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Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine

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1820-1895 James Bruce was the second son of Thomas, 7th Earl of Elgin and his second wife Elisabeth Oswald. After Eton and Oxford, he took on the management of the Broomhall estate which was heavily encumbered by debt. In 1841 he became Conservative Member of Parliament for Southampton but his political career was cut short when he succeeded to the title after the death of his father in November 1841 (his elder brother George, Lord Bruce, had died in November 1840). From then until his early death in 1863, he spent most of his life overseas in the service of the Crown, as Governor of Jamaica (1842-1846), Governor-in-Chief of the Province of Canada and Governor General of the colonies of British North America (1847-1854), High Commissioner and Plenipotentiary to China and Japan (1857-9 and 1860-61), and Viceroy and Governor General of India (1862-3). He married firstly Elizabeth Mary [Elma] Cumming-Bruce of Dunphail in April 1841 who died in Jamaica in June 1843, having produced one surviving daughter, Elma (1842-1923). He married secondly Lady Mary Louisa Lambton (?1819-1898), daughter of the 1st earl of Durham. They had five children: Victor (1849-1917); Robert (1851-1893), Charles (1853-1863), Frederick (1854-1920) and Louisa (1856-1902).

[Olive Checkland, 'Bruce, James, eighth earl of Elgin and twelfth earl of Kincardine (1811-1863)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004; online edn, May 2009
[<http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/3737>, accessed 29 June 2011]; *Burke's Peerage and Baronetage*, Vol I (London, 1999) Elgin and Kincardine.]

Personal correspondence and papers of James Bruce, 8th Earl of Elgin and 12th Earl of Kincardine (1811-1863), and his wife Mary Lambton, Countess of Elgin (1819?-1898) The papers comprise the private correspondence of the 8th Earl and that of his wife Mary, to each other, to and from other close members of the family and with friends. As well as shedding light on family matters, they are also useful in what they tell us of the 8th Earl's diplomatic career. On his absences from home on his two China missions and in India, Elgin would send his wife long letters in the form of a journal. Substantial extracts from these were used in 'Extracts from the Letters of James Earl of Elgin to Mary Louisa, Countess of Elgin, 1847-1862' (Edinburgh, 1864) and 'Letters and Journals of James, 8th Earl of Elgin' ed. by Theodore Walrond (London, 1872). This correspondence was also used for the chapters on the 8th Earl in Sydney Checkland's 'The Elgins, 1766-1917' (Aberdeen, 1988).

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Official correspondence relating to his diplomatic career can be found in NRAS3955/76.

Arrangement

The papers were used in the preparation of Sydney Checkland's book 'The Elgins 1766-1917: A tale of aristocrats, proconsuls and their wives' (Aberdeen, 1988) and bear some of his handwritten notes and labels. The papers are substantially in their original bundles but there is some evidence of reorganisation by Checkland. This arrangement has been retained by the cataloguer.

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1834-1857 Correspondence between Lord Elgin and his parents.

Including:

Letter from his father, the 7th Earl of Elgin, on the advantages and disadvantages of a career in the diplomatic service, enclosing a copy of his letter to the Duke [of Wellington?] thanking him for his offer of assistance and protection to his son in the diplomatic service, Broomhall, 27 Dec 1834;

Copy of Elgin's letter to his father on his unsuccessful bid for election in Fife, Aug 1837;

Elgin to his father mentioning an unsuccessful attempt by the tenants at the foundry to make pig iron and his proposal to erect a new berth on the west side of the new pier, Broomhall, 16 Aug 1841;

Elgin to his father on his maiden speech in the House of Commons, 29 Aug 1841;

Elgin to his mother from Canada and Scotland, 1847-1857 (16 letters) including: on his reception in Quebec in which the societies St Jean Baptiste and St George joined in one procession for the first time, Quebec, 27 Sep 1847; on Canadian affairs including Jesuit teaching at one of the Roman Catholic colleges [unnamed] there, Beaumont near Quebec, 10 Aug 1848; on his policy towards the native Canadians, including setting up boarding schools, 'the only chance of weaning them from their desultory habits and idleness', and contrast with his visit to New York, Toronto, 7 Nov 1850; on Dr Chalmers' visit to Oxford in 1835, Quebec, 26 Mar 1852; on the Reciprocity Treaty, Quebec 7 July 1854.

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22c1843-
1866

Copies of letters and other papers, possibly to Lord Elgin or for circulation to other family members, (13 items).
Including:

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Text written on the monument raised by the Jamaican legislature in memory of Elizabeth Mary (Elma), Countess of Elgin and her daughter Mary, who died 6 and 7 June 1843;

Copy letter to Lady Augusta Bruce from her brother Sir Frederick Bruce on the taking of the Peiho Forts and a comparison of the British and French forces, 22 May 1858;

Copy letter from Sir Humphrey Ward to Lord Elgin congratulating him on his actions in sending troops to India, nd (c. August 1857);

Copy letter of condolence from General Robert Bruce to the Prince of Wales on the death of Prince Albert, 16 Dec 1861;

Extract relating to General Bruce taken from the dedication to the Prince of Wales of the sermons preached before HRH in the East by Arthur Stanley, nd;

Copy letter of condolence to Lady Augusta Bruce from Florence Nightingale on the death of General Bruce, 29 June 1862;

Copy letter of condolence to Mrs Katharine Bruce from Sir Charles Beaumont Phipps, Osborne, on the death of her husband General Bruce, and on the impact this has had on the Prince of Wales, 29 June 1862;

Copy letter to Lady Elgin from F E Campbell, St Hilaire, Canada, on Lord Elgin's career in Canada, and particularly his actions in Montreal in 1849, 1 Oct 1866.

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1840-1885

Miscellaneous correspondence and papers relating to Lord Elgin,
Including:

Copy letters from Lord Elgin to Captain [later Sir Charles] Darling (1809-1870) on the latter's career, personal matters and Canadian and Chinese affairs, 1846-1862 (10 letters). Darling was Elgin's Agent-General for Immigration and Adjutant-General of the Militia in Jamaica. He later went on to become Governor of Jamaica (1857-1862). Including: letter of 12 Nov 1846, in which Lord Elgin gives a brief summary of what he believes to have been his achievements in Jamaica.

Notes relating to Lord Elgin copied from a private manuscript of Sir Francis Doyle (1810-1888) and sent to

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Lady Elgin, 26 Sep 1885.

Copies of Lord Elgin's description of the landscape on a journey from Grantown on Spey to Bridge of Earn, 8 Dec 1840;

'Lines on Scotland', a poem by the Hon James Bruce (nd, but before Nov 1841);

Part undated letter from Lord Elgin, signed 'James', on religious faith, written from Hamilton Palace.

Copy letter from John Fleming, Stoneham Park, to 'Sir Philip', extolling the success of a speech given by Lord Elgin at a gathering of conservative gentlemen, 15 Oct 1840.

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1841-1872

Miscellaneous printed and manuscript papers relating to the Earl of Elgin.
Including:

Commission in favour of James Bruce as Deputy Lieutenant of Fifeshire, 5 July 1841;

Address to Lord Elgin by the tenants of Broomhall after his father's death, 1841;

Invitation to Lord Elgin from the members of the Association for the Improvement and Extension of the Scottish Universities to be its President, nd, signed by a number academics including James Young Simpson;

Freedom of the burgh of Dunfermline in favour of Lord Elgin, 16 Dec 1846;

Papers relating to the Orders of the Thistle and the Bath, 1847-1864 (8 items) including royal letters of appointment of Lord Elgin as Knight of the Thistle, 12 July 1847 and as Knight of the Bath, 28 Sep 1858;

Appointment of Lord Elgin as Privy Councillor, 21 March 1857;

Letter of condolence on the death of Lord Elgin to W H Thurlow, Private Secretary to the Viceroy and Governor General of India, from the Fourth Musulman Mosque, Port Louis, Mauritius, 9 Jan 1864, signed by its members;

Letter from the Town Council of Dunfermline congratulating Lord Elgin on his success in China, 17 April 1861;

Reference		
NRAS3955	Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine	
		<p>Printed menus (2) for a banquet at the Mansion House given by the Lord Mayor for Lord Elgin, 8 May 1861;</p> <p>Signed address by the East India and China Association of London, congratulating him on his success in China and Japan, 1 June 1859;</p> <p>Condolences from the Legislative Council of Jamaica on the death of Lord Elgin, 1864;</p> <p>Passport for the Countess of Elgin, Lady Louisa Bruce and a maid servant, 12 Feb 1872.</p>
NRAS3955/75/26	1845-1855	<p>Newspaper cuttings relating to Jamaica and Canada, [21 items] Including: The Jamaica Guardian and Patriot, 23 Oct 1845;</p> <p>The Cornwall Chronicle and County Gazette, 4 Nov 1845;</p> <p>The Falmouth Post, 28 Oct 1845;</p> <p>The Canada Gazette, 10 May 1849 and 6 Sep 1854;</p> <p>The British Colonist, 22 Oct 1847, part only.</p>
NRAS3955/75/27	1851-1872	<p>Newspaper cuttings and printed material, [6 items] Including: The Church Missionary Intelligencer, Jan 1851;</p> <p>'Our Colonies': An address delivered to the Members of the Mechanics' Institute, Chester, 12 Nov 1855 by W E Gladstone (London, 1855);</p> <p>The Bengal Hurkaru and India Gazette, 11 Feb 1863;</p> <p>Lord Elgin: In memoriam (c. 1863). Possibly a proof copy as there are ink amendments as well as pencil marks.</p>
NRAS3955/75/28	c 1854	<p>Cuttings (7) from Canadian newspapers relating to politics and the Earl of Elgin.</p>
NRAS3955/75/33	29 Apr-10 Jul 1857	<p>Letters (nos 1-12) and telegrams from James Bruce, 8th Earl of Elgin to his wife Mary, en route to the East, written as a journal of his experiences ['I intend my letters to you to be my journal - so however unintended they may be do not destroy them', 10 May].</p>

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Including:

2. 'Thursday off Corsica' [end April] : Aboard HMS Caradoc on the way to Malta. Brief descriptions of Corsica and Sardinia and his life on board ship;

3. 2-4 May ': In Malta visits Lord Lyons in the Governor's Palace, visits Lord Balgonie (d. 29/08/1857) and his sisters 'Poor fellow! the hand of death is only too visibly upon him, his innkeeper in Malta is the son of an old Broomhall servant named Hood; 'of my companions Loch is the one who grows most upon me. Morrison I fear will not be of much use as an artist. He does not venture on landscape.';

4. 6 -8 May, Alexandria and Cairo: He has been taken to the Palace in the Turkish quarter reserved for the reception of distinguished strangers, he dines with Mr Green, who replaces Frederick Bruce, Elgin's brother, as consul; Mrs Green tells of her meeting with the wife of the Pacha and the mother of his heir, who is to be brought to visit England by his English nurse,'the mother is of no more thought of in this arrangement than I am';visits his brother's house and is surrounded by a ceremonial formality which he finds 'quite astounding'; travels by train to Cairo and is impressed by the fertility of the country; visits the Mosque at the citadel illuminated for Ramadan;

5. 10- 14 May, Bentinck, Red Sea': recounts his trip to Suez, first by railway through the Valley of the Nile 'teaming with products & life, animal and vegetable', then by 'two-wheeled four horse vans (such as you see in the Illustrated London News)' over the desert and then, for the last 47 miles, by carriage 'as capacious & commodious as a London town coach'; his impressions of Egypt, 'France and England by their mutual jealousies will be the means of perpetuating the abomination of the system under which that country is ruled', the Pacha is rich but the 'fellahs' are not bad off; compares condition of women in Egypt, who go out little and then fully covered, to those in Constantinople, the callers to prayer from the Minarets are deliberately selected from the blind so that they cannot see into harems; conditions on board ship and his travelling companions (young officers and cadets for India), he bathes in a canvas hut erected on deck; 'Morrison ...does nothing in the way of sketching so that I do not see any prospect of my getting the sort of record of my travels which I so much desired to have';

7. 19 - 26 May, Bentinck and Point de Galle, Ceylon: Poor food and drink on board, 'there is not a drop of champagne on the vessel'; stops at Aden to load coal, 'dreary spot'; he

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visits some large old tanks constructed to catch water with the Governor and tries an Indian hookah; his homesickness and missing his family; 'the more I read of the Blue Books & papers with which I have been furnished the more embarrassing the question with which I have to deal appears... I think we have... behaved scandalously to the Chinese';

8. 27-31 May, Steam Ship Singapore: Ceylon is 'snug and green', cocoa is the 'all in all of the natives'; is conducted with all honour to the 'Queen House' where he meets Gen Arbuthnott arrived recently from Bombay with reports of 'a serious mutiny in the Bombay army..The Mutineers have murdered Europeans, seized the fort and treasures of Delhi and proclaimed the son of the Great Mogul'; he writes to Clarendon to the effect that the completion of his mission to China was even more necessary to free regiments for service in India; the ship smells of laudanum as there are 1500 chests of opium on board; the Captain reports a conversation with the Admiral at Hong Kong who had heard that the Chinese Commissioner Yeh had collected 65 000 fighting men in Canton, and that though he was a man of peace, it was 'impossible for him to bear the conduct of Yeh';

9. 1-3 June, 'Off Penang': In Penang he meets the Bishop of Labuan, retired there for his health. He and his wife were both at Sarawak during the latest troubles there but the Chinese did not harm them. He had 50 converts there and ran a school for Chinese boys.; 'I am about to do with a strange people -so much to admire in them, & yet with a perversity of disposition which makes it absolutely necessary if you are to live with them at all, to treat them severely, sometimes almost with cruelty'; he is received at the Governor's House by an assembly, including Chinese in full Mandarin costume;

10. 5-19 June, Singapore: He has received letters from Canning imploring him to send troops. Elgin has none to give him but has sent word out to turn the transports back and to proceed to India; he awaits the arrival of HMS Shannon, which finally arrives on the 11th; he has visited Mrs Matilda Grant and some Chinese temples: 'Nothing can be more utterly uninteresting than Chinese religion'; the arrival of a French steamer and gunboat enroute for China; a levee at which he wears his official 'gold coat', attended by some Chinese robed in Mandarin costume; a visit to a prison for 2500 murderers from India, the women are freed after two years on condition that they marry a convict; the convicts are building a church at the cost of the Indian government; visits some of the opium shops, 'wretched dark

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places..the smokers are haggard and stupefied'; a visit from Tumongong of Johore and the sultan; a visit to an establishment of 'Freres Chretiens';

11. 22 -23 June, Singapore: The 'Simorin' arrives with the 5th regiment from the Mauritius and is sent to India; a 'field day' at which the supply regiments, volunteers and artillery attack an imaginary enemy; he is invited on to the French ships for dinner and 'theatricals (two programmes enclosed);

12. 24- 10 July, HMS Shannon: description of the ship and his life on board; arrival at Hong Kong on 3rd July; meets the British Admiral and the Governor; he holds a well attended levee - 'the course which I am about to follow does not square with the views of the Merchants' but his speech was well received

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34 12 Jul-29
Dec 1857

Letters (nos 13-27) from James Bruce, 8th Earl of Elgin to his wife Mary, mainly from Calcutta, continuing his journal. Including:

13. 12 July - 8 Aug, Hong Kong and HMS Shannon: while waiting in Hong Kong for the French and American representatives and having no troops, he has received letters from Canning; he has decided to go to Calcutta as the French ambassador, Baron Gros, would not arrive until December;the great distance from headquarters is a problem 'I shall not hear whether the Govt approve or not of this move of mine until it has become matter of history' and contrasts his position with 'the diplomatic functionary in Europe' communicating by telegraph; monotony of life on ship; they pass a merchant ship from Calcutta with a letter for Elgin from Canning which confirmed him in his decision; reaches Singapore on the 28th where they take on 100 men of the 90th regiment; word from Canning to say that the troop ships, the Simeon and the Himalaya had arrived at Calcutta.

14. 9 Aug, Calcutta: their arrival has been 'exceedingly well received', has met with Canning but does not 'discover signs of a great policy adequate to the great emergency';

15. 11-23 Aug, Calcutta: Capt Peel and the men of the Shannon are to become a naval brigade and move on Delhi, the ship remains opposite Calcutta, 'able, if need be, to knock all the city to bits'; the Cannings' daily regime and character, the political situation and how it might be viewed in England and his wife's 'active interest in affairs, rather more so than square easily with my notions'; Elgin's force 'is to be sacrificed without any reserve or scruple to his [Canning's]

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necessities', all troops are to be turned back from Singapore; he has received a letter from Sir Henry George Ward (1797-1860) supporting his actions and the general ingratitude in Calcutta; attitudes of his countrymen towards the Indians, 'detestation, contempt, ferocity, vengeance, whether Chinamen or Indians be the object';

16. 26 Aug-2 Sept, Calcutta: Celebrations for the festival of Muharram and British fears of trouble; he dines with the Scots missionary, Alexander Duff (1806-1878); fears for Lucknow where a small party of soldiers and some 400 women and children are besieged by 15 000 mutineers (encloses Indian newspaper cuttings regarding his arrival);

18. 10-12 Sept, 'on board steamer Ava' and Singapore: his ill health on board; arrives Singapore on the 11th, 'the only place where I have felt well or comfortable'; Baron Gros has not arrived; he notes how strange to read in the British press about the confidence placed in Canning in India, 'when one has been at Calcutta & heard people on the spot speak'; about his China mission he writes, 'I have only one wish which is to get away from this abominable business as soon as I possibly can';

19. 20 -25 Sept, Hong Kong: his dilemma over whether to go north which might force the Emperor to declare war or to stay in the south and make pacific overtures, which would be against Lord Palmerston's instructions; he plans to send his brother Frederick with a letter to the mouth of the Peiho rather than go himself;

20. 25 Sept - 5 Oct, Hong Kong: the difficulties caused him by Palmerston stating in Parliament that Britain is not at war with China; the absence of the French and Americans; a storm at sea;

21. 8 - 16 Oct, Hong Kong: news from India that the 5th and 90th Regiments were marching to relieve the siege at Lucknow; 'The Government having sent me out with the intention that I'd make a war that w[oul]d require a military force are quietly giving the public to understand that I came here to make peace'; it will not be possible to hold Canton by a naval force alone; the Chinese believe that the British cannot fight them on land; expresses astonishment at the supplies provided, 'this is the reaction to the economies practised in the Crimea;

22. 18-30 Oct, Hong Kong: his meeting with Baron Gros, 'he is a great artist & Painter in oils & is first rate as a

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photographer';

24. 31 Oct-15 Nov: death of his half-sister, Mathilda Stirling-Maxwell and of Lord Balgonie; visit to Macao and the American ambassador, Reid, on board the Minnesota; encloses a Chinese hand coloured sketch of an attack on Sir Hugh Gough's army in 1841;

23. 17-28 Nov, Hong Kong : The Russian ambassador is 'miserably lodged' on a small steamer; character of the Governor Sir John Bowring (1792-1872) and an argument regarding the sending away of troops, and of General Ashburnham, who has hesitated to return to India, 'we are all more or less insane, but some are certainly more so than others';

25. 2-16 Dec, Macao and Hong Kong: finalisation of plans with the French and American ambassadors; he is living in the house of Wilkinson Dent (1800-1886) head of the company Dent & Co; he has prepared an ultimatum to be delivered to Lieutenant Governor Yeh on the 12th, if he does not give in, the city of Canton would be taken, 'Few people have been in a position which required greater tact: 4 ambassadors 2 admirals a General and Sir J B! [Sir John Bowring]'; he has heard from Canning that Lucknow has been relieved;

26. 17- 28 Dec: 'Furious Canton River': Henan has been occupied and he has received a refusal from Yeh though his answer 'reads as if [he]was at his wit's end'; 'I fear that under cover of the blockade... great abuses have taken place and that some of the officers of our gunboats have been acting the part of something very like pirates'; he is taken in a gunboat past Canton where a line of British men of war are anchored, 'I never felt so ashamed of myself in my life...I feel that I am earning for myself a place in the litany immediately after 'plague, pestilence and famine' '; plans for the attack on Canton; further ultimatum sent to Yeh and receipt of reply 'more twaddly than the first'; beginning of attack on the 28th;

nd: Copy memoranda for attack on Canton with a traced map of the area.

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352 Jan-3
Apr 1858

Letters (nos 28-37) from James Bruce, 8th Earl of Elgin to his wife Mary, mainly from H.M.S. Furious and Hong Kong. Including:
28. 2-14 Jan, HMS Furious: his distrust of the press;
description of the attack on Canton- a bombardment of 27

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hours but with less damage than feared; attempts to stop looting; Yeh is captured; he visits Canton and finds it a 'melancholy spectacle'; Yeh is persuaded to govern Canton under the allies; he has sent via Mrs Grey 'rather a good portrait of Yeh by Morison' (with letter to Mrs Grey, 'I shall not enter on business as...The Times correspondent have given a full report of all that has happened here');

29. 16-28 Jan: problems in maintaining order with evidence of further looting by French sailors and Chinese running away from the city; the situation does not improve but 'No human power shall induce me to accept the office of oppressor of the feeble'; complaints against the British General there from his staff; preparations for evacuation of the city and the return of order; discusses reasons for the taking of the city 'to prove that we could take it, [and] to have in our hands something to give up when we come to terms with the Emperor', and for the French joining the campaign; encloses a leaf of geranium 'culled in the garden of the Tartar general';

30. 29 Jan- 14 Feb: the arrival of Mme de Bourboulon [Catherine Fanny MacLeod, 1827-1865]; a visit to the Canton prisons to look for European prisoners, much to the annoyance of the city's Governor Pekwei; lifting of the blockade; his brother Frederick has been sent to Macao to the US ambassador Reid to invite him to join Elgin north to move on negotiation as at Shanghai;

31. 20-27 Feb: Furious and Hong Kong: Yeh has been sent to Calcutta; Laurence Oliphant has taken a letter from Elgin to Shanghai; enclosing a letter to Frederick Bruce from the Captain of the Minesota congratulating Lord Elgin on 'the flattering prospects that his Lordship's untiring effort, moderation and great humanity are about to be rewarded' (20 Feb);

[There is no number 32]

33.1-2 Mar, Hong Kong: 'These letters are my conscience & memory, the only record I keep of passing emotions & events'; he is about to embark for Shanghai;

34. 5-7 Mar, Swatow [Shantou]: the settlement there consists of agents of Dent & Jardine trading in opium and 'kidnapping wretched coolies'; on the island inhabited by the 'Foreigners' he has breakfast with William Chalmers Burns (1815-1868) the missionary;

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36. 14-18 Mar, Furious: Laurence Oliphant has been well received in Soochow, a city normally not open to foreigners and the 'seat of beauty and fashion in the Empire'; he visits Foochowfoo and the surrounding district, studded with tombs, 'a sort of Pere la Chaise in a kitchen garden'; 'our trade is carried on principles which are dishonest as regards the Chinese and demoralizing to our own people'; divination at a Bhuddist temple (he encloses the propitious text of slip of paper cast for him); missionaries and converts;

37. 20 Mar-3 Apr, Furious: meets a Miss Aldernay who devotes herself to the education and Christianisation of Chinese girls at Ningpo; a Roman Catholic priest, E P Peschaud, at Chusan (and encloses a letter which had accompanied orphan children with gifts of eggs and chickens for Lord Elgin); a temple at Totow; Chapoo, a port which the British government want Elgin to open to trade; at Shanghai he stays in the consul's house and visits a bathing establishment; the Chinese have sent a Commissioner to Canton to replace Yeh; he addresses the Chinese also hinting to the British manufacturers that they must not 'trust to Cannonn if they intend to get a market in China'.

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36 [4 Apr]-
Jul 1858

Letters (nos 38-45) from James Bruce, 8th Earl of Elgin to his wife Mary, mainly from H.M.S. Furious and Shanghai.

