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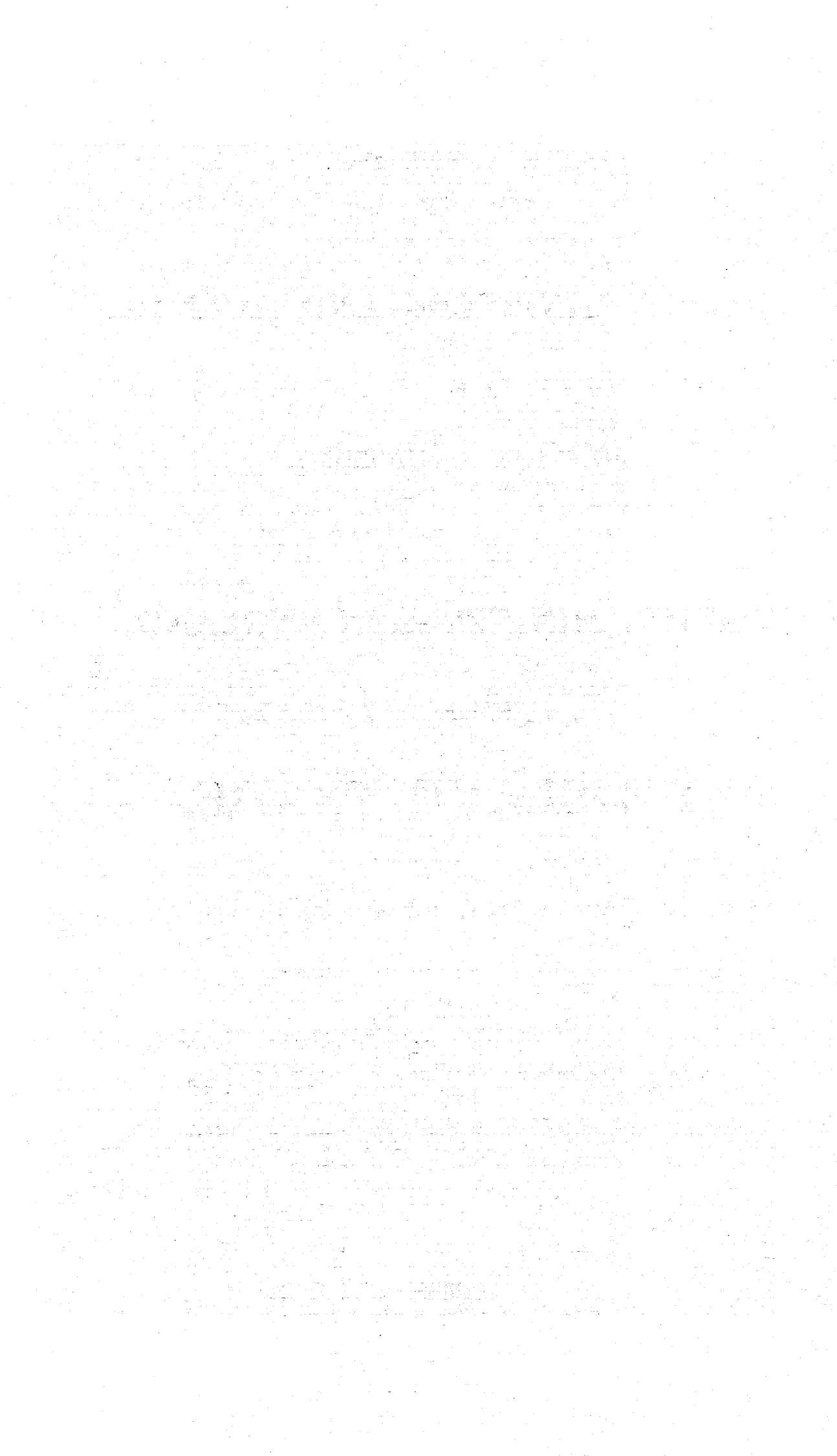
RELATING TO

THE SLAVE TRADE.

From April 1, 1857, to March 31, 1858.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1858.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.



LIST OF PAPERS.

AFRICA. *Consular—(Bight of Benin.)*

No.	Date. 1857	Receipt. 1857	SUBJECT.	Page
1. Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon ..	Mar. 7	Apr. 9	Reporting King of Dahomey's expected attack on Abbeokuta ..	1
2. The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Campbell ..	Apr. 23	..	Approving course proposed to be taken relative to the infraction of Treaties by the Chiefs of Aghwey	2
3. Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon ..	Mar. 14	May 14	Observations on an article in the "Times," on probable effects of cotton cultivation, in transferring slavery from America to Africa .	3
4. " " ..	Apr. 4	May 14	Stating his reasons for not opening a communication with the King of Dahomey	8
5. " " ..	Apr. 7	May 14	Hostile feeling of natives of Lagos towards Sierra Leone emigrants .	10
6. The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Campbell .	May 23	..	Approval of despatch of March 14, furnishing information on slavery, and growth of cotton in Africa ..	11
7. " " ..	June 18	..	Extract of despatch from Mr. Crawford, denouncing vessels about to engage in Slave Trade ..	11
8. Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon ..	May 11	July 9	Capture of the " <i>Adams Gray</i> ," and chase of the " <i>W. D. Miller</i> "	11
9. " " ..	May 11	July 9	Few embarkations of slaves have taken place in 1855 and 1856 from the Bight of Benin. Increase of the palm-oil trade ..	12
10. " " ..	May 16	July 9	Suggesting that plans of cotton-cleaning machines and presses in use in America and Brazil, be sent to him ..	13
11. " " ..	June 5	July 9	Arrival of 132 self-emancipated Africans from Bahia. Inclosing a letter from an emancipado, D'Abreu, to his daughters in Havana ..	14
12. The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Campbell ..	July 23	..	Receipt of above despatch. Approving remonstrance with King Docemo for taxing emancipated Africans. D'Abreu's letter will be forwarded ..	14
13. Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon ..	July 1	Aug. 10	The Abbeokutans are about to commence hostilities against the Aibos	15
14. " " ..	July 2	Aug. 10	Respecting purchase of slaves by Sierra Leone people ..	18
15. " " ..	July 6	Aug. 10	All slavers on the coast fly the United States' flag. Absence of United States' cruisers ..	21
16. The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Campbell ..	Aug. 20	..	Approving letter to people of Abbeokuta, respecting their war with the Aibos	21
17. " " ..	Aug. 21	..	Approving conduct respecting Messrs. Davis and Williams's slaves who escaped ..	21
18. " " ..	Aug. 31	..	Copies of despatches from Consul Hutchinson and Governor Hill, respecting Captain Chevalier's proceedings ..	21
19. Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon ..	July 27	Sept. 11	Movements of slavers. Capture of the " <i>Jupiter</i> " ..	22

No.		Date. 1857	Receipt. 1857	SUBJECT.	Page
20.	Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon ..	Aug. 1	Sept. 11	Suggesting that native Chiefs should be compelled to observe their Treaties	25
21.	" " " " ..	Aug. 3	Sept. 11	Observations on suggestions made by a deputation of the West India interest to Lord Palmerston, for suppressing Slave Trade ..	26
22.	" " " " ..	Aug. 5	Sept. 11	Capture of the " <i>Abbott Devereux</i> "	28
23.	" " " " ..	Aug. 6	Sept. 11	Kosoko's threat to attack Lagos ..	29
24.	The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Campbell ..	Oct. 3	..	The " <i>Bruné</i> " has left England for the West Coast of Africa ..	29
25.	Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon ..	Aug. 10	Oct. 9	Purchase of 1,200 slaves, by Messrs. Régis, at Whydah	30
26.	" " " " ..	Aug. 31	Oct. 9	Respecting purchase of slaves by Messrs. Régis	32
27.	" " " " ..	Aug. 31	Oct. 9	Course to be pursued respecting Spanish seamen found on board slave-vessels	33
28.	" " " " ..	Sept. 1	Oct. 9	King of Dahomey has been invited to send two of his sons to France, to be educated	34
29.	" " " " ..	Sept. 5	Oct. 9	Return of vessels engaged in Slave Trade in Bight of Benin ..	34
30.	The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Campbell ..	Oct. 20	..	Copy of Mr. Crawford's despatch of August 26, respecting Cuban Slave Trade	35
31.	" " " " ..	Oct. 20	..	Mr Crawford has delivered D'Abreu's letter to his daughters	35
32.	" " " " ..	Oct. 20	..	Respecting disposal of the crew of the " <i>Abbot Devereux</i> "	36
33.	" " " " ..	Oct. 23	..	The Admiralty intend to strengthen the squadron on the coast of Africa	36
34.	Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon ..	Sept. 15	Nov. 12	Respecting the emigration of Kroomen to the West Indies	36
35.	" " " " ..	Oct. 2	Nov. 12	Failure of " <i>Stella</i> " to obtain free emigrants at Whydah	40
36.	" " " " ..	Oct. 2	Nov. 12	Copy of Governor Hill's letter respecting slave-dealing among Sierra Leone, Brazilian, and Cuban emigrants	40
37.	" " " " ..	Oct. 2	Nov. 12	Intention of Whydah slave-dealers to ship slaves speaking the Portuguese language	41
38.	" " " " ..	Oct. 3	Nov. 12	Capture of " <i>J. H. Record</i> ." Violation of their Treaties by Chiefs of Aghwey and Adaffie	42
39.	The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Campbell ..	Nov. 21	..	To suggest measures for preventing liberated Africans at Lagos from holding and selling slaves ..	43
40.	" " " " ..	Nov. 21	..	Approving proceedings respecting shipment of slaves speaking the Portuguese language	43
41.	" " " " ..	Nov. 21	..	Approving warning addressed to Native Chiefs, respecting violation of Treaties	43
42.	" " " " ..	Nov. 21	..	Receipt of despatch respecting cotton cultivation	43
43.	" " " " ..	Nov. 23	..	Respecting infraction of Treaties by Native Chiefs	44
44.	Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon ..	Nov. 3	Dec. 12	Embarkation of slaves by a Spanish felucca and the " <i>James Buchanan</i> "	44
45.	" " " " ..	Dec. 3	Jan. 6	Opinion on the failure of the free emigration scheme at Whydah ..	44
46.	" " " " ..	Dec. 22	Jan. 27	The " <i>Bruné</i> " has been brought over Lagos bar	45
47.	The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Campbell ..	Feb. 2	..	Respecting treatment of Africans returning from Brazil to Africa ..	45
48.	The Earl of Malmesbury to Consul Campbell.	Mar. 19	..	Copy of despatch from Mr. Crawford, respecting vessels sailed from Havana for Africa	45

AFRICA. (Consular)—*Bight of Biafra.*

No.	Date.	Receipt.	SUBJECT.	Page
	1857	1857		
49. The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Hutchinson	May 21	..	Respecting slave-dealers in Brass river	46
50. " " "	June 18	..	Extract from Mr. Crawford's despatch of May 6, denouncing vessels to be engaged in the Slave Trade	46
51. Consul Hutchinson to the Earl of Clarendon	May 28	July 9	Arrival of a French ship at Fernando Po with negroes for Cayenne ..	46
52. " " "	June 29	Aug. 10	Receipt of despatch respecting reported slave-traders in Brass river	49
53. The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Hutchinson	Aug. 28	..	Remarks on French vessels employed in procuring emigrants ..	49
54. Consul Hutchinson to the Earl of Clarendon	July 8	Sept. 11	Appearance of two slave-ships at the mouth of the River Danger ..	50
55. " " "	July 20	Sept. 11	Respecting rumoured slave-trading at Brass	50
56. " " "	July 28	Sept. 11	Receipt of despatch respecting vessels engaged in Cuban Slave Trade ..	52
57. The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Hutchinson	Oct. 20	..	Receipt of despatch of July 20. To endeavour to conclude Anti-Slave Trade Treaties with native Chiefs	52
58. Consul Hutchinson to the Earl of Clarendon	Oct. 20	Dec. 12	Report of Commander Burgess on Slave Trade in New Calabar river	52
59. " " "	Nov. 2	Dec. 12	Receipt of despatch of August 28, respecting French free emigration.	53
60. " " "	Nov. 24	Jan. 6	Receipt of despatch, respecting proposed Anti-Slave Trade Treaty with Chiefs of Brass river ..	54
61. " " "	Dec. 29	Feb. 9	Transmitting letter of King and Chiefs of Kroo coast, complaining of M. Chevalier	54
62. " " "	Dec. 31	Feb. 9	Report of Captain Grant on the attack on the "George" ..	56
63. The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Hutchinson	Feb. 16	..	Respecting complaint of Kroo Chiefs against Captain Chevalier ..	57
64. The Earl of Malmesbury to Consul Hutchinson	Mar. 19	..	Extract of despatch from Mr. Crawford respecting vessels which have left Havana for Africa	57

AFRICA. (Consular)—*Liberia.*

65. The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Newnham	Oct. 14	..	Correspondence with Count Reventlow, respecting Danish scheme for importing free Africans into the Danish West Indian colonies ..	58
66. Consul Newnham to the Earl of Clarendon	Nov. 30	Jan. 6	Receipt of above despatch.. ..	59

AFRICA. (Consular)—*Sherbro River.*

67. Consul-General Hill to the Earl of Clarendon	Mar. 26	May 14	900 slaves reported to be in irons at Rio Pongas	60
68. The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Hill	May 23	..	Receipt of above despatch.. ..	60
69. Consul-General Hill to the Earl of Clarendon	June 19	July 9	Respecting the French emigration ship "Phoenix"	60
70. " " "	Nov. 16	Dec. 12	6 liberated African boys have been admitted on board Her Majesty's ship "Vesuvius"	62

BRAZIL.

No.	Date. 1857	Receipt. 1857	SUBJECT.	Page
71. The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Scarlett	Apr. 8	..	Copy of despatch from Mr. Howard, respecting freedom of negroes returning from Portugal to Brazil.	63
72. Mr. Scarlett to the Earl of Clarendon	Mar. 11	Apr. 18	Respecting Mr. Dickson's children and property	63
73. " "	Mar. 11	Apr. 18	The " <i>Sultana</i> " suspected of slave-trading	64
74. " "	Mar. 13	Apr. 18	Suggesting the destruction of barracoons in the Portuguese possessions in Africa	66
75. " "	Mar. 13	Apr. 18	Has expressed to Brazilian Government the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at the liberation of J. Craven's slaves .. .	66
76. The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Scarlett	Apr. 30	..	Approving proceedings respecting the " <i>Sultana</i> "	66
77. " "	June 8	..	Respecting project for introducing free Africans into Brazil . . .	66
78. " "	June 8	..	Case of 3 slaves belonging to Mr. Dickson's late wife . . .	67
79. Mr. Scarlett to the Earl of Clarendon	May 14	June 13	Respecting the mission of a Brazilian Consul to Loanda . . .	67
80. The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Scarlett	July 1	..	Proceedings of Don F. Riverosa ..	67
81. " "	July 7	..	Case of the coloured woman Carolina	68
82. " "	July 7	..	Respecting the " <i>Sultana</i> "	68
83. " "	July 7	..	Respecting conveyance of slaves by foreign vessels, between Brazilian ports	68
84. Mr. Scarlett to the Earl of Clarendon	July 10	Aug. 13	The Brazilian Government does not support the scheme for introducing free Africans into Brazil . . .	68
85. The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Scarlett	Aug. 17	..	Receipt of above despatch. Satisfaction at views of Brazilian Government.. .. .	69
86. " "	Aug. 26	..	Copy of despatch from Consul at Barcelona, respecting the " <i>Sultana</i> ".	69
87. " "	Aug. 26	..	Copy of Report of Loanda Commissioners, respecting Brazil ..	69
88. " "	Sept. 4	..	Respecting English mining companies in Brazil	69
89. Mr. Scarlett to the Earl of Clarendon	Aug. 6	Sept. 6	Measures taken to intercept a suspected slaver, to the south of Santos	71
90. " "	Aug. 8	Sept. 6	Her Majesty's ship "Virago" will proceed to intercept a suspected slaver, near Campos	73
91. " "	Aug. 9	Sept. 6	Has informed Government of an expected landing of slaves at Marambaia	73.
92. The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Scarlett	Sept. 29	..	Receipt of despatches of 6th, 8th, and 9th instant. Approving proceedings	74
93. Mr. Scarlett to the Earl of Clarendon	Aug. 28	Oct. 17	No further information has been procured respecting Mr. Dickson's case	74
94. " "	Sept. 5	Oct. 17	Receipt of despatch of July 7, respecting Carolina.	75
95. " "	Sept. 10	Oct. 17	Suspected landing of slaves. Probable effects of French free emigration scheme	76
96. The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Scarlett	Nov. 7	..	Receipt of above despatch. Approving proceedings	76
97. " "	Nov. 7	..	Copy of Consul Vereker's half-yearly Report of June 30. To state his views on Brazilian Slave Trade to the Government of Brazil .. .	77
98. Mr. Scarlett to the Earl of Clarendon	Oct. 13	Nov. 14	Inclosing extract from a printed Report of the Minister of Justice.	77
99. The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Scarlett	Nov. 21	..	Copy of despatch from Consul Campbell, as to intention of slave-traders to send to Brazil domestic slaves speaking Portuguese language ..	78

No.	Date.	Receipt.	SUBJECT.	Page
100.	The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Scarlett .. Dec. 8	1857 ..	Copy of despatch from Consul Cowper, respecting coasting Slave Trade of Brazil	78
101.	Mr. Scarlett to the Earl of Clarendon .. Nov. 12	Dec. 12	Mr. Dickson's slaves have been restored to him	79
102.	" Nov. 13	Dec. 12	The Imperial Government hope that the Slave Trade may be extinguished	79
103.	The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Scarlett .. Dec. 28	..	Satisfaction at the decision arrived at in Mr. Dickson's case	80
104.	" Jan. 13	..	Copy of despatch from Mr. Gabriel, respecting appointment of a Brazilian Consul-General at Loanda	80
105.	Mr. Scarlett to the Earl of Clarendon .. Dec. 12	1857 1858 Jan. 19	Respecting slaves of the St. John del Ré Mining Company	80
106.	" Dec. 14	1858 Jan. 19	Proceedings of Brazilian Mining Association	82
107.	The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Scarlett .. Feb. 8	..	Respecting proceedings of Brazilian Mining Association	83
108.	Mr. Scarlett to the Earl of Clarendon .. Jan. 1	Feb. 12	Ill-treatment of Africans on board the "General Rego" and "Emilia" ..	83
109.	The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Scarlett .. Feb. 25	..	Conduct of President of Bahia towards emancipados	85
110.	Mr. Scarlett to the Earl of Clarendon .. Feb. 3	Mar. 17	Correspondence respecting projected slave operations near Santos ..	85
111.	" Jan. 25	Mar. 17	Correspondence with the Brazilian Government respecting projected shipment of slaves from Whydah.	86
112.	The Earl of Malmesbury to Mr. Scarlett .. Mar. 25	..	Receipt of despatch of February 3. Approving proceedings	87

BRAZIL. (Consular)—Bahia.

113.	Consul Morgan to the Earl of Clarendon .. Mar. 12	1857 1857 Apr. 18	Receipt of despatch of January 27, respecting M. Giolma	88
114.	" Mar. 31	May 13	Trade between Bahia and Africa during the quarter	88
115.	" Apr. 18	May 13	Conveyance of slaves in foreign vessels. Information respecting the "Vittorio Emanuele"	90
116.	The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Morgan .. July 7	..	Receipt of above despatch. Copy of despatch from Sir J. Hudson respecting Sardinian vessels carrying slaves to Brazilian ports ..	90
117.	Consul Morgan to the Earl of Clarendon .. June 30	Aug. 13	Trade between Bahia and Africa during the quarter	90
118.	" June 30	Aug. 13	Return of prices of slaves for the half-year	92
119.	" Sept. 12	Oct. 17	Receipt of despatch of July 7	92
120.	" Oct. 12	Nov. 14	Revival of Slave Trade at Ajudá ..	92
121.	" Oct. 14	Nov. 14	Trade between Bahia and Africa during the quarter	93
122.	" Nov. 14	Dec. 12	Attempt of Domingo Martins to ship slaves to Bahia	95
123.	" Dec. 24	1858 Feb. 12	Respecting the farming out of the services of liberated Africans to private individuals by the President of the Province	97
124.	" Dec. 31	Feb. 12	Trade between Bahia and Africa for the quarter	98
125.	" Dec. 31	1858 Feb. 12	Prices of slaves during the half-year	100
126.	The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Morgan .. Feb. 25	..	Receipt of despatch of December 24. Approving proceedings	100

BRAZIL. (*Consular*)—*Pará.*

No.	Date.	Receipt.	SUBJECT.	Page
	1857	1857		
127. Consul Vines to the Earl of Clarendon ..	Mar. 28	May 13	Case of Mr. Dickson	101
128. " " " ..	May 9	June 15	Case of the coloured woman Carolina	107
129. The Earl of Clarendon to Acting Consul Mac Dermid	Aug. 26	..	Copy of a despatch from Consul Campbell respecting African cotton. To procure cotton-seed, and drawings of machines and presses.	108

BRAZIL. (*Consular*)—*Pernambuco.*

	1857	1857		
130. Consul Cowper to the Earl of Clarendon ..	Mar. 24	Apr. 18	Receipt of despatch of February 3, approving proceedings in the Serin-haem affair	109
131. " " " ..	Apr. 13	May 13	Quarterly Report on Slave Trade..	109
132. " " " ..	Apr. 30	June 1	Project of Law advocating introduction of African Colonists and emancipation of all slaves. ..	110
133. The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Cowper ..	June 8	..	Views of Her Majesty's Government respecting introduction of free Africans into Brazil	113
134. Consul Cowper to the Earl of Clarendon ..	July 6	Aug. 13	Quarterly Report on Slave Trade..	113
135. " " " ..	Aug. 16	Sept. 6	Half-yearly Return of prices of slaves	114
136. " " " ..	Oct. 16	Nov. 14	Quarterly Report on Slave Trade..	115
137. " " " ..	Jan. 19	Feb. 12	Transmitting prices of slaves ..	116
138. " " " ..	Jan. 19	Feb. 12	Quarterly Report on Slave Trade..	117
139. " " " ..	Feb. 19	Mar. 17	Prices of slaves from Paraiba ..	119

BRAZIL. (*Consular*)—*Rio Grande do Sul.*

	1857	1857		
140. Consul Vereker to the Earl of Clarendon ..	Feb. 4	Apr. 18	Report on immigration	120
141. " " " ..	June 30	Oct. 17	Half-yearly Return of prices of slaves	126
142. " " " ..	June 30	Oct. 17	Report on Slave Trade in Rio Grande do Sul	126
143. The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Vereker ..	Nov. 7	..	Has read above Report with interest	128

BRAZIL. (*Consular*)—*Rio de Janeiro.*

	1857	1857		
144. Consul Westwood to the Earl of Clarendon..	July 4	Aug. 13	Half-yearly Return of prices of slaves	129
145. " " " ..	Oct. 26	Dec. 12	Returns of vessels to and from the coast of Africa	130
146. " " " ..	Déc. 14	Jan. 19	Respecting the slaves of the Imperial Brazilian Mining Association.	132
147. The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Westwood.	Feb. 8	..	To watch proceedings of Brazilian Mining Company.. ..	132
148. Consul Westwood to the Earl of Clarendon..	Jan. 28	Mar. 17	No slaves have been landed in 1857. Return of the quantity and value of exports.. ..	132
149. " " " ..	Jan. 28	Mar. 17	Half-yearly Return of prices of slaves	133

BRAZIL. (*Consular*)—*St. Catherine's.*

	1857	1858		
150. Consul Callander to the Earl of Clarendon ..	Dec. 31	Feb. 12	No case of slave-trading has occurred during the quarter ..	134

DENMARK.

No.	Date.	Receipt.	SUBJECT.	Page
151.	1857 Oct. 13	1847 ..	Danish scheme for importing free Africans into Danish West India Colonies	135

FRANCE.

	1857	1857		
152.	The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Cowley ..	Apr. 28	..	Respecting the introduction of 1,200 slaves into Martinique 136
153.	Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon ..	June 7	June 8	Importation of negroes into Martinique 137
154.	The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard ..	June 10	..	Receipt of above despatch. French emigration scheme 137
155.	The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Cowley ..	July 13	..	Extract of despatch from Cape Commissioners respecting French emigration scheme 138
156.	"	July 29	..	Proceedings of the "Phoenix" .. 138
157.	"	Aug. 5	..	Proceedings of the French naval forces in the Rio Cassino .. 138
158.	"	Aug. 6	..	Copies of letters from Mr. Paget and Commodore Trotter on the French emigration scheme .. 139
159.	"	Aug. 26	..	Respecting introduction of African labourers into Réunion . . . 139
160.	"	Aug. 31	..	To propose renewal of the expired Convention with France, for the suppression of the Slave Trade 140
161.	"	Aug. 31	..	Have French Government taken steps respecting Captain Chevalier, of the "Phoenix?" 140
162.	Earl Cowley to the Earl of Clarendon ..	Sept. 4	Sept. 5	Cannot yet act on instructions as to Slave Trade Convention. .. 141
163.	"	Sept. 7	Sept. 9	Unsatisfactory interview with Count Walewski on importation of Africans into Réunion 141
164.	"	Sept. 15	Sept. 16	Answer of French Government relative to the "Phoenix" . . . 142
165.	The Earl of Clarendon to Earl Cowley ..	Oct. 5	..	Proceedings of French vessels at the Comoro Islands 146
166.	Earl Cowley to the Earl of Clarendon ..	Oct. 5	Oct. 10	Relative to the renewal of the Convention for suppressing the Slave Trade 146
167.	The Earl of Clarendon to Earl Cowley ..	Oct. 19	..	To remonstrate with French Government for indirect encouragement of Slave Trade. Proceedings of Messrs. Regis 146
168.	"	Oct. 28	..	Respecting French emigration scheme. Probable effects in Brazil 147
169.	"	Oct. 28	..	Respecting French vessels conveying emigrants to Réunion 148
170.	"	Nov. 6	..	Copy of despatch from Consul Lawless, respecting arrival of Coolies and Africans in French West India colonies 148
171.	"	Nov. 17	..	Failure of French vessels to obtain African labourers in the Bight of Benin 148
172.	"	Nov. 21	..	Purchase of slaves at Whydah, by Messrs. Regis 148
173.	Earl Cowley to the Earl of Clarendon ..	Nov. 29	Dec. 1	Further conversation with Count Walewski respecting Slave Trade proceedings on the coast of Africa 148
174.	The Earl of Clarendon to Earl Cowley ..	Dec. 5	..	Approving proceedings reported in above despatch 150
175.	"	Dec. 5	..	Copy of Memorandum on French scheme of free emigration .. 150
176.	"	Dec. 9	..	To transmit a copy of the Memorandum on French emigration scheme to Count Walewski .. 155

No.			Date.	Receipt.	SUBJECT.	Page
			1857	1858		
177.	The Earl of Clarendon to Earl Cowley	..	Dec. 21	..	French purchase of slaves on African coast	155
178.	"	"	Dec. 24	..	Opinion of Mr. Evans and United States' Quakers, on French free emigration scheme	156
179.	"	"	Dec. 26	..	A French emigrant ship has taken slaves from Gallinas	156
180.	"	"	Jan. 4	..	Arrival of the "Clara," with Africans, at Martinique	157
181.	"	"	Jan. 12	..	Copy of Consul Campbell's despatch of December 3, respecting failure of French free emigration scheme	157
182.	"	"	Jan. 28	..	Correspondence with Mr. Howard and Mr. Gabriel, respecting French emigration scheme	157
183.	"	"	Feb. 16	..	Complaint of Kroo Chiefs against Captain Chevalier	157
184.	"	"	Feb. 16	..	Report from Captain Lyster, respecting French proceedings on the East Coast of Africa	158
185.	The Earl of Malmesbury to Earl Cowley	..	Mar. 13	..	Capture of the "Charles et Georges"	158
186.	"	"	Mar. 13	..	Proceedings of the "Orion"	158
187.	Earl Cowley to the Earl of Malmesbury	..	Mar. 15	Mar. 16	Receipt of despatch of 16th ultimo	158
188.	The Earl of Malmesbury to Earl Cowley	..	Mar. 17	..	Correspondence with Mr. Howard on French free emigration scheme	159
189.	"	"	Mar. 18	..	Case of the "Charles et Georges"	159
190.	"	"	Mar. 18	..	Evil effects of the French free emigration scheme	159
191.	Earl Cowley to the Earl of Malmesbury	..	Mar. 23	Mar. 25	Count Walewski defends the proceedings of the French Government	160
192.	The Earl of Malmesbury to Earl Cowley	..	Mar. 25	..	Proceedings in the Southern American States for the introduction of African apprentices	160

FRANCE. (*Consular*)—*Algiers*.

193.	The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Bell		1857 Sept. 29	1857 ..	Despatch from Colonel Herman respecting Slave Trade between Ghat and Algeria	162
194.	Consul-General Bell to the Earl of Clarendon		Oct. 8	Nov. 3	Report on the Slave Trade said to exist in Algeria	162

FRANCE. (*Consular*)—*Marseilles*.

195.	Acting Consul Birch to the Earl of Clarendon		1857 July 14	1857 July 18	The "Siam" and "Dahome" are destined to be employed in importing free labourers into French colonies	163
------	--	--	-----------------	-----------------	--	-----

FRANCE. (*Consular*)—*Martinique*.

196.	Acting Consul Lawless to the Earl of Clarendon		1857 Jan. 20	1857 Feb. 20	Reporting that a contract has been entered into for the introduction of free labourers	164
197.	Consul Lawless to the Earl of Clarendon	..	Oct. 10	Oct. 31 1858	Arrival of coolies at Martinique, and Africans at Guadaloupe	165
198.	"	"	Dec. 8 1858	Jan. 1	Arrival of African labourers at Martinique	165
199.	"	"	Jan. 27	Mar. 8	Reporting arrival of 370 African labourers at Cayenne in the "Orion"	16

GREECE.

No.	Date.	Receipt.	SUBJECT.	Page
	1857	1857		
200. Mr. Manley to the Earl of Clarendon ..	Oct. 22	Oct. 31	Correspondence with Greek Government respecting co-operation in suppression of Slave Trade ..	167

HANSE TOWNS.

No.	Date.	Receipt.	SUBJECT.	Page
	1857	1857		
201. Colonel Hodges to the Earl of Clarendon ..	Oct. 7	Oct. 10	Correspondence with the Hanse Towns Governments respecting co-operation in suppression of Slave Trade	169

JOHANNA.

No.	Date.	Receipt.	SUBJECT.	Page
	1857	1857		
202. Consul Sunley to the Earl of Clarendon ..	Feb. 17	Sept. 12	Operations of French vessels in search of labourers. Has remonstrated with the Sultan for letting his people sell slaves ..	171
203. The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Sunley ..	Oct. 5	..	Approving proceedings reported above	172

PORTUGAL.

No.	Date.	Receipt.	SUBJECT.	Page
	1857	1857		
204. Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon ..	Mar. 23	Apr. 3	Correspondence with Brazilian Minister respecting freedom of negroes returning from Portugal to Brazil	173
205. " " ..	Mar. 24	Apr. 3	Correspondence respecting the " <i>Locomotiva</i> "	174
206. " " ..	Mar. 28	Apr. 3	Respecting trial of Baptista <i>in re</i> " <i>C. F. A. Cole</i> "	176
207. " " ..	Mar. 28	Apr. 3	Suspensions attaching to Senhor B. J. Machado, in the case of the " <i>Locomotora</i> "	177
208. The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard ..	Apr. 8	..	Receipt of despatch of March 23, respecting negroes returning to Brazil. To thank Senhor Monteiro for his co-operation to secure them their freedom	177
209. Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon ..	Apr. 6	Apr. 16	Senhor J. Machado will be dealt with according to law <i>in re</i> " <i>Locomotora</i> "	177
210. " " ..	Apr. 7	Apr. 16	Correspondence respecting the " <i>Flying Eagle</i> "	177
211. " " ..	Apr. 8	Apr. 16	Correspondence respecting Derizanz	178
212. The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard ..	Apr. 16	..	Approving note to M. de Loulé respecting the " <i>Locomotora</i> "	182
213. " " ..	Apr. 21	..	Correspondence between Mr. Gabriel and Governor-General of Angola respecting the sale of the hull of the " <i>Rosario</i> "	182
214. " " ..	Apr. 21	..	Copies of despatches from Loanda Commissioners, Lord Napier, &c., respecting the " <i>N. Hand</i> "	183
215. Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon ..	Apr. 15	Apr. 24	Has complied with instructions respecting conduct of Portuguese captains to liberated Africans ..	183
216. " " ..	Apr. 15	Apr. 24	Has thanked Senhor Monteiro for his co-operation respecting freedom of negroes returning to Brazil ..	183
217. " " ..	Apr. 18	Apr. 24	Has submitted to Portuguese Government Mr. Scarlett's suggestion for destruction of barracoons on east and west coasts of Africa ..	183

No.		Date. 1857	Receipt. 1857	SUBJECT.	Page
218.	Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon	Apr. 18	Apr. 24	Senhor Machado, consignee of the "Locomotora," has fled from Oporto	184
219.	The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard	Apr. 30	..	Approving note to M. de Loulé respecting Derizanz	184
220.	" "	Apr. 30	..	Approving note to M. de Loulé respecting proposed destruction of barracoons in Portuguese Possessions on west and east coasts of Africa	185
221.	Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon	Apr. 27	May 4	Correspondence respecting Derizanz	185
222.	" "	Apr. 27	May 4	Suggested alteration in law for prosecuting slave-traders	186
223.	The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard	May 6	..	Receipt of despatch of 27th ultimo. Portuguese Government must be responsible for Derizanz' escape..	188
224.	Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon	May 6	May 13	Copy of note to M. de Loulé respecting the hull of the "Rosario"	188
225.	" "	May 6	May 13	Copy of note to M. de Loulé respecting the "N. Hand"	189
226.	" "	May 8	May 13	Committal of the master and crew of the "General Pinkney"	191
227.	The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard	May 16	..	Receipt of despatch of 6th instant, respecting the "Rosario"	192
228.	" "	May 16	..	Approving proceedings respecting the "N. Hand"	192
229.	" "	May 16	..	Receipt of despatch of 8th instant. Derizanz should be promptly dealt with	192
230.	Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon	May 12	May 25	Portaria respecting emancipation of slaves at St. Antão	192
231.	" "	May 16	May 25	Note to M. de Loulé respecting Derizanz	193
232.	" "	May 16	May 25	Respecting exportation of negroes from Mozambique to Réunion	194
233.	The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard	May 26	..	Approving note to M. de Loulé respecting Derizanz, in despatch of 16th instant	194
234.	" "	May 26	..	Satisfaction at firmness of Viscount de Sá in prohibiting exportation of negroes from Mozambique	195
235.	Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon	May 25	June 3	United States' Minister refuses to interfere in behalf of the master of the "General Pinkney"	195
236.	" "	May 26	June 3	Portuguese authorities will keep Derizanz in view	195
237.	The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard	June 4	..	Despatch from Mr. Gabriel respecting constitution of the Mixed Commission Court at Loanda	196
238.	" "	June 5	..	Intention of a French firm to carry Africans from Mozambique to Réunion	197
239.	" "	June 8	..	Correspondence with Mr. Cowper, respecting importation of African labourers into Brazil	197
240.	Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon	June 3	June 13	Has informed Viscount de Sá of the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at his conduct respecting exportation of Africans to Réunion	198
241.	" "	June 6	June 13	Hulls of condemned vessels to be broken up	198
242.	" "	June 8	June 13	Portaria dismissing Senhor Baptista, Vice-Consul at Baltimore	199
243.	The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard	June 16	..	Receipt of despatch of June 6	200
244.	Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon	June 15	June 23	Letter to M. de Loulé on the constitution of Mixed Commission Court at Loanda	200
245.	" "	June 15	June 23	Copy of letter to M. de Loulé, informing him of intention of a firm at Mauritius to fit out a steamer to convey negroes to Réunion	202
246.	" "	June 18	June 23	M. de Loulé has informed Minister of Marine of intention of French firm at the Mauritius	202
247.	" "	June 18	June 23	Proceedings of Don F. Riverosa	202

No.	Date. 1857	Receipt. 1857	SUBJECT.	Page
248. The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard	June 26	..	Despatch from Cape Commissioners, expressing satisfaction at the appointment of Chevalier Duprat to Mixed Commission ..	203
249. Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon	June 22	July 4	Has notified satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government that hulls of condemned slavers will be broken up ..	203
250. The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard	July 13	..	Report of Cape Commissioners on Slave Trade on East Coast of Africa in 1856. Hope of Her Majesty's Government that exportation of negroes from Mozambique will be effectually suppressed ..	204
251. Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon	July 3	July 14	M. de Loulé will answer his letter respecting constitution of Loanda Commission ..	204
252. " "	July 7	July 14	Note from M. de Loulé respecting the proceedings of the French firm at Mauritius ..	204
253. The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Paget	July 16	..	Copy of despatch to Lord Cowley, respecting exportation of negroes to French settlements ..	205
254. Mr. Paget to the Earl of Clarendon	July 16	July 28	Portaria of Governor of St. Thomas for the liberation of certain negroes ..	205
255. The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Paget	July 31	..	Despatch from Mr. Gabriel, respecting application of funds of Board of Protection at Loanda. To urge the liberation of Fabião ..	206
256. Mr. Paget to the Earl of Clarendon	July 25	Aug. 3	Copy of note to M. de Loulé respecting the exportation of negroes to French settlements ..	206
257. The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Paget	Aug. 7	..	Receipt of above. Letter from Commodore Trotter to Sir J. Higginson respecting African immigration into Mauritius ..	207
258. " "	Aug. 7	..	Despatch from Mr. Gabriel, respecting inefficiency of laws against slave-traders ..	208
259. " "	Aug. 15	..	Despatch from Mr. Gabriel, respecting exportation of Senhor Pedreira's slaves from Angola to St. Thomas ..	208
260. Mr. Paget to the Earl of Clarendon	Aug. 17	Aug. 23	Has written to M. de Loulé respecting the liberation of Fabião ..	208
261. " "	Aug. 17	Aug. 23	Has communicated to Viscount de Sá, Commodore Trotter's letter respecting exportation of negroes on West Coast of Africa ..	209
262. " "	Aug. 17	Aug. 23	Has communicated to Viscount de Sá Mr. Gabriel's views on the laws against slave-traders ..	209
263. The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Paget	Aug. 25	..	Mr. Gabriel's annual Report on Slave Trade and trade of Angola ..	209
264. " "	Aug. 25	..	Approving communication of Mr. Gabriel's despatch respecting inefficient state of laws against slave-traders ..	209
265. Mr. Paget to the Earl of Clarendon	Sept. 5	Sept. 14	Decree respecting concession of tram-road through Angola ..	210
266. " "	Sept. 18	Sept. 23	Has transmitted to Portuguese Government the Address of the House of Commons and Her Majesty's reply, relative to the Slave Trade ..	210
267. The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Paget	Sept. 29	..	Despatch from Consul Brackenbury, respecting the landing of slaves in Cuba by the " <i>Theodora</i> " ..	211
268. Mr. Paget to the Earl of Clarendon	Oct. 8	Oct. 15	Note from M. de Loulé relative to Address from the House of Commons ..	211
269. The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Paget	Oct. 16	..	Despatch from Mr. Gabriel, reporting capture of the " <i>Splendid</i> ." Satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government ..	211
270. " "	Oct. 26	..	Further despatch from Mr. Gabriel, respecting Fabião ..	212
271. " "	Oct. 31	..	Despatch from Mr. Gabriel, reporting acquittal of persons who shipped slaves on board the " <i>P. Solé</i> " ..	212

No.	Date. 1857	Receipt. 1857	SUBJECT.	Page
272. The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Paget	Oct. 31	..	Despatch from Mr. Gabriel, respecting proceedings of the Commander of the "Villa Flor" in the Congo	212
273. Mr. Paget to the Earl of Clarendon	Oct. 26	Nov. 3	Note to M. de Loulé respecting appointments to Mixed Commission at Loanda	213
274. " " "	Oct. 26	Nov. 3	Sentence passed on captain and crew of the "Locomotora"	213
275. " " "	Oct. 28	Nov. 3	Note from M. de Loulé respecting steps to prevent exportation of negroes from Mozambique	215
276. The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Paget	Nov. 7	..	Receipt of above. Satisfaction at measures of Portuguese Government	216
277. Mr. Paget to the Earl of Clarendon	Nov. 7	Nov. 14	Note from M. de Loulé respecting capture of the "Splendid"	216
278. " " "	Nov. 13	Nov. 24	Conversation with Viscount de Sá respecting proceedings of Board of Protection at Loanda, and respecting Fabião	217
279. The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Paget	Dec. 5	..	Receipt of above despatch. Approval	217
280. Mr. Paget to the Earl of Clarendon	Nov. 28	Dec. 7	Forwarding despatch from Mr. Gabriel respecting purchase of Africans by French agents	217
281. " " "	Dec. 7	Dec. 12	Appointment of Secretary to Mixed Commission Court at Loanda	218
282. " " "	Dec. 18	Dec. 24	Has again called attention of Portuguese Government to Fabião's case	218
283. The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard	Jan. 4	..	Despatch from Consul McLeod, respecting Slave Trade stated to be carried on from Portuguese possessions on East Coast of Africa .	218
284. " " "	Jan. 5	..	Despatch from Mr. Lousada, reporting Slave Trade proceedings of the "Minnetonka"	219
285. " " "	Jan. 6	..	Reports from naval officers on East Coast of Africa, respecting Slave Trade from Portuguese possessions, and treatment of dhows	219
286. " " "	Jan. 8	..	Correspondence respecting French free emigration scheme, for communication to Portuguese Government	220
287. " " "	Jan. 8	..	Despatch from Cape Commissioners, dated October 31, respecting Slave Trade from Portuguese possessions on East Coast of Africa	220
288. " " "	Jan. 13	..	Capture of a dhow by the "Carvalho." Observations on breaking up of condemned slavers	221
289. Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon	Jan. 17	Jan. 24	Has called the attention of the Portuguese Government to the Traffic in Slaves on the East Coast of Africa	221
290. " " "	Jan. 17	Jan. 24	Has communicated to Portuguese Government the documents respecting French free emigration transmitted in despatch of January 8	223
291. The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard	Jan. 28	..	Approving communications respecting Slave Trade on East Coast of Africa	223
292. " " "	Jan. 28	..	Ditto, respecting French free emigration scheme	224
293. Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon	Jan. 25	Feb. 3	Senhor Amaral is to continue Governor-General of Angola	224
294. " " "	Jan. 26	Feb. 3	Portaria abolishing forced labour called "service of carriers"	224
295. " " "	Jan. 26	Feb. 3	Has received note from M. de Loulé, thanking him for papers relative to French emigration scheme	225
296. " " "	Jan. 28	Feb. 3	Reporting instructions issued to Governor of Cape Verd Islands, respecting enfranchisement of slaves	225
297. " " "	Feb. 5	Feb. 12	Decree relative to registration of slaves in Portuguese possessions .	226

No.		Date. 1858	Receipt. 1858	SUBJECT.	Page
298.	Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon	Feb. 8	Feb. 15	Information relative to the " <i>Teodoro</i> "	227
299.	The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard	Feb. 16	..	Report from Captain Lyster respecting proceedings on East Coast of Africa to procure labourers for Réunion	229
300.	Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon	Feb. 17	Feb. 24	Governor-General of Mozambique has been instructed to receive negroes captured in dhows ..	229
301.	"	Feb. 17	Feb. 24	Capture of a French vessel attempting to embark slaves on the coast of Mozambique	229
302.	"	Feb. 18	Feb. 24	Portaria relative to emancipation and registration of slaves in Portuguese colonies	230
303.	"	Feb. 24	Mar. 8	Extract from the " <i>Jornal do Commercio</i> " respecting the capture of the " <i>Charles et Georges</i> " ..	232
304.	"	Feb. 27	Mar. 8	Respecting Mr. McLeod's assertion that the Portuguese authorities on the East Coast of Africa connive at the Slave Trade	233
305.	Mr. Howard to the Earl of Malmesbury	Mar. 6	Mar. 16	Portaria relative to the exportation of slaves to Comoro Islands ..	237
306.	"	Mar. 6	Mar. 16	Explanations given by Portuguese Government to French Government, relative to the capture of the " <i>Charles et Georges</i> " ..	237
307.	"	Mar. 8	Mar. 16	Portuguese Government cannot decide on the case of Fabião ..	238
308.	"	Mar. 18	Mar. 25	Bill proposed by Viscount Sá for total abolition of slaves within the term of twenty years	239
309.	The Earl of Malmesbury to Mr. Howard	Mar. 16	..	Extract from Cape Commissioners' despatch of January 20, on Slave Trade in Portuguese possessions. .	240
310.	"	Mar. 19	..	Receipt of despatch of 27th ultimo. Mr. McLeod has been directed to communicate with Governor-General of Mozambique, respecting his charges against Portuguese judicial authorities	241
311.	"	Mar. 31	..	Satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at Law introduced by Viscount de Sá. for the total abolition of slavery in Portuguese possessions	241

PORTUGAL. (*Consular*)—*Cape Verds.*

312.	The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Vines	1858 Feb. 23	..	Copy of Mr. Howard's despatch of 28th ultimo, respecting two Portarias addressed to the Governor-General of Cape Verds, respecting liberation of Pedro, and approving his liberation of slaves in the Windward Isles	242
------	---------------------------------------	-----------------	----	--	-----

PORTUGAL. (*Consular*)—*Mozambique.*

313.	Consul McLeod to the Earl of Clarendon	1857 July 6	1857 Oct. 15	Great increase of Slave Trade between Mozambique and Cuba ..	243
314.	"	Oct. 3	Dec. 24	Slaving transactions in the Mozambique. Asking for a Commission of Inquiry into the conduct of the authorities	245
315.	The Earl of Clarendon to Consul McLeod	1858 Jan. 5	..	Receipt of above. Approving proceedings	251
316.	"	Jan. 5	..	Copy of despatch from Mr. Lousada, respecting the " <i>Minnetonka</i> " ..	252

No.	Date.	Receipt.	SUBJECT.	Page
	1858	1858		
317.	The Earl of Clarendon to Consul McLeod.	Jan. 5	..	Respecting treatment of captured dhows 252
318.	"	Jan. 30	..	Copy of Mr. Howard's despatch of March 6, respecting Slave Trade on the East Coast of Africa .. 252
319.	The Earl of Malmesbury to Consul McLeod	Feb. 27	..	Respecting slaves captured in dhows 252
320.	"	Mar. 19	..	To inform the Governor-General of his charges against the authorities 253
321.	"	Mar. 20	..	Portaria directing the Governor-General of Mozambique to use every means to suppress Slave Trade 253

SARDINIA.

