test them by the standard of practicability.

The faults found by the British administrators about the educated Indians, are more than true and by my experience, the British Government irresponsible for this. The Indians devour political ideas and apply them to all places alike, without

discriminating facts and circumstances. I have, I am afraid, inflicted on you too large a letter and will now close it with my affectionate regards to you.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
10th May 1898.

MY DEAR COL.COX.*

Many thanks for your letter. I arrived here at about 11 at night. I felt quite tired at the end of the journey. I hope Mrs. Cox has derived much benefit by her visit to England.

I am glad you have had a good time in Central India If not inconvenient to you, I shall be glad to take you out for a ride or drive tomorrow at 7 a.m. We shall have to start from here. I propose, during our ride, to see some buildings, if possible.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

*Asst Resident, Baroda.

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
11th May 1898.

MY DEAR COL, MARTELLI,

I was very glad to receive your letter at Umrath. I come here last night. I shall stop here for a couple of days. I am very anxious about the Kadi affair myself. I am sorry the Minister* did not speak to you about the Government question. I was under the impression that he was to speak to you. It is a very big question for our little raj. Kindly give my regards to Mrs. Martelli. There is a good wind blowing here. Her Highness is not very well.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* Mr. Kershaspji.

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

13th May 1898.

MY DEAR SIR (MR. ELLIOT),

I hailed your letter of the 1st April 1898 with great delight. You know that I am a disgracefully bad correspondent; but it is always a pleasure to me to read letters from friends like you.

We have had to fight with the plague in the Baroda city and parts of the Raj. The city is now free; but we cannot be sure that this immunity will be of the long permanence. The people were very averse to the plague measures; and one can easily sympathies with them in the serious troubles and inconveniences, to which they were put; but I do not know how the people's own interests and, besides, the British authorities were insisting on their introduction in Baroda. I do not think it unfortunate that affairs in Native States should so lightly be raised into the rank of the Imperial Necessities. In this instance, the Resident and other British officers were constantly coming in to those, who have no experience of the situation and who are naturally led by their position to take an opposite view; but these well-meant inspections and other small doings of the sort have a very tangible result on Native States. Even the smallest things have effects out of all proportion to their intrinsic importance, when the subject is weak and in a state of decay. Progress in the States, which is not easy in itself, comes to be really shocked by these means. I have no wish to seem captious or dissatisfied; I really think this would seem no unfair view to any one, who fairly tried to realize the situation for himself.

Things outside seem to be a little troubled. The newspapers teem with burning questions, viz, currency, the frontier war, the sedition act, the budget, the plague measures, the Poona* affairs, the China troubles etc. The net result, if they can be trusted, seems to be a straining of the friendly relations between the rulers and the ruled.

I am glad that you see Ted every week and that the other members of your family are, on the whole, well. I have sent all my children to Japan for a sea-voyage. I expect them back

in the first week of June next. They have reached Yokohama safely.

Fatehsinhrao has sent in his drawing papers to the examination held in Bombay and has not passed so well as we all had expected. Boys, supposed to be weaker than he, have proved stronger. I hope this is not the sort of the result we are to expect from his future examinations. It is very hard at times to distinguish between the real and the adulterated opinion about a rich man's child. I want Fatehsinhrao not only to pass examinations but to pass pretty high.

I have been at Umrath since February last and the stay has done me a world of good. After my return from Egypt, I could hardly get any sleep on account of my liver; but the air of Umrath I have found very friendly to healthy sleep. I am obliged to leave for Lanouli and Ooty on account of Her Highness' ailings. The children will join us at Ooty. I hope to be back in Baroda in July next. I might have gone this year to Japan or some such place; but owing to the plague and my disinclination to go, I have postponed the idea. The Calcutta Foreign Department seems to be more amiable, considerate and tactful, of late, in its dealings with me in this respect.

I have been working hard at a Contract Act for Baroda and have just finished it. It is really a copy of the British, but is worded at places in a different style from theirs. It is Mr. Ambalal, who has worked it out with me. I find the officials here are slavishly nervous about departing from the British form, except when the change leaps out like Minerva full-armed from their own brains. The danger and mischief is that, these gentlemen are extremely fond of certain theories and by sticking to them through thick and thin, that is to say, by applying their cherished political ideas without any discrimination as to circumstances, they make great confusion in the practical working. We tried to imitate the British in our measures and constitution; but the latter has power, generating eloquence, prestige, unity of interest in the high officials, nationality and patriotism on its side, which we have not and do not get, while at the same time we blindly throw away what advantage we do really possess. Thus, we lose on both sides mainly as a result of an anomalous political

situation and a machinery rigidly directed in one groove. These rocks, it is difficult for a native Raja, to steer through. Of course, I quite recognize that both the situation and the machinery have their own advantage.

The Minister† has gone on leave for six weeks and Mr. Kershaspji is acting for him. Jaisingrao Angre‡ died suddenly of heart disease. His place has been taken by Dhamnaskar. In the Settlement Department, I have passed the Vetan Rules, which were suspended. The rules, as at present sanctioned, are really the same as were prepared and sanctioned in your time. There has been a little row going on in Kadi about the surveying of an एक आंकडा village. I hope and believe that the affair is subsiding quietly. At Saoli also there has been some disturbance, but in this case, about the plague-measure. The Minister has dispatched troops to both these places.

I hope this letter, tedious for you to read, will find you and yours in very good health and spirits. With kindest regards to you all,

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *The murder of Mr. Rand and Lieut Ayrst in June 1897 during the plague measures, caused trouble at Poona.*

† *Mr. Ayangar.* ‡ *Sarsubha at the time; died on 18th March 1898 at Bardoa.*

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
22nd May 1898.

MY DEAR THAKORE SAHEB (GONDAL)

You can send her after her work is over in Gondal. I am afraid she will not find us here. You had better send her with a note to the Dewan here. I shall leave instructions for him. I shall ask her to paint one or more portraits or groups of them. May I trouble you to let me know what I should pay her? Had I not known Your Highness well and wished to be still friendly, I should not have dared to put you this question. You can indicate what you consider rational payment.

It is very hot here. Her Highness, who is ailing for some time, left for Lanauli. Will you accept and give my best regards

to the Ranisaheb and children? I hope this note will find you all well.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
22nd May 1898.

MY DEAR CAPT. COX,

We shall meet each other to-morrow at 6 p.m. on the Reach-Course. I hope this will suit you. After our conversation, kindly have the points, on which you wish to ascertain my wishes, put on paper in simple questions, so that I might only say, yes or no to them. You will help me to decide or to avoid any mistake of understanding. I was so pleased with my visit to Mrs. Cox the other day. I send the journal herewith. Thank you for it. I shall try to send the other to-morrow.

Your sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
27th may 1898.

MY DEAR COL.COX,

I have not forgotten our talk and had I not been engaged otherwise, I should have answered before this. I hope you will hear from the Minister to-morrow. I shall sanction 1,000.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

352

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
27th May 1898.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

I have to thank you for your letters. I have been hinting to my officers to avoid collision with Pilwai people as far as lies

in their power. Your advice in the matter has been kept in view. As to our sending more men, it will require a very long explanation; and I purposely avoid giving it in this trying heat. I only hope that there will be no necessity of their real use. I do not know why the Darbar* to-day did not take place. May there be many happy day. I hope you are all well.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Queen Victoria's birth-day.*

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
29th May 1898.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

Thank you very much for your letters. I have, from the beginning, indicated to my officers the desirability of avoiding a collision with the Pilwai people, if that should prove possible. Your advice has been well kept in view. There have been strong reasons for the delay in settling the matter and the requisition for more troops. The fact is that the officers have very little confidence in their arms and ammunition, and even in the percussion caps they have to use; they believe the villagers have, to some extent, better arms than theirs and feel that our men, as they all are drawn from certain classes, being quite out of practice, it would not be safe to attempt the village without more force. The affair was, in its original nature, a small one; but it is not easy to deal with refractory people, to whom as far a hand as possible is given. Even when it is not necessary to employ force, it is necessary the people should feel that force can effectively be brought to bear, if required. This is the case everywhere; but it is especially so in States Like Baroda, where people have always been accustomed to self-confidence and vigour on the part of the Government. The old Governments, whatever their other faults, have always acted promptly and strongly, when they considered it necessary; and even now when on tour, we hear such action on their part celebrated in popular tales. In fact, the people cannot yet appreciate any other attitude. But

vigour and confidence are hardly possible, when the action of the authorities is impeded even in details.

You will remember that a small force was sent at first to the spot by the Dewan and afterwards more was required. unfortunately, this could not be sent without regrettable delay. The dispatch of troops, involving the making of train arrangements, procuring of passes, indenting for powder etc., had to be carried out under conditions, which, even with the best cooperation on the part of the Residency, did not make for promptness. I am afraid that frequent criticisms and questioning on such points as indents etc. are apt to go beyond them-selves and cause not only delay, but loss of self-confidence. The villagers see only these results, the tendency of which is to injure the prestige of the Government in their eyes and in the eyes of the officials. They thus get courage to defy its authority to the utmost. They are under the impression that the State cannot open fire on them and take any military actions without the consent of the British Government, and any appearance of the state action being embarrassed or self-distrustful, confirms them in their defiant humour. Hence it comes that though the officers did their best in accordance with the original idea of avoiding a collision to bring them into a more reasonable frame of mind, they turned a deaf ear to all persuasions.

On the other hand, the officers are shrewd enough to feel the weakness of the positions. They have no certain expectation of any decisive action being possible. They have no certain expectation of any decisive action being possible. They distrust, as I have said, the efficacy of their arms and ammunition; and it is inevitable that they should feel diffident and, to some extent, paralysed. These are the disadvantages, which are felt even in a naturally small affair such as this. I cannot but think that if there were any serious riots, the present arrangement would cease to work altogether, and I should be apprehensive of the most undesirable results. I write this, because I wish you to understand our difficulty clearly, So far as a quiet settlement is practicable without compromising the authority of the Government or worse, the best efforts on our side have been made to bring it about. Indeed, this has been perhaps pushed beyond the proper limit,

as all the overtures have, so far as I know, proceeded from our side, and the villagers have not taken a single step to meet half way. On the other hand a prompt and vigourous course of action has been precluded by the conditions, under which we have had to act.

I have shown your letter to the Ag. Minister,* who has always been under directions to give you all necessary information. You must also remember he is new to the work. I understand from him that in this instance the information happens to be meager, but such as it is, he has got to put it at your service. If there is any further information you would like to have, he will be glad to communicate it to you. I should like to make one observation, which occurs to me by the way, I cannot but feel grateful for your desire to help me thoroughly and the uniform friendliness and good-will, which has prompted all your dealings with the State. But the natural desire of the Residency for information leads it sometimes into minute questioning, such as asking for the *raison d' etre* of every requisition and trying to satisfy itself whether the reason for making it is strong, or whether it proceeds from a competent officer or similar points. This has, for one result, a tendency, which, I am sure, is not intended to confuse the limits of responsibility of the Residency and that of the administration and this feeling of uncertainty on the minds of the officials weakens the execution of Government orders.†

Her Highness has gone to Lanauli; but I have been myself staying here so far through the hot weather, in case my presence should be necessary; but whatever I could do personally has been done and I expect shortly to go to Lanauli. However, I cannot say certainly as one cannot tell how the posture of affairs may change. It is very kind of you to offer to come down from Abu; and should it prove unnecessary, I shall telegraph, or ask the Minister to do so, as your presence could not fail to be of assistance. But I do not feel that the present position of affairs would justify me in troubling you to come down here. As to the future, I cannot speak with any definiteness; but I hope it will not be necessary. The heat has been increasing here steadily. I expected my children to arrive in a few days and go to Coonoor; but I learn that there is enteric fever there, and I have not made up my mind where

to send them. Mrs. Martelli and your daughters are well. I hope you will not be bored by the great Length of this letter or mind my speaking frankly on one or two points.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Mr. Kershappji.*

† *This letter refers to the Pilwai riots, which kept H.H. in Baroda during the Laying heat of May.*

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

3rd June 1898

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

I shall meet you tomorrow at 6 p. m. on the Race Course. I am sorry you have not heard from Government about the ammunition yet. I expect the fight today but have no certainty. Do not you think of returning to Abu yet?

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

3rd June 1898

MY DEAR MR. BARKLAM,

I am glad to be able to write to you after the lapse of so many days. In our limited interests, we have had great excitement about the Pilwai affair, of which you must have heard and read in the Pioneer and other newspapers. I am inclined to think that the affair is now almost all over. I have taken measures to quell any disturbance that may occur. I was for two or there months in a residence of mine, which is near Surat and on the sea-coast The palace there did me much good. I am today going to start for Lanauli, which is in the Ghaut near Poona. I shall not be able to stop there very long, as the monsoon there is severe. I am obliged to make this move greatly on account of Her Highness' health, which has been a little indifferent for the last several months. Poor Gladstone* has, after all his troubles and pleasures of his

life, left it, His life reminds one of a great portion of the history of the present reign and century.

I hope this letter will find you in good and sound health. I send herewith some stamps that I had promised. I am sorry I could not get more. I remain, with my best regards to you,

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Mr. Gladstone born on 29th December 1809 and died on 19th May 1898.*

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LANAULI,

20th June 1898

MY DEAR SIR (MR. ELLIOT),

I was glad to get your letter of 4th June 1898. I shall send you a fuller report of the Pilwai affair from Baroda. But I hasten to respond to some of your queries.

The row of Pilwai has nothing to do with the Barkhali measure or the *Gharenia-Vechania* question, and there was no question mooted of any enhancement of taxation. The people were told in writing by the Minister that before their *Ankdas* were increased or anything done, they would be given a full hearing. The mere fact of measuring some of their lands was the simple origin of their row. The villagers drove away the survey-measurers. Then they resisted the execution of some judicial processes and injured some police officials in the execution of their duties, and afterwards released some prisoners of Government. Lastly, they stopped the ingress of the Government officials into the village and prepared to wage war as best they could. They dug some sort of trenches and barricaded some of the roads with big logs of wood and brambles. They amassed guns, *Janjals*, powder, lead, and men to oppose Government and they stood to the resolution for a short time before the firing of Government troops, when all of them took to heels, Thirteen people were killed by Government troops and only five men on the side of Government were injured. The village accidentally took fire and has almost been reduced to ashes. The loss is calculated to be at about 3 lakhs. But I doubt myself whether the village could have been

so rich. Besides the people were warned to look after their property and even to take it away to the safest places they could, as Government was going to act vigorously; so that if any loss was caused by Government action, they would only have to blame themselves. The Banias who are proverbially shrewd and calculating class, must have managed their best to secure their property against any loss or damage.

The village has been captured and the great portion of the troops, all of whom amounted to the number of 2,00 have returned to Baroda. A portion of them has been retained there to check any spirit of insubordination. Chabilia, Dangarva and a few other villages are believed to be discontented and have not been behaving as they should. We have posted some punitive police in these villages, and declared the village of Pilwai to be *Khalsa*, which latter fact materially injures the *Matadars*, their *Bhayyats* and the ring-leaders of this trouble. I believe the real *Kheduts* gain by this change, as they become direct tenants of Government and retain the land in their possession simply by paying rupee once for all to Government as the price of the right of cultivation, which has not been put up to action.

The row of Pilwai was apparently mainly confined to the village itself and to the 12 *Farta Ek Ankda* villages in its neighbourhood. These villages have *Matadars* as their landlords instead of one respectable Thakore. The Survey Department had surveyed all the Thakore-villages and the few of the villages of these *Matadars*. But eleven of these villages, I believe clandestinely, and Pilwai openly opposed the measure of Government.

Pilwai was bolstered up with praises and recitations of the past glory by *Barots* and a few Brahmins to oppose the Government; some Vakils gave them the idea that by law and circumstances, the Gaikwar Government could do nothing in the matter. To fire a gun or to kill a man, the explicit sanction of the British Government was wanted, who would not sanction such a procedure. This was a strong belief of the rioters and of many people in the districts. The slowness and delay dallying of our officers on various grounds gave heart to these Rajputs to carry out their illegal resistance.

Before the village was actually attacked, the offenders were asked to submit and that in case they submitted, some of them would be pardoned and most of them only lightly punished. But the Rajputs heeded or respected none of these overtures of Government. All along, steps for reconciliation were taken by gaining time and ultimately refusing them. The conduct of Government officials, before Mr. Dhamnaskar was sent there, was not in unison and circumspect. It is wonderful how little the Government officials knew or tried to find out what was. Going on in the village itself, and round about in the country. They have now ample, from the beginning, as it seems now after the affair is over, overrated the extent and magnitude of the row and the number and bravery of the Rajputs. Heroic tales of Rajputs conveyed in the novels seems to have had some fair amount of effect on the minds of some of the military and other officers of Government.

However, fortunately, in the end, everything has turned out much better than many expected. This Pilwai affair was for some days the common and universal topic in the Bazar, and wherever groups of people assembled, a forecast of the flight of the Baroda troops, the need of succor from the British Government, and the price they would exact in return, the folly of Baroda government in wishing to enhance rates and other cognate problems, were freely discussed and indulged in, by the speaking public of Baroda and the neighbourhood. Some people took this opportunity to word their petitions in a threatening manner, others offered their services in this cause, and some launched all kinds of devices to queel this trouble. One had to learn much of human nature shaped by natural and artificial or Governmental and social circumstances. All showed interest, but few showed capacity, discretion and proportion of means and measures. The art of Government is sadly lacking in most men. We shall become less and less capable of managing such or similar troubles by our political limitations, education and want of practice. Rights are created, manufactured and defined well; but the means to defend and to carry them out are more or less sadly wanting at times. I do not opine this as a pessimist; but I think the close study of facts justifies this forecast.

Col. Martelli and the residency were really sympathetic; but at times they growled at us and cited our misdoings and misconduct. It was a strange mixture of thought and feeling.

I find after having dictated this letter that there is hardly anything of interest and consequence, now remaining to be mentioned in the letter promised to you, in future. I remained in Baroda during all this trouble and only came here after really everything was finished.* We were thinking of going to Ooty; but the typhoid fever there has changed plans. There is every chance of our going to Baroda now for some time. The change to Ooty was forced by the health of Her Highness, who has been suffering from low fever for some time past. I should not be the worse for a change. I feel rather weak and growing somewhat fat and flabby. The children have returned from their long trip to Japan and most of them appear to me to be possessing healthier color and sprightly looks. But some do not agree in this estimate of mine.

Our movements are very expensive and troublesome and sometimes more ado and noise is made about them than I like. We are made ant times slaves of circumstances.

I hope this letter finds you, Mrs. Elliot, your daughter and son in very good health and spirits. All of you are often in my thoughts and memory. It seems hardly possible that we shall forget you and yours. It has been raining here (at Lanauli) very hard and constantly, and it has made very body miserable, as the accommodation is very scanty and poor. We never intended to stop here long; but Her highness was waiting here for my arrival. Balubai Saheb,† the Ranee of Akalkote, who is a niece of mine, has just come here for a little visit. The poor lady lost her husband only a year and a half ago.‡ He was only twenty-nine at the time of his death.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *The most of the Pilwai episode drawn by His Highness is worth being remembered in India. Village Pilwai is in Kadi District, of which Mr. Vaniker was the Suba D. B. Samarth was of Baroda, Mr. Kershaw of Amreli and Mr. Khasherao of Naosari.*

† *Please see note on Letter No. 52.*

‡ *Please see note on Letter No. 276.*

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LANAULI,

15th June 1898

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (KERSHASPAJI)

Khasherao has had hard work in connection with the plague. Please grant him a personal promotion of rs 75/- a month, over his present pay. He will stand in the grade as at present. It is raining hard here. I was glad to receive your note.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

360

LANAULI,

18th June 1898

MY DEAR MR. DHAMNASKAR,

You are quite right about the transfer of Subas. We need not be in haste at all. If any transfer is needed, it can be thought of later on. It need not matter about the troops being removed. Kindly tell Vanikar to look after the prosecutions well. I expect you to supervise. I have to praise you about your conduct in the pilwai affairs. I only feel that too much time was lost before the final step was taken. I am looking forward to meet you, but please do not be in hurry to leave. I hope this note will find you well.

Yours sincerely.
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

361

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

27th June 1898.

MY DEAR CO. MARTELLI,

Will you kindly accept this photo as a memory of your visit to the village of Jehur to see the eclipse (Sun-eclipse)?* I do not find Baroda as cool as Lanauli. I hope Mrs. Martelli and

your daughters with yourself are well. When are you thinking of coming down to Baroda?

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* Please see Letter No. 325. There was a total solar eclipse on Saturday the 22nd January 1898. His Highness and a small party with Col. Martelli had gone to see it from Umrath to Jehur, a small Railway Station on the G.I.P. Railway in the district of Sholapur.

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
3rd August 1898

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (OF GWALIOR),

I am sorry I neglected to acknowledge the receipt of the toys, I gave them to the boys immediately after their return from Japan. They thought the mechanism in them was very ingenious. Fatehsinhrao and two others are growing very fond of cricket. Do you play the game yourself? When will you pay us a visit again? By the bye, may I ask you how you have settled about your Rupee difficulty? We hear you are going to adopt British Rupees.* I hope you are enjoying good health. With all our good wishes.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* This question of exchange between the Baroda and the British Coin became very troublesome and ultimately on 13th February 1901 the British Silver Coin was adopted even in Baroda Raj for a period of 50 years. (G.S.S.)

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
11th August 1898.

MY DEAR YESHWANTRAO (PANDHRE, LONDON),

I was extremely glad to hear of your success at the Agricultural College in having obtained the diploma. I am told, there is a year more, before you can be called to the Bar. You must also finish this course and get its diploma. You have asked me as to your return. If you are really home sick and cannot arrange to finish your Bar-Examination, then, in that

case, you might come to India for a short while during your vacation. I should like that while filling in the terms and preparing for the Bar-examination, you should have a liberal course of general reading, in order to develop your mind, add to your knowledge and increase your facility of speaking and writing English. You can write to me, if you like, after consulting Mr. Cotton, as to the course and mode you propose to adopt in this matter. I may roughly suggest that a general acquaintance with modern European History will be useful. You should specially study the history of Germany and Italy upto date. Besides, you might profitably read the expansion of England by Prof. Seeley. A grasp of the general principles of Political Economy will also be useful. I hear there are some classes in London, where lectures are given on the art of diplomacy. Is it so? Can you manage to go there, if I were to wish you to attend them? Besides this, you can read useful books, which will improve language and style.

Yours sincerely.
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

364

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
27th August 1898.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

Your two letters to hand. The subject matter has been really disposed of. The matter has been difficult to deal with. I am sending both your letters to the Minister, who will speak to you on the matter.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

365

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
1st September, 1898.

DEAR MRS. ASLET,

I was coming to your party; but I am changing my in tension on account of the rain as it will prevent the total carrying out

of your plans. Allow me to thank you for your invitation. I hope Col. Aslet is all right this evening.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

366

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
7th September 1898.

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (BHAVNAGAR),

I was so glad to hear from you and it pleased me most that you were blessed with a son. I pray that he may grow into a strong young man to be an everlasting source of happiness to his parents and people. I have no doubt that all your loyal subjects must have hailed the news of a son to you with great delight and satisfaction.

We are all doing well here, though this month is very trying as it begins to get so warm. Can you visit us next cold weather? We are at present practically free from plague. I am not sure how long the immunity will continue. I hope this letter will find you in very good health and spirits.

Your sincere Friend.
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
11th September 1898.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

The matter you refer to has not been out mind and you will hear of it in a day or two. The Imperial troops' question has been engaging me. It is very hard for me to decide. The desire and duty of help have always been clear and prominent to me, but the mode has troubled me a good deal more than you can imagine. Try to analyse our feelings and difficulties. I shall meet you on Tuesday. I hope you are not minding the heat. I feel it much.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

12th September 1898.

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (OF IDAR),

I have to thank you heartily for your letter and the book recently sent. My trip to Egypt proved to be vey beneficial though it was rather too short. Besides visiting Cairo's different sites, mosques and Gizeb and Sakhara Pyramids, I went with my party to Aswan along the Nile-banks. We had to stop at times on the banks of the Nile to inspect the old Egyptian, Greco-Egyptian and Greco-Roman Temples. The style of the buildings, the carvings and paintings on the walls and pillars and ceilings were very instructive and striking. In certain respects and especially in religious life and ideas, the Egyptians seem to be very near us. I should not be at all astonished to find that these people and our ancients had more close and more intimate knowledge than we were inclined to believe in these days. It is wonderful that these buildings and the works of art they contain had been preserved up till now. The work has been done so skillfully and the materials used in these fabrics have been so pure, strong, and durable, that it has defied the time and the mischief wrought by hoards of invaders. Before I saw these temples, I did not imagine that the desert of Egypt was so rich in historical monuments, which are living instances of the architectural skill of the ancient Egyptians. The Egyptians were peaceful and industrious, who spent their energies in developing their country and in building. They did not make use of their power in invading foreign countries. The prosperity of Egypt, we may safely say, depends upon the water of the river. From ancient times, the Nile has been held in great reverence and made to irrigate the fields of the peasantry. The British Government is doing a great deal in restoring and regulating the old irrigation works. At the same time, they are constructing many new reservoirs. The climate of Egypt, when I went, was fairly nice and cool, though the best time is in the cold weather. I would strongly recommend your Highness to visit Europe and this country before it is too late. I do not know whether I have sent you my notes on Gibbon's

Decline and fall of the Roman Empire. If you will kindly let me know if you have not got it, I shall send you a copy of it. I hope this letter will find you in excellent health,

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

369

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE BARODA,
13th September 1898.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

I shall be glad to meet you tomorrow in the morning at 7.30 on the Race Course. In case it rains as it did today, I shall be at the Residency at 6 p. m. to bid you good-bye.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

370

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE BARODA,
13th September 1898.

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (KERSHASPJJI)

I was formerly under the impression that the suggestion of Transport Corps to maintained by the State was not authoritative statement, exclusive of any other alternative; had it not been so, I would not have spent time in inquiring into the cost of the Imperial Service Corps in other States of in instituting enquiries into the relative cost of the different arms in our army. But you have recently informed me that the maintenance of the Transport Corps in practically the only form of assistance in Imperial Defence, the is likely to be accepted. Under the circumstances, I have no other choice.

2. A Transport Corps, However, is not what I should have desired myself nor what commends itself to me as advantageous on both sides. I think an Imperial Service Corps, when not on Imperial Service, should be of permanent use to the state so that no unnecessary expense should be incurred by keeping them up as additional troops. This is a condition, it is obvious, a Transport Corps will not satisfy.

3. The circumstances of the Baroda Territory are unsuitable to enlistment of men for any branch of the service and the provision and the maintenance of Transport animals, especially ponies are also likely to be a heavier burden; so that, on the whole, this particular form of service will entail more difficulty and cost in its maintenance than it might do elsewhere.
4. The consideration of expense is one, which, under present conditions, is bound to be felt by the State. Baroda has already contributed very heavily to Imperial Military expenditure in the shape of the cession of territory yielding 25 lakhs at the time of cession and getting on to double the amount, at the present day, to which must be added the payment for the contingent. Measures of improvement and reform are imperatively demanded and the existing resources of the State are only sufficient to meet this necessity, The calls of which tend in the nature of things to increase as further progress is made. It is to be feared that further extraneous burdens would seriously hamper improvement and necessitate the starving of the useful expenditure. It would, therefore, have been satisfactory, if a form of Imperial Service could have been arranged for, which, while meeting the object of Imperial Defence, would have been also, as above indicated, of real use to the State itself.
5. Besides the pecuniary assistance already touched upon, the State is under the obligation, which, I need not say, would be always gladly and promptly discharged, of helping the British Government in time of need. It is only desirable, in order to render the obligation more effectual, to trust the State with facilities for putting its army as a whole under superior and more efficient training and better arms. In this case, the need of Imperial Service Troops, in the present form, would not rise; the State also would not feel the burden of expenditure and would, in addition, have a particular interest in the general well-being of the Empire.
6. Taking all these points into consideration, the money contributions, the demands on the State resources and the standing obligation of assistance, I should have

preferred if the Government of India would be likely to view it is this light, that the State should be excused the further burden of Transport Corps as a source more beneficial to the people. If, however, there is a likelihood of this desire being misunderstood, I am writing, under the circumstances, to sanction the maintenance of such a corps.

7. I may add that the considerations above mentioned and the difficulty of settling details have been the only reasons why the question has been so long pending. The wish and desirability of assisting the British Government have never, for a moment, been a question with me but the particular form and mode, which the assistance was to take, seemed to me to call for serious and careful consideration. Even now, I feel, the details of the scheme arranged, are hardly likely to work and do not seem to meet the interests of the State. The only use, to which the corps would be likely to be put in the absence of a need for its services, would be in the P. W. D. and Tainat..... are to be employed in the Tramways if there be any; and I am afraid even such use would provoke inquiries and objections from the Inspecting Officer with a resulting friction, which would render even so much impossible. Further , certain conditions of the super vision stipulated for, might, in the working, fall rather hardly on the State; as for instance, if a pattern, once approved by the proper British authorities, were to be frequently changed, which, it is hoped, will not occur; or more particularly if the change be made when on field duty. In this case, it will tell heavily on the resources of the State to bear the expense, and it ought, if possible, to be held free from it.
8. On the whole, it is a very probable contingency that the maintenance of corps, under present circumstances. Will really only amount to a money payment by the State. This is a contingency, which it would be very desirable to avoid. I have named the grave financial reasons why the State should not be called upon to increase its pecuniary contributions in this kind. If, therefore, at any future time, the scheme of Imperial Defence should be abandoned either altogether or as it at present stands,

the State should be considered at liberty to discontinue the maintenance of the Transport Corps, in order to avoid the cost of an armament, which would be only occasionally useful. There may be other points, which call for remark; but as any discussion is not now admitted, it would be useless to dwell on them.

9. The corps may consist either of 300 camels or 500 ponies with the necessary number of carts. The proper estimate of cost will be laid by you before me.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

371

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE BARODA,
13th September 1898.

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (KERSHASPJJI)

These Letters have been handed over to me by a gentleman of the Maharaja of Dholpur. He wants, it seems, to know whether I shall contribute any larger sum than promised by us. I am inclined not to do more than we have promised. Kindly see the past correspondence and prepare a suitable reply to be given to the gentleman this evening at 5 p.m.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

372

LAXMI VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
16th October. 1898.

MY DEAR MAHARANA (OF DHOLPUR),

I was very glad to get your letter and its accompaniments and also to acknowledge your telegram of today. I read them and heard what your Sardar had to say. I shall be happy to contribute Rs. 50,000/- fifty thousand for the purpose in view.

I hope this letter will find Your Highness and your children perfectly well. I was glad to know that you were better from a wound you had received.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

374

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

18th October 1898.

DEAR PRINCE,*

I am glad to know that you have found everything comfortable. I should like to do all that is possible to make your visit to Baroda an interesting one. I shall be glad to receive you tomorrow at 6 p.m.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* Prince Shergamankhanji of Junagadh, Guest House, Baroda.

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

28th November 1898.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

I will inquire about the matter you mention in your today's note. I am sorry that you are troubled in many trifling matters. If you feel inclined, you can give me a note of them, so that I may know them. It makes me really unhappy to do anything, which is disagreeable to you or to the Government,

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

376

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

8th November 1898.

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (KERSHASPJJI),

I have passed my order on Munsiff Kedarnath's case. I wish you to make yourself rationally sure that the case is not strong enough to warrant a prosecution. If it be strong, I should prefer a prosecution instead of merely a departmental order.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

377

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

18th October 1898.

MY DEAR LORD SANDHURST,

I am sorry that you cannot pay us a visit. I think this was likely to be the most convenient time for you to visit Baroda, and I took the opportunity to invite you. If not now, I hope some day I may have the pleasure of welcoming you. Your Excellency must feel very happy that the plague is not yet so bad as it was last year this time. I do not think Lady Sandhurst is likely to go with you in your next tour. I have subsequently learnt that your trip is a very short one. I hope you will have a pleasant time of it. Please accept yourself and give my best compliments to Lady Sandhurst.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

378

Laxmi-Vilas Palace, Baroda,

23th November 1898.

MY DEAR CAPT. COX.,

The Ajwa House is at your disposal. If you like, for your convenience, I am ready to treat your two friends as Sirkar Guests and do our best to put them up.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

379

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

23th November 1898.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

I shall be at your residence tomorrow at 5 p. m. If you can arrange for a party of tennis there, I shall like it much. I am not feeling very well.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

380

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

12th December 1898.