Including:

38. 4-9 Apr, Shanghai: differences between Protestant and Catholic missionaries; a meeting with the American missionary Elijah C Bridgeman (1801-1861) who stated that 'the chastisement they [the Cantonese] had received was quite necessary; he has sent all ships that can be spared to the Gulf of Pechili and he will follow with the other allies;

39. 11-29 Apr, Purin at sea: sailing to the mouth of the Peiho; frustration at Admiral Seymour (1802-87) and delays he has caused by sending only one of 18 gunboats from Hong Kong, 'being a man of small intellect he is very unmanageable when he gets an idea into his head'; poor behaviour of the French Admiral; public opinion of Canning's 'clemency' in India; rendezvous at the mouth of the Peiho and a wait for light gunboats to get them over the mud bar; he finds himself in a humiliating position, with two French gunboats, two English (sic) despatch boats aground on the bar 'a perfect driveller for an admiral-a general not much better - a sot for a Commadore and an old woman for the second in command up here (Sir F Nicolson)';

40. 6-22 May: attacks in the press and 'the rascally Times

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correspondent'; the English boats have crossed the bar and under fire from the nearby forts but the Admiral would not agree to take the forts as no reconnaissance had been made of the surrounding area; bemoans his 'want of authority over the naval and military', he feels he has spent the worst time of his career since 1849; taking of the forts on the 20th;

[There is no number 41]

42. 23 May- 4 June, Furious, Gulf of Pecheli: Admiral Seymour has written to say that he is 2 miles from Tientsin (26th), Frederick is with him; 'I do not think that these poor timorous people [the Chinese] have any notion of resisting'; he has received a despatch from the new Government in London giving him the latitude to do anything he chooses to finish the affair; on the 29th he moves north to Tientsin, 'there is certainly not much to regret in the old civilisation which we are thus scattering to the winds. A dense population, timorous and pauperised - such would seem to be its chief product';

43. 5 June-19 June, Tientsin: had an interview with the Chinese plenipotentiaries on the 4th June, accompanied by 150 marines and the band of the 'Calcutta', at which he decided to act the role of the 'uncontrollably fierce barbarian' and declined to treat as the documents detailing the powers of the Chinese officials were inadequate; his frustration with the Admirals and the intrigues of Bowring; believes the Americans are doing all they can to thwart him; the exaggerations of the reports to The Times from 'our own correspondent';

44. 19 June-14 July, Tientsin and Shanghai: the American and Russian ambassadors ask that two demands be withdrawn as the Emperor had made known to his plenipotentiaries that if they conceded these points, they would lose their heads, that the British and French should have the right to have an ambassador in Peking and that they should be allowed to trade in the interior of China; Frederick is sent to the Imperial Commissioners to tell them that if there was any delay in signing the Treaty, he would go to Peking and demand a great deal more - the Treaty was signed that evening (the 26th) and the Emperor's assent received the following Sunday; he sets off south and Frederick is despatched to England with the Treaty; 'once at home again, I never intend to have anything more to do with the public service';

Sketch of the attack on the forts at the mouth of the Peiho by

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the French and British, with a description of the action, 'R M' (possibly Morrison, the Earl's artist), 21 May 1858;

45. 18-30 July, Shanghai: the Emperor has named the commissioners to come to Shanghai to settle the question of the tariffs, and in the meantime he will go to Nagasacki.

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371 Aug-3
Sep 1858

Letter from James Bruce, 8th Earl of Elgin to his wife Mary, in journal form, mainly from H.M.S. Furious and Japan. His letters are no longer numbered.

The beauty of the scenery in Japan and his impressions of the people and their system of government; his desire to get a treaty agreed as soon as possible but his concern that, after exclusion to foreigners for so long, the change to the country might not be a positive one; a visit from the vice-General of Nagasacki; the town itself is 'wonderfully clean after China - not a beggar to be seen...the social and moral conditions of Japan have astounded me quite as much as its material beauty'; he suffers from the heat though not as badly as in Shanghai; at Shimoda meets the American Consul General Townshend Harris [1804-1878] who has recently signed a treaty with the Japanese; he borrows Harris' interpreter as the Japanese communicate best in Dutch; his problem is 'How to make a treaty without terms, interpreters or credentials!'; the Japanese interpreter signals that the Japanese are divided over the signing of a treaty and that some of the hereditary princes have threatened revolt; at Yedo [Edo] he is given a house near the Palace but presses for a grander one to gain respect from his hosts; the attitude of the Japanese forces him to be 'very presumptuous and overbearing'; excursions in the countryside; the treaty is finally signed on the 26th and the steam yacht 'Emperor' is handed over.

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385 Sep
1858-26
Apr 1859

Letters (11) from James Bruce, 8th Earl of Elgin to his wife Mary, in the form of a journal, mainly from Shanghai and H.M.S. Furious.

Including:

5 Sep: Sir John Bowring, 'though universally hated and despised ... has got a good deal of influence for mischief through his son who is a member of Jardine's House and prospective millionaire..I dread leaving the tail of my mission in his hands.' Fears among the British Hong Kong and Shanghai communities of the opening up of China to trade, 'This is the secret of their malevolence to me.';

26 Sep: his disagreements with the Admiral and how his actions have been poorly understood at home. 'I have no

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doubt but that the whole treaty may be made a failure if incompetent people are appointed to carry it out.';

10 Oct: Negotiations with the Chinese Commissioners. Christian missionaries are going into the Chinese interior against his will: this is illegal and might jeopardise the cause of Christian missions in the future. He encloses a letter to the Bishop's wife from a Chinese scholar at St Paul's College, 7 Oct 1858 and a copy [printed] of the letter from the Bishop of Victoria to the Archbishop of Canterbury 'in review of the recent Chinese treaties as affecting the prospects of Christianity in the East. 18 Oct 1858'. He also encloses some photographs by [William Nassau] Jocelyn [not present];

2 Nov: He has arranged with the Commissioners that he is to be allowed to proceed up the Yangtze River which will give 'so very complete a demonstration of the acceptance of the Treaty by the Chinese Authorities'. Explains his reasons for staying on after the signing of the Treaty - 'Could I leave this the really noblest part of my task to be worked out by people who have neither imagination enough to grasp a high aim, nor tact enough to compass it if it were presented to them?';

14 Nov 1858-1 Jan 1859: Journey down the Yangtze interrupted by repeated grounding of the vessels. 17 Nov, visits Silver Island taken by the British, then by the rebels and later by the Imperial forces and now in desolation. 20 Nov, they are fired on by the rebels at Nanking [Nanjing] and decide to demolish some of the forts in return. 22 Nov, he receives a letter from the rebel chief asking him to join them in 'annihilating the Demons [Imperialists]'. 25 Nov, witnesses skirmishes 'ignoble battling', between the rebels and Imperialist forces near Nganchen. 30 Nov, visits Chukiang [Kuwkiang] destroyed by the rebels, 'A single street running through a wilderness of weeds & ruins.' 6 Dec, arrival at Hankow, the heart of Chinese commerce. Curious natives are kept in line by mandarin followers who hit them with bamboo sticks, 'they are doing all they can to prevent us having anything to do with the people'. 9 Dec: meeting with the Governor General and they reach a good understanding after 'a little in the bullying line'. 11 Dec reception for the Governor on board ship 'I have seen nothing since I came to China with so much of display and style about it as the turn out of the Governor'. 14 Dec, description of local peasantry. Encloses two copies of a map of the Yangtze River marked to show their progress [one ms, the other printed];

20 Jan: visit to founding establishment in Shanghai. Encloses copy of a verse [to be sung to the tune of 'Bonnie

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Dundee] composed by her relative Lt Davidson, translation of a manifesto addressed to the head of the Taiping insurgents to Foreigners [printed] and copy of a Postscript to the North-China Herald, 6 Jan 1859;

25 Jan: he goes straight to Hong Kong to sort out disturbances there. The Emperor is not reconciled to some of the concessions obtained in the Treaties;

11 Feb: expedition into the interior with 1000 troops who were 'received everywhere as friends';

17 Feb: expedition to interior of Kwantung Province; visit to Macao - the gardens of Camoens;

3 March: continuing difficulties with the Admiral and his flag captain who is rude to Elgin and his staff;

9 Apr: Kandy, a bout of jungle fever, the arrival of his brother Frederick;

20 Apr: the African explorer John Haining Speke (1827-64) accepts a berth on the Furious at Aden 'he seems a quite unpretending person and gave us some interesting accounts of his journeying.'

NRAS3955/75/
39
Mar 1857-
5 Dec
1861

Letters (50) from James Bruce, 8th Earl of Elgin to his wife Mary, from Balmoral, Glasgow and London mainly relating to discussions in cabinet regarding the Treaty with China, his brother Frederick's actions as Minister to China. Including:

[Mar 1857]: letter from Mary, Countess of Elgin regarding his appointment as ambassador to China. A note on the envelope says, 'Always kept by Lord E in the box in daily use';

22 Sep 1859 : Regarding the assault on the Taku Forts, he comments, 'My own opinion is that the Admiral [Sir James Hope] acted like a madman & that Fred. [Frederick Bruce] was misled by him.';

11 Jan 1861: he has called on the sculptor William Behnes (1791x7-1864) regarding sitting for his bust.

NRAS3955/75/
40
Apr 1860-
Apr 1861

Letters (37) from James Bruce, 8th Earl of Elgin to his wife Mary, mainly from China on his second mission there. Including:

Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine

30 April: While on ship, he has been re-reading old letters, tearing most of them up before throwing them overboard;

9 May: description of his visit to the Pyramids, 'the most remarkable objects on which my eye ever lighted, with Baron Gros and Thomas Bowlby (1817-60), The Times correspondent, henceforth referred to as 'Our Own';

21 May: He is saddened by the prospect of having to return to China on a 'most questionable errand with very little hope to cheer me as to my public career'. He discusses the causes of the Indian Mutiny with Hugh Rose, Baron Strathnairn, and recommends 'Russell's book' [My India Mutiny Diary?] which 'confirms..the scandalous treatment w[hich] the natives receive at our hands';

23 May: Grounding of their steamer Malabar on the rocks at Galle, Ceylon, and he has lost his letter of credence with it. '[Henry] Crealock has done some capital sketches of our adventures in Egypt.' Encloses a sketch by Crealock of the harbour showing 'Reef where Malabar was wrecked';

30 May: Gros' gilt plate has been recovered from the Malabar but 'a great abundance of apparatus for photography and Daguerrotyping...is entirely destroyed'. A visit to a station built by the Church Missionary Society;

1 July: At Shanghai, his brother Frederick gives his side of the Pecko [Peiko]affair. '..the disaster was the consequence of gross mismanagement in the plan and conduct of the attack;

5 July: An argument with the Admiral [Seymour]about Elgin's right to have the Ensign flown on board his ship;

26 July: Describes the landing of the British and French forces near the Pehtang forts which they find undefended;

9 Aug: 'The Chinese authorities, if they become frightened, are clever enough to advance propositions which it may be impossible to accede to without compromising the main objects of this costly expedition;

21 Aug: letter from Baron Gros regarding the taking of the Taku forts and the efficacy of the Armstrong gun 'ce que en canon font des prodiges';

23 Aug: The taking of the Taku Forts; riding out of his camp he is turned back by Tartar cavalry; discovered in the

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apartment of a Tartar General at Sinho is a letter stating that they were determined to capture the 'big barbarian himself'.
26 Aug: arrival at Tientsin;

27 Aug: as his boat is grounded he moves to the house of a Chinese gentleman complete with garden, bridges and ponds 'with infinite numbers of courts and rooms';

8 Sep: 'My idiotical Chinamen have taken to playing tricks which give me excellent excuse for carrying the army on to Peking.. the blockheads have gone on negotiating with me just long enough to enable Grant to bring all his army up to the front.';

9 Sep: ' We have behaved well to the people except at Tytang and Sinho and the consequence [is] that we can move through the country with comparative ease';

17 Sep: looting by the troops on the way to Peking has been very bad, though difficult to halt 'in this quasi belligerent state'. Parkes and Loch have gone in advance to Tang-Chao;

27 Sep-1 Oct : negotiations with the Chinese regarding return of the captives and threatening an attack on Peking . 3 Oct: he has received a letter signed by Loch and Parkes, Loch has 'managed in his signature to convey to us in Hindostani that the letter was written under compulsion'. 6 Oct: march on Peking;

7 Oct: he has just returned from the Summer Palace 'Numberless buildings with handsome rooms & filled with Chinese curios, handsome clocks, bronzes etc. but alas such a scene of desolation'. He is shocked at the plundering but because of the breakages about £50 000 will not be realised;

26 Oct: the treaty has been signed though not without difficulty. Baron Gros would have entered into discussions with the Chinese without taking into account the atrocities committed on the prisoners. 'The line taken by him and his general has been so strange that I cannot account for it by timidity alone.';

31 Oct: the French have held funerals for the prisoners, 'several speeches in bad taste were delivered...each soldier fired his musket into the grave so that the coffins were covered with cartridges..our general [Sir James Hope Grant] (...very religious and not a little presbyterian) was presented with the [asperger] to sprinkle holy water over the graves...the look of horror with which he performed the

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office was I am told, very striking.';

2 Nov: description of Peking. Gros has 'got into the hands of the Jesuits' and has gone to see Prince Kung. 10 Nov: Elgin takes leave of Prince Kung and his brother Frederick is placed in charge by an exchange of the seat of honour with him 'This little bit of acting answered very well. It put Frederick into direct relation with the Prince.';

14 Dec: he remains at Shanghai to sort out the opening up of the Yangtze River and the problem of the Taiping rebels. Half of the town has been burnt down by the French 'by way of protecting it' and getting the ground more cheaply;

26 Jan: at Manila he is ceremoniously welcomed by the Governor General; description of native Indian women's dresses, 'as nearly as possible opposite to that produced by a crinoline'; visits to local churches and a cigar making factory;

8 Feb: description of Java, a tour into the countryside where he is entertained by dancing 'girls wearing strange helmet shaped headdress and garments of closefitting stiff character down to the ground', marionettes. 'These Javanese appear the most timorous of mankind - all, men and women, crouch on their heels or knees when our carriage approaches & they do this...to all white people as well as to their own chiefs.'

NRAS3955/75/
41 Jan-May
1862

Letters (22) from James Bruce, 8th Earl of Elgin to his wife Mary, en route to and from India.

Including:

5 Feb: he is shown the sights of Malta by the Governor, Sir John Gaspard Le Marchant (1803-1874);

12 Feb: he has been rereading his journals of 20 years earlier - 'these books will not be again read by me For I shall consign them to the Red Sea';

15 March, Calcutta: reports holding of a great reception at which some 800-900 people 'walked past';

26 March: a visit to the Rajah of Pulliala, 'while the presents were being set forth we were entertained by a Nautch girl who wailed a harsh ditty through her nose & then moved in a melancholy way about the room...to the music of a hurdygurdy'.;

9 April: a visit to a jewellers to see prize jewellery seized by

Reference	
NRAS3955	<p align="center">Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine</p>
NRAS3955/75/42	<p>troops during the Mutiny;</p> <p>8 May: dines with Jane, Lady Franklin (1792-1875), en route from China to England, 'She is a wonderful traveller and puts me to shame'.</p> <p>May-Oct 1862 Letters (18) from James Bruce, 8th Earl of Elgin to his wife Mary, from Calcutta, Bhagulpore and Barrackpore, mainly about his daily routine, the climate and plans for his wife's journey to join him. Including:</p> <p>20 April: he holds his first grand ball on the anniversary of the Queen's accession, 'a good deal of dancing & a variety of costume Highland & Indian';</p> <p>28 June: he has appointed as his doctor a Dr Macrae, brother-in-law of Horatio Ross (1801-1886), the sportsman and photographer;</p> <p>5 July: rumours of the death of Lord Canning have reached Calcutta. Elgin describes Canning's habit of hard work which damaged his health. 'I do not believe that any man can win a name here unless there be some great events.';</p> <p>'Our endeavours to secure immortality for our physiognomies are not quite successful if neither Miss Paton's [Amelia Robertson Hill, sculptor, 1820-1904] bust nor Grant's [Sir Francis Grant, 1803-78] picture come up to the mark. I am no believer in Noble's [Matthew Noble, c1817-76] bust..'</p>
NRAS3955/76	<p>1842-1863 Diplomatic papers and correspondence of James Bruce, 8th Earl of Elgin and 12th earl of Kincardine (1811-1863).</p> <p>The papers comprise the diplomatic papers, official and private, of the 8th Earl relating to Jamaica, China, Japan and India. They include incoming despatches received from the Foreign Office and copies of despatches and enclosures sent, as well as private letters to the Colonial or Foreign Secretaries and to and from his staff and other figures involved in his diplomatic missions. The papers also include copies of plans and sketches of troop and ship movements.</p> <p>Substantial extracts of some of the papers were used in 'Letters and Journals of James Bruce, 8th Earl of Elgin' edited by Theodore Walrond' (London, 1872). The papers were also heavily used for the chapters on the 8th Earl in</p>

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Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine

Sydney Checkland's 'The Elgins, 1766-1917' (Aberdeen, 1988).

In addition to these more public papers, Elgin, on his absences from home during his China missions and in India, would send his wife long informative letters in the form of a journal which give an insight into the thinking of the private man behind the politician. The letters are listed in NRAS3955/ 75 and were used in the privately printed 'Extracts from the Letters of James Earl of Elgin to Mary Louisa, Countess of Elgin, 1847-1862' (Edinburgh, 1864).

Arrangement

The papers were used in the preparation of Sydney Checkland's book 'The Elgins 1766-1917: A tale of aristocrats, proconsuls and their wives' (Aberdeen, 1988) and bear some of his handwritten notes and labels. The papers are substantially in their original bundles but there is some evidence of reorganisation by Checkland. This arrangement has been kept by the cataloguer.

Related material

The diplomatic papers complement material in the Colonial Office [CO] and Foreign Office (FO) series in The National Archives, as well as the deposited private papers of Lord John Russell [PRO30/22]. Correspondence from Lord Elgin relating to China can be found in the Papers of Sir Harry Parkes [MS Parkes], and those of the firm Jardine Matheson [MS/JM] both held by Cambridge University Library, Department of Manuscripts and University Archives. Official and private papers created by Lord Elgin, and his immediate family, as Governor-in-Chief of Canada (1847-1854) Governor General of the provinces of British North America and negotiator of the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States in 1854, are now held by Library and Archives Canada.

Papers relating to India can be found in the British Library India Office [Mss Eur F83 and F78]. Albums of photographs assembled by the 8th earl and his son Victor, Viceroy of India 1894-99, are held by the National Library of Scotland [ref: Phot.la.13 and Phot.med.28]

NRAS3955/76/ 1	1842-1847	Diplomatic papers and correspondence of James Bruce, 8th Earl of Elgin (1811-1863) relating to his Governorship of Jamaica, 1842-1846
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NRAS3955/76/ 1/1	31 May 1842-20 May 1843	Drafts of official despatches to the Colonial Office, mainly addressed to Edward, Lord Stanley (later 14th Earl of Derby, 1799-1869), Colonial Secretary [Nos 1-125, with gaps].
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Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine

They relate mainly to legislative, financial and agricultural matters and immigration. Despatches relating to Honduras [1, 27, 47, 60]. In Lord Elgin's hand. [61 despatches]

Subjects include:

Opposition to Colonel Macdonald, Superintendent of Honduras, with draft letters to Colonel Macdonald regarding the state of the press in Honduras, 17 April 1843 [1, 3]; the case of the negro Wellington, kidnapped in Jamaica some years previously, 20 Jul 1842 [16];

erection of a penitentiary in Jamaica and transportation of prisoners to British Guiana [19, 36, 79, 97, 110];

report on the case of Captain Henry Sergeant, of the barque 'Kingston', regarding his mistreatment of emigrants from St Helena on his ship [38, 89, 98];

the rejection of the Stamp Act by the General Assembly, 23 Dec 1842 [62];

financial reports; suppression of traditional celebrations of Christmas by the negro population including drumming [68, 75];

Acts passed by the Jamaican legislature including provision for the introduction of African and Asian labourers, 24 Jan 1843 [77];

outbreak of Obeah in the north of the Island, 30 Jan 1843 [81];

Haitian politics and the arrival of Jean Pierre Boyer (1776-1850: President of Haiti, 1818-43) in exile, with draft of Elgin's letter to Boyer, 20 March 1843 [87, 95, 122]; immigration [80, 108, 118, 123];

report of Elgin's tour of the Western Districts of the Island describing trade and agriculture, March 1843 [112];

report of the kidnap of Edward Durston and Margaret Scarlett from the island, taken to New Orleans as slaves, 1 May 1843 [116];

agricultural practices in the north side of the island, 20 May 1843 [125].

NRAS3955/76/
1/220 Jun
1843-29
Dec 1843

Drafts of official despatches, mainly addressed to Edward, Lord Stanley, Colonial Secretary [Nos 131-202, many gaps]. Mostly official, with some marked 'private' or 'confidential' and unnumbered. Despatches relating to Honduras [Nos 53-68, with gaps] are separately numbered but placed chronologically. In Lord Elgin's hand. [42 despatches]

Subjects include:

British government response to the political situation of the Mosquito Kingdom [Mosquito Shore] following the death of King Frederick (Robert Charles Frederick, reigned 1824-

NRAS3955

Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine

42)[53-5, 59, 67,];
 regulation of duties on imports, 23 Jun [131];
 draft of letter to Augustin Gourbeyre (1786-1845), Governor of Guadeloupe, sending financial aid to the victims of the recent earthquake, 22 July [473];
 issues relating to immigration including the Jamaican Act for the introduction of immigrants, 12 and 29 Jul [136, 139];
 fair treatment of Jean Pierre Boyer, ex-President of Haiti, in Jamaica, though Elgin does not feel that his removal by royal navy to England would be justified, 5 Aug (marked 'Private');
 Colonel St John Fancourt, Superintendent of British Honduras, regarding the Public Meeting, 12 Aug [12, 66];
 Jamaican prisons, transportation of prisoners with proposal to convey them to the penal settlement on the Essequibo, Demerara [145, 149, 182];
 report of inspection of the Public Hospital and Lunatic Asylum, Kingston, 21 Aug [146];
 destruction of large parts of Kingston by fire, 6 Sep and 27 Oct [153, 164];
 Belgian colonisation in the Bay of St Thomas, Guatemala 16 Sep [68];
 comments on mortality rate of troops, 1 Nov [168];
 arrival of the Glen Hartley from Sierra Leone with 146 immigrants, mainly boys under 14 years, 2 Nov [172];
 practicality of introducing iron buildings for new lunatic asylum as labour is so scarce on the island, 1 Dec [188];
 an agricultural show highlighting the skills of the native ploughmen, 20 Dec [197].