	1857	1857		
322.	The Earl of Clarendon to Sir J. Hudson	May 28	..	Despatch from Consul Morgan, respecting the "Vittorio Emanuele" 254
323.	Sir J. Hudson to the Earl of Clarendon	June 23	June 29	Sardinian Government will use all means to prevent Sardinian vessels carrying slaves on the Brazilian coast 254
324.	"	Sept. 16	Sept. 19	Sardinian Government will continue to use their best efforts to suppress the Slave Trade 254

SPAIN.

	1857	1857		
325.	Lord Howden to the Earl of Clarendon	Mar. 28	Apr. 2	Mr. Lousada has been sworn in Her Majesty's Arbitrator at Havana . 256
326.	"	Apr. 1	Apr. 12	Copy of a note from Señor Pidal respecting certificates for vessels from Spanish Consuls on the African coast 256
327.	The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Howden	Apr. 13	..	Copies of two despatches from Mr. Crawford, respecting dismissal of Brigadier Serrano, and landing of slaves in Sancti Spiritu .. 259
328.	"	Apr. 14	..	Copy of despatches from Mr. Crawford and Loanda Commissioners relative to slaves landed in Cuba . 259
329.	Lord Howden to the Earl of Clarendon	Apr. 10	Apr. 16	Marquis de Pidal's reply to his note respecting activity of Slave Trade in Cuba during 1856 260
330.	The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Howden	Apr. 21	..	Memorial from British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society with regard to the Cuban Slave Trade .. 260
331.	Lord Howden to the Earl of Clarendon	May 2	May 12	Note to, and answer from, Spanish Government, respecting Memorial of Anti-Slavery Society .. 264
332.	The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Howden	May 18	..	Copy of Mr. Crawford's despatch of April 13, respecting increase of Cuban Slave Trade 265
333.	"	May 19	..	Despatches from Mr. Crawford, respecting Cuban Slave Trade .. 265
334.	"	May 19	..	Approval of proceedings reported in despatch of 2nd instant. Will Spanish Government consider Slave Trade piracy? 265
335.	Lord Howden to the Earl of Clarendon	May 9	May 18	Note from Marquis de Pidal respecting landing of Bozals at Sierra Morena in February 1856 .. 266
336.	The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Howden	May 20	..	Despatch from Mr. Crawford, respecting the "Restauracion" .. 266
337.	"	May 20	..	Capture, by a boat of the "Arab," of a slaver, with 300 or 400 slaves 267
338.	"	May 20	..	Copy of despatch from Consul Murray, on activity of slave-traders 267

No.	Date. 1857	Receipt. 1857	SUBJECT.	Page
339.	The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Howden .. May 21	..	Receipt of despatch of April 1. Answer to Señor Pidal's note on alteration in Equipment Article of Slave Trade Treaty with Spain ..	267
340.	" .. June 13	..	Despatch from Mr. Crawford of May 6, on Cuban Slave Trade ..	269
341.	Lord Howden to the Earl of Clarendon .. June 7	June 13	Spanish Government will not make Slave Trade piracy ..	269
342.	The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Howden .. June 15	..	Despatch from Mr. Crawford respecting registration of slaves ..	269
343.	Lord Howden to the Earl of Clarendon .. June 19	June 24	Correspondence with Señor Pidal respecting activity of Slave Trade	270
344.	The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Howden .. June 26	..	Receipt of above. Approving note to the Marquis de Pidal ..	271
345.	Lord Howden to the Earl of Clarendon .. June 25	July 2	His note respecting activity of Slave Trade has been forwarded to the Colonial Office ..	271
346.	" .. July 10	July 16	Respecting registration of slaves ..	271
347.	The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howden .. July 21	..	Despatch from Havana Commissioners, respecting the emancipada Trinidad ..	272
348.	Lord Howden to the Earl of Clarendon .. July 17	July 22	Reply of Spanish Government respecting issue of certificates by Spanish Consuls to vessels carrying empty casks ..	272
349.	The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Otway .. Aug. 10	..	Receipt of despatch of April 10. Transmitting observations of Havana Commissioners on reply of Spanish Government to their Report on Slave Trade for 1856 ..	275
350.	" .. Aug. 10	..	Despatches from Mr. Crawford respecting reported landing of Bozals at Vertientes ..	275
351.	" .. Aug. 10	..	Copy of Circular order issued by Captain-General of Cuba for suppression of Slave Trade. Doubts as to its efficiency ..	275
352.	Mr. Otway to the Earl of Clarendon .. Aug. 7	Aug. 12	Correspondence with Spanish Government on the state of emancipados in Cuba ..	276
353.	" .. Aug. 7	Aug. 12	Reply of Spanish Government to Her Majesty's Commissioners' Report respecting Slave Trade in Cuba during 1856 ..	277
354.	The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Otway .. Aug. 17	..	Approving note to Spanish Government respecting emancipados in Cuba ..	279
355.	" .. Aug. 17	..	Receipt of despatch of 7th instant. Approving his proceedings respecting cédulas ..	280
356.	" .. Sept. 21	..	Despatches from Havana Commissioners respecting present state of Cuban Slave Trade ..	280
357.	" .. Sept. 29	..	Despatch from Consul Brackenbury, reporting landing of slaves in Cuba, by the "Theodora." To communicate information to Spanish Government ..	280
358.	Mr. Otway to the Earl of Clarendon .. Sept. 25	Sept. 30	Reply of Spanish Government to communication of House of Commons Address to Her Majesty, respecting Slave Trade ..	280
359.	" .. Oct. 6	Oct. 19	Has informed the Spanish Government of landing of slaves in Cuba by the "Theodora" ..	281
360.	" .. Oct. 12	Oct. 19	Note from the Marquis de Pidal respecting supposed complicity of Carlos Lavandeira in a slave-trading transaction ..	281
361.	" .. Oct. 13	Oct. 19	Answer from Spanish Government to statement that Slave Trade had increased in last two years ..	282
362.	The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Otway .. Oct. 21	..	Copies of correspondence between Consul-General Crawford and Captain-General relative to the Slave Trade, and abuse of cédulas ..	285
363.	" .. Oct. 26	..	Respecting capture of the "Conchita" ..	285

No.	Date.	Receipt.	SUBJECT.	Page
	1857	1857		
364. The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Otway	Oct. 26	..	Despatches from Mr. Crawford. Capture of the " <i>Mazeppa</i> ." Landing of slaves by the " <i>Villanueva</i> ," at Havana ..	285
365. " " "	Oct. 27	..	Receipt of Lord Howden's despatch of July 17. Reasons for not modifying Slave Trade Treaty with Spain ..	286
366. " " "	Nov. 13	..	Receipt of despatch of August 7. Transmitting despatch from Havana Commissioners, confirming their Report ..	287
367. " " "	Nov. 13	..	Copies of two despatches from Mr. Lousada, respecting Cuban Slave Trade ..	287
368. Mr. Otway to the Earl of Clarendon	Nov. 9	Nov. 14	Note to Spanish Government respecting the capture of the " <i>Mazeppa</i> " ..	287
369. " " "	Nov. 11	Nov. 16	Correspondence with Spanish Government respecting their wish for a change in Article X of the Slave Trade Treaty of 1835 ..	288
370. The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Otway	Nov. 16	..	Correspondence with M. Gonzales Bravo, respecting the " <i>Conchita</i> ," and absence of a Spanish officer in the Sierra Leone Commission ..	290
371. Mr. Otway to the Earl of Clarendon	Nov. 19	Nov. 24	Proceedings connected with the " <i>Theodora</i> " ..	292
372. The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Otway	Dec. 5	..	Receipt of above. Satisfaction at measures of Captain-General ..	293
373. Mr. Otway to the Earl of Clarendon	Dec. 7	Dec. 12	Has communicated to Spanish Government the substance of Havana Commissioners' despatch, transmitted on the 13th ultimo ..	293
374. The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Otway	Dec. 15	..	Capture of three slavers on Cuban coast reported by Mr. Lousada. List of captures on coast of Africa ..	294
375. " " "	Dec. 15	..	Correspondence between Mr. Lousada and the Captain-General respecting landing of slaves in Cuba ..	294
376. " " "	Dec. 17	..	Copy of letter to Consul Brackenbury respecting the " <i>Restauracion</i> " ..	295
377. Mr. Otway to the Earl of Clarendon	Dec. 16	Dec. 21	Spanish account of the landing of slaves in the port of Havana on the 18th of September ..	295
378. The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Otway	Dec. 21	..	Further information respecting " <i>Conchita</i> " ..	296
379. " " "	Dec. 21	..	Receipt of despatch of December 7. Approving proceedings ..	296
380. Mr. Otway to the Earl of Clarendon	Dec. 20	Dec. 25	Answer of Spanish Government respecting suggested extension of powers of Captain-General for punishment of slave-traders ..	297
381. The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Howden	Jan. 13	..	Copies of despatches from Havana respecting the Slave Trade ..	298
382. " " "	Jan. 13	..	Slave Trade at Porto Rico ..	298
383. " " "	Feb. 9	..	Copies of proceedings of Mixed Commission Court at Sierra Leone against the " <i>Conchita</i> " ..	298
384. Lord Howden to the Earl of Clarendon	Feb. 1	Feb. 11	Address to Her Catholic Majesty from Chamber of Commerce at Barcelona, respecting capture of the " <i>Conchita</i> " ..	299
385. The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Howden	Feb. 22	..	Despatch from Mr. Crawford reporting rumoured landing of slaves at Cayo Levisa ..	301
386. " " "	Feb. 22	..	Despatch from Consul Hunt respecting the " <i>Paquete</i> " ..	301
387. The Earl of Malmesbury to Lord Howden	Mar. 8	..	Appointment of Mr. Ryder as Arbitrator in Havana Commission ..	301
388. " " "	Mar. 17	..	Despatches from Mr. Crawford respecting the Cuban Slave Trade ..	302
389. " " "	Mar. 19	..	Statement, by Havana Commissioners, of number of slaves landed in Cuba, and captured by Spanish authorities, during the past year..	302

No.	Date.	Receipt.	SUBJECT.	Page
	1858	1858		
390. The Earl of Malmesbury to Lord Howden ..	Mar. 19	..	Observations by Mr. Crawford on Spanish account of landing of slaves from the " <i>Mercedita</i> " ..	302
391. " " ..	Mar. 19	..	Despatches from Mr. Crawford, respecting activity of slave-traders; and abuse of cédulas ..	302
392. Lord Howden to the Earl of Malmesbury ..	Mar. 15	Mar. 23	Extract from a Spanish newspaper, respecting importation of Chinese into Cuba ..	303
393. " " ..	Mar. 20	Mar. 30	Orders will be sent to Havana for recognition of Mr. Ryder as Arbitrator ..	303
394. The Earl of Malmesbury to Lord Howden .	Mar. 30	..	Correspondence with M. Conte, respecting Cuban Slave Trade ..	304

SPAIN. (*Consular*)—*Barcelona*.

	1857	1857		
395. Consul Baker to the Earl of Clarendon ..	Mar. 28	Apr. 1	Explaining circumstances under which he gave certificate to the " <i>Conchita</i> " ..	307
396. The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Baker ..	Apr. 8	..	Receipt of above. His explanations are satisfactory ..	308
397. " " ..	May 28	..	Copies of correspondence respecting the " <i>Sultana</i> " ..	308
398. Consul Baker to the Earl of Clarendon ..	June 9	June 13	Receipt of above. Reporting movements of the " <i>Sultana</i> " ..	308
399. Acting Consul Prat to the Earl of Clarendon	Aug. 11	Aug. 17	Departure of the " <i>Sultana</i> " for Brazil ..	308
400. The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Baker ..	Oct. 31	..	Detention of the " <i>Conchita</i> " ..	309
401. Consul Baker to the Earl of Clarendon ..	Nov. 5	Nov. 10	Receipt of above ..	309

SPAIN. (*Consular*)—*Cadix*.

	1857	1857		
402. The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Brackenbury	Apr. 30	..	Copies of despatch from Mr. Scarlett respecting the " <i>Sultana</i> " ..	310
403. Consul Brackenbury to the Earl of Clarendon	May 16	May 25	Receipt of above. Arrival and departure of the " <i>Sultana</i> " ..	310

SPAIN. (*Consular*)—*Havana*.

	1857	1857		
404. Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon	Feb. 28	Apr. 1	Removal of Brigadier Serrano from Trinidad ..	311
405. " " ..	Feb. 28	Apr. 1	Receipt of despatch of 27th ultimo, respecting the " <i>Flying Eagle</i> ," &c. ..	311
406. " " ..	Feb. 28	Apr. 1	Receipt of despatch of 28th ultimo, relative to the landing of 524 slaves at Sierra Morena ..	312
407. " " ..	Mar. 1	Apr. 1	Correspondence with Captain-General respecting two slave-landings in Sancti Spiritu ..	312
408. The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford	Apr. 21	..	Extract from Mr. Gabriel's despatch reporting shipment of 1,200 slaves from the Congo ..	313
409. Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon	Mar. 13	May 2	Correspondence with Captain-General respecting agency of Portuguese in carrying on the Slave Trade ..	313
410. " " ..	Mar. 23	May 2	Has informed Captain-General of the 900 slaves at Sierra Leone, awaiting embarkation for Cuba ..	315
411. " " ..	Mar. 25	May 2	Has communicated to Captain-General the information contained in despatch of 28th ultimo, respecting the trial of Baker, Baptista, and Stabell, in the case of the " <i>C. F. A. Cole</i> " ..	315

No.		Date. 1857	Receipt. 1857	SUBJECT	Page
412.	Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon	Mar. 26	May 2	Correspondence with Captain-General respecting a slaver which attempted to land slaves at Trinidad. Progress of Commission at Sancti Spiritu	315
413.	"	Mar. 30	May 2	Correspondence with the Captain-General. Information respecting the " <i>Sultana</i> ," and trial of parties implicated with the " <i>C. F. A. Cole</i> "	316
414.	"	Apr. 6	May 2	Correspondence with Governor-General respecting a slaver fitting out at Matanzas	318
415.	The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford	May 23	..	Movements of the " <i>Sultana</i> " and " <i>Urania</i> "	319
416.	"	May 25	..	Capture of a slaver by the "Arab." To report the conduct of the Cay Grande pilot to Captain-General.	319
417.	Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon	Apr. 25	June 2	Decree respecting cedulas issued by the Captain-General	319
418.	"	Apr. 25	June 2	Receipt of despatch of 13th ultimo, respecting 900 slaves waiting shipment at Rio Pongas	321
419.	"	Apr. 25	June 2	Receipt of despatch of 19th ultimo, announcing shipment of two cargoes of slaves from Bight of Benin. Has not discovered any trace of them	321
420.	"	May 6	June 2	Extensive preparations for the Slave Trade. Denouncing certain vessels	322
421.	"	May 8	June 2	Capture of a schooner, with 380 slaves, by Her Majesty's ship "Arab"	322
422.	"	May 23	June 30	Receipt of despatch of 21st ultimo, reporting shipment of 1,200 slaves from the Congo	323
423.	The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford	June 30	..	How slavers without papers should be treated	323
424.	"	June 30	..	Despatch from Mr. Howard, respecting Don F. Riverosa	324
425.	"	July 31	..	Extract of Consul Campbell's despatch of 5th instant. To forward Abreu's letter to his daughters	324
426.	"	Aug. 1	..	Consul Campbell's despatch of May 11. Decrease in number of shipments of slaves from Bight of Benin to Cuba, in 1855 and 1856	325
427.	"	Aug. 1	..	Copy from Commander Hope to Commodore Adams, respecting the seizure of the " <i>Adams Gray</i> "	325
428.	Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon	June 26	Aug. 3	Receipt of despatch of 23rd ultimo, respecting the " <i>Sultana</i> " and " <i>Urania</i> "	325
429.	"	July 1	Aug. 3	Receipt of despatch of 25th ultimo. Copy of note to Captain-General respecting the conduct of the pilot of Cayo Grande	325
430.	"	July 4	Aug. 3	Copy of letter to Captain-General, denouncing the landing of 420 Bozals at Vertientes	326
431.	"	July 4	Aug. 3	List of Chinese landed at Havana, up to June 30, 1857	327
432.	"	July 9	Aug. 3	Captain-General's reply to Mr. Crawford's note denouncing the landing of 420 Bozals at Vertientes	330
433.	The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford	Aug. 12	..	Receipt of despatch of 4th ultimo. To ascertain as to willingness of Chinese women to emigrate	331
434.	Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon	July 24	Aug. 31	Receipt of despatch of 30th ultimo, respecting slavers without papers	331
435.	"	July 24	Aug. 31	Ditto, respecting Don F. Riverosa.	331
436.	"	Aug. 9	Aug. 31	Captain-General's views respecting the Slave Trade	332
437.	The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford	Sept. 29	..	Despatch from Consul Brackenbury, respecting landing of 478 slaves in Cuba, by the " <i>Theodora</i> "	332

No.		Date. 1857	Receipt. 1857	SUBJECT.	Page
438.	The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford	Sept. 29	..	The "Jasper" and "Jaseur" have been sent to cruize off Cuba. Two more light vessels will follow ..	332
439.	Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon	Aug. 25	Oct. 1	Receipt of despatch of 31st ultimo. Has forwarded Abreu's letter to his daughters ..	333
440.	"	Aug. 26	Oct. 1	Receipt of despatch of 1st ultimo. Observations on the Slave Trade ..	333
441.	"	Aug. 27	Oct. 1	Ditto, respecting the "Adams Gray" ..	334
442.	"	Sept. 8	Oct. 1	Correspondence with Captain-General relative to the Slave Trade ..	334
443.	"	Sept. 12	Oct. 12	Copy of Captain-General's letter respecting the pilot of the Cayo Grande ..	337
444.	"	Sept. 21	Oct. 12	Correspondence with the Captain-General relative to the capture of a slaver, with 385 slaves, by the "Christina" ..	338
445.	"	Sept. 22	Oct. 12	Landing of a cargo of slaves in the port of Havana, by the "Villanueva" ..	339
446.	The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford	Oct. 24	..	Copy of a despatch from Consul McLeod, respecting the "Minnetonka," and twenty-one slavers from Havana ..	340
447.	"	Oct. 24	..	Admiral Grey's letter respecting the "Minnetonka" and six other slavers ..	340
448.	"	Oct. 30	..	Copy of despatch to Mr. Otway, respecting the landing of a cargo of slaves in the port of Havana ..	340
449.	Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon	Sept. 26	Oct. 31	Receipt of despatch respecting emigration of Chinese women ..	341
450.	Acting Consul-General Lousada to the Earl of Clarendon	Oct. 8	Oct. 31	Reporting a conversation with General Concha, respecting the Slave Trade ..	341
451.	"	Oct. 8	Oct. 31	Correspondence with Captain-General respecting landing of 300 Bozals at Jaruco. Arrival of a slaver captured at Cardenas ..	341
452.	The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford	Oct. 31	..	Copies of despatches from Lord Howden and Mr. Otway respecting increase of Cuban Slave Trade ..	342
453.	The Earl of Clarendon to Acting Consul-General Lousada	Nov. 30	..	Capture and destruction of a slaver, by Her Majesty's ship "Sappho" ..	343
454.	"	Nov. 30	..	Commander Burgess's report on African Slave Trade. To make inquiries about the "Expedicion por Africa" Company ..	343
455.	"	Nov. 30	..	List of slavers recently captured on African coast ..	343
456.	Acting Consul-General Lousada to the Earl of Clarendon	Oct. 26	Dec. 3	Receipt of despatch respecting the "Theodora" ..	344
457.	"	Nov. 2	Dec. 3	Receipt of despatch respecting gun-boats "Jaseur" and "Jasper" ..	344
458.	"	Nov. 6	Dec. 3	Capture of the "Vesta," 179 slaves; and another barque with 536 ..	344
459.	"	Nov. 7	Dec. 3	On the subject of Chinese women ..	344
460.	"	Nov. 9	Dec. 3	Copy of correspondence with Governor-General on slave-landings ..	345
461.	"	Nov. 24	Dec. 15	The "Jasper" and "Jaseur" have not arrived ..	346
462.	The Earl of Clarendon to Acting Consul-General Lousada	Dec. 30	..	Correspondence with Mr. Otway, respecting the granting of extended powers to the Captain-General ..	347
463.	"	Dec. 30	..	Spanish report of slave-landing in the port of Havana on September 17 ..	347
464.	Acting Consul-General Lousada to the Earl of Clarendon	Nov. 30	Jan. 1	Receipt of despatch of 24th ultimo, respecting the "Minnetonka" and other slavers ..	347
465.	Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon	Dec. 7	Jan. 1	Captain-General's efforts to suppress the Slave Trade. Arrival of gun-boats ..	348
466.	"	Dec. 8	Jan. 1	Receipt of despatch of October 24. Information respecting the "Minnetonka" ..	348
467.	"	Dec. 8	Jan. 1	Letter to the Captain-General respecting the crew of the "Mazzeppa" ..	349

No.		Date.	Receipt.		SUBJECT.	Page
			1857	1858		
468.	Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon	Dec. 9	Jan. 1		Receipt of despatch of October 31. General Concha's communication will have his earliest attention ..	349
469.	"	Dec. 10	Jan. 1		List of criminal causes in connection with the Cuban Slave Trade.	350
470.	The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford	Jan. 13	..		Receipt of despatch of 7th ultimo. Satisfaction at Captain-General's determination to suppress Slave Trade ..	350
471.	"	Jan. 13	..		Receipt of despatch of 10th ultimo, inclosing list of criminal causes connected with Slave Trade ..	350
472.	Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon	Dec. 24	Feb. 5		Receipt of despatch of 30th ultimo, respecting slaver captured by "Sappho" ..	350
473.	"	Dec. 26	Feb. 5		Ditto. Information respecting the "Expedicion por Africa" Company, &c... ..	351
474.	"	Dec. 26	Feb. 5		Ditto. Containing list of slavers captured on coast of Africa ..	351
475.	"	Dec. 26	Feb. 5		Correspondence with Captain-General relative to a reported landing of negroes at Cayo Levisa, which was unfounded ..	352
476.	"	Jan. 15	Mar. 8		Correspondence with Governor-General respecting a slaver which fired into the boats of the "Cristina." Capture of an empty slaver by the "Isabel Francisca" ..	353
477.	"	Jan. 28	Mar. 8		Receipt of despatch of 30th ultimo. Information respecting registration of slaves ..	355
478.	"	Jan. 29	Mar. 8		Ditto. Respecting the " <i>Mercedita</i> " ..	355
479.	"	Feb. 3	Mar. 8		Correspondence with Captain-General respecting landing of 400 slaves at Sigua ..	356
480.	"	Feb. 12	Mar. 10		Activity of Slave Trade in Cuba ..	357
481.	"	Feb. 13	Mar. 10		Falsification of cedula ..	358

SPAIN. (*Consular*)—*Porto Rico*.

		Receipt.		SUBJECT.	Page
		1857	1858		
482.	Consul Hunt to the Earl of Clarendon	June 20	July 17	Scarcity of slave-labour has not induced revival of the Slave Trade	359
483.	"	Dec. 8	Jan. 1	Respecting the movements of the " <i>Veloz</i> " ..	359
484.	"	Dec. 9	Jan. 1	Capture of the " <i>Paquete</i> " ..	360
485.	"	Jan. 7	Feb. 5	Proceedings <i>in re</i> " <i>Paquete</i> " ..	361
486.	The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Hunt	Jan. 13	..	Receipt of despatch of 8th ultimo. Approving proceedings ..	361
487.	"	Jan. 13	..	Receipt of despatch of 9th ultimo. Approving proceedings ..	361

SPAIN. (*Consular*)—*Teneriffe*.

		Receipt.		SUBJECT.	Page
		1857	1858		
488.	Consul Murray to the Earl of Clarendon	Apr. 18	May 13	Copy of his letter to Commodore Adams respecting the " <i>Jupiter</i> " ..	362
489.	The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Murray	May 23	..	Receipt of above. Approval ..	363
490.	Acting Consul Parkinson to the Earl of Clarendon	June 6	July 9	Copy of his letter to Commodore Adams respecting the " <i>William Clark</i> " ..	363
491.	The Earl of Clarendon to Acting Consul Parkinson	July 23	..	Receipt of above. Approval ..	363
492.	Acting Consul Parkinson to the Earl of Clarendon	Dec. 1	Dec. 12	Reports arrival at Teneriffe of four Spanish prisoners. ..	363

SPAIN. (*Consular*)—*Vigo*.

No.	Date.	Receipt.	SUBJECT.	Page
	1857	1857		
493. Consul Brackenbury to the Earl of Clarendon	Sept. 17	Sept. 24	478 negroes landed by the " <i>Theodora</i> "	365
494. The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Brackenbury	Dec. 17	..	Despatch from Mr. Gabriel respecting the " <i>Restauracion</i> " ..	365
	1858	1858		
495. Consul Brackenbury to the Earl of Clarendon	Jan. 19	Jan. 26	Reporting result of inquiries respecting the " <i>Restauracion</i> " ..	366

TRIPOLI.

	1857	1857		
496. Consul-General Herman to the Earl of Clarendon	Mar. 28	May 2	Returns of slaves exported in 1856	367
497. " " " ..	Sept. 10	Sept. 23	Extract of a letter from the Acting Vice-Consul at Moorzouk, relative to the Slave Trade	367
498. The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Herman	Nov. 13	..	Receipt of above. Copy of despatch from Consul-General Bell, respecting introduction of slaves into Algeria	368
499. Consul-General Herman to the Earl of Clarendon	Dec. 14	Dec. 28	Copy of a despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, respecting negroes shipped on board the " <i>Feizi Bahri</i> "	368
	1858			
500. The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Herman	Jan. 20	..	Despatch from Mr. Alison, denying the reported shipment of slaves on board the " <i>Feizi Bahri</i> "	368
		1858		
501. Consul-General Herman to the Earl of Clarendon	Feb. 16	Mar. 6	Relative to the Blacks taken to Stamboul by the " <i>Feizi Bahri</i> " ..	369
502. " " " ..	Feb. 22	Mar. 6	Copy of a letter from Admiral Slade, relative to the negroes shipped on board the " <i>Feizi Bahri</i> "	370
503. " " " ..	Mar. 10	Mar. 29	Report on the Slave Trade	370

TURKEY.

	1857	1857		
504. Lord Stratford to the Earl of Clarendon ..	Mar. 9	Mar. 26	Firmans addressed to the Pashas of Egypt, Tripoli, &c., respecting prevention of Slave Trade	373
505. " " " ..	Mar. 19	Apr. 2	Circassian passengers on board the " <i>Kangaroo</i> " supposed to be slaves	375
506. The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford ..	Apr. 16	..	Approval of proceedings in the case of the " <i>Kangaroo</i> "	378
507. Lord Stratford to the Earl of Clarendon ..	Apr. 25	May 7	Respecting execution of firman respecting slaves at Smyrna	378
508. The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford ..	May 8	..	Consul-General Herman's return of slaves exported from Tripoli and Bengazi during 1856	378
509. " " " ..	May 8	..	To second the endeavours of Vely Pasha for ameliorating the condition of Cretan slaves	378
510. Lord Stratford to the Earl of Clarendon ..	June 8	June 18	Respecting 6 negroes brought to Constantinople in an Ottoman trading vessel	379
511. The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford ..	July 1	..	Receipt of above. Approving instructions to Mr. Sarell, respecting 6 negro slaves	380
512. Lord Stratford to the Earl of Clarendon ..	June 22	July 2	Liberation of the 6 negro slaves mentioned in despatch of 8th instant	380
513. The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford ..	July 29	..	Receipt of above. Approving proceedings	381
514. " " " ..	July 29	..	Receipt of despatch of 22nd ultimo. Approving proceedings	382
515. " " " ..	Aug. 12	..	Sale of slaves by auction, at Diarbekir	382
516. Lord Stratford to the Earl of Clarendon ..	Aug. 12	Aug. 23	Correspondence respecting probable arrival of Circassian slaves at Constantinople	382

No.	Date.	Receipt.	SUBJECT.	Page
517. Lord Stratford to the Earl of Clarendon	1857 Aug. 12	1857 Aug. 23	Correspondence with Sir J. Young, relative to the escape of a Turkish slave to Corfu	383
518. The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford	Aug. 25	..	Receipt of despatch of 12th instant, respecting Circassian slaves. Approving proceedings	385
519. " " "	Aug. 25	..	Ditto. Copy of letter to Colonial Office respecting the slave of Colonel Ali Bey	385
520. " " "	Sept. 29	..	Despatch from Colonel Herman respecting Slave Traffic between Ghat and Tripoli,	386
521. Lord Stratford to the Earl of Clarendon	Oct. 14	Oct. 26	Has communicated to the Porte the resolution of the House of Commons, and the Queen's answer ..	386
522. " " "	Oct. 21	Oct. 31	Letter from Sir J. Young respecting the slave of Ali Bey	386
523. " " "	Nov. 11	Nov. 21	Copy of his despatch to Consul R. Campbell, respecting fugitive slaves seeking British protection ..	387
524. The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford	Nov. 30 1858	..	Proceedings of the Governor of Massowah	387
525. The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Alison	Jan. 5 1857	.. 1858	Embarkation of 100 negroes on board the "Feizi Bahri"	388
526. Mr. Alison to the Earl of Clarendon	Dec. 28 1858	Jan. 9	Vizirial letter to Governor of Jeddah to abolish Slave Trade	388
527. " " "	Jan. 4	Jan. 15	No negro slaves arrived at Constantinople in the "Feizi Bahri" ..	388
528. " " "	Jan. 19	Jan. 31	Respecting an Abyssinian slave who took refuge in the Embassy	389
529. " " "	Jan. 19	Jan. 31	The Porte denies Colonel Herman's Report	389
530. The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Alison	Feb. 3	..	Approving proceedings respecting Abyssinian slave, reported on the 19th ultimo	389
531. Mr. Alison to the Earl of Clarendon	Jan. 27	Feb. 7	Copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Bagdad, respecting Slave Trade in that Pashalic	389
532. The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Alison	Feb. 11	..	Despatch to Consul-General Kemball, respecting Slave Trade at Bagdad. To convey thanks of Her Majesty's Government to Kheyree Pasha	390
533. Mr. Alison to the Earl of Clarendon	Jan. 28	Feb. 12	Respecting the negroes embarked on board the "Feizi Bahri"	390
534. " " "	Feb. 2	Feb. 12	Colonel Nousret Bey's Report, denying the allegation respecting shipment of slaves on board the "Feizi Bahri"	392

TURKEY. (*Consular*)—*Bagdad.*

535. The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Kemball	1858 Feb. 11	..	Approving proceedings respecting Slave Trade at Bagdad. Thanks of Her Majesty's Government have been conveyed to the Porte for promptness of Kheyree Pasha's measures	394
--	-----------------	----	---	-----

TURKEY. (*Consular*)—*Canea in Crete.*

536. Consul Ongley to the Earl of Clarendon	1858 Jan. 16	1858 Feb. 8	Reporting the arrival of the "Rahmaniya," having on board 14 female slaves, who have been liberated	395
537. The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Ongley	Feb. 16	..	Satisfaction at liberation of the slaves on board the "Rahmaniya"	395

TURKEY. (*Consular*)—*Diarbekir*.

No.	Date.	Receipt.	SUBJECT.	Page
	1857	1857		
538. Consul Holmes to the Earl of Clarendon ..	Apr. 21	June 5	Has conveyed thanks of Her Majesty's Government to Bessim Pasha for restoring freedom to two slaves	396
539. Acting Consul Maltass to the Earl of Clarendon	June 25	Aug. 1	Slaves are being sold by auction in bazaars at Diarbekir	396

TURKEY. (*Consular*)—*Rhodes*.

	1857	1857		
540. Consul R. Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon	Oct. 22	Nov. 9	Respecting fugitive slaves. Instructions given to Vice-Consul at Larnaca	397
541. The Earl of Clarendon to Consul R. Campbell	Nov. 16	..	Receipt of above. Approving his instructions to Vice-Consul at Larnaca respecting fugitive slaves	397
542. " " " ..	Dec. 5	..	Approving Lord Stratford's observations to Mr. Campbell, respecting fugitive slaves who sought the protection of the British Vice-Consul at Cyprus	398
543. " " " ..	Dec. 19	..	Vice-Consul at Cyprus had no right to liberate the black female slaves	398
544. Consul R. Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon	1858 Jan. 20	1858 Feb. 1	Acknowledging receipt of above ..	398

TUSCANY.

	1857	1857		
545. Mr. Lyons to the Earl of Clarendon . . .	Sept. 10	Sept. 15	Inclosing note, transmitting to Tuscan Government Address of the House of Commons on the Slave Trade, and Her Majesty's answer	399
546. " " " ..	Sept. 14	Sept. 20	Answer of Tuscan Government to above communication	399

UNITED STATES.

	1857	1857		
547. Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon ..	Mar. 28	Apr. 13	The " <i>N. Hand</i> " suspected of slave-trading	401
548. The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier ..	Apr. 17	..	Approving proceedings respecting the " <i>N. Hand</i> "	402
549. " " " ..	May 8	..	Report of fifteen slavers having fitted out at New Orleans within last two months	402
550. " " " ..	June 18	..	Despatch from Mr. Howard, announcing dismissal of Portuguese Vice-Consul at Baltimore, implicated in slave-trading transactions in case of the " <i>C. F. A. Cole</i> " ..	402
551. Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon ..	June 13	June 29	Mr. Crawford's report as to increase of Slave Trade under United States' flag communicated to the Secretary of State	402
552. " " " ..	June 23	July 7	Kidnapping of a coloured boy by United States' vessel " <i>Alfano</i> " ..	403
553. " " " ..	June 23	July 7	Despatch of the 8th ultimo has been laid before the President ..	403
554. The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier ..	July 17	..	Copy of despatches from Consul Campbell and Commander Hope respecting the " <i>Adams Gray</i> " and the " <i>W. D. Miller</i> " ..	403
555. " " " ..	July 31	..	Correspondence respecting Slave Trade carried on under the United States' flag; and the " <i>Panchita</i> " ..	403

No.		Date.	Receipt.		SUBJECT.	Page
			1857	1857		
556.	Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon	.. July 21	Aug. 3		Slave Trade at New Orleans ..	404
557.	" "	.. July 27	Aug. 11		Further information as to the "Panchita"	405
558.	The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier	.. Aug. 13	..		Condemnation of the "Adams Gray"	405
559.	" "	.. Aug. 14	..		Use of the United States' flag to cover Slave Trade	405
560.	" "	.. Aug. 17	..		Use of the United States' flag in slave-trading, and absence of United States' cruisers on African coast	406
561.	Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon	.. Aug. 3	Aug. 24		Conversation with General Cass on the strength of the United States' squadron on the coast of Africa ..	406
562.	The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier	.. Aug. 25	..		Receipt of above. Approving pro- ceedings	406
563.	Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon	.. Aug. 18	Aug. 30		Further conversation with General Cass on the strength of the United States' and British squadrons on the coast of Africa	406
564.	" "	.. Aug. 17	Aug. 30		Application for Slave Trade Papers by Society of Friends	407
565.	The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier	.. Aug. 31	..		Shipment of slaves by the "Put- nam," and further respecting the "Panchita"	408
566.	" "	.. Sept. 4	..		Slave Trade Papers will be for- warded to the Society of Friends at Philadelphia	408
567.	" "	.. Sept. 10	..		Correspondence between Mr. Ga- briel and Brazilian Consul at Lo- anda respecting Slave Trade in the River Congo	408
568.	Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon	.. Aug. 27	Sept. 14		Newspaper extracts respecting the capture of the "Jupiter"	409
569.	The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier	.. Sept. 25	..		Despatches from Consul Campbell, respecting the "Jupiter" and "Abbot Devereux"	409
570.	" "	.. Sept. 25	..		Despatch from Commissary Judge at Sierra Leone, respecting the "Jupiter"	410
571.	" "	.. Sept. 26	..		Approving proceedings respecting the United States' squadron on the coast of Africa, reported on the 18th ultimo	410
572.	" "	.. Sept. 28	..		Abuse of United States' flag. Case of the "Charles," of Baltimore ..	411
573.	" "	.. Sept. 28	..		To acquaint United States' Govern- ment of the use made of its flag by Cuban slave-traders	411
574.	" "	.. Sept. 29	..		Respecting use of the United States' flag in slave-trading	412
575.	" "	.. Sept. 29	..		Thanks to Commodore Kearney for courtesy shown to officers of the "Sappho"	412
576.	" "	.. Oct. 2	..		Memorandum on reported ill-treat- ment of Chinese and other im- migrants in British colonies ..	412
577.	Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon	.. Sept. 16	Oct. 4		Note to General Cass presenting Resolution of House of Commons respecting suppression of Slave Trade	415
578.	The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier	.. Oct. 5	..		Information respecting the "James- town" and "Onward"	415
579.	" "	.. Oct. 8	..		Address of House of Commons to the Queen, and answer	416
580.	" "	.. Oct. 9	..		Correspondence with Mr. Dallas respecting seizure and detention of the "Panchita"	416
581.	" "	.. Oct. 15	..		Capture of the "Jupiter"	425
582.	" "	.. Oct. 16	..		Capture of the "Eliza Jane" and "J. H. Record"	425
583.	" "	.. Oct. 16	..		Use of United States' flag to cover Slave Trade. Capture of the "Splendid"	425
584.	" "	.. Oct. 16	..		Proceedings of the "Minnetonka" ..	425
585.	" "	.. Oct. 16	..		To bring to the notice of the United States' Government the case of the "Charles"	426
586.	" "	.. Oct. 23	..		Respecting the capture of the "Wil- liam Clark"	426

No.	Date.	Receipt.	SUBJECT.	Page
	1857	1857		
587. Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon	Oct. 12	Oct. 26	Insufficiency of United States' squadron on the African coast ..	426
588. The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier	Oct. 29	..	Receipt of despatch of 12th instant. Suggestions respecting insufficiency of United States' squadron on the West Coast of Africa ..	427
589. " "	Nov. 7	..	Copies of Slave Trade Papers for the Society of Friends ..	427
590. " "	Nov. 13	..	To communicate to the United States' Government capture of the "Splendid" ..	427
591. " "	Nov. 20	..	Capture of the "Onward" ..	428
592. " "	Nov. 20	..	Condemnation of the "Eliza Jane" in the Vice-Admiralty Court of Sierra Leone ..	428
593. " "	Nov. 27	..	Case of the "Charles" ..	428
594. " "	Dec. 11	..	Despatch from Mr. Gabriel, respecting Slave Trade carried on under the United States' flag in the Congo	428
595. " "	Dec. 11	..	Copy of Mr. Dallas' note of the 9th instant, communicating satisfaction of President at disavowal of Commander Moresby's conduct respecting the "Panchita" ..	429
596. " "	Dec. 18	..	Captures of the "Lewis Mc Lane," "Clara B. Williams," and another schooner (nameless) ..	429
597. " "	Dec. 18	..	Embarkation of slaves on a Spanish felucca, and on the American schooner "James Buchanan" ..	429
598. " "	Dec. 18	..	Despatch from Rear-Admiral Grey on Slave Trade on the West Coast of Africa ..	430
599. Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon	Dec. 8	Dec. 21	Letter from Mr. Evans, of the Society of Friends, respecting French free emigration scheme ..	430
600. The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier	1858 Jan. 7	1858 ..	Despatch from Mr. Gabriel, reporting arrival at Loanda of United States' ships of war "Cumberland" and "Dale" ..	431
601. Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon	1857 Dec. 25	Jan. 12	Note and inclosures to General Cass respecting the abuse of the American flag by slave-traders ..	431
602. " "	Dec. 26	Jan. 12	Note to General Cass respecting Slave Trade in the Congo ..	441
603. The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier	1858 Jan. 14	..	Approving note to United States' Government respecting abuse of the United States' flag ..	442
604. " "	Jan. 15	..	Commodore Wise's Reports, and correspondence with Admiral Grey respecting the capture of the "Braman" ..	442
605. " "	Jan. 20	..	Capture of the "Windward" ..	442
606. Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon	Jan. 11	Jan. 26	Note to General Cass, respecting the "Charles" of Baltimore ..	442
607. The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier	Jan. 28	..	Approving above ..	443
608. " "	Jan. 30	..	Capture of the "Niagara" ..	443
609. Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon	Jan. 19	Feb. 1	Note to General Cass respecting the three vessels captured by Her Majesty's ships "Myrmidon" and "Sappho;" and the escape of the "James Buchanan" ..	443
610. The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier	Feb. 4	..	Receipt of above. Approval ..	445
611. " "	Feb. 12	..	Capture of the "W. G. Lewis" by the United States' corvette "Dale" ..	445
612. " "	Feb. 12	..	List of slavers captured on African coast during the past year, for transmission to Her Majesty's Consuls in the United States ..	445
613. " "	Mar. 5	..	Amended list of slavers captured in 1857, for Her Majesty's Consuls	445
614. Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon	Feb. 28	Mar. 15	Alleged renewal of Slave Trade in the United States ..	448
615. " "	Mar. 6	Mar. 23	Projected importation of negro apprentices into Louisiana ..	448
616. " "	Mar. 6	Mar. 23	Has forwarded despatches of the 12th ultimo to Her Majesty's Consuls ..	449

No.		Date.	Receipt.	SUBJECT.	Page
		1858	1858		
617.	Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon	Mar. 7	Mar. 23	Article from "New Orleans Delta" on renewal of Slave Trade in the United States	449
618.	" "	Mar. 12	Mar. 30	Condemnation of the negro apprenticeship proposal in Louisiana ..	450

UNITED STATES. (*Consular*)—*Galveston.*

619.	Consul Lynn to the Earl of Clarendon	1857 July 18	1857 Aug. 11	Attempt to kidnap a young man of colour, a British subject. Prosecution against the parties unsuccessful	454
620.	The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Lynn	Aug. 20	..	Receipt of above. Approval ..	459

UNITED STATES. (*Consular*)—*New Orleans.*

621.	The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Mure	1857 May 26	1857 ..	To ascertain whether Mr. Crawford's statement, that fifteen vessels left New Orleans on slaving expeditions within last two months, is correct.	460
622.	Consul Mure to the Earl of Clarendon	July 6	July 18	Stating result of inquiries made in accordance with above instruction	460
623.	The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Mure	Aug. 8	..	Approving steps reported above. To communicate to the authorities particulars respecting the " <i>William Clark</i> " and " <i>Adams Gray</i> "	461
624.	" "	Aug. 13	..	Condemnation of the " <i>Adams Gray</i> "	462
625.	" "	Oct. 29	..	Capture of the " <i>William Clark</i> ." Commander Day's Report. Requesting observations on Judge Crawford's despatch of August 25, on slavers fitting out at New Orleans	462
626.	Consul Mure to the Earl of Clarendon	1858 Dec. 10	1858 Jan. 4	Receipt of despatches of August 6 and 13. Has made inquiries respecting the two vessels	462
627.	" "	Dec. 18	Jan. 12	Respecting fitting out of Slave Trade vessels. Answer to despatch of October 29	463
628.	" "	1858 Mar. 5	1858 Mar. 29	Respecting Bill in the State Legislature for the importation of free coloured labourers	464

UNITED STATES. (*Consular*)—*New York.*

629.	The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Archibald.	1858 Feb. 12	1858 ..	List of slavers captured by Her Majesty's cruisers, on the African coast, in 1857	466
------	--	-----------------	------------	---	-----

UNITED STATES. (*Consular*)—*Richmond.*

630.	The Earl of Clarendon to Consul James	1858 Feb. 12	1858 ..	Capture of the " <i>W. G. Lewis</i> " by the United States' corvette " <i>Dale</i> "	467
631.	Consul James to the Earl of Clarendon	Mar. 5	Mar. 23	Receipt of above	467

Class B.

