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Class D.
(FURTHER SERIES.)

CORRESPONDENCE

WITH

FOREIGN POWERS

NOT PARTIES TO CONVENTIONS

GIVING RIGHT OF SEARCH OF VESSELS SUSPECTED OF

THE SLAVE TRADE.

1839.

Class D.

(FURTHER SERIES.)

CORRESPONDENCE

WITH

FOREIGN POWERS,

NOT PARTIES TO CONVENTIONS

GIVING RIGHT OF SEARCH OF VESSELS SUSPECTED OF

THE SLAVE TRADE.

From February 2nd to May 3rd, 1839.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
1839.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY WILLIAM CLOWES AND SONS, STAMFORD STREET,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1839.

Class D.—(Further Series.)—1838.

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Class D.—1839.

(FURTHER SERIES.)

CORRESPONDENCE

WITH

FOREIGN POWERS,

NOT PARTIES TO CONVENTIONS.

AUSTRIA.

No. 1.

Viscount Palmerston to Mr. Milbanke.

SIR,

Foreign Office, April 2nd, 1839.

I HEREWITH transmit to you two copies of a Protocol of Conference on Slave Trade, which took place at the Foreign Office in London, on the 12th of December last, between the Plenipotentiaries of Austria, France, Great Britain, Prussia, and Russia.

I transmit to you, likewise, two copies of a Draft of Treaty between the Five Powers, proposed at that Conference, and forming Annex A to the Protocol.

Her Majesty's Government feel that a most important object would be accomplished, if all the maritime Powers of Christendom could be united in a league for the suppression of the trade in slaves; and I have to desire that you will express to the Government of His Imperial Majesty the anxious hope of the British Government, that an early and favourable answer may be given, on the part of the Emperor of Austria, to the proposed Slave Trade Treaty.

J. R. Milbanke, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

I am, &c.
PALMERSTON

PRUSSIA.

No. 2.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord William Russell.

MY LORD,

Foreign Office, April 2nd, 1839.

I HEREWITH transmit to you two copies of a Protocol of Conference on Slave Trade, which took place at the Foreign Office in London on the 12th of December last, between the Plenipotentiaries of Austria, France, Great Britain, Prussia, and Russia.

I transmit to you, likewise, two copies of a Draft of Treaty between the Five Powers, proposed at that Conference, and forming Annex. A. to the Protocol.

Her Majesty's Government feel, that a most important object would be accomplished, if all the maritime Powers of Christendom could be united in a league for the suppression of the trade in slaves; and I have to desire, that you will express to the Government of His Majesty the King of Prussia the anxious hope of the British Government, that an early and favourable answer may be given, on the part of the King of Prussia, to the proposed Slave Trade Treaty.

Lord William Russell,
 &c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 3.

Lord William Russell to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 15th)

MY LORD,

Berlin, April 9th, 1839.

I have had the honour to receive your Lordship's Despatch, of the 2nd instant, marked Slave Trade.

I communicated to Baron Werther the hope entertained by Her Majesty's Cabinet, that the maritime Powers of Christendom might be united in a league for the suppression of the trade in slaves, but His Excellency had not seen the Treaty or the Protocol. He promised to give an answer, as soon as he had read them.

I afterwards spoke on the same subject to the Minister of Finance, who pointed out to me some objectionable powers given by the Treaty, but said he did not imagine that Prussia would make any difficulties.

The Right Hon. Viscount Palmerston, G.C.B.
 &c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) WILLIAM RUSSELL.

No. 4.

Baron Werther to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received May 25.)

DANS le premier Article du Projet de Traité que Son Excellence Mons. le Vicomte Palmerston, Principal Secrétaire d'Etat de Sa Majesté Britannique pour les Affaires Etrangères, a communiqué en Décembre dernier au Gouvernement du Soussigné, concernant la Traite des Nègres, il est arrêté, que ce trafic sera regardé et puni comme piraterie, et dans un des Articles suivants on s'en réfère, à l'égard

de la punition de l'équipage trouvée coupable, à la Législation des pays respectifs. Mais les lois Prussiennes ayant une lacune complète pour tout ce qui regarde la piraterie, il sera nécessaire, avant d'adopter toute autre mesure qui menerait à la conclusion du Traité projeté, de publier en Prusse une nouvelle loi pénale sur la piraterie.

Le Gouvernement du Roi le regarde comme indispensable de fixer dans cette loi une peine qui s'approche autant que possible de celle arrêtée dans les autres pays, pour qu'une punition moins sévère ne tenterait pas ceux, qui se livrent à ce trafic criminel, de se servir plutôt du pavillon Prussien que de tout autre.

Pour obtenir ce but, le soussigné Chargé d'Affaires de Sa Majesté le Roi de Prusse, par ordre de sa cour, a l'honneur de prier Son Excellence Monsieur le Vicomte Palmerston de bien vouloir lui communiquer toutes les lois pénales et tous les arrêts qui sont en rigueur dans les Etats de Sa Majesté Britannique contre la piraterie et la Traite des Nègres.

Le soussigné saisit avec empressement cette occasion pour réitérer à Son Excellence Monsieur le Vicomte Palmerston l'assurance de sa plus haute considération.

(Signed)

WERTHER.

3, Lower Berkeley Street, ce 23 Mai, 1839.

A son Excellence Monsieur le Vicomte Palmerston,
&c. &c. &c.

(Translation.)

IN the first Article of the Draft of Treaty on the Slave Trade, which his Excellency Viscount Palmerston, &c., communicated, in December last, to the Government of the undersigned, it is stipulated, that this traffic shall be considered and punished as piracy; and, by one of the following articles, the legislation of the respective countries is to be had recourse to for the punishment of the crews who may be found guilty. But as the Prussian laws are entirely silent with respect to all that concerns piracy, it will be necessary to publish in Prussia a new penal law on piracy, previously to adopting any other measure which may lead to the conclusion of the proposed Treaty.

His Majesty's Government considers it to be indispensable to fix, by that law, a punishment which shall be as nearly as possible similar to that which is fixed in other countries, in order that those persons who abandon themselves to this criminal traffic may not be tempted, by a more lenient punishment, to make use of the Prussian flag rather than of any other.

In order to attain this object, the undersigned, His Prussian Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, has the honour, by order of his Court, to request his Excellency Viscount Palmerston to communicate to him all the penal laws and all the regulations which are in force in the dominions of Her Britannic Majesty against piracy and the Slave Trade.

The undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

WERTHER.

3, Lower Berkeley Street, 23rd May, 1839.

His Excellency Viscount Palmerston,
&c. &c. &c.

RUSSIA.

No. 5.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Clanricarde.

MY LORD,

Foreign Office, April 2nd, 1839.

I HEREWITH transmit to Your Excellency two copies of a Protocol of Conference on Slave Trade, which took place at the Foreign Office in London, on the 12th of December last, between the Plenipotentiaries of Austria, France, Great Britain, Prussia, and Russia.

I transmit to you, likewise, two copies of a Draft of a Treaty between the Five Powers, proposed at that Conference, and forming Annex A. to the Protocol.

Her Majesty's Government feel, that a most important object would be accomplished, if all the maritime Powers of Christendom could be united in a league for the suppression of the trade in slaves; and I have to desire, that you will express to the Government of His Imperial Majesty the anxious hope of the British Government, that an early and favourable answer may be given, on the part of the Emperor of Russia, to the proposed Slave Trade Treaty.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

His Excellency the Marquis of Clanricarde,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 6.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Clanricarde.

MY LORD,

Foreign Office, May 16, 1839.

I HEREWITH transmit to your Excellency an extract from a communication from Rear-Admiral Elliott, containing information as to the use of the Russian flag for the purposes of Slave Trade.

You will communicate to the Russian Government, by note, the information contained in these papers. You will entreat the serious attention of that Government to the subject; and you will urge it to consent to the conclusion of the proposed Treaty between the Five Powers, as a means of effectually preventing for the future the Russian flag from being misused for purposes of Slave Trade.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

His Excellency the Marquis of Clanricarde,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 6.

Extract of a Letter from Rear-Admiral Elliot to Mr. Wood.

"Melville," at Sea, February 13th, 1839.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, copy of a letter from Lieut. J. L. R. Holl, commanding Her Majesty's brigantine, "Bonetta;" by which, and my former letters, it will be observed that the use of the Russian flag is becoming rapidly more general, in the protection of Spanish slave-vessels.

The "Golouchpie," alluded to in Lieut. Holl's letter, is, I believe, the fourth vessel now on the coast under Russian colours, carrying on the Slave Trade; one of which has made four successful voyages to Cuba.

Sub-Enclosure in No. 6.

Extract of a Letter from Lieutenant Holl to Admiral Elliot.

*Her Majesty's Brig, "Bonetta," Prince's
Island, February 11th, 1839.*

On the 24th of the same month (January 1839) boarded the Russian brig, "Gouchpie," forty days from Barcelona; not having the right of search, Mr. Henry Paul, the boarding officer, could not ascertain the whole extent of her equipment, but saw part of her Slave-deck laid in the main hold, and also leagers such as are used in the Slave Trade; her master is an Italian, and the whole of her crew Spaniards or Portuguese; her papers are perfectly regular; she is the fastest vessel off the wind I have yet met with, and carries quarter boats.

BUENOS AYRES.

No. 7.

Mr. Mandeville to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 7th.)

(Extract.)

Buenos Ayres, January 23rd, 1839.

THE Chamber of Representatives of the Province of Buenos Ayres was opened on the 1st inst., with the usual solemnities.

In that part of the message which speaks of the foreign relations of the Republic, the following paragraph occurs—

“The negotiation undertaken by the British Government for the abolition of the Slave Trade, with which the Minister of that nation is charged, has not come to a close. The Government sincerely sympathizes with the philanthropic and high sentiments of the August Sovereign of Great Britain, and is ready to conclude the negotiation satisfactorily, participating with pleasure in the honour of sanctioning an act of justice claimed by religion, humanity, and the civilization of the age. It will devote to this important affair all its zeal, the moment that its present serious occupations will permit.”