NRAS3955/76/
1/31 Jan
1844-30
Dec 1844

Drafts of official despatches, mainly addressed to Edward, Lord Stanley, Colonial Secretary [Nos 1-135, some gaps]. Mostly official, with some marked 'private' and unnumbered. Despatches relating to Honduras [Nos 5-46, with gaps] are separately numbered but placed chronologically. In Lord Elgin's hand. [66 despatches]

Subjects include:

Duties on imports, 1 Jan [2];
 succession to the Mosquito Kingdom, 7 Jan [5];
 Act for taking a census, 8 Jan [6];
 Acts passed by the Jamaican legislature, including for policing, for the encouragement of immigration and maintaining a railway between Kingston and Spanish Town [8-12, 38-40, 49-52, 133];
 affairs in New Grenada, 12 Jan [14];
 proposal for a penal settlement in the West Indies [16, 81, 135];
 immigration from Africa and Great Britain [24, 28, 59, 75,

Reference		
NRAS3955	Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine	
		<p>124]; proposal to use convicts to tunnel through Stoney Hill for a road or railway line, 18 Mar [45]; case of the black seaman on the American ship Silenus claiming protection as a native of Jamaica, 4 Apr [56]; refugees in Jamaica as a result of disturbances in Haiti, 19 Apr [65]; comments on the institution of a knighthood for colonial services [2 and 3 July, 19 Sep, marked 'private']; United States request for capture of deserters from the American ship Treble taking with them a launch and firearms, 17 Aug [98]; interview with General Rivière-Hérard, late President of Haiti (1843-44), in exile in Jamaica [14 Sep, marked 'Confidential']; letters to Colonel St John Fancourt, Superintendent of British Honduras, on the administration of law there [42-3, 45-6]. With draft schedule of despatches sent on 23 Jan 1844.</p>
NRAS3955/76/1/4	4 Jan 1845-31 Dec 1845	<p>Drafts of official despatches, mainly addressed to Edward, Lord Stanley, Colonial Secretary [Nos 2-108, some gaps]. Mostly official, with some marked 'private' and unnumbered. In Lord Elgin's hand. [37 Despatches]</p> <p>Subjects include: Immigration, including 'coolies' from India and labourers from Britain and Canada, with observations on the arguments for free or slave labour [2, 24, 31, 34, 38, 45, 49, 53, 96]; Acts passed by the Jamaican legislature, 15 Jan [5]; Jamaican finances, 27 and 30 Jan [15-16]; transportation of military prisoners, 29 Mar [33]; rumours of counter-revolution in Haiti and the involvement of General Rivière-Hérard, 9 Apr and 7 May [37, 43]; report on the militia establishment of Jamaica, 30 Jun [59]; review of the political, material and moral progress of the colony [5 Aug, 23 Sep, 79]; duties of stipendiary magistrates, 2 Sep [79, 80]; inspection of schools, 17 Dec [103]; prisons, 17 Dec [104]. Including copy despatches to Colonel St John Fancourt relating to justiciary matters on Honduras, 24 Jan -24 Sep 1845.</p>
NRAS3955/76/1/5	5 Jan 1846-20 Sep 1847	<p>Drafts of official despatches, addressed to Edward, Lord Stanley, Colonial Secretary, and William Ewart Gladstone [Nos 1-56, some gaps]. Despatches relating to Honduras [Nos 16, with gaps] are separately numbered but placed chronologically. In Lord Elgin's hand.</p>

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Subjects include:

relief of poverty in Jamaica, 5 Jan [1];
 comments on the reports of the Stipendiary Magistrates, 5 Jan [2];
 financial position of the colony, 14 Jan [12];
 Acts passed by the Jamaican legislature, 14 Jan[16-18];
 'Coolie' labour, 4 Feb [27];
 case of Major Roger Frisbee, master of an American vessel, to be tried for placing two Jamaican natives in slavery, 6 Feb [28];
 proposals for the encouragement of immigration from the United States, Madeira and Teneriffe, 21 Feb [33];
 report on prospects for the colony accompanying his sending of the Blue Book for 1845, 6 May [52];
 draft of a speech to the [?] Jamaican Legislature, nd;
 draft letter to the Revd W Millar, Mico Institution, Kingston, concerning teacher training, nd;
 copy covering letter by Sir Charles Grey, Governor of Jamaica, to Earl Grey, enclosing printed Report to the Board of Education for 1846, 20 Sep 1847.

NRAS3955/76/
1/6

15 Apr
1843-21
Feb 1846

Copies of private letters from Lord Elgin to Edward, Lord Stanley, Colonial Secretary.
Including letters:

On the death of the Bishop of Jamaica, Christopher Lipscombe (1781-1843), the state of the church and clergy, the education of former slaves and mechanisation in agriculture, 15 Apr 1843;
 On reducing the number of Chairmen of Quarter Sessions, 20 April 1843;
 On the rumoured attempt by the Chief Justice to introduce a bill into Council to assert the right of that body to originate bills, 30 May 1843;
 On financial affairs, his own uncertainties and the death of the nurse sent from England to attend his wife and child just after her arrival, 6 July 1843;
 On the improved conditions of the labouring classes, moral improvement, treatment of criminals, provision of chapels, the lunatic asylum, patronage and the position of the Governor, 20 July 1843;
 On the arrival of the new bishop, his dealings with the late Bishop Lipscombe, position and duties of the Colonial bishop, 21 Nov 1843;
 On the General Agricultural Society of Jamaica, and the progress of agriculture on the island, 22 Jan and 22 Feb 1844;
 On the case of Mr Scarlett, appointed as Treasurer of Honduras, 22 Jan and 6 Feb 1844;
 On his refusal to give assent to the Chancery Act and Act for

Reference		
NRAS3955	Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine	
		<p>Prevention of Trespass, 9 and 22 March 1844; On a meeting with a Spanish merchant from Haiti on the political situation there, 6 April 1844; On the Baptist and Anti-Church Party, the dissolution of the House of Assembly, the general election and the franchise, the republic of Haiti, 7 and 21 Sep 1844; On his desire to be relieved of his post: his wife's death deprived him of the person who would have discharged the Governor's social duties and the companionship which would have compensated for the 'drawbacks of foreign service'; his response to the possibility of a new post in Canada, 7 April 1845; Copy letter to Henry Light, Governor of British Guiana (1838-1848), regarding the interchange of prisoners between the two colonies, 1 July 1845; Copy letter to W E Gladstone regarding his acceptance of the post of Governor-in-Chief of the Province of Canada, the offer of which had assured him of the government's confidence in him, 21 Feb 1846.</p>
NRAS3955/76/1/7	15 April 1843-4 Dec 1846	<p>Duplicates of private letters of Lord Elgin to Lord Stanley.</p> <p>Duplicates of letters in NRAS3955/76/1/6. Marked up by Theodore Walrond in the process of his preparation of the edition of Lord Elgin's letters.</p>
NRAS3955/76/1/8	14 May 1842-28 May 1847	<p>Miscellaneous letters to Lord Elgin.</p> <p>Letters (2) from Jean Pierre Boyer, ex President of Haiti, expressing his gratitude for Lord Elgin's letter of condolence on the death of his wife, 29 July and 22 August 1843 [in French].</p> <p>Letters (5) from Lord Stanley, on arrangements following the death of Bishop Lipscombe and the offer of the position to Aubrey Spencer (1795-1872), Bishop of Newfoundland, 15 June 1843; his disapproval of the appointment of Philip Anglin Scarlett as Treasurer of Honduras, 29 Nov 1843; thanking Elgin for sending the competition essays on the cultivation of cane and for his encouragement of the planters on the island, and informing him of the Queen's agreement to becoming Patroness of the General Agricultural Association of Jamaica, 16 Dec 1843; on the Church in Jamaica, 12 Jan 1844; on the imposition of duties on Irish beef and pork and the need for Elgin to keep him informed of what he is doing with regard to the legislature and why, 12 Jan 1844; on sugar duties and the sugar industry and regret on Elgin's wish to be relieved of his post, 23 Feb 1845. Downing Street, 15 June 1843-23 February 1845. Marked confidential.</p>

Reference		
NRAS3955	Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine	
	<p data-bbox="662 268 1403 506">Copy letter from H J Thompson, British Vice Consul at Cape Haitien, to the Earl of Aberdeen, with a report of an earthquake on Haiti, 7 May, and the destruction of Cape Haitien and Port au Prince, 14 May 1842; copy letter from Thompson to Thomas Ussher, British Vice Consul, Port au Prince, on looting and the breakdown of law and order in the town, 16 May 1842.</p> <p data-bbox="662 541 1403 678">Draft letters (2) by Lord Elgin to Earl Grey tendering his resignation of the Governorship of Jamaica, London, 16 July 1846, and giving the reasons for his disinclination to return to Jamaica, 18 July 1846.</p> <p data-bbox="662 714 1403 850">Copy letter from Lord Elgin to Henry Stephens (1795-1874), agricultural writer, on his aims in attempting to introduce the industrial system into Jamaican schools and measures taken to achieve this, 4 Dec 1846.</p> <p data-bbox="662 886 1403 1022">Letter from Rev Dr Samuel H Stewart of the Royal Agricultural Society of Jamaica regarding the Society's award of a medal to him, 8 March 1847, with a draft of Elgin's reply, Montreal 28 May 1847.</p>	
NRAS3955/76/2	1857-1861	Diplomatic papers and correspondence of James Bruce, 8th Earl of Elgin (1811-1863) relating to his First China Mission as High Commissioner and Plenipotentiary to China and Japan.
NRAS3955/76/2/1	17 Apr-30 Dec 1857	<p data-bbox="662 1234 1403 1371">Despatches, mainly from Lord Clarendon (George Villiers, 4th Earl of Clarendon, 1800-1870), Foreign Secretary, to Lord Elgin, (No 1, 53-121 with gaps, many with enclosures). [61 despatches]</p> <p data-bbox="662 1407 1403 1913">Including: Covering letter with Elgin's credentials from Queen Victoria for the Emperor of China with accreditation as her Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. Credentials enclosed and unopened. 20 April 1857 (1); general instructions as to the reimbursements of the expenses of the mission, viz., an allowance of £6000 a year, out of which all the expenses of the mission are to be defrayed, 17 April; drafts of despatches from Clarendon to Elgin, printed and extracted from the Blue Book with instructions on undertaking his mission and on obtaining increased facilities for trade from the Government of China, 20 April; Consul Alcock's (later Sir John Rutherford Alcock, 1809-1897) minute on 'Suggested Heads of a New Treaty' with</p>

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Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine

China, enclosed with despatch of 6 July (no53);
 despatch enclosing copy of instructions from Washington to Mr [William B] Reed, United States Plenipotentiary to China, 10 July (No 56);
 government approval of Elgin's placing the 'Shannon' and the 'Pearl' at the disposal of the Governor General of India and observations on his future line of conduct in China, 10 Oct (no 92);
 case of Osmund Cleverly's claim against the Chinese for injuries sustained by him aboard the steamer 'Queen', which claim the British Government does not support, 19 Oct (no 94);
 copy of despatch from St Petersburg relating to Prince Gortchacoff's (Alexander Gorchakov, Russian Foreign Minister) conversation with Lieutenant Wodehouse regarding Admiral Pontiatine's mission to China, 4 Nov (No 98);
 despatch with enclosures relating to the ill treatment of two French missionaries in Cochin China, and the French government's intention to obtain redress, 9 Nov (no 100);
 copies of despatches from Paris reporting Baron Gros' communications to the French Government on the state of affairs in China, and on the French response to the murder of Monsieur Diaz, French missionary in Cochin, 4, 7 and 24 Dec (no 105-6, 108, 120);
 Sir John Bowring (1792-1872), Governor of Hong Kong, and claims for compensation from the Chinese, 10 and 24 Dec (no 111 and 119);
 copy of despatch from St Petersburg relating Admiral Pontiatine's complaint about his less than courteous treatment by officers of the British warships at Shanghai, 23 Dec (no 115).

NRAS3955/76/
2/24 Jan - 26
Feb 1858

Despatches, mainly from Lord Clarendon, Foreign Secretary, to Lord Elgin (No 1-29).

Including:

Copy communication from Count Bernstorff, Prussian Minister at the Court, regarding the sinking of the Oldenburgh bark 'Texas' and the plundering of her crew by the Chinese and asking whether the British Government would support the Prussian's request for redress, 4 Jan (no 1);
 copy of Consul Alcock's (Consul at Shanghai) memorandum on objects to be sought in negotiating a new Treaty, 9 Jan (No 5);
 copy despatches from Sir Ralph Abercromby (1803-1868), British Minister at The Hague, regarding the negotiations for the conclusion of a commercial treaty between the

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Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine

Netherlands and Japan, 13 Jan, including copy communication from His Excellency Gevers d'Endegeest (Daniel Gevers van Endegeest, 1793-1877), 6 Feb (No 8 and 24);
 copy despatches from Consul General Miller (William Miller, 1795-1861), Woahoo [O'ahu, Hawaii], concerning Russian settlements north and south of the River Amoor, with copy letter from Gustavus Reiner, of the German company, Messrs Melchers & Co, on his travels there, and the observations of an American, Major Collins, 18 Jan and 17 Feb (Nos 11 and 27);
 views of H M Government as to the ultimatum presented to General Yeh (Ye Mingchen, 1807-1859, Viceroy of Gungdong and Guanxi Province): only alternatives for him are unconditional submission or immediate attack on Canton (Guangzhou), 22 Jan (no.13);
 extracts from the New York Herald on American relations with Japan, 27 Jan (no 16);
 Printed copies of two Despatches from Count Walewski (1810-1868), French Minister of Foreign Affairs, to the Count de Persigny (later Duke, 1808-1872), one concerning asylum given in England to those involved in attacks on the Emperor (Napoleon III), 1858.

NRAS3955/76/
2/326 Feb -
23 Jun
1858

Despatches, mainly from James, Lord Malmesbury (3rd earl of Malmesbury, 1807-1889), Foreign Secretary, to Lord Elgin (No 1-30). Enclosing copies of Foreign Office circulars.

Including:

Copy of translation sent from the Ambassador in St Petersburg of an article in a Russian newspaper relating to the formation of a company for the development of trade in the Amoor country, 8 March (no 2);
 printed circular setting down the government policy regarding 'intercourse with Foreign Nations', 8 March;
 printed correspondence relating to the position of foreign refugees in England, with circular of 16 March; translation of printed article on the Russian Consulate in Japan, with despatch of 22 March (no 5);
 on H M Government's trust in Elgin's discretion in execution or non-execution of his original instructions, 25 March (no. 6);
 copies of despatches from (Henry Wellesley, 1804-1888, 1st Earl) Cowley, British ambassador in Paris, regarding future proceedings of the Allied Forces in China, 3 Apr (no. 9);
 the Government has 'imperfect knowledge' of Elgin's views and intentions so has no fresh instructions, but asks for a summary of events with each new despatch, 9 Apr (no. 13);

Reference		
NRAS3955	Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine	
	<p>copy letters from Captain Richard Sprye with observations on overland trade with China, 19 Apr (no. 15); papers relating to the actions of Mr Wilson and Mr Carnie in Siak and the impropriety of their use of the British Flag, 3 May (no. 17); appointment of William Nassau Jocelyn (1832-1892), attaché in Stockholm, to the China Mission, in succession to Mr Cameron who is to become First Attaché to HM Mission at Berlin, 3 and 10 May; the Turkish Government will only send a silver medal for Major Henry B Loch and not the gold medal which the other officers in the Danube Campaign received, 17 May; authorising Elgin to prevent cruelties exercised on prisoners by the Chinese authorities in Canton (Guangzhou), 20 May and 14 June (no. 20 and 27); indemnity to be claimed from the Chinese for expenses of the war, 21 May (no 21); copy letter from Captain Hall of H M Calcutta to the Earl of Hardwicke on the importance of obtaining the Kowloon Peninsula near Hong Kong, 7 June (no. 24).</p>	
NRAS3955/76/2/4	23 Jun 1858 - 2 May 1859	<p>Despatches, mainly from Lord Malmesbury, Foreign Secretary, to Lord Elgin (No 31-71 and 1-7). Enclosing copies of Foreign Office circulars.</p> <p>Including:</p> <p>correspondence relating to claim of the Portuguese to take part in the negotiations with China, 23 and 29 June, 17 and 26 July (nos 31, 33, 42, 43); Canton (Guangzhou) should be held under martial law, 2 July and 9 Sep (no. 35, 48); custom house at Canton (Guangzhou) to be administered by the Allies and the duties kept by them, 8 July (no. 38 and 39); estimate of expenses incurred by the Admiralty in the prosecution of hostilities in China, amounting to over £1322, 9 July (no. 40); memorial of losses sustained by Messrs Sillar Brothers & Co by establishment of the Inspector of Customs at Shanghai and not at other ports, 15 July (no. 41); emigration of Chinese subjects to British possessions and in particular British Guiana, 25 Aug and 9 Sep (no 46, 47); Elgin to render assistance to mission of Conte Gherardo Treschi and Conte Giambattista Capellano in Persia, India and China to reintroduce the original breed of silk worm into Europe, 20 Sep; expressing government satisfaction with the Treaty of Tientsin, 25 Sep (no 51); indemnities for losses incurred by British subjects in Canton</p>

Reference		
NRAS3955	Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine	
		<p>(Guangzhou), 9 Oct (no 55, 56); approval for Elgin's expedition to Nagasaki and advising severe measures against the Braves, 14 Oct (no 61); petition of the Salt Chamber of Commerce, Northwick , requesting that steps be taken to induce the Chinese Government to allow British manufactured salt into China, 8 Nov (no.64); ship of war to be sent to Yedo [Tokyo] to inform Japanese Government that illicit trade with their country by British subjects, will not be protected, 25 Nov (no. 67); appointment of Frederick Bruce as Ambassador to Pekin [Beijing], 25 Nov (no68); copies correspondence relating to a permanent residence of the British Ambassador to Pekin [Beijing], 8 Jan and 2 May 1859 (no 1, 7); copy of Queen's speech to Parliament, 3 Feb, printed.</p>
NRAS3955/76/2/5	19 Jan-2 Apr 1858	<p>Miscellaneous despatches and letters to Lord Elgin. Correspondents include: Sir John Bowring (1792-1872); William B Reed, United States plenipotentiary to China; General Charles Van Straubenzee (1812-1892, Commander of the British Troops in China); Rear Admiral (later Sir) Michael Seymour (1802-1887); Jean-Baptiste Baron Gros (1793-1870), French plenipotentiary to China; Laurence Oliphant (1829-1888), Private Secretary to Lord Elgin; Sir Thomas Wade (1818-1895), Chinese Secretary to Lord Elgin; Dr Charles Winchester; Sir Francis Nicholson; Sir Thomas Taylor Meadows (1815-1868). Where despatches have been numbered, these are given in brackets.</p> <p>Including: Memorandum from D B Robertson, consul, Shanghai, on foreign commercial relations with China, 19 Jan (no 1); Dr Winchester, Vice Consul of Canton (Guangzhou), Whampoa, on establishment of the consular offices there and details of the staff complement, 25 Feb (no 2); Thomas T Meadows, Ningpo, on reports of the movements of the Tai Ping rebels, 22 Jan (no 10); Oliphant, forwarding a communication from Chaon, Governor of the Province of Kiangsu [enclosed, unopened] and reporting on his reception by the Governor at Soochow, 5 March; Wade's report on contents of 40 boxes of papers seized with the Imperial Commissioner Yeh, 10 March; Dr Winchester, Whampoa, on the disadvantages of the town as a position for the Canton (Guangzhou) Consulate, 2 March (no 4); Van Straubenzee enclosing reports on the defences of Hong Kong and on the importance of Kowloon Point and Stonecutter's Island, 26 March (no 8);</p>

Reference	
NRAS3955	Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine
	<p>despatches from Thomas Meadows on the movements of the Kiangsi rebels, 29 March-2 April (nos 4-6); Baron Gros with a translation of a letter he has received from Chao, Viceroy of Kiang-nan and Kiang Su, 2 Apr; Seymour on reports of public executions at Canton (Guangzhou), 25 March (no 6); Van Straubenzee with a report of his meeting with Pihkwei, Acting Governor General, 28 March (no 9).</p>
NRAS3955/76/ 2/6	<p>20 Mar-15 Jun 1858</p> <p>Miscellaneous despatches and letters to Lord Elgin. Correspondents include: Sir John Bowring; William B Reed; General Van Straubenzee; Rear Admiral Michael Seymour; Baron Gros and Count Pontiatine. Where despatches have been numbered, these are given in brackets. Many noted as copied for inclusion in despatches to Foreign Office 90-148. Including: Acting Consul C A Winchester, enclosing copy letter from J C Couper with a claim for compensation on the loss of his father, who disappeared, believed seized and taken prisoner to Canton (Guangzhou) where he died, 5 April (no 5); Seymour, enclosing list of ships of war available for service in the Gulf of Pechili, 22 April (no 8); Baron Gros' views on the current position, 21 April; Lord Canning: he has provided a house outside Calcutta to serve as the place of detention for General Yeh, 20 March; Count Pontiatine's account of his interview with the officials from Peking, 29 April; Reed on his meeting with the Imperial Commissioners near the Takoo [Taku] Forts, 4 May, and unsatisfactory of a later meeting with Tan, 11 May; Van Straubenzee with an update on the situation at Canton (Guangzhou), 25 April (No 10);</p> <p>Seymour reporting the successful attack on the Takoo Forts, 21 May (No 18); Van Straubenzee on the decision to retain Pihkwei, Governor of Canton (Guangzhou), and two other officials, in Canton (Guangzhou) under surveillance, 4 May (no 11); Winchester on the removal of the consulate to Honam and the vibrancy of foreign trade there since the raising of the blockade, 11 May (No 5); Acting Consul Hale on a riot at Foochow [Fuzhou] during the residence of the Chinese Imperial Commissioners, 30 April (no 1); Baron Gros and William Reed's reports on their meetings with the Chinese Commissioners, 6, 7 and 11 June; Count Pontiatine announcing the signing of the Treaty between the Russians and the Chinese, 15 June; Winchester on the sense of insecurity in Canton</p>

Reference	
NRAS3955	<p>Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine</p>
NRAS3955/76/2/7	<p>15 Jun-25 Oct 1858</p> <p>(Guangzhou) following reports of the taking of the Takoo Forts, leading to the closure of the import markets, 7 June (no 77); Apologies from Thomas Wade for mistakes made in copying the Treaty due to the inexperience of the clerks and the delays caused by the Chinese, 27 June; Van Straubenzee on attacks on policemen by the Braves in Canton (Guangzhou), enclosing an account by Thomas Sampson, and a report of an expedition against them, 4 June.</p> <p>Miscellaneous despatches and letters to Lord Elgin .Correspondents include: Sir John Bowring; Sir John Seymour; William B Reed; Sir John Rutherford Alcock; General Van Straubenzee; Sir Michael Seymour and Captain Gerard [?] Osborne. Where despatches have been numbered, these are given in brackets.</p> <p>Including: Acting Consul Hale, Foochow [Fuzhou], enclosing copy letter from British merchants and mercantile agents resident there, urging the necessity of making safer the navigation of the River Min, 15 June (no2); Despatches from Sir John Bowring regarding three student interpreters to be sent to Elgin: Adkins, King and Swinhoe, Hong Kong, 14 and 16 June (No 152, 154); General Van Straubenzee reporting atrocities carried out by Braves on Bengal troops at Canton (Guangzhou), 21 June; copy Senior Naval Officer, HMS Bittern to Acting Consul Winchester with warning to British merchants at Honan [Henan] referring to Hwang's warlike proclamation and advising them against entering into mercantile speculations, 21 Jun (no 6); Meadows, Consul at Ningpo, on his continued illness and that of his staff, 28 June (no 9); letter from Baron Gros enclosing a copy of the Treaty of Tientsin [Tianjin][not enclosed] and on his pleasure in working with Lord Elgin whom he considers 'one of the greatest British statesmen', 5 July [in French]; despatch from Alcock on the situation at Canton (Guangzhou) and the actions of the 'braves' and the 'gentry', 21 July (no 9); Van Straubenzee enclosing copy of a letter from Hwang regarding the cessation of hostilities following the signing of the Treaty of Tientsin [Tianjin], 8 Aug; copy notice issued by Alcock to claimants for losses at Canton (Guangzhou), 6 Aug (no 11); copy letter to the Mayor of Birmingham regarding the opium trade, Shanghai, 5 July; Van Straubenzee's report of the successful attack at</p>

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Namtaon, 29 Aug (no 28);
 William B Reed on tariff duties and his suggestions for suppression of the opium trade, 13 Sep;
 Alcock on political and commercial affairs at Canton (Guangzhou), 7 Sep;
 John Henry Gray, Consular Chaplain at Canton (Guangzhou), regarding his claim for the loss of his manuscripts, 21 Sep;
 M C Morrison, Amoy [Xiamen], with copies correspondence relating to the capture of the 'Richard Battersby' of Liverpool by wreckers and the effects of a cyclone at the port of Siratow, 1 Oct (no 2);
 translation of circular from Hwang [Huang Zonghan or Tsung-Han] to the gentry of the Canton (Guangzhou) Province on the 'barbarian question', from Sir John Bowring, 16 Sep (no 196);
 letter from Thomas Wade regarding the failure of the Sillar Brothers, Shanghai, and their claim that it was due to the Inspectorship system, 27 Sep.

NRAS3955/76/
2/823 Oct
1858-28
Feb 1859

Miscellaneous despatches and letters to Lord Elgin. Correspondents include: Sir John Bowring; Sir John Seymour; William B Reed; Sir John Rutherford Alcock; General Van Straubenzee; Sir Michael Seymour and Baron Gros. Where despatches have been numbered, these are given in brackets.