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (KERSHASPJI),

I have more than once gone with you and with others into the communications from the Huzur Kamadar to Mr. Samarth, and his explanation.

It is not necessary to mention the details of the discussions. I do not consider it necessary to touch upon the different points mentioned in Samarth's confused, unsatisfactory, presumptuous, and schismatic explanation, worded in ill-measured terms, His conduct is such as to merit a very severe degradation, but having regard to his previous good services, and that he has had to carry out, though with unstinted help from Government, a very unpopular measure and which he has, on the whole, carried out creditably, it will suffice for the present, if you will kindly convey to him my great sense of displeasure at the tone of his explanation, for which I order his immediate transfer to Naosari on a monthly salary less by Rs. 25 twenty-five than what he draws now.

It is with great regret that I have felt myself compelled to pass this order; but the spirit of insubordination and disrespect shown to a higher authority, deserved being treated with severity. I may take this opportunity to mention that this is not the first instance of its kind that I have seen and that if this spirit of insubordination and squabbling for merit, in this young service of ours, is not checked in time, it is likely to be of great mischief to the State, and be a canker in its growth. It is not for servants to dictate the rate, at which their services should be valued by others'; but they are to receive with thanks nay recognition that might fall to their lot. I have noticed that people at times raise phantoms of difficulty and disasters more gloomy than they really portend to be, and I can not help classing this instance as one of those. This is done with various motives, sometimes honest, and at other times, out of selfishness.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

381

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

19th December 1898.

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (KERSASPJI),

Your letter just to hand. You had expressed verbally what you now put in writing. Please do not imagine (it I may be allowed to use that word) or mix up an individual question with that of the measure. I regret I cannot see my way to alter my decision. I do not think it worth while to write more kindly think of an officer, who should take charge of the post of the plague Commissioner.

Yours sincerely,

SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

382

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

22nd December 1898.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

I shall be, in all probability, at your residence tomorrow between 9 and 10 a.m. In case I fail to turn up, I shall be glad to receive you here at 4.30 p.m.

Your sincere Friend,

SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

P.S. I am glad you enjoyed your trip.

383

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

26th December 1898.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

Allow me to thank you and Mrs. Martelli for your very kind wishes, I and mine reciprocate your good wishes and feelings. I shall probably go for a couple of days to Bardoli, where I expect to get some bears to shoot. Please give my compliments of the season to your daughters and guests.

Your sincere Friend,

SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

384

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

4th January 1898.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

In the list of honours given to Baroda officials, there is one name, which sounds like Mohamed Ibrahim, Baroda Personal Naib Suba. Is it the name of the Naib suba or some body else? You had consulted my wishes about giving titles to three officers, but of no more. If titles are to be bestowed on Baroda officials, amongst many reasons, one is that these officers must look up to its Government, and so it should know who are recommended for honours.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

387

BOMBAY,

16th January 1898.

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (OF GWALIOR),

I was very happy to receive a letter from you. It come just about the time we were leaving for Bombay. Consequently, we had no time to examine the toys. The princes, after their return from Bombay, have opened the boxes and they speak highly of the mechanism of the toys and their cost. I will ask them to write you and express their thanks. I am sure they have been delighted with them and must think of you as a very kind and generous brother and friend.

I have been here since the last few days for the benefit of Her Highness health. I hope you have had a good time in Calcutta and that your visit passed off to your satisfaction. Kindly accept the Tilgul accompanying this note.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

388

BOMBAY,

16th January 1898

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (OF INDORE),

I received your letter of 7th January and went through its contents carefully. It is a pity that circumstances made our meeting impracticable. Thanks for your kind words about the princes. Your advice will have my best attention. You must take great care of your health and try to free yourself from worry and trouble as much as you can.

I have been here since the 8th of this month. I do not propose to stop here longer than what is absolutely necessary. There is slight plague in Baroda, but of very little consequence. I was very happy to shoot a panther a few days ago in the neighbouring State of Chhota-Udaipur. I hope this letter will find you in good health and spirit. I send with this letter some *Tilgul* which, I hope, you will accept.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

389

MAKARPURA PALACE, BARODA,

14th February 1898.

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (KIRITSINHJI OF TEHRI),

Many thanks for your letters. My Dewan comes from Madras, where the kind of Brahmins you refer to, reside. I shall send some names he may recommend; you can treat the matter afterwards as you like. I am glad the year commenced well with you and, hope, will end so too.

I am glad the ceremony of your child* passed off well. We are suffering from plague and I do not know when the foul disease will disappear. I have not quite settled where to go this summer. I am starting today for Dabka, a place, which is about 17 miles from here. I hope this letter will find you and yours in good health.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* The present Maharaja of Tehri Rajah Narendra Shaha, born on 3rd August 1898.

391

MAKARPURA PALACE, BARODA,

18th March 1899.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

I thank you for your letter of the 15th Instant. It seems you have got an impression from the mortality figures of the last week compared with those of the corresponding week of the last year, that practically there are no plague arrangements here. But I am told that the arrangements of the last year are in force this year also with some modifications suggested by experience gained here as well as in British India. It would be interesting and instructive to compare the mortality of Baroda with that of Bombay and other plague-striken places. I suppose the rate of Bombay this year is anything but smaller than that of the last year. I learn from experienced persons that people, having been encouraged to move, as they like, out of the affected localities with certain restrictions, have not suffered much from plague and that it is no good huddling them together as in crowded streets; still steps have been suggested to modify this liberty. Of course, the contacts are kept separate for a reasonable period. This system has so far been satisfactory, there being very few plague cases in the camps. The daily reports of the Plague Commissioner* also show that the work of detection done this year compares favourably with that of the last year. I am informed that there is sufficient supervision over all plague operations, but that there is not the same rigidity as last year in carrying them out. The present modified arrangements are practical and suitable to the people. If there is any sure and effective way of checking and driving out plague, I do not think we shall hesitate to adopt it, however, unwilling. We may be to trouble and worry the poor people. It is pity that the plague Commissioner has had to go on leave on account of ill-health.. But that could not be helped. His place has been taken by an officer, who has had experience of plague operations last year and who is a very steady and judicious man. On the whole, I think the arrangements are satisfactory and leave no room for much anxiety. The Minister has had a talk with me on the subject and he is going to set the matter right wherever it deserves to be set right.

Referring to your last paragraph, I may be permitted to say without wishing to give any offence, in the least, that the visits of Dr. Dyson and others were not paid without an object. I hear you have lately paid visits to the health camps and seen things for yourself; and you also have had an interview with Mr. M. Ibrahim and told him that the arrangements were not satisfactory. It is a question whether the remarks like these ought to be conveyed to subordinate officers instead of the Dewan. However, for fear of offending, I make no remarks on the subject on the present occasion. I think it will not make us very proud, if we are treated with greater confidence and reminded less of fears that hang over us in case of our laxity or remissness in plague and other matters. I conclude this letter in a great hurry and wish you to excuse any excess of expression.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Mr. Khaserao Jadhav.*

392

MAKARPURA PALACE, BARODA,
26th March 1898.

MY DEAR MR. FRENCH,

I think you are quite right to go out. If you see some funs for the two younger boys, certainly buy them. If you do not get ready made, get them made to order in England. I wish them to be of be of the best quality and make. I hope you will have a nice time in Bombay.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

393

MAKARPURA PALACE, BARODA,
28th March 1898.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

I shall be glad to see Sir E. Buck tomorrow at 9 am. I have spoken to the Minister about the business which brings Sir

E. here. Kindly arrange about their business meeting. I have not been sleeping well at all. Now that my visit to Darjeeling cannot take place, I shall be going to Umrath for some time. I had no sport at all at Baria. I hope you are all well.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

394

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
4th April 1899.

MY DEAR RAJASAHEB,

Your kind letter from Devgad Baria was duly received. I thank you for your kind wishes for myself and family. I hope you are enjoying good health with th Princes.

I am much obliged for the excellent arrangements made for myself and my staff during my short stay there. I enjoyed the trip well. Hoping to hear from you from time to time, I remain,

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,

*Maharaval Shree MANSINHJI PRITHVISINHJI, Rajasaheb, Devgad
Baria.*

395

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
13th April 1899.

YOUR HIGHNESS (OF BARIA),

I have to thank you very much for your so kindly sending the charolas and some berries. I was glad to know from your man that you were in excellent health. I hope your children are in excellent health too. I hope they got their toys in good state. They were dispatched direct form Bomby and I had no time in Baria to examine them.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

396

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
13th April 1899.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

I shall be at the Residency tomorrow at 8 a.m. to see you. I hope the time will suit you. I am sorry the clerk here seems to have made a serious mistake about your letter. I have punished him heavily.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

397

CAMP PEOPLE (NAVSARI DIST.),
24th April 1899.

DEAR NABOBZADA NASURULLAKHAN,*

Your kind letter from Panchgani dated 16th Instant duly to hand. Many thanks for the presentation copy of the book sent by you. I shall read it with the greatest pleasure. It is a matter of great satisfaction that young gentlemen in your position are taking to writing such books.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

**Brother of the late Nawab of Sachin.*

398

TOKERVA, SONGAD TALUKA,
24th April 1899.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI.

I should like to meet the Maharana Dholpur's* wishes as much as possible. I have sanctioned certain additions to be made to the present building. This work will at once begin and will probably prove a nuisance to His Highness, if he lived there. Secondly, my children may be advised to go there, in case they fall sick. The letter is mere a contingency and not likely to happen. If His Highness does not mind the pushing on of the construction and the remote contingency, he is

welcome to occupy the house. He has wired to me and I cannot explain all this in a telegram; so you will kindly inform him on my behalf and let the Minister know the Rana's wishes. You will also inform the Minister of the contents of this note, so as to avoid any mistakes, I am glad that your one daughter is nearly quite well; and I hope the other will shake off her illness too. I have had no real big shikar, but have killed some stags. A panther has been brought us dead and the people, who have brought it, say it was wounded by me some days ago. I cannot swallow the account without verification and hesitation. Kindly give my regards to all your people and also accept yourself.

Your sincere Friend.
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* Please see Letter No. 372.

399

TALUKA SONGAD, SATKUSHI NEAR TOKARVA,
29 April 1899.

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AYANGAR),

Your kind letter has just reached me, while wiring for the shikar animal to turn up. In all probability, I shall turn up at least before 20th May. If I do not come to Baroda, I wish you to come to Umrath to bid me goodbye. You can hardly imagine how sorry I feel at your departure, as I have more than once expressed to you. I have great admiration, regard etc. even more than that, feeling for your abilities and good qualities of head and heart. I shall always take lively interest in your career, which, I hope, will even be more prosperous in the future than the past.

The climate here is very pleasant considering the time of the year. May I ask you to suggest a name to me of a first class revenue officer, who will undoubtedly be an acquisition to the Baroda service? He may be utilised as Revenue Officer or made use of for general advising work. He should, if possible, know one of the vernaculars of this side. Can you find out and suggest a name to me, and also informally and without placing yourself in an awkward position, draw or find out his

wishes? I hope I am not troubling you in asking this. His pay will be here from Rs. 1200 to 1300 British. Keep this matter to yourself till the plan is well matured for execution.

I hope this letter will find you in good health.

Your sincere Friend.

SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

400

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

9th May 1899

MY DEAR LADY TWEEDALE,

I thank you very much for your Christmas card. As it is months too late for a return in kind, I am obliged to ask you to believe the feeling and good wishes heartily returned, but without any card to show for them. I waited before sending a reply until I could give some account of what has been happening with us in Baroda.

Of course, Lord Curzon's arrival in Bombay was the grand event of the year. I wanted to see him there; but apparently, it could not be managed. Naturally, every new Viceroy comes to India amid a chorus of expectations and speculations; but never has this chorus been so loud as over the arrival of Lord Curzon. I suppose it is because he comes trailing clouds of glory from his home. Some people think he will revolutionize the internal condition of India; there are some muttered doubts as to whether he will not rather revolutionize the boundaries of the Empire and pile Hindu Kush upon the Himalayas. A few confirmed cynics may suggest that he will do like the general run of the Viceroys, come in like a lion and go out like a lamb; but the general impression is that he will do something unheard of, though the nature of that something may be doubtful.

In Baroda also our little parochial events come thickly. The Minister* is retiring within the next three months, why, I do not quite know; but I suspect it is a form of home-sickness or let us dignify it by the name of nostalgia. He feels himself, I think, in a strange land among the babel of foreign tongues and the obscurities of unfamiliar work. At any rate, he is bent on going, though I am sorry to lose him so soon and have

told him so. The Chief justice† is also going, but in his case, it is, after long service, to take rest in his old age.

It is not likely that the Resident will be changed. Colonel Martelli asked for a year's extension; but he has only got six months, and as these six months cover the worst season of the year, I do not think he will try to weather them out. Mrs Martelli has been in poor health for a long time and their eldest daughter has been ailing with measles and high fever following upon it. All these things will precipitate his departure. I think he will do wisely for himself to anticipate the expiry of loss to myself. With the former, he has been very popular owing to his affable and hospitable disposition, and to me he has been very kind and pleasant. I shall certainly be sorry to lose him. We do not know who will come in his place; and you know enough of India to understand how important it is to have a really sympathetic Resident. Without sympathy, he may have the best intentions and yet do great and lasting harm to the State.

I have been very much occupied lately, having done a good deal of hard work. Besides, I am trying to read. You cannot imagine what deep subjects I have been tackling lately. I have actually attempted a misty ocean of philosophy, and though it was a poor little crockle-shell I sailed in, I have got some idea of the general bearings of those waters, I have managed to get into my head some impression of the history of philosophy in Europe and its different schools. At present, I am plunged in law. Her Highness is also studying very hard. She is reading with Miss Sorabji, a native Christian lady, who is employed in the State, and has got into many interesting English novels. What is more and a very great gift to have, she can remember the stories and turn them to account in conversation.

How is captain Gordon? We saw his picture in one of the English news-papers at the time of his candidature for Parliament. I hope he will stand again and get in next time. Please give him my regards. I always remember with pleasure the good days I had, travelling with him in Europe and am not likely ever to forget them. Ask him to remember me to Mr. Weeden, if he sees him. The Shetland ponies are doing very well indeed and are put in harness pretty often. I hear the

Raja of Jodhpur has got nearly a score of Shetland ponies. Captain Cox is on a hunting excursion in Africa. I have an interest in his expedition as I gave 1200 to help in it. In return, he is going to let me have a supply of skins and stuffed animals. He wrote to me some time ago, giving a detail of existing duels with lions and rhinoceroses in Somaliland.

I am going in for a lot of mechanical improvements in Baroda. You know we have the electric light in the Palace. I have also set up electric fans, They are really of an immense use and comfort, when compared with the big unwieldy thermantidores, which necessitate continual directions to the puller. But I suppose all these things are only poor attempts to bring about by artificial means a cool climate, where Nature intends and insists on having the reverse. Indians, of course, are, as a rule very poor and so accustomed to the farthest economy of enjoyment and comfort that they regard the introduction of these things as an almost sinful waste of money. I am convinced there is much more of socialistic feeling here than in Europe, where the sight of great private wealth is familiar, though, of course, here it does not go beyond feeling, while in Europe what there is of it formulates itself into theories and propaganda One would be glad to see these people richer and making more of their lives on the side of comfort and enjoyment.

Be that as it may, I am thinking of taking yet one step farther in this direction by getting out electric or steam cars they will be useful to carry people to places of interest, and I do not think the horses, at least, whose labour will be saved, will object to them.

I am going to pass the period of midsummer heat in Umrath. I had an idea of seeking a more bracing climate for the sake of Her Highness' health; but owing to the plague obstructions, I have not been able to manage it.

I have been daily thinking of writing to you this letter, and just I was going to send it, I received Captain Gordon's letter dated 21st April 1899. Please give him my best regards and tell him that if I do not correspond as much as I ought to, it is due not to want of will, but due to that peculiar want of energy. This fact people can hardly be expected to understand, but still there it is, and that is why I have dictated this letter,

which, I hope, you will not mind. This letter lacks certain information about the shares, which he wishes me to ask 'Mr. William Whiteley' to give him. I have been hesitating what to do. Though I should like to help him as much as I can, I doubt seriously whether my recommendation can really help him. Besides, as a matter of fact, except while probably I am in London, I make no purchases from that firm. However, I am considering how to help my friend. I hope this letter will find both of you in good health and excellent spirits.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Mr. Ayangar.*

† *Mr. Ambalal Sakarlal.*

401

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
9th may 1899.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

You need not come over hear, but in its stead, I propose that I should go to your place and meet all of you. Unless inconvenient to you, I shall come to you on Tuesday at 6 p. m. I have much to do tomorrow. I had no sport more than what I wrote to you. I hope all of you are well.

Yours sincerely.
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

402

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
9th may 1899.

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AYANGAR),

After some consideration, I have settled that Khan Bahadur Kershaspji is to succeedrao Bahadur Ambalal as Chief Justice, when the latter gentleman retires from service. But Khan Bahadur Kershaspji is to take up the new post only after he has satisfactorily finished the work of the Settlement Department, and submitted a final report about it, which, I am under the impression, from the conversation I have had with the Head of the Department, can be done within four to

six months without undue haste. Though he is to the post of the Chief Justice, he is expected to put his whole heart and energy into the Settlement work, with a view to finishing it as soon as possible. In the absence of the orders to the contrary, the Senior Judge of the Varistha Court is to act as Chief Justice Afterrao Bahadur Ambalal retires, and before khan Bahadur Kershaspji takes up the post.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

403

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
10th may 1899.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

Will you kindly meet me at the Race Course on horse back and have a little ride with me tomorrow at 7 a.m.? I have not much time to spare; but still I should like to bid you good-bye before you go away.

Your sincere Friend.
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

404

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
11th May 1899.

MY DEAR SIR JOHN WATSON,

The horses you got for me, are doing very well, on the whole But they have not been broken as well as they ought to have been, owing to the unskillfulness of the coachman here. The result is they do not step out properly. At present, they seem to find a difficulty in breathing, which is perhaps due to the oppressive heat. A change in their food has been made and I hope they will benefit by it. They are used almost every day and, indeed, they are so graceful and beautiful in appearance that it is quite a pleasure to have them.

In course of time, I shall probably have a horse or two for riding, sent out for me from England or the continent. I find it excessively difficult to get really good Arabs from Bombay. Last time, I was there and I myself went to see the stables;

but there was not a single Arab, which I fancied or which was thoroughly sound. Talking of stables, you know ours in Baroda are very poor and I am thinking of having new ones built. I have sent an Engineer with this view to take notes at Bhavnagar, Mysore, Jodhpur, Jeypur and Gwalior. After the notes have been collected and put into a serviceable shape and the plans drawn, I intend, before building, to have them shown to an Engineer, who specially understands about stables, I have been a short time ago to Baria for tigershikar. I stayed there for a week and was out daily from twelve o'clock to six in the evening, but neither tiger nor panther was to be seen. The only animal, that put in an appearance, was a bear, which was shot by Sampatrao. The Raja of the place is himself a great shikaree, though about fifty years old and very small and short of stature; but he told us he had already killed fifty tigers of so, and took great pains for our shikar. Inspite of everything, we were disappointed. He is a small Raja of about three of four lakhs of income. He has been going in for building, on a small scale, some little court houses and other buildings; but I think if he had consulted good engineers, he might have had better results for his expenditure. There is one building he has built for his second son, which cost him Rs. 2,50,000; it is a large building with high and spacious rooms; but here again if the plan had been shewn to a good architect, the place would have been yet more handsome than it is.

I had been out in February to Dabka and have had a good deal of the babul woods there removed; so that it is now a splendid place for riding; and one can follow a pig for great distances without any interruption. I had very good sport. I got best spear in killing four pigs and Fatehsinh in Killing two. It is more than three weeks I had gone to Songad, where I expected to get a tiger; but unfortunately, all this ended in disappointment as in Baria. I enjoyed going over the new Tapti valley Railway for it was my first visit to that part since the railway was opened. In Songad, I saw the Bhils and aboriginal tribes for whom we have been trying in our own way to do as much as possible.* I returned from Songad on the 5th instant and will proceed to Umrath tomorrow with Her Highness and children. Dr. Dymock and others have

strongly recommended me for the sake of Her Highness' health to go to Europe or some other sharp or bracing climate; but we have not definitely made up our minds of fixed where. We did indeed try to go to Darjeeling; but on account of plague or some other reason of the sort, the Government there made difficulties and we had to abandon the idea. We might go to Ooty, where I have bought some property; but we have not so far been able nor have we made up our minds to do so. For one thing, I am afraid, there will be the same difficulty about plague. On this account, I have not taken any definite step towards going there. Besides, we are not very fond of the climate, which is distinctly damp.

My children are all getting on well. Fatehsinh is developing into a strong lad, very fond of riding and all manly sports and, among other things, of drilling, in which he is making very satisfactory progress. It is a good sign that he plays heartily when he does play and works steadily when he has to be at his books both con amore. If he goes on as steadily and satisfactorily as he is now doing, he ought to turnout a very promising young fellow before long. The other children are rather weak physically, but in all other respects, they are progressing admirably. Both in work and play. Mr. French takes a great interest in them and is very kind to them, and I think the boys, on their side, like him very much. Mrs. French has been away for some time on account of her father's illness. I was sorry to hear that he died a few days ago. I was very glad to make the acquaintance of your nephew, Dr. Watson; but most unfortunately, he was not able to stop here for any length of time, as his regiment was ordered elsewhere shortly after his arrival in Baroda.

We have been so unfortunate as to have plague here for the last few months; and it is only now that we notice a steady decrease. I am hopeful that is will shortly disappear. We shall then be able to release the people from the strict surveillance, which they tolerate so grudgingly; and, indeed, in the present time of scorching heat, it would be difficult not to sympathise with them. They show a really admirable patience in their obedience to Government orders, which they feel to be, in the last degree, vexatious and disagreeable. Col. Martelli has been taking a special interest in plague

matters. He thinks them of imperial concern and, on that ground, holds himself entitled to see that full and proper measures are taken for the suppression of plague. This is an attitude, which puts one at times in an awkward position. If a British officer, in the strength of this position, makes a suggestion, which, for any reason, is not or cannot be fully and immediately carried out, the results are sometimes serious. The State authorities, on their side, are, to some extent, paralised. They cannot venture to initiate measures on their own account. It is unfortunate that if a slight expression occurs, which he considers unsatisfactory, Col. Martelli, with all his good intentions, should have a tendency to exaggerate and take it in a serious light. I hear he is of an impression that I am inclined to be disputations; but I do not think there is anything tangible recorded or otherwise, which would justify the impression or any example of my persisting in any such attitude, so as to gain something for the Baroda State. I have always tried to avoid a rupture, even at a slight sacrifice of State interests. The position of a Native Raja is a hard one. Not that I have to complain of the Government or its officials or col. Martell, who has abundance of good qualities and has shown himself very kind-hearted. It is the circumstances themselves that make the hardship. In this instance of the plague measures, I do not think that with all that has been done, the diminution of plague has been due to anything but the operation of natural causes. Probably staunch believers the efficacy of plague regulations would mock at this statement.

I have just been opening a new club† for the officers, for which the State has contributed half the expenses of a new building and a site for it. I hope it will be a success. It will be managed on a better scale than the old club, which will now break up, and ought to be a good place of meeting and recreation for the officers.

It may interest you to hear of the changes, that are being made in the official personnels. The chief Justice‡ is retiring on account of old age and the Minister§ for reasons, which I have not yet been able altogether to fathom; but I believe it is because he does not find himself at home with the manners and language of the country. It is a pity he should go so soon

and I have spoken to him to that effect; but as he is so anxious to revert, there is no help for it. I have not yet fixed upon any body to fill these two places, and am not in a hurry to do so. There is yet some little time before the retirement will take effect.

I am afraid I have let a long time pass before answering your letter. You must not imagine, this was, because I had forgotten you; but I wished to wait till I could write you an interesting letter. If I have not succeeded in doing so, you will at least admit that it is a very long letter, if not very interesting on.

You sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* See Letter No. 48.

‡ Mr. Ambalal Sakarlal.

† The present Sayaji Vihar Club.

§ Mr. Ayangar.

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CAMP UMRATH, DISTRICT NAOSARI,
16th May 1899.

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (OF KAPURTHALA)

It gives me much pleasure to read your letter of the 29th; and I thank you for your warm enquiries about my health. Considering the hot season, I am doing pretty well here, I should say. I had an idea of going to Darjeeling for the hot weather; but I had to give it up for the present. I had come to know of your visit to Europe last year; but I did not know that in the short period of four months, you visited Paris, London and Switzerland. I am sorry to learn that you had a severe attack of rheumatism; it is a very troublesome complaint, and you should be careful about it. Rheumatic attacks repeat themselves generally on the slightest provocation. It is good that you have got over the complaint now and are your own self again. I am sure you will find Simla delightful in this hot season. To have one's own house after one's convenience in a sanitarium like Massoorree is a real acquisition for those, who have to work in the glare and heat of the plains. I had recently been out shikaring for about a fortnight in the jungles of my Naosari district; but my bag did not go beyond three or four stags, and a panther wounded.

For the present, I am staying with Her Highness and the princes at Umrath on the sea-coast. I hope Your Highness is enjoying good health. With kindest regards, I am,

yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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UMRATH,

18th may 1899.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

Had not the heat been so oppressive and had I felt much better than I do at present, I should have availed myself of your kind not be able to be present there in my physical body, still my heart will be there to wish Her Majesty increased prosperity and happiness. Kindly convey my good wishes to Her Majesty. I have received your other note, which requires no answer. With kind regards to all of you.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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CAMP UMRATH,

21st May 1899.

MY DEAR DR. NEVINS,

Sine you last heard from me, a good deal has happened here. I must begin with the most melancholy event of all; Her Highness Jamnabai Saheb died last November unexpectedly, for after her last recovery form illness, it was hoped she might live longer.*

Among general misfortunes, we have been visited with the plague again this year. To the people, measures adopted to combat it, have been, as before, very unwelcome, They consider it fighting against nature, but think that as they find Government obstinate in the matter, it is better, however grudgingly, to submit, I certainly think myself that measures have not been effective; but they are the fashion; and, therefore, one must follow them. I had a chat with Dr. Fraser of the Plague Commission, and so far one can correctly cite

the opinion of an expert from a passing conversation, he seemed to think that we were working in the dark and that there was no measure of known efficiency against the plague; but segregation and evacuation were probably the best and safest, that could be adopted.

We have started drainage works in the city. Mr. Chico, who is now the head of the Municipality, has the drainage scheme in his personal charge and in a few months he expects to complete the portion of the city, which has been given him for trial. He finds it in places difficult to carry through the sewers owing to the sandy nature of the soil; but he end will be very heavy and the final results cannot be said, to be beyond doubt. We remember the disastrous experience of Bombay. It is to be hoped that Baroda, in its drainage scheme, will not be so unlucky.

There has been some change in the medical officers. Dr. Rambhau† has taken charge of the Dufferin Hospital and Dr. Batukram fills his place as Palace Medical Officer, Dr Dhurandhar is Sanitary Commissioner; but he has been so busy with plague works that he has not been able to travel about as much as he should otherwise have done.

The Pilwai affair is now drawing to a close, all the judicial forms have been gone through and the cases are in their final stage in the Varishtha Court. One lesson, that has been borne in by this affair, is that without a properly armed and trained military force, it is difficult for Native States to control unruly and turbulent people. There is even a danger that the Native States may, in the end, succumb to the difficulty, However, one must not complain of want of means, but do the best with what one has. Still when people, as they always do, complain of the shortcomings and inefficiencies of Native States, it is a pity they do not try to realize how heavily these States are handicapped.

I have lately been calling the military lieutenants to do duty at the palace. My object is to bring them into contact with me and let them learn certain ways and manners, which are necessary to finish them off. I find most of them to be intelligent men, who are anxious and able to pick up whatever is pointed out to them; and if they have good and sympathetic superiors over them, I am sure they can be turned into excellent officers.‡

We had some elephant sports the other day. The elephant fighting was rotting very much; but the Satmari was rather interesting. The elephant, in this case, was a very agile and cunning beast. He would not allow the men to come near him and went for them as soon as he was aware of them in his vicinity. He broke several lances and pinches; and indeed if he had not been shackled in time, he might have inured some of the men. Her Highness and the children are eager to see the fun again and others also are anxious for it; so it likely that some day we may have the sports repeated.

I had been to Songad for shikar before coming here this year. I spent in the jungles there nearly 3 weeks and we shot a few panthers and stags. Anandrao Gaekwad, my brother, was most lucky in this excursion. Besides shooting a panther beautifully, he wounded the only one tiger we happened to see; but the wound not being severe, the animal went away.

As Songad is considered historically to be the cradle of the Gaekwar family, I sent the other day my three boys to see it. We expect in time to see this part of my country much improved on account of the Tapti Valley Railway running through it.

I am ashamed that there has been so disgraceful a delay in answering your kind letter. I pray indulgence for it. My regards for you are not to be measured by it, but quite the reverse of it. Please give my best regards to your father, who must be getting very old, and to all your people. How are your brothers doing, the doctor and the young one at Liverpool? Adieu, my friend, with my cordial regards for you.

Yours sincerely.
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* Died on 29th November 1898.

† Talvalkar.

‡ Three distinct stages can be mentioned as regards the A.D.Cs in immediate attendance on His Highness. There used to be, at first, Mankarees, attending in batches and by turns; but their general level of education and knowledge being rather poor, His Highness, about this year 1899, ordered all military officers to serve as A.D.Cs by turns; in a short time; this arrangement was also found unworkable, since no continuity of work and engagement could be preserved by officers, who had to do duty about once a week. Permanent A.D.Cs came to be appointed about the year 1902.

CAMP UMRATH,
21st may 1899.

MY DEAR MR. WEEDEN,

You asked me in your letter about the notes on Gibbon. I am glad to say that the book has been a success. It has been very much liked by those, who have read it; and I have received many requests for copies from people of all sorts. But I have not been able to gratify them, as the copies are almost exhausted. I have been reading various little books about Rome since; and although I do not remember all the facts and dates, still it is a great help to have gone through Gibbon. It familiarizes one's mind with the past. Enables one to appreciate and compare the influences of the past with the actualities of the present. It has a wonderful effect in creating for the mind a proper historical prospective. At present, though I have a great desire to read, I am not able to do so regularly on a large scale, owing to the pressure of work. I have indeed been working very hard. I suppose work always increases with the interest on takes in it; and it is my natural impulse to work hard. I am afraid the circumstances make it impossible to expect results at all commensurate with the labour bestowed. Indeed, it is often very disappointing to find, after one has worked hard and well, that things are not so bright and shipshape, as one naturally expected them to be, when orders were passed. One has to fall back on the old principle of doing one's duty without regard to the probability of a poor result or none at all.

As soon as I get an opportunity, I should like to repeat with Grote what we have done with Gibbon. For the present, I have another work on hand. I am sending you a sort of skeleton diary or rather account of what I have seen in Europe; it is meant as a frame-work to be filled out and built upon; and I shall be very glad, if you will help me with it by giving me any facts and observations, which would be useful. You may have some diaries or notes of travel, which would be of great help to me. If so, I shall appreciate it very much. If you let me have anything you think suitable, arranged in as convenient a form as possible.

I dare say you know we have had a second course of plague here. The epidemic ran its course and is now dying away. Of course, we took the measures, which are in fashion; but I hardly think they are of any other use than to show that measures are being taken. The disease begins, continues and ends, reappears and disappears, quite unaffected by them and, indeed, seems to regard the measure taken against it with serene indifference. Meanwhile, there can be no doubt that the people regard these measures as supremely harassing, though' they bear them with great patience. The segregated have to live boddle in miserable sheds, which, in the present scorching heat, must be intolerable; one sees them in the evening cooking their meals outside and the place swarming with children, dogs etc. in a sort of rude life, which is the nearest approach to gipsyism or primitive savagery.

We are having several changes in the State just now. The Minister* is going away shortly, his three years' term being up. I should have liked him to extend the period; but he seems not to feel at home here and is very anxious to revert, so I do not think it right to press the point. The Chief Justice† is also retiring on account of age. I have not yet fixed on their successors.

Col. Martelli is also likely to go soon. He has got only six months' extension of a year he asked for, and as these months cover the bad season and his family is not keeping good health, he is likely to shorten the period. I shall be sorry to lose him, for he has been very kind to me. It is not known, who will take his place.

