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A letter from Mr. Samuel White, to his brother in London

White, Samuel

[Oxford], September 5+6, 1887

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Beil. 1

Letter from Sam^l White
dated Siam, Sept 20. 1686

—
Speech of the Siamese
Ambassadors to
Louis XIV.
January 14, 1686





J.L. THOMPSON & Co., Ltd.
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KOBE, JAPAN.

LETTER

From Mr. Samuel White, to his Brother in
LONDON,

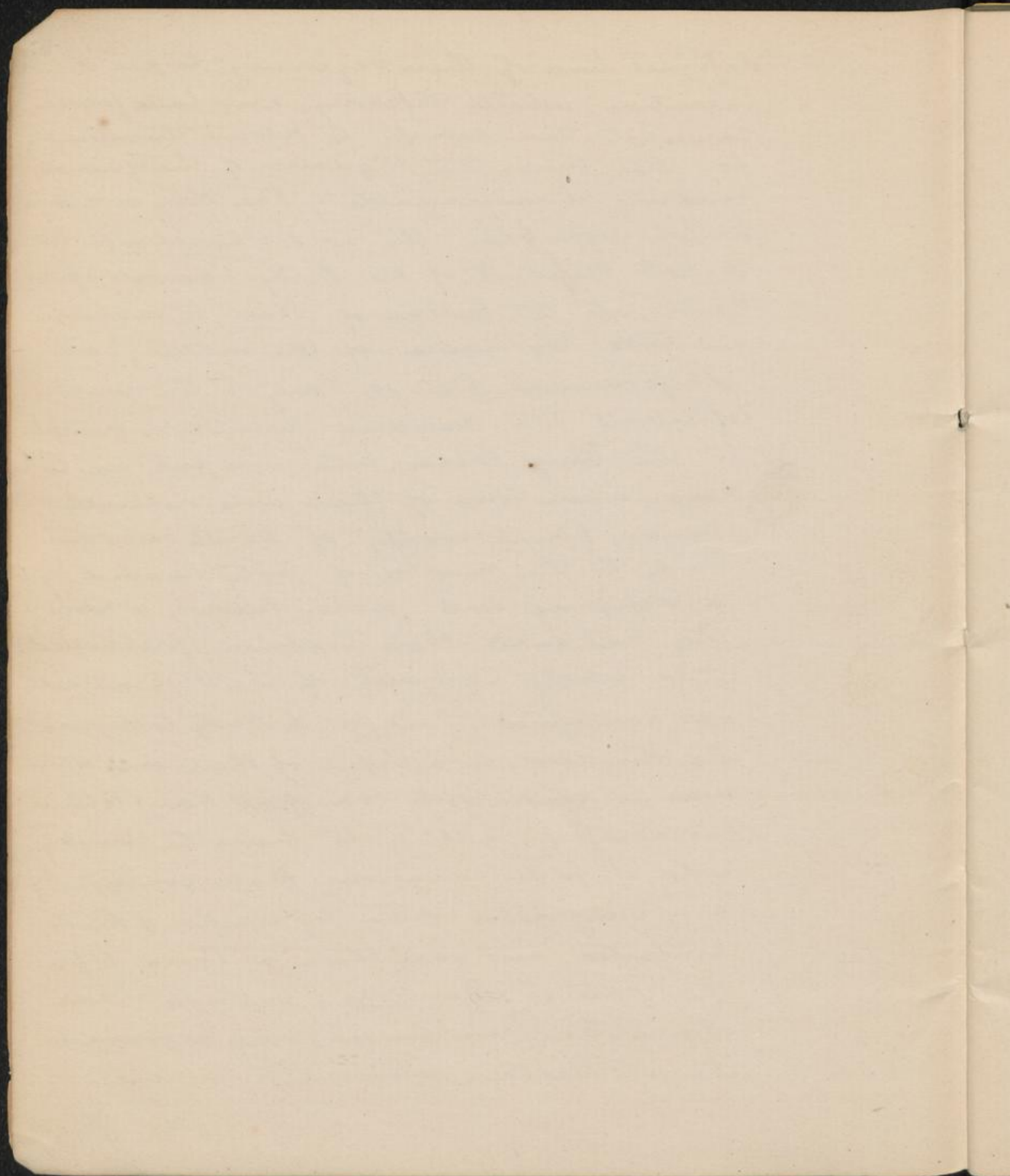
Dated in SIAM, Sept. 20. 1686.

Giving a full Account of the late Rebellion
made by the People of Macaffer, inhab-
iting in that Country, which ended with
the Death of all the Rebels, who were
totally Destroy'd by the Kings Forces,
Assisted by some Europeans, of several
Nations, amongst whom Capt. Henry Idair,
and some others of our Countrymen
most Unhappily lost their Lives.

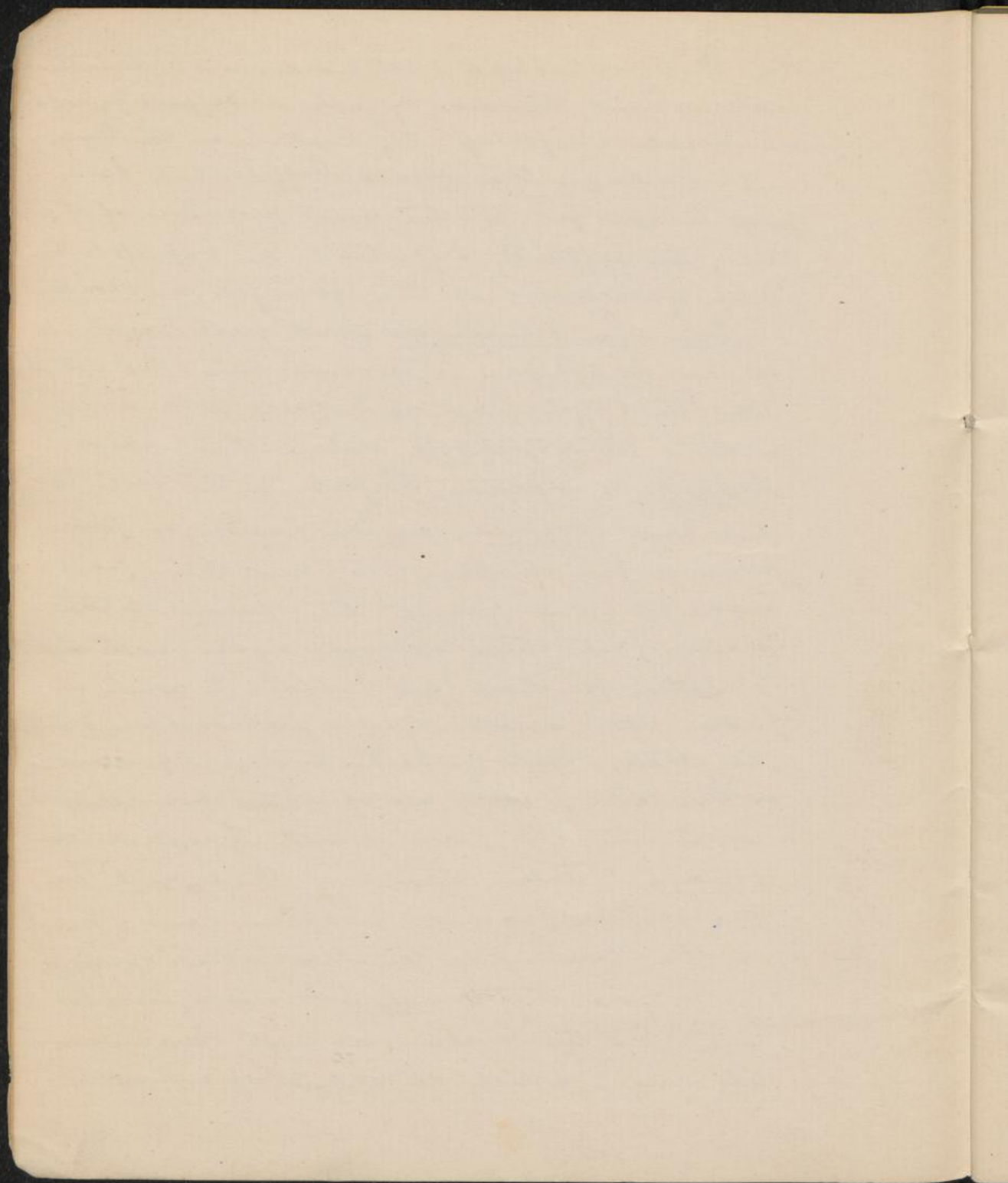
In the past Month, when his Majesty with
the whole Court were retired to the
Summer Pallace of the Devo; the
Macaffers (who you know are seated
below the Portuguese Camp) Conspired
to have burnt the City, Seized and
Plundered the Pallace, Destroyed
the King, and turned all Topsy Turvy,
had not the faint-heartedness of some
few of the Conspirators given vent
to the Plot, about six hours before the



