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**Class D.**

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**CORRESPONDENCE**

WITH

**FOREIGN POWERS,**

NOT PARTIES

TO

**TREATIES OR CONVENTIONS**

**GIVING A MUTUAL RIGHT OF SEARCH OF VESSELS SUSPECTED**

OF

**THE SLAVE TRADE.**

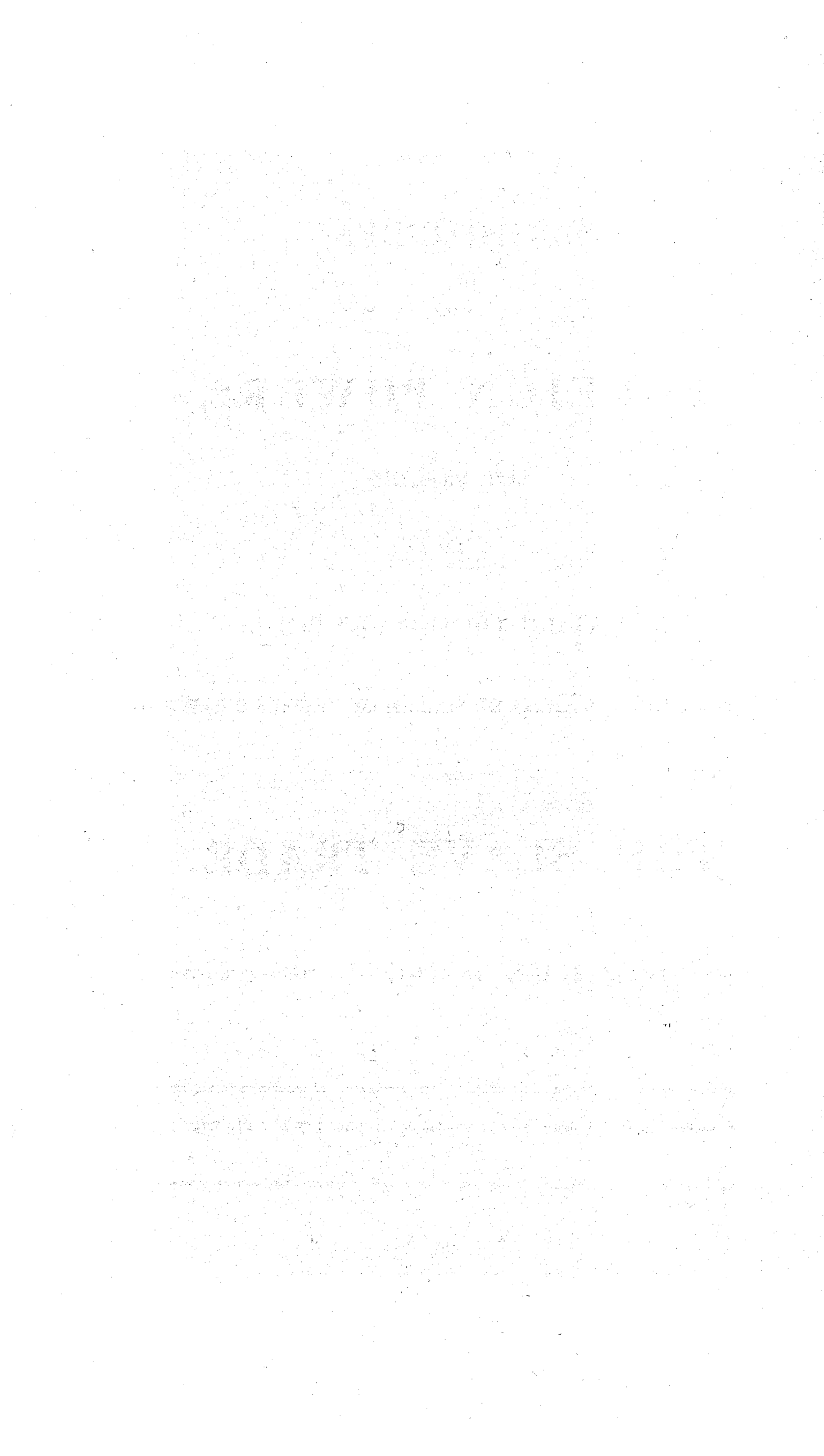
From January 1, 1847, to March 31, 1848, inclusive.

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*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.*  
1848.

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LONDON:  
PRINTED BY T. R. HARRISON.



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# Class D.

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## CORRESPONDENCE

WITH

## FOREIGN POWERS.

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### GREECE.

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No. 1.

*Viscount Palmerston to Sir Edmund Lyons.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, July 19, 1847.*

I RECEIVED on the 2nd of November last your despatch of the 1st of October preceding, acknowledging the receipt of the draft of Treaty which I sent to you to be proposed to the Greek Government for the accession of the King of Greece to the Treaty for the Suppression of Slave Trade which was signed at London on the 20th of December, 1841. In that despatch you stated that as soon as your Austrian, Prussian, and Russian colleagues should have received their instructions from their respective Governments, on this subject, you would lose no time in concerting with them the measures that might appear best adapted for submitting the Treaty to the Greek Government.

Not having since received intelligence from you of any progress having been made in this affair, I have to request you to inform me whether your colleagues have received the instructions which they were then expecting.

*Sir Edmund Lyons, Bart., G.C.B.*  
    &c.    &c.    &c.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

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No. 2.

*Sir Edmund Lyons to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 24.)*

My Lord,

*Athens, September 9, 1847.*

I HAVE communicated to my Austrian colleague, M. Prokesch, your Lordship's despatch of the 19th of July of this year. He informs me that he has not yet received the instructions required to enable him to propose, in concert with my other colleagues and myself, to the Greek Government, the draft of a Treaty for its accession to the Treaty for the Suppression of the Slave Trade signed at London on the 20th of December, 1841, which was transmitted to me in your Lordship's

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despatch of August 27, 1846. He assures me, however, that he will take the first opportunity to urge his Government to send him those instructions immediately.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

EDMUND LYONS.

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

&c.

&c.

&c.

No. 3.

*Sir Edmund Lyons to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 30, 1848.)*

My Lord,

*Athens, December 27, 1847.*

MY Austrian colleague, Baron Prokesch, having informed me that he had received the expected full power from his Government, I have carried into execution the instruction contained in your Lordship's despatch of August 27, 1846.

I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship a copy of the note I have addressed to His Hellenic Majesty's Minister for Foreign Affairs, transmitting to him the draft of the Treaty of Accession for the suppression of the Slave Trade, which accompanied your Lordship's above-mentioned despatch to me, and informing him at the same time, that I had received a full power, which the Queen had been graciously pleased to grant me, in order to enable me to sign the proposed Treaty of Accession, in conjunction with my Austrian, Prussian, and Russian colleagues.

I also have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copies of the notes which my colleagues have addressed to the Greek Government on the same subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

EDMUND LYONS.

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

&c.

&c.

&c.

Inclosure 1 in No. 3.

*Sir Edmund Lyons to M. Glarakis.*

*Athens, December 8, 1847.*

THE Undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary to His Majesty the King of Greece, with reference to his note of February 12, 1846, and to the reply of the Greek Government, dated <sup>April 27</sup><sub>May 9</sub>, of the same year, expressing its readiness to become an acceding party to the Treaty of February 19, 1842, for the Suppression of the African Slave Trade, has the honour to inform M. Glarakis, His Hellenic Majesty's Minister for Foreign Affairs, that he has received instructions from Viscount Palmerston, Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to submit to the Greek Government the accompanying draft of a treaty, by means of which this object will be attained.

The Undersigned has likewise the honour to inform M. Glarakis, that he has received a full power, which his Most Gracious Sovereign has in consequence been pleased to grant him under the Great Seal, in order to enable him to sign the proposed Treaty of Accession in conjunction with his Austrian, Prussian, and Russian colleagues.

The Undersigned has likewise been instructed to state to the Greek Government, with reference to the intimation conveyed in the note from M. Coletti of the <sup>27th April</sup><sub>9th May</sub>, 1846, that the present state of the Greek Navy will not permit the Greek Government to send out cruisers in furtherance of the objects of the Treaty, that it will not be necessary to introduce into the Treaty of Accession any stipulation on this subject; because the Treaty itself does not impose upon any of the contracting parties the obligation of sending out cruisers, if they do not think proper to do so.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

EDMUND LYONS.

## Inclosure 2 in No. 3.

*The Austrian Minister to M. Glarakis.*

16 Décembre, 1847.

LE Soussigné, Ministre Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté Impériale et Royale, en suite de sa note du 28 Février, 1846, et de la réponse du Gouvernement Hellénique, en date d'Athènes, le 27<sup>Avril</sup>/<sub>9<sup>Mai</sup></sub> de la même année, a l'honneur d'informer M. Glarakis, Secrétaire d'Etat pour les Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Hellénique, qu'il vient de recevoir les pleins-pouvoirs en règle pour signer conjointement avec ses collègues d'Angleterre, de Prusse, et de Russie, l'acte d'adhésion du Gouvernement Hellénique au Traité relatif à l'abolition de la Traite des Nègres, signé à Londres le 19 Février, 1842, et ayant pris connaissance du projet de l'acte en question, communiqué au Gouvernement Hellénique par note de Sir Edmund Lyons, Ministre Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté Britannique près Sa Majesté le Roi de la Grèce, en date d'Athènes, 8 courant, le Soussigné, pour sa part, déclare le projet comme propre à atteindre le but salulaire que les cinq Gouvernemens d'Autriche, de Grande Bretagne, de Grèce, de Prusse, et de Russie, en vertu des déclarations échangées entre eux, ont de commun accord en vue relativement à l'abolition de la Traite.

Le Soussigné, &amp;c.

(Signé)

PROKESCH OSTEN.

## Inclosure 3 in No. 3.

*The Prussian Minister to M. Glarakis.*

Athènes, le 21 Décembre, 1847.

LE Soussigné, Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté le Roi de Prusse auprès de Sa Majesté le Roi de la Grèce, se référant à la note du Gouvernement Hellénique en date du 27<sup>Avril</sup>/<sub>9<sup>Mai</sup></sub>, qui exprime son adhésion au Traité du 20 Décembre, 1841, pour la suppression de la Traite des Nègres, a l'honneur d'informer M. Glarakis, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Hellénique, qu'il se trouve muni des pleins pouvoirs donnés par Sa Majesté le Roi son auguste Maître, de conclure et de signer, conjointement avec les Représentans d'Autriche, de Grande Bretagne, et de Russie, l'acte constatant en bonne et due forme l'accession de Sa Majesté Hellénique au dit Traité relatif à l'extinction de la Traite des Nègres.

Le Soussigné, &amp;c.

(Signé)

C. WERTHER.

## Inclosure 4 in No. 3.

*The Russian Chargé d'Affaires to M. Glarakis.*Athènes, le 11<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> Décembre, 1847.

EN conséquence de la note que feu M. Coletti a adressée à la Légation Impériale, en date du 27<sup>Avril</sup>/<sub>9<sup>Mai</sup></sub>, 1846, et par laquelle, répondant à l'invitation des Cours de Russie, d'Autriche, de la Grande Bretagne, et de Prusse, le Cabinet d'Athènes manifeste l'intention d'adhérer au Traité du 20<sup>8</sup>/<sub>10</sub> Décembre, 1841, concernant la suppression de la Traite des Nègres, ainsi qu'au Protocole explicatif du 3 Octobre, 1845, le Soussigné, Chargé d'Affaires de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de toutes les Russies, a l'honneur d'informer M. Glarakis, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté le Roi de la Grèce, qu'il vient d'être muni de pleins pouvoirs en règle pour signer conjointement avec les Représentans des Puissances signataires des dits actes, un traité formel constatant cette accession. Il croit devoir ajouter qu'il a pris connaissance du projet de l'acte d'accession que Sir Edmund Lyons, Ministre Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté Britannique près Sa Majesté le

Roi de la Grèce a communiqué au Gouvernement Hellénique par sa note du 8 de ce mois, et déclare pour sa part, que le dit projet répond entièrement au but salulaire que se proposent ces Puissances.

Pour ce qui est de l'observation contenue dans la note de feu le Président du Conseil, en date du <sup>27 Avril</sup>/<sub>9 Mai</sub>, que le Gouvernement du Roi ne serait guère en mesure, vû l'état actuel de sa marine, de concourir d'une manière efficace à la répression de la Traite, le Soussigné est autorisé à déclarer, qu'il ne sera pas nécessaire d'insérer à cet égard une réserve expresse dans l'acte d'accession. La clause concernant l'envoi des croiseurs pour exercer le droit de visite dans certains parages et arrêter les bâtimens engagés dans la Traite, étant absolument facultative, il dépendra de chacune des Parties Contractantes de faire usage, ou non, du droit qu'elle accorde.

Quant à la nécessité de soumettre cet acte à l'approbation des Chambres Législatives, le Cabinet Impérial ne peut que s'en remettre à la sagesse du Gouvernement Hellénique pour juger des obligations que lui impose la Charte.

Le Soussigné, &c.

(Signé)

PERSIANI.

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## TURKEY.

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No. 4

*The Hon. H. Wellesley to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 6.)*

My Lord,

*Constantinople, January 18, 1847.*

IT is with extreme satisfaction that I convey to your Lordship the intelligence that the slave-market at Constantinople has been abolished by an order of the Sultan.

Although this measure does not in any way affect the question of slavery, as the sale of slaves will still be continued in private, it is gratifying to observe that the Sultan and the Ministers will no longer permit a public exposure of them; I hail it as a real progress in civilized feelings, and I venture to express the hope that your Lordship may be pleased to let the Porte understand that such marked ameliorations are not passed by unheeded by Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

H. WELLESLEY.

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

&c.

&c.

&c.

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No. 5.

*Viscount Palmerston to the Hon. H. Wellesley.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, February 8, 1847.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 18th ultimo, reporting that the slave-market at Constantinople has been abolished by order of the Sultan.

I have to instruct you to express formally to the Turkish Ministers, the great and lively pleasure with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt a determination which does so much honour to the Turkish Government, and which will afford so much satisfaction not only to the British nation, but to all the people of Europe. It is a great and decided step of advance in the progress of social and administrative improvement, and by raising the tone of public feeling, it must tend to afford additional security for public order in the Turkish capital.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

PALMERSTON.

*The Hon. H. Wellesley,*

&c. &c. &c.

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## No. 6.

*The Hon. H. Wellesley to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 27.)*

My Lord,

*Constantinople, February 1, 1847.*

ALTHOUGH I have abstained from unnecessarily troubling your Lordship with any details respecting the progress of the negotiation to induce the Porte to co-operate with Her Majesty's Government for the suppression of the African Slave Trade within the Persian Gulf, it is not to be inferred that I have been equally forbearing with the Ottoman Government.

I am happy to add that the result of these negotiations is most satisfactory.

The Sultan, desirous of showing his anxiety to meet the wishes of the Queen, and of proving the friendly spirit that animates his conduct towards Great Britain, has consented that the importation of African slaves into His Majesty's ports within the Persian Gulf shall cease; and His Majesty has further been pleased to order that some Ottoman vessels shall be sent into the Persian Gulf in the ensuing spring, to cruize with those of Her Majesty, in order to prevent a continuance of this infamous traffic within those waters.

I have not hesitated to express, in Her Majesty's name, as well as on behalf of the British Government, the sincere pleasure with which this signal proof of the Sultan's friendship will be received by them; and I have assured both the Grand Vizier and Ali Effendi of the satisfaction which will at all times be inspired by the sight of the Ottoman flag floating at the side of the British, but more particularly when they are united in a service so hallowed, as the prevention of a traffic which can only be carried on by means that must be equally repulsive to both Christian and Mussulman.

Ali Effendi has fixed the end of May as the time in which the Sultan's orders shall come into operation, in order that those who are engaged in the Traffic may have time to adopt some other employment.

I purpose taking the earliest opportunity of communicating to the East Company's Agent at Bushire the intentions of the Porte in this matter.

I cannot conclude without expressing my sense of Mr. Alison's valuable services in a negotiation which has not been carried on without labour and difficulty.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. WELLESLEY.

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

&c.

&c.

&c.

## No. 7.

*Viscount Palmerston to the Hon. H. Wellesley.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, March 12, 1847.*

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatch dated the 1st ultimo, reporting the successful result of the representations which you were intrusted to make with a view to induce the Porte to co-operate with Her Majesty's Government for the suppression of the African Slave Trade in the Persian Gulf.

Her Majesty's Government have received with great satisfaction, your announcement that the Sultan has determined to interdict the importation of African slaves into the ports of His Highness within the Persian Gulf; and that His Highness has further been pleased to order that some Ottoman vessels shall be sent to the Persian Gulf in the approaching spring, to cruize with those of Her Majesty, to prevent the continuance of that Traffic within those waters.

I have much pleasure in instructing you to convey to the Porte the warm thanks of Her Majesty's Government for this striking proof of friendship and regard. You will assure the Turkish Ministers that there is nothing which could have been done which could have a greater effect in conciliating for the Porte the good will of the British nation, than the suppression of the slave-market in the Turkish capital, and this measure respecting the Slave Trade; and the Turkish Government are of course aware that in this country, where in consequence of the Representative system of Government which is established, public opinion has a powerful influence on the measures of the Executive Government, either restraining them when it is adverse, or assisting them when it is favourable, the desire which must upon grounds of national policy always be felt by the British Government to support and uphold the Turkish Empire, must be greatly assisted by any measures on the part of the Turkish Government, which tend to enlist in its favour the feelings and sympathies of the British people.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

The Hon. H. Wellesley,  
&c. &c. &c.

No. 8.

*Lord Cowley to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 6.)*

(Extract.)

*Therapia, June 17, 1847.*

I HAVE received the accompanying despatch from Major Rawlinson, forwarding me another from the East India Company's Agent at Bushire, extracts of which are inclosed for your Lordship's information.

(Signed) COWLEY.

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

Inclosure 1 in No. 8.

*Major Rawlinson to Lord Cowley.*

(Extract.)

*Bagdad, May 26, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a letter to your address which has this day reached me under flying seal from Major Hennell, and which conveys the important intelligence of the independent chiefs of the Arabian side of the Persian Gulf, having actually entered into engagements with the British Government for the final suppression on the part of themselves and of their subjects, of the Traffic in Slaves from the African coast.

(Signed) H. C. RAWLINSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 8.

*Major Hennell to Lord Cowley.*

(Extract.)

*"Elphinstone," off Bahrein, May 8, 1847.*

HAVING made you, in some measure, aware of the extent to which the Slave Trade was carried on, and the nature of our relations with the independent Arabian Sheiks of the Persian Gulf, in respect to the traffic in question up to this time, it is with sincere satisfaction that I am now able to acquaint you with the successful result of my endeavours to persuade the several chiefs to join in the humane efforts of the British Government by consenting each in a separate agreement, to the total abolition on the part of themselves and their subjects, of the African Slave Trade. Inclosure No. 1 is a translation of the engage-

ment entered into by the Chief of the Joasmee tribe, Sheik Sultan ben Suggester, and excepting in the name and date, is *verbatim* the same as all the others. You will observe that its provisions will not come into operation until the 10th of December next, or the commencement of the new Mahomedan year. I was induced, from two considerations, to fix this date: the first, that several months would probably elapse before these engagements could receive the approval of the Indian Government, and the necessary orders be issued for carrying them into effect; the second, that some of the Arab boats had already proceeded to the African coast, and their chiefs urged that it would be contrary to justice to make them liable to the penalties of the violation of an order of which they were necessarily ignorant at the time of their departure.

Inclosure No. 2 is a copy of the letter dated the 7th instant, which under the authority conveyed in the 5th and 9th paragraphs of your despatch of the 9th February last, I have addressed to Commodore Hawkins, the officer commanding the squadron of the Indian Navy in the Persian Gulf.

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Inclosure 3 in No. 8.

1.—*Engagement entered into by Sheik Sultan ben Suggester, Chief of Ras el Khyma and Chargah, for the Abolition of the African Slave Trade in his ports.*

(Translation.)

IT having been intimated to me by Major Hennell, the Resident of the Persian Gulf, that certain conventions have lately been entered into by his Highness the Imam of Muscat, and other Powers, with the British Government, for the purpose of preventing the exportation of slaves from the coasts of Africa and elsewhere; and it having moreover been explained to me, that in order to the full attainment of the objects contemplated by the aforesaid conventions, the concurrence and co-operation of the chiefs of the several ports situated on the Arabian coast of the Persian Gulf, are required: Accordingly, I, Sheik Sultan ben Suggester, Chief of the Joasmee tribe, with a view to strengthen the bonds of friendship existing between me and the British Government, do hereby engage to prohibit the exportation of slaves from the coast of Africa and elsewhere, on board of my vessels and those belonging to my subjects or dependants, such prohibition to take effect from the first day of Moharrem, 1263, A.H. (10th December, 1847, A.D.)

And I do further consent, that whenever the cruizers of the British Government fall in with any of my vessels or those belonging to my subjects or dependants, suspected of being engaged in the Slave Trade, they may detain and search them, and in case of their finding that any of the vessels aforesaid have violated the engagements, by the exportation of slaves from the coast of Africa or elsewhere, upon any pretext whatsoever, they (the Government cruizers) shall seize and confiscate the same.

Dated this 14th day of Jemadee-ul-evvel, 1263, A.H., or 30th day of April, 1847, A.D. (L.S.) Seal of Sheik Sultan ben Suggester.

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*Debaye.*—Sheik Moukhtoom's engagement is dated 14 Jemadee-ul-evvel 1263, or April 30, 1847.

*Ejnan.*—Sheik Abdool Azeez's engagement is dated 15 Jemadee-ul-evvel 1263, or May 1, 1847.

*Amulgaveen.*—Sheik Abdoolah ben Rashid's engagement is dated 15 Jemadee-ul-evvel 1263, or May 1, 1847.

*Aboothabee.*—Sheik Saeed ben Zahnon's engagement is dated 17 Jemadee-ul-evvel 1263, or May 3, 1847.

*Bahreïn.*—Sheik Mahomed ben Khaleefa's engagement is dated 22 Jemadee-ul-evvel, or May 8, 1847.

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## Inclosure 4 in No. 8.

2.—Major Hennell to Commodore Hawkins, Commanding squadron of Indian Navy in the Persian Gulf.

Sir,

“*Elphinstone,*” at Sea, May 7, 1847.

THE Ottoman Porte having consented to put a stop to the African Slave Trade at its ports within the Persian Gulf, I have been instructed by the Hon. H. Wellesley, Her Majesty’s Chargé d’Affaires at Constantinople, to inform you that from the 1st of June next Her Majesty’s and the Honourable Company’s vessels of war, are empowered to stop and send into a Turkish port, all vessels under the Ottoman flag engaged in the Traffic of Slaves from the coast of Africa. The vessels thus delivered up are to be confiscated for the benefit of the Ottoman Porte, and the captains of them are to be punished by their own authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. HENNELL.

## No. 9.

*Viscount Palmerston to Lord Cowley.*

(Extract.)

*Foreign Office, July 19, 1847.*

I HAVE received your Lordship’s despatch of the 17th of June last, inclosing an extract from a despatch addressed to you by Major Hennell, the East India Company’s Resident in the Persian Gulf, informing you that he had concluded Treaties for the total suppression of the Slave Trade with Sultan ben Sagger, the chief of Ras el Khyma and Charzah and of the Joasmee Arabs, and with the Sheiks of Debaye, Ejinan, Amulgaveen, Aboothabee, and Bahrein.

*Lord Cowley,*

(Signed)

PALMERSTON.

&c. &c.

## No. 10.

*Viscount Palmerston to Lord Cowley.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, November 20, 1847.*

HER Majesty’s Government have received information, that on the 10th of September last, a caravan arrived at Bengazi from Wady, bringing about 1000 slaves, mostly females. The journey is said to have occupied five months, and the mortality among the slaves to have been very great. It is reported that between Angola and Bengazi, a journey of eight days, thirty-two slaves had been abandoned to their fate; and that the reason for leaving these unfortunate beings behind, to perish in the desert, was not so much the want of food and water, as their inability to keep up with the caravan, in consequence of the swelling of their feet in traversing the hot sands.

I have to instruct your Excellency to communicate this statement to the Turkish Government for their consideration, and as an instance of the sufferings endured by the African slaves who are introduced into the Turkish dominions through the ports in the Mediterranean.

I am, &c.

*Lord Cowley,*

(Signed)

PALMERSTON.

&c. &c.



## No. 11.

*Lord Cowley to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 28.)*

My Lord,

*Constantinople, November 2, 1847.*

HER Majesty's Consul-General at Tripoli has sent me an identic despatch with that addressed to your Lordship, informing me of the arrival at Bengazi of a caravan of slaves from Waday, and of the cruel treatment to which the slaves had been exposed on the journey.

I have communicated Mr. Crowe's despatch to Aali Effendi, and I am happy to add that his Excellency manifested the utmost concern for what had occurred. He assured me that orders should be sent without delay to the Pasha of Tripoli, to prevent such abominable neglect in future.

I am promised a copy of these orders, a translation of which I shall have the honour to transmit to your Lordship as soon as I receive them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) COWLEY.

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

&c. &c. &c.

## No. 12.

*Viscount Palmerston to Lord Cowley.*

My Lord,

*Foreign Office, December 7, 1847.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 2nd ultimo, stating that you had received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Tripoli a report similar to that contained in his despatch to me of the 29th of September, of the sufferings endured, during the passage of the Desert, by the slaves who formed part of a caravan which had recently arrived at Tripoli from Waday.

I approve of your having communicated to Aali Effendi the statement furnished to you by Mr. Crowe, and I learn with satisfaction that that Minister was about to issue orders to the Pasha of Tripoli to prevent the occurrence of such cruelty in future.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

*Lord Cowley,*  
&c. &c.

## No. 13.

*Lord Cowley to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 10.)*

My Lord,

*Constantinople, November 17, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, the translation of a Vizierial letter, sent at my request to the Pasha of Tripoli, enjoining him, in the most forcible terms, to take care that no such acts of barbarity as were committed during the progress of the last transport of slaves from Waday to Bengazi, and which were referred to in my despatch of the 2nd instant shall ever be again renewed.

I must do justice to the Turkish Ministers in adding, that they have evinced the utmost abhorrence of any such practices, and the inclosed instructions are an unequivocal proof of the sincerity of their feelings.

I have, &c.

(Signed) COWLEY.

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

&c. &c. &c.

## Inclosure in No. 13.

*The Grand Vizier to the Pasha of Tripoli.*

(Translation.)

November 4, 1847.

ACCORDING to certain information which has just come to our knowledge, the black slaves who have been brought this year from the interior of Africa to Tripoli, have suffered on the journey from their country to Tripoli all sorts of hardships and cruelties. As the number of camels was inconsiderable a great number of the slaves were forced to travel on foot who, worn out with fatigue and ill fed, fell sick, and were abandoned in the desert to certain death.

It is superfluous to say, that our holy law in permitting the holding of slaves, enjoins us to treat them with paternal kindness; God prohibits ill usage towards them. And this precept is so well known, that those who have brought the slaves above mentioned have, in treating them in so cruel a manner, lost all right to be called human beings; for men having the slightest fear of God, and the smallest share of compassion and humanity, would not have treated even animals in such a manner.

It is consequently the duty of the authorities to prevent such iniquitous acts towards slaves. Therefore your Excellency will cause to come into your presence the merchants who have bought the slaves in question, and you will give them to understand well, that if once more they dare commit similar excesses with regard to slaves, they will be punished for it with the greatest rigour. And if in order to justify themselves they say to you! "But what is to be done? We lost our beasts and we were obliged to make the slaves march on foot; if we had not abandoned those who had entirely lost their strength, we should have been retarded." You will reply, "If before commencing your journey you had taken measures of precaution; if when you undertook to conduct so many of God's creatures, you had taken heed as to the means of guarding them from all that could injure them; in fine, if you had said to yourselves, these slaves are men like us, nothing would have happened. No; I cannot accept your excuses; for the Sultan, our benefactor and master, holds in horror everything which bears the character of injustice and vexation. I declare to you, therefore, that if ever you behave in such a manner, you will repent the terrible consequences of your conduct."

Such is the energetic and menacing language which your Excellency will hold to the above-named merchants; and acting always with the zeal and sentiments of humanity for which you are distinguished, you will exercise an active and uninterrupted inspection over matters of this kind, and you will deliver over to justice to be tried and punished those who shall dare to contravene your orders in this respect.

## No. 14.

*Viscount Palmerston to Lord Cowley.*

My Lord,

Foreign Office, December 17, 1847.

I HAVE received your Lordship's despatch of the 17th ultimo, inclosing a translation of a Vizierial letter addressed, at your Lordship's request, by the Turkish Government to the Pasha of Tripoli, enjoining him to prevent the recurrence of the acts of barbarity which were committed in the progress of a recent transport of slaves from Waday to Bengazi.

I have now to instruct your Lordship to express to the Turkish Minister the warmest thanks of Her Majesty's Government for this excellent instruction, which does high honour to the humane and generous feelings of the Sultan.

Lord Cowley,  
&c. &c.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 15.

*Viscount Palmerston to Lord Cowley.*

My Lord,

*Foreign Office, December 29, 1847.*

WITH reference to recent correspondence on the subject of the cruelties practised in the Slave Trade carried on from the interior of Africa to Tripoli, for the supply of Turkish ports in Europe and the Levant, I herewith transmit to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Tripoli, reporting the sailing of an Ottoman brig from that port for Smyrna, having on board sixty slaves. Thirty-seven of the slaves in question are represented to have been the property of Mahomed Sheriff Said, Governor of Tripoli, and who likewise holds the appointment of director of the customs at that port.

It is stated that this person, in virtue of the offices which he holds under the Turkish Government, enjoys peculiar facilities, and consequent profit, in carrying on Slave Trade.

I have to instruct your Lordship to make a friendly representation on this matter to the Turkish Government, and to suggest to them whether, bearing in mind the extent of the suffering endured by the unfortunate natives of Africa who are brought from the interior for sale at Tripoli, it might not be expedient to instruct the Pasha of Tripoli himself to abstain, and to prevent the persons employed in the official situations under the Ottoman Government, from taking advantage of their position to engage in a trade which inflicts such great miseries on the African race, and is a principal cause in preventing improvement in the civilization of the nations of that continent.

*Lord Cowley,*  
 &c. &c.

I am, &c.  
 (Signed) PALMERSTON.

Inclosure in No. 15.

*Consul-General Crowe to Viscount Palmerston, November 9, 1847.*

[See No. 52, p. 72.]

No. 16.

*Lord Cowley to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 8, 1848.)*

My Lord,

*Constantinople, December 17, 1847.*

HER Majesty's Consul-General at Tripoli has addressed me a despatch identic with one forwarded to your Lordship's office, in which he informs me that the Governor of that town is a slave-merchant. I conveyed this intelligence to Aali Effendi, expressing at the same time the hope that the Government would not allow a person holding so high a situation to pursue such a traffic.

His Excellency thinking that I alluded to the Pasha of Tripoli, promised that he would write to him to give it up; but finding subsequently that the Governor was alluded to, his Excellency said that he could not interfere, as the commerce was perfectly legal.

I have however since sent to the Grand Vizier on the subject, and I have reason to hope that his Highness will recommend the Governor to desist from the Traffic.

I have, &c.  
 (Signed) COWLEY.

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

## No. 17.

*Lord Cowley to Viscount Palmerston.*—(Received January 8, 1848.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, December 18, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose for your Lordship's information an extract from one, and the copy from another despatch, from Her Majesty's Consul at Bagdad, the one adverting to the fresh impulse given to the Slave Trade at Mohamrah in the Persian Gulf, the other relating Major Rawlinson's ineffectual efforts to procure the release of a cargo of slaves imported into Bussorah in a Persian boat.

Major Rawlinson's despatch to which he refers has never reached me.

I have, &c.

(Signed) COWLEY.

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

&c.

&c.

&c.

Inclosure 1 in No. 17.

*Major Rawlinson to Lord Cowley.*

(Extract.)

*Bagdad, November 24, 1847.*

AS the emporium of the Slave Trade, Mohamrah is now acquiring a consideration which it would have never reached, but for the prohibitory orders against the importation of Africans, in force at Bussorah. The Persian port, indeed, is gradually drawing to itself all that general traffic which should legitimately belong to Turkey, and the cause of so remarkable an accumulation of wealth and traders on the Haffar within these few months, is undoubtedly to be found in the attraction of a free slave market, and the impetus which is given to the barter by the necessity of supplying funds for the purchase of the unfortunate Africans.

Inclosure 2 in No. 17.

*Major Rawlinson to Lord Cowley.*

My Lord,

*Bagdad, November 24, 1847.*

IN continuation of my despatch on the subject of certain African slaves imported by a Persian boat into Bussorah, I regret to have to repeat that all my efforts to recover them have proved up to the present time unavailing. The slaves in question were in the first instance landed at Bussorah as the private servants of certain merchants, passengers on board the Persian boat, and when the British agent applied to the Governor for their release, he was met by the remark that although the importation of slaves for sale was prohibited, Nejjib Pasha's orders did not authorize the manumission of such parties when they were personal servants, such a measure being in fact equivalent to the confiscation of private property.

The British agent combatted of course this absurd argument to the best of his ability, but finding the Governor inflexible, he could do nothing more than refer the matter to Bagdad for settlement. On receiving the Bussorah reference, I immediately laid the matter before Nejjib Pasha, and on this, as on all other occasions where the Slave Trade question has been concerned, I found his Excellency ready to afford me every support. The distinction between an importation for sale and the registry of slaves as private servants, which I admitted would have been fatal to all our views, was at once overruled; the Governor of Bussorah was reprimanded for his remissness in permitting the slaves to be landed, and as we had learnt that whilst the discussion was going on at Bussorah,

the parties in question had been secretly conveyed away to the Arab town of Suk-esh-shook, where it was presumed no obstruction would be offered to their sale. His Excellency further addressed very stringent orders both to the Governor of Bussorah and the chief of the Arab tribe of Muntefik, which inhabits the town of Suk-esh-shook, requiring the immediate recovery and liberation of the Africans. These letters I dispatched last month to Bussorah, and at the same time I instructed the British agent to use every effort to get the slaves out of the hands of the Arabs; but I am now pained to find that he has been unable to carry out my views. The Governor of Bussorah did, it appears, send a special messenger to Suk-esh-shook to convey Nejib Pasha's orders to the Muntefik Sheik, and to receive charge of the Africans if they could be identified, while Mr. Barseigh also employed an agent to assist in the search. The Arab chief, however, I am informed, betrayed excessive jealousy at this interference with his authority; he did not refuse compliance with Nejib Pasha's orders, but he afforded no facilities for identifying or tracing the parties; and it is even suspected that he gave timely warning to the Arabs who had brought the Africans to carry their purchases into the interior. At any rate the Bussorah officer, after a fortnight's delay, returned to report the failure of his errand, and Nejib Pasha has since received letters from the Muntefik Sheik, stating that before the arrival of his Excellency's orders, the slaves had been purchased and transmitted to Nigib, and were thus at present beyond his jurisdiction.

Although I fear therefore it will be now impossible to restore these parties to liberty, I am not disposed to allow the affair to pass over without further notice. The merchants who imported the slaves are now concealed either at Suk-esh-shook or at Bussorah; but they must ere long be discovered, and it would then be proper to call on the Turkish authorities to fine them as importers of contraband goods in the full amount of the value of the slaves; a lesson being thus read to other traders, which may induce them to desist from any further attempt to evade the regulations of the port.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) H. C. RAWLINSON.

No. 18.

*Viscount Palmerston to Lord Cowley.*

My Lord,

*Foreign Office, February 10, 1848.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 17th of December last, stating that Her Majesty's Consul-General at Tripoli had informed you that the Governor at Tripoli was one of the principal slave-dealers at that place, and reporting the steps which you had taken on the receipt of that intelligence; and I have the satisfaction of acquainting you, that I entirely approve of your conduct in this matter.

I now transmit to you, for communication to Aali Effendi, a copy of a further despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General, stating that an Ottoman schooner, the property of Mahomed Sheriff Said, the Governor of Tripoli, had sailed on the 30th of December last for Smyrna, with fifty-five slaves on board for sale, forty-one of whom belonged to the Governor himself.

Lord Cowley,  
&c. &c.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

Inclosure in No. 18.

*Consul-General Crowe to Viscount Palmerston, December 30, 1847.*

[See No. 60, p. 76.]

## No. 19.

*Lord Cowley to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 7.)*

My Lord,

Constantinople, January 17, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose for your Lordship's information, an extract of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Bagdad, stating the punishment which Nejib Pasha had ordered to be imposed upon certain merchants who had connived at the escape of a cargo of slaves into the interior, contrary to the engagements entered into by the Porte with Great Britain.

I have, &c.

(Signed) COWLEY.

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

&c.

&c.

&c.

Inclosure in No. 19.

*Major Rawlinson to Lord Cowley.*

(Extract.)

Bagdad, December 16, 1847.

IN reference to the importation of the ten Africans, whom I have been in vain endeavouring to trace for the last two months, it was arranged, as the individual slaves had been removed to all appearance beyond the Turkish jurisdiction, that the merchants who had thus violated the law should be fined in the full value of the contraband property they had imported, the object being not merely to punish the importers, but to deter other merchants from engaging in a similar illegal traffic. His Excellency further promised to direct Sadik Bey to adopt all such subsidiary measures as I might purpose after making inquiries on the spot, for giving full efficacy to the orders now in force, excluding vessels with slaves on board from the Turkish ports at the mouth of the Euphrates.

## No. 20.

*Lord Cowley to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 26.)*

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 1, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the extract of a despatch from Major Rawlinson, reporting his unsuccessful endeavours to obtain the punishment of the parties engaged in the importation of ten African slaves into Bussorah in August last.

I have, &c.

(Signed) COWLEY.

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

&c.

&c.

&c.

Inclosure in No. 20.

*Major Rawlinson to Lord Cowley.*

(Extract.)

Bagdad, January 5, 1848.

ON the particular question of punishing the parties engaged in the importation of the ten African slaves into Bussorah during the autumn, I regret to say I am not able to report favourably. Sadik Bey evinced no disposition whatever to swerve from the line of conduct enjoined on him by Nejib Pasha; on the contrary, he cheerfully acquiesced in my suggestions for increasing the efficiency of the river police, with a view not

only to preventing the importation of slaves direct from the coast of Africa, but also in order to check the introduction of such parties into the Turkish territory from Mohamrah and other Persian ports. But in regard to the merchants who had smuggled in the Africans in question as their personal servants, and who had subsequently disposed of them at the Arab town of Suk-esh-shook, he assured me (and his assurance was corroborated by the testimony of my own private agents) that they had retreated into the interior of Arabia immediately on hearing of the penalties to which they had subjected themselves by engaging in an illicit traffic. Under such circumstances I thought it best to desist from any further agitation of the matter at present; but I acquainted Sadik Bey, that in the event of the parties in question returning within any reasonable time to Bussorah, I should expect his Excellency's orders with regard to their punishment to be carried into execution.

## No. 21.

*Lord Cowley to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 26.)*

My Lord,

*Constantinople, February 3, 1848.*

PREVIOUSLY to the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 29th of December last, I had, as a previous despatch will have informed your Lordship, been in communication with Aali Pasha on the subject of the Traffic in Slaves practised by the Governor of Tripoli; and I had received an assurance from his Excellency that measures should be taken by the Porte to prevent so high an officer from engaging in so vile a commerce.