Including:

Alcock's report on the results of examination into claims for losses sustained at Canton (Guangzhou), including names with amount of property and goods lost, 23 Oct (no 17);
 correspondence relating to claims by the American Consul of non payment of dues by British ships at Whampoa, 26 Oct (no 233);
 Baron Gros enclosing a copy of his letter to the Imperial Commissioner Kouei-Liang warning against Chinese attacks on the allies in Canton (Guangzhou), 28 Oct;
 papers relating to the petition of Curcundas Woodacuru, a Parsee merchant and British subject, Hong Kong, for recompense for the loss of 52 chests of opium, stolen by pirates, 13 Oct;
 correspondence relating to the petition of Byramjee Darabjee Metta & Co and others, for compensation for debts owed by an absconding Chinese merchant, 13 Oct;
 memorandum by Adam Scott, Canton, setting out the advantages of establishing a settlement or factory site at Shameen [Shamian], presently occupied by squatters and vagabonds, with a plan of the proposed settlement, 6 Nov;
 M C Morrison on a murder of an English sailor, William

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Lewes, at Amoy [Xiamen], 25 Oct (no 3);
 Alcock on steamer traffic in the Canton (Guangzhou) river and new Custom House regulations for the same, 13 Dec (no 22);
 Bowring on the abuse of flags granted to foreign vessels, with list of vessels holding sailing letters and their owners, 25 Nov (no 259);
 state of the garrison of Hong Kong, 23 Nov;
 Van Straubenzee on an attack by the braves on the Brigade of the Royal Marine Light Infantry at Phikstin, 7 and 11 Jan 1859 (no 26);
 account of proceedings following on the wrecking of the vessel 'Five Brothers' off Cupchi Point and the murder of some of its passengers, 9 Feb.

NRAS3955/76/
2/926 Apr
1857-5
Aug 1859

Despatches and letters to Lord Elgin. Where despatches have been numbered, these are given in brackets.

Including:

details of staff in Lord Elgin's suite on HMS 'Furious', 30 Nov 1857;
 notes on the papers seized in the Imperial Commissioner Yeh's residence, 17 Jan and 19 Feb 1858;
 memorandum on the claim for compensation by Ie Seaoutseven [?] consular writer for loss of his house near the Governor General's yamun in Canton (Guangzhou), with list of property lost [in Chinese], nd;
 Thomas Wade on the case of Mr Alabaster (1838-1898, later Sir Chaloner Alabaster), student interpreter, attached to ex Commissioner Yeh, regarding the extra charges placed upon him as a result, 24 May, with letter from the Secretary to the Governor of India to F W A Bruce granting Alabaster an allowance of £200 per annum, 3 Aug;
 letter from Adam Wilson refuting the claim that he and Mr Carnie hoisted the British flag at Siak, this was done only on the island of Bencalis [Bengkalis] after it had been legally ceded to him, 9 Aug;
 letters from the Shanghai British Chamber of Commerce regarding the necessity of extending the bankruptcy laws in England to cover British business in China and the immunity of subjects of other powers from the control of law, 6 Aug and 7 Sep;
 memorandum by Thomas Wade on William B Reed's comments on the opium trade, 2 Oct;
 memorandum from Harry Parkes for the information of the Major General Commanding regarding Governor General Hwang's orders on the levy of contributions and regarding a petition by country tea merchants, 6 Oct;
 state of the forces in China under the command of General

Reference		
NRAS3955	Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine	
		<p>Van Straubenzee, Canton (Guangzhou), 7 Oct 1858 and 13 Feb 1859; Sir John Bowring enclosing copy of the Chinese original of Hwang's proclamation to the gentry of the Kwangtung [Guangdong] Province, dated 21 Aug, 9 Oct [no 212]; report from Captain Shadwell of the deaths of three of the crew of the gunboat 'Opossum', following an altercation with villagers at Nan-tow, 21 Oct; memorandum from John Austin Gardiner, Immigration Agent-General in British Guiana, regarding emigration from China to the British West Indies, 4 Jan 1859; Rear Admiral Sir Michael Seymour: letter regarding presents for Lord Elgin from the Japanese authorities, with list detailing these (in Japanese and English), 14 March; copy proclamation by Van Straubenzee, D'Aboville, Commandant Superieur of the French forces at Canton (Guangzhou) and McCleverty, senior British naval officer, Canton (Guangzhou), regarding kidnapping of Chinese, nd; correspondence relating to salaries of Elgin's staff, May-July 1859.</p>
NRAS3955/76/2/10	21 Apr-29 Dec 1857	<p>Drafts of official despatches from Lord Elgin to Lord Clarendon, Foreign Secretary (nos 1-107). None of the enclosures mentioned in the despatches are present.</p> <p>Including: he is treated as the Pasha of Egypt's guest while he is in Alexandria and describes briefly his journey by railway to Cairo, 13 May [no 6]; General Ashburnham has arrived at Galle with alarming reports from Delhi and the impact of the disturbance on his dealings in China, 26 May [no 7]; he would like to assist Lord Canning by sending European troops to India from Singapore but there are none there and only 'one very weak regiment and a few artillery men' at Hong Kong, 3 June [no 8]; Mr Wilson's involvement in the affairs of Siak, 25 June [no 13]; report summarising Elgin's reasons for favouring the expedition to the Peiho and negotiation with the Court at Pekin [Beijing] as his first step, rather than reduction of Canton (Guangzhou) and humiliation of the Braves preferred by Seymour and the bulk of the British residents, 9 July [no 17]; on French and British policy in China and his reasons for going to Calcutta, 29 July [no 21]; Osmond Cleverly's claims against the Chinese government, 29 July [no 23]; from Calcutta, where he is keen to aid Lord Canning 'to the</p>

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Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine

utmost of my power' and detailing the forces he has been able to divert to his aid, 9 Aug [no 29];
 on his decision to return to the east by steamer rather than the warship The Shannon, 22 Aug [no 36];
 giving his detailed reasons for not proceeding to the mouth of the Peiho immediately, Hong Kong, 24 Sep [no 46];

on the situation in India and the necessary military occupation of Canton (Guangzhou), 4 Oct [no 51];
 discussions with Count Pontiatine who has just arrived, 14 Nov [No 61];
 his objections to Admiral Seymour's plans for attacking Canton (Guangzhou), 10 Dec [No 78];
 the principal objects behind the framing of the memorandum sent to General Yeh, 12 Dec [no 83].

NRAS3955/76/
2/111 Jan-31
May 1858

Drafts of official despatches from Lord Elgin to Lord Malmesbury, Foreign Secretary (nos 1-116). None of the enclosures mentioned in the despatches are present.

Including:

he sends Loch's account of the operations against Canton (Guangzhou) and commends the conduct of the 'coolie corps' - perhaps a means of raising troops for service in India, 9 Jan (no 7);
 regarding a sketch of Yeh by Mr Thomas for presentation to the Queen, 14 Jan;
 his letter to Governor Pekwei [Peh-kwei] in which he feels justified in using a harsh tone, 21 Jan (no 12);
 observations on the system pursued by British subordinate officials in China, 27 Jan (No 20);
 on his visit to the principal prisons of Canton (Guangzhou) to ascertain the fate of certain Europeans, 1 Feb (no 22);
 disagrees with Bowring's proposal to take the customs in Canton (Guangzhou) into the administration of the Allies, and that claims for indemnity from the Chinese will be done on the principles of International Law, 13 Feb (no 38);
 measures for improving the temper of the villages surrounding Canton (Guangzhou) towards them, 14 Feb (no 42);
 course of action he proposes to take when he reaches Shanghai, 27 Feb (no 51);
 on his visits to Matsu and Swatow islands, the emigrant trade, 6 March (no 58);
 river pilots at Foochow [Fuzhou], duties on opium and piracy, 'Kensal Green or Pere Lachaise cultivated as kitchen gardens would not inaptly represent the general character of the rural districts of China which I have visited', 2 April (no 73);

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report of his visit to Ningpo: the natives' disposition towards foreigners he believes comes from their temperament and not from the violence which they have sustained at their hands as some would argue; tax on opium; activities of foreign adventurers, mostly deserters, 9 April (no 86); observations on Shanghai, including a memo of articles upon which no duty is levied at the Shanghai Custom House, and a description of Chusan [Zhousan], 15 April (no 89); on the policy it had been his intention to pursue had he been supported by a fleet of gunboats, 23 April (no 91); frustration at delayed arrival of gunboats, 29 April (no 101); refusal of Admiral Seymour to commence hostilities, 9 May (no 103); final determination to take the Taku Forts, 20 May (no 112).

NRAS3955/76/
2/121 Jun -5
Nov 1858

Drafts of official despatches from Lord Elgin to Lord Malmesbury, Foreign Secretary (nos 117-207). None of the enclosures mentioned in the despatches are present.

Including:

arrival at Tientsin [Tianjin] after a night voyage of 10 hours without obstacle, 1 June (no 117); intention of the Russian and United States plenipotentiaries to insert a clause relating to the opium trade in their treaties; Elgin in favour of legalising the trade, 10 June (no 124); report on proceedings since 4th June, his interview with the Imperial Commissioners, the role of Mr Lay (Horatio Nelson Lay, 1832-1898, interpreter) and the signing of the Russian treaty with the Chinese, 18 June (no 133); attempt by the Imperial Commissioners to refuse to agree to the articles allowing British and French ambassadors to Peking and to trade in the Chinese interior: treaty of Tientsin finally signed on 26 June, 5 and 6 July (nos 142 and 146); remarks on the treaty which he sends to the Minister with Frederick Bruce: the concessions are not large but, to the Chinese they involve 'the surrender of some of the most cherished principles of the traditional policy of the Empire', 12 July (no 147); observations on claims for indemnity and purpose to which the money might be put, 13 July (no 149 and 150); copy of full powers granted to the Japanese Commissioners to treat with Lord Elgin, 30 Aug (no 170); report of his activities in Japan, liaison with Townshend Harris (1804-1878), the American Consul; negotiations with the Japanese using the American's Dutch interpreter, Henry Heusken; signing of treaty on the 26th August, 30 Aug (no 172); report on proceedings with the Chinese Commissioners on which he takes 'a high and peremptory tone' particularly

Reference		
NRAS3955	Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine	
		<p>regarding troubles in the south; removal of Hwang [Hwang Tsung-Han], Governor General of Canton (Guangzhou); the tariff and legalisation of opium, 22 Oct (no 193); observations on Chinese aversion to permanent residence of a foreign minister at Peking [Beijing], 5 Nov (no 198).</p>
NRAS3955/76/2/13	5 Jan-19 Apr 1859	<p>Drafts of official despatches from Lord Elgin to Lord Malmesbury Foreign Secretary [mainly covering letters with enclosures, does not include copies of enclosures mentioned], (nos 1-37).</p> <p>Including: report of Elgin's expedition up the River Yangste, with his observations on the Chinese, their character, trade, landholding, the encounter with the Taiping rebels, antipathy to them in Hankow, 6 Jan (no 1); regarding the application of Messrs Sillars for compensation for duties paid by them at Shanghai, the need for a uniform custom system at the open ports, and smuggling 18 Jan (no 10); report on his communication with the Imperial Commissioners regarding the disturbances caused by the Canton (Guangzhou) Braves, 22 Jan (no 13); report on the settlement of the 'Canton (Guangzhou) difficulty', 12 Feb (no 23); on the reasons which induced him to leave China, 7 March (no30).</p>
NRAS3955/76/2/14	4 Jun 1857-27 Feb 1858	<p>Drafts of despatches from Lord Elgin to Viscount Canning; Lt General Thomas Ashburnham; Sir John Bowring; William B Reed; Sir Harry Parkes; Rear Admiral Sir Michael Seymour; General Van Straubenzee; Frederick Bruce; Alphonse de Bourboulon, Minister Plenipotentiary of France; Baron Gros; Sir Thomas Wade and Thomas Taylor Meadows. Un-numbered.</p> <p>Including: to Lord Canning regarding the diversion of troops destined for China to India, 4 June; to Lord Canning reporting the sending of the 'Simoon' with 700 men of the 5th Fusiliers to Calcutta, 20 June; to Lieutenant General Ashburnham, his troops will not be required to act in Canton (Guangzhou) but preparations should be continued in case the situation changes, 10 July; to Sir John Bowring, announcing his intention to go to Calcutta as Baron Gros is not expected to arrive until mid September, 16 July; to Lord Canning, requesting that the troop-ship the Blervie Castle, be allowed to continue on its way to China as part of</p>

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the Chinese Expeditionary Force, 27 and 31 Aug;
to Lord Canning regarding the possibility of the supply of Bengal sepoys for service in China, 2 Sep;
to Lord Canning, on the need for a sufficient military force in China in order to capture Canton (Guangzhou), 12 Oct;
to Admiral Seymour on the blockade of Canton (Guangzhou), 24 Nov;
to Monsieur Cartowitz, Consul for Prussia and Saxony, that the British Government will not represent German merchants' claims for compensation from the Chinese, 9 Dec;
to Baron Gros, suggesting a plan of proceedings to be followed by the plenipotentiaries, 18 Dec and 11 Jan;
to the Allied military commanders suggesting measures to avoid anarchy in Canton (Guangzhou), 30 Dec;
to Sir John Bowring congratulating him on the capture of Canton (Guangzhou), 31 Dec;
to Frederick Bruce appointing him and Thomas Wade to act with Monsieur Duchene de Bellievre and Monsieur Marquez as Commissioners for the custody and examination of the archives captured from Yeh, 20 Jan;
to Harry Parkes defining his role as one of the Commissioners of Canton (Guangzhou), 22 Jan;
to Sir John Bowring and Sir Michael Seymour regarding a dispute over jurisdictions between Vice Consul Meadows at Ningpo and Commander Saumarez of H M Sloop Cormorant, 23 Jan;
to Seymour suggesting that protection to foreigners be confined to the limits of the military occupation of Canton (Guangzhou), 4 Feb;
to Seymour on the expediency of removing Yeh as soon as possible, 11 Feb;
to Lord Canning on his resolution to send Yeh to Calcutta and asking for Canning's protection for Yeh's interpreter, Alabaster, 22 Feb.

NRAS3955/76/
2/151 Mar
1858 - 2
Mar 1859

Drafts of despatches from Lord Elgin to Count Pontiatine; Sir John Bowring; William Reed; Horatio Nelson Lay; Sir Harry Parkes; Rear Admiral Sir Michael Seymour; General Van Straubenzee; Baron Gros and Sir John Rutherford Alcock. Un-numbered.

Including:

to Sir Michael Seymour advising him to collect at Shanghai 'as large a fleet more especially of gunboats' in case Elgin should be disappointed in his attempts to settle the differences with the Chinese, 2 Mar;
to Sir John Bowring on the removal of the British Consulate from Whampoa [Huangpu] to Honan, 30 Mar;

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despatches relating to the sending of gunboats to the Gulf of Pechili, 3 Apr;
to Baron Gros, agreeing with his plan of proceeding 'although if we had obtained support from our admirals... I should have recommended a somewhat different course', 22 Apr;
to William Reed regarding the extent of the powers of the Chinese plenipotentiary, 5 May;
to Seymour asking for assurance of his support for Elgin's negotiations directly the gunboats can cross the bar of the river, 11 May;
to Seymour on his proposal that the forts be taken and the river blockaded which Elgin sees as tantamount to a declaration of war on China, and suggesting an alternative, 15 May;
to Seymour, advising him to request the Commander of the Taku Forts to surrender them into Seymour's hands or they will be taken by force, 19 May;
to Seymour with congratulations on the taking of the Taku Forts, 21 May;
to William Reed regarding complaints from the Chinese Imperial Commissioners about the language used by Horatio Lay in his meeting with them, 11 June;
to Count Pontiatine congratulating him on the treaty between Russia and China, 17 June;
to Baron Gros with a signed copy of the Treat of Tientsin [Tianjin] and acknowledging his assistance, 5 July;
to Seymour, announcing that he has warned the Imperial Commissioners of severe consequences of hostile operations continuing in Canton (Guangzhou), which remains in the hands of the Allies until an indemnity has been paid: he proceeds to Japan to treat with the authorities there, 6 July;
to Sir John Alcock asking him and Harry Parkes to prepare a report on the amount of compensation to which British subjects are entitled for property and goods destroyed at Canton (Guangzhou), 13 July;
to Van Straubensee suggesting that active measures should be taken against the braves at Canton (Guangzhou), 29 July;
to the Minister for Foreign Affairs at Yedo [Tokyo] announcing his arrival and the gift of a steam yacht from Queen Victoria, 12 Aug;
to Bowring regarding the state of affairs at Whampoa in relation to payment of duties and the role of Mr Bird, the Marine Magistrate there, 18 Oct;
to William Reed on the opium trade and tea export duty: legalisation is the only remedy for the former, 19 Oct;
to Bowring on flags of foreign nations granted to Chinese vessels, 8 Nov;
memo sent to Captain Barker instructing him to avoid

Reference	
NRAS3955	Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine
	<p>collision with the rebels, 20 Nov; to Alcock respecting purchase of land for British factories at Canton (Guangzhou), 17 and 26 Feb 1859.</p>
NRAS3955/76/ 2/16	<p>1857-1859 Correspondence between Lord Elgin and the Chinese authorities, including translations of letters to Lord Elgin and drafts of his letters to the Chinese [mainly General Yeh, Pehkwei, governor of Kwang Tung (Guandong), Kweiling and Hwashana, Imperial Commissioners and General Tan]. Some are copies of enclosures sent to the Foreign Office.</p> <p>Including: Copy of memorandum sent to General Yeh, 12 Dec 1857 [sent to F.O in No 83] and translation of Yeh's response of 16 Dec 1857 [sent to F.O. in No 97]; copy letter to Pehkwei, Governor of Kwang Tung, regarding the occupation of Canton (Guangzhou), 20 Jan 1858 [sent to F.O. in No 12]; copy two letters to Pehkwei, reporting on the conditions in the Nanhai and Pwanyu prisons and the establishment of a hospital to which the diseased prisoners are to be transferred, 31 Jan 1858 [sent to F.O. in No 22]; copy letter to Pehkwei notifying him of the lifting of the blockade and the renewal of trade at Canton (Guangzhou), 4 Feb 1858 [sent to F.O. in No 20]; copy letter and drafts to Tan regarding the extent of his powers to treat, 3 May 1858; draft letter to the Imperial Commissioner Tan announcing plans to take control of the forts at the mouth of the Peiho, 20 May 1858 [sent to F.O. in No 112]; translations of notes in the Peking Gazette relating to Kiyng's mission to Tientsing [Tianjin], June 1858; draft letter to Kweiling and Hwashana, the Imperial Commissioners, regarding their continued use of the term 'Barbarians' in an imperial decree contrary to an article of the recent treaty, [July?] 1858.</p>
NRAS3955/76/ 2/17	<p>1857-1859 Copies of miscellaneous addresses and petitions to Lord Elgin with memoranda on various subjects.</p> <p>Including: Addresses from the Chinese merchants and inhabitants of Singapore and the Singapore Chamber of Commerce, to Lord Elgin regarding the disadvantage to trade caused by affairs at Canton (Guangzhou), 1857; address by British subjects in Hong Kong to Lord Elgin with copy of his reply, June and 8 July 1857; petitions (3) purporting to be on behalf of certain Cantonese whose shops and warehouses were destroyed in the</p>

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operations of October 1856, 13 July 1857;

signed address by European firms in Shanghai supportive of his actions in India, 29 July 1857;

Vice Consul Winchester responding to representations of the British mercantile firms to Lord Elgin on import and export tariffs at Canton (Guangzhou), exportation of cereals, gold and silver, piracy, tonnage dues, 24 Nov 1857 [sent to F.O. in No 45];

memo of trade on the Swatow [Han?] River per annum, 5 March 1858;

signed address of the British merchants at Shanghai with Lord Elgin's response (printed), 29 March 1858;

copy address by the Protestant missionaries of Great Britain in Shanghai with Lord Elgin's response, 29 and 31 March 1858;

copy memorandum of W H Mitchell to Sir George Bonham, HM Superintendant of Trade in China, on British commerce with China, 15 March 1852 [sent to F.O. in 1858, No 69];

memorandum of interview held on 4 June 1858 between Lord Elgin and the Chinese High Commissioners [sent to F.O. in No 125];

notes of conversations between Horatio Lay [?] and secretaries attached to the Imperial Commissioners and with the Commissioners Kweiliang and Hwashana, 6 and 8-10 June 1858 [sent to F.O. in No 129];

copy memorandum of Frederick Bruce of his discussions with Count Pontiatine and Mr Reid regarding the opium trade, 7 June [sent to F.O. in No 124];

memoranda of conferences between Frederick Bruce and the Imperial Commissioners, 24 and 26 June 1858 [sent to F.O. Nos 136 and 137];

distribution of stores from HMS Furious supplied as gratuities to Japanese officers at Yedo [Tokyo], August 1858;

copy translation of a poem sent to Lord Elgin by Li, leader of the insurgents at Nanking [Nanjin], 1859.

NRAS3955/76/
2/18

1855-1858

Background materials supplied to Lord Elgin as preliminaries to military and political operations, general memoranda respecting Chinese affairs and drafts (in French) of correspondence between Baron Gros and the French authorities.