designed time of their beginning to put it in Execution, which Discovery, how late soever, came yet time enough to prevent the attempt for that time, the Vigilance of the Guards, rendering it unfeasible; The King on notice hereof dispatched the Lord Phaulkon (who is Lord President of his Privy-Council) from Court, to the Palace of Siam, to examine and take cognizance of the matter, on whose arrival there, a Party to the number of about Two hundred surrender'd themselves to the Kings Mercy, and were sent up to Levo, where some of them were notwithstanding found worthy of Death: another Party to the number of fifty headed by a designing and daring fellow, whom they had made their Captain, pretended to be wholly ignorant of the Plot and with all earnestness, sued for liberty to depart the Kingdom, in a Vessel of their own which was in readiness to transport them: To which, his Lordship, willing to have the Country rid of such dangerous Male-contents, by any way rather than by effusion of Blood, consented, and gave them a Tarra to pass the Forts at Bankoke; but after their Departure from hence, being Enformed the said Captain was not so innocent of



the Plot as he had pretended, and jealous that
such a Crew, headed by such a Defferado, might
do much Mischief by lurking in the Bay,
and surprizing the small Vessels that daily
pass to and fro, to the great prejudice of the
Port; He instantly dispatch'd an Express to the
Chief Governour of the Garrison, one Monsieur
Forbien, a Frenchman, and great Favourite
of his Lordships, to En-order him, tho' not to
stop the Vessel, (yet if possible to be done
without Bloodshed) to detain the said
Macaffer, Captain, Prisoner in the Fort. To
this End Forbien, on the landing of some
four or five of them, to shew their pass
before he would permit the opening of the
Chain, sent them on board again, with an
invitation for their said Captain to come on
shore, who accordingly did, accompany'd with
six others, and (whether through Ignorance
or Oversight) were all of them permitted to
Enter the Fort, Armed with Creases, where
Forbien treated them very Civilly with Tea,
&c. for the space of half an hour; but
in the conclusion the Macaffers offering
to be gone, the French Governour, now too
late, told the Captain he must Surrender
his Arms, which he replied, he would not



but with his Life; whereupon Forbier Com-
manding a Bras Pintado, that stood by,
to disarm him, he immediately drew his
Crease and rift up the poor Siammer,
after whose Example the rest all began
then Muck, and fought very desperately untill
they were all killed upon the place, by the
Sentrys and the help of Two Englishmen,
at that time prisoners in the Fort, having
first slain several Siammers, and wounded
a Young French Captain.

This first Bugh being over, the Governour
sent to Summon the rest of the Macassers
on shore, having before-hand Ordered to
be drawn up two Companies of Siam
and Portuguese Soldiers, (headed by
Captain Minchin, and Captain Hues, lately
come-in hither from Bombay) to receive
them, while he secured himself the Fort
with a Third Company; but they refusing
to Obey his Summons, he sent to set fire of
their Vessel, which was accordingly done,
and the Macassers then seeing themselves
forc'd to the Shoar, and thinking to distract
the Soldiers from too strict an observance
of them, immediately on their landing set
fire to several Houses, which gave them
opportunity to rally their Forces, then

Siam

White, Sam.

Letter from Sam. White, dated Siam, Sept. 20. 1686.
(Transcr. from the copy in the Bodleian Library)