CORRESPONDENCE

WITH

FOREIGN POWERS.

AFRICA. (*Consular*)—*Bight of Benin.*

No. 1.

Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 9.)

My Lord,

Lagos, March 7, 1857.

FOR several months past rumours have reached this Consulate of the intention of the King of Dahomey to make another attack on the town of Abbeokuta. These reports have circulated annually since I assumed my duties at this place; but, the fact of the King of Dahomey's messengers having been seen in some of the large Yoruba towns in company with those of Kosoko, and of their being bearers of considerable presents to the Chiefs of those towns, soliciting their aid in the attack on Abbeokuta, gave some foundation for these rumours.

The Rev. Mr. Freeman of Cape Coast Castle, on his return to Lagos from a visit to Abbeokuta, alluded to these rumours, and publicly stated his disbelief in them, founding that disbelief on the assurance the King of Dahomey had personally given to him, of his wish to be on friendly terms with Her Majesty's Government, and of his intention to do nothing which would create its displeasure.

The Abbeokutans, who regard these professions of the King of Dahomey rather as indications of his intention to carry out his designs on their town, have not ceased to watch his movements, and to prepare themselves for the attack, and for the last three months the whole male population of Abbeokuta have been prevented leaving the town, to the great detriment of the trade of Lagos.

I beg to forward your Lordship, in original, two letters of recent date I received from the Alake of Abbeokuta and the Rev. Mr. Townsend; and I have since received a private note from Mr. Crowther, junior, in which he mentions that the Dahomian forces had been seen a day and a half's march from Abbeokuta.

With regard to the shot asked for by the Alake, I have not applied to Commodore Adams for any, as I, two years since, sent a large supply of them to Abbeokuta, none of which they can have used.

The success of their defence of the town depends on their own determination by such weapons as they know how to use—muskets and cutlasses.

While laying off Whydah, Mr. Dawson informed me that the letters sent by Commodore Adams and myself to the King of Dahomey, four months since, urging him to abandon his intended attack on Abbeokuta, had never been sent to him, and are now still in the

Yervogar's hands at Whydah; but that the purport of the letters had been conveyed, *vivâ voce*, to the King.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. CAMPBELL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

The Rev. H. Townsend to Consul Campbell.

My dear Sir,

Abbeokuta, February 25, 1857.

THE Alake sent for me in great haste this evening, to tell me that the Dahomians were really coming. They are said to be making a long circuit, so as to come upon us from the north or north-east. The Alake requested a letter to be written for him, requesting help, as stated in Mr. Crowther's letter for the Alake. I am ignorant of the whole matter as regards any separate information independent of the natives; but it is quite evident to me that the Alake really believes they are coming. No doubt the Dahomians would try to come as secretly as possible, and if they come, as reported, through an uninhabited country, by bye-roads, they may come near us before we know of their approach. Next Tuesday is the anniversary of their first battle; the 3rd of March then fell on a Monday.

Mrs. Townsend joins me in kind regards to you.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) H. TOWNSEND.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

The Alake of Abbeokuta to Consul Campbell.

Abbeokuta, February 25, 1857.

THE Alake sends his best respects to the British Consul at Lagos.

The Alake has this day heard from Shomoi, the Obasorun, and from other good authorities, that the Dahomians are on their way to Abbeokuta, and that they will, seven days hence, approach the walls of this town. The Alake confidently believes this report, and earnestly begs of the Consul to render him the assistance of eight, or even four, officers of war, and some balls and canister-shots for the two 6-pounders that are in the Church Mission-yard at Ake.

The Alake feels much anxiety at the intelligence, and would beg the Consul to consider the report as valid.

The Alake begs ever to remain the Consul's true friend.

No. 2.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Campbell.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 23, 1857.

I HAVE received from the Admiralty a copy of the despatch which you addressed, on the 16th of February last, to Commodore Adams, upon the subject of the alleged infraction, by the Chiefs of Aghwey, Little Popoe, and other ports, of the Treaties which they have concluded with this country for the abolition of the Slave Trade; and I have to acquaint you that I approve the course which you propose to pursue in this matter, as stated in that despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 3.

Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received May 14.)

(Extract.)

Lagos, March 14, 1857.

IN the "Times" newspaper of December 18, 1856, the editor concludes a leading article, on the probable advantages of the travels and discoveries of Dr. Livingston, thus:—

"We would that we had grounds before us on which we could reasonably come to the conclusion that the opening up of Africa means the extinction of slavery. The one great service which the world demands from the negro race is the production of cotton. The constitution of the white man seems unfitted for labour under the peculiar conditions of place and atmosphere requisite for the cultivation of this necessary staple. Now, granting that in Africa may be found localities in abundance admirably adapted for the growth of cotton, and that in Africa, too, labour, if properly applied, is forthcoming in abundance, will the negro cultivate the soil with the certainty of purpose and regularity of result necessary for commercial purposes? Even if, contrary to our present expectation, this should be so, will not the negro proprietor employ the compulsory labour of slaves? Will not the only result obtained be a change in the venue of slavery from the Southern States of the American Union to the vast territory of Africa? We do not assume to speak upon sufficient grounds, and should be glad, therefore, to hear the conclusions upon so important a matter at which an eye-witness, such as Dr. Livingston undoubtedly is, may have arrived."

I beg, my Lord, to submit the following observations on the above paragraph, founded on a lengthened commercial experience with the trading natives of the interior of tropical Africa, many of whom travel to the settlements on the western coast from considerable distances, several hundred miles, on their trading pursuits, through whom I have obtained a tolerably accurate knowledge of the resources and productions of the countries in the interior.

The whole of the countries in the western interior of Africa do, and have for very many generations, cultivated the cotton-plant, and have clothed, and do still clothe themselves, with its product. Many of these countries, such as Bambarra, manufacture thousands of heavy cotton cloths, which are sold in other parts, and many of them find their way to the towns on the sea-coast, where they are purchased for domestic purposes on account of their strength and durability, and their permanency of colour, from an excellent native indigo dye, which no number of washings will fade.

Other countries on the north-west coast, such as the Cahboo, between the Gambia and the Jeba or Bissou rivers, and the Kussoo country, east of the Sherbro, manufacture large quantities of coarse undyed cloths, and make a considerable trade with them to those tribes inhabiting the immediate sea-board countries, who do not cultivate the cotton-plant.

They are prized by the inhabitants of these low, damp countries, on account of the warmth imparted by their weight and thickness.

There is not a tribe or country in the interior of Africa, from latitude 16° north to the equator, who do not cultivate cotton, more or less, and who do not clothe themselves, in great part (many of those in the far interior altogether so), with cotton fabrics of their own growth and manufacture. There are many countries not 200 miles from the sea-board, whose populations go decently clothed, but who have, as yet, never seen a piece of Manchester or Glasgow cotton fabric. It is only in those localities where the Slave Trade has been greatly suppressed, and which possess navigable rivers, such as the Senegal, the Gambia, the Jeba, the Nunez, and the Sierra Leone and its neighbours, that the fabrics of Manchester and Glasgow have, as yet, penetrated; and even in those countries they are at present only used for holiday or ornamental purposes; the coarse strong manufactured cloth of the country forming the ordinary and working dress of the inhabitants. Some of the finer descriptions of Manchester calicoes, such as shirtings of pure finish, do find their way from Sierra Leone and the neighbouring Settlements, at great expense of land carriage, to Segou, where they are bought up by the Moorish traders and dignitaries of Bambarra and the adjoining countries, and are dyed with the indigo of those countries. But the districts where cotton has been, and still is, the most extensively cultivated, notwithstanding the irruptions of the Felatahs and the disorganization caused by the Slave Trade, are the countries of Houssa, Nuffi, Yoruba, and others watered by the Niger and its tributaries; for, notwithstanding the Slave Trade, and the insecurity to both life, liberty, and property, which such a Traffic induced, these countries have still continued not only to clothe their own populations, but the populations of the neighbouring countries likewise; and also to furnish many thousands of their cloths for exportation to Brazil.

Now, it is from the above countries, and from those having easy access to the sea-coast by rivers falling into the lagoons running along the Bight of Benin, that we have the best prospects of obtaining a supply of cotton. We have not to lead or persuade the people of these countries into undertaking anything new to them; all that is required is, to be prepared to purchase from them the surplus cotton they do not require for their own use, and by paying them a fair price for it, encourage them to extend its cultivation; and by introducing the lighter, and to them infinitely cheaper, fabrics of Manchester, lead to their being used even on economical considerations. We should be prepared to supply to the Chiefs and others who may be induced to cultivate largely, machines for rapidly cleaning the cotton from the seed, as such men would soon perceive the advantage of obtaining the higher price for the cleaned cotton. This must be attended to, and, therefore necessitates the employment of a moderate capital. The Chiefs and leading men of Abbeokuta, who have extended the cultivation of cotton as an article of commerce, are in vain applying for cleaning machines, for which they are prepared to pay the value in cotton, on receipt of them.

If any mercantile expedition is preparing to ascend the Niger it should be provided with simple, but effective, machines for cleaning cotton, and a press and materials for packing it for shipment, for after the expedition has ascended beyond the Ibo country it will pass through extensive cotton growing-countries.

From the above observations, which are founded, not on theory or hypothesis, but on personal experience and extensive inquiry on the spot, it is fair to expect that a moderate and increasing supply of cotton may be obtained from certain districts on the west coast of Africa.

The African has immense advantages over the natives of India in the cultivation of cotton for purposes of export; he has no company, and at present no landlord chief, to pay rent to for his land—no zemindar, or middle man, to screw from him a large share of the produce of his toil. I never yet heard of a rent being paid for land in Western Africa, not even in those countries where the arable portion of it is limited. Where a Chief is the recognized owner of the soil, it is the custom, when a man wishes to make a farm or plantation, to take a small present to the Chief for permission to clear so much land as the applicant may require—a permission never refused, as the Chief is gratified with this admission of his sovereign rights; nor are any questions asked as to the quantity of land required, nor limit fixed—as much is cleared as is required. Doubtless, in time, when the great bulk of the population is engaged in agricultural pursuits, and considerable moral progress has been made by the introduction of Christianity and legitimate commerce, and that scourge, the Slave Trade, no longer annually decimating the population, its great increase and the beneficial influence exercised upon it, will lead to a value being put on land capable of being cultivated, and that Chiefs and others will then assert sovereign or proprietor rights, and demand fixed rents for land: but many years must elapse ere this improved state of things is reached; certainly not till the Slave Trade itself shall have become a legend of past times to the African.

It may be observed, all this is very good, but cotton grown in Africa is still the produce of slave labour. This I admit to be, to a great extent, the case; but there is an immeasurable distance and a wide difference in effect and influence between the compulsory labour of the African slave in a foreign country, the property of the white man, and his forced labour in the country of his birth, and the property of his own countrymen. In the former case he is in a foreign country, estranged from his home, his family, and every natural tie, with scarcely even the sympathy of his fellow-slave, who may be from some part of Africa distant from his own former home; he is the property of a white man, who looks upon him as worth so much money, and whose sole interest is to exact daily all the labour possible out of him under the terror of a whip, wielded, probably, by the brawny arm of a fellow-African; all hope of regaining his freedom and his country are for ever lost, and he becomes an abject machine, a mere animal in human form.

Very different is the fate of the African who becomes a slave to one of his own countrymen and in the land of his birth: he never loses the hope of being one day restored to his home and country, either through the instrumentality of his friends and family redeeming him, or, in utter despair of that, and under harsh treatment, of trusting to his limbs and his ingenuity to again regaining his liberty and home. Should his master be, like himself, a heathen, there is probably no intellectual difference between them, and none assumed; his master and himself work in the same field, frequently they eat out of the same bowl, and the slave is regarded as a member of the family: his state of subjection not being onerous he gets reconciled to it, particularly if, as is the common custom of the heathen slave proprietor, his master purchases for him a female slave as his wife and companion.

But very different is the case should an unhappy captive be sold to a Mahometan master, and he be kept for domestic use, or for agricultural purposes. The Mahometan, ignorant probably as his heathen slave, yet assumes a decided intellectual superiority over him; the little he has learnt of the dogmas of the Prophet leads him to regard his slave as no better than a quadruped; and the unfortunate slave's position is indeed a hard one. Still he is in Africa, and not separated from it by, to him, an impassable ocean, and there is a limit to the cruel and oppressive treatment of his master.

The Mahometan Foulahs of Footah Jallon, on possessing themselves of the country they now occupy, annually carried war into the surrounding Pagan countries, enslaving all that fell into their power; some of the unfortunate captives were sold to the slave-dealers on the coast for muskets, gunpowder, and other means to enable them to carry on their cruel razzias; some were kept for domestic and for agricultural purposes: in a few years they possessed themselves of many thousands of their Pagan neighbours, and, besides keeping them in a debased position, exacted severe toil from them.

The country of Footah Jallon is an open country, hilly, but containing good pasturage for many thousand heads of a pretty breed of cattle; but it is surrounded by forest countries, and into the depths of these forests fled the Pagan Chiefs and natives from the razzias and persecutions of the Foulahs. No sooner did the adult slaves of the Foulahs find their position galling and unbearable than they fled to these forests, and were welcomed by the Chiefs and people who had sought refuge in them, their numbers and strength being thereby increased; and when I left that part of Africa there were no less than four places of refuge to which the oppressed slaves of Footah Jallon fled to regain their liberty: Kabatafiu on the west, Bennah on the south-west, Koondiah and Woolleh Bambyah on the north-east and south-east. For several years the Foulahs attacked these strongholds, in the hope of breaking them up, or recapturing their runaway slaves, always without success.

When, some twenty years since, respectable English establishments were formed at Kykandy on the River Nunez, which attracted a considerable and valuable trade from the countries beyond Footah Jallon, and the Foulahs not only profited by the transit of this trade through their country, but entered largely into legitimate trade themselves—their country producing many useful and valuable articles of commerce before unknown or disregarded by them, they gave up the hope of regaining their lost slaves by capture, and found that to keep slaves in their service they must treat them with some humanity and consideration.

About a century since two large bodies of Foulahs migrated from Massina taking a westerly course: one of these bodies settled in that country now called Footah Toro, on the left bank of the Senegal; the other took a more south-westerly direction, and at length settled in the country now called Footah Jallon. In the course of their migration the Foulahs dislodged many of the natives from the countries laying in their route; among others, the people of Bambouk, and some other countries, whose energies and intelligence had never been deadened and debased by immediate contact with the Slave Trade of the coast, and with that slow poison—trade-rum. One body of these people, pressed on by the Foulahs, at length settled on the banks of the Fourikariah and Melicouri rivers, about forty miles north of Sierra Leone; these, in their turn, dislodged the original inhabitants, the Bulloms, who passed over to the left bank of the Melicouri river, and have since suffered no further encroachments on their territory from their energetic neighbours.

An English colony being soon after founded at Sierra Leone prevented the spread of the Slave Trade from its old haunts, the Rivers Nunez and Pongas, to the Melicouri and Fourikariah rivers; and the wants and commerce of the colony soon afforded employment to the new inhabitants of the last-named rivers; they cultivated rice, opened a trade with the interior people, and soon made large profits in their intercourse with Sierra Leone; these they invested in the purchase of slaves, from whom they exacted the utmost amount of labour. Having professed the religion of Mahomet, either when in their former country to propitiate their then neighbours the Moors, or subsequently, to reconcile the Foulahs, they treated their unfortunate slaves with great harshness, and even indignity, never allowing them to leave the plantations; they were not even permitted to wear clothing, and their masters never addressed them by their names, always using the harsh term of slave when addressing them; and women were not allowed on the plantations. Their condition was, therefore, similar to that of the unfortunate slaves on the modern sugar plantations in Cuba.

This painful state of slavery lasted until about ten years since, when, on the introduction of the ground-nut trade into those countries, a great change took place; the former agricultural commerce in rice was limited to a few hundred tons annually; but the new

commerce in ground-nuts was, by the great demand for them, extended to thousands of tons per annum.

The cultivation of the ground-nut not requiring great manual labour, all classes participate in it; even the unfortunate slaves found means to cultivate them unknown to their masters, and they also found opportunities to sell the produce of their secret labour at the many small sub-factories established throughout the country for the purchase and collection of the ground-nut. The possession of a little property stimulated them to acquire more, and hopes of regaining their freedom now began to dawn upon them; these hopes, as their means increased, led to their purchasing the means of defence.

About the time alluded to, a master spirit showed himself in that country, to inspire, to encourage, and to lead these long suffering slaves to liberty.

A man named Bilarly, the son of a Chief by one of his slave women, who had been tenderly reared by his father, found, on the death of his parent, that he was spurned by his late father's other children and his family, as being slave-born. In this country, as in all other countries where slavery exists, the condition of the offspring follows that of the mother. Bilarly, stung with the treatment he received, put himself in secret communication with the large body of slaves, many of whom having purchased arms were able to defend themselves, and on an appointed night a body of several hundred, with their leader Bilarly, fled to a forest country in the Limbar country, at the head of the Scarcies river; here they strengthened their position, and built numerous small villages in easy communication one with the other. The example thus set, bodies of 200 and 300 of the slaves at a time belonging to the people of Fourikariah and Melicouri have, from time to time, emancipated themselves and sought refuge with Bilarly; and when I left Sierra Leone in 1853 to assume my duties here, he was supposed to have at least 3,000 followers, all runaway slaves.

The people of Melicouri and Fourikariah finding it impossible to keep adults in a state of slavery, consented to allow those who did not seek to escape, to work out their own freedom by the produce of their labour; and instead of adults, they now purchase, from the Sherbro and Gallinas countries, children of both sexes to cultivate the ground-nut; calculating that, by the time they have arrived at an adult age, and have imbibed the desire to be free, that they will have obtained some years of labour from them; and that rather than lose the value of them, they will allow them to purchase their freedom with the fruit of their labour, which many will prefer to do, as they can then consider themselves at liberty to proceed whither they please.

The Yorubas are, for the most part, a pagan people; but the followers of Mahomet are beginning to be perceptibly numerous among them, even at Abbeokuta. At that town, where a hopeful commencement has been made to cultivate cotton for export, the comparatively small extent to which this additional cultivation of the cotton-plant has been as yet carried, begins to give signs of its influence. The cultivation of cotton around Abbeokuta is principally undertaken by the heathen Chiefs and others, and the native converts to Christianity: in prosecuting this labour even to its present small extent, the value of human labour has become so apparent that the Chiefs and other large holders of slaves, foreseeing the effect it will have on their minds, have already given to them spontaneously, some one, some two, and some even three days in the week, to work for themselves. It therefore seems to be the natural effect in this country of any commerce, based on the cultivation of the soil, to unshackle the bonds of the slave, not to tighten them; and that if any attempt be made by the Mahometan African to urge an undue amount of labour from his slaves, finding the whole country open to them, and sure of the sympathy of their countrymen, that they (the slaves) will make a vigorous effort to obtain their freedom, and, obtaining it, be ready to risk their existence to secure it.

There is, therefore, a very distant prospect that the man of iron will and desperate energy will leave the country of vigilance committees, bowie knives, and revolvers, to cultivate cotton in Africa by compulsory labour; no European will ever attempt it. The native rulers and land proprietors in Africa will grant readily to the merchant or trader, or to the missionary, as much ground as they may require for their establishments, usually rent-free, a small present only being requisite as an acknowledgment of sovereign territorial rights: but if any white man were to apply for ground for a plantation, I feel certain it would be refused; the request would excite surprise and suspicion—it would appear to the suspicious minds of the natives as an attempt to acquire territory.

If an attempt were made, and permission given to the white man, to form a plantation on the sea-board, cultivating the same with the compulsory labour of the slave, he would have to encounter such hostile influences as would soon induce him to abandon the undertaking; and before embarking his capital at a distance from the sea-board, among people

to whom the face of the white man is, and will be for some years to come, a novelty, his natural foresight would suggest to him that he would have no security against the escape of his slaves; none against the caprice and extortion of the natives, who, upon any fancied or real wrong done to them, might destroy his plantation in an hour; or that, if even escaping these contingencies and meeting with success, whether, upon his decease, the native Chiefs would not share his property among them.

I have only known of one attempt, and that upon a small scale, made by an European to form a plantation with slave-labour, and that was by a Portuguese slave-trader, who went by the name of José: he was for a time successful in his Slave Trade, but the operation of the Treaty with Spain of 1835 gave an adverse turn to his fortunes. With the wreck of his gains, about 100 doubloons, he betook himself to the Rio Pongas, the locality of many of his successful transactions, where, being a favourite with the Chiefs, he obtained from them the use of several acres of ground for his plantation, and he invested his small capital in the purchase of able-bodied slaves; these he thought he could force to labour, as he knew was the practice in Cuba and Brazils, by the terror of the lash.

This method of extorting an unusual amount of labour from his slaves, was remonstrated against by his neighbours and by the Chiefs. José paid no heed to such remonstrances; the slaves were his property, bought with his money, and he considered he had a right to do as he pleased with them. José learnt, but too late, that what the African slave will submit to when in a far distant country, he will resent in his own. He continued his floggings, till one day his slaves rose upon and massacred him. Under ordinary circumstances, the fearful penalty of a slave killing his master, is to be burnt to death. The Chiefs, however, knowing well the true character of José towards his slaves, had him buried, and shared his slaves among themselves. That the fate of José would be that of the Simon Legrees who might attempt the cultivation of cotton in Africa by the same cruel and compulsory process as that in use in the Southern States of the American Union, there can be little doubt; and I feel convinced it will never be attempted.

After having for more than forty years waged a great moral war against that monstrous injustice the Slave Trade, with a perseverance and a determination of purpose which only the justice and humanity of the object sought to be obtained—together with the desire to atone for the active part formerly taken by ourselves in this cruel Traffic, at a great cost of treasure and life, frequently to the very verge of drawing upon ourselves war from foreign Powers—could justify; a struggle that history, ancient or modern, presents no parallel to, and which future generations only will fully appreciate;—it will be considered incumbent on Her Majesty's Government to give every encouragement to the development of the great agricultural resources possessed by Africa, in order to secure and render permanent the victory gained over the Slave Trade, and so shut out all prospect of its revival. It is also the duty of those societies and associations which have given their moral support to Her Majesty's Government throughout this long and interesting struggle, to aid, by their influence and their capital, the efforts of Her Majesty's Government to this end.

From the year 1784 to 1791, only 64 bales of cotton were brought from the United States of America to England. In the years 1855 and 1856 the town of Abbeokuta alone has exported 249 bales (38,695 lbs.) to England.* The same obstacle which at first impeded the progress of cotton in the United States—the want of machinery to clean and prepare large quantities for export—operates now against its more extensive export from Africa; no one having yet ventured to embark capital in the trade. Twenty years since there had never been known to be exported from the Bight of Benin a puncheon of palm oil; small quantities had been made by the natives from all time for personal use. This year there will be exported from the Bight of Benin, 20,000 tons, equal to 50,000 puncheons of palm oil. Why then should there exist any doubt as to the capability of Africa to produce cotton for export, if the same means to encourage the extension of its cultivation are used—the employment of capital?

I have now submitted to your Lordship my opinion, founded on personal inquiries and experience during a long residence in Africa, on those points on which the editor of the "Times" seeks for information from Dr. Livingston. Although my travels in the interior of Africa have never exceeded 100 miles from the sea-coast, I do not think the editor will reject my information and the results of my experience on that account. At any rate I entertain the hope that they will be favourably received and considered by your Lordship.

P.S.—Since closing my despatch, I have received a price-current from a Manchester firm, who manufacture goods suitable for the African trade. In it forty-four different

* In 1855, 26 bales (5,200 lbs.); in 1856, 223 bales (33,495 lbs.).

articles are enumerated, of which no less than ten are imitations of the native cloths manufactured in the interior of Africa, which command a ready sale on the coast, and fifteen are imitations of the cotton fabrics of India, which country, before the inventions of Arkwright, furnished the finer descriptions of cotton goods for the African trade, at that time consisting principally of human beings for export to America and its tropical countries, a little gold dust, and ivory.

No. 4.

Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received May 14.)

(Extract.)

Lagos, April 4, 1857.

YOUR Lordship's despatch dated August 30, 1856,* with its inclosure, a copy of Major Ord's letter of the 26th of July, 1856, to the Right Honourable Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, submitting the claim the King of Dahomey conceives he has on the favourable consideration of Her Majesty's Government, on account of the reduced state of his income, arising from the efforts made by Her Majesty's Government to suppress the Slave Trade, and the discouragement he (the King of Dahomey) states he has given to the continuation of that Traffic; and copy of the reply your Lordship had directed to be made by Lord Shelburne to the Right Honourable Mr. Labouchere; have had my earnest and anxious attention.

I have not, as yet, opened any communication with the King of Dahomey on the subject of Major Ord's application, for reasons which I trust your Lordship will approve.

Without questioning for a moment the zeal and devotion of the Rev. Mr. Freeman to the cause in which he is engaged, I cannot but express my opinion that he has been misled by the King of Dahomey as to his serious intention of giving up the Slave Trade, and his great wish to be on friendly terms with Her Majesty's Government: events are continually occurring which show a direct antagonism to such intention, or to the serious entertainment of such wish.

It was my duty to report to your Lordship, in the year 1854, that several embarkations of slaves had taken place in the Bight of Benin, some of them from Whydah beach, with the sanction and direct acquiescence of the King of Dahomey, and his Viceroy at Whydah. One of these embarkations, some 600, on board the American brig "*Grey Eagle*," the Rev. Mr. Freeman, and his brother missionary the Rev. Mr. Wharton, had the pain of witnessing, they having arrived in Whydah roads on their way to visit the King of Dahomey, the evening before, in an English schooner, the "*Elizabeth*." Only last year the American schooner "*Chatsworth*" arrived off Appi Vista (Kootenoo of the natives, a port paying a high tribute to the King of Dahomey), fully equipped for Slave Trade, and would have embarked her cargo of slaves during the night, but for Her Majesty's steam-sloop "*Hecate*" coming upon her in such a position as cut off all chance of escape; she was run on shore, when she went to pieces. The King of Dahomey cannot, therefore, with any truth, state that he is suppressing or abandoning the Slave Trade; in reality, it is the Slave Trade which is abandoning him, yielding, with other influences, to the great and, I trust, durable one, of a large and increasing valuable legitimate commerce in palm oil, which is enriching the numerous small Chiefs, and the populations inhabiting the sea-board countries, and making them feel independent of the great Slave Trade despots, the King of Dahomey and Kosoko, and reconciling them to the loss of the Slave Trade.

Nor do the King of Dahomey's annual threats to attack and destroy Abbeokuta, a town in whose welfare he knows Her Majesty's Government takes the liveliest interest, and in which are several Christian missionary establishments, conducted by Englishmen and other Europeans, and many hundreds of Sierra Leone people, who, in former years, were released by the British Government from slavery.

During the last year the King of Dahomey, assisted by Kosoko, made great efforts, backed by large bribes, to induce the Chiefs of the large towns of Yoruba, who are jealous of the rising prosperity of Abbeokuta, to join them in a combined attack on that town, who, with one exception (the Chiefs of Mahometan town of Illorin), gave assurances of aid and at the commencement of the year, Dahomey mustered his forces, and they gradually moved towards the frontier of Yoruba; but the visit of the Right Reverend the Bishop of Sierra Leone, with his rather numerous party, to several of these same towns, where they were received with the greatest courtesy and respect by the different Chiefs, who expressed their desire to have missionaries residing in their towns, tended, there is no doubt, to shake the faith of the King of Dahomey, in the promises of co-operation made by most of these

* Class B, presented 1857, No. 27.

Chiefs; and his army, it is now ascertained, did not venture to cross the frontier of Yoruba country. The injurious effect of these threats on the commerce and agricultural pursuits of the Abbeokutans is very great, as the traders, who are a numerous body of able-bodied men, are not allowed to leave the town; and, to prevent surprise on their farms, most of which are situated ten or twelve miles from the town, the able-bodied men are called in to aid in its defence: and three most valuable months of the year are lost to the traders and agriculturists.

During the earlier years of the Slave Trade, there existed in the Bight of Benin two great inland Slave Trade potentates: the King of Dahomey, whose barbarous customs were chronicled in history by Dalzel, about eighty years since; and the King of Benin, whose territories were visited for Slave Trade by the Portuguese principally, and by the French. It is said that the former Kings of Portugal sent more than one embassy to the Kings of Benin. The power and authority of the former Kings of Benin were very great, through a junior branch of the family being Kings of Warree, situate on the lagoon or creek leading from the River Benin to the Niger; and who possessed fleets of large canoes, capable of carrying from 50 to 100 armed men. By the aid of these large canoes, the Kings of Benin kept all the towns on the lagoons from Badagry on the west, to Bonny on the east, under tribute and subjection. It was by an armed expedition sent by the King to enforce tribute from the natives of the town on the Island of Echalli, opposite to the Island of Lagos, that the town of Lagos, or Ako, as it is called by the natives, was founded. Unable to subdue these towns, or to obtain tribute from them, the King of Benin's army first encamped on the Island of Lagos, and sent to Benin for reinforcements, which were received. Making no progress with the reinforcements, the Chiefs of the army, reluctant to return home, built themselves houses where the present old town now stands, and doubtless did a little war on their own account, catching and kidnapping what natives they could, whom they sold to the slave-ships laying off Badagry and the other ports, and thus eventually made Lagos itself a slave-port. By sending presents to the King of Benin, paying him customs and tribute, he became satisfied with the proceedings of his captains, regarding Lagos as an acquisition of territory, from which he continued to draw a handsome annual tribute, until the restoration of the late King Akitoye, who, on application for the usual tribute, sent the King of Benin's messengers home without anything, telling them that the trade of Lagos was henceforth changed, and that he could not afford to pay any more tribute.

About twenty years since, some small Liverpool trading-vessels entered the Benin river, to open a trade in palm-oil and other productions. The supercargoes of these vessels found their progress greatly impeded by the presence of slave-vessels in the river, for, so long as they remained, the natives paid no attention to the trade in palm-oil. Means were therefore taken to apprise the British cruisers of slave-vessels being in the river, which led to their capture, and the total ruin of their undertakings. Gradually the slavers withdrew from the river; and the Liverpool vessels were able to push the palm-oil trade, and to get their vessels loaded in reasonable time.

Some ten years since the King of Warree died, leaving numerous slaves, whom he had kept solely for purposes of warfare. The Kings of Warree appear generally to have been cruel despots, and that King in particular is remembered for his cruelties. The leading slaves of this King so managed, after his death, that every successor should have but a short reign, no less than three having died in two years. This so alarmed the heirs to the kingship, than none can be now got to assume it; and the leading inhabitants, influenced by their superstitious fears, have left the town, and built themselves towns elsewhere. The soldier-slaves of the late King, taking advantage of this circumstance, have quitted the town, and established themselves, independent, in a creek near to the present English factories, to whom they are most useful agents, as traders.

The King of Benin, losing this strong arm of his power, has ceased to collect tribute, and does not now even receive the comey or anchorage-dues from the vessels entering the river for trade: the several towns in the river have declared themselves independent, put themselves under their own Chiefs, and refuse to pay tribute. Benin, therefore, from being a once formidable and dreaded Power, based on the Slave Trade, has now dwindled into insignificance.

The power and importance of Dahomey having been also based on the Slave Trade, the country possessing few natural resources, and no navigable river running to the sea-side, will, on the total suppression of the Slave Trade, dwindle into insignificance, as has been the case with the Kingdom of Benin.

About 120 years since, the then King of Dahomey, feeling the inconvenience of not having a seaport of his own, made a conquest of Whydah. Those inhabitants who escaped the general massacre which followed the conquest, settled themselves on the sea-coast to

the westward, and founded the towns of Great and Little Popoe, &c., leaving extensive lagoons between themselves and their enemy.

The Chiefs and people of these towns, and also of Whydah, are now becoming enriched by the palm-oil trade; and it requires no great foresight to perceive that the day is not far distant when, tired of the tyranny and exactions of the King of Dahomey, which are now, from the great reduction of his revenue, being acutely felt, that when no longer able to carry on his annual forays against his neighbours, and he has to purchase the unfortunate victims whom it is his annual barbarous custom to sacrifice to the manes of his ancestors (the numbers of which in the last years have been reduced from hundreds to tens), that they will revolt against the King's authority, and maintain their independence. The fate of the Kingdom of Dahomey will then be that of the Kingdom of Benin.

It would certainly be desirable, on the score of humanity, if confidence could be placed in the good faith of the King of Dahomey to observe scrupulously his engagements, that a stipend should be paid him annually for a fixed term, on his executing a Treaty similar to that concluded by the late King Akitoye and other Chiefs; but I have no confidence that such Treaty would be faithfully observed by him.

If the King of Dahomey seriously wished to discourage the export Slave Trade, he has only to issue his manifesto against it, and no one living on his territory would dare to export another slave, so greatly is his despotism dreaded.

The Dahomians are of the tribe called Popos, many hundreds of whom have been liberated and carried to Sierra Leone; and, although several Popos have raised themselves by their industry to respectable positions in that colony, not one has ventured to return home; several have come to Lagos, where they have settled themselves as traders, labourers, and farmers.

No. 5.

Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received May 14.)

My Lord,

Lagos, April 7, 1857.

FOR some time past there has existed a deep feeling of jealousy on the part of the native inhabitants of Lagos towards the Sierra Leone emigrants, created, no doubt, by their superior intelligence and the higher social position attained by them over the natives, who do not hesitate openly to express their aversion to men whom they state were sold from this place only a few years since, and who have now returned so much their superiors, occupying a considerable portion of the best part of the town, and enjoying so large a portion of its trade. Although the self-emancipated Africans from Brazil and Cuba, domiciled in Lagos, are as numerous as the Sierra Leone people, there does not exist the same antipathy on the part of the natives towards them, which appears to me may be accounted for from the difference, if I may use the term, of the education of the same people in two different schools. The Brazilian and Spanish self-emancipated Africans have been trained in a servile state in the school where slavery exists, and have acquired a habit and demeanour of deference and submissiveness towards their equals and superiors; while the Sierra Leone people, having, from their first arrival in a land of freedom, not had to pass through a course of long servitude, as did their less fortunate brethren, but at once became freemen, and, as they raised themselves in the social scale, enjoyed all the attributes and were called upon to perform the duties of citizens of a free community, they therefore bear the outward stamp of freemen, and their bearing and demeanour rather borders on republican equality. It is this which the native inhabitants feel offensively.

The adult Sierra Leone people are, I am confident, careful of giving no just cause of offence to their native neighbours; but there are among the Sierra Leone people several young creoles born in Sierra Leone, whose parents resisted all efforts made to convert them to Christianity, and who, consequently, made little or no progress in civilization, whose conduct, I fear, will one day bring on a collision between the native inhabitants and the Sierra Leone people. I have warned the more respectable class of these people of the danger they incur if they do not restrain these young men in their offensive conduct towards the native population.

An outbreak nearly occurred a short time since between these two classes; and although in this instance the Sierra Leone creole was not in fault, the natives gave evidence of their deep feeling of hatred towards the Sierra Leones—a feeling which, if King Docemo does not participate in, he has shown he is not averse to, or has not the authority of checking.

It will be a great relief to the anxiety this state of things creates when the gun-boat "Drake" is anchored in the river.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. CAMPBELL.

No. 6.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Campbell.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, May 23, 1857.

I HAVE to acquaint you that I have read with great interest your despatch of the 14th of March last, and that I entirely approve of your furnishing me with complete information upon slavery, and upon the growth of cotton in Africa.

No. 7.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Campbell.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 18, 1857.*
I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, an extract of a despatch from Mr. Crawford, Her Majesty's Consul-General at the Havana,* denouncing the names of several vessels destined to be employed in the Cuban Slave Trade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 8.

Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 9.)

My Lord,

Lagos, May 11, 1857.

ABOUT three months since, two vessels of American build and brigantine-rigged, the "Adams Gray" and the "W. D. Miller," of about 170 tons each, fitted out at New Orleans to purchase slaves on the coast of Africa; their equipments were complete, and they were provided with specie, tobacco, and rum, to purchase some 600 slaves each.

The "Adams Gray" first arrived on the coast, anchoring off Appi Vista, at which port Domingo Martins had some English vessels taking in cargoes of palm-oil. The supercargo of the "Adams Gray," a Spaniard, went on shore and communicated to Domingo Martins the object of his voyage, in the presence of some of the English supercargoes. Domingo Martins professed great indignation that the Spaniard should anchor his vessel among the English shipping, and then come on shore and make a proposition to him to supply slaves; and Domingo advised the Spaniard to try some other part of the coast, as the Bight of Benin was now too closely watched. The Spaniard then proceeded to Whydah to try the traders there, but he met with no success; they, the traders preferring to ship their slaves on freight on their own account, and to risk either losing the first cost (freight only being paid on a successful landing), or gaining from 300 to 500 dollars a head.

The Spaniard then steered his course for St. Thomas, intending to proceed south to Congo.

It fortunately happened about the same time that Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Prometheus" left Lagos for St. Thomas and Ascension, and consequently sighted the "Adams Gray," immediately gave chase to her, and, after a four hours' pursuit, boarded her, when it was found that she was without any national papers (the American and Spanish papers had been thrown overboard in chase), was fully equipped for Slave Trade, with leaguers of water, large quantities of rice, and the slave-deck laid. The man, an American, representing the master of the "Adams Gray," admitted that during the chase, a large case containing the boiler had been thrown overboard, as well as several casks of rice, an anchor, chain, &c., in order to lighten the vessel; 20,500 dollars in specie were found on board; but it is expected that all the specie had not been found when the prize was dispatched to Sierra Leone for adjudication.

About the time of the capture of the "*Adams Gray*," the "*W. D. Miller*" arrived off Whydah, and the supercargo, finding that the "*Adams Gray*" could not succeed in purchasing a cargo, appears to have directed his course to Jaboo, a port some ten miles east of Palma, for the "*W. D. Miller*" passed through the shipping at anchor in Lagos Roads. Her appearances being very suspicious, Her Majesty's steam-vessel "*Teazer*" was ordered to weigh and proceed in chase; on the "*W. D. Miller*" perceiving this, her course was altered, she hauled her wind and stood out to sea. After a chase of fifty miles the "*Teazer*" came up with her, and Lieutenant-Commander Grubbe insisting on seeing the national papers authorizing the use of the American flag, they were produced, and showed the vessel to be commanded by a man of the name of Roberts, and owned by a person named Villa Tubia, at Havana. The master of the "*W. D. Miller*" refused permission to Lieutenant Grubbe to look into the hold of the vessel, but did not hesitate admitting that he came for slaves. On being informed that the "*Adams Gray*" had been captured, the master expressed his surprise and observed, they were fools on board to have thrown away their American papers.

The "*W. D. Miller*" proceeded in the direction of Princes Island, and she will, doubtless, seek to obtain a cargo either on the south coast, or at Bissou, or the Rio Pongas, on the north-west coast.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. CAMPBELL.

No. 9.

Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 9.)

My Lord,

Lagos, May 11, 1857.

I HAVE remarked, for some time past, many statements in the public journals, extracted from the American newspapers, relative to the frequent debarkations of slaves on the Island of Cuba; and by the newspapers received here by the last mail I perceive, in a letter to the editor of the "*Times*" (March 13, 1857), under the head "*Slave Trade*," that a public meeting had been held in Kingston, Jamaica, on the 6th of February last, at which the Right Reverend the Bishop was present, for the purpose of denouncing and calling public attention to the frequent debarkation of slaves on the Island of Cuba.

I think it my duty to inform your Lordship that during the last two years the embarkations of slaves from the Bight of Benin have been comparatively very few and very far between.

I have this day reported to your Lordship the arrival of two vessels on this part of the coast under the American flag, fitted out at New Orleans, for the purpose of purchasing and carrying off slaves, the capture of one, and the chasing away of the other. But, independent of the influence of the great and rapidly increasing legitimate trade in palm oil, in which every one of the old slave-dealers is now deeply engaged, there is another cause arising out of the demoralizing and debasing influence of a cruel and dishonest Traffic, which is deterring the slave-merchants (so they must be called) of this part of the coast from shipping and consigning slaves to Cuba—the utter dishonesty of the consignees in Cuba, who, since the year 1854, have rendered the most unsatisfactory returns to the shippers here of their consignments; and I have been assured that a vessel sent out by the usual parties from Havana, fully equipped to receive consignments from the slave-merchants, some six months since, was sent away without slaves; and that none will be shipped on freight and consignment from hence unless the vessel is sent by some firm in the Havana on whom every reliance can be placed for fair dealing.

Two old and notorious slave-traders were at this place on business connected with the palm-oil trade when the capture of the "*Adams Gray*" was made known, and they spoke most contemptuously of doing such a business as the Spanish supercargo of that vessel proposed to Domingo Martins, of purchasing slaves for ready money at some 60 to 70 dollars the head. Such a trade, they say, is beneath their notice: the palm-oil trade is infinitely better. In fact, they find that while pursuing the Slave Trade they are shunned or coldly received by persons holding a respectable position, but that as legitimate traders they come in contact with others holding respectable positions, and are received, at least with courtesy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. CAMPBELL

No. 10.

Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 9.)

My Lord,

Lagos, May 16, 1857.

I HAD the honour to receive, by the last mail, your Lordship's despatch dated March 9, 1857, informing me that your Lordship had perused my report of the trade of the Bight of Benin for the year 1856 with great interest and satisfaction, and desiring me, after careful consideration of the subject, to inform your Lordship whether there are any means which Her Majesty's Government could adopt in order to stimulate or assist the cultivation of cotton in the countries lying to the north and south of the Niger, and that Her Majesty's Government are prepared to use their utmost efforts, and to incur, experimentally, a reasonable expense, in order to turn to account the favourable state of things described in my report, and desiring me to consult those persons upon whose judgment or experience in this matter I can place reliance.

The Rev. Samuel Crowther, the highly-intelligent native clergyman attached to the Church Missionary Society's establishment at this station, through whose instrumentality the Chiefs and others at Abbeokuta have extended their cultivation of the cotton-plant as a commercial export, having returned from a visit to that town, I lost no time in making him acquainted with the wishes and intentions of Her Majesty's Government in regard to promoting the cultivation of the cotton-plant.