It is the intention of the Porte to send Talaat Effendi, Secretary to the Supreme Council of Justice, to Tripoli, in about ten days, to inquire into the origin of the revolt that has lately occurred in that province. He will be charged at the same time with orders from the Ottoman Government to the Governor of Tripoli to desist from pursuing further the Trade in Slaves.

I have, &c.

(Signed) COWLEY.

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

&c.

&c.

&c.

## No. 22.

*Viscount Palmerston to Lord Cowley.*

My Lord,

*Foreign Office, March 29, 1848.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 1st ultimo, inclosing an extract from a despatch addressed to you by Major Rawlinson, stating that the merchants who had been implicated in the importation of slaves into Bussorah in the autumn of last year, in contravention of the firman of the Ottoman Porte, had retreated into the interior of Arabia in dread of punishment, and pointing out the reasons which induced Sadik Bey to consider that it would be inexpedient to take any active measures to reclaim the fugitives.

I concur in the view taken of this matter by Sadik Bey, and in the soundness of the reasoning on which he adopted it; and I approve of the conduct of Major Rawlinson in abstaining from pressing the question further under the present circumstances.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

*Lord Cowley,*

&c. &c.

No. 23.

*Viscount Palmerston to Lord Cowley.*

My Lord,

*Foreign Office, March 30, 1848.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 3rd ultimo, stating that you had received an assurance from his Excellency Aali Effendi that measures would be taken by the Turkish Government to prevent a functionary so high in authority as the Governor of Tripoli from engaging in the Slave Trade, and that Talaat Effendi who was about to proceed to Tripoli would be charged with orders to the Governor of that place to desist from the Traffic.

I have to instruct you to state to Aali Effendi that Her Majesty's Government have learnt with great satisfaction this humane determination of the Ottoman Government.

*Lord Cowley,*  
*&c. &c. &c.*

I am, &c.  
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

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## TURKEY. (*Consular*)—*Bagdad.*

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No. 24.

*Major Rawlinson to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 21.)*

(Extract.)

*Bagdad, October 28, 1847.*

INTELLIGENCE has just reached me, that Captain Lowe, the senior naval officer in the Persian Gulf, and commanding the "Elphinstone" sloop of war, has recently seized eleven large boats belonging to the subjects of his Highness the Imaum of Muscat, with African slaves on board. I am neither acquainted with the particulars of the seizure, nor the number of slaves that have been rescued, but I understand that five of the Arab vessels have been sent to Bombay to be condemned in the Admiralty Court, under convoy of the schooner "Mahi," and in company, as far as Muscat, with the "Elphinstone" sloop of war; while the remaining six boats have been set at liberty, owing, as it would appear, to Captain Lowe's being unable to furnish an adequate convoy to India for the whole of his capture.

The boats belonging to Lingar, however, and other Persian ports, continue to prosecute the Slave Trade with the utmost activity. Exempt from all molestation by our cruizers in the Gulf of Persia, they throng into the River Euphrates; and as the Turkish guard-ship has been now withdrawn from the mouth of the Haffár, no obstruction whatever exists to the assemblage at Mohamrah of all the vessels engaged in this hateful traffic.

I am assured, indeed, that at the present time there are nearly 1000 African slaves exposed in the slave-market of that port, and the sufferings of these unfortunate creatures, crowded together in an unhealthy and miserable hamlet, like that which Persia possesses on the Haffár, are described as most appalling.

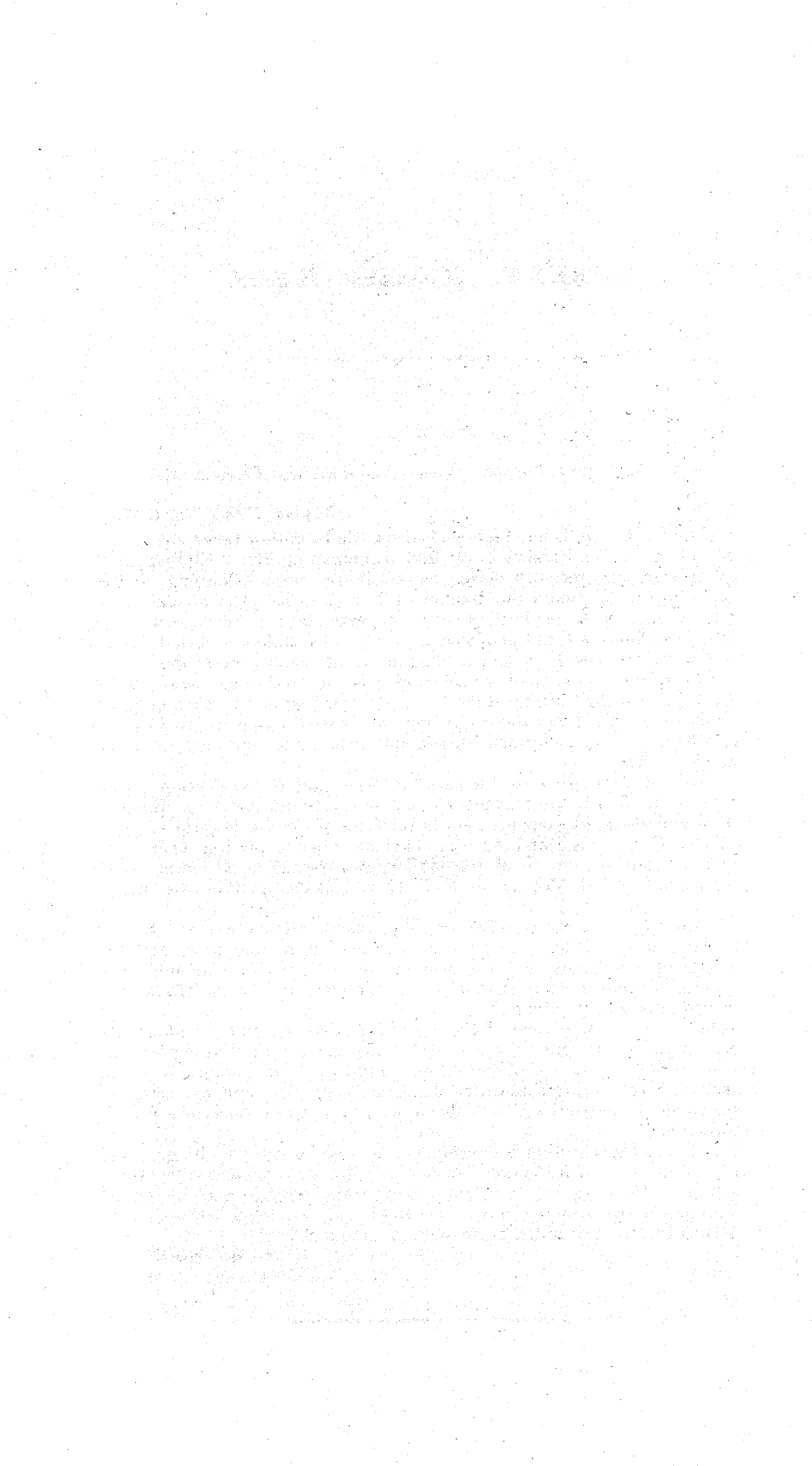
Owing to the vigilance of the Turkish authorities one slave-boat has alone, up to the present time, succeeded in reaching the Bussorah roads and in landing a portion of her cargo; and I am now engaged in active measures for recovering these Africans, ten in number, and for bringing to punishment the parties, Turkish subjects, who were concerned in their importation.

The vessel in question belonging to the Persian port of Lingar, and being commanded by a Persian captain, could not of course be seized and condemned. She was merely called upon to quit the roads, and she obeyed the summons by dropping down the river and taking up her anchorage with the other vessels of the slave fleet at Mohamrah.

(Signed)

H. C. RAWLINSON,  
*Her Majesty's Consul at Bagdad.*

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## PERSIA.

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No. 25.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 26, 1847.)*

My Lord,

*Tehran, November 30, 1846.*

AGREEABLY to the orders contained in your Lordship's despatches of the 31st of August and 11th of September\*, I have endeavoured to obtain from the Persian Ministers the issue of a firman prohibiting Slave Trade in the Persian ports of the Persian Gulf. I have not succeeded in gaining their consent to this measure. When I communicated the wishes of Her Majesty's Government to Hajee Meerza Aghassee, he expressed personally a ready concurrence in the abolition of this traffic, which he highly reprobated. On account of the recent illness of the Shah, no answer has yet been made to a letter I addressed to the Prime Minister on the subject, and of which I have the honour to inclose a copy; but I understand that the Shah makes objections to an act which he considers contrary to the Mahomedan faith, and that he wishes to await the result of a similar application which His Majesty conjectures to have been made by the British Government to the Porte. I am not however without hope of being able to combat the Shah's repugnance; for though it cannot be contested that slavery is sanctioned by the letter of the Mahomedan religion, it can hardly be questioned that the evils and cruelties it engenders are opposed to its spirit.

I have requested Her Majesty's Minister at the Porte to apprise me whether the Porte has consented to issue the firman in question.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

JUSTIN SHEIL.

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

&c.

&c.

&c.

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Inclosure in No. 25.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Hajee Meerza Aghassee.*

(Translated into Persian.)

*November 16, 1846.*

ACCORDING to your Excellency's desire I have the honour to address you relative to the conversation I held with you regarding the Traffic in Slaves from the coast of Africa.

Your Excellency is aware of the deep anxiety and of the increasing exertions of the British Government in favour of the suppression of this iniquitous commerce, and they now seek the co-operation of the Persian Government in the same beneficent design. In furtherance of this laudable object, the Queen's Government has lately concluded an agreement with the Imam of Muscat, which is to come into operation on the 15th of Moharrem, 1263.

By the provisions of that Convention, the exportation of slaves from

\* See Class D, 1846, p. 43.

the extensive African dominions of his Highness, is prohibited under the severest penalties, and their importation into any port of the territory he occupies in Asia, is equally rendered illegal; and to give effect to these stipulations, British ships of war are authorized to seize and confiscate any vessels belonging to his Highness' subjects engaged in that trade.

Her Majesty's Government consider it would have a most beneficial influence that His Majesty the Shah should issue a firman to come into operation simultaneously with the above Convention, prohibiting Slave Trade in the Persian ports of the Persian Gulf, and authorizing Her Majesty's Government to enforce the commands of His Majesty the Shah, in the same way as had been done by the Imam of Muscat. This united demonstration on the part of Persia and Great Britain, cannot fail to be successful; and the British Government does not doubt of finding in the humane and benevolent mind of the Sovereign of Persia, a ready co-operation in this excellent design, which the British Government and nation have so much at heart. The horror which your Excellency expressed at the trade in human beings, and the admiration you testified at the efforts made for its suppression, satisfy me that your Excellency's support will not be withheld in favour of an object of which it is so eminently worthy.

## No. 26.

*Viscount Palmerston to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, February 12, 1847.*

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatch dated the 30th of November last, reporting the steps which you had taken with a view to obtain from the Persian Ministers the issue of a firman prohibiting Slave Trade in the Persian ports of the Persian Gulf.

With reference to the objections which it appears the Shah makes to an act which he considers contrary to the Mahomedan faith, I have to instruct you to point out to his Ministers that the edict and permission which is solicited, is only to apply to the sea, and not to the interior of the Persian territory, and therefore it cannot justly be considered as conflicting with any doctrines of the Mahomedan faith.

I am, &c.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil,*  
 &c.      &c.      &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

## No. 27.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 27, 1847.)*

My Lord,

*Tehran, December 31, 1846.*

I REGRET to inform your Lordship that I have not succeeded in persuading the Persian Ministers to agree to the views of Her Majesty's Government for the suppression of slavery in the Persian ports of the Persian Gulf. I have the honour to inclose translations of the correspondence which has passed between Hajee Meerza Aghassee and me on this subject, from which your Lordship will perceive that as I was led to anticipate the ground of objection adopted by the Persian Government to the assumption of a prohibition of the nature in contemplation, being contrary to the tenets of the Mahomedan faith, the Shah, at an audience which I had with His Majesty, in the hope of inducing him to give his consent to the issue of the firman in question, maintained the same objection, and was positive in his refusal to commit what he called a breach of the precepts of the Koran.

Hajee Meerza Aghassee continues to express his hopes of being

able to reconcile the Shah to the wishes of the British Government, particularly if the consent of the Porte should have been obtained for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

JUSTIN SHEIL.

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

&c.

&c.

&c.

Inclosure 1 in No. 27.

*Hajee Meerza Aghassee to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.*

(Translation.)

9 Zil Hijeh, 1846.

I HAVE had the honour to receive and to lay before His Majesty the Shah a letter which you lately addressed to me, and in which you stated that the British Government was deeply anxious for the extinction of the trade in negro men and women, and that this iniquitous traffic should be universally abolished; and that it therefore wished a firman should be issued by His Majesty the Shahinshah, prohibiting the trade in negro men and women in the ports of the Persian Gulf belonging to Persia.

His Majesty's commands are, "that the purchase and sale of negro men and women are sanctioned by the precepts of our resplendent faith, and we cannot therefore issue commands to the people of Persia, that that which is lawful by the law should be unlawful to them. Secondly, the Ottoman Government is equally a Mahomedan Government, and the traffic in negro men and women exceeds in that country all other places. Let them [the British Government] convey an intimation on this subject to the Porte, and let them announce the answer to us. This exalted Government will then give a suitable reply."

I have stated what was necessary.

Inclosure 2 in No. 27.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Hajee Meerza Aghassee.*

(Translated into Persian.)

December 13, 1846.

I GREATLY regretted to receive your Excellency's letter relative to the prohibition to import slaves from the coast of Africa into the Persian ports of the Persian Gulf, and my disappointment was increased from the expectations raised by the abhorrence expressed by your Excellency against that iniquitous traffic.

If the Persian Government is guided in its objections to fulfil the wishes of the British Government by considerations of the loss its subjects might suffer by the privation of that trade, I beg to observe that on the contrary the prohibition to engage in it will save them from that consequence. By the agreement concluded between Great Britain and the Imam of Muscat, from whose African dominions the slaves for Persia are principally derived, that traffic can no longer be pursued with the impunity which formerly attended it; and those who engage in it will do so subject to the risks and penalties of an illegal traffic.

That the prohibition in question cannot be contrary to the Mahomedan law I feel a strong persuasion, from the concurrence of the Imam of Muscat, who is said to be a devout Mussulman. Moreover, I beg to observe, that according to what I have heard from well-informed persons, through the precepts of the Koran sanction the purchase and sale of slaves, they do not enjoin the practice as an obligation. The Sovereign of the country has therefore apparently a right to exercise a discretion for good government of his kingdom, and that discretion your Excellency knows is not only daily assumed in every Mahomedan country, but that government would be impracticable without such an attitude. I shall take an illustration from the authority of your Excellency that customs duties which are daily levied are contrary to the Mahomedan law.

But it is impossible that the Mahomedan religion should contem-

plate the sanction of a traffic which entails the worst miseries mankind can suffer. To supply this market, war, bloodshed, massacre, rapine, pillage, are the fate of the unfortunate natives of Africa, and I am certain the humane mind of His Majesty would recoil from the idea of his subjects being the abettors of such atrocities, were he aware of their frightful extent.

The States of Europe and America have all combined for the abolition of this traffic: why then should Persia separate itself from the example of these civilized nations? Beyond all other Sovereigns, the King of Persia, so many of whose subjects languish in the slavery of the Toorkomans, ought to seek the extinction of slavery, and shun all connexion with man-stealing and man-selling, for such the traffic in negroes is.

In my opinion, instead of waiting for the example of Turkey, it would be more expedient not to lose an opportunity which rarely occurs, of doing an acceptable act to Great Britain.

I have been directed by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to remind the Persian Ministers of the deep interest which the British Government and nation take in the abolition of slavery, and to state that nothing on the part of the Shah could more effectually tend to conciliate the friendship and confidence of the British nation than an act of co-operation with Her Majesty's Government in an object which they have so much at heart.

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Inclosure 3 in No. 27.

*Hajee Meerza Aghassee to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.*

(Translation.)

1 Moharrem, 1263 (December 20, 1846).

WITH regard to the purchase and sale of slaves, concerning which you previously wrote to me, and which I represented to His Majesty, &c., the Shah, and obtained and wrote to your Excellency a full and complete answer, you have again addressed me in detail on this subject. This also I have brought to the observation of His Majesty, whose commands are:—"Notwithstanding that we announced explicitly in a former reply that such matters as these did not concern our Government but our religion, and that we could not issue orders to our dependents and subjects that that which is lawful by the law should be unlawful to them, write again to the Minister Plenipotentiary,—'First, What you have written regarding the purchase and sale of slaves being an iniquitous practice, His Majesty's commands are,—'If according to their religion this traffic is considered an abominable practice, in our religion it is lawful; why [then] should the things which our Prophet has made lawful to us be imputed detestable?'"

'2ndly. You have stated that if it is our apprehension that Persian merchants will suffer loss from no more [slaves] being brought [to Persia] from the countries in Africa which belong to the Imam of Muscat, His Majesty's commands are,—'Since no more slaves are to be brought, our merchants will not be able to purchase them, consequently there is no necessity to issue a prohibition to them.'

'3rdly. You have written that you have ascertained from persons well versed in questions of religion, that if the Traffic in Slaves was abolished it would not be contrary to the [Mahomedan] faith. His Majesty's commands are—that "it is quite evident that if persons do not deal in slaves nothing can be said to them; but why did you not ask this question: 'If any person were to prevent this traffic, would it be lawful or unlawful?'"

'4thly. You have informed us that the countries of Europe and America are united in the suppression of this traffic, why then does not the Persian Government follow their example and co-operate with them? His Majesty has commanded that "between the religions of Europe and our religion there is great distinction and difference, and we cannot observe or join in matters which are in accordance with their religion and

in opposition to ours. Why we wrote that the exalted English Government should make inquiries of the Turkish Government on this subject, was because that Government being a Mahomedan State, and in that country the Traffic in Slaves being much more extensive than anywhere else, we might observe what answer it will give; that then we may give a reply which should not be opposed to tenets of the Mahomedan faith, on this account we requested that they should first apply to that Government."

The commands of His Majesty are what I have communicated to you.

Inclosure 4 in No. 27.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Hajee Meerza Aghassee.*

(Translated into Persian.)

December 22, 1846.

AS there appeared to be a misapprehension on your Excellency's part in the letter you wrote to me in answer to my late communication regarding slavery, I think it necessary to make the following explanation. I stated in my letter, that by engaging in that traffic Persian merchants would suffer loss. The reason is this. As this trade has been abolished and rendered illegal in the before-mentioned parts of Africa, if therefore Persian ships should proceed to those coasts to engage in this trade, they will suffer loss. This is consequently a strong reason, in addition to the others mentioned in my letter, that the Persian Government should issue a firman prohibiting the traffic.

As it is probable His Majesty the Shah is not acquainted with the mode by which slaves are procured, I shall trouble you with a short account how it is managed. When a Persian or other vessel arrives on the coast of Africa, the owners search for an agent to procure slaves. The employment of these agents is to incite the black tribes against each other, and induce them to engage in perpetual wars and kidnappings. The unhappy captives thus obtained are sold to these agents, who dispose of them to those Persian or other merchants. It must be evident that in the midst of these wars or plundering incursions, what bloodshed, cruelties, and rapine, are committed to obtain some captives from the unfortunate black race that they may be sold to Persian and other merchants. It was from these reasons that I applied the term "iniquitous" to this traffic; and I still entertain a hope that His Majesty the Shah will allow sentiments of clemency and justice to exert their influence when he is apprized of the miseries which this trade entails on the unfortunate natives of Africa, and that, in accordance with the wishes of the British Government, will issue a firman prohibiting this trade.

No. 28.

*Viscount Palmerston to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, March 12, 1847.*

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatch dated the 31st of December last.

Her Majesty's Government have seen with deep regret, from the correspondence inclosed in that despatch, that the Persian Government have not acceded to the earnest desire expressed by Her Majesty's Government, that the Shah would interdict the African Slave Trade in the Persian ports of the Persian Gulf.

It appears, however, that the ground of objection alleged by the Persian Ministers and by the Shah himself, is the assumption that such a prohibition would be contrary to the Mahomedan faith, and a breach of the precepts of the Koran. But in answer to this objection, I have the satisfaction to inform you that on the same day on which I received your despatch, I received also a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister Plenipo-

CLASS D.



tentiary at the Ottoman Porte, of which I inclose a copy, announcing the fact, that in deference to the wishes of Her Majesty's Government, the Sultan has determined to prohibit the importation of African slaves into His Highness' ports in the Persian Gulf; and that the Sultan has moreover ordered that some Ottoman vessels shall be sent into the Persian Gulf in the approaching spring, to co-operate with those of Her Majesty, to prevent the continuance of this Slave Traffic under the Ottoman flag, in those waters.

Since the Sultan, therefore, and the Imaum of Muscat, have now prohibited this trade, the Persian Government can no longer contend that the prohibition of it is inconsistent with the tenets of the Mahomedan religion. You will then urgently renew your application upon this subject, and as the Persian Government promised that it would prohibit the Slave Trade if the Sultan did so, Her Majesty's Government now claim the fulfilment of that promise.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil,  
&c. &c.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

Inclosure in No. 28.

*The Hon. H. Wellesley to Viscount Palmerston, February 1, 1847.*

[See No. 6, p. 6.]

No. 29.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 22.)*

(Extract.)

*Tehran, February 23, 1847.*

MR. WELLESLEY having informed me that he hoped he had succeeded in obtaining the consent of the Porte to the views of Her Majesty's Government for the abolition of Slave Trade in the Persian Gulf, I again brought the subject under the observation of the Persian Prime Minister. Hajee Meerza Aghassee declared that strong as was his own personal desire for the abolition of this Traffic, it was out of his power to bring the subject to the notice of the Shah, with any chance of success, unless he were authorized to announce the concurrence of the Porte in the same design. His Excellency added that he was sanguine in the expectation of being able to influence the sentiments of the Shah whenever an example was given by another Mahomedan Government.

Mr. Wellesley has informed me that no objections on the score of religion have been made in Turkey to a prohibition of a Traffic in Slaves. Here it is different.

(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL.  
*The Right Hon. Viscount Palmerston, G.C.B.*  
&c. &c. &c.

No. 30.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received June 22.)*

(Extract.)

*Tehran, April 27, 1847.*

THE Turkish Government having promulgated a firman for the abolition of the Slave Trade in the Turkish ports of the Persian Gulf, I again brought the subject under the observation of the Persian Ministers, with a strong hope that the example of a Mahomedan Government would have due weight at this Court. Within a few days I have had three audiences of the Shah, without having been able to prevail on him to accede to the wishes of Her Majesty's Government. On two

of these occasions His Majesty declared that the example of the Porte had no influence over his decision, many practices contrary to the divine law being sanctioned in that country. He affirmed that there was not the slightest doubt of the prohibition demanded from him being contrary to the Mahomedan faith, inasmuch as multitudes of people would be prevented from becoming Mussulmans, the penalties of which violation of the law equalled the rewards of those who obtained converts to Islamism. Much useless argument was employed by me in maintaining that the merit of ending the miseries caused by this traffic surpassed all others. Proselytism, in the Shah's estimation, overcame every consideration. His Majesty protested that religious motives were the only obstacle to his compliance with the wishes of the British Government; and he declared that all he required to induce him to issue the firman which was sought, was a statement from competent authority that he should not thereby infringe the doctrines of Islamism.

I procured from six priests of reputation in Tehran, separate decrees, that according to the traditions of Mahomed, "the seller of men is the worst of men," and that the trade in slaves is an "abomination." It is not to be inferred from thence that the traffic is unlawful, there being in the Mahomedan religion a great distinction between an act which is thoroughly unlawful, and one merely abominable. I have the honour to inclose translations of these documents.

I waited to-day on the Shah, who renewed his former protestations. When I produced these decrees, he could not contain his astonishment, and would not at first credit their authenticity. When these doubts were removed, His Majesty continued equally inflexible in withholding the firman, and reverted to his argument that he could not face the wrath of God by impeding the conversion of Pagans. In answer to this I reminded the Shah that the land would still remain open for the transmission and conversion of negroes, but without effect.

His Majesty alleged that the Prophet himself had bought slaves, and thereby sanctioned the traffic. I refuted this argument by answering that he bought slaves to free them, and I asked the Shah to prove that Mahomed had ever sold a single human being.

The Shah produced a decree he had procured from a priest, declaring that a prohibition against taking Pagan captives was a grievous crime; but the Persian word signified captives in war, it being a maxim of the Mahomedan religion to make war for purposes of proselytism.

Finding argument to be useless, and that the Shah had taken a determination to withhold his consent, I withdrew.

I have the honour to inclose translations of the correspondence which up to the present moment has passed between Hajee Meerza Aghassee and me in connection with this subject. Though the prospect of success is evidently slight, I shall not cease my efforts to overcome the reluctance of the Persian Government.

I have troubled your Lordship with too long a detail, but I am anxious to show that I have used every effort to accomplish the views of Her Majesty's Government.

(Signed)

JUSTIN SHEIL.

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

§c.

§c.

§c.

## Inclosure 1 in No. 30.

*Question to various Priests in Tehran regarding the Slave Trade.*

(Translation.)

No. 1. **WHAT** do the learned doctors in religion and the law decree on the following point. If they should abolish the transport of black male and female slaves, and abstain from the traffic, is it any injury or not to the faith? Let them declare this that it may be known.

Decree. Selling male and female slaves is an abomination according to the noble faith. "The worst of men is the seller of men" (tradition of Mahomed). God it is who knows.

Sealed by Moollah Meerza Mahmood Andermanee.

No. 2. What do the learned doctors in the law and religion decree on the following point. If they should discontinue the traffic and trade of male and female slaves, is it any injury to religion?

Decree. In the name of the Great God, trading in, and buying and selling male and female slaves is not unlawful, but it is an abomination, as is stated in the tradition, "the worst of men is the seller of men," which is attributable to its baseness. If it is abandoned on this account, it is good, but if on account of its being unlawful, it is wrong.

Sealed by Moollah Ali Kennee.

No. 3. The question is the same as in No. 1.

Decree. In the name of God, selling male and female slaves is a disgraceful traffic, and abandoning it is worthy and honourable. It is one of the traditions that "the worst of men is he who sells slaves."

Sealed by Agha Mahomed Jaffer Tehranee.

No. 4. What do the learned doctors in the religion and law of Islam decree on the following point. If a Mussulman should trade in, and buy and sell negro slaves, and should bring them by all sorts of deceits and contrivances from their own country; and they now desire to discontinue the trade and transport--is it an injury to the religion of that Mussulman?

Decree. The act of selling men, and trading in them is abominable, and it is certainly better not to do it.

Sealed by Agha Mahmood.

No. 5. The question is the same as No. 1.

Decree. No, it is no injury to the faith. Moreover, this trade, according to the law, is one of baseness; to discontinue it is best.

Sealed by Agha Mahmood, a doctor of divinity of great celebrity.

No. 6. The question is the same as No. 1.

Decree. If they should abolish the sale of male and female slaves, and the conveyance and transport of them, it certainly is no injury. I may even say that the discontinuance is best.

Sealed by Moollah Hoossein Booroojerdee.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 30.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Hajee Meerza Aghassee.*

(Translated into Persian.)

23 *Rebi-oo-sanee*, 1263 (*April 9, 1847*).

SOME time ago, agreeably to instructions from the Ministers of my own Government, I had discussions with the Persian Ministers relative to the prohibition of the importation of black slaves from the African States. At the present time I have received intelligence from Constantinople that the Ottoman Government has acceded to this prohibition of the importa-

tion of blacks. As one of the Mussulman States has associated itself with the British Government in this good work, I therefore hope that your Excellency, my distinguished and kind friend, will also so draw the inclinations of His Majesty the Sovereign of Persia. to this praiseworthy act, that orders may be issued to the people of the Persian Gulf, that no one shall embark and import negroes. It is clear that your Excellency will make no objections on this subject.

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Inclosure 3 in No. 30.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Hajee Meerza Aghassee.*

(Translated into Persian.)

*April 16, 1847.*

SOME days ago I wrote to your Excellency with reference to the promise formerly given by the Ministers of this Government regarding black slaves; and I begged your Excellency to induce His Majesty the Shah to issue orders of the same nature as those agreed to by the Turkish Government.

Your Excellency on several occasions gave me a promise that you would incline the mind of His Majesty to adopt that agreement, and associate himself with the British Government in that good work. But as yet I have received no reply, and I therefore trouble you with these few lines to beg you to perform your promise, by informing me to-day that the arrangement has been agreed to.

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Inclosure 4 in No. 30.

*Hajee Meerza Aghassee to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.*

(Translation.)

*9 Jemadee-ool-ewel, 1263 (April 25, 1847).*

YOUR letter, regarding the issuing of orders for prohibiting the importation of black slaves to the ports belonging to this Government, and intimating that as the Turkish Government had issued a decree for the prohibition of the Traffic in Negro Slaves, the Ministers of the Persian Government should also give orders for abolishing that traffic; has been represented by me to His Majesty, &c., &c., the Shah, whose commands are, "Notwithstanding that his Excellency the Minister Plenipotentiary of the English Government has on two occasions heard a full and complete reply on this subject from our own lips, still as your Excellency expressed a wish to have a written answer, I should explain to you the sentiments of His Majesty.

"1st. Prohibiting the sale and purchase of black slaves is contrary to the precepts of the Mahomedan faith, on this account we cannot prevent our subjects from dealing in them.

"2nd. Our subjects do not go purposely to Africa to bring away negroes by violence or force, and it is therefore evident that if the subjects of the Ottoman and other Governments do not bring them to the Persian ports, our subjects cannot purchase them. On this subject our clergy cannot raise any objection or argument."

As it was His Majesty's commands, I have given this trouble.

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## Inclosure 5 in No. 30.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Hajee Meerza Aghassee.*

(Translated into Persian.)

April 27, 1847.

I WAS greatly disappointed on receiving your Excellency's letter yesterday, for I was fully persuaded that the Turkish Government, having agreed to abolish the Traffic in Slaves in its ports in the Persian Gulf, the Persian Government would no longer withhold its assent in this question to the wishes of the British Government and nation, who are His Majesty's allies. Your Excellency's letter of the 1st of last Moharrem (20th of December, 1846), in which you said that the Ottoman Government being also a Mahomedan Government, the Persian Ministers would wait for its determination and act accordingly, fully authorized me to entertain this conviction; for of what use was it to wait unless to follow the same righteous course.

Your Excellency states in this communication that to prohibit the purchase and sale of black slaves, would be contrary to the precepts of the Mahomedan faith. In my former communications I expressed an opinion of the impossibility of a system which fosters the most wicked crimes that men can commit, should be encouraged by the Mussulman religion, and I am happy to be able to produce a complete refutation to the above declaration. I inclose for your Excellency's perusal authentic copies of decrees by the most celebrated priests of Tehran denouncing the Traffic of Slaves as an abomination, according to the tradition of the Prophet of the Mussulmans, that "the worst of men is the seller of men," and pronouncing its discontinuance to be a meritorious act.

His Majesty having solemnly declared to me that he was deeply anxious to fulfil the wishes of the British Government on a subject which the entire English nation has so much at heart, I cannot allow myself to doubt that the necessary firman will be withheld when a strictly Mahomedan Government like the Porte, and when so many of the priesthood have denounced this trade.

I need scarcely allude to the personal sentiments of your Excellency, who has so often declared that this traffic was most hateful.

At the conclusion of your letter your Excellency has stated that if the subjects of the Ottoman and other Governments do not bring slaves to the ports of the Gulf, natives of Persia will not purchase these unfortunate beings. The Turkish Government having entered into an agreement with the English Government, there is no possibility of that engagement being violated. It is to prevent the subjects of His Majesty the Shah from bringing natives of Africa to Persia, which renders the promulgation of the firman so essential.

## No. 31.

*Viscount Palmerston to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.*

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, July 2, 1847.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 27th of April last, in which you report to me the ill success attending your efforts to induce the Shah to interdict the African Slave Trade in the Persian ports of the Persian Gulf.

I have now to instruct you to express to the Persian Government the deep regret and extreme disappointment of Her Majesty's Government at the refusal of the Shah to comply with the earnest request made to him by the British Government on this subject; and those feelings of Her Majesty's Government are the stronger, because the same request has been granted by the Sultan, and because so many religious authorities in Tehran have declared that what Her Majesty's Government ask would not be any violation of the laws and rules of the Mahomedan faith.

The refusal of the Shah, therefore, must be looked upon by Her Majesty's Government as a strong indication of the want of any readiness on his part to do that which is agreeable to Great Britain, and it seems to show how little value the Shah attaches to British friendship.

You will moreover say, that in the present instance it is not merely the request of the British Government to which the Shah is turning a deaf ear, but that it is the strong desire of the whole British nation which he persists in slighting.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil,*  
 &c. &c.

(Signed)

PALMERSTON.

No. 32.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 21.)*

(Extract.)

*Tehran, May 31, 1847.*

MY efforts to vanquish the reluctance of the Persian Ministers to issue a firman for the abolition of the Traffic in Slaves in the Persian ports of the Persian Gulf continue unavailing. Your Lordship will observe, from the inclosed correspondence, that there is no attempt at argument or reasoning in refuting or refusing the claim that the Persian Government should perform the promise it gave of imitating the example of Turkey in this question; and it will be equally remarked that no denial is given, excepting on one occasion, to my repeated assertions, that the Shah and his Minister are both under the obligation of reiterated promises.

(Signed)

JUSTIN SHEIL.

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

&c.

&c.

&c.

Inclosure 1 in No. 32.

*Hajee Meerza Aghassee to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.*

(Translation.)

*No date.*

THE letter written by your Excellency, my distinguished friend, enlarging on the subject of negroes, has been received and laid before His Majesty the Shah.

Notwithstanding that the former commands of His Majesty in reply to your previous communications have been made known to you, and that the Shah's commands in reply to your present letter are the same as before, I have explained verbally to Meerza Hoossein Koolee a detail which he will represent to your Excellency. But on this subject a little delay is necessary, to enable me by some means to incline the auspicious mind [of the Shah] to consent to it.

Inclosure 2 in No. 32.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Hajee Meerza Aghassee.*

(Translated into Persian.)

*25 Jemadee-ool-evvel, 1263 (May 25, 1847).*

IT is a considerable time since I addressed your Excellency, my honoured friend, on the subject of prohibiting the importation of negroes into the Persian ports of the Persian Gulf, and I have waited until now in expectation of a reply.

In the above-mentioned communication I have clearly proved, according to the evidence of several Moollahs of Tehran, that to prevent the traffic in negroes is by no means in opposition to the Mahomedan religion; and as the only objection of the Persian Government rested on this one point, which is now removed, any further resistance on the part of the Persian Ministers must arise from other causes which are unsuitable; and I therefore beg that the Persian Ministers will comply with the wishes of the British Government without further delay.

I also remind your Excellency, my distinguished friend, that a few days ago in a note you wrote me you made a promise which I now request your Excellency to fulfil, and to write and to send me the required firman, to enable me to acquaint the Ministers of the English Government that you have redeemed your pledge.

Before replying to this, be so good as to peruse my previous communications on this subject.

## Inclosure 3 in No. 32.

*Hajee Meerza Aghassee to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.*

(Translation.)

May 12, 1847.

YOUR Excellency wrote to me requesting that the practice of importing black slaves should be discontinued, and that you were expecting an answer.

According to your Excellency's wish I took and delivered this letter to His Majesty the Shahinshah, and brought it under His Majesty's notice. In answer to the request made by your Excellency, according to the meaning conveyed in the auspicious handwriting of His Majesty, it is commanded thus, and the meaning of the auspicious handwriting is as follows:—

“My slaves in Bokhara and Khiva amount to 200,000 or 300,000 in number; why did they [the English Government] prohibit me [from releasing them]? If the act of making slaves be wrong, why is it not so in those places? And besides, the day I saw the English Minister, he admitted that I was right.

“The Minister did not make this inquiry according to our law\*.

“If by prohibiting the importation of black slaves I should be the means of preventing 5000 individuals from embracing the Mahomedan creed, according to our religion, I commit a great sin, and our name will be of very bad repute.”

Now with this command in the handwriting of the Shah what can I do?

As it was necessary, I have given your Excellency this intimation.

## Inclosure 4 in No. 32.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Hajee Meerza Aghassee.*

(Translated into Persian.)

May 15, 1847.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Excellency's letter relative to the abolition of the transport of slaves in the Persian Gulf.

Your Excellency has evidently forgotten the letter addressed to you on the 21st of Ramazan, 1258 (24th October, 1842), by the Earl of Aberdeen. If you will take the trouble of examining that communication, you will find how little ground there is for the observation in your Excellency's letter, that obstacles are opposed by the British Government to the liberation of Persian captives in Kharezm.

I may here remind you how the British Government showed its sympathy for the Persians in captivity in that country by undertaking the trouble and risk, which your Excellency well knows are not small, of sending a member of this Mission to Khiva for that special object.

I have so completely proved, on authority which the Persian Government cannot lawfully reject, the tradition of their Prophet as pronounced by several Moollahs of notoriety in Tehran, that a compliance with the wishes of the British Government is not only not opposed to, but is actually sustained and encouraged by the tenets of the Mahomedan faith, that any further discussion of the religious bearing of this question would be waste of time.

The pertinacity of the Persian Government must therefore arise from other causes independent of religious influences. All the civilized nations of the world have acceded to the wishes of Great Britain by combining for the abolition of this traffic, and Turkey in particular has exhibited her appreciation of the friendship and wishes of England by ordering some Ottoman men-of-war to co-operate with the ships of the Queen.

If Persia, by persisting in an unfriendly refusal without any adequate motive—for the Shah has declared the traffic to be profitless, and your

\* Referring to the decrees of several priests presented to the Shah by Colonel Sheil.

Excellency has denounced it as hateful—it may be easily conceived what impression will be made on the British nation, which was fairly entitled to expect from this Government a larger share of consideration and deference towards its efforts in favour of humanity.

Viscount Palmerston directs me to state, that as the Persian Government virtually agreed to prohibit the importation of slaves, if the Sultan did so, Her Majesty's Government now claim the fulfilment of that promise.

I therefore hope the firman will no longer be withheld, and that His Majesty will redeem the pledge he so repeatedly gave to comply with the desire of the British Government under a certain stipulation, which stipulation I have most amply fulfilled by procuring the religious decrees I formerly transmitted to you, and that your Excellency, whose honourable boast it is that you never break an engagement, will redeem the promises you so often gave me of following the example of Turkey.

Inclosure 5 in No. 32.

*Hajee Meerza Aghassee to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.*

(Translation.)

*Jemadee-ool-akhir, 1263 (May 1847).*

HAVING received your letter relative to the issue of a royal firman abolishing the importation of negroes from the ports of Persia, in which you state that you are awaiting the fulfilment of the promise given by the Persian Ministers, and that this had been much delayed, it is necessary for me to trouble your Excellency with a reply. The Persian Ministers have never in this matter given an explicit promise to your Excellency, my distinguished and kind friend, that this would be done. Nay, whenever this subject was advanced by your Excellency, the Persian Ministers stated that the circumstance was to be represented to His Majesty. Now too, I trouble your Excellency by announcing to you that the settlement of this business is dependent upon your Excellency's obtaining the honour of an interview with His Majesty, when orders will no doubt be given while you are present, in such manner as His Majesty may consider desirable.

