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No. 174 of 1850.

From

Major Macgregor C.B.  
Deputy Commissioner  
Lahore

To,

J. Melville Esquire  
Secretary to the Board of Administration  
for the Affairs of the Punjab  
Lahore April 20: 1850

Sir,

With reference to your letter No 1448 dated the 21<sup>st</sup> of December last, I have the honor to submit for the information of the Board of Administration, the following particulars regarding the Moh-i-noor diamond, since it passed from the possession of Shah-Shooja-ool-moolk, the 5<sup>th</sup> King of Cabul, into the hands of Maharajah Runjeet Singh.

An interval of nearly 37 years has elapsed since the Shah surrendered this Diamond to the Maharaja, and there are but few persons now alive who attended his Highness on that occasion, one of whom however, I have succeeded in discovering now at Lahore, viz; Bhaie Maloo Singh, who was then only ten years of age, but he says that he retains a distinct recollection of what took place, and he is a person much respected by the Native Community of Lahore, and I think his statement may

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in every respect be fully relied upon.

He relates that the Shah was then residing in a House in the City, belonging to Sirdar Sewall Singh Lohla, situated near the Lahance Gate - Mufa Begum, the Shah's favorite wife, and other members of his family were located in the "Moocharull Stavalee" near the Delhi Gate - Guards were stationed round the Shah's residence, and he was not allowed to communicate with the members of his family.

Bhai Goomoathk Singh, and Sirdar Hookum Singh Attaree wallah, had been frequently sent by the Maharaja to the pined Prince to demand the Koh-i-noor diamond from him, and it was only after the Shah had become fully sensible to the determination of Runjeet Singh to resort to measures of the utmost severity to extort the pined Jewel from him, that the Shah yielded compliance to the demand, and agreed to give it up to the Maharaja if he would wait upon him in person to receive it.

This Runjeet Singh readily consented to do, and early in the month of June 1813, about noon, he left his Palace in the Citadel and proceeded to the Shah's residence, taking with him Sirdars Hookum Singh Attaree wallah, Sirdar Moshal Singh, Bhai Goomoathk Singh, Sugarar Azeeroodan, Bhai Mahoo Singh, and two hundred followers.

The pined Prince received the Maharaja in

an apartment in the upper story of the House, and both being seated, a short interval elapsed when the Shah took the Diamond from underneath the cushion on which he was seated, and delivered it to the Maharaja, who attentively examined it, made no remark, gave it in charge to Sirdar Hootkum Singh Akaree wallah, and forthwith returned.

The guards were immediately withdrawn from the Shah's residence, and he was allowed to communicate freely with his family.

The Maharaja held a Durbar on his return to the Palace, and the Koh-i-noor Diamond was exhibited to the Chiefs and people assembled there, and repeated Congratulations were offered his Highness on the attainment of <sup>this</sup> valuable jewel. The Diamond was then made over to the charge of Mir Mustee Khan, Punjeet Singh's Treasurer, who had been in the service of the Maharaja's father and Grandfather, and in whom Punjeet Singh reposed the greatest confidence.

About two days afterwards the Maharaja having fully satisfied himself that the Diamond which he had obtained from the Shah was the genuine

\*Koh-i-noor signifies in English "the Moon." "Jain of light." A name given to it by Nadir Shah King of Persia, it is stated, but on what authority I cannot trace.

"Koh-i-noor" sent him a lakh and twenty five thousand Rupees as a donation, and Dewan Mookum Chund was desired by the Maharaja to have this money conveyed to him.

The Maharaja then went to Amritser,

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and Raja Tej Singh who accompanied him on that occasion, has obligingly furnished me with the following particulars.

Ranjit Singh had no sooner arrived at Amritser, than he sent for the principal Jewellers of that City to ascertain from them their opinion of the value of the Koh-i-noor, which having carefully examined, they replied that the value of a Diamond of such great size and beauty was far beyond all computation. The Maharaja desired them to set the Diamond in a handsome and suitable manner, and this work was executed in his Highness' presence, for he would not allow them to take the precious jewel out of his sight.

The setting being completed, Ranjit Singh fixed the Koh-i-noor in the front of his Turban, mounted his Elephant, and accompanied by Sardars and attendants, paraded several times up and down the principal Streets of the City, in order that his subjects might see the Koh-i-noor in his possession.