How are you getting on? I hear or am under the impression that the marriage, which had been arranged, has fallen through. I am sorry if it is so; but I hope you will soon get an equally good match, if not a better one? I hope soon. I have written by the last mail to the Gordons. If you see them and the Elliots and Col. Fitz-Gerald, please give them my *salams*.

I had lately been to a shooting expedition, and killed a few stags and properly a panther. I got the panther several days after I had fired at it. My brother‡ was indeed very lucky. He, besides splendidly shooting a panther, wounded a tiger; but

the latter escaped. I spent three weeks in this forest of mine, the climate of which is considered extremely unhealthy except during the summer. My tents were pitched on the big river Tapti. I used to occasionally have a bath in the river, which has two or three feet depth of water, flowing in its sandy bed. The rivers in India, though possessing large and expansive beds, are often without much flowing currents, and the beds often serve to reflect scorching heat. In Gujarat, the river water is often dirty and one feels a great desire to see pure crystal water, through which we can count the shingles of the river bed. The Tapti water came to some extent to this ideal. Songad is a historical place for the Gaekwad family. It is looked upon as its cradle. We have got a railway running by it now, and I sent my three boys the other day merely to have a look at it. There is really nothing literally to see there. The boys are now having a vacation, which will extend upto the 12th June, and I am giving them little excursions, in order to amuse, to educate and to fill up their time usefully. To-day they have gone to a place near called Surat to see a Mahomedan festival. § they will be back by to-night. I am sorry there has been so much daily in answering your indeed very kind letter; But the hate disinclines one. However , this dictated latter of mine will save you the trouble of reading my ugly scrawl. You must not imagine by my delay in answering that my regards to you are, in the least, less. I always think of you and regard you as one of my best and sincere friends.

Her Highness has been studying very hard and is making remarkable progress. I should like to get some more copies of "Caesar to Sultan." Shall we have to reprint the book? With my best regards, I remain,

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* Mr. Ayangar.

† Mr. Ambalal Sakarlal.

‡ Shri. Anandrao.

§ Mohrum.

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UMRATH COMP,
27th May 1899.

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (OF TEHRI),

I have replied by wire today to your last telegram on the subject of procuring a Nambudri priest for the post of the Rawal of Badrinarayan. As we now get an idea of the probable remuneration of the post from you, we shall begin enquiries at once. I do not know the state of the temple; but I believe that Rs. 1,000 a year as a maximum amount is very fair; still I cannot say what the qualified man for the post may actually demand. A functionary, such as you require, is only procurable in extreme southern India-Travancore and adjacent places and my Dewan, Shrinivasrao, who is proceeding on leave to Madras, Has undertaken to do all that is necessary. I hope to hear from him in a few days, and then I shall have the pleasure of addressing you again on the matter. You will see that, in such a matter as this, previous information is urgently required to save much correspondence and misunderstanding, and hence the trouble, to which you were put for fixing the terms. I trust you are enjoying very good health. With my kind wishes for you, I am,

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
20th June 1899.

MY DEAR RAJA SAHEB* (OF DEOGHAD BRIA),

The arks for fish you were kind enough to send to me. It gave me great pleasure to read from your letter that you were doing well. Perhaps, you have already heard that I am going to Simala the day after tomorrow. I hope it will be a pleasant short trip. We are doing well here with the children. Hoping this finds you in excellent health and spirits, I am,

your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* Mansingji, father of the present Raja Ranjitsingji. Mansingji died in 1909.

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
21st June 1899.

MY DEAR MAHARANA (CHHATRASINHJI OF NANDOD),

Many thanks for your kind letter. I was much pleased to find that Mr. Dhurandhar* has secured Your Highness' good opinion as to his abilities. We are, however, not at present looking out for any man for the dewan's place. hoping this finds you in excellent health and spirits, I am,

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *The then sanitary commissioner.*

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
10th July 1899.

MY DEAR COL. FITZ-GERALD,

Thank you very much for your letters. I am sorry I forgot to answer them. What did you pay for the Nizam's horses? I have just returned from Simla, where I had an interesting interview with the Viceroy.* From thence, I went to Lahore and Amritsar, which both places I enjoyed seeing.

I and my court do not go in for mining speculation and so you need reserve no shares for us. We are fairly well. I hope this letter will find you and yours in excellent health, I am glad your son played in the polo Match.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

**Lord Curzon*

415

LAXMI-VILAS PLACE, BARODA,
11th July 1899.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

Thanks for your enquiries. I came back all righty; but I am not feeling well. Hope the uneasiness is temporary. I send

herewith copies of telegrams-those that have passed between me and Shrinivasrao.* I think you would like to read them as a friend. I shall probably arrange to meet you in a day or two. I hope all your people well. Kindly give them and accept yourself my regards. Will you stay till April?

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Dewan*

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

17th July 1899.

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (OF KOLHAPUR),

I received your telegram regarding Dhamdhere,* and I have telegraphed back to say that Your Highness can keep him for a month more, as you desire. Put I may be permitted to say that young man neglects his studies very likely by staying for long period and Your Highness will, for his interest, not allow that fact to escape Your Highness' shrewd observation.

I returned from Simla last week. The scenery there, judging from what the mists and rains could allow me to observe, is, in my estimate, superior to that of Ooty in grandeur and Luxuriance of nature. Her Highness and the children are all doing well in Baroda, though the rains have held off unusually this year. I trust Your Highness and children are all doing well.

Your Highness' sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *A Young Sardar, Baroda State*

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

19th July 1899.

MY DEAR KERSHASPJJI,

Mr. Narayan Keshavrao Aloni, a gentleman from Nagpur, who is an honours B. A. both of Calcutta and Cambridge, and a Barrister-at-taw, has applied to me for employment in the State. He has been spoken of favourably by Sampatrao and I

have seen him personally. I have decided to employ him, although the service is very crowded, and the difficulty of finding room for a new candidate is considerable; still in consideration of the gentleman's Circumstances, I am willing to take him upon the following conditions.

He will enter the service on a salary of Rs 250 Babashai monthly as a probationer and will be subject to all the rules, e.g. as to departmental examinations etc. applying to probationers. He will, for the present, be placed in the Revenue Department, but may, in future, be employed in any department, in which his services may be required. When he has learnt the details of the Revenue Department and passed the departmental examination, he shall first serve for two years as Vahivatdar; subsequently, if he has worked well and given satisfaction by faithful, loyal and energetic service, he will be placed in the regular grade, and his further promotion etc. governed by the ordinary rules. Mr. Aloni should be shown this letter, and if he is willing to accept service under the conditions stated, he may enter the service at once, and the Sar Suba will be responsible for the carrying out of these orders.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
1st August 1899.

DEAR MRS. REYNOLDS,

I was much pleased to receive a letter from you. I am sorry to find that you are so badly off arter the death of Col. Reynolds.* It is not my intention at present to visit England; but if I at all go to Brighton in a year or two, shall be glad to see you. I hope you are in good health.

Yours very truly,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,

Mrs REYNOLDS, 3 Percival Terrace, Brighton, England.

* Once Chief Engineer, Baroda State.

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

1st August 1899.

MY DEAR CHISHOLM,

Your letter from Heidelberg of the 23rd June was welcome. I am glad to find that you are well and happy. I have not at present settled the date of going to Europe. It is a remote idea yet; but if I do go there and if any one of us stands in want of specialists in surgery and nervous complaints, I shall remember the Heidelberg specialists and may be inclined to look you up at the place. I thank you for the offer of your services and shall, with pleasure. Write to you, if I do want them.

Yours sincerely.

SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,

R. F. CHISHOLM Esq, F. R. I. B. A., Architect, Heidelberg, Germany.

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

1st August 1899.

MY DEAR RAJASAHEB (OF DEOGHAD BARIA)

I was much pleased to receive your letter and to know that you and your Kumars at Rajkote are doing well. It was good of them to remember me and you will convey my compliments to them, when you write to them. I thank you for your nice presents, which I accept with thanks. The Australian ponies are remarkably good, and they are nice-looking and well-built.

Baroda too is suffering for want of rain. Let us hope that the fertilizing waters will now soon descend. The Princes are all doing well. I hope you are enjoying good health.

Your sincere Friend.

SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

5th August 1899.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

I send you herewith a small trinklet for holding rose water in the native style and of the native workmanship for your acceptance. The price of it cannot be much over Rs. 100 and I presume that by making this little friendly present, I am not encroaching upon any government rules, prohibiting a Maharaja from offering presents to his political officer. I send this simply as a souvenir of our little trip to Dabhoi recently. I also send an album containing the views of palaces and places of interest in Baroda.

Your sincere Friend.

SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

8th August 1899.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

I shall be at your place tomorrow at 6 p. m. to bid you all good bye. I am sorry to part with you all I wish you all a happy time in Europe and every prosperity. I hope we shall always write to each other. I thank you for all your kindness. I may turn up today at your place at 6 p. m. to take you out for a drive; but please do not change any of your engagements for this, as my coming is uncertain. I shall simply take my chance at my usual afternoon drive.

Your sincere Friend,

SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE BARODA,

14th August 1899.

MY DEAR KERSHASPJJI,

I have received two telegrams today about the scarcity of food and fodder. These telegrams are being forwarded to you

for due disposal and attention. I hope we shall not lag behind in starting relief-works. Better to be a little early than too late. Kindly come once tomorrow with the Sarsuba and the Chief Engineer to explain to me what schemes and material you have got ready to start at a moment's notice.

They should be acquainted that the Government is fully alive with the peculiarity of the season and that it is hatching plans for relief-works. Take energetic steps for the commencement of the earth-work of the different railways. They should be ready to be started at once. Wire may be used to get the permission of the Government of India, if that at all is wanted. I am anxious to help my people as much as I can. The Okhamandal people should not henceforth be treated more favourably than our other people. See that my orders for the famine rates in Okhamandal are carried out undeviated after obtaining my approval.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

26th August 1899.

MY DEAR THAKORE SAHEB (OF GONDAL),

Your letter of the 29th May 1899 was brought here about a week ago by your State Vakil Mr. Ladha Damodar. I have referred him to my Dewan. Who, I expect, will do the uediful in the matter of his mission.

We have no rain in these parts and serious apprehensions of famine are being entertained. Preparations are being made to start relief-works, where found necessary. I am afraid this will be a hard year for the poor ryots.

I hope your Ranisaheb, children and yourself are enjoying excellent health. We, on our part, are enjoying fairly good health.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

426

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

17th September 1899.

MY DEAR COL. RAVENSHAW (RESIDENT IN CHARGE),

Thanks for your note. Please give my salams to Major Johnes, when you write to him. My weight is lbs. 145. I want one six-in-hand. The horses for this driving purpose should be in height from hands 15 to 16. 2. The price of any one of these may be upto Rs. 1,200. I want two riding cobs of the best available quality. The price of each may be upto Rs. 1,500. These pones should not be of the grey colour. Kindly get these horses thoroughly broken before they are sent to Baroda. Any additional reasonable cost incurred for this purpose will be paid by me. Kindly arrange with the Minister about the; ending of money.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

427

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

21st September 1899.

To,

DEWAN BAHADUR SHRINIVAS RAGHAV AYANGAR, MYLAPUR, MADRAS.

Permission to come here must have been received. Please wire when you leave Madras.

BATUKRAM S. MEHTA.

428

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

24th September 1899.

MY DEAR COL. RAVENSHAW,

I should like to know, if you have heard when Dewan. Bahadur Shrinivas Raghav is definitely to be relieved of his present duties, and be allowed to be able to return to Baroda. I should feel obliged if you can cut short the delay.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

429

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

26th September 1899.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

Your letter from London just to hand. I thank you for it and its contents. Palace accept yourself and give to Mrs. Martelli and the Misses Martelli my regards.

Col. Ravenshaw is acting for you and we are quite in the dark as to who is coming here for good, Col. Ravenshaw seems to be very lively and active.

We have practically no rain and I have started some relief-works, I am afraid the people will suffer much, though we may spend much money and energy. Mr. Shrinivas Ayangar has not yet come; but we expect him soon. I hope you will find your new house well and comfortable. Every thing and every body is jogging on here as usual.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

430

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

30th September 1899.

MY DEAR COL. MEADE,

I shall be most happy to welcome you both. We are now suffering from famine almost throughout the whole Raj. I am doing my best to meet the calamity. Please accept yourself and also give my best compliments to your wife.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To, Col. J. M. Meade, 3rd lancers H.C., Aurangabad.

431

MALBAR HILL, BOMBAY,

14th November 1899.

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (OF TEHRI),

I was indeed very glad to get your kind note. I am glad you find the Namburi Brahmins good and one of them even learned,

I was sorry I could not help you to find men earlier than I did. The truth is I had to depend upon some body else. We are having in Gujarat a regular famine this year, and we are doing our best to meet it. My difficulty will be to find sufficient public works. Thousands of cattle are beginning to die here of starvation. I expect to find great water drought in the months of May and June. I believe you are quite free from famine or even scarcity.

I shall be here only upto Saturday next, I hope this letter will find you in good health.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

432

MALBAR HILL, BOMBAY,
14th November 1899.

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (OF GWALIOR)

It is long since I have heard from you. I was glad to read some criticism on the diary of your tour. You promised me to send this diary; but I have not got it yet. I hope you will not fail to send it.

We are in the throes of a regular famine. I have started many relief-works and in them some three or four little railways. Are you affected by the famine at all? We are here for a few days. Fatehsinhrao has appeared for his matriculation last Monday. I hope he comes out successful. I hope this note will find you and yours in excellent health.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

433

MALBAR HILL, BOMBAY,
14th November 1899.

MY DEAR MAHARAJA,

I came here no last Sunday morning. One cause of arrival in Bombay is my son's examination. He has been appearing for it since Monday last. I expect him to come out successful.

I have an idea of sending my two other sons to Eton, If they go to Eton, they must do it at the latest in 1902, How are you going to do about the education of your sons? Are you going to the ensuing Paris Exhibition? We are in the midst of famine here and I am doing my best to mitigate its rigour. I was glad to see your photograph in one of the illustrated newspapers. I hope this letter will find Your Highness and yours in good health.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,

H. H. the RAJAH JAGATJITSINH BAHADUR, K. C.S.I., Maharaja of Kapurthala,

434

MALBAR HILL, BOMBAY,
14th November 1899.

MY DEAR COL. RAVENSHAW.

Many thanks for your letter. I am glad that you enjoyed your trip to Ajwa. The climate here is indeed very nice. Our house is not a convenient one; but still it will do for us for the next few days. I shall be probably leaving this on Saturday next for Baroda. By Friday next, I expect my son to be free from his examination. The Governor was expected to be here on the 13th Instant.

I hope you will find your wife well in health and spirits. I hope this letter will find you in good health.

Your sincere Friend.
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

435

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
3rd December 1899.

MY DEAR NAVINS,

I am glad to be energetic enough to drop you these few lines. You are often in my thoughts and your kind acts are fresh in my mind. All your old friends here seem to be doing and flourishing well.

Fatehsinhrao has appeared for his examination in Bombay and I think he will come out successful. I will now prepare him for his university career in England. All the boys and the girls are doing very well in their studies. Her Highness is also making a remarkable progress in her studies. She has been medically ordered to go to Europe for an operation, which is serious and must be done by a good doctor, and in a bracing climate. You know too well our troubles of moving and the senseless political difficulties.

I am now in the midst of serious famine. Living people do not remember seeing such a bad year. I have already sanctioned Rs. 15,00,000 during the last three months. I shall have to incur debt or sell off all my old promissory notes. I am arranging this moment to do something about the money question. I am arranging to assimilate my currency with the British. This will be a great boon to commerce at large. I am going tomorrow to Kadi, and after some time, I shall be starting off for Amreli, where the famine is severe.

How are your people? Will you remember me to your good old father and other members of your family? Please accept yourself and give my best regards to all. Good wishes for the season. I am reading often about the African War (with the Boers). I have no doubt as to the ultimate result. Adieu.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,

Dr. J. E. Nevins, M. B., 32, prince's Avenue, Liverpool

436

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
3rd December 1899.

MY DEAR REV. WEEDEN,

Are you still at the old Curacy or have you got to a better one? Wherever you are, I hope you are happy and buoyant in your mind and spirits.

My eldest son has appeared for his matric here in Bombay. I will now prepare him for Oxford. Some of my boys are learning Latin. I hope to send them for some time to Eton. What do you

think of the ides? We are so much after the English way of thinking and their other fashions that we are all anxious to bring up our Indian children according to that ideal.

The Boers seem to be boring the English much, However, in the end, they are sure to be disconfied. The English might have been more ready at the start than they are. This would have avoided much worry and expense and loss of lives.

We have got a bad famine here, and it will go on extending and increasing in intensity. I am astonished that the people should lack so much substance as to begin to suffer so soon ! I have sanctioned large sums for relief-works. We, on an average, employ nearly 13,000 labourers daily. I am going to one of my districts tomorrow to see personally the condition of the people. After a few days, I shall be returning to Baroda and then go again for another district.

A few months ago, I went to Simla, where I made the acquaintance of Lord Curzon. He seems to be a very eleven and very businesslike man. His wife did not strike me as beautiful as some had painted her. They seem to be very fond of each other. They are at present the guests of a Native Raja, who is a friend of mine. He is a young fellow and is trying to secure intimacy with Lord Curzon.

Her Highness is not doing well and has been advised medically to proceed to Europe to undergo an operation. We will try to obey the order. She has learned a great deal of English by now, and reads many a novel. How are your sisters and specially the one, who had become a nurse? I hope you will accept my best wishes for the new year. I hope to get a long letter from you. Adieu, my friend.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

437

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
3rd December 1899.

MY DEAR SIR (MR. ELLIOT),

It is long since I have written to you. My son Fatehsinhrao has appeared for his matriculation in Bombay. I have every hope of his coming with flying colours out of the ordeal. He

has worked very hard of late, and any one, who has seen him engrossed in his study, cannot wish him anything but success. He is very well behaved as yet, and has a good and clear understanding with a pleasant temper. He has many things in his favour. The other sons are also getting very well indeed, considering their age. Jaysinh has a splendid memory and loves like his other brother to study. I was struck with the way he explains or tells a story in English. I am thinking of sending the two younger boys to Eton, Provided their health can stand the strain of preparatory study for that scheme. I wish they were physically stronger than they are. My wife and daughter are also generally busily engaged in working hard at their books. My daughter and the youngest child have gone to Matheran for a change. I miss their company. I have been managing to gag along fairly.

I have to work much on account of the dire famine prevailing in Gujarat. I have already sanctioned Rs. 14 to 15 lakhs during the last three months and during a period, in which the effects and hardships of famine are in the embryo. The rate of sanction will have to go on increasing. We shall have to exhaust all our savings and dispose of all our bank notes. It is a most serious year for the finances. The desire to get sanctions and swell its lists is very great in some of the officials here. I wish they devoted more of their energies in carrying out properly what is already sanctioned. Besides the Naosari Division, all are badly smitten with famine, and will, besides, soon begin to feel the lack of supply of drinking water. Large numbers of cattle are daily dying every-where except probably in Baroda, where the people are slightly better off. I am going to Kadi tomorrow for a short time, and after that, I will probably visit Amreli.

Col. Ravenshaw has temporarily succeeded to the post of Resident here. He is a pleasant and active fellow. His wife looks to be particularly nice. I have called back the Madras gentleman* again as my Dewan. I like him and that is why I have called him back.

I hope you and your family people are doing very well. I have learned that Ted is going to Africa. I wish him a good luck there, and hope he wins his golden spurs there. The English seem to be very energetic now in sending large bodies

of men. If they had ready on the spot a good body of men before the hostilities broke out, the result of such readiness would have been different from the present. No body can have two opinions as to the ultimate result. How is your book progressing? Before winding up this letter, let me wish you and all my affectionate regards.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Mr. Ayangar.*

440

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
15th December 1899.

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,*

I am glad to be able to pen this letter to you. I only returned on the 11th Instant from Kadi, where I spent nearly ten days in seeing the condition of the people. After a fortnight hence, I shall proceed to Amreli. Things will be very bad in the middle of the hot weather. I am doing my best to meet the public calamity. Our difficulty is to get useful and large projects, which will last for some time.

Col. Ravenshaw and his wife are very nice and pleasant people. Will you kindly give my best regards to Mrs. Martelli and your daughters, who I hope, are all well? Before concluding this letter let me wish your all a happy new year.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Late Resident at Baroda, now in London.*

441

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
15th December 1899.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I sit to write this note to you with very great pleasure. It is only on the 11th Instant I returned from the Kadi Division, where I went to see the famine operations. Except Naosari, we have got a bad famine throughout the Raj. My great

difficulty is to get useful projects for being undertaken as reliefworks. The country being flat and purely agricultural, we can not devise any work, which will engage, for some considerable time, a goodly number of labourers. Even as it is, we daily engage, throughout the whole Raj. Nearly sixty-five thousand souls. I shall do my best to tide over the bad times. I am in fairly good health; but her Highness has been strongly advised to proceed to Europe for some operation. I do not know what to do. My eldest son appeared for the public examination held in Bombay just about a month ago.

The Boers seem to be giving more trouble than was anticipated in the beginning of the war. We need entertain no doubt as to the ultimate result. I hope this letter will find you and your daughter in very good health. Allow me to wish you and all yours a happy new year.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,

*GENERAL SIR JOHN WATSON, V. C. Finchampstead, Berkshire,
England.*

442

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
15th December 1899.

MY DEAR COL. FITZ-GERALD,

I have to thank you for your very kind letter. I was very glad to welcome your son, who is a charming young fellow. I am sorry he could not stay here longer than he did. Mr. T. H. French, who is the tutor of my sons, was his tutor, when he was in the Wellington Educational Institution in England. I have read all you wrote about my son's visit to England, and your willingness to look after them. My eldest boy has appeared for the Bombay matric this year and I hope him to get through it successfully. After that, he will prepare himself for the Oxford B. A. course. My other boys will go to Eton. These are my ideas and it remains to be seen how far I am able to carry them out.

We are in the throes of a direful famine and I am at a great loss to start useful relief-works. The difficulty lies in not want of sanctioning money, but to get useful projects. Our daily muster roll of labourers is already 55,000. This number gives the total of all the Raj. I have just returned from a district famine trip of mine. In time, specially in the hot weather, things for want of water will be very bad. We have been strongly advised since a long time to go to some bracing climate. Lately, a lady doctor visited us to see Her Highness.

We have not settled our plans yet. Before concluding this letter, let me wish you and your and our mutual friends a happy new year. I hope this note will find you in the enjoyment of excellent health.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,

COL. C. Y. O. FITZGERALD, Carlisle Road, Eastbourne, England.

443

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

15th December 1899.

MY DEAR CAPTAIN GORDON,

It is ages since we have exchanged a letter. I take this opportunity to do so, and in it wish to convey to your good. Self and the kind lady Tweedale my hearty good wishes for the season. Though I rarely write to you, still you are often in my recollections.

Since you have personally visited Africa, the war that is in progress, must excite great interest in your mind. I have not the least doubt that the resources will eventually win. It will be a great financial burden to England. When do you expect the war to wind up?

We are here suffering from bad famine, and it will get worse as the hot weather advances. I am doing my level best to mitigate its rigour; but after all, our efforts are nothing as compared with the vastness of the misery.

Will you kindly give my best regards to Lady Tweedale and to Fraser Tylers, if you see them? We are only doing fairly

well in health. My son has appeared nearly a month ago for his matric in Bombay. I hope to get a long letter from you.

Your sincere Friend.
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,

CAPTAIN W. EVANS GORDON, 24., Cadagon Square, London, S. W.

444

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

25th December 1899.

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (OF MYSORE)

I hope the telegram I sent to you during the course of the last three or four days, was understood properly.

I happened to read in some newspapers about the likelihood of a tour being undertaken by you. I took this opportunity of inviting you. Irrespective of this chance, I shall always consider it a great pleasure to welcome you and yours any time to my capital.

My son appeared for his examination in Bombay this year and we all expect him to pass. I hope this letter will find you and yours in very good health. Please give my kind regards to your mother, brother and sisters. Please also give my compliments to your and Minister.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

445

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

25th December 1899.

MY DEAR COL. RAVENSHAW,

I have already asked the Maharaja of Mysore to visit Baroda and he has accepted the invitation. I know them well and that is why I wrote to them direct, but better write on my behalf in the proper way.

Allow me to wish you and yours every happiness and compliments of the season. I wish you will kindly convey my good wishes to Her Majesty for the New Year and every success

to her troops in the Transval. Besides, Please express that if my troops can be of any use to the Imperial Government, I am ready and willing to put them at their disposal.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

446

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
28th December 1899.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I was glad to receive your letter of the 4th June last through Risaldar Saidullakhan. I have ordered Nasarkhan to be sent to you.

This year my province has been fearfully ravaged by famine, and my government has been putting forth all possible efforts to meet the foe. I am about to proceed to Amreli to personally inspect the famine-works. Hoping this will meet you in the enjoyment of excellent health.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,

H. H. THE NABOB SAHEB OF RAMPUR.

447

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
29th December 1899.

MY DEAR COL. RAVENSHAW,

Thanks for your letter of today's date, which I received very early this morning. I am quite happy to let any British Officer pick out such horses as are likely to be of use to them. I have also a few transport ponies, which I shall be happy to place at the disposal of Government, in case they want them.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

448

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
29th December 1899.

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (OF GWALIOR),

We are very glad to get your telegram. I am looking forward to your report. Since you did not send it till now, I thought you were not anxious to part with one. Fatehsinhrao commences his studies tomorrow again. I hope this letter will find you and all yours in good health, and I wish you all a fine new year.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

449

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
4th January 1900.

MY DEAR MAHARAJA,

I was extremely glad to receive your letter today. I was growing anxious to hear from you. I am glad that you are going to Europe. It will do you a world of good. I shall be (or my Minister on my behalf in my absence) most happy to welcome you to Baroda.

We are contemplating a visit to Europe too, and in case we go, we shall not be able to welcome you personally. We have been having some festivities here on account of my son passing his matriculation successfully.* I hope this letter will find you and yours in good health.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,

H.H. RAJAH KIRITSINHJI, of Tehri, Gurhwal.

* Prince Fatehsinhrao appeared for the Bombay Matriculation in November 1899 and was declared to have been successful in the last week of December. At homes and parties and dinners were held in his honour.

450

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

4th January 1900.

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (OF KAPURTHALA),

I was transported with joy to get two photos sent by you. The boys look so strong and handsome. They have such beautiful, brilliant and intelligent eyes. I shall also try to send you the likenesses of my sons. The eldest has just passed a public examination. You must have had a good time in Calcutta. What did you think of the Nizam? You must have seen and talked to him. I am always glad to hear from you. I hope this letter will find you and yours in good health.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

451

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

5th January 1900.

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AYANGAR),

I hope you will do your best to send to me tomorrow the draft decision of the Pilwai affair.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

452

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

7th January 1900.

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AYANGAR),

Kindly expedite the final solution of the Kadarpur Reservoir Project. If it can be safely undertaken as a reliefwork, I shall be happy to hasten its sanction. It is a professional matter, and I wish that an experienced Engineer should give his opinion on its feasibility or other engineering details. For this purpose, Mr. Whiting may be employed. Kindly see that no undue time is wasted in laying the matter before me.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

453

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

8th January 1900.

MY DEAR COL. RAVENSHAW,

I shall instruct the Senapati to do the needful about the horses. I may mention that I should feel more happy to lend my horses than get payment for them; but I have not pressed the matter because I do not wish to come in the way of the Government of India in any way. I shall see you tomorrow at 5.30 P. m. on the Race Course Road, where we may have a drive. I hear a very large percentage of the Okha population are fed gratuitously. I hope you will heartily discontinue any waste. The officials, though they will not say so, will not dare to look into matters closely.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

455

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

10th January 1900.

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (OF BHAVNAGAR),

I have to thank you for your kind letter. I had a great desire to see Bhavnagar and avail myself of your kind invitation; but this year I am aware that Your Highness must be equally engrossed, as I am here, in the all absorbing work of alleviating the general distress of the poor ryots. I promise myself the pleasure of seeing Your Highness and your Capital at some future date.

As for Your Highness' kind offer to place your Steam Launch at my disposal, I will not require it at Broach; but in case I want it during my tour in Kathiawar, I shall readily avail myself of your hospitable offer.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

456

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

11th January 1900.

MY DEAR THAKORE SAHEB (OF WADHWAN),

I have to thank you for your kind invitation. I shall be very happy to see you at the Wadhwani station. As regards your asking me to partake of some light refreshment at the station, I regret, the time when the special train would reach Wadhwani, would be so inconvenient for lunch that I shall scarcely be able to avail myself of your kind hospitality.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

457

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

14th January 1900.

MY DEAR COL. RAVENSHAW,

I am leaving word behind to do all that is wanted in the subject matter of your today's note. I hope everything will be arranged satisfactorily. I am leaving tomorrow morning for Amreli. With my regards to Mrs. Ravenshaw and yourself,

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

458

CAMP AMRELI,

18th January 1900.

MY DEAR THAKORE SAHEB,

I cannot thank you enough for your kindness and that of Her Highness the Ranisaheb. I feel great inclination to accept your invitation, had not my mind been engrossed with the famine measures, and were I not limited in time by press of engagements. I hope I shall be able some other time to be your guest. I should so like to spend some of my time in your genial company. Kindly give my aashirwads to your children and give my compliments to Her Highness, besides accepting

them yourself. I hope this letter will find you all in good health. I thank you again for contents of your letter. If you can, do stop at Baroda next time when you happen to pass by it.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,

H. H. SIR BHAGWATSINHJI, K. C. I. E., Thakore Saheb of Gondal.

459

KODINAR CAMP (AMRELI DN.)

1st February 1900.

MY DEAR THAKORE SAHEB (BHALSINHJI OF WADHWAN),

We shall be glad to welcome you to Baroda to see it and also to play a cricket match, Any day that may suit your convenience from the 22nd February to its end, will equally suit us. I am leaving this place to-morrow for Gondal and thence to Baroda. I have seen much and have enjoyed a great pleasure in shooting a big lion during this trip.* I hope this letter will find you will. I was so glad to see you again after such a long interval.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

**This is memorable feat. The lion is stuffed and kept at the L. V. Palace.*

460

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

5th February 1900.

MY DEAR NABOB SAHEB,

I have to thank Your Highness for the great hospitality and the very kind reception you were pleased to offer me at the Junagadh station during my recent tour in the famine-striken parts of my Kathiawar territories. The arrangements for the lion-hunt made by your officers were excellent and have afforded me no small satisfaction. Please convey my sense of gratification to Mr. Purushottamrai Zala, your Naib Dewan, for his having looked to all my comforts and conveniences during the shikar. I herewith send you an album of Baroda

views, trusting that Your Highness will feel interested in this collection of views from my capital.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

H. H. NABOB RASUL KHANJI, the Nabob Saheb of Junagadh.

461

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

5th February 1900.

MY DEAR THAKURE SAHEB,

I think Your Highness for the very kind hospitality shown to during my recent visit to your capital and the shatrunjaya Hill I was much gratified with the aincerity and genuine character of you kindly feelings to wards me displayed during my short stay with Your Highness. May I promise my- self the pleasure of entertaining Your Highness in my capital ing you again, I remain

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWER.

To,

H.H. SHRI MANSINHJI, Thakore Saheb of Palitana.

462

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

13th February 1900.

MY DEAR THAKORE SAHEB (OF PALITANA),

I thank you for your very cordial and kind letter. I was much pleased at the tone of your letter, which breathed feelings of such kindness and friendship for me.

I herewith send you plans of my State stables for the Khasa Horses. I should obliged if you kindly examine these plans and make any suggestions for improvements and alter ations therein. Your suggestions will be welcome to me. With best wishes, I am

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

463

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

20th February 1900.

MY DEAR BROTHER (SAMPATRAO)*

Your letter of 19th February just to hand. If Gavane is inclined to study, tell him to join the Poona Engineering College at once. He will continue to get his scholarship. Besides this, you can give him Rs. 100 British for buying the necessary books.

Your affectionate brother,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* District Judge, Naosari.

464

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

29th February 1900.

MY DEAR RAJA SAHEB (OF DEOGHAD BARIA)

I have to thank you for your kind letter and for your kindly inviting Fatesinhrao to your capital for shikar. Fatesinhrao will be vey happy to avail himself of your kind hospitality, and he will most likely start for Baria on Saturday 3rd Proximo. You may keep him with you for a day and allow him to return and resume his studies on Monday the 4th of March. I wish you not to make any demonstration at his visit, but treat it as a private one.