As it was necessary to acquaint you I have given you this trouble.

Inclosure 6 in No. 32.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Hajee Meerza Aghassee.*

(Extract.)

(Translated into Persian.)

*May 23, 1847.*

YOUR Excellency states in your letter of yesterday, that the Persian Government had given no positive promise for the abolition of the Traffic of Slaves in the Persian Gulf; but when I refresh your recollection, I have no doubt of obtaining your Excellency's advocacy on this point too, with the same success that I have enjoyed in other questions relating to this subject.

In the letter which you wrote to me on the 1st of Moharrem (December 20, 1846), the Persian Ministers expressed the desire of waiting for the decision of the Porte, as being a Mussulman Government, before coming to any determination respecting the wishes of the British Government, thereby intimating in the most undisguised manner an intention of adopting the example of the Turkish Government. At an early stage of this negotiation, His Majesty at the first audience I had on this subject, did me the honour to address to me similar observations. As to your Excellency, you made the same declaration and distinct promise so often that I cannot recall the particular dates or instances. In the private note you addressed to me two or three weeks ago, the same sentiments are most intelligibly enunciated.

I need not again repeat the frequent promises of His Majesty to fulfil the wishes of Great Britain, if I could produce any religious decree



which would sanction or justify the measure, and which I did in so triumphant a manner.

In short, the Persian Government is pledged to that of England as strongly as words and promises impose an obligation, and the British Ministers now claim the performance of those promises.

The Persian Ministers must be sensible that this fruitless thwarting of the views of Great Britain can have but one result, that of estranging the people of England from this country.

The Persian Government have doubtless not forgotten the intimation of Viscount Palmerston, that nothing could more contribute to strengthen the relations between Persia and England, than compliance with this proposal; the disagreeable influence which a refusal would produce, may therefore be easily deduced.

The question stands thus—England has obtained the concurrence of several nations in objects in favour of humanity, and has formed engagements with them for that purpose; but these designs and these engagements are entirely frustrated, and rendered of no avail by the resistance of this Government. This is an act of unfriendliness which no nation commits towards another friendly and allied Government; least of all is it justifiable in the Persian Government to make this requital of all the exertions of the British Government in favour of this country.

I therefore trust, that after the mature reflection afforded by this lengthened discussion, the Persian Government will no longer resist the performance of its agreement, so that I may be able to convey to my own Government a gratifying proof of the cordial sentiments by which the Persian Government is animated.

Inclosure 7 in No. 32.

*Hajee Meerza Aghassee to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.*

(Translation.)

May 26, 1847.

YOUR Excellency's letter has reached me, and its contents have been understood from beginning to end.

The answer of your Excellency's letter I have conveyed verbally through Meerza Hoossein Koolee, the Persian Secretary, the whole of which he will represent to you in detail.

If your patience and forbearance will not endure this (delay), it will be necessary that your Excellency should take the trouble to seek an audience of His Majesty the Shah, and represent the matter to him yourself.

Inclosure 8 in No. 32.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Hajee Meerza Aghassee.*

(Translated into Persian.)

May 26, 1847.

I CANNOT avoid testifying my surprise at your Excellency's letter of to-day. You must be conscious of its being contrary to usage to send me a verbal answer through a writer of this Mission to a formal communication made by me to the Persian Ministers, on the part of the Government of the Queen of Great Britain. By no means can I accept of such a mode of reply.

In that letter I distinctly proved the promises given by His Majesty the Shah to fulfil the wishes of the English Government for the abolition of the Traffic in Slaves in the Persian ports of the Persian Gulf, and I showed them with equal clearness that your Excellency had given reiterated promises to the same effect. I therefore invite the Persian Government to the fulfilment of this engagement.

It is of course at all times an honour to me to wait on His Majesty; but your Excellency is the Minister for Foreign Affairs of this Court, and I therefore claim a written reply to an official communication made on the part of the British Government.

Inclosure 9 in No. 32.

*Hajee Meerza Aghassee to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.*

(Translation.)

11 *Jemadee-oos-sanee*, 1263 (*May 26, 1847*).

FOUR hours after the rising of the sun, your Excellency's servant delivered to me on the highroad your letter regarding the importation of negroes, and now six hours after sun-rise I write to you in reply, and trouble you to the effect that frequent questions on your part and replies on mine, have been exchanged on this subject. As your Excellency has not been satisfied with my replies, or considered them sufficient, and you have had recourse to perseverance in bringing them forward, I was obliged to satisfy myself with giving a verbal message, and probably in doing so I have not acted uncourteously; if in your Excellency's opinion this has been irregular, please God, you will forgive it. Now, I ask in justice this question, that you will be pleased to say what my occupation is—the most you can say is, as you have already said, that Persia is in my charge. You will not say, as no one has any manner of access to the secrets of the King's heart in the affairs of Government, which specially appertain to the royal person of the Shah, and whatever affair has become fixed in his heart, will not in any manner suffer change, as he is firm of purpose and resolute, that I have access to them. If your Excellency should hold such an opinion, there is no ground for it; such being the case, I have not been negligent in doing what I could, having in view my desire of pleasing your Excellency, and I have represented the wishes of the British Ministers in this respect at the foot of the Royal Throne, but without success.

I have acquainted your Excellency with the true state of the case, but you did not listen to it, and have persisted. If your Excellency's opinion is that this affair will be arranged by strong persistence, I am of a contrary opinion, and believe that one reply to one question is sufficient. The substance of the matter is this—the British Ministers have made a certain request of the Persian Government; when it becomes necessary, the Persian Ministers will communicate to the British Ministers the secret sentiments of His Majesty's heart, and there will be no necessity for the trouble of this nature in the questions and replies of your Excellency. No doubt your Excellency is aware of the Articles of the Treaty existing between the two Governments of Persia and England, and that in matters of small and high import, it is agreed that questions are put, a single categorical reply is sufficient, and that persistence and pertinacity should be abandoned. The choice is with your Excellency; please Heaven, your Excellency will not consider me deserving of complaint in this matter, as positive orders in every affair belong especially to His Majesty, and to no one else.

As it was necessary I have troubled you.

Inclosure 10 in No. 32.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Hajee Meerza Aghassee.*

(Translated into Persian.)

*May 28, 1847.*

YOUR Excellency's letter of yesterday's date is not a reply to my communication of the 23rd instant, in which I proved so distinctly that His Majesty the Shah and the Ministers of the Persian Government had

given, both officially in writing and verbally, repeated promises to fulfil the wishes of the British Government. Every objection urged by the Persian Ministers has been removed; upon what possible plea then can the Persian Government oppose themselves to the performance of their promise; from what motives do they resist compliance with the earnest wishes of an ally on a question which to Persia is of no disadvantage?

I have received positive orders from the Queen's Government to press urgently the Persian Ministers to fulfil their agreement, so that the engagement of other Powers with England may be accomplished. These orders your Excellency is aware I must fulfil.

The Persian Ministers would take a bootless trouble in addressing themselves direct to the British Ministers. All communications are to be made to me alone, and through me the answer of the British Government will be given.

Persia and Turkey are both the friends and allies of Great Britain, and both countries are under obligations to the exertions of England. Yet how great is the contrast between these two kingdoms in the acknowledgement of these obligations. On the part of Turkey there are the greatest alacrity, the readiest co-operation; while from Persia apathy and resistance are unfortunately conspicuous.

I request your Excellency will favour me with a plain and direct answer to my letter, such as I can present to the British Ministers in reply to the expectation they have announced. And this answer will, I trust, be to the effect that the Persian Ministers will faithfully perform their promise.

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Inclosure 11 in No. 32.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Hajee Meerza Aghassee.*

(Translated into Persian.)

May 31, 1847.

WHEN I sent Mr. Thomson, the day before yesterday, to wait on your Excellency with a letter, you gave a positive assurance that you would the next day present my late communications relative to the Traffic in Slaves to His Majesty, and obtain an answer. Yet your Excellency did not yesterday fulfil that agreement, and my letters were not shown to the Shah. All this procrastination can be attributed to only one cause. The Persian Ministers feel they are bound to comply with the wishes of the British Government; yet they are prevented from doing so, from some remote extraneous reason of which I have no knowledge, but which assuredly has no true foundation. In every case it is absolutely necessary to reply to the claim made by the British Government, and I therefore again repeat my request that my letters may be presented to His Majesty without delay.

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No. 33.

*Viscount Palmerston to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, July 31, 1847.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 31st of May last and its inclosures, reporting the continued reluctance of the Persian Government to accede to the request made by Her Majesty's Government for the issue of a firman prohibiting the importation of African slaves into the Persian ports in the Persian Gulf.

As in that despatch you make no allusion to the treaties which Major Hennell had succeeded in negotiating with the Sultan ben Suggar, and with the Sheiks of Debaye, Ejinan, Amulgaveen, Aboothabee, and Bahrein, for totally abolishing and prohibiting the African Slave Trade under their

respective flags, I presume that at the time you wrote you were not acquainted with the result of those negotiations. But Major Hennell will have doubtless made known to you the new engagements undertaken by those chiefs, and which materially alter the position of the Persian Government on this question, inasmuch as if the importation of slaves from Africa into Persia is to be continued in future it must be carried on in vessels *bonâ fide* Persian, those of all other Powers having given up the right to continue the Trade. I am therefore not without hope that the Persian Government may ere this have waived its unreasonable opposition to the proposition of Her Majesty's Government.

But if this matter has not been satisfactorily settled when you receive this despatch, I have to intrust you to present a note to the Persian Government, stating that under the existing agreements made by Great Britain with Turkey, Muscat, and the Arabian chiefs, all vessels in the Persian Gulf suspected of slave-trading will be examined, and if slaves are found on board, such slaves will be taken out, and will be set at liberty, either in their own country, or in some British possession where slavery is abolished by law, and where the negroes will not only be free, but will be able to earn good wages by labour. Therefore it is not so much for any additional facility for putting down the Slave Trade that this firman is now required as for the protection of the Shah's own subjects from loss; because if for want of such a firman they should be led to embark their money in purchasing slaves, and those slaves should be taken on the passage, and be carried away by British cruizers, and be set free as above mentioned, then the Persian subjects would suffer a heavy pecuniary loss, and of course they would come upon the Shah for compensation; since they would say with truth, that it was by his fault that the loss was sustained, because he knew the risk they ran, and did not warn them to avoid the danger. It is plain, therefore, that by issuing such a firman, the Shah will prevent disagreeable questions about losses and compensations which might otherwise arise between himself and his subjects, and he would at the same time be showing a desire to do that which is agreeable to the British Government and nation.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil,  
 &c. &c.

I am, &c.  
 (Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 34.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 22.)*

(Extract.)

*Tehran, June 7, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose for your Lordship's information translations of further correspondence I have had with Hajee Meerza Aghassee relative to the Traffic in Slaves.

(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL.  
 The Right Hon. Viscount Palmerston, G.C.B.  
 &c. &c. &c.

Inclosure 1 in No. 34.

*Hajee Meerza Aghassee to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.*

(Translation.)

16 *Jemadee-oos-sanee*, 1263 (*May 31, 1847*).

SINCE your Excellency has made repeated attempts, and has spoken with reference to the purchase and sale of negroes, in conformity with your request I have made great efforts to obtain from His Majesty the issue of his orders.

With reference to the negroes the positive commands of His Majesty are as follows:—"That according to what I have heard, the English Government have entered into a compact with European as well as other

Sovereigns; and they too have agreed that negroes should not be sold in the market like sheep. If this kind of agreement be made, there is no great harm in it, but that I should prohibit the importation and sale of them, whether by land or by sea, is contrary to my religion and the commands of God. This request is at variance with my faith, which is impossible and out of my power to perform."

Since it was necessary to inform you of His Majesty's commands, I have given you this trouble.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 34.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Hajee Meerza Aghassee.*

(Translated into Persian.)

June 1, 1847.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Excellency's letter of yesterday's date. The Convention which Great Britain has entered into with the other European States, is to the effect that Africans shall not be transported from their own country as slaves. Among the Powers which have entered into this engagement, are Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Holland, Portugal, Russia, Spain, and latterly Turkey.

But your Excellency has given no reply to the various letters in which I proved so distinctly that this Government had given reiterated promises to follow the example of Turkey, and to yield compliance with the wishes of Great Britain, when the imaginary religious difficulties were removed, and which the decrees of various priests of reputation so fully accomplished. Both in writing and verbally these promises have been given, and I have been directed by the British Ministers, as I have so often intimated, to press the performance of these promises on the Persian Government.

Will your Excellency take the trouble of replying to those letters, and informing me whether it is the intention of the Persian Ministers to adhere to the promises it has given to the British Government?

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Inclosure 3 in No. 34.

*Hajee Meerza Aghassee to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.*

(Translation.)

18 Jemadee-oos-sanee, 1263 (June 2, 1847).

I HAVE received the letter which your Excellency addressed to me regarding negroes; and I have comprehended its contents from first to last. As I entertain the most sincere friendship for your Excellency, when your letter reached me, and while Meerza Agha, the First Persian Secretary of the Mission, was still with me, I forwarded it to the presence of His Majesty the Shahinshah. His Majesty issued his commands in his own handwriting, a copy of which I inclose herewith for your Excellency's perusal. Let this circumstance not be concealed from your Excellency, that, contrary to what was said by Meerza Agha, as I cannot take a draught of water without the orders and permission of His gracious Majesty. What then must be the case in important affairs?

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Inclosure 4 in No. 34.

*Autograph Note from the Shah to Hajee Meerza Aghassee.*

(Translation.)

COLONEL SHEIL has written that I had given a promise. What did I say to him—what promise did I give? I always said, that acceding to the request of the British Government when contrary to religious law,

was a very serious affair. It is contrary to my religion and faith. He (Colonel Sheil) has written, that Moollahs have issued their decrees—Heaven defend us! One of the Moollahs is Agha Mahmood, who the Minister says was one of those who had written a decree. I showed the Minister his handwriting and signature. The Minister did not write the question to the Moollahs properly, or ask it properly. The English Minister himself acknowledged in my presence that this affair would be the means of preventing negroes from becoming Mahomedans. In this case, let him inquire of the Moollahs, and see what answer they will give. In short, I cannot, because the Minister says it, give up the Mahomedan and Mussulman faith, or act clearly in opposition to the commands of God.

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Inclosure 5 in No. 34.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Hajee Meerza Aghassee.*

(Translated into Persian.)

June 4, 1847.

I DEEPLY lament I cannot persuade the Persian Government to fulfil their promises to abolish the transport of negroes.

His Majesty inquires when he gave me a promise. Did not the Shah declare over and over again, that it would rejoice him to comply with the wishes of Her Majesty the Queen of England, if I could procure the semblance of an excuse to relieve his religious scruples? Did I not produce six decrees that the Prophet of the Mussulmans had pronounced the seller of men to be the worst of mankind? If His Majesty will not accept the ordinances of the chief of his religion, where am I to look for evidence?

The Shah declares he showed me the decree of Agha Mahmood. This was one of the persons who gave me a decree to the above effect, and he moreover added to the words of the Mahomedan prophet, *Tesk owla*. But as I represented to His Majesty at an audience, a decree procured by me is genuine and true, for the priest gives it without any biassed motives; but a decree issued by the orders of the Shah is not of equal value, the wishes of the Sovereign being the only point the Moollah consults. Thus one of the Moollahs to whom His Majesty applied, complained of the dilemma his ignorance of the Shah's wishes placed him in, as he was at a loss which way to shape his decree.

Moreover the decree obtained by His Majesty from Agha Mahmood had no bearing on the present question. That Moollah merely declared that to prohibit a religious war against infidels, or the capture in war of infidels by Mussulmans, was unlawful; but what connection is there between a religious war and the sale of pagan negroes by other pagan negroes?

But I am combating a phantom under the name of religion, for assuredly it is not religion that deters the Shah from yielding this point.

Some political motive must, then, be the impediment. If your Excellency will take the trouble of explaining to me its nature, I feel confident of being able to give such explanations as will satisfy the minds of the Persian Ministers.

Again I repeat that Persia now frustrates the conventions of other nations with England, particularly that formed by Turkey. Could any one have foreseen that such was to be the result of the friendship of England to the present Sovereign of Persia?

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## No. 35.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 22.)*

My Lord,

*Camp, near Tehran, June 27, 1847.*

I TOOK advantage of the conclusion of the Treaty at Erzeroom to address a letter of congratulation to the Shah, and I availed myself of the same occasion to point out to His Majesty the injustice of rendering Mohamrah, which had been annexed to Persia through the mediation of England, a mart for slaves, and therefore preventing in the Shat-ool-Arab the beneficial results which would otherwise follow from the arrangement entered into by Great Britain and Turkey relative to the Traffic in Slaves.

Mr. Thomson waited with my letter on the Shah, by whom it was favourably received. That gentleman made use of an excellent argument and illustration, which appeared to make a strong impression on the Shah, as well as on the Prime Minister. Mr. Thomson said that the prohibition to import by sea, while the right to import by land existed, was in reality nothing more or less than a mere change of route, which was of frequent occurrence in other branches of commerce.

The Shah applauded this argument, and promised he would give it reflection; and Hajee Meerza Aghassee said that now at length he had some tangible grounds for urging the Shah to agree to issue the firman. His promises, however, are, I fear, mere delusion, for I have no reason to hope the firman will yet be granted.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of my letter to the Shah.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

JUSTIN SHEIL.

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

&c.

&c.

&c.

Inclosure in No. 35.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to His Majesty the Shah.*

(Translated into Persian.)

*June 21, 1847.*

SEVERE illness continuing to deprive me of the honour of waiting on Your Majesty, I take the liberty of addressing Your Majesty to offer my respectful congratulations on the conclusion of the Treaty at Erzeroom. The efforts of the mediating Governments to restore harmony between Persia and Turkey, have at length happily been crowned with success, and it is my fervent hope that the two Mahomedan Powers may ever continue to cultivate the most friendly relations in the enjoyment of a peace which Great Britain has been a party in framing.

I have hitherto been unfortunately unable to induce Your Majesty to comply with the wishes of the British Government for the abolition of the importation of slaves into Persia; but as some new circumstances connected with this question have been developed by the Treaty recently concluded, I take the liberty of bringing them to Your Majesty's notice.

Your Majesty is already apprized that Turkey has readily acceded to the wishes of England, and has prohibited the importation of slaves at Bussorah and the contiguous ports belonging to the Ottoman Empire.

Mohamrah, which like Bussorah is situated in the Shat-ool-Arab, has, through the successful negotiations of England, combined with another Power, been irrevocably attached to the Persian dominions. But if slaves should continue to be imported through the Shat-ool-Arab to that port, the engagement of Turkey with England to abolish the importation of natives of Africa will be rendered abortive, and the introduction of negro slaves to those countries will be unabated. From the proximity of Mohamrah and the Island of El Khizr to Bussorah and other Turkish ports, the utmost facility will be afforded for the continuance of the Traffic.

The evils that England and Turkey have combined to repress, far from being mitigated, will be, in all probability, increased, and Mohamrah will become a slave-mart.

The justice and equity which animate Your Majesty will yield an admission that the friendship of England towards an ancient ally which contributed to the perpetual and acknowledged annexation of Mohamrah and El Khizr to Persia, ought not to be attended with such consequences. The Government of the Queen of Great Britain will not allow themselves to believe that the fruit of their unceasing exertions for so many years, is the systematic opposition of Persia to the policy and wishes of Great Britain, and the virtual annulment of the engagements of another Government with England. It would be a deep injustice that the gain of Persia through the instrumentality of England, should be an injury to England.

With the utmost respect I solicit Your Majesty to take this question again into consideration. Every inducement, humanity, civilization, policy, the tradition of the founder of the Mahomedan religion, conspire in favour of an acquiescence in the wishes of the British Government; nor could your Majesty perform any act which could more warmly enlist the feelings and sympathies of the entire British nation towards Persia and Your Majesty's august person.

I at all events entreat Your Majesty to bestow some reflection on the observations I have made, relative to the evils and inconvenience entailed by the absence of any prohibition respecting the importation of slaves at Mohamrah, so that the gratification now enjoyed by the British Ministers at the favourable termination of an arduous negotiation, may not be alloyed by the reflection, that through their labours Mohamrah is likely to become a new avenue for the importation of slaves.

## No. 36.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received October 24.)*

(Extract.)

*Camp, near Tehran, August 31, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of two letters I have addressed to Hajee Meerza Aghassee, in conformity with the orders conveyed in your Lordship's despatch of the 2nd of July, relative to the prohibition to import negroes into this country by the Persian ports of the Persian Gulf. The Persian Minister wrote to me lately that he was at a loss what answer to make to my letters, and that it was advisable I should wait on the Shah to obtain a reply. The audience I yesterday had of His Majesty was succeeded by no better results than on former occasions; and after much conversation, the Shah said it was his intention to send hereafter an Envoy to England, who would discuss the question.

To vanquish the doubts exhibited by the Shah relative to the authenticity of the decrees condemnatory of the sale of human beings, of which translations were inclosed in my despatch of the 27th of April, I produced a book of the traditions of Mahomed, and showed the passage to the Shah. His Majesty admitted the validity of the tradition, but to annul its force, he retained the book to search for other traditions admitting a different interpretation. To my argument, that the prohibition amounted in reality to nothing more, the transit by land being still open, than a change of route, as I had stated in the inclosure No. 2; the Shah replied that fewer negroes would arrive by the land route, and that he could not be responsible for being the cause of preventing one human being from joining the true faith.

I took the liberty of repeating the argument I had used in my letter to Hajee Meerza Aghassee, that His Majesty by his opposition was in reality preventing the natives of Africa from abandoning their idolatrous practices and attaching themselves to the Mahomedan religion, which a large share among them would infallibly do, if they were left in peace, and permitted to advance like other nations in knowledge and civilization. This reason appeared to produce a strong impression



on the Shah, but I am unable to affirm whether it was the impression of conviction or of another feeling.

It may be right to mention that all the discussions on this topic have been conducted by the Shah with perfect good humour, and by me with perfect respect: though at the same time I never neglected the opportunity of proving to the Shah that his opposition was not founded on reasonable grounds.

(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL.

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

*&c.*

*&c.*

*&c.*

Inclosure 1 in No. 36.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Hajee Meerza Aghassee.*

(Extract.)

(Translated into Persian.)

*August 14, 1847.*

RELATIVE to my ill success in persuading His Majesty the Shah to abolish the traffic in African slaves in the Persian ports of the Persian Gulf, I have been directed by the British Government to intimate their extreme regret and deep disappointment at the refusal of His Majesty the Shah to comply with the earnest desire of the British Government on this subject. His refusal has made a stronger impression on the British Government, because the Sultan has agreed to the same request, and because so many religious authorities have declared that compliance with the wish of the British Government and nation would not be contrary to the Mahomedan faith.

The refusal of the Shah must therefore be looked upon by the Queen's Government as an evidence of the want of inclination on His Majesty's part to do that which is agreeable to Great Britain, and it seems to show how little value the Shah attaches to the friendship of England.

I am also directed to say that it is not merely the request of the British Government alone with which His Majesty the Shah refuses to comply, but that it is the strong desire of the whole British nation to which His Majesty pays no regard.

I beg your Excellency will communicate these observations to His Majesty the Shah, who cannot fail to observe how profound has been the impression on the British Government caused by his refusal. I hope His Majesty will review the whole question, and I sincerely trust he will not, by persisting in a refusal, deprive this Government of the sympathy of the British Government and the entire British nation.

Inclosure 2 in No. 36.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Hajee Meerza Aghassee.*

(Translated into Persian.)

*August 29, 1847.*

THOUGH every allowance ought to be made for the multiplicity of affairs in which your Excellency is engaged, still I am sure you will admit that too long a time has passed without an answer to the letter I addressed to your Excellency on the 14th instant, relative to the prohibition for the transport of slaves by sea.

I ardently hope that that answer may be of a nature to strengthen the friendship subsisting between Great Britain and Persia, so that in the vicissitudes from which no nation is exempt, a cause in which the whole British nation is steadfastly engaged, and will never abandon, whatever may be the difficulties, may be the means of securing to each country the good will of the other.

Independent of the numerous decrees of the Moollahs of Tehran, con-

demning, on the authority of the traditions, the sale of human beings, and of the unhesitating assent of the Sultan and the Imaum of Muscat to the wishes of Great Britain, I beg leave to bring to the knowledge of His Majesty the Shah, that the whole of the independent Arab principalities lying between Muscat and Bussorah, have given the most unreserved concurrence to the same view. By not one has any religious objection been urged; yet they are all, the Sultan, the Imaum, and these Arab chiefs, of the same faith fundamentally with His Majesty the Shah, and it is not possible, if any religious impediment really existed, that it should not have been put forth by some of these co-operators in this righteous cause.

I also beg His Majesty to keep in recollection a circumstance which has already been brought to his observation, that in point of fact the request of the British Government amounts to nothing but a change of route. A prohibition to import slaves by sea, while the numerous routes by land are left free and open, may be viewed simply as an act of authority for the regulation of trade which every Sovereign constantly exercises with reference to the other objects of commerce.

Through the intrigues, machinations, and wickedness of slave-dealers, Arab, Persian, and European, the negro population of Africa is in a state of degradation allied to that of the brutes of the earth, and from the same causes, strife, bloodshed, and violence prevail incessantly throughout the land. If these unhappy beings were left in peace, civilization would insensibly extend and flourish, and, like the rest of mankind, they would rise in the scale of humanity. Idolatry would then vanish; beyond all doubt one or both of the two dominant religions of the world would fill its place, and millions, which now worship deities, the work of their own hands, would then adore the one God.

The British nation earnestly invites the Sovereign of Persia not to impede this consummation.

## No. 37.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.*—(Received December 26.)

(Extract.)

*Tehran, October 11, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch from Major Hennell, announcing the capture off Bushire of eleven vessels belonging to Muscat, with slaves on board.

(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL.

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

&c.                      &c.                      &c.

## Inclosure in No. 37.

*Major Hennell to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.*

Sir,

*Bushire, September 16, 1847.*

I REGRET to acquaint your Excellency that several vessels from Lingah on the Persian coast, and the Arabian possessions of his Highness the Imaum of Muscat, have lately arrived at Bushire with cargoes of slaves, brought partly from Berberah, Soor, and Muscat, but as far as I can learn, none from Zanzibar.

2. About 200 slaves have been sold in Bushire; of these the greater portion was composed of Abyssinian females. Due intimation having been given to Captain Lowe, the senior officer of the Indian Navy on this station, of this open violation of Article III of the Treaty for the suppression of the Slave Trade, agreed upon between his Highness the Imaum and the British Government, on the 2nd of October, 1845, he took his

measures with so much prudence and skill, as to capture eleven native vessels belonging to Muscat, with slaves on board, after they had left the port of Bushire and were fairly on the high seas. Many other boats were at the same time searched, but as they had taken the precaution of disposing of all their slaves before leaving port, no proof existed against them of their being engaged in this traffic, and they were consequently liberated and allowed to proceed on their voyage.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) S. HENNELL.

No. 38.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Farrant to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received  
January 27, 1848.)*

My Lord,

*Tehran, November 12, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose for your Lordship's information a copy of a report on the Slave Trade in the Persian Gulf, by Lieutenant Kembball, assistant to the Resident at Bushire, which has lately been forwarded to this Mission by Major Hennell.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) J. FARRANT.

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

Inclosure in No. 38.

*Report on the Slave Trade of the Persian Gulf by Lieutenant A. B. Kembball.*

D.

Treaty concluded with the Imaum of Muscat by Captain Moresby, on the 29th August, 1822.

Article 1. THE Imaum to agree that all external Traffic in Slaves shall cease, and be abolished for ever from his dominions and dependencies.

2. The Imam to agree that all vessels carrying the flag of his Highness, or belonging to or navigated by his subjects, found or convicted of being engaged in the Traffic of Slaves to other places than his dominions, shall be considered as pirates, and confiscated. The owners, captains, and officers shall be treated as pirates, and have their goods and property forfeited to the Imaum.

3. That all other persons serving on board such vessels as seamen, or in any capacity, who shall not give information of such unlawful transactions to the Imaum or his Governors, within three months after the period of the termination of the voyage, shall be punished by fine, imprisonment, and corporal infliction.

4. His Highness to appoint at such places as His Majesty the King of Great Britain may wish, habitations for the residence of Consuls, agents, and others charged with the suppression of the Slave Trade by English subjects, such Consuls, agents or others are to receive the assistance, on application, of his Highness the Imaum, or his Lieutenant-Governor, or others, for the apprehension and detention of all English subjects who may attempt the Traffic.

5. That no individual may plead ignorance of the limit within which the Slave Trade is confined, the Imaum to agree that all vessels under his Highness' flag, commanded or owned by any of his subjects, found trading in slaves to the southward of the parallel of Cape Delgado, his Highness' most southern possessions in Africa, or to the eastward of a line drawn from that cape past the east point of the Isle of Socotra, or to the Persian shore, shall be liable to seizure and confiscation by any of His

Britannic Majesty's cruizers or officers of customs, or others deputed by any of His Britannic Majesty's Governors, and dealt with the same as if such ship or vessel seized was navigated under the English flag.

6. His Highness the Imaum must engage to publish in all the dominions and dependencies of his Government, the present Treaty, and to consider it equally binding on them all. And finally, to agree that the Treaty is provisional until ratified and confirmed by His Majesty's Ministers on the part of the King of Great Britain, which notification is to be forwarded without loss of time to his Highness the Imaum; nevertheless the Treaty is to be carried into full effect from the present date.

That it may be understood in the most comprehensive manner where Arab ships are liable to seizure by the King of England's ships employed to prevent the illicit Traffic in Slaves, after the expiration of four months from the date of the Treaty, the Imaum to proclaim that all ships under his flag found with slaves on board as cargo, by the King of England's ships employed in the prevention of the Traffic, to the eastward of a line drawn from Cape Delgado, passing sixty miles to the east of Isle Socotra and on to Cape Diu (the western point of the Gulf of Cambay), unless driven by stress of weather, shall be treated in the same manner as if such vessels were under the English flag and navigated by English subjects.

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#### E.

Agreement referring to the Slave Trade subscribed to in the month of April 1838, by the Piratical Sheiks.

In the event of vessels connected with my port, or belonging to my subjects, coming under the suspicion of being employed in the carrying off [literally stealing] and embarkation of slaves, men, women, or children, I do hereby agree to their being detained and searched, whenever and wherever they may be fallen in with on the seas by the cruizers of the British Government; and further, that on its being ascertained that the crews have carried off [literally stolen] and embarked slaves, then their vessels shall be liable to seizure and confiscation by the aforesaid cruizers.

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#### F.

Treaty referring to the Slave Trade, signed by the Piratical Chieftains in July, 1839, and by the Imaum of Muscat in December of the same year.

Article 1. That the Government cruizers, whenever they may meet any vessel belonging to my subjects beyond a direct line drawn from Cape Delgado, passing two degrees seaward of the Island of Socotra, and ending at Pussein, and shall suspect that such vessel is engaged in the Slave Trade, the said cruizers are permitted to detain and search it.

2. Should it, on examination, be found that any vessel belonging to my subjects is carrying slaves, whether men, women, or children, for sale beyond the aforesaid line, then the Government cruizers shall seize and confiscate such vessel and her cargo. But if the said vessel shall pass beyond the aforesaid line, owing to stress of weather or other case of necessity not under control, then she shall not be seized.

3. As the selling of males and females, whether grown up or young, who are hoor or free, is contrary to the Mahomedan religion, and whereas the Soomalees are included in the hoor or free, I do hereby agree that the sale of males and females, whether young or old, of the Soomalee tribe, shall be considered as piracy; and that four months from this date, all those of my people convicted of being concerned in such an act, shall be punished the same as pirates.

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The stealing and carrying away slaves, men, women, and children, whether abud or hoor, according to the Mahomedan acceptation of the

terms bondsmen or free, has been provided for by the Agreement of 1838, and Article IX of the Treaty of 1820.

The third Article of that of 1839 precludes the sale or purchase of individuals coming under the latter denomination. The same pains and penalties may be exacted for the infraction of either of these engagements as are assigned to plunder and piracy.

The third Article of the Treaty of 1839 does not warrant the search of vessels belonging to the Contracting Parties, suspected of having Soomalee slaves on board, by our cruizers, within the line laid down in Article I; and the following is the opinion of a very experienced officer, Captain Hennell, with reference to such a measure being sanctioned: "That, in a general point of view, I quite concur in the doubt expressed in the 8th paragraph of the above communication, as to the inexpediency at the present time, of the measure of searching for and emancipating slaves by our vessels. \* \* \* Such a measure could not be carried into effect in a neutral port like Bushire, and though circumstances might arise to render it advisable we should search the vessels belonging to the Parties to the Treaty for the suppression of the Trade in Soomalees, when upon the high seas, still it is a proceeding which should only be adopted under circumstances of stringent necessity, or where suspicion amounts almost to positive conviction." Not only would the emancipation of the slave follow upon his discovery, but his possessor would be liable to punishment as for a piratical act.

Four Soomalees were restored to liberty in November 1841, when they were given up to the British authorities by the Sheik of Ras el Khymah. They were sent to Aden, to the charge of the Political Agent, who after clothing and giving each a small donation, forwarded them to their native land, Berbereh.

Two more Soomalees were recovered from the same chief early in 1842, and sent to their own country. A third was known to have found her way to Amulgaveen, but from various causes was never released.

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### Slaves.

The first obligation imposed upon the Arab chieftains in the Persian Gulf with reference to the Traffic in Slaves was the provision forming Article IX of the General Treaty of 1820. The words are: "The carrying off of slaves, men, women, and children, from the coasts of Africa or elsewhere, and the transporting them in vessels, is plunder and piracy; and the friendly Arabs shall do nothing of this nature."

This Article has ever been understood and held as forbidding only the carrying off of men, women, and children, as slaves, and the transporting them in vessels when so carried off; although the words may be said to bear the same comprehensive sense of forbidding the carrying off of slaves and the transporting of slaves, however procured, in vessels; but even this most extended acceptation cannot be construed into forbidding the purchase of slaves, and the transport of them overland, unless, indeed, the last clause, which provides that the friendly Arabs shall do nothing of this nature, embraces everything. The Arabic sentence bears precisely the same meaning, and is liable to the same opposite constructions.

It would be manifestly unjust to enforce this Article, imposing the same punishment on dealing in slaves as on piracy, whilst at the same time the Imaum of Muscat, the Turks, the Persians, and all the Arabs not included in this Treaty, are allowed to carry on the Trade. The effect, moreover, would be only to benefit the latter, by throwing the Trade into their hands.

The following observations on this subject, made by Captain McLeod, Resident in 1823, hold good to the present day:

"But in whatever sense the words of the Treaty may be understood by either party, I am convinced that our utmost endeavours to abolish the Slave Trade amongst the parties to the Treaty will be ineffectual, as long

as the other Powers of the Gulf persist in it. We may perhaps put a stop to the carrying off of slaves, but their purchase and transport we never can prevent; the slaves will be disguised and concealed in a thousand ways, so that it will be impossible for us to detect them; and I doubt whether more harm than good might not be done to the cause of humanity, by stopping boats and searching them for slaves, because it would in all cases occasion such disgust and offence as would involve a great risk of a renewal of hostilities.

“I do not believe that any of the Parties to the Treaty do carry off slaves\*, all those they possess being purchased at Muscat and other places. But at all events it would be difficult even in the former case to detect them; in the latter, next to impossible; and with all our efforts, we shall find it impracticable to put a stop to a traffic which is sanctioned by their religion and by immemorial custom, unless it were relinquished by the common consent of the whole of the chiefs of the Gulf.”

Finally, the Bombay Government† thus declared in its letter dated 26th March, 1823:

“The Article relating to the Slave Trade does certainly not bear the construction that has been hitherto put on it. It evidently only alludes to descents made on the coast of Africa for the purpose of making slaves; this is justly declared to be plunder and piracy, terms which it would have been an abuse of language to apply to any trade, however detestable, as long as it was peacefully conducted. In this sense the Article must be understood, but every infringement of it, when clearly established, must be resented exactly as a case of piracy would be.”

On the 29th of August, 1822, a Treaty marked D was concluded with his Highness the Imaum of Muscat, by Captain Moresby, of His Majesty's ship “Menai,” under the instructions of the Government of the Isle of France, for the prevention of the foreign Slave Traffic.

#### Translations

Of the Arabic version by his Highness the Imaum of Muscat, of the requisitions made to him by Captain Moresby, &c.

Of his Highness' answers in Arabic to the Requisitions made by Captain Moresby, &c.

Statement of the Requisitions made by Captain Moresby, of the “Menai,” who arrived at Muscat, on the 9th of Zehujur, in the 1237 year of the Hijree (August 27, 1822), Commissioner vested with full powers by his Excellency Sir Robert Farquhar, Bart., Governor of the Island of the Mauritius

Answers under his Highness the Imaum of Muscat's hand and seal to the foregoing Requisitions made by Captain Moresby, of His Majesty's ship “Menai,” Commissioner, &c.

1st. That you (the Imaum) do instruct all the Governors and au-

1st. I did write last season to all my officers positively prohibiting

\* The Joasmees have been accused of stealing and carrying off slaves from the African coast; but the crime was not proven. They are nevertheless supposed to have been frequently guilty of it.

† Again the opinion of the Right Honourable the Governor-General in Council is conveyed in the 9th paragraph of a letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, dated 22nd March, 1841.—“That with regard to those chieftains who entered into engagements with Sir W. G. Keir in 1820, it will not be prudent or right abruptly, and until by friendly communications a sufficient ground shall have been laid for such a course, to declare all trading in slaves to be piracy and plunder, and to attempt to enforce Article IX, according to the English version of the Treaty, which indeed has been found not to correspond with the native wording, and considering that it has not in consequence been acted upon for the last twenty years. The force of that Article must be considered as in a great measure suspended.”

Suffice it to say, that not one single seizure has been made under its provisions, although twenty-four years have elapsed since the date of its formation, and the Trade continues to flourish.

thorities throughout your dominions to prohibit the sale of slaves by your subjects to Christians of every description.

2nd. That you do issue orders to all your officers throughout your dominions, as well in Zanzibar as in other places, that if they discover the owners of any Arab vessels buying slaves for the Christian market, they do take possession of such vessels, with whatever they may contain, and send them to you (the Imaum) with their commanders and crews for punishment.

3rd. That it be made imperative upon the crews of all ships that shall clandestinely transport slaves to Christian countries, to give on their return to the Arab port whence they set sail, information of such traffic to the Governor or authority at that port, that he may punish the commanders of such ships; also that on failing to give this information they [the crews] shall themselves suffer punishment.

4th. That you give me a written authority from yourself addressed to the Governor of Zanzibar and all other your Governors in that quarter, that they do permit us [the British] to appoint on our own part an agent at every such place in those countries as we shall see fit, and that they do allow such agent a place of residence, in order that we [they] may have intelligence of all vessels that may be found conveying slaves to Christian countries.

5th. That you give us a written authority from yourself, permitting us to seize all vessels that we may find laden with slaves for sale in Christian countries, after the expiration of four months from the date of such permission.

