

selves; secondly, as abstracting in a still greater degree power and influence from a political enemy; thirdly, as preventing the union of the Sikh nation under an aspiring ruler of extraordinary character; fourthly, as interposing between our frontier and that of a powerful rival the territories of dependent states, by which war, whether offensive or defensive, would be kept at a distance from our country; fifthly, by the greater security afforded to the capital city and important political post of Dihlee, to which, otherwise, the power of Runjeet Singh would have approximated within a few miles, affording him the opportunity of attacking it suddenly in the event of our being involved in war with other powers; lastly, perhaps the assumption of our proper station as the protectors of the weak and the opposers of the oppressor, was not the least of the advantages of the arrangement, with reference to its impression on all parties.

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TO N. B. EDMONSTONE, CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

November 6, 1808.

SIR, — Although my several despatches have detailed all the circumstances worthy of mention that have occurred in the progress of the negotiation with Runjeet Singh, it will, I conceive, be proper to state to you, in a collected form, all the proposals and stipulations which he advances.

These are as follows:

First. Some sort of treaty of perpetual amity or connexion to be continued with his heirs.

Second. The acknowledgment of his sovereignty over the whole Sikh country, or an engagement not to oppose his aggressions against the independent Sikh chiefs, and not to assist at any time any Sikh chiefs against him.

Third. An engagement not to interfere in favor of the King of Caubul to prevent his aggression against the King's dominions.