No. 8.

Viscount Palmerston to Mr. Mandeville.

SIR,

Foreign Office, April 22, 1839.

I HAVE received your Despatch of the 23rd January, 1839, transmitting extracts from that portion of the Message from the Government of Buenos Ayres, to the Legislative Body, which regards the Foreign Relations of the Argentine Republic.

Her Majesty's Government have observed with satisfaction, that the Government of the Argentine Republic declare in that Message their readiness to conclude with Great Britain the Treaty, which you have been instructed to negotiate, for the abolition of the Slave Trade of that Republic.

Her Majesty's Government take an anxious interest in the success of the negotiations on the subject of the Slave Trade, and I have to desire that you will press, by all the means in your power, the successful termination of that with which you are charged.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

J. H. Mandeville, Esq.

&c. &c. &c.

No. 9.

Mr. Mandeville to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received May 26th.)

MY LORD,

Buenos Ayres, February 19th, 1839.

I have had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch, marked "Slave Trade," of the 24th of November, 1838, enclosing a Draft of a Treaty, containing, in an amended form, the propositions which were transmitted in the Draft which was sent out to Mr. Hamilton in September 1834.

From the language of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as well as from the declaration contained in His Excellency's note to me, of the 10th of October last

(a copy of which was transmitted to your Lordship in my Slave Trade Despatch of the 14th of that month), of the sincere disposition of the present government to conclude with Great Britain a Treaty for the suppression of the Slave Trade, I have great reason to hope that the just expectations of Her Majesty's Government will not be disappointed, and that this Government will act up to its professions: and I trust that it is not necessary to assure your Lordship, that my best efforts will be directed for the attainment of so desirable an object.

I have already given a copy of the Draft of the Treaty, for translation, to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

J. H. MANDEVILLE.

The Right Hon. Viscount Palmerston, G.C.B.

&c.

&c.

&c.

CHILE.

No. 10.

Colonel Walpole to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 25, 1839.)

MY LORD,

Santiago, October 21, 1838.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's Despatches marked Slave Trade, up to that of the 19th of June, 1838, with their several Enclosures.

On the receipt of that Despatch, I communicated its contents, together with a copy of its enclosure, to His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs, for the information of the Chilian Government, accompanied by a note, of which a copy is enclosed.

I have the honour also to submit a copy of a translation of the reply thereto.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN WALPOLE.

The Right Hon. Viscount Palmerston, G.C.B.

&c.

&c.

&c.

First Enclosure in No. 10.

Colonel Walpole to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

THE Undersigned has, by directions from his Government, the honour to transmit to His Excellency, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, the enclosed copy of an address to Her Majesty, from the Commons House of Parliament on the 10th of May, and of Her Majesty's gracious reply thereto.

The Undersigned has, at the same time, received instructions to press upon the Chilian Government the immediate conclusion of the negotiations with which he has been charged, for a Treaty conducive to the extinction of the traffic in slaves: but as probably Her Majesty's Government have not yet been made acquainted with the advanced progress made in those negotiations, and of the happy prospect of their early conclusion, the Undersigned will alone draw the attention of His Excellency to the contents of the enclosed paper, as an exhibition of the earnest and increasing desire entertained both by the Parliament and by the Government of Great Britain for the total and perpetual suppression of that trade.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) JOHN WALPOLE.

Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General.

Santiago, October 18, 1838.

His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs,

&c.

&c.

&c.

Second Enclosure in No. 10.

(Translation.) *The Minister for Foreign Affairs to Colonel Walpole.*

SIR,

Santiago, October 20, 1838.

I HAVE received and laid before the President the note of yesterday's date, in which you do me the honour to transmit to me a copy of a representation from the British House of Commons to the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of Her Majesty's benevolent reply thereto.

You also give me to understand, that you have received instructions to promote the immediate conclusion of the Treaty between our respective Governments, for the abolition of the traffic in slaves.

His Excellency has directed me to reply to you that he congratulates himself on the complete harmony which, on a subject of so much interest to humanity, exists in the sentiments of the August Sovereign of the United Kingdom, and of the British Parliament, and which have at all times animated the Government of this Republic.

I flatter myself that all will be prepared in a few days for the celebration of the Treaty.

(Signed)

Accept, &c.

JOAQUIN TOCORNAL.

Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General,
&c. &c. &c.

EGYPT.

No. 11.

Colonel Campbell to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 14.)

MY LORD,

Cairo, January 10th, 1839.

It is with very great pleasure that I have the honour to report to your Lordship, that the Pacha during his present journey into Nubia and Sennaar, appears to have carefully examined and inquired into the different circumstances connected with the Slave Trade, and that effective measures will be taken by him to diminish this traffic as much as possible, and to ameliorate the evils of it. I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship an extract of a letter written by Dr. Gaetani Bey, the European Physician of the Pacha, to Clot Bey, an eminent French Physician at the head of the medical establishments in Egypt, and whose name is well known in Europe, and it is due to both Clot Bey and Gaetani Bey to say that they have always shown themselves decided advocates for the abolition of this nefarious traffic.

Your Lordship will see by the letter of Dr. Gaetani, that His Highness has already taken some measures in this affair; and I have every hope that on the return of the Pacha, he will officially communicate to me the measures which he has adopted, and which will thus be a guarantee for his fulfilment of them, and I shall not fail to press the matter strongly. Mr. Consul Thurburn also spoke to Boghos Bey on the same subject, and the Bey told him that, on the return of the Pacha from Fasoglou, he was convinced that he would take some steps, with a view to prevent further importation of negroes into Egypt, and that His Highness would also adopt any suggestion for the gradual abolition of slavery in this country, so as to reconcile that measure with the prejudices and feelings of the people.

Boghos Bey says that, he believes that according to the Musulman Law, no man has a right to hold a slave in slavery for more than seven years. If such be the case, I think that the Pacha, by enforcing that law, would alleviate the condition of those slaves who are dissatisfied with their masters, and he might introduce a system of registration, by means of which a check would be kept on the abuse of that law. It would also tend to prevent masters from treating their slaves with cruelty, though such an evil is of rare occurrence among Turks, who generally treat their slaves with great mildness.

(Signed)

I have, &c.

PATRICK CAMPBELL.

The Right Hon. Viscount Palmerston, G. C. B.,
 &c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 11.

(Translation.) *Extract of a Letter from Dr. Gaetani Bey, dated Cartoum.*
 December 9, 1838.

THROUGHOUT our journey, we collected from the mouths of Europeans and Africans, accounts relative to the terrible traditions of the conquest, and above all, of the vengeful expedition of the Desterdar; and these accounts proved, that in many functionaries, hardened by a long residence to the sight of ferocious practices, the germs of instinctive humanity, have allowed themselves to be smothered, and replaced by barbarous habits.

We learnt also, that as His Highness advanced towards the theatre of these deplorable scenes, his heart bled as the reports of them became more distinct, and some words which fell from him, made people presume, that he thought of healing old wounds, and preventing their re-opening.

I am now able to announce to you, with joy, a great measure which His Highness decided upon some days ago, and for the execution of which, the necessary orders have been issued. The Viceroy declared to us, that on the 4th of December, he had sent circulars into the mountains, and formal instructions to the chiefs of troops, to give full and entire guarantee to the Negroes, and to prevent, for the future, the terrible "Slave Hunt."

I considered myself doubly fortunate to see the initiative taken on this occasion by the great man, over whose health my duty and my affection make me watch incessantly, and who is good enough to permit me even to offer counsel and the free expression of my thoughts.

After this declaration of His Highness, I have not been able to refrain from telling him, that by it he had entered on the best way for conciliating the good will of Europe.

On this occasion His Highness marked, with extreme sagacity, the terms on which the abolition of slavery is practicable. Slavery said he, is, in fact, and by right, according to religion, incorporated in the great Mussulman race.

To attack it openly is impossible. All that depends on me is to forbid the hunt to the agents of my Government. By that, and by example, to diminish among the great, and by degrees among the small, the need of this institution, which has become domestic; such are the progressive and sure results of the decision which I have come to. I do not think that I ought to expect more at present; for I cannot effect more.

I rejoice, my dear friend, while I think of the good which may result from such a measure, which is at the same time humane and politic. The Negroes will perhaps apply with ardour to productive labour their members, freed and secured from all violence; and I believe that here, in Fasoglo, and higher up, the native Negroes are alone able to cultivate the ground successfully, as it has been remarked that the Indians of America are much superior to imported Negroes and half-castes.

I do not doubt that, on his return, His Highness will declare this act in a solemn manner, and then the cessation of slavery will have an official point of departure; and this ancient barbarous usage will begin to disappear little by little from the East, as it fell in the West, under the influence of religion, of science, and of industry.

It is with the liveliest satisfaction that I acquaint you that the health of His Highness has never for one-moment suffered from fatigues, and that it continues to be excellent.

I have, &c,
(Signed)

GAETANI BEY.

To Clot Bey.

MEXICO.

No. 12.

Viscount Palmerston to Mr. Pakenham.

SIR,

Foreign Office, April 1, 1839.

WITH reference to the instructions which I have on former occasions given, both to yourself and to Mr. Ashburnham, respecting the conclusion of a Treaty between Great Britain and Mexico, for the effectual suppression of the Slave Trade, I have to desire that you will take an early opportunity, after the receipt of this Despatch, strongly to urge the Mexican Government to bring to a satisfactory termination the negotiation, with which you have been charged upon this subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

PALMERSTON.

Richard Pakenham, Esq.

&c. &c. &c.

MONTEVIDEO.

No. 13.

Mr. Mandeville to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 6, 1839.)