Including:

Sketch map of Nankin [Nanjin], nd;

summary of civil suits for mercantile debts submitted to the intervention of the Chinese authorities at Canton (Guangzhou), 1844-1856;

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list of outrages, assaults and insults committed on British subjects at Canton (Guangzhou) 'plainly traceable to popular animosity against foreigners', 1843-1856;
translation of a contemporary letter from a missionary in China to a Dutchman regarding the mission of George Macartney, 1st Earl Macartney, to China of 1792-4, outlining the reasons for its failure, nd.;
suggestions by Lord Ellenborough [Edward Law, 1790-1871, 1st Earl of Ellenborough) on the best means of preserving the health of troops in hot countries, 13 March 1857;
Lord Ellenborough's suggestions as to the operation in China, 14 March 1857;
copy memorandum by Sir Colin Campbell [Baron Clyde, 1792-1863], on the mode of operating (use of Indian troops, appropriate clothing for soldiers) against the Chinese, nd;
letter from Lieutenant Colonel George Balfour [later General Sir George Balfour, 1809-1894] with advice on conducting affairs in China, Madras, 27 April 1857;
statements of duties paid by British vessels at Foo-chow [Fuhzou] for 1855-57;
meteorological observations at Peking [Beijing], 1855-57;
Mr Moncrieff's memorandum of views for the negotiation of a new Treaty with China, c.1857;
response to a memorial from Messrs Seller, British merchants, Shanghai, seeking compensation for losses, nd;
draft of note to General Yeh from Baron Gros, Nov 1857;
examination by Baron Gros of a Ningpo junkman, charged by the Chinese government with gathering the rice tribute at Tientsin, 27 May 1858;
list of secret articles agreed between the French and Chinese at Tientsin, 27 June 1858 [in French] [enclosed in despatch to Foreign Office 161];
draft agreement of the Allies on the passport system to be followed by their countrymen in China, June 1858 [in French];
copy letter from Baron Gros to the Imperial Commissioners on the evacuation of Canton, 16 Nov 1858 [in French]

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2/1911 Feb - 1
May 1858

Despatches from Sir Harry Parkes (1828-1885), Civilian Allied Commissioner for the occupation of Canton, [Nos 1 - 34, each with several enclosures, no 3 missing]

Including:

memorandum and plan of proposed site for new British and French Factory, 11 Feb [No 1] ;
report of an attack on a party of British officers and men by Chinese military enclosing a translation of the Chinese version of events, 21 Feb [No 4], with further papers, 1

Reference	
<p>NRAS3955</p>	<p>Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine</p> <p>March [No 8]; report on the re-opening of trade at Canton (Guangzhou), 25 Feb [No 6]; copy, in Chinese, and translation [in envelope], of Imperial Edict appointing Hwang Tsunghan High Imperial Commissioner and authorising Pihkwei to act as such in the interim, 1 March [No 9]; statement of claims for losses at Canton (Guangzhou), 3 March [No 11; to FO in No 64]; report and other papers relating to the attack on the British Consular flagstaff at Whampoa, 22 March [No17]; papers relating to a case of piracy at Chaypee, 28 March and 11 April [Nos 18 and 21]; papers relating to the desecration of foreign tombs on French Island, 11 April [No 22]; papers relating to the seizure and torture of five coolies of the Military Train accused of gang robbery, 23 April [No 29]; general report on the state of affairs at Canton (Guangzhou) including rumours of the raising of Braves and planned attacks on Canton (Guangzhou), including a copy in Chinese of the denunciation of the misgovernment of Yeh by the gentry and notables of Canton (Guangzhou), 24 April [No 31]; W Lobschied's report on the Canton (Guangzhou) prisons, 1 May [No 33].</p> <p>NRAS3955/76/2/20 8 May-3 Jul 1858 Despatches from Sir Harry Parkes (1828-1885), Civilian Allied Commissioner for the occupation of Canton, [Nos 35-47 each with several enclosures].</p> <p>Including: memoranda of interviews, undertaken by the Allied Commissioners Colonel Holloway and Captain Martineau des Chenez, of Pihkwei and certain Canton (Guangzhou) gentry, 12-14 May [enclosed with no 36]; acts of aggression committed on allies by the Braves, enclosing a copy of entry in the Commissioners' Journal relating to an attack on British police on 30 May, and Chinese copy with translation of a proclamation by Pihkwei offering a reward for the capture of the Braves involved, 4 June [No 37]; copy report on prisons in Canton (Guangzhou) by Reverend Cox and Dr Wang with a note of the number of prisoners in each, 6 June [No 42]; incendiarism and assassination attempts in Canton (Guangzhou) including the kidnapping and murder of two Englishmen and one American, 18 June [No 43-44]; Imperial Commissioner and Governor General Hwang Tsung</p>

Reference		
NRAS3955	Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine	
		<p>Han's proclamation of a hostile foreign policy, 21 June [no 46]; memorandum by Parkes on measures for the expulsion of Braves and soldiers from Canton, 2 July 1858; appearance of placards denouncing foreigners ('the red-bristled foreign dogs') with a return of attacks on police by braves, 3 July, including translation of an anonymous letter thrown over the wall of the Commissioners' Yamun from the Manchoos and Kehias, 19 June[No 47].</p>
NRAS3955/76/2/21	5 Jul-7 Aug 1858	<p>Despatches from Sir Harry Parkes (1828-1885), Civilian Allied Commissioner for the occupation of Canton [Nos 48-61 each with several enclosures]. In English and Chinese. Including: Chinese to cease executions by the cruel practice of 'cutting up', 5 July [No 51]; on the new judicial powers conferred on the Commissioners including the power of inflicting capital punishment where Chinese have been convicted of treasonable or seditious acts, 20 July [No 53]; copy in Chinese and English of proclamation by Hwa, magistrate of Nanhae [Nanhai] district in the Kwangchow [Guangzhou] prefecture prohibiting all dealings with the barbarian foreigners, 20 July [No 54]; on the destruction of the six triumphal arches erected to commemorate the exclusion of foreigners from the city in 1849, 26 July [No58]; report of Parkes' announcement of the Treaty to Pihkwei, 27 July [No 59].</p>
NRAS3955/76/2/22	19 Aug-6 Oct 1858	<p>Despatches from Sir Harry Parkes (1828-1885), Civilian Allied Commissioner for the occupation of Canton [Nos 61-74 each with several enclosures]. In English and Chinese. Including: Continuing problems with the actions of the Braves, with memoranda of interviews between the Allied Commissioners and Governor Pihkwei, Hwang's proclamation forbidding trading with foreigners, and copies and translations of hostile placards, 19 Aug [No 62]; proclamation of the Imperial Commissioner Hwang announcing the conclusion of peace at Tientsin, 17 Aug [in No 63]; trials of Chinese prisoners for hostile activities, 21 Aug [No 64]; improved situation in Canton (Guangzhou), with original and translation of a peace proclamation by Pihkwei 'for the purpose of quieting the people', 3 Sep [No 65]; copy monthly report for August by Captain Pym, Superintendent of Police, 4 Sep [No 66];</p>

Reference		
NRAS3955	Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine	
		<p>correspondence with Hwang regarding the non publication of the Proclamation making known that obstacles to trading with foreigners had been removed, with a memo by Parkes on the continuing distrust of the Chinese mercantile classes, 14 Sep [No 72];</p> <p>summary of local intelligence for the past week with Chinese version of orders issued by Hwang for the collection of contributions to the military chest and original Chinese version and translation of tea merchants' petition to Pihkwei and Hoppo, 6 Oct [No 74].</p>
NRAS3955/76/2/23	8 Oct-24 Dec 1858	<p>Despatches from Sir Harry Parkes (1828-1885), Civilian Allied Commissioner for the occupation of Canton [Nos 75-94 each with several enclosures]. In English and Chinese.</p> <p>Including:</p> <p>copies correspondence relating to prisoners still held by the Chinese, with the statement of Robert Powell, artilleryman, kidnapped by the Chinese and liberated by them after the Treaty of Tienstin[Tianjin], information on the seizure and death of Mr Duncan, a merchant and native of Leith, and plans for the murder of Parkes, 8 Oct [No 75];</p> <p>discussions with Pihkwei regarding the payment of the indemnity and the anticipated evacuation of Canton (Guangzhou), 18 Oct [No 78];</p> <p>Governor General Hwang's instructions on collection of taxes for to the military fund (original and translation), 18 Oct [No 79];</p> <p>cost of the Allied Commission from Jan - Sep, 18 Oct [No 81];</p> <p>communications regarding the destruction of and sale of timber from the Examination Hall where Allied troops had been billeted, 3 Nov [No 84]; Hwang's policy and discussions with the Faynan Commissioners, 8 Nov [No 86];</p> <p>report on conditions in Canton (Guangzhou) prisons and steps taken to improve them, 25 Nov [No 89];</p> <p>movement of rebels with a map of the province of Kwang Tung [Guangdong], marked to show disaffected districts, 25 Nov [No 90];</p> <p>secret edict issued by the Emperor regarding the foreign policy to be pursued in Canton (Guangzhou), 24 Dec [No 92];</p> <p>financial state of Canton (Guangzhou) province, 24 Dec [No 93];</p> <p>negotiations regarding the release of a French and a Spanish sailor imprisoned at Hai Kao on the island of Hainan, 24 Dec [No 94].</p>
NRAS3955/76/	24 Dec	Despatches from Sir Harry Parkes (1828-1885), Civilian

Reference	
NRAS3955	Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine
2/24	<p>1858-13 Allied Commissioner for the occupation of Canton [Nos 95-109, each with several enclosures]. In English and Chinese.</p> <p>Mar 1859</p> <p>Including: papers relating to compensation paid to the families of killed or disabled men of the Allied Police force with their details, 24 Dec [No 95]; an attack by Braves on a Marine Brigade at Shektsing, 7, 11, 13 and 15 Jan [Nos 96-99]; response of the Faynen Commissioners to the Imperial secret edict, 27 Jan [No 101]; Canton (Guangzhou) finances, 28 Jan [No 103]; expense of the Allied Commission and police force for year 1858, 5 Feb [No 105]; report on the West River Expedition, 12 March [No 108].</p>
NRAS3955/76/ 2/25	<p>23 Jun Letters and despatches to Frederick W A Bruce, Secretary of Legation with draft replies.</p> <p>1857-7</p> <p>Aug 1858</p> <p>Including: memorandum by Mr Murrow, merchant, Hong Kong, on the history of the Canton (Guangzhou) Braves, 11 July 1857; despatch from Rawson Rawson (1812-1899), Colonial Secretary, Cape of Good Hope, regarding sending of reinforcements to India, 7 Aug 1857 [56]; report from William Davidson, merchant, Ningpo on the operation of tariff duties on exports, 27 Sept 1857; summary of claims for property detained or destroyed at Canton (Guangzhou) and consequential losses, 6 Oct 1857; memorandum by Thomas T Meadows on the operation of tariff duties, Ningpo, 8 Feb 1858 [2]; letter from Osmond Cleverly, Macao, regarding his claim for compensation for injuries sustained during the attack on the 'Queen', 28 Feb 1858; copy despatches from Cecil Beadon, Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, regarding arrangements for the custody of Imperial Commissioner Yeh, 15 March 1858 [1124, 1126]; letters from E W Tyrone Power, Hong Kong, with an estimate of the extraordinary expenditure of the hostilities at Canton (Guangzhou), incurred by the Commissariat Department between 1 Jan 1857 and 31 March 1858, 23 Apr 1858; memorial for the Protestant Missionaries in Amoy [Xiamen] regarding the position of Chinese Christians and the protection of their religious liberties which should be secured in the treaties with the Chinese, 17 March 1858; letter from Harry Parkes with an update on affairs in Canton (Guangzhou), 10 Apr 1858;</p>

Reference	
NRAS3955	Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine
	list of Mr Alabaster's disbursements on account of Imperial Commissioner Yeh in Calcutta, 10 June 1858 [146]; papers relating to the Netherlands trade with Japan, Oct 1857-Feb 1858.
NRAS3955/76/ 2/26	23 May 1857-18 Mar 1858 Private official correspondence to with draft replies from Lord Elgin, mainly relating to the Indian Mutiny. [20 letters] Including: letter from Mr Blundell, government representative at Singapore, regarding the loss of the 'Transit' on the island of Barrea and preparations for the despatch of companies of the 90th Regiment to Calcutta, 15 July 1857; copy letter from Sir Henry Ward (1797-1860), Governor of Ceylon, praising his actions in despatching his troops to India: 'You have set a bright example at a moment of darkness and calamity', Aug 1857; letters (5) from George Harris, Baron Harris (1810-1872), Governor of Madras, with news of developments: 'what a mess it is- and how we shall pull through is scarcely yet apparent', 23 May-14 Sep 1857; letters (13) from Charles Canning, Earl Canning (1812-1862), Governor General of India, urging Elgin to despatch his British regiments to India and reporting on critical conditions there, the sending of sepoy to Canton (Guangzhou), and the conditions of imprisonment of Imperial Commissioner Yeh, 19 May 1857-18 March 1858; draft letters (5), and copies, from Lord Elgin to Lord Canning, on the lack of understanding of the Chinese and their language by Europeans in Singapore, the gathering of allies in Hong Kong: 'It won't do for us to show the white feather among the covey of fighting cocks which we have gathered round us by crowing', the capture and occupation of Canton (Guangzhou) and asking Canning to allow Yeh to be kept a prisoner at Calcutta 'to impress him with a sense of the greatness of England', 21 June 1857-14 Feb 1858.
NRAS3955/76/ 2/27	8 Mar 1857-9 Mar 1858 Private correspondence to Lord Elgin.[34 letters] Including: letters (2) from Lord Palmerston requesting a meeting regarding 'a proposal which I trust may prove agreeable to you', 8 and 12 March 1857; letters (32) from George Villiers, Earl of Clarendon, Foreign Secretary, on matters relating to the China Mission, the Indian Mutiny, 18 March 1857-9 March 1858, with copy of letter from Clarendon to Admiral Sir Michael Seymour outlining the extent of his authority in relation to Lord Elgin and General Ashburnham, 27 Apr 1857.

Reference		
NRAS3955	Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine	
NRAS3955/76/ 2/28	9 Mar 1858-7 April 1859	<p>Private correspondence to Lord Elgin from James, Lord Malmesbury (3rd earl of Malmesbury, 1807-1889), Foreign Secretary. [11 letters]</p> <p>Passing on the instructions of the Cabinet as to his mission, mainly urging him to complete it as soon as possible without 'loss of honour and commercial interests', and latterly congratulating him on his success.</p>
NRAS3955/76/ 2/29	7 May 1857-20 Sep 1858	<p>Copy private correspondence of Lord Elgin with Lords Clarendon and Malmesbury, written from Cairo, Singapore, Calcutta, Hong Kong, Tientsin and Shanghai. (25 letters)</p> <p>Including: Letters (22) to Lord Clarendon, 7 May 1857-22 May 1858: from Cairo on his experience of the Suez railway, 7 and 13 May 1857; his impressions of relations between the Chinese and the Europeans, the Sarawak insurrection and the attack on Mrs Cruikshank, disturbances at Penang after police interference with Chinese theatrical amusements, the effect of the European 'wife question' ie the impact of their residing there on the functioning and opinions of their husbands by drawing them away from the 'Tenana where he learned thoroughly native languages and more perhaps of native customs than was good for him', 14 June 1857; his conversation with Whampoa, a Chinese contractor for the navy and shipping at Singapore, who has sent his son to be educated in England, 22 June 1857; relations with Baron Gros, 30 October 1857; a cigar with Madame de Bourboulon (Catherine Fanny Macleod) and the gathering of American, French and Russian diplomats, generals and admirals: 'it is necessary to pass a gentle hand over all these palpitating strings if we would provoke from them none but accordant tones', Hong Kong, 14 Nov 1857; on the bombardment of Canton (Guangzhou), 28-9 Dec 1857; 'When I look at the chaos of claims, demands, concessions, suggestions, with which I am surrounded & for which I am coolly required to make provision in Treaties, I often wish that I was anywhere except where I am', Hong Kong, 27 Feb 1858; on his treatment of Imperial Commissioner Yeh, 22 May 1858. Letters (3) to Lord Malmesbury, 4 June -20 September 1858.</p>
NRAS3955/76/	8 Nov	Letters (9) to Lord Elgin from William Bradford Reed

Reference	
NRAS3955	Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine
2/30	<p>1857-8 (1806-1876), United States Plenipotentiary to China. Nov 1858</p> <p>Including: letter of 8 Nov enclosing letter of introduction from William L Marcy (d. 4 July 1857)7, former United States Secretary of State, 6 May 1857; letter enclosing Mr Williams' paper (not present) and his 'chart', a drawing of Canton (Guangzhou) showing possible factory sites, from 'The Minnesota', 22 Feb 1858.</p>
NRAS3955/76/ 2/31	<p>19 May Letters (22) to Lord Elgin from Rear Admiral Sir Michael Seymour (1802-1887), mostly from HMS Calcutta and HMS Coromandel. 1857-15 Mar 1859</p> <p>Including: letter regarding the wreck of the Transit, the despatch of the Inflexible paddle steamer to Singapore, to assist in the movement of her troops and crew, and of the Fury to Ceylon to assist Sir Henry Ward, 22 July 1857; his last remaining paddle steamer, the Sampron, will set out for Calcutta with five to six hundred Royal Artillery, he has declared the Port of Canton (Guangzhou) in a state of blockade, Hong Kong, 10 Aug 1857; he is sending Elgin the Oppossum gun boat, the French gun boats have not arrived yet; the banks of the River Peiho are lined by the Tientsin inhabitants 'in an apparent mood of passive curiosity', 25 May 1858.</p>
NRAS3955/76/ 2/32	<p>3 Jun Copy letters (19) from Lord Elgin to Rear Admiral Sir Michael Seymour (1802-1887) 1857-15 Feb 1859</p> <p>Including: letter suggesting that the gunboat sent to transport him up the River Peiho could be put to better use, he is ready to move 'at a moment's notice', 21 May 1858.</p>
NRAS3955/76/ 2/33	<p>13 May Letters (15) to Lord Elgin from Sir John Bowring (1792-1872), Governor of Hong Kong. 1857-11 Oct 1858</p> <p>Including: Imperial Commissioner Yeh is being deserted by the Braves, 'his garrulous pride is turned to morbid taciturnity', 25 May; Thomas Chisholm Anstey (1816-1873), former Attorney-General of Hong Kong, suspended by Bowring, leaves on the Lancefield, 'I hope he will permanently locate himself in Calcutta', 22 July; difficulties in giving precise statistics of trade between Hong Kong and Chinese ports and enclosing printed comparative statements of export of tea and silk from Shanghai, and of</p>

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British and American manufactured goods imported there in the years 1854-57, 8 Aug;
 since Mr Parkes' appointment to the Commission in Canton (Guangzhou), Bowring has received no communications from him and seeking Elgin's advice, 11 Oct 1858;
 Rough Survey of the coast between the Chi-Kau-Ho and Lai-Chau by Lieutenant Charles Bullock and Mr George Robison, Dec 1860, lithograph, with notes , 'I think all our surveying ships should have lithographers and they would then be able to give the ships.. the benefit of their surveys at once instead of having to wait for their publication in England'.

NRAS3955/76/
2/345 Dec
1857-13
Mar 1859

Letters (22) from General Sir Charles Thomas Van Straubenzee (1812-1892), Commander of Her Majesty's Troops in China, mainly relating to the capture of Canton and the maintenance of peace there.

Including:

letter written from the Heights in Canton (Guangzhou), enclosing his and Parkes' brief outline of the proposed arrangement of the government of the city after it falls, 4 Jan 1858;
 troop movements, 25 April;
 deaths among the troops from apoplexy and heat stroke, Hong Kong, 7 June;
 attacks by the Braves and consequent retribution, as the weather has become hotter the Cantonese have become more pugnacious, 4 July;
 congratulates Elgin on his success and laments his own treatment at the hands of the press, Hong Kong, 22 July;
 difficulty of 'striking a blow' at the Braves, 8 Aug;
 the gates of Canton (Guangzhou) were opened on the 4th which he hopes will encourage the more respectable merchants to return, 7 Sep;
 enclosing copy despatches between Van Straubenzee, Colonel Holloway and Henry Parkes with copy replies regarding his belief that the Commissioners were interfering with the native government of the city of Canton (Guangzhou) and in particular in relation to the Tapaous (local police), 5-8 Oct 1858;
 resumption of consular functions at Canton (Guangzhou) and arrival of the 2nd Battalion Royals, many with wives and children, 24 Oct 1858;
 expedition to Fahyuen district where he and his troops are met with civility and curiosity, 12 Feb 1859.

NRAS3955/76/
2/353 Jun
1857-3

Copy letters (34) from Lord Elgin to Sir John Bowring; William B Reed; Horatio Nelson Lay, Assistant Chinese

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	<p>Jun 1861 Secretary; Rear Admiral Sir Michael Seymour; General Charles Thomas Van Straubenzee; Sir John Rutherford Alcock; Count Pontiatine; Captain Caldbeck of the Ava. Including: letter to H C J Huisken, Dutch interpreter in Japan asking him to accept a watch and chain in recognition of his assistance during the negotiations preceding the Treaty of Yedo [Tokyo], 27 Aug 1858; letter to General Van Straubenzee informing him that he is sailing north the next day, he would feel more sanguine about bringing the Emperor to terms if he had a dozen small gunboats with him and cannot understand the Admiral's non arrival, Shanghai, 9 April 1858; letters to Vice Admiral James Hope regarding operations, 17 July 1860-3 June 1861, including his views on the French army in Shanghai, 11 Dec 1860, Lay has been summoned to Hong Kong to defend himself in an action for damages raised against him in connection with the murder of Captain Saunders, 3 Jan 1861.</p>
NRAS3955/76/2/36	<p>1858-1859 Miscellaneous papers relating to Rear Admiral Sir Michael Seymour, Captain Osborne and Henry B Loch Apparently gathered together with the intention of someone writing a monograph.</p> <p>Including: Papers relating to attacks on Sir Michael Seymour's actions during the mission, including printed Correspondence respecting Affairs in China, presented to the House of Lords, 21 Feb 1860 and written comments of [Gerard Osborne?] in support of Seymour, nd.; correspondence relating to promotions of those in the navy employed in the operations in China and, in particular, the lack of reward for Captain Osborne of HMS Furious, Aug-Dec 1859 [with note stating 'Papers recovered from wreck of Malabar 1860]; papers relating to the accusation made by Captain Suamarez of HMS Cormorant against Henry B Loch (later 1st Baron Loch of Drylaw, 1827-1900) of having written a letter to 'The Times' offensive to the British Navy, 26 Sep-8 Oct 1858.</p>
NRAS3955/76/2/37	<p>15 Feb Copy letters (26) mainly from Lord Elgin to Sir John Grey, . 1858-31 Mar 1861 Including: copy letter from Sir Frederick Bruce to Lady Augusta Bruce on events after the capture of Canton, 15 Feb 1858; letter to General Grey, written from the Furious, discoursing in a humorous fashion on the events of the past months, and</p>

Reference

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highlighting its farcical nature, Yeh's actions ('since the time when the little pigs used to run about the streets with knives & forks in their hands requesting the bystanders to kill & eat them, no such example of self sacrifice has been witnessed.') and those of the allies, 14 July 1858;

extracts Lord Elgin's letters to [-] on delays in pushing forces up the Tientsin river and his dissatisfaction with Admiral Seymour, , 22-24 June, and on the negotiations leading up to the signing of the Treaty of Tientsin where 'though I have been forced to act almost brutally I am China's friend in all this' and 23 June-2 July 1858;

copy letters to Lord John, from Galle, Singapore, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Tientsin, Peking and Vienna, 30 April 1860-31 March 1861, reporting his concerns about the official papers, including his credentials, still in the wreck of the Malabar and being sought for by divers, 28 May and 5 June; the disturbed conditions in China are advantageous to the belligerents 'but it is to be feared that if we shake it too rudely, the whole concern may fall to pieces in our hands', 23 June; on the strength of the French and British armies in China, 12 July; Parkes and Loch are safe and he hopes the fate of the other prisoners won't be affected by the 'wanton destruction' done to the Summer Palace by the French, 9 Oct; the French army are about to leave but Elgin has persuaded his General to remain until the Emperor has publicised the Treaty in all the Provinces of the Empire, 31 Oct 1860; on the opening up of the Yangtze to trade and favourable reports of trade with Japan 'one of the most remarkable phenomena of our times', Shanghai, 6 Dec 1860; on French policy in Shanghai, 12 Dec 1860.

NRAS3955/76/
2/38May
1857-Oct
1860

Copies of Lord Elgin's journal, with gaps.
Copies are extracts from letters: 5, 7, 8, 10, 13, 20, 21, 23, 25, 26, 28-31, 34-37, 42, 43. Then 1 Aug 1858-27 Sep 1860. In the hand of Mary, Countess of Elgin.

Jan 16 1858 noted on reverse for Lady Augusta Bruce, 79 Rue de Lille, [Paris]; two copies of 8 Nov-31 Dec in pencil on back 'C & D Bruce, 12 Devonshire Place?

Includes: ink plan on tracing paper showing disposition of gunboats at the mouth of the Peiho River, 20 May 1858.

NRAS3955/76/
2/3928 Mar
1857

Commission by Queen Victoria in favour of Lord Elgin as High Commissioner and Plenipotentiary to China.
Great Seal of Victoria on tag with silver and silk thread tassels in silver skippet.