Mr. Crowther is of opinion that, in the present stage, it would not be advisable to distribute the seeds of a foreign and more valuable description of cotton to the Chiefs and others at Abbeokuta. The native cotton now grown by them is of that description of which the greatest quantity is used, and is known at Manchester as "good ordinary," and fetches to the cultivators a remunerating price; but Mr. Crowther is of opinion that seed of a higher-priced description of cotton would be advantageously placed in the hands of the native converts to Christianity (many of whom are planters), because they would readily submit to any instruction and directions as to the mode and manner of cultivating the new seed; in fact, that, under the advice and instruction of the missionary agents, these converts would readily cultivate a model plantation, to which, after a time, the attention of the Chiefs and other cultivators might be invited.

I think highly of this suggestion of Mr. Crowther's, and beg respectfully to submit to your Lordship that seed of the higher-priced description of cotton be sent to me, to be placed in the hands of the native Christian converts.

The great drawback hitherto experienced, has been the want of good machines for separating the cotton from the seed; those hitherto used are the description called the "saw-gin," but, as they deteriorate the cotton a halfpenny and more the pound, in consequence of the tearing of the fibre, another description, called the "roller-gin," was sent out, but this machine being unadapted for the cotton cultivated in this part of Africa, not cleaning 5 lbs. of cotton per day, while the saw-gin cleaned upwards of 30 lbs., the natives refused them even as a gift. Another great drawback, also, has been the want of a press, but this will be soon remedied, as two presses have arrived out, and will be soon set up in Abbeokuta; and Signor Scala, the Sardinian Consul, a man of energy and enterprise, who is forming a commercial establishment at Abbeokuta, expects a press from England by the next packet. Unhappily, a large quantity of cotton in the raw state, of the crop of last season, stored in various depôts at Abbeokuta waiting the arrival of more cleaning-gins and the presses, was destroyed by a fire some months since, which burnt down a large portion of the town of Abbeokuta.

As it is a great desideratum with a people who have no other capital than their labour, that they should possess machines for cleaning the cotton, simple, cheap, and inexpensive, I beg to submit to your Lordship that Her Majesty's Consuls in those Southern States of America, and in other countries where cotton is extensively grown, be directed to forward to your Lordship drawings and diagrams of the description of cleaning-machines most used in those countries, with such descriptions as would render them quite intelligible to a Manchester mechanist; and, as an increased cultivation of the cotton-plant in other parts of the Yoruba country is confidently expected, and there are neither railroads nor canals by which to transport cheaply so bulky a material, and only very narrow foot-paths at best, I beg further to submit to your Lordship that Her Majesty's Consuls at Pernambuco and Pará be directed to send plans and descriptions of the rude, but powerful, wooden presses which, I am informed, are used in the interior of those provinces in Brazil to compress the cotton into small bales, which are then carried, on the backs of mules, to the ports on the coast.

I beg again respectfully to suggest to your Lordship that the conductors of the trading

expedition up the Niger should be earnestly requested to direct their attention to cotton as an article of export, and that the expedition should be provided with all the means necessary for purchasing it from the natives, cleaning it, and pressing it in the state fit for shipment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. CAMPBELL.

No. 11.

Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 9.)

My Lord,

Lagos, June 5, 1857.

WHEN King Docemo succeeded his father Akitoye, he imposed (as his father had done) the heavy duty of ten bags of cowries on every family of self-emancipated Africans landing here from the Brazils or from Cuba. After a time I prevailed on him to reduce this heavy tax to one bag of cowries, and several months since I prevailed on him to abandon the tax altogether; and he allowed one immigration from the Brazils of forty heads of families, and another from Cuba of some thirty heads, to land, without exacting anything from them.

A week since a French vessel arrived from Bahia, with 120 self-emancipated Africans (the number was exaggerated to 200); and King Docemo sent to inform me that he intended to levy the tax on these emigrants, because they had brought plenty of money with them. I remonstrated most strongly against his breach of faith with me, and he abandoned his intention.

It appears that there are several hundreds of self-emancipated Africans in Bahia and the other towns of Brazil, very anxious to return to this country, now they are certain of being protected from plunder, and of being landed at Lagos, and not, as heretofore, at other ports, at the caprice of the masters of the vessels bringing them across. The efforts of Her Majesty's Government to have the masters of the brig "General Rego" and the schooner "Emilia," punished for having landed their passengers at Whydah and Aghwey, instead of at Lagos, is known to the self-emancipated Africans throughout the Brazils, and has prompted the present general desire to return to Africa.

I am informed that the heads of the families brought by this French vessel freighted her for 20,000 francs (800*l.*) to bring them here.

I have been solicited by a Spanish emancipado, named Joaquim d'Abreu, who has been here several years, and who is very anxious that his two daughters, whom he left in Havana, should join him, to transmit the inclosed letter to them for him. As he is a well-conducted man, and is very useful to his fellow-countrymen arriving from Cuba in finding them houses and lodgings, and protecting them from the rapacity of the natives, I have taken upon myself to forward his letter to your Lordship, praying it may be sent to Mr. Consul-General Crawford, with directions to assist Abreu's daughters in obtaining a passage to this place. I have warned him that he must not expect any pecuniary assistance from Mr. Crawford, and he informs me that his daughters have ample means to pay for their passage and other expenses.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. CAMPBELL.

No. 12.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Campbell.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 23, 1857.

I HAVE received your despatch dated the 5th of June; and I have to acquaint you that I approve of your having remonstrated with King Docemo against his intention to levy a tax upon the self-emancipated Africans who arrived at Lagos from Bahia, as reported in that despatch.

The letter addressed by the Spanish emancipado Joaquim d'Abreu to his two daughters, at the Havana, will be forwarded to Her Majesty's Consul-General in Cuba by the first opportunity.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 13.

Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 10.)

My Lord,

Lagos, July 1, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copy of a correspondence between the Alake of Abbeokuta and myself, relative to the war against the Aibos, a small tribe whose country is situated about forty miles from Abbeokuta, on the road to Abomey, and who are allies of the King of Dahomey.

I heard nothing of the movements of the Abbeokutans in this matter, until I received the Alake's letter of the 20th May last.

The circumstances under which the Chiefs feel themselves compelled to undertake these hostilities, and the lateness of the period when I became acquainted with their intentions, precluded me from making any urgent remonstrance against the intended attack on the Aibos.

The war Chiefs having at all times many followers of their own who are bound to attend them on hostile expeditions, appear on this occasion to have had considerable difficulty with the free or independent portion of the inhabitants, in getting them to join their standards; but a very few years since these were ever ready to obey the call of the Chiefs to go to war; and after the Chiefs had yielded to English influence, and given up their marauding expeditions, this same class taunted the Chiefs with submitting to that influence now that they had enriched themselves by war. They were, however, compelled to take to honest courses—some to trading, some to cultivating—with dissatisfaction at first, but they are now beginning to feel the benefit and advantage of gaining a livelihood by industrious means; and they appear, by the truly Draconic ordinance proclaimed by the Council of War Chiefs, as related in Mr. Macaulay's letter to Mr. Scala of June 15, 1857, to have shown very great reluctance to join the Chiefs on this occasion. Before the promulgation of the Decree several hundred Abbeokutans removed to Lagos, with their families.

While regretting the interruption this hostile movement of the Abbeokutans will cause to commerce and peaceable pursuits, it is satisfactory to see evidence of the beneficial influence of legitimate trade on the minds and dispositions of those who formerly regarded war as their only suitable avocation.*

By the last information received from Abbeokuta, the Chiefs had all left the town with their separate divisions, to encamp at some distance outside the walls, and to arrange their future movements. There are persons who, knowing how reluctantly the mass of the people have joined in this expedition, predict that it will soon break up, and return.

I have, &c.

(Signed) B. CAMPBELL.

 Inclosure 1 in No. 13.
The Alake of Abbeokuta to Consul Campbell.

May 20, 1857.

THE Alake sends his best respects to the Consul of Lagos.

The Alake has been informed that, five days ago, four messengers from Aibo passed through Aberekodo with presents for the Yorubas, evidently with a view to ask their aid in the intended war that is contemplated against them by the Egbas.

The Alake begs to inform the Consul that the Egbas are quite ready now to punish the Aibos for the wrongs that they had inflicted on the Egba traders, who went to Aibo a few months ago.

The Chiefs and their soldiers hope to leave Abbeokuta at the new moon; they would have gone before this, but the Alake desires first to put the Consul in cognizance of their proceedings before they start.

Trusting that their proceedings would meet the Consul's views, the Alake hopes still to remain Her Britannic Majesty's Consul's true friend.

* See Class B, presented 1856, p. 17 (Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon, October 2, 1855).

Inclosure 2 in No. 13.

Consul Campbell to the Alake of Abbeokuta.

Lagos, May 26, 1857.

THE English Consul presents his best respects to the Alake.

The Consul has received the Alake's letter of the 20th instant, informing the Consul of the intention of the Egbas to carry war against the Aibos.

The Consul is aware of the treacherous conduct of the Aibo people in seizing unoffending Egbas who went to market to trade, and sending them to the King of Dahomey; also of their many hostile acts, and the insulting messages the Aibo people have sent to the Chiefs and people of Abbeokuta. In these proceedings the Aibos have allowed themselves to be influenced by the King of Dahomey. Doubtless, the Aibos deserve the severest chastisement at the hands of the Egbas, who have for a long time past ceased to make war upon their neighbours, and are now peaceably and usefully employed in trading and cultivating the ground.

The Consul would, nevertheless, had he been earlier apprised of the preparations of the Egbas, have most earnestly counselled them not to go to war with the Aibos, but to wait until they assisted the King of Dahomey in his attack on Abbeokuta, which attack the Consul is informed the King of Dahomey still contemplates.

The Consul fears that before his letter reaches Abbeokuta the preparations for war will have proceeded too far for the influence of the Alake to stay the departure of the expedition; should this not be the case, the Consul hopes the Alake will remind the war Chiefs of the dangers and uncertainty attending all warfare, particularly aggressive warfare, that is, proceeding to attack another town, the people of which are sure to be prepared for the attack; and induce the war Chiefs to abandon their intended expedition, and to reserve all their strength for the defence of their town.

The Consul wishes the Alake health, happiness, and long life.

Inclosure 3 in No. 13.

Ogubonna, Chief of Abbeokuta, to Consul Campbell.

My dear Sir,

Abbeokuta, May 24, 1857.

HOPEN you are quite well, as it leaves me at present, I am very sorry to inform you that we are going to fight against Argo—that are a great enemy to us here, and not only that, they went to call the Dahomians to come against us always; we want to destroy totally, by the help of God, from here to Eketo. And so I humbly beg you not grieve against for that.

Hopen this may meet you quite well, I am, &c.

(Signed)

OGUBONNA, *Chief.*

P.S.—Again I am very sorry to say that this nation took many Egba, more than 2,000.

Inclosure 4 in No. 13.

Consul Campbell to Ogubonna, Chief of Abbeokuta.

My good friend Ogubonna,

Lagos, June 1, 1857.

I HAVE received your letter by your messenger, informing me that the Egbas are preparing to go to war with the Aibos. The Consul knows that the Aibos have committed a great and cruel wrong to the people of Abbeokuta, seizing unoffending people going to Ketu market, killing some and sending others to the King of Dahomey; but as war is always uncertain, and sure to derange the great progress now making in Abbeokuta, the Consul would be glad to hear that the Egbas had abandoned their intention.

The Consul strongly recommends the Chiefs to learn what the Ibaddan people are preparing war for, because the Consul hears that they have received bribes and presents from Kosoko, and that they are likely, when they know all the fighting men have left Abbeokuta, to pay the town a visit. Kosoko and the King of Dahomey are also, the

Consul is informed, trying to create a civil war in Abbeokuta, knowing that it is useless for them to attack the town openly.

The Consul has reported to the Queen's Government that Ogubonna and other Chiefs of Abbeokuta are largely engaged in cultivating cotton to send to England; this has given great pleasure to the Queen's Government, and the Consul will, as soon as the rains break up, visit Abbeokuta to see what can be done to assist the cotton-growers, who may depend on being supplied with saw-gins at the first cost in England, because the Government do not look for profit, but wish to encourage the Chiefs and people of Abbeokuta.

Inclosure 5 in No. 13.

The Alake of Abbeokuta to Consul Campbell.

My dear Sir,

Ake, Abbeokuta, June 4, 1857.

I HAVE, not long ago, acquainted you of the Aibos' treatments toward the Egbas, how they have killed them for sacrifice, and nail their heads to the walls of their town, &c. I am now writing to inform you that we have made nearly all preparations to go against them to battle, and beg that you will not interfere, or have anything to do in the matter, but allow them to go on and do justice to the Aibos. I must also acquaint you that we are about shutting up all the roads in every quarter, even the roads to Lagos, in order to prevent our soldiers from stealing themselves away to trade, and wish that Mr. Scala should send up no more merchandise just now, save guns and powder, till they return from the war.

As it was your wish that Mr. Crowther, jun., should always write my letters to you, I should like to know who should undertake the duty during his absence.

The Chiefs and people wish to be remembered to you. With hopes you are well, I remain, &c.

(Signed) THE ALAKE OF ABBEOKUTA.

Inclosure 6 in No. 13.

Consul Campbell to the Alake of Abbeokuta.

Lagos, June 10, 1857.

THE English Consul sends his best respects to the Alake.

The Consul has received the Alake's last letter, dated 4th of the present month, informing the Consul that the Egbas have nearly completed their arrangements to proceed to attack the Aibos, who have for a long time past inflicted such horrible cruelties upon the unoffending Egba traders. The Consul regrets the necessity for this war, as it will interrupt for a time the peaceful pursuits of trade and agriculture; however, it is a war of self-defence, not of aggression against their peaceful neighbours, and the Consul can only hope it may please God's good providence to crown the arms of the Egbas with success, and that the people will soon return to follow their more profitable and peaceful occupations. The Consul recommends the Alake to watch well the movements of the Eyo Ago people, and the Ibaddans and Ijaves.

The Consul wishes the Alake health and every happiness.

The Consul has to entreat the Alake that in stopping the river for the traders generally, he will allow Mr. Scala's oil and other things to pass down, and above all the Consul begs that cotton coming from Mr. Robins or Mr. Scala may come down.

Inclosure 7 in No. 13.

Mr. Macaulay to Mr. Scala.

Sir,

Abbeokuta, June 15, 1857.

MY main object here is to convey to you the results of the War Council, held here last Saturday by the King and all the Chiefs.

It was unanimously agreed to by them:—

CLASS B.

1st. That in order to procure a large army for the Aibo war soon to be undertaken, trade must be stopped now and during the war, nothing must be sold and nothing bought.

2nd. In order to this, the passages by land, and the river to Ijai, Ibaddan, Ikorodu, Ilorin, Lagos, and other adjacent towns that trade with Abbeokuta, must be stopped.

3rd. That no canoe or canoes be allowed to appear on the river, excepting the missionaries, who are no traders.

4th. That instant death on the spot be the penalty inflicted upon violation of any of these rules.

Such are the present circumstances by which we are surrounded, in consequence of which we are obliged to cease issuing out our articles of trade, or receiving produce, and the people themselves are obliged to stop every intercourse with us on trade. On this account we have not been able to buy you the country cloths, I mean in addition to what we have already sent, and what are lost in the canoe, as I wrote a few days ago. I hope you have received those letters.

Whatever permission can be obtained for the shipping or buying produce from the King and Chiefs, you will hear.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. B. MACAULAY.

No. 14.

Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 10.)

My Lord,

Lagos, July 2, 1857.

I HAVE in a former despatch brought to your Lordship's notice the fact of many of the Sierra Leone people, resident in Lagos, purchasing slaves under one pretence and another.

I have now the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copies of letters I have received on the subject of slaves running away, or being kidnapped from the Sierra Leone people, and copies of my replies thereto.

It would appear from the letters of Mr. Davis and Mr. Williams that they have purchased slaves, not with the object of making them useful, and obtaining by their labour a return for the outlay or cost of the slave, but to increase the number of their domestic households; but they do not hesitate, I fear, when a slave does not please them, or he shows a disposition to return to his country, to get back their outlay either by re-sale or exchange.

It appears to be a feeling of pride and self-importance which induces the African to become the possessor and lord of his fellow-creatures. Excepting the Sierra Leone people who are employed by the Missionary Societies, and those under their immediate influence, and some who have establishments at Sierra Leone, and have not abandoned their intention of returning thither, and some of the younger creoles who are striving to keep themselves in a respectable position, all the Sierra Leone emigrants are holders of slaves: some of those who left the Colony ten and twelve years since are considerable holders of slaves on their farms at Abbeokuta.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. CAMPBELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 14.

Mr. Davis to Consul Campbell.

Dear Sir,

Lagos, May 18, 1857.

YOUR humble servant begs to present these lines before your attention, which he humbly begs you would deign to peruse.

Allow your unworthy servant to tell you that the principal motive of the majority of the people in this country in buying their own countrymen as slaves, is not that they might use them as such, but it is that they might increase people as relations; for many have lost their nearest relations—as parents, children, brothers, sisters—by war. This can be seen even here at Lagos, that two cannot be found out of twenty who are not slaves among the inhabitants. It may be also observed that the privileges of a freeman and a slave are nearly equal here. Many who are slaves here, after staying with their masters for some years, are allowed to go anywhere they please; either to go and visit their relations in any part, or trade about.

Your servant will give you an instance that the privileges of a slave and that of a

freeman are nearly equal among the people here. The King Docemo's elder sister is married to one of Akitoye's slaves, called Braima. Hundreds of cases of this kind can be produced. Nearly all slaves here are working for themselves, and give only occasional helps to their masters.

Your servant is the John Davis whom his slave accused of selling him. The same man was with your servant for about two years, during which time he slept where he pleased in the town, and went about where he liked; but whenever his service was needed, he was sought for, and after finishing what was required, he would then walk away. A few months ago his companion ran away; he seeing this, he also was preparing to go away. Your servant then thought he would check his idleness by giving him a piece of land, and told him to cultivate it for himself; this he refused to do. Finding he would run away, and not wishing to sell him, your servant was therefore obliged to deliver him to the very man from whom he bought him, and told the man to return his money; but your servant was not privy to it that the man should be sold to Abbeokuta. Your servant had not received any thing or money from the former owner to whom the man was delivered.

In short, your servant did not mean to trade in slaves, but redeemed the man to join his family as a relation. Your servant humbly begs that you would consider his case, and see if anything can be done for your servant; otherwise your servant will lose the money with which he redeemed the man. The Committee set the man free, and is now bragging about the town in triumph. The man came down from Abbeokuta that some of his friends might redeem him, for he has friends here, as he said in the Court.

Can anything be done for your servant? Have pity on your servant, and help him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DAVIS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 14.

The Alake of Abbeokuta to Consul Campbell.

(Extract.)

SOME runaway slaves from Lagos have been brought to the Alake; the slaves were said to belong to some of the Sierra Leone emigrants. The Alake having been informed that the masters of these slaves were Sierra Leone emigrants, he immediately took them under his care, waiting to hear from Lagos. Should the owners, therefore, of the slaves (five in number) require them, they are only to pay a reward to those who found them.

The Alake trusts that the Consul would be kind enough to search out the owners of these slaves.

Inclosure 3 in No. 14.

Consul Campbell to the Alake of Abbeokuta.

(Extract.)

Lagos, June 1, 1857.

THE English Consul sends his best respects to the Alake.

When the Consul wrote to the Alake a few days since, he forgot to notice that part of the Alake's letter relative to the Sierra Leone people's runaway slaves, that had been detained at Abbeokuta.

The Consul begs to inform the Alake that he does not and will not interfere in such matters. The Consul, as in duty bound, has reported to Her Majesty's Government the fact of many of the Sierra Leone people buying slaves, and even selling them, when they do not please them, or when they suspect the slaves want to run away; and Her Majesty's Government have heard of this fact with great pain and disgust: and the Consul is instructed, whenever it comes to his knowledge that the slaves bought by the Sierra Leone people are afterwards sold to the slave-dealers on the coast, to call upon King Docemo to expel from Lagos the Sierra Leone man selling such slaves. Therefore, if any of the Sierra Leone people go to Abbeokuta about their runaway slaves, and use the Consul's name, they must not be believed.

Inclosure 4 in No. 14.

Mr. Williams to Consul Campbell.

Sir,

Lagos, June 18, 1857.

I BEG to inquire from your Majesty's Consulate what step to take for my five servants which the man has stolen away from my house on the 21st December last. I have redeemed them for myself; even the two sons that I redeemed with the woman Ibitola were so small that I was obliged to send them to school. The other man, for whom I paid 62 heads, was only sent to farm. The girl, for 60 heads, was doing nothing else but servant in the house. The aged woman Ibitola was doing nothing at all for me; I gave her cowries that she may trade for herself. I offered them to no one before the man Ajambadi took them away in such a manner. I know that I cannot get the money from them, but they must be kept in my house to do whatever business I have in hand to do. The cause of our redeeming these people is, because labourers can hardly be got here, and I have no reason to doubt your Majesty knows well of it. Can I suffer the loss of 212 heads for these five persons, without their serving me for three years? The King says, unless he hear from your Majesty's Consul, he cannot tell what to do, because he wishes to send and catch Tappa's people at the market, if he does not send the people back, as the people are not his. When theirs come here, they use to send to your Majesty for them, and the sooner they are found they take them away. Kosoko says they are his father's slaves, while they are not. The King is waiting for what you will say to it, whether they must be Tappa's for ever or not; whatever your Majesty says that will he do. I told Tappa that whatever I hear from the King and the Consul will I do. So I beg your Honour to take it into consideration, because without your assistance the King will do nothing. I am ready to give 5 heads as a reward to Tappa for his trouble. My intention was to give them free at the end of seven years, and when the small girls and boys grows up, to be set free as well as the others.

I remain, &c.

(Signed) S. B. WILLIAMS.

Inclosure 5 in No. 14.

Consul Campbell to Mr. Williams.

Sir,

Lagos, June 19, 1857.

I HAVE received your letter of yesterday's date, with the paper accompanying it, relative to the loss of your slaves by kidnapping, and soliciting me to assist you in recovering them.

I have to inform you that I cannot render you, or any other Sierra Leone emigrant, assistance in such a case. If you think proper to invest your money in slaves, you must run the risk attending on that description of property. I am aware, and have informed Her Majesty's Government of the fact, that there is a great scarcity at this place, at present, of free, marketable labour; but Her Majesty's Government cannot but feel pain, disappointment, and disgust, at the conduct of those Sierra Leone people who, having been themselves rescued from slavery through the philanthropic efforts of the British Government, return to this country to make themselves masters of slaves, with the property they have acquired in Sierra Leone; and Her Majesty's Government, regarding such eager desire to possess slaves on the part of several Sierra Leone people as only a step to renew the Slave Trade, if opportunity offers for so doing, have instructed me whenever it comes to my knowledge that a slave possessed by a Sierra Leone man is sold to a slave-dealer, to call upon King Docemo for the immediate expulsion of such Sierra Leone man from Lagos.

As you are one of the Sierra Leone Committee, and to-morrow is their day of meeting, I wish you to lay this letter before the Committee.

I am, &c.

(Signed) B. CAMPBELL.

No. 15.

Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 10.)

My Lord,

Lagos, July 6, 1857.

IT appears from my correspondence with the Commanders of Her Majesty's cruisers, that all the slave-vessels that now arrive, at least those to which the strongest suspicion attaches of their being such, are now covered with the flag of the United States; and that also, no cruisers of the United States' Navy are now met with on any part of the coast.

The absence of any cruisers of the United States is greatly to be deplored; because, the masters of these slave-vessels, knowing that the Commanders of Her Majesty's cruisers will not molest them so long as they have their American flag flying, and their papers to show, keep these on board until the slaves are shipped, and they have fairly started with their human cargoes. The efforts of the Commanders of Her Majesty's vessels are therefore completely baffled, as the slave-vessels take good care not to ship their cargoes until they are sure the coast is clear, and that they have a good chance of escape.

I have, &c.

(Signed) B. CAMPBELL.

No. 16.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Campbell.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 20, 1857.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 1st ultimo, inclosing copies of a correspondence which has passed between you and the Chiefs of Abbeokuta, relative to a war which the Abbeokutans are about to commence against the Aibos—a tribe, allies of the King of Dahomey, whose territory is situated about forty miles from Abbeokuta; and, in reply, I have to acquaint you that I approve your letters to the Chiefs of Abbeokuta upon this subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 17.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Campbell.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 21, 1857.

WITH reference to your despatch dated the 2nd ultimo, I have to acquaint you that I entirely approve the answers which you returned to the applications addressed to you by the Alake of Abbeokuta, and by two Sierra Leone emigrants named Davis and Williams, relative to some slaves belonging to Messrs. Davis and Williams who had run away from them and taken refuge at Abbeokuta.

And I have to desire that you will make known to the Sierra Leone emigrants that Her Majesty's Government have learnt with the utmost dissatisfaction the practice which prevails amongst them, no matter under what pretexts, of holding their fellow-men in slavery, when they themselves are indebted for their freedom to the philanthropic efforts of the British Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 18.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Campbell.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, August 31, 1857.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, copies of despatches which I have received from Mr. Consul Hutchinson and from the Governor of Sierra Leone,* relative to

* Nos. 51 and 69.

the proceedings of M. Chevalier, the Commander of the French transport "Phoenix," in procuring Africans from Sierra Leone and from other parts of the African coast, to be transported as free labourers to the French West India Colonies.

No. 19.

Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 11.)

(Extract.)

Lagos, July 27, 1857.

I HAD the honour to receive, by last packet, your Lordship's despatch dated the 18th of June last, transmitting, for my information, an extract of a despatch from Mr. Crawford, Her Majesty's Consul-General at the Havana, denouncing several vessels destined to be employed in the Cuban Slave Trade.

I lost no time in furnishing Commander Burgess, of Her Majesty's ship "Hecate," the senior of the Bights division, with a copy of the extract of Mr. Crawford's despatch.

Commander Burgess has also kindly favoured me with extracts from the boarding-books of Her Majesty's ships "Prometheus," "Myrmidon," and "Teazer," which I beg to transmit for your Lordship's information, by which your Lordship will perceive that one of the vessels mentioned in Mr. Crawford's list, the schooner "*Abbot Devereux*," is now hovering off Whydah and the neighbouring slave-ports, watching her opportunity to embark a cargo.

The two vessels under American colours, the "*Adams Gray*" (captured), and the "*W. D. Miller*," mentioned in my despatch dated the 11th of May last, appear to have been the forerunners of others that have since made their appearance, as your Lordship will perceive by the inclosed extract of a letter from Commander Day of Her Majesty's ship "Firefly." The "*Jupiter*," therein mentioned (a vessel under American colours), I have the satisfaction to inform your Lordship, has been captured by Her Majesty's ship "Antelope," being sighted by her at break of day off Praia Nova (where the Bristol brig "Columbine" was wrecked and plundered). The slaves had been shipped during the night, and the American master had gone on shore with his papers and flag: unfortunately the canoes and canoemen which had been employed in the embarkation were, on the "Antelope's" appearing in sight, immediately set to work to land the slaves, and by the time the "Antelope" came up, only 90 of them were left on board. The "*Jupiter*" has, I conclude, been dispatched to Sierra Leone for adjudication.

A successful embarkation of slaves, close to Whydah beach, has been reported to me, and I believe it took place on board the American brigantine "*W. D. Miller*," which vessel, after being chased and boarded by Her Majesty's ship "Teazer," anchored off the French factory at Palma, at which place the captain or supercargo landed, and remained three days, seeking an interview with Kosoko; but as the "Teazer" did not lose sight of him, the master took his vessel to St. Thomas, at which place she was heard of by the Commander of the "Antelope," a month afterwards. The "*W. D. Miller*" was evidently only waiting the time fixed for the embarkation of her cargo.

A man of the name of Samuel Da Costa Soario, a countryman, and, I believe, a relative of Mr. J. A. Machado, of New York, and, like him, a naturalised citizen of the State of New York, appears to act as general agent for the Slave Trade at Whydah and the adjacent shipping ports. I am informed he is the only one of the numerous old slave-dealers, residing in the King of Dahomey's territories, who has not embarked in the palm-oil trade.

The barque "*Isla de Cuba*," under American colours, mentioned by Commander Day, is expected to carry off 1,000 slaves. Commander Burgess, in Her Majesty's ship "Hecate," is, with three other vessels, "Firefly," "Antelope," and "Teazer," cruising off the suspected ports, and every vigilance is being exercised to frustrate her intention or to secure her capture.

Inclosure 1 in No. 19.

EXTRACT from Boarding-book of Her Majesty's ship "Prometheus."

When boarded.	Where.	Name of		How rigged.	Under what Colours.	Where			To whom consigned.	No. of days out.	No. of			Nature of Cargo.	Intelligence.	
		Vessel.	Master.			Owner.	From.	Bound.			Belonging.	Men.	Guns.			Tons.
1857 July 17	Annobon	Charles	Vent	Vent	Ship	American	New Orleans	Ambriz	Baltimore	..	110	17	..	381	Rice, mats, farinha, bread, salt provisions, and 136 leaguers of water	None.

(Signed) C. KNOWLES, Senior Lieutenant.

Boarding Officer's statement.—Has a foreign supercargo (Spaniard); a built main-deck; crew, 10 Americans, 7 foreigners. The crew sleep in a deck-house. Not particularly rakish in appearance.

Inclosure 2 in No. 19.

EXTRACT from the Boarding-book of Her Majesty's ship "Myrridon."

When boarded.	Latitude and Longitude.	Name of the			How rigged.	Under what Colours.	Where			To whom consigned.	No. of days out.	No. of			Nature of Cargo.	Intelligence.
		Vessel.	Master.	Owner.			From.	Bound.	Belonging.			Men.	Guns.	Tons.		
857 July 14	2° 16' S, 7° 46' E.	Onward	Seymour	La Fite	Schooner	American	Corisco	Congo	Boston	Rickaby	13	5	..	199	Ballast	None.

This vessel was in every respect equipped for taking a cargo of slaves, and five casks which I picked out from the rest had fresh water in, although the captain of her assured me they were salt.

(Signed) E. W. SHAW, Lieutenant Commanding.

Inclosure 3 in No. 19.

EXTRACT from the Boarding-book of Her Majesty's ship "Teazer."

Date.	Where.	Name of the			How rigged.	Under what Colours.	Where			To whom consigned.	No. of days out.	No. of			Nature of Cargo.	Remarks.
		Vessel.	Master.	Owner.			From.	Bound.	Belonging.			Men.	Guns.	Tons.		
1857 July 20	Aghwey	Abbot Devereux.	Myers	Captain	Topsail schooner.	American.	Havana	Coasting	Havana	Waldenot	70	8	113	General, rum and tobacco.		

(Signed) W. J. WHYTE, Lieutenant Commanding.

Inclosure 4 in No. 19.

Commander Day to Commander Burgess.

(Extract.)

"Firefly," off Whydah, July 20, 1857.

I HAVE good information about an American barque, called the "*Isla de Cuba*," and a schooner called the "*Abbot Devereux*," both belonging to the same Company as "*Jupiter*," and are here for the express purpose of taking slaves in: the Company had five vessels—the two that have been captured,* these two I have mentioned, and another whose name I don't know; I don't think she has arrived. I have been watching this schooner closely, as also Praia Nova, and have kept constantly moving; the schooner has at last stood out to sea towards south-west. What has become of the "*Isla de Cuba*" I don't know; I have been up as far as Fish Hut, and could see nothing of her; it was off there I met "*Teazer*," so I told him he had better look along as far as Quitta, and see if he could see anything of her—as my information was that she might ship a cargo near there, or Elmina (Chica)—whilst I watched the schooner; this latter has all her equipments in, but the American master is still in charge, and has all his papers, so nothing can be done yet; but he ought to be well watched, and Praia Nova also. All trade has been stopped here by King Dahomey, until the merchants at all his places repay him the 20,000 dollars that "*Prometheus*" took in his prize ("*Adams Gray*"), and he is in a dreadful state about the "*Jupiter*;" they are not allowed to bring us off stock.

No. 20.

Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 11.)

(Extract.)

Lagos, August 1, 1857.

IN Inclosure No. 1 in my despatch dated the 27th of last July, forwarded by the present packet, your Lordship will find particulars of an American barque, the "*Charles*," of Baltimore, boarded by Her Majesty's steam-ship "*Prometheus*." This vessel, it appears, was fitted out at New Orleans: the master made no disguise as to the object of his voyage; and he appears to have had no reluctance in showing his slave-deck, regularly fastened down, his twelve dozen of mess-kids and other fittings; and he admitted having on board 176 leaguers full of fresh water, and that he expected to carry off (from Ambriz, he stated) at least 1,000 slaves.

The United States, although a great slave-holding country, was one of the first maritime Powers to declare Slave Trade piracy. What is, to-day, the value of that declaration, it may be justly asked, when it is openly permitted in her ports to fit out such vessels as the "*Charles*," the "*Isla de Cuba*," and several others now on various parts of the coast; and for her flag to cover the infamous Traffic such vessels are notoriously known to the authorities and the commercial community of the ports whence they embark their equipments, to be destined for?

Your Lordship will, I trust, regard the free and earnest expression of my opinions on the present state of increasing Slave Trade as emanating from a sense of duty; and in recommending that the native Chiefs on various parts of the coast who permit Slave Trade to be carried on should be compelled to a due observance of their Treaties, it should be remembered that I am now on the very spot, formerly one of the largest Slave Trade ports on the West Coast of Africa, which, by an energetic effort of Her Majesty's Government, has been already converted into one of the most important ports for legitimate trade on the West Coast of Africa. Five years since not 500 tons of palm-oil were exported from Lagos; during the last year upwards of 6,000 tons were exported from Lagos and its dependent port, Palma, exceeding in value a quarter of a million sterling. This year gives promise of an increase of 50 per cent. on the above quantity and value at the two ports, and of at least 25 per cent. on the quantities and value of the exports from the other ports of the Bight of Benin.

Under such encouraging circumstances, it is to be hoped Her Majesty's Government will exercise her Treaty rights, and interfere between the Slave Trade Chiefs and their supporters, and the great masses of the natives of Africa who are their victims; and who, if not preyed upon to feed the Slave Trade, would be employed either in developing and making profitable the great natural productions of the country, such as converting the fruit of the myriads of palm-trees into a useful and valuable article of commerce, or in extending the cultivation of that most necessary valuable staple—cotton.

* "*Adams Gray*" and "*Jupiter*."

No. 21.

Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 11.)

My Lord,

Lagos, August 3, 1857.

IN the "Times" newspaper of the 12th of June last is a report of an interview had by a deputation of the West India interest with Lord Palmerston, when, after previous suggestions for the interception of slave-vessels making for the Island of Cuba, the employment of a more efficient class of vessels to cruize off the coast of that island, the removal of the Mixed Commission Court from Havana to Jamaica, &c.; a string of suggestions, eight in number, were submitted to the consideration of his Lordship "for abolishing slavery by African Emigration Treaties."

I beg, with every deference, my Lord, to submit, inclosed, a few remarks on those several suggestions.

The West India interest are in great error in assuming that there is a superabundant population in Africa having little or no means of employment, and, therefore, available for emigration to the West Indies; and in still greater error in supposing that the majority of that population are free to exercise their own will and pleasure, as to their employment or destination.

For three centuries Africa has been undergoing a forcible depopulation to supply agricultural labour to the western hemisphere. To obtain, during this long period, the millions of Africans required by, and supplied to, the West Indies, and to America, North and South, millions more have been sacrificed; and that portion of Africa which, during the last century in particular, underwent this enormous and forcible drain of its population is now very thinly peopled indeed. In all those countries comprised as Senegambia, that is, from the latitude of the Senegal and bordering on the Great Desert, and extending as far east as the meridian of Sego in Bambara, to the latitude of Cape Mount, the populations are very thin, and towns containing populations exceeding 1,000 are rare.

The countries of the Fantees, Ashantee, and Dahomey, and the several countries interior of these, including the Houssa country (which must have been originally a very populous country, for people of that nation are to be met with wherever slavery now exists, or formerly did exist), must have undergone a severe drain of their populations during the eighteenth century. The countries of Yoruba, of Nuffee, Bornou, and the numerous petty States situate between the River Chadda and the Niger, together with Iboo, and other countries bordering on the Lower Niger, have been drained of their populations during the present century to meet the wants of the Slave Trade; the aggressive wars of the fanatical Felatahs having been the means of furnishing the slave-marts on the coast, situated between Cape St. Paul's and the River Cameroons, for the later supply of the Brazils and the Spanish West India possessions.

There is, therefore, no free population in Africa that can, or will, emigrate to the West Indies. The French Government have made an effort this year to obtain emigrants for their Antilles, and a transport, the "Phoenix," intended to receive 500 emigrants, did obtain from Senegal, Goree, the Gambia, Sierra Leone, Monrovia, and the Kroo coast, 312 emigrants; the greater number from Sierra Leone, from among a class of the population the Police Magistrate and the Judicial authorities were happy to get rid of. The "Phoenix" touched at this place and at Fernando Po; there, the anchorage being in smooth water close to the shore, and there being no dread of sharks, the cream of the emigrants on board, those from the Kroo coast, at night quietly let themselves down into the water, swam to the shore, and concealed themselves in the bush till the departure of the "Phoenix," which, in order to prevent the example of the Kroomen being followed by others, sailed the next day for the West Indies.

I have, &c.

(Signed) B. CAMPBELL.

Inclosure in No. 21.

Remarks on Suggestions made "to abolish Slavery by African Emigration Treaties," submitted to Lord Palmerston by a deputation of Gentlemen connected with the West India interest on the 10th of June, 1857, as reported in the "Times" Newspaper of the 12th of June, 1857.

Suggestions.

1. "Suppression of slavery itself, not the trade alone, through Emigration Treaties, by substituting the free black African for the slave.

2. "Emigration must be universal; if restricted to British colonies, Britain might be charged with interested motives. If France be not joined, she will soon import the free black by herself. To Spain and Portugal it must be shown to be their interest to join.

3. "Emigration must be accompanied or followed by emancipation. Free blacks must [not?] be imported into a slave country, lest they become slaves.

4. "Emigration may be regulated by a Mixed Commission in Africa, the objects thereof to be voluntary contracts, free passage and outfit, suitable vessels, return passages, or grants of land.

5. "Emigration in lieu of slavery is for the interest of Cuba. Compare cost of slave, 700 dollars (140*l.*), with that of free black emigrant 7*l.* 10*s.* a-head (adults). Slavery

Remarks.

The suppression of slavery in Africa can only be accomplished through the same influences and by the same gradual process which has extinguished slavery under every form in civilised Europe—the introduction of Christianity, the encouragement of commerce generally, and particularly of every commerce based on the cultivation of the soil. In tropical Africa, nine-tenths of the population are slaves to the other tenth. From which of the two classes is free emigration to the West Indies to be drawn? Not from the smaller class, certainly; and, if from the larger, it will be a forced emigration of persons whose value to their owners must first be paid for; therefore, the suggestion, if carried out, will be nothing more than a Slave Trade. But why is tropical Africa bound to find, for ever, labour for the West Indies, to cultivate there the very productions which her own soil is equally able to produce? Why did the original conquerors of the West Indies extirpate the aborigines? What has become of the millions of unfortunate Africans torn from their country and transported to the West Indies to toil under the lash of their owners—have they not died off, leaving a fraction as their descendants? To what cause is to be attributed the fecundity of the Africans in the Slave States of America for many years past, and the great decrease of the population in the West Indies prior to emancipation? Let the West India interest explain before they again drain Africa of its population.

2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Nothing would suit the views of the slave-traders better than making emigration from Africa universal; the only large number of emigrants to be obtained being notoriously already slaves to native Africans, their masters. To convince Spain and Portugal that it is to their interest to emancipate their slaves, and import for the future free emigrants, is as hopeless as it would be to convince those Powers that it is to their interest to cede to another Power their tropical possessions. These five suggestions will appear to those acquainted with Africa, and who have made the suppression of the Slave Trade and the extirpation of negro slavery for many years their study, and to those who have been labouring for years to christianise, civilise, and improve the moral condition of the African in his own country, utterly impracticable and

*Suggestions.**Remarks.*

furnishes but a temporary supply of labour, by individuals worked to death in ten years, while emigration gives a permanent supply by colonization in families.

6. "How emancipation is to be effected in Cuba. An immediate Spanish law for emancipation, in limited periods, for purchase of slaves through loans, guaranteed as to interest by Britain, if necessary; the interest to be met by a poll-tax and annual tax on emigrants, and tax on exports. Emigration to be the bonus for emancipation.

7. "Colonization of the West Indies with free blacks will civilize Africa, by constant communication through an emigration highway between the African tribes and civilized nations. The Emigration and Missionary Boards will aid each other. Numerous emigration stations, with Mixed Commissions and open Treaties, will instil confidence everywhere.

8. "Emigration will tend to put down intestine African wars. The normal state of Africa is war, followed by captivity. Commerce and civilization must root out war. Each new emigration depôt will be a bond for peace. The emigrants will be selected from freemen, not captives."

visionary. None of the Missionary Societies labouring in Africa will for a moment entertain such suggestions, much less assist in carrying them out.

7. Colonization from the West Indies with free blacks to civilise Africa will be a very doubtful experiment. The emigration highway has been tried between Sierra Leone and the West Indies, and proved a failure. What have the numerous free blacks from America, located at Liberia, and who have now formed themselves into a Republic, done towards civilising the native tribes around them? I believe, nothing; they have carried on constant wars against the small and disunited tribes inhabiting the sea-board, and they have succeeded, with the aid of English, French, and American men-of-war, in subduing those tribes and dispossessing them of their territories (about 400 miles of sea-board), so as to monopolise the trade by levying heavy and vexatious exactions on foreign shipping, which are now driven to trade elsewhere. The Liberians have made no progress in the interior; not one tribe has been benefited by contact with them, nor has our very slight knowledge of the different tribes situated in the countries interior to Liberia been increased.

8. Such emigration as can be obtained from Africa can only, like the Slave Trade, tend to keep up intestine warfare in Africa. It is three centuries of European Slave Trade which has made war the normal state of Africa. Commerce and civilization carried into the interior parts of Africa, not emigration, will root out war. The commerce of emigration, by depopulating the countries of Africa, will hinder all civilization, and impede legitimate commerce. Each new emigration depôt would, in a very short time, be a slave factory in disguise, and lead to incessant wars and kidnapping. Not one emigrant in a thousand will be a *bonâ fide* free African.

No. 22.

Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 11.)

(Extract.)

Lagos, August 5, 1857.

I HAVE the satisfaction to report to your Lordship that the "*Abbot Devereux*," a schooner of 113 tons, one of the vessels on Mr. Consul-General's Crawford's list, was

captured on or about the 1st instant, after a long chase of more than sixty miles, by Her Majesty's steam-vessel "Teazer," with 270 slaves on board, which she had embarked from Whydah beach the previous night.

Two of the "Abbot Devereux's" crew, calling themselves Americans, called yesterday at the Consulate, seeking relief, as they were, with others, without food or the means of purchasing any. I learn from these men that, on the embarkation of the slaves, the American captain became the mate, and the *ci-devant* Spanish mate, the captain of the "Devereux;" that the American papers and flag were retained on board until capture became inevitable, when both were sunk overboard.

Therefore, if this vessel had made a successful run across to Cuba, she would, in all probability, have retained her American character.

Had the "Abbot Devereux" been sighted by any other of Her Majesty's vessels of this division, she must have got off through her very superior rate of sailing; the "Teazer" being fully masted for sailing, and having good auxilliary steam power, was enabled to come up with the slaver after a most arduous chase.

I learnt from the two American seamen that there are two other American vessels destined to take off slaves from the slave-ports in the Bight of Benin, the "Vesta," of New Orleans, and the "Virginia Pearce," of New York: both are hovering off the coast. I shall not fail to communicate this information to the senior officer of the Bights division.

No. 23.

Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 11.)

My Lord,

Lagos, August 6, 1857.

THE active resumption of the Slave Trade at Whydah is now being felt by its attending disturbing influences on the restless Slave Trade Chiefs.

Her Majesty's cruizers being required to watch and to intercept the slave-vessels, their presence off this place has, consequently, been rare; this circumstance, together with the palm-oil trading ceasing at this time of the year for a few months, has emboldened Kosoko again to threaten this place with a nocturnal visit, and he had the impertinence to send me a message to that effect yesterday.

About a week since he sent an armed canoe to intercept the Lagos canoes coming from the oil market of Eginie; on one of the canoes offering some resistance to being plundered two of the traders were killed, and their bodies hove into the lagoon.

