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numbers, their miserable condition, their enormous distance their being without the means of avoiding it, and even the alternative of rising against the captain, for they would have perished in the struggle.

The law frees from punishment the man if he is under this terrible weight of circumstances, &c,

In conclusion, it must be deduced that there was no liberty of action, physical or moral, that these acts are therefore not imputable to them under any view whatever, and that, as this special requisite was wanting, there existed no responsibility in the eye of the law.

Inclosure 2 in No. 454.

*Final sentence on the British Seamen who were on board the "Jasper."*

(Translation.)

THE mariners, William Atkins, William Freeborn, Harvey Pratts, John William Leo, Charles Hersey, George Hunt, John Radcliffe, Charles Robinson, and William Hussey, are absolved from the charge, and they shall be put at liberty, declaring the costs to be "official," and transmit a copy of this sentence to the Governor, &c.

The Fiscal declares the superior Decree of the 20th to be carried into effect, and in virtue thereof proceed to the liberation from prison of the accused if they are not detained for any other cause.

February 20, 1854.

No. 455.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, April 6, 1854.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 22nd of February,\* inclosing a copy of the denouncement which you had addressed to the Captain-General of Cuba, respecting the Spanish brig "*Destino*," and stating that you had written to Her Majesty's Consuls in Louisiana and Alabama respecting this vessel. And I have to acquaint you that I approve of your proceedings in this matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 456.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, April 15, 1854.*

I TRANSMIT for your information, copies of a note which I have received from M. de Comyn, and of the answer† which I have returned to it, respecting the recent capture made by the Cuban authorities, of 600 Bozal negroes, and respecting the wreck of a vessel which foundered off Cayo Verde, and which you

\* See Class B, presented 1854, No. 656.

† Nos. 377 and 382.

alluded to in your letter to the Captain-General of the 12th of last January, as being possibly the wreck of one of two vessels which had some time previously landed cargoes of slaves at Sagua.

As it is of extreme importance that the good relations which appear now to exist between you and the Captain-General of Cuba should be maintained, and that the latter should be encouraged in the exertions which he appears to be making for the suppression of the Slave Trade, it is desirable that you should exercise the greatest caution in denouncing disembarkations of slaves, and that you should in every case ascertain, as far as possible, that the evidence upon which you proceed, is trustworthy.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 457.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 19.)*

(Extract.)

*Havana, March 21, 1854.*

WITH reference to my despatch dated the 7th instant,\* in which I did myself the honour of reporting to your Lordship the capture of 600 Bozal negroes, recently imported at the south side of this island, I am now enabled to state to your Lordship that I have received a communication from Commander Dobbie, of Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Buzzard," dated from off Trinidad the 10th instant, by which it appears that the 600 negroes captured, were landed at a place called Salabacoa; that part of the crew also fell into the hands of the Spanish authorities, but that the brig itself in which the slaves were brought, and the rest of the crew, had escaped.

Her Majesty's steamer "Devastation" arrived from Jamaica on the 16th instant, and having landed the late Governor of that colony, the Right Honourable Sir Charles Edward Grey, departed to resume her station, for prevention of the Slave Trade.

No. 458.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 19.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, March 21, 1854.*

HIS Excellency the Captain-General having, in a conversation I had with him on the 19th instant, informed me that the free labourers, Indians, from Yucatan, whom it is proposed to introduce here in the manner stipulated by President Santa Anna, upon the privilege granted to the house of Goicoria and Co., a copy of which I have received from Mr. Doyle, Her Majesty's Minister at Mexico, can only be permitted to come in under the regulations published under date the 23rd of December last,† Messrs. Goicoria's privilege may therefore be considered useless; and as I have been informed by M. Tito Vecino, the party who went to Mexico and obtained the said privilege, that by the first arrival from Yucatan some of said labourers are expected to arrive, towards whom it will be impossible to observe the conditions of the contracts prescribed by the Mexican Government, I shall watch the proceedings with a view to justice being done to these people, and I shall take the earliest opportunity of reporting thereon to your Lordship.

In the meantime, I propose to acquaint Mr. Doyle of the conversation

\* See Class B, presented 1854, No. 660.

† See Mr. Crawford's despatch of January 7, 1854, Class B, presented 1854, No. 645.

which I had with the Marquis de la Pezuela, so as that, should he deem it to be expedient, he may communicate with the Mexican Government upon this important subject.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 459.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon:—(Received April 29.)*

My Lord,

Havana, March 25, 1854.

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch dated the 8th ultimo,\* inclosing a copy of a despatch which your Lordship had received from Lord Howden, transmitting a copy of the answer which the Conde de Bagaes had addressed to the Spanish Government, denying the statement that the negroes referred to in my despatch of 30th of September last, were received on his estate.

I have given the denial of the Conde de Bagaes my special attention, and in obedience to your Lordship's instruction, I have the honour of submitting my observations thereon.

I am exceedingly pleased that the Conde has been able to deny that his representatives had anything to do with the disembarkation of Bozal negroes upon that occasion, and that they were not received at his estate. There is, however, no doubt that the landing which I denounced was effected, and there is, I believe, as little doubt of the fact, that those concerned in their introduction availed themselves of the canal which leads from the sea to the estate of "San José de Bagaes," the which canal, until I saw the Count's letter to the Spanish Minister, I was led to believe belonged exclusively to his Excellency, who now asserts (that of which I was not aware) that it is a public thoroughfare.

M. Rubiroso, the agent who, upon the occasion referred to, received the 260 Bozal negroes, consequently had a right of way from the sea by the canal leading to the estate of Bagaes, and such is the sort of "freemason" understanding in the country upon such occasions, that it would not be surprising if the slaves had temporary accommodation there. The information which I received and acted upon in my denouncement of that affair, did not warrant my implicating the owner of the estate; nor did I do so; but I considered it my duty to advert to the character of the locality, which attached to it by reason of former extensive introductions of Bozal negroes, and your Lordship will have observed how closely the Conde adheres to his denial, in the statement, that since his absence from Cuba, he is certain that nothing like connivance at such introductions of slaves has been allowed by his attorneys, as his Excellency's instructions are quite terminant upon that subject.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 460.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon:—(Received April 29.)*

My Lord,

Havana, March 27, 1854.

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch dated the 25th ultimo,† transmitting for my information a copy of a despatch which your Lordship had addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid,

\* See Class B, presented 1854, No. 641.

† Ibid., No. 648.



expressing the gratification with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt the praiseworthy determination of the Marquis de la Pezuela to put a stop to the Slave Trade between the African coast and the Island of Cuba.

Conceiving that his Excellency would be much gratified by such expression of Her Majesty's Government, I have taken an opportunity of communicating to the Marquis the purport of your Lordship's despatch, and he has expressed to me his most sincere thanks for the sentiments which were therein expressed by your Lordship.

I trust that your Lordship will approve of my having made this communication to the Captain-General, who appears to be actuated by the most sincere desire to do everything in his power to check and put down the Traffic, as well as to ameliorate the condition of the slaves as much as possible, consistently with the security of the island under his Government.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 461.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 29.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, March 27, 1854.*

IN obedience to the instruction conveyed in your Lordship's despatch dated 25th ultimo,\* the receipt of which I have the honour of acknowledging, I have expressed to the Captain-General Marquis de la Pezuela, the satisfaction and thanks of Her Majesty's Government at his Excellency's ready acquiescence in my request that the emancipados Demetrio and Escolastica might be allowed to remain in the Island of Cuba, with the latter's children; and I have now the honour of transmitting to your Lordship a copy of my letter to his Excellency, and of the Political Secretary's acknowledgment thereof, by his Excellency's direction, of this day's date, expressive of his most sincere thanks upon the occasion.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 461.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Captain-General of Cuba.*

Most Excellent Sir,

*Havana, March 24, 1854.*

HAVING reported to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that your Excellency had granted free papers to the emancipados Demetrio and Escolastica and her children, as well as that your Excellency had been pleased to permit them to remain in the island at my request; I am instructed by the Right Honourable the Earl of Clarendon to express to your Excellency the satisfaction and thanks of Her Majesty's Government at your Excellency's ready acquiescence in my request.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

\* See Class B, presented 1854, No. 649.

Inclosure 2 in No. 461.

*The Secretary to the Captain-General of Cuba to Consul-General Crawford.*

(Translation.)

My dear Sir,

Havana, March 27, 1854.

HIS Excellency charges me to say to your Honour, that he has received with satisfaction your two letters of the 24th and 25th of this month, and his Excellency thanks your Honour sincerely for the sentiments which, in them, you are pleased to express.

I repeat, &c.  
(Signed) JOSE ESTEVAN.

No. 462.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 29.)*

My Lord,

Havana, March 28, 1854.

I BEG leave to lay before your Lordship the document herewith inclosed, being a narrative of the occurrences at the Ensenada de Cortez from the date of the disembarkation of the cargo of slaves brought by the "*Jasper*" in April last year, to the conclusion of the summary investigations of that and other landings of negroes at or near the same place; descriptive also of the machinations of the slave-traders, and connivance of the authorities at the introduction of slaves contrary to the law and in violation of the existing Treaties—a system of corruption by means of which those concerned have escaped punishment, and all our endeavours to put an end to the Slave Trade have hitherto been defeated.

I may venture to assure your Lordship that the facts stated in the narrative were nearly all of them communicated to me as they occurred, although not in so circumstantial a manner. The whole may be depended upon as being perfectly true, and it was upon the information which I had of such scandalous and corrupt practices, that I wrote so strongly as I did to General Cañedo with regard to what there was so much to complain of in the jurisdiction of Pinar del Rio, where his Commissioners, all of them, one after the other, were bribed to deceive him, as Colonel Ayllon, the Lieutenant-Governor, had done in the first instance.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure in No. 462.

*Narrative of Occurrences at Ensenada de Cortez.*

(Translation.)

*1st Landing.*—IN the month of September 1852, 100 Bozal negroes belonging to two Spanish merchants, were landed at the anchorage of Coloma de Colon, Punta de Cartas, district of Pinar del Rio; they (the Spanish merchants) had bought them at Bahia Honda from Don José Maria Cagigal, nephew of Don Joaquin Somez, and said negroes were reported to be "ladinos" from one of his estates.

The sale of these Africans having been opened in the stores of the Old Steam-packet Company, the cholera appeared amongst them, and so great was the alarm which spread in the neighbourhood, that the Lieutenant-Governor

Colonel Don Pantaleon Lopez de Ayllon could not help calling together the Board of Health, and sent two of the faculty, the Licentiates Fustien and Martinez, to attend the sick, of whom many died, and they reported daily what occurred during the space of one month, all the expenses being defrayed by the Steam-packet Company.

Colonel Ayllon, who at that time was on bad terms with those merchants, also reported to Captain-General Cañedo, that some Bozals who had been introduced at Coloma and Colon had been attacked with cholera, and his Excellency being so informed, ordered that a formal inquiry should be instituted, naming as judge the Oidor Don Leon Herques, who, with the Escribano Don Juan de Dios Pastoriza, came to that place on the south coast.

The measures which were put in practise by the interested, made it appear that these negroes were "ladinos," brought from the property of Don Joaquin Gomas, with licences from the authorities of Bahia Honda, and as for this purpose it was necessary to get rid of or annul the qualification of Bozals, applied to them by Ayllon in his report to the Captain-General, it was necessary to have recourse to bribery, and they agreed with Ayllon himself for the sum of 100 ounces of gold, to retract, as he did in another official letter, saying, that being ignorant of the provincialisms of the country, he had used the word Bozal under the belief that it was applicable to all Africans; but that having been better informed, he had to notice that the negroes landed and sold, or who had died were ladinos, or of those who had been long in the island.

The 100 ounces were delivered to him by Don Rafael Palma, who is employed in the Royal Revenue Service in the district of Consolacion, by order of Don José Maria Cagigal, it being to be observed that Ayllon demanded 200, and in proof of this, they had to give 102 dollars to the Lieutenant of the district of Pinar del Rio, Don Vicente Caberola, who was in the secret, having signed a report which Ayllon ordered him to make out, and which was to serve as the foundation of his own.

This Commission of the Oidor was a most laughable affair, because having come accompanied by a certain Santillana, a clerk of Don José Canela, he was the Oidor's mentor-representative, and who gave such purchasers timely notice to hide the Bozals, and in their stead appeared ladinos, ready instructed as to the answers they had to give. So it was, that it was shown on the proceedings that all the negroes sold spoke Spanish, and, therefore, they were desisted from.

It ought to be remarked that the Royal Audiencia of Havana acted so carelessly in the performance of its duty, that it authorized a scandalous fraud to the prejudice of the Royal revenue in not obliging the clandestine vendors to pay the 5 per cent. duty of alcabala which is recovered upon each slave every time they are sold, nor the penalty of four times this duty to which those are subjected who transfer their dominion without the previous execution of a bill of sale, and the payment of the alcabala at the collector's office, and these penalties were unavoidably incurred, since it had been declared that those negroes did not belong to the class of Bozals, as ladinos they could not sell them without a bill of sale, nor without paying the alcabala to the Royal revenue; consequently, it is evident that the revenue has been defrauded of 2,500 dollars by the sale to the two merchants by Gomez and nephew, of 2,500 dollars upon the sale by these afterwards to various persons, of 20,000 dollars to which the fine designated would amount, and to much more by the successive selling of the same negroes, which has been effected, and which continually is being effected in a clandestine manner.

The motives which this superior tribunal may have had for not attending to these fiscal interests are not known, but it is certainly the first of its duties to take care that the lawful revenues of the State are properly collected.

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*2nd Landing.*—This cause had not yet been concluded, when in April 1853, an American barque appeared in the anchorage at Bailen, in the district of Guanés on the south coast, and after having made signals, she went on to the Ensenada de Cortez, and landed 296 Bozals, who were conducted to the hilly estate called the "Valle," belonging to Don Pio Diaz to whom they were consigned by the owners of the expedition, Don Manuel Calvo and Don N. Plá, who were not long in arriving there and in opening the sale publicly. For this

purpose Don Pio had already come to an understanding with the Governor, Don Pantaleon Lopez Ayllon, who exacted 17 dollars a-head upon the 500 which were expected by this vessel, and on the rest which in others were to be brought, and he did not please to make any abatement when they stated to him that only 296 had arrived, so that it was necessary to pay him the 500 ounces in gold coin which the same Don Pio carried to him at Pinar del Rio on the 7th of May, taking from the Governor Ayllon, for his protection, a letter of order which the Governor addressed to the Captain (acting) of Guanabacoa, Don José Mendez, desiring him not to capture the negroes, nor interfere to molest the owners of the expedition.

This letter was indeed useful, for upon the return of Don Pio Diaz the negroes had already been detained by the Lieutenant of the district, Don Luiz Moreno, aided by his Rounds, who having reported to Captain Mendez, remained firm until he (the Captain) arrived with a numerous escort. Upon seeing him, Don Pio went to meet him, and imperiously ordered him to retire from his house, and as Mendez was desirous to have his authority respected, he took out the letter order and gave it him to read, and then took it away from him and tore it up, upon which they all retired, and the coast remained clear.

The principal sales were made by lots, of 40 to Don José Hernandez Alvarez, 20 to Don José Marià Hernandez, 10 to Don Lorenzo Garcia, 10 to Don Andres Acosta, 20 females to Don Juan Pequeño, 10 to Don Gregario Diaz, 20 to the said Don Pio, 10 to Don Rafael José Diaz, and the rest to various persons who paid a part in cash down, and for the remainder drew out pagarés, or promissory notes, to the order of and in favour of Calvo and of Plá.

As soon as the landing was effected, the vessel was set on fire at the said Ensenada upon the kays of Cortez, and as she was aground she only burnt to the water's edge, and remained in sight from a great distance. She had on board ivory, had two anchors with beautiful chains, all of which were stolen soon afterwards by the Sub-delegate of Marine, Don Cristobal Barquero, and by some fishermen who live on the same kays. Neither the sea, nor the strong south winds, have been sufficient to tear the vessel from her bed where she is still to be found, and is visited as a curiosity, so celebrated has the expedition she conveyed become in that country.

In the confusion produced by the burning and landing, three sailors belonging to the American barque got possession of a boat of Don Lewis Pimientas, owner of the Grifa estate, and fled toward Cape San Antonio; but on their arrival at a place called the Cayuelo, they were detained by the matriculated persons, Don Georga Garcia and Don Francisco Pitaluga, who delivered them to the Spanish war schooner "Habanera," there stationed, by which they were sent to the Havana, where they were made prisoners in the jail, subjecting them as accused to the proceedings ordered to be carried out for investigation of the landing.

The Spanish Captain and Mate went off to Batabano from Bailen on board the steamer "Cubano," and from thence they went to Havana.

The other sailors, also Americans, six in number, were taken and left on the kays of San Philipe where food was sent to them, and at a certain distance from the shore it was thrown to them, in order that they should not take possession of the boat or canoe. Afterwards they were conveyed to the kay of Cortez, and, finally, to the woods of La Grifa, persuading them that they would be taken to the Havana by a vessel to be expressly employed for that purpose.

During their stay at La Grifa the plan was proposed of assassinating them, and they even sent to the district of Mantua for a coloured person called Acanda, but whether it was owing to the extreme vigilance of the sailors who never separated themselves for a moment, or to the opposition of some of the club of Don Pio Diaz, the author of the plan, this idea was not realised; but they decided upon sending the victims to the estate of San Francisco, the owner of which is Don Julian Linares, on the north coast, jurisdiction of Mantua, that he should take charge of them to send them to Kay West for the sum of 100 ounces, which Don Pio asserts he paid to Linares, and which he recovered from the outfitter Calvo, such outlay not being very certain, because the letters, and receipts, vouchers of this account, which was sent to the interested, were forged

by the same Don Pio, and written at Havana by a lad, the son of a Mantua woman called Nuasia. In this manner Don Pio stole 100 ounces, and by this act towards his consigners falsifying signatures of Linares, and considering his lax morality, he probably has done the same towards everybody else.

It is to be borne in mind that at Guanés and at Mantua when they say of any one "he is gone to Kay West," it is to be understood that he is dead, and for that reason, Linares being a famous assassin, harbourer of pirates and evil-doers at his estate of San Francisco, which forms the Ensenada of San Francisco y Guadiana, it is to be presumed that the sailors were consigned to death, and this is the more credible as between those places and Kay West there has never been nor is there communication of any sort.

In what vessel then were the six American sailors to have been sent?

Linares, without doubt, received these people full of doubts and apprehension, and owing to their considerable number he could neither assassinate them nor keep them any length of time; he shipped them in a miserable canoe and sent them to sea that they should be swept away by the currents, perish by the rigour of the elements, or by hunger.

Divine Providence had, however, determined otherwise; these unfortunates were found by the war-schooner "Habanero," who delivered them to the skipper of the coaster "Josefa," to convey them to Havana, as she did, having been presented to the authority, who sent them to the gaol, and subjected them to trial for the landing of the negroes, and it so happened, that before they were at the disposition of the authorities, they were taken to the house of the outfitters of the expedition, who took care to give them money and instruct them as to what they were to say, offering them their protection, and threatening them if they deviated.

With these explanations, which are episodes of interest with respect to the principal action of the drama, we now proceed to the trial, which made so much noise and brought forth a mouse, as Horace says.

The news having spread to all places of the landing and sale of Bozal negroes, as well as of the burning of the vessel, the bribes paid, and other particulars, the Lieutenant-Governor Ayllon set about covering himself, and for that purpose sent off an order, accompanied by a confidential note from his clerk, Don Ramon Cruz, to the Acting Captain of Guanés, Dio José Mendez, that he should form a summary for investigation if it was true what was announced by the public voice. This summary was made by witnesses suborned, and consequently it resulted that the whole rumour was false.

After this Colonel Ayllon received an official letter from the Captain-General, in which was embodied another from the Intendent of the Revenues, in which was inserted the report made by the Administrator of the Royal Duties of Mantua, Don Joaquín Herrera, denouncing the landing of these Bozal negroes. The place designated by Herrera was a mistake, for he mentioned Bailén instead of the Ensenada and Kays of Cortes, which mistake served admirably for the compositions which they made.

The Captain-General desired the Lieutenant-Governor to proceed to the investigation, and to the capture for Bozales and arrest of the outfitters, sellers and buyers, &c., holding him responsible for any omission. This order very much disgusted Colonel Ayllon, who already believed that everything had been concluded; but he had to feign that he would comply with it, so he put himself *en route* for Guanés, where he lodged himself in the Valle-house of Don Pio Diaz. He there began to form the summary with witnesses already prepared for the purpose. There he eat and drank merrily in the company of those he ought to have been proceeding against. After that he went to the vega (tobacco plantation) of Don Pio's brother, Don Sragorio Diaz, where the same scenes were repeated. Then he went to those of Don Antonio Rubio and Don Mariano Vidal, brothers-in-law to Don Pio, and finally, surrounded and escorted always by the Diazes he proceeded to Mantua without its being known why, for the theatre of the occurrences was Guanés, distant from thence seven leagues on the south coast, the other town being on the north coast.

Whilst he was upon this excursion to Mantua, there arrived at Pinar del Rio, a Commandant of the Staff called Golfin, who stated that he brought an urgent despatch from the Captain-General, and was charged to deliver it into Colonel Ayllon's own hands; and a guide and horses having been provided for

him, he set out forthwith to find him, and got as far as Guanes, from thence he wrote to Ayllon, who was still remaining at Mantua, and went to meet him. What they conferred about is not known, but the despatch was solely to suspend the Acting Captain Mendez, and place him under arrest in the town.

The two chiefs, Ayllon and Golfin, having joined, they went to Bailen, from whence Golfin embarked to return to Havana, and the other remained to continue the famous summary of false and suborned witnesses. The report of the Administrator Herrera and public rumour said that the vessel had been burnt, and it was, therefore, indispensable to prove or discredit that circumstance.

The first would place on evidence the landing, the other would disprove it; and as it was easy to avail of the mistake committed by that officer (Herrera) with regard to the place where the landing was effected, Colonel Ayllon at once adopted this course in accord with the Sub-delegate of Marine, Don Cristobal Barquero, who steered the boat in which they embarked, and made him take a sea trip in the neighbourhood of Bailen, by which all who were present remained convinced that there did not exist the fragment of any vessel which had been burnt, which was made to appear with all solemnity in the process which was thus closed, it resulting from the declarations and from the examinations of the estates and of the coast, that there had not been any such landing.

You see! How could they see the hull of the burnt barque at the Kays and Ensenada of Cortez if they were looking for it at the anchorage of Bailen, distant many leagues?

Neither Ayllon nor anybody else was ignorant as to where it was; but the mistake of the Administrator of Mantua was too precious to be neglected, and leaving this precedent for what was to come, as it will be seen.

Reporting along with the summary, to the Captain-General, there appeared at Bailen, eight days afterwards, an officer attached to the Political Secretary's Office of the Government of Havana, named Espada, who, calling himself colonel without his being so, and making believe that a Catalan baker, whom he picked up at Batabano, and who accompanied him by arrangement, was his secretary, they landed at Bailen, and proceeded to "the Valle," where they lodged in the house of Don Pio Diaz.

His first words and actions were terrifying; he said, that he had orders of a reserved nature (private orders) from the Captain-General, to operate with full powers; he spoke of prisons, of chain gangs, pretended to get up proceedings, causing them to be written and authorized by this pretended secretary, and in this they spent the morning. When the dinner hour came, he placed the baker-secretary, with an escort of twenty-five countrymen, at the river's edge, with orders not to allow any one to come in or go out from the estate, and then setting himself at table with Don Pio and his family, and other persons, he drank a good deal and put himself in good humour, and became so animated after the dessert with the champagne, that upon rising, he caught Don Pio familiarly by the arm, and took him out to talk to him privately.

The secretary, in the meanwhile, hungry, and tired of making such a ridiculous figure of himself, returned to the house when night was setting in.

The result of the Commissioner Espada's conference with Don Pio Diaz may easily be conjectured; from that time, the two remained intimate friends, by the medium of forty ounces of gold, which annulled his inquiries. The daily banquets were more numerous attended and were more animated, and when it occurred to Espada to take an excursion to Mantua, to visit Colonel Ayllon, the baker-secretary, by this time better advised, had deserted, fearful of the consequences for the part he had been induced to act, impressing upon him the belief that he would thus be serving Government.

These scandalous orgies lasted a whole week, during which nothing was omitted which immorality could offer to the most unbridled libertinage.

Espada returned to Havana, and eight days thereafter the Oidor of the Royal Audiencia, Don Leon Herques, arrived at Bailen, accompanied by the Escrivano Don Juan de Dios Pastoriza, commissioned to form the cause against the Lieutenant-Governor of Pinar del Rio and other persons, who might appear accomplices in the landing of the negroes and the burning of the vessel which brought them.

At the same time, Colonel Don Francisco Martinez de Unda arrived

charged to take in the meantime the command, suspending Ayllon, and ordering him to proceed to Guanés under arrest.

The Oidor Herques, installed himself in one of the stores of the Steam-Packet Company of the south coast, and from the first steps he took, his wish to save Ayllon and the owners of the expedition may be understood.

Surrounded by persons interested in the affair, he showed them whatever the British Consul had officially written to the Government, reading to them his notes and the official letters sent in consequence by the Captain-General; he indicated to them, also, the individuals whom he would have to cite to declare to the questions which he should have to put to them; he announced to them, with two or more days' anticipation, the estates which he was going to search, and at some of them, such as at those of Don José Maria Hernandez, Don Francisco Jener, Don José Hernandez, and Don Lorenzo Garcia, they received notice from him to prepare breakfast on such a day and at such an hour, and, in a word, his whole conversation was of a nature to prove the necessity of the introduction of slaves in the island, by whatever means they might be, which was heard by those around him, and made known to the witnesses, who, thinking that they would please the judge and the Government, adjusted their answers on this principle.

On the other hand, humiliating letters were circulated from Colonel Don Pantaleon Ayllon, written not only to influential commercial persons, but to subalterns of a low scale in the public employment, in which he supplicated them to favour him, since his only object was to come out acquitted to march himself off to Spain.

These letters were read to all the declarants, in whom they produced the effect for which they were got up, but then, as now and for ever, they were and ever will be, a stain which their author can never erase from the minds of their readers and their hearers, to such an extreme did the Lieutenant-Governor debase himself, in a rich and populous jurisdiction, in order to contrive that the connivance he had committed should be unpunished, notwithstanding its publicity.

Not being able to excuse himself from searching for the hull of the burnt vessel, this business was performed without their even going out of the warehouse, taking for their cue what had been set down by Ayllon, and putting it under the authority of the Sub-delegate of Marine, Barquero, whose conduct has already been described: as might be expected, the Oidor neither could find the fragments they were looking for during all this time, and upon all occasions they spoke of nothing else but of the said hulk, of the way in which it had been burnt, of the efforts made to get her off, of the copper that had been taken off her, &c., all in presence of the Oidor, who laughed to hear the "curradas" (a sort of bull the Andalusians make) of Barquero, when he said that, "three times he had been made to lie," and that notwithstanding, he had not seen the "welcome to us," alluding to money, and in reality had not been compensated by Don Pio up to that time, and knowing of what consequence this man's declaration was, when he refused to give it—then he obtained it, and twenty ounces were given him.

These proceedings being terminated, the Oidor went to Coloma to embark on his return to Havana, but at the time he was about to do so, he received an official letter from the Captain-General, inclosing to him a note from the English Consul, telling him the place where he would find the American sailors, and for this reason he returned to Guanés, and passed to the estate Grifa, in search for these people, as he said, but this surely was not his intention, because, as he was passing by the shop of Don Lucas Diaz de Celis, which is near to the said estate Grifa, those same six American sailors were sitting on the counter, and as he passed they rose up and saluted him. The dress of these men of the sea, their physiognomy, their very alarm at seeing the cavalcade, left no doubt as to who they were, and they were at once known by all who were there, including the Captain of the district; but, notwithstanding, nobody told them, and they proceeded onward till they arrived at La Grifa. The Oidor contenting himself with asking of the owner, Don Luis Pimentél, whether some sailors were still there, to which he answered in the negative, as was to be expected, because he would not confess himself guilty of their concealment, as in reality he was.

It is to be borne in mind, that La Grifa and the Kays of Cortez are only

separated by a short space of a few yards, and that both are in the lagoon also called, "of Cortez;" it was there that they made the landing, and there, to this day, the burnt vessel is to be found.

The Oidor returned to the place called Catalina, and dined at the house of a brother-in-law of Don Pio, called Don Mariano Vidal; a Bozal negro made his appearance, with his arms crossed before him in a supplicating manner, as if imploring mercy in his African tongue, but he had not yet arrived, when a driver tore him away with the greatest violence, without the Oidor's preventing him, who contented himself with asking "who the negro was?" to which the shop-keeper, Llanusa, answered him with great laughter, that he was a crazy man!

This occurrence very much scandalized many of those who were present, for very shortly afterwards they heard the sound of the whip and the lamentations of the victim. The negro was one of the expedition.

Whilst this was going on on the coast of Guanés, the steamers "*Concha*" and "*Cubano*," and some launches, landed other Bozal negroes at Punta de Cartas, who came from the Isle of Pines, and belonging to Don Francisco Roviroso, merchant in Havana, which negroes were sold in lots, almost under the beard of the Oidor; it being most laughable that the outfitter's agents for introducing them, were the same persons who accompanied him to all places, who guided and served him.

The magistrate having returned to Bailen, there took some declarations, and embarked with his suite for Batabanó, and from thence went to Guanés, to take that of Colonel Ayllon, who was already informed of all that had been done in his favour, and was expecting him for that purpose. Under these circumstances, upon a new citation from the British Consul, who did not cease to make true communications, the Captain-General wrote to the Acting Governor of Pinar del Rio, to send in search of the American sailors, (or English it was said) who, it was believed, were hidden at the Kays of Cortez, and upon this service the Lieutenant of Infantry, Don Carlos Adolfo, was commissioned, who, instead of finding the individuals he was in search of (they being concealed in the woods of the Grifa estate) fell in with a party of twenty armed men and with another burnt vessel, at a short distance from the barque; this was the crew and the hull of the coasting schooner "*Nueva Empresa*," Don Francisco Dominguez, master, which had been fitted out and dispatched by Don Manuel Calvo, her owner, and which arrived from Africa, the 17th of July, 1853, laden with negroes, as was expressed by the officer Adolfo, in the official report he gave, as follows:—

*Secret Commission of the Lieutenant-Governor of Pinar del Rio.*

As I had the honour of communicating to your Highness in my letter of the 19th current, I left this anchorage at 1 o'clock the same day for that of Bailen. Keeping close to the land, because of the heavy sea which rendered the execution of the commission your Highness was pleased to confide to me. the evening previous, somewhat difficult. At half-past 5 the weather became calm, and I steered for Cayo Cortez, where I landed at nightfall, having obliged a boat in which the Carbinero of Bailen, Don Manuel Pernas, was cruising with two men to follow me. Jumping ashore with three armed men who alone accompanied me, and searching the farm-house of Cayo Cortez inhabited by an old fisherman, Don Juan de Leon, I observed that there were four more with him who looked like seamen, and asking Pernas who they were, he informed me as follows:

"That the hull of the vessel burnt and sunk on the 17th current, visible at least a mile from thence is that of the schooner '*Nueva Empresa*' which came from Africa with 213 negroes who were landed at a place on the coast which he did not know on the north of the island, belonging to the merchant Calvo, of Havana; that the crew who ran her on the Kay consisted of a boatswain and twenty sailors, who were at that moment hidden amongst the impenetrable bushes; that the inhabitants of Guanés, Don Pio José Diaz had been there that day, and had brought them a calf and a pig (which animals I saw killed and hung up ready for food), and that he, Pernas, when I met with him, had just learnt all this, and was going to Bailen, to make his report to his



superiors. I made him follow me whilst, with my small force, I hunted the ambuscades; but I had very soon to give up that determination, and have recourse to other measures; I called out for the boatswain to present himself, offering him pardon in the name of the Captain-General and of your Highness, his worthy representative; and in fact, he did so, and after he had come in, the nineteen sailors one by one gave themselves up as per the inclosed list, the last designated therein, called Salvador N., having deserted in a boat which was anchored at a solitary and insecure place. The moral influence of the boatswain was made use of by me so that none of his subordinates should disappear, and this day at 8 in the morning, having seen a boat with two masts to which I made a signal, and it coming close to me, I obliged them to bring us all to this anchorage, where we arrived at 4 in the afternoon, owing to the head wind which beat against us."

The names of the sailors having been already taken down, Don José Acosta, Cinilo Tamaria, and Timothy Pren, mountaineers\* from the estate La Grifa, arrived across the two large lakes of the Kay with a letter which, they said, had been sent to him by Don Luis Pimienta.† I took the said letter which, unopened, I also inclose to your Highness.‡ And I put them under arrest that they should not give notice of my presence in that part of the country to those who sent the message, and I left them as well as the fisherman who had harboured the sailors, at liberty upon my going away, as the boat for my transport would not hold them. Having taken precautions, I re-examined by the moonlight, Cayo Cortez, with the pilot who lives there, being about half a mile long, and a quarter in width, for the purpose of capturing the six Englishmen,§ as your Highness directed, but my painful scrutiny was fruitless, learning only from a person of credit, who wished to appear ignorant that the six Englishmen had been saved by a vessel loaded with molasses from Caimito bound to Havana, on some day between the 15th and 20th of the last month which took them on board, he did not know from what place.|| All the operations I thought opportune, being concluded, I gave charge of a boat, sails, and other rigging of the wrecked vessel to Don Manuel Pernas, Carbinero of Bailen, who was to answer to your Highness for these fragments as well as to his chief, the delegate of the Revenues; having no understanding with the Alcalde de Mar who accompanied me, Don José Perez (not Lopez, as I called him by mistake in my former letter) owing to my having well-founded reasons for doubting his honesty.

It is not my intention to take any merit to myself for the result of this little service. Stating to your Highness the want of resources which is here met with; without pedaneos in the neighbourhood, without assistance and without boats, or any body to manage them, I owe all to Providence, to the Alguasil of this Court, Don José Estallas, and to the carbinero, with authority of officer of this place, Don Manuel Mera, which two individuals displayed the greatest zeal, and were untiring, never ceasing night or day to be at my side faithfully carrying out my orders. As the sailors mentioned are attenuated by the fatigues and privations they appear to have undergone, I write at this moment to the Cavalier-Captain of San Juan; that as soon as possible he should let me have horses to convey them to the head of this district, if in the meantime, your Highness does not give other orders.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed)

CARLOS ADOLFO,

*Lieutenant of Infantry.*

*Punta de Cartas, July 20, 1853.*

*To the Lieutenant-Governor of this Jurisdiction.*

\* The servants who attend the cattle are so called.

† Pimienta is owner of the Grifa and uncle to Don Pio.

‡ This letter was afterwards changed for another from Don Gil Diaz, brother of Don Pio, at Punta de Cartas, which change was made by the same officer Adolfo before it was sent to the Lieutenant-Governor, whether for intimidation or for a bribe is not known.

§ Americans he should have said, for they were so.

|| This person told an untruth, for at that very time the six sailors whom they were looking for, were concealed at La Grifa, very near to the Cay.

List of the individuals who were apprehended and sent prisoners by Adolfo.

The boatswain; Don Vicente Beiro. Sailors; Luis Papi, Nicholas Saavedra, José Francisco Rodriguez, Florentino Silverio, Ramon Soto, Tomas Peña, Juan Sanchez, Manuel Valdez, Lorenzo Tavano, Francisco Augusti, Lorenzo de la Cruz, Juan de la Cruz, Juan Nepomuceno del Pino, José Gordian, Pedro Pineiro, Antonio Rodriguez, Vicente Sama, José Fernandez, Andrea Frota, Domingo Francisco y Salvador N. (deserter).

When the officer Adolfo landed at Punta de Cartas with the prisoners, his first care was to shut them up in one of the stores or warehouses of that anchorage, barring the windows and placing sentinels in sight, but these precautions did not prevent as soon as the news had spread, that much people collected at the place, especially the brothers of Don Pio Diaz, called Don Rafael and Don Gil, and who joined by other persons made the most lively applications to and even offered, 500 ounces of gold to Adolfo to put them at liberty and not forward his report, but which he refused with firmness; then it was that they resorted to more violent measures, which were to intercept the official letter addressed to the Lieutenant-Governor, forcing the man who carried it to turn back and say that some armed persons unknown to him would not allow him to continue his route.

He also tried to make the prisoners mutiny, through the medium of the Sub-delegate of Marine, Don José Llouch, who told them that they would all be executed, if they allowed themselves to be conveyed to prison, because they would be tried as pirates. These manœuvres were defeated by the boatswain, who acted in this with exemplary honour.

Whilst this was going on, the same officer Adolfo, on the 20th of July, at Punta de Cartas received another communication in which he was ordered to go to the Kays of Cortez, and explore, to see if he could meet with the wreck of the barque said to have been burnt, and taking then the assistance of the Sub-delegate Llouch and others, he embarked leaving the prisoners to the care of the Alguazil Don José Estellas. The following morning he returned, the result of his exploration being, that he found the hull of the American vessel burnt to the water's edge, with two anchors and chains on board, as he explained in detail by a separate official letter which it may be sure was not produced in the trial of Colonel Ayllon, no doubt for the reason that it belied the suppositious examination (search) of the magistrate of the Audiencia, who had seen nothing of these fragments so interesting for discovery of the truth.

It was when Adolf had come back that he met with the bearer of the despatch which it was supposed he could not pass on with, and those who were then present redoubling their applications, mixed with supplications, promises, and threats, he consented at last, to change the intercepted letter he caught at the Kay from the woodsmen of La Grifa, for another written at the moment by a clerk of the store, and which Don Gil Diaz signed with a view by that means to cover the grave responsibility of Don Pio his brother.

The real letter which had been intercepted was written at La Grifa, by Don Luez Pimiento and was addressed to his nephew Don Pio José Diaz at the Kay of Cortez. He said to him, that he had just received notice from the Captain of the district, and which was most urgent that the crew who were at the Kay should be taken away without delay, for that they were all compromised. This letter was torn and burnt. That which was substituted, was limited to Don Gil's asking his brother Don Pio Diaz, for the loan of thirty ounces for an urgent purpose, and which letter being closed was inclosed with the report which is here copied.

It will at once be noticed that the officer Adolfo, saying in the official report that Don Pio Diaz had been there (at the Kay) that day, and that the woodsmen of La Grifa, Don José Acosta, and Don Cirilo Tamauriz, and Don Timotheo Pren, had told him that the letter they carried was from Don Luiz Pimenta for Don Pio, there is a notorious contradiction between these manifestations and the subsequent act, the said letter being signed by Don Gil Diaz, who neither was at La Grifa, nor was it likely he should send to ask for money from his brother at no less a place than Cayo Cortez, when he resides at his estate "the Valle," at a league's distance from the place occupied by the other, on the high road between them; it was not likely, I repeat, because the Kays of Cortez are

five leagues from the property of Don Gil, and, because even if he knew that his brother was at the Kays, he could not suppose that he had the money he wanted, just at that moment, also because the woodsmen of La Grifa and not his servants or clerks were the bearers of the letter, in short, because the going round of about ten leagues which they had done without reflection or purpose.

Besides the woodsmen said that they were sent by their Captain Don Luiz Pimienta, they came from La Grifa seeking for Don Pio, and this was the truth, for he was the agent of the outfitters at the Kays, from whence he fled upon the officer Adolfo's arrival.

The alteration or the exchange of the letter having been done in the way stated (a thing which the officer Adolfo does not deny, stating that he is ready to account for the motives which obliged him to do so), he transmitted his official report and the prisoners to the town of Pinar del Rio, where they were shut up in the jail, during the taking of their declarations. Subsequently they sent them to Havana by the steamer "Vegnero," belonging to the same owners and outfitters of the burnt schooner the "*Nueva Empresa*."

In the declarations taken from all these seamen, they agreed that they had gone to the coast of Africa in search of negroes, but that not having found them they had come back without them; numbers were ignorant (a very strange thing) of the name of the captain, and that even of the vessel; others of them gave false names to them, and a few there were who mentioned the "*Nueva Empresa*." They also stated that a sailor died at Cayo Cortez, who had been unwell, which circumstance ought to have attracted attention, because of the rumour current at Guanés, that that sailor had assassinated the mate for the ill-treatment he received from him on the voyage, the master Dominguez being confined to his bed, and this induces the belief, that it was the mate and not a seaman who died, so they ought at last to have disinterred the body.

These prisoners being at Havana, the process was made up at Pinar del Rio, where it was delayed a long while owing to the known partiality of the assessor Royo, to whom the company presented two Bozal negroes, who are now at his tobacco plantation. In this way all was made up, and the pie thus arranged was sent to the Royal Audiencia to continue the trial of those captured, who, if they were not slavers in reality, ought most certainly to have been held and tried as pirates, but the very reverse took place, thanks to the influence and sacrifices of the outfitters.

This batch of men who were found on a desert coast, who confessed that they had set their vessel on fire, whose name and that of the captain they concealed, who did not present any patent (register) or papers to the authorities; these men were not punished in any way!

*Third Landing.*—After these occurrences at the coast of Guanés, and that of Señor Juan y Martínez, another cargo of negroes was landed, who came from the Isle of Pines to the Ensenada del Pato, in the district of Consolacion of the south, which Bozals mixed up with the slaves of Don Antonio Leal, at his property Santa Monica, were there sold without any inquiry having been made, because the news of them did not reach the upright Acting Governor Señor de Unda.

Finally, on the 17th of September, the same year 1853, a schooner of Don Manuel Calvo's arrived at the memorable Cayo de Cortez and landed 93 Africans, who were immediately sold to Don Juan Paqueño and Don Jacinto Curi, merchants of Pinar del Rio; a lot of 80 of whom he at once sold to Don Juan Hernandez Alvarez, and the greater part to divers other parties—for the greater scandal the deposits were made in the very village of Guanés, in the house of the Judge of the locality, Don Angel Palseios; in the tobacco plantation of Don Pio Diaz, which is under the charge of one called Juan Bullo, close to the Pinar del Rio. Of this landing the English Consul also had notice, and having written to the Captain-General Cañedo, his Excellency gave orders to the Lieutenant-Governor of Pinar del Rio to investigate it, and although Colonel Unda endeavoured to do so, it was too late, and he could not effect anything.

The schooner was put at rest by an auger-hole (bored), her crew taken to Batabano by the steamer Cabano. The agent consignee as before was Don Pio Diaz, and the Commissioner to fetch the money which he asked for from Havana for the purpose or under the pretext of giving gratifications to the employés, was a cousin of his called the Baron Pimienta.

The result which took place in these trials, was to desist in the first and in the second the Royal Audiencia declaring, that the reputation of Colonel Ayllon was not injured, for which reason he was promoted to the Government of Trinidad, where, before completing two months, he permitted by bribery another landing about the middle of February of the current year, for which he has been removed, at the same time as the Alcalde Mayor Don Antonio Muñoz. The Commandant of Marine, the Administrator of the Royal Revenues, and various other officers, by order of General Pezuela, but no other punishment has been given to this demoralized and repeatedly offending person.

The American sailors of the barque who had so many times run the risk of losing their lives at the Cape San Antonio, were the only victims in the memorable cause under which they were tried.

The others of the schooner "*Nueva Empresa*" captured by the officer Adolfo, at Cayo Cortez, were put at liberty by disposition of the Royal Audiencia.

The hull of the barque (American) still remains at Cayo Cortez, where it was burnt, and at a short distance from her may be found that of the schooner already mentioned.

No. 463.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, May 1, 1854.*

WITH reference to your despatch of the 28th of January last, I have to inform you that I transmitted a copy of that despatch to Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, with instructions to cause the proceedings of Joaquim Gaspard de Motta to be watched on his arrival at New York; and I now transmit to you a copy of a despatch\* which I have received from Mr. Crampton in reply, inclosing a copy of a letter addressed to him on the 5th ultimo, by Her Majesty's Consul at New York, stating that Motta had arrived at that place, and giving information as to his proceedings.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 464.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, May 10, 1854.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 27th of March,† stating that you had communicated to the Marquis de la Pezuela the contents of my despatch to you of the 25th of February, in which I inclosed a copy of the despatch which I had addressed on the same date to Lord Howden instructing his Lordship to express to the Spanish Government the gratification with which Her Majesty's Government had learnt the praiseworthy determination of the Marquis de la Pezeula to put down the Slave Trade.

And I have to inform you that I entirely approve of your having communicated to his Excellency the purport of my despatch in question.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

\* No. 600.

† No. 460.

No. 465.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received May 15.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, April 21, 1854.*

HAVING received from Mr. Doyle, Her Majesty's Minister at Mexico, a despatch dated the 2nd instant, a copy of which I have the honour of transmitting herewith to your Lordship, respecting the apparently well founded suspicions which there are that the Slave Trade from Africa is carried on by means of the fishing settlements which have been permitted to be made on the coast of Yucatan, and the adjacent islands under the authority of the Governor Barbachano dated the 21st June, 1848.

Upon this subject, and also respecting the abuses practised in Yucatan, with regard to the poor Indians of that country, who, it appears are forced to embark on board of coasters and other small craft from the Spanish fishing settlements on that coast, and like the Africans, are brought to this island to be dealt with as slaves, Mr. Doyle had deemed it his duty to make a strong representation to the Mexican Government, a copy of which, as well as of the documents relative to the grievances alluded to, his Excellency has no doubt laid before your Lordship, and to which I beg leave respectfully to refer.

I thought it important to address the Captain-General, and I accordingly inclosed to his Excellency a copy of Mr. Doyle's despatch and its inclosures, submitting both matters to his consideration, in case that he should deem it expedient to direct an inquiry into the circumstances.

I have now the honour of laying before your Lordship a copy of my letter to the Marquis Pezuela, and a copy of the Government Secretary's answer thereto, which refers to a conversation which he had had with me the day before the date of his note.

In that conversation the Secretary informed me, by direction of the Captain-General, that his Excellency had seen the correspondence and documents respecting the cooperation which the slave-traders are supposed to receive from the fishing establishments on the coast of Yucatan, as well as what it was stated took place with regard to the Indians; but that being in another territory, he did not think himself warranted to interfere, and that there were none of the Spanish vessels of war disposable for such service.

In general, the Secretary added, and he said that it was by order of the the Captain-General he did so, that in future it would be preferable and more agreeable if I were to make such communications, and all my denouncements of slave-trading affairs, verbally, instead of doing so in writing, for which purpose either his Excellency, or he, the Secretary, would at all times be ready to receive me.

I could not but observe that there was something in the manner of the Secretary which showed that it was anything but agreeable for them to receive any sort of communication from me upon the subject of the non-observance of the Treaty for suppression of the Slave Trade: when I, at the moment inquired as to whether they had received information as to the landing of a cargo of Bozal negroes two days previously at Camarioca, as to which they had no notice as he said, but which disembarkation of 400 slaves from a schooner-rigged vessel, there is no doubt had been successfully effected, at the time and place mentioned.

What I consider as being quite ominous of future operations in slave-trading is, that the Secretary expressed his conviction, that notwithstanding the unceasing efforts and good intentions of his Excellency the present Captain-General, it was quite hopeless that he should be able either to hinder or put a stop to the Traffic.

Under these circumstances, I regret to express to your Lordship my apprehensions that the Slave Trade is about to be carried on to a great extent.

I have just heard, that another cargo, consisting of 300 odd, has been got safe into Zarza on the south side, and being on to an estate, according to penal law, they cannot now be taken away.

Without a general registration of the slaves first, in order to ascertain those already here, and the repeal of that clause in the penal law of Spain, which operates as a protection to the slave-trader, there is no hope of putting an end to the Traffic.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 465.

*Mr. Doyle to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

*Mexico, April 2, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith for your information copies of some despatches which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Shiels, by which you will perceive, that a vessel found abandoned at sea has been taken into the Island of Cozumel, on the Coast of Yucatan, and which vessel is supposed to have been engaged in the Slave Trade. You will also observe, that the grant made to certain Spanish subjects, to form fishing establishments in the Isla de Mugeris, is supposed to have been made use of for the purpose of carrying on with greater activity the Slave Trade between that point and the Island of Cuba.

I have considered it my duty to bring this matter to the attention of the Mexican Government, calling upon them to withdraw the grant, unless it was made under the express sanction of the Supreme Government, and even then to do so, if it should be found to have been, or that it may be, made use of for the purpose above-mentioned.

Perhaps much information might be derived on this subject, should any of Her Majesty's vessels of war be at the Havana and visit the island in question.

You will also observe the manner in which Mr. Shiels states that the unfortunate Indians made prisoners in the war of Castes, still going on in the Peninsula of Yucatan, are supposed to be sent as slaves to the Island of Cuba.

I have not failed to bring this point also before the serious attention of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in the inclosed note.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) PERCY W. DOYLE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 465.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Captain-General of Cuba.*

*Havana, April 12, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour of laying before your Excellency for such purposes as may be expedient, the inclosed copy of a despatch, dated the 2nd instant, and its inclosures, which I have received from Her Majesty's Minister at Mexico, by which your Excellency will perceive that a vessel which was found abandoned near the coast of Yucatan, had been taken into the Island of Cozumel, which vessel it is supposed had been engaged in the Slave Trade; and your Excellency will also observe, that a grant made to certain Spanish subjects to form fishing establishments on the coast and islands adjacent to the coasts of Yucatan, is supposed to have been made use of for the purpose of carrying on, with greater activity and security, the Slave Trade between that coast and the Island of Cuba.

I consider it my duty to bring this matter under your Excellency's notice, as well as the circumstances stated by Mr. Shiels, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Laguna de Terminos, with regard to the manner in which the unfortunate Indians who, made prisoners in the war of Castes—which is still going on in the Peninsula of Yucatan—are supposed to be sent as slaves to this island.

Mr. Doyle, Her Majesty's Minister at Mexico, suggests, that perhaps much information might be derived, should any of the British ships of war be at this place, and visit the coast and islands in question.

I regret that at present none of our ships of war should be available for that service. Your Excellency will, however determine as to whether the importance of the matters alluded to in Mr. Doyle's despatch, and its accompanying documents, is such as to require investigation in a similar manner, under your Excellency's orders.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 3 in No. 465.

*The Secretary to the Captain-General of Cuba to Consul-General Crawford.*

(Translation.)

My dear Sir,

*Havana, April 17, 1854.*

AFTER the conversation which I had the pleasure to have with your honour the day before yesterday it is unnecessary to say in writing, that, which in the name of his Excellency I informed you verbally; except to acknowledge on his part the receipt of your esteemed communication of the 12th of this month.

I send your Honour a copy of the Regulations relative to emancipados, as also those of the colonists which I promised you, and with this motive, I repeat, &c.

(Signed) JOSE ESTEVAN.

No. 466.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received May 15.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, April 26, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch dated the 24th ultimo, transmitting copies of a note and of its inclosure, which your Lordship had received from M. de Comyn, the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires in London, in reply to your Lordship's request that he would communicate to your Lordship the particulars respecting the emancipados, which, as Mr. Backhouse informed your Lordship, had been sent to the Spanish Legation in London, by the Captain-General of Cuba.

In obedience to your Lordship's instruction, I shall proceed in conjunction with Mr. Backhouse to compare the details of the Captain-General's statement, with such information as may be in his and my possession with regard to the Emancipados, and transmit to your Lordship a joint report thereon.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 467.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received May 15.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, April 27, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch dated the 28th ultimo,\* transmitting copies of a despatch and of its inclosures from Mr. Howard, Her Majesty's Minister at Rio Janeiro, containing information respecting the preparations making by the slave-traders at Loanda to ship cargoes of slaves for the Brazils and for the Island of Cuba,

\* See Class B, presented 1854, No. 655.

and, in obedience to your Lordship's instruction, I have communicated this information to the Captain-General of Cuba, in order that his Excellency may take such measures as he may deem expedient and fitting for the purpose of counteracting, in this island, the criminal projects of these slave-traders.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 468.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.*—(Received May 15.)

(Extract.)

*Havana, April 27, 1854.*

I BEG leave to lay before your Lordship a copy of correspondence which I have had with his Excellency the Captain-General, respecting the disembarkation of 650 Bozal negroes, on the south side of this island at a place called "Estero de Guasuma," between Zarsa and Manati, and also respecting another cargo previously landed not far distant from the same place, which consisted, as I understand, of about 300 slaves. I regret to have occasion to add, that still another cargo, the number of which I have been unable as yet to learn, was landed either in the district of Trinidad, or in that adjoining of Sancti Spiritu about ten days ago.

Your Lordship will observe in the Governor's Secretary's answer to my denouncement, that his Excellency had already removed the Captain Padaneo of Guasuma, and the Lieutenant-Governor of Sancti Spiritu, but these marks of displeasure are of little use in putting a stop to the Slave Trade. The Government must arrest and punish the instigators and the agents in some exemplary manner for engaging in the detestable Traffic, for it will be evident, that in this instance, the Captain's removal from office, after he had got and secured forty of the best negroes, (worth at least \$20,000) did not sensibly affect him; and that if the others of the Government officers were bribed equally liberally in proportion, there would remain to the interested in the adventure, some 550 slaves clear for sale; thus, upon the whole, turning out a most profitable affair, and encouraging them to enter into new speculations.

Inclosure 1 in No. 468.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Captain-General of Cuba.*

*Havana, April 25, 1854.*

IT is with regret that I have to report to your Excellency the landing of 650 Bozal negroes, on or about the 30th ultimo, at a place called "Estero de la Guasuma," opposite the place called "la Ysala."

The vessel in which these unfortunate human beings were brought, was burnt at a place called "El Tambor," between the Estero Guasuma and Punta Manati, and I understand, that as late as the 16th instant, the crew were still at an estate called "San Carlos" in the district of Jivaro.

At the same place there had recently before been another cargo of Bozal negroes landed, the particulars of which I have not been able to learn, but the fact itself may be implicitly relied upon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.



Inclosure 2 in No. 468.

*The Secretary to the Captain-General of Cuba to Consul-General Crawford.*

(Translation.)

*April 26, 1854.*

HIS Excellency the Governor Captain-General has received your Honour's communication of yesterday's date, relative to a disembarkation of Bozal negroes which took place on the 30th of past month, at the Estero de Guasuma jurisdiction of Gibaro.

His Excellency having informed himself thereof, charges me to say to your honour, as I do, that he already had confidential and trustworthy intelligence of this affair, as to which he has given convenient orders for its being inquired into, and in the meantime, having decreed the destitution of the Captain Pedaneo, and appointed to the Lieutenant-Governorship of Sancti Spiritu, another chief of greater zeal and activity than he who was intrusted with that office.

I repeat, &c.  
(Signed) JOSE ESTEVAN.

No. 469.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received May 15.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, April 28, 1854.*

IT has been again my disagreeable duty, of this date, to denounce to the Captain-General, a disembarkation of 600 Bozal negroes, of the Congo nation, which was successfully effected a few days ago near to Cardenas; according to my informant, these victims were conveyed in the most scandalous manner to the district of Palmillos, and there deposited in the house of some relatives of the Licenciate, Don José Fresneda, which circumstance I have reported to his Excellency the Marquis de la Pezuela, so as that he may direct such measures as he may deem it expedient for bringing the guilty parties to punishment.

In my despatch of the 21st instant, I stated my apprehension that the Slave Trade was about to be carried on to a great extent, and the success which has attended the operations of those engaged in the abominable Traffic, goes to show how well founded were my suspicions. Experience has taught me, that whenever an opinion has been expressed, as emanating from the highest authority, of the hopelessness, or insurmountable difficulties for putting an end to the Traffic from the coast of Africa, it is then that the arrangements have been completed for carrying on the Slave Trade with success and impunity. There are not wanting rumours to the effect, that this is the case at present, and that means will be found for rendering abortive the humane and honourable intentions of the present Captain-General by a combination formed to deceive him, it is even said that the price of such infamy has been fixed at a rate for each slave introduced, as has been done upon former occasions.

Whilst there is such connivance, it is indeed hopeless that slave-trading will be put an end to; the love of illicit gain appears to be too inherent in these people.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 470.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, May 20, 1854.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a letter with its inclosures, addressed to the Duke of Newcastle, by Mr. Joseph Sturge, respecting the treatment of the coolies, or Chinese labourers, imported into Cuba; and I have to desire that you will report to me whether it is true, as stated in the inclosed letters, that the coolies in Cuba are publicly bought and sold, and treated like slaves.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 470.

*Mr. Joseph Sturge to the Duke of Newcastle.*

My Lord Duke,

*Birmingham, April 15, 1854.*

A LETTER from a mercantile correspondent of the firms with which I am connected, dated New York, and received a few days ago contains a paragraph of which the inclosed is a copy. Though this information comes through the United States, it is, I believe, well known that English houses ship all or nearly all the coolies (as they are called) from China, not only to the British colonies, but to Cuba, and what are going to the Brazils. On the receipt of this letter, I wrote to a gentleman in Liverpool, connected with this trade, for information, and who I am persuaded would not be willingly a party either to slavery or the Slave Trade, and I inclose extracts from his reply. I am not surprised at the favourable view which my friend in Liverpool entertains of their treatment, but, from former experience I have no doubt that the poor creatures are made slaves for life in Cuba, and that he is mistaken in supposing they are much better off in Brazil, and there is abundant evidence that whatever may be the condition of a very few men of superior intelligence, the general condition of the coolies imported into the British colonies is lamentable. I will with pleasure give the Duke of Newcastle the names of my correspondents if he wishes it, for his private information, and I trust, if possible, that steps will be taken to rescue these innocent victims of deceit and treachery, and that prompt measures will be adopted to put an entire stop to this new and extensive Slave Trade and slavery.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOSEPH STURGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 470.

*Extract from a letter addressed to Mr. Joseph Sturge, from New York.*

I HAD occasion, lately, to make some inquiries about the treatment of the coolies at Havana. It is said they are manacled and sold by auction in the market-place without reserve. The buyers understand, that it is an out and out sale, and the idea of their redemption is not currently entertained. If you wish more details, you could write to Drake, Brothers, at Havana. I wish Frank were out of his share in the business, and as he talks of leaving soon, trust he will be. Of course the shippers don't know what passes, or like Pilate, they wash their hands of it, and don't wish to hear; but an application, or rather threat, to the Spanish Government would be effective.

They are being also shipped to Rio, &c.

Inclosure 3 in No. 470.

*Extract from a letter addressed to Mr. Joseph Sturge from Liverpool.*

I AM always very glad to hear from you, and especially on the interesting subject of coolie labour. It happens that a friend is writing beside me, who came overland last mail from San Francisco, who gave me the inclosed, which will interest you.

No coolies have as yet been imported into Brazil, but arrangements are being made for that purpose. I doubt not they would be treated kindly there.

I cannot bring myself to believe, that even in Havana (where there is little doubt they are treated cruelly) they are actually sold as slaves for life. The sale must be for the term of their indenture, which there is little doubt could generally be disposed of at a high profit.

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Coolies are, to a certain extent, at least, speculated in like ordinary merchandize. To my knowledge, a cargo of coolies, on the way to Havana, was offered to an English house in a foreign port at 120 dollars (if I remember rightly) per head, by the owner, who assured this house, that, even at this price the cargo would yield a large profit in Havana. It is well known, that on arrival there, they are at once sold, and may pass through various hands during the period of their servitude.

On the other hand, in Jamaica, and the other English and West Indian Islands where slavery is abolished, and the claims of humanity are respected, the coolies are well treated during their engagement, and at its expiring, very generally embark in business, either in small shops, or as pedlars, and gradually acquire what enables them to return home with quite a little fortune. Their industry and activity contrast strongly with the free negroes.\*

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No. 471.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, May, 31, 1854.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch† which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Lagos on the west coast of Africa, containing information as to the state of the Slave Trade, and stating that he had received information of the fitting out of several slavers in Cuba and the United States.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

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No. 472.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, May 31, 1854.*

I TRANSMIT herewith a copy of a despatch ‡ which I have received from Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid, inclosing copies of the important Decrees with regard to slavery in Cuba, which were signed by the Queen of Spain on the 22nd of March, and which are intended to promote the employment of slaves in agricultural labour, the protection of free labourers coming from foreign countries, and the registration of slaves.

It is possible that the authorities of Cuba, even if they had the wish, may not have the power to prevent the proprietors of slaves from bringing forward for registration negroes who have been fraudulently introduced into Cuba in violation of the Anti-Slave Trade Treaties between Great Britain and Spain of

\* We have clear evidence contrary to this.—J. S.

† No 1.

‡ No. 384.

1817 and 1835; and it must manifestly be difficult to ascertain after a long period of time has elapsed, under what circumstances each slave has been brought to a particular estate.

Many attempts to evade the Decree of Registration will of course be made; but I have no doubt, that as far as possible such attempts will be frustrated by the Captain-General of Cuba; the question, however, is of extreme importance, and you will, therefore, closely observe the measures that may be adopted for carrying that Decree into effect, and you will report to me the result.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 473.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.*—(Received June 5.)

My Lord,

*Havana, May 2, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour of laying before your Lordship translation of a letter which I have received from M. Estevan, the Government Secretary, acknowledging the receipt of my letter to the Captain-General of the 28th ultimo, in which I denounced the disembarkation of 600 Bozal negroes which took place a few days before near Cardenas; and your Lordship will perceive that my letter was the first intelligence of this violation of the law and of the Treaties which had reached his Excellency—a circumstance not a little extraordinary, and which goes to prove, either the connivance of the local authorities or their total want of vigilance.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 473.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Captain-General of Cuba.*

*Havana, April 28, 1854.*

I HAVE received intelligence upon which I think I can rely, that a few days ago a disembarkation of Bozal negroes was effected near Cardenas.

These unfortunate victims of the cupidity of the degraded parties interested in this expedition are, as I am informed, deposited in the house of some relations of the Licenciado Don José Fresnada in the Partido de Palmillas, and are mostly of the Congo nation from the coast of Africa, consisting of 600 in number.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 473.

*The Secretary to the Captain-General of Cuba to Consul-General Crawford.*

(Translation.)

*Havana, April 29, 1854.*

HIS Excellency the Governor and Captain-General has received your Highness's communication of yesterday's date, relative to a disembarkation of Bozal negroes which was effected a few days ago in the jurisdiction of Cardenas, according to the information your Highness says you have received.

His Excellency having informed himself, desires me to say to your Highness, as I do, that this is the first notice he has received on the subject, but that in consequence he has issued the necessary orders for inquiring into this affair and to proceed against the guilty parties according to law.

I remain, &c.  
(Signed) JOSE ESTEVAN.

CLASS B.

No. 474.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 5.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, May 2, 1854.*

WITH reference to my despatch dated the 27th ultimo,\* in which I did myself the honour of reporting to your Lordship that I had laid before his Excellency the Captain-General, in obedience to your Lordship's instruction, the information respecting the preparations making at Loanda for carrying on the Slave Trade in conjunction with parties in this island; I have now the honour of transmitting herewith to your Lordship a copy of a letter which has been addressed to me by the Government Secretary, M. Estevan, acknowledging the receipt of my communication upon the important subject of your Lordship's despatch of the 28th of March, by which it appears that one of the agents named in the despatches, Don Salvador de Castro, who resided at Trinidad in this island, is already prisoner for being engaged in Slave Trade, and is undergoing his trial here before the Royal Audiencia.

The other person mentioned as having been arrested, Don Francisco Maester, is one of those indicated to me as being in the combination to deceive the Captain-General in all matters connected with slave-trading. Maester is a person of bad character, of intriguing abilities, and has, as I understand, had influence enough to obtain his liberation already, although there can be little or no doubt of the part he had in the transaction for which he was made prisoner.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 474.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Captain-General of Cuba.**Havana, April 26, 1854.*

IN obedience to the instructions which I have received from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State, the Right Honourable the Earl of Clarendon, in a despatch dated the 28th ultimo, transmitting copies of a despatch and of its inclosures which his Lordship had received from Mr. Howard, Her Majesty's Minister at Rio de Janeiro, containing information respecting the preparations making by the slave-traders at Loanda to ship cargoes of slaves for the Brazils and for the Island of Cuba; I hasten to communicate this information to your Excellency, in order that your Excellency may take such measures as you may deem expedient and fitting for the purpose of counteracting the criminal projects of the slave-traders in this island; and I have the honour of inclosing herewith to your Excellency copies of Mr. Howard's despatch and of its inclosures, which are referred to by Her Majesty's Secretary of State.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 474.

*The Secretary to the Captain-General of Cuba to Consul-General Crawford.*

(Translation.)

*Havana, April 30, 1854.*

HIS Excellency the Governor Captain-General desires me to say to your Honour, as I do, that he has received your official letter of the 26th of this month, with copies of the communications which Her Britannic Majesty's Minister in Rio Janeiro addressed to the Right Honourable Lord Clarendon, transmitted to you by his Lordship relative to the preparations which the slave-

\* No. 467.

traders at Loanda were making to send cargoes of slaves to Brazil and the Island of Cuba, in order that his Excellency might take such measures as he thought proper to counteract their criminal projects.

He has informed himself of these data, and will make use of them for the purpose indicated.

On my part, and in a friendly way I may tell your Honour, that Don Salvador Castro, one of those named in the information of the British Minister in Brazil, is prisoner in the jail of this city under trial at the instance of his Excellency before the Royal Audiencia, because of the capture of Bozal negroes which was effected in the jurisdiction of Trinidad in the beginning of March last; and lately Don Francisco Maester has been made prisoner at Matanzas for the same reason, but upon a different case.

I remain, &c.  
(Signed) JOSE ESTEVAN.

No. 475.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 5.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, May 4, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour of transmitting herewith to your Lordship, a copy of correspondence which I have just had with the Captain-General of this island upon the subject of a disembarkation of Bozal negroes, which, it was reported to me, had taken place a few days previous to the 3rd instant, at or near to Cabañas, said to have consisted of some 600 slaves.

The Government Secretary, by order of his Excellency, informs me that no information had reached them upon this subject, but he gives me an account of a suspicious pilot-boat-rigged schooner having been seen off Cayo Cruz del Padre on the 29th ultimo, and although said schooner is said to have proceeded to the eastward, in which direction the man-of-war steamer was sent after her, it is quite possible that she may have gone in the opposite direction and have effected the landing of her cargo at Cabañas to the westward of this capital.

But this correspondence has drawn my attention to a measure which was published here in the Government "Gazette" of yesterday, which provides for the registry of all the slaves upon the estates throughout this island, and which, Article 1st, authorizes the authorities, at any time within the period of a month after the "disembarkation of Bozal negroes, to enter the estates suspected, and to muster the slaves, &c., and that, as Article II<sup>nd</sup>, a means of proving in a clear and precise manner which will not admit of the false representations which are now practised as to the origin of the slaves, the only means of complying with the IXth Article of the Law of the 4th of March, 1845, which provides, that the proprietors of estates are not to be proceeded against or molested because of the origin of the slaves. The authorities after the 1st of August, when the crops are over, shall form lists of the dotation, with the names, nation, sex and age of the slaves, a duplicate of which is to be given to the owner or administrator and signed by both, and that it shall be the duty of the owner or administrator to furnish to the authority within three days, the alterations, whether diminution or augmentation which take place, with the name of the person from whom slaves have been acquired, as well as an account of the sales of the negroes, when any such have been effected."

"Article III. Any negroes found upon the estates who are not comprehended in the registry, shall be embargoed and declared free, after the corresponding proofs that they are Bozals, and the parties who had them thus unauthorizedly, will be subjected to the penalties imposed upon the auxiliaries and abettors of the prohibited Traffic, but if upon the examination, it turns out that they are not Bozals, they shall be returned to the owners upon whom a fine of fifty dollars shall be imposed for each negro in excess who is found upon the estate, of whom he has not given an account to the Captain Pedaneo, as prescribed.

"Art. IV. The Governors, Lieutenant-Governors, or other civil

authorities of the territories where disembarkations of Bozal negroes take place who do not place the information in the knowledge of the Government as soon as it comes to their knowledge, and in any event, before the expiry of twenty four hours after its occurrence, shall, for that reason alone, be removed from their employments if there be not charges against them of another kind, in which case they shall suffer besides the penalties which the competent tribunal may inflict.

“Art. V. As it is not possible to realise any disembarkation whatever without the connivance of the Pedaneos (local civil authorities), or at the least that these should be blamable in the eye of the law, in a degree equal to the participation of the deceit. Those within whose territory this shall be effected, if they do not apprehend all the Bozals, shall be liable for that reason only, to be deprived of their employment and rendered unfit to obtain any other.

“Art. VI. Those who engage, be they great or small in the prohibited Traffic in slaves, shall be governatively expelled the island for the term of two years, according to the faculty conferred on me by the laws of the Indies, independent of the responsibility which may attach to them in the process which may be raised if their connivance shall be proved.

“Signed by the MARQUIS DE LA PEZUELA.”

“Havana, May 3, 1854.

I have given the substance of this Decree, and I have the honour of transmitting herewith two copies of the “Official Gazette,” in which it has been published to the great consternation of the slave-traders, who were fully aware that a registration of slaves must above every other measure operate to the putting an end to their detestable Traffic.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 475.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Captain-General of Cuba.*

Havana, May 3, 1854.

IT has been reported to me, that a few days ago a cargo consisting of some 600 Bozal negroes was landed at or near to Cabañas.

I have to request, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, that your Excellency will be pleased to acquaint me whether intelligence of this violation of the law has reached this Government.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 475.

*The Secretary to the Captain-General of Cuba to Consul-General Crawford.*

(Translation.)

My dear Sir,

May 3, 1854.

HIS Excellency the Governor Captain-General has received the communication of your Honour of this day, in which you inform him of the disembarkation of 600 Bozal negroes in the territory of Cabañas, as it has been reported to your Honour.