He returned to his Palace in the Bhun-guean Fort, situated in the City of Amritser, and having partaken freely of his favorite and potent beverage as he <sup>was</sup> wont to do, on occasions of great rejoicing, and feeling that his senses were fast yielding to its intoxicating effects, he conceived considerable anxiety for the safety of the Koh-i-noor; for on a former occasion, when he had been indulging freely in like manner, a valuable  
jewel

jewel had been stolen from him.

He sent for Tej Singh and fastening the Diamond round his waist desired him to repair with it at once to the Fort of Govindghur and deliver it to Mr. Mustee Ram, the Maharaja's Treasurer. Tej Singh was quickly mounted on Runjeet Singh's own elephant, and attended by guards of Infantry and Cavalry, started on this important mission, and soon returned with the Miss's receipt for the Diamond, seeing which the Maharaja again felt easy in his mind, and resumed the potation which had been somewhat suddenly interrupted.

The Koh-i-noor was produced and worn by Runjeet Singh as an Amulet on the Darg Mala, the Dusserah, and other great festivals, and it was always exhibited to visitors of distinction, especially to British Officers who visited his Court. Runjeet Singh took the Koh-i-noor with him wherever he travelled, to Moaldan, Peshawar and other places.

Suqueer Noor-oo-daru told me the other day, when I was talking to him about the Koh-i-noor, that a few months after the Maharaja had obtained possession of it, he sent for him, and said that with all his endeavours he had failed to ascertain its value, and desired him to go to the Wafa Begum, and to ascertain the value of it, from her if possible. The Begum

reply

reply was rather an amusing one, viz<sup>t</sup>, that if a strong man were to throw four Stones, one to each of the Cardinal points, North, South, East and West, and a fifth Stone vertically, and if the interspace were to be filled with Gold and precious Stones, they would not equal in value the Koh-i-noor.

Shah Shooja, her Husband, when asked the same question, is said to have replied "Good luck" for he who has possessed it, has obtained it by overpowering his enemies.

When Runjeet Singh was dying, and had lost all power of speech, Hoor Khuruk Singh his son, Dhian Singh, Prime Minister, Khoshal Singh Chief Officer in the Army, Phai Govind Ram, and Muksoodam Chief Clerk, had assembled around the bed on which he was lying. Govind Ram addressing him said "Maharaj" (Great King) you have often expressed to us your intention to send the Koh-i-noor to the temple of Juggurnath, as an offering to Krishna (the God.) is it your wish that it should be thus disposed of? upon which the Maharaja it is said inclined his head and made a sign by which he indicated his approval, and accordingly the assembled Chiefs sent for Miss Baylee Ram, who had succeeded to the Charge of the Treasury, and also of the Koh-i-noor and desired him to produce the Diamond, at once, for the purpose

purpose of its being sent to Suggurnath, the Miss here-  
 stated, and replied, that it was not in his power, to do  
 so, for it being the property of the State. Now Noo Nihal  
 Singh (the Grand son of Ranjeet Singh then at Pesha-  
 -war.) would hold him responsible for its safety.  
 The Chiefs remonstrated, but in vain, for the Miss was  
 firm. Ranjeet Singh shortly afterwards died, and  
 thus the jewel was preserved to the State.

Muruckh Singh sometimes wore it during  
 his short reign; Sher Sing being fond of display, fre-  
 -quently did so.

Shortly after Sher Sing was murdered and  
 poor Miss Baylee Ram, shared the same fate as his  
 Master, and Ranee Chundoh's intrigues, having seated  
 her son the youthful Dhuleep, on the throne of Ranjeet  
 Singh, and raised herself to power, she appointed her  
 paramour, Lal Singh, to the Charge of the Tosha Khana,  
 which contained the Koh-i-noor and other state jewels, and  
 when Lal Singh had been deposed and ordered out of  
 the Punjab, the Durbar immediately placed a  
 Guard over the Tosha Khana, and appointed  
 Miss Meg Raj to the Charge of it, which Office he holds  
 at present.

After the annexation of the Punjab the  
 British Civil Authorities at Lahore took possession  
 of the Koh-i-noor, and of several of the most valua-  
 -ble of the state jewels, and deposited them in the

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Notes Mundur Treasury, where, with the exception of the Koh-i-noor, they remain as present.

