

ANNEXURE II

1. There is a letter (Letter No. 133) from the Bombay Castle dated 22 October, 1827 written by William Newnham to the Acting Resident at Baroda, Mr. Willoughby concerning the debt of Sayajirao Gaekwad II and the action taken by the Acting Resident with regard to an order given by the Maharaja preventing the bankers from going to the Residency. In this letter William Newnham admonishes the Acting Resident for withholding from the Governor-in-Council the names of the bankers who complained to him against the Gaekwad and the right course which he should now adopt for resolving the crisis. He also outlines the proposal of the Governor-in-Council for clearing the debt of the Gaekwad and making it clear to him that he cannot preclude the guaranteed bankers from approaching the Residency as it will be an infraction of their free agency. The letter is reproduced as follows:

Bombay Castle, 22nd October 1827.
Letter from W. Newnham to The Acting Resident, Baroda.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch dated the 11th instant No. 459 reporting the result of your interview with His Highness the Gaekwad, respecting the new Financial arrangements and to communicate to you the following observations and instructions, thereon.¹

2nd. From the approbation expressed in my letter of the 8th instant of your intention of remonstrating with His Highness the Gaekwad on his attempts to intimidate the bankers, you will be prepared to expect the disappointment of the Governor-in-Council at the course which you have actually adopted.²

3rd. As soon as you learned that such attempts were making, the natural course was frankly to state to His Highness the nature of the reports that had reached you to intimate to him that as long as there was the least doubt of the free agency of the bankers no renunciation of our guarantee on their part would receive the least attention.³

4th. It would have been an obvious course at the same time to have sent for the bankers collectively as well for the chief ones separately, and to have stated that a plan of payment had been proposed which seemed to the British Government likely to meet the interest of all parties, and that if such was their opinion the accomplishment of the plan would be very satisfactory to the British Government, but that of course the

¹ G.B. Pandya, ed. (1958), *Gaikwads of Baroda: Maharaja Sayajirao II, A.D. 1821 to A.D. 1830 (Selections from the Baroda Residency Records)*, p. 26.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

guarantee already made to them would be strictly fulfilled and no alteration in the present terms permitted but such as should meet with their free and cordial concurrence.⁴

5th. Assurance of this sort would have been natural on such an occasion even if there had been no ground to suspect the Gaekwad of intimidation in the actual circumstances of the case they were indispensable.⁵

6th. If, as is intimated in several parts of your dispatch, the bankers were forbidden to go to the Residency it was only the more necessary to bring the question to an issue, either a refusal by the bankers on the ground of such an order or a general evasion of the call by means of other excuses would have afforded grounds for the Government to have rejected His Highness' proposal, as it had no reason to rely on the free consent of the bankers. The avowal of an order to the bankers not to go to the Residency would also have furnished grounds for a serious remonstrance open proceedings of this nature would not only have been more effectual than the course adopted, but less offensive to the Gaekwad who will have reason both for distrust and complaint if the objections of the British Government are not placed candidly before him in every stage, and if its refusal to accede to his plan is to be founded on suspicion, the grounds of which it cannot disclose.⁶

7th. I am here directed to observe that the Governor-in-Council by no means concurs in your opinion of the impossibility of your stating the names of the bankers who complained to you of the Gaekwad's conduct. Whatever reasons you might conceive existed for withholding them from His Highness there could be none for concealing them from your own Government.⁷

8th. A statement of them was absolutely necessary to enable the Government to avail itself of your information; for however favorably it may think of your judgment (on which no less than on the qualities alluded to in the beginning of your 19 paragraph the correctness of the views presented by you must depend), it cannot take an important one on grounds which the Gaekwad can at once deny; when it possesses such easy and obvious means of establishing the truth, that its neglect of them could not fail to expose its proceedings to misrepresentation.⁸

9th. In the present instance you are aware that it is an object to make it apparent that the Gaekwad's plan has failed from its own defects and from no want of assistance on the part of the British Government. That object must necessarily be abandoned if the Government should determine to forbid the plan on its own arbitrary assertion of the unwillingness of the bankers contrary to the open declaration of those persons themselves.⁹

10th. I am therefore directed to convey to you the desire of the Governor-in-Council that you will in the first instance communicate to His Highness the Gaekwad the great surprise and regret with which the Governor-in-Council has heard of His Highness' objections to the attendance of the bankers at the Residency. His Highness should be informed that the free and unrestrained intercourse of all persons of every description was a point especially insisted on at the time when his Government was made over to him and is one which can never be given up that with respect to persons under the guarantee of the British Government any attempt to preclude

⁴ Pandya, *Gaikwads of Baroda*, p. 26.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid., pp. 26-27.