His Excellency informed thereof, charges me to say to your Honour, as I do, that as respects the landing indicated he has not received any intelligence, but his Excellency the Commandant-General of Marine informed him yester-

day, that by an official information from the Captain of the port of Cardenas, he had learnt that Don Lorenzo Toores, resident of that place, being with others his friends at a house on Cayo Cruz del Padre on the 29th day of April last, they were surprised in the night by fourteen or fifteen armed men in uniform with blue jackets who arrived at the Cay in a very long canoe, of great speed, who robbed them of all the provisions which they had there, and did the same at another house on the same Cay, proceeding immediately afterwards to the eastward. That on the morning of the same day the said Toores had seen at the distance of about seven miles to the north, a pilot-boat heavily rigged.

In consequence, his Excellency ordered the steamer of war "Bazan" to go out the same night to explore Cayo Piedra, and proceed as far as Cayo Frances, and in the event of not obtaining news, to return to Cardenas by the same route for the purpose of obtaining more particulars and act accordingly, but not to pass Cayo Frances, as it was not probable that a slaver would run down to the place where the suspicious vessel was seen so far to leeward, then to have the trouble of getting to windward with loss of time, to effect the disembarkation of negroes to the windward of Cayo Frances.

Respecting the private information which your Honour communicated to me on a separate paper relative to a suspicious launch, which it is to be supposed was in connection with the pilot-boat referred to, I have acquainted his Excellency of this, as your Honour wished, as well as about the schooner you mention to me, as being about to proceed from hence to the coast of Africa; but I am persuaded, and I believe your Honour will be so also, that with the dispositions which his Excellency has just decreed, and which have been published in the "Official Gazette" of to-day, the Traffic in Negroes in this island will be definitively and for ever put an end to.

I remain, &c.  
(Signed) JOSE ESTEVAN.

No. 476.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 5.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, May 5, 1854.*

HAVING occasion to denounce to the Captain-General of Cuba the Spanish schooner "*Manuela*," laying at a place in this harbour called Tallapiedra, Mora, master, which is being equipped and is now nearly ready to sail for the coast of Africa, to be employed in the Slave Trade: along with that denouncement, I addressed a note to the Secretary, a copy of which and of M. Estevan's answer I have the honour of transmitting herewith to your Lordship.

My object in thus writing to the Secretary was to ascertain whether it was intended to proceed at once with the registration of slaves, or that that important measure should be deferred until the 1st of August: because it is not quite clearly defined in the Bando or Order which was promulgated on the 3rd instant, of which I did myself the honour of inclosing two copies along with my despatch of yesterday's date, another copy of which I transmit herewith.

Your Lordship will perceive, by Mr. Secretary Estevan's answer, that the registration is to be gone on with immediately, but that it is not to be acted upon until the 1st of August, so as to give time for the approval or otherwise of this bold measure of the Marquis Pezuela, and it is even hinted that his removal might be the consequence, and the substitution of some other measure by the Spanish Government, between this time and the month of August.

I have upon several occasions alluded to the expediency of a general registration of the slaves in this island, as being an indispensable preliminary measure to the strict enforcement of a modified penal law, which did not, like that of March 1845, operate the protection of slave-traders, who might succeed in getting their negroes on to the estates, and I ventured to point out, that besides being a sure means of detecting any newly imported slaves, the registration



would protect the honest planter in the possession of those labourers who had not been improperly come by.

It seems to me that his Excellency the Marquis de la Pezuela is in earnest to put an end to the Slave Trade, now and for ever, as the Secretary expresses himself; and I hope, that all the influence of Her Majesty's Government will be used to obtain a confirmation of these measures, and sustain his Excellency's determination to put down the Slave Trade, against the machinations of all the host of slavers who will no doubt do their best to obtain his removal from this Government, and if possible to have the Bando of the 3rd instant recalled or altered to suit their nefarious purposes.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 476.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Secretary to the Captain-General of Cuba.*

My dear Sir,

*Havana, May 4, 1854.*

I HAVE received your Honour's letter of yesterday, in which you have done me the favour of replying to mine of the same date.

I am at this moment occupied in transmitting to Her Britannic Majesty's Government copies of the "Gazette" of yesterday, in which are inserted his Excellency's measure referred to by your Honour at the conclusion of your letter to which I am now replying.

In this terminant order of the Marquis Pezuela, my Government will see the strong and authorized resolution of that of Her Catholic Majesty to put an end to (definitively and for ever) the Traffic in negroes in this island.

I only wish to know, with regard to the registration in general of the slaves, or the lists of the dotations of the estates, whether it is intended to proceed immediately with their formation for the current year; because, if this measure is not carried into operation until the 1st of August, there may be very extensive introductions of Bozal slaves in the meantime, according to what I have been able to learn relative to expeditions which from one moment to another are expected.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 476.

*The Secretary to the Captain-General of Cuba to Consul-General Crawford.*

(Translation.)

My dear Sir,

*Havana, May 4, 1854.*

I HAVE to say to your Honour in answer to your favour of to-day, that the list of the slaves on the estates are to be made immediately; and the examinations, from the 1st of August of this year. This delay cannot be shortened, as it is a measure which fundamentally alters the law, General Pezuela has thought proper to appoint that period, in case the Government should remove him from his command, and order this measure to be suspended, because by that time some other might arrive, and it was consistent with his delicacy to proceed in that way.

With regard to the other expeditions which are spoken of, if they come during this short interval, they will be persecuted with all the activity which depends upon his Excellency.

(Signed) JOSE ESTEVAN.

No. 477.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 5.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, May 11, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour of transmitting herewith to your Lordship two copies of official documents which have been published here by authority of his Excellency the Captain-General, showing that he has been authorized to put forth the Bando of the 3rd instant, referred to in my despatch of 4th instant.

It is to be hoped that the registry of slaves being completed, there will be a faithful performance of their duty by the local authorities, and if so, the death-blow has been given to the Slave Trade in all time coming, but the utmost vigilance of the supreme authority will be required to counteract the machinations and plans of men so long accustomed to and so thoroughly versed in the ways of corruption, as those are who now at last see a means of putting an end to their nefarious practices.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 478.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 12.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, May 20, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour of transmitting herewith, inclosed to your Lordship, a translation of a circular, dated the 18th of January last, which was addressed by the Captain-General, Marquis de la Pezuela, to certain corporations, committees, and influential individuals upon the important subject of agricultural labour in this island, with a view to avail himself of the experienced opinions of the various bodies and parties who were best calculated to report to his Excellency, for the information of Her Catholic Majesty's Government.

And having obtained that which was submitted by the Committee upon White Population, in answer to the Captain-General, I have the honour of laying a translation thereof before your Lordship, as being the best of the reports which were made on that occasion, and that which it would appear has been acted upon in the recent Royal Order for the regulation of colonists or free labourers from Spain, from China, and from Yucatan, but excluding those from the coast of Africa.

The other reports were, with the exception of one or two, altogether conclusive against the introduction of African apprentices, and those exceptions were from too notoriously known slave-traders to merit the slightest attention; one was wholly in favour of the African apprentice system, the other advocated their introduction, but that they should be wholly, or if not, in a large proportion, females, which, from the long experience of the Slave Trade he has had, he must have very well known could only have been done by the exercise of the greatest violence and barbarity at the coast, which no doubt his agents would have readily undertaken to perform.

The corporations and established commissions were, however, alive to the danger which would arise from the introduction of numbers of Africans of the same nations, who, at the expiry of their contracts, would become free, and who, during their period of service, mixing with their countrymen in a state of slavery, might naturally be expected to set them thinking of their hopeless condition, which could hardly fail to instigate them to insurrection at the first opportunity; a

result so manifestly to be apprehended, that the Spanish Government must have found it necessary to abandon all thoughts, at once and for ever, of attempting to introduce the African apprenticeship system in their West India possessions.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 478.

*Circular.*

(Translation.)

*Havana, January 18, 1854.*

DESIROUS of reporting to Her Majesty with all exactness respecting everything connected with the labourers applicable in Cuba to the work of agriculture, I address myself to you that you may state to me whatever occurs to you upon this subject. Studying the condition of the slave race with respect to the interior and exterior, their ability to reproduce sufficiently to supply in part the wants of cultivation which are not provided for by the system at present established for colonists, and the propriety of adopting, or otherwise, the practice of other nations with regard to the Slave Trade, to the introduction of African apprentices; and, finally, as to the way in which this might be established, and whatever else occurs to you in a matter of such great importance.

(Signed) THE MARQUIS DE LA PEZUELA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 478.

*Report.*

(Translation.)

THE Committee of White Population, to whom the Captain-General's letter of the 18th January last was addressed, desiring that Royal Board to manifest to his Excellency whatever might occur to it on the subject of hands suitable to the work of our agriculture, studying the situation of the slave race in its interior and exterior (in all its branches) its capability of reproducing the needful to the wants of cultivation, not supplied by the present system of colonization, the necessity of adopting or not the introduction of African apprentices, and, in fine, the form in which this could be established.

Such is the programme of the diverse and important questions comprehended in the report required, and upon which we shall proceed to deliver frankly and honestly our humble opinion.

The basis, or foundation which has hitherto been made use of to show the necessity of the colonization of men capable of supporting the toils of our agriculture, has been reduced to the simple enunciation of one word, which, continually repeated, and by all our planters, has been placed beyond doubt, and has established itself as a plain truth. From such ideas, there occurs, to the investigating mind, the absolute necessity of ascertaining, whether in Cuba, there is a want or not of hands applicable to its agriculture, and if these hands can be reproduced sufficiently so that our products may meet the requirements of the consuming markets, and that the equilibrium of this part of commerce be preserved. The opinion that in Cuba the labouring hands are inadequate to fill completely these wants, is not at all doubtful, because infinite facts could be adduced in its support, and because the scarcity of hands, shown by the prices if purchased, and the rate of wages, are the most eloquent proofs of the scarcity which is so much to be deplored. What number of slave labourers are destined, in Cuba, to the exclusive purposes of agriculture? How many estates are there for this purpose? What is their area, or rather, what is the superficial extent of ground which these estates measure? What is the production now, what was that of the last century, and of the first years of the present one, comparing the proportional force employed in each epoch? What number of slaves are occupied in domestic service and other industrial undertakings? What, and how

many free colonists are there who have been introduced for this purpose? And what is the number of natives who are fit for these same labours?

With the data which statistics could furnish, comprehended in these particulars, it is, without doubt, that the totality of these labouring hands would prove the fact of their being insufficient to produce, with facility, the amount of agricultural products which our consuming markets require.

The situation of the slave race of this country with regard to home and abroad, is a question of grave and great transcendancy. The want of data approaching exactitude, obliges me to refer to the most distinguished opinions, and from them we might deduce, that in Cuba there exist more than 400,000 African slaves. This number more than suffices for us to admit the notorious disproportion between their and our races; a disproportion greater still if we estimate, as we ought, the great number of native and liberated or manumitted negroes existing in the country, a disproportion which threatens continually, and maintains in us a lively uneasiness with regard to our tranquillity and as to our future.

If some are of opinion, that this same disproportion brings with it a guarantee of order and of union, we think very differently, because this multitude of abject men may, some day, become instruments for the execution of the disorganizing plans of demagogues, and very susceptible of giving rise to the delusive ideas which a single word could awaken in them, the instincts of their emancipation.

It is not many years since some sparks of this fire found their way into some of our towns, and extended themselves with electric rapidity over our fields, and if, indeed, the intelligence, the activity, and the material and moral force of the Government was able to stop in time that impetuous current, and to impede its terrible consequences, not on this account did our fears cease to be very great, for they can only be clearly felt to their full extent in face of the danger itself.

To deny the predisposition of the slave race to break the chains of the master's power, would be an error, as is proved by facts which the history of the world presents to us.

To augment the number of the men of this race, is undoubtedly to increase their strength, render easier the execution of deeds which are possible, and consequently augment our risk and fears, rendering our dangers more imminent. Until now, we have referred very superficially to those dangers with regard to the interior situation of the slave race, but they assume gigantic proportions the moment we turn our attention to the thousands of men of the same race all around us, and amongst whom there figures an empire which, sooner or later, must aspire to spread its power and dominion.

Nor is it the first time that this fact has been announced as probable, since, in the delirium and exaltation of the ideas of the abolitionists, they have put forth that it would be easily accomplished.

The published works to that effect are neither so few nor so secret but that they are within the reach of all the proprietors, the greater part of whose fortunes depend upon the produce they obtain from the labour of that race, as well as from the capital represented by those labourers.

The Island of Cuba, now rich and flourishing, may maintain the agreeable spectacle of its increase and well-being, if the circle of the African race be kept within its proper bounds, and the immigration or colonization of individuals and families of our own race is extended without restriction, otherwise, the day may come when, amidst the rubbish and ruins, our fortunes, our lives, and our hopes may be swallowed up for ever.

By this means, so disastrous an end being prevented or guarded against, the number of slaves is sufficient for them to reproduce sufficiently to supply, in a great measure, our agricultural labour, provided always, that the system of work, of food, of order and morality, be extended with all the improvements which have produced such satisfactory results in other countries.

What has happened in the States of the American Confederation is not unknown to us; at the time of their independence, they counted few more slaves than what now exist in the Island of Cuba, and now in those regions they exceed 4,000,000!

This is owing to the system of preservation and reproduction which is there established, a system which we do not consider as impossible to introduce here, with some modifications, and the results would be at least equal, for the climate

is more analogous to the nature of the Africans, and our treatment is milder and even more humane.

With regard to the system until now established to obtain colonists applicable to agriculture, opinions are very various particularly amongst those who suffer or who are advantaged by its effects, but this very variability contributes to prove, that the system in practice does not answer its object, but presents difficulties and inconveniences which are worthy the attention of observers; but in this respect, the Superior Government of the island has facilitated colonization without the obstacles, impediments, and exactions, always attendant upon monopoly and exclusiveness. In this corporation there are works of much value upon this important question, which might be condensed and submitted to the high consideration of his Excellency the Governor Captain-General.

From these antecedents we deduce, that far from any introduction of African apprentices being advisable, they would produce evil and injury of the greatest consideration and transcendence; and that this Commission, as well because of its institution as by its own convictions, deem it proper to report to his Excellency, the Governor and Captain-General, that under no consideration is the system of apprenticeship acceptable; and that in this case, his powerful influence should be used in the negative—an influence the more powerful because of his notorious rectitude and wisdom.

With regard to the introduction of African apprentices, it would bring with it evils of the greatest consideration. We have already indicated those which would arise from the agglomeration of individuals of the same race, the majority of whom are subjected to the dominion of another of much less number. The desire to undermine the rights of the master's authority slightly noticed, would be exasperated by the natural sympathies and comparison which would be made by the Africans in their respective conditions—the one free, the other slaves—being of the same origin, are circumstances which would move the reason of beings of even more obtuse understanding.

If we please to overlook what is shown up to this point; if we please to overlook the consequences of the abuses which might be introduced by human cupidity under cover of the apprenticeship system; if, finally, we please to overlook the species of tutelage which would be attempted over us by a nation strong, of immense resources, and not well-intentioned owing to certain or presumed motives and pretexts, and the inconveniences of the suspicions which would arise in others, there can be no doubt but that we should stumble against rocks which it would be difficult to remove, for no sooner would the period of this apprenticeship be accomplished, than our fields and towns would be full of these free negroes, who, if they did not spread destructive ideas, would at least set a pernicious example, and instantly relax the subordination and discipline of our slaves. Nor can we ever figure to ourselves that the labour of the free African can equal that of the slave, nor exceed that of the white race.

The system, then, which now occupies us, far from promising any benefit, we would change it for one diametrically opposite, that is to say, we would seek for the means which would operate upon the minds of the free negroes to induce them to transport themselves to Africa or anywhere else far away from Cuba and its coasts.

No. 479.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon—(Received June 12.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, May 22, 1854.*

THE general registration of the slaves, which has been provided for by the Proclamation or Bando published here on the 3rd instant, is being proceeded with: but in the meantime, cargo upon cargo of slaves continue to arrive and be introduced at both sides of the island, it being understood by the slave-traders that there is not to be a strict observance of the IXth Article of the Penal Law until the 1st of August, so that as many Bozal negroes as may be landed and got safely on to the estates in the meantime are protected by that clause, and consequently there is almost an unrestricted importation of slaves, which

doubtless will be continued up to the date when the visitations are to be authorised, after the registrations have been completed.

Your Lordship's information as to the corrupt practices of those in this island whose duty it should be to prevent the disembarkation of slaves, will enable you to form an estimate of the amount of dependence to be placed upon them under these circumstances, and it will therefore not be very surprising that I state to your Lordship the fact, that the price of such men's dishonour is now 5 doubloons for each Bozal negro so introduced; and I understand that there are a great many expeditions to arrive.

I think it proper also to state to your Lordship that I have had several conversations with planters upon the subject of the recent enactments, especially as to their operating the suppression of the Slave Trade, and I regret to be obliged to agree with them in the opinion, that means will very easily be devised, in connivance with the officers, to render these measures abortive, and that unless honest men can be found to carry them into effect, slaves will be introduced as heretofore, only that the planters will have to pay for the concealment of their newly-imported labourers at the periods of inspection, of which they will have timely notice from the officers, and all will go on as before.

This, my Lord, it must be confessed, is a lamentable conclusion to arrive at, but I am very apprehensive that nothing better will result, for the reasons which the planters have given, and will no doubt be made use of by them, to enable them to retain their recently-purchased slaves.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 480.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 29.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, May 23, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch dated the 6th ultimo, in approval of my proceedings in the matter of the Spanish brig "*Destino*." That vessel, I have learnt, proceeded from New Orleans with a cargo of cotton, and was cleared from thence for Barcelona. Her denouncement as being intended to be employed in the Slave Trade, there is good reason to believe, induced parties here to alter their determination and send her upon a lawful voyage; and it is to be hoped that the recent measures of this Government will operate to deter her owners from carrying out their scheme of employing the "*Destino*" as a slaver.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 481.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 29.)*

(Extract.)

*Havana, May 24, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch dated the 15th of April, transmitting, for my information, copies of a note which your Lordship had received from M. de Comyn, the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires at the Court, and of the answer which your Lordship was pleased to return to it, respecting the capture, by these authorities, of 600 Bozal negroes, respecting the wreck of a vessel which foundered off Cayo Verde, and which I had alluded to in my letter to the Captain-General of the 12th of last January, as being, possibly, that of one of two vessels which had previously landed cargoes of slaves at Sagua.

I have read over these inclosures with great interest, and have noticed M. de Comyn's observation with regard to the character of the denouncements of slave-trading, which it has been my disagreeable duty to make so repeatedly to the Governors Captains-General of this island.

I beg to assure your Lordship, that in the difficult position in which I have

the honour of being placed, a due regard to the proper performance of my duties has ever been combined with the most scrupulous examination of the authenticity of all information by me received, previous to its being acted upon; and I think that I may, with great propriety, refer to the whole period of my service, in proof of the circumspection of my conduct in this respect, and in contradiction of M. de Comyn's observation in his note of the 3rd ultimo to your Lordship, copy of which I have at this moment before me.

When it is considered that the nature of the operations of the slave-traders required the observance by them, and by all connected with their guilty practices, of the closest secrecy, it cannot but be admitted that I have been successful in an extraordinary degree in obtaining correct information, which has, in a very considerable degree, operated to expose and check the machinations of the slavers and of those who connived at their unlawful proceedings.

I have to express to your Lordship my grateful acknowledgments for your refutation of M. de Comyn's insinuation with regard to the case alluded to in his note.

And your Lordship may be assured that I shall by every means endeavour to maintain the good and friendly relations which now exist between his Excellency the Captain-General and myself, as well as that he should be encouraged in the exertions which he is making for the suppression of the Slave Trade. Under these circumstances, I shall exercise the greatest caution with regard to denouncements of disembarkations of slaves.

His Excellency will allow me to go to him personally upon any occasion of doubt; and as I am thoroughly persuaded that the Marquis de la Pezuela will, if not interfered with, put an end to the African Slave Trade in this island, your Lordship may be assured of my most hearty cooperation.

No. 482.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 29.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, May 29. 1854.*

I HAVE the satisfaction of reporting to your Lordship that the Bozal negroes which were denounced by me to the Captain-General on the 28th ultimo as having been landed near to Cardenas have been seized, and will be declared emancipados.

The measures adopted by order of the Marquis de la Pezuela having led to the discovery of the whole of the circumstances of the disembarkation of the slaves, and their being kept sight of from the place of landing until their arrival at the estate where they were taken, and where, according to the reading of the Penal Law, they were thought to be safe, his Excellency took a different view of that clause which says, that slaves once safely lodged on any of the properties are not to be molested, and considering that these Bozal negroes (who from their landing in violation of the law and of the Treaties, had been watched until they were got on to an estate) were in the nature of a marked contraband, which for that reason may be taken wherever it may be found, he ordered them to be seized and removed from the property where they were, and to be placed for adjudication before the Royal Audiencia Pretorial.

That tribunal, as I understand, was disposed to adhere to the letter of the Penal Law of March, 1845, and to the reading of the ninth clause in favour of the owners of the estate, but his Excellency's argument was supported by the Assessor, and the proofs of these Bozals being marked contraband, as suggested by the Captain-General, were so complete that the exception of the ninth clause of the Penal Law has been found to be inapplicable, so the whole cargo will be declared emancipados; a result which is wholly attributable to and must be considered as an undeniable indication of the firm purpose of his Excellency to put an end now, and it is to be hoped for ever, to the African Slave Trade in this Island.

The effect of the proceedings of the Government in this case has been quite to destroy the hopes of the slave-traders; they are in despair as to their expeditions on the way from Africa, and which it is said are numerous, and they see no safety for them, even if they succeed in getting them landed, which

cannot but operate to deter them from entering into new expeditions; but it will no doubt set their wits at work to try whether by intrigues and misrepresentations they cannot obtain their purposes, and by the use of morbid influences bring about the substitution of a chief more suitable to their views than the nobleman who now rules the destinies of Cuba.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 483.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, June 30, 1854.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 4th of May, inclosing copies of the important order which was issued by the Captain-General of Cuba, on the 3rd of May, prescribing regulations for the discovery of illegally imported negroes, and for the punishment of the authorities of any districts of the island where negroes shall be landed without official notice of such landings having been communicated to the Captain-General.

I have to acquaint you that I have instructed Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Madrid to express to the Spanish Government, the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt the determination thus shown by the Marquis de la Pezuela in regard to the suppression of the Slave Trade, and to say that Her Majesty's Government confidently trust that the Marquis will receive from the Spanish Government the support and encouragement which he is justly entitled to expect.

Her Majesty's Government sincerely hope that the good intentions of the Captain-General may not be frustrated by the local and other authorities whose duty it will be to give effect to them.

Attempts of every kind that can be devised by inveterate habits and sordid interest, will, beyond doubt, be made to evade the order of the 3rd of May; but if the penalties announced in that order are rigidly applied, much permanent good may be expected.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 484.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, July 1, 1854.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 29th of May, reporting that a cargo of Bozal negroes, which had been landed at Cardenas in April last, had been by order of the Captain-General pursued on to the estate whither they had been conveyed, and that the negroes had, by his Excellency's orders, been seized and declared emancipados. And I have in reply to instruct you to take an opportunity of expressing to the Marquis de la Pezuela the cordial thanks of Her Majesty's Government for the bold and energetic measures he is adopting for the suppression of the Slave Trade, and which reflect upon his Excellency the greatest honour.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.



No. 485.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 20.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, June 28, 1854.*

IT is with the greatest satisfaction that I do myself the honour of reporting to your Lordship the unceasing efforts of his Excellency the Marquis de la Pezuela to put an end to the Slave Trade, which has of late been carried on with great vigour, and frequently successful disembarkations.

But the Captain-General has not been satisfied that such flagrant disobedience of his orders should be unnoticed, or should have the shield which such infractions of the Law and of the Treaties have hitherto availed of by the wording of the Penal Law, and therefore his Excellency gave orders to capture all the recently introduced Bozal negroes, wherever they might be found.

Under these orders, I understand that nearly all the most recently imported Africans have been captured, and Colonel Don Santiago Gurrea, who is employed upon this service, has displayed great energy and activity in the execution of his duty, by following up the traces of such Bozals and proceeding with their capture.

He has therefore been authorized, that if necessary, he may pass from one district into another; an authority which I understand he has exercised with considerable efficacy, and in a manner which has merited the entire approbation of his Excellency.

I hasten to acquaint your Lordship of these energetic measures, which cannot fail to have a most salutary effect, and convince the slave-traders that this Government is determined to put an end to the Traffic and enforce the observance of the Treaties.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 486.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 20.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, June 29, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour of acquainting your Lordship that I last night received a communication from Commander George Hancock, of Her Majesty's ship "Espiègle," a copy of which I have the honour of transmitting herewith to your Lordship.

Her Majesty's ship "Espiègle" sailed from this port on the 27th instant, and was running to the westward in company with the Spanish brig of war "Alcedo," when, off Bahia Honda, Commander Hancock observed a brig with no colours hoisted, laying in under the land; he therefore stood close in, but not seeing any person on board, and no notice having been taken of a gun which was fired, they sent a boat on board. She proved to be the "Grey Eagle" of Philadelphia, and was undoubtedly a slaver from which a cargo had very recently been landed.

There was no one on board, no papers, colours, nor anything to show under what flag she had been navigating. Nor was there any evidence to show that she had been taken by the authorities, nor any town in sight from the place the brig was fallen in with. Under these circumstances, Commander Hancock took possession of her, and he states, that he might have brought her away without any interference, but as it was late he preferred, after he had put on board an officer and a prize crew, to lay by her during the night. In the morning however, the Commander of the "Alcedo" stated to Commander Hancock that the brig had been captured by the Spanish authorities of Bahia Honda with 205 negroes on board who were prisoners at that place, and under

these circumstances she was given up to the "Alcedo" to be brought to this port for adjudication.

I learn from the Captain-General that the slaver referred to, landed her cargo consisting of some 400 Bozal negroes at Ortigoza, that the negroes were in a wood, but that they dispersed, and up to the latest advices, only the number mentioned of 200 and odd had been secured.

I expect the "Espiegüe" will return here to have the circumstances cleared up, as there seems to be something curious in the leaving the slaver without any person on board after she had been captured, and the slaver crew, who it is stated made their escape, could hardly have done so in the ship's boats, so that there appears to me to be a strong suspicion that all is not right in this business.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 486.

*Commander Hancock to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir, *H.M.S. "Espiegüe," off the Morro of Havana, June 29, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that having sailed from this port on the morning of the 27th instant, intending to proceed direct to Jamaica, I fell in with the Spanish brig of war "Alcedo" off the tableland of Mariel, and as I had previously arranged with her Commander that in the event of our meeting at sea, we would try our speed, running down the coast together, we both made all sail in company, and continued our trial until 3.20 P.M., when Her Majesty's brig "Espiegüe" being somewhat ahead and considerably in shore of the "Alcedo" I observed a suspicious-looking brig at anchor very near to the shore at the entrance of the small creek of Ortigosa, and having hauled in as close as I could venture and perceiving no one on board of her, and no colours flying, I fired a gun; my ensign and pendant being already hoisted, but as no notice was taken of this, and there was every appearance of the vessel having been hastily abandoned (such as her sails being loose and partially unbent, her running rigging cut and hanging in all directions), I sent a lieutenant on board to examine her; she proved to be the "*Grey Eagle*" of Philadelphia, had just landed a cargo of negroes, had all the articles on board necessary to convict her of being engaged in the illicit Traffic, and every evidence of her having been very lately and very hurriedly abandoned, and moreover there being no appearance of any authorities having taken possession of her, the British colours were hoisted at 4.30 P.M., I informed the Commander of the Spanish brig of the circumstance, and of my intention to take possession of her, and convey her to the Havana, to which he that night offered no objection.

It being too late to get her out that evening, I kept a strong guard on board her, and laid off till morning.

No person from the shore approached her, until the English colours had been flying for two hours, when a small boat put off from the shore to communicate with the officer in charge; but as I had given him orders to allow no one on board until the morning, when I myself would come in, the boat was ordered to keep off. At 5 A.M., on the 28th, I went in myself, and on my way passed a small boat conveying a person off to the "Alcedo" (which had kept company during the night) who stated himself to be the captain of the port. I desired him to make his statement to the Spanish Commander; but informed him that I was going to bring the brig out before the sea-breeze set in, and that afterwards I would meet him on board the "Alcedo" and hear what explanation he had to offer. Having done so, I repaired on board the "Alcedo," where the Commander gave me the letter, a copy of which I inclose; and although the circumstances partook of a doubtful character, I resolved that no act of mine should give just cause of offence to the Government of a state in amicable relations with Her Britannic Majesty's Government.

I therefore having obtained a certificate of the circumstances above related from the Commander of Her Catholic Majesty's brig "Alcedo," a duplicate of which I have already inclosed to you, I delivered her in charge of a Spanish officer and boat's crew, with the understanding that she was to be immediately taken to this port for adjudication.

I cannot help repeating my conviction, that had I not interfered, the vessel would have left the anchorage, as there was no one present to prevent her crew returning and taking her to sea; but for the lateness of the hour, and my not knowing the pilotage of the coast, I should have had her alongside my ship before the boat I mentioned as having visited her the previous evening, had started from the shore.

Under these circumstances, I have thought it advisable to return to this port, in order to furnish any information which may be required, and to request that you will bring these circumstances to the knowledge of the proper authorities, in order that full inquiry may be made into this case; for though I consider it my duty to have acted as I have done, I still think that in reality the vessel herself is, honestly speaking, my prize, for had I not taken her in charge when I did, she would certainly have sailed probably for a second cargo.

I hope to be able to leave again as early as possible in pursuance of my former intention.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) G. HANCOCK.

Inclosure 2 in No. 486.

*The Commander of the "Alcedo" to Commander Hancock.*

(Translation.)

THE brig manned by you yesterday afternoon at Ortigosa, was captured on the night of the 25th current by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bahia Honda, as well as 205 negroes which she carried.

That vessel shall go under my custody to Havana to be delivered over to the competent authorities.

Which I place in your knowledge for your information and satisfaction.  
God preserve, &c.

(Signed) MANUEL FRNZ. FLORES.

*On board the aforesaid brig at sea, June 28, 1854.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 486.

*Certificate.*

*Her Catholic Majesty's brig "Alcedo," N.E. coast of Cuba,  
Lat. 23° 3' N., Long. 83° 7' W., June 28, 1854.*

I HEREBY certify that Her Britannic Majesty's brig "Espiegle" being in company with me on the afternoon of yesterday June 27th, whilst running down the coast, did observe a brig with no colours hoisted, anchored close in under the land, and having stood close in and seeing there was no one on board, she having the British flag and pendant flying, fired a gun, of which no notice was taken, a boat was then sent on board at 4.15 P.M., and she proved to be the "Grey Eagle" of Philadelphia, was undoubtedly a slaver, and had only a few hours previously landed a cargo of negroes, there being no evidence or even appearance of any authorities having taken possession of her, and though only very lately left, there was no trace of papers, colours, or anything to show under what flag she had been navigating, and there appearing no town in the vicinity, the

British flag was hoisted, and an armed party sent on board under command of a lieutenant; several boats had communicated between the "Espiègle" and the prize, and it was not until after 6 P.M. that any one attempted to communicate from the shore, though persons were seen about the beach. It being too late to bring her out that evening, the "Espiègle" remained off all night, and in the morning the captain of the port, Don Luis Miguel de Castanedo, having represented to me that the said brig was a slaver, and had been captured by the Spanish authorities at Bahia Honda, on the 26th of June, at 2 A.M., with 205 negroes on board, who he stated are now in the fort of Bahia Honda, I communicated these facts to the British Commander, who has given her up to me to be forthwith brought into the port of Havana for adjudication.

(Signed) MANUEL FRNZ. FLORES,  
Commanding H.C.M's brig "Alcedo."

No. 487.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 31.)*

My Lord,

Havana, June 30, 1854.

I HAVE had the honour of receiving your Lordship's despatch of the 20th ultimo, transmitting a copy of a letter, with its inclosures, which had been addressed to the Duke of Newcastle by Mr. Joseph Sturge, respecting the treatment of coolies or Chinese labourers, imported into Cuba.

In obedience to your Lordship's desire that I should report to your Lordship whether it is true, as stated in the letter, that the coolies in Cuba are publicly bought and sold, and treated as slaves; I have the honour of stating, that the information upon which Mr. Sturge appears to have founded his letter to the Duke of Newcastle is wholly unfounded with respect to their being "manacled and sold by auction in the market place;" no such thing has ever been done here, nor would it be permitted by the Spanish authorities.

The Chinese labourers brought here have come under contracts to serve for eight years; their pay generally is two dollars a-month, they receive two suits of clothing annually, and their rations are also stipulated for in their contracts.

They are (no matter by whom imported) from the moment of their arrival under the immediate protection of the Government, and the punctual observance of their contracts is guaranteed to them by the supreme authority of the island. They are subject to the conditions of the Royal Decree of the 22nd of March last, both as regards the obligations of their employers towards them, and theirs towards their employers.

In the prescribed regulations for colonists or free labourers, there is ample protection for them, and the discipline is mild, easily to be borne by the well behaved, but at the same time sufficiently strict to enforce obedience of the unruly.

The transfer of the colonists or free labourers, at any time during the period of their contracts, is permitted; but as that can only be done with the previous consent of the colonist, so there can be no traffic in the way of transfer by public sale.

The free labourer, according to the Regulations of the 22nd of March, a copy of which your Lordship did me the honour of transmitting along with your Lordship's despatch of 31st ultimo,\* are subjected to regular and moderate working hours, and in other respects are to be well cared for. Those who were introduced under contract with the Junta de Fomento, or Board of Trade, by Messrs. Villodo Wardrop and Co., and distributed to the planters, cost the Government 125 dollars each, which the employers of these colonists must repay, besides in all things fulfilling the conditions of pay, clothing, and rations to the labourers, during the period of their eight years' contract.

Those who have been introduced subsequently have no guaranteed sum from the Government of the island, and the importer delivers over the labourers to their employers upon such terms as they may be able to agree, but the sums paid for them to the parties who have engaged in these speculations being in considera-

\* No. 472.

tion of the services of the labourers during the whole period of their eight years' contract, are of course, wholly irrespective of the terms and obligations of the employers towards the colonists or free labourers as regards pay, clothing, and rations stipulated for in the separate agreements of each, a copy of which they are entitled to have, every one of them in their own possession, according to the Regulations.

I can hardly imagine that it is possible that any of the employers of the Chinese should imagine they have any title to the services of those in their employ, beyond the terms of their original contracts; but I think it exceedingly probable that many of them will be anxious to engage their services anew at the expiration of their present engagements, and will pay them considerably more wages, because of their good behaviour and intelligence.

The experience of the Chinese labourers up to this period has been generally, although not universally, satisfactory, and all that have been imported have been eagerly sought after at from 150 dollars to 170 dollars each. A certain M. Pereda, a Spanish merchant of this place, is now the only person engaged in this trade, but it is open to any body, under the regulations of the Royal Decree of 22nd of March.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 488.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 31.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, June 30, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 31st ultimo,\* transmitting for my information a copy of a despatch which your Lordship had received from Her Majesty's Consul at Lagos on the west coast of Africa, containing information as to the state of the Slave Trade, and stating that he had received information of the fitting out of several slavers in Cuba and the United States. There can be no doubt that there were very extensive preparations some time ago, and that many vessels were fitted out and sent from the United States, as well as some from this island, to the coast of Africa, for the purpose of carrying on the Slave Trade in connection with parties here and elsewhere in Cuba.

I shall not fail to make use of Consul Campbell's information if an opportunity offers, but any vessels with slaves which might have sailed, or were about leaving Lagos, or the Bights of Benin so long ago as the end of March, would, in all probability have arrived on the coast of this island by the middle or at the end of May, the very latest; and, therefore, Mr. Consul Campbell's information, which reached me on the 22nd instant in your Lordship's despatch to which I have now the honour of replying, would hardly answer the purposes of preventing the landing of such cargoes here.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 489.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 31.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, June 30, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch dated the 31st ultimo,† transmitting a copy of a despatch which your Lordship had received from Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid, inclosing copies of the important Decrees with regard to slavery in this island which were signed by the Queen of Spain on the 22nd of March, and which are intended to promote the employment of slaves in agricultural labour, the protection of the free labourers coming from other countries, and the registration of slaves.

\* No. 471.

† No. 472.

I quite coincide with your Lordship in the opinion that it will be extremely difficult for the authorities to prevent the undue registration of slaves who have been fraudulently introduced into this island in violation of the Anti-Slave Trade Treaties between Great Britain and Spain of 1817 and 1835, and it will be also next to impossible to ascertain, after a long period of time has elapsed, under what circumstances each slave has been brought to a particular estate.

A great and most important end has been gained by the obtaining of a general registration, which will fix hereafter the numbers of the slaves, with a view to the entire prevention of the introduction of more, and perhaps it may be deemed expedient to accept without a very severe scrutiny the titles which each proprietor will no doubt be prepared with at the time of registration. In order to carry out so great a measure as this is, in a community like that of this island, it would be politic not to create any alarm that could possibly be avoided, and I have understood that many of the most respectable planters and proprietors will present their own registries, which will be accepted by the officers constituted, so as that the owners of slaves may not be subjected to annoyance in the drawing up of the registrations.

I do not think, however, that any attempts will be made to evade the Decree of registration altogether, although there will no doubt be all sorts of false titles produced by the proprietors of slaves to obtain the registration, without which, hereafter, nothing can protect them, if the laws are properly carried into effect.

At the same time I must express my conviction that if the titles of the slave-owners in general, were so scrutinised as to entitle them to registry of their slaves introduced previous to the year 1820 only, the greater part of the slaves in this island would not be included in the general registration lists which are now being formed under the Royal Decree of 22nd of March last; but at the same time it is to be observed, that such a scrutiny would give rise to endless trouble and disputes, as well as to great discontent amongst the inhabitants who, nearly all of them, are slave-owners.

I shall not fail to watch the progress of these measures, and I shall do myself the honour of reporting to your Lordship as to the means adopted for carrying the Decree into effect.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 490.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 31.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, July 6, 1854.*

WITH reference to my despatch dated the 29th ultimo, I have to acquaint your Lordship that I considered it my duty to place Commander Hancock's letter and inclosures relative to the circumstances under which the brig slaver "*Grey Eagle*," was taken possession of by Her Majesty's brig "*Espiègle*" under his command near Bahia Honda, in the hands of Her Majesty's Commissary Judge, which I accordingly did on the 29th, accompanied by a letter, a copy of which I have now the honour of laying before your Lordship; and I understand that the Judge having addressed the Captain-General upon the subject of Commander Hancock's claim to the capture, his Excellency decided, that the Lieutenant-Governor of Bahia Honda having previously been in possession, neither the "*Espiègle*," nor the Spanish brig of war "*Alcedo*," had a right to the prize. Commander Hancock, however, did not acquiesce, and having expressed his intention to report the case to the Rear-Admiral Commander-in-chief at Halifax, the Marquis de la Pezuela sent it to the Mixed Court, which was to meet yesterday upon the subject.

Commander Hancock having found the vessel in question at anchor, without any person on board, he took possession of her, and so remained the whole of the night afterwards, and it was not until the following morning that the Lieutenant-Governor of Bahia Honda sent off a boat to say, that he had made the capture the day previous to the appearance of the "*Espiègle*," and Commander

Hancock seeing that the slaver's boats were laying on the beach abreast of her, knew that the crew, who had not been captured, could not have escaped at sea, had a fair right to infer the probability that, but for his opportune appearance, the slaver's master and crew would have returned on board and would have been allowed to go away in her to bring another cargo from Africa.

Circumstances have since transpired which fully justify this suspicion, for it is certain that there were many more Bozal negroes landed from the "*Grey Eagle*" than the 205 reported by the Governor of Bahia Honda as captured by him, and as having been the whole cargo of this slaver. His Excellency having notice of this infamous proceeding, at once ordered the Lieutenant-Governor to be superseded and he is now under process.

According to the information which reached this Government, there were upwards of 500 Bozals landed at Ortigosa upon this occasion, and it is hoped that the greater part of those who have been concealed will yet be taken. But I have received a statement which makes the transaction still more criminally infamous.

The number landed is said to have been no less than 670. The 205 captured were picked out as the sickly and weakest, mostly children unable to undergo fatigue, and unsaleable in their then condition.

The bribes amounted to 32,000 dollars, of which the Lieutenant-Governor wanted to retain three-fourths or 24,000 dollars, but this being objected to, the division was made to the satisfaction of all the parties, and those were, all the officers or employés of the Government in that district, civil and military, including a person for whom I had very recently obtained a commission to capture Bozal negroes, by having recommended him to the Marquis de la Pezuela, but who has most completely deceived my expectations. I allude to Don José Lopez Rangel, whom I mentioned in my despatch dated the 8th of October last year, and I hope that he will now receive the punishment he so richly deserves for the practice of such duplicity.

His Excellency has upon more than one occasion complained in conversation of the difficulty he has found in selecting officers upon whom reliance can be placed in the numerous districts, especially for those bounding on the sea board, but his firmness and perseverance will in time be sufficient to teach those to whom he confides his orders, that they are to be obeyed and cannot be evaded with impunity.

The Lieutenant-Governors of Trinidad and Sancti Spiritu besides him of Bahia Honda are under process, removed from their respective commands, their assessors, or legal advisers are also under process, and three very celebrated slave-traders, Choperena, Borrell and Castro are in prison, accused of being engaged in the diabolical Traffic, which it seems his Excellency is determined by every means in his power to put an end to.

It will be extremely difficult however to convict any of the delinquents I have alluded to, owing to the means which are always employed to buy off and deter the witnesses from declaring the truth. For such purposes the wealth of the slave-traders is at the command of the prosecuted who, for that reason, have hitherto been convicted, which is so much the more to be regretted, as I feel convinced that the punishment of a few of the officers and of the rich slave-traders would have a very salutary influence upon the conduct and future transactions of the rest.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 490.

*Consul-General Crawford to Her Majesty's Commissary Judge.*

Sir,

*Havana, June 29, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour of inclosing herewith a letter and its inclosures which I have received from Commander George Hancock, of Her Majesty's brig "*Espiègle*," relative to the circumstances under which he fell in with, boarded, and captured the slaver "*Grey Eagle*," off Ortigosa on the 27th instant, which vessel was on the following day claimed for the Spanish authorities as having

been previously detained by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bahia Honda, simultaneously with 205 negroes found on board, as stated by the Commander of the Spanish brig-of-war "Alcedo," in his letter to Commander Hancock, who agreed to the proposal of the Spanish Captain that the prize should be taken to Havana for adjudication under his custody, considering it proper to do so, and so avoid any unpleasant discussion with the authorities of a nation in close amicable relations with Great Britain; but you will observe that Commander Hancock was careful to take the Spanish Commander's receipt for the "Grey Eagle," which you will find amongst the papers transmitted by him.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 490.

*Her Majesty's Commissary Judge to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

*Havana, June 29, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date, transmitting in original certain papers received from Commander Hancock of Her Majesty's brig "Espiegle," relating to a capture by him, and subsequent yielding up to the Commander of the Spanish brig-of-war "Alcedo," of a deserted slaver-brig near Ortigosa."

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. C. BACKHOUSE.

No. 491.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 7.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, July 14, 1854.*

IN my despatch of the 28th of June last, when noticing to your Lordship the unceasing efforts of the Marquis de la Pezuela for putting an end to the Slave Trade, I mentioned the energy and activity which his Excellency informed me had been displayed by Colonel Don Santiago Gurrea, the Lieutenant-Governor of Sancti Spiritu.

It appears, however, that M. Gurrea had been playing false, and is accused under process of having been accessible to the allurements of gold held out by the slave-traders.

Upon a former occasion, some years ago, when Lieutenant-Governor of Mariel, this officer fell under my suspicions; but at that time, under Señor Roncali's protection, no convictions were obtained, and Gurrea received a decoration, so that when the Captain-General mentioned his name as having shown great zeal at Sancti Spiritu, I was disposed to hope that the unfavourable opinion I had of him might have been unjust, but this turns out not to be the case, and I therefore hasten to correct the praise bestowed upon him in my former despatch.

Brigadier de la Torre, who has been commissioned to form the "sumarios" against Colonel Gurrea and against Colonel Don Juan Martin, the Lieutenant-Governor of Trinidad, is, I understand, proceeding with considerable energy, and has captured, during the first two days after his arrival at Trinidad, upwards of 500 Bozal negroes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.



No. 492.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 14.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, July 18, 1854.*

ON the 15th instant I received information from an anonymous correspondent at Pinar del Rio, which, from the handwriting and other marks, I knew to be from a party whose information, upon former occasions, had proved to be most thoroughly reliable. I, therefore, did not hesitate to communicate its purport to the Captain-General, stating to his Excellency that it had come to me in the manner above described, and was as follows:

“That on the afternoon of the 7th instant, the Lieutenant-Governor received information officially, from the Captain of Guané, that a vessel without any person on board, had made its appearance at the Ensenada de Cortez, which appeared to have been a slaver.

“This information caused these authorities to make a show of doing something (they being already bribed), so they proceeded in that direction, but stopped at Don Juan, where the assessor (also bribed), as there was no notary with them, began to take useless declarations.

“Under these circumstances, the Corporal of the Rounds of the Palisadas, in the quarter of Pinar del Rio, named Don Ramon Affré, having learnt that there were Bozal negroes at the estate La Llamada, rented by a certain Señor Cruz, attacked it with a party of countrymen, and succeeded in taking 101: 94 of whom, composed of men, women, and children, he conveyed to the town; the rest, being sick, remained at the estate. He also captured four of the sailors of the slave-vessel, who were guarding the negroes, and two others made their escape, along with many more Bozals, who dispersed into the woods, where no doubt they will be stolen, and not delivered up to the authorities.

“The landing was effected on the 3rd, at Cayo Mono, a short distance from La Colona, and the negroes were consigned to Don José Maria Dias Delpino.

“The place where the negroes and four sailors were captured, is more than three leagues towards the interior from the coast, and is little more than two leagues from Pinar del Rio, close to the high road. This, and the remarkable circumstance of the Bozals having been six days on shore without being molested, gives rise to many well-founded conjectures.

“The total number of Bozal negroes disembarked, was 410. Where, then, are those who are wanting? This should be answered by the authorities of Pinar del Rio. In the warehouse at Colon, there are still some of them, and also some of a previous expedition, and they are being publicly sold. Who is there that does not know it?

“With these facts you can proceed, and if the Captain-General does not now apply all his strength to that which he put forth in his proclamation of May last, as respects the Lieutenant-Governors and Captains of districts, we shall have a repetition of the scandal of the coast of Guanés, in the affair of the ‘*Jasper*’ and other slavers about that time. Six days were these negroes in sight of the town, and yet it was necessary they should be taken by the Corporal of the Rounds!

“Don José Canela y Reventos, and Don Ramon Quadreny, are owners of the expedition; the former obtained permission from the present Governor of Pinar del Rio to land them in consideration of two ounces a-head. We are not certain that the money has been given, but it is most sure that the negroes have been disembarked.”

To this communication I had the pleasure of receiving an answer the same day from the Government Secretary, M. Estevan, acquainting me “that his Excellency had received the same information from a private source, and that, in consequence, he had given the necessary orders that the Brigadier Apodaca should proceed to relieve the Brigadier Ballesteros, at Pinar del Rio, with full powers to look for and capture the negroes wherever they might be found; that Ballesteros should, on the instant, proceed to Santiago de Cuba, and place himself under the orders of the Marquis de la España. That the outfitters and

consignees be made prisoners and placed under trial. That the Captain of Guanabacoa be removed and placed under process, to be replaced by the Corporal of the Rounds who made the capture. The Assessor, also, to be superseded, and another put in his place, and, in short, that his Excellency had adopted the most energetic measures upon this occasion, as (the Secretary observes) I must know that he always does."

On the 16th, having received another communication from my anonymous correspondent of Pinar del Rio, I lost no time in laying a copy of it before his Excellency; it was dated the 12th, and to the effect following:

"The Lieutenant Don Vicente Cablesola was doing the duty of the Captain of Pinar del Rio, on the 9th, when the Corporal, Don Ramon Affré, captured the Bozals. Said Cablesola was not ignorant that the negroes were hidden in a wood a little more than two leagues from the town; he knew it as well as the Lieutenant-Governor and the Assessor, who, in accord with the owners of the expedition, went out from Pinar del Rio in an opposite direction, and towards Punta de Cartas, to give time for the negroes to be distributed amongst the estates; but as Affré captured them, he has been rewarded by them with the destitution of his employment as Cabo de Ronda. It is true, that he had sent in his resignation two months before, but it was not admitted, but now they have agreed to remove him; no doubt to satisfy Don José Canela and Don Ramon Quaderny, thus showing them, that the Lieutenant-Governor and his accomplices were not to blame that the negroes were captured, and in proof thereof, that they had turned away the said Corporal.

"Of the 400 negroes only 101 have been taken. Where are the rest? The purchasers, Don José Perez Castañeda, Don Lorenzo Garcia, and Don Francisco Triana, as well as Don Manuel Royo, who also bought two of them can tell; and this Manuel Royo is neither more nor less than the party who is employed drawing up the process respecting said negroes.

"Where did those negroes land? How is it that they have been six days on shore, and only two leagues from town, without having been captured? Let this be answered by the Lieutenant-Governor, the Assessor, and the Acting Captain Pedaneo."

On the 17th I received a third letter from Pinar del Rio, dated the 13th, copy of which I also laid before his Excellency, and the following is a translation:—

"In consequence of the capture which the Corporal of the Rounds, Don Raymon Affré, made of 101 Bozal negroes, the Lieutenant-Governor has sent a circular to all his subalterns in the district of Pinar del Rio, ordering that they are on no account to search the estates, even if they knew that there were Bozal negroes on them, until they had given him previous notice. This determination shows, that what is wished is to aid the African expeditions, and to laugh at the dispositions of the Captain-General, as well as that the Treaties with the Government of Her Britannic Majesty should not be observed.

"The introduction of negroes upon the coast of the district of Pinar del Rio, may be in some measure prevented by the destitution of the Lieutenant, Don Vicente Cablesola, who knows every yard of it, the most secret roads, and the woods and thickets best adapted for hiding places; and we know that he is sold to the outfitters of this reprobated Traffic, so much so, that acting as Captain of the district of Pinar del Rio, on the 9th current, he could not be, nor ought he to have been, ignorant, that in his district the 101 Bozals were hidden which were captured by Affré; and this Cablesola is the same who, in the time of the Governor Ayllon, withdrew or kept back the information he had prepared as to Bozal negroes in consideration of four ounces of gold.

"The effective Captain of Pinar del Rio has also been bribed by Don José Perez Castaneda, Don Francisco Friana, and Don Lorenzo Garcia, that he should include in the registration now being made, the rest of the expedition not captured; and as the negroes were delayed in arriving at the estates, so he (the Captain) delayed the conclusion of the registries, until at last they were included. Search the estates of those we have mentioned, and there the Bozals will be found.

"Finally, if the Captain-General takes away the Lieutenant-Governor, the Assessor, the Captain and Lieutenant of the district, believe me that African expeditions will be put an end to in Pinar del Rio. At the last hour, we have learned that the curate of Pinar del Rio was at a tobacco plantation in Passo

Viejo, baptizing a great number of lately introduced Bozal negroes; by examining the registry of baptisms of negroes in the parish the doubt would be solved. The owner of these negroes is the wealthy Don Juan Conrich, the partner of Canela y Quadreny.

“At the estate La Llamada, they are selling more than 100 negroes belonging to the same expedition; this place belongs to a nephew of Don Ramon Quadreny. You may say to the General, that if he is sincere, he has only to commission anybody of his confidence for the capture of these negroes at the places we have mentioned.

“The Assessor, Don Carlos Delgado y Parejo, although not a judge having jurisdiction, has great ascendancy over the Lieutenant-Governor, and influences him to conceal his knowledge of the place where the negroes would be found, because he has a share in the expedition, that is to say, he has relations with the outfitters.

“At the time of the apprehension of the 101 negroes, they dispersed, and some of them have been stolen by various tobacco-growers, whose names we now reserve to be communicated to you later. The night before last, the Lieutenant of the district, Don Francisco Cruz Silvera, with his brother, Don Rafael, and his cousin, Don Serapio Silva, were at the tobacco estate of Don Juan Conill, which is at Passo Viejo, and where there is another lot of negroes of the same expedition. The partner authorized to sell them is Don Miguel Jané, a partner of Conill, a tobacco-dealer, and the Lieutenant Cruz having presented himself with all appearances as if he was about to capture the negroes, he received fifty gold ounces (170*l.*) by the hands of Don Juan Ventura Pequeño, by order of said Jané, for not taking the negroes. This is as true as the Evangelists.

“The negroes they are selling at La Llamada, the estate of Quadreny, are bathed every day in the river Paixonas; this is the same property which belonged to the collector of the Revenues, Don Joaquín Gonzales Berdugo.”

I have the honour of inserting here, a translation of the acknowledgment of these two last communications, which I received yesterday from the Government Secretary:

“I answer your favours of yesterday and to-day, stating to you that all the functionaries mentioned in the copies of communications you have sent in, have been at once removed from their situations, besides the charges and consequent punishment under the process which has been raised for that purpose. How much it is to be wished, that all this could be proved; but you, who have lived so many years in this country, well know how difficult it is to obtain full proofs in matters of this nature.

“The Government may remove those employés, as to whom there is the moral conviction that they have been wanting in their duties, they may remove them to another place, in fine, they may never again employ them; but they cannot impose afflictive punishments nor degradations, unless the charges have been legally proved; and as the Courts of Justice are those who are to impose such punishments, judicial proofs are indispensably necessary. How desirable it would be, I repeat, that such outrages should be proved, so as that they might get their deserts.

“I thank you, in the name of his Excellency, for your efficacy in aiding all you can to obtain the desired result, and I repeat myself, &c.”

My unknown correspondent, under date the 14th instant, writes again:—

“That the process raised at Pinar del Rio for discovery of origin of the 101 negroes and 4 white sailors, captured on the 9th by Don Ramon Affré, at Cayo Grande de la Llana, when the Lieutenant-Governor, Don Rafael Lopez Ballesteros, and the Assessor, Don Carlos Delgado y Parejo, had set out to look for those negroes in a direction diametrically opposite, is going on in its usual course.

“The sailors obstinately persist in concealing the name of the outfitters, and assert that there were only some hundred negroes; they say, that when they were apprehended, they had been eight days on shore. The negroes state, through an interpreter, that upon their arrival at Cayo Mono, they were divided into three lots; and that before they were captured, there had been removed twice as many as they were, or more.

“The Assessor and the Lieutenant-Governor are bribed; the public voice affirms that it is so; and it is to be believed, taking into account a circular issued by the Governor to his subordinates, a true copy of which we transmit to

you. This circular proves the interest of Ballesteros, and of his shadow, the Assessor, that the whole expedition should not be captured, so as that the owners, from whom they had received money, should not lose all the negroes.

“Don Juan Conill is owner of one of the lots, and although he had succeeded in selling a great part, he has suffered two impositions worthy of being mentioned (here is repeated the fact of the fifty ounces bribe mentioned in the former letter), that bribe was paid by order of Don Miguel Jané, agent of Conill, to the Lieutenant of the district, by Don Juan Ventura Pequeño, in Pinar del Rio, and was divided as follows:—

To Don Rafael Cruz . . . . .	6 ounces
” ” Juan Cruz . . . . .	6 ”
” ” Serapio Silva . . . . .	13 ”
” ” Francisco Cruz . . . . .	25 ”,—total, 50

“But fate willed it that the Standard-bearer of the Queen’s Regiment, Don Antonio Alarcó, another officer called Montero, and Don Rafael Duarte, went out to shoot yesterday, and fell in with the negroes, who were concealed on Conill’s property, a short two leagues from Pinar del Rio; they got together five or six more white men, and succeeded in capturing 40 negroes. They sent in their report, and at 3 o’clock this morning the Governor, the Assessor, and a field-officer of the Staff, set out in the direction of Cuajari, with the aparato of going to see if there were more negroes to be captured; but they returned at 9 o’clock without having apprehended any others than the 40 which accident threw in the way of Alarcó; and the circular (copy of which is inclosed) prohibited the corporals and other officers from searching for them.

“The Lieutenant Cablesola was not ignorant that the negroes were there, but as he is sold to the outfitters, and in accord with the Lieutenant-Governor and the Assessor, he said nothing; but the most curious thing is, that the 40 negroes are the same whom the curate baptized the day before yesterday, and who were registered by the same person who signs the circular, so that during the four days since the first capture, there has been bribery, robbery, and even sacrilege, for the curate baptized at the rate of an ounce of gold for each negro. What demoralization? And add to this, the fire of musketry which there was between the people of Alarcó and those of the estate when he went to capture the 40 negroes.

“Besides Castaneda, Friana, and Garcia, we know that Don Pedro Urquiaga has bought negroes; all this is known to the Lieutenant-Governor, the Assessor, Cablesola, and the Cruzes, but notwithstanding, they take no steps towards apprehending all these Bozales.”

This last communication I also lost no time in laying before the Captain-General, accompanied by a copy of the circular therein alluded to, which was to the following effect:—

*Circular.*

“*Captain of the District of Pinar del Rio’s Office,*  
“*July 11, 1854.*”

“To prevent the annoyance which the inhabitants of this district might suffer from any district-officer or Corporal of the Rounds, I warn you, that it is absolutely prohibited to search any estate or private house under the excuse of seeing whether there have been introductions of Bozal negroes; therefore, whenever it is supposed there are any, the officers are to apply to the Lieutenant-Governor of this jurisdiction, who will decide what he thinks proper. The officer who infringes this rule will be held severely responsible; and I warn you, that it will be painful for me to proceed against any Lieutenant or Corporal who disobeys this order, as no inhabitant must be injured without first communicating to him the order of the Government. I expect you will acknowledge receipt of this order.”

(Signed) “JOSE LOBATO.”

I have but little expectation that the process, in this case, will lead to the conviction of the guilty persons; but the proceedings instituted by the Captain-General for that purpose, and his Excellency's governative measures, in the removal of all the parties who are implicated, from office, can hardly fail to produce a beneficial effect.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 493.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 14.)*

My Lord,

Havana, July 20, 1854.

I UNDERSTAND that the slaver-brig "*Grey Eagle*" has been given up as prize to the "*Espiègle*, and that the case is being proceeded with before the Mixed Court of Justice at this place.

I regret however to state to your Lordship, that until now, no more of the negroes have been captured, and from what I have learnt as to the proceedings instituted at Bahia Honda, the good intentions of the Captain-General are very likely to be frustrated by the efforts of the slave-traders and the all-powerful application of gold.

It appears that the crew of the "*Grey Eagle*" came from Bahia Honda into this port of Havana on board of a coasting schooner. The master, whose name was Donald, said to be by birth a Frenchman, now a naturalized citizen of the United States, took passage hence to Charleston, and all the rest had also got away, when a lad, whose name was Joseph Town, describing himself as of Philadelphia, appeared before the Acting Consul of the United States, and registered his deposition on oath, which the Acting Consul has transmitted to the United States' district attorney.

Said Joseph Town declares that the master's name was Donald, the mate's William Roderick, that three of the sailors were Mitchel, Bourdon, and Leconte, the latter a Portuguese, that there were besides three more Portuguese, one Spaniard, and five more Frenchmen who composed the crew. That the deponent shipped at Philadelphia, as he understood, and the others who spoke English, for San Thomas; that having sailed, as they thought, a much longer distance than to San Thomas, they insisted upon knowing where they were bound, and were then informed, that they were going to the coast of Africa, where in a few days afterwards they arrived, and in an hour or two the negroes were put on board, and they had again sailed, bound as they were told for Havana, that after a passage of 35 to 38 days, they arrived at and entered a small narrow river where the slaves were instantly landed, and the same night they (the crew) were sent off, about 12 hours' ride distance, to an estate where they lay concealed for ten or twelve days.

Your Lordship will perceive how exceedingly defective is this deposition in which no dates are put down, no names of places, no mention of the number of the negroes and the name of the coaster by which they came to this port is not mentioned. The deponent however says, that he is sure the Lieutenant-Governor was bribed, as he saw him receive 32,000 dollars, and three others also got 2,500 dollars each.

What is very much to be regretted is, that Mr. Robinson, the Acting American Consul, should not have detained the young man, who, he says, was particularly smart and observant, and his evidence would certainly have been most valuable, very probably I think, if well managed, it would have led to the conviction of the whole of the parties concerned in the affair of the "*Grey Eagle*" at Ortigosa and Bahia Honda, but the witness is gone and I am very sorry for it.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 494.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, August 17, 1854.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, an extract\* of a letter dated the 3rd of June last, addressed by Commander Miller of Her Majesty's ship "Crane" to the Secretary of the Admiralty, reporting that the American brig "*Spread Eagle*" had got away from Whydah on the 16th of May with a cargo of 700 slaves.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 495.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 28.)*

(Extract.)

*Havana, July 25, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch dated the 30th of June, acquainting me with reference to my despatch of the 4th of May, reporting to your Lordship the important order of the previous day's date which had been issued by the Captain-General, that your Lordship had instructed Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Madrid to express to the Spanish Government the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt the determination thus shown by the Marquis de la Pezuela in regard to the suppression of the Slave Trade, and to say that Her Majesty's Government confidently trust that the Marquis will receive from the Spanish Government the support and encouragement which he is justly entitled to expect; your Lordship expressing that Her Majesty's Government sincerely hope that the good intentions of the Captain-General may not be frustrated by the local and other authorities, whose duty it will be to give effect to them, and remarking, that attempts of every kind that can be devised by inveterate habits and sordid interests would beyond doubt be made to evade the order of 3rd May, but that if the penalties announced in that order are rigidly applied, much permanent good may be expected.

His Excellency has proceeded against such of the local authorities as have attempted to frustrate his measures for suppression of the Slave Trade, in a manner so prompt and energetic that can leave no doubt of his determination to enforce the order of the 3rd of May, and should he meet with the support and encouragement of the Spanish Government, the Marquis de la Pezuela has the resolution and will devise all the means, having force sufficient at his command, to suppress and keep down the African Slave Trade, which is already checked in a manner never before known in this island.

No. 496.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 28.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, July 26, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of 1st instant, and in obedience to the instruction therein conveyed to me by your Lordship, I have expressed to the Marquis de la Pezuela the cordial thanks of Her Majesty's Government for the bold and energetic measures he is adopting for the suppression of the Slave Trade, and which

\* See Class A, No. 109.

reflect upon his Excellency the greatest honour. The Marquis de la Pezuela received your Lordship's communication with most apparent satisfaction, and expressed the deep sense which he felt of the honour thus done him by Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 497.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 28.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, July 29, 1854.*

I BEG leave to inclose herewith to your Lordship, a printed copy and translation of a circular dated 28th instant, addressed to the Governors and Lieutenant-Governors of Districts, by his Excellency the Governor Captain-General the Marquis de la Pezuela, decreeing certain rewards which are to be paid to any person who shall present to the authorities Bozal negroes, whether taken from the importers or found wandering about, and also decreeing, that if the parties who apprehend such Bozal Africans are of known morality, the negroes so captured will be adjudged to them for the period of their apprenticeship.

Her Majesty's Government will see in this measure a new proof of the Marquis de la Pezuela's determination to extirpate the African Slave Trade.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure in No. 497.

*Circular.*

(Translation.)

*Havana, July 28, 1854.*

CONSIDERING that there is no measure within the faculties of Her Majesty's Government (in this country so ample) which I am not disposed to adopt to put an end to this demoralized and fatal trade, which for so long a time has been putting into insecurity and alarm the property of individuals which can only be guaranteed and secured by the faithful observance of the Treaties, and the total extirpation of the African Traffic.

And notwithstanding that this is already about its end, by the registration of slaves, which registers you will transmit to me as speedily as possible, its prejudicial existence is not to be left for a moment notwithstanding.

And finally, it having come to my knowledge that the active persecution carried on against the introduction of Bozal negroes at various places in the island, has occasioned that many of these unhappy people are wandering about the woods abandoned and fugitives, chased away from the estates whose honourable proprietors by obeying the laws are unwilling to be classed as protectors of crime. I have disposed—

1st. That to all persons who present Bozales of Africa to the authorities captured from their importers, or caught wandering about, there shall be paid ten dollars for every full grown man, six dollars for every woman, and three dollars for every child, which sums are to be paid from the fund of the emancipados, which cannot be employed to a better purpose than in the liberation of our fellow creatures.

2nd. If those who present such Bozales, are proprietors of known morality, the liberated Africans will be adjudged to them for the term of their apprenticeship, according to the conditions of that regulation.

Which I say to you for your punctual observance.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed) THE MARQUIS DE LA PEZUELA.

*To the Governors and Lieutenant-Governors of the Island.*

No. 498.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, August 31, 1854.*

I HAVE received your despatch of 29th ultimo, inclosing a copy of an order issued by the Captain-General of Cuba, on the 28th ultimo, offering rewards for the apprehension of Bozal negroes.

This order may be very useful, and has given much satisfaction to Her Majesty's Government, but great care should be taken in ascertaining the character of the persons to whom the Bozals are to be assigned under the order.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 499.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 12.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, August 18, 1854.*

I HAVE to report to your Lordship that by the vigilance of the officers under the orders of his Excellency the Captain-General it was discovered that a disembarkation of Bozal negroes had been effected the beginning of this present month in the jurisdiction of Bahia Honda, consisting, as nearly as has been made out, of 360 or 380, who were first landed at a place called Cayo Louisa, where fifty-nine of them were captured, and it was ascertained that the rest of them had been conveyed to the mainland of the island in boats and launches, the vessel after effecting the disembarkation having gone off to sea. Of those conveyed to the mainland two parties of 30 and 174 (making, with the 59 seized at the Cay, a total of 263), have been brought in, and have been declared emancipados.

In my despatch of the 29th ultimo, I did myself the honour of bringing under your Lordship's notice a proclamation or circular which had been put forth by the Marquis de la Pezuela offering rewards for the discovery and apprehension of recently imported Africans. I have now the satisfaction of acquainting your Lordship, that the good effects of that measure have been manifested, as it appears by the "Gazette" of this date, that 78 men, 3 male children, 80 women and 15 female children, were captured by an individual called Don Manuel Cristobal de Zayas, being the 174 before mentioned belonging to the expedition at Cayo Louisa, and the said Zayas has been paid the sum of 1,294 dollars of reward, in terms of the Captain-General's circular of the 28th ultimo.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 500.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 12.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, August 21, 1854.*

HAVING received information that a disembarkation of slaves had been effected about a fortnight ago in the district of San Juan de los Remedios, and also that a slaver having 500 Bozal negroes on board had made her appearance off the coast of Santiago de Cuba, where Mr. Pro-Consul Beattie reported that it was rumoured she had succeeded in landing them, at some place between Guantanamo and Baracoa, I addressed a communication to His Excellency the Captain-General relative to both these cases on the 17th instant.

I have now the satisfaction of acquainting your Lordship that I have received in answer a note from the Government Secretary stating, that respecting the case at San Juan de Remedios, his Excellency had not received any other information than that which I had communicated, but that immediate orders had been issued to investigate the matter and to imprison the owners and



their accomplices, to search the country and the estates for capture of the Bozal negroes as well as for the apprehension and punishment of the guilty, in the event of my information being correct.

And as respected the slaver at Santiago de Cuba, the same report had been made to this Government from that quarter by the Governor of the eastern provinces the Marquis de España, who had acquainted the Captain-General of the measures he had taken for the immediate capture of the unfortunate negroes, and of all those implicated in their introduction into this island. The Secretary assuring me of the Marquis de la Pezuela's implicit confidence in the Governor of Cuba, repeats the most unalterable determination on the part of his Excellency the Captain-General, not only to persecute but to extirpate completely this infamous Traffic, which he will undoubtedly accomplish after a little more time and patience.

I have only to add to this new assurance on the part of his Excellency my thorough conviction, that if the Marquis de la Pezuela is not interfered with by any restrictions from Spain, his energetic measures will very soon effect the great objects which he has had in view from the commencement of his government here, and, as matter of honourable duty, compel the observance of the Treaties with Great Britain, as well as from feelings of humanity and morality put an end to the horrors of the Slave Trade.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 501.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 18.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, August 24, 1854.*

IT appears that the authorities of the United States are actively engaged in the prosecution of those persons who have been engaged in the Slave Trade.

The declaration of the sailor Joseph Town, who was on board the slaver "*Grey Eagle*," to which I did myself the honour of alluding in my despatch dated the 20th ultimo, having been transmitted to his Government by Acting American Consul Robertson, the master of that slaver, whose name turns out to be Darnaud, a Frenchman originally, but a naturalised citizen of the United States (not Donald, as Town in his declaration called the master), has been arrested and put upon his trial at Philadelphia for the offence, and the United States' attorney of that place has written to the present Acting American Consul, Mr. Savage, for such proofs as it may be in his power to furnish from hence, as may conduce to the conviction of the said Darnaud. Town and three others of the crew of the "*Grey Eagle*" had been found and would appear as evidences for the prosecution, and I have furnished Mr. Savage with a full description of the slaver as she lays in this harbour, which was obtained from Commander Phillimore of Her Majesty's steam-sloop "*Medea*," and contains many things of material importance, such as the exact length, breadth and depth of the vessel. That under the letters "*Grey Eagle*" of Philadelphia, may be read "*Grey Eagle*" of Robbinston, thus enabling them to identify the vessel by tracing her from her former registry and ownership at Robbinston to her ownership and registry at Philadelphia, and thus supply the want of papers, as none were found on board when she was taken possession of by Commander Hancock of Her Majesty's sloop "*Espiègle*," and the discovery of the owners under the register granted at Philadelphia may lead to that of the purchasers who had her fitted at New York from whence she sailed for the coast of Africa. There is besides in the description, the makers' names of the cooking apparatus and large coppers which, as they are of the manufacture of that State, were no doubt furnished and put on board of the vessel at New York.