NRAS3955/76/

28 Mar

Letters patent under the Great Seal granting Lord Elgin full

Reference		
NRAS3955	Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine	
2/40	1857	powers to treat with the Emperor of China. Great Seal of Victoria on tag with silver and silk thread tassels in silver skipet.
NRAS3955/76/ 3	1857-1906	Diplomatic papers and correspondence of James Bruce, 8th Earl of Elgin (1811-1863) relating to his Second China Mission as High Commissioner and Plenipotentiary to China.
NRAS3955/76/ 3/1	21 Mar-29 Dec 1860	Official despatches, mainly duplicates, from Lord John Russell (later 1st Earl Russell, 1792-1878), Foreign Secretary, and Edmund Hammond (1802-890), Permanent Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office, to Lord Elgin, [No 1-42, some missing] Including: letters from Edmund Hammond, enclosing copies of despatches relating to the agreement between the Russian and United States governments with regard to China, 21 March (these documents show signs of having been salvaged from the wreck of the Malabar); instructions from Russell as to Elgin's conduct to China, including the necessity that the British and French ambassadors reach Peking and are received there with honour, an apology for the attack at the Peiho, the ratification of the treaty of Tientsin and payment of an indemnity for the expenses of naval and military preparations, 17 April [No 1]; enclosing a copy despatch from Sir Henry Rawlinson, Tehran, with intelligence about the build up of the Russian army in Siberia for operations against the north of China, 19 April [No 5]; enclosing printed guidance and copy correspondence issued by the government for the diplomatic, military and naval officers in China, 21 April [No 9]; regarding occupation of the Kowloon Peninsula, including copy letter from General von Straubenzee to Frederick Bruce of 6 March, 7 May [No 14]; forwarding copies of communication from the Salt Chamber of Commerce, Northwich, pointing out the importance of the removal of the prohibition on the importation of salt into China, 31 July [No 21]; passing on the Queen's approval of his resolve and actions in China and the necessity of ensuring payment of the Indemnity, 10 Nov [No 35]; on the advisability of Frederick Bruce residing in Peking, 23 Dec [No 40].
NRAS3955/76/	2 Jan-31	Official despatches, mainly duplicates, from Lord John

Reference		
NRAS3955		Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine
3/2	Oct 1861	<p>Russell, Foreign Secretary, and Edmund Hammond, Permanent Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office, to Lord Elgin [including despatches No 1-11] Including: enclosing copy letter from Sir John Russell to Sir John Crampton (1805-1886), ambassador at St Petersburg, asking him to thank Prince Gortchakoff [Alexander Mikhailovich Gorchakov, 1798- 1883)and General Ignatieff (1832-1908), Russian Plenipotentiary, for allowing the bodies of British subjects killed by the Chinese to be buried in the Russian cemetery at Peking, 2 Jan [No 1]; enclosing copies of correspondence between Russell and the Earl Cowley, ambassador in Paris, regarding the evacuation of Chusan [Zhoushan] and the occupation of Canton (Guangzhou), 9 Jan [No3]; enclosing copy correspondence with the War Office regarding the decision to destroy the Summer Palace (Yuan ming Yuan), 10 Jan [No 4]; from Russell conveying his approval of events, in the conduct of the officers involved in the mission and, in particular the deferral of Frederick Bruce's residence in Peking until the Spring, 16 Jan [No 7]; enclosing copy of letter from the Salt Chamber of Commerce, Northwich and Liverpool, concerning the continued prohibition of the import of salt into China under the new Treaty, 27 May; letters from the War Office, concerning the award of the China Medal, 21 May-31 Oct.</p>
NRAS3955/76/ 3/3	27 Feb 1860-26 Feb 1861	<p>Letters (15) to James, 8th earl of Elgin from Lord John Russell, Foreign Secretary, with instructions and information regarding the China Mission.</p> <p>Including: confirms that Elgin's salary will be £6000 a year plus expenses, his special embassy should also comprise a private secretary and two paid attaches: the Extraordinary and Ordinary Missions should be quite apart though may share interpreters, 3 Mar 1860; 11 Mar 1860 Instructions regarding the mission: Elgin and Baron Gros to have supreme authority over the naval and military commanders, though particular attention is to be paid to their representatives; every effort to be made to carry out the negotiations in common; the indemnity to remain fixed at 60 million francs; 26 Dec 1860 Congratulates Lord Elgin on the success of his mission, the Chinese must be warned that the British will go to Peking [Beijing]again in force if not well-used.</p>

Reference

NRAS3955

Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and KincardineNRAS3955/76/
3/4April
1860-25
Oct 1860

Draft despatches from Lord Elgin to Lord John Russell, Foreign Secretary, [No 1-75]. Enclosures mentioned in the despatches are not included.

Including:

- on the suppression of piracy on the coast of China, 21 April [No 2];
- reporting the wreck of the SS Malabar and the loss of his credentials and official instructions, 23 May [No 7];
- reporting that Vice-Admiral Sir James Hope (1808-1881) and Lt General Hope Grant (Sir James Hope Grant, 1808-1875) have agreed with the Commander-in-Chief of the French (Charles Cousin-Montauban, Comte de Palikao 1796-1876) that their forces are not to make any hostile operation before the 15th of March, 11 July [No 19];
- rejection of the ultimata by the Chinese has not been followed by any acts of hostility, requires ambassadors to adopt a new line of action, 24 July [No 22];
- on the importance of his having his own distinctive flag, 25 July [No 23];
- report from Admiral Hope on dealings with the Tartar cavalry on the river above Pehtang, 8 Aug [No 30];
- on important policy documents found at the capture of Sinho in the room of the Chinese General, who had fled so precipitously that the tea on the table was still warm, 20 and 25 Aug [Nos 36 and 39];
- on events leading to the suspension of negotiations, 8 Sep [No48];
- negotiations with the Chinese Plenipotentiaries regarding the advance to Tang-Chao, 16 Sep [No52];
- negotiations with Prince Kong (Gong/Kung, 1833-1898) and the advance on Peking [Beijing], 8 Oct [No 57];
- return of the French and English prisoners including Parkes, Loch and the Comte d'Escayrac de Lauture (explorer, 1822-1868)and sending him Loch's account of his imprisonment (not present), 10 Oct [no58];
- more prisoners have been returned but he fears the worst for Lieutenant Anderson and Frederick Bruce's attaché, William De Norman, 13 Oct [no 63];
- giving the reasons for the destruction of the Imperial Summer Palace (Yuan Ming Yuan), rather than trying to secure indemnities or the surrender of those who had been responsible for the capture of Parkes and the others and violating the flag of truce, 25 Oct [No 74].

NRAS3955/76/
3/51860-1
July 1861

Draft despatches from Lord Elgin to Lord John Russell, the Foreign Secretary [1860, No 76-110, 1861, no 1-17]. Enclosures mentioned in the despatches are not included.

Including:

NRAS3955

Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine

report on his visit to the Hall of Ceremonies, the signing of the Convention of Peking and the ratification of the Treaty of Tientsin, which he sends to Lord Russell by H B Loch, 26 Oct [No 76];
 the corpses of Bowlby (Thomas W Bowlby, 1817-1860) and others have been received, only that of Captain Brabazon is missing, believed beheaded, 26 Oct [No 80];
 arrival of Frederick Bruce, and in a symbolic gesture designed to impress on Prince Kung their equality in rank, he gives him the seat of honour, 13 Nov [No 90];
 his interpretation of a document found in the Summer Palace revealing the thinking of the Chinese Emperor after the fall of the Taku Forts, 16 Nov [No 95];
 regarding the issue of passports allowing access to the interior of China, 3 Dec [No 100];
 recommending the skills and services of Thomas Wade, one of his interpreters, 6 Dec [No 103];
 on the payment of the indemnity, compensation to those illegally imprisoned on the 18th September and the families of those who perished and the opening up of the Yangtze river to trade, 6 Dec [No 105];
 on the opening up of communications between India and China through Tibet, 5 March 1861 [No 16];
 recommending the services of Dr A D Home who had served on Elgin's embassy and now returns to England, 1 April;
 recommending Wade and Loch, Colonel Crealock, T H Thurlow and Parkes for some acknowledgement of their services, 22 April, 20 May and 11 June;
 amount of losses sustained by Lord Elgin and the gentlemen attached to his mission in the wreck of the Malabar, 30 April;
 draft despatch to Mr Hammond on salt as it is dealt with in the treaties with China, 5 June.

NRAS3955/76/
3/621 Apr
1860-9
Mar 1861

Miscellaneous official correspondence to Lord Elgin.
 Numbered within the year but most missing.

Including:
 from John Harvey, Managing Director of The Borneo Company, enclosing copies of letters to the Duke of Newcastle and Lord John Russell requesting that Sarawak become a British protectorate, and adding that Sarawak was 'admirably adapted to become a Convict Station for India' which convict labour would help the company, 21 Apr 1860 [No 1];
 from W S Atkinson, Secretary of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, regarding their proposal to send Edward Blyth (1810-1873) as a naturalist with Lord Elgin's expedition to China, 21 Apr 1860 [No 4];

Reference		
NRAS3955	Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine	
	<p>signed address presented to Lord Elgin by the mercantile community of Shanghai regarding the Treaty, 5 Jul 1860 [No 7];</p> <p>from General Sir James Hope Grant enclosing roll of Sikh soldiers taken prisoner by the Chinese and regarding compensation paid to them and the relatives of those who died, 3 Nov 1860 [No 87];</p> <p>from Baron Gros regarding the destruction of the Imperial Summer Palace (Yuan Ming Yuan), the reason for his disapproval of Elgin's actions and the reaction from Prince Kung, 4 Nov 1860 [No 88];</p> <p>from Thomas Taylor Meadows, consul at Shanghai, regarding the apprehension of British robbers, 6 Dec 1860 [No 98];</p> <p>from Hercules Robinson (1824-1897, later 1st Baron Rosmead), Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Hong Kong, enclosing a copy of The Hong Kong Government Gazette, 15 Dec, in which is printed the Convention of Peking and the Treaty of Tientsin, 28 Dec 1860 [No 104];</p> <p>from William Henry Adams, Chief Justice of Hong Kong, regarding the occupation and government of Kowloon, 13 Jan 1861 [No 4];</p> <p>translation by Harry Parkes of a proclamation allowing missionaries, and mentioning specifically Rev Griffith John, to pass freely, nd.</p>	
NRAS3955/76/3/7	24 May 1860-29 Mar 1861	<p>Drafts of official despatches from Lord Elgin, 24 May 1860-29 March 1861 [No 1-112 of 1860 and 1-8 of 1861] (Enclosures not included).</p> <p>Including:</p> <p>to Colonel Cavanagh, Governor of the Straits Settlement, regarding Lieutenant General Hope Grant's request for the Sikh regiment to be sent to China urgently, 14 June [No 4];</p> <p>draft response to the address of the mercantile community in Shanghai on government policy in China, 5 July [No 8];</p> <p>to Vice Admiral Hope and Lieutenant General Sir Hope Grant, proposing that no notification be made to the Chinese of his arrival until after the taking of the Taku Forts, the opening up of the route to Peking, and his own arrival in Tientsin, 19 July [No 12];</p> <p>to Governor General Hang, that he cannot call on military and naval forces to withdraw until the Peiho is opened, 17 Aug [No 22];</p> <p>to Sir Hope Grant requesting 1000 men to accompany the embassy, 3 Sep [No 37];</p> <p>to Sir Hope Grant, the bad faith of the Chinese releases him from any obligation to restrict the advance of Grant's troops, they are to proceed to Jungchan, 19 Sep [No 50];</p>

NRAS3955

Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine

to Prince Kung regarding the 'violation of the law of nations' by the seizure and detention of Parkes and the others under the protection of a flag of truce: he will not advance to Peking [Beijing] if they are given up in three days and the conditions of the Convention agreed to, 25 Sep [No 54];
 ultimatum to Prince Kung stating the conditions demanded for the negotiation of peace, including the levelling of the Summer Palace [Yuan-Ming-Yuan] and 300 000 taels compensation for the prisoners who survived and the families of those that did not, 17 Oct [No 69];
 to Baron Gros outlining his reasons for wishing to insert an article on Chinese emigration in the Convention, 24 Oct [No 81];
 to Sir Hope Grant on arrangements for the payment of the indemnities, 21 Nov [No 95];
 to the British Consuls in Shanghai, Canton (Guangzhou), Fuchow [Fuzhou], Ningpo, Amoy [Xiamen] and Swatow [Shantou] regarding the manner of receiving the Chinese indemnities, 24 Dec [Nos 106-111];
 to Henry Parkes commanding him to accompany Admiral Sir James Hope on the expedition up the Yangtse to open it up to British trade, 19 Jan 1861 [No 4].

NRAS3955/76/
3/85 Aug-19
Nov 1860

Despatches from Lieutenant Colonel Henry Hope Crealock (1831-1891), Military Secretary, to Lord Elgin [Nos 3-9]

Including:

the landing of the Allied troops on the 1 August and the occupation of Pehtang, 5 Aug [No 3];
 report of the reconnaissance of the Tartar position at the mouth of the Peiho, enclosing a coloured sketch plan, 9 Aug [No 4];
 report on the attack on the Tartars at Sinho by the Allied Forces under Lieutenant General Sir Hope Grant and General de Montauban enclosing Crealock's coloured sketch showing the actions at Sinho, Tungku and Taku, a sketch of the Peiho Forts from near Tangkoo, the state of the expeditionary force marched out of Pehtang and return of the number of sick men as at 18 Aug, 19 Aug [No 7];
 report of actions leading to the capture of the northern Taku forts and the surrender of those on the south bank of the Peiho, enclosing a return of the siege and field artillery in action on the 21 Aug at the capture of the Taku Forts, return of those killed and wounded and return of ordnance captured by the allied forces, 25 Aug [No 8];
 reporting operations since the taking of the Taku Forts, including the capture of Parkes and Loch, and enclosing a coloured plan of the action of Pa-Le-Chiao of 21 Sep, and a sketch showing the Chinese position and its attack by the

Reference

NRAS3955

Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and KincardineNRAS3955/76/
3/927 Apr
1860-18
Mar 1861

allies on 18 Sep, 27 Sep [No 9];
returns of the garrisons in China and the regiments ordered
to England and India as no longer required, 19 Nov;
report on the Spanish forces at Manila, 29 Jan 1861.

Papers relating to the second Chinese Mission

Including:

copy letter from Admiral Hope to Sir Hope Grant enclosing
a copy plan for the landing of the allied forces at the Peiho, 9
July;

copy despatch from Colonel Foley to Sir John Russell
reporting the events leading up to the taking of the Taku
Forts, 25 Aug;

memorandum by Harry Parkes relating to the case of Sha
Yupoo, a Deputy Magistrate in Pehtang, whose house had
been plundered, 7 Aug;

signed address to Lord Elgin from Jardine Matheson and
other businesses requesting a settlement of their claims for
losses in Canton (Guangzhou), 20 Sep;

statement of Chiang Ying giving information on the fate of
Parkes and the other prisoners, 3 Oct;

draft of Convention of Peking [Beijing] and act of ratification,
nd;

proceedings of Boards held to inspect treasure handed over
by the Chinese Government for payment of the indemnity,
25 Oct and 1 and 3 Dec;

letter to Lord Elgin from the Comte D'Eulenburg (1815-
1881), Special Envoy for the King of Prussia, regarding his
failure to conclude a treaty in Japan, the prospect of success
of Elgin's mission and whether he should go to Shanghai,
Yeddo [Tokyo] 26 Sep, with draft of Lord Elgin's response,
7 Nov;

copy letter from T H Thurlow to Smith Kennedy & Co,
Shanghai, regarding articles in the Treaty of Tientsin relating
to payment of duties, 24 Dec;

letter to Lord Elgin, with enclosures, from the British
Chamber of Commerce, Shanghai, regarding the regulations
operating in the Chinese Customs House which
inconvenience the trade of the port, 29 Dec;

copy proclamation by Lord Elgin on the taking of possession
of Kowloon, 19 Jan 1861;

copy extracts of letters to and from Lieutenant Tucker of the
'Grasshopper' relating to the situation at Swatow [Shantou],
11-12 Jan;

Report of the Deputation appointed by the British Chamber
of Commerce, Shanghai, on the Commercial Capabilities of
Ports and Places on the Yang-tsze-kiang visited by the
expedition under Vice-Admiral Sir James Hope, Feb and

Reference		
NRAS3955	Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine	
		Mar (printed); extraordinary edition of the North-China Herald including regulations for British Trade on the Yang-tsze River, 18 Mar 1861.
NRAS3955/76/3/10	19 Oct 1859-20 Jan 1861	Miscellaneous memoranda Including: printed memorandum (for the use of the Foreign Office) on the wisdom or not of an advance on Peking to impose terms on the Chinese Emperor (written by Lord Elgin?), 19 Oct 1859; letter to Le Comte de Persigny (1808-1872), French Ambassador in London, from [] of the Ministère des Affaires Étrangères, Paris, relating to the roles of Lord Elgin and Baron Gros during the mission, 10 March 1860 [in French]; copy of the official instructions sent to Baron Gros regarding the mission in China, April 1860 [in French]; translation of the convention signed between Russia and China at Peking, 14 Nov; copy of memorandum entitled 'Interets de la Russie en Chine' giving a brief history of the relations between the two, nd [in French]; small map showing the borders of Japan, Russia, China, Russian Manchuria and Korea, nd; hydrographic chart of the Miau Tau Strait, nd; memorandum by Mr Parkes on salt, 20 Jan 1861; draft article (for insertion into Treaty?) on coolie emigration, 20 Oct 1860.
NRAS3955/76/3/11	Sep 1860-1 Jan 1861	Translations of Chinese documents, mainly by Thomas Wade (1818-1895, later Sir Thomas Wade). Including: draft translation of an imperial decree referring to the extravagance of the demands of the 'barbarian chief' Lord Elgin and contrasting the warlike nature of the Allies with the peaceful nature of the Chinese: if the allies persist in their violence 'let them be annihilated with no regret afterwards', [c Sep 1860]; draft translation of a fragment of a decree found in the Summer Palace concerning conditions of peace with the allies, 7 Sep; copy translations of documents accidentally found at the Summer Palace on 8 Oct, mainly memorials to the Emperor from his ministers advising him to stay put in Peking; translation of congratulatory note to Lord Elgin from Siehwan, Acting Superintendent of Foreign Trade and

Reference		
NRAS3955	Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine	
		Governor of Keangsoo, 1 Jan 1861.
NRAS3955/76/ 3/12	27 Sep- 2 Dec 1860	<p>Despatches from Frederick Bruce in Shanghai and Tientsin to Lord Elgin. With enclosures.</p> <p>Including: despatch enclosing translation of address from the Chinese gentry of Shanghai asking Bruce for British troops to help clear the surrounding countryside of rebels as they are affecting trade, and thanking him for protection in the past against the rebels, 27 Sep; despatch enclosing translation of the memorial sent by Sieh, Acting Governor of the two Keang to the Emperor reporting on Chinese repulsion of the Taiping rebels' attack at Shanghai, which Bruce describes as 'a tissue of unmitigated falsehood from first to last', with translation of an imperial decree conferring honours on Sieh and others, 15 Oct; enclosing copy letter from Prince Kung to Bruce regarding the opening of the Yangtse River to trade, collection of customs and arms and armaments carried by British vessels, 28 Nov.</p>
NRAS3955/76/ 3/13	6 Jul-31 Aug 1860	<p>Copy despatches to and from Frederick Bruce forwarded to Lord Elgin.</p> <p>Including: from Harry Parkes in Canton (Guangzhou) concerning the movements of the insurgents and on the conduct of Governor Keling, advocating the desirability of a 'military promenade' to Shaonchow, 6 July [No 116]; from Bruce to Lt Col Gascoigne regarding the removal north of the Royal Marines stationed at Shanghai at such a critical time, with copy Gascoigne's reply, 18 July; from Bruce to the Rev J[oseph] Edkins [London Missionary Society, 1823-1905] Shanghai, stating that he cannot make common cause with either the Imperialists or the Taiping rebels, 28 July; translation by Thomas Wade of letters from Li, the Loyal King (Li Xiuchang, 1823-1864, military leader of the Taiping rebels) inviting the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, France and America, to make common cause with the insurgents against the Manchu dynasty, nd.; copy Lieutenant Pritchett's report on the state of the country around Shanghai after the insurgents had been repelled, 31 Aug.</p>
NRAS3955/76/ 3/14	28 Sep 1857-7 Nov 1860	Private official correspondence between Lord Elgin and Jean-Baptiste Baron Gros (1793-1870), French plenipotentiary to China [74 letters, some copies, mostly in French]]

Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine

Including:

from Lord Elgin concerning diplomatic approach to Yeh before any attack on Canton (Guangzhou) can be undertaken, 26 Nov 1857;

from Baron Gros concerning Yeh's denial of the murder of a French missionary, 19 Dec 1857;

copy despatch from Admiral Rigault de Genouilly (1807-1873) to Gros regarding the movement of French troops and ships, 19 Feb 1858;

copy despatch from Gros to Admiral Rigault de Genouilly regarding the arrival of the new Vice Roy Sih-Kwe in Canton (Guangzhou) and his position vis-à-vis the Allied Commanders, 10 March 1858;

from Baron Gros sending a draft of the treaty for his comments (not enclosed), Count Pontiatine has had a visit from the Archimandrite Palladius (Pyotr Ivanovich Kafarov, 1817-78), 10 May 1858;

from Baron Gros on support from Paris for their actions, on the rumour that Russia has managed to acquire a large part of Manchuria, and on the military occupation of Canton (Guangzhou), 16 Aug 1858;

from Lord Elgin regarding his letter to Prince Kong demanding compensation for the families of the murdered prisoners and that he sign the Treaty of Tientsin, failing which the summer palace would be destroyed: 'these may seem to you barbarous measures - but we have to deal with a ruthless despot and we must make him feel that the penalty for such acts as those he has committed or sanctioned falls on himself, 16 -17 Oct 1860;

from Baron Gros with report from General Sir Hope Grant of the attack on the Taku Forts, 19 Aug 1860;

from Baron Gros with news from Mr Ward of rebel attacks outside Shanghai, 22 Aug 1860;

From Baron Gros sending a draft of his response to Prince Kung (not enclosed) refuting some of Kung's statements and, while offering peace, looking for satisfaction for the murder of their compatriots, 13 Oct 1860;

from Baron Gros regarding the destruction of the Summer Palace and the conditions imposed on the Chinese, 16 Oct 1860;

from Baron Gros on the terms of the treaty, 21, 22 and 28 Oct 1860;

from Lord Elgin regarding the payment of compensation and the evacuation of Canton (Guangzhou), 22 Oct 1860;

from Baron Gros on a meeting with Prince Kung, 1 Nov 1860;

from Baron Gros on the establishment of the Allied Legations in Peking, 7 Nov 1860.

Reference

NRAS3955

Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and KincardineNRAS3955/76/
3/1511 May
1860-29
May 1861Letters from Rear Admiral Sir James Hope (1808-1881),
Commander-in-Chief East India and China, to Lord Elgin.
[42 letters]

Including:

copy general transport memo no 7 issued by Hope regarding the departure of the fleet from Talien-whan Bay, 23 July;
on discussion with General Hope Grant regarding arrangements for attacking the Taku Forts, 16 Aug;
he declines the opportunity to accompany Elgin to Peking [Beijing] in favour of Admiral Jones, 1 Sep;
suggesting that the army be moved up to Peking for the occasion of the exchange of the Treaty followed by a general salute 'we have been at a great expense to bring this large army here and it should not be hid under a Bushel', 18 Sep;
he has no doubts that the navy will be able to keep the river transport going to supply the army, he has at their service 180 junks which could easily be increased, 1 Oct;
General Hope Grant has ordered up the marines from Shanghai, he suspects the Chinese would like to procrastinate until the arrival of the cold weather, 3 Oct;
on the actions of Baron Gros in relation to the monument to be erected in memory of the prisoners killed by the Chinese; destruction of the Summer Palace, 23 Oct;
criticises General Montauban for leaving Peking before the British army, 3 Nov;
Parkes has offered to serve Hope and knowing how highly Elgin thinks of him, he would like to use him, 1 Dec;
measures taken to protect the people of the Mea-Tao Islands where the army will winter, 18 Dec;
grounding of the Coromandel, it heads for Hong Kong taking in water; he outlines the disposition of gunboats at consular ports along the Yangtse; the settlement of Kowloon and the siting of a dockyard, Shanghai, 23 Jan 1861;
impact of the Taiping war on commerce up the Yangtse; desertion of Hankow [Hankou] by the population enclosing copies of Mr Hamilton's letters printed in the North China Herald reporting on Hope's trip up the Yangtse; success of Alcock's policy in Japan; new surveys undertaken of the Yangtse; campaign medal for the operation, 'we have sadly overdone honors of this description, 2 April;
visit to Frederick Bruce at Peking; dealings with the rebels, their handing over of deserters and reports of their being driven back from Nankow by a force of Tartar cavalry and Imperial Braves; the compensation to the families of the prisoners is on its way to Hong Kong, 14 May.

NRAS3955/76/

1857-1861

Letters to, and drafts of letters from, Lord Elgin.

NRAS3955

Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine

3/16

Correspondents include: Lord Clarendon; John, Lord Elphinstone (1807-1860), Governor of Bombay; Sir James Hope Grant; Lord John Russell; Lord Derby; Lord Cowley; Edmund Hammond, Baron Hammond; William, Lord Gladstone, Chancellor of the Exchequer; William Cubitt (1791-1863), Lord Mayor of London; Henry B Loch; Isidore Miramaran, Governor of Macao. [46 letters, some duplicates.]