There is now little doubt that the war of the Abbeokuta people has been instigated by the slave-traders at Whydah; the supreme war chief of that town is notorious for his leaning to the Slave Trade, and for being open to receive bribes to any amount, from 200 dollars value to a head of cowries, value 2s. 6d. The bulk of the people joined this war most reluctantly.

As the presence of the little steam-vessel "Minx" within the bar of Lagos last year was sufficient to deter Kosoko from carrying his then intentions into effect, and in maintaining order and tranquillity in Lagos and its neighbourhood, I feel anxious for the arrival of the small steam-vessel Her Majesty's Government have destined for service at and about Lagos and the lagoons.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. CAMPBELL.

No. 24.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Campbell.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 3, 1857.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 6th of August last, I have to acquaint you that I have been informed by the Board of Admiralty that Her Majesty's steam-vessel "Brune" sailed from England on the 10th of June last, and arrived at Sierra Leone on the 16th of July, on her way to the Bight of Benin, where the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's naval forces on the West Coast of Africa has orders to employ her in the suppression of the Slave Trade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 9.)

My Lord,

Lagos, August 10, 1857.

AFTER the departure of the packet on the 7th instant, I received a communication from Commander Day, of Her Majesty's steam-ship "Firefly," who had lately arrived from cruising off Whydah; in which, among other Slave Trade movements of vessels under American colours, he mentions having boarded a French screw-steamer at Whydah, that was shipping 1,200 slaves (from the French factory of M. Regis, doubtless, as he is the owner of the vessel), the slaves were being purchased at 50 dollars per head, and were shipped as free emigrants.

Nothing more prejudicial to the peace of this part of the country, and to the interruption and (if to be followed by other monster purchases and shipments of slaves under the French flag) to the destruction of the rapid progress being made in legitimate commerce, and the peaceful cultivation of the soil, could have happened than this wholesale slave-dealing of M. Regis, under the sanction, doubtless, of the Imperial Government at Paris. As far as I can learn from Commander Day, the only insignia of Government sanction to this large slave expedition are two medical men on board, wearing the uniform of French marine medical officers. The master of the vessel is an old captain, of the house of Regis, and was, as I have been informed, expatriated for several years by the Government of the late King Louis-Philippe, on account of Slave Trade transactions, and he returned to France about a year since. I inclose, for your Lordship's information, an extract from the boarding-book of Her Majesty's ship "Firefly," giving some particulars of this vessel.

The agents of Messrs. Regis, at Whydah, must have had ample notice of the advent of this vessel, as the price now paid for slaves by the old-established dealers is 80 dollars per head; and they could only have bought slaves for the price they state—50 dollars each—some months since, before the appearance of the numerous slave-vessels under American colours.

The sudden determination of the Abbeokuta people to go to war, or, rather, to hunt for slaves, is, no doubt, connected with the great demand for slaves for shipment at Whydah; and Kosoko's hostile preparations to attack this place may be, in great measure, attributed to this cause. Already there is an uneasy feeling on the part of the old Slave Trade Caboceers of this place, and an anxious desire, which they do not conceal, for a revival of the Slave Trade at Lagos; and, were Kosoko to appear in force off Lagos, to-morrow they would, unless restrained by the presence of a British force, make their submission to him at once.

I requested Mr. Williams, the former interpreter to the Consulate, who is very intelligent, and has some relatives among the native population, to make inquiry as to the present state of feeling in the town in regard to Kosoko and the great Slave Trade movement at Whydah; and I beg to inclose, for your Lordship's information, Mr. Williams' report to me dated this day.

I have apprised Commander Day of the present state of affairs, and he will remain here until the arrival of Commander Burgess, of Her Majesty's ship "Hecate," senior of this division, who is looked for in the course of to-morrow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. CAMPBELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 25.

EXTRACT from the Boarding-book of Her Majesty's ship "Firefly."

When.	Where.	Name of the			Under what Colours.	Where			To whom consigned.	No. of				Nature of Cargo.
		Master.	Owner.	Vessel.		From.	Bound.	Belonging.		Days out.	Men.	Guns.	Tons.	
1857 July 29	Whydah .	Odo ..	Regis ..	Stella ..	French ..	Marseilles	Whydah and Leeward coast	Marseilles	..	Left Goree July 16	31	..	485	Emigrants.

(Signed) GEORGE F. DAY, *Commander.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 25.

Mr. Williams to Consul Campbell.

Sir,

Lagos, August 10, 1857.

AS the news about Kosoko's coming is now too alarming, I think it proper to bring you into a slight information of the same. I am told that a man, fled from Epé, who was among his troops, reported that there is now a certainty of Kosoko's coming to war with us, and that every person in Lagos will see his canoes which he has prepared for the same. Although our confidence is on the English men-of-war, yet there must be persons who will stand to oppose him before the men-of-war give assistance.

The Chiefs are saying that the King is too greedy, and how can they die for the sake of one by whom they were not supported? So some laws and regularities ought to be enacted beforehand, lest, when he should come, there be enemies within and without, and the war become sanguinary. You may make a further inquiry of the same from the King, but I cannot tell whether it is true a man fled from Epé or not.

It is customary here that, at the return of any of the expelled King, part of the town use to give him assistance; perhaps this may be the case when Kosoko shall come.

I am presently told that the Chiefs of Lagos spoke that they were more welcome when the Slave Trade carried on, than when under the subjection of the English, as good many of them becomes poor, and the King render them no aid.

I beg to say that notice ought to be given to the emigrants from Sierra Leone, as well as those of Cuba, to be on their guard, whenever Kosoko shall come, because many of them will be running here and there, and if previous notice be given them, they will know to act.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. B. WILLIAMS.

No. 26.

Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 9.)

(Extract.)

Lagos, August 31, 1857.

THERE is now no doubt that the revival of an active Cuban Slave Trade at Whydah and the neighbouring ports has arisen from the intention of the Imperial Government of France to purchase slaves at Whydah having been made known several months since in the Havana, in the Brazils, and at New York.

There is in the hands of a Brazilian in this town a Bahia newspaper, containing a copy of a contract between the Government of France and Messrs. Regis. I am endeavouring to obtain a copy of the same to transmit to your Lordship.

About the month of March last, I heard that the slave-dealers at Whydah had begun to purchase slaves largely, and were giving an increased price for them, and that many slaves were weekly sent from this to Porto Novo for sale; and I called King Docemo's attention to the fact. A guard was placed at the entrance of the Badagry lagoon to intercept the canoes carrying slaves to Porto Novo, and one was detained and sent to the King; but I could not learn that he inflicted any further punishment than the confiscation of the slaves and the canoe. There have since been no more canoes detained, from which circumstance I infer that the guard at Badagry lagoon is bribed to allow the canoes and slaves to pass, or that they are now sent by land, viâ Ottah and Addoo, to Porto Novo.

The agent of Messrs. Regis at this place was also cognizant of their intention to purchase slaves at Whydah, to be sent to the West Indies; but he concealed that intention from me, informing me that the steamer they had purchased, the "Stella," and others that are being built in England, are intended for a line of packets to run from Marseilles to Gaboon, touching at the intermediate French Settlements, and that the Imperial Government support Messrs. Regis in this undertaking with an annual subsidy. I could not help expressing my surprise that the Government of France should support a line of steam-packets for the convenience of a single mercantile firm, Messrs. Regis being the only firm possessing mercantile establishments south of Sierra Leone.

Unless the Imperial Government of France soon abandons its intention of purchasing slaves at Whydah, we shall have the whole of the Yoruba country plunged into warfare to supply the demand of the slave-market at Whydah. The example of the people of Abbeokuta is to be followed by the people of Ibaddan, who are preparing to attack the Jaboo country, and, as a preliminary step, several Jaboos, peacefully attending the market

at Ibadan, have been seized, some put to death, others sent to Whydah for sale, and all intercourse between the two countries has been stopped by the closing of the paths or roads; and the example of France will, if the speculation through Messrs. Regis is carried out, be followed by Spain, Brazil, and the United States.

While an active Slave Trade was being pursued on the south coast, and in the neighbourhood of Sierra Leone, the Bight of Benin was comparatively free from Slave Trade. The slave-traders, emboldened by the example and countenance of France, have recommenced their operations at Whydah.

No. 27.

Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 9.)

(Extract.)

Lagos, August 31, 1857.

I BEG to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter I addressed to the senior officer off Lagos, relative to the landing of Spanish seamen found on board vessels engaged in Slave Trade, of whose condemnation in the Vice-Admiralty Court at Sierra Leone there can exist no doubt.

Inclosure in No. 27.

Consul Campbell to the Senior Officer of Her Majesty's Ships off Lagos.

Sir,

Lagos, August 6, 1857.

WITH reference to the Spaniards and Americans composing the crew of the slaver "*Abbot Devereux*," captured by Her Majesty's steam-vessel "*Teazer*," and which have been landed at this place, I beg to inform you that the Spanish portion of the crew should have been detained on board the "*Teazer*" and sent up to the Governor of Sierra Leone, who would have kept them in safe custody until there was an opportunity of forwarding them to Grand Canary, agreeably to the Royal Order of the Court of Madrid of 1845, and to Lord Palmerston's instructions. The "*Abbot Devereux*" having been captured with slaves on board, her condemnation is certain; in which case if the Spanish portion of the crew of that vessel were sent to Grand Canary, with the proper documents, an authenticated copy of the Decree of Condemnation, &c., by the Vice-Admiralty Court at Sierra Leone, these men would be tried by the Real Audiencia at Grand Canary, and would be condemned to punishment of some kind.

The American portion of the "*Abbot Devereux's*" crew have applied to me for subsistence, stating they are entirely without means; I have relieved them for the present, but, as I am without instructions how to act with regard to these men, I contemplate sending them to the Governor of Sierra Leone by the packet, to be handed over to the United States' Consul there; I have some doubts whether all of them are Americans; but, should any of them, on arriving at Sierra Leone, prove to be British subjects, the authorities there will deal with them accordingly.

Should the Spaniards apply to me for subsistence I shall certainly forward them to the Governor of Sierra Leone; they have not yet done so, as, I believe, they are not destitute of means; indeed, I have not yet seen them, as they are at the beach.

As the Commander of the packet "*Gambia*" will, as usual, be in a great hurry to be off on his arrival, may I beg of you to communicate to him that I shall probably send the American seamen (seven in number, I believe,) on board the "*Gambia*" for a passage to Sierra Leone.

I have, &c.

(Signed) B. CAMPBELL.

P.S.—The American seamen report that the "*Vesta*" of New Orleans, and the "*Virginia Pearce*" of New York, are both destined to carry off slaves.

Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 9.)

My Lord,

Lagos, September 1, 1857.

ABOUT the close of last year, it was generally mentioned in this place that a French man-of-war steamer had arrived at Whydah, and that the Commander was charged with a mission to the King of Dahomey inviting him to send two of his sons to France to be educated. The Commander of the steamer, accompanied by the agent of Messrs. Regis at Whydah, proceeded to Abomey, and, on his return, brought with him two youths, who were taken to France as the sons of the King of Dahomey.

The youths in question were simply two slave boys, it being notorious that no Kings or Chiefs in this part of Africa allow their sons to be educated or to be brought prominently forward; they are kept in the back-ground, and out of sight of the kingly father, lest, when they arrive to manhood, they should conspire to put him out of the way in order to succeed him. The more despotic and tyrannical the Monarch, the more rigidly are his sons kept down and out of the way.

Several years since, during the reign of the late King Louis-Philippe, a similar request was made to the King of Kykandy, that he should deliver to the Commander of one of the French cruizers one of his sons, to be sent to France to be educated, and he delivered over a youth, who, it was notoriously known, was a slave: as the French traders did not deceive the French Commander, no one else thought it advisable to enlighten him. The youth was sent to Paris, where he received a very fair education, and met with the kindest treatment and every indulgence. His education completed, and verging towards manhood, he was sent back to his country in a merchant-vessel; unfortunately, the King of Kykandy was at war with his neighbours inhabiting the lower territory of the river, and in ignorance of this circumstance, the young man landed there, and was no sooner recognised than he was seized as a prisoner; and, but for the intervention of myself and others, he would have been stripped of all he possessed, and, in all probability, sold.

After the sudden death of Akitoye, when it became necessary to appoint his successor, and the rightful successor was declared by the Chiefs to be his son Docemo, he was at once sent for, and he was found, by himself, in a small canoe on the lagoon, catching fish for his subsistence.

Kosoko, during the zenith of his power as King of Lagos, was importuned by the slave-traders to send some of his sons to Bahia to be educated. He sent three slave boys, who were made much of in Bahia, styled Princes, &c.; they are now his clerks, and I was informed by one of them that he treats them kindly.

I have, &c.

(Signed) B. CAMPBELL.

Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 9.)

(Extract.)

Lagos, September 5, 1857.

I BEG to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a statement of the names of slave-vessels visiting the Bight of Benin, known to the commanders of Her Majesty's vessels. I greatly fear, from reports current in this town, that several others have made their appearance, and have succeeded in carrying off cargoes of slaves.

The capture of the "*William Clark*" deserves to be noted; she was destined to take off 600 slaves, her crew were mostly Americans, and she had the reputation of being a very fast sailer. Commander Day, of Her Majesty's ship "*Firefly*," never lost sight of her; when the "*William Clark*" shifted her position the "*Firefly*" followed her, anchoring close to her: a month of this rigid surveillance tired the patience of the American portion of the crew; they revolted, took the ship's boat, proceeded to the "*Firefly*," and informed Commander Day that the vessel had come for nothing else but slaves, was fully equipped to receive her cargo of slaves, and that they were determined not to return on board. On this, Commander Day sent an officer on board the "*William Clark*" to demand a sight of the ship's papers; the American captain stated that, seeing the determination of the crew, he had thrown both papers and flag overboard. The "*William Clark*" was then seized as

a vessel without nationality, and for being fully equipped for Slave Trade, and sent to Sierra Leone for adjudication.

The "Conchita" is one of three vessels belonging to the firm of Vidal at Barcelona, sent ostensibly for lawful commerce, and consigned to Don Domingo Mustich at Aghwey; she had just returned from Bahia with a cargo of roll tobacco and rum; her captain had been left ashore at Bahia ill of yellow fever, and he was replaced *pro tem.* by Don Angel Garcia, a notorious and unscrupulous old Slave Trade captain, and former confederate of Don Luis Lemaignere at Gallinas.

Inclosure in No. 29.

NAMES of those Slave-Vessels that have made their appearance in the Bight of Benin, since April 1, which have been known to Her Majesty's cruisers, their present state, and result of some of them.

American, "Adams Gray"	Captured with outward cargo, by Her Majesty's ship "Prometheus."
.. "Jupiter"	Captured with 70 slaves on board, off Praya Nova, by Her Majesty's ship "Antelope."
.. "Abbot Devereux"	Captured with 270 slaves on board, at sea, by Her Majesty's ship "Teazer."
.. "Isla de Cuba"	Watched closely, and is off Cape St. Paul, apparently full of palm-oil.
.. "Virginia Pierce"	Has palm-oil on board at present, but is intended to ship slaves, if an opportunity offers.
.. "Vesta"	Watching an opportunity to ship slaves.
.. "William Clark"	Captured by Her Majesty's ship "Firefly," without slaves.
French screw-steamer "Stella"	Purchasing 1,200 slaves, calling them "free emigrants;" destination Martinique; said to have gone to Gaboon to complete cargo.
American, "W. D. Miller"	Came on this coast, was closely watched, and sailed for south coast to obtain slaves.
Spanish barque "Conchita"	Captured with roll-tobacco and aguardiente, by Her Majesty's ship "Firefly."

Lagos, September 5, 1857.

(Signed)

B. CAMPBELL, *Consul.*

No. 30.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Campbell.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 20, 1857.

I HAVE to acquaint you that I transmitted to Mr. Crawford, Her Majesty's Consul-General at the Havana, a copy of your despatch dated the 11th of May last, on matters connected with the Cuban Slave Trade; and I now inclose for your information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Crawford, containing some observations on your above-mentioned despatch.*

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 31.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Campbell.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 20, 1857.

IN compliance with the request contained in your despatch dated the 5th of June, I transmitted to Mr. Crawford, Her Majesty's Consul-General in Cuba, the letter forwarded by you from a Spanish emancipado named Joaquim de Abreu, for his daughters at Havana; and I have now to acquaint you that Mr. Crawford has informed me

* No. 440.

that he has caused the letter in question to be safely delivered to D'Abreu's daughters, and he adds that when they propose joining their father, he will afford them every assistance in his power to facilitate their passage to the coast of Africa.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 32.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Campbell.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 20, 1857.*
WITH reference to your despatch of the 31st August last, I have to acquaint you that I approve the letter which you addressed to the senior naval officer at Lagos, respecting the disposal of the seamen who composed the crew of the captured slave-vessel "*Abbot Devereux*;" and I have further to state to you that I concur with you in opinion that every legal means practicable should be adopted to procure the punishment of the crews of captured slave-vessels, and to prevent their engaging in fresh expeditions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 33.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Campbell.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 23, 1857.*
I HAVE communicated to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty copies of the despatches received from you by the mail-packet "*Candace*," showing the great increase which has lately taken place in the Slave Trade on the coast of Africa; and I have to acquaint you that their Lordships have informed me that it is their intention to strengthen the squadron on the West Coast of Africa.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 34.

Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 12.)

My Lord, *Lagos, September 15, 1857.*
I HAVE read, with attention, the statements made in the House of Lords on the resolution submitted by Lord Brougham on the 17th of July last:—

"That the encouragement of emigration of negroes from the African Coast to the West Indies, by the purchase and liberation of slaves, or the ransom of prisoners taken in war, even when this may not be held illegal, has a direct tendency to promote the internal Slave Trade of Africa, and to obstruct the progress of its inhabitants in the arts of peace and course of civilization;" and his Lordship's motion, "That a humble address be presented to Her Majesty, praying that she would be graciously pleased to withhold her countenance from all such schemes among her subjects, and would use her best endeavours among Her Majesty's allies for engaging them to discountenance all projects which have a tendency to promote African emigration by any means directly or indirectly connected with the purchase of slaves or ransom of captives taken in war."

On this occasion, the observations addressed to the House by Lord Brougham and by your Lordship were followed by observations from Lord Malmesbury, who is reported to have read a statement to the House from Sir Henry Huntley, several years since Governor of the Settlements in the Gambia, to the following effect:—

"The Kroomen come in small canoes from their country (500 miles) to Sierra Leone, in search of labour. They are employed up the Rivers Sierra Leone, Mellacooree, and other rivers, by the merchants, to cut and prepare timber for shipping to England. They

enter also on board merchant-ships trading along the coast, and also those trading in the rivers for palm oil. They frequently assist in navigating vessels which have lost men by fever, &c., to England. I know an instance of thirty going to England, in a leaky vessel, to help at the pumps. At Fernando Po upwards of 350 were employed by an English Company to cut timber—very fine teak wood—stipulating to be sent home every third year. The wages varied from 3*d.* to 10*d.* per diem. They receive pay in merchandise. Ships of war always have Kroomen on board, &c., &c.” Sir Henry Huntley had also furnished Lord Malmesbury with the following suggestions for regulating the employment of Kroomen in the British West Indies:—

1. Kroomen to be shipped in no place in Africa but Sierra Leone.
2. Kroomen shipped for the West Indies must be registered at Sierra Leone, and also in the West Indies upon arrival.
3. Certain ports in the West Indies to be named for the reception of Kroomen.
4. Kroomen never to be taken to the West Indies upon speculation of being employed.
5. Before a ship can sail to get Kroomen for the West Indies, the owners to make application for a license at the office in England, showing a demand for a certain number, and naming in it the property upon which they are to be employed in the West Indies. Copy of the demand and license to be sent to the Registrar at Sierra Leone.
6. Ships intended to carry Kroomen to the West Indies to be fitted with propeller and apparatus for obtaining fresh water from sea water.
7. Tonnage of ship to regulate the number of Kroomen carried on board.
8. Kroomen in no case to be subject to corporeal punishment (magistrates or registrars should regulate between employer and man).
9. No Registrar-in-chief to be appointed but from England; he may appoint deputies with the sanction of the office in England.
10. Kroomen not to be transferred or let out on hire in the West Indies, nor allowed to work upon any property excepting that named in the licence, without the sanction of the Register-in-chief, and consent of the Kroomen.

I beg, with every deference, to submit a few remarks for your Lordship's information, first, on Sir Henry Huntley's statement, read by Lord Malmesbury in the House of Peers, having reference to free emigration of Kroomen from Africa to the West Indies. During the time that Sir Henry Huntley served as a naval commander on the coast of Africa, and subsequently when he administered the Government at the settlements on the Gambia (during three, and not seven, years), and now some fifteen or sixteen years since, the Slave Trade may be said to have been at its height, and captured Africans were being taken into Sierra Leone, several hundreds monthly; the interior countries bordering on the Bight or Benin were being depopulated by intestine wars, to feed this active Slave Trade, and legitimate commerce was then, in these parts, quite unknown. The only commerce which then required manual labour at Sierra Leone was the timber trade; and this requiring the labour of men of great physical powers, was engrossed altogether by the Kroomen. At this time, from the great number of liberated Africans seeking employment (the barren soil of the peninsula of Sierra Leone disheartening the many Africans who had been torn from countries possessing a fruitful soil, from any attempt to extract a livelihood by its cultivation), all the adults of this class were thrown upon the labour market; and, as they were willing to, and did, work at such labour as they were equal to, at very low wages, from 3*d.* to 4*d.* per diem, they consequently superseded Kroomen in all the light descriptions of labour, throwing all these on that description of labour for which they alone were suitable—that of the timber trade.

It was about this time that the scheme of African emigration to the West Indies was tried, and for a time with apparent success; the wages offered by the emigration agents in Sierra Leone for labour in the West Indies, half a dollar a day, being a great temptation to men who could earn but four pence a day in Sierra Leone, even when they could obtain work. To impart confidence in the minds of the Africans in this invitation to transfer their labour to the West Indies, Her Majesty's Government employed a large steam-sloop, the "Growler," to convey emigrants across to Demerara, I believe; and a few intelligent Africans, some from the interior, were invited to, and did, go over in Her Majesty's steamer "Growler," to see the country, the nature of the work for which African emigrants were required, and the perfect state of personal freedom existing in the colonies, so that, on their return to Africa, they might report favourably to their countrymen, and induce them to emigrate. The result of the "Growler's" voyage was so far favourable as to induce several hundreds of Sierra Leone people of both sexes to emigrate to the West Indies; but nothing could induce the interior or other native people to emigrate, and circumstances occurred on board the "Growler" on the voyage to and from the West

Indies, which proved the unsuitableness of vessels of the Royal Navy for employment in such a service, and the "Growler" returned to England.

But an active emigration followed in merchant-vessels, and several Kroomen were induced, by the high rate of wages offered, to emigrate; among others, some employed by myself went over, I believe to Trinidad. These, in the course of a year and a half, returned to me, offering their services again; and, on my inquiring from them why they did not remain in the West Indies to obtain the much higher rate of wages paid there for labour, they informed me that, although their wages were much higher in the West Indies, that advantage was more than counterbalanced by the high price of such food as Kroomen can live upon—rice; that being unused to live upon such food as the Creole Africans in the West Indies subsisted on—unripe plantains, they were compelled to buy rice in the town; and, that for the same quantity of that, their staple food, for which they would pay in Africa two dollars, they were compelled to pay eight dollars in Trinidad, and even then the quality not so good as the rice of Africa. That the party of their countrymen with whom they went across, and who continued to work together in order to meet the increased price of their staff of life, frequently undertook piece-work in the cane-fields, and, by working vigorously at it, they earned as much as a dollar a day each; but even this did not compensate for the higher price of rice and salt-fish, and the much higher rate charged for articles of clothing at Trinidad than at Sierra Leone; that, finding no advantage in working in the cane-fields in Trinidad, over working in Africa, they saved sufficient money to pay their passage back to Africa in one of the vessels which brought emigrants from Sierra Leone.

At this period there was an active Slave Trade from the coasts of Africa, west and east, and thousands of Africans, despite the vigilance of Her Majesty's cruisers, were annually landed in Cuba. The abolition of slavery in the British West India Islands having led the Spanish planters and speculators in that island to take advantage of the rise in the price of sugar and coffee in Europe, to greatly extend the cultivation of the sugar-cane, many new and large estates were opened, some of them at a considerable outlay of capital, and with an organization and completeness far exceeding anything heretofore attempted and perfected. The tropical latitude of the island, limiting the hours of daylight to about thirteen hours, insufficient for the severely forced labour of the unfortunate slave during crop-time, recourse was had to the modern invention of coal-gas to obtain that artificial light by which the labours of the Cuban pandemonium, the crushing and boiling-house, might be carried on so long as human physical endurance, forced to its extreme extent by the lash of the driver, could carry it; the roads or paths from the cane-fields to the crushing and boiling-houses were even lighted with gas to enable the overwrought African slave to see his way to this human hell; and respectable men, who had visited these modern Cuban plantations during crop-time, deposed before the Select Committee of the House of Commons on sugar and coffee planting, "that they had witnessed the Cuban slaves, after dropping their loads of cane in the crushing-house, fall upon them from utter exhaustion into a state of sleep or torpor, from which they were soon aroused by the heavy unsparing lash of the driver's whip." The calculation made by the inhuman owners of the slaves, relying on the continued bad faith of the Spanish Government and the venality of the Spanish Governors, being, that it was far more advantageous to work an able-bodied slave to death in ten years, and then replace him with another freshly imported, than to keep up a supply of slave-labour by natural means of increase and the exaction of a moderate amount of labour from his stock of slaves.

From a calculation made by myself and some friends who felt, with me, an interest in emigration from Africa (not in promoting, but in watching it), it appeared, taking 80*l.* as the cost to a modern Cuban planter of a slave purchased by him in Cuba fit for immediate work, and in that condition of manhood likely to endure for ten years such a frightful state of overforced servitude, that that sum, sunk in an annuity terminable in ten years (calculating interest at 5 per cent.), would represent the daily labour cost of the slave at 8½*d.*; to this we added 3½*d.* per day for food and clothing—a rather liberal allowance for the latter, considering the unfortunate slaves were treated like cattle, not like human beings, being lodged, chained in pairs, in buildings resembling, by the description given of them, cattle-stalls; no women being allowed to set foot on the plantations. The daily labour of the slave at the time alluded to (fifteen or sixteen years since) therefore, cost the unfeeling Cuban planter 1*s.* per diem, while the English planter was paying half-a-dollar (2*s.* 2*d.*) a-day for his free labour. But the comparison must be carried much further: the English planter could get but nine or ten hours of unforced labour per day for his 2*s.* 2*d.*, while the Cuban planter obtained eighteen hours of most severely enforced labour for 1*s.*, thus reducing to the Cuban planter a hard day's labour of nine hours to a cost of 6*d.* a-day.

With such competition as this, the English West India planter had to give way: it was impossible that he could supply sugar at the same low rate as the Cuban planter, and both sending their sugars to the same markets on the Continent of Europe on equal terms—in England on terms slightly to the benefit of the English planter. Wages fell in the West India Islands to from 6*d.* to 9*d.* a-day. The African emigrants who were able to do so, found their way back to their country; and so ceased all really free emigration from Africa to the English West Indies.

In the meantime the withdrawal of so much labour from Sierra Leone, the increase of legitimate commerce in that Colony and along the coast, and the introduction of the cultivation and commerce in ground-nuts, creating a demand for labour, it has risen to a remunerating point to the African, and is now equal to the value of labour in the West Indies from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* per day.

The African having innately no desire to leave his country, has now no inducement to do so. Free emigration from Africa, in the English sense, is utterly hopeless, and even in the modern French sense of buying unfortunate Africans captured in war or kidnapped, calling them free emigrants, and sending them, in their state of utter ignorance and helplessness, to the West Indies, to be handed over to planters to till the ground for ten years, *bon gré, mal gré*, for a paltry monthly pittance, proves a failure; for, as the French Government, acting on behalf of the planter, can have no intention to do with these poor Africans what the Spanish planter, encouraged by his Government, is prepared to do, that is, to work the unfortunate slave to death in ten years, and is, therefore, not prepared to pay the same high price as the Cuban planter for an able-bodied slave, and the French purchaser offering from but forty to fifty dollars the head for slaves (while the Spanish purchaser pays freely from eighty to ninety dollars per head), he has been driven from Whydah, the greatest slave-market on the West Coast of Africa, and has taken his vessel to the River Congo to obtain, if possible, by purchase from thence, a cargo of free emigrants.

Very erroneous notions are entertained as to the number of Kroomen available for free labour. This useful race of Africans have no interior territory; they inhabit numerous small towns and villages, along some eighty to one hundred miles of sea-coast; when they have no work they fish. Since Sir Henry Huntley left the coast of Africa, there has been a great increase in the legitimate commerce of the coast of Africa: in two branches of commerce alone, palm oil and ground nuts, there has been an increase in value of two millions sterling at least. Now it is specially in such commerce that the active vigorous labour of the Kroomen is valued and required; they have, therefore, no longer occasion, as formerly, to go a journey of 500 miles to Sierra Leone in their small canoes to seek work; if they are required at Sierra Leone, a vessel is sent for them; but the numerous vessels from the ports of Liverpool, Bristol, and London, proceeding on their trading voyages down the coast, invariably call off the Kroo coast, and engage the number of Kroomen they require: several hundreds are also employed at the trading establishments in the rivers and on the coast; and many are now being brought to Lagos to work at shipping palm oil. There is, therefore, no surplus population of Kroomen available for emigration to the West Indies, even supposing that a much higher rate of wages were offered to them for their labour there, than they can obtain in Africa; those who formerly went from Sierra Leone to the West Indies, and who had the good luck to get back to Africa, have not made such a favourable report of the value of labour in the West Indies, as compared with the price of provisions there, as to induce their countrymen to abandon a clear profit for their labour, ranging from 4 to 8 dollars per month (Kroomen in Africa always receive subsistence as well as pay), obtainable in their own country, even for similar or greater advantages in the West Indies. Kroomen confiding in their English employers will accompany them to any part of the world that is habitable for them; but they have no desire, no wish, no curiosity, to cross the ocean and labour in other countries.

The social condition of these people precludes all chance of a gradual increase in their numbers, for, like the Chinese, their women are most strictly forbidden to emigrate. During the many years I have been acquainted with Sierra Leone, I have only known of two Kroo women being brought there. According to their peculiar customs, the aged men and Chiefs have numerous wives, while at least three-fourths of the able-bodied men are always absent, working in other parts of Africa; on this account their numbers must be stationary, if not on the decrease; for, of the number of able-bodied men who migrate to other parts of the coast to work, a considerable per-centage of them never return, either dying of some disease, being lost by shipwreck, drowned, or settling among the native population of other countries.

To Sir Henry Huntley's ten suggestions for regulating the emigration of Kroomen, assuming there were numbers of them available for such purpose and disposed to emigrate,

I beg to pray your Lordship's attention, as they emanate from a man of high intelligence and considerable experience on the coast of Africa; as such, and in which every person of African experience will coincide with Sir Henry, he confines free emigration solely to Kroomen, and solely to be conducted at one spot, Sierra Leone. Emigration in any shape, from anywhere else, will be nothing but slave-trading and kidnapping, or alluring Kroomen and others on board by misrepresentations and false pretences, as was deposed to be the case by the seventeen Kroomen who have had the good fortune, at Clarence Cove, Fernando Po, to escape from their prison-ship, the "Phoenix." Assuming the statements made by these Kroomen to be in great part correct (and there is no reason to doubt their being so), it is painful to reflect on the fate of those who embarked on board this vessel; and if they, the Kroomen, who are essentially free people, were manacled on board the French emigration-ship "Phoenix," what will be the fate of those Africans, slaves, for whom a money value has been paid, should the "Stella" succeed in purchasing a cargo of human beings at the Congo?

The West India interest cannot charge Her Majesty's Government with not having given encouragement to really free emigration from Africa, such as it could sanction and approve, and, I may add, such assistance also as could consistently be given. When the labour-market, in a really free African community, was low, and advantages of a much higher rate of wages prevailed in the West Indies, several hundreds of Africans transferred their labour from Sierra Leone to the West Indies, who have never yet been able to return home; therefore, "the emigration highway" has been stopped from two causes—the fall in the value of labour in the West India market, with the rise in the value of labour in the African's own home, and the utter want of faith in not sending back the emigrant from Africa at the expiration of his term of servitude; a breach of faith which has left a settled conviction on the mind of the African labourer, that emigration to the West Indies is neither more nor less than expatriation for life, tantamount, in his estimation, to slavery.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. CAMPBELL.

No. 35.

Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 12.)

My Lord,

Lagos, October 2, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that the Regis contract, so far as attempting to obtain by purchase, in the Bight of Benin, a cargo of enslaved Africans, to be embarked on board the screw-steamer "Stella," as free emigrants, has proved a decided failure.

The terms on which M. Regis undertook the contract not permitting him to offer more than from 40 to 50 dollars a-head for the slaves, he was unable to compete with the Spanish slave-traders, who pay from 80 to 90 dollars per head, and could only obtain such slaves as they rejected (stated by some accounts to be forty, some sixty in number), with which the "Stella" has proceeded to the Congo, in the hope of being able to purchase there the slaves at a cheaper rate, and to obtain a full cargo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. CAMPBELL.

No. 36.

Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 12.)

My Lord,

Lagos, October 2, 1857.

THREE vessels, with slaves on board, having been captured in the Bight of Benin, and sent to Sierra Leone for adjudication, I applied to his Excellency Colonel Hill, Governor of that Colony, to be good enough to cause an inquiry to be made among the slaves as to whether any portion of them had been sold from Lagos, and by what sections of the population of this town.

And I beg to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of his Excellency Governor Hill's reply to my application.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. CAMPBELL.

Inclosure in No. 36.

Governor Hill to Consul Campbell.

Sir, *Government House, Sierra Leone, September 1, 1857.*
 I HAVE the honour to inform you that the result of the inquiries made among the 213 captured natives sent up here in the "*Abbott Devereux*," tends to confirm your opinion that the people of this colony, resident at Lagos, not only hold natives in slavery, but sell them for exportation, through persons called their landlords.

The summary of information obtained is as follows:—

"A great many of the people who left this colony for Lagos, Whydah, &c., possess slaves, and often sell them to the slave-dealers, some of them even went to Dahomey to purchase slaves from the King; this is not only done by the black people from this Colony, but by those from the Portuguese and Spanish Settlements."

I have, &c.
 (Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL.

No. 37.

Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 12.)

My Lord, *Lagos, October 2, 1857.*
 I BEG to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter I addressed to Commander Burgess, of Her Majesty's steamer "*Hecate*," relative to the intention of the slave-traders at Whydah and other places in the Bight of Benin, to ship such of their domestic slaves as speak a little of the Portuguese language, on board vessels trading under Portuguese colours between Bahia and this place, as passengers or seamen to that port.

By a Hamburgh vessel, which left this for Bahia, a few days since, I made a similar communication to Mr. Consul Morgan.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) B. CAMPBELL.

Inclosure in No. 37.

Consul Campbell to Commander Burgess.

Sir, *Lagos, September 19, 1857.*
 I HAVE received information that it is in contemplation by some of the many slave-traders at Whydah and its neighbourhood, to ship those of their domestic slaves who are able to speak the Portuguese language to the Brazils for sale, on board the small trading vessels which, under the flag of Portugal, come to this coast with cargoes of roll tobacco and rum from Bahia; it being expected that, as these slaves are able to speak a little Portuguese, they will pass with the authorities in Bahia as slaves who have been some years in that country.

It is contemplated to embark these slaves under the sanction of a passport from Senhor Isidore de Sousa, who is Chacha at Whydah—an appointment he holds under the King of Dahomey; it is almost needless to say that such a passport is not entitled to the least respect.

I have some reason to think there is some foundation for the information conveyed to me, because, some months since, a foreign merchant, Signor Carrene, lately established here, was requested by Senhor Domingo Martins, of Porto Novo, to ascertain whether I would give a passport for six of his children, whom he wished to send in a Portuguese vessel to Bahia, to be educated. Signor Carrene did not venture to make the application to me, being informed that I was sure to refuse to comply with the request of Domingo Martins. I have since learnt that instead of six of his children, it was Domingo Martins' intention to embark six slave-children from his establishment, as a present to some high official at Bahia.

I would, therefore, suggest that the muster-rolls of vessels trading under the flag of Portugal should, when visited, be examined, and the numbers of the crews and passengers verified by it. It is intended that these domestic slaves, when shipped, shall be clothed in the cotton cloths of the country, or as seamen.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) B. CAMPBELL.

No. 38.

Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 12.)

My Lord,

Lagos, October 3, 1857.

THE schooner "*Record*," one of the vessels on Mr. Consul-General Crawford's list, has been captured by Her Majesty's steam-vessel "*Antelope*," with 190 odd slaves on board, and sent to Sierra Leone for adjudication. The slaves on board this vessel were, I am informed, in a very emaciated state, having been kept a long time in the barracoons on a very slender allowance of food.

This cargo of slaves was shipped from Adaffie; I therefore thought it incumbent on me to remind the Chiefs of this port, as well as of Aghwey, from whence several embarkations of slaves have been made, that they had concluded a Treaty with Her Majesty's Government, wherein they stipulated that no more slaves should be embarked from their port.

I have the honour to transmit copies of my letters to the Chiefs of Aghwey and Adaffie, which were forwarded by Commander Burgess, of Her Majesty's ship "*Hecate*," the senior officer of the Bights Division, who also sent letters of similar import to those Chiefs.

I have, &c.

(Signed) B. CAMPBELL

 Inclosure 1 in No. 38.
Consul Campbell to the Chiefs of Aghwey.

Lagos, September 15, 1857.

THE English Consul finds it necessary to remind the Chiefs of Aghwey, that on the 2nd day of February, 1852, they concluded a Treaty with Captain Thomas G. Forbes, of the English navy, on behalf of the British Government, pledging themselves that from that day henceforth no more slaves should be allowed to be embarked from their territory.

Now the Chiefs of Aghwey, it is notoriously known, allowed in the years 1853 and 1854, several cargoes of slaves to be shipped in canoes on board vessels, thereby grossly violating their Treaty with the British Government; and it has lately come to the Consul's knowledge that the Chiefs of Aghwey have again, within the last six months, permitted slaves to be embarked from their shores.

It is, therefore, the Consul's duty to inform Her Majesty's Government in England of these repeated violations of their Treaty by the Chiefs of Aghwey, and also to warn the Chiefs that by such violations of it they will, some day, draw down on themselves the severest displeasure of the Queen of England's Government, who will not permit solemn Treaty engagements to be regarded as so much waste paper.

 Inclosure 2 in No. 38.
Consul Campbell to the Chiefs of Adaffie.

Lagos, September 15, 1857.

THE English Consul finds it necessary to remind the Chiefs of Adaffie, that on the 29th day of January, 1852, they concluded a Treaty with Captain Thomas G. Forbes, of the English navy, on behalf of Her Britannic Majesty's Government, pledging themselves not to allow for the future any slaves to be embarked from their shores.

Now it has come to the knowledge of the Consul, that within the past six months the Chiefs of Adaffie have grossly violated their Treaty, by allowing slaves to be embarked from their beach.

It is, therefore, the Consul's duty to report this violation of the Treaty by the Chiefs of Adaffie to Her Britannic Majesty's Government in England, and also, to warn the Chiefs of Adaffie that by thus violating their Treaty with the British Government, they expose themselves to be visited, some day, with its extreme displeasure; for the Government of Her Britannic Majesty will not allow the Chiefs of Adaffie to suppose that the Treaty they solemnly concluded is but a piece of waste paper.

No. 39.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Campbell.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 21, 1857.*
 I HAVE received your despatch dated the 2nd ultimo, inclosing a copy of the answer returned by the Governor of Sierra Leone to a letter which you addressed to his Excellency, requesting him to cause inquiry to be made as to whether any portion of the slaves recently captured on board slave-vessels, and liberated at Sierra Leone, had been sold from Lagos, and if so by what section of the population.

It appears from Governor Hill's letter that the liberated Africans from Sierra Leone, residing at Lagos, and at other parts of the African coast, are in the habit not only of holding their fellow-countrymen in slavery, but also of selling them for exportation; and I should be glad to hear from you what steps you can suggest should be taken with the view to put a stop to this Slave Traffic on the part of persons who themselves owe their freedom to the British Government.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 40.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Campbell.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 21, 1857.*
 WITH reference to your despatch dated the 2nd ultimo, I have to acquaint you that I approve of your having communicated to the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Hecate," and to Her Majesty's Consul at Bahia, the information which had reached you relative to the intention of the slave-traders at Whydah, and other places in the Bight of Benin, to ship, as passengers or seamen, on board vessels trading under Portuguese colours, to the port of Bahia, such of their domestic slaves as speak the Portuguese language, with the view to their sale in Brazil.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 41.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Campbell.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 21, 1857.*
 I HAVE received your despatch of the 3rd ultimo, inclosing copies of letters addressed by you to the Chiefs of Aghwey and Adaffie, warning them of the consequences likely to ensue to them if they continue to violate the engagements which they have contracted with Her Majesty's Government not to permit the export of slaves from their territories; and I have to acquaint you that I approve the letters addressed by you to the above-mentioned Chiefs.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 42.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Campbell.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 21, 1857.*
 I HAVE to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government have learnt, with great satisfaction, the improving prospects of cotton cultivation in the neighbourhood of Lagos and Abbeokuta, as reported in your despatch of the 5th ultimo.

Your utmost efforts should be made towards increasing the productions of this staple, and your exertions will merit the cordial approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, at the same time, to add that I should be glad to receive any suggestions that may occur to you as to the means which might be taken to aid your efforts.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 43.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Campbell.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 23, 1857.

WITH reference to your despatch dated the 3rd ultimo, I have to acquaint you that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have informed me that the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's naval forces on the West Coast of Africa has been directed to adopt such measures as may be practicable with the view to prevent the recurrence of any violation of the engagements entered into with Her Majesty's Government, by the Chiefs of Ahgwey and Adaffie, not to permit the exportation of slaves from their territories.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 44.

Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 12.)

My Lord,

Lagos, November 3, 1857.

SINCE the departure of the packet last month, I have received information of two successful embarkations of slaves from the ports to the westward. A small Spanish felucca, on the night of the 27th of September, embarked from Whydah beach 109 slaves and a schooner, under American colours, called the "*James Buchanan*," and stated to be built on the model of the American-built yacht, formerly the "*America*," embarked 300 slaves, with which she got away through her very superior rate of sailing, after being chased by Her Majesty's steam-vessel "*Teazer*," with all her power of steam and canvas, 140 miles.

Commander Aplin informs me that suspicious vessels, under American colours, are not now to be met with in the Bight of Benin; their disappearance now is accounted for, that, at the present season, the strong breezes prevailing during the rainy season are succeeded by two months of calms and light winds, during which the risk of capture by steamers or ships' boats is great, and, therefore, not to be incurred.

For two months past the slave-traders have been boasting that a very fast steamer is to arrive which will carry off 1,400 slaves from Whydah or the neighbourhood. In the newspapers received by the last packet, mention is made of a steamer, the "*Pajaro del Oceano*," as being likely to be sent to the coast of Africa for slaves.

I have, &c.

(Signed) B. CAMPBELL.

No. 45.

Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 6, 1858.)

(Extract.)

Lagos, December 3, 1857.

M. REGIS' second vessel, the "*Clara*," which was to follow the "*Stella*," to carry out the emigration scheme at Whydah, has not yet made her appearance.

The projectors of this scheme are, probably, now satisfied that, apart from its immorality and inhumanity, its unsoundness as a mercantile speculation is too apparent; for the following reasons, which I respectfully submit to your Lordship's consideration.

France now nearly ten years since liberated all the slaves in her Colonial possessions, and, as free men, clothed them with civil rights. Spain to this hour maintains slavery in her Colonial possessions, and in the Island of Cuba in its most unmitigated, cruel, and inhuman form, denying to the poor slaves, at least those employed agriculturally, any civil rights whatever, leaving them altogether in the power of their masters and the subordinates employed by him. The master or owner directs his subordinates to exact a daily amount of labour from his slave, which, as experience has proved, will terminate the slave's existence in ten years, but will realize the owner a net daily profit of (I will place it to illustrate my proposition at) 12s, per diem.