I beg leave to inclose herewith a copy of the description of the "*Grey Eagle*," for which, as I before mentioned, I am indebted to Commander Phillimore.

I have also the honour of reporting to your Lordship, that I have supported the Acting American Consul's application to his Excellency the Captain-General, by using my influence to obtain additional proofs through this Govern-

ment, to substantiate the charges against the prisoner at Philadelphia, proving the fact of the disembarkation of the slaves at Ortigoza from on board the "*Grey Eagle*," and the capture of a part of them afterwards by these authorities.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 501.

*Commander Phillimore to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

"*Medea*," Havana, August 23, 1854.

IN consequence of your request to me this day to furnish you with a description of the slaver seized by Her Majesty's sloop "*Espiègle*" near Bahia Honda, I sent two very intelligent officers on board to inspect her, and I forward you their report for your consideration.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) AUGUSTUS PHILLIMORE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 501.

*Messrs. Wise and Beck to Commander Phillimore.*

Sir,

"*Medea*," Havana Harbour, August 23, 1854.

IN pursuance of your orders, we proceeded on board the brig captured by Her Majesty's brig "*Espiègle*," and found her with yards on deck, lower-masts and rigging up, top-masts housed.

We measured her, and found her to be 96 feet from inside of stem to taffrail, 21 feet beam, measured across main-hatchway, and 10 feet depth of hold from the skin to the deck.

Slave-deck beams fitted temporary, and shifting slave-deck, the height of which, from deck to deck, was 3 feet 8 inches.

There are ninety-two water-leaguers and fifty-nine barrels of rice in the hold. The casks of rice are marked "*New York Rice-mill*."

We found three extra hatchways cut in upper deck, fitted with temporary combings.

Galley large, with regular ship's coppers, which are marked "*New York Iron-foundry, F. & I. C. Tobin & Co.*"

In addition to which are two slave coppers, and they are marked "*J. Torrence, Eagle Foundry, Troy, New York. James Macgregor. Patenteed, December 22, 1845.*"

The windlass is a patent one; the purchase and paulls are marked "*Calais Foundry*," but the maker's name is cut out in both by a cold chisel or other means. She has a deck-house abaft, which you enter flush with the deck, and a poop 4 feet high from the deck. She has a small gilt eagle for a figure-head. Hull painted black, copper-bottomed, iron-fastened above the copper.

On her stern is painted "*Grey Eagle, Philadelphia*," underneath which has been painted "*Grey Eagle, Robbinston*." She has a gilt eagle and two stars on her stern; and we judge her to be a vessel of from 160 tons to 180 tons.

We remain, &c.  
(Signed) FRED. WISE, *Master*.  
JOHN BECK, *Carpenter*.

No. 502.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 18.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, August 26, 1854.*

I LEARN from the Secretary of the Government, that the Commandant of Isle of Pines has reported to the Captain-General, that a fisherman had fallen in with 5 Bozal negroes, and subsequently with 2 others on the 21st instant, the two latter dead, and apparently having died of starvation, one of the bodies being also much eaten by the caymans or crocodiles which abound there.

By means of an interpreter of the Congo Loanda nation, it was elicited, as well as it could be understood from the imperfect way the five survivors were able to explain themselves, that the slaver in which they were, had been wrecked upon the shoals, that only the master and three seamen were able to save themselves in one of the boats, all the rest, white and black, excepting themselves, having perished.

They also stated that a ship-of-war had fired at them and had carried away their mast, which was the reason of their having been cast away afterwards.

This seems improbable, because any cruizer that had, in chase, shot away their mast, would in all probability have succeeded in capturing them, unless, indeed, darkness had come on, and they escaped by changing their course.

There are no dates, nor other particulars obtained from the 5 unfortunate negroes; and, wherever the master and the three sailors may have got ashore, they would observe the utmost secrecy, so that we must trust to time and chance, or it may be that we may never learn the particulars of this sad shipwreck.

I learn, that speculating upon the removal of the present Captain-General as a consequence of the change of Government which has taken place at Madrid, there are several expeditions in contemplation to the coast of Africa; and I am of opinion that slave-trading must be declared to be piracy, and be dealt with as such, towards everybody who engages in it, or is concerned in its results, if the Spanish Government is really in earnest to deter its subjects from entering into or continuing the detestable Traffic.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 503.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, September 26, 1854.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 17th of March, and to your reply of the 26th of April, respecting the objection entertained by Her Majesty's Government to be called upon to find funds for the emigration of liberated Africans from Cuba to any place except the British West Indian Colonies, I herewith transmit to you a copy of a letter addressed by the Superintendent of the Packet Service at Southampton to the Secretary to the Admiralty, by which you will see that 32 persons of the above description arrived at that port by the last packet from the Havana. I have requested the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to provide a free passage to Sierra Leone for these persons, and they will be maintained at the public cost during their stay in this country; but you will report to me the circumstances under which this further arrival has taken place, and whether they left the Havana with your cognizance or authority.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed)

CLARENDON.

## Inclosure in No. 503.

*Captain Austin to the Secretary to the Admiralty.*

Sir,

Southampton, September 5, 1854.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that 32 liberated Africans from Cuba arrived here by the last West India steamer, and to-day it has been represented to me that these people have told the Spanish individuals who have lodged and provided for them, that they are waiting instructions from the Government as to how they are to obtain a passage to their homes in Africa, and that their connections and countrymen, who had preceded them to this country, had given them to understand that provision would be made for them upon their reaching England. Such being the statement made to me, I have considered it my duty to forward the same for the information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and to beg they will be pleased to inform me if it is the intention of the Government to give any directions in behalf of these apparently most deserving people, who it is represented to me are without means of providing for themselves, and that after to-day they will be turned over to the parish authorities.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) W. T. AUSTIN.

## No. 504.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 27, 1854.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 31st of May,\* inclosing copies of the Spanish Decrees of the 22nd of March, respecting slavery in Cuba, I now transmit to you a copy of a letter from the Colonial Office,† inclosing a copy of a despatch from the Governor of British Guiana, in which he gives his opinion as to the manner in which those Decrees may operate to the prejudice of colonists repairing to Cuba from Yucatan; and I have to instruct you to inquire into this matter, and report to me whether the Decrees in question will have the practical operation apprehended by Mr. Wodehouse.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

## No. 505.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 28, 1854.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 24th ultimo, stating that Darnaud, the master of the "*Grey Eagle*," slaver, had been arrested, and put upon his trial at Philadelphia on a charge of Slave Trade, and reporting the steps which you had taken to obtain evidence to procure his conviction; and I have in reply to inform you that I approve your proceedings in this matter.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

\* No. 472.

† Inclosure 1 in No. 260.

No. 506.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.*

(Extract.)

*Foreign Office, September 29, 1854.*

I HAVE to inform you that General Concha before leaving Madrid for the Havana, assured Lord Howden that he intended to oppose the fraudulent introduction of negroes into Cuba in the most uncompromising manner, and that he was determined to maintain the Treaties respecting Slave Trade into which Spain has entered with Great Britain.

No. 507.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 16.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, September 14, 1854.*

MR. DOYLE, Her Majesty's Minister at Mexico, having transmitted to me under flying seal a despatch\* dated the 2nd instant, with its inclosures, conveying the unsatisfactory answer of the Mexican Government about Señor Vivo's conduct in the case of the "*Lady Suffolk*," in order that I, being on the spot, might give any further information upon the subject which might occur to me; I have the honour of laying before your Lordship a copy of Mr. Doyle's despatch to which I have alluded, and I also forward by this opportunity his Excellency's despatches to your Lordship, which have had my fullest attention.

I have had interviews with the Acting Consul for the United States, Mr. Savage, who has been for a long time in that Consulate as the chief clerk, or secretary, as well as with M. Carvallo, the Mexican Consul, and have in conversation with both of these functionaries referred to the circumstances of the affair of the "*Lady Suffolk*."

I have to confirm in every particular what I did myself the honour of reporting to your Lordship upon this subject in my despatch dated the 28th of August, 1853,† and inclosures.

Señor Vivo's despatch dated 23rd of October, 1853 (Inclosure No. 1 of Mr. Doyle's to your Lordship) goes to throw the whole responsibility upon Señor Soler, as having been the Acting Mexican Consul here at the date of the disgraceful transaction, and it would perhaps be difficult to prove that Señor Vivo had re-assumed the Consular duties at that time, after his return from Vera Cruz, from whence he had arrived four days previously. But I have learnt from Señor Carvallo that when Señor Vivo left Havana and accompanied General Santa Anna to Mexico, the latter promised that he, Señor Carvallo, should have the appointment of Consul; that he was therefore rather surprised at not having received his commission when Señor Vivo returned, especially as he had heard of that person being nominated Minister to Spain. That it was not until the 16th, a week after Vivo's arrival, that he proposed to Señor Carvallo to deliver over to him the Consulate, and that to Carvallo's inquiry, why he had not done so sooner, as well as in regard to Santa Anna's instructions upon the subject, Vivo answered, that he had had a good many things to regulate which had hindered him from doing so, and that he then delivered over the office to him by verbal order of his Excellency General Santa Anna, and accordingly Señor Carvallo took charge of the Mexican Consulate the next day, viz., on the 17th of May, 1853. That the archives were received by inventory, but that neither in the inventory nor amongst the archives are any of the documents referred to as being deposited, to be found.

We have seen by the document which I obtained from the United States' Consulate, that no such papers were ever issued from that office.

The appearance of the persons who are named by Señor Vivo as having, according to Señor Soler's statement, appeared at the Mexican Consulate, is therefore a fabrication intended to cover the fraudulent transaction: no such persons in reality ever did present themselves at that office.

\* No. 261.

† See Class B, presented 1854, No. 584.

No such document as the power of attorney from Henry West of Boston, duly legalized by the American Consul, ever was presented or seen by any body at the Mexican Consulate, nor was any such document ever legalized at that of the United States; and, finally, no such ship as the "Mary" of Boston entered the port of Cienfuegos in the year 1853, as has been proved by the certificates of the American Consul and the captain of that port.

But it remained for Señor Vivo to call up, in the statement which he says was made to him by Soler, a new character, and that is Don Valentin Corujos, merchant of Havana, said to have been bondsman upon the issue of the sailing letter to the "Lady Suffolk," alias "Mary of Boston," alias "Mariana."

I considered it my duty to inquire, whether such bond is recorded in the archives at the Mexican Consulate; and I have to state, that there not only is no such record, but that the existence of any such person as Don Valentin Corujos, merchant of this city, is unknown to everybody who is at all likely to know about him, and it would not be difficult to prove officially, if necessary, that no such person exists or ever has been known to be established in this city during the last two years.

The whole of the infamous act committed at the Mexican Consulate in granting that flag to a notorious slaver, and the combination of fraud which has been discovered and laid open, shows that the guilty parties thought they had provided against detection, and induces the belief that this was not the only instance where they had had to tax their ingenuity for a similar purpose.

The infamy, it would seem by Señor Vivo's statement, is to be saddled upon his nephew Señor Soler, who at that time was a mere boy. But, as Señor Vivo was here at the time, I can hardly think that Soler would go into such a transaction without having his uncle's counsel and advice. Moreover, upon so recent an act, it appears rather unaccountable that Señor Vivo's attention should not have been attracted, since hardly one of the instructions of the Mexican Government upon the subject of "abanderamiento" or granting the flag to foreign-built vessels, had been complied with, as I am informed by Mr. Consul Carvallo.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure in No. 507.

*Mr. Doyle to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

*British Legation, Mexico, September 2, 1854.*

I BEG to transmit to you herewith inclosed, under flying seal, a copy of my communication to Lord Clarendon on the subject of the conduct of Vivo in connection with the affair of the "Mariana" slaver, in order that you being on spot may give any further information on the same subject which may occur to you.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) PERCY W. DOYLE.

No. 508.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, October 27, 1854.*

WITH reference to previous correspondence respecting the case of the "Grey Eagle," I transmit to you herewith for your information, a copy of a despatch\* which I have received from Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, inclosing a copy of a note addressed to him on the 13th ultimo by the United States' Secretary of State, in which Mr. Marcy says that proceedings have been instituted against the parties implicated in the case of the "Grey Eagle," and that those proceedings will be vigorously prosecuted to a termination.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 509.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 1.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, September 25, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 17th August, transmitting for my information an extract of a letter dated 3rd of June last, addressed by Commander Miller of Her Majesty's ship "Crane," to the Secretary of the Admiralty, reporting that the American brig "Spread Eagle" had got away from Whydah, on the 16th of May, with a cargo of 700 slaves.

As it would be very easy to confound the two names, and as a slaver from Whydah would most likely run across to Cuba in five or six weeks, I think there can be little doubt that the brig alluded to by Commander Miller was the very "Grey Eagle" detained at Bahia Honda, 27th of June, by Commander Hancock of Her Majesty's brig-sloop "Espiegle," which vessel is now in this port under adjudication before the Mixed Court.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 510.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 1.)*

(Extract.)

*Havana, September 27, 1854.*

I HAVE received from General de la Concha the assurance that he is invested with powers which he had not when he formerly was intrusted with the Government here, and that it is his firm determination to compel the honourable observance of the Treaties, and to extirpate the Traffic in Slaves.

And the "Gazette" of this date, a copy of which I have now the honour of transmitting, contains a circular to the authorities of the island, in which his Excellency pledges himself to the extirpation of the detestable Traffic, in the following terms:

"The preferable attentions of the Government, in the meantime, not permitting of my giving fuller instructions to your Excellency, I have to indicate that which you ought to observe in the important matter of the Traffic in negroes.

"This is for the Government of Her Majesty a sacred duty, in observance of the Treaties, the suppression honestly, loyally, and absolutely of that detestable Traffic.

"It is no less so for the authorities in this island, and is become (constituted) for all of them a point of honour.

"The Traffic in negroes ought therefore, to disappear altogether, and it shall disappear.

"This my worthy antecessor endeavoured to do by his efficacious dispositions, and those which I dictate shall have the same tendency to put an end to that immoral and most prejudicial Traffic, without disturbing the proprietors in the possession of their slaves, by such orders on pretext of their origin, as directed by the laws."

It would seem by this public manifestation, that the Spanish Government is in earnest to put an end to the Slave Trade, and I hope that General Concha's promises will be acted up to, but your Lordship may be assured that the punishments under the Spanish Law as it now is, are wholly inadequate and are so easily evaded, that much stronger measures are necessary to produce the extirpation of an evil so deeply rooted as slave-trading is amongst these people.

No. 511.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 1.)*

(Extract.)

*Havana, September 27, 1854.*

GENERAL PEZUELA is still here and will not leave till the departure of the regular mail-boat for Spain, which will not be for ten days, or a fortnight, yet to come.

It is certainly to be regretted that the removal of this honest Governor has interrupted the course which he would have followed out corrective of the innumerable abuses which exist in all branches of the administration of the affairs of this island. He has at least the merit of having detected those abuses, and of having applied the remedies for their eradication, which it is to be hoped will be followed up by his successor.

The revenues of the island under the Marquis de la Pezuela's administration have produced, without the imposition of any new taxes, a large amount in excess of former averages.

I am well informed that the suppression of smuggling alone has occasioned an increase of the Custom-house revenue considerably over 1,000,000 of dollars during the nine months he was Superintendent, and a production proportionately advantageous in all the other branches.

Besides inspiring respect for his authority in putting down the Slave Trade, by removing all and as many of the officers in command of districts and the subalterns of all ranks and descriptions who had been wanting in the proper execution of their duties, and the placing of those whose acts had made them amenable under arrest to abide their trials before the competent tribunals, he captured, or caused to be captured, no less than 2,699 Bozal negroes, viz. :—

District of Matanras . . . . .	113
„ Brufas (Trinidad) . . . . .	602
„ Ortigosa (Bahia Honda) . . . . .	205
„ Sancti Spiritus and Trinidad . . . . .	806
„ Cayo Louisa (Bahia Honda) . . . . .	261
„ Pinar del Rio . . . . .	205
„ Manimani (Bahia Honda) . . . . .	103
„ Guines . . . . .	17
„ Isla de Pinos . . . . .	103
„ Ditto . . . . .	242
	2,699
Total as above	2,699

who are declared emancipados and are hired out for one year's service. A practical check such as had never been experienced by the slave-traders: but his Excellency's short experience of the demoralized state of all those who are in any manner whatever concerned or connected with the detestable Traffic had satisfied him that the very strongest measures are indispensably necessary for its extirpation, and therefore he had urged the Spanish Government to declare it piracy in all its branches—an alternative which I most fervently hope and trust will be had recourse to, for the purpose of putting an end to the abomination, and which it would be desirable to extend not only to the parties who may be found on board of slavers, but to the owners of such expeditions, their agents, the sellers and the buyers, and even to the brokers who employ themselves in the sale of human flesh, as well as to all aiders and abettors in the carrying on of the accursed Traffic; for your Lordship may be assured that hardly any thing short of what I have described will deter these people from engaging in the Trade to Africa.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.



No. 512.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 1.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, September 28, 1854.*

I HAVE had the honour of receiving your Lordship's despatch of the 31st of August, in which, with reference to that which I did myself the honour of addressing to your Lordship on the 29th of July last, inclosing a copy of the Captain-General's order of the 28th of the same, offering rewards for the apprehension of Bozal negroes, your Lordship observes that this order may be very useful, and has given much satisfaction to Her Majesty's Government, but that great care should be taken in ascertaining the characters of the persons to whom the Bozals are to be assigned under the order.

I most entirely coincide in that opinion of your Lordship, and it is to be apprehended that the Bozal negroes who are captured and assigned as apprentices, do not always fall into proper hands; at the same time, it must be observed that the period for which Bozals are assigned under the new regulations, is so short, that there is not much time for improper masters to abuse the confidence reposed in them; and the negro, if he has been ill used, will not be disposed to engage himself for a second period to such masters.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 513.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 1.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, September 29, 1854.*

I BEG leave to lay before your Lordship a copy of letter which I addressed to Her Majesty's Judge, Mr. Backhouse, on the 25th instant, giving him the most recent account of the operations of the slave-traders.

The sailors mentioned at the conclusion of that letter, are still in the prison here, and the Americans have promised to give a full statement to the acting consul of the whole particulars of that case; they, as well as the Portuguese, are cared for in their confinement by some parties, no doubt those who were the owners of the expedition, and are much better fed than if they had to depend upon the prison allowance.

I learn from the Acting Consul for the United States, that another slaver captain, whose vessel landed her cargo on the south side, near Zarza, some three months ago, or perhaps a little more, has been arrested at New York upon the evidence and declarations taken here from one of the sailors of the name of Howell, and transmitted to the Government at Washington.

I consider that the conviction and punishment of Darnaud, the master of the slaver "*Grey Eagle*," who is under trial at Philadelphia, and that of the one arrested at New York, will have the effect of deterring American citizens from engaging in the Traffic, as has been but too frequently the case lately; and it is to be hoped, also, that such disclosures may be elicited on those trials, as will serve to guide the United States' officers in keeping a watch upon the persons who generally engage themselves in the fitting out of the slavers at American ports.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure in No. 513.

*Consul-General Crawford to Her Majesty's Commissary Judge.*

My dear Sir,

*Havana, September 25, 1854.*

HAVING received information upon which I thought I could rely, to the effect, that a cargo of slaves was expected on the northern coast, and that arrangements had been made for landing them at Mantua, as well as that another slaver had arrived on the south side, and was laying at anchor at one of the Cays (as it was said) waiting for the Marquis de la Pezuela to be relieved, in order to land her cargo at a place between La Coloma and Daniguas, I, on the 16th instant, sent in the above particulars to his Excellency, and I received from the Government Secretary, on the 18th, a note of the previous day's date, acquainting me that his Excellency had issued the most terminant orders to the Brigadier Apodaca to watch the coast and places indicated; and at the same time, the Secretary informed me, that up to that time they had only received a report from Brigadier Apodaca to the effect, that on the coast near Mantua, two boats with crews, apparently North Americans, had been found, who stated that they belonged to a brig, which sailed from New Orleans, bound to Stockholm, which took fire, and that they had saved themselves in the boats; and the Brigadier Apodaca stated that the Spanish schooner of war "Habanera" was at that time laying at Mantua, and that the summary was about to be gone into, in order to clear up the statement of the people belonging to the boats above-mentioned.

There appears to have been a slaver brig wrecked on the Isle of Pines, as 5 Bozal negroes alive, and 2 dead bodies, had been found there about the 20th ultimo, and the surviving Bozals declared, through an interpreter of the Congo nation, that they were cast away, and the whole of the negroes, except themselves, had been lost, and only the master and one or two of the crew had been saved.

I have since learnt that said master of the wrecked slaver was an American or a citizen of the United States, and there is reason to believe that his name was Bryan, and that he came to Havana and embarked immediately for Charleston on board the American steamer "Governor Dudley."

I have also heard of a schooner slaver having landed some 350 Bozals near Rosario, and that the master made his escape by coming here in the train from the station San Nicolas. Several of the crew, consisting of Portuguese and two Americans, were captured, and are now in prison here, to undergo their trial, and I have been told that most of the slaves of that expedition have been captured by the Spanish Government officers.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 514.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November*

My Lord,

*Havana, October 3, 1854.*

HIS Excellency the Captain-General requested a conference, which took place last night at the Government-house, and his object was to combine the most immediate measures, on the part of his Excellency, for the detection and capture of slavers and their cargoes; for which purpose he requested that I would, with the least possible delay, communicate such information as I might receive, but especially with regard to the places where expeditions to arrive may be intercepted.

I explained to his Excellency, that that was precisely the sort of information which one rarely, if ever, gets; but that he might be assured I should be most happy to cooperate to the utmost in the suppression of the Traffic, and would, without a moment's delay, communicate all the information in my power for that purpose.

His Excellency said that he was fully determined to extirpate slave-trading; that he had taken every opportunity of stating such to be his unalterable resolution, and that those, if any there were, who might have indulged the hope or expectation that he would relax the measures adopted by his predecessor, should be convinced that he would carry out, perhaps in his own way, the fixed intention he had announced, and that he had no doubt he would soon accomplish the extinction of the detestable Traffic; but that he was anxious, if possible, to have the aid of public opinion, which, he considered, would do much towards the great object he had in view.

In this I quite coincided with his Excellency, and observed, that it was my opinion something had already been effected in that way, but that my experience of the inhabitants of Cuba induced me to arrive at this conclusion, that they very easily become accustomed to whatever is the law prescribed, whilst, at the same time, no people I had ever heard of or met with, were so expert in evading the provisions of law with impunity; and that, therefore, his Excellency's measures would require to be carried out inflexibly by every subaltern authority, so as that the people might at once, or as soon as possible, become aware that there was nothing for it but their implicit obedience and conformity.

It appears, that in consequence of information which General Concha had received as to a slaver hovering off the coast, a war steamer was dispatched in the night, in the expectation of falling in with her; but it turned out, that the slaves were already landed on the 24th ultimo, at the mouth of the Manimani river, between Mariel and Cabañas, and the General informed me that the authorities on shore had captured 73 Bozals, which probably was all that the slaver had brought, as the captured negroes had declared that the vessel was small, the crew consisting of only seven persons, of whom two were stated to have died on their voyage.

I ventured to express my opinion that the declaration of the negroes was improbable, because so small an expedition is hardly ever undertaken in these days, and that opinion, it appears, was not ill-founded, for early this morning I have received information which may probably be relied upon, that at a certain place near to Cabañas there are upwards of 500 Bozals of the same expedition concealed and protected by the Captain of the district, who, with the Sub-delegado del Mar, and another of the local authorities, have been bribed, and who trumped up the story of the negro's declaration to cover their arrangements with the slavers.

His Excellency has adopted the necessary measures for the discovery of the truth in this case, which I hope may lead to the capture of the whole expedition.

I learn, also, that information has reached the Captain-General of a landing of slaves near Nuevitas, respecting which he has taken active measures.

I must not, however, withhold my anxious apprehensions, that a mistaken desire on the part of General Concha to create or inspire confidence on the part of the proprietors of the estates, by not permitting the mustering of the negroes, will embolden many of the planters to purchase Bozal negroes, and have them upon their estates in defiance of the Decree of Registration; I fear that his relaxing, in any way, the execution of that Decree now, may lead to his greater unpopularity when he will have discovered that his confidence has been misplaced, and that they require the strictest looking after to prevent their buying new negroes.

I ventured to express my difference of opinion with his Excellency upon this subject, but I perceived that for the present, at any rate, he will not authorize the authorities to muster the slaves for fear of complaints arising as to vexatious interferences, which certainly would not be wanting whether well-founded or not, but would be raised principally with a view to cover delinquencies, whereas, any really vexatious visits or interferences of the authorities could be very easily inquired into and redressed.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 515.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 1.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, October 11, 1854.*

I BEG leave to lay before your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, relative to an expedition which is about to be dispatched from New York for the purpose of bringing 500 slaves from a place described (which is situated on the west coast of Africa) to this island, and intended to be landed at a point some 60 miles to the westward of this port, between El Merillo and the River Manimani, in the district of Bahia Honda. The principal owner of the adventure, I understand, is Don Gaspard Madraso, a Catalan, who lately inherited a fortune upon the death of a distant relative.

I am in hopes, that by the interference of the authorities of the United States' Government, this expedition may be detained when ready to leave New York, or, if not, that the vessel may be fallen in with upon her arrival at the coast of Africa.

I have also given this information to his Excellency the Captain-General, and have disclosed to him the name of the owner of the adventure.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure in No. 515.

*Consul-General Crawford to Mr. Crampton.*

Sir,

*Havana, October 11, 1854.*

I HASTEN to give you the following information, which I have just received from an undoubted source, relative to an expedition which is being prepared for the Slave Trade at New York, thence to be dispatched to the coast of Africa.

On the 28th ultimo, a certain Don José Egea left this place for New York in order to purchase, through the house of Lasala, No. 6, Broadway, a vessel (preferring the rig of a pilot-boat or fore and aft schooner) capable of bringing over 500 slaves from Africa to this island.

The vessel to be equipped with water and all things necessary for the Slave Trade, and so prepared to sail from New York, proceeding to a place on the coast of Africa, in latitude 4° 52' south, and longitude 11° 15' east of Greenwich, where the slaves are, and have been for some time, ready to be put on board. I understand, that just to leeward of the point designated by the latitude and longitude above-mentioned, there is a bight known as "Black Point," distant about 10 miles from where our cruisers are generally to be fallen in with.

The Spanish Captain, whose name is Artaza, goes passenger from New York in this slaver, and he is to assume the command as soon as the negroes are on board and the vessel is ready to set sail from the coast of Africa.

The parties engaged in this adventure have been named to me, as well as the place to which the vessel is to come for the purpose of landing her cargo; but these facts are of no interest in the object which I have in view by this despatch.

Almost all the slave expeditions, for some time past, have been fitted out in the United States, chiefly at New York, where there must be some establishment, slip, or outfitting carpenter's or builder's-yard, specially undertaking such business for the slavers.

I am aware that the attention of the United States' Government has been directed to that circumstance, and that the vigilance of the American officers at Philadelphia and New York has been such as that the masters of two slavers

CLASS B.

are at present under trial for slave-trading, and the vessels, in both instances, although purchased elsewhere in the United States, were fitted out at, and sailed from, New York.

I am therefore confident that every assistance would be afforded for the detection of the slaver about to be equipped by Don José Egea, and I hope that you will be able to engage the energies of the proper officers of the Government for that purpose, who will know that it is necessary to observe the greatest secrecy and discretion so as to trace Don Egea and watch his progress, in order to pounce upon the expedition at the moment of its completion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 516.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.*—(Received November 13.)

My Lord,

*Havana, October 20, 1854.*

I BEG leave to lay before your Lordship a copy of a correspondence which I have had with the Captain-General of this island, which was given rise to by a despatch which I received from Commander Phillimore of Her Majesty's steamer-sloop "Medea," who reported that he had fallen in with and examined a schooner, under suspicious circumstances, off the Pass of Manimani, which vessel he found to be in the possession of three persons, who stated that they were under the orders of the Capitan del Partido, who informed the Commander that the slaves had been found at Boca del Rio, but that the vessel had not been seen till the morning of the 25th August, when she was seized by order of the Lieutenant-Governor of that district, viz., Bahia Honda.

It appears that Commander Phillimore's information was quite correct, excepting as to the number of the Bozal negroes landed from said vessel who were captured, the Captain-General stating them at 103, and not 113, as reported by the Commander of the "Medea;" and I have now the satisfaction of reporting to your Lordship that said slaver-schooner, designated as the "Peerless," has been towed into this port by a Spanish man-of-war steamer, and is left for adjudication in the Royal Audiencia Pretorial, where she will no doubt be condemned.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 516.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Captain-General of Cuba.*

Sir,

*Havana, October 4, 1854.*

I BEG leave to lay before your Excellency a copy of a letter which I have received from Commander Phillimore of Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Medea," dated at sea the 28th of August, in which that officer informs me, that on the 25th of that month, when off the Pass of Manimani, he saw a schooner under the suspicious circumstances set forth in his despatch, and that having boarded said schooner, he found on her stern the name "Peerless," New York, and on board a guard of three persons, who were under the orders of a person called the Capitan del Partido, who informed the Commander that the slaves had been found at Boca del Rio 100 men and 13 young, but that the vessel had not been seen until the 25th, when she was seized by order of the Lieutenant-Governor.

Commander Phillimore, finding this vessel in charge (as the persons on board her represented it to him) of the Spanish Government officers, he did not interfere; but your Excellency will not fail to observe, that he considered many of the circumstances of a very extraordinary nature, and he remarks, that they

had had time to clear out the slaves, crew, papers, sails, and some of her spars, and was only found in that state on the 25th, drifting about, so that it was only on the "Medea's" coming in sight, that the slaver was taken to the small village of Morrillo, far away from all apparent means of surveillance of the higher authorities.

The Commander, therefore, considered it his duty to report these circumstances to me; and I have the honour of bringing them under your Excellency's notice, at the same time that I request the favour of information respecting the capture of this slaver and the 113 slaves said to have been landed from her, the more so as I have not heard of any such captured slaver having been brought to this port for adjudication up to this date.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 516.

*Commander Phillimore to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

*"Medea," at Sea, August 28, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that on the 25th instant, when off the Pass of Manimani at 7.30 A.M., I saw a schooner stationary, without a fore-topmast, and with only a jib bent. Shortly afterwards, I saw her set the jib, hoist Spanish colours, and run in for the anchorage off the village of Morrillo.

Having hove to, and sent in Lieutenant Smith to board her, he reported that she was the "Peerless," a slaver captured that morning by people who said they came from Bahia Honda, by order of the Lieutenant-Governor, and had found her off the reef quite deserted.

I visited the vessel myself next day; outside her stern is marked "Peerless," New York, and inside "Peerless." A guard of three people were on board, under the orders of a man they called the Capitan del Partido (all without any uniform), who told me that the slaves had been found at Boca del Rio (100 men and 13 young ones), but that the vessel was not seen till the morning of the 25th, when she was seized by order of the Lieutenant-Governor.

I did not interfere, as she seemed to be in possession of the Government authorities; but, considering that the vessel had had time to clear out slaves, crew, papers, sails, and some of her spars, and was only found in this state drifting about between 7 and 8 A.M. on the 25th, and, that after our heaving in sight, they took her to the small village of Morrillo, far from all apparent means of surveillance, and that the Government authorities wore no uniform, parts of their story seemed so unlikely, that I have brought all these particulars before your notice.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS PHILLIMORE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 516.

*The Secretary to the Captain-General of Cuba to Consul-General Crawford.*

(Translation.)

Sir,

*Havana, October 12, 1854.*

HIS Excellency the Governor Captain-General has received your Honour's communication of the 4th instant, as to the letter addressed to you by the Commander of the steamer-of-war "Medea," relative to the schooner "Peerless," captured by the authorities of Bahia Honda, for having brought an expedition of slaves.

His Excellency informed thereon, directs me to say to your Honour, as I do, that as the statement in said communication coincides with the result of the first investigation gone into upon this affair, it is equally shown that the disembarkation of the negroes was effected in the night of the 24th,

and that on the day following, the Adjutant of Marine of that district boarded, in a small boat, a vessel which he saw lying at a kedge at a distance of three miles from the coast, and having found her abandoned he had her conveyed to the anchorage of Morrillo de Manimani, leaving her in charge of some men, and from which place she will very shortly be brought to this port.

It appears also that 103, and not 113, as the Commander of the "Medea" states to your Honour, was the number of the negroes captured, and their own declarations coincide in that there were only two more who have disappeared, composing the rest of the expedition.

It only remains for me to state to your Honour that his Excellency is duly thankful for the interest your Honour takes in cooperating for the observance of the laws and terminant dispositions in a matter of such transcendancy.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed) JUAN SUNYE.

No. 517.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 13.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, October 21, 1854.*

HER Majesty's Acting Consul at Santiago de Cuba having reported to me that a brig (said to be American) was daily expected to land a cargo of negroes at one of the outports to windward of that place, with other particulars of an interesting nature connected with said adventure, I lost no time in addressing a corresponding communication upon the subject to the Captain-General, a copy of which, and of his Excellency's answer, I have now the honour of transmitting to your Lordship.

General Concha informs me that he had given orders for the places alluded to in Mr. Pro-Consul Beattie's letter, to be watched by sea and land and has been pleased to thank me for the information, which must be considered as exceedingly satisfactory.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 517.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Captain-General of Cuba.*

Sir,

*Havana, October 16, 1854.*

HER Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul at Santiago de Cuba writes to me from that place under date the 7th of this month to the following effect:—

"Sir,—I have learned from a trustworthy source that a brig (said to be American) is daily expected to land a cargo of negroes in one of the outports to windward, say at Puerto Escondido, San Antonio, or Savana de la Mar, and that it is thought no impediment will be placed in the way of their disembarkation.

"This adventure is reported to be owned by a firm in Havana, owners of the Tienda "California," which has a branch here.

"One of the partners named Martinez was here lately negotiating the affair, and this probably gave rise to the report then current of a landing having been effected of which I advised you at the time."

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 517.

*The Captain-General of Cuba to Consul-General Crawford.*

(Translation.)

Sir,

*Havana, October 17, 1854.*

IN view of your Honour's communication of yesterday's date, transmitting to me a copy of that which you have received from Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul at Santiago de Cuba of the 7th, current respecting the expected expedition of negroes at Puerto Escondido, San Antonio or Sabana la Mar, I have already dictated the necessary orders that they may be watched by sea and land, and I thank your Honour for having afforded me this information.

God preserve, &amp;c.

(Signed)

JOSE DE LA CONCHA.

No. 518.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, November 24, 1854.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 3rd ultimo, giving an account of an interview which you had had with his Excellency General Concha on the subject of Slave Trade, and I have to state that I approve the language used by you on that occasion.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed)

CLARENDON.

No. 519.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, November 24, 1854.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 11th ultimo, and I have in reply to express to you my approval of the note which you addressed on that date to Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, informing him of the intention of some Cuban slave-traders to fit out a vessel at New York for the purpose of bringing 500 slaves from the west coast of Africa to the Island of Cuba.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed)

CLARENDON.

No. 520.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, November 24, 1854.*

WITH reference to your despatch of the 21st ultimo, in which you state that you had reported to the Captain-General of Cuba intelligence which you had received of an intended landing of slaves, I have to inform you that I approve your proceedings in this matter.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed)

CLARENDON.



No. 521.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, November 24, 1854.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith for your information, an extract of a despatch\* dated the 12th of August, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Lagos, reporting that several shipments of slaves had recently taken place from the neighbourhood of the ports of Whydah, Ahgwey, and Great and Little Popoe.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 522.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, November 24, 1854.*

I TRANSMIT herewith for your information, a copy of a despatch† which I have received from Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid, inclosing a copy of a note which he has received from the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, stating that, in the present position of affairs in Cuba, the Spanish Government cannot assent to the request made by Her Majesty's Government, that Spain should declare the Slave Trade to be piracy.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 523.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 2.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, October 26, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of this series dated the 26th ultimo, transmitting to me a copy of a letter addressed by the Superintendent of the Packet Service at Southampton to the Secretary to the Admiralty, respecting thirty-two free Africans who had arrived in England by the West India steamer of the previous month from this island, for whom your Lordship had requested that free passages to Sierra Leone should be provided, and that their expenses also in England had been defrayed at the public cost.

In obedience to your Lordship's instruction that I should report the circumstances under which that "further arrival" took place, and whether they left Havana with my cognizance or authority, in reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 17th of March last, upon the subject of the first of those freed Africans who were returning to their native country, and my acknowledgment thereof in my despatch of the 26th of April, whereby I had been informed by your Lordship of the objection entertained by Her Majesty's

\* No. 17.

† No. 413.

Government to be called upon to provide for the emigration of liberated Africans from Cuba to any place except the British West India colonies.

I have the honour of stating to your Lordship that the free negroes in question certainly left this with my cognizance, inasmuch as that they obtained their passages to Southampton by application to me as the agent of the West India steamers, they paying for the same at the rate of 20*l.* each adult as they did, but that they were provided with the Spanish Government's passports, and neither asked nor required any authorization on my part for their embarkation.

I have reason to think that they took with them sufficient money to defray their charges by the way and provide their passages from England to Africa, inasmuch as that I inquired of them whether such was the case, and was answered, that although some of them might be deficient, they would be assisted by their companions whose means were ample. I most certainly did not hold out to them in any way that they would be provided for as they have been by Her Majesty's Government, nor do I imagine that they had any such expectation themselves, so that with the cunning of their nature, and being perhaps put up to it by such persons as took their depositions which appeared in the "*Anti-Slavery Reporter*" of the 1st ultimo, they concealed their money and simulated destitution to excite the public commiseration.

There are some applications for passages from freed negroes also going to Africa who intend to proceed to Southampton by the November packet, and your Lordship may be assured that I shall let them clearly understand they must be provided from their own resources with the means of defraying their expenses in England, and their passages from thence to their African homes.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 524.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 2.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, October 27, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 27th ultimo, in which, with reference to a former despatch of the 31st of May and its inclosures, your Lordship transmits to me a copy of a letter from the Colonial Office, inclosing copy of a despatch from the Governor of British Guiana, in which he gives his opinion as to the manner in which the Spanish Decrees of the 22nd of March last, respecting slavery in this island, may operate to the prejudice of colonists repairing here from Yucatan, and instructing me to inquire into this matter and report to your Lordship whether the Decrees in question will have the practical operation apprehended by Mr. Wodehouse.

A residence of seventeen years in Mexico, fourteen of which I was employed in the public service, enables me most thoroughly to understand and appreciate the philanthropic conceptions of Governor Wodehouse, and his apprehensions of the abuse which might be exercised over the Indians who are kept in a state of serfdom by their indebtedness to their employers both in Yucatan and in the sugar growing and mining districts of Mexico; but I am of opinion that it is for the purpose of securing their services to themselves that this system is kept up by the masters towards their servants or hired labourers, and would hardly be exercised to oblige the Peones to embark and compel their services abroad. Until this present time, since the promulgation of those Decrees, we have no experience of their practical operation as apprehended by Mr. Wodehouse, and in fact there has been no accession of colonists from Yucatan; but should any come here, your Lordship may rest assured that I shall have their circumstances most thoroughly investigated, so as to detect the slightest injustice, and I am confident that for

that purpose, I should have the most ready cooperation of my worthy colleague the Mexican Consul. I shall nevertheless inquire into the matter, and if anything results thereon I shall not fail to report it to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 525.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 2.)*

(Extract.)

*Havana, October 30, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch dated the 29th ultimo, in which your Lordship informs me that General Concha, before leaving Madrid for Havana, assured Lord Howden that he intended to oppose the fraudulent introduction of negroes into Cuba in the most uncompromising manner, and that he was determined to maintain the Treaties respecting the Slave Trade into which Spain has entered with Great Britain.

I have done myself the honour of reporting to your Lordship that General Concha has repeated those assurances to me, and I have no reason to think that his Excellency will act otherwise than in consonance with those assurances. My apprehension is, that his policy may not be sufficiently bold and energetic to dash the daring of the slave-traders and of the subordinate officers who connive at their evasions of the laws, and I would particularly bring under your Lordship's observation the effect which cannot fail to be produced by its being pretty generally understood that the estates will not be visited by the Government officers to search for Bozals, or for slaves in excess of their registered dotations, excepting under circumstances of the strongest suspicion, or proof of the proprietor's or administrator's delinquency—a subject adverted to by me in my despatch of the 3rd instant, upon which his Excellency had expressed his opinion as differing from that of his predecessor, who had had no such scruples and had in consequence made extensive captures of recently imported Africans, as would doubtless now be the case if certain of the plantations and other places were searched, where recently imported or Bozal negroes must be hidden; for although a small number have been captured by the Government officers, it is well known that many more have been successfully introduced by connivance of the Government subordinates, and that the Captain-General's efforts, most sincerely and anxiously interposed, have been insufficient to discover their hiding-places, such Bozals in considerable numbers having been subsequently sold by public brokers, thus proving the necessity there is, that slave-trading in all its branches must be made piracy in order to put a stop to the horrid and detestable Traffic.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 526.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 2.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, November 1, 1854.*

IN my despatch dated the 3rd ultimo, I adverted to the information which I had received and communicated to the Captain-General relative to some 500 Bozal negroes corresponding to an expedition which had effected a landing between Mariel and Cabañas, and I mentioned that his Excellency

had adopted the necessary measures with regard thereto; but I regret to state, that although the officers selected for that service proceeded with all vigour and sufficient circumspection, the honest intentions of General Concha were circumvented by the connivance of the subalterns at Cabañas and the negroes were removed and escaped capture.

It is, probably, those very Bozals who have been sold through the brokers here; and I am informed that the coasting schooners bring such slaves into this port, where there is no difficulty in getting them hidden, as coasters are seldom if ever visited by the police upon their arrival here, and that thus there is no difficulty in conveying newly-imported negroes all about the island in the coasters, steamers as well as sailing vessels.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 527.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 2.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, November 6, 1854.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 20th ultimo, I beg leave to transmit to your Lordship a copy of the despatch which I have received from Mr. Crampton, Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, in acknowledgment of my letter to him of the 11th October, respecting a slaver which I had been informed it was intended to purchase and dispatch from a port in the United States to the coast of Africa, for the purpose of bringing 500 negroes to this island; and your Lordship will observe that Mr. Crampton had duly made known that information to the United States' Government, and had also communicated with Her Majesty's Consul at New York upon that subject.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure in No. 527.

*Mr. Crampton to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

*Washington, October 21, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 11th instant, containing information regarding the movements of Don José Egea, who lately left the Havana for New York with the intention of organizing a slave-trading expedition at that port.

I have to thank you for the communication and to inform you that I have lost no time in making known to the Government of the United States the information therein contained.

I have also communicated with Her Majesty's Consul at New York on this subject.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

No. 528.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 2.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, November 6, 1854.*

IN consequence of an anonymous communication which I received on the 4th instant, I informed his Excellency the Captain-General that it was said, a cargo consisting of some 400 Bozal negroes had been landed with the connivance of the Spanish officers of Batabanó and that the negroes were at Cayo India. At the same time I inclosed the anonymous note to General Concha,

CLASS B.

and informing him that said note's cover had the post-mark of the 1st November, that I had sent it to his Excellency for what its information might be worth as to its truth, and for such purpose as he might think necessary, or expedient.

I have not yet been favoured with any reply, but there are rumours about as to an extensive seizure of Bozal negroes having been effected near the Isle of Pines, which may be the cargo alluded to, and as Mr. Beattie, the Acting Consul at Santiago de Cuba, writes me of date the 24th ultimo, that the slaver reported to have been off the coast of that district had proceeded to leeward, not having been able to effect a disembarkation of her cargo. I conjecture that these Bozals may be the same as those respecting whom General Concha, in consequence of my denouncement, had issued the terminant orders referred to in his answer which I did myself the honour of laying before your Lordship in my despatch of the 21st ultimo.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 529.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 2.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, November 7, 1854.*

WITH reference to that paragraph in my despatch of the 3rd ultimo, respecting information which had reached the Captain-General of a landing of slaves at Nuevitas, I am now enabled to report to your Lordship that his Excellency's officers captured 95, who are ordered to be placed in the Casa de Beneficencia, Puerto Principe.

But I regret to be obliged at the same time to state, that those unfortunate 95 were the weakly emaciated portion of 640 or 680 of which the entire cargo was composed; the remainder, by connivance of the Spanish authorities at that part of the island, having been secured to the slave-trading owners of the expedition.

This cargo was run on the 28th September at Punta Nuevas, a place about eighteen leagues to the eastward of Nuevitas, and on the 30th ultimo another cargo, consisting of 520, was successfully landed near the same place.

Letters which have been seen by my secretary state that these Bozals have been publicly sold at Nuevitas, which means (I must presume) that they were not secretly but openly disposed of, although not perhaps absolutely sold publicly or at auction.

And this is what I would press upon your Lordships' notice—the constantly repeated farce of a few negroes, generally the weakly and disabled, of large cargoes, being captured, or thrown as a sort of bait to the Spanish Government, whilst the far larger part is safely introduced by connivance of the local authorities, and that this is constantly done with impunity; for with all the rigour pursued even by General Pezuela, who removed and placed under process so many of the subaltern authorities and their inferior officers, not one of them has been made an example that I have ever been able to hear of, which shows clearly that the law as it is, and as it is administered, is wholly inadequate to the correction of the crime, and more and more convinces me that the sooner slave-trading and the dealing in newly introduced slaves, or slaves not duly and authentically registered, is made piracy, the sooner an end will be put to the abominable Traffic; but it must be made to extend to the owners, outfitters, masters and crews of the vessels, to the agents, whether for the embarkation or disembarkation, as well as to the owners of the negroes, their agents and brokers employed in the sale of the Bozals should they be landed, to all purchasers of such illegally imported negroes and to the Lieutenant-Governors and officers of the districts where they may have been landed, the fact of a disembarkation of slaves at any place being taken as presumptive of the officers' complicity, and subjecting them to removal and dismissal from the Royal service.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 530.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.*—(Received December 18.)

My Lord,

*Havana, November 22, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour of inclosing herewith to your Lordship, a translation \* of the Decree which has been published by General Concha, dated the 17th instant, for suppression of the Slave Trade, according to which a fund is to be created out of moneys arising from a premium of twenty-five dollars for each Bozal negro that is rescued from slavery, of which head-money, one-third is to be for the informers whose denouncements lead to the capture of such Bozal negroes upon the coast, or previous to their having been placed upon any property or estate, and the two-thirds remaining of said premium to be for the public authorities and forces who have been instrumental in the apprehension of negroes illegally imported, which rewards are also to be paid to the naval forces in the same proportions, besides that they are to have the entire benefit of the proceeds of the captured slave-vessels and of their cargoes, which may be found on board.

The supreme authority of the island renounces all participation in these premiums or rewards.

That example has been followed by the Commander-in-chief of the Marine, who has also renounced his share of prize-money arising out of the captures of slavers and their cargoes under the Decree referred to.

Numerous printed copies have been sent to the Governors and Lieutenant-Governors of districts, as well as to their subordinates, the Captains of divisions (*partidos*), and to the coast-guard; they have also been issued to the ships-of-war, so that every circulation has been given to the measure, besides its publication in the "Gazette" and the other newspapers.

But upon the whole, I have to submit to your Lordship, that however beneficial this measure may turn out, it cannot but be considered as opening a wide margin for the safe concealment upon the estates of all the Bozal slaves whom the traders succeed in getting in without the knowledge of the authorities; because the Law or Decree of the 3rd of May last, subject of my despatch of the 4th May, which provided for the registration of the slaves, is repealed, and that being the case, the proprietors of plantations will not find it very difficult to increase the numbers of their gangs in defiance of the laws and of the Treaties, whereas had the registration been carried out as it ought to have been the slave-traders would have found it difficult to dispose of newly imported Africans at any price, and would have been thus compelled to abandon the Traffic as unproductive in proportion to the risk and expenses attending its prosecution.

I have in conversation with General Concha adverted to the prejudicial effects which I feared would be produced by the repeal of the Decree of 3rd of May, as well as by the whole tone and tendency of the measure which I have now the honour of bringing under your Lordship's notice, being calculated to embolden the planters in the purchase of excessive numbers of slaves, and so give encouragement to the slave-traders to engage in new expeditions, since it is evident that his Excellency will not interfere, or at any rate would rather avoid endangering his popularity by the authorizing of interference by his officers upon the estates, to detect and capture the negroes illegally introduced, and who might be found thereon in excess of their respective dotations.

In a former despatch of this series I ventured to express to your Lordship my suspicions that General Concha's policy with regard to the interference of the authorities at the plantations, would not be so bold or decisive as that of his predecessor the Marquis de la Pezuela, which was all that could be wished for, and which, with a correct registration of all the slaves, would doubtless have produced the most triumphant results in the course of a very short time. I have now to express my deep regret that those suspicions, it would appear by the Decree of the 17th instant, are confirmed, and that the slave-traders if they can escape the vigilance of the Government officers, or otherwise arrange for the safe landing

\* See Class A, Inclosure 1 in No. 34.

of their cargoes, will find as ready a market as ever in the Island of Cuba, and I fancy they will easily make up their minds to the necessity of increasing their expenses in proportion to exceed the twenty-five dollars head-money which is now offered to be paid by this Government.

General Concha, in answer to my objections to the repeal of the Decree of registration, stated that said Decree was ineffective, inasmuch as that the registration of slaves upon the estates could not be conclusive whilst there had been no capitation of those slaves not employed in the plantations, and in that I to a certain extent acquiesce; but at the same time I observed to his Excellency that that did not seem to me to be a reason for repealing the measure of registration in the country, however good it might be for losing no time in proceeding with a capitation of all the others in the island, so as to leave no room for escape or evasion of the law, and determination of the Government to put an end to the detestable Traffic, and I hope that your Lordship will take a similar view of this important matter and urge the necessity of a full and complete registration of the slaves all over this island, as well as at Puerto Rico, being proceeded with as soon as possible, and not be delayed on any account or pretext whatever, as otherwise the Bozal negroes continually introduced here, and I fear also in the other island, must be adding to the number of the slaves and encouraging the slave-traders to renewed efforts in the prosecution of the detestable and demoralizing Traffic.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 531.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon—(Received December 18.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, November 23, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour of laying before your Lordship a copy of correspondence which I have had with the Captain-General upon the subject of a letter which I received from Mr. Backhouse, Her Majesty's Commissary Judge, in consequence of his having had information as to a landing of Bozal negroes, consisting of upwards of 700, at a place in the jurisdiction of Bahia Honda, about the 19th ultimo. A copy of Mr. Backhouse's letter I have also done myself the honour of transmitting to your Lordship in the inclosure of this despatch, by which you will perceive that the story told to Her Majesty's Judge was sufficiently circumstantial; but it appears, by his Excellency the Captain-General's answer to my official communication, that no information of any such occurrence had reached this Government, and General Concha therefore did not think the statement was true—a conclusion to which I had come from the first, as I stated in my answer to Mr. Backhouse, because Her Majesty's brig "Espiègle" had been specially watching that part of the coast from the 13th to the 22nd at my request, in consequence of information which I had received that a slaver was expected there about that time.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 531.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Captain-General of Cuba.*

Sir,

*Havana, November 18, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour of inclosing herewith to your Excellency a copy of a letter which I have received from Her Majesty's Judge of the Mixed Court at this place respecting the disembarkation of upwards of 700 Bozal negroes, which, he states, "he had been positively assured, on what he believes to be very good authority," had taken place in the jurisdiction of Bahia Honda, on or about the 19th ultimo, &c. Mr. Backhouse requests me to make this statement known to your Excellency in order that such inquiries may be made, and for

such further steps as your Excellency may think proper, in conformity with the Treaty of 1835, for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

I have therefore to beg the favour of your Excellency to acquaint me, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, whether any such landing of slaves as that reported to Her Majesty's Judge has taken place, together with such particulars of the case as may have become known to your Excellency.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 531.

*The Captain-General of Cuba to Consul-General Crawford.*

(Translation.)

Sir,

*Havana, November 21, 1854.*

I HAVE received your Honour's attentive communication of the 18th instant, in which with reference to another of the Judge of the Mixed Court in this city, Mr. G. C. Backhouse, of the previous day's date, and with a copy thereof, you are pleased to inquire of me whether intelligence has reached me of a disembarkation of upwards of 700 Bozal negroes having been effected in the jurisdiction of Bahia Honda, about the 19th of the last month, as said judge considers himself entitled to believe upon trustworthy grounds; and I can assure your Honour in answer that I have not received the least indication of any such occurrence, and for that reason I consider that statement in no way well founded.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed) JOSE DE LA CONCHA.

Inclosure 3 in No. 531.

*Her Majesty's Commissary Judge to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

*Havana, November 17, 1854.*

I AM positively assured, on what I believe to be very good authority, that on or about the 19th ultimo, a cargo of upwards of 700 negroes was landed from a large brig, in the jurisdiction of Bahia Honda; I am told it was at the place where the landing is said to have been made in June last from the "*Grey Eagle*," namely, at Ortigosa.

The large brig in question is said to have sailed, immediately after having discharged her cargo, for the United States; she is said to have been built at Baltimore, to have been commanded on her recent slave-trading voyage by a Frenchman, and to have come to this island under Spanish colours.

The French captain is said to have boasted to have made seven successful slave-trading voyages to this island. I regret to say I have not heard his name. He is said to have come after his last voyage, to Havana, and to have embarked here, on the 23rd ultimo, without a passport, in one of the steamers for the United States, and it was said that he was going to Baltimore to take command of another vessel already prepared for a voyage to Africa.

I have been unable to ascertain the fate of the negroes after their landing, but I am informed that none of them have been seized by the local authorities.

I have to request that you will make this statement known to his Excellency the Captain-General, in order that he may make such inquiries, and take such further steps as he may think proper in conformity with the Treaty of 1835, for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. C. BACKHOUSE.



Inclosure 4 in No. 531.

*Consul-General Crawford to Her Majesty's Commissary Judge.*

Sir,

*Havana, November 18, 1854.*

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, respecting a landing of upwards of 700 negroes at Ortigosa, in the jurisdiction of Bahia Honda, on or about the 19th ultimo, which were brought by a large brig, said to have been commanded by a Frenchman whose name you had not heard, and that the said vessel had sailed immediately, but the master, who boasted that he had made seven successful slave-trading voyages to this island, came after this, his last expedition, to Havana, and it was said had embarked here on the 23rd ultimo, without a passport, in one of the steamers for the United States, for which destination the brig from which the 700 odd slaves are said to have been landed had sailed. Also that the said master, it was said, was going to Baltimore, to take the command of another vessel already prepared for a voyage to Africa, and that according to the positive assurance which (you believed to be on very good authority) you had received, none of those Bozals had been seized by the local authorities, and you had been unable to ascertain their fate subsequent to their disembarkation.

Agreeably to your request I laid a copy of your letter before his Excellency the Captain-General, accompanied by a request, as on the other side hereof copied, that he would do me the favour of acquainting me, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, whether such landing of slaves has taken place, together with such particulars of the case as may have become known to his Excellency.

I shall do myself the pleasure of acquainting you with the result, and in the meantime I have to state that no information of the kind had reached me previous to the receipt of your letter, and Her Majesty's brig "Espiegle," which sailed on a cruize from this port on the 13th, was specially recommended by me to watch the coast from Mariel to Bahia Honda, but had seen no suspicious vessel when she returned here on the 22nd ultimo.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 532.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 18.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, November 24, 1854.*

IN my despatch dated the 6th instant,\* I adverted to a rumour of an extensive seizure of Bozal negroes having been effected at the Isle of Pines, by the Government officers, and also that a cargo had been landed near Batabanó.

I have now to state to your Lordship that General Concha dispatched an efficient officer to investigate the truth or otherwise of said rumours, and that they have been found to be destitute of all foundation, so far as the naval Captain who was employed upon that service was able to ascertain.

In the same despatch, I reported to your Lordship, that the slaver which Mr. Acting Consul Beattie informed me had been on the coast of Santiago de Cuba, not having been able to effect the disembarkation of her cargo, was supposed to have proceeded on to leeward; and as a cargo of Bozal negroes, considerable in numbers, has, I learn from the Government here, been landed safely at Ensenada de Cochinos, I have no doubt of its being the same alluded to, and if so it has been discovered by Mr. Beattie, subsequently, to have consisted of 610 negroes, and that the vessel was a polacca under Spanish colours.

The Spanish Government is using all means to capture these Bozals, and to apprehend the parties engaged in the transaction; but I have not heard that their endeavours have been attended by success.

In my despatch of the 7th instant, which I had the honour of

\* No. 528.

addressing to your Lordship, I reported the disembarkation of two cargoes upon the north coast, at Punta Nuevas, consisting of 640 to 680, and of 520 unfortunate victims of cupidity. Those three cargoes amount together to about 1,800; and I have information, which I lost no time in sending to the Captain-General, that another slaver is expected at or near Nuevitas, respecting which his Excellency at once has issued the most strict orders.

But, my Lord, the registration being done away with by the Decree of the 17th instant, there can be but little doubt that not only those 1,800, but all the other Bozals that have, for several months past, been introduced into the island contrary to the provisions of the Laws and of the Treaties, are, by this time, safely incorporated upon the estates, and are, to all intents and purposes, made slaves of beyond the reach of the inert dispositions of the recent Decree; and that the same thing will happen as regards any other Bozals who may be brought there cannot be much doubted, for the reasons I have given to your Lordship in my despatch of the 22nd instant.

Under these circumstances, it seems to me that the sooner recourse is had to a complete registration of all the slaves the better; and that such registration should be made use of to check the augmentation of the numbers of the slaves by every means, and which no delicacy or consideration on the part of the Government should allow to be deviated from, as has now been the case.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 533.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, December 28, 1854.*

WITH reference to your despatch of the 22nd ultimo, inclosing General Concha's Decree of the 17th of November, which repeals General Pezuela's Bandos of the 3rd of May and 28th of July last, and substitutes for them new measures in order to provide for the seizure of newly imported negroes, I transmit herewith, for your information, a copy of an instruction\* which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid upon this matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 534.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 1, 1855.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, November 27, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch dated the 27th October, transmitting a copy of a despatch which your Lordship had received from Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, inclosing a copy of a note addressed to him on the 13th of September, by the United States' Secretary of State, in which Mr. Marcy says that proceedings have been instituted against the parties implicated in the case of the "*Grey Eagle*," and that those proceedings will be vigorously prosecuted to a termination.

I observe by the last American newspapers† that Smith, or Schmidt, who was the master of a vessel called the "*Julia Moulton*," which was burnt on the south coast of this island, after landing a large cargo of Bozal negroes at the Zarsa,‡ has been tried and convicted of slave-trading, and upon his trial, before the United States' District Court at New York, the instructions which he had to

\* No. 429.

† "New York Herald" of the 9th instant.

‡ They were landed in June last, and were taken on board at or near to Ambrizette, 644 or 645 in number.

guide him upon his arrival off the coast of Cuba, were produced in evidence. I have the honour of inclosing a copy of said instructions to your Lordship, which I have had copied from said newspaper, considering that it may be of importance to transmit the same to the Admiralty as containing information which may be serviceable to Her Majesty's cruisers, and with that view I have also transmitted copies to the Admiral Commander-in-chief of the North American and West India Station, and to the Commodore commanding Her Majesty's ships and vessels at Port Royal, Jamaica.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

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Inclosure in No. 534.

*Extract from the "New York Herald," of November 9, 1854.*

*Charge against Captain James Smith of the brig "Julia Moulton," for alleged Slave Traffic.*

United States' Circuit Court. Hon. Judges Nelson and Betts presiding.

November 8.—*The United States against James Smith.*

James Will re-examined by Mr. McKeon, District-Attorney. Q. Take these charts and show us the course which the vessel took after she left New York on her way to the coast of Africa.

Witness marked the course on the charts, and stated that she crossed the line between 4° and 5° longitude, going to the southward of the Cape de Verd Islands.

Q. Where did they take you to on the coast of Africa?—A. South of the river Congo; Ambresetta is marked on the map; the second point where we took in the negroes is a little further south; we lay about a mile or a mile and a half out in the open sea; on our way to Cuba we steered westerly across the line at longitude 25°.

Q. Point out the course you took when making Cuba.—A. When making Cuba, we went between the Islands Martinique and Dominique, and passed San Domingo and Jamaica; we entered to the Cuban shore between two keys, Zirzos de Fuera and Marcias de Fuera.

Q. Is Trinidad de Cuba marked on that map?—A. Yes; the port Caselva is represented on it; Caio Blanco and Caio Zarso; Caio Zarso and Port Caselva are the same things. [Witness marks on the map the place where the vessel was burned, and also where the negroes were landed.]

Counsel then read the registry bond, the temporary registry, the Boston manifest, the list of the cargo, the master's oath on clearing outwards, dated 11th February, 1854, which stated that the manifest contains a just and true account of all the cargo contained, and that he believed all the foreign duty thereon was duly paid. The other documents produced on trial were read, including the letter of instructions, of which the following is a translation:—

"Instructions to be complied with by Captain James Smith, on his arrival at the Island of Cuba, in the brig 'Julia Moulton.' The vessel, after taking a cargo on the coast of Africa, is to be so navigated as to make the southern coast of the Island of Cuba, managing to keep out of sight of the coast of the Port of Trinidad, without (if it be possible) sighting any of the capes to the windward of it; and when in latitude 21° 29' 30" north, and longitude 79° 42' east, Greenwich meridian, she will be between the Cayos (Capes) of Machos and Zarzos, then she will stay either at anchor or cruising, according as the weather may permit, showing over the prow a flag half white and half red, the colors being perpendicular. It will be expected that in said port there will be a smaller vessel, which may, on sight of the signal banner, and having recognized what it is, approach said vessel, and on board there will be a pilot, with a letter from the consignee, Don Salvador de Castro, to whom, that is the pilot, you shall surrender her, and he will bring her where she is to be discharged, observing all the precautions that may be directed. The debarkation will be made in coast-boats, which will go to the vessel at the point where the pilot shall bring her, and their owners will bear a letter from Don Salvador, which they shall deliver

to the captain, and on sight of it he may deliver the cargo without any requisition. The captain may disembark with the cargo in the boats, commanding them up to the point where the pilot assumes the responsibility, so that he may there expect the orders of Don Salvador de Castro, not permitting any more of his crew to go ashore, nor be in the boats carrying the cargo. The time he shall remain in the point indicated for his return to expect the agent, will be at the utmost six hours. At the expiration of this time, if there be nothing in sight, the vessel shall continue on her course towards Cayo Blanco, which is in sight of Trinidad, some ten miles from the port, and shall approach it from the southward, where she will be boarded by some of the pilots of Trinidad, who generally reside in the said Cayo, and on coming alongside the captain shall ask the names of those on board, (the boat,) and he shall be told that the pilot's name is José Sierra. Then he shall permit him to come on board, and will follow the instructions which he may give him; then he shall be advised by Don Salvador to bring her where she is to be discharged. If the agent who may be in the boat be not such José Sierra, he shall, in that case, deliver, to whomever it may be, a letter for Don Salvador, in which he shall mention his arrival and the number of packages on board, and, after delivering the letter, he will immediately sail outside to pass the night in sight of land, taking care to keep clear of the cayos (harbour) of Manchos and Zarze, on account of the current of the waters, and on the next day he shall return to the point first indicated, where he shall certainly meet a vessel with the signal indicated, and the agent who is to receive charge. If, on his return in sight of Trinidad, he may see any suspicious vessel, he will immediately sail in the direction of Cayo Blanco (circumstances permitting), to communicate with the agents of Trinidad, as I have stated, and he shall not there make the signal indicated, but instead hoist the flag of the vessel, to signalise that he wants a pilot, and on meeting the pilot's boat at that of the said Sierra, the vessel shall be immediately taken where she will be promptly discharged. But if none of these persons shall be in the boat, he shall deliver to whomsoever may be in it a letter for Don Salvador (as advised,) and shall, without loss of time, set all sail for Boca Grande, and when he gets to latitude  $21^{\circ} 1'$  north, longitude  $79^{\circ} 24'$  east, Greenwich meridian, Cayo Grande shall be three miles to the north-east of Cape Breton, and between the two he will see Boca Grande, by which he shall enter, and shall proceed to Cayo Rabi-orcado, and there he shall anchor to await the arrival of the boats for disembarkation. If he should be pursued by a suspicious vessel, in seeking to procure a pilot in Cayo Blanco, so that he cannot give notice of his arrival, he shall proceed, as I have stated above, to Cayo Rabi-orcado, and there on anchoring he shall send in the ship's boat, the pilot and two sailors, to procure the agent Sierra; and from there he will advise Don Salvador, and will immediately return on board with said agent, so as to carry the vessel to the point which may have been ordered.

No. 535.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.*—(Received January 1, 1855.)

(Extract.)

*Havana, December 9, 1854.*

I HAVE received from Mr. Doyle, Her Majesty's Minister at Mexico, a despatch dated the 3rd instant,\* with its respective inclosures, which he has addressed to your Lordship, and has sent under flying seal, in order to apprise me fully of the arrangements which, Mr. Doyle has good reason to believe, have been made between a certain Colonel Jimenez on behalf of Messrs. Goicoria of this place and the Mexican Government, to the effect of compelling all the Indians who are made prisoners in the war which is still raging in Yucatan between them and the Mexicans, to come to this island under a condition, forced upon them, to serve as colonists during a period of five years, and it appears that for this privilege a sum of 20,000 dollars is stipulated for, to be paid by Jimenez to General Santa Ana.

It seems to me a consequence of this extraordinary arrangement that the war in Yucatan should be prolonged by the premiums which the Messrs.

\* No. 264.

Goicoria, through their agent Jimenez, would doubtless distribute to the Chiefs of the Mexican troops in Yucatan, for the devastation of the Indian villages, and the capture of the Indian inhabitants, altogether producing the most dreadfully demoralising effects and atrocities too shocking to contemplate in anticipation.

I shall seek an interview with General Concha, with a view to impress upon his Excellency the expediency of his opposing the scheme of the Messrs. Goicoria, and refuse admission to colonists being introduced here under the circumstances denounced by Her Majesty's Minister in Mexico.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 536.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 1, 1855.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, December 9, 1854.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 7th ultimo, in which I reported to your Lordship that two cargoes of Bozal negroes had been landed near to Nuevitas, consisting of 640 to 680 the one, and 520 the other, his Excellency the Captain-General has informed me that he has not been able to obtain any information as to the last-mentioned cargo, and that the subaltern authorities have reported that no such disembarkation has taken place.

I have no reason to doubt the honest intentions of General Concha, and am satisfied that his orders were most decided upon the subject of the two cases referred to; but when we have seen that his subalterns have not captured the negroes admitted to have been landed—that is, the remainder of the 640 or 680—only 95 of them having been taken, as I did myself the honour of reporting in my despatch now referred to, I am inclined to place but little faith in their statement with regard to the second cargo; the more so, as my information upon the subject came from a party who was at Nuevitas at that time, and who asserted the fact of the last-mentioned disembarkation most positively.

In consequence of the information which I received from the Government Secretary, and which I duly reported to your Lordship in my despatch of the 24th ultimo, as to a landing of Bozals at Ensenada de los Cochinos, I expressed my surprise to Mr. Vice-Consul Fowler at his not having informed me thereof.

In the first instance, the Acting Vice-Consul answered, that he had not done so, because that he himself had not, until the receipt of my letter, had any information upon the subject, and subsequently he stated that the fact was exceedingly doubtful, and from all he had been able to learn it was not the case that any such landing had been effected; and General Concha, two days ago, informed me that he also was inclined to think that the report which had reached him respecting the affair at the Ensenada de los Cochinos was untrue, as by his orders the most strict search had been made, and inquiry gone into, at and around the place indicated, but that there had been no trace discovered of any such landing.

What, then, has become of the slaver which Acting-Consul Beattie reported as having been unable to disembark her cargo in the district of Cuba, and which, having obtained some provisions at Savanna la Mar, near Santiago, proceeded on to the westward?

His Excellency the Captain-General had information, two days ago, of a number of Bozal negroes having been seen at a place called Alacranes, in the district of Matanzas, and he immediately sent a telegraphic communication to the Governor to endeavour to arrest them and investigate the matter; I have not yet heard with what success. All this goes to prove that there are numerous slavers about the island seeking opportunity to land their cargoes, and that some, if not all of them, will succeed in doing so, by connivance of the local authorities, there is little doubt, notwithstanding the well-intentioned endeavours of General Concha to the contrary. The great obstacle to the introduction of slaves (the difficulty of their incorporation upon the estates being removed by the repeal of the Decree of the 3rd of May), every exertion will be made to get in Bozal

negroes before recourse can be had to that most efficacious measure, the full and complete registration of all the slaves, and the stringent use of that measure as a preventative of further importations from the coast of Africa, or elsewhere, of human beings to be held in slavery.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 537.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, January 15, 1855.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 9th of December last,\* and I have in reply to inform you that I approve of your intention of endeavouring to induce General Concha to oppose the arrangement entered into by Messrs. Goicoria and Co. of the Havana with the Mexican Government for the purchase of the penal services of the Indians who may be made prisoners in the war which is now being carried on in Yucatan.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 538.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 18, 1855.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, December 21, 1854.*

A DECREE dated the 19th instant, was published in the "Gazette" of yesterday, and officially repeated in the "Diario" of to-day, which provides for the registration of the slaves, who are in future to be provided each with a ticket, the counterpart of which is to remain in the book from whence said tickets have been cut. These are to be renewed every six months and are to be paid for at the time of their being issued, or renewed, at the rate of one real for each slave at the plantations and one dollar for each slave occupied otherwise than in the labour of the estates, thus constituting a tax which will amount to a considerable sum in the aggregate, upon which the Lieutenant-Governors are to receive 2 per cent. and the other officers 4 per cent. of the amounts they respectively collect and pay into the public treasury.