Tavernier states that the Koh-i-noor weighs 319 Ratis and a half, which <sup>make</sup> 279 and  $\frac{9}{16}$ ths of our Carats, when it was rough it weighed 907 Ratis which make 793 Carats; it lost therefore 628 Carats in cutting. The Sketch of it in Tavernier's work is a very Correct one. The Koh-i-noor Diamond is stated to be worth 380,000 guineas, though there is a small flaw near the bottom of it. Tavernier who fully examined the Koh-i-noor valued the Carat at 150 french livres.

Miss Baylee Raw weighed the Koh-i-noor by order of Runjeet Singh, and it weighed 39 Mashas which make 312 Ratis; most probably it was then pure, which would account for the difference of Ratis between the weights given by Tavernier and Miss Baylee Raw. A Carat is  $\frac{3}{16}$ th <sup>Grains</sup> i.e. the Diamond Carat. A Rati is less than 2 grains or  $1\frac{1}{8}$  Troy.

For valuation of Diamonds, Mr. Jaffer's lays down the following rule; the first supposes the value of a rough Diamond to be settled at 2 £ per Carat, at a medium; then to find the value of Diamonds of greater weight, multiply the square of their weight by 2, and the product is the value required. Therefore to find the value of a rough Diamond of 2 Carats,  $2 \times 2 = 4$  the square of weight multiplied by 2 gives 8 £ the value of



of a rough Diamond of 2 Carats.

For finding the value of Manufactured Diamonds he supposes half the weight to be lost in manufacturing them; and therefore to find the value we must multiply the square of double their weight by 2, which will give the true value in pounds. Thus to find the value of a wrought Diamond weighing two Carats, we first find the square of double the weight viz:  $4 \times 4 = 16$  then  $16 \times 2 = 32$  - so that the true value of a wrought Diamond of 2 Carats is 32 £. - On these principles Mr. Tifferias has constructed Tables of Diamonds from 1 to 100 Carats.

According to this rule the Moh-i-  
-noor is worth  
£ 622.728.

The following particulars, relative to some of the largest Diamonds in the world may not perhaps at this time, prove unacceptable to the Board, although they are not immediately connected with the subject of this report.

The largest Diamond ever known in the world is one belonging to the King of Portugal, and was found in Brazil. It is still uncut, and was of a larger size originally, but a piece was broken out of it by an ignorant Countryman, who chanced to find this great gem, and tried its hardness by the stroke of a large hammer upon the Anvil. - This prodigious Diamond weighs 1680 Carats, and though uncut, Mr. Rome de Lisle says, <sup>that</sup> it is valued at 224 Millions Sterling, which gives

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the estimation of 79.36 or about 80 £ Sterling for each Carat, viz<sup>t</sup> for the Multiplian<sup>d</sup> of the square of its whole weight.

The famous Diamond in the sceptre of the King of Russia weighs 779 Carats, and its worth is at least 4.854.728 pounds Sterling although it cost only 135.417 guineas. This Diamond was originally one of the eyes of a Malabrian idol, named Scheringham, and a french grenadier who had deserted, from the Indian service, contrived to become one of the Priests of that idol, and by that means to steal it, after passing through several hands, the late Prince Arloff purchased it at Amsterdam, in 1766 for his Sovereign the Emperor of Russia.

In "Phillip's Facts" it is mentioned that another Diamond belonging to the Royal family of Portugal weighs 215 Carats, is extremely fine, and is worth at least 369.000 guineas.

The Pitt Diamond weighs 186½ Carats, and is worth 208,333 guineas, although it did not cost above half that sum.

The Austrian Diamond weighs 139½ Carats, and was bought on a Common stall, as a piece of rock crystal.

I beg in conclusion to express my regret at the delay which has taken place in my submitting this report to the Board, but strange to say, I have found it

Very

very difficult, even at Lahore to obtain authentic informa-  
-tion regarding the history of the Koh-i-noor Diamond,  
(and the multiplicity of my duties as a District Officer, left me  
little leisure for making such researches.

I have &c.

Signed, G. H. Macgregor.  
Deputy Commissioner.

Lahore  
April 20<sup>th</sup> 1850

True Copy.

P. S. Keble  
Secretary to the Board of  
Administration.

W. G. J.  
Copied  
M. M. Keble