6th. That you do instruct all your Governors that on the sailing of all vessels from their ports, a statement in writing shall be given to the commanders, certifying what port they have left and whither they are bound, in order that if our ships meet such vessels laden with slaves bound for Christian countries, and unfurnished with such written statements, they [British ships] may seize them. Such ships, if found within the line of Madagascar, and in the seas adjacent to Zanzibar and Lamouch, to be carried into Muscat for punishment there; but

the sale of slaves to any Christian nation, and I will repeat these orders.

2nd. I will send orders to all the officers throughout my dominions that if they find [the owners of] any Arab vessel buying slaves for sale in Christian countries, they must take possession of all such vessels, and inflict punishment on the commanders [owners] thereof, even though they be bound for Madagascar.

3rd. I will instruct my officers, and publish generally such instructions throughout my dominions that the crews of any vessels carrying slaves for sale in Christian countries be enjoined on their return to the Arab port, to give information to the authority at such port, that they may punish the commanders; and that if they become to be detected in concealing such information, they [the crews] shall themselves suffer punishment.

4th. The authority you require permitting the settlement of an agent on your part in Zanzibar and the neighbouring ports, for the purpose of tracing intelligence and watching the Traffic in Slaves with Christian nations is granted, and I have given it to Captain Moresby.

5th. The authority you have required permitting [to you] after the expiration of four months, the seizure of all vessels bound for Christian countries, is hereby granted to Captain Moresby.

6th. I will write to my Governors regarding the statement to be given in writing to all ships departing on a voyage, certifying from what port they have come and whither they are bound, and you may seize every vessel you may fall in with beyond Madagascar and in the sea of the Mauritius, after four months from the date of the permission contained in the answer to the 5th Requisition above acceded to; and you may carry into Muscat for my disposal any ship you may meet even on this side [the Isle of France], provided she have not the written statement

all vessels found beyond Madagascar and in the seas of the Isle of France, shall be taken possession of by them [British ships] after four months from the date of the permission required in the preceding Requisition, 5th.

required from the Governor of the port whence she sailed.

#### Remarks

On Requisition 1, 2, 3. The Arabic versions of these first requisitions made by Captain Moresby, are essentially similar, although much verbal discrepancy is visible between the English and Arabic.

Requisition 4. The latter part of the requisition, from the words "such Consuls," to the end, is wholly omitted in the Arabic version, which as far as it goes, corresponds with so much of Captain Moresby's requisition as precedes the English words here cited.

Requisition 5. In the Arabic version of this letter there is some verbal discrepancy, but there does not seem to be any essential difference from the English.

Requisition 6. The Arabic of this requisition contains all that is required by Captain Moresby, with the addition of the following words: "such ships if found within the line of Madagascar and in the seas adjacent to Zanzibar and Lamouch, to be carried into Muscat for punishment there, but all vessels found beyond Madagascar and in the seas of the Isle of France, shall be taken possession of by them [British ships]."

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#### Remarks on the Answers by his Highness the Imaum.

Answer 1, 2, 3. The three first answers of his Highness are substantially as rendered in the translation of Captain Moresby.

Answer 4. The following is a close translation of this answer of the Imaum, which may be contrasted with that given by Captain Moresby:

"The authority you require permitting the settlement of an agent on your part in Zanzibar and the neighbouring ports for the purpose of watching and having intelligence of the Traffic in Slaves with Christian countries is granted, and I now give it to Captain Moresby."

Answer 5. There is nothing in the Arabic of the last clause contained in Captain Moresby's translation of this answer, viz., "you will therefore do according to your wish," but seems implied in the words preceding.

Answer 6. This answer may be contrasted with that furnished by Captain Moresby; it seems to grant even more than is required, inasmuch as it empowers British ships to seize any vessel, without noticing Captain Moresby's provision, viz.: "should she have slaves on board."

2nd. I may observe also in conclusion, that saving the omission by his Highness of the latter clause of Captain Moresby's 4th requisition, the Imaum appears to have granted most fully all that was required of him.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WM. SIMPSON,  
Deputy Persian Secretary to Government.

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#### Remarks.

On examining and comparing the translations, I have herewith the honour to furnish, two remarks only appear to me worthy the serious consideration of the honourable the Governor in Council; the first is, that the 2nd clause of Captain Moresby's 4th Requisition, viz., the engagement on the part of his Highness to direct every aid to be given in the apprehension of English subjects engaged in the Slave Trade in his dominions, is, as I have already stated, utterly omitted in his Highness' version of that requisition. Captain Moresby, I have heard, was not aware of the omission of this clause in the copy signed by the Imaum and by himself, although he plainly saw the Imaum manifested much unwillingness to accede to its terms. It is not for me to say how far this omission may be material; of



this his Excellency in Council will judge. The second remark I would offer is, that for the English word "foreign" used by Captain Moresby, the term "Musareh" (Christian) is almost everywhere substituted in the Imaum's version.

This repeated and particular specification of the "Christian" slave-market would seem indirectly to imply that slave-ships bound for China, Africa, or other countries not Christian, shall be exempted from the operation of the terms of the requisition conceded.

I have the honour to subjoin accurate and nearly literal translations, both of the Arabic version by the Imaum, of Captain Moresby's requisition, and of his Highness' answer; a comparison of these with the English version furnished by Captain Moresby, will enable the honourable the Governor in Council to form a much more correct estimate of his Highness' conduct in this affair than my judgment can afford, and also how far the insertion of my remarks is warranted by their own relevancy.

(Signed) WM. SIMSON,  
Deputy Persian Secretary to Government.

#### Additional Requisition made by Captain Moresby for the suppression of the foreign Slave Trade.

It is absolutely necessary that the line be clearly defined, without which ships, if found loaded with slaves for the foreign market, will, after four months, be dealt with according to the 5th Requisition already agreed to. Be it understood, then, that all vessels loaded with slaves that shall be found by British ships to the eastward (beyond) of a line drawn from the Cape Delgado, and passing sixty miles from Socotra on to Diu Head shall, unless driven there by stress of weather or accident, be seized by our ships.

#### Reply.

I have permitted captains of ships of the Government of the English "Sirkaval Dowlut ul Angleseah" State, to seize all Arab vessels loaded with slaves for the foreign market that shall be found to the eastward of the prescribed line after the expiration of four months from the date of the 5th Requisition already agreed to; but ships driven by stress of weather without the said line must suffer no molestation.

#### Remark.

On a comparison of the foregoing of Captain Moresby's Additional Requisition to the Imaum, with the version furnished by that gentleman, a very considerable difference will be observed between them and on the Imaum's reply. I need hardly remark that his permission is of a nature much more general than seems to be understood by Captain Moresby.

In addition to these very important differences and errors, in the sense and meaning of the Arabic and English versions of the above treaty, some little doubt existed as to the comprehension and latitude of certain passages, particularly that referring to the right of search not being yielded to the honourable Company's cruisers. These doubts and discrepancies were however subsequently removed on the conclusion of a supplementary treaty, consisting of three articles, with his Highness the Imaum, in December, 1839, marked F.

A letter was received from his Highness the Imaum of Muscat at Zanzibar, in July 1837, complaining of the aggressions committed by the subjects of Sheik Sultan ben Sagger upon the inhabitants of that coast, although it was not considered expedient to throw any obstacles in the way of the intercourse so long carried on by the Joasmeees with the coast of Africa; yet it was intimated to his Highness in reply, that he was fully justified in taking such measures as he considered best adapted to protect his subjects from aggressions of the nature complained of.

A few days subsequent to the receipt of the above, a statement was made to the Resident by an individual named Abdullah ben Jwuz (pro-

fessing to be a person of some rank from the African coast), regarding the alleged outrageous proceedings of the crews of some Joasmee boats, in having carried off 233 young girls under the pretence of marriage, and subsequently disposed of them as slaves upon their return to the Gulf. On the Joasmee agent, who happened at the time to be at Bushire, being summoned, and the 9th Article of Sir W. Grant Kier's Treaty with the pacificated Arabs brought to his notice, he denounced the complainant's statement as an unqualified falsehood. He did not mean to deny the fact of slaves having been brought up from the coast of Berberah, but declared that they had been regularly purchased from two tribes in that neighbourhood at war with each other, who were in the habit of selling all the prisoners that fell into their hands. He further denounced Abdullah ben Jwuz as an impostor without any letters or credentials, who would have returned to Muscat without lodging any complaint had Sheik Sultan ben Suggester been willing to make him a small present. Although, notwithstanding the inquiries which were immediately instituted, no proofs could be established to bring the charge home to the Joasmees, who were either innocent of the offence or had found means of concealing the truth from the Government Agent, yet the case had its effect, inasmuch as it opened a wide field for investigation into the nature and extent of the Traffic in Slaves, and led to some discoveries which were duly taken advantage of.

The result of inquiry led to the belief that the Soomalees, from whom a great part of the supply appeared to be drawn, were a free people (according to Mahomedan law), and could not become slaves without violence. The conclusion to be drawn therefrom was, that those conveyed to the Persian Gulf must be either kidnapped or purchased while prisoners of war, a practice to which, even among the generality of Mahomedans, a degree of turpitude attached which, if urged and insisted upon, would tend materially to diminish and circumscribe the Trade.

With a view to prevent the recurrence of such a case as that which formed the subject of Abdullah ben Jwuz's complaint, Sheiks Sultan ben Suggester, Rashid ben Humeed, Mukhtoom ben Butye, and Khaleefa ben Shakboot, the chiefs of Ras el Khymah, Ejinan, Debaye, and Aboothabee, were induced to enter into and sign an article of an agreement (dated 17th April, 1838,) marked E, conceding to our cruizers the right of searching and detaining vessels upon the high seas in all cases where their crews might be suspected of having been engaged in the kidnapping of slaves, and at the same time to admit the further right of seizing and confiscating them in case the suspicion proved to be well-founded.

Up to this time, 1838, vessels engaged in the Slave Trade were (according to the Treaty concluded by Captain Moresby, of His Majesty's ship "Menai" with his Highness the Imaum, on the 9th August 1822) liable only to seizure if found "to the eastward of a line drawn from Cape Delgado, passing east of Socotra, and on to Diu Head, the western point of the Gulf of Cambay;" but as a further advance toward circumscribing the field for the protection of the Slave Trade in these quarters, and diminishing the number of marts for the sale and purchase of human beings, the President, in July 1839, succeeded in engaging the maritime Arab chiefs mentioned in the margin\*, to accede to the wishes of the British Government, by attaching their seals and signatures to a† new engagement, marked F, the first Article of which gave to our vessels the right of search beyond a line drawn from Cape Delgado, passing two degrees seaward of the Island of Socotra to Pussein on the Mekran coast. The second rendered vessels belonging to the above chiefs or their subjects found with slaves on board, beyond the limits specified, liable to

\* Sultan ben Suggester, Ras el Khymah, Khaleefa ben Shakboot, Aboothabee, Mukhtoom ben Butye, Debaye, Abdoollah ben Rashid, Amulgaveen.

† The warmest commendation of the Honourable the Governor in Council was communicated to the Resident, Captain Hennell, for his valuable exertions in obtaining such extensive concessions, whereby Government had it in its power effectually to exclude this nefarious trade on the long line of coast extending from Bombay to Cape Paperia. A very considerable traffic in slaves had long been known to have been carried on more particularly from Africa, with the Portuguese settlement of Diu, with the Port of Mandavie in Cutch, and with those in Sindh.

seizure and confiscation, and the third made the sale of Soomalees an act of piracy.

To this engagement, which modified and formed an addition of three new Articles to the Treaty concluded by Captain Moresby in 1822, the Imaum was induced to become a party in December of the same year. Under the sanction of Government, it was subsequently intimated to the several chiefs subscribing to the treaties, that instructions had been issued to the British Political Agent at Muscat, that on all occasions where suspicion might arise of any of their vessels touching at Muscat having Soomalees on board, he should without delay obtain the sanction of his Highness the Imaum for an immediate inquiry into the facts of the case; and in the event of the suspicion proving well founded, make an application to his Highness to lay an embargo upon such vessels, until a reference could be made either to the Persian Gulf Residency or to the Government.

1837-38. The practicability of inducing his Highness the Imaum of Muscat and the Arab chiefs in the Gulf, to prohibit and abolish the Traffic in Slaves altogether, was at one time brought under consideration, but the arguments and facts at the time urged, as follows, proved the utter inutility of so partial a measure.

That in the first place it would be impracticable to induce his Highness the Imaum of Muscat, and the Arab chiefs in the Gulf, to put an end to the Traffic in Slaves without such a large pecuniary sacrifice being made on the part of the British Government, as would most likely be considered altogether inexpedient; and in the second place, that were such a sacrifice made, the humane and philanthropic objects of the Government would still be defeated by further impediments and difficulties, for which no remedy could probably be found.

The 9th Article of Sir W. Grant Keir's Treaty of 1820, as before mentioned, had never been held binding to the fullest import of which it could bear the application.

Since that date, a period of seventeen years has passed over without the question having been agitated, and thus the several parties concerned had acquired a sort of prescriptive right never questioned by the Government, to consider that the 9th Article was inserted solely with the view of guarding against the forcible carrying away of individuals for the purpose of selling them as slaves, and not meant to prohibit altogether a Traffic which is not only in accordance with the letter and spirit of their religion, but which long continuance and custom have rendered almost indispensable to their domestic comfort.

Assuming, however, that the 9th Article of the document before referred to, bears the interpretation best suited to our views and policy, and that our right to act upon it, although allowed to be so long in abeyance, is nevertheless liable to be called into operation whenever we may consider it expedient to do so, still it must be borne in recollection, that even on the Arabian side of the Persian Gulf alone neither his Highness the Imaum, nor the chiefs of Sohar, Kateef, or Koweit, are parties to this Treaty, and therefore their consent to a total prohibition of the Traffic in our fellow-creatures could only be obtained by means of negotiation, and the offer of such advantages as would in their estimation compensate for the loss they sustained in the surrender of a practice uniting both profit and convenience. A great proportion of the revenue of his Highness the Imaum is drawn from this source, and he is said to have declared, that in consequence of his having allowed himself to enter into the agreement with Captain Moresby of the Royal Navy, engaging to prohibit the Slave Trade with European Powers within certain limits, he has sustained a diminution on his revenue to the extent of 100,000 crowns, and that he is resolute in his determination not to afford any further concession upon this point. But even admitting that either through our influence, or the payment of an annual pecuniary compensation, the parties alluded to consented to enter into an engagement for the total suppression of the Slave Trade, it is to be feared that the attainment of the humane objects contemplated by the Government would be still as distant as before. The

reason for entertaining this opinion is, that the only effect of prohibition, if it could be enforced in the ports on the Arabian side of the Gulf, would be to throw the whole of this infamous Traffic into the hands of the inhabitants of Bussorah and Mohamrah (subjects of the Ottoman Porte), and those of Bushire, Congoon, Asseeloo, and Lingah, the principal sea-ports of Persia. It is unnecessary to observe, that in the present state of our relations with both these Governments, no interdiction of the Traffic in question could be carried into effect, unless under the express sanction of their respective authorities. Taking, however, into consideration, that the sale and purchase of slaves is not only permitted by the tenets of their faith, but that the discontinuance would greatly abridge what habit and custom have led their subjects to value as a domestic convenience, for some time at least, it is hopeless to look for such a sanction being afforded. In addition to these impediments, there exists the probability that were the inhabitants in the Gulf to relinquish the Traffic at present carried on in slaves, the place of their vessels would be immediately occupied by those from the Red Sea, the coast of Mekran, Sinde, &c., &c. It may at the same time be reasonably anticipated, that even those Powers whose consent to our views may be exacted or purchased, will exhibit little more than a nominal adherence to their engagements, unless compelled to do so by our own maritime force. This, however, would involve the necessity of greatly augmenting the number of the vessels of war employed in those seas, and in all probability be attended with the constant risk of entangling us in disputes with the local Governments dependent on Persia, Turkey, and Egypt.

As the inhabitants of Koweit, Bussorah, Congoon, Asseeloo, and Lingah, carry on the traffic in question to a considerable extent, and as these ports are subject to the authority of the Turkish and Persian Governments, it would be useless attempting to enter into negotiations affecting this branch of their commerce, unless through our Ministers at the Courts of Constantinople and Tehran.

The following review of our powers by the foregoing treaties, which form the only restrictions to the Slave Trade, will prove how little calculated these are, from being so very partially directed, to suppress or even check the Slave Trade in these quarters, although they should have the fullest effect in excluding it from the entire shores of India, including the newly-acquired possession. The restrictive Slave Trade line from Delgado to Pussein, leaves a track or road sufficiently large for the safe and convenient navigation of the vessels\* engaged in the Traffic; and circumstances of distress and other unavoidable cause moreover exempt the vessel found beyond it from the penalties laid down by the Treaty. This line too affects only the boats of Muscat, and the ports situated between Ras el Khymah and Aboothabee inclusive. Those of the ports of the coast of Persia and Turkey, such as Lingah, Congoon, Asseeloo, Koweit, and Bussorah, are bound by no engagements whatever, or restricted to no particular limits.

The Agreement E, concluded in April 1838, although it provides against kidnapping on the part of those chiefs subscribing, or their subjects, does not in the latter preclude them from purchasing slaves from others who have kidnapped them; and the difficulties which on the one hand offer to the cruizers in making the distinction, and discovering the actual men-stealers; and on the other, the facilities to the latter in escaping detection, for a very large portion of the slaves have been kidnapped, that is as prisoners of war, have been sold by those into whose hands they have fallen, may be conceived.

Article III of the Treaty of 1839 precluded the parties subscribing

\* No cruizers have hitherto even been assigned to watch the boundary line laid down in Article II; nor in consequence also has any seizure been yet made under its provisions. In any case of seizure, however, another obstacle would appear to present itself to the legal infliction of the penalty specified, in the great difficulty of establishing by proof, such as would be required in a court of law, that the slaves, men, women, and children, are intended for sale, in order to subvert the statement of the commander or owner that such are their own, or the wives, concubines, or personal attendants, male or female, of the other free men on board, or that the males are slaves employed in the navigation of the vessel, and forming a part of its crew.

from the sale or purchase of Soomalees\* *in toto*, that tribe, from professing the faith of Islam, being, according to Mahomedan law, considered hoor or free, in contradistinction to negroes or Abyssinians, who came under the denomination of Abud, or bondsmen. The proportion of the former to the two latter is perhaps as one to one hundred, and these are probably kidnapped or purchased as prisoners of war. There is however much doubt whether, in actual fact, any great degree of moral guilt is considered to attach to Mussulmans engaging in this Traffic. The discovery of an individual of the Soomalee tribe, even when in possession of one of the chiefs subscribing to this agreement, or his subjects, and his consequent restoration to liberty, must be necessarily very rare, and to be accomplished only in spots within the sphere of immediate surveillance of our native agents. With a view to give more full effect, however, to these restrictions, such as they are, valuable suggestions, as below, extracted from the records of the Residency, have from time to time been made, having for their object the eventual and total suppression of the nefarious Traffic.

In all the negotiations which have hitherto been entered into with his Highness the Imaum, and the independent maritime chieftains of the Arabian Coast, the main object in view has been, in the first place, wholly to exclude this hateful Traffic from all places subject to or dependent upon the British Government; and in the next, to narrow as much as possible the facilities of carrying it on within those limits which have hitherto been recognized by us as legitimate in all our intercourse with them. The free and unmolested Traffic in Slaves between the Imaum's possessions on the African coast and the ports in the Persian Gulf within the restrictive line, has always been contended for by all the members of the several treaties which have been entered into touching this Trade; therefore no interference with the native vessels in the Gulf having slaves on board existed on our part excepting in cases where it could be proved that these had been kidnapped by the crews, or their carrying Soomalees for sale. The difficulty attending the production of proof touching the former exception (unless by the aid of qualified agents at Zanzibar and on the African coast) is fully admitted; but there is no possibility of passing an individual of the Soomalee tribe for a negro, and therefore a thorough search of the vessel suspected of having any on board must always tend to their discovery.

Little prospect exists of persuading the Arabian chiefs to resign of their own accord a practice consonant to their social and religious habits, and at the same time uniting profit with convenience. So long as the Sheiks on the coast are satisfied, they are not likely to incur a positive injury or loss from us in consequence of their continuing the existing Traffic in Slaves, they will not consent to any arrangements having in view its abolition. But were a declaration on the part of the British Government made, intimating its being considered expedient and right that the purchase and sale of human beings by the independent maritime

\* In cases where, from insurmountable difficulties and lengthened details, little hopes exist of obtaining surrender of the vessels or persons of those who have been convicted of embarking or selling Soomalee slaves, it was recommended (*vide* Captain Hennell's Letter to Government, of 1st October, 1841,) that the excuse urged by their chief, of the absence of the delinquents, should not be admitted, but that he should be held responsible for their act; and in the event of his persisting in a refusal to produce them, liable to the infliction of a fine of twice the market value of the unhappy individual who has been dragged away into slavery in direct violation of a solemn agreement.

To such a plan, however, there exists the difficulty regarding the disposal of the fine when paid; and it was at the same time suggested that it might, provided no legal objection interposed, be applied to the liberation and purchase from slavery of such Soomalees as their present owners in different parts of the Gulf might be disposed to part with. But it may be questioned whether such an arrangement, while it served to check the traffic in Soomalees among those subscribing to the agreement, would not tend to encourage it among those not parties to the same. A better plan, therefore, would appear to offer itself for the disposal of the fine alluded to, when recovered, in the payment of the amount into the hands of the individual liberated on his return to his native country, as a compensation for the temporary loss of his liberty and the hardships and inconvenience he has suffered. The only other alternative, excepting a prohibition against all or any of the vessels of the offending chiefs or his subjects proceeding to the coast of Africa on any pretext whatsoever, would be to seize the buggalabs belonging to individuals once proved guilty of bringing Soomalee slaves to the Gulf wherever they might thereafter be found. His Highness the Imaum would probably gladly interdict their visiting Zanzibar and other places belonging to himself in the vicinity, and would give our ships authority to seize such vessels as might infringe this prohibition.

chiefs of Arabia should cease after a certain period, and that any infractions of such a prohibition would be punished, it would probably be submitted to without opposition, although rather as an act of authority, it were useless to attempt to oppose or contend against than from any conviction of the justice or propriety of the demand.

Next to such a measure as the above, a great check, if not a total stop, might be put to the Traffic in Slaves, on the part of the independent chiefs on the Arabian coast of this Gulf, were advantage to be taken of the declaration made by his Highness the Imaum, regarding the irregular proceedings of the Joasmees on their coasts, to obtain from his Highness a notification prohibiting their boats from visiting his African possessions, on any pretext whatever, and giving authority to our vessels of war to seize any such boats found cruising within the limits of his territories. So far as it can be ascertained, the only places where slaves can be procured are within such limits, and on the coast of Berberah. As the inhabitants of the latter country are Soomalees, all vessels belonging to most of the Arabian Sheiks of this Gulf are liable to seizure if found with one individual of the latter description on board. But that part of the Gulf of Aden and Zanzibar are only visited by native vessels from this Gulf at certain seasons of the year, from November to May; and therefore arrangements might be made by the political authority at the former port for the due surveillance of the Berberah coast, were it plainly notified to the independent maritime Arabian chiefs that his Highness the Imaum had interdicted their vessels from visiting his possessions in Africa, and that the British Government was prepared to enforce such an interdict by the seizure of all boats attempting to break through or evade it, would certainly check, to a great extent, the traffic in human flesh, so far as they were concerned; as the price of slaves in the Muscat market is probably too high to allow of their being exported from that port for sale in the Persian Gulf at a remunerating profit.

It ought, not, however, to be concealed that such a measure as the one suggested would be very restricted in its operation, and afford but a small mitigation to the general trade in slaves in the Persian Gulf. The total number of native vessels belonging to the independent Arabian chiefs visiting Zanzibar and the Arabian coast, does not exceed eight\*,—a number which cannot carry one-seventh part of the slaves said to be annually disposed of at Bussorah and in the different ports of this sea. The traffic in question is principally carried on by the boats belonging to Soor, and other places between Ras-ul-Hud and Muscat, subject to his Highness the Imaum, and which, of course, as well as all Persian and Turkish vessels,

\* Extract of a letter from Colonel Robertson to Government, 4th March, 1842. Captain Hennell's plan for enlisting the Imaum in our attempt to hinder the Arab chiefs from trading in slaves, appears to me to be merely calculated to throw the trade into the Imaum's hands. To put down the Slave Trade, therefore, it is useless to check the carriers of one-seventh part of the trade, while the carriers of the other six-sevenths are not checked. It is obvious, indeed, that such a check would only transfer the other seventh to the hands and enterprise of other persons, and that the Trade itself would not be diminished.

Whatever measure, therefore, we adopt to put down this trade, ought to have a general application and bearing. A check on one individual, and not on all traders, should be deemed no check at all.

But to obtain a right for stopping all traders through treaties and negotiations would be an endless task, and in many cases one that is altogether impossible. I am decidedly of opinion, therefore, that the shortest and simplest form of check we shall ever be able to impose, is to obtain possession of the sea-ports or line of coast of Africa, whence the slaves are exported, and to prevent the arrival there of slaves from the interior, or the sale of them. Such a position would be but little expensive, I think, in comparison of the system of search at sea and in harbours (even of African harbours), and would enable us, without a single treaty with any of the rulers of the Arabian coast and Persian Gulf, to put down the whole traffic through its present channel.

How such a command of the African ports is to be acquired I am unable to say. Possibly it may be deemed impracticable; but if it is not, it presents, in my estimation, the most effectual method of carrying our point.

My Lord Palmerston's offer to the Imaum of Muscat of 2000*l.* a-year for three years, appears to me to be totally inadequate to cover the losses which that chieftain would sustain by the abolition of the Slave Trade; for it appears by the fourth paragraph of Captain Hamerton's letter to the Honourable the Secret Committee, dated the 14th May, 1841, that almost all his subjects are slaves, and that he sells as well as exports them to Arabia and the Persian Gulf. We should therefore consider the whole value of his subjects annually sold by him, and not merely the customs' duties of his ports exacted from other slave-dealers, if we adopt a pecuniary principle of remuneration for inducing him to abandon his Slave Trade.

would be quite unrestricted by any measure of the nature of that suggested to be employed, in the case of those Sheiks who have Treaties on this subject with us; so that, while the Muscat, Turkish, and Persian ports remain open markets for slaves, the diminution which we may perhaps succeed in effecting on the Arabian side of the Gulf, will be most likely met by a nearly corresponding addition to the traffic of the places above alluded to.

Were it, however, possible to obtain from the Turkish and Persian Government a prohibition to the sale of slaves in the several ports belonging to them in the Persian Gulf and River Euphrates, and at the same time to receive authority for our vessels of war to enforce such an interdict, I should entertain every hope, with the aid of an efficient squadron, of seeing the Slave Trade in this quarter completely suppressed in the course of a very few years.

#### Kinds of Slaves imported into Persia through the Southern Ports.

Slaves imported into Persia through the southern ports are of two kinds,—the Sewahilee, or African, from the coast of Zanzibar, the territory principally of the Imaum of Muscat, and Hubshee, or Abyssinian, from the shores of the Red Sea, Jedda, Howdeidah, Mocha, &c.

#### People engaged in making Slaves.

Slaves are but rarely kidnapped by the crews of the boats in which they are shipped for exportation, or indeed by the merchants themselves immediately on the coast, but by people employed for that purpose in the interior. A proportion are prisoners made in the petty wars between hostile tribes, and sold by them into slavery.

#### Primary Slave-markets.

To what Ports eventually conveyed for sale.

Muscat and Soor are the principal primary ports to which slaves, from whencesoever shipped, whether Zanzibar or the Red Sea, are brought, and whence they are eventually carried into Turkey, Persia, Sindh, the Arab States, and even our own territories, the western coast of India. The boats conveying them make coasting voyages, selling individuals of their live cargo at the several ports at which they may touch. Of the above countries, Turkey consumes by far the greatest proportion, Bussorah and Bagdad being the largest marts.

Few vessels go direct from the Persian Coast to Zanzibar.

No vessels proceed direct to Zanzibar from any of the Persian ports, with the exception of Lingah, whence three or four boats are annually dispatched, each returning with about seventy slaves.

#### Season for prosecution of Traffic in Slaves in the Persian Gulf.

The season for the Gulf Traffic in Slaves is included between the 1st July and the 1st November.

#### Method of disposing of Slaves at the Persian Ports.

At Bushire and the other Persian ports there are no particular spots allotted for slave-markets, nor day fixed for the sale. On the arrival of a boat, the owner takes the slaves, or a number of them forming his cargo to a hired dwelling, where they are sold privately, or to a caravanserai,

where they are publicly exposed for sale. Should the market happen to be overstocked, or the owner find any obstacle to the expeditious disposal of his property, they are re-shipped and conveyed to Mohamrah, or Bussorah, or even to Bagdad, at either of which places they are pretty certain of finding a ready sale.

#### Treatment and occupation of the African Slaves.

The treatment of the African slaves is at no time either severe or cruel. During the sea voyage they are not bound, or kept under particular restraint. Rice, dates, and fish, in sufficient quantities, form their food, and a coarse cloth round the middle of the body constitutes their only clothing.

From the moment of their purchase at their eventual destination, however, their condition is materially improved, and considered in the light of valuable property, liable to loss from sickness or death, are comfortably provided for and amply fed by their masters. They in return work hard, willingly, and well, and are apparently happy and contented.

#### Occupation.

Mules are furnished for their conveyance when purchased for resale in the interior. The males are employed in all hard and out-door work. the females in cooking and other domestic but menial duties, and but very rarely as concubines, except among the poorer and lower classes.

#### Treatment of Hubshees or Abyssinians.

The Hubshee slaves of either sex are at all times much cared for, well clothed, and well fed, and treated by their masters with almost equal attention with the members of their own families.

#### Occupation.

The males are early sent to school, and having learnt to read and write, are employed in the performance of house duties, as peishkhidmuts, &c., and not unfrequently, if intelligent, in the most trustworthy situations, as supercargoes of vessels, stewards, and superintendents. The females are most generally retained as concubines, or employed as attendants in the harem, in bringing kaleeoons and other light duties. The honesty and intelligence of the Hubshee slaves are almost proverbial.

#### Eunuchs.

Nubian and Hubshee eunuchs are rare, are of very great price, and only purchased for the service of the King, nobles, and very rich merchants.

Boys are made eunuchs previous to their embarkation; and it is reported that in consequence of the ignorance of the operators, and the cruel mode of operation, of ten thus mutilated, one only on average survives.

The following statement of the numbers annually imported and sold at the Persian ports, is the result of inquiries made at Bushire :—

	Africans.	Abyssinians.
At Bushire . . .	250	25
Lingah . . .	350	15
Congoon . . .	150	10
Bunder Abbas . . .	300	20



And allowing an importation of 100 or 150 of the former, and 10 of the latter, to Asseeloo and other numerous small ports, would give a total of 1150 and 80 respectively annually imported into Persia through the ports in the Gulf: but this by no means forms the whole number that find their way into the interior of that country. The large number of pilgrims that proceed annually to Mecca and Kerbelah return with slaves averaging, rich and poor, one to each pilgrim.

An estimate of the number of slaves conveyed annually to Koweit, Bussorah, and Mohamrah, may be pretty accurately formed from the following abstract statement derived from a register which was kept during a portion of one season at Karrack during the period that island was occupied by the British troops.

Abstract statement showing the number of boats belonging to particular ports arrived at Karrack in August, September, and October, 1841, having slaves on board.

Number of Vessels belonging to which Port.	Greatest number in one boat.	Least number in one boat.	Number of Slaves.			Average of Slaves per boat.	REMARKS.
			Males.	Females	Total.		
6 to Koweit .. ..	40	5	38	65	103	17	Of these boats, there were 5 bound for Koweit (or Grane), and 112 (or all the rest) for Bussorah.  The boats, in general, appear to have set out from the ports to which they belong.
36 to Soor (Muscat) ..	28	2	212	143	355	10	
16 to Muscat .. ..	42	1	92	74	166	10½	
1 to Island of Humra ..	12	12	2	10	12	12	
2 to Khaboory .. ..	5	2	6	1	7	3½	
6 to Sohar (Muscat) ..	44	4	33	54	87	14½	
20 to Lingah .. ..	27	1	72	122	194	9¾	
1 to Maharaj .. ..	40	40	20	20	40	40	
1 to Charrack (Persia) ..	23	23	6	17	23	23	
15 to Ras-el-Khymah ..	26	1	62	81	143	9½	
1 to Aboothabee .. ..	1	1	..	1	1	1	
1 to Bahrein .. ..	1	1	..	1	1	1	
2 to Moghoo .. ..	1	1	1	1	2	1	
1 to Kishm (Persia) ..	2	2	..	2	2	2	
1 to Yemen .. ..	11	11	6	5	11	11	
1 to Amulgavine .. ..	2	2	2	..	2	2	
111 boats .. ..	..	..	552	597	1151		
6 other places .. ..	..	..	26	42	68	22½	
117 boats .. ..	44	1	578	639	1217	10½	

The aggregate here may be fairly increased by one-half, on account of the lapse of a portion of the season before the register was commenced, and on account of boats conveying slaves which probably proceeded direct to their destination without touching at Karrack, and would thus amount to 1828.

Supposing that the trade in slaves with the ports on the Arabian coast since 1831, when an estimate was made by Major Wilson, then

Resident, has not materially altered, we shall have in addition to the above—

300 slaves to Bahrein ;

30 to Ras-el-Khymah ; and supposing

100 more to the ports of Debaye, Amulgavine, Ejinan, and Aboothabee,

430; making a grand total of 3,488 annually received into Persia, and five or six small towns of Arabia only.

Large as this number may appear, it is allowed with regret, that if any error has been made, it has been on the side of detraction, and not of exaggeration ; and it must be further remembered that it does not include the slaves brought to Muscat for sale on the spot, or for exportation, as before stated, to the ports of Sinde, and even India.

The improved means of gaining information, and the greater earnestness with which the attention of the British Political Agent has been directed to the Traffic in Slaves, would account for the apparent increase in the number of individuals now annually imported, when compared with estimates of former years.

Of African slaves imported the number of males bears a pretty equal proportion to that of the females.

Of Hubshees the greater number are females, in the proportion perhaps of two to one.

Price of Africans at Zanzibar :

Boys from 7 to 10 years of age . . . . .	7 to 15 dollars.
„ 10 to 20 „ . . . . .	15 to 30 „
Full-grown men . . . . .	17 to 20 „

The females are somewhat more valued than the males : a good stout lass will sell for 35 or 40 dollars. The profit on the above at Muscat is 20 per cent., and at Bussorah and Bushire never less than 50 per cent.

The Hubshee females are much prized for their beauty and symmetry of figure ; their value from 60 to 200 dollars, or indeed to any amount. The males also are much valued ; their price from 50 to 150 dollars, and upwards.

The slaves of either sex, whether Hubshee or African, of an age exceeding 20 years, on their first sale, are of less comparative value, from their being at that mature age less tractable, and taking less kindly to the language, religion, and customs of their masters.

A tax amounting to about half a dollar is levied upon every slave at the ports of Bussorah, Bushire, Lingah, Bunder Abbas, and Muscat.

While every attempt is being made to confine and suppress the Slave Trade in these and all other foreign quarters, it is worthy of remark, that notwithstanding every precaution, and the risk of severe punishment, the Traffic in Slaves is being carried on, although to a very limited extent, on our shores. Negroes and Abyssinians are imported into India, and Indian boys and females exported in return. Of the latter an adequate estimate may be formed from the accompanying statement in the margin\*, showing

\* May, June, 1839.—An Indian girl recovered from slavery. She had been purchased, then five years old, at Mangalore, five years previous, by Abdullah ben Khuleef, an inhabitant of Ras-el Khymah, from Saeed, the servant of Syed Suffor a dullal, or broker of that place. On his arrival at Muscat, dreading the consequence of this proceeding, he voluntarily gave her up to the Native Agent there. The owner of the butul in which she had been brought at the same time entered a protest of his entire ignorance of the circumstances under which the child had been embarked in his vessel. She was returned to the place of her nativity.

1841.—An Indian girl liberated by the Native Agent, after she had been publicly sold in the slave-market at Muscat.

January, February, 1842.—Through the laudable exertions of Khojah Reuben, the Native Agent at Muscat, two Indian girls were liberated from slavery, and subsequently restored to their homes. The one had been decoyed and kidnapped, and quietly embarked from Calcutta ; the other, from Mangalore, had been sold or given away by her step-mother.

February 1843.—Another Indian girl recovered from slavery at Muscat. Belonging, as she did, to the Imaum's sister, the Native Agent was compelled to pay her value, but did so under a protest. The money was subsequently recovered.

May 1843.—An Indian girl was recovered by the Sheik of Bunder Abbas from some Persian

those only which have within the last three or four years been discovered and restored to home and liberty at one port alone (Muscat), through the exertions of our late very intelligent Agent, the Jew, Khojah Reuben.

In the month of February of the year 1841, the Governor of Bombay directed that a strict investigation should be made, with a view to ascertain the correctness of a report which had reached the Home Government, that vessels belonging to his Highness the Imaum of Muscat were in the habit of bringing negro slaves from Africa for sale at Bombay, and of taking back Hindoo females for the same purpose at Zanzibar.

The following is the result of the first inquiries, in the words of the Resident, Captain Hennell.

It is with much regret that I have ascertained from the statement made by Khojah Reuben, that there is but too much reason to believe that the reports made to Her Majesty's Government are not without foundation. I must, however, still report my firm conviction, that his Highness the Imaum is not in the slightest degree aware that such a nefarious Traffic is carried on by his vessels.

So far as I can learn, the manner in which slaves are introduced into our Indian possessions, is by the males being classed on board the Arab vessels, on which they are embarked as part of the crew, while the females are passed off as their wives. As a large portion of the crew of native boats is frequently composed of negroes, it must of course be extremely difficult, if not impossible, for any examining officer to ascertain whether the Africans on board are *bonâ fide* seamen, or bought for sale. I am told moreover, that so little repugnance is in general entertained by the negroes themselves to be sold out of the vessels bringing them, that both males and females readily join in the deception, and if interrogated seldom if ever fail to corroborate the statement of the nakhoda, or commander, as their composing part of the equipage of the vessel or boat.

It was at the same time admitted that great difficulty was experienced in kidnapping and embarking Indians; that few only were obtained annually, and those only by stealth.

The Agent further stated that great numbers of negroes and Abyssinian slaves were yearly landed in Bombay, the females being dressed up as men, while others he asserted were passed through the guards by means of bribes.

The purchasers of such slaves are said to be generally from Lucknow and the Deccan.

The country craft which trade between the Gulf and Bombay and the Malabar coast, almost all touch at the principal ports within the Gulf, and at Muscat and Soor, either to take in water or goods, before they strike across the Arabian and Indian Seas. Some of these belong no doubt to chiefs with whom we have treaties, but by far the greater number of this description of boats on that line are the property of horse-dealers and other merchants of Bussorah, Koweit (or Grane), Bushire, Bahrein, and other smaller places on these shores, and of Bombay, &c.

The temptation presented to these traders of taking a few slaves to India is very obvious; for the risk, at present at least, is next to nothing. The market being shut, the contraband importation of slaves must yield something, though but little beyond the usual profit, to those who venture on it. The facility with which slaves can be purchased in Lingah, Kishm, Muscat, Soor, and other ports, and secretly conveyed on board, is not greater than that with which they can be landed on the coast of India. There is no effective arrangement in operation for searching such vessels as carry these slaves, either at sea by our cruisers, or on arriving at Bombay or elsewhere; and even if a very expensive establishment were maintained at sea, and in the bays and landing-places along the whole

pilgrims on their way into the interior. She was sent to the charge of the Native Agent at Muscat, who forwarded her to the Presidency.