At any rate there is to be, from the 1st February next, in the manner I have described, which is more explicitly expressed in the Decree itself, a complete registration of the slaves, and the provision which is made, that each slave shall be furnished with a ticket of security, which is to be produced to the authorities whenever the slaves are moved from one place to another in bodies of more than five, will operate as an effective check to the transit of Bozals, if the present Decree is enforced and acted on as it ought to be. It is to be lamented that General Concha should have allowed the time from the date of his Decree of the 17th ultimo to elapse without substituting that now promulgated, which will take effect ten weeks afterwards, but during which interval, there can be but little doubt that all the Bozal negroes recently introduced have been located upon the estates.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 539.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 18, 1855.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, December 22, 1854.*

WITH reference to my despatches of the 7th November and of the 9th instant,† relative to several expeditions of Bozal negroes which I had reason to believe had been landed at Nuevitas, or in that district, and the

\* No. 535.

† Nos. 529 and 536.

Captain-General's information which induced him to doubt the correctness of mine respecting the second cargo which, I had learnt, was successfully disembarked at Puntas Nuevas, I have now the honour of reporting to your Lordship, that having received the particulars of those transactions, I considered it my duty to acquaint his Excellency of what had become known and was generally believed at Puerto Principe to be true by those persons who are supposed to have the means of knowing what had been going on in that jurisdiction.

I consequently transmitted an extract from my correspondent's letter dated the 15th instant from Puerto Principe to the Captain-General, and I have the honour herewith to lay before your Lordship a copy of my said communication and of General Concha's answer of this date.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 539.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Captain-General of Cuba.*

*Havana, December 21, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour of inclosing to your Excellency an extract from a letter which I have received from Puerto Principe, dated the 15th instant, containing some observations upon the recent introductions of Bozal negroes near to Nuevitas and at Santa Cruz.

The statements in these observations is what is currently believed to be true by those persons at Puerto Principe who are supposed to know what has been going on in that jurisdiction, and the fact of a cargo having been landed at Santa Cruz is corroborated by Her Majesty's Consul at Santiago de Cuba, who writes me, that he has reason to believe that the slaver which took on board provisions at Savannah la Mar and proceeded on to the westward had at last effected a landing of her cargo of Bozals somewhere to the eastward of Trinidad.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 539.

*Observations as to the three expeditions of Negroes lately introduced in the jurisdictions of Nuevitas and Santa Cruz. Puerto Principe, December 15, 1854.*

(Translation.)

(Extract.)

THE first came consigned to Don José Planas, merchant of Puerto Principe, who without using any precaution went to Nuevitas to distribute them (the negroes) amongst those who had engaged to take them, but in the act of setting out he was laid hold of by order of the higher alcalde Don Joaquin Ybañes who (as it is inferred by his future conduct), took the step because he had been bribed as well as the then Governor of Nuevitas (Don J. Polo) to which person, it is publicly known, they gave 800 or 900 ounces (2,800*l.* or 3,000*l.*).

Upon this imprisonment taking place the most shameful scenes occurred. The partners of Planas who were compromised to receive the negroes, robbed each other, and especially Don Mauricio Montejo (Gentleman of the Court and Regidor of the Town Council), who in his double capacity, he besides being a man that is well off, committed every sort of crime he thought fit, stealing more than 60 negroes.

At first the alcalde Ybañes, in order to ingratiate himself with the Captain-General (at that time General Pezuela), also committed many irregularities to accomplish the capture of 90 of the negroes, at the same time he remained

with some of them at his house. In short he had lent himself to the cause because the same Ybañes knew there was another mine in preparation for him, which he supposed would be worth more, and so he sent the case to the Audiencia where it is still for its result.

Afterwards there came another expedition consigned to Don José Llames, the post-master at Puerto Principe, who rendered daring by his losses in the other adventure, and being a friend of Ybañes, took good care to bribe him (Ybañes) with 500 ounces; and, not only him, but all the officers at Nuevitas, from the Governor (now Don J. Sanches) to the corporals of the Marine including the Captain of Nuevas Grandes and the Commandant of Artillery of the Tower of San Ylario, for which reason this cargo of 500 negroes were all well sold, with exception of 25 sick, who were delivered up to the authorities to cover the proceedings.

The payments were made publicly at the post-office house where Llames is living, one of the partners of the outfitters' establishment, Messrs. Martinez and Brothers, having come from Havana. Ybañes said nothing, although the scandalous affair was denounced to him, nor did any other of the authorities. What has attracted attention is, that the post-master Llames has bought an estate for 8,000 dollars immediately thereafter.

The expedition at Santa Cruz was unfortunate, many of the negroes having died, but notwithstanding they got in 300. So that not only Llames and Ybañes and others, such as the present Governor of Nuevitas, the Captain of Nuevas Grandes and the authorities of Santa Cruz have deceived his Excellency the Captain-General as to the three expeditions referred to, and have introduced more than 1,400 negroes, and there would have been more than 1,800 if that of Santa Cruz had not been so unlucky.

Inclosure 3 in No. 539.

*The Captain-General of Cuba to Consul-General Crawford.*

(Translation.)

*Havana, December 22, 1854.*

BEING acquainted of your Honour's communication, I shall take the necessary steps to find out the truth of those acts which your Honour denounces in the note inclosed, it being the interest of Her Majesty's Government and mine also as her representative in this island, to investigate as much as possible those acts so as to come out in the defence of those functionaries that might in that note be offended, as in the contrary case, although there may not be direct proofs of the facts denounced, at least a moral conviction of the connivance that there may have been by any of them, so as to impose upon them the chastisement of which they have made themselves worthy.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed)

JOSE DE LA CONCHA.

No. 540.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, January 20, 1855.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 22nd of December, inclosing copies of a correspondence which had passed between you and the Captain-General of Cuba, respecting certain reported landings of Bozal negroes, and I have to inform you that I approve your proceedings in this matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

CLARENDON.



No. 541.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, January 29, 1855.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 21st of December, inclosing two copies of a Decree which was published on the 19th of December by the Captain-General of Cuba, directing that the owners of all the slaves in the island are to provide their slaves with pass-tickets, which are to be issued and registered by the proper authorities, and to be renewed half-yearly.

I have to instruct you to express to General Concha the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt the adoption of this measure, which they trust will be followed by others calculated to carry fully into effect the provisions of the Royal Decrees of the 22nd of March, 1854.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 542.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, January 30, 1855.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith for your information, an extract of a letter\* which I have received from the Judge of the Vice-Admiralty Court at St. Helena, reporting the condemnation by that Court of the British vessel "Newport" of Jersey, on the ground of her being engaged in the Slave Trade; in which extract, the judge alludes to a person named Garrido, who he states is employed in travelling to and from Africa, London, New York, and Havana, for the transaction of Slave Trade business.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

[A similar despatch was addressed also to Mr. Barclay, Her Majesty's Consul at New York.]

No. 543.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 7, 1855.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, December 29, 1854.*

WITH reference to what I had the honour of addressing to your Lordship in my despatch dated the 9th instant,† accompanying Mr. Doyle's of the 3rd instant, relative to what he had learnt of a certain arrangement which had been entered into with the Mexican Government by Colonel Jimenez, as agent for Messrs. Goicoria and Brothers, of this city, for the forcible destination of the Indians taken prisoners by the Government forces in the war of castes which is, and has for some time been, raging in Yucatan, as colonists to be brought to this island for the benefit of Messrs. Goicoria and Brothers, to be made to work for a period of five years. I beg leave to lay before your Lordship a copy of a letter which I addressed to his Excellency the Captain-General upon this subject, and his answer, which is so far satisfactory, that if the Spanish Consul takes care to inform himself of the circumstances under which any of those unfortunate creatures may have been compelled to contract themselves with Colonel Jimenez, or the Messrs. Goicoria's agents in Yucatan, it is very unlikely that his consent will be obtained to send them on here; and therefore, they will be spared the miseries of five years' forced hard labour, and avoid the risk of that period's being indefinitely prolonged in a state the nearest possible to absolute slavery.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

\* See Class A, No. 105.

† No. 535.

Inclosure 1 in No. 543.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Captain-General of Cuba.*

*Havana, December 19, 1854.*

I BEG leave to state to your Excellency that I have received a despatch from his Excellency Mr. Doyle, Her Majesty's Minister at Mexico, which I consider it my duty to communicate to your Excellency.

It appears that a certain Colonel Jimenez (who was formerly aide-de-camp to General Santa Anna) went to Yucatan some months since as agent for Don Tito Vecino, and the house of Goicoria Hermanos, of this city, to induce Yucatan Indians to come to this island as colonists, under the conditions which have been prescribed by this Government, and the said Colonel Jimenez not having succeeded in that object, he went on to Mexico, and as the agent of Messrs. Goicoria, he made propositions to General Santa Anna, with respect to the Indians who had been, and might be, made prisoners in the war which has been for some time past, and is still raging in the Peninsula of Yucatan.

Jimenez's proposal was, that Messrs. Goicoria, or the parties whom he represented, should supply and maintain at their own expenses, 200 armed men and officers, to make war against the Indians, in aid of the Mexican forces; and that they should be allowed to keep, for their own purposes, all the Indians they could make prisoners, paying for each a sum of 15 dollars to the Mexican Government.

That offer, however, was not accepted; but Mr. Doyle has good reason to believe that an arrangement has been entered into between that Government and Colonel Jimenez, for account of Goicoria Hermanos, as follows:—

That the sum of 20,000 dollars should be paid by Jimenez, or Goicoria, to the Mexican Government, in two payments of 10,000 dollars each. That on the first 10,000 dollars being paid, all the prisoners fit for colonists, who are already taken, and in the hands of the Mexican authorities in Yucatan, shall be delivered over to said Jimenez, or the agent of Messrs. Goicoria; and on the payment of the other 10,000 dollars, all such Indians, prisoners, as had been made since the date of the first payment, and all those taken in future, during the continuance of the war in Yucatan, were to be placed at the disposal of said Jimenez, or that of Goicoria Hermanos.

That said Indians, prisoners, could only be sent to the Island of Cuba, where they were to remain for five years in the power of Goicoria and Co., after which time they were to be free; their five years' labour being considered by the Mexican Government as sufficient punishment for their having taken up arms in rebellion.

Mr. Doyle informs me that Colonel Jimenez had left Mexico for the purpose of carrying the above-mentioned arrangement into effect; and he expresses his apprehensions that the Indians, prisoners, referred to therein, will be forced to embark for Cuba, as he understands, that General Vega, who is commanding the Mexican forces in Yucatan, had lately ordered them all to be hanged.

It must be quite clear to your Excellency's enlightened understanding that colonists introduced into this island under such circumstances, cannot be desirable.

Men who have been taken in arms against their legitimate rulers, and disposed of as those Indians have been, by the Mexican Government, into banishment for a period of five years, I submit to your Excellency's illustration, cannot safely be admitted as colonists into Cuba. Nor do they come under the description of colonists according to the Regulations of Her Catholic Majesty, since they have not contracted of their own free will and accord, but have been forced to emigrate, consequently they can never be willing or obedient during the period of their forced servitude.

But above all, I would most earnestly draw your Excellency's attention to the animus which has been developed in this transaction, as shown in the first proposition of Colonel Jimenez, to maintain a considerable force of armed men and officers, to make war upon the Indians of Yucatan, under the stipulation that all the prisoners should be at his, or Messrs. Goicoria's entire disposition

and disposal! Had such a proposition been agreed to, I need not depict to your Excellency the horrors, the devastation, and the atrocities which would have been practised upon the defenceless Indians, in order to effect their capture, to be sent here for the satisfaction of the avarice of Jimenez, or of the Messrs. Goicoria, whose schemes have been discovered by Her Majesty's Minister, and which I have the honour of describing to your Excellency in this communication.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 543.

*The Captain-General of Cuba to Consul-General Crawford.*

(Translation.)

*Havana, December 29, 1854.*

I HAVE received your Honour's communication of the 19th instant, and I observe what you have copied to me of the despatch which was addressed to you by his Excellency Her Britannic Majesty's Minister in Mexico, relative to the propositions made by Colonel Jimenez, as agent for Don Tito Vecino, and the house of Goicoria Brothers, of this city, to contract Yucatan Indians, for the purpose of making them come here as colonists.

In answer, I have to state to you that of this date I have copied your communication referred to, to Her Catholic Majesty's Consul in Yucatan, in order that in the event of Yucatan Colonists being sent, he may assure himself that they come of their own free will; the only thing which this Government can do, seeing, that by the Royal Decree of Her Majesty the Queen of Spain, the introduction of colonists from Yucatan is permitted for the period of two years, to which effect there exists a contract which has not yet expired.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed) JOSE DE LA CONCHA.

No. 544.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 7, 1855.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, December 30, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour of inclosing herewith to your Lordship a Decree,\* dated the 28th instant, which was published in the Government "Gazette" yesterday, and officially repeated in the "Diario de la Marina" of this date, relative to the emancipados and apprentices, or recently captured Bozal negroes of various classes, sexes, and ages.

The control assumed by the authorities over the emancipados at the time they were declared to be free, was limited to the obliging of them to contract themselves for the period of one year in the service of such masters or other employers as they might agree with, and although I at the time did not consider such exercise of control as compatible with the principle of absolute freedom to which all the emancipados of the class respecting whom an assurance was given to Her Majesty's Government by that of Spain through General Sancho, who was at that time Her Catholic Majesty's Minister in London, I did not view it as being altogether exceptionable, because it combined a certain amount of protection which those people might require who did not apply themselves to earn a livelihood, and the proportion of their wages retained for the formation of a fund, which was to be used for their support and maintenance in case of sickness or other misfortune, could not be deemed other than a provident measure on the part of the Government.

But the present Decree, extending the periods for which emancipados, as the Government persists in calling them, are to serve, and including in the liabilities to the operation of this new measure, those who have been declared to be absolutely free, and whose absolute freedom Her Majesty's Government had an undoubted right to demand after their prolonged state of probation,

\* See Class A, Inclosure 5 in No. 39.

consider it my duty to bring under your Lordship's notice, as being highly objectionable, and if passed over, there seems to me to be a danger that the trespass so manifest in the present Decree might be alleged as a rule for compelling the freed negroes to contract themselves to serve for a longer period than the three years now imposed upon them, or even for an indefinite term of servitude, all the time contributing a large proportion of their earnings to the fund I have alluded to, which is said to be for their support in distress, misfortune, or old age.

It will not, however, escape your Lordship's observation, that one fourth, or 25 per cent., of those people's hard earnings is a disproportionate amount of contribution to the Benevolent Fund, and, also, that the arbitrary limitation of their wages to eight dollars a-month for males, and six dollars a-month for females, is what they ought not to be subjected to; for although there may be some who could not earn more, the greater number of them are capable of earning higher rates: besides which, the limitation operates as a bar to their improvement, if artisans, and there is no emulation, as the good, and the indifferent, and the inferior, and the worthless, must all be paid alike, even as ordinary labourers.

I have not deemed it advisable to address General Concha upon this subject, his Excellency not having alluded to it in any conversation I have had with him hitherto, and I await your Lordship's instructions.

Many more points will occur to your Lordship's superior intelligence besides those I have touched upon in this despatch. I am confident that the philanthropic intentions of Her Majesty's Government are not fulfilled towards the emancipados, who are entitled to their absolute freedom, if they are left in the condition they now are, and are subjected to measures from which any other class of free black or coloured population is exempt in Cuba. My opinion is, that they ought to be, to all intents and purposes, free; and if that is not conceded, let them be delivered to us with their free papers, they and all their progeny to be sent to some of our own colonies.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 545.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.*—(Received February 7.)

My Lord,

*Havana, January, 3, 1855.*

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch dated 24th November last,\* transmitting to me for my information, an extract from a despatch dated the 12th of August, which your Lordship had received from Her Majesty's Consul at Lagos, reporting that several shipments of slaves had recently taken place from the neighbourhood of the ports of Whydah, Ahgwey, and Great and Little Popoe.

In consequence thereof I shall address a communication to his Excellency the Captain-General, embodying the intelligence which has been conveyed by Mr. Consul Campbell; but I am apprehensive that the great lapse of time since the date of the Consul's despatch will have been more than sufficient for the slavers alluded to to have reached their destinations, and most probably they were those that effected the landing of their cargoes at Punta Nueva and Santa Cruz, referred to in my despatches as having been smuggled in under the circumstances stated in my despatch of the 22nd ultimo.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

\* No. 521.

No. 546.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 7.)*

(Extract.)

*Havana, January 3, 1855.*

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch dated the 24th of November last,\* transmitting for my information a copy of a despatch which your Lordship had received from Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid, inclosing a copy of a note which he had received from the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, stating that in the present position of affairs in Cuba, the Spanish Government cannot assent to the request made by Her Majesty's Government that Spain should declare the Slave Trade to be piracy.

I have read M. de Pacheco's note, and I most thoroughly agree in the regret which has been expressed by Lord Howden to the Spanish Government, that such has been the conclusion which they have thought it their duty to arrive at.

The pretence as to the outcry which was raised in the United States by the annexionists, and which was echoed by the discontented here, of the Africanization of Cuba, had no connexion whatever with Slave Trade. That bugbear, which had no foundation whatever, was invented upon the occasion of the rumour which was raised for the purpose of discrediting and rendering the Marquis de la Pezuela unpopular, and it had its origin in some correspondence which became public, and had passed between the Archbishop of Cuba and his Excellency, which the filibusteros falsely stated had a tendency to encourage the marriages of blacks with whites, &c., whereas General Pezuela's policy did not in any way alter the rule as all along established.

Then again a handle was made of the enlistment of free negroes, of whom two companies were to be added to the strength of four of the regiments.

But first of all the "Africanization" was agitated in the United States, and availed of here by the discontented portion of the Cubans, in consequence of General Cañedo having been understood to let his intention be known, that in case of his being pressed, in the event of lawless invasion by Sympathizers—*alias* Filibusteros—from the United States, and rebellion in the island, he would arm the negroes against the white insurgents. In my opinion, however, no person whatever had the slightest apprehension as to the Africanization of the island, and it seems to me to be very extraordinary that M. Pacheco should allude to that pretence of alarm, now almost forgotten, the more so as the putting a stop to the introduction of more Africans would surely be the most effectual means of preventing Africanization.

We have had so long experience of the inadequacy of the Government of Cuba to put it down, that admitting the best and most honest intentions on the part of the Captain-General to do so, his measures are constantly evaded by those under his orders, whose honour is not proof against the golden temptations of the slave-traders, so that we have never yet heard of a cargo of Bozal negroes arriving on the coast of Cuba which has not been landed, and we have never known an officer that was in a responsible situation at the districts where the disembarkations have been effected, however notorious their connivance may have been, that have been disgraced or punished; on the contrary, they have all of them been declared innocent, because of the difficulty of obtaining proofs conclusive of their infamy, and they have, one after the other, been restored to their rank and employment.

We have at this time some very glaring instances of the useless hope of convicting a white person accused of criminal practices regarding coloured persons, or slave-trading, whether it is that there is a fellowship of the traders which binds them to provide the means for protecting such delinquents when accused, by getting the evidence against them quashed, or out of the way, or that their purses are at the disposition of the accused, in a country like this where money, if sufficiently abundant, can effect anything. It is most certainly true, that none of such prosecutions have led to the conviction of the offenders,

\* No. 522.

and we have an officer of the Customs who falsely reported the death of an emancipado, who was sold by his wife, restored to his Comptrollership; and we have the Town-Major, just appointed by General Concha, who has more than once been accused of conniving at the introduction of Bozal negroes when Lieutenant-Governor of certain districts, and left under process for the last of these offences by the Marquis de la Pezuela.

The Penal Law provides that the offences under it shall be tried by the Royal Audiencia Pretorial, so that even the military officers suspected of malpractices are turned over to that jurisdiction.

Offences of such a nature are disagreeable for the Captains-General to deal with; therefore, they are but too happy to transfer them to the Supreme Court, where, by the means to which I have alluded, the evidence that would convict is somehow or other excluded, is withdrawn or quashed; but at any rate we never have heard of any convictions, or punishment of the accused, and so the Slave Trade goes on and prospers.

The Spanish Government, if they really intend that the Treaties with Great Britain shall be faithfully observed, and are desirous to extirpate the Slave Trade, need be under no apprehensions in adopting the most stringent measures for that purpose; they have force enough at their command to suppress any semblance of dissatisfaction were they to declare slave-trading to be piracy, and deal with it as such in all its branches and ramifications; the measure your Lordship may rest assured will neither endanger their Colony nor alter its tranquillity. I consider the allegation of such motive for not acceding to the request of Her Majesty's Government as a mere pretext to put off the extinction of a barbarous and everywhere else detested Traffic, which they know will otherwise continue to be carried on, and, therefore, I most respectfully submit to your Lordship's better judgment, that the sooner they are pressed to put an end to it the better.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 547.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, February 21, 1855.*

WITH reference to your despatches of the 9th and 29th of December last,\* respecting the proposed transportation of Yucatan Indians to Cuba, I transmit herewith for your information, a copy of a despatch† which I have received from Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid, inclosing a copy of the answer returned by the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs to the representations of Her Majesty's Government upon this matter.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 548.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, February 24, 1855.*

I HAVE received from Mr. Backhouse a despatch dated the 1st ultimo, containing his Annual Report on the Slave Trade in Cuba for the year 1854, and inclosing, among other documents, a "List of vessels reported to have arrived in 1854 with slaves on the coast of Cuba," by which it would appear, that the number of slaves reported to have been imported during that year amounted to 8,564.

I have caused this list to be carefully examined, and to be compared with your several despatches of last year in which the landing of negroes is mentioned,

\* Nos. 535 & 543.

† No. 443.

and taking the lowest calculation which is the result of this comparison, it appears that the number of slaves imported in 1854, amounted to 7,673, to which the usual addition of one-third should be made for unreported landings, and accordingly the total estimate for the past year will be 10,230.

This number though not so large as the estimate of slaves imported into Cuba in 1853, is larger than the number of those imported in any one of the eleven years immediately preceding the year 1853, and it exceeds the average of importations during the last fifteen years by 4,034.

You will make known these circumstances to the Captain-General, and you will state to his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government feel assured that he will deplore as much as they do such melancholy facts, and will see in them a motive for increased vigilance on the part of the subordinate authorities of Cuba, in order to carry out his intentions, which are those of his Government, and to prevent such a flagrant violation of the Treaty engagements subsisting between the two countries.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 549.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.*

(Extract)

*Foreign Office, February 24, 1855.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 30th of December, inclosing two copies of a Decree published by General Concha on the 28th of that month, modifying the terms of the General Order issued by his predecessor on the 1st of January, 1854, which provided for the complete liberation of the class of negroes in Cuba which had been up to that time called "emancipados," and were thenceforth to be divided with reference to their ages and length of servitude in the island into two classes, called respectively "libertos" and "emancipados aprendices."

It appears to me that you are borne out in regarding with suspicion the fact that this new Decree reverts to the former designation of "emancipados," which did not in the least correspond with the actual condition of that most unfortunate class of slaves, and I concur with you in fearing that there may be some reason to apprehend that the real and *bonâ fide* emancipation of these Africans may be again indefinitely postponed.

I have accordingly to instruct you to take an opportunity of stating these views to the Captain-General on the part of Her Majesty's Government, and of reminding his Excellency of the contents of the despatch from General Valdes of the 30th of April, 1842, which was communicated officially to Her Majesty's Government, and in which General Valdes promised, that on the completion of five years from that date, all the emancipated negroes were to enjoy perfect freedom. You will also refer General Concha to the assurance given by Count Alcoy to Lord Howden in March 1853, that all the captured slaves in Cuba whose liberty the Spanish Crown bound itself by the Treaty of 1817 to guarantee, should receive their freedom before the end of 1853, and that at the same time those captured negroes to whom immediate liberty was promised by Spain under the XIIIth Article of the Treaty of 1835, should be liberated as soon as they had completed a term of five years, to be reckoned from the date of their last assignment.

No. 550.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 6.)*

My Lord,

*Havana, February 1, 1855.*

SOME instances of discontent on the part of emancipados freed at the end of the year 1853, have lately come under my notice, so that I find the observations which I had the honour of submitting to your Lordship in

my despatch of the 30th December are fully borne out, and that those so-called freed emancipados, complain of the rule to which they are subject in being compelled, as they are, to contract themselves to serve for a prescribed period at a rate of wages much inferior to that which they could obtain if they were not under the obligation to observe the Government Regulations, and to work for such masters as they might agree with at eight dollars a-month for males, and at six dollars a-month for females, a fourth part of which is taken by the Government for the fund of the emancipados, thereby reducing these poor peoples' earnings to the maximum of six dollars and four and a-half dollars a-month for men and women respectively, whilst coloured persons, absolutely free, can easily gain double that amount, and slaves are hired in gangs at nearly three times those rates of pay.

But they have no remedy, and have to submit, or be punished.

I have proposed to them as an alternative, to claim the right of being sent away from the island, but that they are unwilling to do, for reasons which are too obvious to be overcome, as by going away they would have to leave the few friends and acquaintances they have, and go to a strange land where they would know nobody, and be also ignorant of the language and customs as they were when they were first torn from their homes in Africa, and brought to this island.

If anything could be done for this much abused class, it would be a great boon to which they are fully entitled after the long years of endurance they have passed in their probation. I have no doubt they would all be willing to contribute out of their wages to the full extent of what the Government retains, say two dollars a-month from the men, and one dollar and a-half a month from the women for the fund but they ought to be allowed to earn all they can, or even be relieved of part of so enormous a tax as twenty-four dollars and eighteen dollars a-year each to which they are, males and females, now subjected.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 551.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 6.)*

(Extract.)

*Havana, February 3, 1855.*

I DID myself the honour of addressing your Lordship, under date 29th of December, in reference to the despatch which I had received from Mr. Doyle, Her Majesty's Minister at Mexico, respecting the Indians who had been made prisoners by the Mexican Government troops in the war of castes which has so long been raging in the Peninsula of Yucatan.

I have since received despatches from Don Pedro Regil y Peon, the British Consular Agent at Merida, of a very important nature, translation of which I have now the honour of transmitting to your Lordship, along with the four inclosures, descriptive of the transaction between the Mexican Government and Colonel Jimenez, the agent employed by Messrs. Goicoria and Brothers, as well as containing the fullest proof that the greatest violence and foul play is used for the purpose of seizing and sending away those poor Indians, to satisfy the cupidity of the parties engaged in this inhuman Traffic, which must produce the greatest atrocities, and the complete devastation of that part of the Mexican territory.

I have also to lay before your Lordship a copy of a correspondence which I have had with his Excellency the Captain General upon this subject; and I regret to be obliged to state to your Lordship, that some 135 of these unfortunate victims have been introduced here, brought by the schooner "*Maria Jacinta*" and brig "*Anita*," from Sizal and Rio Legartos.



Inclosure 1 in No. 551.

*The British Consular Agent at Merida to Consul-General Crawford.*

(Translation.)

(Extract.)

*Merida, December 23, 1854.*

IN compliance with the orders that have been communicated to me, I have the honour of addressing myself to you to inform you of what is occurring with respect to the exportation of the natives of this district to the Island of Cuba.

I suppose you are aware that the Mexican Government entered into a contract with the house of Goicoria and Brothers, merchants at the Havana, in order to enable them to take from Yucatan, and as colonists, and under certain restrictions, the Indians that might be taken prisoners in the war which is at present carried on in this country.

His Excellency Mr. Doyle, our Minister in Mexico, forwarded to me a copy of said contract, with instructions to observe closely the operations that might go on with regard to Indians, in virtue of same, and report to you what might occur in relation thereto.

I have, nevertheless, strong motives for suspecting that the copy of the contract which Mr. Doyle sent me, is not correct and exact; for having obtained a copy of the communication which was addressed on this subject by the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Government of this Department, I have not found it agree, and certainly to contain some remarkable variations.

For your government I remit you a copy, and as in it reference is constantly made to a contract previously entered into, I send likewise a copy of same.

It having come within my knowledge that a number of Indians who were prisoners in the public prison in this city, were to be embarked for the Island of Cuba, and suspecting, on good foundation, that they were about to go against their evinced inclination, in conformity with my orders, I addressed myself officially to the Governor of the Department for permission to have an interview with them, in order to satisfy myself that they had been contracted with freely and spontaneously, and that no kind of coercion had been exercised over them. This permission was denied, and I was therefore still more confirmed in the idea that those men were about to be taken to the Island of Cuba as slaves, and not as free men, who go of their own will to a foreign country to earn their support by their labour.

My suspicion was truly roused, when I was aware that the Indians who were in the prison, on ascertaining that there were steps being taken to remove them from their country, presented a representation to the Government, a copy of which, legalized by Her Catholic Majesty's Vice-Consul, I inclose to you. It is plainly seen, by its contents, that the unfortunate prisoners are carried against their express will to Cuba, and I harbour the conviction that the authorities of that island, on the simple presentation of that statement, will cause them to be immediately placed in freedom, for the only title that can be alleged against them, and in favour of the house of Goicoria and Brothers, is a contract which never can be perfect and obligatory; for in order to be so, it requires the full consent of the contracting parties, which is not to be found in the present case.

The Spanish laws are sufficiently explicit on this particular, and provide that in all contracts should be taken into consideration "temor justo en razon constante."

I do not send you herewith the original documents which I have in my possession, as I consider it highly important in carrying out the philanthropic views of Her Majesty's Government, and as it proves evidently that the free will of the Indians has been violated, and that they, in virtue of same, can have their contracts annulled, I feared lest it might have gone astray. The copy, as well as the others, which I have said I inclose to you, legalised in due form, will, I believe, be sufficient for the ends desired. Nevertheless, if you consider it necessary, I will forward it to you by the first opportunity.

Without any doubt are on board the Mexican schooner "*Maria Jacinta*" the bearer of this, my communication, and are to be disembarked forty-five natives, whose passages have been contracted for at twenty dollars each for fifteen, and at fourteen each for the remaining thirty.

On board the same vessel, Don Gonzalo Goicoria, the principal persons interested in the negotiations for Indians, will embark.

I remit you a copy of the contracts which the Indians have been made to sign, and which, with much difficulty, I have been enabled to obtain.

It is my duty to say to you, for your information, that in conformity with the orders which I have received, I have this day addressed to the chief authority of the department a protest, in the name of Her Majesty's Government, for infringement of the Treaties ratified between our Government and that of Mexico, for the repression and suppression of the Traffic in Slaves, by permitting to be exercised a coercion over those unfortunate Indians who go to be slaves against their will, under a disguised slavery.

Within a few days the Mexican schooner "*Tonta*" is likewise to sail for the Havana, carrying on board a number of Indians, and is to go to embark them at Rio Lagartos.

If I should procure any fresh details concerning this expedition, I shall communicate them to you in due time.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 551.

*Señor Bonilla to the Governor of Yucatan.*

(Translation.)

*Office of the Secretary for the dispatch of  
Exterior Affairs.*

Most Excellent Sir,

HIS Serene Highness the General President, taking into consideration the statement which your Excellency directed to me, recommended by an official letter, dated the 5th of May last, in which Colonel Don Manuel Maria Jimenez, actual representative of the house of Messrs. Goicoria and Brothers, merchants of the Havana, solicits, in their name, that they be permitted to extract from this Department the natives who may be made prisoners during the present war which they carry on, in order to take them to the Island of Cuba, in the same manner as those which the same house may freely contract in conformity with the permission that was granted to them by the Supreme Government on the 23rd of January last, his Serene Highness has been pleased to decree favourably under the following conditions:—

1st. Instead of the propositions which Señor Jimenez makes in his application abovementioned, of maintaining 200 men with their officers, to make war on the insurgent Indians, and to give fifteen dollars for each one who might be delivered to him as prisoner, Señor Jimenez shall place 20,000 dollars, in two instalments, in the respective offices of that Department, after the payment of which, shall commence the delivery of the Indian prisoners which is granted to him.

2nd. The Commandant General's office of Yucatan, shall deliver to Señor Jimenez, the half of the prisoners which, from that time, may be in that Department, to whom shall be applicable precisely the same favourable conditions as those which his Serene Highness established in the first grant to the said house of Goicoria and Brothers, on the 23rd of January last, to contract free Indians; considering the prisoners as likewise free, and as such they might be contracted for, so that they would be responsible for the treatment they might receive, the remuneration they might be entitled to for their labour, &c., and especially that they remain in the full enjoyment of the rights of Mexicans, which the 9th Clause of the aforementioned permission establishes.

3rd. At the conclusion of the five years of their contract, they shall be restored to their country by the contractors, as the Superior Government com-

mates to that servitude that of a longer time or any other punishment to which they ought to be condemned, and remaining at the same time preserved the rights of the Treaties relative to the protection which ought to be shown to its Mexican subjects as free men.

4th. It is expressly laid down, that the emigration of the natives of Yucatan is alone for the Island of Cuba, and not for any other of the Antillas.

5th. Likewise it is established, that this concession does not give any privilege to the house of Messieurs Goicoria and Brothers, as the Superior Government of the Nation remains in absolute freedom to make others of the same or similar nature, when, and to whom, it may appear suitable.

By order of his Serene Highness, I communicate it to your Excellency for your knowledge, and that you be attentive to the exact compliance with this resolution in all its parts, reporting on its results in order that the Supreme Government may be aware of what may occur in this matter.

God and liberty.

*Mexico*, 1854.

BONILLA.

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Inclosure 3 in No. 551.

*Señor Bonilla to the Governor of Yucatan.*

(Translation.)

*Office of the Secretary of State and Management  
of Exterior Affairs.*

Most Excellent Sir,

BY the inclosed copy, your Excellency will be put in possession of the application which Don Tito Vecino, Consul of His Majesty the King of Bavaria, in the Island of Cuba, has brought before his Serene Highness the General-President, that, to the house of Goicoria and Brothers, merchants of the Havana, the house which he represents be permitted to contract, in Yucatan, the natives who, freely and voluntarily may wish to go to labour in the said Island of Cuba, on the terms and under the circumstances related in the application. His Serene Highness not finding anything inconvenient in that proposition, and rather being persuaded that such contracts have to be advantageous to the natives of the Department, serving as an efficacious means of awakening in them salutary ideas of order, economy, and love of labour, he has been pleased to decree, in conformity, and that I notify it to your Excellency in order that you may issue your orders to the subordinate authorities in order that they may not put impediments to the contracts that the house making the solicitude may enter into, provided that be observed in them precisely the following dispositions:—

1st. That the contracts be celebrated, without any exception, before a civil authority, which shall receive a declaration from the natives, that no coercion, violence, or fraud, is practised on them, the same authority taking care to investigate, by prudent means, the truth of these circumstances. Should they be minors, their protectors or guardians shall intervene, they swearing that the contracts are beneficial to their orphans.

2nd. That the contracts be, at the utmost, for the term of five years, as a longer duration would be equivalent to a disguised slavery.

3rd. That security be required, from the house contracting, that it will comply scrupulously with the stipulations entered into with the natives, taking particular and active care, that these stipulations be the same as are set forth in the application, or others plainly advantageous to the natives, without consenting to any one that might be prejudicial to them.

4th. That the authorities, before whom the contracts may be drawn out, report on same immediately to his Excellency for his approbation, without which they shall not have any force or validity.

5th. That each of the natives contracted for, obtain a passport from your Excellency to leave that Department and enter the Island of Cuba, as the Mexican Consul will not protect any individual who may be without such a

document, and will make him re-embark for Yucatan at the expense of the contractor.

6th. That your Excellency, and the other authorities, whose duty it may be, take care that the contracted natives be treated as they should be, and that they be shipped commodiously, safely, &c., &c.

7th. As soon as any contract be entered into, your Excellency will send a legalized copy of it to the Consul of the Republic at the Havana, so that he may proceed to act in accordance with the orders which this Ministry communicate him.

8th. That the Mexican Consul have free access to the natives, in order to be informed from themselves relative to good treatment, and the fulfilment of their contracts, and in case of serious neglect of same, the contracts remain by that circumstance annulled, the holders being under the obligation of paying them the return voyage, together with any sum that may be coming to them, and, moreover, what may be calculated for losses and damages.

9th. That in no case shall these natives be considered other than Mexicans, in the enjoyment of all the rights that correspond to them as such according to the Treaties with Spain.

10th. That the contracted natives be at liberty to take with them their wives and children under the condition that each one may stipulate with the contractors, who cannot oblige them to leave them in this Department nor in any other place, nor much less that they be absolutely compromised to labour, jointly with the head of the family, unless they freely and voluntarily enter into agreements to do so. Your Excellency will please to furnish a report to this Ministry of all the contracts which the contracting house may enter into, stating the concurrent circumstances of same, the number of persons contracted, and whatever may be necessary, in order that his Serene Highness may be informed on this interesting business.

God and liberty.

*Mexico, January 23, 1854.*

I repeat, &c.  
(Signed) BONILLA.

Inclosure 4 in No. 551.

*Petition.*

(Translation.)

Most Excellent Sir,

RAIMUNDO TUN, Juan Cahuich, Diego Puc, Fernando Chan, Victoriano Chim, Eusebio Hanil, Desiderio Uc, Juan de la Cruz Han, Vicente Tun, José M. Tay, Pascual Té, Elcuterio Tamay, Pascual Tamay, Antonio Xul, Agustín Nahaut, Luciano Tib, Leandro Han, Juan Balbino Mucul Diego Ché, Pedro Han, José, Martín Chan, Juan Noh, Juan Pío Tus, Lauriano Comul, Victoriano Chuc, Esteban Cab, José M. Jay, José Cenobio Chim, and Andrés Uc, prisoners in the public prison of this city, as persons seized on the enemy's ground, state before your Excellency with the greatest respect, that we have heard said and assured as a certain fact, that supported by a supreme arrangement concerning prisoners of war in this Department, it is intended to ship us and destine us to the slavery of a foreign country. This intelligence has fallen on us with the most bitter grief and profound sorrow; we being decided to place ourselves under the paternal protection of your Excellency, in order to avoid this terrible blow, stating to you that we are not comprehended under the already cited supreme order, for we are not prisoners of war, as we were not taken with arms in our hands, nor do we belong to the ranks of the insurgent Indians. We have been taken in the woods where we were hiding in order to avoid lest in case the troops of the Government should find us they might confound us with the barbarous rebels, and treat us as such, and at the same time in order to avoid their fury, in case they should find us, on account of not belonging to their ranks or participating in their revolutionary ideas. If, on account of the misfortune we have fallen into, by being brought prisoners, we merit to be

CLASS B.

removed from our hearths, as our imprisonment is not the consequence of crime but the offspring of the suspicion which we may cause, confident in the rectitude of the Government, we supplicate your Excellency most humbly, that you do not permit us to be carried to a foreign country, but that we be sent to any other part of the Republic, for which place we may be contracted for, for a like sum and with like advantages to the Treasury, for it would be very painful to us to go entirely from our country without crime. Considering to be just and lawful what we have the honour to supplicate from your Excellency, and which we hope to attain from your rectitude and prudence.

*Merida, December 14, 1854.*

Most Excellent Sir,

At the request of the Petitioners who do not write.

(Signed) IGNO. MENDICURA.

*Merida, December 16, 1854.*

The anterior petition cannot be attended to, for in accordance with the proofs which have been before me, the petitioners appear to be prisoners of war.

(Signed) CARDENAS.

I certify that the signature that appears to the antecedent document is the same as that which his Excellency the Governor and Commandant-General of this Department uses on all official occasions, and as such deserves all faith and credit.

(Signed) ANTONIO G. GUTIERREZ.

*Merida, December 22, 1854.*

I certify that this is a faithful and exact copy of the original, which has been presented to me for legalization by the Consular Agent of Her Britannic Majesty in this city, and of the port of Sical.

(Signed) ANTONIO G. GUTIERREZ.

*Merida, December 22, 1854.*

Inclosure 5 in No. 551.

*Contract.*

*Agency Office for the Colonization of natives for the Island of Cuba,  
in the Department of Yucatan.*

(Translation.)

THE Undersigned, Colonel Don Manuel Maria Jimenez, on the one part, as agent in Yucatan for Messrs. Goicoria and Brothers of the Havana, contractors in the speculation for the colonization of Indians from this peninsula, in the Island of Cuba, in conformity with the grant which the Supreme Government made to them on the 23rd of January of the present year; and on the other part, Juan Pio Tus, free Indian of the town of Chancernote, in the magistracy of Tazimin, District of Valladolid, aged eighteen years, have agreed before the competent authority of the same district, to the following declaration to which signs with us, the Señor \_\_\_\_\_ as Prefect of the said district.

1. I, Juan Pio Tus, declare solemnly, that I have agreed, freely and voluntarily, to pass to the Island of Cuba, under the control of Messrs. Goicoria and Brothers, for the labour in that island to which they may be pleased to dedicate me as a colonist, as well husbandry, domestic, or mechanical, according to the usages of the country, it being allowable to transfer this contract to whatever

other person the said Messrs. Goicoria and Brothers may judge convenient, I remaining bound as though I were with themselves; and being aware of the arrangements for colonization established in the Island of Cuba, which arrangements have been read to me, I am satisfied with all its parts, as likewise with the Decree of my supreme Government.

2. Messrs. Goicoria, Brothers, or the person to whom this contract may be transferred, shall pay as wages to the colonist mentioned in the anterior article, the sum of four dollars monthly, which shall be paid according to the wish of the colonist, either weekly, monthly, or yearly.

3. The colonist shall be well and abundantly nourished with Indian corn, beans, rice, vegetables, and salt meat, or fish, as he may desire, according to the usage of the country.

4. The contractor is under the obligation to give to the colonist the clothes which he may require for his labours, alternating according to the season; that is to say, that for the summer season shall be given to the colonist two complete suits of linen, and in the winter same shall be increased by blankets, or other comfortable clothes, besides two straw hats yearly to protect him from the sun.

5. Medical assistance, shall be at the cost of the contractor, in whatever description of sickness which the colonist may have, provided said sickness be not caused by the colonist himself, in such case he will deduct from his salary, at the rate of a portion monthly till the total liquidation of the cost of the cure.

6. In every case, in which the sickness which may fall on the colonist be not occasioned by his own fault, nothing shall be deducted from his salary, but if otherwise, shall be deducted from his salary, the days of his sickness which may exceed four, at the rate of the wages he may gain.

7. The colonist is obliged to labour daily fourteen hours in the twenty-four, distributed according to the will of the contractor, and at the labour he may destine them to.

Should the colonist be of the female sex, and should she become pregnant, in such are to be allowed to her seventy days before her confinement, in order that her situation may not trouble her; and after her confinement, are to be granted to her forty days more, in order to restore her nature, and the necessary moments for the suckling of her offspring, without anything being deducted from her salary during the two mentioned periods, not considering her exempt from the light labour which her state may admit of.

8. The colonist is obliged to submit himself to the order and discipline of the farm, workshop, or establishment, where he may be contracted.

9. The contractor is under the obligation of treating the colonist with all humanity and affability, he on his part corresponding by his good disposition and assiduity to labour.

10. In case the colonists be married and have children, they cannot be separated from their wives and children, who still remain in the farms or places to which the contractors may destine them, subjecting themselves to their individual contracts. Remarking that said children being of from twelve to fifteen years of age, shall enjoy a salary of three dollars monthly, and under twelve shall not enjoy any.

11. I (the name of the person) am satisfied with the stipulated salary, although I know and am aware that the salary which free labourers and slaves earn in the Island of Cuba is much larger, for I consider this difference recompensed by the other advantages which my employer is to proportion to me, and they are those expressed in this contract.

12. The term of the contract will last for five years, from the date of the arrival of the colonist in the Island of Cuba, the voluntary return of the colonist to his country being at the cost of the contractor, whose obligation shall cease on the refusal of the latter.

(Signed)

MANUEL MARIA JIMENEZ.

Inclosure 6 in No. 551.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Captain-General of Cuba.*

*Havana, January 15, 1855.*

I HAVE the honour of transmitting herewith to your Excellency a copy of an official letter and its four inclosures which I received on the 7th instant from Don Pedro de Regil y Peon, dated from Merida in Yucatan the 23rd ultimo.

Owing to the arrival of a number of the Indian prisoners by the same vessel which brought me Don Regil y Peon's despatch, I was anxious that your Excellency should be informed without delay as to the circumstances under which those poor Indians had been brought here, and I therefore on the 8th instant handed to the General Secretary of this Government the originals of the papers which I have now the honour of laying before your Excellency, and which prove that the Mexican Government at the instance of Messrs. Goicoria Brothers, and others have constituted, or have attempted to constitute, the island under your Excellency's government a penal settlement, by having disposed of the Indians made prisoners in the war of castes which is going on and which has been raging for some time in the Peninsula of Yucatan.

In answer to a communication which I did myself the honour of addressing to your Excellency upon this subject, under date the 19th ultimo, I had the satisfaction of receiving an assurance that orders had been given to Her Catholic Majesty's Consul, that he should assure himself, in the event of Yucatan colonists being sent here from thence, that they come of their own free will.

At the time the Indian prisoners which have arrived on the 7th instant, on board the Mexican vessel the "*Maria Jacinta*" sailed from Yucatan, your Excellency's orders could not have been received by the said Consul, who was aware by the protest which was made by those unfortunate people, that not only they did not come of their own free will, but that they were compelled to do so, the Mexican authorities in Yucatan falsely calling them prisoners who had been taken with arms in their hands, and I am therefore to consider, that the Consul of Her Catholic Majesty, had anticipated the humanity of your Excellency's instructions, as he did not certify the passports which were brought by the Indians upon that occasion.

I understand that upwards of a hundred more of these poor people are expected soon to arrive in a vessel called the "*Santa Ana*" or the "*Anita*," who, like those already arrived, have been forced to embark as colonists, but who are in reality nothing of the kind, but the victims of a war of extermination which has been fomented by the moneys of Messieurs Goicoria and others for their enrichment, and which if permitted must end in the extermination of the Indians from the whole of the Province of Yucatan.

To such atrocities, the permitting of those helpless beings to be introduced here under the pretence of their being colonists, would most assuredly give rise in Yucatan, that every Indian town and village would be devastated, and the miserable inhabitants be made the slaves of the contractors who pretend to bring them here as willing labourers.

I have learnt that it has been tried to pass upon your Excellency, that the Indians who arrived by the "*Maria Jacinta*" having been, one by one, asked in the presence of the Mexican Consul, through the medium of an interpreter, whether they had contracted with Messieurs Goicoria and Company, of their own free will, that they had all said, that they had done so; but your Excellency, their protest is at variance with such a statement, and their interrogation being made as it was, for the purpose of getting these victims of avarice to answer so as that it might induce your Excellency to admit them as free colonists, not the slightest merit ought to attach to the report which I understand has been made thereupon to your Excellency, and I feel convinced that this Traffic will be put an end to by the instructions given

by your Excellency to the Consular authorities of Her Catholic Majesty in Yucatan, and the interposition of your Excellency's denial to admit such forced colonists into the Island of Cuba.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 7 in No. 551.

*The Captain-General of Cuba to Consul-General Crawford.*

(Translation.)

Havana, January 16, 1855.

I HAVE in my possession your Honour's communication of the 15th of this month, with the documents in copy which accompanied it; and as soon as I have collected all the data and antecedents necessary, I shall reply to your Honour what I deem is proper to the case.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed) JOSE DE LA CONCHA.

Inclosure 8 in No. 551.

*The Captain-General of Cuba to Consul-General Crawford.*

(Translation.)

Havana, January 19, 1855.

I HAVE received along with your Honour's official letter of the 15th instant, that which, with its inclosures has been addressed to you from Merida, in Yucatan, by Don Pedro Regil y Peon with reference to the Indians, contracted for by Messrs. Goicoria and Co., to come to this island under the class of colonists.

I had previously stated to you, that to prevent fraud which you had denounced, I had made a convenient communication to Her Catholic Majesty's Consul in Merida, that he should assure himself that the colonists came of their own freewill and accord; and besides, I gave instructions opportunely to the Brigadier Political Governor of this city, that previous to allowing their disembarkation, he should be satisfied that they had not been brought forcibly: and as the result of this official investigation which was gone into, with those who arrived by the "*Maria Jacinta*," has not produced any proof of coercion, but on the contrary, that interrogated as they were, they gave visible signs of joy, and explained that they had come willingly, and with all their hearts. Your Honour will know that there does not exist any motive whatever for prohibiting their introduction in this case.

It remains for me to state to your Honour, that all possible measures having been taken for preventing underhand dealings, or foul play, either in Yucatan or in this island, the evils your honour indicates in your communication referred to, are not to be apprehended, and on the other hand, it is not in the power of this Government to derogate the ordinance approved by Her Majesty, in which the introduction of colonists is permitted for the term of two years.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed) JOSE DE LA CONCHA.

No. 552.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 6.)*

(Extract.)

Havana, February 12, 1855.

THE despatch from Mr. Doyle\* which I have the honour of transmitting herewith to your Lordship, was sent to me under flying seal. I have the honour of acquainting your Lordship that I have received a communication from Don Regil y Peon, the British Consular Agent at Merida, dated the 1st instant, in

\* No. 269.



Which is transcribed a despatch which he had addressed to Mr. Doyle to the following effect :—

“ I have the pleasure of stating to your Excellency, that I know, in an authentic manner, that the Supreme Government has communicated to the principal authority of this Department an order to supersede the effects of the contract entered into with Colonel Jimenez. And at the same time I have been told that orders have been given to return to said Jimenez, or to the representative of the house of Goicoria and Brothers of Havana, the sums which, on account of said contract, they had paid into the Treasury of this Department. I can assure your Excellency that these sums, which amount to 17,000 dollars, have not been returned, nor is it probable that they will be, because the scarcity and misery is so great, and the revenue so limited, that there is not a sufficiency to cover the expenses and outlay indispensable for the war with the Indians.

“ I do not think, however, that even the annulling of the Government's contract with Jimenez would put a stop to the forcible extraction of the Indians to the Island of Cuba, as the concession made, on the 23rd of January, 1854, to Don Tito Vecino remains in force, and although by that it is stipulated, that only those natives who voluntarily contract are to be taken, that clause, owing to the well-known weak character of the Indians, and the coercion produced by terror and other unworthy means which they may exercise over them, must be reputed as completely illusory.

“ I know, in the most positive manner, that subsequent to the annulling of the concession for the extraction of prisoners, the agents of Goicoria have ordered 700 contracts to be printed. For what else can this be, than that they have well-founded hopes of carrying on their nefarious business?

“ The Government of this Department, in virtue of the orders of the Supreme Government of the Republic, will not authorize the abuses which are committed, but I am almost certain that the subaltern authorities will lend themselves as instruments to the insinuations and wishes of the contractors.

“ Such is the attachment of the Indians to their native land, that neither the wish to better their fortunes, nor the greatest advantages which could be offered them, would be enough to make them leave it willingly. We daily see that from Vera Cruz, Isla de Carmen, Tabasco, and other places in the Republic, offers are made to them as good, and more advantageous than those of Goicoria, and notwithstanding they cannot succeed in inducing them to go and work in other places.

“ It is well known that if the agents of said house have succeeded in taking some of the natives from this Department, there are powerful reasons for believing that some wicked influence over their will has been used, and that they have not been able to exercise their necessary liberty.

“ The evils which may result from this are irremediable, and I see nothing that will put a stop to it, but the obtaining from the Mexican Government an order prohibiting in toto the extraction of Indians forth of the Republic, or to place some of Her Majesty's vessels around Yucatan to examine vessels conveying Indians, and ascertain from them, when they are beyond improper influence, whether they are going to Cuba of their own free will.

“ With the prisoners embarked on board the ‘*Maria Jacinta*’ and ‘*Anita*,’ the formalities directed by the Supreme Government Minister for Foreign Affairs were not observed as he assured your Excellency. Those prisoners were neither tried nor condemned, nor was any choice left them of being punished in their own country according to their offences, or their being shipped off to the Island of Cuba.

“ The contracts which appear to be signed by them were subscribed by a clerk of the house of Goicoria, without consulting the will of the Indians, who were at Sizal, a town distant twelve leagues from this capital, where they had been publicly conveyed, guarded, and bound as prisoners.

“ If, as it is made to appear by their contracts, they were going of their own free will, why use such precautions, applicable only to persons who were made to obey the laws of the stronger?

“ Before concluding (says Don Regil y Peon, in his despatch now before me,) I must state to you, that it will be advisable to watch the fishing-sloops of Don Francisco Marti y Torrens which come to fish on the coast of Yucatan, as I have data for believing that the illegal and odious Traffic of Indians is carried

on by means of said vessels, which, with so much facility and frequency visit the coast of this peninsula.”

I shall make all convenient use of the important information given by Don Regil y Peon, and I shall not fail to report upon this subject to your Lordship from time to time.

No. 553.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.*

(Extract.)

*Foreign Office, March 9, 1855.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 3rd ultimo, reporting the arrival at Havana of 135 Indian prisoners, natives of Yucatan, whose services as labourers have been sold by the Mexican Government to the house of Goicoria and Co. of Havana; and I have to acquaint you that I approve the steps which you have taken with regard to this affair.

No. 554.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 20.)*

(Extract.)

*Havana, February 22, 1855.*

BY Her Majesty's steamer "Buzzard" which arrived yesterday from Vera Cruz and Sibal, I received a despatch from Mr. Doyle, Her Majesty's Minister at Mexico, dated the 7th instant, accompanying, under flying seal, a despatch of the same date,\* with its inclosures, which he addressed to your Lordship upon the subject of the abstraction of Indians from Yucatan, which has been going on for some time past under contracts which represent, that those unfortunate people have come here of their own free will and accord, whereas, it is but too true, that they have been frightened from their homes, seized as prisoners of war and compelled to embark under the condition of serving Goicoria, or others here in Cuba, for a period of five years, if good faith is observed towards them, but which more probably will be a continuous state of servitude for the remainder of their lives.

It appears that the Mexican Government has withdrawn the privileges granted to Messrs. Tangroniz and Goicoria and Co. as regards their right acquired thereby over the prisoners, but the contract entered into with Don Tito Vecino for the latter house, permitting them to engage Indians as free colonists to come to this island, still is allowed to subsist and it is under the pretence of such contracts as free colonists, that these poor people are now to be brought away from Yucatan, the truth being, that they are forced to contract themselves and are sent from the interior to the coast in gangs tied together, as convicts are usually transmitted from the capital, or from any other part of Mexico to another, and besides accompanied by a guard to see them embarked.

Commander Dobbie informs me that there is no doubt the 80 Indians which were at Rio Lagartos and who are to be sent here by the Mexican brig "Yucateco," are of the same description, and the same unfair means have been used to force them to embark. The contracts cannot be looked upon as anything else than a cloak to the infamous transaction which is to be made use of upon the arrival of these unhappy people at this scene of their future miseries, as no doubt a similar farce will be gone through with them as was carried on with those already arrived, and they will all be made to answer through Messrs. Goicoria's interpreter, that they are delighted to have come, and most anxious to fulfil their engagements.

I deemed it my duty to call upon the Mexican Consul, which I did this morning, and I had a long conference with him upon the subject of this inhuman Traffic; I regret to state to your Lordship that the result was by no means satisfactory. I mentioned to him the objectionable circumstance of his

\* No. 271.

having employed Messrs. Goicoria's interpreter of the Maya language upon the recent occasion; but he stated that he had a check upon him by a servant of his own who was also present and who assured him, that the other had interpreted faithfully.

Under these circumstances, I am apprehensive that the same game is to be played over again, in order to obtain the same result upon the arrival of the "Yucateco." I therefore notified M. Carballo of my intention to apply to his Excellency the Captain-General for leave to have the Indians, expected in future, interrogated by interpreters who could in no ways be interested in the matter, but that these would be entirely independent of those he might think proper to employ for the Mexican Consulate.

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No. 555.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, March 27, 1855.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 22nd ultimo respecting the Yucatan Indians who have been recently introduced into Cuba under the name of free labourers, but who, you state, there is every reason to believe, have been seized and removed from their native country against their will; and I have in reply to express to you my approval of your proceedings in this matter.

Her Majesty's Government do not allow themselves to doubt, that when the Captain-General has ascertained the real character of these transactions, he will put an end to them.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

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SPAIN. (*Consular*)—*Porto Rico.*

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No. 556.

*Consul Lindegren to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 1.)*

(Extract.)

*San Juan, Porto Rico, March 9, 1854.*

I HAVE the pleasure to inform your Lordship, that I have just received a note from his Excellency the Captain-General of Porto Rico, referring to his letter of the 22nd October last, in which he promised to let me know as soon as he had come to any determination relative to the exportation of slaves from hence to Cuba, against which I had made a remonstrance, and sending me a copy of the Government "Gazette" published this day, in which his Excellency has issued an order prohibiting the further exportation of slaves from the island, except under the circumstances and regulations pointed out therein; this will quite put a stop to the Traffic which has lately been carried on with them, and as few are likely to be taken away in the manner permitted, the exportation may be considered to be at an end, which I am sure that your Lordship will be glad to hear. The following is a translation of the different Articles in the order:

Article I. The exportation of slaves from this island is prohibited, unless the Royal permission is obtained for it; those who in future may wish to export any one or more of them must apply to Her Majesty through me, soliciting the Royal permission for this purpose.

II. The following are excepted from the preceding order; first, those condemned by the tribunals; secondly, those belonging to individuals who may leave the island for the purpose of fixing their residence either in Cuba, or in any other part of the Spanish dominions, or employés proceeding there who can only take away those attached to their attendance alone, and on no account those who are engaged in agriculture.

III. In order that the persons mentioned in the preceding Article may carry this into effect, the requisite permission from the head Government must be obtained, the petition of the person who solicits it being accompanied by a certificate from the Syndic of the district in which he resides, proving that there has not been any objection on the part of the slaves founded on the rights granted them by the laws.

IV. The orders contained in the preceding Articles shall commence to take effect from the 1st of April next, but those who want to export slaves until that day, must equally produce the certificate of the Syndic spoken of in the last Article.

This order is signed by the Governor, dated at Porto Rico the 7th of March, 1854, and addressed to the Departmental Commandants, the Corregidores and the Mayors of the different districts of the island.

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No. 557.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Lindegren.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, April 6, 1854,*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 9th ultimo, inclosing a copy of the order issued by the Captain-General of Porto Rico on the 7th of March, 1854, prohibiting the further exportation of slaves from that island to Cuba. And I have to instruct you to state to the Captain-General of Porto Rico, that Her Majesty's Government have learnt with great satisfaction that his Excellency has issued this prohibition.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 558.

*Consul Lindegren to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 5.)*

My Lord,

*San Juan, Porto Rico, May 9, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 6th ultimo, desiring me to state to the Governor of Porto Rico that Her Britannic Majesty's Government has learnt with great satisfaction that his Excellency had issued an order prohibiting the further exportation of slaves to Cuba, which I have accordingly communicated to his Excellency; and there is no doubt of his being firm in his intentions in this respect from a circumstance which has since occurred, for the time named for this order taking effect being the 1st of April, a few days previously a small estate was offered for sale, and some speculators purchased it with the intention of sending all the slaves, 56 in number, to Cuba, for sale there. When I heard of this, and that they had engaged a vessel to take them, I went to the Governor, and spoke to him about it, and told him that the slaves were very anxious not to go, when he said that he would see to it, though the time for allowing the shipment had not expired. Hearing afterwards that it was intended to smuggle them off in the night, as only two days remained before the prohibition would be in force, I went again to his Excellency, when he told me that I might feel easy, as the vessel in question had cleared out, and that they should not go by her. I afterwards went to the Syndic or Protector of Slaves, and was glad to find that he was against the shipment, and had communicated with the Governor to prevent it; the result is, that the slaves have not been shipped, and the whole of them have been disposed of in another part of this island.

I take this opportunity of mentioning to your Lordship, that some parties here have been anxious for some time to import a cargo of slaves from the coast of Africa, and there is a vessel here fit for the purpose, whose movements I have been watching, but I am glad to hear from good authority that the Governor has refused positively to allow them to bring in any slaves, and as it is not possible to land them here without its being known, the speculation must be given up.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOHN LINDEGREN.

No. 559.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Lindegren.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, June 30, 1854.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 9th of May, and I have to acquaint you that I approve the measures therein reported, which you took in order to frustrate an intended exportation of 56 slaves from Porto Rico to Cuba.

Her Majesty's Government have learnt with satisfaction that the Governor of Porto Rico used his authority to prevent the shipment in question, and that his Excellency has also refused to permit certain parties in that island to undertake an importation of slaves from the coast of Africa.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 560.

*Consul Lindegren to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 1.)*

My Lord,

*San Juan, Porto Rico, October 13, 1854.*

I AM sorry to have to address your Lordship upon an affair in which I hoped to succeed without troubling your Lordship, but as I now see that I have no chance of accomplishing this myself, I am induced to bring the case under your Lordship's consideration.

Early in last year, a poor woman of colour presented herself before me, to beg my assistance in procuring the freedom of herself and children. She said that her name was Mary Gordon, and represented that she was a free British subject, belonging to the Island of St. Kitts, and had been, many years ago, kidnapped, whilst bathing at Sandy Point, in that island, and brought to San Juan and sold to a person at Caguas, a town in the interior of the island; she could not tell how many years ago, but by documents since produced, it must have been as far back as 1822. She afterwards remained with the same master, until being ill-used by him, she appealed to General de la Pezuela, the Governor at that time, who happened to be there in 1851, and there appearing to be an irregularity in the bill of sale, he ordered her to be put in deposit, and her case to be examined into. A suit was then commenced in her behalf against her master; but after sundry proceedings had taken place, little having been done in it latterly, she came to me to ask my assistance. From the very particular account she gave of herself, and speaking English so well after so long an absence, I felt myself bound to render her all the assistance I could, and stating her case to the Governor, I claimed the freedom of herself as well as of her children, consisting of 3 daughters, 1 son, and 2 grandchildren, all of whom were equally entitled to their liberty. To this the Governor answered, that a suit was pending between her and her master, before the judge at Caguas, and that it was intended to send her to St. Thomas, to see whether she could be identified with the bill of sale which the person who sold her, produced to the present owner as having purchased her there; but when sent, she could not be identified with it. I wrote also to St. Thomas, as this bill of sale had been sent up there, to get a copy of it, and to see the protocol or original document which ought to have been in the archives there, to compare it with the bill of sale; but the protocol was certified by the Judge to be lost. I then went to the expense of getting a copy of the bill of sale and a translation of it in the English and Spanish language certified by the Spanish Consul, and took the opinion of a clever Danish Advocate as to its validity, and he declared that it was of no value. I wrote, also, to the Governor of St. Kitts, stating the woman's case, and begging his Excellency to learn what he could about her; and in the answer which I received, her story as to her having been kidnapped was fully confirmed, the fact having been notorious at Sandy Point, at the time, and persons there remembered her as a girl, and by her name of Mary Gordon. A copy of the letter, and evidence from St. Kitts, and the opinion of the lawyer at St. Thomas, I forwarded to the Governor, who wrote me that he would forward them to the Judge at Caguas. Desirous, also, of proving her baptism, to show that she had been free, I wrote again to the Governor of St. Kitts, who made inquiries, but the clergyman could not trace any Mary Gordon, though he found several Marys in the register, and I have not since been able to get this information, which the owner strongly called for, knowing, probably, the difficulty of obtaining it at this long distance of time. The suit appears to have been proceeded upon again more actively after I appealed to the Governor, and, contrary to the full expectation of the Advocate of the slave, who is called

here, Maria del Carmen, judgment was given in favour of the master, with leave to appeal to the Royal Audiencia.

I had not then seen any of the proceedings, but when they were sent up here, I saw them, and it appeared to me that the case had been very badly managed, both from want of knowledge on the part of the Syndic as to her real position, and the stupidity of the woman in the answers she gave herself, and that it required a good advocate to defend her case before the Court of Audiencia. In a case of this kind, the suit is carried on without expense on the part of the slave, therefore, no advocate of note would undertake it on her side, and a leading one, applied to by the Syndic, refused; feeling, therefore, that it was a case which ought to be properly defended, and there not being time to address your Lordship on the subject, I felt so much interested in it that I agreed to give an able lawyer eighty dollars to draw up her case, which he did, and advocated it extremely well; but I regret to say without success, as the Royal Audiencia decided that she was to be returned to her owner until she could bring forward better proofs to establish her freedom; had it been decided in her favour, the owner would have had to pay all the costs of the suit which with the loss of the slaves would have amounted to several thousand dollars.

Throughout this case it has appeared to me very clearly that they are extremely apprehensive that if this woman should obtain her liberty, many other cases might be brought forward of a similar nature, by slaves who have been carried off in the same way from the English Islands, and that there have been many nefarious transactions of this nature carried on some years ago, there can be no doubt, and the advocate for the owner laid great stress upon the probability of such claims in the course of the proceedings; and although the account she gives of herself, corroborated by the evidence from St. Kitts, her perfect knowledge of various persons at that time residing in that part of the island, and her knowledge of the English language, are sufficient proofs to satisfy an unbiassed person of the justice of her claim; here, where public interest is concerned, it is viewed in a different light; and I am certain, that nothing but the most positive proof of the origin, baptism, and original freedom of a slave would induce the courts to decide in his or her favour, through fear that a decision of this kind might subvert the whole slavery system of the island. Finding that the Audiencia had given this sentence, as I had not appeared personally since my first application, and the transmission of the evidence which I had procured in her favour, I, in my position as Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, disclaiming any part in the proceedings brought in the courts of law on behalf of Maria del Carmen, forwarded to his Excellency the Governor, copy of the receipt given by Francisco Monge for the purchase-money of her, an English subject, which I did not know to be in existence until the papers were all sent up to this place for appeal to the Audiencia, and forwarded statements upon which I founded my claim for her freedom, to which, after some time, I only received a short note stating that his Excellency had referred my letter to the Royal Audiencia, and on the 9th instant I received a letter from his Excellency stating that the Royal Audiencia had confirmed the sentence already given, and that the woman, who has for about eighteen months taken shelter in my house, must be returned to her master until she can produce better proofs for her freedom.

In this letter, the Governor has given no answer to any of my statements respecting this woman, and I have accordingly written his Excellency, expressing my regret at his not taking any notice of them, and that I have, consequently, no alternative but to send on the case for the consideration of Her Britannic Majesty's Government.

I have the honour to send, herewith, copies of the correspondence and the other documents relative to this affair, and to avoid giving your Lordship unnecessary trouble, I have accompanied them with a list giving the purport of the contents of each.

I showed the substance of this case to Captain Forbes, of Her Majesty's ship "Calypso," who interested himself in it much, and at his request I sent the particulars to his Excellency the Governor of the Leeward Islands, who also felt the hardship of the case: but trusted that the Governor of St. Kitts would do all he could to procure information for me, having written to him upon the subject.

I am extremely sorry to be under the necessity of troubling your Lordship

with this affair, feeling the little power I have myself in obtaining a favourable result, your Lordship, however, will be able to judge, from what I have stated, whether anything or what can be done in it; and I trust that your Lordship will feel yourself justified in interfering to obtain the liberty of this woman and her children, in the success of which, I confess that I feel much interested, and begging your Lordship's excuse for troubling you with this long detail,

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN LINDEGREN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 560.

*Consul Lindegren to the Captain-General of Porto Rico.*

Sir,

*San Juan, February 8, 1853.*

I TAKE the liberty of applying to your Excellency to request your assistance on the following subject. On Saturday last, a woman of colour came to me as Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, stating that she belonged to the English Island of St. Kitts, from which she had been kidnapped by Don Francisco Monge, the captain of a vessel belonging to Caracas, upwards of forty years ago, and sold here as a slave. She stated, that she had been bathing at Sandy Point, in that island with another girl, when she was carried off by the captain of this vessel, the other girl having escaped, and was brought to San Juan, where she was concealed, and afterwards dressed in boys' clothes, and carried off to Caguas, where the captain sold her to Don Antonio Guadalupe Colon, of that place, who purchased her, although she told him at the time that she was a free girl, and that the captain had no right to sell her. She remained with him during this long period until his Excellency Don Juan de la Pezuela, the late Captain-General came to Caguas, when having been treated ill by her master, she went to his Excellency with her arms bloody from the beating which she had received, and complained against her master, stating at the same time, that she was a free woman, and that her master had no bill of sale (*escritura*) for her; that her name had been Maria Gordon, but that she had been called Maria del Carmen, though she had never been christened, which his Excellency ascertained to be true by reference to the parish registers. He sent also for her master, whom he scolded, and asked him what he meant by treating a free woman in this manner, and finally he placed her case in the hands of the *alcalde*, and a lawyer at Caguas, named Estevan Calderon, and so much did his Excellency commiserate her, that he gave her two dollars, and Madame de la Pezuela two dollars also. She never returned afterwards to her master, but remained at first in the house of an acquaintance, where she earned her living in the best way she could, until about the time of the *Fiestas Reales*, she went to live with Don Estevan Calderon, under whose care she had been placed by the Captain-General. She has remained with him ever since, and has been well treated, and, as she states, he has been suing her master, and has embargoed his house to make him give up two of her children whom he kept as slaves; but time passing away, and anxious for the recovery of these as well as two other children, whom her master had sold as slaves, she determined upon coming up to the capital, to apply to your Excellency, but upon arrival, finding that there was an English Consul here, she thought it best to request my assistance in laying her case before your Excellency, which I now take the liberty of doing, requesting that your Excellency will have the goodness to give directions that she and her family may be delivered up to me, that I may send them by the British steamer to St. Kitts.