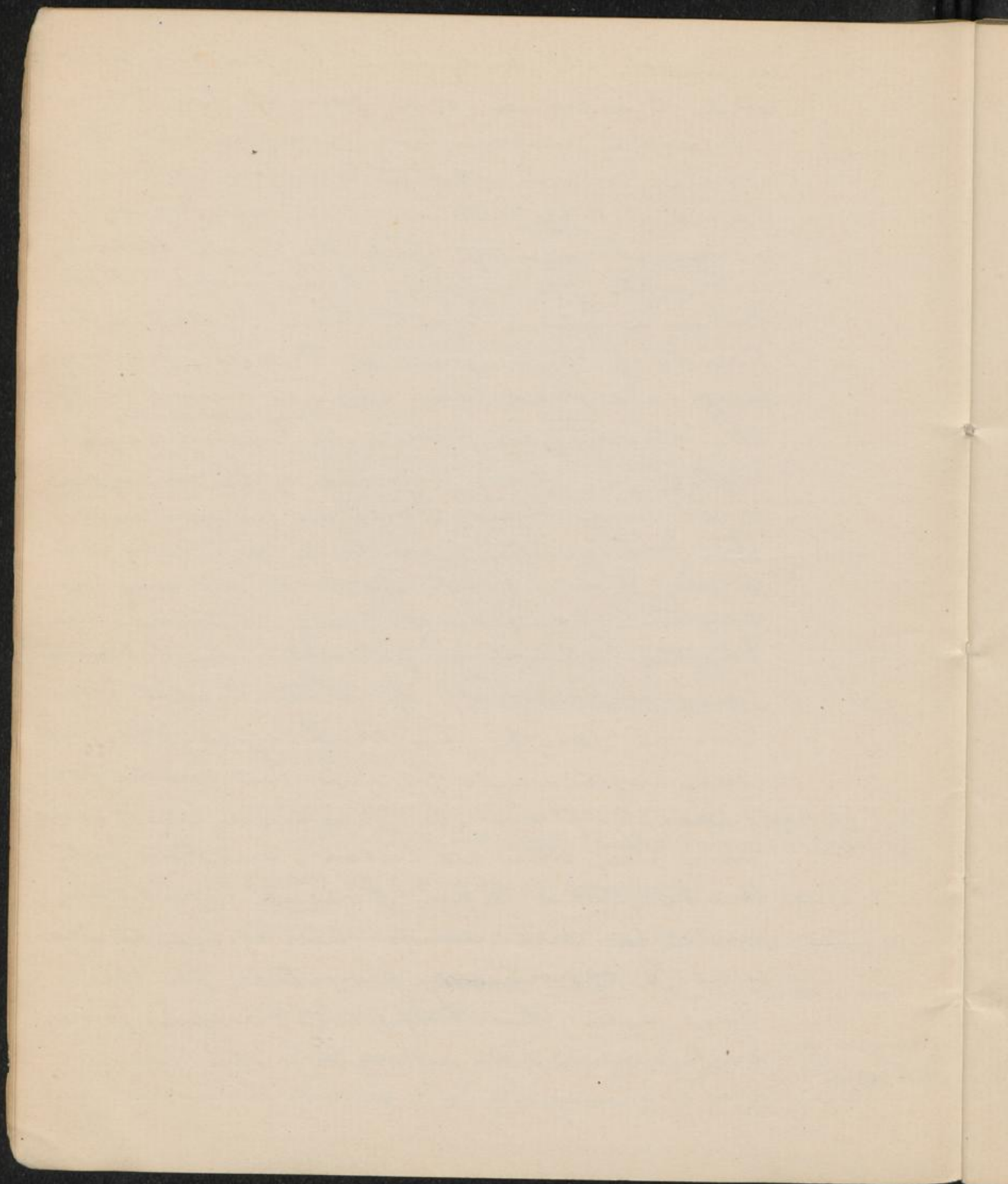
Speech of the Siamese Ambassadors to Louis XIV,
January 14, 1686/7.
(Transcr. from the copy of the Bodleian Library)

Sauber geschriebenes Manuskript, geschrieb. von
Sir Ernest Satow.

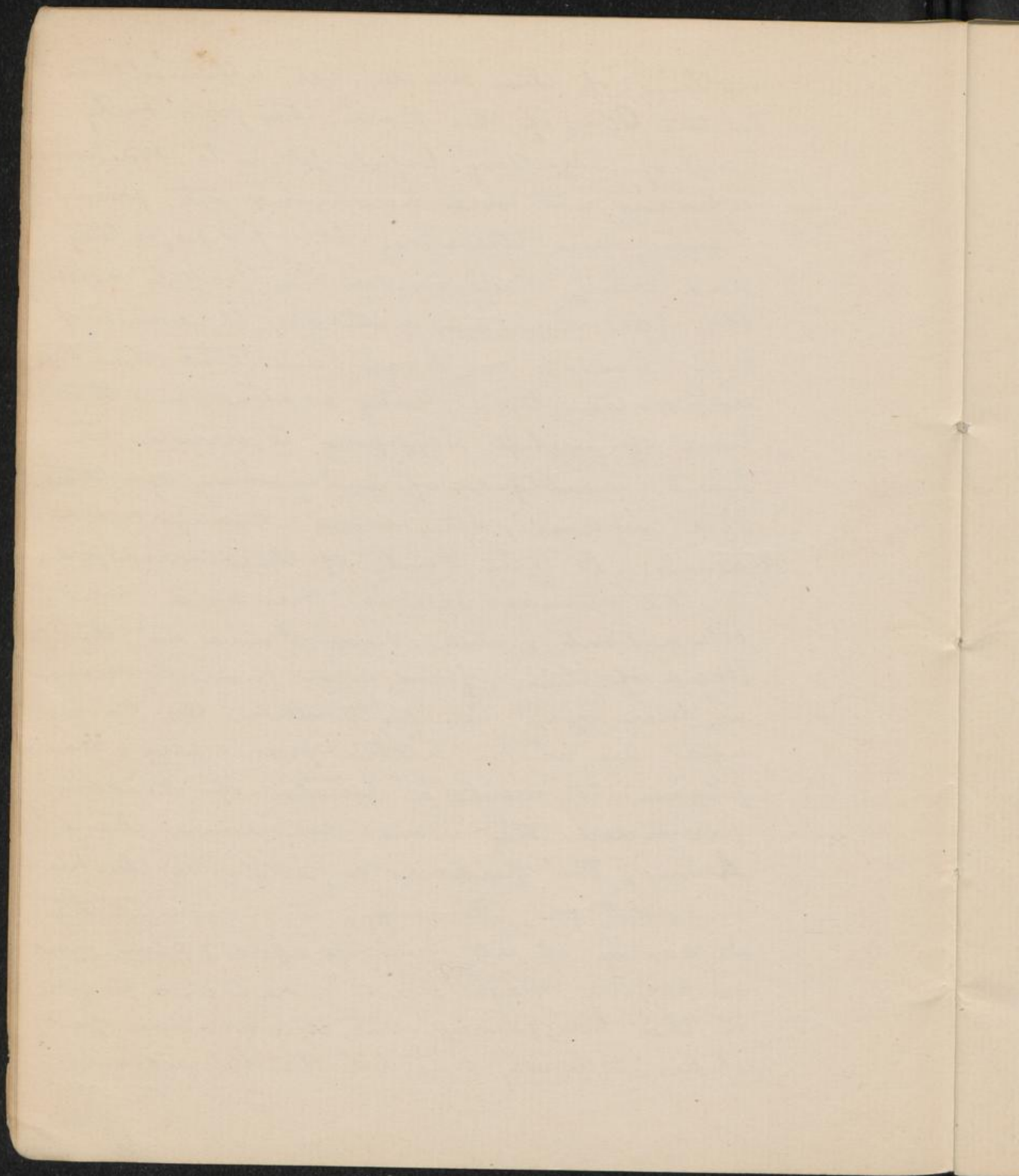
*Aus seinem Nachlass gekauft bei Mr. Griffiths,
i. Firma J. L. Thompson & Co. No. 1937.*

amounting to Forty three Persons armed only
with Creases in open face of the Fort,
where they undauntedly confronted the
whole strength of the Garison, which
Captain Hues not able to bear, too rapidly
advanced against such desperate fellows,
and with six or seven Portugueses that
follow'd him, met their Deaths on the
point of their Enemies Creases, having
first laid dead an equal number of
the Macassers, Merrichin also ^{very narrowly} escaped
with life, being defeated by the unexperi-
enced and Raw Soldiers under him,
the Fort in the meantime not being able
to ply their great Guns to do any Ex-
ecution for fear of killing their own men;
In this skirmish fell also about Twenty
six Jiammers, all of them Creast; How-
ever at length the Macassers fled, and
being afterwards pursued and hunted from
place to place, in Seven or Eight days
time they were all taken, and their fifty
Heads Staked upon Poles at Bangkok,
and it's not amiss their escape to Sea
was so opportunely prevented, for three
days after this happen'd, arriv'd some
Englishmen from Mergia, who knew