⁷ Ibid., p. 27.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

them from access to the Resident is an infraction of the guarantee and that in the case of the bankers the least suspicion that they were prevented stating freely their objections to the change of system would be sufficient to destroy that confidence in their free agency, without which no alteration in the guaranteed terms could ever be acceded to. You will then intimate to His Highness the instructions you have received regarding the bankers which I now proceed to communicate.¹⁰

11th. After this representation to the Gaekwad you will be pleased to send for the bankers either individually or separately as you may think best the Governor-in-Council is inclined to think that both modes might be resorted to with advantage; and you will then explain to them in the fullest manner that His Highness for the discharge of his debts within two years instead of seven was much disposed to promote the arrangement, which he conceived to be for the benefit of all parties; that in this belief he was led to propose it to the bankers, but that he had directed the proposal to be accompanied with the most explicit declaration that the guarantee promised to the 7 years' loan was still in full force and that the British Government had not the smallest wish to depart from it unless the bankers themselves should sincerely desire such a change. That if they had the least preference to the present arrangements, they had only to say so and they might depend on the support of the British Government to as full an extent as they had ever received, that they were therefore only required to state their wishes without reserve and to rely on the British Government for acting up to the full extent of its promises.¹¹

12th. It is extremely desirable that no allusion should be made to the Gaekwad's threats especially in the general meeting, but if assurances of protection from them should be indispensable to restore the confidence of the bankers such assurances should be given.¹²

13th. In consequence of your representation of the loss of the influence of the Residency and of the numerous reports in circulation originating in Mr. William's stay in Bombay I have to acquaint you, that the Resident has been directed to repair to Baroda at his earliest convenience.¹³

14th. I am at the same time directed to state the wish of the Governor-in-Council that the explanation with the bankers should become to as soon as possible, as it is desirable that the decision of Government regarding the impracticability of the Gaekwad's plan should be communicated to him before the return of the Resident.¹⁴

GUARANTEE

No. 498 of 1826-58.

2. There is a letter (Letter No. 144) written from the Baroda Residency dated 2 January, 1828 addressed to the Resident James Williams in which a complaint is made against the Gaekwad.

In this letter the writer lamentably reports to James Williams that his communications have totally failed to produce the desired effect. At first Sayajirao Gaekwad II was frightened by

¹⁰ Pandya, *Gaikwads of Baroda*, p. 27.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 28.

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

the letter, but Veniram Aditram and other rogues at his court soon devised a plan to neutralize any promising effect that it could have produced by the convincing the Maharaja that it was a forged letter. Using this dexterity they obtained temporary success. Veniram pointed out to the Maharaja that the signature was dissimilar to the ones in His Highness' possession but the chief means by which the bold intriguer convinced the Maharaja of the forgery was that the seal on the letter too did not match with the seal on the other letters produced on the occasion. However, fully convinced of the fact that he would not be able to hide his deceitful behavior for a long time, Veniram gave an advice to Sayajirao Gaekwad II to send a reply to the letter.¹⁵ At this the writer expresses astonishment and writes that indecent behavior is ascribed to the Maharaja "who delays entering into explanations until you arrive at Baroda".¹⁶

The writer of the letter reports to James Williams the evil influence that the minister Veniram Aditram and other rogues were exercising on the mind of Sayajirao Gaekwad II and how under their influence the Maharaja was not fulfilling his engagements with the guaranteed bankers. The writer also writes that the British were trying their level best to settle matters in an amicable manner with the Maharaja. They had also repeatedly summoned the guaranteed bankers to the Residency and given assurances to them that their guarantees would be upheld and their loans repaid. But the pernicious influence of rogues like Gopal Pandit who had previously served under Trimbakji Dingle and Nawab Aminuddin precluded the Maharaja from realizing the urgency of repaying his loans to the guaranteed bankers. Moreover, he had deputed a person named Mirza Qujikh who was previously part of the quota of troops attached to Sayyid Ibrahim and was in service in Malwa under the command of Major General Sir John Malcolm as his *wakil* to Bombay.¹⁷

The writer further writes that Sayajirao Gaekwad II has failed to realize to what extent he has transgressed his limits and his under the false impression that he has secured considerable influence at the Bombay Presidency. Therefore, the writer writes that he has summoned the guaranteed bankers to the Residency again and asked them to withhold the payment of installments of revenue due from the districts farmed out to them until the Maharaja agrees to fulfill his engagements with them. The writer also informs us in this letter that the British had

¹⁵ Pandya, *Gaikwads of Baroda*, pp. 40-41.

¹⁶ Ibid., p. 41.

¹⁷ Ibid., pp. 41-42.

suspended all intercourse with the Durbar during this time because the Maharaja was disobeying their orders and acting according to his free will.¹⁸

3. There is a translation of a document of the agreement dated 30 July, 1828 made with Vithalrao Diwanji in which he is assigned the management of the districts sequestered from the Baroda State for the fulfillment of the engagements made by Sayajirao Gaekwad II with the guaranteed bankers.

The translation of the document is reproduced as follows:

- 1) The several districts named in the proclamation issued by the Bombay Govt., under date the 28th March with the exception of the Gujarat and Kathiawar tributaries are under your management by the order of that Govt. from the 5th of last the beginning of Samvat 1885—to the 5th June 1833—the end of Samvat 1889 the said districts being the *parganas*—Petlad, Kadi, Bahiyal, Dabhoi, Bahadurpur, Sinor, the *tappa* of Sianagar, Amreli, Damnagar, Kodinar, Dhari and Dhaturwar already in your charge remain so on the prior existing agreement—these several districts you are to superintend, carefully abstaining from the exercise of any sort of oppression or exactions on the *ryots*, in conformity to the terms stipulated in agreement of 1826 (the septennial settlement) copy of which (agreement) is annexed.¹⁹
- 2) The above engagement for five years will in no respect suffer alteration without your own free will and concurrence or unless an infraction of its terms on your part shall occur you are placed in this charge by the British Government and it is to that Govt. alone you are responsible you are therefore to administer your duty in a proper manner, being answerable to the same to the Govt. of the Company alone.²⁰
- 3) The revenue of the districts is not fixed but you are after making allowance for the state of the population to collect the *jamabandi* and other dues in conformity to ancient practice.²¹
- 4) In such districts as the revenues have been hitherto collected under several terms *bighoti* or *adha bhag*—or *khatibandi* the systems to be continued and you are to use your utmost endeavor to conciliate and protect the cultivators adhering most strictly in this respect, to the articles inserted in their favor in the agreements of Samvat 1883—The strictest superintendence of the British Govt. will be exerted to secure the performance of these stipulations in favor of the Ryot.²²
- 5) You are to collect the *jamabandi* and the dues by the usual installments and all persons who possess rights and claims on any of the villages are to enjoy them unmolested in conformity to the stipulations contained in the agreements of Samvat 1883 (the septennial settlement).²³
4. There is a letter (Letter No. 150) which is the proposal for sequestration of some districts from the Baroda State for the fulfillment of the engagements with the guaranteed bankers. It is written by the Resident from the Baroda Residency to

¹⁸ Pandya, *Gaikwads of Baroda*, p. 42.

¹⁹ Ibid., p. 43.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

William Newnham in Bombay dated 23 March, 1828. The letter is reproduced as follows:

Baroda Residency, 23rd March 1828.
Letter to William Newnham.

I had the honor on the 18th instant to receive your dispatch of the 14th preceding, containing the instructions of the Honorable the Governor-in-Council, for the regulation of my conduct in the present very embarrassing crisis of affairs at this courts:—²⁴

2. Having in my former correspondence freely submitted my sentiments on all the principal points at issue with the Gaekwad Government, it is now clearly my duty, to yield them to the superior wisdom and judgment of the Honorable the Governor-in-Council, and to endeavor cordially and strenuously to carry into effect his views and policy—I shall not fail to pay the most implicit attention to the orders now conveyed to me, and the whole of my future proceedings will be entirely governed by the principles laid down in the minute of the Honorable the Governor referred to in your dispatch. I do not however conceal from myself the numerous and serious difficulties with which I am surrounded, but as these arise my exertions to overcome them must be greater and the credit attendant on success will be in proportion.²⁵

3. I regret to report that H.H. still continues under the influence of the same counsels that have caused the interruption of the friendly relations subsisting between the allied Governments. He is still sanguine of final success, his hopes being cherished, by the letters received from his agent Veniram, encouraging him to look to the Supreme Court as the source from whence all his wishes are eventually to be accomplished, in case Government does not accede to them. Many of these letters are fictitious being written at Baroda, by those who are engaged in Veniram's schemes, containing fabricated accounts suited to the feelings of H.H., at the time of their pretended arrival from the Presidency. The Gaekwad is understood to be in part aware of the intentions of Government but exhibits no outward symptoms of apprehension, being taught to believe that no actual sequestration of any part of his resources will take place, and being persuaded to regard the sacrifice as likely to be made up to him, by the restoration of the remainder that are now septennially farmed. These are stated on good authority to be his present feelings, though I am inclined to believe, a very considerable change will be produced when he is formally apprised of the extent of the demands Government will be obliged to make for the vindication of its violated faith.²⁶

4. With these preliminary observations I now annex a statement exhibiting the particulars resources of this Government the most eligible in my opinion for the purposes contemplated. The gross amount for the current year 1885—1828-29, is estimated at 27 lakhs and upwards, but the net amount applicable to the liquidation of the claims we are called upon to satisfy falls short of 21 lakhs. The difference between the two items consists of the *mahal mazkur*, on the expenses of collection, villages held by different persons on the several tenures

²⁴ Pandya, *Gaikwads of Baroda*, pp. 43-44.

²⁵ Ibid., p. 44.

²⁶ Ibid.

common in Gujarat, and money assignments to individuals that cannot be interfered with. Details of each of these items will be hereafter furnished. The total amount of each is exhibited in the annexed statement.²⁷

5. These resources have been selected on the principles laid down in the 11th and 12th paragraphs of your dispatch. The district of Baroda would unquestionably be more conveniently superintended, but I have purposely excluded it, out of consideration to the feelings of H.H.²⁸

6. A report of the whole of the claims existing under our guarantee will be submitted as early as practicable and a plan will be proposed in communication with the parties interested, for extinguishing them. The simplest mode perhaps will be, to obtain the consent of the bankers to receive their dues, not at any particular date, but year by year in such proportions and at such periods as we may be able to realize the resources to be placed under sequestration. It will however of course be a great object to secure as much regularity as possible both in our realizations and payments.²⁹

7. There is one contingency unprovided for by my present instructions, which I beg to mention with the view of obtaining the sentiments of the Honorable the Governor-in-Council thereon. It is by no means improbable, that some if not all of the leaseholders of the selected districts may object to retain these when placed under sequestration and may call on us to release them from their contracts on the same terms as the farmers of those districts that are to be eventually given up to the Gaekwad.³⁰