It appears by this woman's statement, that she has had several children here; some of them are dead, but she has four living, three girls and a boy; the eldest, Gertrude, is a slave to her master, Antonio Guadalupe Colon, and has two small children called Clemencia and Genaro. The second, Margarita, has been sold to Don Miguel Saron, of the *Corneo* at Caguas, and has one child called Maria Ignacia; the third, Juana Maria has been sold to Don Juan Plu, at Rio Pedras. The son, whose name is Juan de la Cruz, is about fourteen or fifteen years of age, and is living as a slave with her master, Don Antonio Guadalupe Colon, all of whom, the mother being free, are equally entitled to



their freedom, and that she is correct in what she states about herself, I have no doubt from the particular account she gives of her family, from speaking English, and the master having no regular bill of sale, which, had he been possessed of, he would have reclaimed her, and his Excellency the late Governor having an opportunity of making inquiries upon the spot, considered her as free, or he would not have interfered as he did in her favour; there is, besides, an old person residing here, who, having lived several years at St. Kitts', where he has relations, has told me that he recognized having seen her as quite a young girl at Sandy Point, although so many years have elapsed.

I lately received from the Department of Foreign Affairs in England, sundry official documents, among which I found that it had been stated to the Colonial Office by the Governor of the Leeward Islands, that several persons belonging to the Virgin Islands were unjustly detained in slavery at this Island; and the British Minister at Madrid represented this to the Spanish Government by desire of Viscount Palmerston, requesting that in such cases they might be released; and the Count de Miraflores, then Minister of state, informed his Excellency, in answer, under that day's date, 30th January, 1852, that he had written to the Governor of Porto Rico, desiring that any such might be released.

There is not, however, any necessity for adverting to this as a sanction for the release of this family, as I feel sure that your Excellency's kind heart and feelings of humanity will induce you to release these poor people from slavery, to which they ought not to be subject without any other suggestion; and I beg to refer to your Excellency's consideration, whether the poor woman ought not to receive an indemnification from her master, for a service of forty years, knowing at the time that he purchased her, that he was doing an illegal act in purchasing a free girl, without any regular bill of sale. Begging to recommend this case to your Excellency's kind attention,

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN LINDEGREN.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 560.

*Consul Lindegren to the Governor of St. Christopher.*

Sir,

*San Juan, Porto Rico, February 10, 1853.*

I TAKE the liberty of addressing your Excellency in consequence of an application which has been made me by a negro woman, who states that she is a native of St. Kitts, from whence she was kidnapped by Don Francisco Monge, captain of a Caracas vessel, whilst bathing at Sandy Point with another girl of the name of Betsy, who escaped, and having been brought here, was taken to Caguas, a town eight leagues from this, and sold as a slave, although she apprised the purchaser at the time that she was a free girl. Her name is Mary Gordon, and the daughter of Dover and Mary Gordon, then living at Sandy Point. Her mother, she says, was a free woman, and had two other children, one of whom named Mary also, and the other Betsy. Her godfather and godmother were Anthony Jave (probably Jarvis, as the name she quotes does not appear to be English) and Betsy Tanial, most of these, however, must be dead, for this must have occurred upwards of forty years ago, though I cannot say how long, as she has no trace as to time, except the notch she made upon a stick as each year elapsed, and there are forty-two notches upon it; some persons must, however, have a recollection of such an occurrence taking place, as well as of her, as she must then have been ten or eleven years old, and I should be much obliged if your Excellency would be so good as to trace out as early as convenient what you may be able to ascertain respecting her, and let me know the result, as I have made an application to the Captain-General for the release from slavery of herself, as well as a family which she has here, but have no grounds to go upon beyond her own statement, which is so clear in its particulars, that together with her knowledge of the English language, which she has not forgotten although she has been living here forty years with persons speaking only Spanish, that I have no doubt myself as to what she states. An old person also residing here of the name of Bladwell, who lived at St. Kitts' for

several years, and says that he has relations there, tells me that he recognized her, although so many years have since elapsed, as having seen her when a girl at Sandy Point; but he does not know whether she was a slave or free; it will, nevertheless, be necessary to bring forward some more certain proofs for the Governor's satisfaction, to enable him to give and enforce the necessary orders for their release, which can only be done by information from your Excellency, and you will, I am sure, be equally desirous with myself to obtain the freedom of this poor woman and her family, of which they are so illegally deprived.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN LINDEGREN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 560.

*Consul Lindegren to the Governor of St. Christopher.*

Sir,

*San Juan, Porto Rico, March 25, 1853.*

I HAD the honour to address your Excellency on the 10th February last relative to a black woman here, who says that her name is Mary Gordon, and that she was born at Sandy Point, St. Kitts, of free parents, from whence she was kidnapped many years ago by the master of a Caracas vessel, and sold as a slave in this island, and I was in hopes that I might have received an answer from your Excellency by the last steamer, relative to my inquiries about her. I am afraid, however, the length of time which has elapsed, and the vague accounts which she gave as to the time when this took place, that your Excellency has been unable to trace anything about her; if this has been the case, it may perhaps assist your Excellency in prosecuting your inquiries by being informed that I have reason to believe that this must have occurred about the year 1822, as from the inquiries made by the Governor, a bill of sale, which the owner has produced as that which he received with her, is dated in that year; but there is an appearance of irregularity in it which the Governor is anxiously investigating, this, however, is ten years later than the woman, who appears to know little about time, had stated from memory, and bringing the period when she was kidnapped so much nearer, there may be persons who may have some recollections of her, and it seems more to correspond with the appearance of her age, as she does not look to be more than between forty and forty-five years old.

I am sorry to be thus troublesome to your Excellency, but it would be so desirable that the poor woman and her family should be released from slavery, as I have no doubt from her statements that she is a native of St. Kitts', that I am anxious to do all I can to accomplish it, and I shall be glad to hear from your Excellency the success you have met with in your inquiries as soon as convenient.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN LINDEGREN.

Inclosure 4 in No. 560.

*Mr. Pickwood to Consul Lindegren.*

Sir,

*St. Christopher, March 28, 1853.*

I AM directed by his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th of February, and I have now the honour to inclose the information and declaration of Frances Christopher and Ann Bennett, now residing in the town of Sandy Point, who appear to have been personally acquainted with Mary Gordon.

I am also instructed to inclose a certificate from Lieutenant Brockman, Fort Adjutant, in the Garrison of Brimstone, Royal Marines, of the year in which Her Majesty's Regiment of Buffs were stationed there, a fact referred to in the information of Frances Christopher.

You will be pleased to bear in mind that both the parties who have given

their testimony in this matter very possibly were known by other names previous to their emancipation.

I have only to add, that the circumstance to which these documents refer is very well remembered in the district in which they occurred; but owing to the lapse of time, no more direct evidence can be supplied in reference to it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN PICKWOOD.

P.S.—It would appear from Lieutenant Brockman's certificate, that the Buffs, under Colonel Blunt, returned to St. Kitts' in 1801, and it is a matter of fact, that in those days our troops remained in the West Indies for ten years and upwards.

*April 5, 1853.*

P.S.—Since the completion of the inclosed certificates, your letter of the 29th ultimo has come to hand.

I am very much inclined to believe that the first statement (with reference to date) of Mary Gordon is the correct one.

It must be recollected that negroes have no correct idea of the computation of time, and from the number of persons who have a traditional knowledge of this transaction, I can entertain no reasonable doubt but that Mary Gardon's statement is essentially correct.

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Inclosure 5 in No. 560.

*Certificate.*

By his Excellency Edward Hay Drummond Hay Esquire, Lieutenant-Governor of the Leeward Islands, and Governor of the Islands of St. Christopher and Anguilla, Chancellor, Vice Admiral, and Ordinary of the same, &c., &c.

THESE are to certify that Edwin Pickwood, Esquire, is Superintendent of Police, and a Justice of the Peace in this colony. That Lieutenant Brockman of Her Majesty's regiment, is Fort Adjutant, and that the names of those officers, appended to the documents hereunto annexed, are their proper sign manual.

Witness my hand and seal at arms, at Government House, this 28th day of March, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three.

(Signed) E. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

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*Depositions.*

The information of Ann Bennett, of the parish of St. Ann, Sandy Point, in the island aforesaid; taken this twenty-fourth day of March, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, before the undersigned, one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said island—who saith, "I was a slave on Sir Gillies Payne's estate, close to the town of Sandy Point. I was a playmate of Mary Gordon's, who resided in the town of Sandy Point, a free girl, the daughter of Dover and Mary Gordon. I remember going to 'Pump Bay' one Sunday morning, many years ago, in consequence of a report, that Mary Gordon had been drowned, whilst bathing with another girl. I found plenty of people on the beach; some of the men went into the water to search for the body, on finding her clothes on the beach. There was a foreign vessel in the roadstead, that was loading with oranges, having landed a cargo of salt provisions; I think the vessel sailed that night. The girl that was bathing with Mary Gordon ran away, and it was not until two days after the vessel had left, that this girl confessed, that some of the boat's crew, in one of the trips from the vessel to the shore, had seized Mary Gordon in the water, and had also made an attempt upon her, but

that she escaped. The dread of being taken herself, she said, had prevented her from mentioning it before the vessel quitted. I do not know my age exactly, but I must be above fifty years old. When this happened, I was a young girl not fourteen years of age."

(Signed) ANN <sup>her</sup> BENNETT.  
mark.

The information of Frances Christopher, of the parish of St. Ann, Sandy Point, in the island aforesaid—who saith, "I was a slave belonging to Bourk's estate in this parish. I do not know my age; but when the regiment of Buffs, in Colonel Blunt's time, were on the garrison of Brimstone Hill, Mary Gordon and myself, who was too young to be called upon to work, used to go upon the garrison together. She was a free girl, her mother being left free at the death of her master William Gordon. She was the daughter of Dover Gordon, and her mother went by the name of 'Present.' After the sale of the property on which Mary Gordon lived, near Bourk's estate, her family and herself removed into the town of Sandy Point. I was soon after taken into the field to work and lost sight of Mary Gordon."

(Signed) FRANCES <sup>her</sup> CHRISTOPHER.  
mark.

The above informations taken before me the day and year first above-mentioned, at Sandy Point.

(Signed) EDWIN PICKWOOD,  
*Superintendent of Police, and Justice of the Peace.*

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In 1798, the Buffs were ordered to St. Kitts; detachments were sent to St. Vincents, Nevis, Anguilla, Barbados, and Demerara. The following year the whole of the regiment was assembled at St. Kitts, except one small detachment at Anguilla. They embarked from St. Kitts in March, 1801, and formed part of an expedition against St. Bartholomews. In 1801, the Buffs under Lieutenant-Colonel Blunt returned to St. Kitts.

True extract,

J. BROCKMAN, *Lieutenant and Fort Adjutant.*

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Inclosure 6 in No. 560.

*Consul Lindegren to the Captain-General of Porto Rico.*

Sir,

*San Juan, Porto Rico, April 23, 1853.*

I HAD the honour of addressing your Excellency, on the 8th February last, on the behalf of a British subject Mary Gordon, or as she is called here Maria del Carmen, a native of the Island of St. Christopher, and a free person, who was kidnapped from that island many years ago, by the master of a foreign vessel, and sold by him as a slave to Don Antonio Gaudalupe Colon, of Caguas, and I now have the honour of informing your Excellency that I have received an answer to the letter which I wrote to his Excellency the Governor of the Island of St. Christopher, begging him to send what information he could obtain respecting her. From the answer it clearly appears that the circumstance of her disappearance from the island was notorious, in that part of it when it took place, and the evidence of persons has been taken who declare that they knew the girl well, and that she was free, and one of them detailed the circumstance of her disappearance whilst bathing, and that finding her clothes upon the shore, several men went into the water to endeavour to find the body, what therefore she had previously stated to me has been confirmed, and there can be no doubt that she is a British subject, unlawfully carried away from St. Christopher,

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and as such I claim her, and trust that your Excellency will have the goodness to give orders that she and her family may be given up to me, to be sent by the British steamer to her island.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOHN LINDEGREN.

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Inclosure 7 in No. 560.

*Consul Lindegren to the Governor of St. Christopher.*

Sir,

*San Juan, Porto Rico, April 25, 1853.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of Mr. Pickwood's letter of the 28th ultimo, and 5th instant, inclosing sundry depositions relative to Mary Gordon, a native of St. Kitts, about whom I took the liberty of begging your Excellency to endeavour to obtain such information as could be procured and forward it to me. I have communicated these to his Excellency the Governor of Porto Rico, with Mr. Pickwood's observations on the subject, but the Governor being absent upon a tour of inspection round the island, nothing will probably be done in the affair until his Excellency returns; in the meantime, as I am anxious to prove as clearly as possible that this woman really belongs to St. Kitts, I should be very glad, if through your Excellency's assistance, the registry of her baptism could be procured, as she says she was christened at the church at Sandy Point, and the period can nearly be ascertained for I have seen the bill of sale under which her present owner holds her, and it is dated at St. Thomas on the 5th June, 1822; supposing then that she may have been 10 or 12 years old, she will probably have been born about the year 1810. I feel the more anxious about this as the owner considers her a slave, belonging to St. Thomas, where she appears to have been sold by a person of the name of Samuel Hatrol, for 130 dollars to Francisco Coozengo or Comingo, under the name of Present, under which name it is stated in one of the depositions that her mother was known, if therefore it could be proved further than from the deposition that her mother was known by the name of Present, it would I think establish the fact that the person sold at St. Thomas under that name was the same as that carried off from St. Kitts', and illegally sold, as the name is such an unusual one. In both the depositions which Mr. Pickwood has taken, the father's name is stated as Dover Gordon, and Frances Christopher appears to have known her at a much earlier period than Ann Bennett. The Governor here has given orders in consequence of the owner's statement, that she belonged to St. Thomas, that she shall be sent there with a letter from him to the Governor of that island requesting him to ascertain whether she can be identified as the person sold in the bill of sale which has been produced, but this cannot be done, as she says that although the vessel was at St. Thomas for three days before she was brought down to Porto Rico, she was never taken ashore, and I suppose the captain found out her name from herself on her passage down from St. Kitts. She tells me if she could see a Mr. Parsons, who lived in the Alley at Sandy Point, he could get the papers directly to identify her, but he may be dead, or as the negroes speak so vaguely, perhaps she means the parson, as they are apt to call the clergyman of the parish of St. James's, at Sandy Point, she speaks however, so confidently of having been christened at Sandy Point, that as the parish registers about that time will without doubt have been kept, this case I should hope with a little trouble might be traced, and it really is an object of moment to get this poor woman out of slavery, as she has four children and two grand-children, who will be equally entitled to their freedom in being able to prove she belongs to St. Kitts', any expense therefore that might be incurred I would readily pay on obtaining the copy of the register in which her name appears properly authenticated. If any other mode of identifying this woman as belonging to St. Kitts', should occur to your Excellency, I should be glad to be favoured with it, and begging the favour of an early answer.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOHN LINDEGREN.

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Inclosure 8 in No. 560.

*The Acting Governor of Porto Rico to Consul Lindegren.*

(Translation.)

Sir,

*Porto Rico, May 6, 1853.*

HAVING taken into consideration, as it deserves, your representation made me on the 8th of February last, in favour of the slave Maria del Carmen, belonging to Don Guadalupe Colon, who says she is a free woman, I gave orders that the District Judge of Caguas, who was acquainted with the affair, the slave and her master belonging to that jurisdiction, should inform me of the present state of the suit, which the Syndic of that town, as the defender of slaves, according to our rules of justice, was carrying on in the name of the slave with her said master, and, as he has informed me, that he had determined upon sending her to St. Thomas, with the document which had been presented by Colon as his title to hold her as his property, to identify her person, and examine her. I instructed him to send me the communication to the Governor of the said island, that I might request of him the speedy termination of this affair.

In this state the efforts of the slave stand, and finding to day that a person has been named who undertakes the charge of conveying her there, I send her with the said communication to the Governor of St. Thomas, for the purposes which I have stated.

In Caguas, Mr. Consul, as well as in all the heads of districts in this island, there are judges appointed to administer justice, and to be acquainted of, as the only competent persons, all quarrels which may arise in private affairs, for which reason I send the documents which you forwarded me in your letter of the 23rd of last month relative to this affair to that judge, in order that he may attach them to his Expediente, and bring them forward when judgment is to be given.

In the absence of the Captain-General, the second in command,  
(Signed) MARQUIS DE ESPANA.

Inclosure 9 in No. 560.

*Mr. Pickwood to Consul Lindegren.*

Dear Sir,

*St. Christopher's, June 13, 1853.*

THE Governor desires me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, requesting him to furnish you with a copy of the registration of Mary Gordon's baptism.

I beg to inclose you a letter from Mr. Gittens, the Rector of Sandy Point, upon this subject, which will show you the difficulties which present themselves in almost every step that we take in the matter.

I shall, however, proceed to Sandy Point in person, and obtain all the information that can be collected after such a lapse of years, and shall have the honour to communicate to you officially on this subject by the next mail.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EDWIN PICKWOOD.

Inclosure 10 in No. 560.

*Rev. L. Gittens to Mr. Pickwood.*

My dear Sir,

*Sandy Point, May 15, 1853.*

I DULY received your note with the letter from Her Majesty's Consul at Porto Rico; I would have answered your communication before now, but took time to go carefully over the Records. I regret to say, that I have looked through the register, from 1822 back to 1800, without success. The entry of the woman's baptism may be then simply under the name of Mary, or under some other

name, as it is common for the negroes to give one appellation at the time of baptism, and to call their children afterwards by some other. Could you not come down and see for yourself? it would give me pleasure to show you the Records.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) LANTER GITTENS.

Inclosure 11 in No. 560.

*Consul Lindegren to the Acting Governor of Porto Rico.*

Sir,

*San Juan, June 9, 1853.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 6th May last, informing me of the proceedings which were taking place relative to the slave Maria del Carmen, and that she and the documents by which Mr. A. G. de Colon claims her as his property, would be sent to St. Thomas by your Excellency for examination, at the request of the judge at Caguas, for which I am much obliged to your Excellency.

I take the liberty now of stating that, finding they were gone, I wrote to my correspondent at St. Thomas, to procure for me certified translated copies of the bill of sale, both in Spanish and English, and also to take the opinion of the most eminent advocate there upon the woman's case, which he has done. The translation of the bill of sale your Excellency will, without doubt, have received, and the opinion of Mr. Kinulff, a very distinguished advocate at St. Thomas, I have the honour to inclose, begging the favour of your Excellency to forward it to the judge at Caguas, as the advocate referred to gives it his most decided opinion for the reasons he produces, that according to the Danish laws, the auction bill of sale in question does not give Mr. Antonio Guadalupe de Colon any title to the said woman.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOHN LINDEGREN.

Inclosure 12 in No. 560.

*Opinion of Mr. Kinulff upon the case of Maria del Carmen.*

*St. Thomas, June 1, 1853.*

HAVING been requested to give a legal opinion respecting the validity of a Danish bill of sale from the Vendue Director, passed in the year 1822, June the 5th, upon a negro woman called Present, said to be sold on public auction to a Mr. Francisco Comingo, which bill of sale has been produced by Mr. Antonio Guadalupe de Colon, of the island of Porto Rico, to establish his title to a negro woman called Maria del Carmen, which latter denies to be referred to in the bill of sale, or to have been ever presented at the auction mart of this island, but claims to be a British subject, stolen from the island of St. Kitts many years ago. I shall give the following opinion respecting the validity of said bill of sale as a proof in the present case, according to the Danish laws, and as if the claimant was here.

In the first instance, it strikes very strange to see it stated that the woman Present was sold at the request of Mr. Samuel Hokeb, according to power of attorney, but omit to state from whom that power was, or producing the power.

The Vendue Director with us can only convey proof that an auction has been held, but he cannot supply the deficiency of title, nor can he step in the place of the seller, and give validity to the title.

The title will at all times solely depend upon what right the seller had to the slave sold at auction, and therefore to give any valid title, it is always in the auction protocol stated who sells, or by power from whom any one sells. When such a power is wanted, and much more so where it is not even specifically stated for whose account the slave is sold, there exists no title whatsoever.

It was a first point in our laws respecting the sale of slaves, satisfactorily to show who was the seller, and also to prove his prior title.

Bills of sale in slaves were usually recorded, and the duty of the recorder ever was to examine on the records if the seller had legal title to such slaves, and whenever such did not appear on the records, the recorder would remark such on the bill recorded, as a deficiency of the same, under the penalty of paying the full value of such slave, should the title in time prove imperfect.

Mr. Samuel Hokeb, having in this case not named who his constituent was, nor proved any power, he could not convey any title whatever on the woman Present, sold at auction; and it appears very doubtful if he had any power, or if he wished it should appear who his constituent in this case was; for otherwise we can hardly see why he deviated from the usual established rule, so very necessary according to our laws, as a matter so necessary in the sale of a slave.

From the auction bill it can neither be seen if the woman Present was present at the auction or absent. Such being sometimes the case, that a slave who had been maron a long time was put up as absent, it was not difficult for a pretended owner, who had no legal title, to sell as absent a person whom he claimed as his slave, without any suspicion would be awakened at the time.

The holder of the auction deed can neither prove that either the woman was present at the sale, or supply the proofs of title, as the protocol is said to be lost; and we have therefore no security for the woman in question, either as the woman sold, or for whose account she was sold.

The second point which presents itself why this bill of sale cannot be any guarantee for Mr. A. G. Colon as owner of the woman in question, is that he claims not any property to a woman called Present, but to quite a different person, called Maria del Carmen, with us here, the identity of the name being the first point of consequence; and where that is so materially different, the bill of sale would with us not give the least title to the woman, and quite different and most ample proofs would be required to prove all circumstances of her sale from the original owner, the consent of Government for her removal to a foreign island, and everything most plainly and amply proved, as no value whatever would be given to a bill of sale so different from the name in question, besides the defects it otherwise labours under.

Thirdly. The woman Maria del Carmen, must, according to appearances, be about forty-five years of age; now when we look at the date of the bill of sale, it is said therein, June 5th, 1822, that a negro woman (*negerinde*) "Present" was sold. This is thirty-one years ago. If now we deduct thirty-one years from her present age, forty-five, we will find she was about fourteen years at that time. In the Danish language, by "*negerinde*," is understood none less than eighteen to twenty-two years old, or before they become mothers.

Before that time they are called "*nigerjuge*," same in the English *negrowoman* and *nigger-girl*. Now it is expressly in the present bill of sale said "*negerinden*" (*negrowoman*); had the said Maria del Carmen been presented at auction on 25th June, 1822, she would necessarily have been called "*negernigen*" (*negro girl*); but we see that it was not a young girl, nor a girl, but a woman who was sold; therefore it cannot at all be reasonable to suppose it could have been the present Maria del Carmen, and this would in our court be sufficient to decide the case.

I give it therefore as my decided opinion that the auction bill of sale in question does not, according to our laws, give M. Anthony Guadelupe de Colon any title to the woman in question.

(Signed) JAS. KINULFF,  
*Advocate by Royal Commission.*

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Inclosure 13 in No. 560.

*The Acting Governor of Porto Rico to Consul Lindegren.*

(Translation.)

Sir,

*Porto Rico, June 22, 1853.*

I HAVE forwarded the communication which you made me on the 9th instant, relative to the slave Maria del Carmen, as well as the document which accompanied it, to the District Judge at Caguas, so that justice may take its course as you have requested in your said communication, which I now answer.

During the absence of his Excellency the Captain-General,  
(Signed) MARQUIS DE ESPANA.

Inclosure 14 in No. 563.

*Consul Lindegren to Mr. Pickwood.*

Dear Sir,

*San Juan, Porto Rico, June 28, 1853.*

I HAVE received your private note of the 13th instant, with the letter from the clergyman at Sandy Point to you, by which I observe, that he could not trace out the baptism of Mary Gordon, owing to the irregular way in which the negroes give in their names, and I am afraid, therefore, that there is not any chance of discovering anything by these means, unless they insert the names of the godfather and godmother, who she told me were Betsy Tanial and Anthony Guave. This woman has since been sent to St. Thomas by the Governor, to see whether she can be identified with the bill of sale by which the present owner holds her, it having been made out there, but not to him. As, however, she was never landed at St. Thomas, it cannot be proved that she is the same person, and I have taken the opinion of the cleverest advocate in St. Thomas upon the bill of sale, who says decidedly that it is of no value whatever, and I have accordingly sent this opinion to the Governor.

This woman, Mary Gordon, tells me, that she saw at St. Thomas a woman, belonging to St. Kitts, who told her that her father, Dover Gordon, and one of her sisters, were still living, probably, therefore, at Sandy Point, and some information might, therefore, be obtained about her from one of them, and you will perhaps be so good as to make inquiries for them. I am sorry to give you all this trouble; but this does not involve the question of the liberty of one person only, for she has four children and two grandchildren who will be equally entitled to their freedom if the mother can be proved to have been unjustly subjected to slavery, and I am sure that the Governor as well as yourself would, therefore, be glad to assist me, as far as possible, in accomplishing the desirable object of their freedom.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN LINDEGREN.

Inclosure 15 in No. 560.

*The Governor of St. Thomas to the Captain-General of Porto Rico.*

Votre Excellence,

*Saint Thomas, le 24 Mai, 1853.*

J'AI l'honneur d'annoncer à votre Excellence que le Juge de St. Thomas a déclaré, sur les documents transcrits sur la question de la personne Maria del Carmen, qu'il n'a pas pu trouver des éclaircissements sur l'identité de la personne nommée Present, comme "le requérant de la vente," Samuel Hokeb, le directeur de la vente Niels Giellerup, et le commis Jacob Gartner, sont tous morts, et qu'il n'a aucun soupçon que le document ne soit pas expédié à St. Thomas, le 5 Juin, 1822. Les actes et le document sont retournés ci-joints.

Avec, &c.

(Signé) T. OXHOLM.

Inclosure 16 in No. 560.

*Mr. Pickwood to Consul Lindegren.*

Sir,

*St. Christopher, June 29, 1853.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you, by the direction of his Excellency the Governor, certified copies of the information made by Frances Guichard and Ann Bennett in the case of Mary Gordon.

His Excellency trusts that these documents will supply any deficiency that may have appeared in the chain of evidence already forwarded to you in this case, and it will afford his Excellency great satisfaction to learn that your humane exertions to effect the release of this much injured woman from a state of bondage, has been crowned with success.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EDWIN PICKWOOD.

Inclosure 17 in No. 560.

*Certificate.*

By his Excellency Edward Hay Drummond Hay, Esquire, Lieutenant-Governor of Her Britannic Majesty's Leeward Islands, and Governor of the said Island of St. Christopher; Chancellor, Vice-Admiral, and Ordinary of the same, &c., &c.

THESE are to certify that Edwin Pickwood, Esquire, is a Justice of the Peace in the said island, and that the signature appended to the annexed informations is his proper sign manual.

Given under my hand and seal at arms, at Government House, in the said island this twenty-ninth day of June, in the year of our Lord 1853.

(Signed) E. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

By his Excellency's command.

(Signed) EDWIN PICKWOOD,  
*Private Secretary.*

*Deposition.*

The information of Frances Guichard taken this twenty-fifth day of June, in the year of our Lord 1853, before the Undersigned, one of Her Britannic Majesty's Justices of the Peace, in and for the said island, who saith that—  
“I am a native of this island, born in the town of Sandy Point. I belonged to Mr. Maillard, my father purchased me from him when an infant. I do not know my age, but I was a girl at the taking of Martinique and Guadeloupe. I did not know ‘Mary Gordon’ personally, but I knew a widow living in Sandy Point called ‘Present Gordon,’ and I have often heard her, whilst speaking to another child of hers, make mention of her lost daughter ‘Mary,’ saying that she (the one spoken to) would never make the woman that the child she had lost would. I have often heard of the loss of ‘Mary Gordon.’ It was generally supposed that she was drowned. My father took me to St. Barts when quite young, where I resided for many years. I knew a Mr. Parson, who resided in Sandy Point; he came from St. Eustatias, and was a merchant here. When I returned from St. Barts, I met him here; he has been dead some years.”

(Signed) FRANCES <sup>her</sup> ~~X~~ <sub>mark</sub> GUICHARD.

Taken before me the day and year above mentioned, at Sandy Point,  
(Signed) EDWIN PICKWOOD,  
*Justice of the Peace.*

The information of Ann Bennett taken this twenty-fifth day of June 1853, before the Undersigned, one of Her Britannic Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said island, who saith that—"I have already upon a former examination stated that I knew 'Mary Gordon.' I also knew her mother who was called 'Present Gordon.' I have also related the circumstances of 'Mary Gordon's,' loss. I knew a Mr. Parson who resided in this town for many years. He came from St. Eustatias and kept a store, selling 'dry goods.' The last house he lived in was next door to this Police Station. The premises belonged to one Mrs. Day. I do not know my age, but 'Mary Gordon' was lost before I was old enough to have children and I have now fifteen grandchildren."

(Signed) ANN <sup>her</sup> ~~mark~~ BENNETT.

Taken before me the day and year above-mentioned, at Sandy Point,  
(Signed) EDWIN PICKWOOD,  
*Justice of the Peace.*

Inclosure 18 in No. 560.

*Consul Lindegren to the Governor of St. Christopher.*

Sir,

*San Juan, Porto Rico, October 26, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of Mr. Pickwood's letter of the 29th June last, written by your Excellency's directions, containing certified informations made by Frances Guichard and Ann Bennett, in the case of Mary Gordon, which, however, do not appear to contain anything more to establish her case beyond confirming the previous depositions as the fact of the parties knowing Mr. Parsons whom Mary Gordon referred to as being able to prove her baptism, shows only that her knowledge of such a person was correct; and I am sorry to find, by Mr. Pickwood's private communication of the 13th June, that the clergyman at Sandy Point had not been able, on examining the books, to identify Mary Gordon among the baptisms, though there were some simply under the name of Mary. The case of Mary Gordon has been carried on before the judge, at Caguas, the town where the owner of Mary Gordon resides, and she has been placed in deposit and claimed by the Syndic or Protector of Slaves there, who brought forward such evidence as he could collect from the woman, as well as such as I had been able to transmit to the Governor; but I am sorry to say, that the judge has decided in favour of the owner, and it will now be brought forward by appeal before the Royal Court of Audiencia. I have seen the papers, and perceive, among the objections brought forward by the owner, the following, which induce me to trouble your Excellency.

1. That the origin of Mary Gordon, or as she is called here Maria del Carmen, is not proved, and whether she is a slave or not.
2. If the mother was free and had been a slave, whether she was born during her mother's slavery or afterwards?
3. The certificate of baptism wanted.
4. She appears to have been known, at Sandy Point, under the name of Mary, and her mother is called, in one deposition from St. Kitts, Mary, and in another, Present Gordon, under which latter name of Present, she was called in the bill of sale, when she was pretended to be sold in St. Thomas. Why was she called under these two names?
5. The depositions are not stated to have been taken upon oath, and, therefore, of no value.

The great point to be attained, and where the principal difficulty appears to lay, is in proving the baptism. The clergyman says, he finds Marys, but no Mary Gordon in the books; but is it not possible that she may have been baptized under the name of Mary Present, and might not something be found out by referring to the death of William Gordon, the master of her mother, who

became free at his death, for her freedom must surely be registered, and by that perhaps the freedom of the daughter might be proved? perhaps, also, the custom-house books, at the end of May, 1822, might show whether a vessel was at Sandy Point then, which brought a cargo of salt and took away a cargo of oranges, the name of the master of which was Monge, as she says, that a person of that name carried her away, though he may have been only the supercargo. When Mary Gordon was sent to St. Thomas, a little while ago, to ascertain whether she was the person who had been sold there, she was told that one of her parents was still alive; but if so, I think that Mr. Pickwood would have heard of it when he took the trouble to go to Sandy Point. I mention all these things as they occur to me, in hopes of being able to answer the owner's objections, and of some clue being found to prove the poor woman's case; and I appeal to your Excellency's humanity in her behalf, to assist me in obtaining her freedom, for this is not the case of one individual alone, but she has three daughters, a son, and two grandchildren, altogether seven persons, who will be entitled to their liberty if I can prove her case, and although I entertain no doubt in the matter myself, it is necessary that this should be done to enable me to satisfy Her Majesty's Government, who are very alive to questions of this nature, in case I should hereafter find it necessary to appeal to them for their interference with the Court of Spain, from any difficulties which may be started here, for the owner will use every exertion to establish his right, as, independent of the loss of the slaves, he will have to indemnify them for their services if it should be given against him. I should be glad, also, to know whether the depositions in the case before Mr. Pickwood, of Ann Bennett and Frances Christopher, both of St. Ann Sandy Point, taken on the 4th March, 1853, and of Frances Guichard and Ann Bennett, taken on the 25th June, 1853, were upon oath, as this is not stated in the information, and if so, I should be glad for a certified document to that effect, to present to the Governor in answer to the objections made by the owner, that they had not been sworn to.

I am sorry to be so troublesome, which, under the circumstances of the case, your Excellency will, I trust, pardon, and begging the favour your Excellency's early attention to it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN LINDEGREN.

Inclosure 19 in No. 560.

*Mr. Pickwood to Consul Lindegren.*

Sir,

*St. Christopher, September 12, 1854.*

I AM directed by the Lieutenant-Governor to inform you, that he accidentally gathered from Dr. Dyett, in a recent conversation, that you had not received a reply to your letter to his Excellency of the 26th October last. The Lieutenant-Governor regrets you did not think proper to communicate directly with his Excellency, or with Mr. Pickwood, as he would have been able earlier to have done that which I am now desired by him to do, namely, to supply the omission occasioned by the miscarriage of Mr. Pickwood's answer, which was written shortly after the receipt of your letter.

The endeavours used to discover any points that could be of service in proving Mary Gordon's claim to British protection, have, much to the Lieutenant-Governor's regret, failed.

Justices Dyett and Pickwood, who have taken deep interest in the case, have been indefatigable in their inquiries, but to no further effect than is now before you.

The custom-house books afford no information with regard to the vessel in which Monge is said to have carried Mary away. By a general order of the authorities in England the manifests have been periodically destroyed, and we are thus deprived of the records that might have given authenticity to this part of the poor woman's tale.

The matter, however, has not been permitted to drop; and should the

CLASS B.

Lieutenant-Governor become possessed of any evidence such as you seek, it will be communicated to you without delay.

I have the honour to transmit to you a certificate that the depositions to which you refer were sworn to before Mr. Justice Pickwood.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. E. RINGLER THOMPSON,  
*Private Secretary.*

Inclosure 20 in No. 560.

*Certificate.*

*St. Christopher.*

I HEREBY certify that the examinations of Anne Bennett and Frances Christopher, both of St. Anne's, Sandy Point, in this island, taken on the twenty-fourth day of March, 1853, and of Frances Guichard and Anne Bennett, on the twenty-fifth of June, 1853, in the case of Mary Gordon, were taken before me upon oath by command of the Lieutenant-Governor.

(Signed) EDWIN PICKWOOD,  
*Justice of the Peace.*

By his Excellency Edward Hay Drummond Hay, Esquire, Lieutenant-Governor of the Leeward Islands, administering the Government of St. Christopher and Anguilla, Chancellor, Vice-Admiral, and Ordinary of the same, &c., &c., &c.

These are to certify that the above-named Edwin Pickwood is, and was, at the time above-mentioned, a Justice of the Peace within this island, and that the signature above attached is his proper sign manual.

Given under my hand and seal at arms, at Government-House, Saint Christopher, this eleventh day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

(Signed) E. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure 21 in No. 560.

*Consul Lindegren to the Captain-General of Porto Rico.*

Sir,

*San Juan, Porto Rico, April 15, 1854.*

I HAVE not troubled your Excellency further about the woman Maria del Carmen, nor have I considered it requisite to trouble Her Britannic Majesty's Government upon the subject, as I felt certain that the suit brought by the Syndic of Caguas against the owner, Don Antonio Guadalupe Colon, would have terminated favourably to her. I find however that the Judge at Caguas decided against her, and that the Royal Audiencia have confirmed his sentence. It does not concern me as Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, whether the law authorities here, consider that Don Antonio Guadalupe Colon has a good title to the slave or not, I have only in my public capacity to look to one thing, and that is, that she is a British subject, as such she is acknowledged to be in the receipt given by Francisco Monge for the purchase of her by Antonio Colon, copy of which I beg to inclose,\* the original being in the expediente in the Royal Court of Audiencia, the account also which she gave of herself as forwarded by me to your Excellency on the 8th February, is confirmed by the documents sent by the Governor of St. Kitts which I transmitted to your Excellency on the 23rd April last. It is my duty therefore to claim her, which I now do respectfully as a British subject, and whether she was a slave or a free person in that colony, does not alter her case as agreeable to the British Act of Parliament, passed in 1807, in the forty-sixth year of

\* See Inclosure 25.

George IIIrd, cap. 52, any slave carried out of a British colony without the consent of the authorities, becomes the property of the Government and is from that moment free, and she comes under the class of British subjects which the Marquis de Miraflores in his letter of the 30th January, 1852, desired the then Captain-General of Porto Rico to give up. Her children are also equally entitled to their freedom, I beg therefore to recommend this case to your Excellency's favourable consideration, it being a subject on which I feel certain that Her Britannic Majesty's Government will take great interest, as they do in all cases where the liberty of any of Her Majesty's subjects are interested.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOHN LINDEGREN.

Inclosure 22 in No. 560.

*The Captain-General of Porto Rico to Consul Lindegren.*

(Translation.)

Sir,

*Porto Rico, May 22, 1854.*

I HAVE forwarded the letter which you addressed me on the 15th of last month respecting the suit of the slave Maria del Carmen with her master Don Guadalupe Colon, to the Royal Audiencia, for the purposes of justice of which I inform you in answer.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed) FERNANDO DE NORZAGARAY.

Inclosure 23 in No. 560.

*The Captain-General of Porto Rico to Consul Lindegren.*

(Translation.)

Sir,

*Porto Rico, October 9, 1854.*

THE Royal Audiencia have decided in the suit respecting the liberty of the slave Maria del Carmen, that the sentence already passed by them shall be carried into its due effect, the said slave therefore is to be put in the possession of her master until she establishes her liberty with better proofs than those which she has hitherto brought forward, and they have consequently ordered that she shall be forwarded to the judge of the first instance at Caguas for the necessary purposes, but as you communicated to me the proceedings of Maria del Carmen, I communicate to you the result of them, informing you at the same time that there were legitimate grounds for defence, and that she had the representative which the law grants her.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed) FERNANDO DE NORZAGARAY.

Inclosure 24 in No. 560.

*Consul Lindegren to the Captain-General of Porto Rico.*

Sir,

*San Juan, Porto Rico, October 10, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's letter of yesterday, and observe what you are pleased to say respecting Maria del Carmen. This woman placed herself under my protection as a British subject, and I defy any one to prove that she is not such. I cannot therefore consent, and must protest against her being given up to the person out of whose hands she was taken by the Captain-General then governing the island. In my letter of the 15th April, I stated to your Excellency that in my position as Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, I had nothing to do with the Royal Audiencia in this case, and it is without any reference to the suit which has been carried on by the Syndic at Caguas in the name of Maria del Carmen, that I have

made this claim upon your Excellency, supported by the receipt given for the purchase money when she a British subject as therein stated, was so unjustly sold, and the other statements contained in the same letter, but to none of which I am sorry to see has your Excellency favoured me with a reply. I have now no other alternative but to refer this woman's case home without further delay for the consideration of Her Britannic Majesty's Government, and in the meantime, I shall be extremely obliged to your Excellency, if you will be so good as to inquire of the Royal Audiencia by what Spanish law a British subject can be sold as a slave here, as I know of none.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN LINDEGREN.

Inclosure 25 in No. 560.

*Receipt given by Don Francisco Monge to Don Antonio Guadalupe Colon, for the purchase-money of Maria del Carmen.*

(Translation.)

THESE are to certify that I, Don Francisco Monge, inhabitant of the city of Puerto Rico, have received of Don Guadalupe Colon, inhabitant of Caguas, the sum of 200 dollars, in the usual and current money of the Province, the value of a slave belonging to me, which I have sold him, of the English nation, named Maria del Carmen, of very dark colour, and ordinary height, under her competent bill of sale, from the Danish Government, and in proof of the receipt of the said sum, I sign this in the presence of Don Miguel Echeveria, and Don Anastacio Huertas, inhabitants. At Caguas, on the 5th of October, in 1822.

(Signed) FRANCISCO MONGE.

Witness, MIGUEL ECHEVARIA.  
ANSTACIO HUERTAS.

Inclosure 26 in No. 560.

*Bill of Sale.*

(Notarial translation.)

Niels Giellerup, Councillor of Justice and Vendue Director at St. Thomas,

MAKE known, that in the year 1822, the 5th of June, by virtue of my office, and in conformity with the Royal Ordinance, dated 19th December, 1693, regarding Vendues, at previous request of Mr. Samuel Hokeb, according to power of attorney, I have, at public vendue, offered out and sold the negro woman Present, according to the conditions stipulated for the vendue; where Francisco Comongo became the highest bidder for the sum of 131 dollars, for which sum of 131 dollars, the said negro woman present was knocked down to Francisco Comongo, for which purpose this bill of sale is granted to him, and he and his heirs may make the best use they know, will, or can, of the same

Witness my hand, and the seal of the Jurisdiction, datum ut ultra.

(Seal.)

(Signed) N. GIELLERUP.

I, the Undersigned, L. C. Gad, Deputy Notary Public and Royal for this Island of St. Thomas, do hereby certify that the preceding translation is truly and faithfully made from the foregoing copy of an original bill of sale, in the Danish language.

Witness my hand and seal of office in St. Thomas, this sixteenth day of May, eighteen hundred and fifty-three.

(Seal of Office.)

(Signed)

L. C. GAD,  
*Notary Public.*

Certifico que la firma y rubrica que precede de L. Gad, notario publico y jurado-constituida en esta isla, es la propria y verdadera y la que usa en todos sus escritos para que se dé entera fé en juicio y fuera de el.

Tambien certifico que este documento esta hecho segun las leyes de este pais, que prohiben el uso del papel sellado en los documentos de esta clase. Y para que asi consté lo firmo y sello en San Tomas al primer dia del mes de Junio de mil ocho cientos cincuenta y tres años.

*El Consul de España,*  
ISIDRO LOPEZ DE ARZE.

(Firmado)

Traducion fidedigna del idioma Ingles á el Castellano hecha en esta Cancelleria del adjunto certificado de Venta Publica en esta isla el año de 1822.

Niels Giellerup, Juiz de Justicia y Director de la Venta Publica de San Tomas, hago saber, que en el año 1822, el 5 de Junio, con poder de mi destino y en conformidad con la Real Ordenanza fechada 19 Diciembre de 1693, concerniente á ventas publicas y á ruego particular del Señor Don Samuel Hokeb, segun poder otorgadole, he ofrecido en publica subasta la negra Present, de acuerdo con las condiciones estipuladas por la venta en publica subasta, en la que Francisco Comongo, fué mayor rematador por la suma de 131\$ por cuya cantidad de ciento treinta y un pesos la dicha negra Present le fué adjudicada, por cuyo motivo se le concedio este papel de venta a él y sus herederos para que puedan hacer el mejor uso que sepan, puedan y quieran, de dicha venta.

Testigo mi firma y el sello de mi juridiccion fecha *ut antes*.

(Firmado) N. GIELLERUP.

*El Consul de España,*  
ISIDRO LOPEZ DE ARZE.  
(Sello del Consulado.)

No. 561.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Lindegren.*

Sir

*Foreign Office, November 24, 1854.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 13th of October, respecting the case of Mary Gordon, who was kidnapped from St. Kitts several years ago, and has been kept in slavery in Porto Rico; and I have to convey to you my approval of the active and persevering exertions which you have made in order to obtain the release of this unfortunate woman, and of her children and grandchildren.

I have instructed Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid to make a representation in favour of this woman to the Spanish Government, and to express the hope of Her Majesty's Government that she and her issue may be liberated.

You will transmit to me an account of the expenses which you have incurred in obtaining evidence and in carrying on the suit on behalf of Mary Gordon, and I have to authorize you to draw a bill for the amount, at three months' date, upon the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.



No. 562.

*Consul Lindegren to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 1, 1855.)*

My Lord,

*San Juan, Porto Rico, December 13, 1854.*

I HAD the honour to address your Lordship on the 13th October, inclosing sundry letters and papers relative to the case of Maria del Carmen, a British subject, whom I have ineffectually been endeavouring to get released from slavery here, and I now take the liberty of inclosing translation of a letter dated the 24th of November last, written by his Excellency the Captain-General in answer to mine of the 10th of October last, which I considered it requisite to take notice of, as his Excellency appeared to consider that I had unnecessarily interfered in this woman's behalf, and had not made the claim until I had seen, upon presentation of the papers, that she was a British subject, whereas I had made it several months previously. His Excellency also stated, that she had made a claim herself not founded upon any national grounds, but stated that she had been brought from St. Thomas with the prospect of receiving some money here. This was taken from her examination in the suit; but his Excellency does not advert to her having stated, shortly afterwards, in the same examination, that she was a native of St. Kitts, all of which I have brought forward in the letter which I wrote his Excellency on the 30th of November last, copy of which I have also the honour to inclose for your Lordship's information, since which I have not received any further communication from his Excellency upon the subject.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) JOHN LINDEGREN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 562.

*The Captain-General of Porto Rico to Consul Lindegren.*

(Translation.)

Sir,

*Porto Rico, November 24, 1854.*

I AM going to answer, in a few words, your communication of the 10th of October last, relative to the slave Maria del Carmen, belonging to Don Guadalupe Colon, an inhabitant of Caguas.

When, on the 8th of February, you made known to me the proceedings of the said slave, I informed you that I had recommended the case to the competent tribunal in deference to the application which you made me on her behalf. I interfered, by so doing, in a business appertaining to justice, alone to oblige you, that a fact might be ascertained which the Spanish laws punish with severity. I set aside also the consideration that you in your position as Consul could not interfere in an affair like the present one, because I have always endeavoured to satisfy the demands which you have made upon me without deviating from the boundaries fixed by the laws, but you insist in the defence of a slave who commenced a suit appearing in it without nationality or proper account of herself, alleging only that she had been brought from St. Thomas by Don Francisco Monge, with the promise of receiving certain property in this island, that after a year and when the suit had been brought to proof, you learn that she was a British subject, and upon that you undertook to found your claim.

That you may be satisfied of the want of foundation for your claim, I will tell you that it was decided upon according to the proceedings of justice, and has been carried into effect, which is equivalent to say, that the slavery of Maria del Carmen is a legal fact, and that after the sentence of the Royal Audiencia of which I informed you on the 9th of last month, there are no other steps to pursue but to make a complaint to the Supreme Tribunal of Grace and Justice of notorious injustice, and that if the defender of Maria del Carmen who has

not been wanting in any activity in the affair does not do this, it is a proof that there are no good grounds for proceeding in it. All which I point out to you in answer to your last above cited letter.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed) FERNANDO DE NORZAGARAY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 562.

*Consul Lindegren to the Captain-General of Porto Rico.*

Sir,

*Porto Rico, November 30, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 24th instant, in answer to mine of the 10th of October last, the contents of which caused me much surprise, and I cannot in justice to myself avoid addressing to your Excellency a few words in reply. Fully sensible of the courtesy with which your Excellency has always received my communications, I am not aware that I have ever made applications either to your Excellency or to any preceding Captain-General which I was not called upon to make in my official situation; but it would seem from your Excellency's letter that I had unnecessarily interfered in the case of Maria del Carmen, and not applied for her release until I had discovered upon the production of the proceedings of the suit carried on in her name with her master that she was a British subject, whereas I think it must have escaped the notice of your Excellency that I applied to your Excellency on the 8th of February, 1853, several months before the papers were sent up here for her release, in consequence of her application to me for assistance, and she gave so clear a statement of herself and the manner in which she had been carried off from St. Kitts, of which island she has in her suit declared that she was a native, that I entertained no doubt of her being a British subject. Her story has also been subsequently confirmed by evidences from that island which I forwarded to your Excellency when you wrote me that her cause was before the tribunal at Caguas, and that justice would be done her. Her advocate there also felt so certain of success, that even after the sentence was given against her by the judge at Caguas, he wrote me that he felt certain that the sentence would be revoked by the Royal Audiencia, which is the reason why I did not proceed further in my application then to your Excellency. Before, however, the sentence was passed here, her advocate, Don Esteban Calderon, who had defended her cause in Caguas, unfortunately died suddenly, and then finding that the sentence had been given against her, I considered it my duty to take up her cause myself, by addressing myself to your Excellency in the manner I did in my letter of the 15th of April last, when I certainly availed myself of Monge's receipt, acknowledging Maria del Carmen to be a British subject, for although all those to whom I shewed the papers as well as the leading authorities at St. Kitts considered with me, that sufficient proof had been produced to establish her claim, this paper of itself clearly established her right to her freedom, for I know of no law which can make a British subject a lawful slave at Porto Rico; and it was only to your Excellency that I could apply for redress under the instructions written by the Marquis de Miraflores to the Captain-General of Porto Rico on the 30th January, 1852 (arising from complaints made by Her Britannic Majesty's Government, of many persons having been kidnapped from the British islands), to release all British subjects unjustly detained there in slavery; and I feel therefore confident that this is a case in which I am justified in calling for your Excellency's interference, as she comes under the description of those referred to in the Marquis de Miraflores's letter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN LINDEGREN.

No 563.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Lindegren.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, January 15, 1855.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 13th of December, inclosing copies of further correspondence between yourself and the Captain-General of Porto Rico respecting the case of Maria del Carmen, and I have to state to you that I approve your proceedings in this matter. You will inform the Captain-General that Her Majesty's Government take much interest in this poor woman's case, and I hope that she will be set at liberty.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

SPAIN. (*Consular*)—*St. Jago de Cuba.*

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No. 564.

*Consul Forbes to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 22.)*

My Lord,

*St. Jago de Cuba, December 31, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit inclosed for your Lordship's perusal, copies of a correspondence between Judge Gutierrez and Acting-Consul Beattie, in the claim to freedom of the negro Juan (Nancy's son) whose case was again opened here, in the present year, by a superior order.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAMES FORBES.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 564.

*Señor Gutierrez to Acting-Consul Beattie.*

*St. Jago de Cuba, September 28, 1854.*

IN consequence of the "escrito" of the Syndic Procurator-General in the proceedings formed regarding the liberty of the negro Juan Herrera, I have ordered the present communication to be addressed to you, that you may transmit a certified copy of the law, which since 1st January, 1825, was in force in the Island of Jamaica, prohibiting the exportation of slaves from said Island, which as is believed, is by the Act 5 Geo. IV, cap. 113, their sole embarkation being sufficient for their confiscation.

And I say so to you, hoping for the result as soon as possible, seeing that the cause is now passing through the term of proof.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed) JOSE LUIS GUTIERREZ.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 564.

*Acting-Consul Beattie to Señor Gutierrez.*

Sir,

*St. Jago de Cuba, October 2, 1854.*

I HAVE this day received your communication dated 28th September, in which you request me to furnish you as soon as possible with a certified copy of the law which prohibited, since the 1st January, 1825, the exportation of slaves Jamaica (or any other British possession) under pain of confiscation, the same from having been asked for by the Syndic in the proceedings pending with regard to the right of the negro Juan Herrera to freedom.

In compliance with said request I have the honour to hand you inclosed a printed copy of the British Act of Parliament 5 Geo. IV, cap. 113, in order that the clauses bearing on the case in question may be translated for your tribunal by the Public Interpreter.

The clauses 2, 3, 14, 16, 17, and 42, were on a former occasion pointed out  
CLASS B.

as bearing particularly on a similar case (the claim of the negress Betsy and family to freedom which was decided in their favour).

I have to observe that the copy of the Act of Parliament now transmitted was printed at the time it was passed by the King's printer, and would be admitted as authentic evidence in any British court of justice.

It only remains for me to state, that as the said Act of Parliament constitutes part of the archives of this Consulate, I shall feel obliged by your returning it to me as soon as you have obtained the necessary translations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHD. H. BEATTIE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 564.

*Señor Gutierrez to Acting-Consul Beattie.*

(Translation.)

*St. Jago de Cuba, October 20, 1854.*

I TRANSMIT to you the printed paper which you were pleased to send to me with your oficio of 2nd current, and which was asked from you by this tribunal, in consequence of the Syndic having solicited it in the proof which he is adducing in the proceedings regarding the liberty of the negro Juan Herrera, son of the negress Nancy.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed) JOSE LUIS GUTIERREZ.

## TRIPOLI.

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No. 565.

*Consul Herman to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 31.)*

My Lord,

*Tripoli, January 22, 1855.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Slave Returns of this Consulate as well as of the Vice-Consulates of Bengazi, Morzouk, Derna, and Mesurata, for the year 1854.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) G. F. HERMAN.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 565.

RETURN of Slaves, Male and Female (the sex not being specified in the Custom-House Books), exported from the Port of Tripoli, during the year 1854.

1853	-	-	-	858
1854	-	-	-	472
				386
	Decrease	-	-	386

*Tripoli, January 22, 1855.*

(Signed) G. F. HERMAN.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 565.

RETURN of the Number of Negroes Exported from Bengazi during the Year 1854.

The total number of negroes shipped from this port during the course of the past year amounts to - 526

*Bengazi, January 1, 1855.*

(Signed) F. H. S. WERRY, *Vice-Consul.*

N.B. The number of negroes exported from Bengazi during the year 1853 was - - - - 300

	Increase	-	-	226
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## Inclosure 3 in No. 565.

PROSPETTO del numero di Schiavi arrivati in Mourzouk nel corso dell'anno 1854.

Numero.	Provenienza.	Maschi.	Feminine.	Valore Medio.	Mortalità in viaggio.	Mortalità in città.	Per dove Diretti.
1,766	Bornu.....	950	816	£ 21,550	15%	7%	Per Tripoli, Garien.
221	Vadai.....	60	161	2,850	uno	0	Gabel, Bengazi.
662	Haussa ...	285	377	7,650	5%	2%	Ed Egitto.
251	Gaat .....	184	67	2,770	0	0	
2,900		1,479	1,421	£34,920			

La mortalità proviene da disinteria, febbre, variolo, e forte strapazzo.

Il valore dei maschi è calcolato a £10 circa l'uno; le femmine a £14 circa l'uno, prezzo medio.

Vice-Consolato Britannico,

Mourzouk, 31 Dicembre, 1854.

(Firmato)

G. B. GAGLIUFFI.

NB.—Imported in 1854	..	..	..	..	..	2,900
Ditto in 1853	..	..	..	..	..	2,609
Increase	..	..	..	..	..	291

(Translation.)

The mortality proceeds from dysentery, fever, small pox, and fatigue.

The value of the male slaves is calculated at about £14 each; that of the females, at about £10 each, average price.

## Inclosure 4 in No. 565.

RITORNO del Commercio degli Schiavi in Derna durante 1854.

Data 1854.	Qualità del Legno.	Nome.	Capitano.	Nazione.	Destino.	Maschi.	Feminine.	Totale.
Agosto 10	Suma ....	Misghm ..	H. Pisachi	Ottomane	Canea.....	0	1	1
11	Suma ....	Cristino ..	Hasanachi	Ottomane	Canea.....	1	0	1
						Totale No.		2

I hereby certify that this return was received in a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Aquilina.

(Signed)

MEADE,

Tripoli, 22 January, 1855.

Vice-Consul.

NB.—No Return received for 1853.

## Inclosure 5 in No. 565.

## RETURN of Slaves of the Vice-Consulate of Misurata for the Year 1854.

		Arrived.			Departed.
Males	-	300	Males	-	250
Females	-	200	Females	-	160
		<hr/>			<hr/>
Total	-	500	Total	-	410

Misurata, December 31, 1854.

(Signed)

C. T. WARRINGTON.

N.B. No Return received for 1853.



## TURKEY.

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No. 566.

*Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 27.)*

My Lord,

*Therapia, September 9, 1854.*

HER Majesty's Government, sympathizing with the nation at large, has long displayed a steady determination to put down the traffic in human creatures wherever it can be reached by their authority, their power, or their influence. In this country, the usages of society and the sanctions of religion, so fence round the practice of slavery, maintained by importation, that it is extremely difficult to obtain any mitigation, and still less a relinquishment, of the practice. The most zealous abolitionists acknowledge, that in Turkey, the slave, whatever be his complexion, has much to console him for the loss of liberty, and much to diminish his claim on the benevolent interference of free Christians. Her Majesty's Government and its agents have not, however, been backward in pleading the cause of humanity in the East, as they have long been foremost in asserting its rights in the West, and some effective attempts to narrow the circle of slavery have, from time to time, distinguished their progress, and encouraged their hopes of final success.

While the present eventful contest brings the Sultan's armies into collision with those of Russia, it also brings them into communication with the inhabitants of countries which, like Circassia and Georgia, have long supplied the slave-markets of Turkey, and particularly that of Constantinople, with the choicest commodities. The opportunity has not been neglected, and there is much reason to believe that the Traffic, which was carried on clandestinely before the war, in defiance of Russian prohibitions, has, of late, thrown off all disguise, and braved publicity without danger as without shame.

It appears that Admiral Hamelin was the first to give notice of its revival, and at his suggestion the French Embassy has more than once declared its desire to remonstrate with the Porte on that account. For my own part, however willing to join in so laudable a work, I have felt the difficulty of acting with effect, and I am still apprehensive that an unsuccessful attack may strengthen a bad cause. Fresh circumstances coming to my knowledge, have, however, overpowered these considerations, and a few days ago, I addressed an instruction to M. Pisani for communication to Reshid Pasha. M. Benedetti has taken the same course. I preferred the form of an instruction because it allowed me to employ stronger expressions without offence, and left open the more formal mode of proceeding by note, in case of necessity.

A copy of the instruction is inclosed herewith for your Lordship's information, and I also forward a copy of M. Pisani's report apprising me of the manner in which my communication has been received.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 566.

*Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to M. Pisani.*

Sir,

*Therapia, August 29, 1854.*

I HAVE heard with feelings of painful concern that the retirement of the Russians from certain parts of Circassia, and the irruption of the Turkish forces last year into Georgia, have been attended with consequences which tarnish the brightness of military success, and diminish the satisfaction to be derived from the Sultan's triumph in a just cause. The circumstances to which I allude, are the sale of women and children, taken from the Christian population of Georgia, and the revival of a Traffic in Slaves from among the Mahometan population of Circassia. It is well known that such acts, with respect to Christians, have none but a religious justification in the eyes of a Mussulman, and even this uncertain plea extends not to children of tender age. It is also notorious that to enslave a Mahometan is illegal in any country, where the creed of Mahomet prevails.

Notwithstanding these unquestionable truths, one kind of slavery insulting to Christians, and another condemned by Mahometans,—both being a scandal to humanity,—have been of late revived, and are now practised with impunity by the Sultan's subjects, at the very seat of Government. Worse than all this, the renewal of atrocities, which cannot be too strongly reprobated, is made to stand in contrast with the enemy's conduct in that respect, and the Sultan's allies, without whose cooperation the very existence of the Turkish empire would be endangered, Christians in faith, and champions of legality, are called to assist at outrages, which, in both characters, they repudiate with unutterable abhorrence.

These are not idle assertions. Circassians themselves are here to bear witness to what concerns their own country. I have received authentic information of Georgian children, brought to Constantinople, as slaves, in an Austrian steamer, and conveyed to a person high in the Turkish employment. It is matter of public notoriety that boys and girls from Georgia are sold in Pera and Galata.

Such things are inhuman enough at any time. They are scarcely credible when viewed as public transactions occurring at Constantinople under the reign of so benevolent a Sovereign as the present Sultan. Brought to notice at a time when Christian Powers have sent their armies and squadrons into Turkey for its defence, and when those armies and squadrons, composed of Christians, are fighting side by side with Mussulmans, and confounding all differences of religion in the common cause of humanity, and national independence, they set at nought every calculation, and excite the most unqualified disgust.

There are persons who distinguish between slavery in the East, and slavery in the West. The distinction is not wholly unfounded. Unlike the negro in America, the slave in Turkey is rather a domestic servant than a field-drudge, or beast of burthen. He is not ostensibly ill-treated. If a male, he rises occasionally to posts of profit and honour: if a female, ease, and even luxury, may be her portion in the harem of some court favorite or opulent functionary. The degradation, nevertheless, remains; and the privation of liberty, not forfeited by crime, is itself an intolerable evil. But the injury does not stop there; the slave can hold no property; he is a property himself: and worse than all, he is but too often an instrument of vice, and sometimes even of crime. His life is at his owner's mercy. If a Christian, his children are born to slavery, as if to reconcile those, who never can be parents, to the mutilation which deprived them of that hope. In one respect there is no difference between Negro and Circassian slavery. Black or white, wherever slavery exists, the whole society suffers. A curse is on the trade. Dealer and owner are alike infected by the taint. They treat their fellow-creatures like brutes, and are themselves brutalized in return.

In Turkey, where the disease, appearing in a milder form, is, nevertheless fatal to a sound state of health; imported slaves fill many places in the state, and most places in private families, which might be better occupied by free natives. So placed, they minister to those habits of expense and sensuality

which undermine the strength of the Empire, and convey but too often the sentiments of a slave, into posts of high command, and honourable trust.

Such being the case, it is not too much to expect that in its own interest, as well as from consideration for its allies, the Porte will exert itself to check the barbarous and shameful practice which I have described. Let preventive measures be applied to three stages of the Traffic—to purchase, to conveyance, and to sale. Let a firman declare the Sultan's pleasure in these respects. Let peremptory instructions prohibiting the purchase of slaves be sent to the Commanders of His Majesty's forces. Let the conveyance of slaves be treated as contraband, on the responsibility of all concerned. Let their sale within the Sultan's dominions be strictly prevented by the police, and every transgression be visited with punishment on buyer and seller alike.

So long as the trade is permitted or connived at, so long as preventive measures, capable of enforcement, are loosely, or not at all, employed, the Turkish authorities will justly be open to censure, and incur, to their peril, the charge of acting upon principles inconsistent in spirit and effect with the existing alliances. Let them beware of producing throughout Christian Europe, a total relaxation of that enthusiasm for the Sultan's cause which has hitherto saved his empire from the grasp of Russia.

You will read this instruction to the Ottoman Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and you will leave a copy and Turkish translation of it in His Highness's hands.

I have reason to believe that the French Embassy takes a similar step.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 566.

*M. Pisani to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.*

My Lord,

*Pera, September 7, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I read to Reshid Pasha, and left in his hands a copy and Turkish translation of your Excellency's instruction of the 29th ultimo, relating to the revival of Traffic in Slaves from Georgia and Circassia.

His Highness seems aware of the importance and propriety that an end should be put to such a Trade, and promised to communicate with his colleagues, and take the Sultan's pleasure as to the preventive measures to be adopted for the abolition of similar transactions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. PISANI.

No. 567.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.*

My Lord,

*Foreign Office, September 27, 1854.*

HER Majesty's Government have read with the greatest satisfaction your Excellency's admirable instruction to M. Pisani respecting the Trade in Circassian and Georgian slaves, which is inclosed in your despatch of the 9th of September.

It is unnecessary to say that Her Majesty's Government have learned with indignation that the services which the allies have rendered to the Sultan should have aggravated a state of things so atrocious and disgusting. The honour of England, no less than the interests of humanity, require that no effort should be spared at this moment for the suppression of slavery in the Ottoman dominions; and if the necessary measures for that purpose are not taken by the Turkish Government, you will make a more formal application to the Porte; and you will at all events inform Reshid Pasha that the subject

engages the serious attention of Her Majesty's Government, who trust that the Turkish Ministers will have the sagacity to appreciate your Excellency's advice and the moral courage to act upon it, and, by putting an end to this hateful system, to promote the future welfare of Turkey.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

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No. 568.

*Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 30.)*

My Lord,

*Therapia, September 19, 1854.*

I HAVE learnt from Reshid Pasha that the Porte has taken into favourable consideration my remonstrances and suggestions on the subject of slaves imported from Georgia and Circassia.

His Highness has authorized me to expect that orders will speedily be given to prevent the continuance of so shameful a Traffic, and that a corresponding official communication is to be addressed to the British and French Embassies.

I shall lose no time in forwarding to your Lordship any such communication as soon as I receive it.

Meanwhile, it is greatly to be lamented that vessels under the Austrian flag, I mean those which belong to the Austrian Lloyd's Company, are allowed to convey slaves.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

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No. 569.

*Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 8.)*

My Lord,

*Therapia, September 25, 1854.*

THE Sultan has given his formal sanction to the measures proposed to him by the Porte on my demand, concerted with the French Chargé d'Affaires, for the suppression, if possible, of the Traffic in Slaves from Georgia and Circassia. I expect to have copies, in three or four days, of the firman now in preparation for giving effect to the Porte's intention. They shall be transmitted to your Lordship, if not by the next messenger, as I hope, at least, by the earliest opportunity.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

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No. 570.

*Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 21.)*

My Lord,

*Therapia, October 9, 1854.*

THE Imperial firmans prepared in virtue of my remonstrances for the repression of that pernicious Traffic in Slaves, which has so long contaminated the relations of Turkey with Georgia and Circassia, have been communicated to me by Reshid Pasha, and I have now the greatest satisfaction in forwarding translations of them to your Lordship herewith.

The final clause in each was added to the original draft at my particular request; and if the enforcement of the Sultan's commands be made, as I hope, to correspond with the language in which they are couched, a mortal blow has been given to one of the most destructive evils under which this empire languishes.

CLASS B.

I have suggested to Reshid Pasha the expediency of communicating the firmans officially to the foreign Representatives here, and of calling the Internuncio's attention, as I have myself done in confidence, to the manner in which vessels under the Austrian flag are allowed to promote the Slave Trade by giving passage to slaves.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 570.

*Firman.*

(Traduction.)

Firman adressé à Moustafa Pacha, Commandant de l'Armée Impériale de Batoum, chargé aussi de la défense des côtes de Sohoun, et décoré de l'Ordre Impérial de Medjidiyé de la première classe.

A toi mon Vizir,

L'ON vient d'apprendre et de constater qu'il y a des gens qui prennent de la Georgie des enfants et des femmes, et les vendent en disant que ce sont des esclaves.

Je n'ai pas besoin de dire que ce procédé est très blâmable et abominable. Indépendamment de cela, c'est aussi une chose contre le point d'honneur et contre l'humanité, et c'est pourquoi j'ai donné des ordres que désormais ce procédé soit rigoureusement prohibé dans ces pays là, et que tout individu qui aura eu l'audace de faire une chose pareille soit sur le champ sévèrement puni. En conséquence, le présent commandement Impérial est émané de mon Divan Impérial et expédié pour publier mes ordres souverains.

Informé que tu seras de ce dont il s'agit tu porteras à la connaissance de tous ceux qu'il faudra dans ce pays là mes ordres souverains, et dorénavant, comme il a été dit plus haut, si un cas pareil se produit le vendeur ainsi que l'acheteur soit immédiatement puni de la manière la plus rigoureuse. Tu prendras donc les mesures les plus énergiques afin que chacun sachant avec quelle rigueur l'achat et la vente d'esclaves sont prohibés, personne n'aye l'audace de faire cette chose abominable; tu feras, donc, tout ton possible en faisant les recherches nécessaires de découvrir les femmes et les enfants qui se trouvent au pouvoir de tel ou de tel autre individu et de les faire consigner à leurs familles.

Des lettres Vizirielles ont été expédiées au Pacha de Trebizonde et aux Gouvernements des Districts de Djanih et de Lazistan contenant des instructions à l'effet que les femmes et les enfants ainsi enlevés ne puissent pas passer par terre dans l'intérieur de l'Anatolie ou débarquer dans aucune partie, et vous serez constamment en communication avec ces fonctionnaires sur cette matière importante.

Tu ajouteras foi au noble chiffre dont est décoré le présent commandement Impérial donné dans la première dizaine du mois de Moharrem, l'an 1271 (le 1 Octobre, 1854).

Inclosure 2 in No. 570.

*Firman.*

(Traduction.)

Firman adressé à Mustafa Pacha, Commandant de l'Armée Impériale de Batoum, chargé aussi de la défense des côtes de Sohoun, et décoré de l'Ordre Impérial de Medjidiyé de la première classe.

A toi mon Vizir,

L'HOMME est la plus noble de toutes les créatures sorties des mains de Dieu, qui l'a destiné à être heureux, en lui accordant la grâce de naître naturellement libre. Mais, contrairement à sa destination primitive et fortunée, les Circassiens se sont fait une étrange habitude de vendre les enfants et leurs parents en qualité d'esclaves, et même, ce qui se pratique parmi quelques

Circassiens, de voler les uns les enfants des autres, et de les vendre comme des animaux et des marchandises.

Or ces procédés, vraiment incompatibles avec la dignité de l'homme et contraires à la volonté du Souverain Créateur, sont extrêmement mauvais et blâmables, et je les condamne aussi complètement. C'est pourquoi je viens d'ordonner, qu'à l'effet d'empêcher cet état de choses, on donne des conseils efficaces et les ordres nécessaires et analogues aux Circassiens ; qu'en même temps, on prenne des mesures pour empêcher l'embarquement d'esclaves dans les échelles qu'il faut pour cela ; et qu'on fasse savoir ce dont il s'agit à toutes les autorités militaires et civiles de ces environs là.

En conséquence, le présent illustre firman est émané exprès de mon Divan Impérial pour publier mes ordres souverains à cet égard.