MY LORD,

Buenos Ayres, November 17th, 1838.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's Despatch, marked Slave Trade, of the 17th August, 1838.

In obedience to the instructions therein contained, I have addressed a letter to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the new Government of the Republic of the Uruguay, of which the enclosed is a copy, wherein I have strongly urged His Excellency to renew the negotiations for the conclusion of a Slave Trade Treaty; and in the event of that Government consenting to my proposal, I shall not fail to avail myself of the instructions contained in your Lordship's Despatch, of the 22nd February, of this Series, in order to arrive at a successful issue with as little delay as possible.

In the note which I addressed to General Oribe, late President of that Republic, in September last, a copy of which was transmitted to your Lordship in my Slave Trade Despatch of the 5th of that month of this year, I stated that Her Majesty's Government is desirous to conclude with Montevideo a Treaty for the suppression of Slave Trade without waiting for the signature of a Treaty of Commerce, and I earnestly invited the Government of the Uruguay immediately to sign and conclude such a Slave Trade Treaty; but in the answer which His Excellency had directed M. Villademoros to address to me, enclosed in my Slave Trade Despatch of September 28th, no notice was taken of that part of my note to the President, in which the desire to conclude the Treaty had been manifested by Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. MANDEVILLE.

The Right Hon. Viscount Palmerston, G.C.B.

&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 13.

Mr. Mandeville to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Uruguay Republic.

THE Undersigned, &c., has received instructions from His Government, to urge upon that of the Republic of the Uruguay, the renewal of the negotiations which he has at various times, since his arrival in this country proposed to, and once entered into with the late President of that Republic, and particularly in the note that he addressed to General Oribe in the month of September last, wherein, by the desire of Her Majesty's Minister for Foreign Affairs, he requested His Excellency to correct a mis-statement that is contained in His Excellency's Message to the Legislative Assembly of this year; in which, referring to the relations between Great Britain and the Republic, he stated that the British Government had declared that Great Britain would not conclude with Montevideo a treaty for the suppression of Slave Trade, unless the Government of Montevideo was prepared at the same time to conclude a Treaty of Commerce with Great Britain; which statement, as the Undersigned proceeded to prove in his note, was incorrect and without foundation, and again pressed upon His Excellency to sign and conclude a Slave Trade Treaty.

The British Government is ready at once to conclude with Montevideo a Treaty

for the suppression of Slave Trade, without waiting for the signature of a Treaty of Commerce; and the Government of the Republic of the Uruguay, is hereby earnestly invited by that of Great Britain, immediately to resume the negotiations for the conclusion of such a Slave Trade Treaty.

The Undersigned avails, &c.
(Signed) J. H. MANDEVILLE.

No date.

No. 14.

Mr. Hood to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 20th, 1839.)

(Extract.)

Montevideo, December 10th, 1838.

DURING the end of October and the beginning of November, a report became very general that Don Santiago Vasquez, the Secretary to General Rivera, had sold a license to Teodoro Villaca, Lorenzo Perez, and Costa Guimaraens, granting them permission to import slaves, under the character of Negro colonists.

Your Lordship will not fail to recollect, that this scheme of introducing slaves under the character of their being *colonists*, was the creation of M. Vasquez, then Minister for Foreign Affairs of General Rivera's Presidency in 1832. This gentleman has always been the zealous and active advocate of slavery, and of making it the source of a national income; and in defence of this traffic, condemned by all civilised nations, he then contended, and still contends, that the Republic is an independent state; that its right to trade generally is undeniable, and if it chooses to trade in slaves, it has the indisputable right to do so.

The principal obstacle to these opinions, was the Acts and Decrees of the late Constitutional General Assembly, who had, in the most formal manner, proscribed that iniquitous traffic, and in its place encouraged an extensive emigration of labourers, from the Basque Provinces and from the Canary Islands.

Although I had repeatedly been assured, by good authority, of the existence of this secret Slave Trading company, and of their plan of enlisting half of Montevideo as small shareholders, to make the traffic popular, I still was not altogether convinced, until I received a note from Mr. Vasquez (a copy of which I enclose), in which [it appeared extraordinary that the Government should think it necessary to acquaint an English Consul, that a Brazilian vessel had run away from the port, when there were Brazilian vessels of war in harbour, but no English ones. This circumstance created a suspicion in my mind which induced me to inquire of other Consuls, whether they had received a similar information, but they knew nothing of the matter. I then called upon the Brazilian Commodore in command of the port, but so far from his having heard anything of this vessel running away, he informed me that he had sent official despatches to the Brazilian Government by that identical vessel. Upon further inquiry, I discovered she had been sent on a slaving voyage, to touch at Rio de Janeiro, and there procure the necessary cargo for the Coast of Africa. I enclose my reply to this note.

First Enclosure in No. 14.

M. Vasquez to Mr. Hood.

(Translation.)

Montevideo, December 5th, 1838.

THE Captain of the Port has just made known to His Excellency the General-in-Chief, that the Brazilian brig "*Principe Imperial*" has sailed to-day from this port without asking for the necessary visit, and consequently leaving in his office all the papers which belong to her. His Excellency has ordered me to bring to the knowledge of the Consul-General of Her Britannic Majesty the kind of suspicion, which naturally falls upon an act of this character, in order that he may use this knowledge as he may think best.

I avail, &c.

(Signed)

SANTIAGO VASQUEZ.

To the Consul-General of Her Britannic Majesty.

Second Enclosure in No. 14.

Mr. Hood to the Commander-in-Chief.

THE Undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General, has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's note of the 5th instant, and in reply he begs to observe, that, unluckily, there are no British ships of war disposable at this port to go in pursuit of the runaway vessel, which, however, may be of the less importance, since two Brazilian men-of-war are at anchor off the city.

Resulting from the inquiries which the Undersigned has been able to make upon the whole matter, he thinks it his duty to say, that it would appear more than likely that the Brazilian brig "*Principe Imperial*" will have proceeded to Angola, or some other port on the coast of Africa.

The Undersigned will have the honour to communicate to Her Majesty's Government the obliging information of His Excellency, and he avails himself of this occasion to repeat his high consideration and respect.

(Signed)

THOMAS SAMUEL HOOD.

*Montevideo, December 8th, 1838.**His Excellency the General-in-Chief of the Constitutional Army.*

No. 15.

Mr. Mandeville to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 7.)

MY LORD,

Buenos Ayres, January 5th, 1839.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a note, with a translation of it, which I have received in answer to that which I addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs at Montevideo, on the 15th of November last, in which I urged His Excellency to re-commence, and conclude, the negotiations for a Treaty with Great Britain, for the suppression of the Slave Trade in the Republic of the Uruguay.

M. Vasquez informs me, in his note, that General Ribera, who has at present the direction of the Government of that Republic, is animated with the greatest desire of cultivating and improving the friendly relations, which exist between that State and Great Britain, and His Excellency regrets that at this moment he is not invested with sufficient powers to enter into the negotiations which are proposed to him; but that, on depositing the authority which he exercises at present, into the hands of the constitutional Powers which, in a very few days, are to be re-established, he will recommend to them most especially this matter, although the Slave Trade is prohibited by the constitution, and consequently is not permitted within the territories of the State.

The Minister then mentions, that an importation of Africans, under the denomination of colonists, has been permitted in the Republic, which experience has shown to be as favourable to the country, which is in want of labourers, as it is to the individuals themselves; and His Excellency the General in Chief is of opinion that this benefit, and that which the treasury receives from the sums produced by their importation, may be made to accord with the wishes of the British Government, by means of stipulations, entered into with advantage and justice to both parties. His Excellency flatters himself, that the most satisfactory results will arise from the ulterior regulations, which the constitutional authority will adopt, and assures me, that to attain them, he will use all the influence which his position gives him.

As I should very reluctantly enter into any negotiation on the subject of African colonists, without further instructions from your Lordship, I beg leave to request that you will be pleased to direct what language I am to hold, when this matter comes under discussion.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

J. H. MANDEVILLE.

The Right Hon. Viscount Palmerston, G.C.B.,

&c.

&c.

&c.

Enclosure in No. 15.

*Mr. Vasquez to Mr. Mandeville.**Montevideo, December 15th, 1838.*

The Undersigned Secretary has had the honour of receiving and laying before His Excellency the General in Chief of the Constitutional Army, the Despatch of His Excellency Mr. Mandeville, Minister Plenipotentiary, &c., dated Buenos Ayres, the 15th of last month, in which he is pleased to state to him, that in September last he found himself obliged to request of the ex-President of the Republic, the correction of that part of the message, which he addressed in the present year to the legislative body, wherein it was stated that the British Government had not wished to conclude a Treaty for the suppression of the Slave Trade, unless a Treaty of Commerce should be entered into at the same time; assuring His Excellency that Great Britain is disposed to conclude the Convention for the abolition of the Slave Trade, without waiting for the settlement of a Treaty of Commerce, and inviting again the Government of the Republic to renew immediately the negotiations for the conclusion of that Treaty.

His Excellency the Commander in Chief, animated with the most arduous wishes of cultivating and improving the relations, which happily reign between the two countries, bound by ties and sympathies so strong as those that prevail between this Republic and Great Britain, has been pained not to find himself at this moment invested with powers sufficient to open the negotiations which are proposed, but he has directed me to inform you, that on deposing the authority, which he exercises at present by the force of events, into the hands of the constitutional powers which, within a very few days, are to be re-established; he will recommend to them most especially this matter, although the Slave Trade is prohibited by the Constitution; and that, consequently, it does not exist in the Republic; and although the importation of Africans which has been allowed into it has been under the character of colonists, in which experience shows that they have been equally favoured with the country that receives them, the increase of which labourers it greatly wants. His Excellency the General is of opinion that this benefit, and that which the treasury receives from the sums produced by their importation, which, although employed afterwards for the benefit of the same negroes, serve as a great relief towards the exigencies of the national treasury, may be reconciled with the wishes of the British Government, and with the purity of principle which the Republic professes, by means of stipulations directed with success and justice.