Including:

draft letter from Lord Elgin to General Grey commenting tongue in cheek on his first mission: 'The Chief Actor after having been sent out with great parade from England, told that he was to engage in the most important work of the day, found to his amazement when he arrived at his post, that the whole interest in the business had evaporated..', H M S Furious, 14 Feb 1858;

General memorandum by M Moncreiff on custom houses and the organisation of trade and customs duties in China, including details of the cost of black tea, April 1858;

from Dr Cotton, surgeon on board the HMS Inflexible en route for Calcutta, regarding Yeh's character and habits on board ship, Hong Kong, 14 Sep 1858;

draft letter to Lord Derby, Prime Minister, on the completion of the Treaty with China: 'if I were obliged to choose between the two I would much rather have it written on my tombstone that I had moralised the Trade in China than that I had battered down the Great Wall', Shanghai, 23 Oct 1858; draft letters to Sir Charles Wood, Viscount Halifax, on his concerns regarding policy in China and the danger of destroying the Chinese Empire by humiliating the Emperor, Sep-Oct 1859;

from H Wise, Lloyds, concerning the construction of a railway on the strip of land in Siam dividing the Bay of Bengal from the Gulf of Siam, 29 Dec 1859;

correspondence with Mme Eleanor Brabazon, Dublin, concerning the fate of her son, Captain Brabazon, one of the prisoners killed by the Chinese, 2 March 1861;

from Hercules Robinson, Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Hong Kong, reporting the failure of the committee appointed to report on the appropriation of Kowloon to come to a decision, including a coloured plan of the Kowloon Peninsula showing the area requested by the military authorities for barracks and a hospital, 30 March 1861;

extract from letter from Mr Robertson to Mr Alston regarding the attitude of the Chinese authorities following the Treaty, 12 April 1861; correspondence (12 items) with Lord Gladstone on the payment of the Chinese indemnity, April-Sep 1861;

NRAS3955

Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and KincardineNRAS3955/76/
3/17

1857-1861

letters (12) from and drafts to Lord Gladstone, regarding the Chinese indemnity 1 Apr-1 Jun 1861.

Letters to Lord Elgin from various.

Correspondents include: the Bishop of Victoria; Thomas L Crompton, journalist; Thomas Taylor Meadows; General Ashburnam; Captain Robert Dew; Thomas Wade; General Ignatieff; General Sir Hope Grant; Henry B Loch; Edwin O Tregellis (1806-1886) master ironfounder; the Duke of Somerset; Sir Charles Wood; Lord Derby; Lord Granville; the Duke of Newcastle; George Moffatt [tea-broker and MP]; Lord Cowley, British Ambassador to France; Lord Ellenborough; Samuel Gregson, merchant and politician. [55 letters and enclosures]

Including:

from Edmund Hammond at the Foreign Office, regarding Elgin's staff for the Mission, 9 Apr 1857;

from the Duke of Newcastle thanking him for looking after his son [Alfred Pelham Clinton?], the crisis in India and parliamentary matters, 7 Aug 1857;

from Thomas Wade enclosing his memo of 1852 on the supply of grain to Peking and the possibility of intercepting it, 31 Oct 1857;

from Thomas T Meadows on the printed book in China, Ningpo, 5 Apr 1858;

from H H Lindsay (of Lindsay & Co?) recommending his nephew, Robert Antrobus, and giving his thoughts on affairs in China, 9 May and 8 June 1858;

from Charles A Winchester, Canton (Guangzhou), applying for the position of Consul at any of the new ports created by the Treaty of Tientsin, 8 Feb 1859;

from Thomas Wade on debates over the siting of ports at Swatow [Shantou] and Canton (Guangzhou); opium tariffs; the Taiping rebellion: 'I have always believed its Xtianity a graft on brigandage well grown', Hong Kong, 30 March 1859;

from Chaloner Alabaster announcing the death of Imperial Commissioner Yeh; he will accompany the body to be buried in China as the Chinese in Calcutta have refused to admit him into their burial ground, 16 Apr 1859;

draft letters from Elgin to Sir Charles Wood on strategy for mission to Peking [Beijing] and importance of effecting this without humiliating the Emperor too far: 'the general notion is that if we use the bludgeon freely enough we can do anything in China. I hold the opposite view so strongly that I must give expression to it at whatever cost to myself', 30 Sep and 9 Oct 1859;

copy letter to Samuel Gregson (politician, 1793-1865) from

Reference	
<p>NRAS3955</p>	<p align="center">Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine</p> <p>James Macdonald, a former resident in China, with his views on how best to achieve the goal of the mission, Brighton, 2 Feb 1860; from Lord Ellenborough expressing concern about the fallout from Elgin's dispute with Admiral Seymour and the impact this might have on his relationship with the naval and military officers, 3 March 1860; from General Ignatieff announcing that Prince Kong [Kung] has accepted all Lord Elgin's conditions and that the two commanders who took the Europeans prisoner, have been down graded, Peking, 19 Oct 1860; from Henry B Loch on the warm reception he has received on his return to Britain, including an interview with the Queen and Prince Albert, and the satisfaction with Elgin's handling of events, 8 Jan 1861; from Thomas Wade on affairs in Peking [Beijing], the personalities involved, and the Taiping rebels, 23 July 1861; from Lieutenant Colonel Henry Sarel accompanying his 'Notes on the River Yang-tze-Kiang from Hankow to Ping-Shan', 1 Sep [1861]; letter from Samuel Gregson enclosing translation of letter from Tang Nion Son, Fourth Minister of State at Peking, to his cousin in London regarding the latter's suggestion that the Emperor should invite soldiers, gun-makers, architects and engineers to China to train the Chinese, March 1861; printed 'Sketch of the new route to China and Japan via the Isthmus of Kraw railway', nd.</p> <p>NRAS3955/76/3/18 1858-1861 Letters to Lord Elgin from John Rutherford Alcock (2), Horatio N Lay (5) and Sir Harry Parkes (4).</p> <p>Including: from Parkes on his pay and detailing the expenses he has to bear in Canton (Guangzhou), 17 Feb 1858; from Alcock on the necessity of establishing a residence at Peking; on trade with Japan despite impediments and restrictions, Yeddo [Tokyo], 24 Dec 1860; from Lay announcing that due to his ill health and the strength of the rebels, he is going home on leave of absence; Wade has reported the 'awful state' of Peking - 'it seems that the Dynasty must either revive or fall this year', 22 March 1861; from Parkes on dealing with the Taiping rebels - the lack of confidence of the Chinese in their rulers was demonstrated by the haste in which the inhabitants of Hankow and Woochang departed as the Nanking rebels drew near; the French eagerness to send forces against them, 9 April 1861.</p> <p>NRAS3955/76/ 1858-1906 Papers relating to General Sir James Hope Grant (1808-</p>

Reference	
NRAS3955	Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine
3/19	<p>1875) as Commander-in-Chief of H M Military Forces in China, 1858-1906. [15 items.]</p> <p>Including:</p> <p>map, on tracing, of the Yangtze Kiang (from Woosung [Wusong] to Hankow) showing the principal places passed and visited by Lord Elgin's expedition, Nov-Dec 1858 and marked to show places held by the rebels;</p> <p>letter to Grant from Lord Elgin congratulating him on his KCB. He had delayed his journey to the south by a disinclination 'to leave so many French Cheifs (sic) alone', 3 Jan 1860;</p> <p>memorandum showing the relative responsibilities of the officers commanding HM Sea and Land Forces in China, nd;</p> <p>copy letter from Sidney Herbert at the War Office outlining the nature of the expedition to China which Grant has been appointed to command. Herbert elaborates on two difficulties, with the Chinese and with their French allies, 28 Nov 1859;</p> <p>letter from the War Office regarding the granting of full powers to Sir Hope Grant and Rear Admiral Hope to negotiate should Mr Frederick Bruce, HM Present Plenipotentiary, be compelled to leave China, 10 Jan 1860;</p> <p>letter from Frederick Bruce enclosing a copy of a note to Pang Wan-Chang, Senior Secretary of State of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of China conveying the final demands for reparations for outrages committed at the mouth of the Peiho, 15 March 1860;</p> <p>Letter from Frederick Bruce, Shanghai, on General Montauban's movements and enquiries into taxation of Chusan [Zhoushan] Island, 10 May 1860;</p> <p>letter from Lord Elgin on deliberations with the Chinese, 16 Aug 1860;</p> <p>Letter from Frederick Bruce, Peking, on Dr Rennie's cure of Madame de Bourboulon's dysentery and his equally successful treatment of 'that great bane of the soldier, venereal disease, 15 Apr 1861;</p> <p>with covering letter from Colonel Henry Knollys conveying these papers to the 9th Earl of Elgin, 12 May 1906.</p>
NRAS3955/76/ 3/20	<p>4 Apr 1857-8 Dec 1863</p> <p>Private letters from Frederick Bruce to Lord Elgin from Alexandria, Hong Kong, Balmoral, London, Shanghai, Tientsin and Peking, [80 letters, with enclosures]</p> <p>Including:</p> <p>his acceptance of the position of Secretary to Lord Elgin on the first China Mission, 4 Apr 1857;</p> <p>reaction to the Treaty in Shanghai, difficulties with Bowring, Straubenzee's inaction in dealing with the 'Braves' and the</p>

Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine

need to take strong measures against them, 22 July 1858;
meeting with the Queen and Prince Albert at Balmoral,
where opinion is entirely against the conduct of Admiral
[later Sir] Michael Seymour, unqualified approbation from
the Government for Elgin, everyone in the Foreign Office
keen to get Bowring out of the way, need to appoint a
minister to go to China, London, 9 Oct 1858;
he has been offered the post of envoy to China which he will
dislike greatly but will give him great honour, London, 24
Nov 1858;
he has put pressure on the Emperor and the Commissioners
regarding the exchange of ratifications, will insist on
European ceremonial, 15 June 1859;
failure to reach Peking [Beijing] which he partly ascribes to
the over confidence of Admiral Sir James Hope; (Frederick
Townsend) Ward (1831-1862, mercenary) demanded a free
passage up the river and is to have an interview with the
Governor General of Obihli, 16 July 1859;
alleged kidnappings by foreigners, 1 Aug 1859;
residence at Peking is the only effectual means of allaying
the suspicion of foreigners of the Chinese; contrary to
instructions from France, Bourboulon, French minister to
China, is against an occupation of Chusan [Zhoushan]-
Bruce thinks Shantung would be a better choice as having a
much better climate for Europeans and being nearer the
theatre of operations, 27 Jan 1860;
relationship with the French allies and attempts by the
Chinese to divide them, 6 March;
fears of rebel attack in Shanghai, need to prevent the rebels
getting their hands on foreign weapons and ammunition,
reduction of marines in Shanghai leaves an effective force of
only 1000 to protect the city and its environs, 11 - 20 July;
on a discussion with Rev Joseph Edkins (1823-1905,
protestant missionary) on the rebel insurgents, the influence
of Heng-jin on the missionaries and his dealings with Mr
Jenkins, interpreter to the American consulate, 30 July, with
copy of his letter to Edkins stating his position of neutrality
towards the rebels, 28 July;
rebel attacks on Shanghai and surrounding countryside,
massacre of natives up river by the rabble who form the bulk
of the insurgency forces, has sent to Canton (Guangzhou) for
the Sikh regiment, 21 Aug;
rising in the suburbs, massacre of respectable Chinese and
seizure of the Custom House, intelligence on the insurgents,
murder of Padre Massa (Father Luigi Massa, Jesuit
missionary, 1827-1860), 26 Aug;
difficulty with Meadows, Bruce has no confidence in Ward
who is 'destitute of independence or moral courage', 31 Aug;
relationship of the Missionaries with the rebels: the

Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine

Americans see them as blasphemous and fraudulent while Edkins and his colleagues still hope for something from Heng-jin (Hung Jen-Kan), the rebels meanwhile view them as foreign diplomatic agents, 3 Sep;
memorandum by J Forrest on a rebellion in the province of Shanhsi [Shanxi], starting in Tai Yuen, enclosed in letter of 15 Oct;
on the need for Wade to press with the Chinese that the interview to deliver the credentials is more than mere form, Tientsin, 2 Dec;
the quartering of the troops in the town is unpopular, illness of Madame de Bourboulon and successful treatment by Dr [David Field] Rennie by application of quinine instead of astringents, 7 Jan 1861;
Wade has been sent in advance to Peking to speak to Prince Kung and soften up the Mandarins: Bruce would rather his arrival there had a civilian rather than a military character; ignorance of the Chinese about the British, 20 Jan;
copy letter from Prince Kung to Bruce and latter's reply, regarding the creation of an office for foreign affairs, 6 and 18 Feb;
on his arrival in Peking and matters of etiquette in dealing with the Chinese - he prefers horseback or foot to being carried in a chair, 10 April; success of Hart [later Sir Robert] in working with Prince Kung, 8 July;
Hankow menaced by the rebels though likely to lose Nanking, wounding of Captain Davenport at New-chwang and Meadows' ('a nuisance') reaction, 6 Aug;
recommends Elgin takes Dr Rennie, surgeon with the 31st Regiment, with him to India given his success in treating the troops, 8 Sep;
transit duties, Yangtse regulations and the coasting trade; the new Emperor to arrive in a fortnight; Hart and Wade invaluable, the latter as a means of 'liberalising the Prince and Wen-siang, 20 Oct;
the Chinese government need to take up the military reforms urged on them by the British before they can put down the insurgents; requests that Elgin send 10000 muskets from India to arm the new levies; (Frederick Townsend) Ward has 1500 men at Shanghai who 'thrash the Taipings whenever they meet', 10 Apr 1862;
the Taipings have completely exhausted the lands bordering the Yangtse and are likely to be starved out of their strongholds, they have been driven back from the north and the Yellow River; defeated by the people of Chusan 'the women turned out to fight!'; Admiral Hope's actions at Shanghai, 8 June;
the Yangtse swarms with smugglers and adventurers who commit excesses under the protection of foreign flags;

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Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine

desertions among the leaders of the Tai-ping; new energy of the Chinese army is due to Wen-siang (Wenxiang, 1818-1876) and to British information and advice; he would have preferred an attack on Nanking but he will not take on the responsibility of authorising this; his thoughts about receiving a KGB, 24 Sep;

judgement of Admiral Hope's character, his treatment of Ward; tension over treaty rights - 'merchants, consuls and Missionaries are recalcitrant but with the Customs House and Osborne, I hope to be more than a match for them'; position of the Roman Catholic missionaries, 10 Nov; need for drill instructors from the German or northern powers to train the Chinese troops; he has supported (Henry Andres) Burgevine's (1836-1865) reinstatement, 26 Apr 1863;

only supports British officers training Chinese troops where the troops are being used in self defence, such as at Shanghai, but not leading the Imperial armies at Nanking or Soo-chow; he is embarrassed by the appointment of Gordon (Charles George Gordon, 1833-1885) instead of Burgevine; his suggestions for what administrative changes required to be undertaken by the Chinese government to centralise and organise troops, instead of 'braves', reduce corruption in local administration and defeat the Tai-ping rebels; great harm caused by Klegkowski 'that dirty intriguing liar', 10 June; difficulties with the French; his support of secular education, 4 Aug;

Burgevine has joined the Tai-pings, 23 Aug; breakdown of the Osborne-Lay flotilla, Lay's role: 'Lay pursued such secrecy that neither the Chinese Government nor I knew what he had done until the vessels had sailed': what was required was a coastguard not a British naval Squadron aiding the government against the Taipings; two of the ships are to be disposed of in Bombay, 6 Nov; the flotilla affair, people have been 'humbled by Lay'; political aims of the French missionaries, 8 Nov.

NRAS3955/76/
3/21 19 Apr
1860

Commission by Queen Victoria in favour of Lord Elgin as High Commissioner and Plenipotentiary to China. Great Seal of Victoria attached, on tag with silver and silk thread tassels in silver skippet. Parchment is water damaged [through being sunk on the SS Malabar].

NRAS3955/76/
3/22 19 Apr
1860

Commission by Queen Victoria in favour of Lord Elgin as High Commissioner and Plenipotentiary to China. Great Seal of Victoria attached, on tag with silver and silk thread tassels in silver skippet. [Replacement for that damaged in the Malabar?]

Reference		
NRAS3955	Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine	
NRAS3955/76/ 3/23	19 Apr 1860	Letters patent under the Great Seal granting Lord Elgin full powers to treat with the Emperor of China. Great Seal of Victoria attached, on tag with silver and silk thread tassels in silver skippet. Stored in box which also contains two unopened letters from Queen Victoria to the Emperor of China [1858 or 1860].
NRAS3955/76/ 3/24	c.1840- 1892	Newscuttings and other printed material Including: Speech delivered before the members of the Mercantile Library Association, Montreal, by the Earlof Elgin, 1848 [printed]; Printed despatch from Lord Grey, Secretary of State for the Colonies to Lord Elgin, commanding him to resist to the utmost of his power, any attempt to bring about the separation of Canada from the British Dominions, 9 Jan 1850, headed with a coloured engraving of the royal standard; Remarks on Chinese Foreign Relations by Dr MacGowan [Daniel Jerome MacGowan, American Baptist medical missionary, Ningpo, d. 1893] extracted from the North China Herald, Dec 1857 Weather journal of Dr Saunders, 1 June 1857-31 Jan 1859 (manuscript); Copies of the North China Herald, 24 and 31 Dec 1859, part 29 June, 28 Sep and 19 Oct 1861; printed extract form 'The Siberian Overland Route' (1864) by Alexander Michie, on the introduction of railways in China; Extract from the Memoir of William Chalmers Burns (1870), in Mary, Countess of Elgin's handwriting, on the visit of Lord Elgin to Swatow in 1858 Letter of the United States Minister at Peking [Anson Burlingame] containing opinions on various disputed points and also remarks concerning the Co-operative Policy, 27 July 1864 [printed]; 'Narrative of the late Sir H Parkes's Captivity in Peking, 1860' Article from the Pall Mall Gazette, 19 and 20 May 1885; Letter from 'The Times', 27 Sep 1892, written by Sir Henry B Loch regarding the diversion of troops by Lord Elgin to India at the time of the Mutiny.
NRAS3955/76/ 4	1862-1863	Diplomatic papers and correspondence of James Bruce, 8th Earl of Elgin (1811-1863) relating to his period as Viceroy of India Related material British Library India Office Mss Eur F83 and F78; Albums of photographs assembled by the 8th earl and his son Victor,

Reference	
NRAS3955	Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine
	<p>who became Viceroy of India in 1894, are held by the National Library of Scotland, ref: Phot.la.13 and Phot.med.28.</p>
NRAS3955/76/4/1	<p>17 Feb 1862-14 Aug 1863</p> <p>Copy letters (47) to Sir Charles Wood (1st Viscount Halifax, 1800-1885), Secretary of State for India, from Lord Elgin, mainly from Calcutta,</p> <p>Including:</p> <p>on conflicts between different branches of the Government; discussions with Colonel Bruce, organiser of the Oude police, regarding separation of duties of a civil police and military force: when reduced to their minimum his police will be 130,000 strong, 4 Apr 1862; Samuel Laing's views on the budget and Elgin's views on best use of surplus to either cut import duties on cotton goods, reduce income tax or for education and public works; question of the native and British army, 9 Apr; on the workings of the Executive Council and the legislature and on cutting expenditure, 22-23 Apr; return of Laing to Britain due to ill health and unlikelihood of being able to replace his and his predecessor Wilson's combination of administrative and business skills, 14 May; on an attack on a missionary by a native trooper in Delhi: 'I would think that the cause of Christian truth and charity would be as well served by preaching in a church or a building of some sort as by holding forth in the streets in a city full of fanatical unbelievers', requires careful handling, 2 June; panic in Delhi spread by rumours of attacks planned on Europeans, 17 June; trial of Rudd, a British soldier, for killing an Indian, an example of the difficulty of administering equal justice between natives and Europeans, 22 June; Elgin's plans for the winter months, 2 July; workings of the new High Court; he is averse to interfering in the difficulties he outlines in Afghanistan; legal position of Furrak, 16 July; on questions of local as opposed to central government, 2 Aug; effect of the Calcutta climate on the European constitution; reducing budgets: the size of the European army necessary for security; rising costs of army rations, accommodation; police; developments in Herat, 9 Aug; on the issues of the Rajah of Mysore and the appointment of an Inspector General of Police, 17 Aug; on the development of railways/tramways, 2 Sep, 19 Oct 1862 and 5 Jan 1863; on Lord Canning's policy toward native chiefs, 9 Sep; on the position of the Governor General, 23 Nov; necessity for him to travel around other parts of India and not remain</p>

Reference		
NRAS3955		Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine
		<p>in Calcutta - and not just because of the 'extreme disagreeableness of the temperature' there; tramways, 4 Dec; on the position of the Governor General, 9 Dec; Colonel [later Sir Arthur] Phayre's (1812-1885) success in Burma, 19 Dec; discussions with Sir Charles Trevelyan on finance and the seat of the Supreme Government, 20 and 23 Jan 1863; on labour in India, Camp-Jeyt, 23 Feb; on missionary activities, Roorkee, 19 March; on the fall of Herat and affairs in Afghanistan, 13, 30 July and 14 Aug.</p> <p>Letters marked up and extracts used by Theodore Walrond in his edition of the 'Letters and Journals of James, Eighth Earl of Elgin', Ch 15.</p>
NRAS3955/76/4/2	27 May 1862-3 Jun 1863	<p>Copies of letters (5) from Lord Elgin to various correspondents.</p> <p>To Mr [later Sir George] Edmonstone (1813-1864), Lieutenant Governor of the North Western Provinces on missionary activity, 27 May 1862; to Mr Dunlop, Glasgow, on the cultivation of cotton in India, 21 May 1862; to Mr Maine on law of landlord and tenant, Camp Hodul, 25 Feb, 1863; to [Edmund] Drummond (1814-1895) on his appointment as Lieutenant Governor of the North Western Province and the qualities required in that post, 11 Mar, 1863; to Sir Charles Trevelyan on proposal for a new seat of government, Simla [Shimla] 3 June 1863.</p> <p>Letters marked up and extracts used by Theodore Walrond in his edition of the 'Letters and Journals of James, Eighth Earl of Elgin', Ch 15.</p>
NRAS3955/76/5	1850	<p>James Bruce, 8th Earl of Elgin (1811-1863) as Governor General of British North America and Governor-in-Chief of the Province of Canada</p> <p>Related material</p> <p>Papers relating to the 8th Earl of Elgin's governorship of Canada are to be found in Colonial and Foreign Office papers in The National Archives. Papers relating to Canada formerly held in the family archives at Broomhall, are now deposited in Library and Archives Canada.</p>
NRAS3955/76/5/1	1850	<p>Plaster cast of medal presented at the Exposition of Arts and Sciences, Mechanics Hall, Toronto.</p> <p>Under the patronage of the Earl of Elgin whose profile</p>

Reference		
NRAS3955	Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine	
		portrait appears on the obverse. Signed 'Wheeler Toronto'.
NRAS3955/77	1848-1878	<p>Diplomatic papers and private correspondence of Sir Frederick William Adolphus Wright-Bruce (1814-1867).</p> <p>Bruce was the youngest son of Thomas, 7th Earl of Elgin and his second wife, Elizabeth Oswald. After a brief legal career, he joined the diplomatic service. He was attached to Lord Ashburton's mission to Washington in 1842; appointed colonial secretary at Hong Kong, 1844-1846; lieutenant-governor of Newfoundland, 1846-1847; charge d'affaires and consul-general in the republic of Bolivia, 1847-1851; chargé d'affaires to the Republic of the Uruguay, 1851-1853; agent and consul-general in Egypt, 1853-1857; principal secretary to Lord Elgin's mission to China in 1857-1858; envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the emperor of China, Dec 1858-1864; British representative at Washington, 1865-1867. He was made a KGB in 1862. After inheriting the fortune of one of his clients when he practised as a lawyer, he assumed the surname Wright-Bruce, although this is rarely used in his correspondence.</p> <p>The papers comprise official correspondence relating to Bruce's diplomatic career in South America, Egypt, and the USA but more particularly in China. Bruce's letters to his brother, James, 8th earl of Elgin, relating to China are listed under NRAS3955/76/2/25 and NRAS3955/76/3/20. China and America also feature heavily in the private letters to his family from the 1860s.</p> <p>Related material</p> <p>The diplomatic papers complement material in the Colonial Office [CO] and Foreign Office (FO) series in The National Archives, as well as the private papers of Lord John Russell [PRO30/22]. Correspondence from Bruce relating to China can be found in the Papers of Sir Harry Parkes [MS Parkes], and those of the firm Jardine Matheson [MS/JM] both held by Cambridge University Library, Department of Manuscripts and University Archives. The Rush Rhees Library, University of Rochester, USA, holds a letter book of copies of despatches to Lord John Russell, the Earl of Clarendon and Lord Stanley, 1865-1867 [Rhees225] [copy held by the British Library, RP950].</p>
NRAS3955/77/6	14 Sep-26 Dec 1859	Letter book containing rough drafts of despatches from Frederick Bruce to Lord John Russell, Foreign Secretary. Including: regarding the discourteous treatment of the Russian and