Toi, donc, Mouchir susmentionné, informé que tu seras de ce que j'ordonne, tu procédera avec ce zèle qui te caractérise, et cette grande intelligence qui te distingue, à porter ma volonté souveraine à la connaissance des Circassiens, et de tous ceux qu'il faudra, en la publiant de la manière la plus détaillée ; tu feras tout ce que ton savoir-faire et ta sagacité te suggéreront pour mettre fin, en donnant et faisant exécuter les ordres nécessaires, à l'usage illégal et abominable de vendre les enfants et leurs parents ; tu prendras les mesures nécessaires pour empêcher le passage d'esclaves et leur embarquement dans les échelles qu'il faut pour cela ; et en outre, comme il est nécessaire de punir ceux qui, en contravention à ces ordres, sont coupables de la vente de leurs parents, ou du vol des parents et des enfants d'autrui, ou qui désirent les exporter au dehors après les avoir achetés, vous ne négligerez en aucune manière ce point ; enfin, tu mettras tous tes soins à faire tout ce que ci-dessus, et tu ajouteras foi au noble chiffre dont est décoré le présent commandement Impérial, donné dans la seconde dizaine du mois de Moukharem, l'an 1271 (commencement d'Octobre, 1854).

No. 571.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.*

My Lord,

*Foreign Office, October 23, 1854.*

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch of the 9th instant, inclosing translations of the two Imperial firmans which have been addressed to the Pasha in command of the Ottoman army at Batoum, prohibiting the Traffic in Slaves in Circassia and Georgia.

I have received the Queen's commands to desire that your Excellency will acquaint the Sultan, that Her Majesty has learnt with sincere gratification that these firmans have been issued by His Imperial Majesty ; and you will add that Her Majesty duly appreciates the readiness with which the Porte has adopted this wise and humane measure.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 572.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.*

My Lord,

*Foreign Office, October 23, 1854.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 9th instant, inclosing translations of the Sultan's firmans prohibiting the Traffic in Circassian and Georgian slaves, I have to state to your Excellency, that it appears to Her Majesty's Government desirable that the officers commanding Her Majesty's ships in the Black Sea should be enabled to afford their cooperation to the Turkish authorities in order to prevent the Sultan's prohibition of this Traffic from being evaded by ships under the Ottoman flag, which may take advantage of the undisturbed intercourse between the eastern coast of the Black Sea and Constantinople which has been lately established.

I have therefore to instruct your Excellency to request the Ottoman Government to empower the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's ships in the Black Sea to concert with the Governors of Batoum and Trebizond the adoption of such measures as may effectually prevent the continuance of the Traffic in Circassian and Georgian slaves.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

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No. 573.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, November 2, 1854.*

WITH reference to my despatch to your Excellency of the 23rd ultimo,\* instructing you to make an arrangement with the Porte in order that the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's fleet in the Black Sea may be enabled to assist in the enforcement of the Sultan's prohibition against the Traffic in Circassian and Georgian slaves, I transmit herewith for your Excellency's information, copies of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, and of the answer† which I have received from his Excellency, by which your Lordship will learn that M. Drouyn de Lhuys has agreed to send to the French Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople instructions upon this matter similar to those contained in my despatch to your Excellency of the 23rd of October.

I have at the same time to add, that it would be expedient that the Commander-in-chief of the Ottoman naval forces in the Black Sea should receive instruction from his Government as to the cooperation of Her Majesty's ships with him in the enforcement of the firmans in question.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

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No. 574.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.*

My Lord,

*Foreign Office, November 9, 1854.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 9th ultimo, I transmit herewith, for your information, copies of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Vienna, and of the answer‡ which I have received from his Lordship, respecting the statements contained in your Excellency's despatches of the 9th and 27th of September, by which it appeared that the vessels belonging to the Austrian Lloyds Company were allowed to convey slaves to Constantinople.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

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No. 575.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.*

My Lord,

*Foreign Office, November 28, 1854.*

WITH reference to my despatch to your Excellency of the 9th instant, on the subject of the conveyance of slaves to Constantinople by the steamers of the Austrian Lloyds Company, I transmit herewith, for your

\* No. 572.

† No. 230 and 231.

‡ Nos. 69 and 70.

information, a copy of a further despatch\* which I have received from Her Majesty's Minister at Vienna, stating that Count Buol will instruct the Internuncio to take measures for putting a stop to this practice.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 576.

*Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 28.)*

My Lord,

*Therapia, November 11, 1854.*

REFERRING to my previous correspondence on the subject of measures adopted by the Porte for the repression of Slave Trade in Georgia and Circassia, I have now the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a translation of an instruction addressed to the Dragoman of the Porte by the Ottoman Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and communicated officially to the British and French Embassies.

An instruction of similar purport has been communicated to the Austrian Internuncio, at my suggestion, with reference to vessels navigating the Black Sea under Austrian colours, and engaged but too often, I fear, in the conveyance of slaves from Trebizond to Constantinople.

I took occasion some time ago to draw Baron de Bruck's attention to this reprehensible practice.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

Inclosure in No. 576.

*Instruction addressed to the Dragoman of the Porte.*

(Translation.)

*November 1, 1854.*

THE instruction addressed to the chief Interpreters of the British and French Embassies, M. Pisani and Mr. Scheffer, by his Excellency Lord Stratford, Ambassador Extraordinary of Great Britain, and by M. Benedetti, Chargé d'Affaires of France, relative to the individuals coming in slavery from Georgia and Circassia, have been brought under the consideration of the Council.

The suggestions made on this subject are conformable with the dictates of humanity, and with the sentiments of the Sublime Porte, and are fully confirmed by the opinions entertained by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan. The capture of Georgian and Circassian women and children is a thing by no means sanctioned by the Porte, and orders having been already issued on this subject, the recurrence of this reprehensible act, owing to some cause or other, has been viewed with regret. The strange proceeding of the Circassians, that of selling their children and relatives, or of kidnapping each other's children for sale, is likewise worthy of reprobation, and must be put a stop to.

You will, therefore, communicate to the English and French Embassies copies of the two stringent firmans on this subject, issued by orders of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, and you will inform them that henceforward more particular attention will be paid to this matter; that inquiry is being made concerning individuals reported to have arrived here from Georgia, in order that they may be set immediately at liberty, and return, if they desire it, to their families; and that peremptory injunctions have been sent to the requisite quarters on the subject of these slaves.



No. 577.

*Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 28.)*

My Lord,

*Therapia, November 15, 1854.*

IN conveying Her Majesty's message to the Sultan respecting the suppression of Slave Trade in Georgia and Circassia, I took occasion to propose, agreeably to your Lordship's instructions, that orders should be given to the Governors of Trebizond and Batoum to concert with Admiral Dundas the most advisable and efficient means for giving effect to the instructions of His Imperial Majesty. I have now the satisfaction to state, that a gracious reply was given to my suggestion, and that corresponding commands have been since received by the Ottoman Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

No. 578.

*Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 28.)*

My Lord,

*Therapia, November 15, 1854.*

INCLOSED herewith for the information of Her Majesty's Government, is copy, in translation, of an instruction to the Dragoman of the Porte, directing that officer to apprise the Austrian Legation of the Imperial orders issued for the prevention of Slave Trade in Georgia and Circassia, and to request that the steamers of the Austrian Lloyds Company should be prevented from receiving slaves on board from those countries.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

Inclosure in No. 578.

*Instruction addressed to the Dragoman of the Porte.*

(Translation.)

IMPERIAL orders having been lately issued against the extraction of women and children from Georgia and Circassia as slaves, you are hereby instructed to inform the Austrian Legation thereof, and to request that orders may be given to prevent the steamers of the Lloyd Company from receiving on board any individuals of that category, either at Trebizond or at other places in that neighbourhood.

No. 579.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.*

My Lord,

*Foreign Office, November 29, 1854.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 11th instant, inclosing a copy of an instruction addressed by the Ottoman Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Dragoman of the Porte respecting the suppression of the Traffic in Slaves from Georgia and Circassia, I have to inform your Excellency that I approve of the course adopted by you with regard to that matter; and I have to instruct you again to thank the Ottoman Government for the measures which they have taken for the prevention of this Traffic.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 580.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.*

My Lord,

*Foreign Office, December 8, 1854.*

WITH reference to my despatches of the 23rd of October and 2nd of November, and to your Excellency's of the 15th of November,\* respecting the proposed cooperation of Her Majesty's naval forces in the Black Sea in suppressing the Slave Trade from Circassia and Georgia, I have to acquaint you that I have communicated to the Lords of the Admiralty the firmans and instructions issued by the Porte respecting the suppression of that Traffic, and I now transmit to your Excellency, herewith, a copy of a letter from the Admiralty stating that Her Majesty's vessels cannot be legally authorised to detain Ottoman vessels carrying slaves, as no Treaty for the suppression of Slave Trade exists between this country and the Porte; and I have to request your Excellency to give me your opinion whether you consider it probable that the Porte would consent to make such a Treaty.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

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 Inclosure in No. 580.
*The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Wodehouse.*

My Lord,

*Admiralty, December 2, 1854.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 30th ultimo, respecting the cooperation of Her Majesty's naval forces in the Black Sea for the suppression of the Slave Trade with Georgia and Circassia, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Earl of Clarendon, that no orders to detain vessels conveying slaves from Georgia and Circassia can be issued; and that the seizure of such vessels would not be legal in the absence of a specific Treaty with the Porte.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) R. OSBORNE.

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 No. 581.
*Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 23.)*

My Lord,

*Pera, December 1, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, the translated copy of a Vizirial letter addressed to the Governors of Batoum and Trebizond, empowering and directing those authorities to concert measures with the Admirals commanding the allied squadrons in the Black Sea, for the purpose of giving more effect to the Sultan's firman, prohibiting the Traffic in Slaves from Georgia and Circassia.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

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 Inclosure in No. 581.
*Vizirial Letter addressed to the Governors of Batoum and Trebizond.*

(Traduction.)

*Le 1 Décembre, 1854.*

DES firmans ont été écrits et expédiés exprès dernièrement par lesquels il a été défendu de laisser sortir de la Circassie une personne quelconque en qualité d'esclave; et défense a également été fait aux Circassiens de vendre

\* Nos. 572, 573, and 577.

leurs enfants et leurs parents. Tels étaient les ordres publiés par les susdits firmans.

La Sublime Porte a fait savoir aussi par différentes dépêches écrites exprès, et ordonné qu'on ait à prendre les mesures nécessaires à ces égards, dans les échelles qui servent de débouchés à l'exportation des individus de cette catégorie.

Cette question exige, comme question d'humanité, une très grande attention, et c'est pourquoi la Sublime Porte veut absolument que toutes ses autorités y mettent le plus grand soin, et qu'elles fassent tous leurs efforts pour remplir le but qu'on a en vue.

L'honorable Ambassadeur d'Angleterre vient de nous faire savoir que puisque la flotte de l'illustre Gouvernement Anglais se trouve dans ce moment-ci dans la Mer Noire, Sa Majesté le Padicha de la Grande Bretagne a autorisé aussi l'Amiral Anglais à donner au besoin son assistance aux autorités Ottomanes pour empêcher l'exportation d'individus en qualité d'esclaves, comme ceux ci-dessus désignés; et il est évident que l'Amiral de la flotte de l'illustre Gouvernement Français qui est dans la Mer Noire emploiera aussi ses soins dans une affaire de telle importance.

Il faut donc qu'en cas de besoin votre Excellence se concerte avec les Amiraux là dessus, et qu'elle prenne des mesures à l'effet d'empêcher qu'aucun des individus de la catégorie ci-dessus désignée ne sorte d'un port suspect.

Je dois vous avertir en même tems que la moindre négligence à cet égard vous rendra fortement responsable.

No. 582.

*Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 23.)*

My Lord,

*Therapia, December 9, 1854.*

I AVAIL myself of the present opportunity to forward copies of correspondence which has recently passed between Vice-Admiral Dundas and myself, on the subject of enforcing the Sultan's firmans against Black Sea Slave Trade by a concerted cooperation between our naval officers and the Turkish authorities at Batoum and Trebizond.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 582.

*Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to Vice-Admiral Dundas.*

Sir,

*Therapia, November 21, 1854.*

IN pursuance of instructions from the Earl of Clarendon, I have requested the Porte to direct the Governors of Batoum and Trebizond to make arrangements in concert with you, for giving more complete effect to the Imperial firmans, by which His Majesty the Sultan has lately prohibited the Traffic in Slaves from Georgia and Circassia.

I have now the satisfaction to inform you that the Sultan's Government have listened promptly to my application, and that corresponding instructions are to be sent to the above-mentioned Governors.

Of those instructions I propose to send you copies as soon as I obtain them from the Porte. If I were honoured in the meantime with your opinion as to the most efficient mode of acting in concert with the Turkish authorities, I should be better prepared to bring about a thorough understanding and cooperation between you and them.

For your more complete information, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of the Slave Trade firmans, as well in Turkish as in French translation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 582.

*Vice-Admiral Dundas to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.*

My Lord,

*"Furious," in Karatch Bay, November 30, 1854.*

IN reply to your Excellency's letter of the 21st instant, I have the honour to inclose for your information a copy of instructions I gave on the 28th June last, to the senior officer employed on the coasts of Circassia, &c., and I now think the best measure I can adopt to assist in the suppression of so serious an evil as the Traffic of Slaves, will be to direct the several officers in command of Her Majesty's ships to seize, and deliver to the Turkish authorities, all persons they may find engaged in such Traffic, but I am anxious to use any means in my power that your Excellency may suggest to carry out the end in view.

Lord John Hay in Her Majesty's steam frigate "Tribune" will soon proceed from this along the Circassian and Anatolian shores, and communicate with the official authorities, returning to this place.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

J. W. D. DUNDAS.

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*Memorandum.*

*"Britannia," off Baljik, June 28, 1854.*

The greatest care and attention is to be taken to discourage by every peaceful means the exportation of slaves from the coasts of Circassia and Georgia, and as I hear that Schamyl has also forbidden this Traffic, you will apply to him or his deputies for their assistance in effecting this most desirable object.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

J. W. D. DUNDAS.

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Inclosure 3 in No. 582.

*Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to Vice-Admiral Dundas.*

Sir,

*Therapia, December 6, 1854*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith for your information, a translated copy of the Vizirial letter addressed to the commander of the Ottoman army at Batoum, and also to the Pasha of Trebizond, directing them to concert with you and with Vice-Admiral Hamelin, if so disposed, the most advisable measures for enforcing the provisions of the Sultan's firman abolishing the Traffic in slaves from Circassia and Georgia.

I write to prepare Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Trebizond for communicating with any officer whom you may think proper to appoint for the execution of this service. He will be in possession of the Turkish text of the Grand Vizier's letter.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

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No. 583.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.*

My Lord,

*Foreign Office, February 5, 1855.*

I TRANSMIT herewith an extract of a despatch, a copy of which has been received at this office from the Admiralty, and which was addressed to Rear-Admiral Sir Edmund Lyons on the 8th of January, by Captain Lord John Hay, of Her Majesty's ship "Tribune."

It appears by this despatch that the Turkish authorities in the ports of the Black Sea have shown no willingness to give effect to the Sultan's firman

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prohibiting the Traffic in Circassian and Georgian slaves; and that when two boats laden with Circassian slaves arrived at Trebizond about the 26th of December last, the Pasha's excuse for not detaining them was, that he could not define whether they were slaves or not.

I have to instruct your Excellency to communicate the inclosed extract to the Ottoman Government, and to request that clear and stringent instructions may be sent to the proper authorities in the ports of the Black Sea, pointing out to them that there can be no difficulty in ascertaining whether or not the Circassians or Georgians brought to those ports are intended for sale, and that the Pashas must be held strictly responsible for the punctual execution of the Sultan's orders declaring that this Traffic is to cease.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

Inclosure in No. 583.

*Captain Lord John Hay to Rear-Admiral Sir Edmund Lyons.*

(Extract.)

*"Tribune," at Karatch, January 8, 1855.*

ON the 28th of December, 1854, visited the Mushir at Tchoorooksoo: having expressed my surprise that the Pasha at Soukhom Kaleh had not received orders relative to the suppression of the Slave Trade, the Mooshir informed me, that he was most anxious to give immediate effect to the Sultan's firman, but although he had received the firman six weeks previously, no opportunity had as yet presented itself of communicating with Soukhom Kaleh. Indeed the country boats passing with provisions were liable to capture by the enemy's gun boats out of the rivers at Poti and Anakria, and the only steamer at his disposal was merely sufficient to bring provisions from Trebizond for the use of the army.

Proceeded to, and arrived at, Trebizond, on the 29th December, 1854. The Pasha was absent when I visited him, I however learnt from Mr. Stevens, Vice-Consul, that two boats laden with Circassian slaves had arrived at this port a few days previous. The Pasha did not clearly see how he could give effect to the firman of the Sultan not knowing how to define whether the people were slaves or not.

I recommended that Mr. Stevens' advice should be acted on, and that the boats and people should be detained on suspicion.

Altogether I think there does not appear to exist among the Turkish officials any excessive anxiety to put a stop to the Circassian and Georgian Slave Trade.

No. 584.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.*

My Lord,

*Foreign Office, February 21, 1855.*

I TRANSMIT herewith to your Excellency, for any steps that you may think it expedient to take thereupon, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul in Abyssinia, on the subject of the Slave Trade carried on between that country and the Turkish dominions.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

Inclosure in No. 584.

*Consul Plowden to the Earl of Clarendon.*

My Lord,

*Massowah, November 6, 1854.*

WITH reference to the desire shown by Dejjaj Kasai for the suppression of the Slave Trade, I beg to suggest to your Lordship for consideration, whether it would be practicable to induce his Highness the Sultan to forbid the sale of Galla slaves in his dominions, thus confining that Trade, if it must exist, to the Shankalla or negro tribes.

As long as Gallas continue to be sold, Abyssinian Christian children will be mixed up with them.

I cannot judge if this be a proper moment or not for urging such a request.

The port of Tajoura in the neighbourhood of Aden being in the hands of a petty and not very civilized prince, I do not see what considerations should prevent Her Majesty's Government from effectually checking the Trade in Gallas in that quarter.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) WALTER PLOWDEN.

No. 585.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.*

My Lord,

*Foreign Office, February 21, 1855.*

I HAVE received a despatch from Mr. Ongley, Her Majesty's Consul at Canea in Crete, inclosing a copy of his despatch\* to your Excellency dated the 5th ultimo, and with reference to the concluding paragraph of Mr. Ongley's despatch, in which he states that a considerable trade in African slaves is carried on from Barbary to Crete, I have to desire your Excellency to urge the Porte to extend the benevolent intentions which they have shown as regards the suppression of the Georgian and Circassian Slave Trade, and to put a stop to the Trade in African slaves between the coast of Barbary and Candia.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 586.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.*

My Lord,

*Foreign Office, March 27, 1855.*

I HAVE received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroom copies of the despatch which he addressed to your Excellency on the 19th ultimo, and of its inclosures, reporting the steps which he had taken with the view of procuring the restoration to freedom of several Georgian slaves at Erzeroom and Kars; and I have to state to your Excellency, that it appears to Her Majesty's Government that it will be necessary for the Ottoman Government to adopt rigorous measures in order to carry out the benevolent intentions of the Sultan with regard to the suppression of the Georgian and Circassian Slave Trade.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

\* No. 589.

No. 587.

*Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 28.)*

My Lord,

*Constantinople, March 19, 1855.*

THE Porte on my application has issued its orders to the Pasha of Tripoli directing him to adopt measures for the prevention of any Traffic in slaves between the territory under his Government and the Island of Candia.

A copy of the Vizirial letter thus obtained has been communicated by Aali Pasha to Her Majesty's Embassy, and a translation in French accompanies this despatch.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

Inclosure in No. 587.

*Vizirial Letter addressed to the Pasha of Tripoli.*

(Traduction.)

*Le 18 Mars, 1855.*

NOUS voyons, d'après quelques bruits qui courent, que depuis peu grand nombre d'esclaves noirs sont envoyés de l'Afrique à l'Île de Candie et qu'on les y vend.

Votre Excellence n'ignore pas que comme ce commerce est contraire au système plein de compassion, à l'excellent système que la Sublime Porte a adopté, nous voulons que ce commerce cesse, autant qu'il est possible.

Agissant, donc, avec cet excellent jugement qui la caractérise, votre Excellence aura à prendre à cet égard les mesures efficaces et nécessaires à l'effet de faire cesser cet état de choses; et c'est à cette fin que je lui écris cette lettre.

No. 588.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.*

My Lord,

*Foreign Office, March 30, 1855.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 19th instant; and I have to express to your Excellency the approval of Her Majesty's Government, of your having induced the Porte to issue orders to the Pasha of Tripoli, directing him to prevent the Slave Trade between his Government and the Island of Candia.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

**TURKEY.** (*Consular*)—*Candia.*

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No. 589.

*Consul Ongley to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 12.)*

My Lord,

*Canea in Crete, January 5, 1855.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit inclosed, a copy of a despatch which I addressed to his Excellency the Ambassador at Constantinople under yesterday's date.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) H. S. ONGLEY.

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Inclosure in No. 589.

*Consul Ongley to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.*

(Extract.)

*Canea in Crete, January 4, 1855.*

THE Traffic in Slaves from Georgia and Circassia is little felt here, but there is a good deal of it between this and Barbary, in slaves the natives of Africa; it is to be hoped that the time may soon come when the Turkish Government may be induced to put a stop to this infamous Trade.

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TURKEY. (*Consular*)—*Egypt.*

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No. 590.

*Consul-General Bruce to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 16.)*

My Lord,

*Cairo, June 30, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith, a copy of a despatch with its inclosure, which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople relative to the encouragement given to Slave Trade by the Governor of Massowah, in direct violation of the instructions he appears to have received from the Porte.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FREDERICK W. A. BRUCE.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 590.

*Consul-General Bruce to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.*

My Lord,

*Cairo, June 27, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith inclosed, an extract of a letter which I have received from Mr. Barroni, giving an account of the conduct of the Governor of Massowah, Ibrahim Pasha, on receipt of the Vizirial letter forbidding the Traffic in Slaves carried on between Massowah and Jeddah.

Should your Lordship be of opinion that the presence of a Consular Agent at Massawah would be of use in checking the proceedings detailed in the accompanying letter, I may state that the writer bears the character of a respectable and trustworthy man. He is employed as a confidential agent of Mr. Plowden, Her Majesty's Consul in Abyssinia, and he would gladly serve as Vice-Consul without salary on account of the protection he would derive from being invested with that character.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. BRUCE.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 590.

*M. Barroni to Consul-General Bruce.*

(Extract.)

JE me crois en devoir de vous notifier qu'une lettre du Vizir envoyée, il y a quatre mois à peu près, à Ibrahim Pacha, Gouverneur de Massowah, était conçue dans les termes suivants :—

Nous avons su que des Chrétiens et Chrétiennes volées dans le territoire d'Abyssinie, et plus souvent dans les Provinces de Menza, Codefalasse, Dembigian, et Habbab, sont achetés, vendus et envoyés à Jeddah par les négociants de Massowah, et que votre Gouvernement ne se soucie pas de cela. Eh bien ! nous

vous prions cependant de ne pas permettre ce commerce parceque cela nous fait des ennemis et nous ôte la réputation, et nous voulons nous flatter que vous voudrez bien suivre notre avis.

Le Pacha a lu cette lettre à son Divan après avoir fait appeler à cet effet tous les gens et les personnes les plus respectables de Massowah, et il ajouta : “ Sans doute que les Franks ont écrit à Constantinople là-dessus,” et après l’approbation de l’Auditoire plusieurs répondirent : “ Cette lettre n’est que la conséquence de ce que les Anglais ont peut-être écrit à cet égard, et il n’y a ici que le Consul Anglais et son ‘ Vekil ’ qui peuvent et veulent faire cela.”

Dans le même jour, on a vendu à Massowah même, plusieurs filles et enfants volés dans les pays des Habbab.

Je crois inutile de dire que les Turques n’empêcheront jamais cet esclavage, et par intérêt et par principe de religion ; que de lettres adressées aux Gouverneurs ne seront que des mots pour eux ; que des ordres pour les mêmes seront insuffisants, inutiles, et peut-être invisibles ; et qu’il n’y a que la force qui pourra et peut mettre fin à un commerce si honteux et si inhumain.

J’ai, &c.

(Signé) R. BARRONI.

No. 591.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Bruce.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, July 25, 1845.*

WITH reference to your despatch of the 30th of June, I have to inform you that I approve your having communicated with Her Majesty’s Ambassador at Constantinople, on the subject of the proceedings of the Governor of Massowah as regards Slave Trade.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 592.

*Consul-General Bruce to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 27.)*

My Lord,

*Cairo, January 17, 1855.*

THE Viceroy of Egypt has instructed the Governors of the Southern Provinces to prevent in future the introduction of slaves from Abyssinia, Dongola, &c., into Egypt across the southern frontier.

He has further given directions that in case of slaves being clandestinely introduced they shall be considered entitled to claim their freedom, and be restored, whenever possible, to their country and friends.

Some time must elapse before I shall be able to ascertain whether any measures have been taken to carry successfully into execution orders which from their nature will certainly not meet with the hearty cooperation of the provincial authorities. Black slaves and black eunuchs form an essential part of the establishment of every rich Turk, and as they are supplied exclusively from the regions that border the Upper Nile, every attempt will be made to render inoperative the measures taken by Saïd Pasha for the abolition of the Traffic.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FREDERICK W. A. BRUCE.

No. 593.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Bruce.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, January 31, 1855.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 17th of January, stating that the Viceroy of Egypt has prohibited the importation of slaves into Egypt across the southern frontier, and that he has directed that any slaves clandestinely introduced into the country under his rule shall be entitled to claim their freedom.

And I have to instruct you to inform the Viceroy that Her Majesty's Government have learnt with great satisfaction that his Highness has issued these humane and benevolent orders.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

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TURKEY. (*Consular*)—*Erzeroom.*

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No. 594.

*Consul Brant to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 22.)*

My Lord,

*Erzeroom, February 19, 1855.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch I addressed to his Excellency Viscount Stratford de Redcliffe, with regard to the slave question, accompanied by the inclosures therein referred to.

I think the measure can be carried out, if proper authority and instructions be furnished me, and I would recommend that a firman addressed to the Valy Pasha here, were sent me authorizing my interference, and desiring his Excellency to admit of my concurrence in carrying out the wishes of the Sultan.

I have, &c  
(Signed) JAS. BRANT.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 594.

*Consul Brant to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.*

My Lord,

*Erzeroom, February 19, 1855.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency, that having been informed by Mr. J. Zohrab, interpreter to General Williams' Aide-de-camp at Kars, that there were slaves there being offered for sale, I addressed a letter to the Valy Surri Pasha, requiring him to seize the said slaves, and send them to the Commander-in-chief of the Georgian frontier, Prince Bebutoff, taking from his Excellency a receipt on delivery, and I requested General Williams to desire his Aide-de-camp to see that the Pasha did as I required. Major Teesdale replied that Surri Pasha had in his possession six slaves, and he was searching for some more he had heard of to send them all at once to Prince Bebutoff.

I inclose copies of my letters to the Pashas of Erzeroom and Kars, and the answer of the latter.

With respect to the examination of the slaves, I regard them as of no value, no excuse such as having become Mussulman, or a desire to remain in Turkey must be admitted, or nothing will be effected.

I beg also to inform your Excellency that I have learned that there are about ten slaves here in the hands of various parties; some of the slaves have been purchased, one or two years ago; some more recently; I do not know how I can act on such information without instructions. I must know, whether the firmans are to have a retroactive effect, or from what period they are to be considered as having come into operation.

I beg to observe they have never been published at Kars, or here, as your Excellency will perceive with respect to Kars, from Surri Pasha's reply, and with respect to this place, from what the Valy Pasha said to me.

I think that where slaves are found, the owners should be forced to deliver them up without indemnity, and where the sellers can be discovered,

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they should refund the purchase-money. This might be kept as a fund to remunerate informers and meet expenses of clothing and sending the liberated slaves to the Russian authorities. Perhaps this might be sufficient to stop the Traffic; but if additional punishments were inflicted, it might prevent denunciations.

A specific punishment should be fixed, if any be intended, and it should not be left to the discretion of a Pasha to decide what penalty should be inflicted.

Expense is necessary to carry out the measures of returning the slaves to Georgia, and it is for your Excellency to instruct me from whence it is to be obtained, if the suggestions thrown out above should not produce what is requisite.

Until I receive your Excellency's orders, I shall not take steps with regard to slaves here, but if I hear of any others at Kars, I shall again require Surri Pasha to seize them and send them back.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JAS. BRANT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 594.

*Consul Brant to the Governor of Erzeroom.*

Excellency,

*Erzeroom, January 29, 1855.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose an open letter to his Excellency the Vay of Kars, requesting your Excellency to transmit it to him. As I communicated to your Excellency the Sultan's firman, prohibiting the sale of Georgian slaves, I trust that you will use your endeavours to induce Surri Pasha to comply with my demand.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JAS. BRANT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 594.

*Consul Brant to the Governor of Kars.*

Excellency,

*Erzeroom, January 29, 1855.*

I HAVE been informed, that there have lately been brought from Georgia to Kars 2 boys and 2 girls, who are now being offered for sale in that town. As you must be aware that a Trade in Georgian slaves is prohibited by His Majesty the Sultan, I call upon you to seize them in whosoever hands they may have fallen, and return them to the Russian authorities at Gumri. I have requested General Williams, C.B., to desire his Aide-de-camp to witness that this is done. I shall transmit a copy of this letter to his Excellency the British Ambassador at Constantinople, with your answer, and I trust that you will yield a ready obedience to your Sovereign's orders.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JAS. BRANT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 594.

*The Governor of Kars to Consul Brant.*

(Translation.)

16th Jemazi-ul-evvel, 1271  
3rd February, 1855.

I HAVE received and understood the letter you addressed me respecting 2 boys and 2 girls who were brought as slaves from Georgia to Kars, and sold there; and you inform me, that such a proceeding being contrary to the wishes of the Sublime Porte, the slaves in question must be taken from whomsoever possesses them, and be given up to the Russian authorities at Gumri. I lately heard of this Imperial order on this subject, and though, up to this time it has not reached me, still, the union which, under the present warlike events, exists,

thank God, with the two Governments (of England and France), and the unanimity of their resolutions in similar matters, have already been printed and published; and though I am yet ignorant of the order in question, it suffices for me to know, that one of the three parties is cognizant with the decision. As soon, therefore, as your letter respecting these boys and girls reached me, I immediately had them found, and sent to the house of the Mufti of the place, to be kept there for the present. One of the boys, however, wishes to enter the army, and, with regard to the others, I inclose the interrogatories put to them by the Council (and their answers). Although the imperial order in question has not been sent to me, it would appear the Valy of Erzeroom, and you, also, have received it; and in order that nothing at variance with the decisions of the Sublime Porte with her true allies should occur, I have consequently conformed to your wishes.

*Questions put to the elder boy.*

Whence are you from?—From Djajikh.

What is your father?—An agricultural labourer.

How, and by whom were you taken?—A person stole me from my country, took me to Shefketil, and there sold me to the Bey of Tchoorooksoo, Aly Bey.

Do you wish to return to your country? We will send you there.—I have become a Mussulman; I will not return to my country, and I wish to be enlisted in the army.

*Questions put to the younger boy.*

Whence are you from?—From Lazyanta.

Have you a father and mother in your country?—No, I have not; I am an orphan.

We will send you back to your country.—I will not go.

*Questions put to the girl taken by the Bokhara man.*

Whence are you from?—From the neighbourhood of Uzuaghet.

Have you a father and mother?—Yes, I have.

Were you stolen, or did your father give you away?—I am from the village of Kedeh; a man stole me.

What is your father's name and profession?—Elmas Khan, a trooper.

Will you return to your country? The Sultan pardons you, and hereafter you will no longer be a slave.—No, I have become a Mussulman; I say my prayers, and I do not wish to return to my country.

*Questions put to the girl who lived with the above girl.*

Whence are you from?—As I was a child (when stolen) I know not whence I am from.

With whom did you reside?—For the last five years I have been with the Bey of Tchoorooksoo, Aly Bey. I have become a Mussulman, and I will not go anywhere.

No. 595.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Brant.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, March 24, 1855.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 19th ultimo, with its inclosures, reporting the steps which you had taken to procure the restoration to freedom some of Georgian slaves who were being offered for sale at Kars, and I have in reply to inform you, that I approve your proceedings in this matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 596.

*Brigadier-General Williams to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 1.)*

My Lord,

*Erzeroom, February 6, 1855.*

THE commands laid down in your Lordship's instructions with regard to the forwarding to the Foreign Office of such information, bearing on the political and social state of those remote regions, as I should deem of sufficient interest, induce me to offer, for your Lordship's consideration, the following remarks on a subject which must, in all probability, and at no distant day too, form a matter of grave discussion between Great Britain and the Porte.

After a conversation which I had last week with Ismail Pasha, the Governor-General, on the affairs of this army, he broached, to my surprise, the subject of slavery, and told me that he had heard of some recent purchases of that nature in this city, the particulars of which he was endeavouring to ascertain; that he also knew of four instances of the sale of Georgian slaves at Kars, and begged me to write to my Aide-de-camp, Lieutenant Teesdale, and request him to make every inquiry as to the houses in which those females were concealed. I promised to meet his wishes, and consequently, by the next estafette, I instructed my Aide-de-camp to gain the necessary information.

This move, on the part of Ismail Pasha, was, I believe, caused by a very recent conversation he had had with the Dragoman of the English Consulate; but the buying and selling of slaves, by the officers of the Kars army, is as notorious as any other mal-practices on their part. Boys are preferred by these brutes, and the girls are sent as bribes to Constantinople, and until the allied Consuls are authorized to demand the restitution of these victims to Turkish sensuality, and are provided with funds to send them back to their families in Georgia, and until the Porte is bound by Treaty to send the culprits, so detected, to the galleys for a certain specified time, this infamous Traffic will flourish, and all which has been said or may be written about abolitionary firmans simply adds mockery to crime and woe.

When I saw Mustapha Pasha quit the camp at Kars, and fawn upon the soldiers drawn out in line to salute him who had robbed and starved them, he was closely followed, and that at noon-day, by two Georgian slaves under an escort of Regular Cavalry. They had been bought the day previous to his departure, and this Traffic was notorious throughout the camp. Your Lordship may therefore infer, that had the Turks penetrated into Georgia last campaign, very few youths of either sex would have escaped pollution; and I feel bound to tell your Lordship my opinion on this most interesting subject, which is, that if England does not effectually repress this Trade by a stringent Treaty, Russia will accomplish it by her arms, that is, if peace leave her in possession of Georgia.

Pertinacious resistance on the part of the Turks must be expected, not only in this point, but in all others connected with reform. I ordered the arrest of an officer yesterday for entering a Christian banker's office, calling him a *giaour*, and other gross epithets, and for reviling my own Mussulman servant, who attempted to protect the Christian from such unprovoked insults. The utmost firmness must therefore be evinced here on the spot, as well as on the part of the allies.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

W. F. WILLIAMS.

UNITED STATES.

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No. 597.

*Mr. Crampton to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 18.)*

My Lord,

*Washington, March 12, 1854.*

YESTERDAY evening I had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch of the 24th ultimo,\* and in obedience to the instruction contained therein, I shall take an early opportunity to express to the Government of the United States the satisfaction felt by Her Majesty's Government at the capture of the American slaver "*H. N. Gambriel*," and to suggest to the Secretary of State of the United States, the expediency of some measures being adopted in order to put a stop to the abuse of the British and American flags committed by the slavers on being chased by the cruisers of those two nations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

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No. 598.

*Mr. Crampton to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 18.)*

(Extract.)

*Washington, March 31, 1854.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 6th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I immediately instructed Her Majesty's Consul at New York to watch the proceedings of the person named Joaquim Gaspard de Motta, suspected of being in connection with the Brazilian and Portuguese Slave Trade Association, and of having transferred large sums of money from Cuba to New York, whither he was about to proceed immediately, for the purpose, it was supposed, of purchasing in the United States vessels suitable for carrying out the plans of the above-mentioned Association.

I have the honour to inclose, in copy, my letter to Mr. Consul Barclay and likewise his reply to me, stating that he will give his particular attention to this matter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

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\* See Class B, presented 1854, No. 699.



Inclosure 1 in No. 598.

*Mr. Crampton to Consul Barclay.*

Sir,

*Washington, March 29, 1854.*

THE Earl of Clarendon having called my attention to the circumstances under which a person named Joaquim Gaspard de Motta, suspected of being in connection with the Brazilian and Portuguese Slave Trade Association, has lately arrived in Cuba, and moreover to the fact that he had been transferring large sums of money to New York, whither he was about to proceed immediately, for the purpose, it was suspected, of purchasing in the United States vessels suitable for carrying out the plans of the above-mentioned Association, I have to instruct you to cause the proceedings of the above-named person, upon his arrival at New York, to be watched, as far as may be practicable.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 598.

*Consul Barclay to Mr. Crampton.*

Sir,

*New York, March 30, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 29th instant, calling my attention to the circumstances under which a person named Joaquim Gaspard de Motta, suspected of being in connection with the Brazilian and Portuguese Slave Trading Association, is about to proceed to New York from the Island of Cuba, and instructing me, when the said De Motta has arrived, to cause his movements to be watched as far as practicable. In accordance with these instructions I shall give my particular attention to all the arrivals from Cuba, and as soon as I shall have been able to ascertain, if practicable, this person's proceedings, I shall report to you thereon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANTHONY BARCLAY.

No. 599.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Crampton.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, April 21, 1854.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 31st ultimo, reporting the steps which you had taken, in compliance with the instructions contained in my despatch to you of the 6th ultimo, to cause a watch to be kept on the proceedings of the suspected slave-trader Joaquim Gaspard de Motta, upon his arrival in the United States; and I have in reply to inform you that I approve of your proceedings in this matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 600.

*Mr. Crampton to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 25.)*

My Lord,

*Washington, April 10, 1854.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 6th ultimo, and to my despatch of the 31st ultimo, I have now the honour to transmit to

your Lordship herewith, in copy, a further letter from Mr. Consul Barclay, relative to M. Joaquim Gaspard de Motta, suspected of being engaged in slave-dealing speculations, and who, he has ascertained, is at present at New York.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Inclosure in No. 600.

*Consul Barclay to Mr. Crampton.*

(Extract.)

*New York, April 5, 1854.*

IN connection with my despatch of the 31st March, in reply to your communication of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that the person you mention therein has been in New York for the last three or four weeks; that he resides in Broom Street, at the French and Spanish hotel, kept by Mrs. Moudon; and that there is a slight inaccuracy in his name as you have given it to me, the "l" being a "t" in his surname. He is said to have expressed the intention of leaving for England: when he does so I shall inform you of it, and meanwhile endeavour to obtain further intelligence of his proceedings.

No. 601.

*Mr. Crampton to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received May 1.)*

My Lord,

*Washington, April 17, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a message from the President of the United States, communicating to Congress, in compliance with a resolution of the Senate, the correspondence between Mr. Schenck, United States' Minister at Rio de Janeiro, and the Secretary of State, in relation to the African Slave Trade.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Inclosure in No. 601.

*Message from the President of the United States, communicating, in compliance with a Resolution of the Senate, the Correspondence between Mr. Schenck, United States' Minister at Brazil, and the Secretary of State, in relation to the African Slave Trade.*

To the Senate of the United States.

I TRANSMIT herewith a report from the Secretary of State, and the documents therein referred to, in answer to the resolution of the Senate of the 26th March, 1853.

(Signed) FRANKLIN PIERCE.

*Washington, March 7, 1854.*

*Department of State, Washington, March 7, 1854.*

The Secretary of State, to whom was referred the resolution of the Senate of the 26th of March, 1853, requesting the President, "if compatible with the public interest, to communicate to the Senate the correspondence

between the Honourable R. C. Schenck, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States in Brazil, and the Secretary of State," has the honour to lay before the President the documents referred to in the subjoined list.

Respectfully submitted,  
(Signed) W. L. MARCY.

To the President of the United States.

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*List of Documents transmitted.*

Mr. Webster to Mr. Schenck (extract), May 8, 1851.  
Mr. Schenck to Mr. Webster (with inclosures), April 26, 1852.  
Same to Mr. Everett (extract), January 14, 1853.  
Same to same (with inclosures), February 5, 1853.

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No. 2.

*Mr. Webster to Mr. Schenck.*

(Extract.) *Department of State, Washington, May 8, 1851.*

It is understood that the Brazilian Government has recently been active in the execution of its own laws for the suppression of the African Slave Trade. If it shall persevere in this, it may not be necessary for you to take any steps with a view to carrying into effect the IXth Article of the Treaty of Washington, of the 9th of August, 1842. If, however, during your mission an occasion should arise for the remonstrances to which that Article refers, you will address them orally, or in writing to the Brazilian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

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No. 24.

*Mr. Schenck to Mr. Webster.*

*Legation of the United States,  
Rio de Janeiro, April 26, 1852.*

Sir,

I desire to call your particular attention to the subject of the Slave Trade between Brazil and the coast of Africa. This infamous and inhuman Traffic, thanks principally, I must say, to the vigilance of British cruisers, and the disposition manifested and measures taken by the Ministers of State composing the Administration now in power in this Government, has seemed for a period of a year or more to be nearly, if not altogether, suppressed and stopped. But there are many indications of its revival; and I grieve to have to inform you that, in the present condition of things, no flag is more likely to be prostituted to the vile use of protecting those engaged in the business than our own.

Without aid from any force of the United States, the secret depôts of "slave goods" along this coast have been discovered and broken up; the traders, or those concerned, have many of them been prosecuted and imprisoned, or driven from the country; and thus their unlawful voyages have been prevented. Whatever the motives which may have actuated either the British or the Imperial Government—whether of selfish policy or pure philanthropy—their course and its results are such as I have represented, and they are entitled to credit accordingly.

But a reaction has evidently taken place, not in the efforts of these Powers and authorities to suppress the Trade. I do not mean to say that they have relaxed, in any respect, their vigilance or activity; but the first panic of the slave-dealers that remain being passed, they have had time to look around them, to see and devise means for entering with more security into their old business;

and the very success which has attended, for a time, the efforts to stop it, has furnished an additional stimulus to its renewal. Under the influence of the difficulties thrown in the way of the importation of fresh supplies of slaves, the price of them has been doubled of late in this market, and a single cargo successfully landed and sold now would make the fortune of the adventurer.

Now I am sorry to say that in this state of affairs, nothing seems to occur to these miscreants, who would commerce in human flesh, more likely to serve their purposes than the use, or rather the abuse, to that end of the American flag. It alone gives privilege and immunity from visitation and search, when on the high seas, against all pursuers but the commissioned naval police of our own country. And while the United States have no sufficient armed force for an effective watch along the African coast, from whence the poor victims of the slave-dealers are to be stolen, we have still less of a guard set upon the approach to this shore, where a market for the contraband cargoes is to be found. I do not doubt either the vigilance or good will of the naval commanders who are on this service, on either station, to do all that the means entrusted to them will possibly enable them to accomplish. I am sure of the activity and zeal with which the officers and men in our national ships are disposed to perform their duty in helping to suppress the wicked Trade. But what can they do? And, especially, what can they do on this Brazil station, where, for many months past, our whole squadron has consisted of but two vessels, and those so large and of such draft as to be the worst possible adapted to this preventive service. Since the brig "Bainbridge" was detached from Commodore McKeever's command, there have remained only his flag-ship the frigate "Congress," and the first-class sloop "Jamestown." During the late disturbed and unsettled condition of affairs at the River Plate, it was wisely judged necessary to keep both of them in that quarter; and thus for a long period we have had no naval force whatever anywhere along the whole line of Brazilian coast. The "Congress" and "Jamestown" are now, I believe, out cruising; but if they were here, they could do little in any emergency such as I am adverting to, without, at least, the cooperating aid of one or more smaller vessels. To catch a slaver on the coast, or even to find one, requires, not large ships of deep draft and heavy armament, but those which can safely and therefore fearlessly follow close in-shore, and run behind islands and into creeks, coves, and inlets, where the fast-sailing piratical craft goes to take in her stores, to land her unlawful cargo, or to escape observation or pursuit. For these purposes it is obvious that one small steamer, like the several which the English Government has been keeping constantly in active service on this station, of not more than nine or ten feet draft, and armed with a single long pivot gun, would be worth a whole fleet of ships of the line, frigates, or sloops, with batteries of the heaviest metal. Will it ever be possible to persuade our Government at home, or the Navy Department of this? I find by the records of this Legation, that my predecessors have again, and again, and again besought to have one or more such war-steamers sent out here; but in vain. I repeat now, however, and most urgently, the request, and I entreat that it may be brought to the attention of the Secretary of the Navy.

I have said that the slave-dealers are, at this immediate time, disposed to avail themselves of the advantage which these circumstances give to their use of the flag of the United States. None understand better than they do how little power or preparation there is here, on the part of our Government, for defeating or intercepting their enterprises. Within the last two weeks, two American fast-sailing brigs have been fitted out and sailed from this port, cleared and freighted for the coast of Africa. There was every reason to believe, from the quality and assortment of goods taken by them, and from other suspicious facts, that their object was to trade for slaves; but there was no positive evidence. Our excellent Consul did all he could, and he and I counselled together to devise some pretext for breaking up their voyages; but after all delays which could be lawfully interposed, both vessels have gone. If there had been a man-of-war in the harbour, they might have been followed and searched outside; but that would not have afforded proofs on which to seize them with any prospect, under our existing laws, of their condemnation by the Courts at home. While the last one of these vessels was yet in the harbour, and subject to the jurisdiction of the local police, she was visited and searched by order of the Minister of Justice, but without finding anything that would justify detaining her, being an American vessel. Her cargo of goods and stores, adapted to the African Slave Trade,

CLASS B.

would perhaps have led to her seizure if she had been an English or Brazilian ship, under the provisions of the Treaty between those two nations. To show, however, her probable character, I may mention that a subsequent search of the houses of the two Brazilian traders whose names were found in the charter-party, resulted in such discoveries that they were arrested, and are now in prison.

The Consul will probably give you a fuller and more detailed statement in regard to these particular vessels. I only refer to the cases as both illustration and occasion for what I have said generally on the subject.

The copies of my correspondence with the Consul and with Commodore McKeever, which I inclose (marked A 24, B 24, and C 24), will show that I was on the look-out on another occasion, some months ago, for one of these piratical expeditions, projected by an American. In answer to the application which you will observe I made then, the "Jamestown" was promptly sent up from Buenos Ayres, and remained in waiting here some time to intercept the expected slaver. But the voyage in that instance, in consequence of what occurred in New York, as I afterwards ascertained, to interrupt the preparation, was abandoned. The provisions and stores provided for the expedition were also found by one of the British cruisers (a small steamer) concealed on an uninhabited island near St. Catharine's, and destroyed. Miller, though, the infamous wretch who was at the head of it, and whose arrest in the United States Mr. Todd had previously advised on the depositions he had forwarded to your Department, I am informed has since been in the city, no doubt concocting new and similar schemes.

From other points on this coast I hear also rumours and suspicions of preparation for renewing the infernal Traffic.

We are proudly and justly jealous of our flag, and of the national rights which it represents. We will not permit our ships to be visited and questioned in their goings and coming upon the ocean. Are we not under all the greater obligations, therefore, to see to it ourselves, that that proud flag, and the ships which it covers and protects, are not desecrated by prostitution to horrible and cruel uses? What are the remedies or means of prevention? They have been often discussed; but permit me to suggest what appear to me the most obvious, and as far as I can see, the only efficient. If I repeat some things which have been advised and urged by my predecessors at this Court (and particularly by Mr. Wise and Mr. Todd), I beg leave to submit that such concurrence of views, after opportunities of information, should only serve to give greater weight and consideration to our united testimony and conclusions.

1. All direct trade in the vessels of the United States, between Brazil and the western coast of Africa, ought to be prohibited by Act of Congress. Then no regular clearances or ships' papers could be obtained, as if for honest voyages, to serve as a cover for the transfer of vessels to be used as slavers, after their arrival on the African coast. This prohibition, I admit, would be a strong measure; but none too strong, when it is considered that there is no really honest trade, or next to none, between these two coasts—none but what is in some way directly or indirectly connected with the commerce in slaves, or subject to be perverted into that channel. Lately, for example, a good many horses and cattle have been imported from the Cape of Good Hope to Rio de Janeiro. But the slave-dealers are getting hold of that idea; and under the pretence of having to take in cargoes of brute beasts, find a pretext for providing themselves with an unusual supply of water, farina, meal, and other stores suited for their intended human freight. They may even—the better to hide their true object—take on board a few horses or cattle, and then, after clearing for Brazil, proceed securely up the coast on the other side, until they can find an opportunity for tumbling the less valuable animals overboard, to take bipeds in their place, and sail away with all the speed they can make, to some secret and unwatched harbour on this coast. A total prohibition of trade between the two coasts would strike at the root of the mischief; and admitting that it interfered with some little present lawful trade, the good to be accomplished would far outweigh any trifling advantage, individual or national, to be derived from that; and there are other free fields enough—all the wide world and its oceans over—for the exercise of honest and harmless American commercial enterprise. If thought most advisable, the Act of Prohibition might be limited, for experiment, to a term of years.

2. If trade between Brazil and the coast of Africa were not entirely prohibited, the exportation from this country thither, of certain classes, or specified articles of merchandise, suited only or principally to be used in the Traffic for Slaves, might be forbidden as unlawful. The cargoes, for example, taken from this port a few days ago, in the two brigs I have referred to, were made up in great part of pieces of scarlet cloth, rude musical instruments, knives, common guns and gunpowder, designed, no doubt, for that sort of barter with the natives. Still I would not rely much on such partial restriction; and, moreover, it would be liable to serious objections. The articles prohibited might be sent through other channels, and not directly from this country; and it would not do to exclude them entirely from the coast in American bottoms, because, although used in the Trade for Slaves, the same goods are also exchanged for palm oil, dye woods, ivory, gold dust, and other African productions intended for other markets.

3. Another and more effective means for preventing the abuse of our flag would be an enactment prohibiting the granting of consular sea-letters to American vessels sold on this coast, or on the coast of Africa, for any other purpose than to authorize them to make the voyage home. It might be well indeed, to declare all such sales, except under certain specified conditions, fraudulent and void. This would help to put an end to all the sham transfers by which vessels are supplied to the slave importers, and would prevent also those actual purchases by foreigners in the assumed character of citizens of the United States, by which they secure to themselves, along with the property bought, the more important and valuable privilege of sailing still under American colours. Let such a law as this be made, and the perjuries which they can now always command to establish their citizenship and usual residence would avail them nothing.

4. But if none of these new legislative enactments are made to break up altogether, or restrict the trade in American bottoms between the two coasts, and the Government still relies upon mere physical force to compel an observance of the existing laws, or to bring the violators to justice, then by all means strengthen the power and efficiency of that force. I have already alluded to the absolute necessity of having at least one small war steamer constantly on this station. There ought, indeed, to be two or three attached to the squadron. But when our naval ships search and would seize a slaver, they have little encouragement to incur the responsibility. A commander is hardly justified in the risk of seizing and detaining one as a prize, unless slaves are found actually on board; and it is too well known that, adding murder to man-stealing, slave captains, when closely pursued and in fear of capture, have not hesitated to throw the wretched objects of their commerce into the sea, and thus destroy the only manifest proof of their guilt. To meet this difficulty, certain marks and circumstances should be made *prima facie* evidence of the unlawful character of the vessel and voyage. Let it be the law that a vessel found within certain latitudes between the two coasts, having as part of her equipment certain specified articles, such as shackles or manacles, spare planks suitable for fitting a slave-deck, or an extraordinary quantity of water, or provisions of the [kind used to feed and subsist a slave cargo, shall be subject to seizure, and shall be condemned, unless satisfactory proof be furnished on the part of the master or owner that she was engaged in a lawful employment. The specifications and clauses to this effect incorporated in the several Treaties made by Great Britain with Spain in 1835, and with other Powers at other times, might be consulted with advantage in the framing of an Act.

But enough. I have extended this communication quite beyond anything I designed when I began. But I am exceedingly anxious to attract to it your earnest consideration, and to obtain for its consideration, at this particular time for the reasons I have mentioned, not only your own wise and sagacious powers of mind and statesmanship, but the influence of the President and his administration, and, if possible, the action of Congress before the close of the present session.

Something must be done, beyond what is now provided for, if we would have it believed abroad that our Government is really sincere in its desire for the suppression of the Slave Trade, and that our people mean what they say when they are accustomed to denounce it as piracy and a vile and unholy Traffic. And, what is of far higher concern than the opinions of men, some more active

and energetic measures must be taken, if we would clear our skirts as a nation, and acquit ourselves, as we better might, of the obligations we owe to God and the cause of humanity.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) ROBERT C. SCHENCK.

Hon. Daniel Webster,  
Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

*Papers accompanying this Despatch.*

1. A 24, Mr. Schenck to Commodore Mc Keever, September 4, 1851.
2. B 24, Commodore Mc Keever to Mr. Schenck, October 1851.
3. C 24, Mr. Schenck, Confidential, to Consul Kent, October 10, 1851.

A 24.

*Legation of the United States,  
Rio de Janeiro, September 4, 1851.*

Sir,

I am in possession of information, confidentially communicated to me by his Excellency the British Minister at this Court, that a vessel, destined for the Slave Trade, and abusing, for her protection, the flag of our country, is expected to arrive at this port from the United States about the middle of next month. She was to sail about the end of August, and will have on board as master a notorious slave-trader, against whom much evidence is already on file at this Legation. The proofs of her coming, and of her character and object, are too full to be doubted.

It is necessary that this vessel should be closely watched on her arrival here; and it may be that sufficient cause will be found to justify following and seizing her when she leaves this harbour to proceed upon her unlawful voyage. I deem it exceedingly important, therefore, and request that you will hasten your intended return, so as to be here before the time indicated for her arrival.

The "Susquehanna" expecting to complete her repairs, and sail before the end of this month, unless you come with the "Congress," or send some other vessel of your squadron, there will be no American man-of-war in this harbour at a time when the aid and services of one may be most needed.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) ROBERT C. SCHENCK.

Commodore Isaac Mc Keever,  
Commanding United States' Squadron, Coast of Brazil.

B 24.

Sir,

*Buenos Ayres, October 1851.*

Your communication of the 29th August has been received, inclosing copies of correspondence between the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Legation, in reference to an alleged violation of a port regulation, by the United States' ship "Jamestown."

I have taken such measures as will prevent a recurrence of the matter complained of.

I have also received your communication of the 4th ultimo, conveying the intelligence, transmitted by his Excellency the British Minister at Rio de Janeiro, that a vessel, destined for the Slave Trade, and abusing for her protection the flag of our country, is expected to arrive at that port about the middle of the present month, and requesting the presence of one of our vessels of war, in order to take such measures as may prevent the prosecution of her unlawful voyage.

It was my intention, at first, to have proceeded myself upon this service, but the peculiar condition of affairs here has decided me to detail the "Jamestown" for the duty in question, and I have directed Captain Downing to consult with you in reference to the best means of effecting the proposed object.

With many thanks for the prompt manner in which you have communicated this intelligence, and with the hope that our efforts to prevent the abuse of our flag may be successful, I have, &c.

(Signed) I. McKEEVER,

*Commanding United States' Naval Forces, Brazil Station.*

His Excellency Robert C. Schenck,

Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States.

C 24.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

*Legation of the United States,*

*Rio de Janeiro, October 10, 1851.*

I have had information since about the 1st of last month, that a brigantine called the "*John Adams*," carrying the American flag, and with American papers, but destined for the Slave Trade, would arrive in this port from New York about the 15th of this month. Aboard of her will be coming, as owner or master, that notorious slave-trader, B. Miller, of whose sinnings in that way, heretofore, there is already evidence on file in your Consulate and at this Legation. The proofs I have of his present contemplated cruize have been obtained through Mr. Hudson, the British Minister at this Court, by intercepted letters, and revelations made by some of the accomplices, and are too clear to be doubted.

I have mentioned the case to you before. My object in writing at this moment is simply to remind you that the time is approaching near when we may expect the arrival of the vessel, and when a close watch, if such a craft does appear in this harbour, must be kept upon her movements, in order to discover anything that may lead to the detection of her true character, and her seizure in that case, if it be possible.

I have notified Commodore Mc Keever, at Monte Video, that the services of a vessel of his squadron may be needed to watch her motions, and, if good reason appears, to follow her to sea; I am daily expecting his arrival, with the frigate "*Congress*."

I know that you will cooperate most heartily in all that can be done, in order to bring to justice this scoundrel Miller, or any concerned with him, in his wicked attempt to prostitute the flag of our country. I rely upon you, therefore, to use the opportunities of your office to get the earliest information, and the most authentic, of the coming of such a brigantine into this port; whether Miller is aboard of her or not, and what character she assumes, and what papers she exhibits on her arrival.

Let us catch and punish the wretch and his associates, if it can possibly be done. I think we may now, perhaps, have such an opportunity.

I will call at your office, in the city, to-morrow, and give you some further particulars. In the meantime, I am, &c.

(Signed)

ROBERT C. SCHENCK.

Edward Kent, Esq.,

United States' Consul, Rio de Janeiro.

No. 43.

*Mr. Schenck to Mr. Everett.*

*Legation of the United States,*

*Rio de Janeiro, January 14, 1853.*

(Extract.)

Permit me, also, at this time, to refer you to my No. 24, suggesting the necessity of some further legislation by Congress, or the sending of a different sort of naval force to this station, to aid more effectually the suppression of the Slave Trade. That despatch, probably, was not brought to the notice of the President, or of the Secretary of the Navy. I shall report to you, in a few days,



an instance of flagrant disgrace to our flag, by being employed in that Traffic, which has recently been detected here, under precisely the circumstances of which I then gave warning.

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No. 45.

*Mr. Schenck to Mr. Everett.*

*Legation of the United States,  
Rio de Janeiro, February 5, 1853.*

(Extract.)

In my despatch No. 43, I made allusion to a recent act of slave piracy committed by an American on this coast. I proceed now to give some more distinct explanation and statement of the transaction.

In my No. 24, on the 26th of last April, I made certain observations and suggestions in regard to the African Slave Trade, and expressed my fears that the abomination was about to be actively renewed, under the protection and to the disgrace of our flag. I mentioned, as the immediate occasion for my writing on the subject at that time, that two American brigs had left this port under suspicious circumstances, intending, I had no doubt, to make slave voyages; although, under the existing laws, neither the Consul of the United States nor I had any power to detain them, or means to intercept and defeat their nefarious purpose. I was not mistaken. Those apprehensions have been realised.

One of the vessels indicated, by the accidents of navigation on the African coast, as has since been ascertained, was prevented from getting her human cargo, and has returned to the United States. The other, the "*Camargo*," American (I think from Portland, Maine), with American flag, captain, and crew, arrived on this coast again a few weeks ago, with 500 blacks on board, whom she succeeded, by concert with persons on shore, in running in and landing at Bracuhy, a little, unfrequented port, a few leagues from this city. To avoid pursuit and detection, the brig was then burnt to the water's edge, and the hull scuttled and sunk; her captain (named Gordon) and his sailors scattering through the country and escaping. The negroes were hurried up into the mountains. About 50 of them have been found, and are in charge of the Brazilian authorities. Four of the sailors have been arrested, and are now in prison here awaiting their trial. So also is Mr. George Marsden, a native and citizen of the United States, a resident in this city, who had been consignee of the "*Camargo*" when she was here in April. Captain Gordon has eluded pursuit, and got away, it is understood, to Monte Video, whence he has probably gone to the United States.

Perhaps I may hereafter obtain testimony upon which these villains can be prosecuted at home; or may, possibly, make an arrangement with the Imperial authorities, for sending two of the guilty seamen in person, to be used as State's evidence in our court, for the indictment and conviction of Gordon. Mr. Consul Kent, who has probably made report to you of the transaction, will render me in this every possible assistance.

Immediately after hearing of the occurrence, I addressed myself to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, asking him to procure for me such information and proofs as this Government might be able to furnish, implicating citizens of the United States.

Inclosed are copies of my note, and the reply to it, which I have just received (A 45 and B 45).

I send a copy of one of the newspapers of this city, the "*Correio Mercantil*" of the 31st December, containing an article about this affair. I inclose also a translation of the same. The editor's comments upon the relation of the United States to the matter are severe; but in the main, alas! too just and true. Our flag, as I have explained formerly, is the one particularly chosen by these pirates and man-traders for disguise; and I fear that unless something more effectual be enacted and done by Congress and the Executive, we must expect to see the instances of crime under its protection soon and often repeated.

But I have nothing to add now to what I urged so much at length in my despatch of April. I give this present account of an outrage actually committed as the best possible evidence that the suspicions and apprehensions I then expressed were not entertained without good reason.

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No. 82.—A 45.

*Legation of the United States,  
Rio de Janeiro, December 31, 1852.*

The Undersigned, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States, has read with much regret certain publications in the public journals of this city, from which it would appear that a cargo of blacks from Africa has been landed, within a few days past, at some point on the coast of this empire, and carried under the protection of an unlawful and armed force into the interior, to be held as slaves.

And it is a source of still deeper chagrin to see it reported that this success of those engaged in the infamous Traffic, has been accomplished under the flag of the United States.

Desiring to do whatever may be possible to aid in the prevention or punishment of such offences, and particularly if committed by American citizens, desecrating, for that purpose, their national ensign, the Undersigned addresses himself now to his Excellency Paulino José Soares de Souza, of the Council of His Majesty the Emperor, Minister and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, with a request to be furnished with whatever official or unofficial statements or proofs may be in possession of his Excellency in relation to this occurrence, and tending to show that any vessel or citizen of the United States has been thus detestably employed.

Such information, if it cannot be availed of now, to prevent the wrong and outrage in this particular instance, may at least serve to enforce the communication with which the Undersigned will feel it his duty again to call the attention of his Government to the subject.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT C. SCHENCK.

His Excellency Paulino Jose Soares de Souza, &c.

B 45.

*Department of Foreign Affairs,  
Rio de Janeiro, February 1, 1853.*

(Translation.)

The Undersigned, of the Council of His Majesty the Emperor, Minister and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the note No. 82, which Mr. Robert C. Schenck, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of America, addressed him on the 31st of December last, in which, referring to certain publications made by the journals of this city, relative to the landing of Africans, which was effected lately under the flag of his nation, in one of the ports on the coast of the empire, he asks to be furnished with whatever information or proofs that may be within reach, in connection with that fact, inasmuch as he is very desirous to cooperate on his part, in the prevention and punishment of similar crimes, particularly when committed by American citizens.

The Undersigned regrets to have to communicate to Mr. Schenck, in reply to his note aforesaid, that four sailors belonging to the crew of the slaver having been captured on the 4th of last month, two of whom are American citizens, they have deposed that said vessel (slaver) is the North American brig "*Camargo*," Captain Gordon; that she entered this port loaded on the 22nd of October, 1851, proceeding from California; that on the 11th of April of last year, she sailed from this place for the Cape of Good Hope, with a lawful cargo, dispatched with the same nationality by the American citizen George Marsden, who is also detained for the investigation, proceeding from there to Mozambique and Quillimane, where she was armed, and received on board a cargo of 500 Africans, who were landed at Bracuhy, on the coast of Angra dos Reis, on the 12th day of December, being accompanied by the crew to the top of the mountain, and the vessel set on fire on the same night of the landing.

Such is the scanty information which the Undersigned can give for the present to Mr. Schenck, the proceedings which have been instituted not being

yet fully organised, but as soon as the investigation has been brought to a close, the Undersigned will not neglect to furnish Mr. Schenck with more ample particulars in order that he may communicate the same to his Government.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

PAULINO JOSE SOARES DE SOUZA.

Mr. Robert C. Schenck,

&c.      &c.      &c.

*Translation of an Editorial in the "Correio Mercantil" of Rio de Janeiro, of December 31, 1852.*

When we gave yesterday the information we possessed respecting the landing of Africans at a point upon our coast, we said: "We are informed that this violation of law was perpetrated under the American flag.

"From subsequent information we have received, we can say, and we do so with regret, that it was the flag of the United States which covered this act of piracy, sustained by citizens of that great nation, who, disobeying the orders of their Government, and violating the laws of their country, do not blush to soil the glorious flag of their nation only with a view to the vile profits of this accursed Traffic in Africans.

"If it is possible, for special considerations, to weaken the painful impression which all must feel at the sight of the perpetration of a great crime, such considerations exist for us in the reflection that it was not our flag which protected the crime perpetrated; and that even our authorities upon the coast can find an excuse for not having employed measures to prevent the landing of which we treat, in the absence of force at their disposal to resist the [capangas] of our capitalists, who will thence presume that they can do whatever they think proper for their particular interest.

"If the Government of the American Union does not resolve to vindicate still more the honour of its flag; if its diplomatic Agents, and those of its navy, have not their powers enlarged, or are not provided with means for prosecuting those who, against the laws of their own country, violate the Laws of Nations, the Slave Trade will recover new animation, and the American flag, which has assisted so much in the civilisation of the world, while it continues to be respected as the representative emblem of a powerful nation, will lose both in dignity and glory. It is confidently stated that other speculations, like that of which we treat, will also be protected by the American flag; and even although the American Minister should wish to employ all the means in his power to oppose the violation of the laws of the country which he so worthily represents, and should be assisted in this by the worthy commander of the squadron, how can they arrive at any profitable result so long as they have at their disposal only a few ships of war, all of large size, and scattered over so vast a station as that of South America?

"In spite of all we must not be disheartened; let the Imperial Government continue to employ all the legal means at its disposal (and investigations to discover the crime and its perpetrators are legal), it possesses more than enough of means of force, which, employed with caution, will bring to repentance those who dare abuse the laws to which they are subject, and whose violation can cause us much harm; injuring our reputation abroad, and retarding our prosperity.

"If the Imperial Government be assisted, as it should be, by the authorities; if among them be found the same energy which they say has been displayed by Señor Francisco Diego Pereira de Vasconcellos, Chief of the Police of the capital (who, we are told, has already discovered the clue through which he will be able to find out those who are criminal on land, no matter to what class of society they may belong), all the labour and expense of the last three years will not have been in vain, and the criminals will be arrested in their career.

"Not wishing to place any obstacles in the way of the researches of the criminal authorities, we are obliged to keep silence upon all we know; there will not be wanting, however, an occasion to inform your readers of all."

No. 602.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Crampton.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, May 5, 1854.*

I HAVE received your despatch dated the 17th ultimo, inclosing a copy of a message from the President of the United States, laying before Congress a correspondence which passed between Mr. Schenck, the United States' Minister at Rio de Janeiro, and the United States' Secretary of State, in 1851, 1852, and 1853, respecting the abuse of the American flag for slave-trading purposes.

With reference to that correspondence, I have to instruct you to say to Mr. Marcy that the contents of these papers have attracted much interest and attention in this country on the part of those acquainted with the past history of the Slave Trade in Brazil and in Cuba.

You will state that, although the Brazilian Slave Trade has happily ceased since the end of 1852, the great and very lamentable increase of the Cuban Slave Trade in 1853 has caused Her Majesty's Government to give their earnest attention to the remedial and preventive measures which Mr. Schenck has so clearly and forcibly pointed out to his Government for adoption.

Her Majesty's Government have particularly noticed the third recommendation contained in Mr. Schenck's despatch of the 26th of April, 1852, with regard to the expediency of passing a law prohibiting the granting of Consular sea-letters to American vessels sold on the coasts of Brazil or of Africa; and you will observe to Mr. Marcy that if such a prohibition had fortunately been law in the United States, a great portion of the Cuban Slave Trade which has of late been extensively carried on in United States' vessels, such as the notorious "*Lady Suffolk*," the "*Jasper*," the "*Silenus*," the "*General de Kalb*," and others, might have been prevented.

In conclusion, you will express the hope of Her Majesty's Government that some, if not all, of the useful legislative measures suggested by Mr. Schenck may be recommended to Congress by the Government of the United States.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 603.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Crampton.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, May 24, 1854.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch\* which I have received from Her Majesty's Commissioners at Loanda, reporting that they had received information that an American vessel had been captured off the River Congo, by the United States' brig of war "*Perry*," on suspicion of being engaged in the Slave Trade.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

\* See Class A, No. 55.

No. 604.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Crampton.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, June 3, 1854.*

I TRANSMIT herewith copies of a despatch which I have received from the British Commissioners at Loanda, and of a letter from the commander of Her Majesty's ship "Philomel,"\* reporting the proceedings of Lieutenant Page, of the United States' brig "Perry," in detaining an American vessel called the "Glamorgan," and in watching another, both of which were suspected of being employed to carry away slaves from the River Congo.

And I have to instruct you to communicate to Mr. Marcy the contents of the inclosed papers, and to state to him that Her Majesty's Government have received with much satisfaction these reports, showing the vigilance and activity of Lieutenant Page, and his readiness to avail himself of the cooperation of Commander Skene, of Her Majesty's ship "Philomel," for the prevention of the Slave Trade.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 605.

*Mr. Crampton to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 12.)*

(Extract.)

*Washington, May 29, 1854.*

I DID not fail, in conformity with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 5th instant, to make to Mr. Marcy the remarks therein directed, in regard to the useful suggestions for checking the abuse of the American flag for Slave Trade purposes, made by Mr. Schenck, the United States' Minister at Rio de Janeiro, in the course of a correspondence between himself and the United States' Secretary of State, copies of which accompanied the message of the President to the Senate, dated the 4th of March last.

Mr. Marcy requested that I should convey to him in writing the observations of Her Majesty's Government, in order that he might lay them before a Committee of the Senate now employed in preparing a report upon the subject of the Slave Trade.

In compliance with this request, I have addressed to Mr. Marcy the note of which I have the honour to inclose a copy herewith.

