

Fort William the 14th June 1850

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Sea, we have this day conveyed the Jew called the
Koh-i-noor in safety on board, and are now
leaving the harbour in H.M. Ship "Medea".
H.M. Ship "Medea" } I have J^{ce}
Bombay Harbour } / S^{dy} J Ramsay Captain
April 6th 1850 } Milly: Secy: & A. D. C.

/ True Copy /
/ S^{dy} E. L. Bayley
/ Milly: Secy: to Gov^l: of India
/ With the Gov^l: Gen^l.

Minute by the Governor General.

N^o 90

Minute by the Most Noble the Governor General
of India, dated the 13th May 1850.-
Koh-i-noor. } 1. The Honorable Court of Di-
rectors in their despatch dated 1st August 1849
having directed me to transmit the Jew, called
the Koh-i-noor to England every possible pre-
caution being taken for its safety, "I took im-
mediate measures for carrying their orders into effect,
and I have now the honor to report my proceed-
ings for their information.-

2nd Having been compelled reluctantly by the
state of my health to repair to the sea Coast,
I resolved to take charge myself of the Koh-i-noor
as far as the port of Bombay. Intimation was
made to me demi-officially that one of Her
Majesty's Ships of war would there be placed
at my disposal for its conveyance to England,
and I thereupon selected two Officers in whose
charge it should be placed during the voyage.-

3rd Recommended for this duty Lieut Colonel
McNeson C. B. of the Honorable Company's
Army, and my Military Secretary Captain
Ramsay.

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Ramsay of Her Majesty's 22^d Regiment of Foot.
In making my selection I had regard solely to the appointment of Officers possessed of those personal qualities which were essential for a charge of so much delicacy and responsibility. During the late war Lieutenant Colonel Mackeson, as my confidential agent with the army, had afforded me abundant proofs of his judgment and discretion, and had in every respect maintained and increased the high character he enjoyed before. Captain Ramsay is my own kinsman, holding a high office near me. I repose entire confidence in his integrity, judgment and discretion as in those of Lieutenant Colonel Mackeson, and after careful consideration I would select no two Officers better fitted than they for the charge which has been entrusted to them.

4th On the day before I left Lahore in December 1849 I received the Koh-i-noor from Dr. Logan in the Citadel in the presence of the members of the Board of Administration and of the Secretary to the Government, and I caused it constantly attached to my own person in safety to Bombay.

5th On the 1st of February 1850 I again embarked. Her Majesty's Ship Medea which had been placed at my disposal had not reached that port, so that it became necessary to provide for the safe custody of the jewel, until the ship should arrive.

6th I delivered the Koh-i-noor on that day into the joint custody of Lieutenant Colonel Mackeson C.B. and Captain Ramsay, in the presence of Sir H. Elliot Secretary to the Government and Lt. Courtenay Esquire my private Secretary. The gem with its cords was carefully packed in a small iron box, which was locked and the key of it delivered to Lieutenant Colonel Mackeson. The box was surrounded by a fastening and sealed with

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with the Governor General's seal. The iron box thus secured was enclosed in a despatch-box which was then locked and the key of it delivered to Captain Ramsay. The despatch box was likewise surrounded by a fascinus and sealed with my seal.

A letter was then addressed to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay requesting him to receive the despatch box and to retain it in his custody in the Government Treasury until further orders.

7th The box was accordingly deposited in the Treasury on that day, and a receipt for it was given by the Sub Treasurer. Another document signed by Colonel Mackeson and Captain Ramsay and witnessed by Sir H. Elliot and Mr. Curkenay, was also given testifying to the receipt of the *Noh-i-noor* from me by those Officers, and also to its deposit in the Treasury at Bombay.

8th Full instructions were given to Colonel Mackeson and Captain Ramsay for their guidance.

They were directed on the arrival of the *Medea* to deliver to the Officer in Command a letter from Secretary to Government of India, requesting him to receive on board the above mentioned Officers and to convey them to England whether they had been ordered to proceed by the Govt. of India. The Honble Court will observe that no mention whatever is made of the purpose for which they have been sent, that the Officer in command of the Ship has no knowledge of the conveyance of the *Noh-i-noor*, and no responsibility for it, so that I apprehend he can have no claim for the freight usually allowed for such services, a consideration of some moment, where the article conveyed is of so large an intrinsic value as in the present case.

9th When the Ship was prepared for sea Colonel Mackeson and Captain Ramsay were instructed to deliver

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delivered to the Secy. to the Gov^{rs} of Bombay a letter from the Secy. to the Gov^{rs} of India requiring him to deliver to them on their joint requisition the despatch box which was deposited in his custody on the 1st February.

They were directed to take every possible precaution for the safe conveyance of their charge on board the ship and for its custody during the voyage.