His Excellency the General, flatters himself with the most satisfactory result from the ulterior, regulations which the constitutional authority will come to, and he assures the Minister Plenipotentiary, that in order to attain it, he will use all the influence which his position gives him.

The undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

SANTIAGO VASQUEZ.

*To Mr. Mandeville,
&c. &c. &c.*

No. 16.

Mr. Mandeville to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 7.)

MY LORD,

Buenos Ayres, January 24, 1839.

I HAVE received a letter from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Montevideo, in which he acquaints me that a new method of smuggling slaves into the Republic of the Uruguay, has been there adopted: it is managed in this way. A Brazilian subject, for Mr. Hood observes that they are mostly Brazilians who are engaged in this traffic, becomes owner of a vessel under Montevidean colours. He sends a cargo from Montevideo to Rio de Janeiro, where the vessel receives in return, Brazilian produce, with which is obtained a regular clearance, and she sails back to Montevideo. Having got outside the harbour of Rio, little sail is made, and at night, a boat comes off from the shore, with 20 to 40 negroes, and these are landed at Maldonado, or in the neighbourhood, and then the vessel makes her entry into Montevideo in the usual manner, and no questions are

asked. By a systematic repetition of this fraud, a great number of slaves are introduced into the Banda Oriental.

I have thought it my duty to report to your Lordship on this retail traffic in slaves, that measures may be taken by Her Majesty's Government, to put an end to such iniquitous proceedings.

(Signed)

I have, &c.

J. H. MANDEVILLE.

The Right Hon. Viscount Palmerston, G.C.B.

&c.

&c.

&c.

No. 17.

Viscount Palmerston to Mr. Mandeville.

SIR,

Foreign Office, April 25th, 1839.

I HAVE received your Despatch, Slave Trade, of the 5th of January, 1839, transmitting copy, and translation of a note from M. Vasquez, in answer to your note to him, urging a renewal of the negotiations for a Treaty between Great Britain and Montevideo, for the suppression of the Slave Trade of Montevideo.

I perceive that M. Vasquez expresses a hope, that stipulations may be admitted into that Treaty, which shall have the effect of sanctioning the importation of Africans into Montevideo, under the denomination of Colonists.

But, upon this point, you will observe to the Montevidean minister, that the term African Colonist is only another expression for the term African slave; and you will give him clearly to understand, that the British Government can enter into no arrangement, which would have the effect of sanctioning under one name, a practice, which such arrangement professed to put down under another name. You will, at the same time, urge the Montevidean Government to accede to the just desires of Her Majesty's Government, by concluding a Treaty upon Slave Trade without any further delay.

(Signed)

I am, &c.

PALMERSTON.

J. H. Mandeville, Esq.

&c. &c. &c.

PERU.

No. 18.

Mr. B. Wilson to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 16, 1839.)

MY LORD,

Lima, September 21st, 1838.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's Despatch, marked "Slave Trade," of the 30th of April last, together with the full powers therewith transmitted, to enable me to conclude and sign a Treaty on behalf of Great Britain with the Peru-Bolivian Confederation, for the entire suppression of the Slave Trade, and for declaring that the crime of Slave Trade shall be considered and treated as piracy.

I have likewise received an amended draft of the whole Treaty, and the draft of two additional Articles thereto, which I am empowered to propose to the Peru-Bolivian Government.

The circumstance of the groundless and wasteful war, so obstinately persevered in by Chile against the Peru-Bolivian Confederation, will, I fear, amongst other evils attending it, prejudice the interests of civilization and humanity, retarding the conclusion of this Treaty, to which His Excellency, General Santa Cruz, Supreme Protector of the Peru-Bolivian Confederation, has formally expressed his willingness to accede. And should, unfortunately, the Government of Chile succeed in overthrowing the Peru-Bolivian Confederation and the enlightened Government of General Santa Cruz, which are the declared objects of the war, I much dread that a Peruvian Government would decline to enter into the negotiation of such a Treaty.

But your Lordship may rest assured that its negotiation shall not be retarded by any want of zeal on my part.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. H. WILSON.

The Right Hon. Viscount Palmerston, G.C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 19.

Mr. Wilson to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 22nd, 1839.)

MY LORD,

Lima, December 12th, 1838.

IN obedience to the instructions with which I was honoured in your Lordship's Despatch, dated the 9th of June last, I immediately transmitted to the Peru-Bolivian Government the copy of the Resolution, which was voted unanimously by the House of Commons on the 10th of May, 1838, for an Address to Her Majesty upon Slave Trade; and a copy of the Answer which, on the 23rd of the same month, Her Majesty was pleased to return to that Address; and I at the same time earnestly pressed upon them the immediate conclusion of the negotiation upon the subject of the extinction of the traffic in slaves; into which His Excellency the Proctor, Santa Cruz, formally expressed his readiness to enter, in the note which his Secretary-General addressed to me, under date of the 20th October, 1836.

Enclosed are copies of my Despatch, and of the reply thereto (with its corresponding translation) of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, stating the grounds upon

which his Government deem it to be inexpedient, at the present moment, to conclude that negotiation.

It is, however, but justice to His Excellency, the Protector, to express my entire confidence in the sincerity of his declared willingness to contribute to the extinction of the infamous traffic in slaves, by the conclusion of a Treaty with Great Britain to that effect, the moment the political circumstances of the country will allow of the question being fairly and dispassionately entertained by the Government and nation at large.

Any attempt, however, at negotiation upon this subject, so long as a Chilean invading army and a Chile-Peruvian Government, supported by its bayonets, shall exist in the Peruvian territory, would be eagerly seized hold of by them as a handle to misrepresent the true character and object of the negotiation, with a view to inflaming the minds of the people of North Peru against the Protectorial Government.

But I entertain hopes, that His Excellency will at the proper time, be enabled to procure the introduction into any constitution, which may hereafter be formed for the future government of the Peru-Bolivian Confederation, of an Article declaring that the crime of Slave Trade shall be considered and treated as piracy; and thereby facilitating the negotiation of a Treaty with Great Britain for the entire suppression of that traffic.

Your Lordship may be satisfied that I shall myself omit no step, calculated to bring the negotiation with which I am charged to an early and successful conclusion.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

B. H. WILSON.

The Right Hon. Viscount Palmerston, G.C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

First Enclosure in No. 19.

Mr. Wilson to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Her Majesty's Legation,
Lima, November 30th, 1838.

VISCOUNT PALMERSTON, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has, by express command of Her Majesty, instructed the Undersigned to communicate to the Peru-Bolivian Government the Copy of a Resolution, which was voted unanimously by the British House of Commons, on the 10th of May, 1838, for an Address to Her Majesty upon Slave Trade, and a Copy of the Answer which, on the 23rd of the same month, Her Majesty was pleased to return to that Address.

The Peru-Bolivian Government will see, from these two papers herewith transmitted, the unceasing and anxious desire of the Parliament and Government of Great Britain for the extinction of the traffic in slaves; a desire which, it is but justice to state, has hitherto been fully sympathised in by the Peru-Bolivian Government, in common with those of all the states of the Spanish-American continent.

Viscount Palmerston has furthermore instructed the Undersigned earnestly to press upon the Peru-Bolivian Government the immediate conclusion of the negotiations with which he has been charged upon this subject, and into which His Excellency, the Supreme Protector, expressed his readiness to enter, in the note with which General Don Pio de Tristan, the Secretary-General of his Excellency, honoured the Undersigned under date of the 20th of October, 1836.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

B. H. WILSON.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs,
&c. &c. &c.

Second Enclosure in No. 19.

(Translation.) *Senhor Casimiro Olañeta to Mr. B. H. Wilson.*

SIR,

Protectoral Palace in Lima, December 6, 1838.

Nothing is more in accordance with the spirit of the age in which we live, with the principles of Christianity, whose beneficent influence has so softened down the fierceness of national customs, and with the progress of social improvement, than the abolition of the traffic in slaves. His Excellency the Supreme Protector, views in this infamous commerce the human species degraded, by this sordid conversion of fellow-creatures into marketable commodities, thereby occasioning the retrocession of human reason to a pristine state of barbarism.

Every measure that in any way may tend to diminish the system reprobated by universal justice and by the Gospel, is in accordance with those noble sentiments which elevate the civilized condition of man; wresting him from the power of his oppressors, and from the servitude to which he is destined by the avarice of criminal speculations. These, sir, are the sentiments of my Government, who is sincerely desirous of seeing them practically established throughout the world, and all Governments agreed in eradicating sentiments contrary to such enlightened doctrines. But there are particular circumstances in which Governments cannot always give an unlimited extension to their policy, on account of the greater evil which might therefrom result.

You are well acquainted with the iniquitous means which the Government of Chile employs to continue and sustain its war against Peru, and it would be sufficient that His Excellency should consent to the just indication of Her Britannic Majesty's Government, that the party in Peru which is sustaining the Chilean invasion, should represent this measure as one destructive to the interest of agriculture; and consequently, converting a principle of eternal justice into a pretext for exciting a feeling against the Protectoral Government.

His Excellency has convened the Assemblies of North and South Peru. If the Confederation shall continue, the Government will propose to the General Legislative Body the basis of a treaty, and will exert all its influence to promote the practical adoption of an incontrovertible axiom, such as the abolition of the traffic in slaves. This is in accordance with the ancient fundamental laws of Peru, with her Treaty with Colombia, and with the progress of civilization. With respect to Bolivia, the constitution enacts severe punishments against this traffic, and happily ere long will be therein abolished the very names of masters and slaves.

Condescend, sir, to represent these sentiments to your Government, and to receive the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) CASIMIRO OLAÑETA.

To Mr. Wilson,
&c. &c.

VENEZUELA.

No. 20.