Mr. Clayton presented to the Senate, on the 23rd instant, a resolution, accompanied by a very able speech, recommending that an inquiry should be instituted by the Standing Committee of Foreign Relations as to the expediency of providing by law for such restrictions on the power of American Consuls in the Spanish West India Islands to issue sea-letters on the transfer of American vessels in those islands, as will prevent the abuse of the American flag by persons engaged in the African Slave Trade.

I have the honour to inclose an extract from the "Globe" newspaper, containing a copy of this resolution and a report of Mr. Clayton's speech, as well as the remarks of some other Senators on this subject, and also on that of slavery in the Island of Cuba generally, which will not be perused without interest by your Lordship.

Your Lordship will remark that Mr. Clayton has taken this opportunity to correct some of the very erroneous statements in regard to the late proceedings of the Spanish authorities in Cuba, contained in the speech of Mr. Slidell of Louisiana, a copy of which I have already had the honour to inclose.

\* See Class A, Nos. 60 and 106.

Inclosure 1 in No. 605.

*Mr. Crampton to Mr. Marcy.*

Sir,

*Washington, May 27, 1854.*

HAVING thought it my duty to call the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the valuable suggestions made by Mr. Schenck, the Envoy of the United States in Brazil, in the course of a correspondence which passed between that Minister and the United States' Secretary of State in 1851, 1852, and 1853, copies of which accompanied the message from the President to the Senate dated the 7th March, 1854, I have been instructed by the Earl of Clarendon to state to you, Sir, in reference to that correspondence, that these papers have attracted much interest and attention in Great Britain on the part of those acquainted with the past history of the Slave Trade in Brazil and in Cuba.

I am to state that although the Brazilian Slave Trade has happily ceased since the end of the year 1852, the great and very lamentable increase of the Cuban Slave Trade in 1853 has caused Her Majesty's Government to give their earnest attention to the remedial and preventive measures which Mr. Schenck has so clearly and forcibly pointed out to his Government for adoption.

Her Majesty's Government have particularly noticed the third recommendation contained in Mr. Schenck's despatch of the 26th April, 1852, with regard to the expediency of passing a law prohibiting the granting of Consular sea-letters to American vessels sold on the coasts of Brazil or of Africa; and Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that if such prohibition had fortunately been law in the United States, a great portion of the Cuban Slave Trade which has of late been extensively carried on in United States' vessels, such as the notorious "*Lady Suffolk*," the "*Jasper*," the "*Silenus*," the "*General de Kalb*" and others, might have been prevented.

In conclusion, I have to express the hope of Her Majesty's Government that some, if not all, of the Legislative measures suggested by Mr. Schenck may be recommended to Congress by the Government of the United States.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 605.

*Extract from the Washington "Globe" of May 23, 1854.*

#### WEST INDIA SLAVE TRADE.

*Mr. Clayton.*—I present to the Senate the following resolution; and, as it is one of inquiry, I ask for its consideration now:

Resolved—

That the Committee on Foreign Relations be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing, by law, for such restrictions on the power of American Consuls residing in the Spanish West India Islands, to issue sea-letters on the transfer of American vessels in those islands, as will prevent the abuse of the American flag in protecting persons engaged in the African Slave Trade.

*The President.*—The question is on agreeing to the resolution.

*Mr. Clayton.*—I desire to ask the attention of the Senate while I submit a few remarks upon the subject of this resolution:

Since the year 1852 the Slave Trade has fearfully increased in the Island of Cuba. Thousands of African negroes have been brought from the coast of Africa during the last sixteen months and smuggled into this island, and the fact has attracted the attention of good men throughout the civilized world. No portion of this Union is believed to be more decidedly opposed to this inhuman Traffic than the southern portion of it, where, although men are deeply

interested in the preservation of their own peculiar institution, the abhorrence of these outrages on humanity by the African Slave Trade exists as strongly as it does in any other portion of the world, and I think I am fully justified in saying that the men of the South will go as far in putting down this inhuman Traffic in human flesh as any others. Southern honour stands pledged to that effect, and the brightest jewel in the chaplet of the South is her honour. We are all, then, equally interested to inquire what has been the cause of the recent extraordinary success of the Slave Trade in the Island of Cuba? It is with regret that I am compelled to admit the fact that a great majority of these slaves have been imported from the coasts of Africa in vessels of American build, and that these vessels, navigated by crews of American sailors, and commanded by American captains, have participated in that Trade to an alarming extent, and in a manner which I will now proceed to explain :

The owner of an American ship, desiring to sell her for a slaver, sends her with a cargo to Havana. She arrives there with the understanding that she is to be sold and employed in the Slave Trade. Some wealthy individual or joint stock company, tempted by the prospect of enormous profits, advances money enough to purchase the vessel, and fit her out for an adventure to the coast of Africa. By the laws of the United States it is necessary for her new owner to procure for her a new register upon her return to this country, and within three days after she has arrived at a port here. She is generally purchased in the name of the captain who sails with her to Havana, and who undertakes with his employers to navigate her under the American flag, and with an American crew, to some port on the African coast at or south of Elephant Bay, for enormous profits, proportioned to the risk he incurs, but seldom falling short of 5,000 or 6,000 dollars. It was not the original intention that she should return to the United States, but her Commander, on his arrival at Havana, deposits her papers with the American Consul, and obtains, in lieu of them, for the vessel, a Consular certificate, called a Consular sea-letter. With such a certificate, or, as it is said, sometimes with the original sea-letter, with which he sailed from the United States, the captain embarks with the very crew with which he sailed from the United States, under the American flag, bound for Gallinas, or Cabinda, or some other port on the coast of Africa where slaves can be best procured. He takes with him another captain and another crew as passengers, to cover his design, composed generally of Portuguese or Spaniards, with the addition, perhaps, of a few American or English desperadoes, and his cargo is generally composed of farina, beans, casks of water, and aguadente, sweetmeats, and boards, seemingly cast without care on the top of the water-casks, but, in reality, all fitted and prepared to make a slave-deck to stow away the slaves on their return from Africa to the Island of Cuba, for which purpose this slave-deck, it is said, can be constructed by the crew in less than an hour.

On the voyage from Havana to the coast of Africa, if overhauled by an English cruizer, he points to his American flag and shows his American papers, and when he arrives at his port of destination, in pursuance of a previous arrangement, between those concerned in the Trade at Cuba and their agents on the coast of Africa, the American colours are lowered, the American captain and the American crew leave the vessel and go on shore, or on board another vessel waiting there to bring them back to Cuba, and the new captain and crew, who sailed in the slaver as passengers, then take charge of the vessel. If an English or American cruizer be in sight, they receive timely information by signals from the land, and thus avoiding capture, the vessel lays-to within sight of the barracoons, or slave-pens, without taking in sails, but merely lowering her topsails, until her human freight is, by the immense barges or boats prepared for the purpose on shore, put on board the vessel. Thus, frequently, 900 or 1,000 slaves are shipped aboard a vessel, and she is off on her return voyage to Cuba, eluding all pursuit, in less than one hour after she entered the port. Such an adventure is commonly achieved in the night, but it is also sometimes performed in broad daylight. I remember that, while engaged professionally in the trial of an indictment in the Circuit Court of the United States, for such a violation of the Acts of Congress, a sailor, and a very intelligent witness, swore that he had frequently seen a vessel run into the harbour of Cabinda, send down her topsails on the caps, and clear out, with 900 slaves on board, in half an hour.

A Consular passport, or sea-letter, as it is called, is required by our Treaty with Spain, in which its character and purposes are described. Without it a voyage from Havana to the coast of Africa could not be performed, as the vessel could not clear without it. Whatever may be its form, it is considered indispensable. It is a protection against English as well as Spanish cruizers. The English understand that we deny the right of search, and when the sea-letter is produced, and appears to be regular, they permit the slaver to proceed on her voyage without being searched; but when our own cruizers overhaul a slaver they proceed to search, and when they find such a cargo as I have described on board, they seize the vessel as a prize and send her home for a trial. As none but our own cruizers can capture her while she is in possession of this sea-letter, she may make nine voyages out of ten to the coast of Africa in safety, and if she be then captured, she has made a fortune for her owners. No very long period has elapsed since the "*Lady Suffolk*," the "*General de Kalb*," the "*Silenus*," and the "*Jasper*," with many other American vessels, have been employed in this infernal Traffic in the way I have described.

Sir, it is the duty of this Government to arrest this evil. Every senator will concur with me in that. But the question is, how can we do without interfering with the interests of our ship-owners? The right to sell an American ship in a foreign market is a very important right to us. If, upon the sale of a vessel in Cuba, a sea-letter be refused to the purchaser, the vessel must return home for a new register before she can proceed on a foreign voyage. To deprive her of the sea-letter when engaged in legitimate commerce would be felt as a great evil. But we must either tolerate the Slave Trade with Cuba, and, in fact, Africanize Cuba ourselves, or we must restrict the issuing of these passports by some means which will effectually prevent the American flag from being abused for the protection of persons engaged in the Slave Trade.

I see that Mr. Schenck, our late Minister to Brazil, in one of his despatches to the State Department, proposed to prohibit the issuing of sea-letters for any purpose; but it has occurred to me that, if an Act of Congress were passed directing the purchaser of an American vessel in Cuba to give bond with sureties in a sufficient sum that the vessel should not, before her return to the United States for a register, be employed in the Slave Trade, and should further provide that a large portion (say one half the sum to be exacted for a violation of the condition of the bond) should be given to an informer who should prosecute the slaver to conviction, it would, perhaps, as effectually stop the Traffic as an utter prohibition of the passport, while an honest trader might find it more advantageous to give such a bond to enable him to proceed on a foreign voyage before he returned home for a new register.

Other plans for arresting the Slave Trade have also been suggested, such as the prohibition of all direct trade in the vessels of the United States between Cuba and the coast of Africa, or prohibiting the exportation from Cuba in United States' vessels of certain classes or specified articles of merchandize suited only or principally to be used in the Traffic for Slaves; the employment of small war-steamers of the class called propellers, constantly on the coast of Cuba; and the establishment of Consulates on the coast of Africa. Without the adoption of some method for the suppression of the Slave Trade, it will not be believed abroad that we are sincere when we denounce it as piracy.

All these views are proper for the consideration of the Committee on Foreign Relations, but I am not disposed to go into the discussion of them now.

Before I leave the subject of the resolution, it may be well to remark that American ships are always sought for in Havana for the Slave Trade, and command a higher price when purchased or chartered to be used as slavers than the vessels of any other nation. Hence it is that our countrymen are more deeply implicated as participating in this Traffic than either Englishmen or Frenchmen. We have acquired a degree of skill in the construction of ships unequalled by any other nation. The ship-builder has enjoyed, ever since the 1st of January, 1850, when the Act of Parliament repealing the British Navigation Laws went into operation, the British market for the sale of American vessels, with the entire monopoly of the American market. The British Act of June 1849 changed the definition of a British ship, not requiring her to be of British build. We have declined to change our Navigation Laws in this regard, and still require that an American vessel shall be of American build. This is a species of manufacture that has always been protected against foreign competi-



tion, not merely by protecting and discriminating duties, but by utter prohibition, and yet I believe that the American navigating and commercial interest has generally opposed the tariff for the protection of American manufactures.

But it is not merely the superiority of the American vessel, but the superior character of the American captains for skill, intrepidity, and daring in these hazardous enterprises, that causes them to be employed at higher prices than could be obtained by others. The absence of an effective American naval force at Havana to arrest an American slaver, is also to be considered in connection with the fact that an English cruizer of some description is almost always ready to seize a slaver proceeding under English colours.

In connection with this subject, I desire to make some remarks in regard to an opinion which has been intimated by my honourable friends from Louisiana and Florida (Mr. Slidell and Mr. Mallory). They have both expressed the opinion, and it has gone out to the country, that Spain has it in view at this time to Africanize Cuba. When I heard the speech of the honourable Senator from Louisiana I confess that, though differing from him in his conclusions, I was strongly impressed by the statements he made. I was inclined to believe that, when facts were set forth so carefully and circumstantially to prove it, there was a disposition manifested at this time on the part of Spain to emancipate the slaves in Cuba. I was disposed also to defer to the superior means of information of the honourable Senator from Louisiana, as well as that of the Senator from Florida; but I beg leave to say to those gentlemen, who are now present, that, after some examination of the subject, I doubt the justice of the conclusions at which they have arrived, and I will venture to give some reasons why I entertain these doubts. I shall be very happy to be converted by them, if in error, but, for the present, from the information before me, the only proof that exists for an American statesman to rely upon, shows that if Cuba is about to become Africanized, it will be by our own vessels and our own crews importing slaves from the coast of Africa, and not by the efforts of Spain or of the Captain-General of Cuba.

I have seen, and I presume the honourable Senators to whom I have referred have seen, the "Diario de la Marina," published at Havana, of the 4th and 10th instant, and of the 12th instant. Those of the 4th and 10th contain Decrees of the Captain-General, the Marquis de Pezuela, which order a registration of all the slaves in the island, and at the same authorize the local authorities, or police-officers of the island, to visit plantations where slave-labour is employed, for the purpose of ascertaining whether slaves have been imported into the island in violation of the Treaties and Laws of Spain. The object, Sir, proclaimed on the face of these Decrees, made under the authority of the Queen, was to stop the Slave Trade—to arrest the very evil which was brought upon Cuba by our countrymen, as I have already stated. Well, Sir, upon visiting those estates, the police-officers, with the registry in hand of every slave on the plantation, ascertained that a great many additions had been made to the number of negroes, and satisfied themselves that the new comers were blacks imported from Africa, and they were accordingly declared not to be slaves. Then, Sir, what was the duty of the Spanish authorities under these circumstances? What was the duty of the man who controlled the Government of the island—his duty to God and man? The negroes were free; they had never been slaves; they had been kidnapped, and brought to Cuba by the pirates. They were ignorant, destitute, and utterly incapable of maintaining themselves. They did not know how to work on plantations; they could talk no word of English or Spanish; they could not be understood; and in that wretched condition the Spanish Government treated them as free, but for their own preservation it bound them as apprentices for one year, and I think this accounts for the statement to which one of the honourable Senators referred, that the Captain-General himself took one of these apprentices. Surely it was his duty to do so, if—

*Mr. Slidell.*—Will the Senator allow me to interrupt him?

*Mr. Clayton.*—Certainly.

*Mr. Slidell.*—In the remarks which I made I did not deal with the attempts of the Captain-General to give liberty to persons thus recently introduced into

the island. I made no comment on the subject of the apprenticeship of these negroes; but I did endeavour to call the attention of the Senate to the fact that Spain is now encouraging the importation of barbarian Africans, not as slaves, but as apprentices, and adopting the system of colonization, which, if carried out, will exceed in its horrors anything which has occurred in the annals of the Slave Trade in former years.

I showed, I think, by reference to the instructions on the subject of colonization and immigration, that they were allowed to carry four persons to the ton, somewhat in the proportion of ten to one of those allowed by our law. But I never objected—I made no reference in the way of criticism, or commentary, or disapprobation—to the attempt of the Captain-General to put an end to the Slave Trade in the Island of Cuba; but I have denounced the attempt to establish, in another form, and under another name, a Trade which I thought infinitely more dangerous to us, and quite as cruel to the poor Africans themselves, as the Slave Trade which existed in former years. I believe the Senator from Florida (Mr. Mallory) made some allusion to the fact to which the Senator from Delaware referred.

*Mr. Clayton.*—I will reply to the point made by the honourable Senator directly: but I wish first to close my remarks in regard to this order of registration, authorizing the police to ascertain whether slaves had been imported into Cuba. The honourable Senator admits there is nothing wrong in that. I am happy to hear it. The Spanish authority has done nothing that it ought not to have done on that score. They have obeyed the dictates of humanity in regard to that registration, and the order for apprenticing the victims of the Slave Trade.

Then, Sir, the honourable Senator tells us that the order has been issued for the colonization of Cuba, and he thinks with African negroes. There, Sir, is the point upon which the honourable Senator is mistaken. I have this day seen the order itself, the Decree in the "Diario de la Marina" of the 12th instant; it does not propose to introduce African labourers into Cuba, but free labourers, Spaniards, Chinese, Coolies, and Yucatan Indians. I am assured, and I do verily believe, that nothing is further from the intention of the Spanish Government, at this very time, than to pursue a policy so suicidal, so destructive to her own interests, so injurious to us, and so infamous, as that of attempting to Africanize Cuba by means of the emancipation of the slaves.

The order, or decree, published by the Captain-General, I say again, Sir, confines the introduction of the free labourers into Cuba, contemplated by it, to Spaniards, Chinese, Coolies, and Yucatan Indians. Why, Sir, reflect for a moment, amidst the din that has been raised on this subject, upon what is the interest of Spain. She is not utterly insensible to her own interests. We have offered her one hundred millions of dollars for Cuba. She owes eighty millions to England, or rather to British capitalists. She must have become more philanthropic than I have ever heard she was before, and more willing to sacrifice for her philanthropy, if she is willing now to try this experiment. If it is to be done for the purpose of spiting us, it will be the most expensive indulgence of malice I ever heard of.

Sir, the Government of Spain is poor; she cannot afford to throw away a hundred millions of dollars. Cuba is not only important to Spain on account of the revenues accruing from it; but because it furnishes the Spaniards of Old Spain the best market in the world for their wheat. It is for that reason, among others, that you can never make an impression on the Spanish Cortes when you offer to purchase the Island of Cuba. It is a greater obstruction in your way, when you attempt to buy Cuba, that that market for wheat exists there, than the whole revenue derived from the island by the Queen and the Government.

A discriminating duty, every one knows, amounting to 10 dollars a barrel, is made in the Island of Cuba in favour of Spanish flour, and not only against us, but everybody else. It is for the gratification of the Spanish agriculturists that such an enormous discrimination is made. Do you believe, Sir, considering the deep interest which these agriculturists have in the island, in consequence of the fact which I have stated, and the power which they exercise in Old Spain, sufficient to crush any administration there, that Spain intends, merely for the purpose of gratifying her malice towards us, to turn loose half a

million of brigands in the island, to slaughter, to burn, and to destroy everything before them, and to renew all the horrors of San Domingo? I, for my part, cannot believe it. If my honourable friends who have ventured this opinion cannot bring forward something stronger than anything which I have yet seen introduced, I must take leave to express my dissent, and to say that I believe, at this moment, nothing is further from the intentions of the Spanish Government than to emancipate the slaves in Cuba, which would be attended with the inevitable destruction of their island.

Mr. President, these impressions, honestly entertained, have been now candidly and openly expressed to honourable Senators here. I hold myself, notwithstanding this expression of opinion, open to conviction, if gentlemen on the other side of the Chamber will produce facts to satisfy me that such a thing is contemplated by the Spanish Government at this time, as the utter ruin of that island. I am anxious to get all the information that can be had on the subject, and shall be thankful to any one who will correct any error into which I may have fallen.

*Mr. Weller.*—I should undoubtedly have objected to the introduction of this resolution this morning, if I had anticipated that the honourable Senator from Delaware contemplated making a speech. The subject, into the discussion of which the honourable Senator from Delaware has deemed it proper to go this morning, has been referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. That Senator is a member of the Committee; and he is aware of the fact that a meeting has been called for to-morrow for the express purpose of passing upon the very subject that he has been debating. I conceive, therefore, that it would have been much more proper for that Senator to have waited until the Committee, of which he is a member, had had an opportunity of investigating the facts, and making a report to this body. Upon the resolution being submitted by my friend from Louisiana (Mr. Slidell) the other day, the Senator from Ohio (Mr. Chase) intimated a desire to discuss the question, but he was prevailed upon to withhold the discussion until the subject could be properly brought before us on the report of the Committee on Foreign Relations. The example, however, has this morning been set by one of the oldest members of that Committee, of discussing a question which he proposes shall be investigated by the Committee in order to get at the facts. Does not every Senator discover that the right way would have been to have the Committee first investigate the questions upon which he and the Senator from Louisiana differ? And when the Committee shall have submitted the facts, we shall be enabled to enter upon the discussion with an understanding of its merits. But the other course has been adopted. I know it has been the practice in the Senate to introduce a resolution of inquiry merely for the purpose of hanging a speech upon it. That has been the practice; but I give notice now that I shall object to that course hereafter. It is, in my judgment, a practice that would be more honoured in the breach than in the observance, when we have practical questions to dispose of. It would be much better to proceed to the disposition of the public business instead of discussing in advance a question that must be investigated by a standing committee. I appeal, therefore, to the Senate to suffer this whole question to go to the Committee on Foreign Relations; and after they shall have made a report, we can have a full and free interchange of opinions here. But to the Senator from Delaware I must be allowed to say that I think it would have been much more respectful to the members of the Committee to which he belongs, if he had abstained from the discussion of this question until we could have met to-morrow, and interchanged opinions amongst ourselves.

*Mr. Mallory.*—Mr. President, I have been referred to by the honourable Senator from Delaware; and without any desire to engage in the discussion of the subject to which he has alluded at this time, I think it will be proper for me to make a remark or two explanatory, as I conceive, of the points which he has made.

The expediency of restricting the power of our Consuls in granting "sea-letters" to American vessels, upon their sale to American citizens in foreign countries, upon which the Senator from Delaware has commented, must be evident to every man acquainted with our commercial transactions abroad; and in connection with such transfers, I will remind the honourable Senator, of

what he is well aware, that American citizens abroad may purchase foreign vessels, and obtain in addition to the bill of sale or instrument, a transfer, a notarial certificate of property, and that such certificate, though it does not confer upon the vessel thus acquired an American character, makes her American property, and, as such, entitled to all the protection of the flag. Such vessels may engage in the Slave Trade. Indeed, vessels thus sailed may, under existing laws, engage in our coastwise trade, subject only to the payment of foreign tonnage upon every entrance at our Custom-houses.

This question should, I think, go to the Committee on Foreign Relations, in connection with that of sea-letters, to which the Senator from Delaware has referred.

*Mr. Clayton.*—Certainly.

*Mr. Mallory.*—Now, Sir, I proposed, when I introduced a resolution of inquiry a few days ago, and had it referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations, to defer discussion (for I conceive it to be one of the most important which can come before us), until the question shall come up from that Committee; but the honourable Senator's remarks may, perhaps, mislead some of us who have not given special attention to this subject. He asks, very pertinently, what interest has Spain in Africanizing Cuba? Certainly such a course would be suicidal; and it is apparent to all, that so long as she can maintain her possession of the island, her clear and unquestionable interest precludes the consideration of such a course. The violations of private rights alone, apart from all other views, would for ever induce an honourable nation to avoid such a calamity. Cuba, the "ever faithful Cuba," is her principal colony, for the Phillipines and Porto Rico add but little to the revenues of the Crown. Cuba takes Spain's surplus flour, her oils, wines, and cotton fabrics, and many other articles of her produce and manufacture, and receives in return Cuba's sugar, tobacco, coffee, cigars, &c., giving to Spain profitable employment for outward and homeward voyages of her shipping, building up her merchant marine, and fostering a valuable school for seamen. This most valuable trade we have, by our unwise attempts at retaliation, aided to build up.

Spain, without seamen or shipping, saw the necessity of discriminating in favour of her own tonnage against that of all other nations, and did so by the imposition of heavier duties upon foreign vessels and their cargoes than upon her own. We, to coerce her into the abandonment of this policy, retaliated by corresponding enactments; enactments which have sent Spanish purchasers to the markets of England, France, and Russia, where no such restrictions upon her tonnage exists; and the result is, that while the Spanish flag is scarcely ever seen in our ports, Cuba imports from Great Britain alone about four millions of her products and manufactures annually in Spanish bottoms.

Such are some of the prominent interests and considerations which must induce Spain to make almost any sacrifice to retain this Colony; and unless we can find in her policy, as manifested by her acts and declarations, strong presumptions of a design to Africanize it, it would be as illogical as it would be unjust to her, to entertain the supposition; for to Africanize Cuba, Sir, is to arm the beastly and brutal African, fresh from his jungle, thirsting for blood, knowing no law, ignorant of all restraints, and to hurry him on to the slaughter of the white race and the desolation of the island. To Africanize, Sir, is to sum up, in one word, those horrors of which the civilized world was ignorant until St. Domingo's fiends, in liberty's name, devised them. I think, Sir, a fair review of Spain's policy and present position, with reference to Cuba, will justify our reasonable apprehensions of such a result; and it becomes us to determine whether we shall await its consummation, or by timely and judicious action avert it. Such a review, Sir, a calm and dispassionate review, I trust this subject will receive at the hands of the Committee.

Sir, I concur in much that the honourable Senator from Delaware has said with reference to American vessels in the Slave Trade. I deplore it, Sir, as much as he does, and would, at almost any cost, desire to see it annihilated. The only two slavers of which I have had any knowledge were American vessels. One of these, the "*Jasper*," to which the Senator has alluded, came directly from Havana to the coast of Florida, and subsequently, as I learn, delivered a cargo of slaves in Cuba; and, Sir, following a suggestion which has been urged

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with much force in Great Britain with reference to her fleet on the African coast, I cannot doubt that our ships would be more efficiently as well as more economically and safely employed upon the coast of Cuba than upon the coast of Africa, in suppressing this Trade.

But, Sir, what can the ships of Great Britain and the United States do against the open and unequivocal encouragement and protection extended to the Slave Trade by the Cuban authorities? Think you, Sir, a slaver could land her cargo upon the shores of Cuba, were the authorities, in good faith, using the means at their command to prevent it? No, Sir, not one in ten thousand could escape detection. A large portion of Spain's effective navy patrols the shores of Cuba, while an army of 16,000 regular troops form its garrison. Its detectives and spies have proved to be as active and adroit as the days of Fouchet ever exhibited, and the Captain-General has the means of knowing the character and condition of every negro landed upon the island.

And yet, Sir, what are the facts? Why, we well know that Spain, in 1817, solemnly engaged to abolish and prohibit the Slave Trade, and received from Great Britain, as an inducement to do so, and as an equivalent for losses to be incurred by its suppression, 400,000*l*.

This, Sir, was thirty-seven years ago; and as, according to the most reliable Cuban statistics, five per cent. of her slaves die annually, notwithstanding all increase by births, it follows that slavery would have been extinct in Cuba seventeen years ago, had Spain redeemed her plighted faith.

It must be remembered that the number of males imported from Africa greatly exceeds that of the females, and births among them are not in the usual proportion to population.

Now, Sir, here we have the startling fact that, in the face of Spain's pledge to abolish the Slave Trade, it has been carried on steadily throughout this entire period of thirty-seven years, and that the number now on the island is nearly 500,000.

Nor, Sir, has there been much concealment about it. The commercial houses engaged in it, and their vessels, have, in years gone by, been as well known in Havana as is the Captain-General's palace; and the poll-tax upon the slaves, fluctuating with the avarice of succeeding Captains-General, is known to have varied from three to five ounces. It has, in fact, been a source of vast revenue to them.

These proceedings have not been unknown to Great Britain. She has publicly and indignantly denounced them, and has obtained, from time to time, the promises, the decrees, and the action of the colonial authorities, apparently conceived in good faith, to remedy the evil. Yet, Sir, there it stands—a monument of Spain's treaty pledges.

What, Sir, can we do to suppress this Trade, so long as this state of things exists in Cuba?

Now, Sir, let us not lose sight of the fact that the creoles of Cuba have no part, no station, voice, or responsibility in its government; that its laws, their exponents, and their executive officers, come from Spain; and that these authorities are responsible alone for the Slave Trade. The creoles have, by every means—every remonstrance and argument in their power, pointed out its evils; and they have contemplated with horror its blighting effects upon themselves, and their country and their posterity.

But, Sir, their appeals have never produced the slightest modification of Spain's consistent and determined policy to equalize, numerically, the slaves and the freemen; and if the Slave Trade has sometimes fluctuated, these fluctuations have ever been produced by this hellish policy alone. Spain well knows that the "ever faithful" Cuba could not be subjected by her standing army, large as it is. And in the language of one of her chosen and most enlightened statesmen, she regards her power of arming the African slaves as equal to an army of 100,000 men.

Thus, Sir, has Spain encouraged, nursed, and protected the African Slave Trade, not with the view of Africanizing, but as a means of controlling the island, well knowing that this deadly, blighting policy tends, beyond any other means in her power, to crush her dawning hopes of freedom; and the Cubans, isolated, alone, and unaided, their words, acts, lives, and liberties constrained, fearfully contemplate and ponder upon a struggle whose termination may be the knell of the white race in their lovely land.

But, Sir, the honourable Senator from Delaware has referred us to the recent Decree of the Cuban authorities for the registration of the slaves as an evidence of their intention faithfully to suppress the Trade. It may be so, Sir; but, with their consistent encouragement of it heretofore in the face of their Treaty, their promises, their Mixed Commission, and their Decrees, and apprenticeship system, we may be excused the indulgence of a doubt of their designs now.

I regard this Decree, Sir, as nothing more than a proof that Great Britain has, with more than her former firmness, demanded action at the hands of the Cuban authorities. Observe the British papers, Sir, and you will find a tone upon this subject as unlooked for as it must be startling to Spain. A recent number of the "Liverpool Times," in commenting upon Spanish affairs, says:

"In the present state of feeling in England, no great regret would be felt if the Americans were to get possession of Cuba in the scramble. On its present hands, that beautiful island is a source to us of more annoyance than any other place on the globe, Russia not excepted."

Such opinions from the British press have aroused Spain to action; and to them is, in my judgment, to be ascribed her new-born zeal. When we reflect, however, that a similar system, promises, and decrees, have been heretofore made and disregarded, we can have but little faith in those of to-day. The emancipados were formerly hired out for seven years; and under the present Decree this term is reduced to one year. And, Sir, looking at the past, may we not anticipate that the Slave Trade will progress as it ever has in Cuba since 1817; and that whether Spain shall call the brutal and savage African a slave or an emancipado, she will import him, and maintain him *in terrorem* over the Cubans as a means of retaining her ascendancy? It is a means, and perhaps a means as effectual as terrible.

Should Cuba, by her policy, become a second St. Domingo, she would reasonably hope to possess peculiar privileges and commercial relations with it; but, Sir, are we to fold our arms and await the operation of causes which are calculated, if not designed, to produce such results? Or are we at once to mark out and adopt a Cuban policy, based upon what we all believe, that the island will ultimately be a flourishing and integral portion of our Union?

Let us discard, for the present at least, the idea of purchasing Cuba. Depend upon it, Sir, it is not for sale, nor will it be as long as the Cortes or the people of Catalonia exist. In times of revolution, with some favourite, some "Prince of Peace" at the head of the Government, its peaceful purchase might be effected; but so long as Spain has a stable Government, a proposition to sell Cuba would hurl any Ministry, aye, Sir, any dynasty, from power.

The individual Spaniard of to-day has all the honour, pride, and character of his glorious ancestors, when Spanish captains and discoverers gave a new continent to Christendom; when her fleets covered the ocean, and when Castilian honour was a conspicuous, a brilliant example. In spite of the examples and the degradations of a Court, the most corrupt in Europe—in spite of ages of misgovernment, the Spaniard retains his heroism and his virtue. Such a people will not sacrifice their pride for money.

But, Mr. President, I expect to go into this discussion, and produce some facts on which a dispassionate judgment may be founded, when the Committee on Foreign Relations shall report. I expressed the other day a confident conviction in my own mind that Spain had deliberately entered on the policy of retaining possession of Cuba herself, of course in the first instance, and to Africanize it if she cannot do that; and every enlightened Spaniard on the Continent knows and feels that her hold upon it is daily becoming weaker. The prediction of Mr. Adams must come true. In 1823 he said that, just as certainly as an apple parted from the parent limb gravitated to the earth, just so certainly would Cuba come to the United States if separated from the mother country.

*Mr. Clayton.*—Mr. President, the topic which has just been partially discussed was not introduced here originally by me. It was brought here in the first instance by the honourable Senator from Louisiana (Mr. Slidell). He offered a resolution, and moved to refer it to the Committee on Foreign Relations, as I have now offered this resolution, and moved to refer it to the same

Committee. He accompanied his resolution with an elaborate speech, and a very able one, in which he gave us much valuable information. He was afterwards followed by the honourable Senator from Florida (Mr. Mallory), who offered another resolution of inquiry, which on his motion also went to the Committee on Foreign Relations, and he also thought proper to accompany his resolution with suitable remarks, stating, after he had done with them, that he would discuss the subject more fully hereafter.

Now, Sir, I submit to the honourable Senator from California that I followed good examples. Nothing has ever been more customary on this floor than for gentlemen to offer resolutions of inquiry with the very view of eliciting such information as they can get from Senators here before the resolution is sent to a Committee. I had the example of a distinguished member of the Committee on Foreign Relations (Mr. Slidell), of which Committee the Senator from California is also a member, for the course which I pursued. The opinions of these distinguished gentlemen to whom I have referred, went to the country; their remarks were published and republished in the newspapers throughout the country. The impression was made deep on the American mind that it was a deliberate purpose of the Spanish Government to emancipate the slaves in Cuba, and thereby Africanize the island. We all agree in deprecating such a result. Well then, Sir, was it not a legitimate subject of inquiry with me, and might I not be pardoned, I submit to the honourable Senator from California, when I offered a resolution for the very purpose of enabling me to make such remarks as I thought proper in reference to this subject, and also for the purpose of eliciting from those gentlemen who commenced the debate, such further information as they were above to give us? But the honourable Senator says the Committee is to sit to-morrow. Then I should have been exceedingly glad to hear, before the session of the Committee, all the remarks of the honourable Senator from Florida, which he promises he will deliver hereafter. I want light. We are perhaps to be called upon to decide to-morrow. Then I want all the information that can be given from every quarter. The honourable Senator doubtless is better acquainted with the subject than I am, and to him this information may not necessary, but to me I assure him it is.

Mr. President, in reference to the remarks of the honourable Senator from Florida, let me say that I do not at all deny that the Government of Spain has been in times gone by engaged in violating her own Treaty stipulations in regard to the Slave Trade, and I believe that sometimes her authorities, some of her Captains-General, have encouraged the introduction of slaves from Africa into that island. But, Sir, I will condemn no man without some evidence; and I must say that I have seen no evidence to satisfy my mind, or that of any other reasonable man, that the Marquis Pezuela, the present Captain-General of the island, has in any way encouraged this violation of the laws of Spain and the laws of God. On the contrary, I have his solemn assurance in a published proclamation, that the Spanish Government utterly denies the whole accusation. He denies it, appeals solemnly to the whole world, and asks to be credited when he states that nothing is further from the intention of the Spanish Government than this design which is charged against it. Where then is the proof? Does the honourable Senator from Florida produce any? Is the fact that slaves have been introduced into the island proof that they are about to emancipate all the slaves? Have they emancipated slaves? No, Sir.

But the honourable Senator says that they have introduced so many slaves, and have so many there now, that it is a serious obstruction to our taking the island. He states that threats have been made, that some one has said that the emancipating of the great number of slaves is a better protection to them than 100,000 armed men. It may be so; but that is not pertinent to the matter of our inquiry. The question I discussed was, not whether Spain would be justifiable in emancipating these slaves to prevent our taking the island. I have never been the apologist of Spain. I agree with the honourable Senator that the Government of Spain has been both corrupt and oppressive. I believe that in years gone by the Spanish authorities in Cuba themselves have either been concerned in the business of introducing slaves, or have winked at the introduction of them there. Whether it be calumny or not, it has been published that some of the Captains-General of former days actually received doubloons by the head for slaves that were legally imported into Cuba. But that is not the



question. It is whether there is any evidence that Spain intends to emancipate these slaves for the purpose of destroying the island now? Is there any evidence of that kind? I submit that if there be any, it has not been adduced.

Mr. President, I believe the day will come when Cuba will be annexed to the United States. At what time this will occur is a question which I am not able to solve. I see no prospect of it now. I see no reason at this time for for this Government's interference for the purpose of obtaining it by war or violence of any kind, or by the repeal of our laws of neutrality. I think it a dangerous period to make an effort of that description. There is great excitement at this time in the public mind throughout the United States in reference to the subject of slavery. The day may come—I have thought, in consequence of the proximity of the island to the coast of the United States, that the day must come—when it will be ceded to the United States, if not by Spain, by some friendly nations which shall cede it to us as Louisiana was ceded by France.

As to the fact which has been mentioned by the honourable Senator, that Spain has threatened us with emancipating her slaves if we should seize the island from her by violence, there is no doubt of it. I heard that threat from the lips of the former Spanish Minister here. He boldly and openly avowed the intention to emancipate the slaves, rather than permit us to take the island by violence; but he did not deny that the day would come when this island would be ours.

In conclusion, Sir, we have must have justifiable grounds before we can seize Cuba, and if there be such, the one now assigned is not among them. Sir, I ask for the adoption of the resolution.

*Mr. Weller.*—I was not complaining of the Senator from Delaware for having set a bad example. I was complaining that he was following precedents which had been established, to the serious detriment of the public business. I was complaining of that Senator, as a member of the Committee on Foreign Relations, for entering to-day into the discussion of a question which is to be submitted to the investigation of that Committee to-morrow.

The Senator says, and I suppose he intends it for irony, of course, that I have paid some attention to this subject, and therefore may not require the information of other Senators. I am sure he meant that as irony.

*Mr. Clayton.*—No, Sir; not at all.

*Mr. Weller.*—I have paid no attention to this subject; but I propose first to investigate it, and then to discuss it; and it strikes me that older Senators might profit by following this example, though set by a young man. All that I desire is, that the time of the Senate shall not be unnecessarily consumed in the discussion of a question, when the subject must again come up for a full discussion. When I meet that Senator to-morrow in the Committee on Foreign Relations, I shall be prepared to receive all the information which he may have accumulated on that subject, and I trust each of the other members of that Committee will contribute whatever information he may have derived from any source whatever. Then I shall be prepared to pass upon it, and after it is submitted to the Senate, I shall be prepared to enter into the discussion of this question which has been sprung upon us to-day. But I will not consume the time of the Senate now.

*Mr. Slidell.*—I have no disposition to enter into the discussion of this question now, as it is evidently the sense of the Senate that it is not the proper time for its discussion. I wish to say, however, that it strikes me, the reference proposed by the honourable Senator from Delaware is altogether inappropriate. I cannot see what jurisdiction the Committee on Foreign Relations have over the manner of issuing sea-registers to American vessels. The appropriate Committee, it seems to me, with all due respect to the Senator from Delaware, for an inquiry into that subject, is the Committee on Commerce. I therefore move to amend the resolution by striking out "Foreign Relations," and inserting "Commerce."

*Mr. Weller.*—I think the resolution should go to the Committee on Foreign



Relations. The subject embraced in the resolution is already before that Committee. It is true the whole of our Consular system is in the hands of the Committee on Commerce; but the question on which the Senator from Delaware asks the interposition of the Government, is a question which properly belongs to the Committee on Foreign Relations; and, as the subject has already been referred to that Committee, I hope the reference proposed by the Senator from Delaware will not be changed.

*Mr. Clayton.*—It is not merely a question of commerce; it is a question which belongs to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

*Mr. Slidell.*—Let the resolution be read again, that I may see whether my amendment be proper or not.

The Secretary read the resolution.

*Mr. Slidell.*—I withdraw my amendment.

The resolution was adopted.

No. 606.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Crampton.*

(Extract.)

*Foreign Office, June 15, 1854.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 29th of May, stating that you have addressed a letter to Mr. Marcy in conformity with the instructions contained in my despatch of the 5th of May.

I have to acquaint you that I approve of your having addressed a letter to Mr. Marcy upon this matter; and I have to inform you that I have read with much satisfaction the able and interesting speech made by Mr. Clayton on the 23rd of May, when he proposed to the Senate of the United States his resolution recommending the adoption of legislative restrictions for the purpose of preventing the abuse of the American flag by persons engaged in the African Slave Trade.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 607.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Crampton.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, June 16, 1854.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, copies of three important Decrees\* with regard to slavery in Cuba, which were issued by the Queen of Spain on the 22nd of March last, and which are intended to promote the employment of slaves in agricultural labour, the protection of free labourers coming from foreign countries, and the registration of slaves.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

\* Inclosures in No. 384.

No. 608.

*Mr. Crampton to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 20.)*

My Lord,

*Washington, June 5, 1854.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 29th ultimo, transmitting to your Lordship a copy of the note in which, in pursuance of the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 5th ultimo, I expressed the hope of Her Majesty's Government that some, if not all, of the useful Legislative measures for the suppression of the Slave Trade suggested by Mr. Schenck, late United States' Minister at Rio de Janeiro, in the correspondence between him and the Department of State during the years 1851, 1852, and 1853, may be recommended to Congress by the Government of the United States, I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith, a copy of the reply of the Secretary of State of the United States, stating that my note and other papers relating to the Slave Trade will shortly be communicated by the President to Congress.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Inclosure in No. 608.

*Mr. Marcy to Mr. Crampton.*

Sir,

*Department of State, Washington, June 3, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 27th ultimo, in which the hope of Her Majesty's Government is expressed, that some, if not all, of the useful legislative measures for the suppression of the Slave Trade, which are suggested by Mr. Schenck, in the correspondence between him and this Department, to which you refer, may be recommended to Congress by the Government of the United States.

In reply I have the honour to state that a copy of your note, and of other papers relating to the Slave Trade, will shortly be communicated by the President to Congress.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. L. MARCY.

No. 609.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Crampton.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, July 7, 1854.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, copies of a letter\* and of its inclosures which have been received at this Department from the Admiralty, reporting the capture, by the boats of Her Majesty's ship "Linnet," off Cabinda, on the 29th of April last, of a barque, without papers or colours fully equipped for the Slave Trade, which vessel had shortly before arrived on the coast of Africa as the "Mellidon," sailing under the flag of the United States.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

\* See Class A, No. 107.

No. 610.

*Mr. Crampton to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 10.)*

My Lord,

Washington, June 26, 1854.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the copy of a note which, in obedience to the instruction contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 3rd instant, I have addressed to the Secretary of State of the United States, expressing the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at the proceedings of Lieutenant Page, of the United States' navy, for the prevention of the Slave Trade.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Inclosure in No. 610.

*Mr. Crampton to Mr. Marcy.*

Sir,

Washington, June 26, 1854.

HER Majesty's Government have received reports of the proceedings of Lieutenant Page, of the United States' brig "Perry," in detaining an American vessel called the "*Glamorgan*," and in watching another, both of which were suspected of being employed to carry away slaves from the River Congo.

I am instructed by the Earl of Clarendon to communicate to you, Sir, the contents of these reports, copies of which I have accordingly the honour to inclose herewith; and I am further instructed to state to you that Her Majesty's Government have received with much satisfaction the account they contain of the vigilance and activity of Lieutenant Page, and of his readiness to avail himself of the cooperation of Lieutenant Skene, of Her Majesty's sloop "Philomel," for the prosecution of the Slave Trade.

I avail, &amp;c.

(Signed)

JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

No. 611.

*Mr. Crampton to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 10.)*

(Extract.)

Washington, June 26, 1854.

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract from the "Union" newspaper, containing the copy of a report from the Committee of Foreign Relations of the Senate of the United States, on a resolution submitted by Mr. Slidell, of Louisiana, recommending the abrogation of Article VIII of the Treaty with Great Britain, signed at Washington, August 9, 1842.

Although this report was made to the Senate in secret session, and has consequently been published surreptitiously, I have little doubt of the accuracy of the version which has now found its way into the Ministerial newspaper.

Your Lordship will perceive that the Committee concur with Mr. Slidell in recommending to the Senate the abrogation of Article VIII of the Treaty, upon the grounds that the squadron, carrying not less than eighty guns, which the United States have by that Article engaged themselves to maintain on the coast of Africa, for the suppression of the Slave Trade, has been found inefficient for the purpose, while it could be more effectually employed in checking that trade by being transferred to the coasts of Cuba.

I have satisfaction, however, in stating, that I find there exists a firm determination on the part of most of the Senators of the free States to meet the proposal for abrogating the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Washington with a decided opposition; and as a majority of two-thirds of the Senate would be required to pass that measure, they feel confident of being able to defeat it.

## Inclosure in No. 611.

*Extract from the "Union" of June 24, 1854.*

Report of the Committee on Foreign Relations (of the Senate), on a Resolution relative to the Abrogation of the VIIIth Article of the Treaty with Great Britain of the 9th August, 1842, providing for maintaining a naval force on the coast of Africa, &c.

THE Committee on Foreign Relations, to whom was referred the resolution submitted by Mr. Slidell on the 29th May, 1854—"that in the opinion of the Senate it is expedient, and in conformity with the interests and sound policy of the United States, that the VIIIth Article of the Treaty between this Government and Great Britain, of the 9th of August, 1842, should be abrogated; and that, should the President of the United States concur in this opinion, he be requested to signify to the Government of Great Britain, in conformity with the XIth Article of that Treaty, the wish of this Government to terminate the said VIIIth Article"—have had the same under consideration, and respectfully report:—

That by the VIIIth Article of the Treaty with Great Britain, made at Washington on the 9th of August, 1842, commonly known as the Ashburton Treaty, "the parties mutually stipulate that each shall prepare, equip, and maintain in service, on the coast of Africa, a sufficient and adequate squadron, or naval force of vessels, of suitable numbers and description, to carry in all not less than 80 guns, to enforce separately and respectively the laws, rights, and obligations of each of the two countries, for the suppression of the Slave Trade; the said squadrons to be independent of each other, but the two Governments stipulating, nevertheless, to give such orders to the officers commanding their respective forces as shall enable them most effectually to act in concert and cooperation, upon mutual consultation, as exigencies may arise, for the attainment of the true object of this Article; copies of all such orders to be communicated by each Government to the other, respectively."

By the XIth Article of the same Treaty, it is declared that the VIIIth Article shall be in force for five years from the date of exchange of the ratification, and afterwards until one or other party shall signify a wish to terminate it.

The policy of stipulations of this kind with any foreign Power may well be questioned on general grounds; but your Committee do not think it necessary to enter upon so large and debateable a field of discussion, and will confine themselves to an examination of the question, whether, admitting the propriety and expediency of the measure at the time of its adoption, with the imperfect or erroneous information then possessed, it may not be proper and expedient now to abrogate it. It was then supposed that the most efficient mode of suppressing the Slave Trade was to employ numerous cruisers on the coast of Africa, and the very caption of the Treaty indicates the results that were expected to be obtained by it. It is entitled "A Treaty to settle and define the boundaries between the territories of the United States and the possessions of Her Britannic Majesty in North America, for the final suppression of the African Slave Trade," &c. It was believed that the best point for the employment of a naval force for the attainment of an object which the people and Government of the United States desired quite as earnestly as Her Britannic Majesty and her subjects, was the coast of Africa. An experience of twelve years has demonstrated the fallacy of that opinion.

Large squadrons have been kept up during that period by the two Powers, at an enormous expense in money, with a lamentable loss of life and destruction of the health of the officers and men employed in that noxious climate. And what has been the result? Let the record show. The British squadron comprises several steamers, counting in all 27 vessels, carrying about 300 guns and 3,000 men. The annual expense of the squadron, 706,450*l.*, about 3,500,000 dollars. This is the expense proper of the squadron. That of auxiliary establishments on the coast, connected with this service, and which might otherwise be dispensed with, is estimated at 300,000*l.* to 500,000*l.* Take the lowest figure, and you have 1,500,000 dollars to add to the direct cost of the squadron, making a total annual expenditure of 5,000,000 dollars. In 1845 alone, the

CLASS B.

number of deaths of officers and men was 259, and of officers and men invalided, 271.

The United States have four vessels and 80 guns on the coast of Africa, being about one-eighth of our whole naval force afloat; and as the estimated expense of the navy, after deducting special objects, such as the transportation of the mail in steam-ships, improvement of navy yards, &c., is 8,351,171 dollars, the annual cost of this squadron may be fairly calculated at 800,000 or 1,000,000 dollars per year. This, it will be observed, is considerably less than the cost per gun of the British squadron, which is about 11,700 dollars.

It is a subject of congratulation, however, that for the last four years the mortality of our officers and men employed in this service bears a favourable comparison with that of other stations. This the Navy Department attributes to the extraordinary sanitary measures adopted by the officers of the squadron.

France at one time obligated herself to keep up an equal force with Great Britain on the coast of Africa—say, twenty-six vessels; but finding the engagements too onerous, she applied to the British Government for a modification of the Treaty, which was conceded, and she now has only twelve vessels so employed. There are no precise data on which the expenditure of France can be established; but estimating it by the proportion of vessels employed—say, twelve to twenty-six—it would be about 1,600,000 dollars. The annual joint expenditure of England, France, and the United States, thus appears to be 7,400,000 dollars.

Mr. Hutt, the Chairman of the Select Committee of the House of Commons appointed to investigate this question, stated on the 19th of March, 1850, “that the number of slaves exported from Africa had sunk down in 1842—the very year of the negotiation of the Ashburton Treaty—to very nearly 30,000. In 1843 it rose to 55,000; in 1846 it was 76,000; in 1847 it was 84,000; and was then in a state of unusual activity.” Sir Charles Hotham, who commanded for several years on the coast of Africa, and who is one of the most distinguished officers of the British navy, on his examination before the Select Committee, thus replied to the queries propounded to him:

Q. Was the force under your command in a high state of discipline, generally speaking?—A. I thought so.

Q. Were your views carried out by the officers under your command to your entire satisfaction?—A. Entirely so.

Q. What was the result of your operations? Did you succeed in stopping the Slave Trade?—A. No.

Q. Did you cripple it to such an extent as is in your opinion calculated to give to the Slave Trade a permanent check?—A. No.

Q. Do you consider that the Slave Trade has been generally regulated by the strength and efficiency of the British squadron on the coast, or by the commercial demand for slaves?—A. I consider that it is entirely dependent upon the commercial demand for slaves, and has little or no connection with the squadron.

Q. You think that the present system is open to many grave objections on other accounts, and that it will not succeed?—A. Experience has proven the present system to be futile.

The total result of the operations of our squadron during twelve years has been the capture of fourteen vessels.

The African Slave Trade has, it is believed, been entirely suppressed in Brazil; and in this hemisphere, the remaining Colonies of Spain, Cuba, and Porto Rico are its only marts. Your Committee think that, if the American flag be still employed in this nefarious Traffic now prohibited by every Christian nation, and surreptitiously tolerated by Spain alone, the abuse can be more efficiently corrected by the employment of our cruisers in the vicinity of those islands.

It would seem superfluous on the part of your Committee to say, that in commending the adoption of the resolution under consideration, they repudiate the most remote intention of relaxing in any degree the stringency of our legislation on the subject of the African Slave Trade. Its continuance, while it is so justly odious on moral grounds, is in every way prejudicial to our commercial and agricultural interests.

The abrogation of the VIIIth Article of the Ashburton Treaty does not necessarily imply the purpose of withdrawing our squadron from the coast of Africa. A portion of it, indeed, must necessarily be retained there to protect our commerce. Its only effect will be to enable the Executive to employ the force stationed there at any other point where its services may be more useful. We would still be bound by the — Article of the Treaty of Ghent, to use, in the language of the Article, "our best endeavours to promote the desirable object of the entire abolition of the Slave Trade." And none can doubt that it will continue to be faithfully observed, as it has heretofore been, in letter and spirit.

Your Committee recommend the adoption of the resolution.

No. 612.

*Mr. Crampton to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 24.)*

My Lord,

*Washington, July 10, 1854.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 3rd ultimo, respecting the capture of the American slaver "*Glamorgan*," by Lieutenant Page, of the United States' ship "*Perry*," I have now the honour to inform your Lordship that the master of the "*Glamorgan*" was convicted at Boston on the 3rd instant, of having been engaged in the Slave Trade.

I have also the honour to inclose an extract from the Boston "*Atlas*," containing the copy of an address presented by the grand jury of the district of Massachusetts to the President of the United States, stating the result of their investigations in the case of the "*Glamorgan*," and expressing their regret that Lieutenant Page released the supercargo of that vessel, who was in their opinion equally liable to punishment with the other officers of the slaver.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Inclosure in No. 612.

*Extract from the "New York Herald" of July 1, 1854.*

Address of the Grand Jury of the United States for the District of Massachusetts to the President.

[From the Boston "*Atlas*" of June 30.]

THE Grand Jury of the United States for the District of Massachusetts have addressed a letter to President Pierce, in regard to the mode of treatment of certain persons arrested on the coast of Africa, on suspicion of having been concerned in the Slave Trade, of which the following is a copy :

Circuit Court of the United States of America for the District of Massachusetts.

At a Circuit Court of the United States of America, for the District of Massachusetts, holden in Boston, within and for said district, on the 22nd day of June, in the year of our Lord 1854, the jurors of the United States, within and for said district, respectfully represent to the President of the United States that during their present term they have investigated sundry violations of the laws prohibiting the Slave Trade, and have found bills of indictment against the master, mate, and — of the brig "*Glamorgan*." This vessel, which now lies at the navy yard in Charleston, under a libel for condemnation, was seized on the coast of Africa, the 9th of April last, by the United States' armed brig "*Perry*," Lieutenant Richard Page commanding. She was chased and captured by boats under Lieutenant John Downs, and was brought into this port by him as prize-master. The vessel was fitted complete for a slaver,

and was proceeding to her slave station to take on board her human cargo when so opportunely captured. On board the slaver were two Portuguese, who are shown by the evidence before us to have been the principal offenders. One of them was the supercargo, who had fitted out the vessel in New York, and who is manifestly one of the principal agents in the Slave Trade carried on by American vessels with the Southern African coast. The substance of these facts must have been known to Lieutenant Page; yet, to our surprise, we find that, while he sent to the United States the captain, first mate, and three of the crew of the slaver, he released the supercargo and the second mate, who were the most guilty persons. The Act of the 20th April, 1818, makes it a crime for any person to fit out or prepare any vessel in any place within the United States to be employed in the Slave Trade. The Act of the 10th May, 1800, section 4, makes it the duty of the Commander of any commissioned vessel of the United States which shall seize any vessel employed in the Slave Trade, "to apprehend and take into custody every person found on board of such vessel, being of the officers or crew thereof, and convey them to the civil authorities of the United States in some of the districts thereof." The supercargo was, to all intents of the law, an officer of the slave vessel, for he entirely controlled her movements, and his release by Lieutenant Page has left him at liberty to pursue his atrocious Traffic, and to take off, by some other vessel, the very cargo of human beings he had prepared for the "*Glamorgan*."

The Act of the 3rd March, 1819, section 1, confides to the President of the United States the power to employ armed vessels of the United States to seize all vessels of the United States found engaged in the Slave Trade; and we therefore deem it fitting to present to his attention the conduct of Lieutenant Page; for if this practice be followed, or is common on the coast, it may well account for the fact that the Slave Trade is still continued under the American flag, where the only risk the most guilty parties run is to have their vessels seized and themselves set on shore to find others to take their cargo. Confident that the President will most cheerfully apply all his official powers to the suppression of the Traffic, and believing that it is essential that more stringent orders should be given to the Commanders on that station, and that they should be held to a strict account for vigilance and fidelity, the grand jurors very respectfully present the foregoing as the result of their investigations in the premises.

No. 613.

*Mr. Crampton to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 24.)*

My Lord,

*Washington, July 10, 1854.*

I HAD the honour to transmit to your Lordship with my despatch of the 29th May, the copy of a resolution, accompanied by an able speech, presented to the Senate of the United States by Mr. Clayton, of Delaware, recommending that an inquiry should be instituted by the Committee of Foreign Relations as to the expediency of providing by law for such restrictions on the power of American Consuls in the Spanish West Indies, to issue sea-letters on the transfer of American vessels in those islands, as would prevent the abuse of the American flag by persons engaged in the African Slave Trade.

I have now the honour of inclosing herewith extracts from the "*Daily Globe*" newspaper, containing reports of the further debates which have taken place on this subject, and also an extract from the "*New York Herald*," containing a copy of the Bill, which with some trifling amendments has been passed by the Senate, but still awaits the action of the House of Representatives, for the enactment of the proposed restrictions on the transfer of American vessels for purposes connected with the Slave Trade.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 613.

*Extract from the Washington "Globe" of June 26, 1854.*

## SUPPRESSION OF THE SLAVE TRADE.

*Mr. Clayton.*—Mr. President, I had the honour to submit a resolution to the Senate on the 22nd of May last, directing the Committee on Foreign Relations to make certain inquiries in regard to the Slave Trade in the Spanish West Indies. That resolution was adopted by the Senate, and I am now instructed by the Committee to report a Bill for the more effectual suppression of the Slave Trade.

I am happy to state, Sir, that the Committee unanimously agree that it is not less due to the honour of the United States than to the obligations of their Government and people to the cause of humanity, to continue our efforts to suppress this inhuman Traffic. If there be a single member of this honourable body who is insensible to the great duty imposed upon us as a civilized and Christian people in reference to the Slave Trade, I have yet to learn it. I assume it, that, with one heart and mind, the Representatives of the American States and people, with the hearty concurrence of the American President, stand at all times prepared to perform their part of the great duty of suppressing the exportation of slaves from Africa by the most stringent and effectual means within their power.

But although such is and has been the settled desire of all branches of this Government, it is now apparent that the measures we have adopted, although aided by the Powers of the two great nations of Europe which stand foremost in the march of human progress and Christian civilization, are inadequate for the purposes for which they were designed. Great Britain and France, with their squadrons always cruising on the coast of Africa, acting in cooperation with an American squadron of eighty guns on that coast, have, it is believed, failed not only to suppress, but even to diminish this infamous Trade. It is true, the importation of negroes into Brazil has nearly ceased since the year 1852, owing, I believe, to the energetic operation of the Brazilian Government in enforcing its Treaty with Great Britain; but the importation into the Spanish West Indies has greatly increased, to the disgrace of those who have administered the Government of those islands; and this Government is called upon by a consideration of the possible danger to a portion of our own country, whose prosperity and safety may be thus imperilled, as well as by all the dictates of humanity, to arrest that growing evil so far as we have means to accomplish the object.

I am well satisfied that this Traffic is most successfully, though not exclusively, carried on in American-built vessels, and under the protection of the American flag. On a former occasion I endeavoured to expose the means by which this shameful prostitution of the proud emblem of our national honour has been effected. Under the guard of the stars and stripes, the pirate has been enabled to renew all the horrors of the Middle Passage, and any man who will peruse the volume on "Africa and the American Flag," by Lieutenant Foote, of the United States' Navy, who commanded the United States' brig "Perry," on the coast of Africa, during the years 1850 and 1851, will comprehend the means by which the worst of men have committed the worst of crimes, and escaped, unwhipped of justice, by the abuse of our flag.

I have this morning received a letter on this subject from this able and efficient officer of our navy, dated the 24th instant, which I will submit to the perusal of any Senator desiring it, and which is well worthy of a careful consideration. He says:

"I have before me a copy of 'Instructions for the Senior Officers of Her Majesty's Ships and Vessels on the West Coast of Africa, with respect to the Treaty with the United States of America, signed at Washington on the 9th of August, 1842, by the Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain and Ireland,' &c., which say—'The Commanding Officers of Her Majesty's vessels on the coast of Africa station will bear in mind that it is no part of their duty to capture, or visit, or in any way to interfere with vessels of the United States, whether these vessels shall have slaves on board or not.'"



This confirms the statement I made to the Senate when I originated this inquiry, that slavers sailing under the American flag are in all cases protected by it, unless they chance to be overhauled by one of our own cruisers. Other nations have resolved, and I think wisely, that we shall have the sole responsibility of the Traffic, if we are resolved that no others shall search our vessels. This fact redoubles the duty we owe both to God and man to spare no effort to prevent the Trade, and the necessary dishonour of our national character which flows from it when conducted in American vessels.

The writer of the letter to which I refer afterwards adds :

“The practice is, for American vessels to show their register or sea-letter to the foreign officer, as proof of nationality; they then become inviolate, and cannot be searched or detained.”

This, it will be remembered by the Senate, is precisely in accordance with the view I presented to the Senate on a former occasion when the Committee was instructed to direct their attention to the issuing of those papers commonly called “sea-letters,” and the restrictions which should be made when granting them, so as to prevent the abuse of the flag caused by them while the sale of American-built vessels in foreign ports should not be prevented. It is this sea-letter which enables every pirate engaged in this Trade in an American bottom to escape all the cruisers of Great Britain and France. As soon as the slaver produces this sea-letter, the nationality of the vessel is established as American, and then if there be a thousand slaves in her hold, she passes unobstructed by the cruisers of all other nations on her piratical voyage.

Now, Sir, it is just here, precisely at this point, that the Committee propose to make a blow at the Slave Trade. To a clear understanding of the old law, the mischief and the remedy, let us ascertain first what this sea-letter is.

By Section 14 of the Act of December 31, 1792, “concerning the registering and recording of ships or vessels,” it is enacted that when a registered ship or vessel “shall in whole or in part be sold or transferred to a citizen or citizens of the United States,” &c., “in every such case the said ship or vessel shall be registered anew, by her former name,” &c., “and her former certificate of registry shall be delivered up to the collector to whom application for such new registry shall be made, at the time that the same shall be made, to be by him transferred to the Registrar of the Treasury, who shall cause the same to be cancelled.” Then, to procure a new registry, it is necessary, under the same section, that the paper, which is now known as the sea-letter, shall be executed at the time of the sale. The provision is, “And in every such case of sale or transfer, there shall be some instrument in writing, in the nature of a bill of sale, which shall recite, at length, the said certificate [of registry], otherwise the said ship or vessel shall be incapable of being so registered anew.” Every registry (without which no vessel can be entitled to any of the privileges or benefits of a vessel of the United States) contains a certificate under oath of the facts which establish the nationality of the vessel, such as the name, occupation, and place of abode of the owner, the port to which she belongs, the name and citizenship of the master, and among other things that she is of American build. This sea-letter, or bill of sale, therefore, as it recites the certificate of registry at length, must always show the nationality of the vessel.

Hence, it appears that these instruments of writing substantially differ only from the sea-letters or passports required by the Acts of Congress of June 1, 1796, and March 2, 1803, in this particular—that the latter are required to be issued by the collectors to whom they are transmitted by the Treasury Department, after being signed by the President and countersigned by the Secretary of State, while the former is executed by the party transferring the vessel abroad, and by usage, in presence of an American Consul. Both agree in certifying the nationality of the vessel. I can find nothing in the Acts of Congress which requires the Consul to authenticate such an instrument, or to issue it. His duties are prescribed by instructions from the State Department. But by another Act of Congress of the 2nd March, 1803 (not the Act of the same date just referred to), it is provided in the 3rd section :

“That when any ship or vessel, which has been or shall be registered pursuant to any law of the United States, shall, whilst such ship or vessel is without the United States, be sold or transferred, in whole or in part, to a

citizen or citizens of the said States, such ship or vessel, on her first arrival in the United States thereafter, shall be entitled to all the privileges and benefits of a ship or vessel of the United States."

The time allowed for obtaining the new registry is "within three days from the time at which her master, &c., is required to make his final report upon her first arrival, agreeably to the Act of March 2, 1799." This Act does not repeal the provision in the former Act of 1792, requiring the instrument in nature of a bill of sale on the transfer of an American vessel in a foreign port, and it carefully abstains from fixing any period for the return of a vessel so transferred abroad, to the United States for a new registry.

The consequence has been that vessels sold for slavers abroad have always been provided with these instruments in writing called sea-letters, though they are, in reality, nothing more than bills of sale reciting the old registry, which proved them to be American vessels. With this they have sailed for the coast of Africa, and by it they have been protected against all foreign cruisers.

This abuse of our flag, by these means, has been much complained of by our Consuls abroad in their correspondence with the Department of State. In November 1846, Mr. Parks, then Consul at Rio de Janeiro, requested the President's instructions on the construction of the Acts of Congress, and particularly whether a vessel so sold in a foreign port ought not, by law, to return home for a new registry before she could make a voyage to the coast of Africa with this instrument, sometimes called, as I have before stated, a sea-letter. The Secretary of State having consulted the Secretary of the Treasury, as well as the President, replied to him in a despatch dated May 26, 1847, of which I hold a copy in my hand, that they were "clearly of opinion that a vessel, under such circumstances, is not obliged to return to the United States for a new register."

Speaking of the Act of 1792, the Secretary then said :

"This Act was passed in the infancy of the Federal Government, and does not seem to have contemplated the sale of American vessels beyond the limits of the United States. When such sales were made in a foreign country, it would therefore have been a reasonable construction of its provisions to require the vessel to return to the United States for a new registry with the least practicable delay. Between the years 1792 and 1803, however, there had been a great expansion of our foreign trade. In consequence of the wars between the Powers of Europe arising out of the French Revolution, we had become, in a considerable degree, the carriers for the whole world. Congress, under these circumstances, deemed it necessary to provide expressly for the sale of American vessels to American citizens in all foreign countries."

This, the Secretary said, they had done by the third section of the Act of 1803, which I have read, and he then added :

"Congress had the whole subject before them at the time of the passage of this Act. Had they intended that the vessel should return home immediately for a register, they would undoubtedly have expressed this intention. So far from this being the case, their language is indefinite in point of time. It does not require the vessel to return immediately after the sale; but at whatever time she may return, it recognizes her right to all the privileges and benefits of an American vessel."

He then proceeded to say that a different construction of this Act would prove extremely injurious to American citizens in prosecuting our carrying trade between foreign nations—an object always much cherished by the policy of the United States—and would be detrimental to our shipbuilding interest. An American citizen could not then purchase an American vessel in China, or at the Sandwich Islands, to prosecute a lawful voyage from thence to any foreign country; and an American shipbuilder could not send his vessels abroad with any hope of selling them to American citizens beyond the limits of the United States. Besides, such a construction of the Act would be contrary to the settled practice at the Treasury Department. And he finally concluded that "the bill of sale, properly authenticated, and reciting at length the certificate of registry, becomes the substitute on board the vessel for that certificate, until her first arrival in the United States thereafter."

In the decision thus made by the President, with the advice and concur-

rence of the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury in 1847, succeeding Administrations of this Government have fully acquiesced, and it may now be considered as the settled law of the United States. Viewing it as such, and desiring to prevent the evils of the Slave Trade, President Taylor, in his annual message of the 4th December, 1850, thus pressed the subject on the consideration of Congress :

“Your attention is earnestly invited to an amendment of our existing laws relating to the African Slave Trade, with a view to the effectual suppression of that barbarous Traffic. It is not to be denied that this Trade is still, in part, carried on by means of vessels built in the United States, and owned or navigated by some of our citizens. The correspondence between the Department of State and the Minister and Consul of the United States at Rio de Janeiro, which has from time to time been laid before Congress, represents that it is a customary device to evade the penalties of our laws by means of sea-letters.

“Vessels sold in Brazil, when provided with such papers by the Consul, instead of returning to the United States for a new register, proceed at once to the coast of Africa, for the purpose of obtaining cargoes of slaves. Much additional information of the same character has recently been transmitted to the Department of State. It has not been considered the policy of our laws to subject an American citizen who, in a foreign country, purchases a vessel built in the United States, to the inconvenience of sending her home for a new register before proceeding on a voyage. Any alteration of the laws which might have a tendency to impede the free transfer of property in vessels between our citizens, or the free navigation of those vessels between different parts of the world, when employed in lawful commerce, should be well and cautiously considered; but I trust that your wisdom will devise a method by which our general policy, in this respect, may be preserved, and, at the same time, the abuse of our flag by means of sea-letters, in the manner indicated, may be prevented.”

Had the suggestion thus made been followed by an Act of Congress, in the spirit of the message, the exportation of more than 100,000 slaves would probably have been prevented. But Congress, engrossed by the political struggles of 1850, made no attempt to adopt the recommendation. It is the object of the Bill I hold in my hand to adopt it now. It will not obstruct the transfer of American vessels in a foreign port for the purposes of lawful commerce, but will prevent the abuse of our flag by means of these sea-letters in future.

In this connection, suffer me to say that the Committee do not believe that the African Slave Trade will ever be arrested by the operation of the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of the 9th of August, 1842, called the Webster and Ashburton Treaty, by which about one-eighth of our whole naval force afloat has been employed on the African coast, at an annual cost of about 800,000 dollars, having captured only twelve slavers in twelve years. A portion of that squadron might always be advantageously kept on that coast to protect our commerce, and put down piracy. But the greater part of all our disposable force for the suppression of the Slave Trade should be employed in the Spanish West Indies, and it should not consist merely of one or two heavy frigates, or sloops of war, but chiefly of small steam-propellers, of light draught, mounting a heavy gun on a pivot, and with men enough to enable them to carry any pirate by boarding. We should faithfully fulfil the stipulation in the Treaty of Ghent, by always using our best endeavours to promote the desirable object of the entire abolition of this barbarous Traffic; and, as a suitable measure to effect that great object, the Committee now report this “Bill for the more effectual Suppression of the African Slave Trade in American-built Vessels.”

The Bill was read a first time, ordered to a second reading, and ordered to be printed for the use of the Senate.

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Inclosure 2 in No 613.

*Extract from the Washington “Globe” of July 1, 1854.*

AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE.

*Mr. Clayton.*—I MOVE that the Senate take up for consideration the Bill reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations “for the more effectual suppression of the Slave Trade in American-built vessels.”

*Mr. Sumner.*—Before that motion is put, I should like to ask the Honourable Senator from Delaware, whether it is his purpose to have the Bill put on its passage now?

*Mr. Clayton.*—Yes, Sir, if I can. There is no time to lose. If it be longer delayed, the other House cannot act on it.

*Mr. Sumner.*—I have not examined the Bill with the care which I should like to give to one of such importance. So far as I do understand it, I hope it may be amended in an important particular.

*Mr. Clayton.*—That will be a subject for consideration when the Bill is taken up. Let it come under consideration, and then it will be subject to amendment. The Bill is not under consideration yet; when it is, the gentleman can offer his amendment, or give his objections, if he has any.

*Mr. Sumner.*—I know it is not up, but I made the remark by way of suggestion to the Senator from Delaware; and I wish to follow it up by the direct suggestion that the Bill be allowed to lie over for the present. It is within my knowledge that at least one Honourable Senator desires to speak somewhat at length on some aspects of the questions presented by the Bill. I do not myself.