The French planter who, it is supposed, has remunerated the Government for the expense of the introduction of his free emigrant, has his services secured or assigned to him for ten years, but, in a free community with the whole African population in the island or colony enjoying freedom and civil rights, he cannot exact an undue amount of

labour from his free emigrant during those ten years; he must, therefore, be content with realising a net profit of, say, from 4s. to 5s. per day from the labour of his emigrant. Therefore, when the French planter, or his Government for him, goes to the same slave-market on the coast of Africa to purchase his free emigrant, as the Spanish planter, or the slave-trader for him, does to purchase his slave, it is evident that the former cannot afford to pay the same price for that which will only realise him from 4s. to 5s. per day, as the latter can pay for the same thing which realises for him 12s. per day: this will explain the failure of the French emigration scheme at Whydah.

Again, the French planter, even if so disposed, cannot exact a severe amount of labour from his emigrant, as the French Colonial possessions are governed by men of honour, integrity, and humanity; while the Spanish planter holds himself responsible to no one for his treatment of his slave.

No. 46.

Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 27, 1858.)

(Extract.)

Lagos, December 22, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Commodore Wise, on the 7th instant, brought over the bar, and anchored off the Consulate, the steam gun-boat "Brune," destined for service in the lagoons of the Bight of Benin.

She appears a vessel well adapted for the purpose, her draught of water having been reduced to nearly 5 feet.

I anticipate good results from the presence of this small vessel on the waters of the lagoons; it will inspire hope and confidence to the industrious and well-disposed, who form the great bulk of the population of this part of Africa, and be a check on the machinations of the old Slave Trade party, among whom the late efforts of the French to purchase slaves at Whydah had given rise to hopes of thorough revival of the Slave Trade.

No. 47.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Campbell.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 2, 1858.

WITH reference to my despatch dated the 30th June, 1856, I transmit herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch from Mr. Scarlett, Her Majesty's Minister at Rio de Janeiro,* inclosing a translation of the answer returned by the Brazilian Minister for Foreign Affairs to the note which Mr. Jerningham addressed to the Brazilian Government on the 5th of May, 1856, calling upon them to take measures for obliging the masters of vessels conveying liberated Africans from Brazil to Africa, to give bond for the disembarkation of such passengers and their property, at the places designated, at the time of departure, by the Africans themselves.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 48.

The Earl of Malmesbury to Consul Campbell.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 19, 1858.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, and for the information of the commanders of any of Her Majesty's cruisers with whom you may be able to communicate, the accompanying extract of a despatch from Mr. Crawford, Her Majesty's Consul-General at the Havana, reporting the departure from that port of several vessels for the African coast, destined to be employed in the Slave Trade.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) MALMESBURY.

AFRICA. (*Consular*)—*Bight of Biafra.*

No. 49.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Hutchinson.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 21, 1857.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, a copy of a letter which I have received from Mr. Macgregor Laird, respecting the proceedings of two Spanish slave-dealers, who are stated to be located in the Brass river, and respecting the existence of a channel by which slave-vessels are reported to pass from that river into the River Nun.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

Inclosure in No. 49.

Mr. Macgregor Laird to the Earl of Clarendon.

My Lord,

3, Mincing Lane, May 14, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship that I have received information from a person who objects to come forward himself, but on whose veracity I can rely, that there are two Spanish slave-dealers located at or near Brass Town, about twenty-five miles from the sea, who are shipping large numbers of slaves.

My informant states that it is the practice of slave-vessels to enter the Brass river and pass through into the Nun by a creek, which communicates with that river, and that there would be no difficulty in vessels drawing nine feet water following them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MACGREGOR LAIRD.

No. 50.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Hutchinson.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 18, 1857.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, an extract of a despatch from Mr. Crawford, Her Majesty's Consul-General at the Havana, denouncing the names of several vessels destined to be employed in the Cuban Slave Trade.*

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 51.

Consul Hutchinson to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 9.)

My Lord,

Clarence, Fernando Po, May 28, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that a French transport-ship, named the "Phoenix," Captain Chevalier, bearing a French pennant, and having M. Le Blanc, a

naval officer (Commissaire) of that nation, on board, came into this port on the 22nd instant. Her anchor was dropped at an unusual distance from the shore.

On one of my Krooboy servants asking permission to go on board, for the purpose of seeing two of his brothers there, Captain Chevalier, who was with me at the time, gave him a written passport, without which the Captain stated that he would not be admitted on board the vessel.

When the boy returned, he informed me, with a very sorrowful face, and in presence of Dr. Baikie, that 300 Kroomen were in that ship, and all confined in the lower hold; that they had left their country under the impression that they were to be brought to Gaboon river for one year's service; that four out of the number shipped at the Kroo Coast had died on their passage down here; and that he feared many more would soon die, as they were fed on an allowance of only one yam a-day divided between three boys, with a little rice, cooked in brackish water, their only supply of drink being from the sea. He added, moreover, that five soldiers were constantly on watch on the deck, with loaded muskets and fixed bayonets, and that, if any of the boys ventured out of the hold, they were thrust back with the points of the latter.

Her Majesty's steam-ship "*Myrmidon*," (Lieutenant-Commander Shaw), being at the time in this harbour, I did not deem it necessary to make an official investigation into the truth of these statements, without hearing further of them from some one connected with the vessel; more especially as the "*Phoenix*" appeared to me to be under the protection of the French Government, having a pennant flying from her mast-head.

On the following day, in the course of conversation with Captain Chevalier, he told me that his ship was bound to Guadaloupe, Martinique, and Cayenne, with these Kroomen as "*voluntary emigrants*;" and that they had agreed with him to serve his Government for a period of six years.

This statement struck me at once as remarkably strange, as well from its opposition to that recorded by the boy, as from my knowing, by experience of the manners and habits of Kroomen, that they were less likely than any race of negroes to be met on the coast to consent to a voluntary expatriation for such a time. I, therefore, deemed it advisable to consult with Lieutenant-Commander Shaw, and wrote to him on the same evening that the foregoing statement was made to me by Captain Chevalier.

Lieutenant-Commander Shaw soon came ashore, and informed me that he had sent one of his officers to examine the papers of the "*Phoenix*;" and that, though his suspicions were strongly excited, the officer reported to him that the papers appeared to be quite regular. Amongst them was a document, of some kind, which Captain Chevalier had received from Governor Hill at Sierra Leone, and which he showed to prove that his mission was recognized by the British Government.

I received, on the succeeding morning, a letter from Captain Chevalier, informing me that 12 of his Kroomen had escaped by swimming from the ship on the previous night, and charging my servant with the "*criminal conduct*" of being accessory thereto. On inquiring of the boy if these charges were correct, he denied them; and, not conceiving I had anything to do with the elopement from a French vessel to a Spanish colony, of Kroomen who adopted the practice—very unusual amongst persons of that race—of running away from a ship a few weeks after they had been received therein, deemed it most advisable, when I met Captain Chevalier a few hours afterwards, to refer him to Governor Lynslager.

As Captain Chevalier is returning by the present mail-steamer, the "*Candace*," to Sierra Leone, in order to navigate another transport-ship in this direction, with a like object, I am sending to his Excellency Governor Hill a copy of this despatch. I hope my doing so will meet your Lordship's approbation.

I have to add, that the report brought by my Krooboy as to the extremely strict manner in which his countrymen were guarded on board, was confirmed by a statement of Captain Chevalier's, made to Governor Lynslager and Dr. Baikie, to the effect that it was his custom to have six men on watch every night, with loaded muskets, to prevent desertion. This will, no doubt, appear to your Lordship a strange regulation on board a ship reported to contain none but "*voluntary emigrants*." Dr. Baikie likewise informs me that Captain Chevalier stated he had entered into a contract with the French Government to supply a large number of black labourers for the colonies of France in the West Indies and Guiana, and to complete his agreement, he yet required 5,000. He further asserted that, during part of his voyage, he had been accompanied by a French man-of-war, and that his ship had been freely visited by many Chiefs residing along the sea-shore.

The "*Phoenix*" sailed from this on the morning of the 27th instant, and the next day a paper was brought to me by Captain Sayers, of the steam-ship "*Saint George*," to which I beg leave especially to direct your Lordship's attention, as describing the true nature of the ship and cargo.

Judging, from Captain Chevalier's statements, that similar attempts will be renewed and continued, it is almost unnecessary to point out to your Lordship the bad effects that must ensue if such a practice be not arrested. The Kroomen, finding themselves thus deceived or kidnapped, will naturally grow suspicious of all Europeans; and their services—the value of which cannot be estimated by any one unacquainted with the peculiarities of trade in Western Africa—may ultimately be lost to British merchants, to the great detriment of commerce and of navigation in this part of the globe.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. J. HUTCHINSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 51.

Consul Hutchinson to Lieutenant Shaw.

Sir,

Clarence, Fernando Po, May 24, 1857.

HAVING heard some strange rumours concerning the treatment of Kroomen on board the French transport-ship now in this harbour, and these rumours having been confirmed by the statement of one of my Kroomen who has just returned from seeing two of his brothers in that vessel, I deem it highly expedient that you should hear his evidence on this subject at your earliest convenience.

I send this to-day, although it is Sunday, as the vessel is reported to be on the point of sailing.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. J. HUTCHINSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 51.

Captain Chevalier to Consul Hutchinson.

M. le Consul,

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer qu'ayant permis à vos Kroomen de monter à bord de mon navire pour soi-disant voir leurs camarades, ils ont conseillé à mes hommes de désertir en leur offrant asile à terre et leur faisant entrevoir qu'ils auraient à Fernando Po des gages beaucoup plus élevés que dans la Colonie Française où ils allaient. De cette conduite criminelle de la part de vos Kroomen il résulte que la nuit passée douze de mes hommes du Cap des Palmes et Gd. Ceste se sont jetés à la mer et ont mis à exécution le plan de desertion qui leur a été proposé par vos hommes. En conséquence, M. le Consul, j'ai l'honneur de vous prier de bien vouloir être assez bon pour me rendre le service de me faire rendre ces noirs, dont la désertion porte un préjudice notable à mon opération sous le rapport d'intérêts comme sous le rapport moral.

Agréez, &c.

Le Capitaine du Transport "Phénix,"
(Signé) C. P. CHEVALIER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 51.

Consul Hutchinson to Governor Hill.

Sir,

Clarence, Fernando Po, May 30, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency copy of a despatch, with inclosures, that I have forwarded by the present mail to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

I went on board the steam-ship "St. George" on the day after receiving the document No. 4; and the evidence deposed in that, as testified by Captain Sayers, his mate, Mr. Jones, and purser, Mr. Kyle, was again repeated to me by the Krooboy Popo, as interpreted by the cook and head Krooman, two of his countrymen.

I do not see occasion to make any suggestion concerning this matter, feeling confident that your Excellency's judgment will dictate the best course to be pursued under the circumstances.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. J. HUTCHINSON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 51.

*Statement.**" St. George," Fernando Po, May 28, 1857.*

STATEMENT of Krooboy Popo, who left the French ship "Phoenix," and came to me, N. R. Sayers, master of the "St. George" steam-ship, to ask for protection and food, being in a state of starvation; he further states, that they were informed by the captain of the said French ship, that the Governor of Sierra Leone had sent him to Kroo country to take them to Sierra Leone. When they got on board they were immediately put in irons, and an iron collar round the neck, and made their hands fast behind. After getting to Fernando Po, on seeing an English man-of-war coming in, the irons were taken off all the men. They were then sent forward out of the way, when the irons were concealed, and they could not see where they were put. The allowance of food was a small piece of yam and a small portion of rice per day.

There were three Kroomen and four Africans died in this port of Fernando Po, who were thrown overboard in this said port with a stone tied round their necks. There were also seven women on board.

(Signed)

NEVILL RICD. SAYERS, *Commander, "St. George."*JOHN JONES, *Mate.*JAMES KYLE, *Purser.*

No. 52.

Consul Hutchinson to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 10.)

(Extract.)

Clarence, Fernando Po, June 29, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 21st of May, transmitting, for my information, copy of a letter from Mr. Macgregor Laird, respecting the proceedings of two Spanish slave-dealers, who are stated to be located in the Brass river.

As the steam-ship "Dayspring" has started this morning for her ascent of the Niger, and is intended to cross the Brass bar, passing therefrom to the River Nun by the creek mentioned in Mr. Laird's letter, I have requested Dr. Baikie to obtain all the information possible on the subject, and to leave it in a sealed despatch for me with some trustworthy person on board a British merchant-ship at the mouth of the Brass river.

Her Majesty's steam-ship "Trident," being now in this harbour to convey me to Cameroons, in order to investigate an important matter up in that locality, it is my intention, after returning, to proceed to Brass, for the purpose of obtaining information about the slave-traders in question, and of impressing on all parties in that district the determination of Her Majesty's Government to protect the operations of the present Niger expedition.

No. 53.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Hutchinson.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 28, 1857.

I HAVE received your despatch dated the 28th of May last, reporting the arrival at Fernando Po of the French transport "Phoenix," bearing a French pennant, and commanded by Captain Chevalier, having on board, as voluntary emigrants, 300 Kroomen, some of whom had been engaged at Sierra Leone, and others on the Kroo coast. I have to state to you that there can be little doubt but that the Africans who were engaged by the French agents on the Kroo coast were induced to embark on board the "Phoenix" without being aware that it was intended to transport them to the West Indian Colonies; and with regard to those who were embarked at Sierra Leone, I have to acquaint you that the Governor of that Colony has been instructed for the future not to encourage the emigration of Africans from Sierra Leone to foreign Colonies, and he has also been directed, in the event of French agents persisting in their attempts to encourage Africans to emigrate from Sierra Leone, to warn the inhabitants not to be led by M. Chevalier to engage to go on board vessels in which they will be confined and treated like slaves, and exposed to the greatest hardships.

CLASS B.

I have further to state to you that if you should learn that French agents are still engaged in procuring African emigrants under circumstances similar to those under which the "Phoenix" obtained her cargo, you will take such steps as you may think advisable to warn the natives not to be deceived.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 54.

Consul Hutchinson to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 11.)

My Lord.

Clarence, Fernando Po, July 8, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I addressed this morning to Lieutenant Robson, R.N., commanding Her Majesty's steam-ship "Bloodhound," giving him information concerning the appearance of two slave-trading ships reported at the mouth of the River Mooney, or Danger, in the neighbourhood of Corisco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. J. HUTCHINSON.

Inclosure in No. 54.

Consul Hutchinson to Lieutenant Robson.

Sir,

Clarence, Fernando Po, July 8, 1857.

I DEEM it my duty to acquaint you that when the Rev. Mr. Mackay, of Corisco, was at this port on the 26th ultimo, he gave me information, in reference to two vessels equipped for slave-trading, which had visited the River Danger that month.

One was a fore-and-aft schooner, called the "Jamestown." Her owners are Sanchez and Company, of New York, and her master's name Luskem. She had a slave-deck and other appliances for the abominable traffic, and left the river on the 16th of June, reported to have gone to the Congo for a cargo of slaves, having failed in obtaining them in the Danger.

The other was a "hermaphrodite" brig, named the "Onward," and was at the mouth of the Danger as late as the 20th of same month. All her crew had been ill at the time of Mr. Mackay's leaving his station. The negro chiefs of Corisco had reported her having come to the river for slaves, and not being able to procure them there, it was her master's intention to proceed to Congo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. J. HUTCHINSON.

No. 55.

Consul Hutchinson to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 11.)

(Extract.)

"Trident," Bonny river, July 20, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I proceeded to Brass river in Her Majesty's steam-ship "Trident," on the 9th instant, for the objects mentioned in my despatch of the 29th June last.

On the second day after my arrival in the harbour, I proceeded in one of the steamer's boats, in company with an officer of Her Majesty's steam-ship "Trident," to the town of Brass—a distance of about thirty miles from the place in which vessels are anchored—for the purpose of making a personal examination on the subject of the information conveyed by Mr. Macgregor Laird.

Through the whole passage of tortuous creeks that lead up to Brass there is not an inch of *terra firma* for human residence; and there is no trace of an abode at the town where any members of the human family (save the wretched negro tribe who are the denizens of this part of the world) could locate themselves. The ruin of an old slave-trading establishment, with partitions made of tin-plates, and so dilapidated as not to afford shelter even for a lizard, constitutes the only relic of this Traffic in the town. This house had been tenanted by a Spaniard named Madjine, and the place where his barracoon was

constructed is now overgrown with bush and weeds. His last visit to this river is recorded to me as having been made in a small schooner about three and a-half years past.

Brass Town is divided by a creek into Obullamabry and Bassambry territories, the former governed by the Chief Keya and the latter by the Chief Orishima. I feel confident, after walking through many passages of both places, that there are no Spanish or other European slave-traders located "at or near Brass Town."

Orishima, the Chief of Bassambry, was not at home on the occasion of my visit, having gone on a trading voyage to some place near Benin. I informed Keya that I had been authorised by Her Majesty's Government to pay the Chiefs of Brass 1,000 dollars, on the condition of their signing an engagement to abolish all foreign slave-trading in their country, with the provision that the supercargoes would, at the end of a year, sign a document that they had faithfully fulfilled such an engagement.

Keya promised that he would come down to the steamer the following day, for that purpose; and the headmen of Orishima's town likewise assented to accompany him. Several of the petty Chiefs went before; and after waiting for the headmen during the space of three days, I received the news of their having started, and, quarrelling on the way, that they had returned to settle the palaver—believing the signing of a Treaty to be an unlucky thing, whilst animosity was in existence between them.

I subjoin opinions from two of the oldest supercargoes at Brass river with reference to the rumours of slave-trading there.

The only creek through which vessels could voyage from Brass to the Nun river is Accasa creek, by which the "Dayspring" steamed on her voyage up the Niger on the 8th instant; and navigation by this route would be under the eyes of British supercargoes who have, at the present time, five merchant-vessels for trading purposes anchored in the Brass river.

I trust your Lordship will not disapprove of the expression of my belief that the development of interior traffic, likely to result from the operations of the present Niger expedition, is better calculated to eradicate the nefarious Slave Traffic in Brass and the adjacent countries, than the most stringent engagement made with the native Chiefs, or any amount of money paid to them as indemnity. Until they shall learn to appreciate what superior benefit they can derive from legitimate traffic, it seems to me hopeless to expect (where there exists such a deficiency in the development of moral principle) that they would, in case an opportunity presented itself, avoid the temptation of selling the property of slaves, whose raising costs them no time and labour.

If, however, your Lordship desire it, I shall make another trip to Brass, and endeavour, by finding the Chiefs Keya and Orishima there at the same time, to conclude an Anti-Slave-Trade Engagement with them, on the terms prescribed by Her Majesty's Government.

Inclosure 1 in No. 55.

Mr. Mitchell to Consul Hutchinson.

Sir, "City of Rochester," Brass river, July 16, 1857.

I FEEL no hesitation in recording my opinion that no Slave Trade exportation has been carried on from this river for the last three and a half years.

In my present voyage I have been stationed here for eighteen months, and I am confident no slaves could have been transferred from Brass to the Nun through to Accasa Creek, without the knowledge of the British supercargoes, all of whom have declared to you their ignorance of the existence of any such traffic.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN P. MITCHELL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 55.

Mr. Mc Call to Consul Hutchinson.

(Extract.)

Barque, "Royal Arch," Brass River, July 14, 1857.

I HAVE no hesitation in certifying to the effect that no Slave Trade has been carried on from this river during the last three and a half to four years.

No. 56.

Consul Hutchinson to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 11.)

My Lord,

“*Trident*,” *Old Calabar River, July 28, 1857.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of June 18, transmitting for my information an extract of a despatch from Mr. Crawford, Her Majesty's Consul-General at Havana, denouncing the names of several vessels destined to be employed in the Cuban Slave Trade.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. J. HUTCHINSON.

No. 57.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Hutchinson.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 20, 1857.

I HAVE received your despatch dated the 20th July last, reporting the result of the inquiries made by you on the occasion of your late visit to the Brass river, with regard to the Slave Trade, which it was reported had been recently carried on from thence: and stating also the causes which prevented your concluding Treaties with the native Chiefs for the abolition of the Traffic in Slaves; and in reply I have to state to you that when an opportunity offers, you should renew your attempt to conclude Treaties with the native Chiefs for putting a stop to the Traffic in Slaves from their territories.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 58.

Consul Hutchinson to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 12.)

My Lord,

Clarence, Fernando Po, October 20, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a despatch which I received, per last mail steamer, from the senior officer of the Bights division of the African squadron, relative to reports which had reached him touching reputed slave-trading in New Calabar river.

With this I have likewise the honour to inclose copy of my reply to the aforementioned despatch.

I entertain very little doubt that the Kings and Chiefs up the rivers in the Bights of Benin and Biafra would be willing to re-open the Traffic if opportunity presented—even despite of their having received subsidies as indemnities for their losses in the nefarious trade, and of their having signed Treaties as guarantees of their good faith.

The combined influence of the frequent visits of men-of-war to the rivers, and the growing up of legitimate commerce, seem to me most likely to prove effectual neutralizers to the revival of the Slave Trade.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. J. HUTCHINSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 58.

Commander Burgess to Consul Hutchinson.

Sir,

“*Hecate*,” *Lagos, September 15, 1857.*

THE crew of a Spanish slave-schooner which was recently captured at Pram-Pram, on interrogation, reported that their vessel was going to take in slaves at Calabar, and that the cargo was ready for them. Though I did not at first think this, their statement, to be worthy of much credit, I find, on referring to the Slave Trade records, that within the last few years vessels called the “*Restaurada*” and “*Deseada*,” have been captured, having either shipped, or being about to ship, their slaves at New Calabar.

I trust you will be good enough to make inquiries of the agents, or of persons there whom you may deem trustworthy, as to whether some of the Chiefs are not still in the habit of keeping slaves for shipment, and if slave-vessels are not in the habit of embarking

slaves there, and I shall feel much obliged if you will communicate the result of your inquiries to the senior officer of this division.

(Signed)

GEO. F. BURGESS, *Commander,*
and Senior Officer, Bights Division.

Inclosure 2 in No. 58.

Consul Hutchinson to Commander Burgess.

Sir,

Clarence, Fernando Po, October 1, 1857.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 15th September, informing me that the crew of a Spanish slaver lately captured at Pram-Pram had reported a cargo of slaves to be ready for them at New Calabar, and further stating that, from the Slave Trade records, you are informed of two vessels, called the "*Restaurada*" and "*Deseada*," being captured within the last few years, having either shipped, or being about to ship, their slaves at New Calabar.

In reply, I have to state to you, that from information I have received from Captain Finnigan, a supercargo trading at Bonny and New Calabar, in the employment of Messrs. Tobin of Liverpool, no Slave Trade export has been carried on from either of these rivers for several years. He further adds that the last two vessels which came to New Calabar for slaves, more than three years past, were captured—one by Her Majesty's brig "*Ferret*," and the other by Her Majesty's steam-ship "*Bloodhound*." These may have been the vessels which you mention, but he does not remember the names of the captured ships. Neither of them, however, had slaves on board.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. J. HUTCHINSON.

No. 59.

Consul Hutchinson to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 12.)

My Lord,

Clarence, Fernando Po, November 2, 1857

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch dated the 28th of August, having reference to the arrival at Fernando Po of the French transport "*Phoenix*," bearing French pennant, and commanded by Captain Chevalier, having on board, as voluntary emigrants, 300 Kroomen.

With reference to your Lordship's instructions that I am "to take such steps as I may think advisable, to warn the natives not to be deceived, if I should learn that French agents are still engaged in procuring African emigrants under circumstances similar to those under which the '*Phoenix*' obtained her cargo," I have to state that I have been informed by Commander Burgess, R.N., Her Majesty's steam-ship "*Hecate*," as well as by Commander Day, R.N., Her Majesty's steam-ship "*Firefly*," that a French steamer has been at Whydah, her captain making an attempt to purchase slaves for Cayenne, and proceeding thence to the River Congo, having failed at the former place only because he was not able or willing to pay as high a price for them as the Spanish or Portuguese slave-factors resident at that locality.

Whydah is within Consul Campbell's jurisdiction, to whom I am transmitting a copy of this despatch.

I have the honour, likewise to inclose, herewith, the despatch which I received from Governor Hill, in reply to my communication forwarded to his Excellency on the subject (Inclosure No. 3 in my despatch dated the 28th of May).

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. J. HUTCHINSON.

Inclosure in No. 59.

Governor Hill to Consul Hutchinson.

Sir,

Government House, Fort Thornton, Sierra Leone, June 29, 1857.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your despatch of the 30th ultimo, with its inclosures, relative to the proceedings of the "*Phoenix*," French transport, for which I

feel obliged; and as my name had been used, I considered it my duty to inform Lord Clarendon that I had not given any document whatever to Captain Chevalier, and the papers presented by him at Fernando Po were only the usual passports issued from the office of the Colonial Secretary, together with a printed prospectus he circulated in this Colony. I also added that I feared the statements made to you were generally correct, and I should do all in my power to dissuade any person leaving this Colony for transportation to Cayenne, informing his Lordship that I was aware a French vessel of war had given convoy to the "Phoenix" down the coast.

The officer who reported that Captain Chevalier exhibited some authority given to him by Governor Hill, should have specified the nature of such authority, as it is hard to deal with generalities in explaining away the ruse practised by the commander of the "Phoenix."

I should add, for your information, that orders were received some time ago by the French Consular Agent here, from his Government, that none of the emigrant ships of that nation were allowed in future to enter the ports of the British Colonies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL.

No. 60.

Consul Hutchinson to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 6, 1858.)

My Lord,

Clarence, Fernando Po, November 24, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 20th of October last, with reference to my late visit to Brass, for the purpose of inquiring into the reported slave-trading carried on from that river.

It is my intention, if a man-of-war steamer can be spared to me for the purpose, to renew my visit to that river in the early part of next year, when I shall, according to your Lordship's instructions, repeat the attempt to conclude Treaties with the native Chiefs for putting a stop to the Traffic in Slaves from their territories.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. J. HUTCHINSON.

No. 61.

Consul Hutchinson to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 9, 1858.)

My Lord,

"Bloodhound," Bonny River, December 29, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a document which was placed in my hands yesterday, soon after the steam-ship "Hope" had arrived in this river.

Although it is put together in Anglo-African patois, it nevertheless contains a very graphic history of the doings of M. Chevalier and his "voluntary emigration" system among the Kroomen.

I deem it my duty to direct your Lordship's attention to the paragraph in which mention is made of the laws of England and the authority of the Queen of England being adverse to the very practice which this gentleman, being a Frenchman, seems to have carried on so successfully.

A deep sense of the injury likely to be done to our commercial relations with Africa, as well as ordinary feelings of humanity, aroused by the final passage of this letter, compel me to entreat your Lordship's attention to its contents. No evidence could be brought forward more strongly argumentative (than this), of the love for home which is the chiefest characteristic of the Ethiopian race, and which for centuries to come will render perfectly impossible any system of voluntary emigration, except that of the Kroomen going to men-of-war or to ships in the rivers of their own continent, from which they are certain to be returned in a specified time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. J. HUTCHINSON

Inclosure in No. 61.

*The Kings and Chiefs of the Kroo Coast to Consul Hutchinson.**Fair Haven, Fish Town, Cape Palmas, West Africa,
December 3, 1857.*

Respected and Honourable Sir,

WITH much anguish and sorrow of heart to address your Majesty with few unworthy lines, to appeal to your Majesty of my perfect desires to be granted by your Majesty's authority.

A French steamer, in the year 1854, the Captain Chevalier came to an anchorage in the harbour of Cavalla and took several Kroomen off from Cavalla to his services to French Guiana, and at the same time promised to return them home at his second voyage.

What was our surprise when this Captain came without them home, 1855, to Cape Palmas, instead at Cavalla; the Chiefs made an inquiry to this Chevalier concerning the Kroomen which he took from Cavalla. The reply he gave is this:—The place is so beautiful and delightful that it charms the eyes of them, that they wished not to leave there so soon. No matter, said the Chiefs, command them to come home. Very well, said this French Chevalier, you may be sure I will faithful bring them with me. Only let me have some more of men from Cape Palmas at my third voyage here again, I will faithfully bring with me the former Kroomen which I took 1854 from Cavalla with these, which I hope you will let me have 1855. Very well, we are willing to let you have some more men. Thus we let him have as many men he wanted.

What were our surprise when this Captain came without any of them 1856; I want some more men from Rock Town said the Captain; be not afraid I have not sold your men, I had tried very hard to bring them, but they abscond away that I could not bring them; but please, as friends, let me have men, I will do the best I can to please you. We then let him have as many he needed. Fail not your promise to bring back the men of 1854 and 1855 with these now you are to take 1856. I am perfectly willing to do what you wanted me to do for you, I will endeavour to bring home all I have took from your country.

I am sorry to say that this Captain during his voyage again, 1857, leaved all our men at French Guiana and anchorage at Fish Town with the same steamer, and a French barque as a witness to encourage us to let this Chevalier have some more men from Fish Town, &c., that she (the witness), with the steamer, will bring every Krooman that ever stepped on the shore of Guiana.

This, indeed, was amazing to the Chiefs, and to all the ignorant race of the western coast of Liberia. What shall we do? was the question among us the heathen. The man is constantly coming and carrying us away to the world unknown to us. After we have come to a conclusion of our subject, we Chiefs invited him ashore to have a full understanding of his taking us away in the manner which is not understood amongst us. No, said he, I rather have you and happy to come on the board of my steamer as friends to held a friendly conversation with me, you Chiefs of this place. At this answer we went off on the board of the steamer. Thus he addressed: Do you think that I am such a fool and deceiver that comes here to steal away men from this my friendly country; do not you know that it is against the law of England? don't you know that slavery is prohibited by the laws and the authority of the Queen of England? Be sure, my friends, if I do violate the laws of slavery, I shall be found out and condemned to die. All these interesting words led us to deliver to him from Grand Sess, Garroway, Half Garroway, Fish Town, Middle Town, Rock Town, 500 young Kroomen: these he took to French Guiana.

While on his way to Guiana he chain all these 500 men and women and put them down below with scarcely anything to eat, or water to drink, which caused several of our men to die on account of much presperation down below; he does not permit any of them to be on the deck except for bathing. The steamer sailed to Fernandopo to anchorage; while there the Kroomen beg this Chevalier to let them come on the deck for bathing: by his orders the Kroomen came on the deck, and while bathing, one of the Kroomen plunged into the water and swam ashore and escaped. This Krooman related this wonderful news to us. Oh! sad it is to us we are weak and ignorant race of creatures, have no power of ourselves to go to French Guiana and bring our men from far to see what they are doing, whether they are soled to different part of the world.

Oh! my friends, how shall we find out our men? We beg of you, with the pleasure of your heart, to assist us in this matter. Please, oh go there, for we willing to do anything for you; had we money, we would to pay or reward you, we would have done it. As England is the most powerful nation on the globe we apply to you for assistance. Among

these Kroos there are three youngsters belonging to the mission-school. One is married, his wife and child. Please, oh! please, we want our men to come home. Mother's heart is aching for her children; with wishful heart and eyes looking upon this wide Atlantic Ocean and longing for their sons to come home, but in vain. As you are the people of God feel for us, and may the Almighty bless and preserve you in your labours. Amen.

(Signed by the hands of the principal King and Chiefs of the grebo, or tribe.)
(Signed) SAML. BOYD, *King's Secretary.*

No. 62.

Consul Hutchinson to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 9, 1858.)

My Lord,

"Bloodhound," Bonny River, December 31, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a report that has been laid before me by Captain Grant, in charge of the mercantile part of the Niger expedition, for Mr. Macgregor Laird, with the copy of a despatch I have forwarded to Commodore Wise, R.N.

I trust that my despatch to the Commodore will meet your Lordship's approbation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. J. HUTCHINSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 62.

Mr. Grant to Consul Hutchinson.

Sir,

Fernando Po, November 28, 1857.

I HAVE to report to you that I arrived here on the 26th instant, in the brigantine "George," after a voyage from the confluence of the Niger and Tshadda, which occupied from the 12th October till the 17th November, in my passage to the mouth of the Nun.

As I was obliged, in the absence of a steamer, to allow the vessel to drop down, I think it right to inform you that the ship was not impeded in her navigation, though the water was rapidly falling on my descent.

I met no opposition from the natives till I reached Adiwawo: here several hundred people commenced firing from muskets at the ship, and the balls fell around like hail, but fortunately no one was hurt. At midnight of same day, being at anchor about fifteen miles below Adiwawo, and five above Truro island, two large canoes, containing a number of people all armed, tried to board the ship from the stern, but as soon as I had called all hands they went away. Next morning, as we were dropping down, the inhabitants of four large towns near Sterling Island commenced a continuous firing, several large shot going right through the water-casks, and one making a hole in the clew of the mainsail, as well as nearly grazing the head of the man at the wheel. After passing Sterling Island, about five canoes, each not having less than forty men on board, commenced a vigorous firing, which was aided by others from the trees overhead; and from this place to Sabrogego the firing was kept up without intermission, till I had passed that town, and dropped anchor about five miles below it.

I am happy to add that no person was wounded on board, except three men, who suffered the loss of a thumb each, in consequence of the explosion of three guns which they were firing.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALEX. GRANT,
Master of the Brigantine "George."

Inclosure 2 in No. 62.

Consul Hutchinson to Commodore Wise.

Sir,

Clarence, Fernando Po, November 30, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your consideration, the inclosed letters which I received from Captain Grant, who arrived here on the 25th instant, in the brigantine "George," from the confluence of the Niger and Tshadda.

You will see by the detail of the particulars of the assault and batteries made on the ship, that this was a most shamefully aggressive and unprovoked outrage. He reports to me further, that the assailants seemed to make certain of their taking the "George," from the fact of her being what they designated a "woman-ship," in *i.e.* in contradistinction to a steamer.

From the locality in which this affair took place between Adiawo (a few miles below the Warree Creek) and Sabrogego (a short distance from the lower outlet of Wilberforce), through twenty-five miles course of the stream, I am induced to suppose that the organizers of this attack may have been the Ejoemen, some of which tribe Consul Campbell believes to have been the murderers of Mr. Carr, on his attempted return to the model farm, in the year 1842.

I leave the proper steps to be taken in this matter to your own judgment, feeling confident that you will make arrangements to prevent the recurrence of such an outrage, which might, in its repetition, completely annul the good intentions and endeavours of Her Majesty's Government to introduce civilization into Central Africa, by the route of the River Niger.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. J. HUTCHINSON.

No. 63.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Hutchinson.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, February 16, 1858.

I HAVE received your despatch dated the 29th of December last, inclosing in original, a letter addressed to you by the King and Chiefs of the Kroo Coast, representing the manner in which they have been deceived by M. Chevalier, and induced to supply him with labourers on the several occasions on which he has visited their coasts during the last few years, and praying that the influence of Her Majesty's Government may be used to obtain the restoration of their countrymen who have been carried off by M. Chevalier from their homes.

And, in reply, I have to instruct you to inform the Chiefs that a representation shall be made to the French Government respecting the proceedings of M. Chevalier.

No. 64.

The Earl of Malmesbury to Consul Hutchinson.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 19, 1858.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, and for the information of the commanders of any of Her Majesty's cruizers with whom you may be able to communicate, the accompanying extract of a despatch from Mr. Crawford, Her Majesty's Consul-General at the Havana,* reporting the departure, from that port, of several vessels for the African coast, destined to be employed in the Slave Trade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MALMESBURY.

* No. 480.

AFRICA. (*Consular*)—*Liberia*.

No. 65.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Newnham.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 14, 1857.*
I INCLOSE, for your information and guidance, the accompanying copies of a correspondence which I have had with the Danish Chargé d'Affaires at this Court, relative to a scheme which it would appear is entertained by the Danish Government for procuring a supply of free African labourers for the Danish Colonies in the West Indies.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 65.

Count Reventlow Criminil to the Earl of Clarendon.

M. le Comte, *Legation de Danemark, le 17 Septembre, 1857.*
DEPUIS l'émancipation des nègres dans les îles Danoises aux Antilles, en 1848, ces Colonies se sont ressenties d'un manque de main d'œuvre toujours croissant, et l'attention de l'Administration des Colonies a été appelée sur les moyens de remédier à ce mal. Le Gouvernement du Roi a appris que le Gouvernement Impérial de France a importé dernièrement dans ses Colonies aux Antilles et dans l'Amérique du Sud, plusieurs cargaisons de labourers libres de la République Liberia. Or, le Gouvernement du Roi est tenté de suivre cet exemple. J'ai donc reçu l'ordre, M. le Comte, de prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien me faire part de l'arrangement qui a été fait par le Gouvernement Français avec le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique pour assurer aux bâtiments porteurs de ces labourers un libre passage à travers les croiseurs Anglais, et de me dire si un certificat des autorités en Danemark, et aux Antilles Danoises, ou bien du Consul que le Roi nommerait à Libéria, ne suffisa pas pour protéger contre les croiseurs Anglais les bâtiments chargés des nègres volontaires enrôlés pour se rendre aux Antilles Danoises.

J'ai également été chargé, M. le Comte, de vous exprimer l'espoir que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique voudra bien, avec son obligeance accoutumée, permettre au Gouvernement du Roi ainsi qu'au Gouverneur des Antilles Danoises de s'adresser, relativement à ce sujet, au Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique à Monrovia, en attendant que le Roi ait pu nommer un Consul dans cet endroit.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) A. REVENTLOW CRIMINIL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 65.

The Earl of Clarendon to Count Reventlow Criminil.

M le Comte, *Foreign Office, September 29, 1857.*
I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the letter which you addressed to me on the 17th instant, stating that the Danish Government has learnt that the Government of France has recently imported several cargoes of free African labourers into the French West Indian and South American Colonies, and requesting to be informed, with the view to enable the Danish Government to procure a supply of African labourers for the Danish Colonies in the West Indies, what arrangement the French Government has

made with the Government of Her Majesty, in order to prevent the vessels carrying the Africans from being interfered with by British cruizers.

In reply, I beg leave to acquaint you that no agreement has been come to between the English and French Governments on this subject; and I have further to state to you, that Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that, as negroes cannot be induced to leave Africa of their own free will, the purchasing of slaves, although with the object of making them free, must lead to kidnapping of negroes by the Chiefs for the purpose of selling them, and that the Slave Trade will thus be indirectly promoted.

The experiment was made some time ago by Her Majesty's Government, but it was abandoned, because, although every precaution was taken, it was found impossible to procure any considerable number of African labourers without indirectly encouraging the Slave Trade.

Her Majesty's Government have no objection to the Danish Government communicating with Her Majesty's Consul at Monrovia, with regard to the plan which they have in contemplation, but I have to add that he cannot be instructed to give assistance towards a scheme which Her Majesty's Government believe to be liable to the risks above mentioned.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 66.

Consul Newnham to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 6, 1858.)

My Lord,

Monrovia, November 30, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch dated October 14, and of a copy of a despatch of September 17, from Count Reventlow Criminil, and a despatch of September 29 from your Lordship, respecting the procuring a supply of free African labourers for the Danish Colonies in the West Indies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. G. C. L. NEWNHAM.

AFRICA. (*Consular*)—*Sherbro River.*

No. 67.

Consul-General Hill to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received May 14.)

My Lord,

Government House, Sierra Leone, March 26, 1857.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch dated the 23rd ultimo, communicating your Lordship's suggestion that it might be possible to liberate the 900 slaves reported to be in irons at the Rio Pongas.

I beg leave to inform your Lordship that, entertaining the same idea, I conferred on the subject with the senior naval officer of the northern division of the squadron, who proceeded to the Rio Pongas in search of those slaves, but he could glean no tidings of them, after exploring the river in his boats. The fact is, a vessel of war cannot approach the river bar nearer than about seven miles, and her boats have to pull in that distance. The slave-dealers keep a strict watch on the proceedings of Her Majesty's ships, and information of any movement is instantly conveyed to the place where the slaves are confined, that those unhappy creatures may be moved into the interior, where the boats cannot reach them, and thus the search is rendered in vain; but I am happy to remark that it is next to an impossibility to ship those slaves at the Rio Pongas, as a vessel-of-war is now always anchored off the bar of the river, observing a strict blockade of that river.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL.

No. 68.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Hill.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 23, 1857.

I HAVE received your despatch dated the 26th of March last, reporting that, previously to the receipt of my despatch of the 23rd of February last, you had already been in communication with the senior naval officer of the northern division of the African squadron, with the view to the liberation of the slaves who were stated to be in confinement in the Rio Pongas; and I have to acquaint you that I approve your proceedings in this matter, as reported in your above-mentioned despatch.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 69.

Consul-General Hill to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 9.)

(Extract.)

Government House, Sierra Leone, June 19, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the British Consul at Fernando Po having furnished me with a copy of his despatch to your Lordship dated the 28th May, in which my name appears, I consider it my duty to explain that I never gave any letter or authority whatever to Captain Chevalier of the "Phoenix," in proof of which I beg leave to inclose the copy of a communication from the French Consular Agent here on the subject, together with the printed notice issued at Sierra Leone by C. Chevalier.

2. The passports alluded to in M. Porchat's letter are the usual ones issued by the Colonial Secretary to all persons leaving the colony: that the public may not be defrauded, security is given that all debts are paid, and a passport is then granted.

3. I have to add that I never encouraged the emigration to French Guiana, but I did not consider myself justified in preventing natives leaving the Colony to better their fortunes if they so wished; and the conditions under which they emigrated were fully explained and understood by them, under which conditions some of the criminals in jail begged the police magistrate to allow them to proceed in the "Phoenix," and I approved of the recommendation that their request should be granted.

4. I regret to think that there is much truth in Mr. Hutchinson's report, but I know for a fact that a naval officer is embarked in each emigrant ship as agent on the part of the French Government, and the senior officer of our naval division here informed me that a French steamer of war gave convoy to the "Phoenix," the Commander of such steamer having told him it was his intention to protect her.

Inclosure 1 in No. 69.

M. Porchat to Consul-General Hill.

Sierra Leone, June 19, 1857.

Sir, EXCUSE me for not having answered your note sooner. I only could see Captain Chevalier last night, and I am just now out of bed, where I was retained with ague.

Captain Chevalier declares that to give a proof that his proceedings had been approved of in Free Town, Sierra Leone, he had exhibited to the Governor of Fernando Po the passports of the men which you had allowed him to have from the jail, and of the other emigrants which he shipped from this place.

He also showed in Fernando Po the printed notice that has been stuck on the walls of Free Town, and which I include in the present.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. PORCHAT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 69.

Emigration for French Guiana.

With his Excellency Governor

sanction.

M. CHEVALIER, Commander of the French ship now lying in this harbour, begs to inform the inhabitants of and the neighbourhood, that he offers to emigrants of the two sexes, who may be willing to agree with him to go to French Guiana, the following advantages:—

1. Three French dollars (11s. 7½d.) per month, as wages.
2. Board and lodging during the whole time of their engagement.
3. Each emigrant will have, besides lodging for himself and family (if he has any), a small garden, or piece of ground, which he can cultivate, or breed cattle on for his own benefit.
4. Each emigrant will be provided with clothes during the whole time of his agreement, and with all necessary tools for the work he may be called upon to do, at the employer's expense.
5. In case of sickness the emigrant will be supplied with medicines and medical attendance free of expense.
6. Captain Chevalier will give to each emigrant, at the time of shipping, a present of the value of seven French dollars, in clothes or goods.
7. The term of the engagement will be six years from the date the emigrants arrive at Guiana.
8. At the end of the six years the emigrant will either be returned home by the French Government, free of expense, or make another engagement, at his option.
9. No emigrant of either sex will be admitted unless under forty years of age.
10. Female emigrants having young children can take them with themselves; but children under ten years of age will be entitled to their board and passage only, on board as well as at Guiana.
11. Children fourteen years old will have the same advantage as adults.
12. The registering of the emigrants will take place before the officer appointed by the French Government and in charge of the emigration.

Persons agreeing to the above-mentioned conditions can, from to-day up to the get all further information by applying at the office of _____ of this city.

(Signed)

C. CHEVALIER.

No. 70.

Consul-General Hill to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 12.)

My Lord,

Government House, Sierra Leone, November 16, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, agreeably to your recommendation, and in accordance with the instructions of the Lords of the Admiralty, Commodore Wise has admitted on board the "Vesuvius" six liberated African boys from the missionary schools here, for the purpose of their being trained to the management of marine steam-engines, and to learn the trades of carpenter, blacksmith, and sailmaker.

Those boys are to be borne as boys second class for wages and victuals, and are never to be employed as servants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL.