Sir R. Ker Porter to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 28.)

MY LORD,

Caracas, January 4, 1839.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's Despatch, "Slave Trade," of December last, transmitting to me your instructions relative to the alterations proposed to be made in the Treaty concluded between Great Britain and Venezuela, on the 19th of May, 1837, for the suppression of the Slave Trade, to which I will most faithfully attend, should the Congress object to its ratification in the form originally concluded.

Having the honour, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT KER PORTER.

The Right Hon. Viscount Palmerston, G.C.B.,
 &c. &c. &c.

No. 21.

Sir R. Ker Porter to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received May 20th.)

MY LORD,

Caracas, February 23, 1839.

I REGRET to inform your Lordship, that the present Congress has refused its approbation to the Treaty concluded on the 19th of May, 1837, for the abolition of the traffic in slaves, in consequence (as stated in the enclosed copy of a decree thereon) of Venezuela not having it in her power to fulfil some of the stipulations; and that also, from the nature of her institutions, the National Representation could not pledge itself to the fulfilment of others, without becoming greatly embarrassed thereby.

On receiving officially this information, I made known to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, that Her Majesty's Government, for the sake of obtaining the ratification of a Treaty of this nature, had consented to the alterations contained in his communication to me of the 25th of September last.

In consequence, therefore, of this information, His Excellency the President has named a Señor José Santiago Rodríguez, Judge Fiscal of the Supreme Court, as Plenipotentiary on the part of Venezuela, to negotiate and conclude a new Treaty, who will be furnished with instructions accordingly.

Should the spirit, which has influenced the Legislative Chambers to refuse their consent to the Treaty of May 1837, as well as of the instructions given to Señor Rodríguez, appear to me, during our conferences to incline him to cling most tenaciously thereto; and that by my making conciliatory changes in the points objected to, or by the revision of several of the Articles would meet such objections, without taking from the true spirit and great end of the Treaty; I think I may agree to them, authorized as I am by the Royal full Powers, should I find such unavoidable, according to my own judgment. I trust, however, my Lord, you will not deem this, as having lost sight of your instructions of December last, touching this second Treaty; but attribute it to my zeal, that the wishes of Her Majesty's Government should be accomplished.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT KER PORTER.

The Right Hon. Viscount Palmerston, G.C.B.,
 &c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 21.

(Translation.)

Decree.

The Senate and Chamber of Representatives assembled in Congress.

Having seen the Treaty of the Abolition of the Traffic in Slaves, signed in the city of Caracas on the 19th of May, 1837, and its annex of the same date, by the Plenipotentiaries of Venezuela and of His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, each fully authorised by their respective governments,—consider, amongst other things, firstly, that Venezuela, by her laws, has co-operated, and will co-operate, efficaciously for the abolition of the traffic in Slaves, as far as it lays in her power; and secondly, that, for want of means, it becomes impossible for her to fulfil some of the stipulations of the Treaty; and, also, that from the nature of the institutions of the country, were the National Representation to pledge itself to the fulfilment of some of the others, would become thereby greatly embarrassed;

Decree,

That the Congress does not give its consent and approbation to the Treaty on the Abolition of the Traffic in Slaves, signed in Caracas on the 19th of May, 1837, by the respective Plenipotentiaries of Venezuela and of the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

Done in Caracas, February 12th, 1839.

(Signed)

JOSE' VARGAS,

President of the Senate.

JUAN MANUEL MANRIQUE,

President of the Representatives.

JOSE' ANGEL TREYRE,

Secretary to the Senate.

RAFAEL ACEVEDO.

Let this be carried into effect.

(Signed)

JOSE' ANTONIO PAEZ.

GUILLERMO SMITH,

Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

Caracas, February 13th, 1839.

UNITED STATES.

No. 22.

Viscount Palmerston to Mr. Fox.

SIR,

Foreign Office, February 5, 1839.

I HEREWITH transmit to you copies of papers, which I have received from the Admiralty, relating to an American schooner named the "*Mary Hooper*," belonging to Philadelphia, and met with recently off the Gallinas on the coast of Africa, under circumstances which give reason to believe, that she was destined for Slave Trade.

You will transmit copies of these papers to Mr. Forsyth; and you will, in a note accompanying them, request the serious attention of the United States Government to the increasing abuse, which is made of the flag of the United States by pirates of other nations, for the purpose of protecting their criminal undertakings in Slave Trade.

You will further state in your note on this subject to Mr. Forsyth, that Her Majesty's Government cannot doubt, that the United States Government will take some effectual steps to rescue the flag of the Union from the discredit, which such proceedings tend to cast upon it.

H. S. Fox, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

First Enclosure in No. 22.

Sir John Barrow to Mr. Strangways.

SIR,

Admiralty, January 11th, 1839.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send herewith, for the information of Viscount Palmerston, copies of a letter, dated the 4th of November last, from Rear-Admiral the Honourable George Elliot, Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's ships and vessels on the Cape of Good Hope and African station, and of its enclosure from Lieutenant Kellett of the "*Brisk*," on the subject of his having boarded an American schooner, supposed to have been proceeding on a slaving voyage.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BARROW.

The Honourable W. Fox Strangways,
&c. &c. &c.

Second Enclosure in No. 22.

Rear-Admiral Elliot to Mr. Wood.

SIR,

Melville Simon's Bay, November 4th, 1838.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the consideration of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, copy of a letter from Lieutenant Kellett, of Her Majesty's brig "*Brisk*," on the subject of his having boarded an American schooner, supposed to be proceeding on a slaving voyage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE ELLIOT.
Rear-Admiral Commanding-in-Chief.

Charles Wood, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

Third Enclosure in No. 22.

Lieutenant Kellett to Admiral Elliot.

SIR,

Her Majesty's brig "Brisk,"
lat. 7° 0' 7" n., lon. 12° 31' w., 19th July, 1838.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, when cruising for the interception of slave-vessels from the "Gallinas" and Sherbro, I boarded the American schooner "Mary Hooper," belonging to Philadelphia, who received at Havana her cargo of Aguardiente, navigated by a crew of seven men. She had on board nine passengers, Spaniards and Portuguese, with a Spaniard as supercargo, and is consigned to a notorious slave trader at the Gallinas, Charles M. Bergstraud, the master and nominal owner, has been twice taken for breaches of the slave-laws. The vessel called at Port Praya, and I have no doubt received other papers there; the Master did not deny the fact. The passengers are, I have no doubt, intended to assist in navigating the vessel where her slaves are on board, as she was under the American flag, I did not feel myself justified in making any search for other papers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR KELLETT.
Lieutenant and Commander.

Rear-Admiral the Hon. George Elliot, G.C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 23.

Viscount Palmerston to Mr. Fox.

SIR,

Foreign Office, February 20th, 1839.

I HEREWITH transmit to you a copy of a Despatch from Her Majesty's Commissioners at the Havana, containing a report of the state of the Slave Trade at the date of their letter.

You will communicate to the United States' Government the contents of that Despatch, and you will state that Her Majesty's Government have experienced much satisfaction at learning the steps which the United States' Government have adopted, in order to prevent the flag of the Union from being used for the purpose of covering and protecting the Slave Trade.

H. S. Fox, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

Enclosure in No. 23.

Havana Commissioners, December 24th, 1838.

(See Class A, No. 38, p. 101.)

No. 24.

Viscount Palmerston to Mr. Fox.

SIR,

Foreign Office, February 23rd, 1839.

I HEREWITH transmit to you an extract from a Despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Commissioners at the Havana, containing a statement of the Slave Trade at that Port and its neighbourhood during the year 1838. You will see by that paper that, in the year 1838, no less than 19 American vessels have been engaged in the Cuba Slave Trade.

You will present a note on this subject to the American Minister; you will express the regret of Her Majesty's Government at hearing, that American citizens and ships are engaged in Cuba in promoting that trade in slaves which it is the

object of the United States, as well as of Great Britain, to suppress; but you will express the confidence of Her Majesty's Government that the United States' Government will take every step within their power, for preventing such abuses of the flag of the Union.

H. S. Fox, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

Enclosure in No. 24.

Havana, Commissioners, January 1, 1839.

(See Class A, No. 41, page 103.)

No. 25.

Viscount Palmerston to Mr. Fox.

SIR,

Foreign Office, March 22, 1839.

I HEREWITH transmit to you copies of papers, which have been received at the Admiralty, showing that the American Consul at the Havana has affixed his name to the papers of vessels about to be engaged in the forbidden traffic in slaves, and has likewise signed blank forms, to be filled up at pleasure by the persons in command of those vessels.

Her Majesty's Government are unwilling to believe, that any functionary of the United States would intentionally assist the traffic in question; but, in cases of this kind, carelessness leads nearly to the same result as actual connivance.

Her Majesty's Government cannot doubt that the Government of the United States will caution the American Consul at the Havana to use, in future, more circumspection in matters of this kind, and to exert all the vigilance in his power to prevent Slave Traders from screening themselves under the protection of the American flag.

H. S. Fox, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

First Enclosure in No. 25.

Admiral Elliot to Mr. Wood.

SIR,

Melville Ascension, 1st January, 1839.

I HAVE the honour to enclose for the information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, copies of letters and returns from certain of Her Majesty's ships and vessels under my orders, relative to the capture of vessels engaged in the illicit traffic in slaves. With reference to the latter part of my letter of the 19th November last, (I beg leave to call their Lordships' attention to the circumstance of the American Consul at the Havana, affixing his signature to the papers of vessels about to be engaged in the detestable traffic alluded to under the Portuguese flag, as stated by Lieutenant Arthur Kellett, of Her Majesty's brig, "Brisk,") and in the report of Lieutenant Oliver of the "Fair Rosamond," as well as the said Consul signing *blank forms*, to be filled up at the pleasure of the persons in command of these vessels.