June 1843.—Four Indians were discovered to be in slavery at Muscat. Nor was it until the lapse of an entire year that their liberation could be effected, notwithstanding repeated remonstrances addressed to Syed Soweynee, the Governor. The peremptory orders issued by his father, his Highness the Imaum, at the representation of the British Government, had at length the desired effect.

July 1843.—A Malabaree woman released from slavery and sent to Bombay.

coast of Western India, for inspecting large boats and every little boat which touches the shore, means would still be found, and an agency kept at work, to defeat with considerable success these endeavours.

In June of the year 1841, the "Kheleeya Kussum," a native ship under British colours, whose owner, Jwuz ben Hamran, was on board, arrived at Muscat from Mocha, and the Persian passengers landed 45 male and female slaves.

The owner, on the circumstance being discovered and brought to his notice, lost no time in substituting the flag and register of his Highness the Imaum for those of the British Government, from a consciousness probably that he had rendered himself and vessel subject to heavy penalties for his infraction of the Regulations existing in Great Britain and her dependencies against the Slave Trade. No further steps were taken in the matter, further than that his Highness the Imaum withdrew the protection of his flag at the request of the British Government. The owner, upon this, after incurring much loss from detention, and constantly under dread of impending punishment, adopted the Mocha colours obtained from the Shereef, and eventually sold his vessel.

This was probably not the first case, nor has it been the last in which the protection and character of the British flag have been made subservient to the interests of slave-owners, nor can ignorance of the rules and regulations of Government with reference to the Slave Trade be fairly urged as an excuse by the owners and commanders, for becoming parties to such nefarious transactions.

It may with confidence be asserted that with very few exceptions, ships under British colours, owned by natives of India or naturalized subjects, commanded by European officers, and having an Arab or native supercargo, carry a certain proportion of slaves not perhaps intended for sale, but as the concubines or personal attendants of the latter: further, that a certain proportion of the crews of buggalahs, carrying the British pass and colours, trading between India and the ports of the Persian Gulf, are slaves. It is needless to remark the facility with which a few destined for sale at Bombay or elsewhere, could be entered on board as sailors, and the difficulty of making the distinction unless the individuals would themselves come forward and assert their natural rights.

(Signed) A. B. KEMBALL,  
Assistant Resident, Persian Gulf.

No. 39.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Farrant to Viscount Palmerston.— (Received March 4.)*

(Extract.)

*Tehran, December 18, 1847.*

I HAVE repeatedly endeavoured to urge his Excellency the Hajee to comply with the wishes of Her Majesty's Government to issue a firman forbidding the importation of slaves into Persia by the ports of the Persian Gulf; and his Excellency has several times promised to give me his support, and to bring it to the favourable notice of the Shah, but that he must have a suitable occasion, as His Majesty had deep-rooted religious feelings on the subject. The sacred month (the Moharrem) and the late indisposition of His Majesty have intervened to postpone it for the present.

(Signed) F. FARRANT.

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

§c. §c. §c.

## No. 40.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Farrant to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 28.)*

(Extract.)

*Tehran, January 26, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose for your Lordship's information, the copy of despatch from Major Hennell to the address of Colonel Sheil, together with the copy of an extract from a letter from the agent at Bahrein.

To day his Excellency the Hajee has again assured me that he will bring the Slave Trade to the favourable consideration of the Shah, on the receipt of the ratification of the Turco-Persian Treaty.

(Signed) F. FARRANT.

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

*&c.*

*&c.*

*&c.*

Inclosure 1 in No. 40.

*Major Hennell to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.*

(Extract.)

*Bushire, November 26, 1847.*

YOU will doubtless learn with regret, from the inclosed translated extract of a letter from our Agent at Bahrein, dated the 15th ultimo, that the Traffic in Slaves by the inhabitants of the Persian coast is on the increase, and that, availing themselves of the impunity with which they alone can carry on this Trade, they have begun to convey slaves into the ports of those chiefs on the Arabian coast who have engaged to suppress this inhuman branch of commerce on the part of their own subjects.

(Signed) S. HENNELL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 40.

*The Agent at Bahrein to Major Hennell.*

(Translation.)

(Extract.)

*(4 Zilkad) October 15, 1847.*

AT this time a Kishm buglah has arrived here with slaves on board, which she embarked at Lingah. A person who came some time before reported that a number of vessels carrying slaves, and bound for Bussorah (on information being received of the captures made by the Government ships), put into the Persian coast and disembarked their cargoes. The consequence now is, that whoever comes to Bahrein from Lingah, or elsewhere in that neighbourhood, brings slaves from those ports for sale at this place.

On learning that slaves had been brought to Mahurrug, I went there in person and ascertained that a native of Lingah had embarked them at that port in a Kishm buglah.

No. 41.

*Viscount Palmerston to Lieutenant-Colonel Farrant.*

(Extract.)

*Foreign Office, March 30, 1848.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 18th of December, 1847.

I have to instruct you to state to the Persian Government, that Her Majesty's Government conclude that the Shah would have the power to prohibit, if he thought fit to do so, the importation into or the exportation from the Persian territories, of any article of commerce, such

as grain, cloth, arms, gunpowder, or other things, the importation or exportation of which is in itself and abstractedly a lawful transaction; and if such be the case, Her Majesty's Government do not see why the Shah should not have a similar power to prohibit the importation of slaves.

Her Majesty's Government have now waited many months in the hope that the Shah would have seen reason to reconsider the decision which he came to upon this subject. But they have received with the utmost regret the intelligence of the pertinacity of the Shah in refusing to forbid his subjects from carrying on a traffic which inflicts such miseries on the unfortunate race who are its victims. Her Majesty's Government have also learnt that the subjects of the Shah are now carrying on the Slave Trade which was formerly carried on by the subjects of the Imaum of Muscat and of the maritime chiefs of the Persian Gulf, and which the Imaum and those chiefs have prohibited.

I have accordingly to instruct you again to press the Persian Government in the most earnest manner to prohibit their subjects or flag from being employed in the cruel practice of transporting natives of Africa across the sea for the purpose of consigning them to slavery; and to grant power to Her Majesty's ships and to those of the East India Company to suppress the Traffic.

(Signed)

PALMERSTON.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Farrant,*

*&c.*

*&c.*

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## MUSCAT.

No. 42.

*Captain Hamerton to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 12.)*

(Extract.)

*Zansibar, December 23, 1846.*

I HAVE the honour to state for your Lordship's information, that his Highness the Imaum of Muscat is in expectation of a communication from your Lordship, relative to the Agreement signed on the 2nd of October, 1845, for the suppression of the export of slaves from his Highness' African possessions.

His Highness is in great doubt and anxiety as to the conduct likely to be pursued by the maritime chiefs of the Persian Gulf, over whom he has no control and with whom it is necessary for the Imaum to preserve as far as possible the most friendly relations.

His Highness has written to those chiefs informing them of his having concluded the Agreement with Her Majesty, and telling them that they could not now procure slaves from the African possessions, and that their vessels being found at sea with slaves on board, coming from his African dominions, would bring upon them the displeasure of the British Government. They have been in the habit of stealing numbers of slaves from the Imaum's African dominions every year, even from Zanzibar, yet the Imaum has never been able to prevent their doing so. They come to Zanzibar in considerable numbers, but the Imaum's people could not come to open rupture with them; and when it is considered and understood with what ease the maritime chiefs of the Persian Gulf (on both coasts) could procure the Turkish and Persian flags to cover their vessels, it is somewhat difficult to foresee how they can at present be prevented from carrying slaves from the coast of Africa, even from places within the dominions of the Imaum of Muscat.

On various occasions lately during conversations I have had with his Highness, he has alluded to the loss of revenue he will sustain when this Agreement comes into operation; yet whatever his Highness could do to meet the wishes of the British Government, he certainly has done, and he has given to his officers on the coast of Africa subject to his control, the most positive and peremptory orders to prevent the export of slaves from his dominions; but when the great profit derived from the sale of slaves, and the Traffic being so consonant to the feelings of the Arabs, is duly considered, it cannot be wondered at if at first instances of his Highness' orders being disregarded may be found to exist.

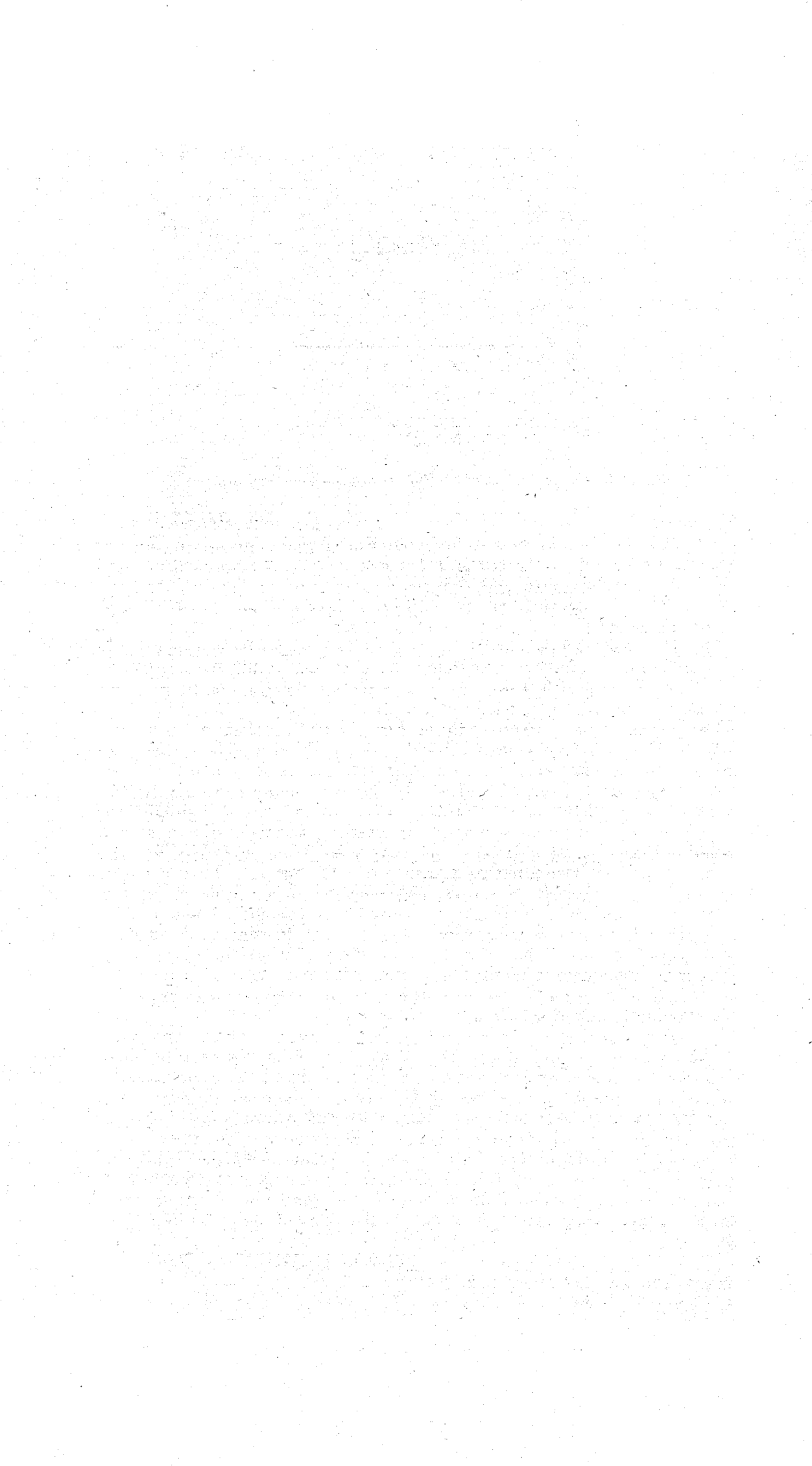
(Signed) ATKINS HAMERTON, *Captain.**The Right Hon. Viscount Palmerston, G.C.B.*

§c.

§c.

§c.





## TRIPOLI.

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No. 43.

*Consul-General Crowe to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 13.)*

My Lord,

*Tripoli, January 1, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to report, that during the year ending 31st December, 1846, about 1200 black slaves have been sent from this port in Ottoman vessels, the chief part intended for sale in Smyrna and Egypt.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. W. CROWE.

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

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No. 44.

*Consul-General Crowe to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 8.)*

My Lord,

*Tripoli, February 10, 1847.*

ACCORDING to a statement received from Mr. Vice-Consul Gagliuffi, it appears that the number of slaves brought to Mourzouk during the last year, was as follows:—

From Soudan	. . . . .	561
" Bournou	. . . . .	494
" Ghat	. . . . .	20
Total . . . . .		1075

Of these, about 650 were women and girls, the number of females generally exceeding that of males by one-third. The mortality on the road had been less than usual, not amounting to one-tenth. The price of males had been from 25 to 30 dollars each: of females from 30 to 65 dollars, according to their age and beauty.

I learn from Mr. Charles Dickson, acting Vice-Consul at Bengazi, that a caravan is expected there shortly from Waday, bringing ivory and ostrich feathers and a number of slaves, who will be there sold and shipped off for the Levant. He states that in May last 400 of these unfortunate creatures were embarked in one vessel bound to Constantinople; but that during the voyage no less than one third of the number died from the effects of disease caused by the closeness of their confinement on board.

I have in a former despatch informed your Lordship that about 1200 slaves were shipped from this port during the last year.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. W. CROWE.

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

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No. 45.

*Consul-General Crowe to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received May 10.)*

My Lord,

*Tripoli, April 5, 1847.*

THE measure lately adopted by the Ottoman Government of closing the Slave Bazaar at Constantinople, although it has not yet been followed in this regency, is producing a powerful effect upon the market. Few slaves have hitherto been brought this year from the interior, and even for these purchasers have not been readily found; and I am informed that speculation has received a further check by letters recently received from Constantinople, which state that a general conviction prevails there that the sale of slaves will be shortly prohibited throughout the Ottoman Empire.

I hope that this expectation may soon be realized. In the meantime there can be no doubt that the heavy duty, amounting to one-fourth of the average price of a slave, which has been for some time past levied here, whether intended as a measure of repression or not, has much contributed to hasten the annihilation of this hateful commerce.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

G. W. CROWE.

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

&amp;c.

&amp;c.

&amp;c.

No. 46.

*Consul-General Crowe to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received May 28.)*

My Lord,

*Tripoli, April 29, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Gilbert, stating the number of slaves lately arrived at Bengazi for exportation, and of those who had left Fezzan at the same time, and their respective destinations.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

G. W. CROWE.

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

&amp;c.

&amp;c.

&amp;c.

Inclosure in No. 46.

*Vice-Consul Gilbert to Consul-General Crowe.*

Sir,

*Bengazi, April 12, 1847.*

A CARAVAN arrived here last week from Fezzan bringing about 300 slaves, chiefly females, who will shortly be shipped for Constantinople. It is very difficult to obtain anything like a return from the slave merchants as to the real number brought here, for several reasons: in the first place they have been cautioned not to give any information on the subject to foreigners, more especially Englishmen; and secondly, being in the habit of cheating the custom-house officers by declaring a smaller number than actually arrives, they are withheld from giving a true statement from fear of the fraud being discovered. In a conversation I had with a slave-dealer he informed me that 1200 slaves had left Fezzan at the same time as himself; that a portion had gone to Tripoli, others to Egypt, and about 300 to Bengazi, of whom only three had died on the way here. He related that he had seen an immense number of dead bodies of slaves and others in the Desert, but he either did not know or would not tell anything more about them. No merchandize or produce was brought by this caravan.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

T. H. GILBERT.

## No. 47.

*Consul-General Crowe to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received June 29.)*

My Lord,

*Tripoli, May 29, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship, that a large Ottoman brig left this port on the 15th instant, bound to Mitylene and Constantinople, with 31 male and 327 female slaves, lately brought here by the caravans from the interior.

Another brig, also Ottoman, sailed for the same destination two days previously, with 9 male and 37 female slaves.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

G. W. CROWE.

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

&c.

&c.

&c.

## No. 48.

*Consul-General Crowe to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received October 19.)*

My Lord,

*Tripoli, September 27, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Gilbert, announcing the arrival of the caravan from Waday bringing about 1000 slaves, the greater part females, who will be sold at Bengazi, and there be embarked for various ports of the Levant.

They had been five months on their sad journey, and your Lordship will learn, with increased abhorrence of this inhuman traffic, that many poor creatures whose feet had become swollen and blistered in walking over the burning sands of the Desert, and who were therefore unable to keep up with the caravan, were abandoned on the road, as they fell exhausted by fatigue and suffering, and were there left to perish miserably of thirst and hunger.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

G. W. CROWE.

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

&c.

&c.

&c.

## Inclosure in No. 48.

*Vice-Consul Gilbert to Consul-General Crowe.*

Sir,

*Bengazi, September 10, 1847.*

THE long-expected caravan from Waday arrived here this morning bringing about 1000 slaves and 300 cantars of elephants' teeth. The journey from Waday has occupied exactly five months. The mortality among both the slaves and the camels has been very great, but it is difficult to ascertain the real number of casualties. I have been informed for certain that between Angola and Bengazi (a journey of eight days) 32 slaves died, or rather were abandoned to their fate.

The greater proportion of the slaves are females, who appear to be very young, but have arrived in good condition, considering the distance they have travelled. I have been told that the chief reason of so many being abandoned on the journey is not so much the scarcity of food and water, but that from the swelling of their feet in traversing the hot sands, they are unable to keep up with the others, and there being no spare camels to carry them, they are left to die in the Desert.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

T. H. GILBERT.

No. 49.

*Consul-General Crowe to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received October 27.)*

My Lord,

*Tripoli, October 5, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy and translation of a despatch received yesterday from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mourzouk.

I had hoped that the closing of the Slave Bazaar at Constantinople, and the heavy duty levied on the exportation of slaves from this regency, would so much discourage speculation, that the Traffic, at no distant period, would be abandoned. But if the statement made by Mr. Gagliuffi be correct, a new and more profitable channel is opened to this detestable commerce, and a worse fate attends the unhappy victims; for instead of the easy duties and mild treatment of domestic servants, which would have been their lot in the Levant, they will be subjected to the painful toil of field labour, and the unfeeling brutality of the slave-driver.

I shall instruct Mr. Gagliuffi to cause the most strict inquiry to be made as to the route taken by the slaves on their departure from Ghat, and to ascertain, if possible, their ultimate destination.

I have not thought it advisable under the circumstances, to make any communication on the subject at present to the French Consul-General.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) G. W. CROWE.

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

&amp;c.

&amp;c.

&amp;c.

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 Inclosure in No. 49.
*Vice-Consul Gagliuffi to Consul-General Crowe.*

(Translation.)

Sir,

*Mourzouk, September 18, 1847.*

A FEW days ago arrived here a caravan from Soudan, bringing the news that the Felatahs and the Kohlens are again in arms, and that incursions are daily taking place.

Persons arrived from Ghat assert that in that town there are no more slaves to be disposed of, as several Suafa dealers, commissioned by Algerines, arrived there, and purchased all those that were to be sold, at the high price of 50 dollars each the male and 100 dollars the female, paying in ready money. As most of the payments were made in five-franc pieces, it seems that what they say is not without foundation, that some Frenchman from Algeria transports them to Brazil and America.

Another small caravan has just arrived from Bornou; they bring the unpleasant news that on the 7th of Sheban (the 21st July), a numerous caravan was to leave that place bound hither; with it they say is one of the Sultan's brothers. If this be true, we shall have this year a large number of victims.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) G. B. GAGLIUFFI.

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 No. 50.
*Viscount Palmerston to Consul-General Crowe.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, November 2, 1847.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 5th ultimo, inclosing a copy and translation of a letter from Vice-Consul Gagliuffi, reporting that the whole of the slaves who were for sale at Ghat had been purchased at

unusually high prices, by Suafa dealers commissioned by Algerines; that the payments were mostly made in five-franc pieces; and that the dealers had asserted that the slaves were intended for exportation from Algeria to Brazil and America.

I approve of your having instructed M. Gagliuffi to make inquiry as to the route taken by the slaves on their departure from Ghat, and to endeavour to ascertain their ultimate destination; and I have to desire you to spare no pains in obtaining for Her Majesty's Government, by all the means within your power, correct information on these points.

I am, &c.

G. W. Crowe, Esq.  
&c. &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 51.

*Consul-General Crowe to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 10.)*

My Lord,

*Tripoli, October 29, 1847.*

AN Ottoman ship which left this port for the Levant about three years ago with several slaves on board, having been compelled by stress of weather to put into the Island of Zante, the slaves, in conformity with the laws of the Ionian States, were liberated, and were for a considerable time maintained at the expense of the Government.

At length however they became anxious to return to this country, and the Ionian Government would readily have complied with their request, but for an apprehension that upon their arrival here they might be reclaimed by their former masters and again consigned to slavery.

Under this impression the Lord High Commissioner instructed his secretary to request that I would ascertain whether they might be sent back without danger.

Upon applying to the Pasha, I was informed by him that slaves being recognized by the Mahomedan law as property in which the owner has a legal right, and of which he cannot be divested except by his own consent, those set at liberty by the Ionian Government might, upon their return here, be claimed by the owners, like any other property lost, or taken from them without their consent.

I lost no time in communicating this information to the Ionian Government, and suggested that they might be sent to Tunis, slavery being there abolished. Having heard no more on the subject, I was surprised to learn lately that several of these unfortunate persons had arrived at Malta on their way to this country; and five days since one man, furnished with an Ottoman passport, and eleven women, with passports from the Governor of Malta, arrived here.

Upon landing they all came to my house. I placed the poor women for the moment under the charitable care of two Sisters of the Society of the Sacré Cœur, who would gladly have continued to maintain them and instruct them in useful works. But the next day all the women came to me again, requesting that a house might be found for them, where they might all live together, and work for their maintenance.

A small house has been accordingly engaged for them; but I explained to them that henceforward they must rely upon their own industry for their support, and must not look to me for assistance.

I am anxious, however, to learn from your Lordship, whether, in the event of their failing to obtain the means of subsistence, which is extremely probable, it may be the desire of Her Majesty's Government that I should contribute to their support; and if the question should arise as to the right of their former owners to claim them, whether I am to insist that the act of the Ionian Government in granting their freedom is valid, and operative in this country. I shall at all events claim the right to protect them, until I receive your Lordship's instructions.

The man being desirous to return to his family in Bornou, I have sent

him with a caravan to Mourzouk, and have requested Mr. Vice-Consul Gagliuffi to forward him to his home, and recommend him to the care of any of the chiefs who may be proceeding thither.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. W. CROWE.

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

&c. &c. &c.

No. 52.

*Consul-General Crowe to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 10.)*

My Lord,

*Tripoli, November 9, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship, that an Ottoman brig, Mahomed Farrang, master, sailed from this port yesterday for Smyrna with upwards of 60 slaves. Of these, 37 were the property of Mahomed Sheriff Said, Governor of this town and director of the customs.

The official situation occupied by this person afforded him great facilities for carrying on this detestable traffic with peculiar advantages and profit. There can be little hope of the cessation of the Trade, while those most deeply engaged in it are appointed to important stations, since the selection of such persons too plainly indicates the indifference of the Government on the subject, and its total disregard of the opinions and wishes of Europe. But it is very offensive to the feelings of all who desire the abolition of this inhuman commerce, to be thus forced into official relation with one of its chief promoters.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. W. CROWE.

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

&c. &c. &c.

No. 53.

*Consul-General Crowe to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 10.)*

My Lord,

*Tripoli, November 10, 1847.*

UPON my arrival here I found a certain Jew, native of Tunis, named Jussuf Aliffi, employed as the broker of the Consulate, and in that character enjoying British protection. He had been appointed by my predecessor, and had held the office many years, his general conduct in the meantime being irreproachable.

For a long period he has been employed as manager of the mercantile operations of the Governor of this town, Mahomed Sheriff Said, who at present is also collector of customs. It came lately to my knowledge that this person is one of the principal slave-dealers of this country, and Jussuf Aliffi being questioned by me did not deny the fact, but declared that he himself was neither directly nor indirectly concerned in the purchase or sale of slaves.

Considering however that his position as manager of the Governor's commercial transactions, creates a strong presumption that he must to a certain extent be implicated in the dealings which relates to slaves, I have felt it to be my duty to suspend him from the office of broker until I receive your Lordship's instructions.

It will probably appear to your Lordship, that the mere fact of his being employed in the service of a slave-dealer, renders his further connection with this Consulate inexpedient; and as upon his dismissal he will cease to enjoy British protection, he will be no longer under my jurisdiction, and no further proceedings will be necessary.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. W. CROWE.

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

&c. &c. &c.

## No. 54.

*Consul-General Crowe to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 10.)*

My Lord,

Tripoli, November 10, 1847.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 29th October, I must request your Lordship to excuse my inadvertence in having omitted to mention that the liberated female slaves therein stated to have arrived here from Zante, are part of those respecting whom his Excellency Ali Effendi addressed to the Earl of Aberdeen the letter which appears in the Correspondence relative to the Slave Trade, presented to Parliament in 1845, Class D, p. 9.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. W. CROWE.

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

&c.                      &c.                      &c.

## No. 55.

*Vice-Consul Gilbert's Report upon the Trade of Bengazi.—(Received December 10.)*

(Extract.)

September 27, 1847.

CARAVANS arrive here every second year from Waday.

From 800 to 1000 slaves are brought by each caravan; three-fourths being young females, and are either slaves born at Waday, or kidnapped from Bornou. Those from Bornou are most esteemed, as being in general more docile and better tempered than those born at Waday. Numbers perish in crossing the Desert, from thirst and over fatigue.

Small caravans come at irregular periods two or three times in the year from Fezzan, each of which brings ostrich feathers, gold-dust, and about 150 slaves. The price of a male slave is about mahbubs; of females, according to their shape and beauty, from 25 to 100, in some few instances more.

On an average, about 700 are exported from Bengazi in the year, chiefly to Constantinople and Canea.

## No. 56.

*Viscount Palmerston to Consul-General Crowe.*

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 29, 1847.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 10th ultimo, reporting to me the circumstances under which you considered it your duty to suspend Jussuf Aliffi from the employment of broker to Her Majesty's Consulate, on account of his apparent implication in slave-trading transactions; and I have to inform you that I approve of the conduct you have pursued in this matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

G. W. Crowe, Esq.

&c.                      &c.

## No. 57.

*Viscount Palmerston to Consul-General Crowe.*

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 31, 1847.

I HAVE received your despatches of the 29th October and 10th of November, reporting that eleven negresses, a portion of the thirty-three who were on board an Ottoman vessel which was driven into Zante in the  
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year 1844 by stress of weather, and who were emancipated at that island, had returned *viâ* Malta to Tripoli, with the view of working there for their maintenance.

In reply to your request for instructions whether, if those persons should fail in obtaining a livelihood, you should contribute to their support; and whether, if they are claimed as slaves by their former owners at Tripoli, you are to insist on their right to freedom; I have to desire that you will extend your protection to these persons, as having obtained their freedom in the Ionian Islands, and in case of any difficulty on that score you will send them to Tunis; but whether they remain at Tripoli or are sent to Tunis, they must maintain themselves, and the British Government cannot take upon itself the charge of maintaining them.

I am, &c.

G. W. Crowe, Esq.  
&c. &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 58.

*Consul-General Crowe to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 13, 1848.)*

My Lord,

*Tripoli, December 10, 1847.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 5th of October last, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy and translation of a letter from Vice-Consul Gagliuffi, containing such further information as he has been able to collect relative to the purchase of slaves at Ghat, supposed to be destined for Algeria.

Of this destination no doubt seems to be entertained, although it will be seen that the belief rests rather upon inference than positive proof. But the presumption is greatly strengthened by the statement, quoted from the "Annals of the African Institute," a work published periodically at Paris. If that account may be relied upon, it appears that in the year 1845 slaves were openly sold in the French colony, at a market held in the immediate neighbourhood of one of the principal towns.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. W. CROWE.

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

Inclosure in No. 58.

*Vice-Consul Gagliuffi to Consul-General Crowe.*

(Translation.)

Sir,

*Mourzouk, November 6, 1847.*

IN reply to your despatch of the 9th of October last, I have the honour to report to you such information as I have been able to collect respecting the Suafa. The poverty of this Cabila makes every one believe that they are merely commissioned agents. This supposition is confirmed by the purchases they make at high and exorbitant prices.

They are still in Ghat, and will pass by Ghadames. It is not known whether they will enter that town, but it is certain that the slaves are destined for Algeria.

Suafa is situated in a valley not far distant from Ghadames, commencing at the Bab-el-Retem, from which it takes its name, and extending north-north-west to a considerable length, between 31° 30' and 32° 30' N. latitude, and 5° 30' and 7° 30' E. longitude. So that from one end of the valley you can reach Tuggurt in seven days, and are very near Kournin.

Persons well acquainted with these districts assure me that the Suafa must be in commercial relation with the Cabila of Ben Mzabs, who, while Algiers was under the Turks, supplied the whole Regency with slaves, and enjoy great credit in the country, and are richer than the Suafa. The

large sum they brought makes the people of Ghat believe that the money does not belong to Arabs, being convinced that Arabs, however rich, would not risk so much. The Ben Mzabs being at war with the Saamba and other Cabilas of the South, cannot come to make the purchases themselves, and therefore it is supposed employed the Suafa.

The people of Ghat say, that besides the six Suafa who have arrived there, there are eighteen others at Ghadames, who are to accompany the caravan. But this may be a report given out for the purpose of attracting caravans.

The name of Ben Mzabs reminded me that I had read it before; and in fact I have found in the "Annals of the African Institute" the following passage:—

"On écrit de Médéah, 8 Août, au 'Courrier d'Afrique,' 1845. Des Beni-Mzabs nous sont arrivés il y a quelques jours, amenant avec eux une caravane d'esclaves noirs au nombre de 68, et parmi lesquels il ne se trouvait qu'un seul individu mâle. Campés à deux portées de fusil de la ville, ils ont immédiatement ouvert leur marché, qui, durant trois jours, a attiré une foule d'indigènes des environs; la plus grande partie de la caravane a été vendue, et les\* Arabes se pressaient encore les marchands. lorsque ceux-ci s'éloignèrent avec leurs Meharis et le reste de leurs esclaves. Les prix qui n'excèdent pas 120 à 130 francs dans le pays des Beni-Mzabs se sont élevés à 500 et 600 francs."

Last year we heard here that the Suafa had brought at Ghadames about 300 slaves. I do not know if this be true or not.

This is all I have learnt at present. Upon the arrival of Hadji Semin I will procure further information.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. B. GAGLIUFFI.

No. 59.

*Consul-General Crowe to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 31, 1848.)*

My Lord,

*Tripoli, December 28, 1847.*

I HAD already transmitted in my despatch of the 10th instant, such further information as Vice-Consul Gagliuffi has been hitherto able to obtain, upon the subject to which your Lordship's despatch, received subsequently, of the 2nd of November, relates. I shall continue to make every exertion to ascertain the truth in this case.

It appears improbable that the Suafa dealers will pass through Ghadames, as in that case they would be subject to the payment of the duty of eleven dollars, which is charged for every slave that enters and leaves the territory of Tripoli.

Their usual practice, as I learn from an inhabitant of Ghadames, at present here, and from merchants trading to that place, is to proceed direct with the slaves they have purchased, to their own valley, and thence to the Regency of Algeria, where they find a ready and most advantageous market. My informants assure me that of this fact there can be no doubt. It is not indeed easy to account for the disposal of the slaves in any other manner, for since they are not brought hither, and cannot be sold in the Tunisian territory, there is no other country to which they can be taken but the Regency of Algeria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. W. CROWE.

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

§c.

§c.

§c.

\* Thus in the original.

No. 60.

*Consul-General Crowe to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 31, 1848.)*

My Lord,

*Tripoli, December 30, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship, that an Ottoman schooner, the property of Mahomed Sheriff Said, Governor of this city, who also holds the office of collector of the customs, sailed this day for Smyrna, having on board 16 male and 39 female slaves for sale, of whom 11 males and 30 females belong to the Governor.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

G. W. CROWE.

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

&amp;c.

&amp;c.

&amp;c.

## NEW GRANADA.

No. 61.

*Mr. O'Leary to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 8, 1847.)*

My Lord,

*Bogotá, November 12, 1846.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 13th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose herewith copy and translation of a note addressed to me by the Granadian Secretary for Foreign Affairs, under date of the 3rd instant, in reply to that which I wrote to M. Pardo on the 16th of September last, requesting a more specific and satisfactory answer than had hitherto been given to the question which I had put to General Borrero, in regard to the intentions of his Government to carry out the engagement contracted by it in Article XIII of the Treaty of 1825 between Great Britain and Colombia.

M. Mallarino's reply is anything but satisfactory. He says that the question put by me, inexactly implies that New Granada has not discharged its engagement, as she has done, by prohibiting her citizens from taking part in the Slave Trade, which her laws punish as piracy, by declaring free the offspring of slaves, and by taking sufficient measures to emancipate the few that still exist in the republic, and, that, even had the Granadian Government not fulfilled its engagements, it belonged to Great Britain and not to New Granada, to propose the means for carrying out the obligation imposed by Article XIII of the Treaty of 1825; that the Granadian Government does not expect that it will be maintained, that it is bound to adopt the only means proposed by me, and which are either beyond the reach of the resources of New Granada, or might be detrimental to her; that the Treaty proposed by me would, in the opinion of the Granadian Government, be injurious to the interests of the Republic, and especially to its mercantile marine, by exposing it to evils perhaps inseparable from the execution of such a Treaty: that New Granada has not the means to station ships of war on the coast of Africa, nor would it be necessary, because there has been no instance of Granadian vessels being seen on that coast engaged in the Slave Trade; that though no reply was returned to the propositions made to me in 1844, by Colonel Acosta, still the Granadian Government, to give further proof of its frankness and candour, proposes, as the basis of a new Treaty, four new propositions; and finally, M. Mallarino states that if I am not authorized to accept those propositions, the Granadian Government is ready to empower the Minister for the Republic in London, to conclude there a Treaty, in order to save the time that might otherwise be lost in my consulting your Lordship.

Not seeing any use in continuing a controversy which on the part of New Granada is maintained by such singular reasoning, I have merely acknowledged the receipt of M. Mallarino's note, and promised to submit his propositions for your Lordship's consideration, as your Lordship will perceive by the inclosed copy.

But I availed myself of a conversation I had with M. Mallarino, in presence of Mr. Vice-Consul Mark, to explain my views respecting his note of the 3rd instant. I stated to him that the measures to which he

alludes, as a consequence of the Treaty of 1825, were adopted by the Colombian Legislature of 1821; that New Granada, far from taking any step to ameliorate the condition of its servile population, had partially annulled the liberal policy of Colombia in regard to the abolition of slavery; that children born of slaves after 1821, who by the law of Colombia became free at the age of eighteen, were, in virtue of the Granadian law of 1842, compelled to serve an additional term of seven years; that by the Colombian enactment of 1821, it was not lawful to remove slaves from the province in which they reside, and by the Granadian law of 1843 the sale of slaves for foreign countries was permitted, hereby legalizing a new and worse description of Slave Trade; that the expedient of a Treaty proposed by me under instructions from your Lordship originated with the Colombian negotiators of the Treaty of 1825, as may be seen by reference to the protocols of that negotiation; that the apprehensions seemingly entertained by the Granadian Government of the effects of a Treaty similar to that which I had proposed, were ill-founded, because in the first place the Mercantile Marine of New Granada is limited to a few coasting vessels, and because merchant-vessels of other States of Spanish America that have Slave Treaties with Great Britain never experienced those vexations detentions that New Granada seemed to foresee.

I have not as yet received a reply to the note I addressed on the 17th ultimo to M. Mallarino, respecting the exportation of slaves from Panamá to the coast of Peru.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DANIEL F. O'LEARY.

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

&c.                      &c.                      &c.

Inclosure 1 in No. 61.

*Señor Mallarino to Mr. O'Leary.*

(Translation.)

*Bogotá, November 3, 1846.*

THE Undersigned, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has had the honour of submitting to the consideration of his Excellency the President of the Republic the note of the 16th of September last, in which Mr. O'Leary, Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, requests, in the name of his Government, an answer to his question regarding the means the Granadian Government think of adopting in order to fulfil the engagement they have contracted, to co-operate towards the abolition of the Slave Trade; and the Undersigned, in virtue of the instructions he has received, thinks it his duty to manifest, in the first place, that this question involves an inexact supposition, namely, that the Granadian Government have not fulfilled their engagements upon this point; and in the second place, that even if they had, the British Government, and not the Granadian, ought to suggest, in the actual state of the question, the course which should be adopted in order to continue carrying out Article XIII of the Treaty of 1825.

By this stipulation Colombia engaged, and New Granada has remained bound, to contribute towards the suppression of the Slave Trade, and that its citizens should take no part therein. In prohibiting the importation of slaves from Africa or other countries; declaring their offspring free; prosecuting the trade as piracy; punishing it as the most atrocious crime; and providing sufficient means for the emancipation of the few slaves that exist in the State,—the Granadian Government think they have fulfilled their engagements, and that they have reason to be satisfied with the manner in which they have done so; and they do not think it will be attempted to maintain, that when these engagements were contracted they were bound to adopt the only mode of execution to which Mr. O'Leary has referred in the course of this discussion, and which is either beyond the reach of the present means of New Granada, or might be seriously prejudicial to her.

It is true that this Republic has engaged to co-operate towards the extinction of the Slave Trade; but it is not to be deduced therefrom, nor can it be, that it has bound itself to do so precisely in the manner proposed; nor that towards this object, however laudable it may be, other interests which may be worth protecting should be blindly sacrificed. In the opinion of the Granadian Government, it is evident that many of these interests would be sacrificed, and especially those directed towards the encouragement of the national Mercantile Marine, if in its present incipient state, and when it requires most fostering and protection, they should agree in subjecting it to the detentions, losses, and inconveniences, perhaps inseparable from the fulfilment of a Treaty such as the British Government desires.

Neither can New Granada, nor was it the intention of the Government of Colombia, to bind itself to station vessels to impede this Traffic upon the coasts of Africa. Even were this possible, it would be unnecessary, as it has not yet reached the notice of the Government, that there has been a single instance of Granadian vessels being engaged in this Trade; and it cannot be presumed that that should happen in future which, with greater facilities for its execution, and probabilities of successful result, has not been effected hitherto.

And to prove more clearly the frank and upright conduct which New Granada has observed upon this particular, let us see, reducing the question to the pending negotiation, what has taken place in the course thereof.

On the 28th of February, 1842, a Treaty was entered into and signed in this capital by Plenipotentiaries duly accredited, for the abolition of the Slave Trade, which obtained the acquiescence of the New Granadian Congress, but was not ratified by Her Britannic Majesty. The Granadian Government being subsequently urged to continue the negotiation, acceded to this request, proposing an arrangement wherein should be conciliated and satisfied the pretensions of both parties. It would seem natural that under such circumstances, the initiative of a new proposal should come from the British Government, but it did not happen so; and up to this day it is not known in this office what has been the answer of Her Majesty's Government to the bases proposed by M. Acosta to Mr. O'Leary in his note of the 8th of June, 1844.