Reference		
NRAS3955	Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine	
		<p>American ministers and their staff by the Chinese authorities, 20 Sep; on coolie emigration, much of which is forced, 20 Sep; on demonstrations at Ningpo, the Emperor refuses to allow the ports of Swatow [Shantou] and Tai-won to be formally opened in accordance with the American Treaty, 4 Oct; the abuses of the convoy trade and the most efficient means of checking them, and the unwillingness of the Chinese to report crimes against them by foreigners, 5 Nov; report on Wade's meeting with Imperial Commissioner Ho at Kwanshan, Oct; on the establishment of the Foreign Custom House System at Canton, 21 Nov; difficulties likely to arise at Ningpo from the Convoy question, 29 Nov; on Meadows' views on the Foreign Custom House system, 5 Dec; kidnapping at Whampoa [Huangpu] and progress made in establishing an emigration office at Canton, 5 Dec; projected increase of Consular establishments at Shanghai and supply of furniture required, 26 Dec.</p>
NRAS3955/77/7	17 Aug-29 Dec 1860	<p>Copies despatches from Frederick Bruce, in Shanghai and Tientsin, to Lord John Russell, Foreign Secretary. Including: Shanghai is menaced by an attack from the insurgents who have shown themselves to be merciless causing natives to flee before them; reinforcements have arrived including the gun boat 'Kestrel', 17 Aug [No 158]; account of the rebel attack on Shanghai, including the destruction of the suburb of Nantow, religion of the insurgents and their dealings with missionaries, 4 Sep [No 163]; despatch enclosing copy of a letter from Prince Kung concerning an interview with the Emperor about the reception of Foreign Ministers in Peking, and copy of Bruce's reply, Tientsin, 13 Dec [No 199]; on attitude of Chinese to foreign residences and enclosing a copy of the imperial decree rewarding Prince Kung for his handling of the exchange of treaties, Tientsin, 29 Dec [No 210].</p>
NRAS3955/77/8	3 Jan-30 Jul 1861	<p>Letter book containing draft despatches from Frederick Bruce to Lord John Russell, Foreign Secretary. Including: on the appointment of John Meadows (1817-1875) as interpreter and acting Vice-Consul at Canton, difficulties with him and his brother, Thomas Taylor Meadows (1819-1869), and need for more interpreters, mentions the son of</p>

Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine

Mr Lay and a [William] Stronach, the son of a missionary at Amoy, 10 March;
appointments to positions in the Consular service in China, 5 April;
on his arrival at Peking [Beijing], the creation of a guard to protect their 'large straggling building' and getting the Chinese used to the presence of foreigners: 'the Chinese authorities should be compelled to make known...that the foreigners who reside in the capital are to be looked on as civilized beings and to be treated as friends', 8 April;
supporting Thomas Wade's (later Sir Thomas, 1818-1895) proposal to cease his official duties to allow him to complete a work on the Chinese language, 9 Apr;
expeditions by some foreigners to see the Great Wall and the ruins of the Summer Palace (Yuen-ming-yuen) are not looked on favourably by the Chinese and passports should not be issued to visit Peking unless by invitation, 10 Apr;
a meeting with the Prince Kung, head of the newly created Office of Foreign Affairs (Zongli Yamen) on the relation of local authorities with foreigners, 23 Apr;
evacuation of Canton by French and British troops, 2 May;
confirmation of the fate of Captain Brabazon and the Abbe de Luc, 9 May;
the Canton indemnity fund, 9 May;
defects of the Imperial forces, 9 May;
smallpox and the services of Dr David Field Rennie in Peking, 21 May;
Chinese government wish to establish a college for foreign languages in Peking, continued courteous reception of foreigners and the novelty caused by his going through the streets in a small open carriage, 22 May;
capture of foreign mercenaries fighting for the Tai-ping rebels and the Imperial army recruited by two Americans, (Frederick Townsend) Ward and Peacock, 23 May;
capture and plunder of the British lugger 'Chance' by pirates, 5 June;
the efforts of the Prussian Plenipotentiary, Count (Friedrich Albrecht) Zu Eulenburg (1815-1881), to treat with the Chinese, 7 June and 3 July;
Mr Parkes' report on his expedition up the Yangtse, activities and organisation of the rebels, destruction at Foochow [Fuhzou], 23 June;
payment of Chinese indemnity to families of the prisoners taken in Sep 1860, 7 July;
new customhouse system, 7 July;
hostile reception to Captain Dew's visit to the rebels to warn them off attacking Ningpo and his successful efforts to save that city, 30 July.

Reference		
NRAS3955	Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine	
NRAS3955/77/9	20 Jul 1859-27 Jun 1860	<p>Volume of incoming and outgoing private correspondence from Frederick Bruce.</p> <p>Correspondents include: Consul M C Morrison, Amoy [Xiamen]; Walter Henry Medhurst (1796-1857), Consul at Foochow; General Charles von Straubenzee; John Elliott Ward (1814-1902), United States Minister to China; Lord John Russell; Admiral Sir James Hope; Signor Nicasio Canete y Morel, Spanish Consul; Edmund Hammond, Under Secretary at the Foreign Office; General Montauban; Alphonse de Bourboulon, Minister Plenipotentiary of France.</p> <p>Including: copy letter from Consul Medhurst (Sir Walter Henry, 1822-1885), Foochow [Fuhzou], regarding the response of the native population to the news of the attack on the Taku Forts and pointing out the need to station a gunboat below the town to help maintain order, 20 Aug 1859; correspondence with Consul Morel on Chinese emigration to Cuba, Macao, 2 Feb-15 March 1860 [in Spanish]; to Edmund Hammond at the Foreign Office regarding the domestic arrangements of his staff, training of staff interpreters, 16 Feb 1860; draft letter to General Montauban giving his opinion on the proposed expulsion of the Civil Mandarin of Chusan [Zhousan] which would be to the detriment of the British presence there, nd [1860]; to General Montauban on Thomas Meadows' conduct regarding the expulsion of government war junks from the river, 23 June 1860; to Monsieur de Bourboulon on the movements of General Ho, 23 June 1860; to Lord John Russell reporting General Ignatieff's opinions on the Russian policy in China, 27 June.</p>
NRAS3955/77/10	2 Jan-20 Jun 1864	<p>Copy and draft despatches from Sir Frederick Bruce to Earl Russell, Foreign Secretary (nos 4-95 with gaps). [35 despatches]</p> <p>Including: on the Chinese Secretariat at Peking [Beijing], 5 Jan (no5); on how to create confidence in foreign ministers and remove the suspicion of them, promoted by the provincial governments, in the Imperial Government; military organisation; the steam flotilla; railway development in China, 13 Jan (no.9); on Major Gordon (Charles George Gordon, 1833-1885), the disbanding of his force and the actions of Governor Li, 12 Feb (no.17);</p>

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Papers of the Bruce family, Earls of Elgin and Kincardine

on the proposal of the London Missionary Society to purchase premises in Peking, 23 Feb (no.200); rights of purchase of land and property by foreigners, and rights of missionaries, under the terms of the British and French Treaties; hostility to and outrages committed against Christians, 23 March (no.36); on entry of foreigners into Tibet, 4 Apr (no. 43); on foreigners serving with and supplying arms to the insurgents, 15 Apr (no.52); on complaint by Prince Kung regarding Consul Meadows, 2 June (no. 79); on administration of justice, 7 and 10 June (nos. 82, 85); his discussions with Wen-xiang on French Catholic missionaries and their converts, the former offering the latter French protection against the native authorities and on Imperial plans for the suppression of the insurgents and its relationship with foreign powers, 12 June (no.87); on discussions with the French Minister, Jules Berthemey, regarding piracy on the Yangtse and coast, 20 June (no. 95).

NRAS3955/77/
1124 Mar
1857-18
Feb 1862

Private and official letters from Lord Elgin to his brother Frederick, from Tientsin, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Canton, Galle, Broomhall, London and India

Including:

from Broomhall on his appointment as plenipotentiary in China and of his suggestion to Lord Clarendon that Frederick should accompany him as Secretary, 24 March 1857; recommending adherence to a policy of neutrality towards the Imperialists and the insurgents, scandalous behaviour of the French troops towards the native population, overestimation of the armed power of the enemy, 6 Aug 1860;

official letter concerning the establishment of a permanent residence at Peking, Camp before Peking, 12 Oct 1860; expressing regret at having allowed De Norman to accompany Parkes and Loch to Tang Chao, 14 Oct 1860; on progress on opening up the Yangtse, dealing with the rebels, indemnity arrangements, the new Custom House system, problems faced by Horatio Lay, occupation of Shanghai, 7 -11 Dec 1860;

General de Montauban has arrived from Japan with 4000 soldiers, Elgin does not wish to leave him there to his own devices, taxes on opium, Shanghai, 15-19 Dec 1860;

Lay has been summoned to Hong Kong to defend himself in an action for damages, discussions with [James?] Whittall, merchant [of Jardine Matheson] and Elgin's host, on the opium trade, policy regarding the rebels, Shanghai, 21 Dec-3 Jan 1860-1861;

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Lay's case and customs tariffs, Hong Kong, 9-11 Jan 1861; social systems operating in the Philippines and Batavia, the rebel question in China, 28 Feb-2 March 1861; on his speech at the Mansion House, a visit from James Veitch (1815-1869), the horticulturist, regarding his son who is going to the north of China, 16-27 May 1861, Eaton Square, London; to [the Salt Chamber of Commerce at Northwick] on the British salt trade and the Chinese market, 5 June 1861; a visit from Lord John Russell regarding the position of Viceroy of India, 23 June 1861; copy letter to W E Gladstone regarding the Chinese indemnity, 1 July 1861; enclosing copy letter to [-] on British subjects being allowed to visit Peking [Beijing], 1 July 1861; en route to India he has a chance meeting with Harry Parkes, they discuss the difficulties with the rebels in China, his prospects in India, salt importation into India, and family news, and enclosing a copy of a letter to A H Layard, Under Secretary of State at the Foreign Office, on Chinese customs and trade, 18 Feb-3 March 1862.

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1858-1865 Miscellaneous papers relating to China.

Correspondence with Major, then Lieutenant General Gordon (1833-1885), 1863-4: including, copy memorandum by Major Charles Gordon relating to the Soong Kong Force, of which he is commander, which he believes should be the nucleus of the Chinese Native Army, 9 May 1863; copy letter from Bruce to Major Gordon in his support, 22 Nov 1863; siege of Soochow [Suzhou] and the aftermath, urges Gordon not to do anything rash, particularly 'avoid publishing in newspapers accounts of your differences with the Chinese authorities', 3 March 1864; Gordon is the only person fit to act with 'these stupid and perverse Chinese and to be trusted with the great interests at stake at Shanghai: he urges him to recover from the wound he has received at Kintang; the towns held by the Taipings will fall sooner or later by blockade or internal dissension, 8 Apr 1864; extract of a letter from Mr Robert Hart to Lieutenant Colonel Gordon with reasons why he should not break up the force, Shanghai, 17 May 1864; despatch (no 298) from Harry Parkes to Sir Frederick Bruce enclosing letter from Lay complaining of hardship, Shanghai, 5 July 1864; estimate of trade in British vessels at the port of Shanghai 1862-1863; memorandum of Judicial Business at the Shanghai Consulate, 1863-1864; copy letter from Harry Parkes to Earl Russell on discussions with the Footai (Governor) concerning the employment of British subjects as instructors

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to the regiment of artillery maintained by him on the disbandment of Colonel Gordon's forces, 21 June 1864; statement of rates, allowances and expenses of officers employed at the direction of the Foreign Office in Persia, 8 Nov 1858.

Copies of miscellaneous despatches, 1858-1862: Frederick Bruce's memorandum on British personnel in China including interpreters and consuls, London, 21 Oct 1858 including Bruce's memorandum to Lord Malmesbury requesting guidance from the British government on the line he is to take on his arrival in China regarding his reception by the Emperor, his residence in Peking, the establishment of a college of interpreters at Peking and his dealings with the Taiping rebels, London, 6 Feb 1859; copy despatch from Robert Hart (1835-1911), Inspector General of Maritime Customs, to Horatio Lay on the Chinese acquisition of a steam fleet in Britain, 12 June 1862.

Letter from General Montauban to Frederick Bruce regarding armed junks in the waters off Shanghai, Shanghai, 23 June 1860; papers relating to the massacre of Chinese Christians and destruction of property at the French mission of Kouei-tcheou, including a translation of instructions from the military commander Tienn to the magistrates of the province ordering them to chase out the Christians, in French, c June 1863; translations of letters to Frederick Bruce from various Chinese dignitaries, thanking him for his presents on his leaving, June 1864; letter from Thomas Taylor Meadows to Frederick Bruce proposing that he be given the position of Secretary of Legation at Peking, stating the desired salary, provision of a house and outlining what his duties should be, Tientsin, 3 June 1864.

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1861-1865 Typed transcripts of private letters from Lord John Russell, Foreign Secretary, to Frederick Bruce, 10 Apr 1861-26 Nov 1863, and from Bruce to Russell, 5 Feb 1861-20 Feb 1865.

Including:
from Sir John Russell mentioning Elgin's appointment to India: 'you can manage the East between you & keep both Empires in good order', 25 Sep 1861;
from Sir John Russell stating that 'all help consistent with legal neutrality I think ought to be given to the Imperial Government', 25 Jan 1862;
from Sir John Russell: the Taipings are ruining a flourishing commerce; Bruce is to support Mr Reuter's agent in extending a telegraph wire to Peking, 12 March 1862;
from Sir John Russell: difficulties of dealing with the

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Taipings: they cannot be controlled by the British and French without taking China out of the hands of its government which would ruin Britain, 'India with its 130 million is quite as much as we can manage', 26 April 1862;

from Sir Frederick Bruce: on the constitution of the new Imperial Board for Foreign Affairs, nomination of Lay as Inspector General of the Ports open to Foreign Trade, 5 Feb 1861;

from Sir Frederick Bruce: Chinese government more amenable to Treaty obligations than foreigners; Hong Kong, an asylum for smugglers and depot for arms, is a stumbling block; his policy of moderation the only sound one, 12 March 1862;

from Sir Frederick Bruce on Chinese philosophy of government; the British create difficulties by a too exclusive regard to its own interests; achievements since the Treaty of 1858 and poor quality of Chinese forces, 4 Aug 1862;

from Sir Frederick Bruce: welcome arrival of Mr Burlingame (Anson Burlingame, 1820-1870) the new American minister; his policy; opening up of banks of the Yangtse to trade: Bruce not in favour of this enlargement of privileges - first condition of real progress is tranquillity - and if pushed the Chinese will regard foreigners as 'the insatiable and grasping barbarians', 30 Aug 1862;

from Sir Frederick Bruce: the opening up of the river has led to trade in contraband and with the rebels: successes of the rebels are due to weakness of government not protests against its abuses; mercantile community prefer to disregard treaty obligations unless supported by force: they wish to expand the foreign settlements and get rid of tariffs, 22 Sep 1862;

from Sir Frederick Bruce: objections to Admiral Hope's putting a 30 mile protective radius round Shanghai; Bruce's policy in China: issue of resort to armed force or the threat of it in hampering Chinese relationship with foreigners; need to strengthen the Chinese government and not seek to weaken it; Russian policy and preference of the Russians to deal with Governor Generals rather than with Peking; agreement with American minister Burlingame on need to treat China as an equal and independent state; representatives of foreign powers united in persuading the Chinese to use foreigners to organise an efficient Customhouse system, train troops and organise a steam flotilla to replace piratical junks, 11 Dec 1862 and 15 Jan 1863;

from Sir Frederick Bruce on the 'wanton insolence' of foreigners to the Chinese, contempt of their officials, respect for behaviour of the Chinese, 31 July 1863;

from Sir Frederick Bruce on (Henry Andres) Burgevine's defection to the Taipings, 22 Aug 1863;

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from Sir Frederick Bruce on French policy in China; aggression of the Lazarist missionaries, 16 Sep 1863; from Sir Frederick Bruce on Protestant missionaries, Governor Le's selection of young men to be educated in foreign culture; Lay and Osborne and their opposition to Le, 20 March 1864; from Sir Frederick Bruce on dealing with the Chinese; dangers in taking the advice of officials resident in China before 1858 who tend to be overly suspicious of the Chinese; essential characteristics of the interpreter attached to the legation in Peking, 12 Apr 1864.

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1840-1867 Letters from Frederick Bruce to his brothers Thomas (Tobo) and Robert, and to the latter's wife Katharine, on Broomhall finances, politics and foreign affairs.

Including:

Letter from the 7th Earl of Elgin to his son Thomas with various questions and comments on Broomhall estate affairs, in particular relating to the village of Charlestown and the gardens and trees to be planted there, encouragement should be given to any on the South Row to build porticos on their doors, Paris, 7 Aug 1840;

Letter to Frederick Bruce from [?Charlotte Bruce] on the revolution in France, 3 March [1848];

Letter to Thomas Bruce on the Chinese mission, the actions of Admiral Seymour ('excessively slow in comprehension and ignorant to an absurd degree'), which slowed proceedings by at least six weeks, and comparing him with the French admiral Rigaud de Genouilly, and their attitude to gunboats, 'like so many hack-cabs', 1-4 June 1858;

Letter to Robert Bruce with a critique of Lord Elgin's approach to the Chinese which has caused him great difficulties on his arrival as ambassador: China...is the grave of reputations - our ignorance defeats all our calculations and we are lucky if stumbling on in the dark we occasionally hit on the right path', Shanghai, 5 Feb 1860;

Letter to Thomas Bruce on the death of their brother Robert and on his life and health in Peking [Beijing]: 'I feel worn and exhausted by the monotonous struggle life is at Peking', 8 Sep 1862;

Letter to Thomas Bruce on the reaction in Washington to the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, 8 May 1865;

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1853-1867

Letter to Katharine Bruce on a meeting with the poet Longfellow and the latter's praise of her husband, General Robert Bruce, Boston, 15 Sep [c1866].

Letters from Frederick Bruce to his sister, Lady Augusta Stanley (1822-1876), from China and Washington.

Letters (36) from Shanghai, Tientsin [Tianjin] and Peking [Beijing], on the death of his mother, on the attempt of the Taiping rebels to take Shanghai and describing his residence and life there: he goes around in a little carriage drawn by mules; smallpox attacks suffered by his staff; he has had a bird's eye view of his residence made which he hopes to send to the Foreign Office, he hopes to have some photographs made of the interior; Dr [David Field] Rennie's successes in treating Madame de Bourboulon and other cases of dysentery; the return to Peking of the widow of the Taon-Kwang; relations with Prince Kung; he has opened up a hospital run by a Dr [William] Lockhart which is proving very successful - at Chinese New Year he is given tablets to affix to the door of the hospital with the words 'To the Divine Physician'; the problem of the Taiping rebels; to make life agreeable in Peking you must lead 'a life of excursions and not de salon'; a visit to Mongolia and the tombs of the Ming Emperors; need for the rights of the Chinese government to be recognised as force cannot always be relied upon - though this is unpopular with the navy, consuls and merchants; sends seeds of a 'curious kind of pine' for Broomhall or for the Queen; on his brother Elgin's death, 28 May 1859-12 Feb 1864.

Letters (16) from Washington, touching on American and British politics, movements for reform, the Irish question, Hepworth Dixon's [William Hepworth Dixon, 1821-1879] views on Mormonism, the Church of England, the death of Prince Albert and the Queen's seclusion, Emperor Maximilian in Mexico and on a replacement for his French cook Mercier.

Including: letter of 19 March 1867 in which he states his approval of the proposed publication of Lord Elgin's letters: 'His dispatches contain cautious and often very meagre accounts of his acts - but in his letters only is to be found the record of his real difficulties and of that profound faculty of obstruction which supplied the philosophy which enabled him to deal with them.' [Without imagination and reasoning together no man can be a statesman in the real sense, that is a man who embraces the past & the future and sees the

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connection between them]

Letters (2) to his brother-in-law, Dean Stanley (Arthur Stanley, dean of Westminster, 1815-188) asking him to see if he can organise the publication of an article in 'The Westminster Review' as a rebuttal to the views of Charles Sumner [1811-1874, American politician] on Britain, 24 June 1865, repercussions of the Alabama incident, 11 Dec 1865.

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1819-1862 Letters mainly from Sir Frederick Bruce to members of his family.

Including:

Letters (44) to his father, Thomas, 7th Earl of Elgin, to his mother Elizabeth, Countess of Elgin and sister, Lady Augusta Bruce. Addresses include Cairo, Alexandria, Hong Kong, 1819 -1862:

9 July 1851, from Sucre, Bolivia, to his mother with his rather critical views on the political, economic and social situation there and the pernicious influence of the clergy;

nd. [c1853/4], to Lady Augusta on Lord Elgin's future: 'such is his eloquence & readiness in conversation that no man can be brought into contact with him without feeling that he is dealing with a man of universal genius';

17 Dec 1853-18 Jan 1857, from Cairo and Alexandria, on Captain Henry T Butler, Forster and hieroglyphics, invalids passing through, the Crimean War, and a meeting with Francis Frith the photographer;

10 July 1857- 22 May 1858, from China, on the military government of Canton, dealings with the other nations (France, Russia and the United States), on the Chinese character and government, delay caused by Admiral Seymour by not sending up gunboats, action against the Chinese at the Taku Forts.

22 Nov 1858, London, on being offered the position on the Chinese Mission: 'it is repugnant and disagreeable to me in the highest degree'

6 June-5 July and 7 -30 Dec 1859: extracts from Frederick Bruce's letters, negotiations with the Chinese, failed attack on the Taku Forts ('a mistake - the loyal zeal of the Admiral has done more harm than the backwardness of Seymour last

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year'), support of his policy from Frederick Townsend Ward.

10 and 25 July 1862: letters to Frederick Bruce from Lady Augusta Bruce from Osborne and Balmoral, on the death of their brother Robert.

Letter from Lady Charlotte Bruce (1817-1872) to her mother, the Countess of Elgin, from King's House, Jamaica, on the effects of drought, a visit from one of Napoleon's Generals, Beautrain [?] to look into the working of freedom in the colonies, 7 Feb 1844;

Letters (3) from Thomas Bruce to Lady Augusta Bruce, 4 Feb 1846-1 Jan 1851, on family and friends and Broomhall affairs.

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1853-1866

Letters (some copies) from Frederick Bruce to Mary, Countess of Elgin, from London, Hong Kong, China and Washington.

On the death of his sister Mathilda (d. 1857), reaction in Paris to Napoleon III's choice of wife and his rule in France, his appointment to Washington, his niece, Lady Elma Bruce and her husband Baron Thurlow, political affairs there and relations with Britain, family matters, the publication of Lord Elgin's journals and letters, and the education of Victor, Earl of Elgin.

Including:

nd [October 1861] character of the late Emperor Xian Feng and position of his six year old heir; restoration of his residence at Peking [letter incomplete];

30 Apr 1864, on the death of Lord Elgin; hopes to leave China by mid June 'I have had a very difficult and thankless task in China - between the stupidity and ignorance of the Chinese and the arrogance and cupidity of our own people & of foreigners generally';

nd [c.1864/5] Laurence Oliphant explains that due to his work on the Pall Mall Gazette, he would be unable to continue the task of a publication of Elgin's correspondence as he had undertaken to do;

21 Aug 1865; on the character of the Americans, 'they favour neither silence nor repose', and the beauty of southern women;

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6 Nov 1865 and 21 Jan 1866: on his brother, James, Lord Elgin's early life and character: 'like all men of original mind he lived a life apart from his fellows', 'he was not fond of writing...his dispatches are therefore, in general, strictly confined to what is necessary to support his decision on the immediate question before him';

9 July 1866: democracy in the United States - 'no monarchy has ever shown the same tendency to territorial aggrandisement';

nd.[1865]: on Canadian federation; in America, the North is fighting for the Union and not for the slaves 'It is a question of ambition, not of humanity'.