8. I only anticipate this demand with the view of meeting it. It is much to be desired that no objection of this nature will be made by the farmers and I shall do all in my power to encourage them to continue to hold their leases on the present terms. Should however the demand be made, and my endeavors to the above effect prove unsuccessful, there can I think be but little doubt, that it cannot be resisted, or admitting the contrary it must be obvious how difficult it will be to enforce the existing contracts against the wishes of the holders. They will possibly urge their demand to be released from their engagements, on the grounds of subjecting themselves the enmity of their province by continuing to hold their leases in opposition to his wishes. They may represent that it is quite a different undertaking, leasing a district direct from the Native Government, and farming one that has been sequestered by us. They will also point out that attempts will be made to impede all their operations as farmers, and that numerous complaints originating from the palace (similar to the one made by the Ryots of the Petlad district) will be brought against them in different forms and under different pretexts, which, whatever might be the result of an investigation would be destructive of their influence as farmers and encourage those under them to resist their authority and withhold payment of revenue.³¹

9. Should the case supposed arise, there is only one alternative that occurs to me by which the views of Government may be attained, without introducing such changes in the sequestered districts as would embarrass their intended restoration to the Gaekwad when the purposes for which they are sequestered have been fulfilled. This is to declare the whole of the septennial contracts void and then to lease those districts placed under

²⁷ Pandya, *Gaikwads of Baroda*, pp. 44-45.

²⁸ Ibid., p. 45.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.

attachment on as favorable terms as may be procurable, giving the preference in the first instance to those who now hold them in possession. It is requisite however to remark, that under this plan, I should not expect to obtain so large an amount of revenue, as that stipulated for under the septennial leases, particularly, since the whole of the contractors have more or less been subjected to loss, during the two years that have expired. For this however there seems no remedy, and H.H. will have himself only to blame for losing whatever may be the difference.³²

10. The details of the plan and mode of agency by which the sequestration may be eventually superintended, will greatly depend on the conduct and intentions of the leaseholders. I shall direct a sufficient force to be held in readiness to reach at a moment's warning and on the receipt of the final instructions of Government, propose to direct a gentleman for the residency to proceed with this force for the purpose of occupying the districts and carrying into effect such preliminary measures as may be necessary:—³³

11. I do not apprehend that any open opposition will be offered to the occupation of these territories though every precaution must be adopted to meet any that might arise on the part of the Gaekwad troops now stationed in them. These troops may perhaps avail themselves of the opportunity to foment disturbances, and may refuse to recognize any authority unsanctioned by the order of then Gaekwad. Their numbers and present disposition according to my present information are as follows:—³⁴

<i>S. No.</i>	<i>Districts</i>	<i>Horse</i>	<i>Foot</i>
1.	Petlad	--	189
2.	Bahiyal	123	68
3.	Kadi	197	--
4.	Dabhoi & Bahadurpur	107	128
5.	Sinor	--	25
6.	Kathiawar	338	137
	Total	765	547

12. Whenever these troops can be permitted to remain without endangering the public tranquility, I conceive such would be desirable, but in all cases this may not be found practicable, and there is nothing to prevent H.H. recalling them at any time he pleases. The agent may be left to exercise his own prudence and discretion on this delicate point, but the principal officers should be called upon to subscribe to an engagement promising to perform their duties as heretofore and to abstain from irregularities. A demand will undoubtedly arise on the part of persons so situated respecting their pay, and it will be but fair to make a provision that so long as they remain on duty in the sequestered districts, and conduct themselves in a peaceable and orderly manner, the British

³² Pandya, *Gaikwads of Baroda*, p. 46.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid.

Government will undertake to satisfy all their just claims on this score. This is however a point on which I am anxious to obtain the order of Government.³⁵

13. In cases where it may become necessary to direct the Gaekwad's troops to retire or in those where he may withdraw them himself, deficiency can only be supplied either by our own troops or by an addition to the present *nemnuk* or establishment of the districts. Under all circumstances however it will be necessary to direct the agent to leave a detachment in the principal town of each of the districts to be occupied, the continuance or withdrawal of which may be left for future consideration.³⁶

14. In respect to the final supervision of the districts, I shall delay my further observations until they have been occupied the agent being directed to avoid as much as possible entering into any discussion with the leaseholders respecting their leases. They may be assured that all their just claims and pretensions will meet with the due attention of the British Government and will be enquired into by me at Baroda, but in the interim it is expected that they will conduct the administration of their districts as nearly as possible as if no change had taken place.³⁷

15. With regard to the Gaekwad's possessions in Kathiawar included in the selected resources, all that seems requisite is to leave them as at present under the management of Vithalrao Diwanji, the person who in his security being directed to pay the amount of revenue for which he is responsible into my treasury, after making the usual deductions on account of expenses of collection and specific assignments.³⁸

16. On the receipt of the final instructions of Government it is my intention to communicate them to H.H. who will at the same time be apprised of the sentiments of the Honorable the Governor-in-Council as conveyed in your dispatch now under reply.³⁹

17. H.H. should I presume be furnished with a copy of the proclamation under which it is intended the sequestration of the districts shall take place, and to which the greatest publicity will be given. To save time I forward a Marathi version of the draft transmitted with your dispatch. This will be found with one exception to correspond as nearly as the difference of the two idioms will admit with the English version, with a few verbal alterations.⁴⁰

18. I have made an amendment to the conclusion of the second paragraph. For the passage commencing "but because of the British Government and", I would recommend the proclamation should run thus "Not that the conduct of H.H. entitles him individually to consideration but because the British Government is anxious to evince its regard and consideration for the Gaekwad family". This alteration is proposed under the ideas that the reason assigned in the draft for our forbearance will be misunderstood or misinterpreted.⁴¹

³⁵ Pandya, *Gaikwads of Baroda*, pp. 46-47.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 47.

³⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁹ *Ibid.*

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 47-48.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*, p. 48.

19. Annexed however is another draft of a proclamation which whilst it embraces the whole of the views of Govt. seems to me preferable to the one accompanying your dispatch, from being more condensed and simple to the districts placed under sequestration.⁴²

20. I shall prepare as soon as practicable a list of persons to whom the protection of the British Government is to be extended, of the nature adverted to in the 98 and two following paragraphs of the Minute of the Honorable the Governor. It will of course be expected that this should be granted in writing.⁴³

21. The instructions of Govt. regarding the Native Agent and his brothers will be carried into effect after the communications directed to be made to H.H. respecting this. The former has for some time past been residing at Sinor belong to this Government from whence he maintains a secret understanding with those engaged in the intrigues at Baroda.⁴⁴

22. This letter is forwarded per express and I beg to solicit an early reply, since in the advanced state of the season every day is of consequence.⁴⁵

BOMBAY POLITICAL DEPARTMENT,
No. 134 of 1828

5. The next letter (Letter No. 152) is again regarding the sequestration. It is written by the Resident from the Baroda Residency to the Political Agent dated 2 April, 1828 in which the former gives instructions issued by the Governor-in-Council to the latter regarding the governance of the sequestered districts.

In this letter the Resident tells the Political Agent that a Force of sufficient strength has been equipped for the occupation of the sequestered districts and that he should proceed with the Force as he as Political Agent has been vested with the authority to occupy the selected districts.⁴⁶

The Resident then informs the Political Agent that since he has taken a conspicuous and active share in the proceedings and discussions between the two Governments during the last ten months and has visited the Presidency of late and obtained full knowledge of the views and wishes of the Bombay Government together with his extensive local knowledge and experience therefore it is not essential for him to furnish the Political Agent with detailed instructions and he is confident of his sound judgment and qualifications for performing this important and very delicate duty entrusted to him by simply alluding to the documents noted

⁴² Pandya, *Gaikwads of Baroda*, p. 48.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Ibid., p. 49.

in the margin which contain the general principles on which he is supposed to govern the districts.⁴⁷

The Resident goes on to inform the Political Agent that the force equipped is placed under the command of Major Gibbon who has been directed to communicate with him. The details of the strength and composition of the force are there in the annexed copy of his letter, writes the Resident, to Colonel Salter—and although the Resident writes that there is no anticipation of resistance as the Political Agent is also aware, nevertheless, the Bombay Government has taken precautions to meet any resistance in case it is offered and if there is any requirement of reinforcements they too shall be sent.⁴⁸

The Resident informs the Political Agent further that the instructions regarding the conduct towards the troops of the Gaekwad are mentioned in the documents he has referred to above and an even temper and immense moderation has to be used in executing and accomplishing the plan of occupying the districts without any warfare.⁴⁹

The Resident writes to the Political Agent that he should use his own discretion regarding the strength of the detachment to be left in the territory which has been sequestered. The Resident writes that although the Union Jack is to be hoisted in the territory which has been sequestered in order to show to the local populace that the British Government desires to introduce little change in the given territory and to denote that it is only a temporary measure the flag of the Gaekwad State of Baroda is not to be displaced.⁵⁰

The Resident writes to the Political Agent to avoid all dissensions with the leaseholders of these districts and to give assurances to them that all their just claims will be given due attention. The Resident gives instructions to the Political Agent that the Bombay Government will soon reach a final understanding with them that it intends not to introduce any change in the administration of the districts that it can possibly avoid and that they should expect and continue to act as if no change has occurred. The Resident writes to the Political Agent to take into account all realizations from the districts subsequent to Samvat 1884 and pay them to him.⁵¹

⁴⁷ Pandya, *Gaikwads of Baroda*, p. 49.

⁴⁸ Ibid., p. 50.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid.

Furthermore, the Resident writes to the Political Agent that he is annexing an authenticated copy of the Proclamation of the Bombay Government under which the occupation of the territory has taken place and that he must give it the utmost publicity throughout the country in general and the sequestered districts in particular so that the honest motives of the British Government in the adoption of such measures are vindicated and it is established that they took this step because their faith was violated.⁵²

Prior to joining the Force under Major Gibbon the Resident invites the Political Agent to accompany him on a visit arranged by him to meet Sayajirao Gaekwad II to apprise him of the intentions of the Bombay Government. He further writes that subsequently it will be important to occupy the districts as swiftly as it is pragmatically possible. Lastly, the Resident writes to the Political Agent that with the accomplishment of the sequestration he will be pleased to come back to Baroda to help him in carrying through the measures that are subsequently to be adopted in compliance with the order of the Governor-in-Council conveyed in the dispatches of William Newnham of the 24th and 25th Ultimo.⁵³

6. The next letter (Letter No. 153) is again regarding the sequestration. It is written from the Bombay Castle dated 3 April, 1828 by the Chief Secretary to the Resident at Baroda in which he writes that the Governor-in-Council has given his approval of the arrangements made by him in concert with the officer commanding the Baroda Subsidiary Force for the military occupation of the sequestered districts.⁵⁴
7. There is a letter which is not numbered from the Baroda Residency dated 4 April, 1828 to William Newnham at the Secret Department at Bombay. It describes an interview which the Resident had with Sayajirao Gaekwad II immediately after the sequestration.