On their arrival in England they were directed forthwith to report their arrival to the Chairman of the Honorable East India Company; to await on board the instructions of the Honible Court; and on delivering up their to obtain receipts for the same, as well for themselves as for the Government of India. A demi-official despatch to the Chairman and one to the President of the Board of Control, were also to be delivered. The Official intimation of the despatch of the Jewel from India was reserved until their departure should be reported and is now to be transmitted overland. They were further directed to report to me their departure from Bombay and any occurrence which it might be desirable to communicate

10th Her Majesty's ship Medea did not reach Bombay till the 31st of March nearly two months after my departure. This delay is to be regretted the cause of it will doubtless be satisfactorily explained to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

11th On the 5th April the ship sailed for England. Col. Mackeson and Captain Ramsay report on that date having conveyed the Koh-i-noor safely on board; and the Government of Bombay likewise reports having delivered to them the despatch box which had been deposited in the Treasury there.

12th Copies of the several instructions & documents which have been mentioned in this Minute will be annexed

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annexed to the despatch. Together with these will be sent extracts from reports regarding the past history of the Koh-i-noor which I have endeavoured to procure from the Royal Family at Delhi, from the family of Shah Shojah at Lodianna, and from Members of the Durbar and Officers of the former Government at Lahore 13th. I have been thus minute in my description of the several measures that have been taken, in order to satisfy the Honble Court that I have carefully obeyed their instructions, to take every possible precaution for the safety of the Koh-i-noor in its transmission to England. The strictest secrecy was enjoined upon all of the very few persons who were necessarily cognizant of the facts I have now detailed, and so far as I know those injunctions were attended to. Nevertheless I perceive from the Newspapers that rumours of the purpose for which the Medea proceeded to Bombay and of the duty with which Colonel Mackeson and Capt. Ramsay were charged have obtained circulation. I regret that in spite of every care this should be the case, but I trust that no risk or inconvenience will now result from it.

14th I have perfect confidence that, if a safe voyage across the seas be vouchsafed to them, Colonel Mackeson and Captain Ramsay will prudently and successfully discharge the duty with which they have been entrusted. If such should be the case, and the service should be performed to the satisfaction of the Court, I beg very earnestly to recommend these Officers to their favor and consideration. No conditions have been made by them, nor any remuneration or reward fixed. Lieut. Col. Mackeson was proceeding to England on leave for a few months when I proposed to him

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him to undertake this duty. I have already placed on record my estimate of the very valuable service which I received from this Officer during the war in the Punjab. his past services thro' a series of years are before the Honble Court, and I sincerely trust that some mark of favor and distinction may be obtained for him. Captain Ramsay has accompanied him at my request, he necessarily loses during his absence all the emoluments he enjoys as Military Secretary and Aide-de-Camp on my Staff, and I earnestly solicit for him also the good Offices of the Court, in obtaining for him such advantages as the successful execution of an arduous and responsible duty may seem to them to merit.

I enclose a list of documents which together with this Minute Request may now be recorded in the Secret Department.

A despatch founded on the Minute will be addressed to the Secret Committee and with the copies of the papers mentioned will be despatched by this Mail.

Papers to be recorded

- 1 Letter to Secretary to Govt of Bombay. February 1st 1850
- 2 Receipt from Sub Treasurer at Bombay. February 1st 1850
- 3 Receipt for Moh. i. noor from Lieut. Col. Mackeson & Capt. Ramsay. February 1st 1850
- 4 Instructions to Lieut. Col. Mackeson C. B. February 1st 1850
- 5 Do Do to Captain Ramsay February 1st 1850
- 6 Do Do to Colonel Mackeson and Captain Ramsay. February 1st 1850
- 7 Letter to Officer Comd'g H. M. Ship Medea February 1st 1850
- 8 Letter from Secy. to Govt of India to Secretary Government

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- Government of Bombay February 1st 1850
9 Receipt to be taken by Colonel Mackeson &
Captain Ramsay.
10 Letter from Lieut. Colonel Mackeson to Governor
General - April 4th 1850.
11 Do. Do. from Captain Ramsay to Governor
General Dated April 6th 1850
May 13th 1850 } / Sd/ Dalhousie

/ True Copy/
/ Sd/ E. C. Bayley/
Under Secy. to Govt. of India
With the Governor General

Minute by the Governor General
/ Copy/

No. 91

Minute by the Most Noble the Governor
General of India, Dated Simla 31st May 1850

Receipt for Koh-i-noor Mr. Logan had the custody
of the Koh-i-noor diamond at Lahore. He
got a receipt for it when I took the gem. This
he has recently lost by robbery.

Replace it, as explained by the accom-
panying Memorandum. I think it as
well to record this with the other pa-
pers regarding the Koh-i-noor.

Simla May 31st 1850 } / Sd/ Dalhousie
True