*Mr. Clayton.*—I have only to say that the effect of such an opposition will be to defeat the Bill, and that I want the American people to understand. It is to defeat a measure which has for its object the suppression of the Slave Trade. Now, Sir, let us get at it, and then let us witness the opposition. The question is now on the motion to proceed to its consideration.

[The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read a second time, and considered as in Committee of the Whole.

It proposes to direct whenever any American registered ship or vessel shall, in whole or in part, be sold or transferred to a citizen or citizens of the United States, at any foreign port or place in North or South America, or in any of the West India Islands, or in the Cape de Verde Islands, or any island on or near the coast of Africa, the instrument of writing in the nature of a bill of sale, reciting at length her certificate of registry, in pursuance of the fourteenth section of the act of Congress of December 31, 1792, concerning the registering and recording of ships or vessels, shall be utterly void, unless it shall be executed in the presence of a Minister or Consul of the United States there residing, and shall contain an express condition that such instrument, and the title of the purchaser claiming under it, shall not be valid if the vessel shall make, or attempt to make, a voyage to the coast of Africa before returning to the United States for a new register. And if any citizen of the United States, in any such place, being the owner or agent for the sale of an American vessel, shall sell it, knowing that she is to be employed in the African Slave Trade, or that she is about to make a voyage to the coast of Africa before returning to the United States, or shall charter a vessel of which he may be the owner or the agent for a voyage to the coast of Africa, with the intent to sell the vessel on that coast, every person so offending, on conviction before the circuit court of the United States, for any district wherein he may be brought or afterwards found, shall pay 10,000 dollars, and be imprisoned for a term not exceeding three years, at the discretion of the court. Every charter of an American ship or vessel at any such foreign place, with the intent that the vessel shall be employed in the African Slave Trade, and every sale of an American ship or vessel on the coast of Africa, except it shall be duly condemned as unseaworthy, is to be illegal and void.

When any citizen or other person shall lodge information with the attorney of the district of any state or territory, against any person for the violation of the Act, by any sale or charter, or attempt to sell or charter any American vessel, contrary to the provisions of this Act, it is to be the duty of the attorney to commence a prosecution against the offender, and upon conviction of such offence, the informer or informers who shall have lodged the information, as aforesaid, are to be entitled to receive one-half the net sum recovered and paid into the hands of the Marshal of the district, exclusive of costs; and every

CLASS B.

vessel illegally sold or chartered, contrary to any of the provisions of this Act, is with all her tackle and furniture to be forfeited to the United States, which, after condemnation by any court of the United States in the district into which she may be brought or found, are to be sold, and one-half the proceeds paid over to any citizen, or other person, who shall have lodged the necessary information before the attorney of the district for the condemnation of the vessel.

Every owner or agent for the sale of an American ship or vessel, who shall sell such ship or vessel in any of the ports as described, and every purchaser thereof are, at the time of the execution of the instrument of writing in the nature of a bill of sale for the transfer of the vessel, make oath or affirmation before a Minister or Consul of the United States residing at the place, that the vessel is not intended to be engaged in the African Slave Trade, which oath or affirmation is to be reduced to writing by the Minister or Consul, and by him duly certified and transmitted to the Department of State of the United States, which certificate, or a copy thereof, under the hand and seal of the Secretary of State, is to be evidence in any court of the United States; and if any such owner, agent, or purchaser, shall swear or affirm falsely in the premises, he is to be deemed guilty of perjury, and shall, on conviction suffer all the pains and penalties imposed by the Acts of Congress for wilful and corrupt perjury. Each party to every charter-party executed in any foreign port is to make the same oath or affirmation, to be taken, certified, and transmitted, and a copy authenticated and proved in the same manner, and he is to be punishable in the same way for swearing or affirming falsely. No such instrument in the nature of a bill of sale, and no such charter-party, is to be held legal and valid unless the provisions of the Act shall have been complied with.]

*Mr. Clayton.*—I have only one small amendment to offer. It is in the first section to strike out the words “North or South America,” and in lieu thereof to insert “on the Atlantic coast of America, or on any island, gulf, bay, inlet, or river, on or near that coast.” The object of this amendment is to confine the foreign port or place where these sea-letters shall be prohibited in the way they are by the Bill, to the Atlantic coast, instead of the Pacific coast of North and South America.

The amendment was agreed to.

*Mr. Clayton.*—Mr. President, I have but a few words to say upon the merits of the Bill. We now maintain a squadron, and we have four ships on the coast of Africa. The English have twenty-seven, and the French twelve or thirteen. The English and French together have but forty vessels on the coast of Africa, and we but four. It is but a fair calculation to say that they have eight times the force there that we have. Now the effect of this Bill is simply this: even if our squadron be withdrawn from the coast of Africa, which this Bill does not contemplate, it will put eight times the force on the coast of Africa for the suppression of the Slave Trade which exists there now, because it deprives every slaver of American nationality, and in consequence of that, a foreign cruizer can search her and seize her. Without this alteration in the law, a foreign vessel cannot search her, cannot seize her. If she, as I stated the other day, has 1,000 slaves in her hold when a foreign cruizer boards her, she cannot stop her. Then, Sir, the Bill recommends itself at once, without further discussion, to the humane consideration of every gentleman present. I hope, without further debate, it may pass now, in order that it may go to the House of Representatives in time to become a law during the session.

*Mr. Hamlin.*—Mr. President, I shall vote for this Bill in the form in which it is now presented to the Senate; but still I desire to make a suggestion to the Honourable Senator who has reported it, which, if adopted, will meet my approbation, and will, I think, make the Bill much more effectual. I think I am justified in saying that there is no commerce between the Atlantic coast of South America and the coast of Africa, in which our vessels have been engaged, which is not directly connected with the Slave Trade; or, in other words, none of our vessels leave the South American Atlantic coast for Africa, except for the purpose of engaging in the Slave Trade.

The Bill, therefore, in my judgment, should be one absolutely prohibiting trade in American vessels between the South American Atlantic coast and

Africa, and forfeiting the vessel for any engagement in that commerce. Then, let the Bill contain a further provision, that where any transfer has been made in the islands adjacent to us, the vessel shall return home and take out new papers.

The object of granting sea-letters, I take it, originally was to benefit the navigating interest, to encourage ship-building in the United States, in order that American vessels might be sold abroad. I so understand it. If a sale were made in a South American port, as low down as Brazil or lower, and you were to compel that vessel to return to the United States and obtain a bill of sale before the transfer was made, you might find it impossible in many instances to sell where you can sell by granting a sea-letter. I would not, therefore, compel a return of the vessel absolutely, before the sale of the vessel in those ports, to get a bill of sale from the proper officers in the United States; but I would absolutely prohibit the trade in that vessel between the South American Atlantic coast and the coast of Africa. Then there can be no avoiding the provision.

Why, Sir, the law is well enough now, but for an avoidance of it; and let me tell the honourable Senator from Delaware, that in my judgment men who will engage in this traffic will find ways enough to evade the provisions of this Bill. There is no adequate method by which the Trade can be suppressed, except by prohibiting intercourse entirely between these two coasts. I have come to this conclusion from a long conference with gentlemen who have resided in Brazil, and from a thorough investigation of it with a gentleman of Virginia, who was at the time resident in that place. He satisfied me beyond a doubt that the only possible way of suppressing the Trade was to declare it illegal in whole from these southern ports, and then require your vessels absolutely to return from the islands which are nearest—Cuba, Jamaica, and all those islands—before transfer.

This latter provision may be some hardship. Perhaps sales may be sometimes prevented, if you require our vessels to return from there; but still the distance is not so great as to make it very onerous upon them; and a Bill containing these two provisions, in my judgment, would be vastly more effective, and vastly more certain of producing the results which the honourable Senator from Delaware desires. Still, I shall vote for this Bill in its present form, if it cannot undergo this alteration.

*Mr. Clayton.*—Mr. President, I could make the Bill more effectual, as the honourable Senator says, very readily, by prohibiting all trade whatever from any Atlantic port whatever, or any West India port; but then I should trespass on a great principle of policy to which the United States have uniformly adhered, and that is, not to interfere with either the ship-building or the navigating interest of the country. That has been the cherished policy of the Government.

Now, Sir, I do not wish to have this great measure encounter any such opposition as this Bill will meet if the suggestion of my honourable friend be adopted. I do not say that, thinking as I do of this inhuman Traffic, I might not agree with him, even at the expense of the navigating interest, in the suggestion he has made. But, Sir, I am satisfied that this Bill is sufficient for the purposes we have in view; and it is not necessary at all to interfere either with the navigating interest or the ship-building interest of the country.

I think it is true that there is not a very extensive trade between the South American and African coasts, but nevertheless there is a trade, the extent of which probably neither the honourable Senator nor myself is aware of. Our trade is growing with that country, and will continue to grow between different parts of the world every year.

Here, Sir, we have in view the adoption of a great measure of humanity, and in endeavouring to get it through, let us avoid bringing it into conflict with any of these questions of national policy. As the Bill now stands, it cannot interfere at all with the navigating interest of the country, nor with the ship-building interest in any form. It cannot encounter objection from any man who is not resolved that the African Slave Trade shall go on as it has under these sea-letters. I trust, therefore, that the Bill will pass as it stands.

*Mr. Pettit.*—Mr. President, I regret that I am not better acquainted with

the strategy and detail of commerce, and especially this kind of commerce which it is proposed to suppress. I will say, however, that there is no Senator who will go further than I will to suppress this Traffic, which is abhorred by God and denounced by man. Its suppression is a measure that commends itself to the consideration and the approval of every man of heart in the country, as I believe.

I regret, Sir, that I have not had an opportunity to examine the details of this Bill. No such opportunity has been given the Senate at all. The Bill has been but recently brought before the body. I urged the Senator at his seat to consent to let the matter lie over until Monday, but he did not see fit to do so. I hope that something will arise that shall render it necessary to pass the Bill over, until we can consider it further.

Before I sit down I shall offer an amendment to this Bill, providing for putting into the hands of the Colonization Society some funds, to furnish them help and aid to suppress this Trade. Such a measure, in my judgment, will be more efficient than even this Bill. Nothing, in my opinion, is so well calculated to suppress that Trade, as to create a cordon of civilized towns upon the African coast, south of the present settlements in Liberia.

A small amount of money, probably one-third or one-fourth the amount which it now costs us to maintain the squadron which we are bound by the Ashburton Treaty to keep up on the African coast, will do four times as much service in the suppression of the Slave Trade as is now done by the maintenance of that squadron. I am therefore by no means wedded to its continuance. I am willing that the Treaty shall be abrogated, so far as that is concerned, provided always we get something more efficient to take its place. But, Sir, I am not willing now, in view of the passage of a recent measure that has excited the country, to remove and repeal the last barrier, as it will be said, whether truly or not, to the suppression of the Slave Trade, with a view to the importation of slaves into the country to answer a supposed increased demand. I cannot consent to withdraw that squadron, unless something more efficient, or at least as efficient, be placed in its stead.

I believe, Sir, that instead of appropriating 800,000 or 1,000,000 dollars a-year for the maintenance of eighty guns on the coast of Africa, an annual appropriation of 250,000 dollars to the American Colonization Society, to enable them to ply steamers between our coast and the African coast, with ordinary equipments, perhaps one long gun and other preparations for seizing and suppressing African slavers, and with a view to the purchase of tracts of country from time to time on this coast, upon which to plant your emigrant negroes and build up civilized societies, will be the most efficient measure that can be adopted. On this coast slaves are now brought to market and sold there, as is well known, to traders for this continent and its adjacent islands. I believe that, by enabling the American Colonization Society to settle it with civilized communities, we should do tenfold more to suppress the Slave Trade than by the maintenance of the present squadron, or even the provisions of this Bill.

The subject has not been well matured by me; but there can be, in my judgment, nothing so well calculated to suppress slavery and the Slave Trade as civilization. Put civilization as a wall along the coast of Africa, where these creatures are brought from the interior by their brethren, and sold to the cupidity of American traders, and you will at once, I believe, effectually suppress this trade. I wish to accomplish that object. But not being willing that our present preventive measures shall pass from our hands; not being willing that this provision of the Ashburton Treaty shall be abrogated, or even that this Bill shall be passed at present; and not being willing to trust to the liberality of Senators and members to pass what, in my judgment, the occasion demands, after the adoption of this Bill, I shall insist, before it be passed, that some provision like that which I now offer shall be adopted, or some evidence given that it will be adopted. With that view I offer the following additional sections, as an amendment to the Bill:

Section . And be it further enacted, that the sum of 250,000 dollars be, and is hereby appropriated to be, paid out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to the order of the proper officer of the American Colonization Society, for the year ending 30th of June, 1855, for the purpose of enabling said society to establish a line of steam-vessels consisting of two steamers. Said



steamers shall each make three trips within the year, and as near as possible at regular intervals, alternating between the ports of New York, Baltimore, Norfolk, Savannah, and New Orleans, and the west coast of Africa, touching at such places as said society shall direct.

Section . And be it further enacted, that the Government of the United States shall have the privilege of transporting to and from West Africa, the Government mails, and likewise the Government stores each trip.

Section . And be it further enacted, that said society shall arm each steamer with one long, heavy gun, on a pivot, and two small guns, and shall man them with a proper complement of seamen to render efficient service, under private commissions from the Government, to repress and check slavers on the line of their voyage between this country and the west coast of Africa, and along the line of said coast, and on their return voyage shall run down said coast as low as Cabarda, and return cruizing along said coast as high as the Gambia.

*Mr. Clayton.*—Mr. President, I hope that amendment will not prevail. If it be adopted it may perhaps defeat the Bill. If the honourable gentleman desires to offer such a proposition as that the Government of the United States shall employ the Colonization Society in the business of navigating steamers between this country and Liberia, let him bring it forward on some other occasion. Let him bring it forward on some occasion when it will not embarrass a measure of this salutary character. There is nothing of necessary connection between this amendment and the Bill.

I, Sir, am myself a friend of the Colonization Society, and I should be very happy to see it advanced in all its great objects; but I do think that if this amendment be engrafted on the Bill at this time, it will defeat it. We know that honourable gentlemen here, who are friendly to the Bill as it stands, are directly opposed to this amendment. There is no necessary connection whatever between the two. I trust, therefore, that as the honourable gentleman professes to be in favour of the Bill, he will consent to withdraw the amendment, if he discovers, as I think he will, on a very slight examination, that it must necessarily obstruct the passage of the measure.

I do not go into a discussion of the questions arising out of the amendment the gentleman has proposed. I confine myself in my objection to it in this single remark, that it must have the effect of impeding the passage of the Bill. There is barely time now left for the Bill to pass through the House of Representatives as well as the Senate, although I believe there is a general feeling in favour of the measure, in both branches of Congress. I hope the Senate will not agree to the amendment.

*Mr. Pettit.*—I will not say that the honourable Senator from Delaware is opposed to this measure to appropriate any money for the suppression of the Slave Trade, but he talks very much like a member of any legislative body who is opposed to a measure submitted. He says this is not the right place, it is wrong; it has no connection with this Bill, move it somewhere else. Move it again, when we have the least possible chance of success, is the advice the Senator gives me.

Sir, so far as relates to its connection with this Bill, none could be more appropriate. The bill is entitled "A Bill for the more effectual suppression of the Slave Trade in American-built vessels;" and nothing can be more appropriate for that purpose than the appropriation of a small amount of money to carry out the object. What could be more efficient than the plying of two steamers which it is proposed shall be plied? What could be more efficient than the appropriation of the money proposed by it?

I desire, Mr. President, however, while I am up, to say, that I shall press this amendment, or something in its form. I am not willing that this Bill shall pass, that the subject shall be up in any form, that the abrogation of the Treaty of 1842 shall take place, withdrawing our squadron from that coast, unless there shall be some substitute for it. I desire, however, to ask that the whole subject may lie upon the table, and the Bill be ordered to be reprinted, with the amendment, in order that Senators may see it. It may need some pruning, some alteration, and some amendment: and until Senators can see it, they cannot well make up their minds. I move that the Bill lie on the table, and be ordered to be reprinted with the amendment.



*Mr. Clayton.*—I hope the Senator will withdraw that for a moment.

*Mr. Pettit.*—Certainly.

*Mr. Clayton.*—The honourable Senator labours under an entire misapprehension of the character of the Bill. Why, Sir, the Bill has nothing to do with the abrogation of the Vth Article of the Ashburton Treaty of 1842. It contains no provision on that subject whatever. It has nothing to do with it. It contains provisions for the suppression of the Slave Trade in American-built vessels, but it does not, in any part of it, refer to the Ashburton Treaty, or to the withdrawal of any part of our squadron from the coast of Africa.

*Mr. Pettit.*—Another proposition does contemplate that.

*Mr. Clayton.*—What is the effect of the Senator's proposition? To order this to lie on the table until he can have time to look at it further. The session is nearly at an end; we have no time to lose. If honourable Senators concur with me in the beneficent character of this measure, and the humanity of it, they will, unless they have objection to it, assist me in its passage, and I call upon them to stand by me and assist me in passing it now, in order that the other branch of Congress may have an opportunity to act upon it.

*Mr. Hunter.*—I hope this subject will go over. The amendment of the Senator from Indiana presents a very important question; and I think it is likely to commit the United States to the adoption of a very dangerous policy. At any rate, I should like to have time to look into it further. I hope, therefore, it will be allowed to go over. We ought not to be hurried to a vote on such a subject as this.

*Mr. Pettit.*—I move to postpone the further consideration of the subject until Wednesday, as the Senate has agreed to adjourn from to-day till Wednesday; and that the bill be reprinted with the amendment.

*Mr. Clayton.*—Does the honourable Senator from Virginia purpose to sustain the amendment of the Senator from Indiana?

*Mr. Hunter.*—No, Sir; I am opposed to it as far as I understand it. I wish to examine it further, however.

*Mr. Clayton.*—Would the honourable Senator under any circumstances give 250,000 dollars to the Colonization Society for this purpose?

*Mr. Hunter.*—Certainly not. But I wish to look further into the matter.

*Mr. Bright.*—I sympathize with my colleague, and think his amendment germane to the Bill. If he intends to press the consideration of the subject upon the attention of Congress at this season, it cannot be so properly done upon any plan as upon this. The amendment is an important one; it appropriates a large sum of money. The hour of one o'clock is arrived, at which the Senator from Texas is entitled to the floor. I therefore hope the subject will be postponed for the purpose of letting him proceed with his remarks.

*The Presiding Officer.* (Mr. Badger in the chair).—The question is on the motion to postpone the further consideration of the subject until Wednesday next, and that the Bill be reprinted with the amendment.

*Mr. Clayton.*—It is not to order it to lie on the table.

*Mr. Pettit.*—No, Sir; I submitted a motion to postpone in place of the other motion.

The motion was agreed to.

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Inclosure 3 in No. 613.

*Extract from the Washington "Globe" of July 6, 1854.*

AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE.

*Mr. Stuart.*—I now wish to ask the Senate to take up, with a view of disposing of it to-day, if we can, the Bill making a grant of land for the relief of indigent insane persons, which has been returned by the President of the United States, with his objections.

*Mr. Clayton.*—We have now on the table a Bill which is the special order immediately after this shall be disposed of. I refer to the Bill reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations for the more effectual suppression of the Slave Trade in American-built vessels. I hope we shall take up that Bill now.

*Mr. Hunter.*—I think it would be better to take up the veto message. The Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Brodhead) has been here day after day, desiring to speak on it, and I think it is due to him that he should have an opportunity to do so.

*Mr. Clayton.*—It was understood on Saturday, when the Bill for the suppression of the Slave Trade was postponed, that it would be taken up immediately after the special order which has just been disposed of. That Bill is one on which I presume there will be no debate whatever; for I suppose, from what I understand, that an arrangement can be made which will supersede the necessity of any debate at all. I hope, therefore, that we shall adhere to the special order; it cannot consume more than a few minutes, and then we can take up the veto message.

*Mr. Stuart.*—If the Bill of the Senator from Delaware be first in order on the table, and if it will lead to no debate, as he supposes, I am willing to withdraw my motion, so as to allow that Bill to be taken up; but I assure the Senate that I am exceedingly anxious to dispose of the other question, for it stands in the way of other business.

*Mr. Clayton.*—The gentleman cannot be more anxious than I am to dispose of the veto message; but I wish to take up the first Bill in order.

*Mr. Adams.*—I desire to inquire of the Chair if the veto message is not first in order?

*The Presiding Officer.*—The first Bill now on the orders of the Senate for consideration is the Bill spoken of by the Senator from Delaware. Immediately after that is the Act making a grant of public lands to the several States of the Union for the benefit of indigent insane persons.

*Mr. Cass.*—I agree with my colleague on this matter. If the vote can be taken on the Bill of the Senator from Delaware without discussion, I have no objection to its being taken up. After that I shall be in favour of taking up the veto message. I believe we ought to have a vote upon that. Then, for myself, I shall vote against every proposition to bring other business before the Senate until the Homestead Bill be taken up.

*Mr. Hunter.*—I have no objection to taking up the Bill of the Senator from Delaware, if it be understood that the amendment which is pending will be withdrawn; but surely he does not suppose that the amendment will be voted on without debate.

*Mr. Clayton.*—I suppose that, if the Bill be taken up, that amendment will be withdrawn in the course of a very few minutes.

*The Presiding Officer.*—Does the Senator from Michigan withdraw his motion?

*Mr. Stuart.*—Yes, Sir.

The Senate then resumed, as in Committee of the whole, the consideration of the Bill for the more effectual suppression of the Slave Trade in American-built vessels, the pending question being upon the amendment offered on Saturday last by the Senator from Indiana (Mr. Pettit) to add the following additional sections :

Section . And be it further enacted, That the sum of 250,000 dollars be, and is hereby, appropriated, to be paid out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to the order of the proper officer of the American Colonization Society, for the year ending 30th June, 1855, for the purpose of enabling said Society to establish a line of steam-vessels consisting of two steamers. Said steamers shall each make three trips within the year, and, as near as possible, at regular intervals, alternating between the ports of New York, Baltimore, Norfolk, Savannah, and New Orleans, and the west coast of Africa, touching at such places as said Society shall direct.

Section . And be it further enacted, That the Government of the United States shall have the privilege of transporting to and from West Africa, the Government mails, and likewise the Government stores, each trip.

Section . And be it further enacted, That said Society shall arm each steamer with one long heavy gun, on a pivot, and two small guns, and shall man them with a proper complement of seamen to render efficient service, under private commissions from the Government, to repress and check slavers on the line of their voyage between this country and the west coast of Africa, and along the line of said coast, and on their return voyage shall run down said coast as low as Cabarda, and return cruizing along said coast as high as the Gambia.

*Mr. Clayton.*—In regard to that amendment, I have to say that I trust the honourable Senator who offered it will see the propriety of withdrawing it. I understand distinctly that the Colonization Society has not desired any such proposition to be moved to this Bill ; the Colonization Society has not interfered in any way to amend or alter the Bill. In relation to the proposition itself, I wish to say that, if the object of the honourable Senator be to establish a line of steamers between this country and Liberia, he will always find me friendly to a proposition of that description, if offered in the proper place. I trust the honourable Senator from Indiana, seeing these things, will not be disposed to obstruct the passage of this measure, which is a very important one.

*Mr. Pettit.*—Mr. President, before I sit down I shall withdraw the proposed amendment ; but, before doing so, it is proper that I should make a very short explanation :

I offered this amendment at the instance of the Rev. James Mitchell, who is the agent of the Colonization Society for five States in the West—Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin—as I understand. He presented me the paper, requesting me to offer it as an amendment. I now understand from the Senator from Delaware that the Colonization Society do not desire it offered to this Bill, and therefore, at the suggestion and with the concurrence of the gentleman at whose instance I offered it, I withdraw it.

The Bill was reported to the Senate without amendment, ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, read a third time, and passed.

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Inclosure 4 in No. 613.

*Extract from the "New York Herald" of July 5, 1854.*

SENATOR CLAYTON'S BILL FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF THE SLAVE TRADE.

A Bill for the more effectual Suppression of Slave Trade in American-built vessels.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, that whenever any American registered ship or vessel shall, in whole or in part, be sold or transferred to a citizen or citizens of the United States, at any foreign port or place in North or South

America, or in any of the West India Islands, or in the Cape de Verde Islands, or any island on or near the coast of Africa, the instrument of writing in the nature of a bill of sale, reciting at length her certificate of registry, in pursuance of the fourteenth section of the Act of Congress, of December 31, 1792, concerning the registering and recording of ships or vessels, shall be utterly void, unless it shall be executed in the presence of a Minister or Consul of the United States there residing, and shall contain an express condition that such instrument, in the nature of a bill of sale, and the title of the purchaser claiming under it, shall not be valid if the said ship or vessel shall make, or attempt to make, a voyage to the coast of Africa before returning to the United States for a new register. And if any citizen of the United States, in any such port or place, being the owner or agent for the sale of an American ship or vessel, shall sell such ship or vessel, knowing that she is to be employed in the African Slave Trade, or that she is about to make a voyage to the coast of Africa before returning to the United States, or shall charter a vessel of which he may be the owner or the agent for a voyage to the coast of Africa, with the intent to sell such ship or vessel on that coast, every person so offending, on conviction thereof before the Circuit Court of the United States for any district wherein he may be brought or afterwards found, shall forfeit and pay the sum of 10,000 dollars, and shall be imprisoned for a term not exceeding three years, at the discretion of said Court. Every charter of an American ship or vessel at any such foreign port or place, with the intent that such ship or vessel shall be employed in the African Slave Trade, and every sale of an American ship or vessel on the coast of Africa, except such ship or vessel shall be duly condemned as unseaworthy, shall be illegal and void.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, that when any citizen or person shall lodge information with the attorney of the district of any state or territory, as the case may be, against any person for the violation of this Act, by any sale or charter, or attempt to sell or charter any such American ship or vessel, contrary to the provisions of this Act, it shall be the duty of the said attorney forthwith to commence a prosecution against the offender, and upon conviction of such offence, the informer or informant who shall have lodged the information as aforesaid, shall be entitled to receive one-half the net sum recovered and paid into the hands of the Marshal of the district, exclusive of costs; and every such ship or vessel illegally sold or chartered, contrary to any of the provisions of this Act, shall, with all her tackle and furniture, be forfeited to the United States, and after condemnation by any Court of the United States in the district into which she may be brought or found, such ship or vessel, with her tackle and furniture, shall be sold, and one-half the proceeds of sale shall be paid over to any citizen, or other person, who shall have lodged the necessary information before the attorney of the district, for the condemnation of such ship or vessel.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, that every owner or agent for the sale of an American ship or vessel, who shall sell such ship or vessel in any of the ports aforesaid, and every purchaser of such ship or vessel shall, at the time of the execution of the instrument of writing in the nature of a bill of sale for the transfer of such ship or vessel, make oath, or (if conscientiously scrupulous of taking an oath) an affirmation before a Minister or Consul of the United States residing at such port or place, that the said ship or vessel is not intended to be engaged in the African Slave Trade, which oath or affirmation shall be reduced to writing by the said Minister or Consul, and by him duly certified and transmitted to the Department of State of the United States, and such certificate, or a copy thereof, under the hand and seal of the Secretary of State, shall be evidence in any Court of the United States; and if any such owner, agent, or purchaser, shall swear or affirm falsely in the premises, he shall be deemed guilty of perjury, and shall, on conviction thereof, suffer all the pains and penalties imposed by the Acts of Congress for wilful and corrupt perjury. Each party to every charter executed in any such foreign port, shall make the same oath or affirmation, to be taken, certified and transmitted in the same manner, and a copy thereof to be authenticated and proved in the same manner, and he shall be punishable in the same way for swearing or affirming falsely. No such instrument in the nature of a bill of sale, and no such charter-party, shall be held legal and valid unless the provisions of this Act shall have been complied with.

No. 614.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Crampton.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, July 28, 1854.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch\* which I have received from Her Majesty's Minister at Rio de Janeiro, reporting that a notorious slave-trader named Jacintho Derizanz had arrived at that port in the American vessel "*General Pierce*," with the intention, as was supposed, of proceeding to the coast of Africa on a slave-trading voyage, but that his scheme had been frustrated by the opposition of Captain Scott, Acting Consul of the United States at Rio de Janeiro.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

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No. 615.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Crampton.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, August 25, 1854.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, an extract of a despatch† which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General in Cuba, reporting the capture by Her Majesty's ship "*Espiègle*" of the brig "*Grey Eagle*" of Philadelphia, after she had landed a cargo of slaves at Ortigosa. I also transmit to you a copy of a further despatch‡ upon this subject which I have received from Mr. Crawford giving the substance of a deposition made by Joseph Town, of Philadelphia, before the United States' Acting Consul at Havana respecting the voyage of the "*Grey Eagle*," and the composition of her crew; and I have to desire that you will bring these circumstances to the knowledge of Mr. Marcy, and that you will express the hope of Her Majesty's Government that this case may be followed up.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

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No. 616.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Crampton.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, September 15, 1854.*

I HAVE to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Consul at Philadelphia has reported to me the proceedings taken by the authorities of that city against the Commander of the "*Grey Eagle*," the case of which vessel formed the subject of my despatch of the 25th ultimo; and I have to instruct you to take a favourable opportunity for again bringing this matter before the Government of the United States, and repeating the hope of Her Majesty's Government that the case may be followed up.

I now transmit to you, for your further information, a copy of a despatch§ which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Havana, relating to the case of the "*Grey Eagle*," and giving an account of other Slave Trade proceedings reported to be carried on in United States' vessels.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

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\* No. 117.

† No. 486.

‡ No. 493.

§ No. 490.

No. 617.

*Mr. Crampton to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 2.)*

(No. 16.)

My Lord,

*Washington, September 17, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith, a copy of a note by which, in pursuance of the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 25th ultimo, I have communicated to the United States' Government the circumstances attending the capture by Her Majesty's ship "Espiègle," of the brig "Grey Eagle" of Philadelphia. I have also expressed the hope of Her Majesty's Government that this case may be followed up.

I have likewise the honour to inclose the copy of the reply which I have received from Mr. Marcy, stating that proceedings have been instituted by the authorities of the United States against the parties implicated in the case, and that those proceedings will be vigorously prosecuted to a termination.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 617.

*Mr. Crampton to Mr. Marcy.*

Sir,

*Washington, September 12, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith, an extract of a despatch which the Earl of Clarendon, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has received from Her Majesty's Consul-General in Cuba reporting the capture by Her Majesty's ship "Espiègle" of the brig "Grey Eagle," of Philadelphia, after she had landed a cargo of slaves at Ortigosa; likewise a copy of a further despatch upon this subject received by his Lordship from Mr. Consul-General Crawford, giving the substance of a deposition made by Joseph Town, of Philadelphia, before the United States' Acting Consul at Havana respecting the voyage of the "Grey Eagle," and the composition of her crew. In bringing these circumstances to your knowledge, in obedience to the instructions of Her Majesty's Government, I am likewise directed to express the hope of Her Majesty's Government that this case may be followed up.

I avail, &amp;c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 617.

*Mr. Marcy to Mr. Crampton.*

Sir,

*Department of State, Washington, September 13, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of yesterday, transmitting an extract of a despatch of the 29th of June last, and the copy of another despatch of the 20th of July following, both from Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General in Cuba to the Earl of Clarendon, relative to the capture of the brig "Grey Eagle," of Philadelphia, and expressing the hope of your Government that the case may be followed up.

In reply, I have the honour to inform you that proceedings have been instituted by the authorities of the United States against the parties implicated in the case, and that those proceedings will be vigorously prosecuted to a termination.

I avail, &amp;c.

(Signed) W. L. MARCY.

No. 618.

*Mr. Crampton to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 10.)*

My Lord,

Washington, September 25, 1854.

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract from the "New York Herald" newspaper, reporting the legal proceedings which have been instituted by the United States' Government against the master of the American brig "*Julia Moulton*," and other parties connected with this vessel, on a charge of having been engaged in the Slave Trade.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

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 Inclosure in No. 618.
*Extract from the "New York Herald."*

CHARGE OF EXTENSIVE TRAFFIC IN SLAVES—SIX HUNDRED AND SIXTY  
LANDED ON THE ISLAND OF CUBA.

*United States' Marshal's Office,  
September 20, 1854.*

THE United States' District Attorney, Mr. John McKeon, has, in consequence of information received by him, been actively engaged for some weeks past in ferreting out certain parties charged with fitting out vessels in New York for the purpose of trafficking in slaves. Accordingly, warrants were entrusted by Mr. Hillyer, the Marshal, to Mr. Horton, one of his deputies, and Officer Nevins. Horton this morning succeeded in arresting the captain of the brig "*Julia Moulton*," at No. 372, Walter-street, where he was secreted in the back premises. The following is a copy of the affidavit which implicates the captain:

James Wills, of the city of New York, mariner, being duly sworn, says: that J. Smith, a citizen of the United States, being master of the brig "*Julia Moulton*," a vessel navigating for and on behalf of the said Smith, did, some time in the month of April, 1854, within the Admiralty jurisdiction of the United States, on the coast of Africa, on tidewater, feloniously, forcibly confine and detain on board said brig or vessel, so owned and navigated as aforesaid, 660 negroes, not held to service by the laws of either of the States or Territories of the United States, with the intent to make such negroes, and each of them, slaves.

It further appears that after landing the 660 slaves on the Island of Cuba, from the coast of Africa, the brig was burned. The offence with which the captain is charged is a capital one, involving the forfeiture of life, and is therefore not bailable.

The party arrested by Officer Nevins, on a charge of fitting out the vessel contrary to the Act of 1818, is a highly respectable shipchandler down town, and well connected in the city. We forbear giving his name until an investigation takes place and the allegation is found to be true or false. The District Attorney imposed a rule of bail of 40,000 dollars on this gentleman, which was entered into by three responsible sureties before Mr. Commissioner Morton, by whom the warrants of arrest were issued.

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No. 619.

*Mr. Crampton to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 6.)*

My Lord,

Washington, October 23, 1854.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a letter which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at the Havana, containing information in

regard to the movements of a certain Don José Egea, who has repaired to New York for the purpose of fitting out a slave-trading expedition from that port.

I have lost no time in communicating this information to the Government of the United States, and also to Her Majesty's Consul at New York.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Inclosure in No. 619.

*Consul-General Crawford to Mr. Crampton, October 11, 1854.*

[See Inclosure in No. 515.]

No. 620.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Crampton.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, November 8, 1854.*

I TRANSMIT herewith an extract of a despatch\* which I have received from Mr. Backhouse, Her Majesty's Commissary Judge at Havana, containing some information respecting the system which is now constantly pursued, and is every day becoming more general, by which vessels fitted out in the United States, and commanded and manned by American citizens, are employed in carrying on the Cuba Slave Trade.

I inclose also copies of three depositions† sworn before Mr. Lynslager, the Governor of Fernando Po, and Acting British Consul in that Island, by John Walsh, John Pearce, and John McLaughlin, seamen belonging to the United States' schooner "Oregon," of New Orleans, showing the circumstances under which that vessel was, in May and June last, engaged in a slaving voyage on the west coast of Africa, which, however, was interrupted by the stranding of the vessel in the River Bonny.

I have to instruct you to communicate the inclosed papers to Mr. Marcy, and to call his attention to the manner in which the vessels of the United States are employed in protecting this abominable Traffic.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 621.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Crampton.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, November 10, 1854.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 8th instant, respecting the manner in which vessels belonging to the United States are employed in carrying on the Cuba Slave Trade, I transmit herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch‡ which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Havana.

You will communicate to Mr. Marcy so much of the contents of the inclosed despatch as you may consider necessary in order to support the representation which you have been instructed by my despatch of the 8th instant to address to the United States' Government.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

\* See Class A, No. 29.

† No. 513.

‡ Inclosures in No. 53.



No. 622.

*Mr. Crampton to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 13.)*

My Lord,

*Washington, October 30, 1854.*

IN my despatch of the 23rd instant, I transmitted to your Lordship a copy of a letter which I had received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Havana, relative to a slave-trading expedition alleged to be fitting out at New York, by Don José Egea.

I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of the note in which I communicated the letter of Mr. Consul-General Crawford to the Secretary of State of the United States, and likewise a copy of Mr. Marcy's reply, in which he informs me that the communication in question has been sent to the Attorney-General of the United States for the southern district of the State of New York, with proper directions upon the subject.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 622.

*Mr. Crampton to Mr. Marcy.*

Sir,

*Washington, October 20, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of the proper Department of the Government of the United States, the copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at the Havana, stating that a certain Don José Egea lately left the Havana for New York, for the purpose of organizing a slave-trading expedition from that port.

The information in Mr. Crawford's letter seems calculated to enable the United States' authorities at New York, and the officers commanding the naval force of the United States on the coast of Africa, to trace M. Egea's proceedings, and to prevent the execution of his design.

I avail, &amp;c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 622.

*Mr. Marcy to Mr. Crampton.*

Sir,

*Department of State, Washington, October 25, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 20th instant, with the accompanying documents, relative to Don José Egea, who is supposed to have recently left Havana for the purpose of organizing a slave-trading expedition at New York.

In reply I have the honour to acquaint you that a copy of your communication has been sent to the Attorney of the United States for the southern district of that State, with proper directions upon the subject.

I avail, &amp;c.

(Signed) W. L. MARCY.

No. 623.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Crampton.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, November 28, 1854.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a despatch\* which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Lagos, on the west coast of Africa, reporting that the United States' Commodore on that station had visited Lagos, and inclosing a copy of an Agreement which Commander Mayo had concluded with the King and Chiefs of that place. Her Majesty's Government learn with great satisfaction, from the preamble to this Agreement, that measures are taken to put a stop to the abuse of the United States' flag on the African coast.

I am, &c.  
Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 624.

*Mr. Crampton to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 18.)*

My Lord,

*Washington, December 4, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the copy of a note which in obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 8th ultimo, I have addressed to the United States' Secretary of State, calling his attention to the manner in which American vessels are used in carrying on the Slave Trade to the Island of Cuba, and showing the circumstances under which the United States' vessel "Oregon" was engaged in a slave-trading voyage to the coast of Africa.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Inclosure in No. 624.

*Mr. Crampton to Mr. Marcy.*

Sir,

*Washington, December 2, 1854.*

I HAVE been instructed to communicate to the Government of the United States two papers which I have the honour to inclose herewith, and to call your attention to the facts thereby disclosed in regard to the manner in which the vessels of the United States are employed in carrying on the Slave Trade to the Island of Cuba.

The first of these papers is a copy of a despatch received by Her Majesty's Government from Her Majesty's Commissary Judge at the Havana, and will be found to contain information respecting the system now constantly pursued, and which appears every day to become more general, by which vessels fitted out in the United States, and commanded and manned by American citizens, are employed in this inhuman Traffic.

The second paper contains copies of three depositions sworn before Mr. Lynslager, the Governor of Fernando Po, and Acting British Consul in the island, by three of the crew of the American schooner "Oregon," showing the circumstances under which that vessel was, in May and June last, engaged in a slave-trading voyage on the coast of Africa, which, however, was interrupted by the stranding of the vessel in the River Bonny. This document will be shown to throw considerable light upon the devices resorted to by the masters of slaving-vessels, in order to evade the legal consequences of these criminal acts.

I avail, &c.  
(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

No. 625.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Crampton.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, December 22, 1854.*

I TRANSMIT herewith a copy of a despatch\* which I have received from Lord Howden, Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid, by which you will learn that Mr. Soulé has conveyed to his Lordship a new version of the fabricated report as to the alleged intention of the British Government to establish an African Empire in the West Indies. I inclose also a copy of the answer † which I have returned to Lord Howden's despatch, and I have to instruct you to communicate to Mr. Marcy the substance of these papers.

You will at the same time deliver to Mr. Marcy a note, stating that as Her Majesty's Government have been informed on official authority of the belief entertained in the United States that the British and Spanish Governments have made an arrangement by which immense numbers of free negroes have been introduced into the Island of Cuba, you have been instructed formally to state that such belief is entirely without foundation, no such arrangement having been made or contemplated, and no free negroes having been, to the knowledge of Her Majesty's Government, landed in Cuba.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLAREN'DON.

No. 626.

*Mr. Crampton to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 25.)*

My Lord,

*Washington, December 11, 1854.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 4th instant, inclosing the copy of a note which, in obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 8th ultimo, I addressed to Mr. Marcy, calling his attention to the manner in which American vessels are used in carrying on the Slave Trade to the Island of Cuba, I have now the honour of inclosing a copy of Mr. Marcy's reply to my communication.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Inclosure in No. 626.

*Mr. Marcy to Mr. Crampton.*

Sir,

*Department of State, Washington, December 8, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 2nd instant, calling my attention to two papers therein inclosed, relative to the manner in which vessels of the United States are employed in carrying on the African Slave Trade to the Island of Cuba, and to inform you in reply that I will endeavour to make use of them for the more effectual prosecution of persons concerned in that Traffic, who may be subject to the jurisdiction of this Government.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. L. MARCY.

\* No. 425.

† No. 427.

No. 627.

*Mr. Crampton to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 31.)*

My Lord,

*Washington, January 15, 1855.*

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 22nd ultimo, I have made Mr. Marcy acquainted with the substance of the despatch by which Lord Howden informs your Lordship that Mr. Soulé, Minister of the United States at Madrid, has conveyed to his Lordship a new version of the fabricated report which has been widely spread in the United States, as to the alleged intention of the British Government to establish an African Empire in the West Indies. I have also communicated to Mr. Marcy the substance of your Lordship's reply to Lord Howden's despatch, and I have delivered to Mr. Marcy a note, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, stating formally that the belief which Mr. Soulé affirms is entertained in the United States in regard to this matter, is utterly without foundation.

Mr. Marcy remarked to me, that for his own part he had never attached the least credit to the rumours which were afloat in regard to the existence of an arrangement of any sort between the Governments of Great Britain and Spain, for what was called the Africanization of Cuba; and that from the moment I had voluntarily made to him, without any inquiry on his part, a communication of your Lordship's unequivocal denial of the existence of any arrangement or design of the sort, he had never missed any opportunity of expressing, whether to his own colleagues in the Cabinet, to leading members of Congress, or to persons connected with the public press, his entire disbelief of the truth of any such reports. He felt therefore at a loss to conceive how Mr. Soulé had come to entertain the erroneous impression under which he laboured; but it was certainly not from any communication he had received from the Department of State.

With regard to the belief in question, Mr. Marcy remarked, that it certainly had been at one time very prevalent in this country, but that it seemed lately to have been very much weakened, if not totally abandoned.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

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 Inclosure in No. 627.
*Mr. Crampton to Mr. Marcy.*

Sir,

*Washington, January 8, 1855.*

HER Majesty's Government having been informed, on official authority, that a belief is entertained in the United States that the British and Spanish Governments have made an arrangement by which immense numbers of free negroes have been introduced into the Island of Cuba, I have been instructed by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to state to you, Sir, formally, that such belief is utterly without foundation; no such arrangement having been made or contemplated, and no free negroes having been, to the knowledge of Her Majesty's Government, landed in Cuba.

I avail, &amp;c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

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 No. 628.
*Mr. Crampton to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 6.)*

My Lord,

*Washington, January 23, 1855.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 15th instant, in which I had the honour to inclose the copy of a note, addressed, in obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of 22nd December last, to the United States'

CLASS B.

Secretary of State upon the subject of a belief which was stated by Mr. Soulé to exist in the United States, that large numbers of free negroes had been introduced into the Island of Cuba, in pursuance of the terms of an agreement to this effect between Her Majesty's Government and the Government of Spain, I have now the honour to inclose a copy of Mr. Marcy's reply to my communication.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

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Inclosure in No. 628.

*Mr. Marcy to Mr. Crampton.*

Sir,

*Department of State, Washington, January 20, 1855.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 8th instant, relative to a belief supposed to be entertained in the United States to the effect that the British and Spanish Governments have made an arrangement by which immense numbers of free negroes have been introduced into the Island of Cuba, and to acquaint you, in reply, that no formal disclaimer upon the subject has been deemed necessary by this Government.

I avail, &c.  
(Signed) W. L. MARCY.

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UNITED STATES. (*Consular*)—*Charleston.*

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No. 629.

*Consul Bunch to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 18, 1855.)*

(Extract.)

*Charleston, December 28, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship two copies of a Presentment made by the Grand Jury of Williamsburgh District, in this State, at their last Fall, or Autumn, Term, respecting the propriety or expediency of a revival of the Slave Trade, under the authority of the Government of the United States.

This document was submitted to the Committee of the Legislature known as that "on the coloured population," and your Lordship will find annexed to it a synopsis of the report of that body.

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Inclosure in No. 629.

*Presentment of the Grand Jury of Williamsburgh District, respecting the Revival of the Slave Trade, and Report of the Committee of Legislature.*

*Mansion House, Columbia, Monday, December 18, 1854.*

Messrs. Editors,

I HAVE it in my power to-day to place before you the presentment of the Grand Jury of Williamsburgh District, in relation to the African Slave Trade, and a brief synopsis of the report of the Committee on Coloured Population, to whom it was referred. The presentment of the Grand Jury of Richland District to the same, which you have already published, was not presented to the Legislature; but that and this, and the report of the Committee are an expression of sentiment on this subject, which could not have been anticipated many months ago. To this proceeding I attribute great importance. With slavery are indissolubly linked for all time the fortunes of this country. Whether willingly or not, it will become imperative upon us to study its nature and its constitution. In studying its nature and its constitution, we will come to many changes of opinion; we will discover values which we will find it our duty to perpetuate. Instead of contenting ourselves with defending it in its present position, we feel called upon to advance it—from passive resistance we will advance to active aggression, and when once in action, slavery will be found to be the most potent principle of political power the world has seen. That its progress will be slow, is probable. It is to be hoped that it will be slow, but in the system there is nothing to admonish of dissolution and decay; all yet is healthful, and that it will arise to action and to power there is scarcely room for doubt to him who looks upon it with unclouded judgment. Convinced of this, I have watched the indications of a change in public sentiment with interest and solicitude, and in the facts which I have mentioned, I have seen them start to most important consequences. The indications are faint, of course; there is no violence in the earlier movements of reaction; but I feel firm in the assurance that the tide has turned to flow and flow without an ebb for ever. It is not probable that the action will soon transcend the limits of this State; but the causes which produce opinion here are acting elsewhere, and even undue precipi-

tation upon our part, as much as that is to be deprecated, will not be sufficient to defeat them.

The presentment of the Grand Jury, to which I referred, was brought to the notice of the Legislature by A. Isaac Mc Knight, from Williamsburgh District, and is as follows :

*Presentment of the Grand Jury.*

We, the Grand Jury of Williamsburgh District, at Fall Term 1854, do make the following presentment, viz., we present, as our unanimous opinion, that the Federal law abolishing the African Slave Trade is a public grievance. We hold this trade has been, and would be, if re-established, a blessing to the American people, and a benefit to the African himself. We would show further that this trade is consistent with the true policy of the south ; that slavery itself is authorized and sanctioned by Holy Writ, and experience has taught us that, by introducing African slavery into the United States, the African has been elevated from a condition of absolute barbarism, to one of comparative civilization ; from a condition of heathen darkness, to one of Christian light ; from a condition of despotic and chaotic misrule, to one of benign and regulated law. We hold that slavery is forbidden by no principle of policy or religion, except that which springs from the frenzied imagination of fanatic philanthropy, which arrogantly assumes to be purer and holier "than what is written," and we therefore recommend this subject to the consideration and action of the Legislature of this State, and trust that the evil complained of may be remedied.

(Signed) D. M. MASON, *Foreman*.

The Committee on Coloured Population, to whom this presentment was referred, through their chairman, J. Harleston Reed, junior, made their report, of which the following is a tolerable abstract :

In reference to the state of the law upon this subject, they report that in the Constitution of the United States, it is provided that until the year 1808 no law shall be passed prohibiting this trade—but admitting the power of Congress to prohibit it after 1807. By the Act of the 2nd March, 1807, it was prohibited under severe penalties. In 1808 the penalties and punishments were increased. The Act of 1819 went a step further, and authorized national armed vessels to be sent to the coast of Africa to stop it, and the Act of the 20th May, 1819, went still further, and declaring it piracy made it punishable with death, and these several legal and Constitutional powers have been acquiesced in and sustained by the south to the present time.

In reference to the morality and policy of these enactments, the Committee say they question whether there has been a change in public sentiment upon the subject, but find the trade opposed by no considerations of philanthropy, and are decidedly of opinion that the re-establishment of the trade, under the sanction of law and commercial regulations, would confer a blessing on the African race.

They are also sensible that its re-establishment would be instrumental in peopling new and extensive slave territories, and in bringing wealth and political strength to the slave-holding States, but express the apprehension that it would occasion a great reduction in the price of slaves that this reduction would reduce the profits to be found in rearing slaves, that this would tend to drive the institution from the border States, and thus bring the cordon of free States closer and closer round us ; and they conclude their report by saying, that as no action is solicited by the presentment, and none demanded by the sentiment of our people at the present time, they have felt called upon to do no more than express their views upon its subject matter, and ask to be discharged.

This report was concurred in ; but no further action having been taken upon it, it was not printed, and I have not the opportunity, therefore, of giving it entire to your readers.

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UNITED STATES. (*Consular*)—*Philadelphia.*

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No. 630.

*Consul Mathew to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 4.)*

My Lord,

*Philadelphia, August 20, 1854.*

A STATEMENT having very generally appeared in the public papers that the slaver "*Grey Eagle*," recently captured by one of Her Majesty's cruizers at Cuba, belonged to, and had cleared from, this port, I was naturally led to make minute inquiries in the matter, the result of which I reported to Her Majesty's Minister at Washington.

I found that this vessel had been owned by a Mr. Thomas G. Hollingsworth, and other gentlemen of Philadelphia, for the pearl-fishery off the Margharitas, but that this speculation having failed, she was advertised for sale, and, as I am assured, openly and legally sold, through a broker, to a Mr. George Marsden, of New York, on the 5th March last.

In the custom-house at New York is a record of the sale of the "*Grey Eagle*" by this George Marsden to Samuel S. Gray, of New York, on the 25th day of March.

I have reason, however, to believe that she was cleared by her captain for St. Thomas's the day previous to this stated sale.

Owing partly, I apprehend, to circumstances which came to my knowledge, and which I felt it my duty to communicate to the local authorities, legal steps were taken against the master of the vessel, who had arrived in this city from Cuba.

This person, the details of whose examination I have the honour to annex, has been fully committed for trial.

I have delayed this communication to your Lordship in the hope of being enabled to make further communication with regard to the more culpable owners of the slaver.

I regret, however, to say, that I have not been informed of any steps having been as yet taken likely to lead to their condign punishment.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE B. MATHEW.

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Inclosure in No. 630.

*Extracts from a Philadelphia Newspaper.*

United States' Commissioners' Office.—Before Commissioner E. D. Ingraham.

*An Alleged Slave Pirate.*—CAPTAIN DONALD, the master of the brig "*Grey Eagle*," which recently landed a cargo of slaves on the Island of Cuba, and was seized by a British cruizer after the negroes had been landed and the captain and crew left, had a hearing before the Commissioner on Saturday afternoon.

The captain and mate made their escape to Havana, and subsequently took passage in the ship "*John Benson*" to New York. The mate died on the

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passage to New York, and the captain appears to have been landed before the ship reached the city.

A United States' officer took out a warrant in New York for the apprehension of the defendant, on information given by a young man who was deceived into the voyage. The officer came on to Philadelphia, and gave information to United States' Marshal Wynkoop, who, with praiseworthy promptitude, took out a warrant for defendant, and immediately dispatched Deputy-Marshal Jenkins with the young man who gave the information in New York. Mr. Jenkins succeeded in finding the defendant at a sailors' boarding-house, and at once arrested him.

Joseph Town, sworn.—I am 17 years of age; born in Philadelphia; my uncle lives here; parents dead. This man was Captain of the "*Grey Eagle*" to the coast of Africa and to Cuba. The "*Grey Eagle*" belonged to Philadelphia, but went from New York, where I shipped in her. I shipped to go to St. Thomas's; we went to the coast of Africa instead. This man was captain of her on the voyage out; his name is Captain Donald. We took some 600 and odd negroes on board at some part of the coast of Africa; don't know the name of it. We sailed from the coast of Africa, avoiding all sails coming back to Cuba—to a part of it unknown to me. The negroes were taken off by fishermen; landed in small boats. The man who acted as captain, a Spaniard, brought the vessel back, and superintended the landing of them. This man acted as doctor for the negroes coming back. He was not called anything coming back. Had no slave-deck when we sailed; we made it going out, about twenty days after we sailed. We took the Spanish captain out as a passenger, and he and this man superintended making the slave deck. We had large casks for water. We had rice in barrels, which was afterwards shifted into bags to make room. This man told me we were going on a slaving voyage before we made the slave-deck. The mate died on the passage back. I saw no handcuffs or shackles aboard. The negroes were brought by other negroes in boats. A Spaniard came aboard in Africa, who I afterwards understood was one of the owners. The "*Grey Eagle*" was called an American vessel when I shipped aboard of her at New York. She hoisted the American flag going to the coast. I saw no flag coming, but I understood from the Portuguese of the crew that, if any flag was hoisted, it was to be the Spanish flag. I saw no flag on the homeward voyage. We were chased. They found it was a merchant-vessel chased them. A man-of-war chased us for awhile; an English man-of-war. We ran, after we had the slaves shipped. The long-boat had the small negroes in; it was on the main hatch. They were taken out during the chase, so they might not be seen, and the negro women were taken from the quarter-deck. We had all sails set during the chase. We took in the studding-sails to tack, and put her on a wind. We were sixteen or twenty days in Cuba. We were not more than a couple of hours landing the slaves in Cuba. We lost some 16 by death on the passage; we threw them overboard. Some few were born aboard.

The Commissioner asked the defendant if he had any questions to ask witness; to which he replied that he did not know him.

The Commissioner told him he would adjourn the hearing until 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and notified him, in both French and English, to obtain counsel by that time.

The defendant pretends he cannot speak English, but this is only assumed.

At 4 o'clock the Commissioner further postponed the case until this morning at 10 o'clock.

The defendant denied being captain of any vessel, and says that he is only a steward. When arrested at the boarding-house by Deputy-Marshal Jenkins, neither the defendant nor any one present knew for what he was in custody, and yet the other boarders remarked that he had been the captain of the "*Grey Eagle*."

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United States' Commissioners' Office.—Before Commissioner C. F. Heazlitt.

*The Piracy Case*.—Yesterday morning, at 8 o'clock, Captain Donald, of the brig "*Grey Eagle*," who is charged with landing 600 negroes upon the Island of Cuba recently, had a further hearing before the Commissioner. Three

of the crew of the brig, two Portuguese and one Frenchman, were examined. These witnesses were obtained in New York under the following circumstances:

United States' Marshal Wynkoop heard that a part of the crew were in New York. He dispatched United States' Deputy Jenkins to that city to spot the various sailors' boarding-houses. Jenkins, assisted by a New York United States' officer named De Angelis, soon discovered the three men above-mentioned. Jenkins telegraphed this fact to Marshal Wynkoop, who sent on Deputy-Marshal Crossin, with directions to arrest all three men and bring them on to Philadelphia. They were arrested and brought to Philadelphia on Wednesday night. Their testimony was heard yesterday morning.

The names of the witnesses are Joseph Town, the boy whose testimony has already been given to the public, Thomas Lynch, a Frenchman, and Charles Brown, a Portuguese. There was a second Portuguese, whose testimony it was not thought requisite to be taken. They had all adopted American names. Their testimony, in every particular, corroborated that given by the boy Town, which in substance was, that they were shipped in New York in March last, to go to St. Thomas's and other ports. The shipping articles were produced, which contained the names of the sailors and the destination of the vessel. After they had been out about twenty-five days, the crew were informed by the defendant that they were going to the coast of Africa for a load of negroes. The crew, up to that time, were not aware of the destination of the vessel, and did not then object, because there was no other remedy. They landed first at Cape Palmas, and proceeded thence to Cajuda,\* about four days' sail, and there took in the load of slaves, 600 and odd in number. There were about 250 women and 50 children. The Spanish captain seemed to have the principal command after the slaves were taken on board; but the vessel was jointly navigated by both captains. On arriving at the Island of Cuba the vessel was run into a creek, and the slaves landed under the protection of the police, the crew being afraid of the soldiers. The head policeman, a Governor, was bribed for this purpose, 32,000 dollars having been paid him, according to the testimony of these witnesses. The slaves were taken in the night to the plantation of Don Louis, which occupied about six hours' travel over a bad road. The next night the crew also went to the plantation of Don Louis, where they remained for several days in a sugar loft, until a small schooner was procured to take the crew to Havana. They were paid, at Don Louis' plantation, 450 dollars éach, in addition to their wages. On arriving at Havana they were told that each person must look out for himself, and arrived in the United States on board of different vessels. The boy Town made a statement to the American Consul at Havana, and was sent to the United States in custody.

The defendant was finally committed for trial at the next term of the Circuit Court, and the witnesses also, to testify, in default of bail.

Guillon for the defendant.

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\* Whydah.

## VENEZUELA.

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No. 631.

*Mr. Bingham to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received May 17.)*

My Lord,

*Caracas, April 13, 1854.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship, in translation, a copy of the Law which entirely abolishes slavery in Venezuela; and I feel highly gratified at having it in my power to make a communication which will afford so much satisfaction to Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHD. BINGHAM.

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Inclosure in No. 631.

*Law abolishing Slavery in Venezuela.*

(Translation.)

THE Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Venezuela, in Congress assembled, do hereby enact :

Article 1. Slavery is for ever abolished in Venezuela.

Art. 2. The legal obligation of the manumitted to render their services, ceases, they being in full enjoyment of liberty, and bound only to paternal authority or their ascendants as freeborn.

Art. 3. The introduction of slaves is for ever prohibited in the Republic, and those that may be introduced against the tenour of this injunction, under any pretext whatever, will thereby immediately enter into the enjoyment of liberty.

Art. 4. The owners of slaves shall be compensated for their value, according to tariff thereon, or by decision of competent judges, if they be diseased, by the funds assigned or to be assigned to that object, in equitable proportion; credits against the compensation fund being receivable in payment of the contributions to be established by this Law.

Art. 5. The following sums are assigned for the indemnity referred to in the preceding Article, viz. :

1. The 10 per cent. which, according to law, the provincial funds pay into the public Treasury.

2. The sums to accrue from the tax established for three years on rum-stills, at the rate of 5 reals on each gallon measurement of four and a-half bottles.

3. The sum to accrue from the tax established for three years on the following persons, namely: 5 dollars, annually, on those that possess the requisite income to be an elector; 10 dollars, annually, on those persons possessing an income to make them eligible as Provincial Deputy, Representative, or Senator.

4. The sum to accrue from the tax established during three years on every citizen receiving a salary, pension, or commission whatsoever, from public

monies or municipal rents, viz. : 2 per cent. on those that receive a lower sum than 800 dollars ; 3 per cent. on those that receive from 800 to 1,600 dollars ; 5 per cent. on those that receive from 1,600 to 3,000 dollars ; and 10 per cent. on those that have upwards of 3,000 dollars.

5. The funds collected and to be collected pertaining to the Manumission Board, as per law in vigour up to date.

6. The proportion of register duty belonging to the nation, when the object to which it was assigned, as per Article 38 of the Law, on the matter shall cease.

7. The 3 per cent. on the amount of the property of persons deceased without leaving collateral heirs.

8. The 20 per cent. on the amount of the property of persons deceased leaving foreign heirs.

9. The net value of the property of persons deceased *ab intestato*, and that leave no heirs in a degree to make them heirs by law.

§. Persons included in more than one of the cases specified in this Article, shall pay only the highest tax corresponding ; and those that shall have granted freedom to their slaves since the 1st of February last, up to the sanction of this law, will be exempted from all or any contribution.

Art. 6. In order to collect the aforesaid taxes, and to perform other acts that will be indicated, superior "juntas" will be organised in the principal cantons of provinces, composed of the Governor, as its President, the senior Parish Priest or Vicar, the Municipal Attorney, and the Citizens appointed by the Executive Power ; and inferior juntas in the capitals of the other cantons, composed of the Political Chief, as the President, the Curate of the parish, the Municipal Attorney, and two Citizens appointed by the Superior Board.

§. Each Board will appoint a treasurer, who must combine the requisite conditions for a Senator—honesty and probity—and give a surety to the satisfaction of the Corporation, by whom he is elected, to be the depositary of the funds designated by this law, which by no means must enter the national Treasury. The Treasurer of the capital of the Republic will be entitled to draw 4 per cent. on monies collected, and those of the other departments 10 per cent.

Art. 7. Any other posts to be created for the execution of this law will be deemed municipal posts (without emolument).

Art. 8. As soon as this law be published, the juntas, referred to in Article 6, shall meet, and will proceed immediately to form a census of the slaves resident in the province, with due specification of their owners, their age, and value.

Art. 9. In order to facilitate the formation of the census, the former owners and slaves themselves, now enjoying liberty, are bound to appear before the respective juntas within the peremptory term of four months, to date from the publication of this law, in their respective neighbourhoods, the owners being obliged to produce the titles proving their former proprietorship.

Art. 10. The juntas must meet every three months, to inspect the funds collected, and to examine the accounts of the treasurers respectively ; the subaltern or inferior juntas reporting the result to the superior ones, and these to the Executive Power.

Art. 11. At the closing of the census of each province, a copy of it shall be forwarded to the Executive Power, in order to form and publish the general one, including all the slaves existing in the Republic that are favoured by this law ; so that all the authorities of the land being duly apprised of said result, double compensation may not be exacted for the same slave in two or more places.

Art. 12. At the meeting of the juntas, in conformity with the 10th Article, the existing funds will be divided, *pro rata*, among the creditors.

Art. 13. Any fraud committed in the management of the Compensation Fund, assigned by Article 6, will be punished by the reimbursement of the defrauded monies, together with a sentence of from one to ten years galleys, and to become for ever incapable of holding any public trust ; which penalties will be simultaneously imposed.

Art. 14. The contribution and funds, referred to in Article 5, can never be assigned by any authority or corporation to any other purpose, whatever may be the sum or the end intended.

Art. 15. The Executive Power will issue a regulation on this law, and will use every means to enforce its execution, and to prevent, in its operation, any

CLASS B.

fraud or abuse, and will fill any deficiency observed in the course of its action. He must likewise report annually to Congress the sums collected, their application, the names of creditors, those that are paid, and what remains due on account of the abolition of slavery in Venezuela.

Art. 16. The Law of the 28th of April, 1848, on manumission, and the Decree of the 15th of May, 1852, assigning 10 per cent. to the payment of what the national rents are indebted to the provincial funds, are hereby repealed.

Given in Caracas, on the 23rd of March, 1854, in the 25th year of the Law, and the 44th of the Independence.

The President of the Senate,  
(Signed) RAFAEL HENRIQUEZ.  
The President of the House of Representatives,  
J. A. FERNANDEZ.  
The Secretary of the Senate,  
J. A. PEREZ.  
The Secretary of the House of Representatives,  
J. PADILLA.

Caracas, March 24, 1854.  
Let it be executed.

(Signed) J. G. MONAGAS.  
For his Excellency the Secretary of State in the Departments  
of the Interior, Justice, and Foreign Affairs,  
SIMON PLANAS.

No. 632.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Bingham.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, May 26, 1854.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 13th ultimo, inclosing a copy of a Law which was passed by the Venezuelan Senate on the 24th of March last, by which slavery is entirely abolished in the territories of the Republic; and I have in reply to instruct you to express to the Venezuelan Government the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt the adoption of this wise and humane measure by the Legislature of Venezuela.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 633.

*Mr. Bingham to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 31.)*

My Lord,

*Caracas, June 26, 1854.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 26th ultimo, instructing me to express to the Venezuelan Government the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt that slavery is entirely abolished in the territories of the Republic, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of the note which, in obedience to that instruction, I have addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) RICHD. BINGHAM.

Inclosure in No. 633.

*Mr. Bingham to M. Planas.*

*Caracas, June 25, 1854.*

THE Undersigned, &c., having duly transmitted to his Government a copy of the Law which was passed by the Venezuelan Senate on the 24th of March last, by which slavery is entirely abolished in the territories of the Republic, has been instructed by the Earl of Clarendon to express to the Venezuelan Government the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt the adoption of this wise and humane measure by the Legislature of Venezuela.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

RICHD. BINGHAM.

No. 634.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Bingham.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, November 16, 1854.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a despatch\* which was addressed to me on the 18th of May last by Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Hamburgh, reporting that a Brazilian vessel called the "*Don Pedro Segundo*," which had long been a notorious slaver, had arrived at Bremen for the purpose, as it was supposed, of fitting out at that port for a slave-trading voyage. It appears that the "*Don Pedro Segundo*" was compelled, by the opposition of the Brazilian Consul-General at Hamburgh, and by the vigilance of the Bremen authorities, to abandon her illegal undertaking, and that she was sold by the master to a Bremen merchant, who changed her name to the "*Wolda*," and obtained papers giving her Bremen nationality.

You will learn further from the inclosed copy of a despatch dated the 1st instant,† which I have received from Colonel Hodges, that the "*Wolda*" sailed from Bremen on the 31st of October for La Guayra or Puerto Cabello, and I have to instruct you to take steps, in order that any suspicious movements of this vessel may be reported to the Admiral Commanding-in-chief on the West India Station, and to Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

CLARENDON.

No. 635.

*Mr. Bingham to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 24, 1855.)*

My Lord,

*Caracas, December 12, 1854.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 16th ultimo, and its inclosures, respecting the vessel "*Don Pedro Segundo*," formerly a notorious Brazilian slaver, reported by Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Hamburgh to have sailed from Bremen on the 1st of October last, for La Guayra or Puerto Cabello, after changing her name to the "*Wolda*," and obtaining papers giving her Bremen nationality, I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of a letter which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Acting Vice-Consul at La Guayra, desiring him to inform me of any suspicious movements of this vessel, in order that I may report them to the Admiral Commanding-in-chief on the West India Station, and to Her Majesty's Government.

I have addressed this day a similar instruction to the British Acting Vice-Consul at Puerto Cabello.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

RICHD. BINGHAM.

\* No. 238.

† No. 247.

Inclosure in No. 635.

*Mr. Bingham to Acting Vice-Consul Stacey.*

Sir,

Caracas, December 12, 1854.

THE Earl of Clarendon has transmitted to me a copy of a despatch, dated the 18th of May last, from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Hamburgh, reporting that a Brazilian vessel, called the "*Don Pedro Segundo*," which had long been a notorious slaver, had arrived at Bremen, for the purpose, as it was supposed, of fitting out at that port for a slave-trading voyage.

It appears that the "*Don Pedro Segundo*" was compelled, by the opposition of the Brazilian Consul-General at Hamburgh, and by the vigilance of the Bremen authorities, to abandon her illegal undertaking, and that she was sold by the master to a Bremen merchant, who changed her name to the "*Wolda*," and obtained papers giving her Bremen nationality.

From a copy of a subsequent despatch from Colonel Hodges to the Earl of Clarendon, dated the 1st ultimo, I learn further that the "*Wolda*" sailed from Bremen on the 31st of October last, for La Guayra or Puerto Cabello; and I have to instruct you to delay not in informing me of any suspicious movements of this vessel, in order that I may report them to the Admiral commanding-in-chief on the West India Station, and to Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) RICHD. BINGHAM.

No. 636.

*Mr. Bingham to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 24, 1855.)*

My Lord,

Caracas, December 17, 1854.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 12th instant, inclosing copy of a letter which I had addressed to Mr. Vice-Consul Stacey, at La Guayra, respecting the vessel the "*Wolda*," reported to your Lordship, by Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Hamburgh, to have sailed from Bremen on the 31st of October last, for the coast of Venezuela, under somewhat singular circumstances, I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of a letter from Mr. Stacey, in reply thereto, stating that the said vessel arrived at Puerto Cabello on the 7th instant but that after minute inquiry at that place in regard to her movements, he entertains no reason whatever for doubting that she is now engaged in a perfectly lawful trade.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) RICHD. BINGHAM.

Inclosure in No. 636.

*Vice-Consul Stacey to Mr. Bingham.*

Sir,

La Guayra, December 14, 1854.

IN reply to your despatch under date of the 12th instant, respecting the Bremen barque "*Wolda*," the former notorious Brazilian slaver "*Don Pedro Segundo*," which left Bremen on the 31st of October last, destined to one of the ports of this Republic, I have the honour to inform you that the "*Wolda*" reached Puerto Cabello, in ballast, on the 7th instant, consigned to Mr. Edward Brandt, of that port, to receive on board there a cargo of cedar, fustic, and other woods, on account of her owner Mr. Jacob Jung, now of Bremen, but who formerly resided in Caracas, and there carried on an extensive business as a joiner and cabinet-maker.

Having been myself informed, when in Puerto Cabello, two days ago, of the nefarious Traffic in which the "*Wolda*," as the Brazilian brig "*Don Pedro Segundo*," had been previously engaged, I made every possible inquiry respecting

her; and, from what I learnt, have no reason whatever to doubt her now being engaged in a legitimate commercial trade.

The cargo of wood which I witnessed being taken on board the "*Wolda*" had been prepared for her against her arrival at Puerto Cabello, and she will be dispatched from thence for Bremen again in a few days.

The "*Wolda*" made the run from Bremen to Puerto Cabello in thirty-six days—an unusually short time; whilst of late, all other vessels from Europe to these ports have made long passages.

I shall not fail to use every diligence in having the movements of the "*Wolda*" watched during the time she may remain on this coast; and I shall immediately communicate with you should I learn of the least thing suspicious in them.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRED. STACEY.

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