His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore had been with us last week and we spent the little time he was with us, happily. The Thakore Saheb of Wadhwan has come down here to play cricket with Fatesinhrao's team. Please inform me by wire if the time, above specified, for Fatesinhrao's going to Baria would suit you. On hearing from you, arrangements will be made for his starting that day. Hoping you are doing well, I am

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

9th March 1900.

MY DEAR MR. FRENCH,

I noticed your opinion about jaisinhrao's studies in a letter sent to me by you from Baria, I think you are right about his health. I have been considering that point for long and now decide that Jaisinhrao and Shiwajirao should prepare for the Bombay Matriculation. You can discuss with me any points you like bearing on the subject.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

14th March 1900.

MY DEAR DR. HATCH,

I cannot sufficiently thank you for the kind invitation you have sent me to preside over the Prize Distribution Ceremony at your college. I would have been really very happy to avail myself of this opportunity of convincing my interest and zeal in the cause of advancement of human knowledge and the development of means of alleviating human suffering, in which task you and your profession are so nobly employed. My attention has. However, for the present been taken up by the great question of the day, viz. mitigation of the distress due to famine in my dominions. I am so sorry I am not quite able for the present to avail myself of your kind invitation.

I can never thank you too much for your so kindly waiting for my reply and not making engagement elsewhere. I was under the impression that you would also try to enlist the sympathy of other public-spirited citizens and benefactors of your city and would not wait so long for my reply. Under that impression, I did not reply to you earlier as I was also travelling in my districts. I have returned from one of my provinces only this morning. If next year you are pleased to repeat your kind invitation, I shall be happy to accept it and do the little service

to the cause of education in India. I trust you will kindly inform me in that case some weeks earlier, as you were so good to do this year. Again thanking you for your kindness, I remain

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,

Dr. Principal, Grant Medieal College, Bombay.

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
18th March 1900.

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AYANGAR),

I have been thinking over our Friday and Saturday's talk, about which a system is good to work. Kindly draw up in a clear form, which you always do well, the dangers and objections you expect by adopting a particular system. I wish to have this as early as possible, as I have suspended my Ajwa order. On that day, I almost seemed to go in a certain direction. I wish to have the matter once more explained to me with the explanatory note of Manubhai on a certain order. I do not raise or stick to the point out of obstinacy, a sign of weakness.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
21st March 1900.

MY DEAR MR. NUGENT,

Thanks for your letter of today's date. I had received your wife's note. I have been travelling in some of my territories, and, besides, I did not reckon that ten days had elapsed since I got her letter. Kindly beg her on my part to excuse me for the delay. I shall send her a sum of Rs. 500. I should have sent willingly a larger sum; but as you know, Baroda is as badly off from famine as any other place. I wish Mrs. Nugent

had asked me earlier. Please accept both of you my very kind regards.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,

Mr. J. NUGENT, MEMBER, EX COUNCIL of the Governor of Bombay.

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

23rd March 1900.

MR DEAR COL. RAVENSHAW,

I shall feel obliged, if you and any other person you may think fit, come and inspect the paintings and advise me what to pay for each and all of them. I trouble you, because there are no people here, who can understand the subject. Unless I hear from you to the contrary, I shall ask the painter to expect you at 8.45 a.m. tomorrow or any other day you fix. He goes from here in about four days and he must be paid before he goes

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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LANAULI,

17th April 1900.

MY DEAR KIRITSINHJI (OF NANDOD),

When I got your last letter, I had asked Mr. Yousufalli to write you, sanctioning the leave you wanted. I hope you have got the Letter Now. I thank you for your kind inquiries after us all.

Yours sincerely.
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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LANAULI,

19th April 1900.

MY DEAR LORD NORTHBROOK,

It was kind of you to remember me and send me the little book of extracts. It is undoubtedly interesting reading for a Hindu Prince. This has been a trying and anxious year, indeed. We have, however, not suffered from plague to the same extent as many other districts. I have been travelling myself through my different divisions to inspect the relief-works I sanctioned at the commencement of the famine and have had my hands very full. In most of the divisions, I find there is more work provided than there are workers for and in one particular, there is much more work than might usefully be undertaken, though there is at present enough started for relief purposes. There has been more grass in my country newly opened out by the Tapti Valley Railway than the B. B. and C. I. Railway Co. have been able to cart, so the lack of grass has, to some extent, been made up.

I have just taken my family to Lanauli before starting for Europe on the 19th of next month. I am anxious to bring up my three eldest boys in England, the eldest just now 17 will be going to Oxford soon and the two next I wish to mix with English boys as much as possible, though I do not like letting them brave an English winter just yet. I hope I may have the pleasure of meeting you in England and discussing these and other matters with you. Please give my kind regards to your daughter. I am.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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LANAULI,

28th April 1900.

MY DEAR BROTHER (SHRI. SAMPATRAO),

I have received your letter of the 27th instant from Baroda. What you write about Vishwasrao* is weighty. But if he is carefully kept in a quiet place and under a strict supervision,

which we shall have to procure, I do not think he will be worse off for improvement than here. If he does not show signs of improvement, he must be forcibly brought back to India, though it will be sad to do so. Let us keep him for some months there and see how he gets on. I have thought over on almost all the points you touch upon in your letter. Not only Vishwasrao but almost all Indians will have to be kept off, from associating with Fatehsinhrao or other Princes. If, under any circumstances. They have to mix with Indians, they will have to do so in she presence of an Indian of my choice, who will be in charge of the boy or boys.

Yours affectionately,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *Vishwasrao Ghatge, the adopted brother of Her Highness the Maharani. He was studying in England and was not well reported.*

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
1st May 1900.

MY DEAR COL. RAVENSHAW,

I have to thank you for your letter and telegram. I arrived here only this morning and find the climate very hot even from now (9 a.m.). Her Highness was obliged to stop behind for a day or two, as Jaisinhrao suddenly got very high fever. Fortunately, he was quite free form it when I lift him. As you know I am going to England with all my children and probably a few others to put them into school. I should very much like a few bints and names of schools and persons, with whom I can sefely place several of these youngsters. I feel the responsibility of the situation and would like to avoid as many mistakes as possible. I hope you would feel no hesitation in giving me your views as well as the views of others, who, you think, can throw some light on the subject. Kindly give my regards to Mrs. Bavenshaw and my compliments to Lord Curzon and Mr. Lawrence.

Your Sincere Friend
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

1st May 1900

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I have herartily to thank you for your kind letter dated the 12th April 1900. I am glad to see from the cheerful tone of your letter that you all seem to be well. I am sorry you could not go to Dublin. I have never seen a horse-show and would like to see one very munc. I am coming to Europe with all my children this month for Her Highness health and not for the Paris Exhibition.

I am very busy with the famine; but I am now beginning to feel a relief that every thing is in good working order. I arrived here only this morning from Lanauji, where I have been for about three weeks, Will you accept yourself and give my very kind regards to Mrs. and Miss Martellis?

Your Sincere Friend
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To, COL. N.C. MARTELLI, Monabeq, Fermoy, Co.cork.

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

1st May 1900

MY DEAR CAPT., GORDON,

How very kind of you in sending the letter and its contents. I should not have known its contents otherwise. The money will be despatched at once. Please write that to Lord Reay with t\my kind rememberances to bothe of them. I hope to see them all all of you very shortly. I shall have to make great use of your kinduess. I am coming to Europe with a huge number of boys, some of whom are to be placed in different places for education. I shall ask you for some suitable places, such as you think, would suit Indian boys. We all have a very fresh memory of your kindness and of lady Tweedale. Will you accept yourself and give to Lady Tweedale my very kind regards? I start form Bombay on the 19th of May.

Your Sincere Friend
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

3rd May 1900

MY DEAR BROTHER (SERI. SAMPATRAO),

I hope I mind myself yesterday fairly clear to Kiritsinhji and to an extent to yourself. You must make it quite plain, if at all it is now needed that he and his wife's main duty should be to make themselves as pleasant and useful to us as far as lies in their power. I know they will do this. The point, I really want to impress upon his attention, is that he, as a servant, must be ready to start back for India at any time; this I impress specially, because I am really taking him much more to oblige him than because his services will be needed. The party as already fully formed before he moved to accompany or I decided to take them. It is difficult to fix any definite date of their return; but it my present calculations do not undergo on further experience any alterations, I expect them to start for India in about the month of August next.

It is useless to repeat here all the gist of the talk. You will kindly let him read this note, so as to avoid any fear of misunderstanding.*

Your affectionately,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* The letter refers to the arrangements of Prince Kiritsinhji and his wife, and also of Shri. Sampatrao and his wife, who all accompanied their Highness to Europe in May 1900.

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

8th May 1900

MY DEAR THAKORE SAHEB (OF GONDOL),

I was very glad to learn you liken the album of Baroda Views and the group portrait of myself and my sons sent to you. We are all leaving India by S.S. Caledonia on the 19th Instant. I shall be obliged, if you kindly let me know your views about my keeping my children for education in England. You have kept you own for a long time there and are in a position to communicate to me your own ideas as to the comparative

merits and demerits of keeping royal children as well as other young men for education in Europe. If you known of any particular English families in England where the children can be accommodated with comfort, pary let me know the name of such of them as your recommend.

I have not yet made up my mind whether I would keep them there, but should like to know youe own views in the matter. I have also an iden of sending some other young men for their education to Europe. If you have ever calculated roughly the probable expenditure of keeping them there at the schools or colleges. I should like to be enlightened on the point.

We have had very warm weather here. I returned from Lananli only last week and am preparing to leave for Europe, where I go for the benefit of Her Highness health. I started a very useful irrigational work last week. The sceheme is a grand one, and is likely to cost about a million. The Orsang canais will, however, irrigate a vast area of land. pary give our regards to Rani Saheb.

Your sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
16th May 1900

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AYANGAR)

Rao Bahadur Samp Gaekwad will hand you over an important order about increasing the income of Shrimant Baburao* Bhikajirao Gaekwad, which I wish you to carry out at once and inform by early tomorrow the gentleman concerened. I am going to bid him good-bye tomorrow. I wish that he should be in possession of this order fairly long before the time I am going to see him. I have kept no copy of the vernacular order, whichrao Bahadur Sampatrao will hand you over tonight. You will kindly keep a full and careful record of it in the necessary Order-Book and in other places.

Your affectionately,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* Father of Vithalrao and Avchitrao. The later was given in adoptions to Gabajirao.

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

18th May 1900

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (OF GWALIOR),

I am dictating this letter to Fatehsinhrao as I have got something the matter with my eye, which prevents me from writing. I am starting tonight for Europe with great reluctance. I was busily engaged with the famine administration. I have travelled a good deal in the different parts of my territory. The work has done me much good from a health point of view. I hope the next monsoon will be a good one. If I can do anything for you in Europe, please let me know. Kindly give my regards to your wife besides accepting them yourself. Kindly convey my best regards to your mother. Fatesinhrao and Shiwajirao, who are going with me, give their best regards and respects to all of you. I hope I shall often hear from you and especially about your health. I remain,

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

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LAXMI-VILAS PLACE, BARAODA,

18th May 1900

MY DEAR COL. RAVENSHAW,

I am too busy to answer your kind letters. Thank you very much for your good wishes. Please convey my thanks also to Mrs. Revenshaw. I hope the State machinery will go no smoothly. I have given them many monetary sanctions. I am looking forward with great anxiety for the coming monsoon. We had not been feeling much the inconveniences of the Baroda coinage, except since the last year or two, and so we had no reason to decide about the coinage question. Notwithstanding the present high rate of exchange, many feel inclined to retain their coin. All sentiments are not good or reasonable, nor can we say that all sentiments are bad and that the world is without them. Are the civilized nations bereft of all sentiments? Do they not sometimes sacrifice more than is good, in order to respect their sentiments? I do not write this

in connection with what I have to do in the coinage question.

I have got something the matter with my eye, which prevents me from writing. It is written at my dictation by my son. Many thanks for what you wrote about the education of my children, and your views are worthy of consideration. I have taken all my children with me, as the doctor said that it was good for them. I hope they will all feel well there, otherwise it will be a source of anxiety. Kindly give my compliments to Sir. W. Cunningham and Lord Curzon, besides both of your accepting them. Never have I felt more unhappy to depart from Baroda than this time. I hope the poor faminestricken will be well looked after. I remain,

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

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EUROPE TRIP VI, *May 1900*

This diary* relates to more than one trip extending upto 1900, in which year I undertook my sixth trip. The observations may relate to different periods, seasons and trips and are not confined to any one trip.

- I. Arrangements for the administration of the State.
- II. Leave-taking of people at Baroda, Naosari and Bombay.
- III. Bombay to Aden
- IV. The P. & O. Company
- V. S.S. Caledonia

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Administrative arrangements have varied on different occasions and, therefore, it would be useless to repeat all of them here, except their salient features. When a Raja wishes to leave his country for a foreign and distant one, he is expected to give information of the fact to the Government of India through the Political Agent of his court, a certain fixed time before he leaves it. This course of giving information is now being gradually developed into leave taking. First the idea is conceived by some high officer in the Political Department; then he makes a query through the proper

channel whether the rumoured account of the Raja's intended trip is true. Having got information on this point, he formulates his wish and given it in due form to his subordinate officers, Residents, Agents, Commissioners and other Political Officers to let him know in due time before a trip is undertaken by a Raja. This apparently harmless information leads to querries, then criticism of arrangements for the administratin, made during the Raja's absence, for the conduct of business and suggestions more than mere proposals are placed by the Political officers before the intending tourist, who nolens volens, under pressure of circumstances and influence or from conviction, does what is best under the limited scope and starts to carry out the plan of his tour. I may remark here casually that, for many reasons, it is a mistake to cause changes beyond what are absolutely required in the current form of the administration in a Native State, a form to which the people are well accustomed and which has merit of being simple.

A Raja is generally made to have a Political Officer to look after him and his arrangements, with power and position, which are unknown to the persons, after whom the Political Officer is to look. The theory of duties and their limits and the manner of executing them varies according to whim and wish of the Political Officer and according to whether the Raja is easy to govern or not. I think it is an useless item of expenditure, which serves no useful purpose and only cause irritation and distrust in the mind of the Raja, to send an officer aganist his will at his own cost and expense, and who requires more to be pleased than gives pleasure. A remark like this relates more to the system than to every individual Political Officer, who only forms a unit of the body engaged in carrying out this system. Sometimes, Residents of the Native States

give instructions to European State servants to do the duties of Political Officers. This system, besides lacking courtesy to the Ruler, subverts all discipline and subordination, and is fraught with mischief.

II. LEAVE-TAKING.

Baroda.

My people were naturally not desirous that I should be absent from them and that, too, for a long time. But the fact of my ill-health rendered the trips necessary and justifiable; and they all hoped that I would regain my scattered health and come back well and strong to live amongst them. As the trips became frequent, the novelty and fear attending them naturally dwindled in *preportion*, and desire to accompany me or somehow to gain the opportunity of seeing Europe, got intensified in the minds of home loving and even some of the illiterate Indians. Now the desire has become so powerful and universal that even menials of no substance and means are anxious to be allowed to undertake trips at their own expense. This turn in the viweing of the visits to Europe is not, in my opinion, bad. It will open the minds of the people to a civilization, with which they are acquainted only through second-hand. However, this remark is only a side one and has nothing to do with the description of leave talking, with which I am at present concerned. After talking my leave of my mother† and aunts, who wished me *Bon Voyage*, though heartily sorry to see me undertake a long and to them a risky voyage over unknown seas and in climes still more unknown, where the food and water, the habits of living and the manners of mingling in society will differ from their own, they asked me to take care of my health and not to think of themselves or of the Stateaffairs, but to get well and return when my presence was necessary and beneficial. Officers, Sardars and Darakdars, sometimes, came to bid me good bye and *Bon Voyage* at the places and again all of them anmasse came to see me off at the railway station. A scene at these places is most touching and sorrowing and one feels the full force of the Shakespearian aphorism, 'Parting is such a sweet sorrow.' The crowded station, with notabilities of various grades and ranks of life, men of different ages and professions of varied knowledge and ignorance, attired in costumes of differenct cuts and fashion, wearing garments of various tints and colours, moved by different feelings and thought, formed a mostly picturesque gathering, uniting in nothing more

common than in expression of *Bon Voyage* to the royal tourist and cautioning his fellow travellers to take care of the Maharaja and of themselves and to let them know occasionally of his safety and health. Men of smaller and menial ranks stood at a respectable distance from this august assembly and aligned themselves along the platform of the station to get a last glimpse of their Maharaja and bless him with all prosperity and success. Some of these people, who formed his personal and daily attendants, with down-cast eyes, wore expressions of deep sorrow and tears in their eyes and faces, that were moved by deep-seated emotions. They bade a respectable good-bye, as the train steamed off out of the station.

Naosari

We arrived at Naosari at an awkward and inconvenient hour of 1 at mid-night. Here the station was lighted with innumerable lamps and decorated with ever-greens and flags. A gurad of police, a number of irregular Swars with State drums and flags were present. The local officials, the Suba, the Judge and other respectable non-officials of the community were present in their flowing robes to welcome us heartily and cordially. The parsee Priest with the clean cut features, his browny beard, dressed in a long flowing and scrupulously clean long coat that was tied up in half a dozen places with scarf round his stately waist, came in measured steps as soon as we had taken our seats on chairs, that were provided for us, and poured forth in a manly voice his blessings and prayers in Zind and in quaint Sanskrit. After taking the betel leaf and unts, we said good-bye to these good people and took our seats in the train of Bomany.

Bombay

As we approached Bombay, the rays of the sun shot through the trellised railway doors and awakened us from our sleep and slumbers. We peeped through the dcore and windows and were glad to behold the green coloured knolls, the wet a swamps and the groves of palm trees, which give a picturesque appearance to Bombay and its environs, which picturesqueness is heightened and increased by collections of water in various froms and party shappes, which are second

to none of the towns of Europe. We had not much time to devote to the scrutiny of the scenery; but we had to hurry and dress ourselves to be received by the friends in Bombay at the sation. We had a kind and friendly reception here, and from the railway station. I drove straight up to the place provided for my temporary residence. At this place, after the lapse of an hour or two, I received representatives of certain communities, who have me congratulatory addresses and wished me a *bon Voyage*. After these gentleman left, I received several gentlemen simply; then I prepared myself to start for the P. and O. boat. I started in a four-in-hand and drove by Chowpatty and the Secretariat to the Apollo Bunder, where I was met by some officers of the Government of Bombay. The drive from my residence to the Bunder struck me as very beautiful, with the broad roads that were well watered, with trees on either side of them, beyond which stood several storied houses of no architectural pretensions, but which increased in their size, magnitude and art, as we came nearer Explanade, where Bombay unfurls its grandeur to the greatest advantage, with the stately piles of Governemnt buldings arranged in a graceful row with staturay, lawns, raillings and roads lying at their feet, with a horse-shoe-shaped bay of water, standing beyond them and bringing into prominence the other back of the bay, which is studded with beautiful houses, trees, creepers, ferns, and crotens. As we passed this, we got in front of the Sassoon Mechanics Institue and rolled on at good pace to the Bunder. Here we had several gralands cast aroung our necks by several well-meaning people; and after bidding good bye and thanking the Govenment officials for their trouble. We took seat in the Bee Launch of the Bombay Government, accompanied by serveral friends in this and other boats. The ladies, who had come separately, had taken their seats in the bunks, which were to form our home and house during the voyage. The gentleman and I loitered about on the deek till the time had arrived for the departure of the steamer. As soon as that event, which was to tear us asunder from our native shores, was announced, the friends present, unwillingly and with suppressed emotions and with few words, said good-bye and *Bon Voyage*. We all felt unhappy at this moment and most of all, we regrettated that

the child Prince, Fatehsinhrao, was left behing in charge of his relations, with none of his parents near, (in 1887). Head not my health, which was shattered by three years of sleepless nights, compelled me to follow the advice of Dr. Sir William Moore to depart for different lands and scenes, I should not have undertaken this trip a trip which would never hve suggested itself to my surroundings, who were quite ignorant of such remedies for the recruiting of health, except to such staunch and intelligent friends as Mr. Elliot, whoc prayed and pursued me to undertake the trip for my health and life. I feel at this distance of time that I coult not have got a wiser advice than to undertake my first trip, which, I consider, gave me a new lease of life.

As the trips increased in number, the fears were cast to the winds and friends advised me to stay long enough in Europe and diminish the eequency of my visits. My visits were partly frequent; because I was generally gragged away from Europe than allowed to pas sufficient time to recruit my helath. This will also partly account for my visits to the Indian Hill stations at odd seasons and times. However, fortunately this is past and gone and I now feel, with better health, stronger interests, with wide-spread ties and with the increase of age and family, less anxious to trot about than before, though a trip with a definite purpose would not yet be considered unwise by me. Never did I undertake a trip more reluctantly than the present one (1990), as it separated me from personally looking after the faminerstricken subjects of my State, though I have the satisfaciton to feel that I have made every possible arrangement for the livelihood and the employment of the poor till and beyond the commencement of the monsoons. It is the domestic duty under the medical advice that had induced me to undertake this trip, which I was requested to undertake several months before, but which I was compelled by my duty to the people to postpone. Had not the monsoons approached so near, I should not have started so soon. In this 6th trip, I have brought all my children with me. leaving none to console the people in Baroda and to grance the Durbars there. I have brought them with me for their health and decuation, the accomplishment of which obects will, I hope, render then more efficient in every way to fulfil the different expectations

formed of them by them by their friends and will wishers. Besides this, had they not come here, they would have been obliged to go to some Indian Hill station. This probably brings them on a few days' longer journey than if they had stayed at the Nilgiris. We cannot neglect the fact that we are living in the year of grace of 1900, with steam-power to serve manking, with telegraph and electricity to serve as its agents and emissaries and under the aegis of a government, which has levelled comparatively all ranks and effectively destroyed the turbulent spirit of those, who may have been inclined to disturb the public peace. I can add to this chapter, a plenty of little interesting details; but I will do that at the completion of this book rather than at the beginning. From this leave-taking scene, I will not scribe what I saw between Bombay and Aden and the ship, which formed our home till we reached Europe.

III. BOMBAY TO ADEN

As the ship moved off Bombay harbour, its docks and beautiful edifices with magnificent high towers grew dimmer and dimmer till we lost all sight of them. By this time the muddy water of the sea had given way to pale green, which was deeper and more profound in depth. From Bombay to Aden, there is nothing to see, but the change of colour in the water, which from pale green grows blue owing to the vastness of the ocean and the light blue sky above. The expanse of ocean is so great that we cannot see the reflections of the rising and the setting sun.

IV. P & O. COMPANY

Before describing the inner working and the internal organization of the S.S. Caledonia, however, it would not be out of place to record a few observations about the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, which owns this ship. This Company was originally started in 1887 and it ran mail packets only so far as Lisbon and Gibraltar. It was as early as 1842 that this company sent their first steamer named the "Hindustan" to India; but regular sailings to India did not commence before 1844. This company has enjoyed

the privilege of holding the contract for mail service to India, China and Australia for the British Government, and in consequence of open competition caused by a system of offering tenders, has to keep abreast with all the modern improvements in the art of constructing safe and swift sailing ships, equipped with all the comforts and luxuries of a high class continental hotel.

Its fleet at the present day is composed of 61 ships with a total tonnage of 3,24,465. The ships, that belong to this fleet, are of various sizes, with a tonnage varying from about 200 to 8000 and with horse power from 60 to 11,000.

This vast increase in the capacity of the ships and their velocity affords a striking proof of the advance made in the art of navigation and ship-building since the accession of Her Majesty the Queen. The paddle, which was largely employed by all the ships in the early history of this company, has been replaced by the screw. The engine has also undergone a vast change in the mechanical processes, by which the propelling power of the steam is developed. The geared engines of old were unwieldy and not compatible with the swiftness of speed. The direct acting engines next took their place, but they also were unsuited to the economy of fuel. Some acceleration in the velocity of movement was effected by the use of apparatus for surface condensation; but the safety of the ship was not equally secured by this change. Repeated occurrences of the explosion of boilers soon demanded a change and the use of super-heated steam was then evolved in course of time. The compound engine combined many advantages-economy of fuel, high and low pressure of steam, swiftness of motion; but the early essays at this innovation were not always attended with safety to the ships. The many accidents, that occurred, called for improvements in the machinery. After all these tentative changes, the engine has now attained a stage, where it combines safety with all the above mentioned claims to human gratitude. Now-a-days, a voyage by sea is scarcely more perilous than a journey by rail.

Concurrent with these improvements in its machines, the rates of transport for passengers and cargo have been also proportionately lowered and it is only by the exercise of efficient supervision that the company has been able to give

a uniform rate of dividends, though the rates for transport have been reduced in competition with other liners.

The company runs its steamers between several ports of Europe, Asia and Australia. The places, at which its ships anchor, are marked in a chart, which may interest some of my readers. Besides this regular service, the company has arranged to run ships for pleasure excursions between different ports with a cdonvenient and easy approach from Europe. it also undertakes to charter special steamers, if so desired.

S.S. Chaledonia has the reputation of being the fastest running ship of the fleet in the Asiatic waters. She bears the lock of the walk in her most emblematic of her swift place. Whe bears about 16 to 17 knots in an hour. The speed, with which ships run in the Mediterranean is slightly greater and passenger ships carrying the mail from Port-Said to Brindisi, can sail 18 to 20 Knots in an hour. The total mileage of its fleet performed last year was about 3 millions of miles. The transit of mails from London to Bombay, which occupied 23 days in 1873 by the overland route, is not effected in 14 days. When this rapidity of locomotion is compared to that of 1837, when the company was launched the result would clearly demonstrate the progress achieved in the art of navigation in our own days.

This description of a steamer, with cretain other facts connected with the P. and O. Company given above in a narrow and concise form, will I am sure, bring certain interesting information in a more impressive form to the reader. In order to understand the different description of the ship, I append a small plan of the ship Caledonia, showing its different organs, which are necessary to keep it going and working.

V. S.S. CALEDONIA

Before doing so, I however, give some details of the P. and O. Company, which has for its motto *Quis Separabit.*

This ship and others of its line, vary in tonnage from 5,000 to 10,000. The fastest steamer can run from Bombay to Aden, 15 knots and hour, while that from Port-Said to Brindisi and to Marseilles can run 20 knots. If the running powers of the steamers of 1873 were to be compared with those of 1844, in

which year, the Peninsular & Oriental Company came to be extended to the far East, the difference almost in every respect is remarkable. The total amount of money invested by the Company amounts to The coal it uses in a years, is The total number of employees it has, is As it is likely to interest some of my Indian readers, I give below, in a short and succinct form, an account of the operations of ship-buildings.

*The evolution of steam-power, of ship-construction,
and cheapness of transport*

This company runs its steamers between the ports of several continents and countries. The map below will illustrate it at a glance. Besides this regular service of the steamers, the company has arranged to run steamers for purposes of pleasure excursion between the different ports within a convenient and easy approach of and from Europe. It also undertakes to run, if desired special steamers. It has done its best in every possible way by giving facilities to develop the sea-faring traffic and, thus, earn an honest dividend on its capital. The dividend is said to be.....

The ship Caledonia with others of its line are owned by this powerful company. The different plans of this Caledonia, given below, will illustrate its different organs, which are necessary to be kept in health and condition, in order that they might do their appointed work,

Cabin with its furniture;	Barber's Shop;
Smoking saloon etc.;	Dining Saloon;
Music Room;	Bath Refrigerator.

The company has issued orders and instructions settling and determining the responsibilities and duties of the Commander, the Chief Officer, the Purser, the Engineer, the Surgeon and the others, besides framing rules for the efficient up-keep of guard duty, use of lead, boats, tackles and other gear. A log-book of the following form is kept, in which certain information has to be entered.

Quis Separabit is the motto of this company, to which S.S. Caledonia belongs. This ship is one of the largest in the fleet and was commanded by Captain Gordon at the time of our

voyage. The first saloon passengers were accommodated in cabins on the main, the spar and burricane decks. The second saloon occupied the stern of the ship. The forecastle is taken by the anchor and other tackles. On the bridge, where the captain resides, there is the helm and ther magnetic compass, the other helm being at the rear. Passengers are not allowed to go up the bridge, or on the forecastle, when the ship is making port. On the hurricane-deck are the music and smoking saloons. The smoking saloon is always crowded by loungers and other gentlemen, burly and big, and studious of their ease. The fragrant weed, with its qhiff-whaff, suffuses the room with curling smoke and with a kind of smell, which may be agreeable to some, but can hardly satisfy the Aesthetic tastes of others. Cushioned sofas, with tables at regular intervals, candle-sticks standing out from the wall brackets, brass-pots for throwing lighted cigar ends and ash-trays, these form the furniture of the smoking saloon. On one side, there is the bar, from which wines and spirits, ices and aerated waters, cold drinks and coffee, are catered out by the steward. The tables are used for writing and reading newspapers and pamphlets, which are seen lying scattered in this room. They are also used for play, for draughts and dominos, chess and cards.

SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* Note:- This little piece of a diary written by His Highness will be read with great interest, as it contains many personal reminiscences and impressions of his past life and evinces his obsevant and studious nature. He also gives, in this short record, his own reasons fo his frequent travels to Europe and their advantages, never wasting in his tour his valuable time. G.S.S.

† This refers to His Highness' first Europe trip in 1887.

486

ROYAL PALACE HOTEL, KENSINGTON (LONDON),

13th June 1900

MY DEAR LORD HARRIS,*

It is indeed a great pleasure to see old frinds again. I am looking forward very much to meet you. I am at present suffering from a bad cold, which prevents me from talking altogether. it is an awful nuisance; but I hope to be free from

it in about four or five days. Many tanks for your other inquiries, We are all well. With all best regards to yourself and Lady harris.

Your sincere Frined,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *The late Governor of Bombay*

487

ROYAL PALACE HOTEL, LONDON (KENSINGTON),

13th June 1900

MY DEAR LORD REAY,

I came to town yesterday from Paris. We had a good crossing of the channel. It was fearfully hot on the way. I have brought all my children with me this time. Most of them are going tomorrow to Oxford. As soon as I am able to talk, I should anxious to meet you both, who are always fresh in our minds. I caught a bad cold and have to keep quiet. I hope this note will find you both quite well.

Your sincere Frined,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

488

ROYAL PALACE HOTEL, LONDON (KENSINGTON),

13th June 1900

MY DEAR LORD NORTHBROOK,

I do not know whether you are in town or in the country. As soon as I am able to talk by getting rid of my cold, I am looking forward to meet you. I have brought all my children this time with me and they are most of them going to Oxford tomorrow. Please accept yourself and give also my kind regards to your daughter.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

489

ROYAL PALACE HOTEL, LONDON (KENSINGTON),

14th June 1900

MY DEAR FRIEND (SIR JOHN WATSON),

I am looking forward to have you here; but at present I am suffering from bad sore throat, which prevents me from talking. As soon as I am well, I shall drop you a line. I should like you to see all of us. I hope you are quite well with your daughter. My kindest regards to both of you.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

490

ROYAL PALACE HOTEL, LONDON (KENSINGTON),

15th June 1900

MY DEAR SIR JOHN (PULESTON),

I thought of you and your daughters the moment I stepped into London, wherein is centred the life-blood of the vast Empire. I shall arrange to meet you as soon as my throat is well. I caught a bad cold, while crossing the channel. I am very anxious that my throat should soon get well that I can exchange greetings without pain and trouble. I have brought all my children this time, whom I should like to show to you and your daughters. I am sorry Lady Puleston is not well. Her Highness has not been enjoying good health since some days and that has brought me again to these shores.

Kindly give my regards to your wife and daughters, besides accepting them yourself. I was coming to Ascot; but I had to give up the idea.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

491

ROYAL PALACE HOTEL, LONDON (KENSINGTON),

15th June 1900

MY DEAR LADY REAY,

I have just opened your note to Her Highness. She is not in a position, at least for the present, to be informed of your note

on medical grounds. She has been examined by the lady doctors today and was given some gas, from the after effects of which she has not yet quite recovered. My throat is not well yet; but I hope to be well soon.

Your sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

P.S. If I feel well enough tomorrow, I may take my chance of finding you at home. Kindly do not change, in the least, your engagements for this. I shall give your note to Her Highness as soon as possible.