Under these circumstances, the Undersigned ought now to finish this note, contenting himself with the foregoing, and with retorting the question that has been put to him; for it is evident that its answer depends upon the British Government, and not on the Granadian; but the latter being desirous of giving an additional proof of the zeal with which it endeavours to cultivate the friendly relations which exist between this Republic and the United Kingdom, has instructed the Undersigned to propose to the British Government, through its Legation in Bogotá, the celebration of a Treaty in place of the project of 1842, reducing it in substance to the following points:—

1st. New Granada binds itself to maintain perpetually in force the laws which prohibit the importation of slaves—those which declare free all such as land upon its soil, and those which qualify and chastise as acts of piracy all such as are done in contravention of these regulations.

2nd. It will give the same effect to all the laws which have for an object the causing the rapid and complete disappearance of the remains of the abominable institution of slavery, and prevent its reproduction in the interior of the Republic.

3rd. It will not allow African negroes to be imported into its territory, even for the purpose of engaging them as daily labourers for a fixed or unlimited period.

4th. Whenever it shall be discovered that African blacks have been landed under such pretexts, they shall be returned to the place whence they were exported, on account and at the expense of the individuals who have been the cause thereof.

It is understood that in putting these bases into the form of detailed stipulations, all the amplitude of which they are susceptible will be given

to them, regulating them upon the terms of perfect reciprocity, that the engagements might be mutual and equal.

If Mr. O'Leary accepts these propositions in the same conciliatory spirit in which they are presented to him, it will be easy to make the modifications and additions which in the course of the discussion may appear necessary; but if, unfortunately, he may not be authorized to enter into any such discussion, perhaps it would not be useless to submit the point to the enlightened view of his Government; or, which would be preferable, in order to avoid the tardy and inconvenient recourse of consultations, there would be no objection on the part of this department in instructing the Minister for this Republic in London, to come to a direct understanding upon this subject with Her Majesty's Government.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

M. MALLARINO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 61.

*Mr. O'Leary to Señor Mallarino.*

*Bogotá, November 10, 1846.*

THE Undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, has received the note which his Excellency M. Mallarino, Granadian Minister for Foreign Affairs, under date of the 3rd instant, did the Undersigned the honour to address to him, as a reply to that which the Undersigned wrote to M. Pardo on the 16th of September last, requesting a more specific and satisfactory answer than had hitherto been given to the question which the Undersigned had put to General Borrero respecting the intention of the Granadian Government to carry out the obligation it had contracted with Great Britain, by Article XIII of the Treaty of 1825.

The Undersigned, without noticing at present the singular arguments by which M. Mallarino endeavours to support the views of his Government, begs leave to state that he is not authorized to accept the propositions which M. Mallarino has made to him; but as soon as the Undersigned shall receive a reply to the note which he addressed to M. Pardo on the 17th of September last, he will submit for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, copies of the correspondence which has lately taken place between him and the Granadian Foreign Office on the subject of the Slave Trade.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

DANIEL F. O'LEARY.

No. 62.

*Mr. O'Leary to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 9, 1847.)*

My Lord,

*Bogotá, December 4, 1846.*

WITH reference to my despatches to your Lordship of the 6th of October last and of the 12th ultimo, I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship, that up to the 17th ultimo, having received no reply from the Granadian Foreign Secretary, to the note which I addressed to M. Pardo on the 17th of September last, respecting the preparations being made by certain parties at Panamá for exporting slaves to Peru, and meanwhile having learned from Mr. Perry, Her Majesty's Consul at that port, that the "*Tres Amigos*" had actually sailed therefrom on the 4th of September last with a cargo of slaves, I wrote on the 17th ultimo to M. Mallarino denouncing this fact, and protesting against it as a violation of Article XIII of the Treaty between Great Britain and Colombia. I have the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship copy of this note.

I have likewise the honour to inclose copy and translation of a note dated the 23rd ultimo from M. Mallarino, in reply to that which I

addressed to his Excellency on the 17th of September last, communicating the arrival of the "*Tres Amigos*" at Panamá, for the purpose of embarking there and conveying to Peru, a number of slaves which had been sold by M. Juan B. Feraud to M. Rodulfo, both naturalised citizens of the Republic, and pointing out the incompatibility of such a transaction with the obligations which New Granada had contracted with Great Britain, for the total abolition of the Slave Trade.

M. Mallarino in this note while acknowledging the existence of the practice complained of by me, and even of the abuse thereof, endeavours to justify it, and asserts that it cannot be considered as inconsistent with the treaty engagements of New Granada; but he adds that the Government has issued a decree to regulate the exportation of slaves, and prevent the abuses which he suspects may have taken place.

I have also the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy and translation of the reply of M. Mallarino to my note of the 17th ultimo, denouncing and protesting against the embarkation of slaves from New Granada, as contravening Article XIII of the Treaty between Great Britain and Colombia. M. Mallarino in this reply says that there is no incompatibility between the obligation contracted by New Granada in that Article, and the Granadian law which sanctions the exportation of slaves.

To M. Mallarino's note of the 23rd, I have rejoined in the terms your Lordship will perceive in the note, copy of which is also herewith inclosed, maintaining my former position that there is every incompatibility between the stipulation which obliges New Granada to co-operate with Great Britain for the total abolition of the Slave Trade, and to prohibit all persons inhabiting within the territories of the Republic from taking any part in such Trade, and the Granada law subsequently enacted, which sanctions the exportation of slaves, and permits Granadian citizens to dispose of and transport to foreign countries slaves and freedmen; and declaring that New Granada has violated her engagements with Great Britain, and protesting against that infraction of the Treaty of 1825. In this note I further state, in reference to the propositions made by M. Mallarino in his note of the 3rd instant, for a Slave Treaty, that though I am prepared to submit those propositions for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, yet I can hold out no hope that they will be admitted, as I cannot conceive how an engagement to maintain laws which have existed for years with so little effect, and to prohibit the importation of free labourers, can be conducive to the extinction of slavery.

I have addressed to the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's naval forces in the Pacific a despatch, copy of which is herewith inclosed, transmitting to his Excellency copies of my afore-mentioned notes of the 17th of September last and 17th ultimo, to the Granadian Foreign Secretary, and I forwarded that despatch under flying seal to Mr. Barton, Acting British Consul-General in Peru.

I beg leave to acquaint your Lordship that it is to the active vigilance of Mr. Consul Perry that is due the merit of detecting and exposing this revived Slave Trade, which New Granada has, I have reason to believe, been carrying on to a considerable extent for the last few years, between the coasts of Choco and Buenaventura, where we have no Consular Agent, and the Peruvian coasts to the north of Callao.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

DANIEL F. O'LEARY.

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

&c.

&c.

&c.

Inclosure 1 in No. 62.

*Mr. O'Leary to Señor Mallarino.*

*Bogotá, November 17, 1846.*

THE Undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, on the 17th of September last, addressed to M. Pardo, then Granadian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a note acquainting him that the Peruvian

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Brig "*Tres Amigos*" had arrived in the Bay of Panamá for the purpose of embarking there and conveying to Peru a considerable number of slaves, natives of New Granada. To this communication the Undersigned has received no reply.

The Undersigned has now the honour to acquaint his Excellency, M. Mallarino, that Her Majesty's Consul at Panamá has informed the Undersigned that the above-mentioned brig sailed on the 4th of September for the Peruvian coast, having on board 130 slaves and libertos.

The Undersigned denounces this fact to the Granadian Government and protests against it, as a violation of Article XIII of the Treaty between Great Britain and Colombia.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

DANIEL F. O'LEARY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 62.

*Señor Mallarino to Mr. O'Leary.*

(Translation.)

*Bogotá, November 23, 1846.*

THE Undersigned, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has the honour to inform Mr. O'Leary, Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, that he has submitted for the consideration of the President of the Republic the note in which he expresses the reasons he has for thinking that the exportation of slaves from New Granada for Peru, is contrary to the spirit of Article XIII of the Treaty between Colombia and Great Britain.

His Excellency the President has attentively examined the arguments upon which Mr. O'Leary founds his opinion, but without being able to agree therein; for he does not find that the said stipulation has imposed upon the Granadian Government the duty of maintaining intact the legislation existing when that Treaty was celebrated, nor that the reform that has been effected in that legislation, is in opposition to the engagement to co-operate towards the abolition of the Slave Trade; but that on the contrary, in the opinion of his Excellency, the laws that allow the exportation, consult the quickest and most complete extinction of slavery within the national territory, without rendering worse the condition of the slaves exported therefrom.

It is true that there may be abuse, and in fact the Government suspects that this permission has occasionally been abused, either by exporting without its consent well-conducted slaves, or unduly disposing of the services of manumitted slaves for foreign parts. With the view of avoiding such irregular practices, the President on the 16th of October last issued a circular order, which will in a great measure remedy the evils which Mr. O'Leary points out, and which may in fact have taken place.

In the said order it has been clearly expressed that the liberty to export slaves is only to be understood with regard to those which the law qualifies as evil-disposed; that any others cannot be exported without their being previously permitted to seek another owner within the legal term, and without inclination to leave New Granada being proved in each case; that the sons of slaves, born free in virtue of the law, cannot be exported without the acquiescence of the parents and their own; and finally, that the civil authorities at the places whence they may be exported, are bound to watch over the due fulfilment of these orders, affording besides to the manumitted slaves, in case they may wish to proceed to other countries, the necessary means to prove and render valid their free condition.

Nothing further could be done in furtherance of the philanthropic views of both Governments, that would not be incompatible with the rights of property now and ever recognised and protected by the laws of the Republic; neither does it appear that anything else could be assumed according to the tenor of Article XIII of the Treaty of 1825, for even though it be certain that that Pact had for its object the preventing the prosecution of this immoral Trade, with the view of extinguishing an

institution which then existed in the British colonies as well as in Colombia, it is no less certain that the actual Granadian laws do not propend to elude that beneficial result, and that upon celebrating our Treaty, there was not, nor could have been, an intention of diminishing in any manner the extension, and with it the value, of the property at that time legal in the territories of both the contracting parties.

Besides this it deserves notice, that the exportation of evil-disposed slaves is a measure of public police, which the Government has the natural and express right of fully authorizing; and when this very exportation is effected with respect to slaves not guilty, and who have given their consent, no injustice is committed, and no right is violated.

The Undersigned trusts, therefore, that Mr. O'Leary will acknowledge the complete justice of these observations, and the benevolent intentions of the Granadian Government towards the few slaves that still exist in the Republic, and who have just been spontaneously protected against the abuses of a public emigration, incompatible with the positive sentiments of humanity which this Government feels.

And Mr. O'Leary's note of the 17th of September last, to which he alludes in that of the 10th instant, being thus answered, the Undersigned avails himself, &c.,

(Signed) M. MALLARINO.

Inclosure 3 in No. 62.

*Señor Mallarino to Mr. O'Leary.*

(Translation.)

*Bogotá, November 24, 1846.*

THE Undersigned, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has submitted for the consideration of his Government, the note dated the 17th instant, in which Mr. O'Leary, Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, alluding to the fact of the brig "*Tres Amigos*" having left the Bay of Panamá with 100 slaves and freedmen on board, denounces it, and protests against it as a violation of Article XIII of the Treaty between Great Britain and Colombia.

In answer thereto the Undersigned has received orders to refer to the note which he yesterday addressed to the British Legation, manifesting that there is no incompatibility between the stipulation mentioned and the Granadian law which permits the exportation of slaves, and that the necessary orders have been issued to prevent the permission being abused.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) M. MALLARINO.

Inclosure 4 in No. 62.

*Mr. O'Leary to Señor Mallarino.*

*Bogotá, November 25, 1846.*

THE Undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the note addressed to him on the 23rd instant by his Excellency M. Mallarino, Granadian Minister for Foreign Affairs, in answer to that which the Undersigned wrote to M. Pardo, on the 17th of September last, relative to the Traffic in Slaves, which persons inhabiting within the territories of New Granada are carrying on in contravention to the engagements contracted by the Republic with Great Britain, for the total abolition of the Slave Trade.

M. Mallarino states that the President cannot concur in the opinion manifested by the Undersigned in his above-mentioned note, that the exportation of slaves from New Granada is contrary to the spirit of the stipulation contained in Article XIII of the Treaty between Great Britain and Colombia, because his Excellency does not perceive that that stipulation binds the Granadian Government to maintain unimpaired the legisla-

tion in force when that Treaty was concluded, or that the reform of that legislation has been effected in opposition to the engagement to co-operate to the abolition of the Slave Trade; but that, on the contrary, in his Excellency's opinion, the laws which sanction the exportation of slaves, consult the most speedy and complete extinction of slavery within the territory of the Republic, without impairing the condition of the exported slaves.

The Undersigned deeply regrets to differ in opinion from so high an authority as the President of New Granada, respecting laws and treaties with the execution and guardianship of which he is intrusted; but fortunately for the Undersigned in so doing, he is supported by the literal sense of Article XIII of the Treaty, which is neither obscure nor equivocal, and therefore admits of no ambiguous interpretation.

When General Borrero, in his note of the 12th of December last, and M. Mallarino, in that which he addressed to the Undersigned on the 3rd instant, referred to laws enacted prior to the date of the Treaty between Great Britain and Colombia, as means adopted in fulfilment of a stipulation in that Treaty, the Undersigned regarded the proposition as most illogical, but as it had been advanced by them, he was now less prepared to learn that it was the opinion, notwithstanding, of the President, that New Granada was not bound to maintain those laws, or that it would be argued that the repeal of an enactment prohibiting the exportation of slaves could be effected without contravening a stipulation which obliged New Granada to co-operate in the most effectual manner with Great Britain, for the total abolition of the Slave Trade; for it is evident, that if New Granada could, without violating the stipulation in question, sanction the exportation of slaves, she can likewise legalize the importation thereof, which the Undersigned believes cannot be admitted, without rendering the stipulation of Article XIII of the Treaty illusive, vain, and void.

Nor can the Undersigned comprehend how the Granadian Government can allow M. J. B. Ferand, who not only resides in New Granada, but is a Granadian citizen, and lately occupied a seat in Congress, to sell slaves in Panamá to another resident, for exportation to Peru, without infringing a stipulation which obliges the Government of the Republic to prohibit all persons inhabiting within the territories thereof, in the most effectual manner, from taking any share in the Slave Trade.

The President thinks, and very correctly, that a law which permits the extraction of slaves from the territory of the Republic, tends to diminish the number of slaves therein; but the Undersigned begs leave to remark, that the views of the Governments of Great Britain and Colombia, when their Plenipotentiaries signed the Treaty of 1825, were not limited to the Granadian territory; they extended to every country, all the world over, where that odious institution existed; and the measure which would tend to decrease slavery in New Granada, would augment and perpetuate it in the countries to which the slaves were sent, hereby defeating the object the two Governments had in view.

M. Mallarino acknowledges that the faculty of exporting slaves may be abused, and his Excellency suspects that it has, both by exporting against their will well disposed (honrados) slaves, and unduly disposing of the service of freedmen (manumisos) for foreign countries; and says, that in order to avoid such irregular practices, the President has dictated an order which will remedy in a great measure the abuses which the Undersigned has pointed out, and which M. Mallarino repeats, may have taken place.

The Undersigned begs leave to observe, that it is against the enactment itself, which sanctions the extraction of slaves from New Granada, and not against its abuses, that the Undersigned has expostulated and protested. Nevertheless, the Undersigned takes the liberty to point out to M. Mallarino, that it appears to the Undersigned that the Executive resolution of the 16th ultimo, such as his Excellency has described it, supposes that the obnoxious enactment of the 22nd June, 1843, only refers to evil-disposed slaves, which in the opinion of the Undersigned is not the case. The first and second clauses of the law of

1843, refer to persons of any condition who endeavour to incite slaves to crimes therein expressed; the third clause assigns reward to a slave who denounces and proves that seduction has been employed for the purpose of raising slaves against their masters: Article IV, which is the objectionable one, permits what the Treaty prohibits, and sanctions the exportation of slaves, without qualifying their conduct, or requiring any condition except that of not separating husbands and wives. Now it appears to the Undersigned, that in virtue of this Article IV of the law of 1843, any or all the slaves of New Granada may be exported, which is evidently in contradiction with the letter and spirit of the Treaty.

M. Mallarino adds that nothing more can be done in furtherance of the philanthropic views of both Governments, that would not be incompatible with the rights of property, now and always recognized and protected by the laws of the Republic; nor does it appear that anything else can be pretended in virtue of Article XIII of the Treaty of 1825, for if it is certain that the object of that Pact was to prevent the prosecution of this immoral trade, in order to abolish an institution which then existed in the British colonies as well as in Colombia, it is no less certain that the present Granadian laws do not propend to elude that beneficial result, and that in concluding the Treaty in question, there neither was nor could exist an intention to restrict anyhow the extension and the value of property at that time legitimate in the territories of both Contracting Parties.

In reply to the foregoing observation, the Undersigned considers that the question of the rights of property is altogether foreign to the subject under discussion; but at the same time the Undersigned concurs in the opinion advanced by M. Mallarino, that on concluding the Treaty of 1825, the object of which M. Mallarino has fully and correctly defined, there was no intention on the part of the British negotiators to interfere with or curtail that right in New Granada. The Colombian Government, it is to be supposed, considered the rights of property fully protected when it ratified the Treaty in question; and the Granadian Government is free to adopt any measure it may think fit to compensate Granadian slaveholders for property which the action of the laws of the Republic impaired or destroyed before or after the signature of the Treaty of 1825, as the British Parliament did when by its Act 800,000 British slaves were emancipated.

The Undersigned has to make a similar remark with regard to the other paragraph of the note to which he is replying, where it is stated that the Government of New Granada possesses the natural and express right to establish measures of police. Certainly the British Government has no right nor intention to interfere with the police measures which the Granadian Government may adopt for the purpose of repressing sedition or chastising guilty subjects, provided that such measures are not in opposition to stipulations contracted by New Granada with Great Britain.

The Undersigned has said that the words of Article XIII of the Treaty of 1825 admit of no ambiguity. The intentions of the Contracting Parties were fully known to each other, and were clearly and concisely expressed. The Granadian Government is bound by that Article to "co-operate with Her Britannic Majesty for the total abolition of the Slave Trade, and to prohibit all persons inhabiting within the territories of New Granada in the most effectual manner from taking any share in such trade." Any Granadian law which sanctions what this Article proscribes evidently contravenes the spirit of the Treaty, and is moreover to all intents and purposes null and void, because the Legislature of New Granada had no right to permit what a public Treaty forbade.

That engagement has been contravened by Article IV of the Law of 22nd June, 1843, which permits the sale and exportation of slaves for foreign countries. It has been openly and grossly violated by the actual sale and embarkation at Panamá of 130 slaves and freedmen, under sanction of the Granadian authorities, on board the "*Tres Amigos*," which sailed for Peru on the 4th of September last.

Therefore the Undersigned declares that the Granadian Government has violated its engagements with Great Britain, and in the name of

Her Majesty's Government he formally and solemnly protests against such violation.

Before concluding this note, the Undersigned begs leave to acquaint M. Mallarino that though he will avail himself of the first opportunity to submit, for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, the propositions contained in M. Mallarino's note of the 3rd instant, yet the Undersigned can hold out no hope that they will be admitted, for the Undersigned cannot conceive how an engagement to maintain laws which for twenty-five years have existed with such little effect, and to prohibit the introduction of free labourers, can conduce to the extinction of slavery.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) DANIEL F. O'LEARY.

Inclosure 5 in No. 62.

*Mr. O'Leary to Rear-Admiral Sir George Seymour.*

Sir,

*Bogotá, November 18, 1846.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit for your information copies of two notes I have addressed to the Granadian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, relative to the departure of a vessel from Panamá, laden with slaves, bound for Peru.

This being a manifest infraction of Article XIII of the Treaty between Great Britain and Colombia, which is still in force, I have thought it my duty to protest against it, although there is no special Slave Treaty existing between the respective countries.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DANIEL F. O'LEARY.

No. 63.

*Viscount Palmerston to M. Mosquera.*

*Foreign Office, February 12, 1847.*

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to inform M. Mosquera, &c., that he has lately received from Mr. O'Leary, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Bogotá, copies of two notes, dated in the month of November last, which have passed between Mr. O'Leary and the Granadian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs relative to the negotiations which have been for some years pending at Bogotá for the conclusion of a Treaty between Her Majesty and the Republic of New Granada for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

Her Majesty's Government have learnt with much regret from this correspondence that, notwithstanding the continued efforts of Mr. O'Leary to bring the question at issue to a conclusion, the Government of New Granada have hitherto declined to agree to such terms as could be satisfactory to Her Majesty's Government. But the Undersigned is still willing to believe that there can exist on the part of New Granada no insuperable objection to the conclusion of a Treaty which would at once fulfil the obligation contracted by New Granada by Article XIII of the Treaty of 1825, and satisfy the just expectations of Her Majesty's Government on this subject; and in this belief he willingly adopts the suggestion of M. Mallarino as put forward in his note to Mr. O'Leary, dated the 3rd of November, 1846, that, in order to save time, the negotiation should now be carried on directly between M. Mosquera and the Undersigned.

Trusting therefore that M. Mosquera has received the necessary instructions and full powers from his Government for this purpose, the Undersigned will be ready to enter upon the discussion at the earliest moment that may suit M. Mosquera's convenience; and in the meantime

the Undersigned begs leave to inclose for M. Mosquera's consideration the draft of such a treaty as Her Majesty's Government would be willing to conclude for the object in view.

The Undersigned, &c.

Daniel F. O'Leary, Esq.

&c. &c.

(Signed)

PALMERSTON.

No. 64.

*Viscount Palmerston to M. Mosquera.*

*Foreign Office, February 25, 1847.*

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to call the attention of M. Mosquera, &c., to the subject of a correspondence which has taken place between General O'Leary, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Bogotá, and M. Mallarino, the Granadian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, arising out of a report which had reached General O'Leary from Mr. Perry, Her Majesty's Consul at Panamá, to the effect that 180 slaves were about to be exported from that province to Peru.

Mr. Perry, on hearing of this intended exportation of slaves, had pointed out to the Governor of Panamá the impropriety of the proceeding, as well with respect to its bearing upon the international engagements of New Granada towards Great Britain upon the subject of the Slave Trade, as with respect to its extreme injustice towards the greater part of the unfortunate persons themselves, by depriving them for many years to come of that freedom to which the law of their own country would shortly have entitled them; but the Governor of Panamá replied, that the export of these slaves was no breach of any engagement with Great Britain, and that it was allowed by the law of New Granada, and that he could not interfere in the matter.

General O'Leary, on being informed by Mr. Perry of these facts, addressed a suitable representation to the Government of New Granada thereupon; but at the date of his last despatch to the Undersigned upon this subject, namely, the 4th of December last, he had not succeeded in obtaining from M. Mallarino a satisfactory answer to his representations.

That Minister, while acknowledging the existence of the practice complained of, and while admitting even that the laws which allowed of such a practice had probably been abused, endeavoured to justify it, and asserted that it could not be considered as inconsistent with the Treaty engagements of New Granada. He stated, however, that the Government had issued a decree to regulate the exportation of slaves, and prevent the abuses which he suspected might have taken place. To this General O'Leary very properly replied, by reminding M. Mallarino that it was against the law itself and not against its abuses, that he had expostulated and protested.

Before this correspondence between General O'Leary and M. Mallarino had reached Her Majesty's Government, the Undersigned, upon hearing of these proceedings from Her Majesty's Consul at Panamá, instructed General O'Leary to address a representation to the Government of New Granada, expressing the earnest request of Her Majesty's Government that a law might be passed in the Republic, prohibiting altogether the exportation of slaves, and stating that Her Majesty's Government felt themselves justly entitled to expect that the law of 1842, which permitted the sale of slaves out of the Republic, would be repealed, as being contrary to the engagement contracted by New Granada towards Great Britain under Article XIII of the Treaty of 1825.

General O'Leary was likewise instructed to point out to the Granadian Government that the only ground upon which any attempt has ever been made to justify the existing state of slavery, has been the plea of its being necessary to have the labour of slaves in order to cultivate the soil of the countries in which slavery exists; but that even that excuse is insufficient in the present case, as it does not apply to the selling of slaves for exportation; because, when such slaves are thus sent out of a country,

that country is deprived of their labour for its cultivation ; and it is manifest that such a compulsory transfer of slaves from one country to another must be attended with additional aggravation of the inherent hardship of their condition.

But in regard to the Libertos, who in the case immediately in question had been sent to Peru, the injustice inflicted upon them was most serious ; for whereas the person who sold them had a right to their services until they attained the age of eighteen, and no longer, he transferred them for money to a country where they would be liable to serve as slaves for the rest of their lives ; and thus in regard to the services of such persons after the age of eighteen, he sold into slavery persons who by the law of New Granada were free, an injustice of the most flagrant kind, and which Her Majesty's Government would suppose could be scarcely allowable even under the present law. At all events it would seem that the Libertos so sold were liable to be claimed back by the Granadian Government as free citizens of the Republic as soon as they had attained the age of eighteen ; and Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires was instructed to state, that if the Government of New Granada should determine to make this claim, Her Majesty's Government would willingly direct Her Majesty's Representative in Peru to point out to the Government of Peru the justice of such a claim.

These instructions do not appear to have reached General O'Leary at the date of his last despatch from Bogotá ; and the Undersigned now requests the serious attention of M. Mosquera to this subject, in the hope that he will see the matter in the same light in which it appears to Her Majesty's Government, and that in his communications with his Government he will give the weight of his opinion in favour of the earnest representations which Her Majesty's Government have felt it their duty to urge upon the Government of New Granada on this subject.

The Undersigned, &c.

*His Excellency M. Mosquera,*  
&c.

(Signed)

PALMERSTON.

No. 65.

*M. de Ayala to Viscount Palmerston.*

(Translation.)

28, Manchester Street, March 6, 1847.

THE Undersigned, accidentally charged with the Legation of New Granada at this Court, has had the honour to receive and transmit by the first opportunity, to M. Mosquera, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Republic, now residing in Paris, the note which the Right Honourable Lord Viscount Palmerston, Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, was pleased to address to that gentleman, relative to the negotiation pending at Bogotá, for the purpose of concluding a Treaty between New Granada and Her Britannic Majesty, for the suppression of the Slave Trade, and in which note his Lordship inclosed a project of that Treaty, such as the British Government is disposed to conclude, for M. Mosquera to take it into consideration if he should have received from the Government of Granada the necessary instructions and full powers for carrying on and concluding such negotiation in London.

M. Mosquera has informed the Undersigned to acquaint his Lordship that he, M. Mosquera, had not, up to this moment, received any instructions or full powers to carry on that negotiation in London, as his Lordship has inferred from the note which the Secretary for Foreign Affairs of New Granada addressed to Mr. O'Leary, Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, under date of the 3rd of November, and wherein he stated to Mr. O'Leary, that if he were not authorized to discuss the propositions contained in it, it might perhaps not be inexpedient to submit the matter to the enlightened examination of his Government, or what would be preferable with the view of avoiding the delay and inconvenience of deliberations, for the Granadian Secretary of State's Office to instruct the Gra-

nadian Legation in London to come to a direct understanding on this subject with Her Majesty's Government.

M. Mosquera has already apprized the Government of the Republic of the above, by forwarding to it copies of his Lordship's note, and of the project of the Treaty inclosed in it, and if on his return from the extraordinary mission which makes him proceed to Madrid, he should have received the before-mentioned full powers and instructions, he will not fail immediately to inform his Lordship of it.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

R. DE AYALA.

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

No. 66.

*M. de Ayala to Viscount Palmerston.*

(Translation.)

28, Manchester Street, March 6, 1847.

THE Undersigned, accidentally charged with the Legation of New Granada during the temporary absence of M. Mosquera, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of that Republic at this Court, has the honour to inform the Right Honourable Lord Viscount Palmerston, Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that having forwarded the note which his Lordship was pleased to address to the above Minister, on the 25th ultimo, calling his attention to the correspondence which has taken place between the Secretary for Foreign Affairs of New Granada, and Mr. O'Leary, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Bogotá, by reason of a certain number of slaves having been exported from Panamá to Peru, M. Mosquera has instructed the Undersigned to manifest to his Lordship that he will not fail transmitting the said note to his Government by the next packet, and that the moment he receives an answer on the subject under consideration, he will not fail to communicate it to his Lordship, in accordance with such orders and instructions as may be forwarded to him.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

R. DE AYALA.

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

No. 67.

*Mr. O'Leary to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 10, 1847.)*

My Lord,

*Bogotá, December 17, 1846.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 4th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship, copy and translation of a note addressed to me under date of the 10th instant, by the Granadian Minister for Foreign Affairs, in reply to my note of the 25th ultimo, in which I protested against the exportation of slaves actually carried on under the sanction of the New Granadian Government, as contrary to the engagements contracted by this Republic in virtue of Article XIII of the Treaty with Great Britain.

M. Mallarino begins by stating that he thinks it proper and necessary to settle the meaning that his Government gives to the said stipulation, and adds, that the literal expression thereof ought not so much to be attended to as the intention of the Contracting Parties at the time of forming it; and after endeavouring to prove what were the literal expressions of Article XIII to be adopted, Great Britain as well as New Granada would have been guilty of violating the Treaty from the moment in which it had been signed, because in the British Colonies as well as in New Granada, slaves had subsequently been bought and sold, (as if I had objected not to the exportation by wholesale of slaves, but to the simple fact of buying and

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selling slaves, and as if Article XIII imposed any obligation on Great Britain.) M. Mallarino asserts that what is meant by Article XIII of the Treaty, is the abolition of the "African Slave Trade." Such is the substance of M. Mallarino's note, but there are two observations of M. Mallarino's, to which I respectfully request your Lordship's attention. It was stated in my note of the 24th of November to M. Mallarino, that the Granadian Government was free to adopt any measure it may think fit to compensate Granadian slave-holders for property which the action of the laws of the Republic may have impaired or destroyed before or after the signature of the Treaty of 1825, &c. M. Mallarino says "that the only effect of such a limit is to throw unnecessarily in the face of New Granada its want of resources, without offering it any useful example." Addressing your Lordship, I feel that it is unnecessary for me to state that I had not a remote intention of offending the poverty of New Granada, and that the observation of M. Mallarino is only to be attributed to the most puerile susceptibility.

I stated in the note just mentioned, that if without violating the stipulation by which she engaged to prevent all persons inhabiting within the territories of the Republic, from taking any part in the Slave Trade, "New Granada could sanction the exportation of slaves, she can likewise legalize the importation thereof." To this proposition, without affirming or contradicting it, M. Mallarino replies by saying "that this faculty may or may not include that of allowing the importation of slaves proceeding from countries distinct from the Continent of Africa, is a premature question, in the idle discussion of which he will not enter."

I have likewise the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship the answer I returned to M. Mallarino's note, stating, that having adopted a final recourse with respect to the proceedings at Panamá, I must abstain from all further comment thereupon, and submit to your Lordship M. Mallarino's note of the 10th instant, as I had already done with the former correspondence on the same subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

DANIEL F. O'LEARY.

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

&c.

&c.

&c.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 67.

*Señor Mallarino to Mr. O'Leary.*

(Translation.)

*Bogotá, December 10, 1846.*

THE Undersigned, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has received the note dated the 25th of November last, addressed to him by Mr. O'Leary, Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, insisting upon it that the exportation of slaves actually carried on by New Granada, is contrary to the engagements contracted by this Republic in virtue of Article XIII of the Treaty with Great Britain.

The Undersigned has had the honour of laying the said note before the President, but before entering into an examination of the arguments which it contains, and answering them in the manner prescribed by his Excellency, the Undersigned thinks it proper and necessary to settle the meaning that his Government gives to the said stipulation, so as to place the question in its true light, as also to avoid inexact deductions, which are inevitable under false premises.

The text of Article XIII of the Treaty of 1825, says: "The Government of Colombia engages to co-operate with His Britannic Majesty for the total abolition of the Slave Trade, and to prohibit all persons inhabiting within the territories of Colombia (now that of New Granada) in the most effectual manner, from taking any share in such Trade."

In the opinion of the Undersigned, in order to give this Article its genuine interpretation, the literal expression ought not so much to be attended to, as the intention of the Contracting Parties at the time of forming it: and as this intention does not appear in the protocol of the

conferences of the negotiators, nor in any other official document, it can only be discovered by studying the state of affairs at the time of celebrating the Treaty, and subsequently thereto; or in other words, the effects which said Treaty has produced, and the practical application which the two Governments gave to it.

That a literal meaning should not be the one given to this stipulation, is evident; for if such were the meaning that ought to be given to it, it would result that both Governments had been violating it from the moment in which the Treaty began to impose an obligation. In effect, they said they would co-operate towards the total abolition of the Slave Trade, and, nevertheless, it is notorious that this Traffic continued in force in the territories of Colombia and those of Great Britain, in which there were slaves at the time, and in which they continued selling and buying them freely, with the consent and protection of the respective authorities. From this notorious fact, and taking the Article in question literally, it would necessarily be inferred that both the Contracting Parties violated the Treaty wilfully and with full knowledge of the cause: an inadmissible supposition which has occurred to no one, and which contains a manifest absurdity: for it would be absurd to maintain as possible, so much bad faith on both sides, and such an open abandonment of their duties. But in rejecting this monstrous hypothesis, the literal sense of Article XIII is *ipso facto* abandoned; and as it cannot be conceived that it means nothing, to give it a not absurd if not rational meaning, one must naturally occur to the spirit of the Article according to the intention of the contractors. The Undersigned is strongly persuaded that it cannot be any other than that of co-operating towards the abolition of the African Slave Trade, and by this measure, towards the complete extinction of slavery.

To say, as Mr. O'Leary is pleased repeatedly, that the words of Article XIII of the Treaty of 1825, admit of no ambiguity; that the intention of the Contracting Parties was reciprocal and fully understood, and clearly and concisely expressed; and that by this Article the Granadian Government is bound "to co-operate with Her Britannic Majesty towards the total abolition of the Slave Trade, and to prohibit all persons inhabiting the territory of New Granada, in the most effectual manner, from taking any part in such Traffic," does not contribute very forcibly towards the elucidation of the controverted point, of the only question which requires clearing up, viz.: which is the Slave Trade which ought to be prohibited to the inhabitants of New Granada, which that which both Governments ought to strive to abolish altogether. This, and no other, is the true nucleus of the question, and for this reason it is that without previously settling the precise sense of the words adopted in the Article, it is not possible to give it its right meaning, nor to avoid the vicious circle which results from the constant repetition of phrases, in the exact signification whereof both parties are not agreed.

The Undersigned cannot suppose that Mr. O'Leary can pretend to give the word Trade, or the phrase Slave Trade, the absolute meaning belonging to its literal tenour, for this would be placing himself in opposition to the acts of his Government and with his own assertion that, when the Treaty was celebrated, His Britannic Majesty's Government had no wish to innovate or diminish the rights of property which then existed in New Granada, founded upon the institution of slavery. From this declaration it is incontrovertibly deduced, that Mr. O'Leary does not understand that the prohibition of the Slave Trade can comprehend that which is carried on in the interior of the Republic with those which already existed therein; and from this it is likewise inferred that he does not give to the stipulation the absolutely literal sense, but another which the Undersigned cannot, nor is it of consequence to him, to penetrate, for from the moment in which it is agreed that the literal interpretation is inadmissible, no other rational one can be found, but that the Treaty only refers to the Trade in African Slaves.

Either Mr. O'Leary understands that all trade in slaves is prohibited, and that this being correct, he could exact the immediate and complete suspension of all purchase and sale of slaves in the interior of the

Republic, which is a thing he has not pretended nor could pretend; or he thinks that such a prohibition is not absolute, and then, not having any reason taken from the Treaty to suppose that the Trade in Slaves, natives of New Granada, can be permitted from one province to another, and ought to be prohibited from these to any other foreign nation; the only satisfactory explanation of the end and object of the Contracting Parties comes to this; that neither one of them can interfere in that which the other determines respecting the slaves that exist in its territory, whether to emancipate them, to trade with them in the interior, or to export them.

This appears to the Undersigned incontrovertible evidence. If the sale and purchase of slaves, which has never ceased in the Republic, is lawful and conformable to the Treaty, the exportation of such slaves is also necessarily legal and agreeable to the said pact. With respect to these operations, there is no rational or well-founded method between including or excluding them from the prohibition of the Treaty, for this either forbids both operations or does not prohibit any, which is positive; for its object has only been to persecute the African Slave Trade, that the institution of slavery should thereby disappear also.

The measure which Mr. O'Leary has not hesitated in qualifying to seem as an open and gross violation of the Treaty, tends very effectively towards the realization of the recognized object of said pact, as without increasing the total number of individuals subject to slavery, without altering or aggravating their condition, it brings nearer for New Granada the day in which it may (it may) see itself free from this deplorable social stain.

It should not be said that the Granadian Government can obtain the same end by imitating the Act of the British Parliament, and that it is free to emancipate its slaves by compensating the owners. Mr. O'Leary knows perfectly well that the Government of the Republic is not able to adopt such a measure, even supposing, without conceding it, that the experience that has been obtained from it, makes it worthy of imitation and applause; and he also knows that the only effect of such a hint is to throw unnecessarily in the face of New Granada its want of resources, without offering it any useful example. This Republic is without doubt free, as Mr. O'Leary has wished to indicate, to adapt its conduct to that of other nations; but it is no less free to choose between various modes of action, that which may appear to it most practicable and adequate for the attainment of a desired end; and in this as well as in every other affair in which the sacred cause of humanity is affected, it has never required examples, but has frequently given them worthy of being imitated.

Neither let it be objected that the number of slaves existing in New Granada cannot be diminished by exportation without increase in the place of their destination. This result does not make the present state of things worse, since if, as Mr. O'Leary asserts, the views of the authors of the Treaty extended themselves to the whole world, a measure which favours the high interest of New Granada, can in no way injure them, without affecting in a pernicious manner those of the human species. Besides, this argument, if it proved anything, and if it could meet with support in the Treaty, would prove that the home trade in slaves ought not to be allowed, it being evident that this cannot be carried on from one section of the same state to another, without diminishing the number in one part and increasing it in others. Mr. O'Leary happens to acknowledge that he has no right to interfere in this species of trade when it is carried on in places subject to a common authority. Upon what does he lean then, in arrogating to himself the faculty of mixing himself up with the same Traffic, when it is carried on between points on the same continent, with slaves, which far from having been brought from Africa, are natives of New Granada, and the lawful property of Granadian citizens? Does he rest upon the engagement to co-operate towards the total abolition of the Slave Trade, and the prohibition to take any part therein? It has already been proved that these stipulations ought not, and cannot prejudice the rights of property which existed when the Treaty was celebrated, and that this does not refer, and cannot

refer, to anything but the Trade in African slaves. On the other hand, and admitting gratuitously that the exportation may cause any ill effects in the country where it may be directed to, it would be more natural and convenient that this officious intervention which is exercised with such warmth, should apply its philanthropic efforts in the place in which they might be of some use, and not in New Granada, in which the measure that is being contested is directly and immediately beneficial.