To Mr. Wood,
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE ELLIOT,
Rear Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

Second Enclosure in No. 25.

*Lieutenant Kellett to Admiral Elliot.**Her Majesty's brig "Brisk."
Sierra Leone, August 8, 1838.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that I arrived here this day from the River Gambia, where I had been, in obedience to your orders, to put myself in communication with the Governor of that settlement. I remained there twelve hours, and have called in here for information, which I expect to receive relative to the sailing of slaves from the Sherbro and Gallinas, for which cruizing, I proceed to-morrow. I have to inform you that, during my late cruize to the Gambia, I boarded the Portuguese schooner, "*Senhora de Bon Viagem*," from the Havana, at which place she cleared out for Port Praya; but did not call there, and was on her way to the Island of St. Thomas. I beg to state, that I examined her papers, and found that the American Consul at the Havana had signed all her papers, his reason for so doing being expressed in them, viz. :—

There being no Portuguese Consul, or other authorised agent there from the Portuguese Government, to do so.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR KELLETT, *Lieutenant Commanding.**To Admiral Honourable George Elliot, C.B.*

&c. &c. &c.

Third Enclosure in No. 25.

A RETURN of VESSELS engaged in the Slave Trade, searched and detained by Her Majesty's Ships and Vessels, under the Orders of Rear-Admiral Hon. J. Elliot, C.B., on the Cape and African Station, between the 1st October and 31st December, 1838.

Name of Prize.	Under what Colours.	How Rigged.	No. of Men.	No. of Guns.	No. of Tons.	No. of Slaves on board.	How and where taken: if at sea, Lat. and Long.	Whence.	Whether Bound.	No. of Days out.	REMARKS.
1. Paquete Felis	Portuguese	Two Topsail Brig.	28	..	115	196	July 19, 1838 Lat. 4° 15' N. Long. 7° 30' E.	Bonny	St. Jago de Cuba	1	Detained by "Fair Rosamond."
2. Constitucao	..	Two Topsail Schooner	24	4	115	None	Accra Roads.	Havana	St. Paul's de Loanda, and Matanzas.	64, from Havana	Detained by "Fair Rosamond." She produced a Cape Verd Island paper, dated 10th December, 1837, stating her to be <i>American built</i> , in which the name of the Captain differs from that on the muster-roll: found Spanish Custom-house clearances, to which are affixed the name of Mr. Trist, as American Consul, there being no Portuguese at the Havana. All eleven passengers had Spanish passports, and evidently held the highest offices on board. One stated himself to be the owner of both vessel and cargo; found in his desk certificate of his birth as a Spaniard, and several printed forms signed by Mr. Trist, left blank for them to fill up at pleasure. Found a Spanish log in the main hold, and a <i>Spanish ensign</i> secreted. She had four men neither accounted for by muster-roll or passports—making a total of thirty-nine. Her cargo is rich, consisting of powder, spirits, silks, Manchester goods, and tobacco: has slave-irons, plank for deck, large coppers and leagers.
3. Dulcinea . .	Portuguese	Schooner	15	..	80	253	Oct. 31 Lat. 4° 16' N. Long. 3° 44' E.	Lagos.	Havana	4	Detained by "Pelican." Six slaves had died, the remainder were healthy; the vessel in good order, her sails new.

Melville, Ascension, 1st January, 1839.

No. 26.

Viscount Palmerston to Mr. Fox.

SIR,

Foreign Office, 1st April, 1839.

I HEREWITH transmit to you copies of papers which I have received from the Admiralty, shewing the manner in which, the flag of the United States has, in various cases, been used to protect undertakings of slave traders; and stating, that, in one case, that, namely, of the American brig, "*Dido*," evidence upon oath can be procured to prove the facts.

You will send to Mr. Forsyth copies of these papers, together with a note, in which you will state to Mr. Forsyth, that Her Majesty's Government feel confident, that the United States Government will, upon the information here given, take proper steps for preventing the flag of the Union from being used to defeat the declared purposes of the Federal Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

PALMERSTON.

H. S. Fox, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 26.

Mr. Wood to Mr. Strangways.

SIR,

Admiralty, 20th March, 1839.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, to send you herewith copies of a letter dated the 2nd of January last, from Commodore Sullivan, senior officer of Her Majesty's ships and vessels, on the eastern coast of South America, and of its inclosures, from Lieutenant Birch, in command of Her Majesty's brig "*Wizard*," relative to the abuse of the American flag, for the purpose of carrying on the slave traffic, and to the state of that trade, at the ports to the northward of Rio de Janeiro; and I am to request that you will lay the same before Viscount Palmerston, for his Lordship's information.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

JOHN BARROW.

The Honourable W. F. Strangways,
&c. &c. &c.

Sub-Enclosure A. in No. 26.

Commodore Sullivan to Mr. Wood.

SIR,

H.M.S. "Stag," Rio de Janeiro, 2nd January, 1839.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, enclosed, the copies of a letter and representations I have received from Lieutenant J. T. Birch, respecting the Slave Trade at the northern ports.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

T. B. SULLIVAN, *Commodore.*

To C. Wood, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

Sub-Enclosure B. in No. 26.

Lieutenant Birch to Commodore Sullivan.

SIR,

H.M. Brig "Wizard," off Bahia, 18th December, 1838.

IN compliance with your desire, that my observations on the abuse of the American flag, for the purpose of carrying on the Slave Traffic, should be communicated officially:

I have the honour to enclose the accompanying representations, in the form of

letters, that may be used either individually or collectively, as you may deem expedient.

I have, &c.
THOMAS F. BIRCH,
Lieutenant Commanding.

(Signed)

To Commodore T. B. Sullivan, C.B.,
Rio de Janeiro.

Sub-Enclosure C in No. 26.

Lieutenant Birch to Commodore Sullivan.

SIR, *H.M. Brig "Wizard," off Bahia, 12th November, 1838.*

I HAVE the honour to report, that we boarded, on the 16th September, off Point St. Antonio, (Bahia,) the "*Eagle*," of Baltimore, a two-topsail schooner, of 210 tons, under American colours, John Littig, Master, with crew and passengers, in all 21 men, from St. Thomas, on the Line, in ballast. Her American papers were produced, and I did not conceive myself warranted in searching her. It was reported in Bahia that she had landed slaves to the northward; and her appearance on boarding warranted the suspicion.

The Brazilian authorities appear to have been satisfied, as, on the 19th October, she sailed with a general cargo for the Coast of Africa.

I have, &c.
THOMAS F. BIRCH,
Lieutenant Commanding.

(Signed)

To Commodore T. B. Sullivan, C.B.,
Rio de Janeiro.

Sub-Enclosure D in No. 26.

Commander Birch, to Commodore Sullivan.

SIR, *Her Majesty's brig, "Wizard," off Bahia, 12th November, 1838.*

I BEG to submit to your notice, the following statements relative to the extensive share the American flag has, in forwarding and covering the traffic on slaves, carried on by parties in the port of Bahia.

The American brig "*Dido*," of Baltimore, her Master — Phillips, and — Manuel, supercargo, when under American colours, and *vice versa* when under the Portuguese colours; left the Havana about March, 1837, with a general slave cargo, consisting of arms, ammunition, spirits, tobacco, &c. &c., touched at Port au Prince, St. Domingo, also at Bonavista, Cape Verde Islands, where it is probable she got Portuguese papers, after the usual sham sale was effected; from thence she proceeded to Oney, River Lagos, in the Bight of Benin, and after leaving there, disposed of her cargo, visited Whydah, where she provisioned; returning to Lagos, she finally sailed with 575 slaves on board, her crew consisting of —, Philips, Master, Manuel, Supercargo, second Mate a relation of Philips, an American Mulatto, a Sicilian (since murdered at Bahia,) a Norwegian, two Portuguese, and an Englishman, James Fox. After three weeks' passage, she made the sand hills, to windward of Bahia, on reconnoitring the port, Her Majesty's sloop "*Sparrowhawk*," was observed at anchor; upon which they hauled off, hoisting, however, their distinguishing flag forward, and American colours abaft, which was acknowledged from the village outside the bar; that same evening 570 slaves, (five having died on the passage,) were landed close to the point Itapacau, at the village. During the night, "*Dido*" was cleaned out, and made her appearance in Bahia, next day under American colours.

The above confirms what I had before learnt from report at Bahia.

James Fox, now serving in the "*Wizard*," states, that he would have no objection to make oath to the truth of the above statement, provided security was warranted against his being tried for a misdemeanour, or otherwise punished for his share in the transaction.

James Fox received 75 dollars a month as wages, and 100 dollars bounty, when slaves were landed.

The "*Dido*" was under Portuguese colours at Lagos.

The "*Dido*" left Bahia again on the 27th July, with a general cargo for the

coast, and was expected by the "*Mary Lushing*" of Baltimore, as having been left by her in September, in Lagos River in the Bight of Benin.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS F. BIRCH, *Lieutenant Commanding.*
Commodore Sullivan, C.B.,
 &c. &c. &c.

Sub-Enclosure E in No. 26.

Lieutenant Birch to Commodore Sullivan.

SIR,

Her Majesty's brig "Wizard," off Bahia,
December 20th, 1838.

I HAVE the honour to report that Her Majesty's brig boarded on the 10th November, off Bahia, the "*Mary Lushing*" of Baltimore, schooner of 140 tons, under American colours, Reynolds, Master, with a crew of 10 men, all either Portuguese or Spanish, from Lagos and Princes Island, in ballast, bound to Bahia.

Her Master volunteered leave to inspect between decks. Four leaguers and about 20 water-casks were observed in her hold, and also a quantity of loose plank, her range coppers were much larger than those generally used in merchant vessels.

In Bahia it was well known she had been sold to parties at the Havana, for the purpose of slaving; that the former American Master remained on board, with the register, that she might still bear the flag of the United States.