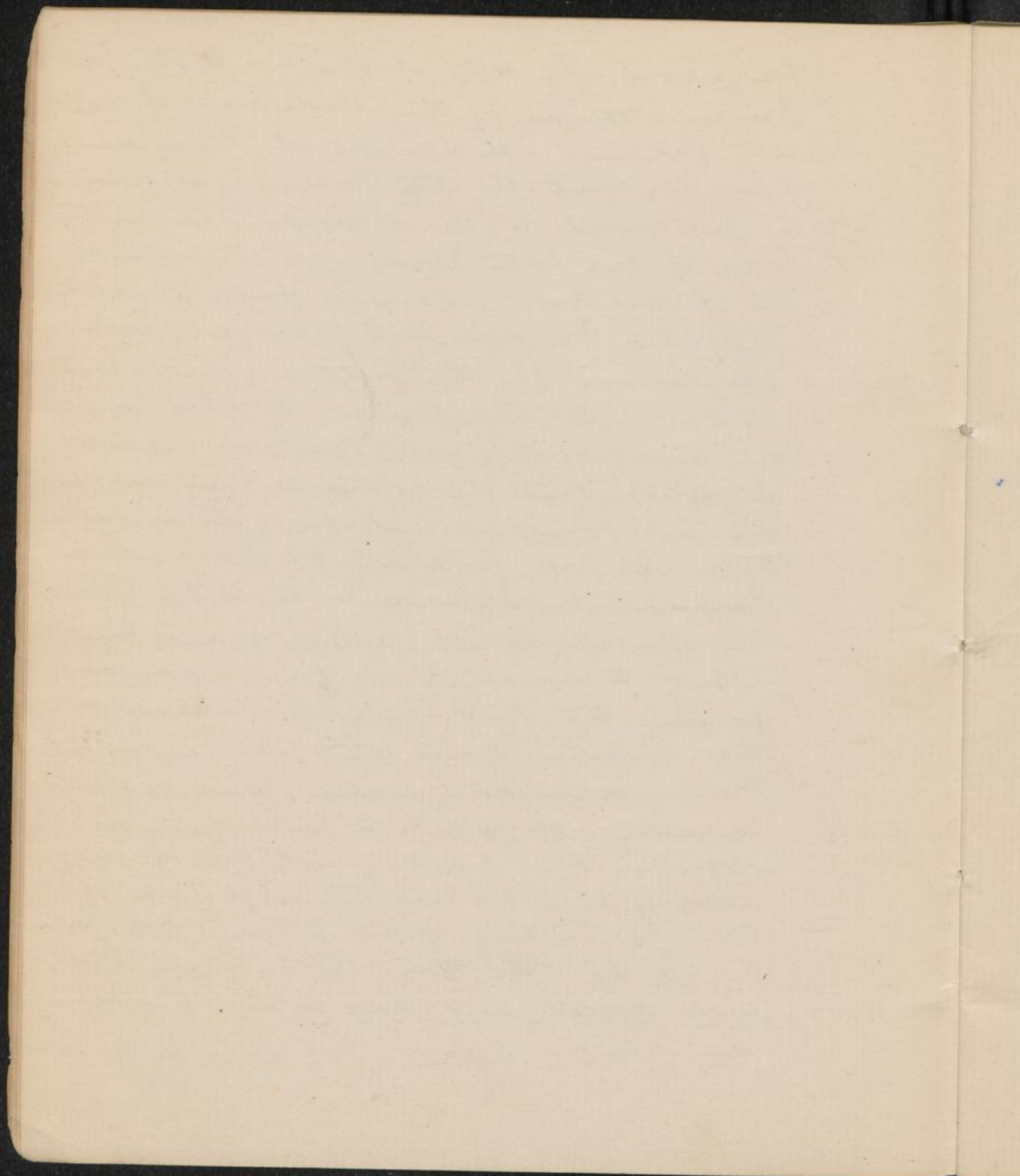
Mergin is
Mergui



nothing of this matter, yet affirmed, That
in the Office of this Barr, they saw Forty
Sail of Mallay Vessels plying to Windward,
whereas not one had gone out from
hence, and therefore it's supposed they
had been Cruising on the Coast, to expect
this said Captain with an Account of
their Success on Shoar, and that when the
appointed time being expired, and the
time of English Shipping to arrive at
hand doubtfull of a Discovery of the
Plot on shoar, they were returning home-
wards. A Third Party of these Macauffers
to the number of One Hundred or
thereabouts, with their Prince at the
Head of them, stood upon their Defence
in their own Camp, to whom the King
after his return hither from Sevo, was
pleased to make a tender of Pardon,
provided they would lay down their
Arms, Tho' perhaps expecting by this his
unlookt for Clemency, to arrive at the
Discovery of all such ill-affected Siammers,
as possibly might have more than a finger
in this Conspiracy, but this gracious offer
of his Majesty had not the design'd effect;