BRAZIL.

No. 71.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Scarlett.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 8, 1857.

IT having come to the knowledge of Mr. Howard, Her Majesty's Minister at Lisbon, that several free negro children who had been brought from Brazil to Portugal, had on their return to Brazil been reduced to slavery, Her Majesty's Minister in consequence requested his Brazilian colleague, M. Monteiro, to use his influence with his Government, in order that effective measures might be taken to secure the freedom of such negroes and men of colour as might return from Portugal to Brazil; and you will see, from the accompanying copies of a despatch and its inclosures from Mr. Howard,* that the representation addressed by M. Monteiro to his Government in this matter has been successful.

I have to instruct you to take an opportunity of acquainting the Brazilian Minister for Foreign Affairs that Her Majesty's Government has learnt with satisfaction that steps have been taken to secure the full enjoyment of their freedom by negroes and people of colour who may find it to their interests to return to Brazil; and you will thank the Brazilian Minister for the readiness which has been shown in carrying out the suggestions of Mr. Howard with regard to these people.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 72.

Mr. Scarlett to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 18.)

My Lord,

Rio de Janeiro, March 11, 1857.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch dated December 19 of last year,† touching the suit concerning Mr. Alexander Dickson's property pending before the Judge of Orphans at Pará, I lost no time in addressing a note to Senhor Paranhos, founded on the instructions contained in that despatch, combined with information afforded by a despatch on the same question, which I subsequently received from Mr. Vines.

I yesterday received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs a reply to the note above mentioned, informing me that he had referred to the Minister of Justice respecting this business, urging the termination of it in the sense I had recommended.

I herewith inclose, for your Lordship's information, copies of the correspondence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. CAMPBELL SCARLETT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 72.

Mr. Scarlett to Senhor Paranhos.

M. le Ministre,

Constancia, February 26, 1857.

IT is already known to you, that for a long period a dispute at law has been maintained by a British subject named Dickson, at Pará, respecting his children and property, and the slaves of his deceased wife.

This case was referred by Her Majesty's Consul, for his opinion, to Dr. Paes, a

* No. 204.

† Class B, presented 1857, No. 194.

Brazilian Advocate, who has stated that Mr. Dickson has been unjustly and illegally treated, inasmuch as the Decree of the 4th of June, 1855, by the late Acting Judge of Orphans at Pará, ordering Mr. Dickson to deliver up his two children and the said slaves to his wife's father, was contrary to Brazilian law.

I am therefore instructed by Her Majesty's Government to express to you the hope that the Government of Brazil will see justice done to Mr. Dickson in this affair without further delay, and that in consideration of the reversal of that illegal Decree by a succeeding Judge of Orphans on appeal, by which the matter has been legally settled, the authorities at Pará may be now instructed to restore to that gentleman the guardianship of his children, and the exercise of such rights with regard to his slaves as may enable him to carry into effect his intention to secure their manumission.

Dr. Paes is of opinion, I am informed by Her Majesty's Consul, that Mr. Dickson should first be restored to the guardianship of his children and slaves, as has now been distinctly promised to Mr. Vines by the President of Pará, and that when he is so reinstated he should petition the Court of Orphans to reapportion the property according to law, and thus to assign the slaves to Mr. Dickson, and the lands to the children, thereby giving to Mr. Dickson an indisputable title to the disposition of his slaves.

To save further unnecessary contention and expense to all parties interested, it is desirable that positive instructions should be sent to the President of Pará, to compel the Judge of Orphans to execute judgment in conformity with law.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. CAMPBELL SCARLETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 72.

Senhor Paranhos to Mr. Scarlett.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Rio de Janeiro, March 9, 1857.

I HAD the honour to receive the note which, under date of the 26th February now last past, was addressed to me by Mr. P. Campbell Scarlett, &c., respecting a lawsuit carried on by a subject of his nation, Mr. Dickson, residing in the Province of Pará, relative to the guardianship of his children and property, and the possession of the slaves belonging to his deceased wife.

In reply to this note, I have the honour to acquaint Mr. Scarlett that the Imperial Government, through the Minister of Justice, will inform themselves of what has taken place in the civil suit in which Mr. Dickson is concerned, and have already sent orders, in the sense required by Mr. Scarlett, that the competent authorities may, as it is their duty to do, render to the complainant the full degree of justice to which he may have a right.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) JOSE MARIA DA SILVA PARANHOS.

No. 73.

Mr. Scarlett to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 18.)

My Lord,

Rio de Janeiro, March 11, 1857.

FROM several sources I obtained information, a few months ago, that a Spanish brig called the "*Sultana*," had been fitted out at Montevideo, to be used as a slaver on the coast of Africa.

The captain of this vessel took alarm during his preparations, as the knowledge of his intentions had already reached the ears of the Spanish Consul.

In consequence the vessel moved up the river, and her boilers and other utensils for the Traffic were thrown overboard.

Notwithstanding the abandonment of his first project, I was assured that under a cargo of jerked beef taken in subsequently in the River Plate, and destined for Rio de Janeiro, proofs would still be found that the captain of the "*Sultana*" had ultimately in view a determination to proceed to Africa for a cargo of slaves.

It was also reported to me that this same vessel, under another name, sailed from Africa last year with a cargo of 431 negroes to the Havana, which produced there the sum of 345,000 hard dollars.

The "*Sultana*" arrived during the month of February at Rio de Janeiro, where she

discharged her cargo; and the suspicion attached to her not having at all subsided, I thought it my duty to inform Commander Haggard, of Her Majesty's ship "Virago," the senior officer on the station, of the reports which had been made to me about her.

In consequence of the yellow fever breaking out for a second time on board the "Virago," Captain Haggard went a week ago to sea, but he remained within a sufficient distance of the shore to board and search the "Sultana" after she left this port.

Her papers were found to be in perfect order, and her destination to be Cadiz; and nothing was discovered in her hold, in Commander Haggard's opinion, to justify her detention; but it appears, by the captain's own admission, a large quantity of "shooks" (staves for water-casks), were taken out of her before she quitted the harbour by another Spanish vessel, the "Urania," also from the River Plate, which touched at Rio de Janeiro, for the sole purpose, it is said, of communicating with the "Sultana," and sailed directly afterwards.

This circumstance, in addition to the articles which appeared at the time in the public journals, announcing that the "Virago" had left Rio de Janeiro in quest of a slaver, may have placed the captain of the "Sultana" on his guard, and enabled him in time to shelter himself from further risk of discovery, by taking the necessary precautions of discharging every article of a suspicious nature before he quitted his anchorage.

I am informed that he first gave out that he intended to return to Montevideo, and afterwards refused to say what was his destination; but as the papers were regular, and there were no sufficient grounds for making a capture, Captain Haggard allowed the "Sultana" to proceed on her voyage.

I herewith have the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, my correspondence on this subject with Commander Haggard.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. CAMPBELL SCARLETT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 73.

Memorandum respecting the Spanish brig "Sultana."

THE Spanish brig "Sultana" fitted out in Montevideo to go to the coast of Africa for a cargo of 440 Africans, and as the Spanish Consul was informed of this, the captain took fright, and threw his boilers and some other necessary utensils overboard. The captain then decided to go to Gualagachu, and to take in 12,000 arrobas of jerked beef, placing underneath the beef as many suitable articles for the Slave Trade as he could, and to come with his beef to Rio, instead of going, as first intended, to the coast of Africa. It is known that from hence he intends to go to that coast, and from thence to the Havana. Captain Magdalena did not come, as was expected, in the "Sultana;" he remained in Montevideo. It is also well known that this vessel, under another name, went from Africa last year to the Havana with 431 negroes, and that these produced the sum of 345,000 hard dollars. Her proceedings have been watched, and although it has not been possible to ascertain the captain's real intentions, it has been observed that he avoids replying directly to any questions which have been put to him, and appears disinclined to disclose his destination. It is further said that some person in Rio or Bahia is concerned in this vessel, and that for that reason she came here to sell the beef and make arrangements for carrying out their plans.

There is now a project at Montevideo and Buenos Ayres of sending a vessel to the coast of Africa on account of a Company.

February 12, 1857.

Inclosure 2 in No. 73.

Commander Haggard to Mr. Scarlett.

Sir

"Virago," at Rio de Janeiro, March 4, 1857.

IN reply to your letter of the 15th ultimo, inclosing a memorandum respecting the Spanish brig "Sultana," I have to inform you that, understanding that that vessel was ready and about to proceed to sea, I left this harbour on the 28th ultimo, and the following afternoon visited and searched the brig a few miles outside the port. I found nothing to occasion her detention; her papers were all regular: being bound to Cadiz with a cargo of flour shipped at this port, appeared to me somewhat suspicious, but a search produced nothing to confirm those suspicions: I therefore allowed her to proceed on her voyage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. U. HAGGARD.

No. 74.

Mr. Scarlett to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 18.)

My Lord,

Rio de Janeiro, March 13, 1857.

WITH reference to the correspondence which passed between Mr. Howard, Her Majesty's Minister in Lisbon, and the Marquis de Loulé, on the subject of certain Slave Trade proceedings in the Portuguese Possessions on the West Coast of Africa, copies whereof were inclosed in your Lordship's despatch of the 18th December, 1856, and whereby it appears that the Portuguese Government are determined to suppress the Slave Trade, and are meritoriously seconded by his Excellency the Governor-General of Angola, I would beg leave to suggest that, in addition to the punishment of the old and incorrigible offenders, the said Governor-General should be instructed to cause the immediate demolition of the whole of the barracoons existing within the said Possessions, which have hitherto served as depôts of the slave-traders, and many of which are large enough to contain some thousands of the unfortunate Africans, kidnapped and confined there until opportunities offer for shipping them to Brazil, and where they are taught sufficient of the Portuguese language to answer the purpose of being taken for creoles or "ladinos," if, upon escaping the cruizers, they should succeed in effecting the disembarkation of them, as this would, in my opinion, be an important additional, and most effective measure for putting a final stop to the nefarious Traffic in question.

It further appears to me, that as the Portuguese Government have extensive Possessions, likewise, on the East Coast of Africa, whither the Spaniards, North Americans, and Portuguese slave-traders may think of resorting for slaves, when they shall find themselves shut out from their old haunts and uncontrolled Traffic on the West Coast, it would be very desirable to urge upon the Portuguese Government the expediency of ordering the Governors of their Provinces of Mozambique, Quillimane, and other places on the East Coast of Africa, to adopt the same measures towards the extinction of the said Traffic

I forward a copy of this despatch to Mr. Howard by the present conveyance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. CAMPBELL SCARLETT.

No. 75.

Mr. Scarlett to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 18.)

My Lord,

Rio de Janeiro, March 13, 1857.

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 27th January last,* I have conveyed to the Imperial Government the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at the decision of the Court of the Relação in this city, confirming the sentence which decreed the freedom of the late John Craven's slaves.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. CAMPBELL SCARLETT.

No. 76.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Scarlett.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 30, 1857.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 11th of March last, I have to acquaint you that I approve of your having communicated to the Commander of Her Majesty's steamer "Virago" the information that had reached you respecting the Spanish vessel "Sultana," which was suspected of being intended for employment in the Slave Trade.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 77.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Scarlett.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 8, 1857.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information and guidance, a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Mr. Cowper, Her Majesty's Consul at Pernambuco,† stating the views of Her Majesty's Government with regard to a Project of Law which has been laid

* Class B, presented 1857, No. 204.

† No. 133.

before the Legislative Assembly of that Province, and which has for its object the introduction of free African labourers into Brazil, and the gradual emancipation of the slaves now existing in the Brazilian Empire.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 78.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Scarlett.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 8, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vines, Her Majesty's Consul at Pará,* reporting the proceedings that have been adopted by the Curator-General of Orphans in that city, with the view to prevent Mr. Dickson from carrying out his intention of manumitting the three young slaves belonging to his late wife.

Mr. Vines will doubtless have kept you informed of the particulars of this case, and if the steps which you have already taken in this matter, as reported in your despatch dated the 11th of March, should not have had the effect of bringing this affair to a satisfactory termination, you will make a fresh and urgent application to the Brazilian Government for their intervention, in order that justice may be rendered to Mr. Dickson in the suit in which he is engaged.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 79.

Mr. Scarlett to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 13.)

My Lord,

Rio de Janeiro, May 14, 1857.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 8th of April last, inclosing copies of a correspondence with Her Majesty's Commissioner at Loanda, by which it appears that the appointment of the Brazilian Consul at that port, Senhor Nogueira da Gama, gave rise to a report that he was sent there for the purpose of effecting a systematic immigration of African colonists into this country, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I lose no time in obtaining, both from Viscount Maranguape, the Foreign Minister, and from other sources, the information required by Her Majesty's Government.

I have been assured by the Brazilian Minister for Foreign Affairs that the object of his Government in making the appointment referred to in your Lordship's despatch was only commercial, and with a view of watching the operations of those who might be inclined to engage in the unlawful Traffic of Slaves, and that there is no intention whatever of colonizing Brazil with the African race.

It is more than probable that the report in question had its origin in a disposition known to prevail in Pernambuco in the Provincial Legislature, there being in that Assembly a body of men who have openly and very recently petitioned the Government to put an end to slavery by bringing over to Brazil two free African colonists for every slave, with the avowed intention of manumitting all the slaves in Brazil in ten years' time. The effect of this would be to introduce for ten years, as apprentices, so large a number of Africans that they would inundate the country with a black population, and, probably, cause a rebellion throughout Brazil.

I need hardly state that both Viscount Maranguape and every sane person treat this measure with the ridicule it deserves.

I am informed by Mr. Cowper, Her Majesty's Consul at Pernambuco, that he has already forwarded this project, in a printed form, to the Foreign Office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. CAMPBELL SCARLETT.

No. 80.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Scarlett.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 1, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch from Mr. Howard,† inclosing a translated abstract of the information which the Brazilian Minister

* No. 127.

† No. 247.

at Lisbon has received from his Government respecting the proceedings of the slave-trader Don Francisco Riverosa.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 81.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Scarlett.

Sir, *Foreign Office, July 7, 1857.*
I HAVE received from Mr. Consul Vines a copy of the despatch which he addressed to you on the 9th of May last, reporting the circumstances under which a coloured woman named Carolina, together with her children, has been reduced to slavery by Senhor José Garcia da Silva, Sub-Delegate of Police at Carmeta; and I have to desire, if you should not already have done so, that you will bring the particulars of this case to the knowledge of the Brazilian Government, and request that a searching investigation may be made into the conduct of Senhor Da Silva in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 82.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Scarlett.

Sir, *Foreign Office, July 7, 1857.*
WITH reference to your despatch dated the 11th of March last, respecting the Spanish vessel "*Sultana*," which was suspected of being destined for employment in the Slave Trade, I inclose for your information copies of two reports which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls at Cadiz and Barcelona,* containing information respecting the movements of this vessel.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 83.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Scarlett.

Sir, *Foreign Office, July 7, 1857.*
I TRANSMIT to you herewith under flying seal, for your perusal, a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Consul at Bahia,† respecting the conveyance of slaves, by foreign steam-vessels, between the ports of Brazil.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 84.

Mr. Scarlett to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 13.)

My Lord, *Rio de Janeiro, July 10, 1857.*
I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Lordship's despatch for my guidance, of June 8, inclosing the copy of another, addressed by your Lordship to Consul Cowper, at Pernambuco, and dated June 8, stating the views of Her Majesty's Government with regard to a project of Law which was brought before the Legislative Assembly of that Province, and which has for its object the introduction of free African labourers into Brazil, and the gradual emancipation of the slaves in this Empire.

I took the opportunity to-day, in conversation with the Brazilian Minister for Foreign Affairs, to allude to this subject, observing to him that such a project, if carried out, would be considered by Her Majesty's Government in the light of a revival of the Slave Trade, under pretence of freeing the blacks after their arrival in Brazil from Africa.

I am happy to inform your Lordship that Viscount Maranguape met my observations immediately by a positive assurance that, although this project had been mooted by some interested parties in the Local Legislature of Pernambuco, nothing was farther from the

* Nos. 398 and 404.

† No. 116.

intention of the Imperial Government than to give such a measure any countenance or support, and that Her Majesty's Government need be under no apprehension on that subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. CAMPBELL SCARLETT.

No. 85.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Scarlett.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 17, 1857.*
I HAVE received your despatch of the 10th ultimo, reporting what passed at a conversation which you had with the Viscount Maranguape, the Brazilian Minister for Foreign Affairs, on the subject of a project which has been brought before the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Pernambuco, having for its object the introduction of free African labourers into Brazil; and, in reply, I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government learn with satisfaction that it is not the intention of the Brazilian Government to afford any countenance or support to the project in question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 86.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Scarlett.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 26, 1857.*
WITH reference to your despatch of the 11th of March last, I inclose for your information a copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Barcelona,* reporting the movements of the Spanish brig "*Sultana*," which was suspected of being intended to be employed in the Slave Trade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 87.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Scarlett.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 26, 1857.*
I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, an extract from the Annual Report upon the subject of the Slave Trade, which I have received from Mr. Gabriel, Her Majesty's Acting Commissioner in the Mixed British and Portuguese Commission established at Loanda, and which has reference to Brazil.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 88.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Scarlett.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 4, 1857.*
I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, copies of a letter and its inclosures from Mr. Chamerovzow, the Secretary to the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, requesting, on behalf of the Society, to be informed whether the proceedings of certain English Mining Companies in Brazil, as set forth in the inclosures which accompany his letter, come under the provisions of the Act 6 and 7 Vict., cap. 98, for the more effectual suppression of the Slave Trade. I also inclose a copy of the answer which, by my direction, has been returned to Mr. Chamerovzow's letter.

I think it right to call your attention to the statements forwarded by the Society; but in doing so, I have to observe—

1st. That British subjects in Brazil may, without violating the statute 6 and 7 Vict., cap. 28, sell or transfer any slaves of which they became possessed before the date of that statute, namely, 1st of November, 1843.

* No. 399.

† Class A, No. 85.

2ndly. But that it will be a violation of that statute for a British subject to sell any slave in Brazil, unless such slave was acquired by him (howsoever) either before that date, or, if acquired since that date, was acquired “*bonâ fide* by inheritance, devise, bequest, marriage, or otherwise by operation of law,” under section 6 of that Act.

The alleged intention of selling or transferring the children, born since November 1, 1843, of slave parents, who were then lawfully possessed by the Companies, will, therefore, if carried into effect, be, according to my impression, illegal.

Such children being legally slaves in Brazil, and not having been in existence at the date of the statute, nor since acquired by (involuntary) operation of law, cannot be sold or transferred by British subjects without a violation of its provisions.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 88.

Mr. Chamerozow to the Earl of Clarendon.

My Lord,

27, New Broad Street, June 30, 1857.

THE attention of the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society has been directed to two paragraphs which have been extensively circulated through the medium of our leading journals, copies of which paragraphs I beg to inclose.

On behalf of the Committee I would respectfully request your Lordship to inform me, for their guidance, whether the 6th and 7th Vict., cap. 98, is applicable to the cases in question. The circular which your Lordship addressed to Her Majesty's Consuls in Brazil, under date of the 19th of January, 1856, states that it is absolutely unlawful, under that Act, for any British subject to hold or own slaves under any circumstances.

If this be the law, there would seem to be very little doubt that the Directors and shareholders of the Imperial Brazilian, and the St. Juan del Rey Mining Companies come under the Act in question.

I have, &c.

(On behalf of the Committee),

(Signed) LOUIS ALEXIS CHAMEROVZOW, *Secretary.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 88.

Newspaper Extracts.

SLAVERY: ENGLISH MINING COMPANIES IN BRAZIL.—At a great sacrifice of public money, and a greater of private fortunes, England abolished slavery in her colonies. Many years after, Lord Brougham's Act prohibited Englishmen from purchasing slaves in any country. At that period, four English Mining Companies established in Brazil owned nearly 2,000 slaves; viz., the Brazilian Company, at Cata Branca; the Imperial Brazilian, at Gongo Soco; the National Brazilian, at Cocaes and Cuiba; and the St. John del Rey, at Morro Velho.

The Imperial Brazilian Company was established in 1823, Mr. J. Walker, Chairman. One of the first things determined upon by the shareholders was, that every child born of its slaves should be free, and the first child born at Gongo Soco was christened Joshua Walker. After working the mines thirty-three years, it has been resolved to wind up the Company, and I have heard that the slaves are to be sold. No doubt the Company can legally sell such of the blacks originally purchased, as, after thirty-three years' service, are left alive.

I do not believe many Englishmen would be found willing to share the purchase-money of these poor old negroes, but the children of these negroes they have no right to sell, and I appeal to you to prevent such an atrocity, should it really be contemplated.

Of all the English Companies in Minas Geraes, the Brazilian, at Cata Branca, possess the finest body of slaves. A system introduced there permitted the slaves to work overtime to acquire their freedom. Some few have so gained their freedom, and many more had large portions of the required amount standing to their credit, when, in 1846, the Cata Branca mine fell in, and the workings ceased. The blacks, men, women, and children, were leased over to the St. John del Rey Company for twelve years. The agreement between the two Companies stated that, at the termination of the lease, all the remaining negroes were to be freed.

I make no comment on the injustice done to those slaves by neither carrying out the agreement entered into with them to work out their freedom, nor paying them the amount so earned, standing to their credit for work done—work from which their owners had derived immediate benefit; their own possible future benefit, from the sweat of their brows, being annihilated through no fault of theirs. I say nothing on this less important, however painful, topic, for the greater part of them are at rest where all are equal—white and black, slave and master; but their children will be free at the termination of the agreement between the Companies, and it is because I hear there is an intention not to give them their liberty, that I now address you.

If I have made any mis-statement, the Companies referred to can prove my inaccuracy. If the Imperial Brazilian Company never determined that all children born of their slaves should be free, let the officers of the Company deny my assertion; the agreement between the St. John del Rey and Cata Branca Companies will speak for itself.

ANGLO-BRAZILEIRO.

AS I was an officer in the service of the Imperial Brazilian Mining Company at Gongo Soco, from 1832 to 1839, and during the whole of that time had charge of the slaves, amounting to nearly 500, I may be allowed to express my opinion as to the great injustice that has been done to them, not only in retaining the children born on the property in slavery, but in attempting to sell any of those that may yet be alive, after a servitude of so many years. Let the records of the Company be examined, and, if I err not, it will be found that all children born on the property were to be free at the age of 21 years. Has this ever been carried out? I think not. Some ten or twelve adults were liberated during the time I was there, but that humane and judicious system was put a stop to in 1836, on the change of administration at Gongo, for reasons the Directors possibly can explain. I hope the Anti-Slavery Society will take the matter up, and, now that the Company is to be dissolved, never rest till all the original slaves and children are set free; an act of not only common justice and humanity, but of good faith towards hundreds of our fellow-creatures, who have no one to plead their cause.

A LOVER OF JUSTICE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 88.

Mr. Hammond to M. Chamerovzow.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 4, 1857.

I AM directed by the Earl of Clarendon to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th of June last, requesting, on behalf of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, to be informed whether the proceedings of certain English Mining Companies in Brazil, as set forth in a paper inclosed in your letter, come under the provisions of the Act 6 and 7 Vict., cap. 98, for the more effectual suppression of the Slave Trade; and in reply I am to acquaint you, that on your stating more fully and accurately the facts and dates necessary to obtain a legal opinion, an answer will be returned to your inquiry; but I am to add, that until these facts are so stated, it will be impossible to give you an answer.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

No. 89.

Mr. Scarlett to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 6.)

My Lord,

Rio de Janeiro, August 6, 1857.

HAVING received information of an intended Slave Trade operation on this coast to the south of Santos, I first informed Rear-Admiral Johnstone of the report I had received on this subject, who wrote immediately to Captain Selwyn, of Her Majesty's ship "Siren," who had previously gone there on a cruise, to use vigilance in the quarter above mentioned; and I also communicated the same intelligence to Viscount Maranguape, who at once sent in that direction the Brazilian man-of-war steamer "Recife."

I herewith have the honour to inclose my correspondence with the Brazilian Govern-

ment on this subject, together with a report since forwarded to me by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, received by the Government from the officer in command of the "Recife" since he left this port, who was using his best endeavours to fall in with the suspected vessel referred to in my note to Viscount Maranguape of the 17th ultimo.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. CAMPBELL SCARLETT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 89.

Mr. Scarlett to Viscount Maranguape.

M. le Ministre,

Rio de Janeiro, July 17, 1857.

IT has recently been reported to me that a Slave Trade operation is intended on the coast of Brazil, near Santos, to the south.

The vessel expected from Africa with slaves is said to be a schooner, and that she will make first for the Island of Monte Abrigo, or the Islands of Remedios.

I have already acquainted Admiral Johnstone with the above facts as they were reported to me; and that officer would be happy to be of any service in endeavouring to capture the slave-vessel in question, for the purpose of preventing the landing of her cargo on the Brazilian shores, but, as he has not at this moment a steamer in readiness to proceed to the spot to which I have alluded, I hasten to give this information to your Excellency without delay, with the view of enabling the Brazilian Government to take whatever measures it may think advisable under the circumstances I have mentioned.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) P. CAMPBELL SCARLETT

Inclosure 2 in No. 89.

Viscount Maranguape to Mr. Scarlett.

(Translation.)

Rio de Janeiro, July 18, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the communication addressed to me under yesterday's date by Mr. P. Campbell Scarlett, &c., of his having been informed that there is an intention of importing Africans on the coast of Brazil, near and to the south of Santos.

In returning thanks to Mr. Scarlett for this information, I hasten to acquaint him that the vessel of war "Recife" left this harbour this morning at daybreak upon a cruise, with the necessary instructions, to provide against any speculation which may be attempted upon the coast of the Empire.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) VISCONDE DE MARANGUAPE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 89.

Viscount Maranguape to Mr. Scarlett.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Rio de Janeiro, July 31, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to Mr. P. Campbell Scarlett, &c., in addition to my note of the 18th instant, the inclosed copy of the report made by the Commander of the ship "Recife," now in Santos, which, on the morning of the 18th instant, left this port on a cruise in consequence of the information furnished by Mr. Scarlett in his note of the 17th, that an attempt would be made to import Africans on the coast of Brazil, near to, and to the south of, Santos.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) VISCONDE DE MARANGUAPE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 89.

The Commander of the "Recife" to Rear-Admiral Ignacio.

Most Illustrious Sir,

"Recife," in Santos, July 20, 1857.

HAVING left the port of Rio de Janeiro on the evening of the 18th instant, as soon as I received instructions from you, I hasten to acquaint you that I came to anchor yesterday afternoon in this port, being short of coal, water, and provisions, excepting salt beef and biscuit, having been forced to come to sea in that state from the urgency of my orders, but being unable to proceed.

I have scrupulously examined the whole of the coast as far as this place, and have found no signs whatever that might lead me to suspect that any landing of Africans had taken place, or any preparations been made to receive them, nor any vessel in sight steering for the coast. I am using my best efforts to proceed, as soon as possible, on my cruise, and it is my intention to run down the coast as far as St. Catherine's, always keeping it in sight, so as not to allow any point to escape me, and I shall, as in duty bound, and in due time, bring to your knowledge whatever may occur. Upon my arrival at the bar of Santa Catharina I intend to enter that port, and communicate privately with the President, acquainting him with my orders, for the purpose of his taking measures on shore, as some of the places pointed out to me on the coast of that province are of easy and rapid communication with the capital. I must further inform you that I leave in this port the surgeon, master, and a second engineer and a caulker, who went on shore on leave and have not been met with, as well as the midshipman Argollo, &c.

(Signed) DELFIN CARLOS DE CARVALHO.

No. 90.

Mr. Scarlett to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 6.)

My Lord,

Rio de Janeiro, August 8, 1857.

A REPORT having reached me that a vessel was fitting out for the Slave Trade at the port of Campos, north of Rio de Janeiro, I addressed a note on the subject to Viscount Maranguape, a copy of which I inclose, and I also communicated the intelligence to Admiral Johnstone.

Admiral Johnstone will send the "Virago" to cruize in that direction, but, owing to the suspension of the Aberdeen Act, it is, of course, no longer permitted to Her Majesty's cruisers to take active measures within Brazilian waters.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. CAMPBELL SCARLETT.

Inclosure in No. 90.

Mr. Scarlett to Viscount Maranguape.

M. le Ministre,

Rio de Janeiro, August 6, 1857.

I HAVE just received information, from a credible source, that a Portuguese brig of about 240 tons burden, commanded by a Spaniard, is lying at anchor in a small bay about twelve miles to the northward or southward of Campos, fully equipped for Slave Trade, having water-casks, arms, &c., on board, and is expected to put to sea forthwith, bound to the coast of Africa.

I hasten to communicate this information to your Excellency, in order that the Imperial Government may take such steps as may be deemed expedient for the purpose of intercepting the said brig.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. CAMPBELL SCARLETT.

No. 91.

Mr. Scarlett to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 6.)

My Lord,

Rio de Janeiro, August 9, 1857.

HAVING received information that, within six or seven days hence, an American steamer, commanded by Captain Miller, notorious in the Slave Trade, will endeavour to

CLASS B.

land a cargo of Africans at Marambaia, on this coast, for the estate of Senhor Joaquim de Souza Breves, to whom that island belongs, I have informed the Brazilian Minister for Foreign Affairs of this expectation, and urged his Excellency to take measures for the capture of the vessel and cargo, and for bringing to justice the aiders and abettors of so daring and outrageous an undertaking. I have also informed Viscount Maranguape of a communication I have received from the River Plate, through Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Montevideo, to the effect that a constant Traffic in Negroes has been carried on for some time across the River Uruguay, between the province of Corrientes and the Brazilian territory, to which they are often taken, and sold at the rate of from twelve to fourteen doubloons.

This information reached Mr. Thornton from an Englishman, who has lately lived several years in Uruguayana, a small town in the Brazilian territory, opposite Restauracion, in Corrientes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. CAMPBELL SCARLETT.

No. 92.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Scarlett.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 29, 1857.

I HAVE to acquaint you that I approve your proceedings on matters connected with the Brazilian Slave Trade, as reported in your despatches of the 6th, 8th, and 9th ultimo

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 93.

Mr. Scarlett to the Earl of Clarendon.--(Received October 17.)

My Lord,

Rio de Janeiro, August 28, 1857.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 8th of June of this year, respecting the proceedings of the Curator of Orphans at Pará, in the case of Mr. Dickson, by which he has been prevented hitherto from manumitting 3 slaves, the property of his late wife—not having received any further information than that afforded by Senhor Paranhos' note to me of the 9th of March last, copy of which was inclosed to your Lordship in my despatch of the 11th of March—I took an early opportunity, after receiving your Lordship's instructions, of pressing for a solution of this case again verbally on the Brazilian Foreign Office; in consequence of which I have now the honour to inclose translation of a note dated the 21st instant, from Viscount Maranguape, stating that, although the question had been referred for an explanation to the President of Pará by Senhor Paranhos, hitherto no further information had been elicited; and that the Minister of Justice had again written to Pará to urge the President to take the matter in hand without delay, of the result of which second application he would inform me as soon as possible.

I am inclined to believe, from a conversation I had with one of the Under-Secretaries of the Foreign Office, that the settlement of Mr. Dickson's affairs would have been expedited at Rio de Janeiro, if the parties interested had appointed and paid for legal assistance here when the case was sent on appeal to the Relação in this city, and that this neglect has been the real cause of the delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. CAMPBELL SCARLETT.

Inclosure in No. 93.

Viscount Maranguape to Mr. Scarlett.

(Translation.)

Rio de Janeiro, August 21, 1857.

HAVING lately pressed for the information which my predecessor called for through the Ministry of Justice, in order to solve the object of the note addressed by Mr. P. Campbell Scarlett, &c., of the 26th of February last, to this Department, relative to the lawsuit

maintained by Mr. Dickson, in the Province of Pará, for the guardianship of his children and property, and to the dominion over the slaves belonging to his deceased wife, the Minister of the above-mentioned Department has just stated to me that the necessary explanations upon the subject in question had already been called for, but that they had not yet been received, and that, in consequence, he had again instructed the President of Pará to forward them without delay.

In bringing this communication of the Minister of Justice to the knowledge of Mr. Scarlett, I await the transmittal to me of the called-for elucidations, which I shall have the honour to forward opportunely to Mr. Scarlett, and avail, &c.

(Signed)

VISCONDE DE MARANGUAPE.

No. 94.

Mr. Scarlett to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 17.)

My Lord,

Rio de Janeiro, September 5, 1857.

IN consequence of your Lordship's despatch of the 7th of July last, instructing me to interfere in favour of the liberation of 3 blacks, said to be unlawfully declared as slaves by Senhor José Garcia da Silva, Sub-Delegate of Police at Cameté, as stated in Mr. Vines' despatch to your Lordship dated May 10 of this year, I addressed a note to Viscount Maranguape on this subject, copy of which I inclose, together with a copy of his Excellency's reply, informing me that the question will be immediately investigated.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

P. CAMPBELL SCARLETT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 94.

Mr. Scarlett to Viscount Maranguape.

M. le Ministre,

Rio de Janeiro, August 10, 1857.

IT has been brought to my knowledge that a coloured woman of the name of Carolina, together with three of her children who have been since registered as slaves, have been enslaved by Senhor José Garcia da Silva, Sub-Delegate of Police of Cameté, in the Province of Pará.

The circumstances of the case are as follows:—

The mother of Carolina, by name Anna Joaquina, purchased her freedom of the Reverend Vicar of Pará, as also the freedom of her children—one son, who is now in the National Guard, Carolina (above mentioned), and Catherina.

It appears, however, that Senhor Da Silva being anxious to obtain possession of Carolina, persuaded her former owner to get back the original letters of emancipation purchased by Joaquina, and to substitute for them others which were post-dated, so that Carolina might appear to have been born before her mother's manumission.

If Carolina is legally a slave, the proofs of her slavery might easily be produced, because the baptism, poll-tax, transfer, sale-tax, &c., must be registered and vouchod for; and I sincerely trust that the interest the Imperial Government has always shown in the preservation of their freedom to all Brazilians who have been manumitted slaves, will cause your Excellency to move that proper inquiries should be instituted to ascertain these facts.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

P. CAMPBELL SCARLETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 94.

Viscount Maranguape to Mr. Scarlett.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Rio de Janeiro, August 31, 1857.

I HAVE had the honour to receive the communication made to me on the 10th instant by Mr. P. Campbell Scarlett, &c., informing me of the condition to which some coloured persons have been reduced in the Province of Pará.

I am thankful to Mr. Scarlett for this communication, which will not fail to be taken into due consideration by the Minister of Justice.

I avail, &c.

(Signed)

VISCONDE DE MARANGUAPE.

No. 95.

Mr. Scarlett to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 17.)

My Lord,

Rio de Janeiro, September 10, 1857.

DURING the last month several reports were made to me of a serious intention on the part of certain slave-traders on the coast of Africa, in correspondence with their agents in Brazil, to land cargoes of slaves in this country.

The principal operation spoken of referred to an engagement entered into with the notorious American Slave Trade captain, Miller, who, in combination with his agents to the south of Rio de Janeiro, was reported to be about to land slaves on the estate of Joaquim Breves, one of the greatest slave-holders in Brazil.

The vessel, a schooner commanded by Miller, and carrying the United States' flag, was, according to the information I received, to make an attempt some weeks ago at the Island of Marambaya, the property of Breves.

I lost no time in stating officially these circumstances to the Brazilian Government, and I also acquainted Admiral Hope Johnstone with what I had heard.

I also ascertained that a similar report had been forwarded to the Brazilian authorities at Rio de Janeiro from the port of Santos; and though no official notice was taken of my note to Viscount Maranguape by the Minister himself, I hear measures were immediately taken by the Government to prevent the success of any such undertaking, by sending at once a national ship of war in the direction I had mentioned.

Admiral Johnstone also sent two armed boats to cruize near Marambaya, after communicating his intention to Commodore Forrest, in command of the United States' squadron.

Commodore Forrest told the Admiral he should also use his endeavours to prevent the flag of the United States being prostituted to the Traffic, and soon after left Rio himself in his own ship, the "St. Lawrence," to cruize near the points suspected.

After about a week's absence, all these vessels returned to Rio without meeting with any suspicious vessel, although it was currently reported that shortly before their arrival some vessel of a suspicious character had been seen in the neighbourhood.

I take this opportunity of referring to a conversation I had with Viscount Maranguape on the subject of the intention of the French Government to import free blacks from Africa into the French Colonies.

His Excellency assured me on that occasion, that he entirely agreed with me in thinking such a measure very injurious to Brazil, and likely to render it, if really carried out, more difficult than ever to prevent the revival of this iniquitous Trade.

I said I would take the first opportunity of conveying this sentiment to your Lordship; and I am the more desirous of doing this, as I have reason to believe that the expectation of being allowed to adopt in this country similar means to supply the daily greater deficit of labour, would be eagerly caught at by the numerous planters, both of sugar and coffee, in Brazil, who are suffering now so much from want of hands.

The ability to carry out this design would be fatal. It would be absolutely necessary, in the first instance, to purchase the African slaves in the African market; and whatever promises of freedom were held out to them, they would be brought here by force, and in reality remain and be treated here as slaves.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

P. CAMPBELL SCARLETT.

No. 96.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Scarlett.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 7, 1857.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 10th of September last, I have to acquaint you that I approve of your having communicated to the Brazilian Government, and to Admiral Hope Johnstone, the information which had reached you relative to the intention of certain slave-traders on the African coast to attempt to land some cargoes of slaves in Brazil.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

CLARENDON.

No. 97.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Scarlett.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 7, 1857.*
I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vereker, Her Majesty's Consul at Rio Grande do Sul,* containing a report upon slavery and the Slave Trade in that Province.

You will perceive that Mr. Vereker states, in the concluding paragraph of his despatch, that "no substantial impediments are offered to the clandestine sales, as slaves, of persons of colour entitled to their freedom;" that "no efficient general registration of slaves has been established;" that "no regulations to impede the cruel separation, by sale, of slave families have been instituted, though such hardships are specially remarkable in judicial sales:" and that "no measures are adopted to secure the freedom of the new-born children of slaves, who, in the absence of such a measure, are added to the ranks of slavery," &c. ; and I have to instruct you to bring the state of things as represented by Mr. Vereker to the favourable notice of the Brazilian Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 98.

Mr. Scarlett to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 14.)

My Lord, *Rio de Janeiro, October 13, 1857.*
I HAVE the honour to forward by this mail a printed report from the Department of the Brazilian Minister of Justice, which, although voluminous, is without interest.

The only part of it, to which I think it desirable to call your Lordship's attention, refers to the Slave Trade, of which I inclose an extract, in translation, chiefly to show that the late Government took premature credit for the entire extinction of this inhuman Traffic, which is certain of being renewed in Brazil unless greater vigilance is used by the present Government than by the last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. CAMPBELL SCARLETT.

Inclosure in No. 98.

*Extract from the Report presented to the General Legislative Assembly of Brazil by the
Ex-Minister of Justice.*

(Translation.)

SLAVE TRADE.—The energy of the Government, the vigilance of all the agents of the authorities, continue to obtain the most advantageous results in regard to the prevention and repression of the African Slave Trade.

Since my last report no fact has occurred of the importation of Africans. Government has not failed to pay due attention to every rumour spread, however absurd it may have appeared to be; they have all been investigated, and their inaccuracy demonstrated.

The Order of the 20th of May of last year, in conformity with the Imperial Resolution of the 10th of May, 1856, stated, that with the exception of slaves enrolled in the crews of vessels belonging to countries in which slavery is permitted, and of those who have fled from foreign lands, all those who enter into Brazil are to remain free by virtue of the Law of the 7th of November, 1831, Article I.

The French schooner "Jeune Elise" entered the port of Bahia, from Lagos and San Thomé, with four Bozal Africans on board. The Chief of Police immediately proceeded to institute the most minute investigations, and ascertained that the captain of the schooner had, with the English Consul, engaged the four Africans, who never had been slaves, and were in the service of the French factories at Ajudah to act as sailors; that the vessel had not touched in any other port of the Empire, nor had brought any Africans besides those four, and that there was not the least sign of her having been engaged in the Slave Trade.

The Chief of Police, however, considered it necessary to take measures towards

preventing any criminal occurrence, and therefore made the commander of the schooner oblige himself by bond—

1. Not to allow the Africans to land, under penalty of the police taking charge of them, and only deliver them up when the vessel was going to sea.

2. To give notice of the death of any one of them, in order that the necessary investigations might take place, under the penalty of its being presumed that he had been reduced to slavery.

3. To present, within twelve months, a document from the English Consul in Lagos proving the arrival of the four Africans in that country, under penalty of a fine of 10,000 milreis, to which the manager of the commercial house of Gex, Decosterd, Frères, of Bahia, subscribed as security *in solidum*.

The *Relação* (Supreme Court) of Pernambuco acquitted those persons who were prosecuted for the importation and robbery of the Africans in Serinhaem. An appeal for the revision of this sentence is still pending.

Colonel João Manoel de Barros Wanderley Lins has been declared guilty, but the authorities have not yet been able to capture him.

The suit instituted against Colonel Gaspar de Menezes Vasconcellos de Drummond for his not having captured the captain and crew of the schooner, which was seized at that place, and not having provided for the due custody of all the imported Africans, was judged by the *Relação* of Pernambuco to be groundless, and that Court listened favourably to the appeal of the said colonel.

Twenty-two of the Africans stolen from the pilot-boat in Serinhaem have been recovered and restored to liberty.

From the 1st of May, 1856, to the 30th of April of this year, letters of emancipation have been furnished to eighty-seven free Africans.

No. 99.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Scarlett.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 21, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copies of a despatch, and its inclosure, from Mr. Campbell, Her Majesty's Consul at Lagos,* relative to the intention of the slave-traders at Whydah, and other parts of the Bight of Benin, to ship as passengers or seamen on board vessels trading under Portuguese colours to the port of Bahia, such of their domestic slaves as speak the Portuguese language, with the view to their sale in Brazil; and I have to instruct you to communicate the information contained in Mr. Campbell's despatch to the Brazilian Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON

No. 100.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Scarlett.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 8, 1857.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 25th of November, 1856,† I transmit, for your information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Cowper, Her Majesty's Consul at Pernambuco,‡ inclosing an extract from the "Jornal do Commercio" newspaper of the 22nd of September last, which strongly depicts some of the horrors of the coasting Slave Trade of Brazil.

And I have to instruct you again strongly to appeal to the justice and humanity of the Brazilian Government to put a stop to this Traffic, which, in its operation, is often more dreadful than the direct Slave Trade from Africa.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

* No. 37.

† Class B, presented 1856, No. 185.

‡ No. 136.

No. 101.

Mr. Scarlett to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 12.)

My Lord,

Rio de Janeiro, November 12, 1857.

WITH reference to the despatch which I had the honour of addressing to your Lordship, dated the 28th of August last, on the subject of the restoration to Mr. Dickson, at Pará, of his property, on the issue of which, also, depended the manumission of 3 slaves, being a portion of that property, I am happy to inform your Lordship that the required legal measures have been at last adopted by the proper authorities at Pará, in accordance with the terms of my note to the former Brazilian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senhor Paranhos, a copy of which I forwarded to your Lordship in my despatch of the 11th of March of this year.

I herewith have the honour to forward to your Lordship a translation of the note I received, yesterday, from Viscount Maranguape, conveying to me the information that the property in dispute has finally been made over to Mr. Dickson.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. CAMPBELL SCARLETT.

 Inclosure in No. 101.
Viscount Maranguape to Mr. Scarlett.

(Translation.)

Rio de Janeiro, November 6, 1857.

BY a note dated the 9th of March last, my predecessor, in acknowledging the receipt of that which Mr. P. Campbell Scarlett, &c., addressed to him on the 26th of February, respecting a lawsuit carried on in the capital of the Province of Pará by the subject of his nation, Mr. Dickson, relative to the guardianship of his children and property, and possession of the slaves belonging to his late wife, informed Mr. Scarlett that the Minister of Justice had called for information of what had taken place in the cause wherein Mr. Dickson was plaintiff, and desired the President of said Province to see that the competent authorities might do that degree of justice to the complainant to which he might be entitled.

Being now in possession of that information, I have the honour of bringing it to Mr. Scarlett's knowledge.