S.R.G.

492

ROYAL PALACE HOTEL, LONDON (KENSINGTON),
18th June 1900

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS (THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT),

We saw each other this morning, while I was on my way to the Prince of Wales. I should like to much to see you and the Duchess. I have not forgotten you at all. I write this straight to you as my old friend. I hope you are both well. With my regards to both of you.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

493

ROYAL PALACE HOTEL, LONDON (KENSINGTON),
19th June 1900

MY DEAR FRIEND (THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT),

The arrangements proposed by Your Royal Highness will suit me very well. Many thanks, we are all well. I hope this note will find you well.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

494

ROYAL PALACE HOTEL, LONDON (KENSINGTON),
20th June 1900

MY DEAR MR. FRENCH*,

I am glad to see that you are doing your best for the princes. I hope Fatehsinhrao is better from his cold. I shall run up there as soon as possible. Kindly push on the studies of Fatehsinhrao for the first examination of Oxford; so that the may be able to put in his terms.

See, if there are any good houses with gardens to be bought near Oxford; so that we may not engage one, but have our own. I only wish you quietly to inquire without taking any serious step in the matter.

Please give my regards to all the princes and Mrs. French who, I hope, is now all right.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* At oxford with the first three Princes.

495

ROYAL PALACE HOTEL, LONDON (KENSINGTON),
23th June 1900

MY DEAR LADY REAY,

Nothing has been yet settled about the house for Her Highness and so my date for going to Oxford is yet unceretain. I do not wish to proceed to Oxford till Her Highness is well settled in the new house. I am likely to be here for the 29th and so will meet you at dinner. If I have to break the engagement, I shall do so after ascertaining your convenience. I am so happy to see you.

Your sincerely Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

496

ROYAL PALACE HOTEL, LONDON (KENSINGTON),
24th June 1900

MY DEAR LADY REAY,

As arranged between us in our perosnal conversation, I beg to remind you by this note that I expect to have the pleasure of having you and Lady Reay here for lunch at 1.30 p.m. tomrrow. Her Highness expect Lady Hamilton* to be here tomorrow at 3 p.m. for a visit by her.

Your sincerely Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAD

* *Wife of Lord George Hamilton, Secretary of State for India.*

497

4, DEVONSHIRE PALACE, LONDON,
11th July 1900

MY DEAR LORD GEORGE HAMILTON,

I had promised to be present at Her Majesty's Garden Party this afternoon. But as Her Highness is undergoing a serious operation today. I hope you will explain to Her Majesty the cause of my absence. I am very anxious to see that the operation is very successful.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAD

498

4, DEVONSHIRE PALACE, LONDON,
11th July 1900

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (KAPURTHALA),

Her Highness has just undergone an operation and I hope there will be nothing to break an engagement, that I might make for the 20th of July. I accept your invitation with many thanks. My son is not in town, so that he will not be able to come. You can settle any theatre to go to. I hope you have had good news from India. We have had no rain yet in Baroda.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAD

499

4, DEVONSHIRE PALACE, LONDON,

12th July 1900

MY LORD GEORGE HAMILTON,

Thank you for your kind note and also having forwarded my explantion to the Queen Empress. It was a great disappointment to me not to be able to be present at Her Majesty's Garden Party. I am happy to say in answer to your kind inquiry that the operation was quite successful and that the Maharanee is going on well. I cannot of course, help feeling a certain amount of anxiety, but I hope and believe that there is no ground for it. Believe me, dear Lord George

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

500

4, DEVONSHIRE PALACE, LONDON,

24th July 1900

MY DEAR LADY TWEEDALE,

I quite intended to write to you some days ago to thank you for my very enjoyable visit to Arlington Manor; but my time in London is so full of engagements; (many of them were tiresome rather than pleasant); that I have not had a moment till now. It was delightful to escape out of the noise and heat of London into the peaceful cool country, and to walk through green lanes with commons, and golden gorge, instead of through dusty streets and squares. But what I throughly ejnjoyed was, freedom of English social life in the country and the opportunities of talking without constraint to some many charming ladies and intelligent men.

I am sending a paper, on which I am going to ask you to have the kindness to write your signature and address; and I should be much obliged, if you would send it to the other members of your party that they may do the same. In this manner, I hope to make a valuable list of my friends in

England. Again thanking you for a most enjoyable visit and with kind regards to you both.

Yours very Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

Julia Marchioness of Tweedale, Arlington Manor, Newbury.

501

4, DEVONSHIRE PALACE, LONDON,

26th July 1900

DEAR SIR EDWARD,

The hot weather and the many engagements of London life must be my excuse for sending you only a few lines to say how I enjoyed my visit to Hall-Barn. Please accept yourself and give also my best thanks to your daughter for giving me such a pleasant taste of the delights of English country life and believe me, with kindest regards.

Yours very truly,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

Sir Edward Lawson, Bart, Hall-Barn, Bucks

502

4, DEVONSHIRE PALACE, LONDON,

26th July 1900

MY DEAR LADY TWEEDALE,

Many thanks for your letter. I have got three invitations to Scotland. Kindly do not take any further trouble on that behalf. We are all well and wish you the same. I had a very pleasant dinner here given by Sir James Blyth. With my kind regards to you both.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

503

4, DEVONSHIRE PALACE, LONDON,

28th July 1900

MY DEAR LADY SIR JAMES,

Allow me to thank you heartily for the sumptuous and enjoyable dinner you gave me the other day. You had gathered together such interesting people and your arrangements in other respects showed great taste and finish. I hope, I shall see more of you and of your daughter before I have to quit these shores. Many thanks for the picture. I am going to send you a small souvenir, which I hope, you will accept. Have you had any good news from South Africa?

Yours Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

Sir James Blyth, Bart, 33 Portland Place, London, W.

504

4, DEVONSHIRE PALACE, LONDON,

30th July 1900

MY DEAR MR. FRENCH,

Taking all the circumstances into consideration. I wish you to enter Fatehsinhrao's name in the Balliol College. I wish him to take his degree in law. If, in future, the interest of the lad requires any change in the plan contained in this note, I keep to myself the perfect liberty of doing it. Jaysinhrao is to be prepared to enter Eton in the month of September 1901. I hope you will arrange the necessary details to give effect to my wish.*

Your sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *The three Princes lived at this time at Oxford, Fatehsinhrao studying privately for the University Entaance and the younger two attending a private school kept by Mr. Lynoin.*

505

4, DEVONSHIRE PALACE, LONDON,
30th July 1900

MY DEAR LORD RERY,

Many thanks for your kind note of the 27th July. I have recently heard that they have had few inches of rain in Baroda, but that is certainly of no use, unless we get a good deal more. The Viceroy will be in Baroda on Wednesday next, on his way to and back from Baroach.

I should like to get information about the one rail system. After I hear from him (Prof. Beare), I shall write to the Chief Engineer in Baroda.

I have seen the master of Balliol only once, and I have decided, at least for the present, to enter Fatesinhrao's name on that College roll. I hope they will give certain rational facilities and safeguard the interest of the Prince.

I will get the book you recommended. I wish I get more time to prosecute my studies. I am glad you have got nice weather there. I hope Lady Reay is quite well. her Highness is indeed, doing very well. With kindest regards to both of you.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

506

4, DEVONSHIRE PALACE, LONDON,
30th July 1900

MY DEAR LORD HARRIS,

Try to come if you can. If you fail to come, I shall understand the reason. Your absence will be due not to will but to some pressing engagements.

I shall avail myself of your kind invitation to visit you in the country, but will let you know beforehand, in order to find out your convenience. With my kind regards to both of you.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

507

4, DEVONSHIRE PALACE, LONDON,
30th July 1900

MY DEAR SIR JOHN (WATSON),

I was very glad to hear from you. I should like to pay you visit, and at the same time, see the Willington College. The day will be fixed in our personal visit. Her Highness is getting on very well. We shall talk about the horses, when we next meet. I hope you will accept yourself and also give my best regards to your daughter. I have entered the name of Fatesinhrao on the roll of the Baliol College. I hope the step will prove a wise one. Mr. French* has been laid up with bad remittent fever, but I hope he will soon be well again.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* Son of sir John Watson's sister.

508

4, DEVONSHIRE PALACE, LONDON,
30th July 1900

MY DEAR SIR JOHN (PULESTON),

Pardon me for not answering your kind note earlier. I shall be delighted to write to you and to hear form you from time to time. You have been inverariably very kind to me during my so journ in this country. I am sorry you have not been well, but hope you are now faring better. I should like to know how you are at present. I shall try later on to pay you a visit in Wales. The castle seems to be beautifully situated.

Will you kindly give my best regards to your daughters and inquire after Lady Puleston? Her Highness is doing very well. I have been very busy with visits. With very kind regards to you.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

509

4, DEVONSHIRE PALACE, LONDON,

3rd August 1900

MY DEAR RAJA SAHEB (OF DEOGHAD BARIA),

I have to thank you for your kind letter. We are all doing quite well now. You will be glad to learn that Her Highness has been doing very well after the medical operatin. I heard there was a good rain fall at Baroda. I trust the rains were fairly general and that you had your share of them also. I hope Gujarat escapes a second calemity this year.

I hope you are doing quite well. Fatesinhrao and the two younger byos are at Oxford, the one preparing for admission into the Baliol College and the other into the Eton* School. Please give our regards to your sons.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *He ultimately entered Harrow and not Elton.*

510

4, DEVONSHIRE PALACE, LONDON,

8th August 1900

MY DEAR LADY REAY,

Many thanks for your kind letter. I am afraid it is not possible for us to meet in Scotland this summer. We have not been able as yet to get a house out of London. We will quit this place as soon as we succeed in securing a house. I am glad to say that they have had good rain in Baroda of late, and general prospects are decidedly letter. I hope you both will enjoy your trips. With my best regards to you both.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

511

4, DEVONSHIRE PALACE, LONDON,

8th August 1900

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AIYANGAR),

It is nearly three months since I left India. Except the ten days I spent in Paris in seeing a part of the exhibition, I spent

all my time in London. Soon after my arrival here, Her Highness was put under treatment, and finally, it was decided that nothing but an operation would do her any good. According to this decision, a successful operation was performed on Her Highness on the 11th of July 1900. The operation was, indeed, a serious one and I was very anxious as to its execution. Fortunately, the operation was skilfully performed by Dr. Mrs. Seharlict a lady, with whom probably you are acquainted. She practised her profession in Madras nearly for twenty-one years. Fortunately Her Highness has recovered from the operation to a marvellous degree, our more correctly I may say that she stood the operation beyond the expectation of any body; so her progress has been too.

The climate of London is neither very bracing at this time of the year, nor is it very salubrious. We are daily thanking of leaving this for a residence in the country, where the air is likely to be purer and brighter. At times the heat has been immense here. What with unsuited houses and what with clothing for the heat, one feels the damp heat of England more oppressive than the dry heat of India. As Her Highness has not been able to get up and go about from her rooms, I could not naturally go to any climate which might have been beneficial to my health, and make a stay long enough to derive benefit. I have had to stay here and wait for a future opportunity to recruit my own health. I hope to do this pretty soon.

I have to thank you for your several letter and telegrams; and if I have not written to you personally myself upto this time, it has been due to no want of will, but rather to want of energy. I am glad to notice from your letters, that you are steering the State-vessel upto this time smoothly and I hope you will continue to do so.

I will now turn to the subejct matter of your letter of the 20th July 1900, which has just reached me. I am not in a position to fix the date or the approximate time of my return to India. I will certainly give Her Highness the benefit of a few winter months which, we find, are the best to recruit one's health. Bearing in mind the great fuss and delicate difficulties that are put in our way to take a trip to Europe, I

find that one must make the most of it, if one happens to visit this country.

Allow me to remark without wishing to injure the feelings of any body that our health and our interests are treated as nothing, when a decision is being arrived at as to our trips to Europe. Had I the experience and assurance that we can always arrange our journey to Europe and be also sure that during our absence, the State affair would be carried on smoothly, I should have never allowed Her Highness to suffer as much as she has done. This feeling of uneasiness and worry as to our trips, amongst other reasons, ade me postpone the treatment of Her Highness in Europe, with the fatal result that she has had to undergo a serious operation and reduce her chances of bearing children. I am afraid I am writing too freely. I will stop it, silence is golden; but it becomes too oppressive, when the worry and trouble caused are so great. You refer to the visit of Lord Curzon to Baroda during the next cold weather and advise me, as a friend, to return to Baroda in November next to welcome him. This step is partly considered advisable on my part, as I was the guest of the Viceroy in July of 1899. Nothing would give me greater pleasure than to receive Lord Curzon; but considering the health of Her Highness and mine, I find it almost impossible to return about that time. To interprete my not returning to receive the Viceroy as not wishing to welcome him, is all I can say, the most unfriendly act towards the Baroda State, and I do not think that any high-minded or friendly person could do so. If not this cold weather, I hope I shall have the pleasure of inviting the Viceroy to Baroda in the next. If in my absence, His Excellency condescends to honour Baroda by his persence, I am sure you will all do your best to give him a fitting welcome.*

You have had good rain since you penned this letter and I hope the prospects now are so good as not to cause us to undertake any serious relief works, for which my presence may be necessary. As you know, my interest in the State affairs has been intense and incessant. If any order or plans for the future, in case of want of rain are required, I shall be happy to dispose of them in a manner, which will suit the convenience of many. When the time comes, you can let me

know the matter again. I hope no relief workes will be required on a large scale.

I offered the services of a cavalry regiment to the British Government in connection with the China crisis; but as you know, they do not want them. I was growing very anxious about the rain; but your telegram of a week ago relived me immensely of that anxiety. I hope Manubhai sends the orders given from here in due time and in a distinct manner.

The princes are getting on well. I have kept them at Oxford, where some of them go to school and have a few hours lesson at home. Fatesinhrao cannot enter the University till he has completed his 18th year. I am rather sorry for this, but it cannot be helped. I am sorry the allowance question of Mr. French is not so smoothly settled as to cause no querries. He naturally wants to suffer as little as possible in comparison with the income he got in India. It is always best to be clear and decisive in all such matter, especially in dealing with Europeans, who knowing the mild and weak character of the natives, are apt to take an advantage of it. I understand from Mr. Manubhai that, according to an old understanding, previous to the present one, he was to get 2/3rds of his pay in India, if he stayed in Europe for more than six months. While, under the recent arrangement, he only draws no bhatta, if they are settled in England. I do not understand why the term Europe should be contracted to England. Again the term "settled" is being twisted by him. The result of the contraciton of the term from Europe to England is, that I cannot send the boys anywhere out of England without spending Rs. 1000 per month for the bhatta of the Frenches. It is rather unpleasant to have these petty financial matters unsettled and the masters have to suffer for the servants. In future. I should have clearly drawn rules, which will prevent the raising of any such questions or *jobbery*. We always go away for some months from Baroda to some hill-staion and, therefore, it would not be unwise, in future, to have a definite understanding, in as many cases as possible and specially of officers of high pay, whose duty it is to accompany Their Highenesses and the royal children, that they will be given no bhatta except the true and real bhatta expenses and cost of such luggage as would be allowed to them for being carried to these hill stations.

Kindly give effect to this wish in future, whenever possible. The bhatta expenses cover a great portion of the expenses of the trips. You know that when Mr. French's term of service was extended, the bhatta on account of Mrs. French was almost altogether deducted. The same treatemnt ought to have been applied to the Europe arrangement. At present if not settled, it seems that they are entitled to get more than our Indian officers, who really are worse off, so far as expenses are concerned, than in India. In future arrangements, great care must be taken.

I have to thank you for your kind enquiries after our health and I hope that you, with the members of your family, are doing well. I hope you do not find the weather very trying. I have written to you in a free and friendly manner, and you will keep written to you in a free and friendly manner, and you will keep to yourself such sentiments as ought not to spread abroad. I have dictated this letter and I hope you won't mind, if it is not written in my own hand.

Your sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* This refers to the famous circular issued by Lord Curzon to all the Indian Princes, prohibiting them from travelling out of their States without previous permission. Lord Curzon visited Baroda on August 1, 1900 in His Higheness' absence. He did not then accept any reception from the Baroda State and desired that he should be received in Baroda by His Highness next November. The letter gives His Highness reply.

512

BUSHEY HALL, LONDON,
17th August 1900

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (OF GWALIOR),

I was very happy to receive your letter of the 1st of July 1900. I am glad to notice that the rain-fall has been copies and general, since you wrote to me. I hope the end will be good too. The people have had such a bad time of late that a good season will be a real blessing to them. I have given all the messages directed by you. You have indeed, given a handsome sum of money to the China War. I wish you would give an equal sum to the educational advancement of our Indian youths. Thanks, we are all well at present. I hope the same is the case with yourself and your family. Kindly give

my regards to your mother and wife, besides accepting them yourself. One day, while driving in London, I accidentally met Dr. Craft; he looked so well. We have met Mrs. Hayland more than once. When will you visit this country?

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

513

BUSHEY HALL, LONDON,
17th August 1900

MY DEAR COL. REVENSHAW,

I am sorry that I have not written to you till now, but better late than never. I am glad to say that a successful operation was performed on Her Highness about a month ago. She is now recovering from its effects. I have not been favourably impressed with the climate of London, which has been very warm and relaxing. I have not found it better than that of Baroda. I could not go away *continuously* from London on account of Her Highness. I am going away, on the 19th of this month, to Scotland for some shooting. I hope I shall like it. I have seen several very interesting people. I had a very nice stay at Windsor. Her Majesty was very kind. I am glad that all the princes have been able to see her. I was very anxious for them to see her. I have been hearing about Lord Curzon's visit of the next cold weather and also of his famine visit. I am sorry I cannot be present in November in Baroda, without serious inconvenience and injury to the health of Her Highness. Besides, I should like to stay here for a short period, while the climate is bracing. I hope things will not be so managed as to compel me to return. Our travel in my opinion, is unnecessarily made too troublesome and therefore, a person does not wish it to be cut-short or interfered with I should be too happy to invite the Viceroy at a convenient time, unless he chooses to honour Baroda during my absence.

I hope you had a good time in Simla. Kindly give my regards to Mrs. Ravenshaw and tell her that I saw the artist she had mentioned to me. I think he paints well. With kind regards to yourself.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

514

LOCHINDORBE,
27th August 1900

MY DEAR LADY TWEEDALE,

I cannot allow many days to pass before thanking you heartily for all your kindness during my stay at Yester. I shall always recall my visit with great pleasure and remember it as the place, where I first shot grouse and made the acquaintance of many charming people. Above all, I much enjoyed getting to know your husband more closely and I shall not easily forget his kindness and consideration. May he live long in health and prosperity to see his children follow in his foot-steps. Besides accepting yourself, kindly convey my kindest regards to the Marquis and to my other young friends and children etc. I remain.

Your sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

N.B. I hope this letter will find you all in excellent health S.R.G

515

DUNCRAIG CASTLE, PLOCKION, N.B.

MY DEAR MRS. KENT,

I cannot allow many days to pass without thanking you and your husband for the kindness shown to me at Lochindorbe. I enjoyed so much the genial company of your sons, whom I hope to see in Baroda as my guests. I had a very good time at the Bainbridges. I did not kill as many animals and birds as all of us did at your place; but a day before I left Auchnaschellach, I shot an eight Pointer stag and three trouts. I leave this place tomorrow for Bushey. I had been receiving good news of the Maharanee's health.

You all must have read the circular issued to the Indian Princes by Lord Curzon and the comments made on me by the news papers. I do not think the Rajas are well treated in the circular. We all are supposed to be Chiefs, but are treated worse than paid servants. I have differed in my policy about the Imperial Service Troops and I believe every attempt is made by some to paint me as black as possible before the

public here. Independence and difference of views from the official ones are not tolerated by Anglo-Indians. However, I shall not trouble you with many details of the question.

Besides accepting yourself, will you kindly give my kindest regards to your husband and your sons? Hopping this will not be my last letter to you but first of many to follow and that this letter will find you all well.

Your sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

516

BUSHEY HALL, LONDON W.,
7th August 1900

MY DEAR FRIEND (MAJOR W. EVANS GORDON),

I was, indeed, very happy that you were able to go with me, except to Balls-Park. I tried to find out the cause, but was told that it was due to the fact that the house was full; but to me, it did not appear solid reasoning. Last night, I saw your brother and his wife at Carlton. They looked both well. Kindly buy a rifle for Sandy and recover the money from my Secretary. I send £20 for being distributed to deserving institutions and objects. I saw Lord George Hamilon.* yesterday; but for want of time, nothing important was said on either side. We have settled to have another interview. We ar all well. Please give my kindest regares to Lady Tweedale.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *Secretary of State for India.*

517

HOTEL CECIL, STRAND, W.C.
8th September 1900

DEAR MR. BAINBRIDGE,

Before I leave England, I must send you a few lines to thank you for all the kindness, which I received in Scotland from Mrs. and Miss Bainbridge and yourself. I throughgly enjoyed

my visit and found the sport you gave me most fascinating, especially the fishing. I shall always remember it by the stag, which I was lucky enough to get. I would have been most disappointng not to have shot one and I was quite delighted by my good fortuen.

I shall have the pleasure of sending you a photograph of myself and my children. I am sorry that I cannot send one of the Maharanee. She has not got any with her, and her illness has not allowed her to undergo the fatigue of sitting to a photographer.

Before leaving Scotland, I spent two very pleasant days with the Duke and Duchess of Somerset. There was no such good sport as you gave me; but I was very pleased to make the acquaintance of two such charming people. Now that distances are being annihilated and travelling is becoming so easy, I hope that you will, before long, pay a visit to India, and that when you are there, you will not forget that a warm welcome will await you in Baroda. Please let me know beforehand, when you are coming and I will do my best to give you as good a time as you gave me in Scotland. Believe me.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

P.S. We all go to Schwalbad in Germany on Monday. S.R.G.

518

BUSHEY HALL, LONDON W.,
10th September 1900

MY DEAR MR. FRENCH,

I am just leaving today for Germany. I shall be away only for a few weeks. The boys will mostly be back at the end of their holidays. I propose unless there be reasons to the contrary, which I wish you to point out, that Fatesinhrao should be placed for study under a regular coach till December, when he appears for the examination.* Your connection, in no way, is to cease except the few hours that Fatesinhrao may study with his coach. I hope Mrs. French and you are enjoying your holidays. Do you think I should take any steps

about what you think I should do bout Lord Curzon's circular?

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* Responses or on for Entrance.

519

BUSHEY HALL, LONDON W.,
10th September 1900

MY DEAR SIR GEORGE,

Before I go away for a short time to Germany, I cannot help thanking you for the shoot and all your kindness shown to meat Balls-Park and in London. I shall always recall my visit with great pleasure. I hope your foot is better. Will you kindly give my regards to Lady Tandel Philips and all your children? Nothing of any importance happened in my interview with Lord George Hamilton.

Your sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,
Sir. George Tandel Philips.

520

LANGEN SCHWALBAD, GERMANY,
23rd September 1900

MY DEAR SIR JOHN (PULESTON),

I have to thank your most heartily for your two kind letters, out of which I received one while I was in Scotland and it has long been my purpose to answer them; but travelling a number of engagements and some slight indisposition, rendered the execution of my wish rather difficult. This also is the reason why I am dictating this note, instead of writing it myself. It is a trifle and I hope to shake it off in a day or two. I have come here for the sake of Her Highness, and I hope waters will do her much good. I came straight up here from London, without halting any where on the way. part of the country was, indeed, very beautiful, though Holland, of course, struck me as too

flat. Yesterday I attended some military manouvers, which interested me much. The men were tall and broad, besides being accoutred and mounted. In a day or two, I propose to do the Rhine trip, which, I am told, every body undertakes. I thank you for letting my son visit you during two vacations. I have practically settled to graduate him in Oxford; but the circular of Lord Curzon about the visits of Indian Princes to Europe may cause great difficulty. It is question whether it would be wise on my part beneficial to all concerned, to leave my sons out here for three or four years without seeing much of them. It is a cruel and humiliating treatment we Indian Rajas are put to, by the Government of India. I consider in many respects we are worse dealt with than servants or labourers. This statement may seem a startling one but consider. A Raja if found troublesome, may be deposed or punished without any public inquiry. A Raja is asked to produce a medical certificate, if he desires to visit Europe for his health, a treatment which is inconsistent with his dignity and rights, one which lower him in the eyes of his people, besides weakening his hold on the administration. he is asked to obtain leave of absence, and this may be granted or not, according to the wishes of the Government of India, or whoever may exercise that power on its behalf. What guarantee is there that it will not ask many irrelevant questions, before it lets him go? Again what certainty is there that an officer will invariably be just, if not sympathetic, to a Native Raja and that he will not unreasonably thwart the plans of the Chief? My experience is that the India Government is not very considerate in its treatment of Native Rajas. Besides, to make the Rajas so dependent on the British Officials, saps their very position as Ruling Chiefs, and renders them quite unfit to protect their own interest and those of their State and subjects. In big and small matters, it is not without considerable risk that a Raja can freely express his feelings to the Government. Even if he wants any competent medical officer to attend on him, as any private patient may do, the doctor is not allowed to approach him without the permission of the British Government, if he happens to be in its service. Many small Rajas cannot leave their capital without obtaining leave of the Political Officer. I cannot see much of the

treatment. Many a demand might be made of a Raja in such a way as to cause trouble to either party. He is made to pay the municipal dues of any town he may visit in British territory and in other respects, he is treated with no courtesy. He has however, to put up with each and every slight. It is possible that the treatment of the sort may have been necessary in old days, I cannot tell. But now it serves only to worry. If a Raja wants to go to Europe or anywhere, he is at times, made to make such arrangements of his administraiton as may not be congenial to himself and best suited to conserve his interest. Very often the Birtish Representative at the court of Native State is given some of his powers in a manner injurious to the continuity of the Raja's policy or likely to cause harm to the carrer of the Raja or to the financial interests of the Sate, the poor Raja has to grin and bear it, as he well konws that the British Government, merely to uphold the prestige of the officer, will certainly justify his action and snub the Raja for his pains. Interference also extends to his home and family. A father is obliged to send his son to some schcool, which the political offcer favours, but which the father may not care for, to the Rajkot or Mayo College, for instance. In other words, a father is held to be less competent to judge of the Welfare of his son than officials, who are utter strangers to the child. It is too easily forgotten that many of the present Rajas are better educated than their predecessors and the Government refuse to lessen their leading strings in the least degree. It is a pertenal Government with vengeance. Our power of borrowing money is crippled. We cannot without leave extend railways or telegraphs or telephones, even in our own private grounds. At intervals, complaints are made to us from tagrage and bobtail army; but we are strictly prevented from introducing great or small changes in their dress, their drill and their efficiency. Not a pound of gun-powder may be purchased without leave, for instance. Our rank and position is extolled to the seventh heaven, when anything is to be got out of us in the interest of the British Government; but if we demur or put any question before we determinaine to do anything we are promptly snubbed. Rules and precedents are made out without our consent or knowledge. We are made the subjects of common orders and circulars; but we are

stringently denied the right of jointly protesting against it. The highest are lowered to the level of the lower; but the level of the lowest has never been raised an inch.

If we refer to and rely on our treaties, we are told that they are not worth the paper on which they are written. Though not more than about six out of several hundred Rajas have visited Europe more than once, Lord Curzon considers himself under the necessity of passing a strong circular on the subject, wherein he speaks of the Rajas with the scantest courtesy. He criticises the disposal of the State revenue after putting on 19th century spectacles. He might as well adversely criticise the financial system of Alfred the Great; because it did not tally with our present democratic notions and principles. The ideas of the public and the private property in India, are not the same as here. The application of these criticisms of finance among other matters has had the result of leaving the Rajas and the members of their family without any right of property what-ever. They are loaded with all the care, anxiety and trouble by the Government, while deprived of the security or liberty and its consequent advantages. Responsibility is now being exacted from them in a harsh and unsympathetic manner, while they are denied requisite power to do their work properly. The result of this treatment will, in my opinion, be that the Rajas will be so disgusted as to prefer being treated as pensioners and to give up the fictitious, evanescent pomp of an Indian Chief. Lord Curzon's circular is grandiloquent, but before it is accepted as true, one must shift facts for one self. Did not the old Rajas and old private well to do gentlemen, who did not even know where England was, buy hung numbers of prints and fancy pictures, tables, cots and furniture, glass and costly chandeliers, which we are now naturally inclined to discard as rubbish? Do not people in Europe also change their fashions and tastes? Yet European Governments, however parental, pass no sumptuary laws. I consider the garb of the parental interest is misly assumed, in order more easily to encroach upon the rights and privileges of people, who might safely be left alone.

Our ultimate appeal for redress lies in England; and if there happen to be a chance for us to cultivate the acquaintances

of those who had power to influence action in England, the executive officers of that final appellate authority, i.e. the Indian Government, deliberately render that chance impossible and nugatory. It used not to be so. We have had in India the Moghul Government, which for a time only was foreign, but its meanest subject, with some little difficulty I grant, could run up to the Emperor and ask for redress. here the Governments besides being entirely foreign, is of such a form, as to render it impossible for us to find out who is the real master, to whom an injured party may appeal with the certainty of being heard and redressed. Old members of parliament like Buke and others, who considered themselves responsible to their conscience for due discharge of their duties, and who did not consider themselves bound to carry out the wishes of their constituents if the latter were in the wrong, have disappeared; but now Honourable Members confine themselves to carrying out the mere instructions of their masters, the electors. They either lack the inclination, energy and time required to study the interests of those distant lands, which though under Briton's way, have no representatives empowered to make known their wants. The ignorance prevailing about India is so great that is not an easy task to enlighten the people; it will entail great financial sacrifice and energy to place the requisite knowledge before our ultimate masters; God known who they are.

My object in writing this cursory observations to your is this; that I long for people of your position to study Indian matters and to try to do justice to the three hundred million alien unrepresented people of India. They might be given greater liberty of speech and writing individually and collectively. To a few of them some of the high posts in the military and civil service might be thrown open. All might be treated with greater consideration and trust than at present. We wish for nothing more than a faithful and honest execution of the proclamation of Her Majesty of 1858.

I hope you will excuse my inflicting on you this long and trembling letter. There is every chance of my coming to England to bid you good bye, before leaving for my native land. I too on account of various engagements have not been able to see

you and others as much as I should have liked. Kindly give my very kind regards to your daughters. I hope this letter will find you all in excellent health and spirits.

Your sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

521

LANGEN SEHWALBAND, GERMANY,
23rd September 1900

MY DEAR LORD GEORGE HAMILTON,

Here is a gentleman whom I wish to employ in my service as companion, and if I find convenient, as Secretary, for a period not exceeding two years for the present. If I want to part with him within two years without any fault of his, I shall give him two months pay and a first class return passage to Europe. No reason for dispensing with his services shall be given. His pay will be Rs. 650 plus Rs. 50 for house rent (if he is not supplied with a free furnished house) per month. He will be given actual travelling allowance, but not bhatta for board and when travelling. Before I engage him, I wish to have the sanction of the Government of India as usual, which I request you to obtain on my behalf by wire.

I hope you do not mind my addressing to you direct, in doing which I am actuated by no other motive but to save time. The accompanying statement will show certain particulars about him. I shall let you or other proper authorities know if any changes are made in the above conditions, as I have not discussed them personally with Mr. Newman*. At the end of one year if he gives satisfaction in the discharge of his duties, he will be given Rs. 100 as promotion.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *Mr. Devis Newman who entered Baroda sercice & dided at Nainital on 25 June 1901 from enteric fever. (see letter 571 dated 26th June 1901 to Prince Fatesinhrao).*

522

HOTEL ALLEESAL LANGEN, SCHWABLAND, GERMANY,

23rd September 1900

His Highness the Maharaja Gaekwar of Baroda presents his compliments to Mrs. Lyndemann and esires to say he will be very happy to form the acquaintance of Mr. Lyndemann, when he comes here. His Highness is going to the Rhyne tomorrow and returns later on Tuesday. If it is not inconvenient to Mr. Lyndemann, Wednesday will better suit His Highness. His Highness will be delighted to have both Mr. and Mrs. Lyndemann to tea on Wednesday afternoon at this hotel. The messenger having gone, this lerer is sent by post.

SECRETARY TO H.H. THE MAHARAJA GAEKWAR.