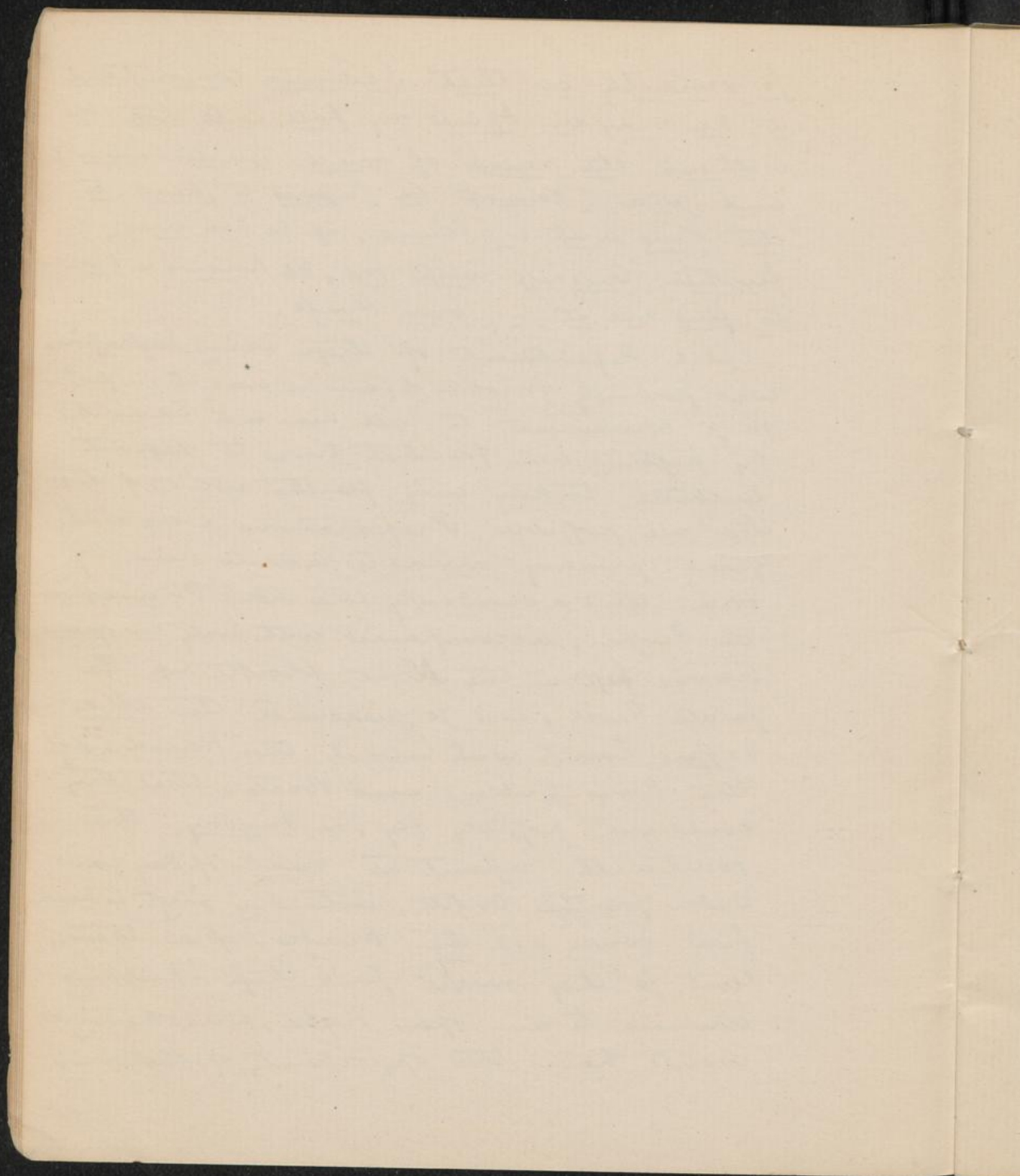


for about the 10th. of this month, the said Prince attended by the whole crew of desperate Votaries, all armed with Creases and Lances, went to the Palace Gate: whence he put word to his Majesty, That in the sense of his late Error, and reliance on his Royal word, he was come to ask his Majesties Pardon, and promise a peaceable demeanour for the future; and to that end desired admittance to throw himself at his Majesties Feet, To which he was answered, That the Posture he then was in, did not correspond with his pretences, but if he would first surrender his Arms, and Command his Attendants to do the like, his Majesty would readily grant him liberty to come into his Presence, and confirm the Pardon he had already on that condition offered them; whereupon the Prince peremptorily replied, he would never be guilty of so base a Submission as required the parting with their Arms; adding that he was not sensible of an approaching great Storm: But, says he, tell the King, I am like a Great Tree, well Rooted, and shall be able to endure any ordinary Shock; but if the Storm comes

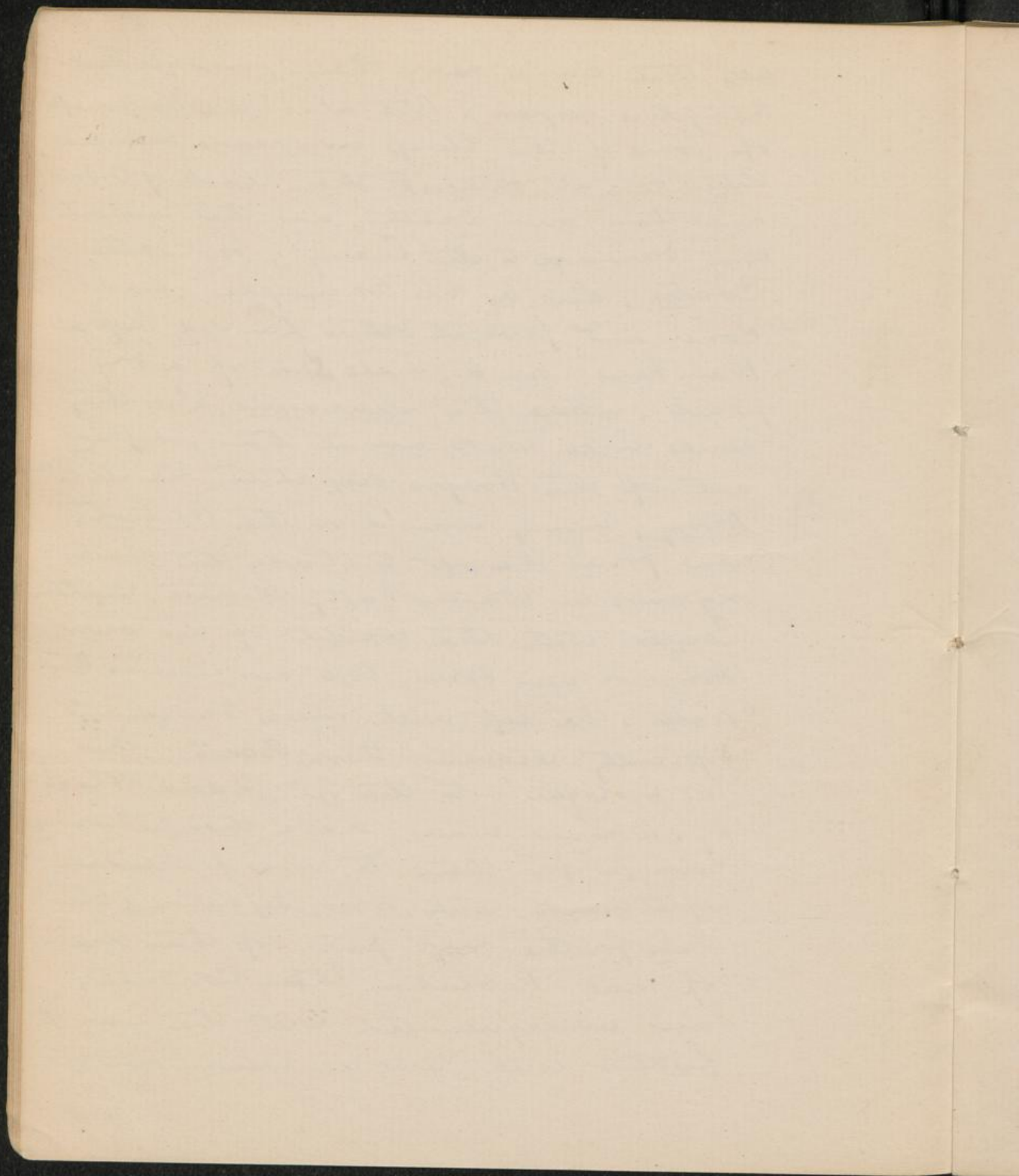


so violently on that I cannot longer stand it, he may be assured my fall will not be without the ruine of much under wood; and since I cannot be suffered to speak to the King with my Arms, if he has any further business with me, he knows where to find me at my own House.