From the Havana she went to Oney, river Lagos, for the purpose of taking in slaves, but being closely watched by one of Her Majesty's cruisers, she, after a stay of some weeks, sailed, and finally came to Bahia in ballast. She is expected shortly to sail for the coast with a general cargo and the first good opportunity that offers, will ship slaves, when the American Master will leave with his register, and her first mate take charge with the sale policy effected in the Havana.

The Master observed to the boarding officer, upon some allusion being made to the American colours he had flying, that had he negroes on board, we should not see those colours up.

(Signed)

THOS. F. BIRCH.
Lieutenant and Commander.

To Commodore T. B. Sullivan, C.B.
 &c. &c. &c.

No. 27.

Viscount Palmerston to Mr. Fox.

SIR,

Foreign Office, April 16th, 1839.

I HEREWITH transmit to you a copy of a communication which I have received from Her Majesty's Commissioners at the Havana, containing copies of correspondence between those gentlemen and Mr. Trist, the United States' Consul at that place.

I transmit likewise to you, a copy of the answer which I have returned to Her Majesty's Commissioners. I have to desire, that you will communicate these papers to Mr. Forsyth, and that you will suggest for the consideration of that Minister, whether some inconvenience may not arise from the circumstance that the United States' Consul, in a port which is a great slave mart, is also Consul for the Power, whose flag is most notoriously and extensively employed to protect Slave Trade undertakings.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

PALMERSTON.

H. S. Fox, Esq.
 &c. &c. &c.

First Enclosure in No. 27.

Havana Commissioners, January 19th, 1839.

(See Class A., No. 43, p. 108.)

Second Enclosure in No. 27.

Viscount Palmerston to Havana Commissioners, April 16th, 1839.

(See Class A., No. 48, p. 120)

No. 28.

Viscount Palmerston to Mr. Fox.

SIR,

Foreign Office, May 16, 1839.

I HEREWITH transmit to you copies and extracts of papers which have recently reached this office, showing that the Slave Trade is carried on to a great extent under the protection of the American flag, fraudulently employed for this purpose; and by means of American papers, covering transactions of foreigners in that proscribed traffic.

You will call the attention of the Government of the United States to the conduct, said to have been pursued by the American Vice Consul at the Havana, in affording protection to Slave Trade, by means of the papers which he granted to the "*Eagle*;" you will express the confidence of Her Majesty's Government, that the President will take such steps as may be necessary to prevent such abuses in future; and you will address a formal note to Mr. Forsyth, expressing the anxious wish of Her Majesty's Government, that the Government of the United States would either come to some conventional agreement with Great Britain upon the subject of the Slave Trade, so as to enable British cruizers to deal with these pretended American vessels; or else, that it would send to the African station a sufficient number of United States' cruizers to prevent this fraudulent use of the flag of the Union to cover and protect practices, which the laws of the Union have long since decreed to be piracy.

H. S. Fox, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) PALMERSTON.

First Enclosure in No. 28.

Sir John Barrow to Mr. Strangways.

SIR,

Admiralty, May 6th, 1839.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Viscount Palmerston, a copy of a letter from Commander Reeve of Her Majesty's sloop "*Lily*," relative to the capture of a vessel under American colours, lying at Lagos, called the "*Eagle*."

I am, &c.
 (Signed) JOHN BARROW.

The Hon. Fox Strangways.
&c. &c. &c.

Sub-Enclosure in No. 28.

Lieutenant Reeve to Mr. Wood.

SIR.

Her Majesty's sloop "Lily," Gambia, April 2nd, 1839.

HAVING captured a vessel under "American" colours, lying at Lagos, called the "*Eagle*," the entire crew of which were Spaniards, with the exception of a man calling himself both master and owner, I sent her to Sierra Leone for adjudication, but the Mixed-Commission Court have refused to decide, on the ground that the ship's papers produced set forth that she is an American vessel. When

captured she was last from Havannah, and answered the description, sent by the Admiralty to the Commander-in-Chief, of a vessel employed in the Slave Trade, called the "*Tres Amigos*," under Portuguese colours, about to sail from Maranh. She was sold at the Havannah, and the American Vice-Consul attested the sale, and granted American papers. Three other vessels had been captured, under like circumstances, by the "*Brisk*," "*Saracen*," and "*Forrester*," and the Court has acted in like manner, one of which was afterwards taken with slaves on board; she then hoisted Portuguese colours.

I have to request you will be pleased to acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty with the circumstance, that immediate steps may be taken to check the protection of that flag to the slaver; or it will be useless for Her Majesty's cruizers to be employed for the suppression of that inhuman traffic.

A day before I left Sierra Leone, a vessel arrived under American colours, captured by the "*Termagant*," she will of course be released. No other flag will be seen on the coast in a short time, for it affords all the protection a slaver can require, under the existing laws.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN REEVE, *Commander*.

To Charles Wood, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.,
Admiralty.

Second Enclosure in No. 28.

Sir John Barrow to Mr. Strangways.

SIR,

Admiralty, May 6th, 1839.

I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send to you herewith, for the information of Viscount Palmerston, a copy of a letter from Rear-Admiral the Hon. George Elliot, dated the 6th of February last, with its enclosures, relative to the protection which slave-vessels receive from assuming the Portuguese and American flags; and I am to request that the enclosures, which are in the original, may be returned to this office when done with.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JOHN BARROW.

The Hon. W. Fox Strangways,
&c. &c. &c.

Sub-Enclosure A.

Rear Admiral Elliot to Mr. Wood.

SIR,

"Melville," at Sea, February 6th, 1839.

I BEG leave to inclose, for the information of my Lords, an extract of a letter from Captain Popham, of Her Majesty's sloop, "*Pelican*," under date the 24th of December last, and three letters from Lieutenant Arthur Kellett, commanding the "*Brisk*," by which their Lordships will see the protection which slave vessels receive from assuming the Portuguese and American flags.

The seaman on board the "*Mary Ann Cassard*," alluded to in Lieutenant Kellett's letter of the 20th of October, 1838, who passed for the American captain was, I believe, an American by birth, though wishing to be received on board the "*Lynx*," he had passed himself as an Englishman in that vessel; the man was unable to navigate any vessel, and was merely engaged to pass as the American captain, when boarded by a British man-of-war; she had her Portuguese papers and colours on board all the time, as was proved when she was captured a month afterwards by the same vessel, "*Brisk*," which she mistook for a French brig cruizing on the same part of the coast; and consequently assumed the Portuguese character, having her slaves then on board.

Several of the slave dealers have declared their intention to have an American sailing master in each vessel and American colours, and some have had the impudence to assert, that the Government of the United States would not discountenance such practices by any *act* or *agreement*, which could prevent such gross abuse of the American flag, and such direct violation of their own laws.

Her Majesty's sloop, "*Lily*," has sent in a Spanish vessel unde American

colours, her whole crew Spanish, but with a pretended American captain on board. I was also informed by the American bark, "*Active*" (and where they seemed delighted at the occurrence), that the "*Saracen*" had detained a Spanish slave-vessel at the Gallenas, under American colours.

The probable object of using the American flag will be to protect the vessels up to the time of the cargo being ready for shipment, then to go through the farce of selling the vessel to a Portuguese or Spaniard. But in case of the capture of vessels with *slaves on board*, under the *American flag*, I should beg to know what is to be done with the man passing for the American captain.

The actual sale of nearly all the slave-vessels in question takes place at the Havana, where one man is engaged to personify an American captain, but they seem very indifferent as to having any pretended American papers. The mere flag, in their opinion, is sufficient, and as they are all provided also with the proper national flag, they are prepared in case of meeting an American vessel-of-war.

I must crave their Lordships' early instructions on this growing evil and abuse, which I feel convinced is much too disgraceful to meet with any countenance, direct or indirect, from the Government of the United States.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEO. ELLIOT,

Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

Charles Wood, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

Sub-Enclosure B.

Lieutenant Kellett to Rear-Admiral Elliot.

*Her Majesty's Brig "Brisk," at Sierra Leone,
October 29th, 1838.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, on the 27th instant, in lat. 8° 32' North, and long. 13° 30' West, I boarded and seized the schooner "*Mary Ann Cassard*," under American colours. I have to state, this vessel was lately sold by Gilbert Cassard of Baltimore, by power of attorney, to Messrs. Hernandez and Basden of Matanzas and received her cargo there; when sold, the register of the vessel was cancelled; she had no American papers but the roll, which was signed by the United States Consul at Matanzas. The crew are composed of one British subject, the Master (who was formerly in Her Majesty's brigantine the "*Lynx*," on this coast, and was paid off in her); the remainder are all Spaniards. This vessel I have put into the Spanish Mixed Commission Court for adjudication, being clearly of opinion that she is Spanish property, fitted and equipped for the Slave Trade.

I have little doubt that, when at Bonavista, on her voyage to the coast, she received Portuguese papers; she has also a Portuguese flag. I propose, when the examinations of the Master are taken, to lodge information against, and commit him for trial as a British subject engaged in the Slave Trade. I have on board the "*Brisk*" an armourer's mate who formerly served in the "*Lynx*," and was the messmate of the individual from fifteen to eighteen months.

I think, Sir, the case of this vessel will have this good result, that it will prove to the individuals carrying on the nefarious slave traffic, that fraud and deception will not always be successful. I propose proceeding to-day to the rivers to the northward, having received information that there are slave-vessels there.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR KELLETT, *Lieut. Commander.*

*Rear-Admiral the Hon. George Elliot, C.B.,
Commander-in-Chief.*

Sub-Enclosure C.

Lieutenant Kellett to Rear-Admiral Elliot.