523

PARIS HOTEL TROCADERO,

18th October 1900

MY DEAR SIR JOGN PULESTON,

I have great pleasure in acknowledging your two very kind letters. I have not yet received the news papers; when they to come, I shall read them with great pleasure. I hope the rest will do you now plenty of good. I have been here studying the Exhibition. There is plenty to learn there. I think the Exhibition might have with advantage been arranged slightly differnltly. The pavilions are quite useless. Some of them have made very inappropriate shows. Our wish is to see the varid progesess each country has made within a creatin period and not its old valuable treasures, like old pictures and jewellery. I hope this note will find Lady Puleston in fair health. With my hearty regards to you both.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

524

PARIS HOTEL TROCADERO,

18th October 1900

MY DEAR LORD REAY,

I have been here for sometime studying the Exhibition. I have done a geat portion of it. It is a very hard work. I enjoyed

my trip to Scotland very much, I had good sport there and extremely glad to get a stag at Mr. Bainbridge's place. I enjoyed heartily my stay with the Duke and the Ducess of Somerest. They are indeed very kind and hopitable people.

Her Higheness is at Vichey and within a few days she will finish her course there. I have not finally decided where to go after Vichy. I leave Europe very early in January. My sons are at Oxford still. They are getting on well from all accounts.

You cannot have failed to read Lord Curzon's circular about the visits of the Native Princes to Europe. Every body has wirtten much about it and I have been referred to a great deal in the articles. The circular is addressed by the Governemnt of India, not to the Native Rajas, but to its subordinate local Governments. Under these circumstances, roughly speaking, I have no reason to take notice of its but the public is under the impression as if the order was directed towards me. Irrespective of this, I have often found that the treatment we get is not very satisfactory. When we wish to have a trip to Europe, we are, sometimes, made to sacrifice our interest unduly in the barain; however, I do not want to lay much stress on this particular matter at least just at present. What I feel is that the treatment is too and unnecessailly humiliating. It is best suited to demoralize and discourage us from taking legitimate interest in the administration, to which I may say, many of the princes of India succeed by right to law and custom. Whatever future may be in store for them, still at least at present it cannot be desired that they are not on the same footing as paid officals.

Look at the treatment they get by the circular of our present Viceroy; scan a little some of the arguments; let us find whether there was any need for issuing the order he has done and the manner of doing it. What princes have turned out worse than some of the princes of India who have never left their country? What questionable proclivities have they shown? The charge seems to me to be vague and used merely as a rhetoric to catch the ear of the credulous and ignorant public. Have there not been drunkards and debauchees amont princes who have never left the shores of India? I can point out at least some if it be wanted. I known a cretain number, who have contracted marriages with English and European

women. I can give a list of princes and private rich men who spend a good deal of money in furniture, glass and other ware. Well if such be the case, why make capital out of what some choose to call a weakness of some Rajas? You must not think from this that I am not inclined to blame them for extravagance. It is a great fault. Well, if such be our difficulties and feelings about the treatment we get, to whom are we to appeal? The Government of India, though extremely powerful, is still composed of human beings and as such, they will not undo what they have once deliberately done. Merchants even have a right of interpellation in the Council of India. Laws affecting beggars and peasants are promulgated for criticism before they become law, while the unfortunate princes of India are treated worse than men of no position and property. They are made subjects of orders and circulars without their knowledge. It is too high a penalty to be an India Raja. It looks as if the treatment is intended to annoy and disgust them, ultimately to end in their not wishing to be Rajas at all.

Is this security in its true sense? Is the treatment designed to respect right? Can we honestly claim that the princes are happily and truly firmer on their musands (thrones), than before, or what they may have been with the present civilisation?

If a person speaks, he is dubbed as disloyal; if he holds his tongue, he goes on losing. How is one to solve this difficulty? I am not taking advantage of your friendship in writing these hurried lines; but I speak to you as a sensible and just public man. The expressions may be lacking in nicety and accuracy, for which I beg to be excused. Beyond accepting yourself, kindly give my kindest regards to Lady Reay.

Your sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

525

PARIS PALAIS D' ORSAY,
24th October 1900

MY DEAR SIR EDMUND MONSON*

Many thanks for your letter and the trouble you have taken in arranging the matter. I shall await on the day appointed for the visit, the arrival of Mr. Lister.

* *British Embassey, Paris.*

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

526

PARIS PALAIS D' ORSAY,
25th October 1900

MY DEAR FRIEND (MAJOR W.E. GORDON),

Your letter just to hand. Thank you for it. I do not misunderstand your object. I shall pay the man something as Bukshis. I will inquire about the matter and try to set it right. I will let you know the matter merely to amuse you. My sentiments are like yours. I do not know why things should not be pleasantly managed? Her Highness is at Vichy. She will be here on the 27th of this month. I have been studying the Exhibition. I go to see M. Lubet tomorrow. I hope this will find you and Lady Tweedale in good health.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

527

BRIGHION, METROPOLE,
14th November 1900

MY DEAR FRIEND (SIR JOHN WATSON),

I have not written to you for a long time. I have been here for some time and will soon be in England for a short while, before I go away to India. I am having good news from that country. Everything is going on as well as it can, under the circumstances. You must have read the circular of the

Government of India about the visits of the Indian Princes to other countries beyond India. I am inclined to think that the circular is most mischievous and quite unnecessary. the grounds on which some of the conclusions of the circular are based, are in my opinion faulty and erroneous. The circular will affect the ruling power of the Chiefs and render them still less able to administer their affairs satisfactorily. It will distract their attention and prevent them from taking legitimate interest in the progress of the State. Their interests are separated from those of the State, a fact which will hasten their silent but sure absorption into the rest of the British India. The tone and the contents of the circular are such as to propagate the evil designs and dishonest practices. The Rajas will not be in a position to look after the true interests of the States. They must to secure legitimate personal happiness and freedom, cringe and fawn to secure favours. Under this treatment they cannot acquire habits of independence, and possess good character. The logical result of an arbitrary treatment like this will be to lower self-respect and make them meanset of the mean. Servants of the lowest grade can ask, almost as a matter of right, leave and pension after a certain period of their service, while the wretched Rajas will be a prey to the unfettered discretion of the Government officials, with whom they rarely, if at all, come into contact, and with whom they seldom discuss any matter of importance and whose acquaintance with the feelings and thoughts of each other is practically quite nil. I fear the result of this treatment cannot be productive of happiness to the Raja, nor can it reflect credit on those who inflict the treatment. Instead of trust and certainty there will be distrust and uncertainty. No Indian can upset this course, even if he earnestly desired it; and the form of the Indian Government is such as to render rectification almost impossible. The mode of Government in England is such as to render any earnest endeavour in distant and alien countries most difficult. The influential men here are ignorant of the true state of affairs. Their interest in any question has to be aroused by constant attendance and request, which cannot be, unless the races come into close contact. This is rendered impossible by the circular. In my humble opinion, the interests of India and England need not

be opposed to each other. The glory and prosperity of the one should be those of the other country.

I had penned this not while in Paris; but had not completed it. What can I do, in your opinion, to set this objectionable treatment right? My people have very little hope of just treatment being accorded to the point of issue. They feel the treatment as very unfair, but are afraid of expressing it. I cannot, let me tell you, advocate the principle of absentee land-lordism, but I do strongly hold that respect should be shown to the life, liberty and property of even subjugated races. I hope you will not be offended at my letter. Can you and your daughter come and stay with us for two days? Kindly let me know the days, so that I may see whether I can make them fit with my other engagements. I hope this note will find you both in very good health.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

528

BRIGHTON, METROPOLE,
14th November 1900

MY DEAR FRENCH,

I was glad to receive the progress statement of the two boys. I presume, Fatesinhrao appears for his examination; because he has chances of passing it. I am sorry that I have had to postpone my visit to Oxford so long. My stay here is limited; besides, I have many engagements. I hope there is nothing serious the matter with Mrs. French's health. I have not been very well of late. Her Highness too will probably visit Oxford during some time of my stay there.

Your sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

529

LAXMI VILAS PALACE, BARODA
15th January 1901

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (HOLKAR),

I have not heard from you since a long time. I hope this letter will find you in very good helath. I came here the day

before yesterday and had a very hearty reception. I was glad to be back again after a long absence. I enjoyed my trip to Europe. These occasional holidays, out of India, do me much good. The climate here does seem to be cool and pleasant. How is the climate there? I hope you will accept some Tilts I am sending to Your Highness.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

530

LAXMI VILAS PALACE, BARODA

15th January 1901

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (SCINDIA),

It is a long time since we exchanged any letters. Allow me to congratulate you on your safe arrival from China. I came here the day before yesterday. The children are rather indisposed with cold etc. Otherwise we are all well. The weather here is very changeable but it is fortunately cool. The boys ask me to give their regards to you. According to our custom, I send some Tilts for your kind acceptance. I hope I will hear from you.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

531

LAXMI VILAS PALACE, BARODA

15th January 1901

MY DEAR RAVENSHAW,

I have to thank you very much for your two very kind letters. I am now safely lodged in Baroda. I never felt so happy to be back as this time. The reasons of it are, first no direct or indirect pressure was brought to bear upon me to return at any particular date, either by internal or external authorities except in November last.

The holiday being long enough to my wishes, I felt happy to be back home again. I never like pressure and meddling in my movements. Every thing went off well in Bombay on the whole. I was glad to see Lord Northcote. He seems to be such

a nice fellow. I am glad you are very well. Please give the O'Briens my rememberances. I hope you are satisfied with what you came across of your famine measures. I had a talk with Mr. O'Brinen while I was in Amreli, who said every thing was going on well except that in his opinon, the supervising staff ought to be much strengthened. The Suba demanded the same thing. I did my best to comply with their common and sensible suggestion. My great diffculty was to get works properly supervised, and in future, this will be almost insurmountable.

I have to say something about the tours in general, but do not wish to worry you about them so soon.

Allow me to thank you for your kindness. Mrs. Ravenshaw, I hear, Leaves today for Bombay. I saw Capt. Jacob this morning. He seems to be a nice man. He told me a bit of his famine experineces in Palanpur. He had enquired there with the Patels of Palanpur villages, besides inquiring on works whether there were any Gaekwar's subjects. He found none except probably 20. I was rather astonished to learn this. I am looking forward to meet you very much.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

532

LAXMI VILAS PALACE, BARODA

15th January 1901

MY DEAR SIR (MR. ELLIOT)

I am sending by this mail the typewritten notes on my famine tour to Messrs. MacMillan and Co. I have gone through them again and made a few verbal alterations of not great importance. Besides this, there are a few sentences to be added here and there, and also four bulky additions sent in manuscript to Messrs MacMillan. I have tried, as far as possible, to minimise the trouble, you would have to take in seeing them through the Press, and I hope it will be as small as possible. As you are there on the spot, I hope you will kindly take the trouble of correcting the proofs and making such minor corrections as you may deem necessary without sacrificing the meaning. Please send me each secton of the

Notes as soon as it is printed, before the whole is bound up. I hope you will arrange to get the whole thing printed as soon as possible. Mr. Manubhai has settled the necessary terms with Meassrs. MacMillan and Co.

I took these Notes from you to see how the whole thing read after the correction you have made therein. I did not take them because I distrusted your sense or ability. Sometimes my ways may savour of roughness; but you may rest assured that there is no unpleasant feeling at the bottom. I must thank you for the great trouble you have taken in connection with them, and hope you will contiune to evince the same interest till the book is out. I can easily increase the size of the notes, but I think there must be an end to every thing. Some day I may write some further notes connected with the same subejct. I have received some of your letters which, if necessary, I shall answer separately. My people are very glad to see me back and I, to take my work again.

I hope this letter will find you all well. I have sent some instructions to Messrs. MacMillan and Co. with a request to show them to you if you go there. If you, from some reason are unable to go to them, I have instructed them to push on with the work by themselves, as I want the notes very quickly.

Your sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

534

LAXMI VILAS PALACE, BARODA

23rd January 1901

MY DEAR CAPTAIN JACOB*,

I have no words to express how extremely sorry I am to learn the sad news of the death of Her Majesty. The sorrow is greater to me because I had experienced many kindnesses from her own hand. It was only recently that I saw her and she is just fresh in my mind. If a wish can achieve anything I heartily wish a peace to her soul. She was a great Queen and Empress and every body will feel her great loss. I am anxious to show every make of sympathy, so you will help us in doing the needful. Please wire my sympathies to the Viceroy and through him to the Prince of Wale and the Royal family. I

have written this just as your letter came. I am closing the Public Offices and schools as a mark of respect.

Your sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

*Asst. Resident at Baroda.

535

LAXMI VILAS PALACE, BARODA

23rd January 1901

MY DEAR MAHARAJA,

I have to thank you heartily for your kind letter. It was a pity we did not meet in London. Some day you might pay me a visit here. I think there can be hardly any adequate words to criticize the stupid circular issued by the Government of India and to which Your Highness refers in your letter. Practically we have no liberty, property and status. All my children have for the present returned with me. My eldest son is due there in June. I hear you are going to educate your sons in France. I think it is not a bad idea. We ought to send our children to America too. How are your children? Please give them besides accepting yourselves, my kindest regards. We must write to each other more than we do. Her Highness and all of us are doing very well. I hope the same is the case with you too. It is indeed very sad to hear of the sad demise of her Majesty the Queen Empress. She was so kind and noble.

Your sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

His Highness the Maharaja Jagatsingji, K.C.S.I., Kapurthala

537

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA

5th February 1901

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AIYANGAR),

Mr. Cotton is a great Educationist and a man who is well versed in many Indian topics and particularly in history. I have known him for some time. I should like, if it is agreeable to him, to make some use of his knowledge and ability in

connection with our Educational Department. I am told he starts back on the 23rd of this month; till this time. I propose that except his visit to Ahmedabad, he should devote all his time in studying our educational problems, and submit a report with his criticism and advice. He should study the curriculum, the state of the schools, their discipline and internal management, Besides viewing it from financial and other points, as well as the capacity of the teachers for the desired product. I particularly wish his attention to be specially drawn to the curriculum and the financial side of our Educational Department.

As these are the points, on which I wish to be particularly advised, Mr. Chaganlal Modi should be entirely at his disposal to aid and give him every facility and information. The Educational Department includes Vernacular, as well as the English portions of our system. For this, I propose that you should pay him Rupees one thousand. He should draw up a report on his way home. He can postpone his departure to a period of fortnight more than he proposes to start, is should be extremely useful. In this case we may pay him Rupees Fifteen hundred. He may also get an idea of the village and district schools.

Your sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

538

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
5th February 1901

MY DEAR COL. RAVENSHAW,

Many thanks for your letters. I am sorry you are going on leave so soon. I hope you will enjoy your leave and come back to us again. I have not written to Mrs. Ravenshaw, because Her Highness is ill. I want to make a request to you, and I hope you will not hesitate to comply with it, even if necessary, with the permission of your superior officers. I should like to have permission of your superior officer. I should like to have a complete copy of the report you made of the Baroda Famine

Administration. It will be useful to the State in more than one way and will throw light on many subjects.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

539

LAXMI VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
6th February, 1901

MY DEAR COL RAVENSHAW,

I am glad to be a Vice-Patron of the Victoria Memorial Movement. I shall be happy to subscribe to it in due time.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

540

CAMP, SONOR,
10th February 1901

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AIYANGAR)

You know our finances are at present in a straitened condition and before no expenditure can be incurred without serious inconvenience. I am anxious to try and open one or two Vernacular High Schools; for this I want to know one or two English Schools which may not be doing well and which may be closed without much inconvenience. I remember hearing that the school of Sidhpur was not much availed of. I will convert such schools into what I may roughly style Vernacular High Schools. Please give me this necessary information without giving out my object and idea. I also looking forward to getting the Tippan of the Female Training School. This will give me a chance of developing a certain scheme. I propose that ten students should be sent by us to Ahmedabad or any other Training School with a condition, that they are to enter our service. We should pay their expenses by giving them scholarships. I shall apply the same method to the training of the female teachers. Mr. Dalal has told me that he proposes to convert the present institution into a High School for girls. I have never believed that our education department is surfeited with properly trained teachers. In

case it is, we need not incur the expenditure I am proposing. I find that, country here is looking well with green fields and plenty of grass. I have not noticed many dead trees as we see round about the Race Course.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

541

LAXMI VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
10th February 1901

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AIYANGAR),

It seems from the conversation I have had with Mr. Pandit and the tone of Mr. Kershaspji's conversation that, there is greater delay here in the disposal of judicial cases than in British territory. If this is be true, I am surprised at the result. The object of my various changes has not, it seems secured. I aimed to have greater despatch in the final disposal of cases here than in the British territory or any well-governed Native State. I wish to know the reason of this longer delay and the means to set it right. I am not melined to think that the number of courts is less in our State than the neighbouring foreign territory. I hope the reasons of the delay and the means to shorten it, will be submitted to me without any loss of time.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

542

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
17th February 1901

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AIYANGAR),

I wish to decide, as soon as possible and, certainly, before you proceed on leave, in the proposal Bondhani legislation and the "Widow Remarriage Act," which Mr. Pandit has had, for some time past, ready in his hand. I am willing to give some time to-morrow, if you are ready to take my full and final orders before the draft bill is published. Kindly let me

know on what day you and the others concerned will come to me with the necessary papers.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

543

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
18th February 1901

MY DEAR THAKORE SAHEB (OF PALITANA)

I have to thank Your Highness for the kind present of an elephant, which, I am sure, will arrive here in due time. Her Highness is better than she used to be. The Princes are doing well and the eldest* will shortly proceed to Europe to prosecute his studies. I am glad you and your sons are doing well. I was glad to see Col. Jackson and talk about you and other subjects of India. I hope this note will find you in excellent health. I am going to Dabka, a hunting place, to-day.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* Fatehsinhrao failed in his Oxford entrance in December 1900 and returned to India. He went back in April 1901, passed in July and entered Balliol.

544

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
21st February 1901

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AIYANGAR),

I have read the draft of the 'Widow Remarriage Act.' I am ready to pass the necessary orders on it; but, before I do so, I think it would be better that Dhamnaskar, Ganpatrao Gaekwar, Pandit and yourself should discuss the addition I propose to it. This should be done quickly and my orders taken on it, if possible, before Pandit goes on leave. I have given the draft to Mr. Ganpatrao Gaekwar.

Your sincerely, *By Order*
FATEHSINHRAO S. GAEKWAR

545

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

25th February 1901

MY DEAR NABOB SAHEB (OF RAMPUR)

I was very glad to receive your kind letter of sympathetic inquiries after our health, and I sincerely thank you for that.

At present I am busily engaged in inspection work of the Baroda Division of my Raj. During this month, I inspected the work of three Talukas of the Division. After this inspection tour is over, I have a mind to proceed to Nainital for the sake of Her Highness' health who suffered here, owing to a sudden change in the climate.

As regards Nasirkhan Pakhwaji's coming over to you for some time, I would have gladly sent him just now; but after my return from the continent, I ordered him to teach his art to students of the Music School. After he has, however, made a fair beginning in the work he is at present entrusted with, he will be free to come over to you. I shall most willingly spare him then for a time for your entertainment. Hoping this will find you in excellent health, I am

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

546

CAMP DABKA,

21st February 1901

MY DEAR SIR (ELLIOT),

I was very happy to receive your letter dated the 1st February 1901. Your criticism is welcomed. We often lack intelligent criticism. I had really to write the sketchy article* under great disadvantages. I had changed the world Essay into Notes; but it seems, some corrections, at least, have not been attended to. I had even no time and means to write out the final article afresh, but had to insert corrections and additions by devices, which were rather inconvenient. Gibraltar would not give us a type-writer. The article certainly does not do justice to my life and work in India. I do not pretend to say by this, that it is either valuable or useful to

the world. It was written under great disadvantages. I had also struck off my reference to Abdul Rehman's Life. It was done with an object in view. This also shows that my corrections have not been attended to. I have not seen the article yet. I have received a pleasant letter from Jesus Knows about my article. The article was required for the January number; but I could command no time. When I left London, I never dreamt that the kind old Queen was going to die so soon. The newspapers here are full about her life and deeds. I have exchanged the formal telegrams with the new King. Please accept yourself and give to Mrs. Elliot and others my sincerest regards. How is Jed? Tell me about him in your next letter. I have been rather unwell for the last few days from fever; but I am to-day free from it. I have not been able to ride in the Shikar on account of my illness; but the boys have been enjoying the sport. I came here only for their pleasure, though I was ill. It makes me happy to make others happy. Her Highness is only fair in her health. I have been visiting some Talukas.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *This refers to an article written by His Highness and published in the Nineteenth Century Magazine of England, in February 1901, entitled "My ways and days in India and Europe".*

547

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

27th February 1901.

MY DEAR MR. FRENCH,

I am sorry to write, because the execution of my wish entails our separation from Fatehsinhrao; still I must decide the matter. You can engage the necessary number of passages to go to England between the 15th of April and 1st of May 1901. He will be accompanied by an Indian gentleman, who will travel with him in the first class. It is a very bold experiment in my part to send Fatehsinhrao to Europe for education. It will depend upon his wisdom to make a success of the experiment.

Kindly impress on him the seriousness of the step. If I find later on that his conduct is not likely to lead to success or

any unforeseen happening here requires it, I shall have to call him back. He will have to obey the summons. You will suggest to me every step, that will ensure success of the undertaking and promote his health and other well-being. I shall be at the school at 5.30 p.m.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

548

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

1st March 1901.

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AIYANGAR),

You asked me this morning whom to give charge, when you are going on leave. You may give charge, when you are going on leave. You may give charge to Mr. Dhamnaskar, who will in turn allow another officer to do all the work; because the Sar Subha has already too much to do. This order will not affect the interests of Mr. Dhamnaskar or any other person. It is given merely for the convenience of the service.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* This refers to a change in the Dewanship, Mr. Aiyangar making room for Mr. Dhamnaskar. At this time, he was only on short leave of a month or so. He reverted to British Service in October 1901. (See letter 567)

549

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

5th March 1901

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (OF KOLHAPUR),

I have to thank you for your letter and for asking me to go to Kolhapur for Shikar. I am sorry to say that I cannot have the pleasure and honour of visiting you this summer.

I gave a patient hearing to the gentleman sent by you and said in response to his earnest solicitations that I would think about his talk without giving any definite promise as to the fate of the case.

I will understand how Your Highness views the case. My difficulties are now rather enhanced as the case has been

once decided. It is getting very hot here, indeed, and, within a few days, it will become quite unbearable. I hope the Maharanee and the children are doing well. I shall be always happy to hear from Your Highness. I am sorry that I write this note so late.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

550

LAXMI VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
5th March 1901

MY DEAR THAKORE SAHEB,

I have not heard from you for ages and I am sorry for this. We must occasionally write to each other. I saw your fine-looking eldest son at Eton. My son leaves for Europe next April. He goes into Balliol. Will you tell me who looks after your son and what money you will give him when he goes to Oxford? Your information will help me to settle some of my son's details. Besides accepting yourself, will you kindly convey my best regards to the Raneesaheb? I hope your children are quite well.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

H. H. Sir Bhagwansinhji, G.C.E., Thakore Saheb of Gondal.

551

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
5th March 1901

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AIYANGAR)

Write and let the Resident know that I have (inclusive of Her Highness's contribution) given Rs. 1,00,000 (One Lac) to the Victoria Memorial Fund. I may tell you that I have not read all the literature connected with the subject. I write this merely to avoid any future unknown obligation or complication. The money may be paid in three convenient instalments extending over three years.

Please get a draft bill prepared in as complete a form as possible to prevent early marriages in our people. The subject will be fully discussed when the draft bill is submitted. The age of marriage will have to be discussed and settled. Afterwards, I think people can be persuaded to accept a law like this.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

552

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
18th March 1901

MY DEAR COL. RAVENSHAW,

I am sorry that I did not say good-bye to Mrs. Revenshaw before she left Baroda. I was under the impression that she was to leave to-day. I was thinking of going over to bid you both good-bye and wish a pleasant voyage.

I wished a letter about addressing my children as Princes, had been sent to the Government of India before you left. However, I shall have to do it after you go. Unless I hear to the contrary from you, I shall go to see you at the Residency to-day at 5-30 p.m. instead of your visiting me this evening.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

553

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
15th March 1901

MY DEAR MAJOR STEWART,

Many thanks for your book. I send herewith for you to read Vol. I of Abdul Rehman. I shall send you the Second Volume in few days. Please let me know soon, as it is causing serious inconvenience whether I can engage houses at Nainital or not. An officer of mine has been there for some time.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

554

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

17th March 1901

DEAR MR. RUDGE,*

Your letter of the 26.2.1901 just to hand, I am not sending my sons except Fatehsinhrao this year to England. Pilajirao's brother Shamro, who is a grown up young man, is likely to go to England to study. I do not know whether a boy of that age will suit you. I was glad to get the letters of the boys you have in charge. They seem to write well. It does not matter if you have bought the books. They are certainly good. Vishwasrao's finances are such that there is no saving effected after what is practically spent of him. I hope this letter will find you and yours well. We are all doing well. Many thanks for your kind inquiries.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

William Douglas Rudge Esqr., Cambridge.

* A teacher in England who looked after Shrimant Sampatrao's son Abasaheb, Pilajirao Gaekwad, Vishwasrao Ghate, Pandhre and other boys from Baroda and prepared them for various courses.

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

17th March 1901

MY DEAR DR. NEVINS,

I begin this letter with a sincere apology for writing so late. I am going to Bombay shortly to distribute prizes to the students of the Grant Medical College.* Dr. Hatch is at present the head of it.

I was thinking of going to Nainital this year; but it seems I shall have to give it up. Lord Curzon wishes that I should not be permitted to go there so soon after my return from Europe, when there is a slight distress in the labouring classes. Duty, you will see from this, is being exacted from us with a

vengeance. However, I shall wait and see how things develop. Will you kindly accept yourself and give to your father and other my very kind regards? Fatehsinhrao alone leaves for Europe in April next.

Her Highness is feeling very well. I feel lack of energy. I hope this will find you in good health.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *This took place on 28th March 1901.*

556

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
26th March 1901

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AIYANGAR),*

I was very glad to receive your letter dated the 21st March from Chiturgar. I was glad you are enjoying the trip and that you are feeling better. I know Udepur is one of the most handsome places in India. I should certainly like to see it one day. It was, indeed, very kind of His Highness to talk in the manner he did. He is reputed to be a very stong-willed Prince.

We had a meeting to-day in the Nyayamandir to listen to Dr. Dhanjishah's lecture on ambulance. His lecture was a very good one.

Many stupid questions are being unnecessarily put to us about Nainital and each time we are told not to rent the houses. The treatment is intended to disgust us and, thus, make us give up the visit, which is the object aimed at by some British officials. I do not see any wisdom in the treatment. It is getting very hot here. I am going to Bombay to-morrow night for a day or two. Every body is enjoying good health here. I hope this note will reach you soon and safe. I will now bid you adieu and close this short note.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *D.B.S.R. Aiyangar, now on leave, touring in Northern India.*

557

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

17th April 1901

MY DEAR MR. DHAMNASKAR (AG-DEWAN),

To better enable Mr. Pandit to do the work of a Judicial Secretary, I think it desirable to relieve him of the work of Naib Dewan. The Naib Dewan's work may be done, for the present, by Mr. Bhandarkar* in addition to the work he is already doing. I am under the impression that the work of Naib Dewan is indeed very little. I had not thought of this change till yesterday nor do I wish the change to affect Pandit's interest adversely.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *Mr. Dhamnaskar accepted the Dewanship on condition of having as his helpmate a high official of standing and scholarship from outside. So Mr. V.G. Bhandarkar was employed into Baroda service a little while before.*

560

BROOK-HILL, NAINITAL,

6th May 1901

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (SHIWAJIRAO HOLKAR),

I have to thank you for your two kind telegrams, which I received at two different places. I am sorry Your Highness is so distressed in mind. The condition of our Rajas is not satisfactory; but let us hope it will improve in time. I know it is easy to give advice; but often, that is the only course open to friends. I should suggest to you to worry yourself as little as possible. Worrying can do no good to you but harm. I fully sympathise with your difficulties. I do not think and I am certainly ignorant of any Brahmin in Baroda service trying to work against you. If they try, on your behalf give them as few grounds as possible. I hope this will find you in good health and spirits. We are all well.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

562

BROOK HILL, NAINITAL,
18th May 1901

MY DEAR DEWANSAHEB (AIYANGAR),

I trust you are doing quite well. We had a thunder and rain-storm yesterday and the weather has been a little cooled in consequence. Otherwise it is not so cold here as it was imagined.

I am doing pretty well, thought for the last couple of days or so there has been a slight head-ache. Her Highness has not reaped much benefit by this change of climate and the place, on the whole, looks to be a little dull. It is a small station.

Yesterday I had asked Manubhai to forward to you a private letter received from De Cruz about one petition alleged to be written by the Sardars to the Resident and which is said to be in the Treasure-safe of the late Dosumiya Jamadar. I am sure this petition is not worth much, nor need we show any anxiety or solicitude about getting it in our possession. I trust, therefore, that you will not make much of it and will use all your circumspection in getting it into our hands, if at all you try to do so. No undue value need be attached to it. At present some people have somewhat got the impression that we are nervously afraid of the Resident's interference, and are, therefore, in the habit of bringing forward the name of the residency as a sort of threat or menace.

As regards the request of the younger wife of the late Dosumiya, I believe they are all of a private nature, in which we cannot interfere without our going farther into the matter than we wish. The distribution of property must, I believe, be settled between the different claimants; and if necessary, they may have to go to a Civil Court for this. All we are anxious to secure, is that the money they owe to the Government, is paid off as soon as possible.

The letter of De Cruz was sent to you much more for your information. De Cruz is really unknown to me and, being an old inhabitant of Baroda and connected with the Residency, may sometimes feel inclined to drive us to do such things as he wishes, by playing upon our fears and weaknesses. Kindly

give my compliments to Major Stewart, to whom I shall soon be writing.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

565

BROOK-HILL, NAINITAL,
20th May 1901

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (MADANSINGH BAHDUR OF KISHANGARH),

I was delighted to receive your very kind letter dated the 17th May 1901. I shall feel it an honour and a great pleasure to cultivate Your Highness intimate friendship. I shall pay you a visit on some other occasion than the one you so kindly suggest. I shall feel very happy, if you will pay me a visit at Baroda, if possible, before you leave Abu this hot weather. I shall be in Baroda on the 20th July. I have had a very interesting talk about yourself with your experienced and thoughtful minister.* At present, I will impress nothing more on your attention than the importance of educating yourself thoroughly. Knowledge is power and you will realise this, I am sure, in due time. I hope this will find you perfectly well. We are well indeed.

Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* This shows how H.H. is always solicitous of getting information and knowledge from all persons, with whom he comes into contact.

566

BROOK-HILL, NAINITAL,
29th may 1901

MY DEAR DEWAN (AIYANGAR),

Your letter just to hand. I do not wish to stand in the way of your determination. I was only anxious to promote your convenience. I have had good news from England, though Fatehsinhrao finds himself a little depressed without his brothers. His feeling is very natural. Her Highness is not doing well and I do not know what to do for her. The climate of Nainital is anything but bracing. Again there is no hill-

station easily approachable from here. I hope you and the members of your family are doing well.