Mr. O'Leary appears to wonder that the laws about slaves should have been adduced as acts of co-operation towards the abolition of the Trade, and that at the same time it should be sustained that there is no obligation to maintain them intact. The Undersigned, nevertheless, finds no contradiction between these propositions of trivial clearness. In his opinion both are exact and compatible with the treaty. In maintaining in force the laws which treat as acts of piracy the Trade in African slaves, the Republic fulfils the engagements imposed upon it by Article XIII of the Treaty; and in reforming the laws which only affect the slaves born in its territory, it opposes no right, nor commits any injustice, and merely uses, to the benefit of its own interest, a lawful faculty and of indisputable sovereignty, to which no foreign Power has a right to impose restrictions. That this faculty may include or not, that of allowing the importation of slaves proceeding from countries distinct from the continent of Africa, is a premature question, in the idle discussion whereof the Undersigned will not enter.

In manifesting that there was no incompatibility between the exportation of slaves, which is lawfully carried on by New Granada and the Treaty which prohibits the Traffic in those from Africa, the Undersigned by order of his Government, and as a proof of its consideration for that of Her Britannic Majesty, took great pains in setting forth the measures it had adopted in order to avoid abuses. Mr. O'Leary does not appear to be disposed to admit them in the same friendly and conciliatory spirit in which they were notified to him, and even steps forth to insinuate that these measures are contrary to the text of the law. The Undersigned regrets that Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires has not agreed with him upon this point, but resting firmly upon the justice and fitness of the measures to which he has referred, he does not think it indispensable to give fresh explanations upon acts of home Government that have been well considered, and which it is not intended to revoke.

No less confidence has the Granadian Government in that of Her Britannic Majesty, when it may be informed of the state of this affair, will do full justice to the uprightness, good will, and constant solicitude which direct its proceedings, notwithstanding Mr. O'Leary's protest, which the Undersigned feels he can do no less than consider both out of time and unfounded.

As to the rest, and in answer to the offer with which Mr. O'Leary has been pleased to conclude his note, the Undersigned has the honour to manifest, that he has duly noted his intention to give account to Her Majesty's Government of the new propositions which that of New Granada has made for the basis of a treaty for the abolition of the Slave Trade; but qualified as this promise has been with the expression, that he cannot conceive that such propositions can be accepted, the Granadian Government leaves it entirely to the discretion of Mr. O'Leary to forward them or not.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

M. MALLARINO.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 67.

*Mr. O'Leary to Señor Mallarino.*

*Bogotá, December 12, 1846.*

THE Undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, had the honour to receive the note which his Excellency M. Mallarino, Granadian Minister for Foreign Affairs, addressed to the Undersigned under

date of the 10th instant, on the subject of the exportation of slaves by Granadian citizens from Panamá.

The extreme and final course which the Undersigned has deemed it his duty to adopt in regard to that proceeding, and which he communicated in his note of the 25th ultimo to M. Mallarino, leaves the Undersigned no alternative but to submit to Her Majesty's Government his Excellency's above-mentioned note, as he has already done with regard to the whole of the correspondence which previously took place between M. Mallarino and the Undersigned on the same subject.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

DANIEL F. O'LEARY.

No. 68.

*Mr. O'Leary to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 10.)*

My Lord,

*Bogotá, January 14, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt on this morning by the Venezuelan mail, of your Lordship's despatch of the 22nd October last, transmitting to me copy of a despatch and its inclosures from Her Majesty's Consul at Panamá to your Lordship, on the subject of an exportation of 180 slaves, which was about to be effected from the Province of Panamá to Peru, and stating the steps which Mr. Perry had taken in consequence; and instructing me how to act, in order to impress on the Granadian Government the flagrant injustice of the proceeding referred to in Mr. Perry's despatch.

On reference to my despatch of the 6th of October last, your Lordship will perceive that immediately on being informed by Mr. Perry of the preparations making at Panamá for the exportation of slaves to Peru, I had anticipated the desire of your Lordship, representing in a note presented by me to the Granadian Foreign Secretary, the injustice of that proceeding, and submitting for the consideration of the Granadian Government the expediency of repealing the enactments which sanctioned it.

Your Lordship will also see, on reference to my despatch of the 4th of December last, that on being informed by Mr. Perry that the exportation of 130 slaves had been accomplished, I addressed another note, dated the 17th of November, to the Granadian Foreign Secretary, denouncing that iniquitous transaction, and protesting against it as a violation of the stipulation contained in Article XIII of the Treaty between Great Britain and Colombia.

It was not until after exhausting every effort of persuasion that I adopted this step, as my despatch of the 17th ultimo and its inclosures will prove to your Lordship.

I have now to await the decision of your Lordship on this subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

DANIEL F. O'LEARY.

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

&c.

&c.

&c.

No. 69.

*Mr. O'Leary to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 8.)*

My Lord,

*Bogotá, February 12, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatches of the 7th and 15th of December last; the former transmitting me a copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Perry, relative to the late case of Slave Trade at Panamá, the latter instructing me again to press the Government of New Granada to enter into a Treaty for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

DANIEL F. O'LEARY.

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

&c.

&c.

&c.

No. 70.

*Viscount Palmerston to Mr. O'Leary.*

(Extract.)

*Foreign Office, April 25, 1847.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 12th of November, 1846, inclosing a copy and translation of a note addressed to you on the 23rd of November, 1846, by the Granadian Minister for Foreign Affairs, in reply to that which you had addressed to him on the 16th of September preceding, inquiring what means the Granadian Government proposed to adopt, in order to carry out the obligation which it had contracted by Article XIII of the Treaty of 1825 between Great Britain and Colombia, if the Granadian Government entertained an insuperable objection to conclude the Treaty for the suppression of the Slave Trade proposed to it by Her Majesty's Government.

In that note Señor Mallarino maintains that New Granada has already by her own laws against Slave Trade and Slavery completely fulfilled the engagement which she contracted by Article XIII of the Treaty of 1825. He enumerates various objections to the Treaty proposed by Her Majesty's Government; and he states that the Granadian Government having received no reply to the propositions made to you by M. Acosta on the 8th of June, 1844, namely, that the duration of the Treaty signed by Mr. Adams in 1842, should be extended from fifteen to twenty-five years as respects the right of search on the coast of Africa, Madagascar, and Brazil, any new proposal should consequently come from Her Majesty's Government.

M. Mallarino however adds, that his Government is willing to conclude a Treaty to be substituted for that signed in 1842. He sets forth the basis of such treaty; and in the event of your not being authorized to enter into negotiation with him thereupon (and which by your note of the 10th of November you informed him you were not), he states that his Government would have no objection to instruct the Granadian Minister in London to come to a direct understanding upon this subject with Her Majesty's Government.

It is not necessary for me here to reply at length to the observations made by Señor Mallarino on the Treaty proposed by Her Majesty's Government. It is sufficient to observe that those observations appear to be founded on a wrong assumption; namely, that the object of the Treaty proposed by Her Majesty's Government is to prevent a Traffic which does not exist and is not likely to be revived, that is to say, the introduction of slaves into New Granada; whereas the object which Her Majesty's Government has in view is to prevent the flag, the vessels, and the citizens of New Granada from being employed in supplying slaves to the markets of other nations.

It is true, as stated by Señor Mallarino, that no reply was given to the proposition made by Senhor Acosta in 1844 beyond the verbal one made by yourself that it was inadmissible, and in the propriety of that verbal intimation so made by you Her Majesty's Government agrees. Her Majesty's Government in announcing in the year 1842 the conditions upon which it would ratify the Treaty signed by Mr. Adams, had made the utmost concessions which were compatible with the due attainment of the object of the Treaty.

The bases of the Treaty which Senhor Mallarino proposes to substitute for that signed in 1842, are wholly inapplicable to the purposes in view. They provide only for the prevention of Slave Trade and the extinction of slavery in the territories of New Granada by the law of that country, and give no power to Her Majesty's cruizers to prevent Granadian vessels or subjects from carrying on the Traffic to other slave-holding countries.

I now transmit to you for your information a copy of a note which, under the supposition that he might have been authorized to enter into negotiation, I addressed, on the 12th of February last, to M. Mosquera, inclosing a draft of Treaty for the suppression of the Slave Trade such as

Her Majesty's Government would be willing to conclude with New Granada.

I transmit to you likewise a copy of the reply which, by direction of M. Mosquera, was addressed to me by M. Ayala, stating that M. Mosquera was not in possession of full powers or instructions to carry on the negotiation of this matter in London.

I have to instruct you to transmit to the Granadian Minister for Foreign Affairs a copy of the draft of Treaty which I submitted to M. Mosquera, and to invite him to sign the same in conjunction with you, or to send full powers to M. Mosquera to conclude the Treaty with me in London.

You will state to Senhor Mallarino that Her Majesty's Government cannot admit of any alteration or modification of the stipulations of that draft, and that a continued refusal on the part of New Granada to conclude such a treaty would be looked upon by Her Majesty's Government as indicating an unfriendly spirit towards this country, and might compel Her Majesty's Government to resort, in case of necessity, to such measures as may be requisite to enforce the right which Great Britain has acquired of preventing Slave Trade from being carried on in any part of the world under the Granadian flag, or by Granadian vessels or subjects.

*Daniel F. O'Leary, Esq.*

(Signed)

PALMERSTON.

&c.

&c.

Inclosures in No. 70.

1. *Viscount Palmerston to M. Mosquera, February 12, 1847.*
2. *M. de Ayala to Viscount Palmerston, March 6, 1847.*

[See Nos. 63 and 65, pp. 86 and 88.]

No. 71.

*Viscount Palmerston to Mr. O'Leary.*

(Extract.)

*Foreign Office, April 26, 1847.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 17th of December last, inclosing a copy and translation of a note addressed to you on the 10th of December by the Granadian Minister for Foreign Affairs, in reply to that which you had addressed to him on the 25th of November preceding, protesting against the exportation of slaves from New Granada to Peru, as a violation of the engagement contracted by New Granada by Article XIII of the Treaty of 1825; and by which she bound herself to co-operate with Great Britain for the total abolition of the Slave Trade; and to prohibit all persons inhabiting within her territory in the most effectual manner from taking any share in such Trade.

In that note Señor Mallarino maintains that the Contracting Parties to the Treaty of 1825 were bound by the above-cited stipulation to co-operate only towards the abolition of the African Slave Trade, and by that means towards the complete extinction of slavery. He maintains that that stipulation was not intended to interfere with the sale or transfer of slaves within the respective territories of the Contracting Parties; and that with respect to such slaves, it remained competent to the Contracting Parties to deal with them as they pleased, either to emancipate them, to trade with them in the interior, or to export them.

I have to instruct you to state to the Granadian Minister that Her Majesty's Government can by no means acquiesce in his interpretation of that Article of the Treaty, but must consider that Article as entirely precluding the exportation of slaves from the territory of New Granada. This conclusion, however, would follow even from his own interpretation of the Treaty, because he seems to contend that the Government of New Granada are bound only to do as much in the way of prohibiting the Slave Trade as was done by England at the time when the Treaty was

concluded; and at that time the law of England prohibited the transport of slaves from any British island or colony to any foreign colony or country.

Her Majesty's Government feel it their duty to exact from New Granada a faithful and rigid fulfilment of the engagement taken by that State by Article XIII of the Treaty of 1825.

*Daniel F. O'Leary, Esq.*

(Signed)

PALMERSTON.

§c.

§c.

No. 72.

*Mr. O'Leary to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received May 9.)*

(Extract.)

*Bogotá, March 9, 1847.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 7th December last, instructing me to press upon the Government of New Granada the just expectations of Her Majesty's Government, that the Law of 1843, permitting the sale of slaves out of the Republic, will be repealed, as contrary to the engagement contracted by New Granada towards Great Britain under Article XIII of the Treaty of 1825, I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship, that though from the protest I had made against the proceeding of which your Lordship complains, I considered myself incapacitated from again bringing the subject officially under the consideration of the Granadian Government, I took an opportunity, in the course of an interview which I had with the President a fortnight since, of communicating to his Excellency the substance of the instructions recently received from your Lordship, when his Excellency informed me that he intended to present to Congress a bill repealing the Law of 1843, which sanctions the exportation of slaves from the territory of the Republic. I expressed my satisfaction at learning this intention of the Granadian Government; and observed that the contemplated measure being all that I had required in the name of Her Majesty's Government in the course of the correspondence I had with the Granadian Foreign Secretary, in consequence of the exportation of slaves which, in violation of our Treaty, had taken place at Panamá, the official intimation to me of the determination of his Excellency to recommend to Congress the repeal of the obnoxious law would materially alter the state of the question between Her Majesty's Mission and the Granadian Foreign Office. The President replied that it was not in consequence of my remonstrances that he had resolved to alter the law, because he did not think that the Treaty was infringed by the Law of 1843, but because he considered its effects injurious to the Republic. Here I allowed the conversation to drop.

The project of law repealing that which permits the sale of slaves for exportation, was yesterday presented to the Legislative Chambers.

(Signed)

DANIEL F. O'LEARY.

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

§c.

§c.

§c.

No. 73.

*Mr. O'Leary to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 8.)*

My Lord,

*Bogotá, May 4, 1847.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 9th of March last, I have the honour to inclose herewith copy and translation of a note addressed to me on the 29th ultimo by the Granadian Secretary for Foreign Affairs, accompanying copy of a law (a copy and translation of which are also herewith inclosed) repealing the enactments of 1843, which sanctioned the exportation of slaves from the territories of New Granada. I have likewise the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of the answer I have returned to M. Mallarino's above-mentioned note.

CLASS D.



In communicating to your Lordship the successful result of my late correspondence with the Granadian Government on this subject, I most respectfully beg leave once more to recommend to your Lordship's favourable notice the conduct of Mr. Consul Perry, by whose humane and active interference numbers of the African race, born to freedom in New Granada in virtue of the laws, have been rescued from that bondage which the avarice of unscrupulous speculators had prepared for them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DANIEL F. O'LEARY.

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

&c.

&c.

&c.

Inclosure 1 in No. 73.

*Señor Mallarino to Mr. O'Leary.*

(Translation.)

*Bogotá, April 29, 1847.*

THE Granadian Government, being convinced of the interest with which that of Great Britain regards the abolition of the Slave Trade, and abounding in similar sentiments, has just sanctioned a law upon the matter, of which the Undersigned has pleasure in inclosing a copy for the information of Mr. O'Leary, Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) M. M. MALLARINO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 73.

*Law prohibiting the importation and exportation of Slaves.*

(Translation.)

The Senate and Chamber of Representatives of New Granada assembled in Congress,

Decree :

ARTICLE I. The importation of slaves into the Republic is prohibited, whatsoever the number may be; those that should be imported contrary to this prohibition being free. In these terms, the article 7, law 7, part 6, treaty 1, of the Granadian Compilation is reformed.

Article II. The articles 4 and 5 of the 14th law, part 6, treaty 1 of the Granadian Compilation, are annulled, and consequently the exportation of slaves from the Republic is prohibited. Any person infringing this regulation, shall be obliged to bring back to the country within four months, the exported slaves, which by that act shall be freed. In case of not effecting the restoration, the infractor shall be liable to the fine of 4000 rials for each slave, to be applied to the manumission funds.

Article III. When any slave-owner wishes to transfer any slave from one part of the Republic to another as a prejudicial person, the governors and police authorities shall give the necessary aid and protection.

Article IV. In order to export slaves brought to the Republic as domestic servants, as was formerly allowed, the term of one year, counting from the passing of this law, is fixed. Slaves not exported within this term will be free, upon proving that they were imported from a foreign country.

Given in Bogotá, this 27th day of April, 1847.

Inclosure 3 in No. 73.

*Mr. O'Leary to Señor Mallarino.*

*Bogotá, May 3, 1847.*

THE Undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the note dated the 30th ultimo, in which his Excellency M. Mallarino, Granadian Secretary of State for

Foreign Affairs, inclosed a copy of the law recently sanctioned by the Granadian Government, prohibiting the importation and exportation of slaves, and which the Undersigned will feel the liveliest satisfaction in forwarding to his Government by the earliest opportunity.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) DANIEL F. O'LEARY.

No. 74.

*Viscount Palmerston to Mr. O'Leary.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, August 6, 1847.*

HER Majesty's Government are much gratified to learn from your despatch, dated the 4th of May last, that the Government of New Granada have at last passed a law repealing those enactments of the Law of 1843 which sanctioned the exportation of slaves from the territories of the Republic, and prohibiting henceforward the importation and exportation of slaves altogether.

Bearing in mind the observation reported in your despatch, dated the 9th of March last, which the President made to you when conversing upon this subject, Her Majesty's Government are not permitted to assume that the present measure has been adopted by the Granadian Government out of deference to the representations of Her Majesty's Government, as bearing upon the engagements which New Granada has contracted towards Great Britain by Article XIII of the Treaty of 1825, and which Her Majesty's Government contend were infringed by the Law of 1843. But whatever the motives may have been which have actuated the Granadian Government in passing this measure, Her Majesty's Government hail the measure with satisfaction; and you will therefore express to M. Mallarino the pleasure with which Her Majesty's Government have received the communication which he has made to you on this occasion.

I am, &c.

*Daniel F. O'Leary, Esq.*  
 &c. &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 75.

*Mr. O'Leary to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received October 8.)*

My Lord,

*Bogotá, July 19, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 25th of April last, on the subject of a correspondence which I had towards the end of last year with the New Granadian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in reference to the Slave Treaty which Her Majesty's Government invited the Government of New Granada to conclude; and transmitting for my information a copy of a note which your Lordship had addressed on the 12th of February last to M. Mosquera, inclosing a draft of Treaty for the suppression of the Slave Trade, such as Her Majesty's Government would be willing to conclude with New Granada; and inclosing to me likewise a copy of the reply which, by direction of M. Mosquera, was addressed to your Lordship by M. Ayala, stating that M. Mosquera was not in possession of full powers or instructions to carry on the negotiation of that Treaty in London; and finally instructing me to transmit to the New Granadian Minister for Foreign Affairs a copy of the draft of Treaty which your Lordship had submitted to M. Mosquera, and to invite his Excellency to sign the same in conjunction with me, or to send full powers to M. Mosquera, to conclude the Treaty with your Lordship in London.

I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, in pursuance of the above-mentioned instructions, I addressed, on the 12th instant, a note to the New Granadian Secretary for Foreign Affairs, acquainting him that your Lordship had addressed, on the 12th of February last, a note to the Granadian Minister in London, inclosing to him a draft of Treaty for the abolition of the Slave Trade, such as Her Majesty's Government would be willing to conclude with New Granada, and inviting him to sign the same in conjunction with your Lordship; and I requested M. Mallarino to inform me if his Government had furnished M. Mosquera with full powers to conclude that Treaty, as otherwise I was authorized to submit a copy of the same draft to M. Mallarino, and to invite his Excellency to sign the Treaty with me.

I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith, the copy of this note, and also copy and translation of the reply of M. Mallarino, acquainting me that full powers have been transmitted to the Granadian Minister in London, to negotiate and conclude with your Lordship the Treaty for the abolition of the Slave Trade.

I have likewise the honour to acquaint your Lordship, that in a conversation I have recently held with the President on this subject, his Excellency confirmed M. Mallarino's statement, and further assured me that he felt a lively satisfaction in furnishing M. Mosquera with full powers to conclude the Slave Treaty in question, as a mark of respect to your Lordship. His Excellency further expressed in the course of that conversation the most liberal and humane sentiments, regretting that the circumstances of the country, particularly in a financial point of view, precludes the possibility of immediately and for ever extinguishing the last remnant of slavery in New Granada.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DANIEL F. O'LEARY.

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

&c.

&c.

&c.

Inclosure 1 in No. 75.

*Mr. O'Leary to Señor Mallarino.*

*Bogotá, July 12, 1847.*

THE Undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, has the honour to acquaint his Excellency M. Mallarino, the Granadian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that the Right Honourable Viscount Palmerston, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, addressed on the 12th of February last, to his Excellency the Granadian Minister in London, a note in reference to the correspondence which took place towards the close of the last year, between the Undersigned and M. Mallarino, on the subject of the proposed Treaty between Great Britain and New Granada for the abolition of the Slave Trade, and inclosed for M. Mosquera's consideration the draft of such a Treaty as Her Majesty's Government would be willing to conclude for the object in view.

The Undersigned requests M. Mallarino will be pleased to inform him if the Granadian Government has furnished M. Mosquera with the full powers to conclude that Treaty with Lord Palmerston, as otherwise the Undersigned is authorized to submit copy of the same draft to M. Mallarino, and to invite his Excellency to sign the same in conjunction with the Undersigned.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) DANIEL F. O'LEARY.

## Inclosure 2 in No. 75.

*Señor Mallarino to Mr. O'Leary.*

(Translation.)

*Bogotá, July 14, 1847.*

THE Undersigned, Granadian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has the honour to acquaint Mr. O'Leary, Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, in answer to his note of the 12th instant, that full powers have been transmitted to the Granadian Minister in London to enter into the negotiation of the Treaty for the abolition of the Slave Trade, with instructions to celebrate it.

The Undersigned, &amp;c.

(Signed)

M. M. MALLARINO.

## No. 76.

*Mr. O'Leary to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received October 8.)*

My Lord,

*Bogotá, July 19, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 26th of April last, in answer to my despatch of the 17th of December last, on the subject of the exportation of slaves from New Granada to Peru, in violation of the engagement contracted by New Granada by Article XIII of the Treaty of 1825, and instructing me to communicate to the Granadian Foreign Minister the views of Her Majesty's Government in reference to this question.

The Government of New Granada having already repealed the law which permitted the exportation of slaves from the territories of New Granada, as I reported to your Lordship in my despatch of the 4th of May last, I have considered it unnecessary to make any further observations on the subject to the Government of New Granada.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

DANIEL F. O'LEARY.

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

&amp;c.

&amp;c.

&amp;c.

## No. 77.

*Viscount Palmerston to M. Mosquera.**Foreign Office, October 23, 1847.*

WITH reference to the note which the Undersigned, &c., had the honour to address to M. Mosquera, &c., on the 12th of February last, inclosing a draft of a Treaty for the suppression of the Slave Trade, such as Her Majesty's Government are desirous of concluding with the Republic of New Granada, the Undersigned has the honour to state to M. Mosquera that he has recently received from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Bogotá, a copy of a note dated the 14th of July last, addressed to Mr. O'Leary by the Granadian Minister for Foreign Affairs, stating that full powers had been transmitted to M. Mosquera to enter into negotiation for the purpose of concluding the Treaty in question.

The Undersigned has accordingly the honour to invite M. Mosquera's attention to the draft of Treaty above referred to, and to request that M. Mosquera will have the goodness to inform him whether he is ready to sign the same in conjunction with the Undersigned.

The Undersigned, &amp;c.

(Signed)

PALMERSTON.

*M. Mosquera,*

&amp;c. &amp;c.

No. 78.

*M. Mosquera to Viscount Palmerston.*

(Translation.)

62, Baker Street, October 26, 1847.

THE Undersigned, &c., has had the honour to receive the note that his Excellency Lord Viscount Palmerston, &c., has been pleased to address to him under date of the 23rd instant, referring to that which on the 12th of February last his Excellency addressed to the Undersigned with a project of Treaty for the suppression of the Traffic in Slaves, conceived in the terms in which the Government of Her Majesty would wish to conclude it with the Republic of New Granada, and signifying to the Undersigned that his Excellency had recently received from the Legation of Her Majesty at Bogotá, a copy of a note which the Minister for Foreign Affairs of New Granada had addressed to Mr. O'Leary under date of the 14th July, in the which he informed him of having transmitted to the Undersigned the full powers necessary for entering in negotiation, with a view to the conclusion of the Treaty in question.

In consequence, the Right Hon. Viscount Palmerston is pleased to request the Undersigned to inform him if he is ready to sign, in conjunction with his Excellency, the said Treaty.

The Undersigned has the honour to state to his Excellency, in reply, that he indeed received in Paris the full powers for entering on the said negotiation, the which were forwarded to him by his Excellency the President of the Republic, in conformity with the intimation which the Minister for Foreign Affairs had made to Mr. O'Leary in the note dated 3rd of November, 1846; and this being one of the objects with which the Undersigned has arrived in this capital, it is very satisfactory for him to announce to Viscount Palmerston that he is ready to enter on the negotiation referred to, for which purpose he will have the honour of soliciting from his Excellency an interview.

The Undersigned, &amp;c.

(Signed)

M. M. MOSQUERA.

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

No. 79.

*M. Mosquera to Viscount Palmerston.*

(Extract.)

(Translation.)

62, Baker Street, November 6, 1847.

THE Undersigned, &c., in his last conference with the Right Hon. Lord Viscount Palmerston, &c., had the honour to lay before his Excellency the modifications with which the Government of the Republic is disposed to accept the project of Treaty for the abolition of the Traffic in Slaves which the Right Hon. Viscount Palmerston was pleased to forward to the Undersigned with the note of the 25th of February of the present year. These modifications, which are but few, appear in the counter-project which the Undersigned has drawn up in accordance with his instructions, and which he has the honour to inclose with this communication.

(Signed)

M. M. MOSQUERA.

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

No. 80.

*Viscount Palmerston to M. Mosquera.*

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, December 9, 1847.

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the note addressed to him on the 6th ultimo by M. Mosquera, &c., inclosing a counter-project of Treaty between Great Britain and New Granada,

for the suppression of the Slave Trade, and stating that M. Mosquera is prepared to sign a Treaty in conformity with that counter-draft.

The Undersigned has to state in reply, that he has carefully considered the propositions made by Mosquera in that counter-draft, and has the honour to transmit to M. Mosquera a draft of the proposed Treaty, containing such of the alterations proposed by M. Mosquera as Her Majesty's Government feel themselves at liberty to admit.

It remains only for the Undersigned to express the sincere hope of Her Majesty's Government that M. Mosquera will feel himself at liberty to conclude the Treaty according to the draft now transmitted to him; and the Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

## No. 81.

*M. Mosquera to Viscount Palmerston.*

(Extract.)

(Translation.)

62, Baker Street, December 16, 1847.

THE Undersigned, &c., has had the honour to receive the note which, under date of the 9th instant, the Right Honourable Viscount Palmerston, &c., has addressed to him in answer to that which the Undersigned addressed to his Excellency on the 6th of November, inclosing therewith a counter-project of Treaty between New Granada and Great Britain, for the suppression of the Traffic in Slaves.

The Undersigned has also received the new project which his Excellency forwarded with his note.

The Undersigned having no faculties for accepting the new project which his Excellency has been pleased to forward to him, being without instructions to do so, finds himself under the necessity of submitting it to the consideration of his Government, and for this purpose transmits, under this date, a copy of it to the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of New Granada; and as soon as the Undersigned receives an answer, he will have the honour of placing himself anew in communication with the Right Honourable Viscount Palmerston upon this affair.

In the meantime, the Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

M. M. MOSQUERA.

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

&c.

&c.

&c.

## No. 82.

*Mr. O'Leary to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 3, 1848.)*

My Lord,

*Bogotá, October 14, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 6th August last, instructing me to express to the Granadian Foreign Secretary the pleasure with which Her Majesty's Government had received his communication to me respecting the repeal of the enactments which sanctioned the exportation of slaves from the territories of New Granada.

And I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship that I lost no time in carrying out that instruction.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

DANIEL F. O'LEARY.

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

&c.

&c.

&c.



NEW GRANADA. (*Consular*)—*Panama.*

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No. 83.

*Consul Perry to Viscount Palmerston.*—(*Received March 10.*)

My Lord,

*Panamá, January 6, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch dated October 22 of last year, in which your Lordship has been pleased to express your approval of the remonstrance I thought it my duty to make to the Governor of this province upon the exportation of 180 slaves from this province to Peru.

I have the satisfaction to report, that the greater part of the libertos or freed men were landed at Payta by the "*Tres Amigos*" and became free. The slaves, I have been informed privately, were sold at Lambayeque.

I have likewise to acknowledge the receipt of the inclosure in your Lordship's despatch, being a copy of an instruction to Mr. O'Leary upon this subject, for which I beg to offer my thanks.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

WILLIAM PERRY.

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

&c.

&c.

&c.

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No. 84.

*Viscount Palmerston to Consul Perry.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, August 6, 1847.*

A DESPATCH has recently been received from Mr. O'Leary, by which Her Majesty's Government have had the satisfaction to learn that the Government of New Granada has now passed a law, repealing those enactments of the Law of 1843 which sanctioned the exportation of slaves from the territories of the Republic, and prohibiting henceforward the importation and exportation of slaves altogether.

Mr. O'Leary, in his despatch announcing this measure, takes the opportunity of calling my attention to the praiseworthy conduct which you have pursued in upholding the rights of the African race in New Granada; and I beg to assure you that Her Majesty's Government duly appreciate the activity and meritorious zeal which you have shown in this cause.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

PALMERSTON.

*William Perry, Esq.*

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No. 85.

*Consul Perry to Viscount Palmerston.*—(Received October 1.)

My Lord,

Brighton, September 29, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 6th ultimo, in which you inform me that the Government of New Granada has passed a law repealing those enactments of the Law of 1843 which sanctioned the exportation of slaves from the territories of the Republic, and prohibiting henceforward the importation and exportation of slaves altogether.

I feel extremely gratified by the assurance given me by your Lordship, that Her Majesty's Government appreciate the exertions that I made to put a stop to the Traffic of Slaves in the New Granadian Republic.

I shall take care to forward to Panamá your Lordship's despatch on this subject, to be placed in the archives of Her Majesty's Consulate.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

WILLIAM PERRY.

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

&amp;c.

&amp;c.

&amp;c.

## PERU.

No. 86.

*Mr. Barton to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 1, 1847.)*

(Extract.)

*Lima, October 6, 1846.*

ON the 11th ultimo I had the honour of addressing to your Lordship a despatch\*, transmitting copy of a note which I had addressed on the 9th of September to Señor Paz Soldan, on the subject of certain slaves that were about to be introduced into Peru from Panamá, according to advice received from Mr. Consul Perry.

I now have the honour to transmit copy and translation of the Peruvian Minister's reply to the foregoing note, in which your Lordship will observe that his Excellency declines entering into any discussion with me on this subject, as the Peruvian Government has authorized a Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of London, to declare the nullity and instability of the Treaty existing between Her Britannic Majesty and Peru.

As no time was to be lost, concluding that the brig "*Tres Amigos*" would leave Panamá about the 25th of August, I waited on Señor Paz Soldan, and attempted to prevail on him to withdraw his note of the 17th ultimo, as by his denial to enter into any explanation of the conduct of his Government in not preventing the introduction of the slaves, he placed me under the disagreeable necessity of resorting to the only means in my power to uphold the dignity of the situation I had the honour to hold under Her Britannic Majesty's Government, which was to dispatch a vessel of war to look after the slaver, and prevent, if possible, the slaves being landed. His Excellency declined to do as I proposed, but at the same time gave me to understand that if I would address him a note in reply to his of the 17th ultimo, stating that I was the only representative of Her Majesty's Government, he would reply to it in a different style. I returned home and immediately wrote the despatch, copy of which I have the honour to transmit herewith, dated September 23rd.

The 24th of the same month being a holiday, when all the public offices were closed, I awaited the reply of his Excellency to the above note until the evening of the 25th.

At nearly 11 o'clock on that night the Peruvian Minister's note, copy and translation of which I herewith transmit, was delivered to me, entering fully into the merits of the question, and to which I replied on the following day, as your Lordship will perceive on reference to the inclosed copy of my note.

On the 28th of September I addressed a letter to Captain Worth, copy of which I have the honour to transmit herewith, informing him of what had occurred, and that under the present circumstances of the case, I intended to protest against the Peruvian Government in the most solemn manner, and submit the question to the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

On the 5th instant the Peruvian Minister for Foreign Affairs addressed me another note, copy and translation of which I have the honour to transmit herewith.

(Signed)

JOHN BARTON.

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

§c.

§c.

§c.

\* See Class D, 1846, No. 72, p. 111.

## Inclosure 1 in No. 86.

*Señor Paz Soldan to Mr. Barton.*

(Translation.)

*Lima, September 17, 1846.*

THE Undersigned, Peruvian Minister for Foreign Affairs, has received Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General's note of the 9th instant, in which he solicits that the necessary precautions should be taken to stop the introduction into Peru of certain slaves, of which he assures he has received news that they are being brought up in the Peruvian brig "*Tres Amigos*," this Traffic being prohibited in this Republic, conformable to Article XIV of the Treaty of Amity, Commerce, and Navigation celebrated with Her Britannic Majesty.

The only reply that the Undersigned thinks he ought to give to the Consul-General is, that he cannot enter into any discussion with him on this subject, as the Government has authorized a Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of London, to declare the nullity and instability of said Treaty, the which cannot be binding to Peru, from having been celebrated with an invader, in breach of the fundamental laws of the Republic, and for other objects which will be made to appear at the said Court.

The Undersigned, &amp;c.

(Signed) JOSE G. PAZ DE SOLDAN.

## Inclosure 2 in No. 86.

*Mr. Barton to Señor Paz Soldan.**Lima, September 23, 1846.*

THE Undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul-General, has the honour to acknowledge receipt of his Excellency the Peruvian Minister for Foreign Affairs' note of the 17th instant, in which his Excellency states that he cannot enter into any discussion concerning the Treaty existing between Her Britannic Majesty and Peru, as the Peruvian Government has authorized a Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of London, for the purpose of manifesting the nullity and instability of that Treaty, and for other causes.

The Undersigned being the only Representative of Her Britannic Majesty's Government in Peru, is by this denial on the part of Señor Paz Soldan to hold any communication with the Undersigned on the subject in question, placed in the disagreeable necessity of carrying out the positive instructions of Her Majesty's Government to maintain the validity of the said Treaty; he therefore feels himself imperatively called upon to use the only means in his power, which is, that the British man-of-war now lying in the port of Callao will on Saturday next proceed to sea to intercept the brig "*Tres Amigos*," and thereby stop the landing of the slaves referred to in the note the Undersigned had the honour to address to the Peruvian Minister on the 9th instant.

The Undersigned, &amp;c.

(Signed) JOHN BARTON.

## Inclosure 3 in No. 86.

*Señor Paz Soldan to Mr. Barton.*

(Translation.)

*Lima, September 25, 1846.*

AFTER this office was closed on Wednesday, the 23rd instant, at 6 o'clock in the evening I received the note of Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General, in which he declares that as he is under the necessity of making use of the only means which remain to him, in consequence of my having stated to him in my note of the 17th instant that I could not enter into

discussion with him on the subject of his former communication of the 9th, the British vessel of war now anchored at Callao would sail on Saturday, with the view of intercepting the Peruvian brig "*Tres Amigos*," and preventing the landing of the slaves she has on board.

This note, in which the Consul announces his intention of employing force to prevent an act to which Peru is not pledged by any Treaty with Her Britannic Majesty, has caused much surprise to the Government. If Mr. Barton will refer to the archives of his Consulate, he will there find the notes of Mr. Wilson, then holding the office of Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires and Consul-General, and learn that on the 25th of September, 1839, he addressed himself to this office with the view of ascertaining, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, whether Peru was willing to arrange and conclude a Treaty for the entire suppression of the Traffic in Slaves, and to declare such Traffic piracy. In this note, and in the later ones of the 4th of November, 27th of December, 1839, 1st of February, and 5th of March, 1840, he persisted in the same endeavour, until, on the 4th of June, there was transmitted to him in reply the resolution of the Council of State, stating that the whole matter should be submitted to Congress, as the body whose province it was to authorize the Executive for the conclusion of the Treaty. Mr. Wilson replied on the 6th of June, agreeing to everything, acknowledging the well-founded reasoning of the Council, and flattering himself that by means of its humane exertions the obstacle suggested by that body would be removed, and that his Excellency the President would solicit and obtain from the ensuing Legislature express authority for the conclusion of the proposed Treaty. In this and the remaining replies of Mr. Wilson, it is clearly defined that there was no Treaty existing between Peru and Great Britain for the prohibition of the Slave Trade.

Since then, none such exists, the measure which the Consul states will be adopted, is unjustifiable. Should it be carried into effect, the Peruvian Government protests at once against it, and against the Consul for the outrage committed upon the honour of the Peruvian Nation by the threat addressed to it of seizing one of its vessels and its property. The nation holds Her Britannic Majesty's Consul responsible for all the consequences, as well as his Government, and declares also that it will assert its rights in every manner, and by every means recognized by civilized nations, not forgetting that of addressing itself to Her Britannic Majesty in complaint of the conduct of her Consul-General. Certainly she will be surprised that, during the progress of negotiations in her own Court to render more lasting the friendly relations between both countries, one of her own functionaries should interrupt them,

The Consul-General appears to support himself by the tenor of Article XIV of the Treaty concluded between Her Britannic Majesty and Don Andres Santa Cruz, which was null in its origin from the fact that the latter had no authority to conclude it; from its having been done in violation of all justice and all right; from its not having been solemnly ratified; and from Great Britain having proved that she considered it void by concluding another of later date, on the 25th of September, 1840, with the Government of Bolivia, after the dissolution of the so-called confederation, in whose name it was concluded, and whose own laws were not even followed. Nevertheless, as all this is the subject of discussion in the Court of Her Britannic Majesty, it is useless to enter here into the matter with the Consul-General, as he was informed in the note of the 17th instant.

But even were this Treaty in force, and not the subject of discussion, Article XIV would not authorize the Consul to adopt a measure of violence, in infraction of all laws. In that Article there was a pledge given to prohibit the Traffic in Slaves in an effectual manner and by solemn laws. The former was to be done by a subsequent Treaty, and the latter by the promulgation of those laws by the National Representation of Peru. Neither of these two conditions has been fulfilled. A promise to conclude a Treaty does not mean the same as a Treaty already concluded, and a pledge to co-operate only signifies an act of humanity and good-will, and not a solemn obligation. If, therefore, this obligation did exist in the

Treaty in so clear and positive a manner, His Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires would not have afterwards pressed the conclusion of another, but would, had he believed the former one in force, have confined himself to demanding its fulfilment. But his notes already referred to, and his acquiescence in the necessity of an authorization from Congress for its conclusion, prove in a satisfactory manner that there exists no agreement which prevents Peru from allowing vessels bearing her flag to carry slaves. It is not to be supposed, moreover, that Mr. Wilson, who concluded the Treaty with Santa Cruz, and who perfectly understood the intentions of his Government, would have acted with such neglect and carelessness, if Her Britannic Majesty's Government had really considered Peru to be bound to what was in fact never agreed upon or stipulated by either. It was for this very reason that a new Treaty to prohibit the Slave Trade was solicited. No one earnestly requests that a thing may be granted which has already been yielded; from all of which is to be gathered that neither Government ever conceived the other pledged to what is now demanded by the Consul-General in so imperious a manner, with the view of showing the power of his ships of war.

On the other hand the Traffic alluded to in Article XIV, in question, is not the removal of the slaves of one Republic to another, but the reprobated Trade of Africa, by which free men are converted into slaves; and this is what is called Slave Trade,—a very different matter to the transportation of slaves from a place where they already are so, and that under unfavourable circumstances, to another in which they improve their fortune and condition. These and other considerations I had the honour to submit to Mr. Pitt Adams in a memoir, to which he returned a satisfactory reply on the 3rd of February last.