*Her Majesty's brig "Brisk," at Sea,
23rd October, 1838.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to call your attention to the case of the brig "*Diligente*," condemned in the Spanish Mixed Commission Court, to Her Majesty's brig

"Brisk," under my command. This vessel was condemned at Sierra Leone, in December, 1836, as the "Pacquete de Cabo Verde," sold to a Mr. Lake, and transferred by bill of sale, of the 2nd of January, 1837, to Miguel Bertinotte (a Spanish slave-dealer at the Gallinas), for 1000*l*. This notorious character arrived at Sierra Leone for the above purpose, and cleared out, under Spanish colours, for the Havana, in April, 1837. She then visited several ports in old Spain, and ultimately arrived at Cadiz on the 30th of September, 1837. It would appear, from a fictitious bill of sale, dated 2nd of January, 1837, at Cadiz, that the vessel was sold as the "*Feroz Africano*," to Gabriel Lopez, attorney to Francisco Cardozo de Mello, of Cape Verde Islands, who is the nominal owner of all Spanish vessels which, since the Treaty with Spain in 1835, have been transferred to the Portuguese flag.

It will appear, this vessel, after a sham bill of sale, received a passport from the Portuguese Consul-General at Cadiz, dated 5th January, 1837, and her name changed to the "*Diligente*," at the very time the vessel and owner were at Sierra Leone, and then only two days in his possession. It has appeared that the master and mate are on the roll dated 5th January, 1837, and the master's name in the passport of the same day: though, in evidence given before the Court of Mixed Commission, they swear they never saw the vessel until June, 1838.

I beg leave to call your attention to the conduct of the Consul-General of Her Faithful Majesty, aiding and assisting in carrying on the Slave Trade, contrary to the solemn Treaty entered into by his Government. This most glaring case of fraud could not have been completed without the assistance or connivance of the authorities of Her Most Catholic Majesty at the port of Cadiz.

I beg leave also to call your attention to the case of the American schooner "*Mary Hooper*," Charles M. Bergstrand, master and owner, belonging to Philadelphia; she sailed from Havana the 28th May, 1838, for Port Praya, and consigned to a notorious slave-dealer at the Gallinas; this vessel, when last boarded by the "Brisk," was lying off Trade Town, ready to take on board a cargo of slaves: this, I believe, is not the first instance in which the American flag has been made use of, for the purpose of screening offenders from Her Majesty's ships. If this case is successful, I fear the difficulties of Her Majesty's squadron, in suppressing the Slave Trade on this coast, will be multiplied; as I feel confident we shall, in the succeeding season, have numerous vessels carrying on this abominable traffic in a similar manner, when it can be done with such impunity. I am satisfied she has also Portuguese papers, which the master partly admitted (when I first boarded her) he had received at Port Praya: did she, on her arrival in the West Indies, meet a United States vessel-of-war, she has Portuguese papers, and American for Her Majesty's ships; which will in all probability be the means of her being successful. The Consul of the United States at the Havana has assisted in clearing this vessel out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. KELLETT,
Lieutenant and Commander.

To Rear-Admiral the Hon. Geo. Elliot, C.B.

&c. &c. &c.

Sub-Enclosure D.

Extract of a letter from Captain Brunswick Popham, Her Majesty's sloop, "Pelican," at Sea, December 24th, 1838.

THE active and undisguised assistance given to the Slave Trade by citizens of the United States of America is as notorious as it is disgraceful. The American flag has in several instances given protection to Spanish and Portuguese traffickers in human beings. The last instance was too shameful to pass unnoticed. A ship, called the "*Venus*," of 450 tons, built at Baltimore, on the most improved model for swift sailing, arrived at Lagos from Boston, on or about the 5th of November last; about the 24th of the same month she sailed from Lagos, with a very large cargo of slaves, said to amount to 1150; the American flag and papers (in possession of the commander, Mr. Philips, of Baltimore) protected her until a few days before she sailed; when he left, and the Portuguese flag was substituted for the American. It is, therefore, evident that, under the American flag, she was perfectly ready for the reception of slaves.

CLASS D.—FURTHER SERIES.

On the 28th of November, about 100 miles south of Lagos, the "Pelican" chased this ship, and at first gained on her, but she was lightened by throwing her deck cargo and spars overboard; then sailed away from us with ease, although every effort was made to come up with her. On the 30th, somewhat S.E. of where our chase commenced, we picked up two spare topmasts, a topsail yard, and main top-gallant mast of very large dimensions, quite new, and evidently but a day or two in the water; this confirmed what I heard in Lagos respecting the "Venus." We boarded there a large American brigantine, discharging a cargo for the purchase of slaves. Mr. Litting, the (*soi-disant*) owner and commander, said the cargo was Portuguese property, and that he hoped the brigantine soon would be. This is the third vessel brought out (the first and second sold for the Slave Trade) by the same individual.

Lieutenant Holland, of the "Dolphin," could give you the fullest information respecting the "Venus," as he often boarded her at Lagos.

The "Pelican" sailed from West Bay, Prince's Island, on Saturday the 15th of December, for Ascension. On Monday, the 17th, at daybreak, a suspicious sail was reported as being very close to us. She immediately tacked, we made all sail in chase, and at 7. A.M. detained the Portuguese slave-schooner, "Magdalena," with a cargo of 320 slaves, from the River Brass or Nup. Among her passengers was a citizen of the United States (Mr. Huntington), who had on the 1st of December made over to a Spaniard, the schooner, "Ontario," of Baltimore. Her sale was no doubt effected at Havana, although the bill of sale mentioned it to have taken place in Brass.

In this instance the American flag gave unqualified protection to the Slave Trade, for the "Ontario" was boarded by the boats of Her Majesty's ship, "Viper," in November, and she was then reported as preparing for the reception of slaves, but having American papers and colours.

After a little conversation with the Portuguese commander of the "Magdalena," he informed me that the "Ontario" was in company on Sunday afternoon. This information was taken immediate advantage of, and sailing on a N.W. by W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W. course, Tuesday, at daybreak (after a fine run), a sail was seen to the West: the morning was thick and rainy, but at 10. A.M. the weather cleared up, and I despatched Lieutenant Marsh with two gigs to capture the "Ontario:" this he did at 11. 30. A.M., with 220 slaves on board. She was under Spanish colours, but had no papers whatever. "Ontario," of Baltimore, was painted in large letters on her stern.

"Both these vessels I sent to Sierra Leone for adjudication, informing the British Commissioners of my intention to detain the American Huntington, until I received your orders respecting the disposal of him. However, on a careful perusal of the instructions in my possession, and of correspondence between Great Britain and the United States of America on the subject of the Slave Trade, I was induced to alter my intention, feeling that I should not be borne out, in interfering with a citizen of the United States, which it appeared to me, the American Government evinced no disposition to tolerate, *even in very extreme cases.*

It has been mentioned by Spaniards and Portuguese slaving on this coast, that, were it not for the active co-operation of the Americans, the Slave Trade would very materially decline, in fact be but feebly carried on. I do not doubt, from all I hear, that the citizens of the United States (generally of Baltimore) are more deeply interested in the Slave Trade to the Havana and Brazil, than is generally supposed.

Sub-Enclosure E.

Lieut. Kellett to Rear-Admiral Elliot.

*Her Majesty's Brig "Brisk," Sierra Leone,
November 27th, 1838.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that in latitude 7° 6' north, and longitude 13° 2' west, I seized the brig "Veterano" under Portuguese colours, formerly the brig "Veloz," condemned at Sierra Leone, and sold to the House of Martinez and Co., at Cadiz, by Mr. White; and, like all Spanish vessels, with a mock bill of sale, to De Mello of Cape Verde Islands; her papers (like the "Diligente," reported by me some time ago) given by the Portuguese Consul at Cadiz, and cleared for the Havana, where she has received a full cargo for slave traffic, with

the equipments, and a large quantity of casks, planks, and shackles for a slaving voyage. As in the case of the "*Diligente*," the authorities of Her Catholic Majesty must have assisted in this second case of fraud at the Port of Cadiz; the description sent out by order of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, assisted in accomplishing this object. I have much pleasure in informing you, that seven vessels have been condemned in the Spanish Mixed Commission Court to Her Majesty's brig under my command. I have much regret in informing you, that since my visit to the Rivers Nunez and Pongo, several of the crew of Her Majesty's brig under my command, have been attacked with fever peculiar to those rivers, two of whom have died, and five remain at the hospital. I purpose sailing to-morrow, and, should any fresh case arise, I intend proceeding to the northward, and getting into cold weather between the Gambia and Cape Verde Islands, as soon as possible.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR KELLETT, *Lieut. and Commander.*

Rear-Admiral the Hon. George Elliot, C.B.

&c. &c. &c.

Third Enclosure.

Extract of a Letter from Rear-Admiral Elliot to Mr. Wood.

"Melville" at Sea, February 13th, 1839.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, copy of a letter from Lieutenant J. L. R. Holl, commanding Her Majesty's brigantine "*Bonetta*," by which, and my former letters, it will be observed, that the use of the American flag is becoming rapidly more general in the protection of Spanish slave vessels.

Of American flags used for this purpose there are more than twice as many at present on the coast; and in so barefaced a manner do they proceed, that some have not even one American to personify the captain, but satisfy themselves with furnishing one of the crew with a certificate of naturalization for the occasion. If Her Majesty's ships were at liberty to send some of these pretended Americans to the United States, and the Government of that country were to uphold the honour of their flag, by subjecting such lawless felons to prosecution and punishment, it would soon put an end to the nefarious usurpations of their flag by the most notorious slave-dealers belonging to Spain and Portugal.

Sub-Enclosure.

Extract of a Letter from Lieutenant Holl to Admiral Elliott.

*Her Majesty's brig "Bonetta," Prince Island,
February 11th, 1839.*

ON my passage to Accra with the prize crews of Her Majesty's sloop "*Pelican*" I boarded, on the 23rd of January, a very fast new American Ballahor schooner, in ballast, evidently intended for the Slave Trade; all the crew Spanish, and her master, I believe, a Frenchman, but declaring himself a naturalized American: papers correct.