Your Sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

567

BROOK-HILL, NAINITAL,
5th June 1901

MY DEAR SIR (ELLIOT)

I was glad to receive your several letters. I did not ask Mr. Newman to write to you about the pump and plough; because I gathered from your note that they would not be cheaper than bullock-power. Unless machines are cheap and simple, they will not be bought by the Indian. If you ever come across good books, you must buy them for my library, provided they do not exceed in a year about £100. Will you buy and send me some books on the beginning and the growth of the nation? I wish to study the question of Nation from and Indian point of view. There are a few lectures on the Indian Social Questions, which I shall send you by the next mail or so. I have ordered them; but they have not arrived yet; but as soon as I get them, I shall dispatch them to you. Progress in Indian social question is very little and people are still very ignorant and superstitious. I should like to see them go ahead. What do you think a person in my position can safely do to quicken the reforms? I am glad you saw my son. I have told Mr. French that you would be visiting them as a friend once in a month. Please have a friendly eye on him and his progress. I leave this place on the 23rd of June and will go to Baroda via Agra and Mhow near Indore. Her Highness will stop there for some months. The present Dewan reverts to British service in October next. I am attempting to codify the Hindu Law and will see how it is carried out. Thanks to Mrs. Elliot and others for remembering me. Please, besides accepting yourself, give them our kindest regards. I hope this letter will find you and yours in very good health.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

568

BROOK-HILL, NAINITAL,

18th June 1901

MY DEAR FRIEND,*

I was delighted to receive your letter and I look forward, with great pleasure, to meet you some time during the course of my stay there. I shall see you as soon as I can manage it. It is Her Highness, who will be staying there continuously for a couple of months for the benefit of her health. I shall be paying short visits from time to time. I hope you are having good news from England. Kindly convey to your mother, when you write to her, my kindest regards. I shall be leaving this place about the 1st of July, as the rains have not yet cooled the plains. Unless Holkar dislikes it, I shall have to pay him a visit or so, as it would look awkward, if I did not do it. However, I shall speak to you bout it, when we personally meet.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* *Col. M. J. Meade, L.C.S. (son of Sir Richard Meade), Offg. Agent to the Governor General, Central India Agency, Indore.*

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BROOK-HILL, NAINITAL,

20th June 1901

MY DEAR NAWAB SAHEB (OF PALANPUR),

I was delighted to receive Your Highness' kind letter. I should have been much honoured by accepting your kind invitation; but I regret to inform you that I am going via Rutlam instead of Ajmere. We shall be leaving this place on the 1st July instead of the 24th June. I hope we shall have a good rainfall this year, otherwise we shall be in an awful plight. I hope you are doing well with all the members of your family. How are your sons progressing with their studies? I am receiving good news of Fatehsinhrao from England. He will appear for his examination on the 25th June. He is very hopeful of successfully getting through it. Tell me, if you do not mind, what are your views on the subject of the education of our Indian Rajas? Are you satisfied with the present system?

What do you think of sending our children to foreign countries for study? Are you going to send your sons to Europe? I hope you will give me your views on the subject as they are sure to be of interest to me.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

570

BROOK-HILL, NAINITAL,
20th June 1901

MY DEAR RAJA SAHEB (DEOGAD BARIA),

I was very glad to have your letter and peruse its kind contents. I shall wire to you two days before I pass by the Baria station. I have put off my departure by about 10 days on account of the great heat in the plains. Fatehsinhrao is doing very well in England. I am glad to learn that your sons are doing very well. Kindly give them my regards, when you write to them. I had a very pleasant trip to a place called Almora. It is the head-quarter of the Kumaon district and was the Capital of Hindu State about 100 years ago. Judging from the remnants of the institutions and customs there, it seems that they must have been very strict Hindus and a great deal under the influence of the sacredotal class. The people seem to be very active in establishing educational institutions. There is a large Missionary College, which nearly 300 hundred boys attend. This number three hundred 300 includes boys, who are only entitled to go to High School. Besides this establishment, the people have started a separate High School, mainly maintioned by private subscription and Government aid. Here no Bible is taught as the people are staunch Hindus. Besides, there is a well attended Sanskrit Patshala, solely maintained by a wealthy private gentleman. I want and saw this school. I hope this letter will find you well and cheerful. With kind regards,

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

Brook-Hill, Nainital,

26th June 1901

MY DEAR SON,

I was glad to learn by your and other letters that you are doing well. You will be very sorry to learn the sudden and unexpected death of Mr. Newman. As I have mentioned to you in my previous letter that he was one of the party that went to Almora. During the whole of that trip, he enjoyed perfect health and never complained of anything. The day we came back to Nainital, we had a long walk of about six miles. I more than once asked him whether he felt tired. He said he felt just pleasantly tired and then we got into our conveyances. He rode while I sat in a Dandee. We were only six miles from Nainital. In the evening of the same day, he went out to see the Regatta and, the same night, got high fever. Next day he consulted a doctor. This was Sunday. On Monday next, he was removed to an English Hospital, which is very airy and well-situated. I went to the Hospital in the evening to see him. He looked cheerful and liked the doctor. I never thought then that he was no ill. We sent men and went on inquiring how he was doing. The answers we got from the nurses and the news we learnt from people, were not such as to alarm us. On hearing that he was seriously ill, I went to Miss Meade and despatched a telegram to his people in England. From there, I went up to the Hospital to see Mr. Newnman; and after that, I thought I would send the wire. The nurse did not permit me to see him and told me that Mr. Newman wanted a doctor, for whom she had sent word and who was expected to be there every minute. I waited there till he came, and asked him after he had seen Mr. Newman whether I could see him. He said it was unwise to disturb him and that if he recognised me, he may be excited, which was bad for him. After being twice told so, I told him to get other doctors to consult and do every thing that was in his power. He must not, I said, mind any expense. I said something to the same effect to nurse and returned home, arranging, at the same time, to get a bulletin at 10 p.m. For this I arranged to depute a servant. Besides this, I arranged for keeping some servants at night,

in case their services were required. The nurse had mentioned that 4. a.m. would be the critical time for the patient, not that he would die.

As soon as the servants reached there and Katore was being told his duties (this was at 9 p.m.), Mr. Newman felt worse and the servants were given a note to me, in which was mentioned that he had died at 9.30 p.m. The news took my breath. I asked a friend Major Savage to arrange for a first class funeral, which he did; and we buried him with all possible honours. This was the second funeral that I have attended in my life, the first being of Jamnabai Saheb. Please let Mr. French and others see this rough note. I have only heard to-day that Baroda has been blessed by a good rainfall. We leave this on the 1st of July. We are all doing very well. I was much upset by Mr. Newman's death and did not sleep or feel well for some days; but I am recovering from the shock. Kindly tell Mrs. French how sorry I am to learn that she is not all right yet. You must never do rowing, otherwise you would suffer for it.

Your affectionate Father,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

Prince Fatehsinghrao Gaekwar, 147, Woodstock Road, Oxford. 53

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BROOK-HILL, NAINITAL,
26th June 1901

MY DEAR VISHWASRAO,

I am trying to arrange for your removal. The matter is not quite as easy as you would imagine. The difficulty is to find out, who will take you and give you the necessary attention. Are you fit by your knowledge of English and other subjects to attend the agricultural College? If that be the case, I will prefer to send you there than anywhere else. If satisfactory arrangements cannot be made for your education there, I would advise you to return to India. The return to India would, at least, save waste of money. I am leaving this on the 1st of July. You will be sorry to learn the sad and sudden death of

Mr. Newman. He died of enteric fever within 8 days from the time he was laid up. We are all doing well.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

Vishwasrao Ghatge, C/o. Rudge Esqr., Cambridge.

573

BROOK-HILL, NAINITAL,

29th June 1901

MY DEAR DHAMANSKAR,

I thank you for your letter. It came one day late. I have already directed that the Surat men should be given the Naosari Ijara; but I expect that you as Sar Subha will satisfy yourself that they give good security and conform to the rules about deposits and all other regular formalities. The remark of the Minister about my absence in Europe or at Nainital is Characteristic of a certain class of Indians. What do they say, however, to the extreme centralisation at Simla and the numerous references to the Secretary of State for India? It requires an uncommon capacity to do justice to those that are feebly situated, from a political stand-point. Do not the persons, who make such remarks, delay business, at times, more than the despatch of papers from a distance would cause? These are, however, mere casual and friendly remarks. We leave this on the 1st July and reach Mhow on the 6th or 7th Proximo. Hoping you are doing quite well.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

574

BROOK-HILL, NAINITAL,

30th June 1901

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (OF DHOLPUR),

Had I not looked upon you as a very kind friend of mine. I should not have troubled you about the horses and the carriages. I hope you will make equal use of me at times.

How are your sons? I shall be pleased to hear about their health and studies and also about your own health. We are all doing well and enjoyed our stay, though I saw very unfortunate in losing Mr. Newman, my Secretary, by enteric. We have had some rain in Baroda and I am sure the climate must be slightly cooler. With kindest regards to yourself and children,

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

575

BROOK-HILL, NAINITAL,
30th June 1901

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (OF GWALIOR),

Allow me to thank you very much for lending me, during this trip, the use of your railway carriages and houses. We should have been much inconvenienced without them. We enjoyed our stay here very much, though I am sorry to say that I lost my Secretary Mr. Newman and a servant* by enteric fever. I am afraid the plains will be very hot, as compared with the hills. I shall go by Gwalior and I shall wire to you the time, so that we may meet at the station, if you care to be there. The maharani can also meet my wire, if you think it right and if they are likely to find it convenient. I write and say this to you so much, simply out of our friendship. I have been having good news of Fatehsinhrao. With kind regard to yourself and family,

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

*Prince Shiwajirao's Hujrya Keshav Mohade.

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BROOK-HILL, NAINITAL,
30th June 1901

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (OF TEHRI),

I have not written to you for a long time and I do it now with great pleasure. I have been here for the last two months and

have enjoyed my stay exceedingly, except so far as the death of my Secretary was concerned. The poor man died of enteric after a very short illness. I do not care for this place quite as much as I do for Mussoorie. Have you been introducing any reforms of interest into your Raj after your visit to Europe? I am getting good news of my son, who is there. I must hear within a day or two the result of his examination. I hope it is good. Have you any son by now and, if you have, how old is he? I saw, I think, your father-in-law here. I hope my information is correct. He seems to be a nice man. I leave this to-morrow for Baroda. I hope this letter will find you quite well. With kind regards,

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

577

BROOK-HILL, NAINITAL,
30th June 1901

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (SHIWAJIRAO HOLKAR),

As you have probably heard, I think it unnecessary to mention that I have engaged some houses in Mhow. Her Highness, who is not quite well, will stay there for a couple of months. As she will be quite near Indore, I hope you will keep a friendly eye over her and children. Unless distasteful to you and inadvisable in your opinion, I should like to call upon you privately at Indore. I shall not be stopping there for long as I am anxious to go to Baroda. I hope this letter will find you well. I leave to-morrow for Agra.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

578

BROOK-HILL, NAINITAL,
30th June 1901

MY DEAR COL. MARTELLI,

We are extremely glad to get your invitation and to think you all remembered us. I am glad that one of your daughters is married. Please convey to the married couple our congratulations and good wishes for their happiness. I am

sending a few articles of silver as present, which, I hope, you will hand over to her. You will be surprised and sorry to hear the death of Newman, the your Secretary I had brought with me from England. I think you must have met him. He died after a short illness. He suffered from enteric and we were not informed almost till the last moment that his case was a serious one. We buried the poor fellow with all available honours. I went the whole way with the coffin. I do not think any Hindu Raja has done this before. The only other occasion, on which I went with the funeral party, was of that of my mother in Baroda. Every thing in Baroda is going on as usual. With our united regards to you all,

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,
Col. N.C. Martelli, Fermoy, Ireland.

579

BROOK HILL, NAINITAL,
30th June 1901

MY DEAR KHARSHETJI,*

I thank you extremely for having given to me to read the book of "World Politics". I enjoyed going through it extremely. I return the book with many thanks. Kindly accept yourself and give to H.H. my best compliments.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* The late chief Justice of Baroda, now Dewan of Rutlam.

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BARODA,
10th July 1901

MY DEAR MR. FRENCH,

I was very glad to Fatehsinhrao's success.* I congratulate you both on it. I have settled in my mind to send Jaisinhrao for education to England. You must do all needfull that is required in the matter. Please write fully what and how his

education is to be directed in order that he should be able to enter Harrow. If the climate will not agree with him and on any other ground, I must be at liberty to withdraw him. I trust you will find out and settle whether Harrow or any other school will be better for him. All that I earnestly wish is that his interests must not, by any way suffer. When should he leave India? I hope Mrs. French is feeling better. Please give her my regards. I hope there are no queries of yours which have not been answered by me. Some day you and Fatehsinhrao ought to call on the Duke and Duchess of somerset and Tweedale. I hope this will find you all well.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJI RAO GAEKWAR.

**Entrance into Oxford University.*

581

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
14th July 1901.

MY DEAR PANDIT,

In my head, I have an idea which I wish to be carried out unless it is proved to be more profitable or convenient not to do so. The present Vaso Magistrate's Office should be altogether abolished. His place, with full Mahal Munsiffs power, should be taken by the special magistrate of Petlad, who is at present Mr. vinze. I hear this gentleman has sufficient spare time after doing his legitimate work to attend to the Vaso magistrates duties. The Patlad Munsiff, Mr. khandubhai, will have to exercise magisterial powers in addition. This change will, I am told, be convenient to all concerned. Kindly carry this out as soon as you can.

Yours sincerely.
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

P.S. Vinze as Vaso magistrate should be given more villages than the Vaso magistrate has at present

S.R.G.

582

LAXMI VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

17th July 1901.

MY DEAR MR. NEWMAN,*

I have received your latter of the 27th June. I cannot express how deeply I sympathise with you in the Great sorrow of your loss. To us all. I greatly regret that we were never given to understand the seriousness of the case untill the last moment if I had known, I should at once have wired to you. Even a few hours before his death, when I went to see him, I was not allowed to do so, and though I was then informed that the case was critical, I did not imagine that there was very great dangar, still less that it was almost hopeless. The nurses all along kept back from us the full gravity of the case. Still I trust that are left nothing undone to give ease comfort to his last days.

I had anticipated that you would be anxious to know all the cirumstances of the sad event. I therefor, asked Miss Meade to write to you giving all the information in her power if there is anything elase you would like to know. I shall do my best to satisfy you. The clergyman, who attended him in his last illness, sought an interview with me afterwards, and told me that he had expressed a last wish, which he had desired to be communicated to his brother. I asked him to you, and gave him mr. Weedens address as I was also send to the care of Mr. weeden.I believe you would have received her letter and possibly the clergymans letter by this time.

Your sons effects will be duly sent on to you through the Resident and he will try to hasten the despatch there was also pay due to him for part of the month, amounting to about Rs 450, which will also be sent on to you. The expence of his illness, his bills etc. amounting, when all put together, to about Rs 1,050 I have myself defrayed. One bill for his horses at Nainital of only Rs. 37 was, indeed,still standing over but this also is being met. I should being no further question about them, and I trust, as he passed away in my service, you will make no objection to this with the deepest sympathy

in this bereave both with you and your wife and the other members of your family,

I am yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,

I. J. Newman Esq., Oundle, Northamptonshire.

* Father of His Highness' Secretary, who died at Nainital.

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
20th July 1901.

MY DEAR NAWAB SAHEB,*

I am very much obliged to your Highness for your kind letter I received with the Rampur administration report. I shall entirely be happy to go through the interesting volume and about any useful suggestion for my own. We had good rain as Baroda though the rainfall is still lower than the average.

Trust you had good rain at Rampur and there is no occasion for anxiety.

I saw there Highnesses Maharaja Scindia and Holkar on my way to Baroda. I trust you have, by this time heard good news about your affairs from the Government of India and that Your Highness is quite well. I send herewith a copy of my photograph for Your Highness acceptance. Believe me,

Your sincere friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

P.S. I have received your letter, intimating that you have so kindly sent some mangos.

To,

H.H. Hamid Ali Khan Bahadur, Rampur.

* The Nawab Saheb put his own house Brook-Hill, at Nainital, at the disposal of the Maharaja during the season. On the way back H.H. visited the Nawab Saheb at Bareilly and visited also the Aligarh College, Agra, Gwalior and Indore.

584

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE,
27th July 1901.

MY DEAR RAJA SAHEB (DEOGHAD BARIA),

It was indeed very kind of you to have so promptly inquired of my health. I am very thankful to you for this friendly solicitude. It is only when the weather is a little close and damp that my stomach gets out of order and I feel seedy for a time. I am much better now. I have instructed my officers to give every help to the young men you are going to send here for electrical and telephone study.

I shall be very happy to communicate your good wishes to fatesinhrao, who, I am glad to tell you is doing well at oxford. Pray give my regards to your children when you write to them, and accept them yourself.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA
29th July 1901

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I have to thank you cordially for your very kind invitation to Dewas. I have great pleasure in accepting it and as already estimated to the senior Branch. I shall be at dewas on the 5th August I am outgoing looking forward to the pleasure of seeing you. I regret, I would not be able to stay there as long as your kindness would induce me to able to stay. I have promised to spend two days with the senior Raja Saheb and shall be happy to extend my stay one day more to have the pleasure of your company. Indeed, I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you frequently even during the first two days stay there. I would have been but too glad to prolong my stay with you but the state affairs here require my presence and I should like to be back to my capital soon. I shall be obliged, if the details of my stay at Dewas are arranged by you kindly in consultation with the other Branch, so as to avoid any unnecessary trouble or inconvenience to either I need not

repeat that I shall be very happy to cultivate your friendship and see you soon.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

H.H. the Raja Madhavrao Pawar, Junior branch. Dewas, C.I.

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE BARODA,

29th July 1901.

MY DEAR RAMPAL SINGHJJI,

I have had your letter for some time past and the time was not lost in forgetfulness, but in the thinking what reply to send I should have been very glad to visit Lucknow, had it been convenient. I take great interest in every thing that relates to the progress and people of our country and look upon it as my duty further to it as much as possible. I had a long chat with the secretary of the sabha. I sympathise with the aspirations of the movement and wish it every success.

If I may suggest, I think I should try to enlist the sympathies of our people with the object you have in view, and in order to get that, you must manage to come into contact with the people of the sabha. In Kathiawar too, you ought to meet with success. I have talked with the few people here and they can be liked into the desirable and imperative for the ourselves and our country.

I shall be delighted to see you here. Kindly let me know the approximate time of your arrival so that I may let you know whether the time interferes with any of my important engagements elsewhere. I am sorry, I missed you at Agra. Thanking you again for your kind and courteous letter,

I beg to remain,

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,

*RAJA RAM SINGHJI BAHADUR, Fort Kala Kunkar, Via Sirathan
E.I. Railway.*

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LAXMI VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
31st July 1901

MY DEAR FRIEND,

Many thanks for your kind letter. It was, indeed, very kind of you to have proposed to invite Her Highness to Dewas, so that she and the children may spend three or four days with you. As I intend availing myself of your kind hospitality, and as I shall be coming with the whole of my family to Dewas on the 5th August, you will agree with me in thinking that, it is hardly worth while putting you and the other friends to further unnecessary trouble of entertaining Her Highness four or five days earlier with short notice.

Besides, the sad death of a near relation* in our family has placed us all in mourning at present and it would be hardly possible for Her Highness to visit Dewas before the mourning is over. I thank you, however, for your very kind and courteous invitation to Her Highness. I have already communicated to you how happy we shall be on meeting you. I am looking forward to have that pleasure soon.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

To,

His Highness Raja Madhavrao Pawar, junior Branch, Dewas, U.I.

* *Bhagirathibai, wife of Avachitrao Gaekwad, died on 25th June 1901.*

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LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
31st July 1901.

MY DEAR SAMARTHA,

I was very glad to receive your letter. I hope you will enjoy fully your well earned rest.* You must give my Compliments to people, whom I know, if you happen to meet them. If you go to Oxford, as you are very likely to do, you must let me know

* D.B Samartha took combined langoor for one year from 1st August 1901, and went for the forth time to Europe on his own account.

in friendly manner any useful information you may learn about my son. With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

589

MHOW,

5th August 1901.

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (OF KOLHAPUR),

I was very glad to see your brother-in-law, who inquired of me on your behalf wheather I was going to poona. The chances are against my going there. You know I have long been thinking of asking you to pay me a visit. I shall be very happy, if you will accept my invitation to visit Baroda and be my guest for a week or more. I shall do best in making you comfortable and paying every mark of honour due to your high rank. Please bring with you your wife and children as well as your brother. I came here only yesterday and will be back in Baroda by the Nagpanchmi.* I hope this note will find you perfectly well.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR.

* *19th August 1901.*

590

DEWAS,

11th August 1901.

MY DEAR COLONEL MEADE,

I read with great interest the account of the Daly College.* There can be no two opinions that the education of the class of boys, for whom the college has been opened, is of great vital importance. All that Government and officers have been doing to advance that object, cannot be too highly appreciated. The effects of education will be felt still more in the future than probably now. I have been paying some attention to this subject of late. The material that I have got, is not so full or recent as to enable me to make positive suggestions; however, the points that I have to motion for consideration, are not

such as would require any very detailed acquaintance with the institution. What real is that the Daly collage and a few others should be amalgamated with the Meyo college at Ajmere or any other institution of a like nature, which should be strengthened by employing best European Educational officers, assisted by competent natives of the country, who should be the school be the same as that of an ordinary school or college, teaching upto the Matriculation or previous Examination of the university. After that, unless a students shows a strong prediliction or desire to go in for an ordinary course for the Degree Examination, he should be taught political Economy, Histories of various countries, principles of Laws and Legislation and details of practical Administration. A course like this will, in my opinion, be found to be more productive of good than probably any other.

Every body that I have talked to, feels that the present system of education can, with great advantage, be improved. Many think that is not as it should be and that too great an attention is being paid to physical exercise and out-door sports at the sacrifice of proper development of the mind. We can not expect the present Indian generation to sympathise, to the full extent, with the needs of proper physical development and out-door sports. However, every body will agree that the physical training need not be carried beyond its legitimate bounds. The Government of India has wisely laid open, though to a limited extent, the door military employment to the cadets of Indian Noble Families and that measure will not meet with that success, which it deserves, and the nobles, who enter the army, will not command that respect, which they ought,unless they received proper education, which has formed their character and morals.

It is for this and for the good of millions that the system of education meant for people of this rank cannot be too scrupulously devised or perfected too soon.

In carrying out the amalgamation scheme, the interest of the officers at present employed can be carefully attended, and nobody need suffer by it.

I cannot exhaust what I have to say within the short compas of this letters but if need be, I can add to it hereafter.

However, before I conclude this short note to you, I would add that after a youth has passed his matriculation, he should be free to go to Europe or any other civilized country to finish any sensible course of study. I would deprecate the starting of any special institution for these youths; but they should be perfectly at liberty to join any well recognised College at any University. Some good men should be induced to take interest in such youths, when they are in foreign land. I have no doubt that a change in the present system will be hailed with joy by many, as I have been astonished at the degree, to which they dislike it.

I hope you will not consider that I have taken too great a liberty in thus addressing you, and that you will do all that is needful in the matter, if it meets with your approval.

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

Colonel Meade, Agent to the Governor General, Indore.

* *This refers to the Daly College, Indore, which His Highness visited, and upon the working of which he sent his suggestion at the request of Co. Meade.*

591

DEWAS,
11th August 1901

MY DEAR MALHARRAO (SENIOR BRANCH OF DEWAS),

I shall feel very happy if Your Highness can accept my invitation to visit Baroda. In case you are kind enough to accede to my request. I shall be happy, if you can join me at Mhow and go to Baroda in the same train. However, I shall leave the date of your departure to your convenience. Please include in this invitation your mother, Jijibai, your wife and Rao Saheb. I should advise you as a friend not to bring more than the necessary number of servants. I hope you will not misunderstand the object of my suggestion. It is a common belief in our people that the greater the number of followers, the higher is the rank. This is absurd.

Your sincere friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

592

DEWAS,

13th August 1901.

MY DEAR MALHARRAO (SENIOR BRANCH DEWAS),

I am leaving Dewas to-day and to leave some memory of my visit behind, I am anxious that some charitable dole might be distributed to the aged and infirm and indigent people here. Dewas is the birth-place of Her Highness and it will also give her extreme satisfaction to be thus able to help the poor and the needy. With that object, I will send Rs. 1500 (one thousand and five hundred) to you and request you, with the help of the Superintendent S.B., to distribute clothes and other objects to help old helpless widows and other infirm people. Pray excuse me for the trouble and oblige.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

593

LAXMI-VIAL PALOACE, BARODA,
23rd August 1901

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (RAJA SAHEB OF RUTLAM),

I am extremely sorry that my letter has not reached you. I think my people must have forgotten to despatch it. I am punishing some for the fault. I know the non-arrival of the letter must have put you to great trouble and worry. You will kindly forgive me for the fault. How you succeeded in getting a place for your cousin in the Imperial Cadet Corps?

I enjoyed my visit to Dewas and Dhar a great deal. I saw much of Malharrao and he struck me as rather a new fellow requiring much experience and help in his administrative work. Will you kindly accept yourself and also give to your Minister* my very kind regards? I hope this not will find you well.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* Mr. Cursetji Thanavalla.

594

LAXMI-VILAS BALACE, BARODA,

23rd August 1901

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (OF KOLHAPUR),

I am astonished that my letter to you from Mhow has not reached you. I think my people have not posted it through forgetfulness. They have mismanaged the despatch of several letters sent about the same time to several people.

I shall feel very happy, if you accept my invitation to visit Baroda with the Maharanee and children. I should also like to see your brother and any other gentlemen you bring with you. I should like that you should stay for a week. Try to come some time after Dassera. Let me tell you as your friend not to bring unnecessary number of followers. I hope you will not mind my telling you so. I hope this will find you all well.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

595

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

23rd August 1901

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (SHIWAJIRAO HOLKAR),

Many thanks for your letter of the 17th August. I know fully Your Highness' difficulties and the fact that you did not entertain me, has never occurred to me in an unpleasant light. My endeavour has been to trouble you as little as possible.

I am sorry you are taking the trouble of sending me a present. I should feel happier to receive it, when you are your own master than at present. I hope you will not misunderstand my object. I should like very much to send you the exhibition photographs as soon as I get them and I hope you will accept them. I hope you are perfectly well.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

596

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

4th September 1901

MY DEAR LADY TWEEDADLE,

I was delighted to receive your letter. I am sorry Major Gordon was laid up. I hope he is all right by this time. Kindly give him my kindest regard. I am sure my son, who is in Oxford, will be delighted to visit you. It is, indeed, very kind of you to think of asking him.

Her Highness does not feel that the operation has done her good. I do not know what to do for her, as she frequently complains of not feeling well. We have had a smaller quantity of rain this year than useful but still the prospects of the year in a greater portion of the State are better than the last few years. It seems as if the time of our seasons is undergoing a change. I have been to several States in Central India during the last month. I enjoyed my tour a great deal. With united regards to both of you,

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

597

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

11th September 1901

MY DEAR RAJA SAHEB (OF DEOGAD BARIA),

Many thanks for your kind letter of the 5th Inst. I trust you are doing quite well. I have not yet heard from the Dewas Raja Saheb, when he is likely to come here. As soon as I learn the definite date of his coming here, I shall let you know of it. It is, indeed, very kind of you to offer to treat my guests as your own. I should not like to give you trouble now and then; but I know you are so kind and you would not mind it.

I have had good account of Fatehsinhrao from England by the last mail. Pray give my regards to your sons, when you write to them. We are all doing very well here.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

598

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

12th September 1901

MY DEAR MAHARAJA (SCINDIA),

I am much obliged to you for your kind favour. I trust you are doing quite well. Sardar Sambhajirao Angre has requested me to accommodate him with a loan. The financial condition of my State is not so flourishing as to enable me to spare my funds for Angre. He is, however, very anxious to secure this loan and I would not like to disappoint him altogether. I may give or procure for him a loan upto a lakh of Rupees unless Your Highness is pleased to favour him with the loan, which act, I think, he will much appreciate, as he seems to be in great need. However, for the sake of even Angre, I should not like to give him the amount without your knowledge, out of courtesy to Your Highness.

This letter to Your Highness is written, of course, without the knowledge of Angre, to whom I have already sent a letter, saying that I may try to give him a loan upto a lakh of Rupees, but to which no reply has as yet been received. Kindly let me know if you have to suggest any thing on the subject. Probably Angre will be here on Monday next.

We are all doing quite well here, and trust Your Highness, your good mother and wife are also doing very well. Her Highness the Maharanee joins me in wishing you all every joy of the season.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

599

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

19th September 1901

MY DEAR MR. BUCKLAND,

I am much obliged to you for your kind letter. It would have, indeed, given me great pleasure to give a pair of Cheetas or hunting leopards to the Calcutta Zoological Gardens, had I been able to spare them. Most of my own Cheetas have died and I am myself in a difficulty as to how to fill up their number.

I may, however, suggest that you can get a couple of such cheetas from the Benars. If you write to any of your friends in Central India for them, I am sure he would be able to secure a pair for your zoo. I was so glad to get a letter from you. I trust you are doing very well. You seem to have had heavy inundations and floods of late. We are till in want of some smart showers at the close of the season. In some parts of my territories, we had very little of rain even this year. I remain,

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

600

LAXMI -VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

19th October 1901

MY DEAR LORD REAY (LONDON)

Many thanks for your kind note of the 29th August 1901. Had I not been laid up with fever, I should have answered your kind favour earlier. As soon as my son finishes his studies, I shall systematically initiate him in all the workings of the departments. I am sure such instruction will prove to him of great use. I am carrying out, a little by little, the idea of making decent provision for my children, who are growing up fast. Fatehsinhrao had enjoyed his stay extremely with you. I hope you will call him often and see that he is getting on satisfactorily. Please thank Lady Reay for inviting him and I hope she will often do so. I look upon you both as my best friends. You will be sorry to learn that we have got regular famine in Kathiawar this year. North of Ahmedabad is badly off. I have sanctioned relief works. The whole thing will prove very expensive; but I am going to look after the people as well as possible.

Her Highness wishes me to convey to you both her kind regards. I hope this letter will find you both quite well. With my kind regards to you both, I am

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

601

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

25th October 1901

MY DEAR TUKOJIRAO (RAJA OF DEWAS, INDORE),

I was delighted to receive your kind note. I hope you will read the books carefully and think over their contents. I lately read in a news-paper that you had some sports at Dewas, in which you distinguished yourself. I am glad that you enjoyed yourself at Gwalior. Will you come to Baroda during this vacation ahd stop with me for about 10 days? Kindly show this note to your Karbhari and mother and tell me whether you can accept my invitation. I hope you will accept yourself and give to your mother our kindest regards. We are all doing well and often think of our pleasant visit to Dewas.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

602

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,

25th October 1901

MY DEAR COL. RAVENSHAW (LONDON),

I have to thank you very much for your kind letter. I was glad to learn your short stay at home has done much good to both Mrs. Ravenshaw and yourself and I trust you will soon return to this country with renewed health and vigour.

Fatehsinhrao has joined the Balliol College at Oxford. He was invited by Lord and Lady Reay to Scotland during August last, I am sorry he missed the opportunity of enjoying your kind hospitality. I thank you and Mrs. Ravenshaw all the same for your good wishes. He must be now in the full swing of wrok and cannot leave the College before the next recess. Mr. French wrote to me about your kind invitation to my son; but I am afraid he will not be able to avail himself of it this time. I trust, however, he may be able to see you before you leave. During last August, I had been on a tour through Central India and much enjoyed my stay at Mhow, Dewas and Dhar. We have to face another bad year of deficient rains. In Kathiawar, Amreli and Okhamandal, rains have totally failed

and there is another dire famine staring us in the face. In Kadi and some parts of Baroda also, the prospect is gloomy and far from encouraging. What with rats, ants what with deficient rains, the crops have been almost destroyed. I am thinking of going out into the districts next month to see the condition of the people.

I trust you will enjoy your residence in the heights of Montreux in Switzerland and that the bracing climate of the hills will do you a lot of good. Col. Meade is coming here as Resident, though he is not likely to stay here long. With my best regards to Mrs. Ravenshaw and yourself, I am

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

603

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
25th October 1901

MY DEAR UDOJIRAO (RAJA OF DHAR)*

I was delighted to receive your letter. I hope you will read the books carefully and ponder over their contents. If you can, I should like you to visit Baroda during this vacation of yours. Will you show this to your Karbhari and let me know? The climate is fair and I shall try to make your visit as interesting as possible. I have also asked the young Raja of Dewas to visit me. Kindly remember me to Mr. Mooley and the Political Agent. Tell your Karbhari that I have received, with great pleasure, the account of his famine work. I hope this note will find you quite well.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* Studying at Daly College, Indore

604

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
1st November 1901

MY DEAR FRIEND,*

I return my best thanks for your kind present of five copies of your book on Chemistry, which is intended to serve as a

Laboratory Guide. I shall have great pleasure in going through your book. It is a matter of interest and satisfaction that persons like you take so much active interest in the pursuit and spread of scientific knowledge by writing useful books like this.

Hoping this will find you in excellent health for pursuing your scientific studies. I remain,

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

* Very likely brother of Col. Meade.

605

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
5th November 1901

MY DEAR MAHARAJA,

I have acknowledged, with many thanks, the receipt of your kind letter of the 20th October, conveying to me your kind wishes on the Dassera. Pray accept my cordial wishes for all the joys of the season in return for you. I trust you had good rain in your part of the country. A portion of my dominions is seriously threatened with a dire famine owing to the failure of the closing rains. This famine following so closely upon the severe visitation of 1899 is likely to cause very great distress to the people.