In this letter the Resident writes to William Newnham at Bombay that when he reportedly paid a visit to Sayajirao Gaekwad II he at the beginning declined the visit. Moreover, he showed disrespect to the British Government. However, the Resident writes he also declined yielding subterfuges. Also, Colonel Salter was precluded from attending the Durbar by indisposition and that the Durbar comprises of the most contemptible and inferior set of people. The Resident writes that he communicated the orders of the British Government to the Maharaja and also describes how these were received by him and the Resident proposed

⁵² Pandya, *Gaikwads of Baroda*, p. 50.

⁵³ Ibid., pp. 50-51.

⁵⁴ Ibid., p. 51.

that they should be explained but he writes that the Maharaja declined. The Resident writes that Sayajirao Gaekwad II showed no signs of reconciliation with the British Government and continued to support Veniram and other rogues in his court. After the conclusion the Resident reports that the demeanor of Sayajirao Gaekwad II was sullen and obdurate. The Proclamation of sequestration of the districts of the Baroda State was published as directed by the Bombay Government and Willoughby subsequently joined the field force.⁵⁵

8. The next letter (Letter No. 155) is again regarding the sequestration. It is written to the Resident at Baroda from Camp Vasad dated 9 May, 1828 and describes the occupation of the sequestered district of Kadi by the brigade under the command of Major Gibbon and the agrarian situation in the district *viz.* the disputes between the *ryots* and the holders of septennial leases. It also describes the petitions which the writer of the letter received from the *ryots* of the districts of Dehgam, Kadi and Petlad and the pathetic condition of the *ryots* in Gujarat in general.⁵⁶
9. The next letter which is not numbered is a directive from the Bombay Castle to the Political Department dated 3 June, 1828. In this letter the Governor-in-Council gives his approval of the efforts of the Resident to conciliate Sayajirao Gaekwad II during his interview with him. The Governor hopes that if the British Government acts with firmness but at the same time with calmness, kindness and consideration the Gaekwad will come to his senses.⁵⁷

The directive also contains a draft of a letter from the Governor to Sayajirao Gaekwad II dated 4 June, 1828.

The Governor points out to the Proclamation published by the Maharaja in his name and laments since it indicates that he is still under the influence of false impressions created and bad advice offered by the rogues in his court.⁵⁸

The Governor informs the Maharaja that the Resident was acting entirely under his orders. The Governor further advises Sayajirao Gaekwad II to wean away from the influence of base and wicked knaves in his court and act in accordance with the wishes of the British

⁵⁵ Pandya, *Gaikwads of Baroda*, pp. 51-54.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 54-55.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 56.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*

Government and its representative and in turn assures him that if does that it will benefit him and the honor and reputation of his family will be upheld.⁵⁹

10. In the next letter which again is not numbered is addressed to William Newnham from the Baroda Residency dated 19 June, 1828 which describes the second interview of the Resident with the Gaekwad. In this interview the Resident delivered the letter of the Governor of Bombay to the Maharaja and offered him friendly advice. The Resident then delineates the manner in which Sayajirao Gaekwad II received this advice and reports the conversation. He then writes that he had made an allusion to the Maharaja of the districts not included in the sequestration and advised him to take charge of them. The Resident writes that after this Sayajirao Gaekwad II concluded the interview and that there is no hope of change in his conduct.⁶⁰

11. The next letter (again not numbered) is from Fort William dated 23 May, 1828 written by N.H. Bayley to Sir John Malcolm, the Governor of Bombay.

In this letter N.H. Bayley acknowledges the measures adopted by Sir John Malcolm in response to the clear and repetitive violations of the British guarantees by Sayajirao Gaekwad II.⁶¹

Next, Bayley writes about the information that the Bombay Government had provided them regarding the origin and nature of the Bahandhari System and its being objectionable in principle and embarrassing in practice. The Supreme Government observes that during the early stages of the association of the British with the Gaekwad Government the Bahandhari System was advisable on grounds of political expediency. However, the Supreme Government is glad because the Bombay Government has decided to fulfill the existing guarantees and pledges no more guarantees in future. Moreover, the Supreme Government is happy to learn that the Bombay Government has thrown over the septennial leases which were a source of mischief and embarrassment, both to the Maharaja of Baroda as well as the British Government.⁶²

Furthermore, Bayley writes that the Supreme Government considers it needless to offer any advice and is satisfied with the proceedings of the Bombay Government described in their dispatches. However, he concludes the letter by ordering the Bombay Government to ask the

⁵⁹ Pandya, *Gaikwads of Baroda*, pp. 56-57.

⁶⁰ Ibid., pp. 58-59.