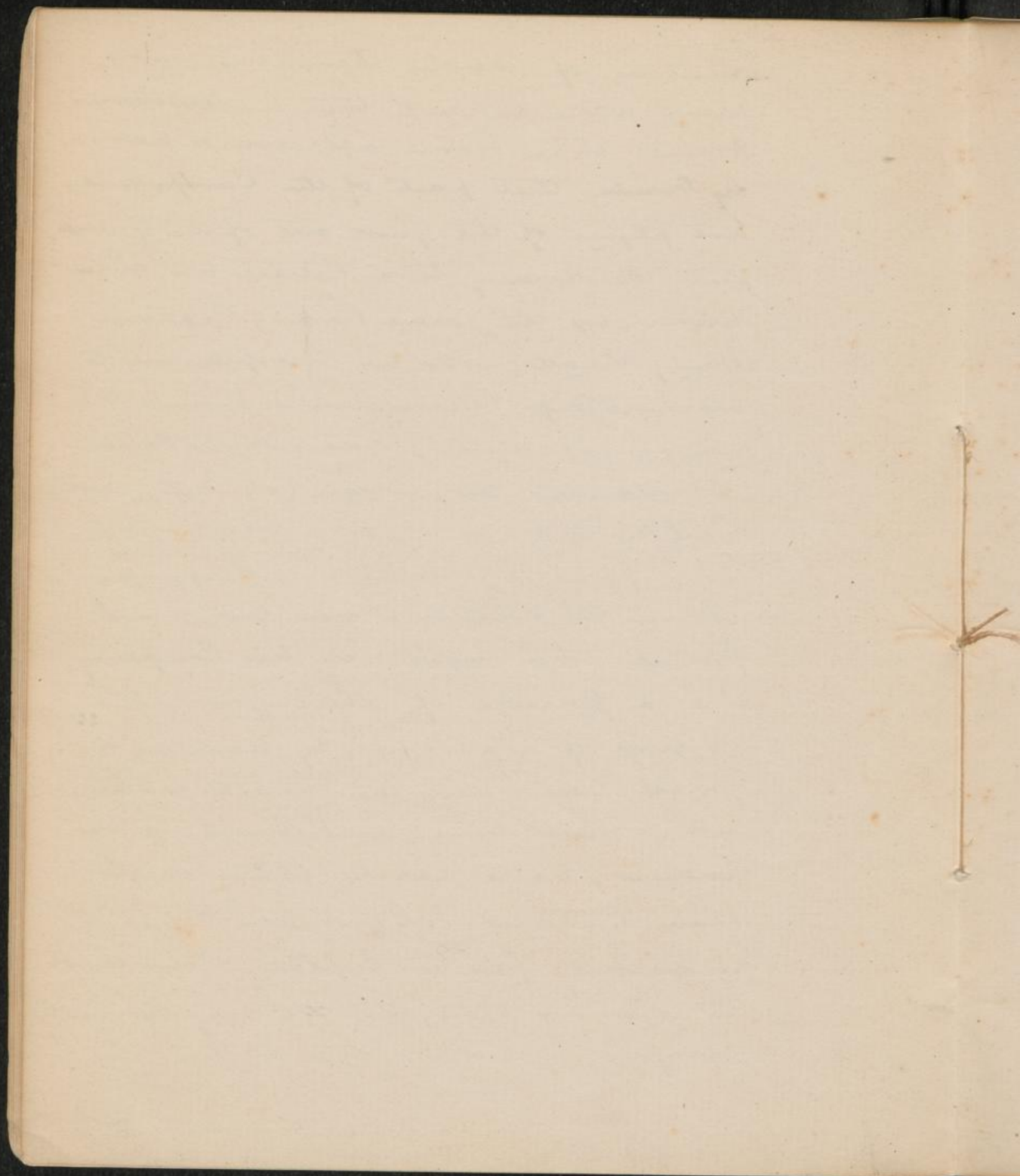
All Repentment of these daring Expressions was seemingly smother'd, and it was thought most convenient to lull him into Security, by suffering him for that time to depart without taking any further notice of it; tho' all possible Preparations were with great privacy made to reduce him by Force. And accordingly the Lord Phaulkon in Person, accompanied with Sixty Europeans, having first in the Night blockt up the small River, and so surrounded the Maccassers Camp with about two Hundred of the Kings Gallies and Boats, that they could not possibly fly, on Tuesday the fourteenth Instant at break of day gave Order for the Onset, intending first to have fired down all the Houses before them, that so they might force these Skulking Enemies to an open Fight, who otherwise would have the opportunity of murdering