I also stated the same ideas to the Consul-General on the same 23rd instant, when he addressed me personally on the subject, and at which time, while offering some further observations, I agreed that he should repeat his note, and insist upon a reply, as he was the only public agent of his Government, on which account the arguments now used should be put forward in writing, in order that the whole matter might be submitted to Her Majesty's Government, and comprised in the discussion upon the Treaty; but it appears from the note to which I now reply, that the intention has been changed, and that intimidation is attempted in support of a right which is not acknowledged.

In like manner I also pointed out to the Consul-General the impossibility of exacting the fulfilment of Article XIV, without contradicting the practice of his own Government, which, notwithstanding that it possesses, with the other sections of America, Treaties nearly the same as that concluded with Don Andres Santa Cruz, has not considered them as sufficient for prohibiting by force the Traffic in Slaves, but has proceeded to particular stipulations, including in these the Government of Bolivia, with whom the Treaty of Santa Cruz was newly ratified; thus proving that a simple Article, to be negotiated upon subsequently, was not sufficient authorization for demanding that which requires a formal and express concession.

To venture, therefore, to make a prize during peace, without further reason than that afforded by a reply in which the Consul has been informed that a subject now in process of negotiation with his Government cannot be discussed with him; without other authority for making the prize than the very limited power of a Consul; and with no other justification than that given by superiority of force, is a violation of all human and divine laws, and a neglect of the counsels of reason—is an offence to a nation worthy of respect, and tends to compromise the British Government.

Even were the article in question clearer and more unquestionable, it could not suffice to justify a step in itself violent and rash. A single vague and insignificant (or granting it precise and clear) article is not sufficient for prohibiting the Slave Trade; it is required, in addition, that proper regulations should be drawn up; that all the points should be provided for; that the court and the place in which the trial is to be held should be settled, as well as other details always included in the treaties in force with other nations upon the same subject. It will also be neces-

sary to consider whether, in the treaties existing between England and the Ecuador and New Granada, the exportation of slaves is permitted or not; and if the former is the case, and no complaint has been made on the subject to those Governments, whether such complaint can be made in a foreign territory. Finally, the measure suggested by the Consul-General attacks the very root of justice, reason, and all the respect due to a free and independent nation, idolizing its sovereignty, and prepared to undergo everything rather than tolerate fresh outrages.

I have thought it necessary, in compliance with the orders of his Excellency, to lay before the Consul-General the accumulation of evils, disasters, misfortunes, and injustice which the capture of the brig "*Tres Amigos*" would entail, in order that he may reflect upon the measure more deeply, or carry it out; but let him also be persuaded that Peru will not yield, and that she is resolved to everything; that if once, in less fortunate moments, it was thought proper to enter into arrangements, at present the theatre and the circumstances are very different. Let Mr. Barton also bear in mind, that when the arrangement referred to was made, it was distinctly expressed by Mr. Adams that no precedents should be drawn from that exceptional case to justify later demands.

I protest, therefore, in the name of the Peruvian nation, against the outrage, insult, and injustice inflicted upon it by the declaration of Mr. Barton, that he has adopted the measure of employing force to humble the Peruvian flag; force which will be repelled by force; an insult which shall be atoned for as may appear best to the Peruvian nation; and be satisfied, should it even entail immense sacrifices. Whatever evils may be incurred will weigh solely upon Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General, who has made up his mind to act on his own authority, without a special power for this unforeseen case, without the knowledge of his Government, and in violation of every kind of consideration.

I reply with the above to the note of the Consul-General of the 23rd instant, and subscribe myself his obedient servant,

(Signed) JOSE G. PAZ DE SOLDAN.

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Inclosure 4 in No. 86.

*Mr. Barton to Señor Paz Soldan.*

*Lima, September 26, 1846.*

THE Undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul-General, has the honour to acknowledge receipt of his Excellency the Peruvian Minister for Foreign Affairs' note of yesterday's date, received by the Undersigned at nearly 11 o'clock last night.

Had his Excellency, in his note addressed to the Undersigned on the 17th instant, entered into the merits of the question in the same manner his Excellency has been pleased to do on the present occasion, the Undersigned would not have been placed in the disagreeable situation he was by the denial of Señor Paz Soldan to hold any communication with the Undersigned on the subject in question, and consequently would not then have been necessitated to use the only means in his power to carry out the instructions of Her Majesty's Government; as stated in the note the Undersigned had the honour to address to his Excellency on the 23rd instant.

The Undersigned cannot agree with his Excellency as to the interpretation Señor Paz Soldan is pleased to put upon Article XIV of the Treaty existing between Her Britannic Majesty and Peru; nor with his Excellency's ideas as to the expression Traffic in Slaves only including those brought from the coast of Africa; but as the Undersigned will now submit the whole question to the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, he cannot conclude this note without protesting in the most solemn manner, as he hereby does protest, against the act of the Peruvian brig "*Tres Amigos*," should she introduce the slaves she has on board into the Peruvian territory; and likewise against the Peruvian Government for permitting a vessel bearing the Peruvian flag to traffic in slaves, in

what the Undersigned considers open violation of Article XIV of the Treaty so often alluded to.

The Undersigned begs also to call the attention of his Excellency to a mistake which his Excellency seems labouring under in alluding to the possible capture of the brig "*Tres Amigos*," such never having been stated as the intention of the Undersigned, as Señor Paz Soldan will observe on reference to the note of the Undersigned of the 23rd instant, in which the expression used by the Undersigned is, "to intercept the brig '*Tres Amigos*,' and thereby stop the landing of the slaves referred to."

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

JOHN BARTON.

Inclosure 5 in No. 86.

*Mr. Barton to Captain Worth.*

Sir,

*Lima, September 28, 1846.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of a note which I received on the 25th instant from the Peruvian Minister for Foreign Affairs, in reply to the one which I addressed to his Excellency on the 23rd instant (the substance of which you were informed of in our interview on the 26th).

In this note you will observe the Peruvian Minister for Foreign Affairs enters fully into the merits of the questions concerning the slaves and the Treaty, which he positively declined to do in his note of the 17th instant, and which induced me to suggest that you should take such steps as should be in your power to prevent the landing of the slaves, being the only means left me, under the circumstances of the case, to carry out the ideas of Her Majesty's Government; and although I do not agree with the opinions expressed by his Excellency on either of these questions, yet I have upon due consideration of the subject, thought it most prudent to protest against the Peruvian Government in the most formal and solemn manner; and have advised his Excellency that I shall submit the question to the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, as you will perceive by the inclosed copy of a note I addressed to the Peruvian Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 26th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

JOHN BARTON.

Inclosure 6 in No. 86.

*Señor Paz Soldan to Mr. Barton.*

(Translation.)

*Lima, October 5, 1846.*

AS Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul-General has desisted from his design in the question he had commenced regarding the slaves on board the brig "*Tres Amigos*," and confines himself to submitting it to the knowledge of his Government, as stated by him in his note of the 26th ultimo, the discussion on this subject is suspended in the manner I indicated to Mr. Barton on the 17th of the same month. In the meantime the Peruvian Government will regulate its conduct by the principles announced in the previous correspondence with the Consul-General, of whom I subscribe myself, &c.

(Signed)

JOSE G. PAZ DE SOLDAN.

## No. 87.

*Viscount Palmerston to Mr. Barton.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, February 25, 1847.*

I DULY received your despatch dated the 6th of October last, inclosing copies of your correspondence with the Government of Peru, and with Captain Worth of Her Majesty's ship "Calypso," on the subject of certain slaves that were about to be introduced into Peru from the Province of Panamá in New Granada.

I have to convey to you my approval of the course which you have pursued in this case, in having desisted from your threat of calling upon Captain Worth to prevent the landing of these slaves, and in having determined to refer the matter for the consideration of your Government, after repeating to the Peruvian Minister your formal protest against the introduction of these slaves into Peru, as being a violation of Article XIV of the Treaty existing between Peru and Great Britain.

I am, &amp;c.

*John Barton, Esq.*  
&c.      &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

## No. 88.

*Mr. Barton to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 8.)*

My Lord,

*Lima, May 11, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I have every reason to believe that another expedition has been fitted out from this country with the object of introducing into Peru a cargo of slaves from New Granada, in violation of Article XIV of the Treaty existing between Peru and Great Britain.

I avail myself of this opportunity to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 25th of February last, and have, &c.

(Signed)

JOHN BARTON.

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

&amp;c.

&amp;c.

&amp;c.





UNITED STATES.

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No. 89.

*Viscount Palmerston to Mr. Pakenham.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, February 23, 1847.*

WITH reference to my despatch, marked Slave Trade, of the 3rd of October last, on the subject of the United States' barque "*Lucy Penniman*," bound on a slave-trading voyage from Brazil to the coast of Africa, which was taken charge of by Lieutenant Hornby of Her Majesty's ship "*Cleopatra*," and delivered over by him to the United States' Consul at Cape Town, I herewith transmit to you, for communication to the United States' Government, copies of two despatches from Her Majesty's Commissioners at the Cape of Good Hope, containing further information upon this subject.

*The Right Hon. R. Pakenham,*  
    &c.                      &c.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

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Inclosures in No. 89.

1. *Her Majesty's Commissioners at the Cape of Good Hope to Viscount Palmerston,*  
    *August 1, 1846.*

[See Class A, 1846, presented 1847, No. 128, p. 221.]

2. *Her Majesty's Commissioners at the Cape of Good Hope to Viscount Palmerston,*  
    *December 8, 1846.*

[See Class A, No. 95, p. 117.]

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No. 90.

*Viscount Palmerston to Mr. Pakenham.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, March 29, 1847.*

WITH reference to my despatches marked Slave Trade, of October 3, 1846, and of the 23rd ultimo, on the case of the American barque "*Lucy Penniman*," taken charge of, at the request of her crew, by an officer and men from Her Majesty's ship "*Cleopatra*," and delivered up to the United States' Consul at the Cape of Good Hope, I herewith transmit to you, for communication to the United States' Government, the accompanying copies of two despatches and of their inclosures from Rear-Admiral Dacres, reporting the proceedings of the American Consul, with respect to the vessel in question.

Her Majesty's Government is of opinion that it is much to be regretted that the United States' Consul should not have taken measures for submitting

for adjudication, by the proper tribunal of the United States, a vessel undoubtedly belonging to that country, and suspected, apparently on very strong grounds, of being engaged in a slaving voyage.

*The Right Hon. R. Pakenham,*  
 &c. &c.

I am, &c.  
 (Signed) PALMERSTON.

Inclosures in No. 90.

1. *Rear-Admiral Dacres to the Secretary to the Admiralty, November 24, 1846.*
2. *Rear-Admiral Dacres to the Secretary to the Admiralty, December 28, 1846.*

[See Class A, Nos. 254 & 256, pp. 277 & 278.]

No. 91.

*Mr. Pakenham to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 16.)*

My Lord,

*Washington, March 29, 1847.*

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatches, marked *Slave Trade*, of 31st December, 1846, and No. 1 of the present year, the former inclosing a copy of a letter from the Admiralty, with a report from Commander Edmunds, of Her Majesty's sloop "*Heroine*," of the circumstances under which he visited the merchant-vessel "*Frances Anne*," in the month of September last, in order to ascertain whether or not she was entitled to bear the flag of the United States; the latter transmitting further papers relating to the case of the American barque "*Lucy Penniman*," bound on a slave-trading voyage from Brazil to the coast of Africa, which vessel was taken charge of by Lieutenant Hornby of Her Majesty's ship "*Cleopatra*," and delivered over by him to the United States' Consul at Cape Town; all which papers I have, in obedience to your Lordship's instructions, communicated to the United States' Secretary of State.

I have, &c.  
 (Signed) R. PAKENHAM.

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

No. 92.

*Viscount Palmerston to Mr. Pakenham.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, April 30, 1847.*

WITH reference to previous correspondence on the case of the United States' barque "*Lucy Penniman*," which was taken charge of, at the request of her crew, by an officer and men from Her Majesty's ship "*Cleopatra*," and delivered up to the United States' Consul at the Cape of Good Hope, I herewith transmit to you for your information, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Rio de Janeiro, inclosing, first, a copy of a despatch addressed by Rear-Admiral Dacres to Her Majesty's Minister at Rio, acquainting him with the particulars of the case; secondly, a copy of a letter addressed by Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires to Mr. Wise, the United States' Minister at Rio de Janeiro, calling his attention to the case; and, lastly, a copy of the reply made by Mr. Wise to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, in which he promises to bring the case under the notice of his Government. You will see that Mr. Wise expressed his regret that the Commander of the "*Cleopatra*" did not see fit to capture the "*Lucy Penniman*," and to deliver her up either to the first United States cruiser met with, or to the nearest Consul or Commercial

Agent of the United States, to be sent to that country for trial; and that he further expresses his opinion that the seizure of the vessel, under the circumstances stated, would have been looked upon by his Government as an act of international courtesy and kindness deserving it commendation and thanks.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

*The Right Hon. R. Pakenham,*  
    &c.                      &c.

Inclosure in No. 92.

*Mr. Hudson to Viscount Palmerston, February 13, 1847.*

[See Class B, No. 195, p. 180.]

No. 93.

*Viscount Palmerston to Mr. Pakenham.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, May 13, 1847.*

I HEREWITH transmit to you, for communication to the Government of the United States, a copy of a despatch and of its inclosures from Her Majesty's Consul at Rio de Janeiro, containing a report on the state of the Slave Trade in that city and province during the year 1846, with some remarks on the state of Slave Trade generally during that year throughout the Empire of Brazil.

Her Majesty's Government has learnt with great regret that Her Majesty's Consul has estimated, and apparently on sufficient grounds, that the number of slaves introduced into Brazil from Africa in 1846 was no less than 42,000; and that the trade is openly carried on without any attempt at hindrance on the part of the authorities.

By Lord Aberdeen's despatch marked Slave Trade, of the 29th December, 1845, you were furnished with proof of the activity with which the prohibited traffic was at that time carried on by Brazil; and you were instructed to suggest to the United States' Minister whether, in virtue of the engagement mutually contracted by Great Britain and the United States, by Article IX of the Treaty of Washington, "to unite in making representations against the continuance of the Slave Trade to Powers within whose dominions markets for imported Africans were still allowed to exist," it would not be fitting that a representation on the subject should be made to Brazil by the Government of the United States.

In your despatch, marked Slave Trade, of the 29th of January, 1846, you acknowledged the receipt of that instruction, and you stated that you would lose no time in carrying it into effect. But it does not appear that you have, since that time, transmitted home a copy of the note, if any, which you addressed to the United States' Government on the subject, or that you have reported whether any steps were taken by the United States' Government, in pursuance of your communication.

You will, accordingly, in communicating the inclosed papers to Mr. Buchanan, refer him to Article IX of the Treaty of Washington, and you will request to be furnished with copies, or with the substance and dates of any representations made by the United States' Government to the Government of Brazil in execution of that engagement.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

*The Right Hon. R. Pakenham,*  
    &c.                      &c.

Inclosure in No. 93.

*Consul Hesketh to Viscount Palmerston, February 19, 1847.*

[See Class B, No. 230, p. 251.]

No. 94.

*Mr. Pakenham to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received May 30.)*

My Lord,

Washington, May 1, 1847.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch marked *Slave Trade*, of 29th March, relative to the case of the American barque "*Lucy Penniman*," and in fulfilment of the instruction contained in it, I have communicated to the United States' Secretary of State copies of the papers therein transmitted relating to the proceedings of the American Consul at the Cape of Good Hope with respect to the vessel in question.

I have also made known to the Secretary of State the opinion of Her Majesty's Government as to what has occurred in this case, viz., that it is much to be regretted that the United States' Consul should not have taken measures for submitting for adjudication by the proper tribunal of the United States, a vessel undoubtedly belonging to this country and suspected, apparently, on very strong grounds of being engaged in a slaving voyage.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) R. PAKENHAM.

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

&amp;c.

&amp;c.

&amp;c.

No. 95.

*Viscount Palmerston to Mr. Pakenham.*

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 22, 1847.

I HEREWITH transmit for your information a copy of a report from Commodore Sir Charles Hotham, dated 7th of April last from St. Helena, relative to the state of the Slave Trade and of legal commerce upon the west coast of Africa.

I wish to draw your particular attention to those parts of this report which relate to the extensive use which is made of the United States' flag, and to the frequent employment of United States' vessels, for purposes connected with the Slave Trade.

Commodore Hotham, in remarking upon the way in which neutrals co-operate in the Slave Trade, observes that the money or goods intended to pay for the slaves are invariably brought over to Africa by neutral vessels; that in some cases the interest of the neutral ceases on the delivery of the money or goods to the slave-dealer; but that unfortunately when the flag of the United States is concerned, it often happens that the vessel changes hands on the coast. The sale of the vessel is in such cases concluded when her slave-deck is laid; and taking advantage of the temporary absence of the cruisers, in search of water or provisions, she then ships her slaves and escapes to sea.

It is obvious that by this systematic abuse of the American flag, the best arrangements which the British and French squadrons can make to prevent the Slave Trade must be often defeated.

Commodore Hotham, as you will observe, does full justice to the activity and zeal which are displayed by the officers of the United States' navy, and no fault therefore is attributable to them; but it is clear that the evil complained of can only be remedied by some more active measures of prevention on the part of the United States' Government. It is therefore the desire of Her Majesty's Government that you should represent this matter officially to the Government of Washington, and that you should request their earnest attention to it. You will suggest for their consideration whether some law might not be passed to render penal the sale of United States' vessels for slave purposes. It appears to Her Majesty's Government that such a law, if rigidly enforced, would tend very much to put a stop to these practices.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

*The Right Hon. R. Pakenham,*

&amp;c.

&amp;c.

Inclosure in No. 95.

*Commodore Hotham to the Secretary to the Admiralty, April 7, 1847.*

[See Class A, No. 264, p. 297.]

No. 96.

*Mr. Crampton to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received June 29.)*

My Lord,

Washington, June 13, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a note which, in obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch to Mr. Pakenham marked Slave Trade, of the 13th ultimo, I have addressed to the United States' Government, inclosing copies of a despatch and its inclosures from Her Majesty's Consul at Rio de Janeiro, containing a report on the state of the Slave Trade in that city and province, and generally throughout the Empire of Brazil, during the year 1846.

With reference to that part of your Lordship's despatch which states that an instruction upon the same subject was addressed to Mr. Pakenham by the Earl of Aberdeen, in his Lordship's despatch Slave Trade, of 29th December, 1845, the receipt of which despatch Mr. Pakenham acknowledged, but that it does not appear that he since that time transmitted home copies of any correspondence which may have in consequence taken place between himself and the United States' Government, I have now the honour to inclose copy of a note which, on referring to the period in question, I found Mr. Pakenham, in obedience to that instruction, had addressed to Mr. Buchanan. It did not appear, however, that any reply in writing had been made to it by the United States' Government.

Upon inquiry Mr. Buchanan informed me that it was true he had not made any answer in writing to Mr. Pakenham's communication, but he would now, he said, read to me, as he had then read to Mr. Pakenham, an instruction upon the subject which had been sent to Mr. Wise, then United States Minister at Rio de Janeiro.

This instruction, dated 27th September, 1845, is precise and satisfactory, reciting to Mr. Wise Article IX of the Treaty of Washington, and directing him to omit no opportunity of pressing the object of it, as "one which the Government and people of the United States had much at heart," upon the attention of the Brazilian Government. Mr. Buchanan further stated that he could assure me "from his own knowledge, that it was quite impossible that any one could have carried out the spirit of that instruction with greater zeal and perseverance than Mr. Wise had done; his remonstrances with the Brazilian Government had been unceasing; and that with regard to the employment of American shipping in the conveyance of slaves to Brazil, Mr. Wise had gone to the very verge of what "the laws of the United States would sanction, in his endeavours to prevent such employment, and to defeat the various subterfuges resorted to in order to secure it by the slave-dealers of Brazil."

Mr. Buchanan added that a similar instruction would now be given to Mr. Tod, the gentleman who is about to proceed to Rio de Janeiro as Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

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

&amp;c.

&amp;c.

&amp;c.

Inclosure 1 in No. 96.

*Mr. Crampton to Mr. Buchanan.*

Sir,

Washington, June 10, 1847.

HER Majesty's Mission has been instructed to communicate to the United States' Government a despatch and its inclosures which have lately been received from Her Majesty's Consul at Rio de Janeiro, containing a report on the state of the Slave Trade in that city and province during the year 1846, with some remarks on the state of the Slave Trade generally throughout the Empire of Brazil, copies of which documents I have, accordingly, the honour herewith to inclose.

Her Majesty's Government has learned with much regret that Her Majesty's Consul has estimated, and apparently on sufficient grounds, that the number of slaves introduced into Brazil from Africa in 1846 was no less than 42,000; and that the trade is openly carried on without any attempt at hindrance on the part of the authorities.

On referring to a note upon the same subject addressed to you by Mr. Pakenham, dated 9th February, 1846, you will perceive, sir, that he was instructed to suggest to the United States' Minister, whether in virtue of the engagement mutually contracted by Great Britain and the United States by Article IX of the Treaty of Washington, "to unite in making representations against the continuance of the Slave Trade to Powers within whose dominions markets for imported Africans were still allowed to exist," it would not be fitting that a representation on the subject should be made to Brazil by the Government of the United States; I am accordingly now directed, in communicating to you the inclosed papers, to renew the suggestion then made by Mr. Pakenham, requesting you at the same time to be good enough to cause me to be furnished with copies, or with the substance and date of any representations which may have been made by the United States' Government to the Government of Brazil in execution of that engagement.

I avail, &amp;c.

(Signed)

JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

*The Hon. James Buchanan,*  
 &c.                    &c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 96.

*Mr. Pakenham to Mr. Buchanan.*

Sir,

Washington, February 9, 1846.

I COMMUNICATED in due season to Her Majesty's Government the note which I had the honour to receive from you, on the 31st July last, in answer to mine of the 25th June, the object of which was to request information as to the steps which the United States' Government might have thought it expedient to take in fulfilment of Article IX of the Treaty of Washington.

I now beg leave to inclose for your information a copy of a despatch which I have lately received from Her Majesty's Government on this subject.

You will perceive, Sir, that Her Majesty's Government are of opinion, for the reasons therein stated, that to the Government of Brazil the remonstrances contemplated by Article IX of the Treaty may be justly and properly addressed; that on the other hand, as relates to Spain, Her Majesty's Government believe that you will concur in the opinion, that considering the circumstances explained in the inclosed despatch, any united representation from the two Governments respecting the importation of slaves into Cuba is, for the present at least, uncalled for and inadvisable.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

R. PAKENHAM.

*The Hon. James Buchanan,*  
 &c.                    &c.

No. 97.

*Viscount Palmerston to Mr. Crampton.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, July 13, 1847.*

WITH reference to your despatch marked Slave Trade of the 13th ultimo, I have to instruct you to say to Mr. Buchanan in writing that Her Majesty's Government would be glad to have a written answer to the inquiry contained in the note which you addressed to Mr. Buchanan on the 10th of June, and in which you requested that minister to cause you to be furnished with copies or with the substance and date of any representations which may have been made by the United States' Government in execution of the engagements contracted by Article IX of the Treaty of Washington.

I am, &amp;c.

*John F. Crampton, Esq.*

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

&amp;c.

&amp;c.

No. 98.

*Mr. Crampton to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 14.)*

My Lord,

*Washington, July 29, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch to Mr. Pakenham, marked Slave Trade of the 22nd ultimo, together with its inclosure.

I have the honour to inclose herewith, the copy of a note, which in obedience to the instructions contained in that despatch, I have addressed to the United States' Secretary of State, calling his attention to the extensive use which is made of the United States' flag, and the frequent employment of United States' vessels for purposes connected with Slave Trade.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

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

&amp;c.

&amp;c.

&amp;c.

Inclosure in No. 98.

*Mr. Crampton to Mr. Buchanan.*

Sir,

*Washington, July 23, 1847.*

I HAVE been instructed by Her Majesty's Government to draw the serious attention of the Government of the United States to the extensive use which is made of the United States' flag, and to the frequent employment of United States' vessels for purposes connected with the Slave Trade.

In making this official representation upon the matter to the United States' Government, I cannot adopt a better means of putting them in possession of the facts upon which it is founded, than by referring to the able and comprehensive report of Commodore Sir Charles Hotham, of which I have the honour herewith to inclose a copy.

Commodore Hotham in remarking upon the way in which neutrals cooperate in the Slave Trade, observes that the money and goods intended to pay for the slaves are invariably brought over to Africa in neutral vessels; that in some cases the interest of the neutral ceases on the delivery of the money or goods to the slave-dealer; but that unfortunately, when the flag of the United States is concerned, it often happens that the vessel changes hands on the coast. The sale of the vessel is, in such cases, concluded when her slave-deck is laid; and taking advantage of the temporary absence of the cruizers in search of water or provisions, she then ships her slaves and escapes to sea.

It is obvious that by this systematic abuse of the American flag, the best

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arrangements which the British and French squadrons can make to prevent the Slave Trade must be often defeated.

Commodore Hotham, as you will observe, does full justice to the activity and zeal which are displayed by the officers of the United States' navy, and no fault therefore is attributable to them, but it appears clear to Her Majesty's Government that the evil complained of can only be remedied by some more active measures of prevention on the part of the United States' Government.

I am accordingly directed to suggest for your consideration, sir, whether some law might not be passed to render penal the sale of United States' vessels for slave purposes.

It appears to Her Majesty's Government that such a law, if rigidly enforced, would tend very much to put a stop to these practices.

I avail, &c.

*The Hon. James Buchanan,*  
&c. &c.

(Signed)

J. F. CRAMPTON.

No. 99.

*Viscount Palmerston to Mr. Crampton.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, August 25, 1847.*

HER Majesty's Government has received information that the clipper-brig "*Brazil*" of about 150 tons, under American colours and sailing from New York, visited the island of St. Jago in the Cape Verd Islands, in the month of June last, on her way to the coast of Africa. The crew of the "*Brazil*" is said to have consisted principally of Spaniards; the supercargo and supposed owner was a Frenchman who spoke Spanish fluently; her cargo consisted of rum, tobacco, and powder, and she was supposed to be destined for Slave Trade.

I have to desire that you will communicate this statement to Mr. Buchanan.

I am, &c.

*John F. Crampton, Esq.*  
&c. &c.

(Signed)

PALMERSTON.

No. 100.

*Mr. Crampton to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 29.)*

My Lord,

*Washington, September, 13, 1847.*

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch marked Slave Trade, of the 13th of July, I lost no time in making a fresh application to the United States' Secretary of State for a written answer to my note of the 10th of June last, in which I had requested him to furnish me with copies, or with the substance and date, of any representations which may have been made by the United States' Government to the Government of Brazil in execution of the engagement contracted by Article IX of the Treaty of Washington; and I have now the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith a copy of Mr. Buchanan's answer to that note, which answer will be found to contain an account of the steps which have already been taken, as well as a statement of the course intended to be pursued in future by the United States' Government in fulfilment of the above-named engagement.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

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

Inclosure in No. 100.

*Mr. Buchanan to Mr. Crampton.*

Sir,

*Washington, September 2, 1847.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 10th of June last, communicating to this Government copies of a despatch, and accompanying papers lately received at the British Foreign Office from Her Majesty's Consul at Rio de Janeiro, relative to the state of the Slave Trade in that city and province during the year 1846, with remarks on the condition of the trade generally throughout Brazil.

With reference to a note on the same subject, addressed to this department on the 9th of February, 1846, by Mr. Pakenham, you renew the suggestion then made, whether, in virtue of the engagement mutually contracted by the United States and Great Britain by Article IX of the Treaty of Washington, "to unite in making representations against the continuance of the Slave Trade, to Powers within whose dominions, markets for imported Africans were still allowed to exist," it would not be fitting that a representation should be made to Brazil by the Government of the United States; and request that you may be furnished with copies, or with the substance and date, of any representations which may have been made by the latter to the former in execution of that engagement.

The President deeply regrets to learn from the Consular estimate that 42,000 slaves have been imported into Brazil from Africa in 1846, and that the trade is openly carried on without any attempt at hindrance on the part of the local authorities. This trade is a disgrace to the civilization of the nineteenth century: and it is truly deplorable that after such powerful efforts have been made for its suppression, it should still be conducted on a scale so extensive.

In addition to the information conveyed in my note to Mr. Pakenham of the 31st July, 1845, I have the honour to state that on the 27th of the following September, a letter was addressed to Mr. Wise, directing him to omit no occasion, whenever in his judgment this could be done with the prospect of a beneficial effect, to urge upon the authorities of Brazil such representations and remonstrances as, without giving offence, would be best calculated to accomplish the humane and important object provided for by the Treaty, and which the Government and people of the United States have so much at heart. Upon the receipt of these instructions, he accordingly sought an interview (19th December) with Senhor de Abreu, the Brazilian Minister for Foreign Affairs, and called his attention to the obligations of this Government under Article IX of the Treaty of Washington. Mr. Wise especially disclaimed any intention to interfere with the domestic policy of Brazil, and desired to be understood only in the sense of making a separate friendly representation of the desire of the United States that Brazil should by her own means, and in her own way, arrest the foreign Slave Trade to her dominions, and destroy the market for slaves in her territory. Senhor de Abreu made a note of these representations, receiving them without displeasure or objection; but it does not appear from the correspondence of Mr. Wise with this department, that they were productive of any practical good effect. I am sorry to add that the personal relations of the United States' Minister at Rio with the Imperial Government have since been such as to forbid the expectation of a successful result from any application on his part, in execution of the instructions of his Government.

A new minister of the United States has been recently despatched to Rio de Janeiro, and in preparing his instructions, dated the 11th of June last, his attention has been particularly pointed to those addressed to his predecessor in the mission, respecting the fulfilment of the provisions of Article IX of the Treaty of Washington. The hope is therefore indulged, that soon after his arrival at his post, Mr. Todd will find a favourable opportunity of presenting to His Imperial Majesty's Government the representations and remonstrances on this subject which the Government of the United States are so anxious to make, impelled by the twofold motive of discharging a conventional obligation, and of alleviating human suffering.

*John F. Crampton, Esq.*

(Signed)

JAMES BUCHANAN.

&amp;c.

&amp;c.

No. 101.

*Mr. Crampton to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received October 16.)*

My Lord,

Washington, September 28, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch marked Slave Trade No. 3, directing me to communicate to the United States' Government the information received by Her Majesty's Government respecting the clipper-brig "*Brazil*" of about 150 tons, under American colours, and supposed to be destined for the Slave Trade, and I have the honour to inclose herewith, copies of the note which in obedience to your Lordship's instructions I addressed to the United States' Secretary of State, together with Mr. Buchanan's reply.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

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

&amp;c.

&amp;c.

&amp;c.

Inclosure 1 in No. 101.

*Mr. Crampton to Mr. Buchanan.*

Sir,

Washington, September 23, 1847.

HER Majesty's Government has received information that the clipper-brig "*Brazil*" of about 150 tons, under American colours, and hailing from New York, visited the Island of St. Jago, in the Cape Verd Islands, in the month of June last, on her way to the coast of Africa; the crew of the "*Brazil*" is said to have consisted principally of Spaniards; the supercargo and supposed owner was a Frenchman who spoke Spanish fluently; her cargo consisted of rum, tobacco, and powder, and she was supposed to be destined for Slave Trade.

This statement I have been instructed by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to communicate to the United States' Government.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

*Hon. James Buchanan,*

&amp;c.

&amp;c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 101.

*Mr. Buchanan to Mr. Crampton.*

Sir,

Washington, September 24, 1847.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 23rd instant, in which, by direction of Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, you state that Her Majesty's Government have received information that the clipper-brig "*Brazil*," of about 150 tons, under American colours, and hailing from New York, visited the Island of St. Jago, in the Cape Verd Islands, in the month of June last, on her way to the coast of Africa; that her crew is said to have consisted principally of Spaniards; that the supercargo and supposed owner was a Frenchman, speaking Spanish fluently; that her cargo consisted chiefly of rum, tobacco, and powder; and that she was supposed to be destined for Slave Trade.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

JAMES BUCHANAN.

*John F. Crampton, Esq.*

&amp;c.

&amp;c.

No. 102.

*Viscount Palmerston to Mr. Crampton.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, December 31, 1847.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a despatch from Lord Howden, Her Majesty's Minister in Brazil, dated the 12th ultimo, respecting a law of the United States of America which authorizes Consuls of the United States to grant what are called "Sea Letters" to United States' vessels, which may be sold in foreign parts to United States' citizens, without limiting either the duration or the destination of the voyages of those vessels after they shall have passed into new hands.

This law of the United States was passed, no doubt, as an encouragement to ship-building; but it will be seen, from Lord Howden's despatch, that it has become, in Brazil, a direct and effectual assistance and stimulus to the undertakings of slave-traders.

Lord Howden bears honourable testimony to the earnest manner in which Mr. Parks, the United States' Consul at Rio de Janeiro, has always endeavoured to withhold sea letters from those United States' bottoms sold in Brazil, of which the employment and destination appeared to him of an equivocal nature; but it appears that Mr. Parks has now received orders from his Government which no longer leave him an option on the subject, and which peremptorily require him to issue these sea letters on the transfer of United States' bottoms from one United States' owner to another.

I have therefore to instruct you to communicate to Mr. Buchanan a copy of Lord Howden's despatch, and to draw Mr. Buchanan's serious attention to this matter. You will express the earnest desire and anxious hope of Her Majesty's Government, that the Government of the United States will take some effectual measures for preventing the employment of the vessels and flags of the United States in undertakings connected with the Slave Trade.

The United States' Government took by Article IX of the Treaty of Washington, an engagement that they would unite in all becoming representations and remonstrances with any and all powers within whose dominions markets for slaves are allowed to exist; and that they would urge upon all such Powers the propriety and duty of closing such markets effectually at once and for ever. But the United States' Government cannot fail to see that so long as United States' vessels and their flag are notoriously and constantly employed in assisting Brazilian subjects to carry on the Slave Trade, any such representations and remonstrances from the United States' Government to the Government of Brazil, must be destitute of weight and effect.

I am, &amp;c.

*John F. Crampton, Esq.*  
&c. &c.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

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 Inclosure in No. 102.
*Lord Howden to Viscount Palmerston, November 12, 1847.*

[See Class B, No. 215, p. 228.]

No. 103.

*Viscount Palmerston to Mr. Crampton.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, January 10, 1848.*

I HEREWITH transmit to you a copy of a letter and of its inclosures received at this department from the Admiralty, reporting the circumstances under which the United States schooner "*Eleanor*," said to be bound in ballast from Lagos, in the Bight of Benin to Bahia, was boarded near the first-mentioned port, in the month of May last, by Her Majesty's steam-sloop "*Devastation*."

I have to instruct you to communicate these papers to the United States Government, and to suggest that, as there seem strong grounds for suspecting that this vessel is engaged in proceedings connected with Slave Trade, it might be useful if the United States' Consul at Bahia were directed to make minute inquiry, and to transmit a full report to the United States' Government respecting her.

*John F. Crampton, Esq.*  
 &c. &c.

I am, &c.  
 (Signed) PALMERSTON.

Inclosures in No. 103.

1. *The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Stanley, December 31, 1847.*
2. *Commodore Hotham to the Secretary to the Admiralty, October 30, 1847.*
3. *Commander Levinge to Commodore Hotham, May 25, 1847.*
4. *Lieutenant Godfrey to Commander Levinge, May 3, 1847.*

[See Inclosures in No. 249, Class B, p. 282.]

No. 104.

*Mr. Crampton to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 14.)*

My Lord,

*Washington, January 27, 1848.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch, marked Slave Trade, of the 31st ultimo, containing the copy of a despatch marked Slave Trade, and dated the 12th November, 1847, from Her Majesty's Minister at Rio de Janeiro, upon the subject of the abuse of the United States' flag, and the employment of the American shipping in the Slave Trade, and I have the honour to inclose herewith the copy of a note which I have addressed to Mr. Buchanan, communicating to him, in obedience to your Lordship's instructions, a copy of Lord Howden's despatch.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

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

Inclosure in No. 104.

*Mr. Crampton to Mr. Buchanan.*

Sir,

*Washington, January 20, 1848.*

I HAVE been instructed by Her Majesty's Government to communicate to the Government of the United States a despatch dated the 12th November, and of which I have the honour to inclose a copy herewith, addressed to Viscount Palmerston by Lord Howden, Her Majesty's Minister in Brazil, respecting a law of the United States, which authorizes Consuls of the United States to grant what are called "sea letters" to United States' vessels which may be sold in foreign ports to United States' citizens, without limiting either the duration or the destination of the voyages of those vessels, after they shall have passed into new hands.

This law of the United States was passed, Her Majesty's Government do not doubt, as an encouragement to ship-building; but it will be seen from Lord Howden's despatch, that it has become in Brazil a direct and effectual assistance and stimulus to the undertakings of slave-traders. Lord Howden bears honourable testimony to the earnest manner in which Mr. Parks, the United States' Consul at Rio de Janeiro, has always endeavoured to withhold sea letters from those United States' bottoms sold in Brazil, of which the employment and

destination appeared to him to be of an equivocal nature; but it appears that Mr. Parks has received orders from his Government which no longer leave him any option on the subject, and which peremptorily require him to issue those sea letters on the transfer of United States' bottoms from one United States' owner to another.

I have therefore been directed, in communicating a copy of Lord Howden's despatch, to draw the serious attention of the United States' Government to this matter. I am to express the earnest desire and anxious hope of Her Majesty's Government, that the Government of the United States will take some effectual measures for preventing the employment of the vessels and flag of the United States in undertakings connected with the Slave Trade.

The United States' Government took, by Article IX of the Treaty of Washington, an engagement that they would unite in all becoming representations with any and all Powers within whose dominions markets for slaves are allowed to exist; and that they would urge upon all such Powers the propriety and duty of closing such markets effectually at once and for ever.

But the United States' Government cannot fail to see, that so long as United States' vessels and their flag are notoriously and constantly employed in assisting Brazilian subjects to carry on the Slave Trade, any such representations and remonstrances from the United States' Government to the Government of Brazil must be destitute of weight or of effect.

I have, &c.

Hon. James Buchanan,  
&c. &c.

(Signed) J. F. CRAMPTON.

No. 105.

*Mr. Crampton to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 26.)*

My Lord,

Washington, February 9, 1848.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch, marked Slave Trade, of the 10th ultimo, containing a report from the Admiralty, respecting the circumstances under which the United States' schooner "*Eleanor*" was boarded, near Lagos, by Her Majesty's steam-sloop "*Devastation*;" and I have the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship the copy of a note which, in obedience to the instructions contained in that despatch, I have addressed to the United States' Secretary of State upon the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

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

Inclosure in No. 105.

*Mr. Crampton to Mr. Buchanan.*

Sir,

Washington, February 4, 1848.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, the copy of a letter and of its inclosures, addressed by the Admiralty to the office of Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs, reporting the circumstances under which the United States' schooner "*Eleanor*," said to be bound in ballast from Lagos, in the Bight of Benin, to Bahia, was boarded near the first-mentioned post, in the month of May last, by Her Majesty's steam-sloop "*Devastation*;" and I have been instructed by Her Majesty's Government, in communicating these papers to the Government of the United States to suggest that, as there seem strong grounds for suspecting that the vessel is concerned in proceedings connected with the Slave Trade, it might be useful if the United States' Consul at Bahia were directed to make minute inquiry, and to transmit a full report to the United States' Government respecting her.

I have, &c.

Hon. James Buchanan,  
&c. &c.

(Signed) J. F. CRAMPTON.