⁶¹ Ibid., p. 59.

⁶² Ibid., p. 60.

Maharaja of Baroda to reimburse the extra military expenditure incurred by the East India Company amounting to Rs. 15,000 per mensem for the administration of the sequestered districts either from his own coffers or from the sequestered country. This order writes Bayley is in response to a letter to the Supreme Government by the Secretary in the Financial Department of the Bombay Government.⁶³

12. There is a letter (not numbered) from the Baroda Residency dated 19 July, 1828 from the Political Department to I. Bax. In this letter the Resident writes that he is transmitting an original letter to the Governor of Bombay from Sayajirao Gaekwad II along with a translation of the copy sent with it for his information.⁶⁴

The Resident writes that this letter is a reply to the one from the Governor of Bombay forwarded in the dispatch of William Newnham dated 5 June, 1828. The Resident writes that it is indeed deplorable while observing the general purport of its contents that they do not indicate any transformation in the intentions of Sayajirao Gaekwad II. The Resident supposes, therefore, that in any discussions with the Maharaja in the future it would be appropriate for the British to assume a different tone; not to refer any further to the rogues who secretly advise the Maharaja but to the sole responsibility for his actions on him.⁶⁵

The Resident further writes that neither has Sayajirao Gaekwad II requested for an interview with him nor is he inclined towards conducting another interview with the Maharaja until a final plan is drawn up for the administration of the districts under sequestration.⁶⁶

Lastly, the Resident writes that he had mentioned in his letter of the 3rd instant that he had informed Sayajirao Gaekwad II that the management of the districts not included in the sequestration was his responsibility but he cannot comprehend why the Maharaja has not taken any measures for their occupation.⁶⁷

13. There is a translated letter (again not numbered) of a representation made by Sayajirao Gaekwad II to Major General Sir John Malcolm, the Governor of Bombay. This letter is dated 10 July, 1828 and in reply to the letter of Sir John Malcolm dated 18 June, 1828.

⁶³ Pandya, *Gaikwads of Baroda*, p. 60.

⁶⁴ Ibid., p. 61.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ Ibid., p. 62.

In this letter Sayajirao Gaekwad II pleads before Sir John Malcolm that he is innocent and not under the influence of rogue advisers. He in fact denies the existence of such advisers in his court and writes that he acts solely on his own discretion. He further pleads before Sir John Malcolm to go through the proclamation he had forwarded to him through the medium of the Resident and writes that he never entertained any designs of hostility towards the British Government and was inclined to maintain friendly relations with it.⁶⁸

14. The next letter (not numbered) is from the Bombay Castle dated 5 August, 1828 addressed to the Resident at Baroda.

The writer of the letter informs the Resident that he has received directions for the acknowledgment of his letter dated the 19th Ultimo addressed to Secretary Bax forwarding a letter from Sayajirao Gaekwad II to the Governor of Bombay.⁶⁹

The letter expressly states that the Governor-in-Council gives its approval to the fact that he does not intend to exasperate the Gaekwad by repetitively telling him that he is acting under the advice of evil counselors.⁷⁰

Regarding the districts not included in the sequestration which Sayajirao Gaekwad II had been repeatedly asked by the British Government to occupy, the Governor-in-Council advises the Resident to allow the Maharaja to act in accordance with his free will and not to initiate any further discussion with him on the topic.⁷¹

15. There is an important letter from the Baroda Residency dated 1 January, 1829 concerning Veniram and the Gaekwad's debt (not numbered) written by the Resident to William Newnham at Bombay.

In this letter the Resident writes to William Newnham that acting upon the suggestion of his advisers at the Bombay Presidency, Sayajirao Gaekwad II had appealed to the Governor General against the sequestration of certain districts of the Baroda State by the Bombay Government in order to fulfill its engagements with guaranteed bankers and had requested the Governor General of India to instruct the Governor of Bombay "to attend to the representations of Veniram Aditram",⁷² the agent of the Maharaja at Bombay and to

⁶⁸ Pandya, *Gaikwads of Baroda*, pp. 62-63.

⁶⁹ Ibid., p. 65.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² Ibid., pp. 67-68.

authorize the Government to immediately extinguish the debt of the Gaekwad which the British Government had guaranteed.⁷³

The Resident writes that Veniram using his craftiness and corrupt mind had suggested to the Maharaja to appoint him as an Agent to Govt. “acting upon the opinion of his legal advisers at Bombay”.⁷⁴ The representatives of the Supreme Government entered into an argument with the *wakil* that unless he furnished proper credentials from his master, they would be unable to secure his recognition by the Bombay Government, “or avail themselves of the documents and information”⁷⁵ which he possesses for the promotion of the views of the Maharaja, observing at the same time that when he produces proper credentials he would receive recognition “but that at all events his being rejected, would strengthen an appeal to England”.⁷⁶ The Resident thus reveals the clandestine history of the arrogance of the Maharaja in the nomination of a characterless person like Veniram both in the letter he presently forwarded and in the one to the Governor of Bombay dispatched under date the 8th ultimo to be his channel of communicating with the Bombay Government.⁷⁷