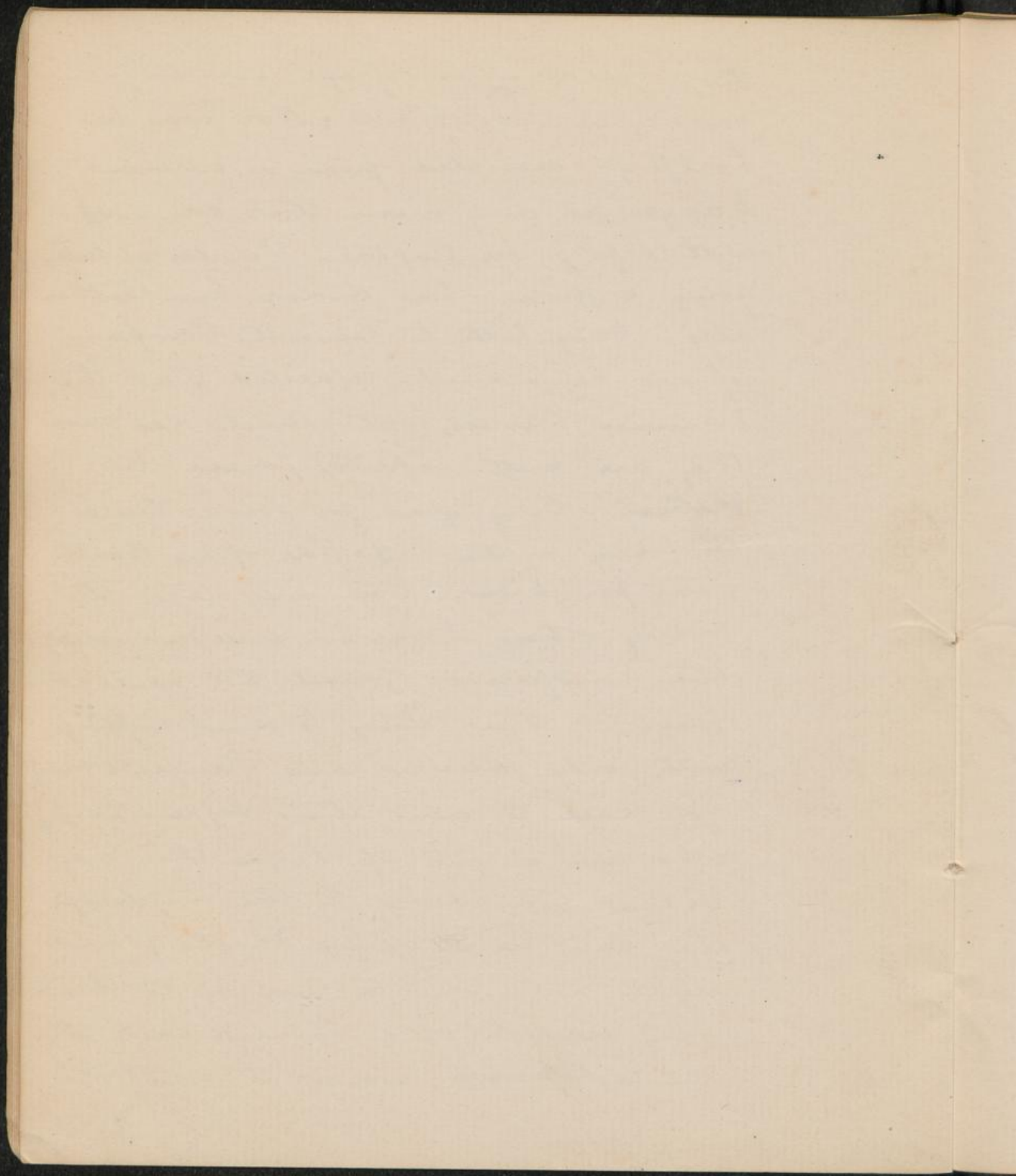
all that came near them, and yet keep themselves unseen: But alas! the Rashness of some of the Chief Europeans hurried them on at once, to the breach of Orders and their own Deaths, and that without any Damage to the Enemy; For Captain Coates, and by his Example and Command, several others landed before their time on a small Spot of a dry point, where the Macassers, &c. they could well look about them, rushing out of the Houses dispatched one Mr. Alvey, newly arriv'd on the Herbert, and forced the rest to take the Water again, in which hasty Retreat, Captain Coates with the weight of his own Armour and Arms lost his life in the Water, the rest with much Danger and Difficulty recovering their Boats. This sad prologue to the yet sadder Tragedy, a man would have thought warning enough for them to have proceeded afterwards with more Discretion, but being for the most part of them men of more Resolution than Conduct, and unacquainted with the way of fighting with such an Enemy, and yet



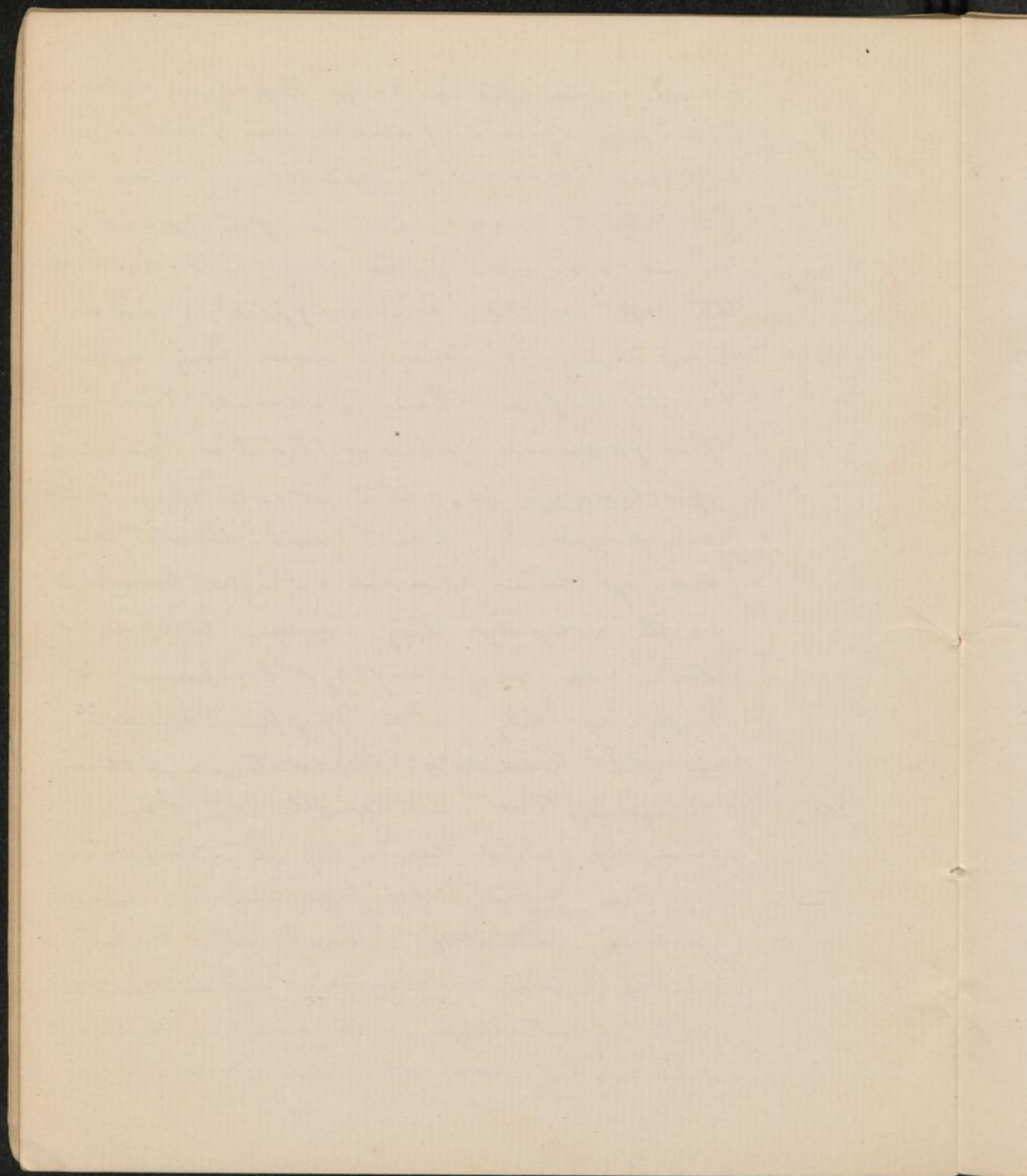
Emulous of shewing themselves every
man more valiant than his Neighbour:
About three hours afterwards having
by burning that part of the Camp, and
hot flying of the Guns out of the Gallies,
put the Enemy to a Retreat two miles
higher, up the small River, Captain
Henry Odell (who in Complement to
his Lordship accompanied him to be
only a Spectator) had not the Patience
to continue any longer so; but, (not-
withstanding all his Lordships dissuaf-
ions from it) would needs leap ashore,
where he had not been long, with
several other English in his Company,
e're a parcel of Macassers, in
disguise of Siammers, by hawling a
small Boat along the Shoal-water,
got so near them, undiscerned to be
Enemies, as to reach them with
their Lances, at which time it
unluckily fell to Captain Odells lot
to lose his life, the rest very difficultly
escaping by taking the water, the