I trust you are enjoying good health. I am doing very well here. My eldest son has joined the Baliol College at Oxford and is doing quite well. With best wishes, I am,

Yours sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

H.H. the Maharaja Sir Banares, Prabhu Narayan Sinh, G.C.I.E.,
Banares.

606

LAXMI-VILAS PALACE, BARODA,
22nd November 1901

MY DEAR MAHARAJA,

I am very thankful to Your Highness for your kind letter of the 7th Instant. I have already arranged to send my Garden Superintendent Mr. Krumbiegel with Mr. Meyer to you. He

will stay at Kapurthala for about a week and try to assist your men in the laying out of your proposed ornamental garden. I trust Your Highness will find him useful and serviceable. You settle terms with him. He is allowed to undertake the work as a private affair of his. I hope he will not make exorbitant demands.

I do not think I shall go to England next year for the coronation of H.M. the King. A portion of my dominions is again in the grip of famine and this calamity, following so closely upon the dire distress of the last two years, would demand our unswerving attention for some time. Again I am not willing to go to Europe as I have just returned from there. I am quite busy and happy in my State affairs. I trust you have good prospects in your territories. I am sorry that you have lost some of your good and trusted officers. My eldest son has already joined the Balliol College at Oxford and is doing very well. I am thinking of sending my second son as well to Harrow next year.

I trust Your Highness is enjoying excellent health. Please accept yourself and give my kindest regards to your dear little sons. With best wishes, I remain

Your Sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

H.H. Sir Jagatjit Sinhji, K.C.S.I., the Maharaja of Kapurthala.

607

BOMBAY,
1st December 1901

MY DEAR FRIEND,*

I was delighted to receive your letter, which you sent through Col M.J. Meade, As far as I now remember, I know that one letter of yours had reached me and I had answered it too; but I got no reply to it. The other letters did not reach my hand. I am now, however, looking forward to meet you and your wife too in Baroda in the early part of the next year.

I am here for a short change. Please remember to Lady Meade and your wife. I wish you and all of them a happy new year and many returns of the same. I am very glad that your brother is now in Baroda. The fact strongly reminds me of

the jolly old days. I am sending through Col. Meade to minimise any change of its miscarriage.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

**Brother of Col. Meade.*

608

BOMBAY,
1st December 1901

MY DEAR COL. MEADE,

Kindly forward the enclosed letter to your brother and make sure that it reaches him. I am enjoying myself immensely here. The Change has done us both good. Please remember me to Mrs. Meade. I hope you are all well.

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

609

JASEWALLA BUNGLOW, BOMBAY,
1st December 1901

MY DEAR LORD NORTH-BROOK,

I am just sitting down to write you a short note, wishing you 'the compliments of the season'; for you know we in India have to take time by the forelock, or our compliments will be out of date when they reach England, and a letter wishing you a happy Christmas might find you well on in the enjoyment of the New year.

With ourselves the cold has not even yet set in steadily; but we have chill mornings and evenings and a hottish day, which is rather trying to the health. This year also we have troubles with apprehensions of scarcity; for the skied have been freakish and hot and not suited themselves to the needs of cultivation. It will be nothing like the great famine year; for then we had no rain at all. But after such an infliction, we needed some years of really good harvest to recover, and this we do not learn to be getting. Amreli, and Northern division, is the one, which is always struck heaviest at such

times. I shall be going there this December to see things for myself.

I hope you will see something of Fatehsinhrao, while he is in England. The boy will, of course, be busy most of his time with his studies; but he will, I hope, see you when he comes upto London, and I have no doubt you will take a kind interest in him. I have decided to send my second son to England next year. He will get a sounder education there than we could possibly give in India. There are, of course, draw-backs; but we shall have to face them and minimise them where we can.

I hope that you are well and will enjoy your Christmas and the New Year. Wishing you many happy returns of the season.

I am, Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

610

JASEWALA BUNGALOW, BOMBAY,
2nd December 1901

MY DEAR MR. BAINBRIDGE,

I take the opportunity of the approaching Christmas to acquit myself of the letter I owe you.

I was very glad to welcome your nephews to Baroda and I tried to do what I could to make their visit pleasant to them. I hope they enjoyed themselves. They told me themselves that they had been greatly interested and pleased. I am sorry that I could not give them any letters of introduction, where they were going; but the fact is I have no acquaintances up in the North, to whom I could introduce them. Your son has not come here yet. Whenever he comes, I shall be very happy to receive him and do any thing I can for him.

My eldest son is studying for his degree at Oxford now, He has passed his responsions and joined the Balliol College. He will be in England, therefore, for at least three years longer. Do you think you will be likely to see anything of him? If you do, I hope you will feel some interest in him and encourage him to see you now and then.

I hope you are all in the enjoyment of good health and spirits. Wishing you a happy Christmas and the new Year, I am,

Your sincere Friend,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

Emerson Bainbridge Esq., M.F. London W.

611

BOMBAY,
2nd December 1901

DEAR SIR FRANCIS,

I have read, with great interest, the account of the London School of Tropical Medicine given by you in your speech at the University, and which appeared in detail in the Times of India of 29th November last. The object is a very laudable one, being humane and likely to serve powerfully the cause of medical science. I hope the Indian diseases will not be given an indifferent position in the researches and investigations, that will be carried on by competent men on behalf of the Institution. I send herewith Rs. 1200, which I hope, you will kindly accept.

Had there been no greater demands on my finances owing to the famine prevailing in my state, I should have contributed a larger sum. I need hardly point out that the amount of contribution need not always be the measure of one's sympathy with any undertaking. I am extremely busy with several things, but will let you know, later on, the time that would suit me to receive your visit. I hope this will not put you to any inconvenience.

Your sincerely,
SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAR

To,

Sir Francis Lowell, Kt. C. M. G., Fort Bombay.



Numbers and subjects of the letters written by Maharaja
Sayajirao Gaekwad to various persons

Part One

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| 1. Barkhali. | 19. Elliot Sir resides at Amreli. |
| 2. Donation to Pune Situated Institution. | 20. Donation to Prince of Wales. |
| 3. Charitable institution at Dwarka. | 21. Visit of Lord Dufferin to Baroda. |
| 4. No ineffectual degrees but economic benefit. | 22. Establishment of Agriculture College. |
| 5. Childbirth. | 23. Visit of Lady Reay. |
| 6. Col. Berkeley till the arrival of Colonel Ross. | 24. Investigation (inquiry) of extra amount. |
| 7. Increase in the emoluments of Sarnobat. | 25. No interruption in conversation. |
| 8. Pension to Anandrao. | 26. Giving name of Lady Dufferin to hospital. |
| 9. Good (drivers) Sailors of fireboat. | 27. Visit to Amreli. |
| 11. No interfere in important subjects. | 28. Colombo via sea. |
| 12. Arrival as King (Raja) and birthday of Queen (Rani). | 29. Kathiawad via sea. |
| 13. Backing (support) to the institution for good will of mankind. | 30. Experiences of sea journey. |
| 14. Gift for museum. | 31. Colonel Lester for Gheer litigation. |
| 15. Ganpatrao with learned people. | 32. Equalization with J. Watson. |
| 16. Pension and bonus. | 33. Niligiri – Mahabaleshwar. |
| 17. Backing to surveyors. | 34. Inquiry relating to Present circumstances of nephew. |
| 18. Approval for important jobs. | 35. Visit to Srilanka. |
| | 36. Colombo. |

37.	Relating to present tense of younger.	58.	Percentage on Income.
38.	Towards father-in-law.	59.	Inquiry relating to present circumstances of nephew.
39.	Foregoing to Dufferin.	60.	Services provided by Prendergast.
40.	Utakmand Ooti.	62.	Decree of Maharaja.
41.	Patience.	64.	Condolence of sister-in-law.
42.	Upgradation of Elliot Sir.	66.	Satisfaction with the duties of Reynolds.
43.	Equalization with Lord Dufferin.	67.	Equalisation with Sir Elliot.
44.	Death of Mother's honoured.	68.	Birthday of queen.
45.	Brother condolence to Sir Elliot.	69.	Enrichment of British Degrees.
46.	Inquiry relating to present circumstances of Maharaja of Mysore.	70.	Retirement of Bombay Governor.
47.	Communications of health.	71.	No intension of dishonor.
48.	10,000 rupees for Khaserao Jadhav.	72.	Octroi tax.
49.	Relating to the Land occupied by another.	73.	Humble deny to the invitation of Lady Reay.
50.	Communications of health.	74.	Equalization from Coonoor.
51.	Donation to Grant Medical College.	75.	Conveying situation of public to father.
52.	Condolence of Akkalkot Princes.	76.	Conveying present situation to Ozem from Coonoor.
53.	Foreign sports.	77.	Correspondence with Khaserao.
54.	Strong developments in administration.	78.	Social improvement Institution.
55.	Barkhali and Pattidars.	79.	Conveying Present situation to mother.
56.	Personal assistant.		
57.	Administration during the illness of Maharaja.		

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| 80. | Similarity between family. | 100. | Youngsters to Europe for training of growing forests. |
| 81. | Sentiments of Navsari public against Stamp Act. | 101. | Aware at the time of taking Europeans in Indian Services. |
| 82. | Strike against revised Stamp Act. | 102. | H.H. Maharaja of Dharangadhra who met at Mahabaleshwar. |
| 83. | Cognizant (conscious) also for goodwill. | 103. | Relating to the nuisance of bachelors. |
| 84. | Timely strict within the time of opposition. | 104. | Eagerness to visit mother. |
| 85. | Congrats to Ozanne. | 105. | Waiting for rains. |
| 86. | Strict for activation of new taxes. | 106. | Preference to Bhagur-Deolali. |
| 87. | Congrats for educational success. | 107. | Compulsory rest due to Pneumonia. |
| 88. | Congratulation letter | 109. | Progress during the period of compulsory rest. |
| 89. | Disagree with bad discipline. | 110. | Charge handed over to Rajnirath Roy. |
| 91. | Condolence of Minister's daughter. | 111. | Worries relating to Bayabai. |
| 92. | Conversation (dialogue) with other kings. | 112. | Sir Sheshadri Aiyar. |
| 94. | New General of Baroda. | 115. | Elliot Sir from Visanagar. |
| 95. | For the training of growing forests. | 116. | Indira Raje – a baby diamond. |
| 96. | Manibhai at the Places of Minister facing disasters of unfortunate. | 117. | Inauguration of Dam. |
| 98. | India visit of Prince Victor. | 118. | Babu Rajnirath Roy. |
| 99. | Reynolds at Songad. | 120. | Before going to Europe with family. |
| | | 124. | Report of Norway. |

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| 125. | Europe tour involvement. | 151. | Fire boat journey of fourty six hours. |
| 126. | Compulsory education. | 152. | Letter written to father from Ootacamund convaying information of the present circumstances. |
| 127. | Expected administration. | 153. | Study of donation amount while resides at Ooti. |
| 128. | Administration control from foreign country. | 154. | For the health colleague Navins. |
| 129. | Observation in foreign country. | 155. | Letters written to Watson during the summer reside at Ooti. |
| 130. | Appointment of Ambalabhai as Head Judge. | 156. | Agriculture and electricity. |
| 131. | Conversation with Sir Elliot also during illness. | 157. | Equlisation with Elliot Sir. |
| 132. | Advantages of compulsory Education. | 158. | Administration control from Ooty. |
| 133. | Consolation of Manibhai. | 159. | Equilisation with education guardian. |
| 136. | Relating to the health of children. | 163. | Administration from Ooty. |
| 138. | Eye disease of son. | 164. | Bapat issue. |
| 140. | Overall observation of Nice. | 165. | Relating not to be retired. |
| 141. | Taking care of public during compulsory rest. | 170. | Feeling regret due to administration of Baroda. |
| 143. | Bidulf complications / fraud. | 171. | Feeling free from encumbrances. |
| 147. | Others' responsibility within Bapat Issues. | 173. | Keshavrao Pandit takes charge as Pestonji. |
| 149. | Cure relating to administration. | | |
| 150. | Consolation of Lord Kimberlay during condolence of his wife. | | |

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| 175. Contract system. | 201. Jaisinhrao the Registrar. |
| 176. Discussion with Legal Naib Dewan. | 202. Chance for criticism due to delay by legal pendency. |
| 177. Gratefulness circular. | 203. Theory of legislation. |
| 179. Invitation to see Kheddah. | 206. Efforts for joining letter dialogues. |
| 180. For the abolishment of disagreements. | 207. News in Times of India. |
| 181. Crisis relating to Bapat issue. | 208. Letter dialogue with Dr. Nevins. |
| 182. Interference of foreigners in Bapat issue. | 211. Visit of Lady Tweedale in the absence of Maharaja. |
| 183. Goodness means weakness. | 212. Disapproved about the letter of Maconochies. |
| 184. Birthday of Fatesinhrao. | 217. Disapproval of Cunningham. |
| 186. Warning about correspondence. | 218. Final decision of Bapat Issue. |
| 187. Pune-Baroda. | 219. Instructions to Educator Shankar Moro. |
| 188. Europeans support to struggling Indians. | 222. Condolence of sister of Watson. |
| 189. Relating to the arrival of Lady Tweedale. | 224. Convenience of Watson |
| 193. Transfer of Colonel Snale. | 225. Revenue officers. |
| 195. Relating to prevention of prestigious honour as Ministers. | 226. Warning about economic extravagance. |
| 198. Co-operation while residing at Europe. | 227. Interchange (exchange) of Karandikar-Keshav Pandit. |
| 199. Nature-beauty of Nilgiri. | 229. Wages increment to Karandikar. |
| 200. To General Watson for the sake of Horse carriage. | |

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| 230. | Regular honor-salary to adopted brother of Maharani (queen). | 254. | Amendment in economic disorders. |
| 231. | Greetings of Christmas. | 255. | Teacher of son requests for transfer. |
| 232. | Sufferings (sorrows) of Kashiba. | 260. | Importance of secrecy. |
| 233. | Regarding service continuity of Elliot. | 262. | Inconvenience due to narrow bridge. |
| 234. | Mounting (regret/unhappiness) of departure of sister during the period of Christmas. | 263. | Acquaintance during Gangotri trip. |
| 236. | Consent (compliance) of Govt. of India to the service-continuity of Elliot. | 264. | Regarding arrival to Baroda in winter. |
| 237. | Well-being to Dr. Nevins | 266. | Thirty persons died in destruction (crushing). |
| 238. | Curtailment of staff of unproductive industries. | 267. | Arrangements during the tour of Lord Elgin. |
| 239. | Mistake of servant. | 268. | Village to village water supply schemes. |
| 240. | Warning letter. | 270. | Stain of accident to the tour of viceroy. |
| 248. | Poisoning to the son of Sampatrao. | 272. | Desire of becoming industrialist is harmful while incomplete education. |
| 249. | About the book 'From Caesar to Sultan'. | 274. | Remorse caused due to loan without hypothecation (Surety). |
| 251. | Accurate knowledge of religion. | 275. | Scientific planning of water-supply. |
| 252. | Inconvenience of invited European guests. | 276. | Worries about bad condition of building. |
| 253. | To Watson about bringing horses. | 278. | Flow of actual works. |
| | | 279. | About temporary authorities. |
| | | 280. | Planning of expenditure, sources of strength etc. |

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| 281. | Explanation of notes during Europe tour. | 306. | Tiger hunted by Sampatrao. |
| 282. | About complaint of Shamsuddin. | 307. | Gift of Portrait. |
| 287. | Lack of obedience and being orderly. | 310. | Sudden departure of Tarabai. |
| 288. | Sensitive about health. | 311. | Two cubes (baby lions). |
| 289. | Arrival of Shinde Maharaja to Baroda. | 312. | Hospital consisting fifteen beds. |
| 290. | About to inform Appasaheb Mohite. | 313. | Seniors also responsible for the errors of juniors. |
| 291. | For hunting. | 314. | Leave expansion for solid information. |
| 292. | Invitation for Lawn Tennis. | 315. | Reward to Pestonji's work through increment. |
| 293. | Absence due to illness to Diamond jubilee ceremony at London. | 316. | Gifts to Maharaja of Gwalior. |
| 294. | Delay for letter due to illness. | 317. | Self-learned Personal Assistant. |
| 296. | About anticipated expenditure of agriculture institute. | 318. | Request to queen of Akalkote to stay at Baroda. |
| 298. | Authorities like lower court to head clerks. | 319. | Kathiawad in Land Revenue management. |
| 299. | Translator for the language of French painter. | 320. | Deep observation of Egypt culture. |
| 300. | Remuneration/ (wages) of painter. | 321. | Plague control. |
| 302. | Promotion to Dr. Batukram. | 322. | Dilation of plague. |
| 303. | Sanction of fifty thousand. | 323. | Tour cancellation due to dilation of plague. |
| 304. | Plague spread all over the country. | 324. | Regret for quick and faster determination. |
| 305. | Sesil Rhodes issue. | 325. | Experience of total eclipse. |

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| 326. Incompletion of scarce tours. | 347. Regret feeling to Kershapji for lack of equalisation. |
| 327. Personal guidance. | 348. Sending Prince to Yokohama – Mumbai during the period of plague. |
| 328. Wise Keshavrao. | 349. Honorarium of Lady Painter. |
| 329. Faster correspondence during the campaign of plague control. | 350. Formal question paper for required information. |
| 330. Plague under control. | 351. Sanction for one thousand pounds. |
| 331. Notice of letter. | 352. Encouragement to avoid conflict/argument. |
| 332. Death of widow. | 353. Recovery of condition of Pilwai by continuous residence. |
| 333. Essential equalization with Coloner Martelli. | 354. Lack of awareness during the circumstances of battle. |
| 334. Diamond joined Geneva made watch. | 355. Recovery of condition of Pilvai, (departure) death of Gladston. |
| 335. Additional remuneration for additional responsibilities. | 357. Thirteen persons expired during emergency firing. |
| 336. Agitation (depression) for restless sleep. | 358. About best activities during plague control campaign. |
| 337. Africa Proposal. | 360. Delay for Pilwai activities. |
| 338. Eradication of plague from Baroda. | 361. At Jehur for observation of eclipse. |
| 339. Report of Kirtisingh. | |
| 340. Honour of Madhavrao Baji. | |
| 341. Study of Law of agreement. | |
| 342. Shriniwas Ayyangar on leave. | |
| 344. At Lonavala for the sake of queen. | |
| 345. For feeling relaxation. | |
| 346. Before going to riding. | |

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| 362. | Acceptance to British currency. | 380. | Curtailment in wages for unsatisfactory jobs/works. |
| 363. | For Diploma of Agriculture. | 381. | Warning about indiscipline. |
| 364. | Condition recovered actually. | 382. | Pre-intimation of arrival. |
| 365. | Explanation of absentee. | 383. | Christmas greetings. |
| 366. | Receiving an offspring. | 384. | Honor and respects of Baroda State. |
| 367. | Duty is greater than emotions. | 386. | Well-being to father. |
| 368. | Overall observation of Egypt. | 387. | Visit of Maharaja of Gwalior to Delhi. |
| 369. | (We) will meet at Racecourse. | 388. | Admiration of Prince about Maharaja of Indore. |
| 370. | Expenditure should bear by State Government. | 389. | Correspondence during the period of illness of public. |
| 371. | Denial for beyond sanctioned limit expenditure. | 391. | Planning for Plague prohibition. |
| 372. | Contribution of fifty thousand. | 392. | Playthings (toys). |
| 374. | Visit of Prince of Junagarh. | 393. | Regret of inadequate and sufficient sleep. |
| 375. | Mandate/order of inquiry of unexpected incident. | 394. | Gratefulness of service during journey. |
| 376. | Munsif Kedarnath. | 396. | Strict punishment to guilty person. |
| 377. | About non arrival of Sandhurst. | 397. | Thanks for book. |
| 378. | Status to the collaborates of efficient persons. | 398. | Conditional approval. |
| 379. | Tennis party. | 399. | Search of eligible candidate on the post of Shrinivas Ayyangar. |
| | | 400. | Well-being through Christmas-greetings. |

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| 401. | I will come myself. | 421. | Recollection's museum of pictures. |
| 402. | In place of Ambalalji. | 422. | Defective consciousness. |
| 403. | About morning walk. | 423. | Lack of fodder water. |
| 404. | Retired ministers and Judges are going. | 424. | Consciousness of drought. |
| 405. | About getting recovered from gout attack. | 426. | Horses, Victoria from other countries. |
| 406. | Promise about remain present. | 427. | Dr. Batukram's (letter) to Ayyangar. |
| 407. | Departure/death of Jamnabai Saheb, letter describing plague and incident. | 428. | Intimations of retirement. |
| 408. | Book 'From Caesar to Sultan'. | 429. | Seasonal authorities. |
| 409. | Search of Nambudri at Badrinarayan temple. | 430. | Approval to Colonel Meade. |
| 412. | Fishes sent by Mansinghji. | 431. | Nambudri Brahmin. |
| 413. | About compliments of Nandod residing Maharaja. | 432. | Son passed school examination. |
| 414. | Humble denial for investment of mine. | 433. | News of drought. |
| 415. | About temporary uneasiness. | 434. | Letter-reply to Colonel Ravensha. |
| 416. | Dhamdhere. | 435. | Earnings affected by drought. |
| 417. | About appointment of Aloni. | 436. | Twelve thousand peoples provided employment in drought. |
| 418. | Condolence of husband to Reynolds. | 437. | Fifteen Lakhs for facing drought. |
| 419. | To German artificer. | 439. | To the son from Kalol. |
| 420. | About Deoghad Baria restaurant. | 440. | Required discretion. |
| | | 441. | Sixty five Lakh people got job in the State. |
| | | 442. | About the son of Colonel. |

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| 443. News of drought. | 463. Scholarship. |
| 444. Conversation with Kings surrounding. | 464. Kings and Maharaja's invite to son for hunting. |
| 445. Required conversation. | 465. About preparation of school examination. |
| 446. Reply to Nawab of Rampur. | 466. Grant medical Mumbai. |
| 447. Consent to horse. | 467. Stay in Manubhai issue. |
| 448. Well-being correspondence to Maharaja of Gwalior. | 468. Help in drought and adverse condition. |
| 449. Educational progress of son. | 469. Remuneration of artist. |
| 450. With gratefulness to Maharaja of Kapurthala. | 471. Leave to Yousuf Raja. |
| 451. Pilvai report. | 472. Gratefulness about book. |
| 452. Kadarpur dam for facing drought condition. | 475. About misbehavior of Vishwasrao Ghatge. |
| 453. To horse seller. | 476. In search of reliable education institution. |
| 455. Absentee due to drought, begging for Pardon. | 477. Queen (Ranisaheb) goes to foreign country for treatment. |
| 456. Denial to light meal. | 478. For efficient education of children. |
| 457. Report of note-keeping. | 479. In India after break of discipline. |
| 458. Care of drought affected public. | 480. About picture in visit of Baroda. |
| 459. Remunerable hung of lion. | 482. Intimation of growth of income. |
| 460. Cognizance of hospitable person during Kathiawad visit. | 483. Pre-intimation of Europe tour. |
| 461. Shatrunjaya Hill at Palitana. | 484. Problem of coins. |
| 462. About affection of Thakur saheb. | 485. Expanded five points program on sixth Europe tour. |

486.	Visit of Ex-Governor of Mumbai.	507.	Illness of nephew of Sir John Watson (Mr. French).
487.	Succeed to pass Gulf.	508.	To co traveler.
488.	After the children go to Oxford.	509.	News of raining.
489.	Trouble to talk due to cold.	510.	Promise to visit to Scotland in summer.
490.	Remembrance firstly at the entrance of London.	511.	Queen can't become mother due to late treatment because of public care.
491.	Health of queen.	512.	Raining elsewhere in India.
492.	Intimation before visit.	513.	Long absence in Baroda because of treatment of queen.
493.	Acceptance to Royal Highness.	514.	Thankful to welcomer in yester visit.
494.	Admiration of royal teacher.	515.	Banquet (party) and thankful to welcomer.
495.	Residential arrangement of queen.	516.	About companionship at the time of London residence.
496.	Visit of Lady Hamilton.	517.	To hospitable persons with thankfulness
497.	Denial to invitation during illness of queen.	518.	Whether explanation given ever unnecessarily name issued.
498.	Nor raining in Baroda.	519.	Gratefulness circular about hospitality.
499.	About supporting in front of Queen.	520.	Distressed emperors due to edict of Lord Curzon.
500.	About joyful tour.	521.	Secretary for a determined period.
501.	Busy lifestyle.		
502.	Answer to Lady Tweedale.		
503.	Thanks about banquet.		
504.	Intimation to education guarding at Oxford.		
505.	Raining in Baroda after a long period.		
506.	Will meet after giving pre-intimation.		

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| 522. | Letter written by secretary on behalf of Maharaja. | 537. | About recruitment of education expert Mr. Cotton. |
| 523. | Anticipation of progress of country instead of glorious past. | 538. | Report of drought management. |
| 524. | Need not to take cognizance of the circular issued for the people in the area of operation. | 539. | Guardianship of Victoria memorial. |
| 525. | Receipt against letter. | 540. | School-Ban only on papers. |
| 526. | Visit of Loubet. | 541. | About fast judicial bench. |
| 527. | During circular (edict) affected period. | 542. | Widow-marriage Act. |
| 528. | About further education of flettesingh. | 543. | Self-light refreshment. |
| 529. | Well-being inquiry by sweet sesame. | 544. | Draft of Widow-marriage Act. |
| 530. | Reestablishment of broken correspondence, congratulations about China tour. | 545. | For learning Pakhwas |
| 531. | Receipt to the letter of Horse-affectionate Revensha. | 546. | Acceptance of wise criticism. |
| 532. | Comeback celebration, drought notes towards MacMillan. | 547. | Will be compelled to return India due to misbehavior. |
| 534. | Shocked about departure of Maharani sudden after visit. | 548. | Temporary charge to Dhamanskar. |
| 535. | Regret during residence at London. | 549. | Narration of peoples of Maharaja of Kolhapur |
| | | 550. | Well-being correspondence to nearby kings. |
| | | 551. | One Lakh rupees for Victoria memorial. |
| | | 552. | About narration of Royal-son as 'Prince.' |
| | | 553. | First part of Abdul-Rehman. |

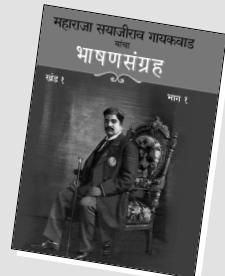
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| 554. To the Royal-instructor/teacher of Baroda. | 576. Death of servant of Prince and personal secretary. |
| 555. Gift distribution of Grant Medical. | 577. Desire to go to Indore. |
| 556. Report of North-Hind. | 578. By walking to the funeral of Newman. |
| 557. In-charge Dewan. | 579. About World Politics book. |
| 560. Sympathetically to Shivajirao Holkar. | 580. About Educational success of Fattesinhrao. |
| 562. Information about De Cruz. | 581. Additional charge to Vinze. |
| 565. Answer in letter from Nainital to Maharaja of Kishangadh. | 582. Consolation of father of Newman. |
| 566. Fattesinhrao feels alone. | 583. Thankfulness about temporary political management of Nainital. |
| 567. Rising and development of nation. | 584. Urgent reply to well-being letter. |
| 568. To N.J. Meade, sons of Governor General of India. | 585. Invitation at Baroda to Maharaja of Dewas. |
| 569. Children to foreign for education. | 586. Regret-letter to them who can't meet. |
| 570. Visit to Almora. | 587. Condolence due to death of Kinsman. |
| 571. Details to the son as a father. | 588. Urgent reply to the letter of 'Samarth'. |
| 572. Scolding for misbehavior. | 589. Invitation to come at Baroda. |
| 573. Unusual judicial capacity while political imbalance. | 590. India level dependence of reform of teacher-policy. |
| 574. Death of Secretary Newman by diarrhea. | 591. About not to bring unnecessary servants. |
| 575. Sorrowful incidents of departure of Newman and servant Keshav Mohade. | |

592.	Assistance to residents of Dewas, birthplace of queen.	602.	Crops destroyed because of drought.
593.	Rewritten letter in place of misplaced letter.	603.	Reply to letter of Udhojirao of Dhar.
594.	No unnecessary servants for grandeur.	604.	Thankfulness about book sent by Colonel Meade brother.
595.	Urgent reply to letter of Maharaja of Indore.	605.	Exchange of Dassara-greetings.
596.	Queen cannot recover health because of delayed and barred operation.	606.	Because of continuous drought.
597.	Arrival intimation of Maharaja of Dewas.	607.	Reply to the letter of the brother of Colonel Meade.
598.	Sanction to loan unwillingly.	608.	Attached letter with the letter abovesaid
599.	News of drought.	609.	Two years of drought.
600.	Drought affected Kathiawad, Ahmedabad.	610.	Reception of nephew of Ben bridge in Baroda.
601.	Invitation to come to Baroda in holidays.	611.	Worries relating to drought.
		612.	For education to foreign.

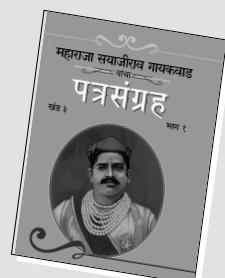
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मराठी ग्रंथ

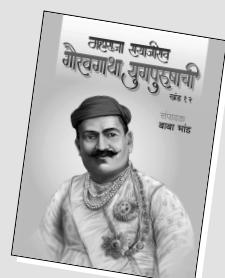
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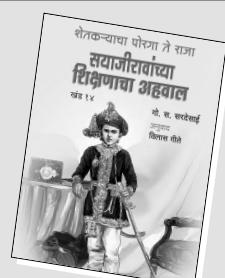
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३. खंड : भाग १
४. खंड : भाग २
५. खंड : भाग ३



१२. गौरवगाथा युगपुरुषाची
संपादक : बाबा भांड



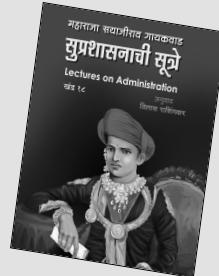
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१६. चांगल्या कारभाराची सूत्रे
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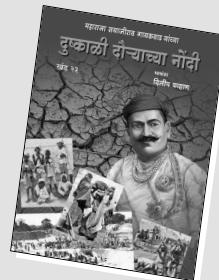
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२१. कैसरकडून सुलतानाकडे
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 अनुवाद : राजाराम रामकृष्ण भागवत



२३. महाराजा स्याजीराव गायकवाड यांच्या
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२५. बडोद्याचे राज्यकर्ते
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 अनुवाद : बन्सीधर / मीरा घांडगे

२७. महाराजांचे महाराष्ट्रातील सत्कार
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 २९. महाराजा स्याजीराव गायकवाड
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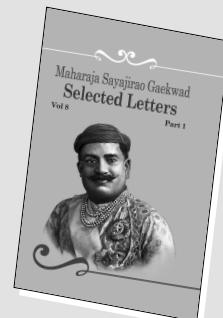
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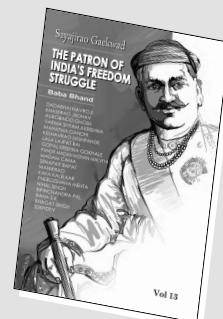
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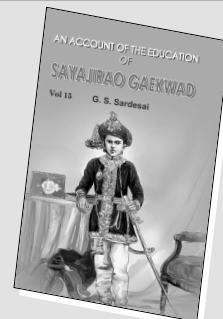
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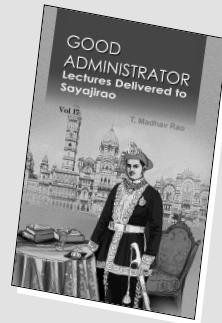


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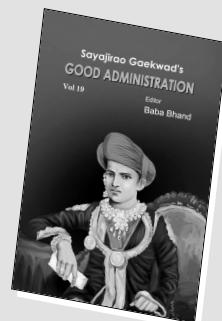
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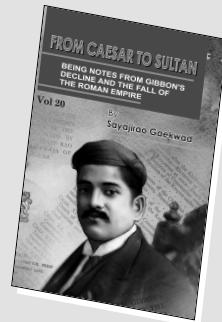
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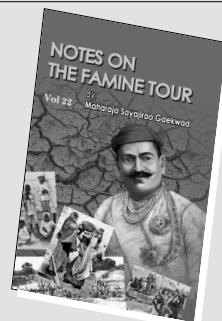
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