The Resident writes to his superiors in Bombay that by this injudicious step taken by the advisers of the Maharaja it becomes all the more obligatory for them to dismiss Veniram Aditram from Bombay in order to remove the Maharaja from his delusion and falsify his assertion that the Supreme Court is protecting him “and thereby strengthening the opinion that has been lately disseminated of that Court progressing a controlling power over Government, extending even to the revision of all the Political measures arising out of its connections with Foreign States”.⁷⁸

After stating the reasons for his dismissal from Bombay, the Resident moves on to delineate the history of how characterless a person Veniram has been. The Resident writes that the public records show that Veniram Aditram first came into the limelight when he fomented dissensions between the two sons of the late Anandrao Gaekwad by administering intoxicating drugs to the youngest (minor) and securing a *Wakalatnameh* or Power of Attorney from him which thus empowered him to act on his behalf. However, he was not able to carry out this design of his because the dissatisfaction of the Gaekwad with the Financial

⁷³ Pandya, *Gaikwads of Baroda*, p. 68.

⁷⁴ Ibid.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

Reforms of 1826 led to the opening of a wider field for him for exercising his qualities of intrigue and craftiness of which he took prompt advantage. The Resident writes that it is needless to say anything about the part he has taken in the underhand plots during the course of the last eighteen months. By resorting to fraudulent and deceptive behavior, and using his dexterity to take advantage of the favorable circumstances for his schemes, he has been successful in maintaining his influence in the most fatal manner over a feeble and ignorant Prince, which has led to a rupture in the friendly ties which had persisted since time immemorial between the British and Gaekwad Governments. Together with rogues who possess a character similar to him, he has made attempts to bribe witnesses, and in reality fabricated the seal of the Raja of Rajpipla to level a charge of bribery⁷⁹ “against a most intelligent and valuable Native in the service and confidence of Govt.”⁸⁰ The Resident writes that from the few prominent facts stated above one can safely conclude that the Maharaja will not reform his behavior and watch his interests as long as his *wakil* is allowed to stay at Bombay and that Veniram will continue to represent in the most cunning manner to the Maharaja “the principles on which the Government of India is constituted”⁸¹ *ipso facto* providing encouragement to him to pursue his objective with tenacity of purpose.⁸²

16. There is a translation of a letter (Letter No. 186) written by Sayajirao Gaekwad II to the Governor of Bombay, Sir John Malcolm dated 6 February, 1829 in which he defends his rogue adviser Veniram and requests the Governor to entertain the Memo and letters forwarded by him through the Resident on 24 August, 1828 and do justice. Otherwise the Maharaja writes that the only remedy left before him was that he should himself proceed to Bombay and state his grievances. Sayajirao Gaekwad II further writes that the fair name and reputation of the British Government was at stake if his grievances were not resolved and that the general public would lose faith in it. Moreover he accuses the Resident of calumniating and abusing him and calling people who are in his employment to be low and unworthy creatures. This alleged maltreatment by the Resident he gives as an excuse for appealing directly to the Governor through the medium of Veniram Aditram. He accuses the Resident for supporting Vithalrao Diwanji in siphoning off lakhs of rupees. He requests and to some extent pretends before Sir John Malcolm that he is serious about paying off the

⁷⁹ Pandya, *Gaikwads of Baroda*, pp. 68-69.

⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 69.

⁸¹ *Ibid.*

⁸² *Ibid.*

guaranteed debt to the creditors and in getting the sequestered districts released and reestablishing friendly ties with the British Government.⁸³

17. In the two letters, the first one written from the Bombay Castle to Sayajirao Gaekwad II by William Newnham (not dated) on behalf of Sir John Malcolm in reply to the Maharaja's letter dated 6 February, 1829 the topic of sequestration and the reference to the advisers of Sayajirao Gaekwad II being cunning and crafty men pursuing their own selfish agenda and being detrimental to the Baroda State is discussed. William Newnham also states that the sequestration cannot be reversed until the guaranteed bankers are satisfied that their debt has been repaid. He requests Sayajirao Gaekwad II to come to terms with the situation when Sir John Malcolm visits the Baroda State and that the sequestration was done with the full sanction and approbation of the Supreme Government at Calcutta.⁸⁴

Sayajirao Gaekwad II in his reply writes a letter dated 13 May, 1829 to the Governor of Bombay, Major General Sir John Malcolm expressing his belief that although the sequestration was done with the full sanction of the Supreme Government at Calcutta it was misled by parties who are prejudiced against the Baroda State and they misrepresented the facts and therefore the sequestration should be annulled.⁸⁵

Next, he writes that he is not under the influence of selfish and interested persons whom the British consider to be detrimental to the Baroda State and that he was always eager to maintain friendly relations with the British Government. He writes that the British Government has in the past protected the Baroda State from selfish and interested persons and that now certain prejudiced parties have misled it and misrepresented the facts before it which has created an impression that he, the Maharaja of Baroda, is under the influence of crafty and cunning advisers who ought to be banished from the State. He concludes the letter by writing that the Baroda State has always looked upon the British as their protectors and if he has committed any offenses he begs the British Government to forgive him for that will prove its greatness.⁸⁶

⁸³ Pandya, *Gaikwads of Baroda*, pp. 70-72.

⁸⁴ Ibid., pp. 73-74.

⁸⁵ Ibid., p. 75.

⁸⁶ Ibid., pp. 75-76.