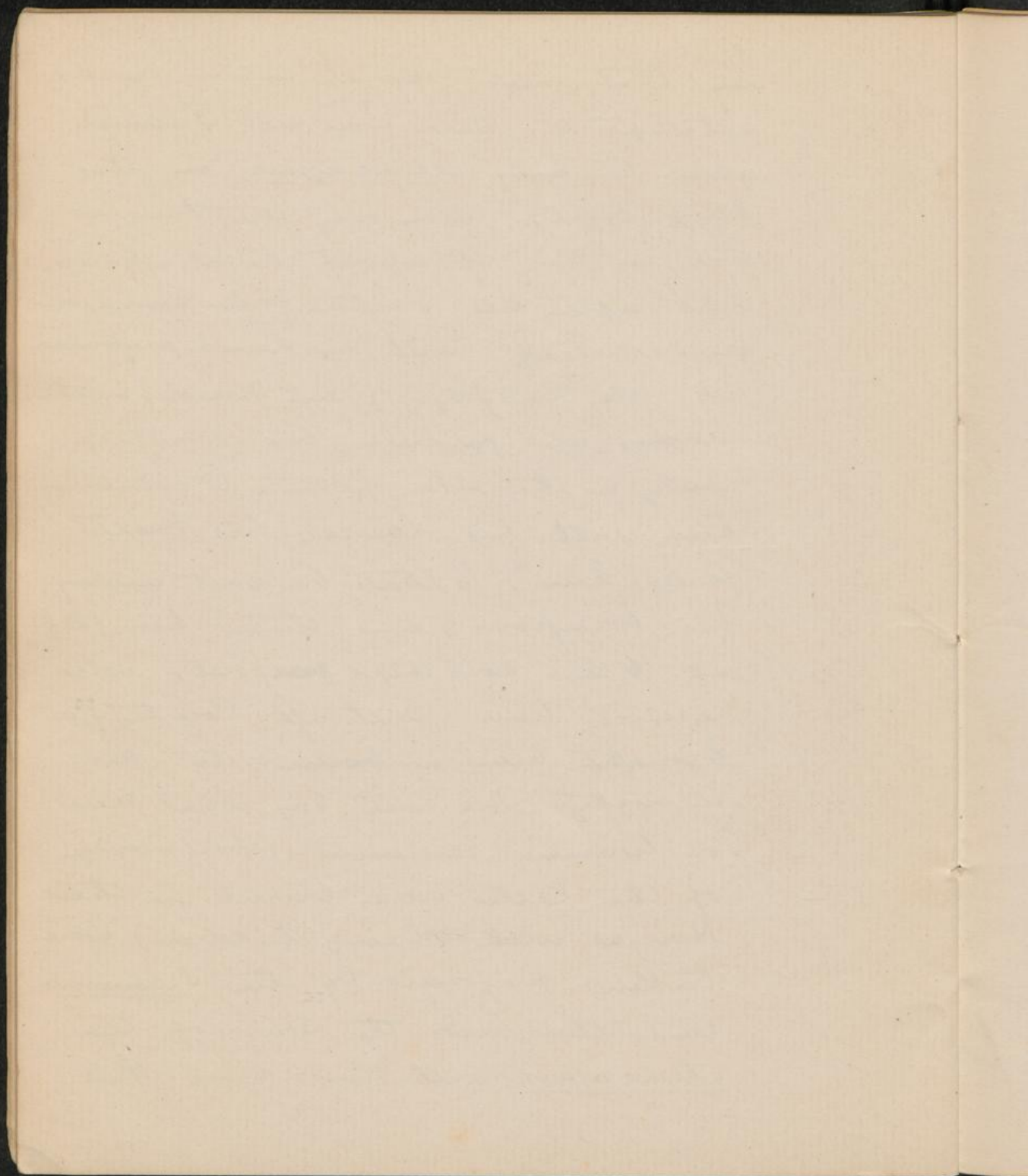
those Macaffers I capt not the small-
shot from the Boats: Nor was his
Lordship exempted from as Eminent
Danger as any man that came off
with life; For Captain Udalls resolute
going a-shore had drawn him thither
also, being loth to leave the Company
of one he so much respected; but the
Enemies Lances, (at which you know
they are most expert) forced his
Retreat, being glad for some time
to hang on the off-side of his Boats
Stern for shelter. You will note (tho'
many others I believe will) wonder
the Europeans small-shot could not
prevent their doing so much mischief
with only Lances and Creases, when
you call to mind their desperateness,
who are a sort of People that only
value their lives by the mischief
they can do at their Deaths; and
regard no more to run up to the
very Muzzle of a Blunderbuss, than
an Englishman would to hold his



hand against a Boys Pop-Gun. There
fell also four Frenchmen, among
whom Monsieur de Roan was one:
So that now at length other
mens harder fates began to make
the rest more Circumspect; and
continuing to burn and lay all
level before them, about Ten in
the forenoon arrived them a Recruit
of Siammers, (the whole number
employed by Land and Water being
no less then Seven or Eight Thousand),
with which they began to pick
them off very briskly, I mean as
fast as they could spy them Skulking
in the Bambo's, Thickets, and other
Bushes, 'till at length the Prince
himself was slain by the Captain
of his Lordships Life Guard, and
about three a Clock the Fight
ended; the Siammers afterwards
only continuing to hem-in that
place, to prevent the escape of



any that might remain alive and attempt it. There was no Quarter given to any Macaffers in this day's Fight, save only the Princes Son, a Boy of about Twelve Years, who after his Fathers fall came on undauntedly with his lance presented at his Lordships; but drawing within reach, and perceiving his Lordship ready in the like posture to entertain him with his lance, his Heart failed him, so that he cast away his weapons, and threw himself at his Lordships ~~feet~~ Feet, who received him with all Courtesy, and brought him unbound to his Majesty. The next day what men or women remained, (for many of the latter were burnt in their Houses with their Children) were taken prisoners by the Siammers. And thus ends the Story of the Macaffers with their lives. But



whether the Conspiracy, wherein they
were concerned, will end with them, is
very much to be doubted.

Licensed July 28. 1687.

Ro. L'Estrange.

FINIS.

LONDON,

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