The Judge of Orphans of the said Province wrote to the respective President, stating that Mr. Dickson's wife, Donna Antonia, having died, her father, Lorenço Lucidoro de Mello, petitioned the Court that his grandchildren might be delivered up to him, alleging Mr. Dickson's incapacity to educate his children, and administer to their effects. Then the third Substitute of the Orphans Court sent the children to the grandfather, as well as their property, and the slaves named Lazaro, Jacinto, and Idalina, which belonged to them as the inheritance of their late mother.

But as the grandfather had not proved, as he should have done, the incapacity of Mr. Dickson, the said Judge of the Orphans ordered the delivery of his children and their slaves to him, which was promptly effected.

The object of Mr. Scarlett's said note having been complied with, it only remains for me to avail myself, &c.

(Signed) VISCONDE DE MARANGUAPE.

 No. 102.
Mr. Scarlett to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 12.)

My Lord,

Rio de Janeiro, November 13, 1857.

ON receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 31st of August, inclosing the Resolution of the House of Commons relative to Slave Trade, and the Address of Her Majesty thereupon, I forwarded to the Brazilian Minister for Foreign Affairs a printed copy of that Resolution, and of the reply the Queen has been graciously pleased to make to it.

In return I have now the honour to inclose to your Lordship the communication I have received from Viscount Maranguape, a copy of which accompanies this despatch,

informing me that it is the sincere wish of the Imperial Government that the efforts of Her Majesty's Government to extinguish the Traffic may be crowned with success.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. CAMPBELL SCARLETT.

Inclosure in No. 102.

Viscount Maranguape to Mr. Scarlett.

(Translation.)

Rio de Janeiro, October 20, 1857.

I ACKNOWLEDGE the receipt of the note which, on the 16th instant, was addressed to me by Mr. P. Campbell Scarlett, &c., inclosing copies of the Resolution of the House of Commons of the 14th July, relative to Slave Trade from Africa, and of Her Britannic Majesty's answer thereto of the 27th of that month; and in reply I have the honour of manifesting to Mr. Scarlett the sincere wish of the Imperial Government that the efforts of the Government of Her Britannic Majesty towards the extinction of that Traffic may be crowned, in those countries where unhappily it is still carried on, with so favourable a result as that which has attended those which have been constantly used by Brazil for the same purpose, on her part, and in the interest of the future.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) VISCONDE DE MARANGUAPE.

No. 103.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Scarlett.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 28, 1857.

I HAVE to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government learn with satisfaction the decision which has been come to by the legal authorities at Pará, in the case of Mr. Dickson's children and property, as reported in your despatch of the 12th ultimo.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 104.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Scarlett.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 13, 1858.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 14th of May of last year, I inclose for your information the accompanying copy of a despatch from Mr. Gabriel, Her Majesty's Acting Commissioner at Loanda,* containing some further observations respecting the appointment by the Brazilian Government of a Consul-General to reside at that place.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 105.

Mr. Scarlett to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 19, 1858.)

My Lord,

Rio de Janeiro, December 12, 1857.

ON the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 4th of September, relating to the complaint made against the proceedings of certain English Mining Companies in Brazil, with regard to the manumission of their slaves, I thought it desirable at once to apply to the Superintendent of the St. John del Rey Mining Company, in the province of Minas, for information and explanation on this subject.

With this view, I addressed to Mr. Thomas Walker, who is Superintendent of that Company, a letter, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, accompanied by the documents to which I have therein alluded; since which I have received from Mr. Walker a reply to my communication, which I now forward in copy to your Lordship.

* Class A, No. 121.

By this reply I am informed by Mr. Walker, that every promise made to the blacks has always been faithfully fulfilled, and that, as regards the blacks belonging to that Company, there has been for years in operation, a plan of giving freedom to a certain number who shall have conducted themselves well during a certain term of probation.

Mr. Walker refers me for further information to the Directors of the two Companies in London.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. CAMPBELL SCARLETT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 105.

Mr. Scarlett to Dr. Walker.

Sir, *Rio de Janeiro, October 17, 1857.*
MY attention having been called by the Earl of Clarendon, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in his despatch, dated the 4th of September last, to the subject-matter of certain papers, whereof I herewith transmit copies to you, viz. :—
Of a letter from the Secretary of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society.
Of an article circulated in the English journals, signed "Anglo-Brazileiro ;"
Of an article also circulated in the same public prints, signed "A Lover of Justice," and of his Lordship's reply to Mr. L. A. Chamerovzow ;

And having no other means of procuring such information as may either refute or confirm the assertions of the anonymous writers of those publications except that of applying to the parties in this country who are in charge of the interests of the Companies therein alluded to, I have to request you to acquaint me, at your earliest leisure, with the real facts connected with the African slaves and negroes born in Brazil, who are under your control, in order that I may transmit your report on this subject to the Earl of Clarendon, with the least possible delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. CAMPBELL SCARLETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 105.

Dr. Walker to Mr. Scarlett.

Sir, *Morro Velho, November 19, 1857.*
I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 17th of last month, with the accompanying documents.

The only portion of these latter, applying to this Company, appears to be that respecting the blacks hired from the Brazilian Company formerly established at Cata Branca. I can affirm that, so far as I know, having been only about three years and a-half superintendent of this establishment, every promise made to these blacks has been most faithfully fulfilled. The permission to earn their freedom, by working overtime, has remained always in force, and not only has no obstacle been thrown in their way, but every encouragement has been given them.

The agreement for hiring them was made between the Directors of the two Companies in London, to whom I beg leave to refer you for further information, which I have no doubt they will be happy to give. I have forwarded to our Board copy of your Excellency's letter and of Lord Clarendon's despatch.

I may mention, that as regards the blacks belonging to our Company, there has been for years in operation a plan of giving freedom to a certain number who should have conducted themselves well during a certain term of probation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. WALKER,
Superintendent of the St. John del Rey Mining Company.

Mr. Scarlett to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 19, 1858.)

My Lord,

Rio de Janeiro, December 14, 1857.

SINCE writing my despatch of the 12th instant, by this packet, relating to the proceedings of the Brazilian Mining Companies in the disposal of their slaves, Mr. Westwood, Her Majesty's Consul, has, at my request, forwarded to me an account of a transaction, which has come to his knowledge, connected with the slaves belonging to the Imperial Brazilian Mining Association, to which I think it desirable to draw your Lordship's attention, and therefore inclose a copy of his communication on this subject.

It is not unlikely, though difficult to prove, that most of the slaves to whom Mr. Westwood alludes, and who are the cause of a dispute pending between the Company and its agent for their transfer to other parties in Brazil, were acquired after the passing of the Act 6 and 7 Vict., cap. 98, in 1843, rendering them thereby by British law legally free: and even if acquired before the passing of that Act, I conclude that a British Company can have no right now to continue the unfortunate children of these slaves in slavery, who, probably, form the majority of the number.

It must, however, be borne in mind that the law in this country, where slavery subsists, justifies these proceedings, and it will be for Her Majesty's Law Officers to determine whether any legal measures adopted against the Company, whose direction is in England, will lead to their punishment, and be of any service to the slaves in this country, where the agents of the Company are not acting contrary to Brazilian law, although they are infringing the law of England, and I believe also their own bye-laws, by which I am given to understand that the slaves were to have been free after twenty years' service, and their children from their birth.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. CAMPBELL SCARLETT.

Inclosure in No. 106.

Consul Westwood to Mr. Scarlett.

Sir,

Rio de Janeiro, December 14, 1857.

WITH reference to our different conversations on the subject of the slaves held by British Companies working mines in this country, I consider it my duty to report to your Excellency certain proceedings which have come to my knowledge connected with the slaves belonging to the Imperial Brazilian Mining Association.

It appears that the shareholders of the Association have, for some time past, been desirous of winding up their mining affairs in Brazil, and with a view of carrying out this object they, some months since, sent powers and instructions to their manager to dispose of the lands, buildings, and slaves, either by sale or otherwise.

That, in accordance with such powers and instructions, the manager at Gongo Soco, Mr. Hitchens, entered into a contract with the directors of a Brazilian Company, the "União e Industria," by which contract the services of the slaves belonging to the Association, about 400 in number, were ceded to the Company for a term of twenty years, at the expiration of which time those who were then living were to be free.

However, before the Directors of the Imperial Brazilian Mining Association in London were made acquainted with the execution of this contract, they had themselves made a sale of the slaves to a Brazilian merchant called Santos, and they sent out instructions to Mr. Hitchens to complete such sale by signing the bill of sale and other legal documents required by Brazilian law.

Mr. Hitchens being already compromised with the Company, "União e Industria," declined carrying out the instructions to make good the sale to Senhor Santos, and the matter has consequently to be referred to London for a decision.

By the contract entered into between Mr. Hitchens and the Company, "União e Industria," there is a prospect that some of the slaves or, at least, some of their children may ultimately obtain freedom, while by the sale made by the Association in London the unhappy creatures are consigned to perpetual slavery.

However, the question which has thus arisen between the Directors of the Association and their manager in this country is, of course, one for settlement between themselves and the parties concerned, but as it does not appear clear to me that the legality of either

transaction may not be questioned, I have thought it my duty to call attention to the matter.

By the Act 6 & 7 Vict., cap. 98, British subjects are permitted to sell or transfer slaves which were lawfully in their possession at the time of passing the said Act (24th August, 1843), or to which they have become entitled by inheritance, devise, bequest, or marriage. Now it appears clear that the children of the slaves belonging to the Imperial Brazilian Association born since 1843, and now attempted to be sold or transferred with their parents, have been acquired since the passing of the Act in question, and if such is a proper interpretation of the law the sale of such children must be illegal.

I am informed that Mr. Hitchens proceeds to England by the "Medway" steamer.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JNO. J. C. WESTWOOD.

No. 107.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Scarlett.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, February 8, 1858.

I HAVE received your despatches of the 12th and 14th of December last, the former reporting the steps taken by you in order to obtain information respecting the alleged illegal proceedings of certain English mining companies in Brazil with regard to their slaves; and the latter inclosing a copy of a letter from Mr. Consul Westwood, relative to certain proceedings which have come to his knowledge connected with the slaves belonging to the Imperial Brazilian Mining Association.

You will continue to watch and report to me the proceedings of any British Companies or British subjects, in Brazil, in their dealings with slaves.

No. 108.

Mr. Scarlett to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 12.)

My Lord,

Rio de Janeiro, January 1, 1858.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of March 29, 1856, addressed to Mr. Jerningham, respecting a violation of contract and barbarous treatment of negroes who took their passage from Bahia to the coast of Africa on board of two Portuguese vessels, the "General Rego" and the "Emilia," I have the honour, herewith, to forward to your Lordship the copy of a note addressed to me by Viscount Maranguape on this subject, in reply to a note of Mr. Jerningham's to Senhor Paranhos, a copy of which was forwarded by the former gentleman to your Lordship in his despatch of June 9, 1856.

Your Lordship will observe in the reply which has only now reached Her Majesty's Legation with reference to the treatment of these negroes, that the Brazilian Government draws a distinction between those Africans who are entitled to their liberty from having been illegally brought into this country, and those who are born in the country and afterwards obtain their freedom independently of the Government, over whom they have no control, and for whom they profess their inability to interfere, in which latter category, according to Viscount Maranguape, were found to be the negroes mentioned in Consul Campbell's despatch to your Lordship.

The Brazilian Government have already adopted Mr. Campbell's suggestion with regard to taking a bond from the captains of vessels by whom emancipated Africans, under the control of the Government, are conveyed back to their own country; and they will not fail also, whenever they can do so, to punish severely all subjects of the Empire should they be discovered in the attempt to withhold their freedom from those negroes who are legally entitled to it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. CAMPBELL SCARLETT.

Inclosure in No. 108.

Viscount Maranguape to Mr. Scarlett.

Rio de Janeiro, December 22, 1857.

(Translation.)

HER Britannic Majesty's Legation at this Court addressed to my predecessor on the 5th of May of last year, a note in which, by order of its Government, the communication was made that the English Consul in Lagos had complained of the conduct of the captains of the Portuguese vessels "General Rego" and "Emilia," towards the free Africans conveyed by them from Bahia.

According to the information given by that Consul, the captain of the first-mentioned vessel forced 40 of the said Africans to land in Whydah, a notorious slave-market, where they were robbed of everything they possessed, and sent to the King of Dahomey, who killed them because they were Egbas, a nation inimical to him; and the captain of the "Emilia" had put 15 Africans on shore at Aghwey, who had the good fortune to place themselves in safety, but had left everything they possessed on board the vessel.

In transmitting this information to my predecessor, the Legation added that its Government (although convinced that the Imperial Government would not fail, by all the means in its power, to prevent the repetition of such acts, in some way protecting those Africans whom it obliged to quit the Empire as soon as they were emancipated, requested that some measure might be adopted to subject the owners of vessels entrusted with the transporting of such Africans, to give bonds for effecting the disembarkation of them at the places pointed out by the said Africans when about to leave the Empire.

The Imperial Government immediately endeavoured to obtain information in this respect; and from the report of the Chief of Police of Bahia, it appears that in March of last year, 23 freed Africans and 8 Creoles were shipped from that Province for the coast of Africa, on board the brig "General Rego," and 13 freed Africans and 3 Creoles on board the schooner "Emilia," none of whom had been banished, but, on the contrary, had voluntarily solicited their passports.

This information shows that the Africans of whom the English Consul in Lagos makes mention, were not any of those who, from having been illegally imported into the Empire, had been emancipated, or were obliged to quit the territory of Brazil.

A due distinction being made between emancipated Africans by the Mixed Commission and by the Government, and those who, after having been slaves, have obtained their liberty either by purchase or some other legal means, is the hypothesis in which those are placed of whom we are now treating. I can assure Mr. Scarlett that, with regard to the former, the Imperial Government is disposed to adopt all proper and legal measures to render such freedom legal, as, for example, to oblige the owners of vessels to sign a bond in the police-office, binding themselves, under the penalties of the law, to convey those Africans to the port of their destination, affording them suitable treatment, and to show proof of their compliance with such obligation by a certificate of the local authorities on the coast of Africa, where such may exist, and with whom the Imperial Government will endeavour to come to a previous understanding, because it acknowledges that, as the introduction of Africans into Brazil is illegal and violent, it is obliged to maintain, in as far as it can, their emancipation, or rather their liberty, which is recognized and declared by the Government itself, and by the respective authorities under whose guardianship they remain in the Empire.

In regard, however, to those Africans who, after being slaves, free themselves by legal means, and return to their native land, they being to be considered as real travellers who, quite voluntarily, and without the intervention of the authority, leave the Empire, the Imperial Government, not knowing them, and they not being under the guardianship of a Brazilian authority, considers itself exempted from the duty to which it feels itself bound relative to the former.

Moreover, the African who, having been a slave, and obtains his freedom, only obtains it after many years, when he has acquired the Portuguese language, and he is enabled to see himself righted; if he, therefore, returns to his country, it will be very difficult to reduce him there again to slavery, and to re-export him again as a slave.

Notwithstanding what is above said, if the Imperial Government cannot, with propriety, accompany a free African by especial protection, to wherever he may wish to go, or on board the vessel in which he embarks, it will, whenever it behoves it and can do so, severely punish any subjects of the Empire who may develop themselves in plotting against his freedom. But the Imperial Government does not consider it its duty to grant to negroes, merely from the simple fact of their being blacks, those special privileges and th-

protection which those do not enjoy who are of the same colour and the same class, and have been born in Brazil.

In having the honour to reply in this manner to the above-cited note of the British Legation, I have only to assure Mr. Scarlett, &c.

(Signed)

VISCONDE DE MARANGUAPE.

No. 109.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Scarlett.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 25, 1858.

MR. MORGAN, Her Majesty's Consul at Bahia, has transmitted to me a copy of the despatch which he addressed to you on the 12th of December last, calling your attention to the course pursued by the President of that province in hiring out, to a private individual, the services of a large number of liberated Africans—a proceeding which is contrary to the spirit of the Brazilian Law of the 4th of September, 1850, and to the assurance given to Mr. Howard in the note addressed to him by Senhor Limpo d'Abreu, on the 3rd of February, 1853. And I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government concur in the views of Mr. Morgan with regard to this transaction, and trust that the Brazilian Government will take immediate measures for putting a stop to this practice, and for withdrawing the 200 emancipados hired out by the President, from the slave labour and treatment to which there can be little doubt that they are now subjected.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 110.

Mr. Scarlett to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 17.)

My Lord,

Rio de Janeiro, February 3, 1858.

HAVING received information of an intended slave operation on the coast of Brazil, in the neighbourhood of Santos, under the superintendence of Don Francisco Riveroza, the noted Spanish slave-trader, now supposed to be at Cananea, in the province of San Paulo, and of other parties mentioned, I addressed a note to the Visconde de Maranguape on this subject, a copy of which I have the honour to inclose, together with a copy of his Excellency's reply, assuring me of the intention of the Brazilian Government to take stringent measures for preventing this operation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. CAMPBELL SCARLETT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 110.

Mr. Scarlett to Viscount Maranguape.

M. le Ministre,

Rio de Janeiro, January 26, 1858.

I HAVE just received information respecting an intended disembarkation of African slaves, under the superintendence of Don Francisco Riveroza y Urguelles, who is now at a place called Cananea, in the province of San Paulo, and of José Vergueiro, who is the agent, according to the information referred to, for receiving them when they are expected to arrive in the month of February.

The arrest of Riveroza and of Antonio Luiz, and other individuals mentioned in the inclosed Memorandum, appear to me to be essentially necessary.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) P. CAMPBELL SCARLETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 110.

Viscount Maranguape to Mr. Scarlett.

(Translation.)

Rio de Janeiro, January 28, 1858.

I HAVE had the honour to receive, last evening, the note which, under date of the 26th instant. was addressed to me by Mr. P. Campbell Scarlett, &c., accompanying the

copy of an information relative to the projected disembarkation of Africans by Don Francisco Riverosa y Urguelles, who, according to the said information, is at Cananea, in the province of San Paulo José Vergueiro being the agent destined to receive the Africans.

In thanking Mr. Scarlett for this important communication, it behoves me to assure him that I, this day, apply to the Ministers of Justice and Marine for the adoption of prompt and efficacious measures for frustrating so daring and criminal an undertaking, and the capture of its authors and accomplices, in order that they may suffer the condign punishment imposed by the laws for the perpetration of so abominable a crime.

I am quite confident that those measures will be crowned with a satisfactory result if the announced attempt should take place.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) VISCONDE DE MARANGUAPE.

No. 111.

Mr. Scarlett to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 17.)

My Lord,

Rio de Janeiro, January 25, 1858.

ON the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 8th of December, 1857, inclosing a communication from Mr. Consul Campbell at Lagos, respecting the intention of certain slave-dealers at Whydah, and other ports of the Bight of Benin, to transport African slaves to Bahia, as free servants, after having taught them the Portuguese language, I lost no time in addressing, on this subject, a note to the Viscount de Maranguape, a copy of which is inclosed, and I have now the honour to forward to your Lordship, in translation, his Excellency's reply, by which he assures me that the attention of the Brazilian Government will be directed to this iniquitous scheme for resuming the Traffic, with the view of preventing its success.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. CAMPBELL SCARLETT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 111.

Mr. Scarlett to Viscount Maranguape.

Rio de Janeiro, January 7, 1858.

THE Undersigned, &c., has been instructed by the Earl of Clarendon to bring to the notice of the Brazilian Government the facts referred to in the accompanying correspondence received by his Lordship from Her Majesty's Consul at Lagos on the coast of Africa, copies of which the Undersigned has the honour to inclose, by which it appears that certain slave-dealers at Whydah, and other ports of the Bight of Benin, intend to ship, as passengers and seamen, on board vessels trading under the Portuguese flag, to the port of Bahia, such of their domestic slaves as speak the Portuguese language, with a view to their sale in Brazil.

The Undersigned, relying on the sincerity of the Brazilian Government for the extermination of the Slave Trade, entertains a hope that the Brazilian Government will take immediate steps to prevent the renewal of the Traffic under this insidious form.

The Undersigned, &c. (Signed) P. CAMPBELL SCARLETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 111.

Viscount Maranguape to Mr. Scarlett.

(Translation.)

Rio de Janeiro, January 19, 1858.

I HAVE had the honour of receiving the note dated the 7th instant, in which Mr. P. Campbell Scarlett, &c., in referring to the correspondence which accompanied it, received by his Government from the British Consul in Lagos, expresses the hope that the Imperial Government will endeavour to defeat the object that, according to the information contained in that correspondence, certain slave-traders of Benin intended to carry out, of shipping, as passengers, to Bahia, such of their slaves who speak the Portuguese language, for the purpose of being sold in Brazil.

In reply, it behoves me to assure Mr. Scarlett that the Imperial Government will not

lose sight of this affair, and will not fail to employ all the means in its power to prevent the Slave Trade, now universally discountenanced, from assuming this new form for arriving at its illicit purposes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) VISCONDE DE MARANGUAPE.

No. 112.

The Earl of Malmesbury to Mr. Scarlett.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 25, 1858.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 3rd ultimo, addressed to the Earl of Clarendon, I have to acquaint you that I approve of your having communicated to the Brazilian Government the information which you had received relative to a projected disembarkation of slaves in the neighbourhood of Santos.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MALMESBURY.

BRAZIL. (*Consular*)—*Bahia*.

No. 113.

Consul Morgan to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 18.)

My Lord,

Bahia, March 12, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 27th of January last,* and in which it is made known to me that the Law Officers of the Crown are of opinion that the terms of the Act 5 Geo. IV, cap. 113, are directed against the insurance of adventures in slaves, and not in terms against insurance effected on their lives, and that Mr. Giolma is not liable to the penalties imposed on those who insure, or contract for the insurance of, slaves, and their procurers, counsellors, aiders, and abettors.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN MORGAN, Jun.

No. 114.

Consul Morgan to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received May 13.)

My Lord,

Bahia, March 31, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the accompanying Lists Nos. 1 and 2 of the trade between this port and the coast of Africa during the quarter ending this day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN MORGAN, Jun.

* Class B, presented 1857, No. 249.

Inclosure 1 in No. 114.

List of Vessels which have entered the Port of Bahia from the Coast of Africa, during the Quarter ending March 31, 1857.

No.	Date of Entry.	Nation.	Class.	Name.	Tons.	Crew.	Master.	Owner.	Cargo.	Whence.	Days out.	Remarks.
	1857											
1	Feb. 11	Portuguese	Barque	Nympha	228	15	Antonio P. dos Reis	Unknown	Oil, &c.	Porto Novo	23	
2	" 28	Ditto	Hiate	Aguia	105	9	José P. Rezende	M. L. D. Vianna	Ditto	Ajudá	30	

British Consulate, Bahia, March 31, 1857.

(Signed) JOHN MORGAN, Jun., Consul.

Inclosure 2 in No. 114.

List of Vessels which have sailed from the Port of Bahia for the Coast of Africa, during the Quarter ending March 31, 1857.

No.	Date of Sailing.	Nation.	Class.	Name.	Tons.	Crew.	Master.	Owner.	Cargo.	Whither bound.	Remarks.
	1857										
1	Jan. 16	Portuguese	Barque	Esperança	450	16	Antonio A. de Souza	Not known	Rum and tobacco	Coast of Africa.	
2	Feb. 7	Ditto	Brig	Intrepido	282	12	Antonio F. das Dores	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.	
3	" 7	Sardinian	Polacca	Porto Maurizio	227	9	B. Lupi	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.	
4	Mar. 22	Brazilian	Brigantine	Constancia	151	11	Narcizo L. da Silva	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.	
5	" 28	French	Brig	El Dorado	287	12	J. M. H. Ferreira	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.	
6	" 31	Ditto	Lugger	Independence	323	9	Henry Pierre	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	With 130 passengers, free negroes.

British Consulate, Bahia, March 31, 1857.

(Signed) JOHN MORGAN, Jun., Consul.

No. 115.

Consul Morgan to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received May 13.)

My Lord,

Bahia, April 18, 1857.

I THINK it proper to acquaint your Lordship that some of the foreign steam-ships navigating to the Brazils are in the habit of taking slaves north and south of this city, belonging to families who embark in those steam-ships.

In the police report of the movements of this port, published in the "Jornal da Bahia" of this day's date, it states the respective numbers of 8 and 4 slaves were carried to Rio de Janeiro in the Sardinian steamer "Vittorio Emanuele."

As I believe such a permission is contrary to the Sardinian law, as no Sardinian subject is permitted to hold slaves, such an abuse of the Sardinian flag appears to me to be the more flagrant and deserving of notice, especially as the carrying-trade in slaves to the south is far from being stopped, and gives them advantages over the Royal mail-steamers, who are strictly prohibited from receiving even servants (slaves) who accompany their masters.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN MORGAN, Jun.

No. 116.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Morgan.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 7, 1857.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 18th of April last, reporting that some of the foreign steam-vessels navigating to the Brazils are in the habit of carrying slaves between the ports of that Empire, and that the Sardinian steam-vessel "Vittorio Emanuele" is one of the vessels so employed; and I transmit to you herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Minister at Turin,* in answer to a communication which I made to him upon this subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 117.

Consul Morgan to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 13.)

My Lord,

Bahia, June 30, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying Lists, Nos. 1 and 2, of the trade between this port and the coast of Africa, during the quarter ending this day.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN MORGAN, Jun.

* No. 323.

Inclosure 1 in No. 117.

LIST of Vessels which have entered the Port of Bahia from the Coast of Africa, during the Quarter ending June 30, 1857.

No.	Date of Entry.	Nation.	Class.	Name.	Tons.	Crew.	Master.	Owner.	Cargo.	Whence.	Days out.
1	1857 May 13	Sardinian	Polacca	N. S. del Suffragio	164	11	L. Trastour	Unknown	Oil, &c.	Lagos	40

British Consulate, Bahia, June 30, 1857.

(Signed) JOHN MORGAN, Jun., Consul.

Inclosure 2 in No. 117.

LIST of Vessels which have Sailed from the Port of Bahia for the Coast of Africa, during the Quarter ending June 30, 1857.

No.	Date of Sailing.	Nation.	Class.	Name.	Tons.	Crew.	Master.	Owner.	Cargo.	Whither bound.
1	1857 April 14	Portuguese	Patacho	Dous Irmaos	155	12	Anto. A. de Amorim	Not known	Rum and tobacco	Coast of Africa.
2	" 15	French	Brig.	Naplousan	244	10	L. Morvan	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.
3	May 5	Dutch	Ditto	Gouverneur Schemerus	198	9	J. Klok	Ditto	Ditto	Elmina.
4	" 13	Portuguese	Hiate	Aguia	188	11	J. M. Maio	Ditto	Ditto	Coast of Africa.
5	" 25	French	Polacca	Veritas	154	11	V. Aubes	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.

British Consulate, Bahia, June 30, 1857.

(Signed) JOHN MORGAN, Jun., Consul.

No. 118.

Consul Morgan to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 13.)

My Lord,

Bahia, June 30, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the half-yearly return of the prices of slaves in this city.

The exportation of slaves to Rio de Janeiro still continues, and prices have considerably increased of late, and I have no doubt will yet rise higher, until a stop is put to this exportation. Although felt by all to be so injurious to agriculture, and sensibly felt in the diminished amount of alimentary products raised in the whole province, this question is left in abeyance until the Central Government initiate the so-much-talked-of colonization; but which, so long as slavery is the rule, and not the exception, will be a difficult one to grapple with in this province.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN MORGAN, Jun.

Inclosure in No. 118.

RETURN of the Prices of Slaves within the District of the Consulate of Bahia at the respective times under-mentioned.

Description.	For the half-year ending December 31, 1856.				For the half-year ending June 30, 1857.			
	Currency.		Sterling.		Currency.		Sterling.	
	Reis.	Reis.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Reis.	Reis.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
African males	1,320\$	to 1,440\$	152 12 6	to 166 10 0	1,500\$	to 1,800\$	175 0 0	to 210 0 0
Ditto females	1,140\$	1,200\$	131 16 3	138 15 0	1,200\$	1,500\$	130 0 0	175 0 0
Creole males	1,440\$	1,560\$	166 10 0	180 8 6	1,600\$	1,800\$	186 13 4	210 0 0
Ditto, with professions	2,040\$	2,640\$	235 17 6	305 5 0	2,200\$	2,800\$	246 13 6	316 13 6
Ditto females	1,200\$	1,320\$	138 15 0	152 12 6	1,400\$	1,500\$	163 6 8	175 0 0

British Consulate, Bahia, June 30, 1857.

(Signed)

JOHN MORGAN, Jun., *Consul.*

No. 119.

Consul Morgan to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 17.)

My Lord,

Bahia, September 12, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 7th July ultimo, and inclosing copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Turin, in relation to the practice of some foreign steam-ships navigating to Brazil, carrying slaves from one port of the Empire to another.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN MORGAN, Jun.

No. 120.

Consul Morgan to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 14.)

My Lord,

Bahia, October 12, 1857.

IT is my duty to report to your Lordship the substance of a letter received in this city by an old slave-dealer, now long retired from the Traffic, from Ajudah, on the coast of Africa. It was communicated to me by the individual who received it, and is to the following effect:—

“I acquaint you with some surprise, but with great satisfaction, that the traffic on this coast has again revived. Three American vessels have received cargoes of slaves for Cuba, but a fourth, of the same nation, has been captured with 30,000 dollars on board.

The agents of the house of Regis and Co. have purchased, at 40 dollars a-head, 1,200 slaves, to be shipped on board the French steamer just arrived from Marseilles for the Antilles. The slave-holders, however, now demand 60 dollars; and no margin is left for profit, if these slaves or colonists are to be delivered at 500 francs a-head at the Martinique."

It is much to be regretted that this new speculation of exporting slaves under the misnomer of free emigrants, from Africa, should be patronized by the French Government; as here the reports taken from the European papers on this subject have made great impression on some individuals, who are always ready to assert that sugar and other tropical produce can alone be reared by African labour. At the same time an opinion is in vogue, that Brazil cannot well be excluded from the right of supplying herself in like manner, when France resorts to such a measure to supply her colonies with labour.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN MORGAN, Jun.

No. 121.

Consul Morgan to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 14.)

My Lord,

Bahia, October 14, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the accompanying Lists, Nos 1 and 2, of the trade between this port and the coast of Africa during the quarter ending September last.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN MORGAN, Jun.

Inclosure 1 in No. 121.

LIST of Vessels which have entered the Port of Bahia from the Coast of Africa, during the Quarter ending September 30, 1857.

No.	Date of Entry.	Nation.	Class.	Name.	Tons.	Crew.	Master.	Owner.	Cargo.	Whence.	Days out.
1	1857 June 29	Portuguese	Brig	Esperança	112	11	Antonio Lisboa	Unknown	Oil, &c.	Ajudá	18
2	Sept. 22	Ditto	Ditto	Providencia	52	12	Antonio Dias Lima	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	31

British Consulate, Bahia, September 30, 1857.

(Signed)

JOHN MORGAN, Jun., Consul.

Inclosure 2 in No. 121.

LIST of Vessels which have sailed from the Port of Bahia for the Coast of Africa, during the Quarter ending September 30, 1857.

No.	Date of Sailing.	Nation.	Class.	Name.	Tons.	Crew.	Master.	Owner.	Cargo.	Whither bound.
1	1857 July 9	Spanish	Barque	Conchita	383	13	Eugenio Bayona	Unknown	Rum and tobacco	Coast of Africa.
2	" 15	French	Schooner	Jeune Elise	128	10	— Bourget	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.
3	" 22	Spanish	Polacca	Taimada	212	13	Sebastiano Sabaté	Ditto	Cotton and tobacco	Ditto.
4	" 27	Hamburgh	Schooner	Sylphide	155	10	— Meyer	Ditto	Rum and tobacco	Ditto.
5	Aug. 30	Portuguese	Barque	Janetha	425	15	João José da Rocha	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.
6	Sept. 12	Sardinian	Polacca	General Garibaldi	230	12	S. Maggi	Ditto	Tobacco	Ditto.

British Consulate, Bahia, September 30, 1857.

(Signed)

JOHN MORGAN, Jun., Consul.

No. 122.

Consul Morgan to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 12.)

My Lord,

Bahia, November 14, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship extract of a letter I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Lagos, relative to the attempts made by the notorious slave-dealer Domingo Martins to ship domestic slaves to Bahia, and the desire he has expressed to return to Brazil.

Combining the information given to me by Mr. Campbell with the reports here in circulation about the revival of the Traffic on the coast of Africa, I conceived it my duty to communicate that information to the President of this province, in order that it might not be supposed, because the Government of France had tolerated the exportation of a certain number of Africans to their Colonies in the Antilles, Her Majesty's authorities in Brazil were negligent in watching the fulfilment of the Treaty stipulations of 1827, in so far as it was binding on this Empire.

In my despatch dated the 17th October last, I communicated to your Lordship the impression caused here by the French trials to the Antilles. Of the sincerity of the authorities in this country to check the revival of the Traffic, I believe we may rely on; but the question is, how long will they be able to oppose the "pressure" that must necessarily be brought to bear on the Government, should that legal exportation continue on the coast of Africa? The value of slaves has risen enormously, labour is demanded at any price, and colonization they know not how to go about in this country.

The necessary consequence must be a revival of the Traffic in spite of Government; and I was told, the other day, that if the United States followed the example of France, Brazil would undoubtedly follow in the wake.

I inclose copies of my despatch to the President, and his reply thereto.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN MORGAN, Jun.

 Inclosure 1 in No. 122.
Consul Campbell to Consul Morgan.

(Extract.)

Lagos, September 26, 1857.

AN opportunity offering direct from this to Bahia, I take advantage of it to apprise you of the reported intention of Senhor Domingo Martins, and other slave-traders at Whydah, to embark on board the Portuguese and other vessels trading between the Bight of Benin and Bahia, from time to time, such of their domestic slaves as speak a little Portuguese, in the expectation that, as they will be dressed either as seamen or in the native manufactured cloths of this country, that they will pass for old Bahia slaves. It is, I am informed, intended to embark these domestic slaves under the sanction of a passport from Senhor Isidoro de Souza, the Cha-cha of Whydah, a nominal title he holds from the King of Dahomey.

A few months since Signor Carrena was requested by Domingo Martins to ask me whether I would grant a passport for six of his children, whom he wished to send by a Portuguese vessel to Bahia to be educated; Signor Carrena's relations with this Consulate not justifying him in making such an application to me personally, he mentioned the matter to the Sardinian Consul at this place, who told him that it was utterly useless to make any such application to me. I learnt, subsequently, that it was six choice young slaves of both sexes that Domingo Martins intended to embark from his establishment as a present to one of the principal Government functionaries at Bahia.

The squadron on this part of the coast has been rather successful during the last six months, having captured six vessels, some with slaves, that had sheltered themselves under the American flag.

 Inclosure 2 in No. 122.
Consul Morgan to the President of the Province of Bahia.

(Translation.)

Illustrious and Most Excellent Sir,

Bahia, October 30, 1857.

HAVING yesterday received certain information from the coast of Africa, which from its nature may interest the Government, I hasten to communicate it to your Excellency, by translating an extract of a despatch I have received from Lagos:—

“It is now known that Domingo Martins, and other slave-traders at Whydah, intend to embark on board the Portuguese and other vessels trading between the Bight of Benin and Bahia, from time to time, such of their domestic slaves as speak a little Portuguese, in the expectation that, as they will be dressed either as seamen or in the native manufactured cloths of this country, they will pass for old Bahia slaves. It is, I am informed, intended to embark these domestic slaves under the sanction of a passport from Senhor Isidoro de Souza, the Cha-Cha of Whydah, a nominal title he holds from the King of Dahomey.

“A few months since Senhor Carrena was requested by Domingo Martins to ask me whether I would grant a passport for six of his children, whom he wished to send by a Portuguese vessel to Bahia to be educated. Senhor Carrena’s relations with this Consulate not justifying him in making such an application personally, he mentioned the matter to the Sardinian Consul at this place, who told him that it was utterly useless to make any such application to me. I learnt subsequently that it was six choice young slaves of both sexes that Domingo Martins intended to embark from his establishment, as a present to one of the principal Government functionaries at Bahia.”

It only remains for me to add that the above Domingo Martins was anciently a slave, and very rich, who resided here for many years, and was ordered to leave the empire by General Andrea, in consequence of the active part he took in the Traffic in Slaves.

I renew, &c.
(Signed) JOHN MORGAN, Jun.

Inclosure 3 in No. 122.

The President of the Province of Bahia to Consul Morgan.

(Translation.)

Palace of the Government of Bahia, November 5, 1857.

THIS Presidency has received the confidential despatch which, under the date of 30th of October last, Her Britannic Majesty’s Consul addressed to it, communicating that, on the previous day, he had received certain information from the coast of Africa, which from its nature would be interesting to the Imperial Government, and he, therefore, hastened to transmit me translated extracts of a despatch from Lagos to the following effect:—

“It is known that Domingo Martins, and other slave-dealers residing at Whydah, intend shipping on board Portuguese and other vessels, which trade between the Bights of Benin and Bahia, some of their domestic slaves who can speak the Portuguese language, in the expectation that, dressed up as seamen, or in clothes made in the country, they may pass off as ancient Bahia slaves. I am told,” adds the communication, “that these slaves are to be embarked with passports signed by Senhor Isidoro de Souza, the Cha-Cha of Whydah, a nominal title conferred upon him by the King of Dahomey, &c.”

To the above communications the Consul of Her Britannic Majesty in this city adds, that Domingos Martins was formerly a slave, and very wealthy, who for many years resided here, and was ordered to leave the empire by General Andrea, for taking an active part in the Traffic.

This Presidency thanks Her Majesty’s Consul for the favour of the above communication, and considers it proper to say that it was partly acquainted with the attempt of Domingo Martins, resident at Whydah, inasmuch as, fifteen days ago, a respectable individual of this city showed it a letter from the said Martins, dated July of this year, from the coast of Africa, and in which he declared his intention of leaving that country, to come and reside in Bahia, but could not do so until he had placed his children in some security, by sending them at once to Brazil, as they were six, and by different mothers, by whom they would be accompanied; he solicited to know whether any difficulty would be offered by the authorities of the country, as he was willing to give every security that might be exacted of him. The reply of this Presidency was that, although the laws of the country did not place any obstacle in the way of any free man from the coast of Africa establishing in the empire, nevertheless, when treating of an individual who was accused of having taken an active part in the Traffic, it would be a precautionary measure if he were officially to petition for the grant of such a favour, it being the intention of this Presidency to negative it without the previous authorization of the Imperial Government.

For the honour of the country, and as a tribute to truth, I must say to the Consul of Her Britannic Majesty in this city, that the last paragraph of the despatch from Lagos is not exact. This Presidency does not know of any single functionary in this province who

would dare to commit such a crime, and in the letter that was presented to it, the proof was visible that all that Martins desired was the intervention of the individual in question, to whom he addressed himself, in order that the authorities should not oppose the entry into this country of his children and wives who might accompany him, as he would give every guarantee required by the Imperial Government as to the free condition of those individuals.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) JOAO LINS VIEIRA CANSANCAO DE SINIMBU.

No. 123.

Consul Morgan to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 12, 1858.)

My Lord,

Bahia, December 24, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch I have addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Rio de Janeiro, in consequence of the assignment of 49 emancipated Africans, to be increased to 200 by the President of the province, to work for account and under superintendence of private individuals at St. Amaro, the most densely slave-populated district of this province.

I considered myself the more bound to call the attention of Her Majesty's Minister to this fact, for the infraction of the understanding come to by the then Brazilian Secretary of State, Senhor Limpo d'Abreu, with Mr. Howard, in his note of the 3rd of February, 1853, when the former declared it was against the spirit of the Law of the 4th of September, 1850, to farm out the services of emancipated Africans to private individuals; but also because I understand from most respectable and influential natives of this city, that the aforesaid act of the President is one fraught with great danger to the liberty of the Africans, to be sent to so dangerous a district as St. Amaro, where it can be said that nineteen-twentieths of the population there is held in slavery, employed on 266 sugar estates.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN MORGAN, Jun.

Inclosure in No. 123.

Consul Morgan to Mr. Scarlett.

Sir,

Bahia, December 12, 1857.

IN the correspondence which took place in the years 1853 and 1854, between Mr. Howard, then Her Majesty's Minister at Rio de Janeiro, and Senhor Limpo de Abreu, the Brazilian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in relation to the condition of the so-called emancipated negroes in Brazil, it was clearly laid down, or rather, an assurance was given to Her Majesty's Legation by Senhor Limpo d'Abreu, in his note of the 23rd of February, 1853, that the Law of 1850, and the instructions subsequently issued for the proper execution thereof, strictly prohibited the farming of the services of emancipated Africans to private individuals.

It is my duty, therefore, to report to you an infraction of that law and instructions by the President of this province, and in a manner that leaves me no doubt as to the ultimate fate which awaits 200 emancipated Africans.

Senhor Cansanção do Sinimbu has lately contracted with a private individual, Mr. James Overend, the construction of certain roads in the St. Amaro district, and among other favours granted to that contractor, has assigned over to him 200 emancipated Africans to work on those roads, at the wages of 800 reis each per diem. Forty-nine Africans have in consequence already been delivered over.

It is proper to observe that these wages are not for the benefit of the Africans, but an item of Government revenue; and secondly, that the district of St. Amaro is, *par excellence*, the focus of slavery in this province, where the greater part of the sugar estates are situated, and amongst which the number of free individuals is very limited.

If, therefore, we take into consideration that the cholera made the greatest havoc in that district, and that labour of all kinds is in great request, and furthermore that, in an exclusive slave population, it is most difficult to discriminate the free man from the slave, it is not going too far to say, seeing we have so many examples of such cases in Brazil,

CLASS B.

that these emancipated Africans run a great chance of being seduced, and, eventually, absorbed in that large slave population, amongst sugar estates, where the action of the law is impotent, or little efficacious, and where the only will known is that of their owners.

I am not now expressing a particular opinion of my own, but that of respectable natives in this city who are able to appreciate this act of the President, and who have pointed out those dangers.

It is equally worthy of note that the duty assigned to these Africans is one of great hardship. Contractors are, from experience, not very scrupulous in the treatment of their subordinates, and I have of late had occasion to witness the conduct and acts of injustice which some young Englishmen and artizans have experienced from this same Overend and his associates; but as free labour is not to be obtained in the Santo Amaro district, the full weight of the work will thus be thrown on these emancipated Africans, in order to enable that contractor to fulfil his engagement. Under these circumstances I am not wrong in declaring that their condition will in nothing be superior to that of *bonâ fide* slavery.

In laying before you this case, I cannot avoid adding that, when the Imperial Government, in their contracts for the construction of railroads by foreigners, have so scrupulously laid down the principle that free labour is the only one to be admitted on the works, the assignment of these 200 Africans in a densely slave-populated district, to labour for private individuals, who are alike ignorant of the language and customs of the country, is one fraught with great danger to their personal liberty, as it is an infraction of the law and regulations of the Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN MORGAN, Jun.

No. 124.

Consul Morgan to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 12, 1858.)

My Lord,

Bahia, December 31, 1857

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the accompanying Lists, No. 1 and 2, of the trade of this port with the coast of Africa.

Your Lordship will observe an increase this quarter in the number of vessels sailing to the coast, and more are now on the berth for that destination; and I cannot but suspect that the immense quantity of rum and tobacco sent thither can be for no other purpose than to supply the means, through which, unfortunately, the French attempt at colonization of their colonies, by African immigration, has given rise, namely, the renewal of the wars in Africa, for the purpose of hunting human beings to supply the slave-traffickers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN MORGAN, Jun.

Inclosure 1 in No. 124.
LIST of VESSELS which have entered the Port of Bahia from the Coast of Africa, during the Quarter ending December 31, 1857.

No.	Date of Entry.	Nation.	Class.	Name.	Tons.	Crew.	Master.	Owner.	Cargo.	Whence.	Days out.
1	1857 Oct. 11	French	Schooner	Lagos	79	9	L. Violeine	Unknown	Ballast.	Ajudá	25
2	" 15	Ditto	Lugger	Independence	219	8	— Versailles	Ditto	Ditto	Lagos	85
3	" 29	Hamburgh	Schooner	Sylphide	140	10	— Meyer	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	36
4	Nov. 18	French	Polacca	Veritas	155	10	— Aube	Ditto	Ditto	Acará	33
5	" 15	Portuguese	Yacht	Agua	105	11	José M. Maia	Ditto	Ditto	Ajudá	26

British Consulate, Bahia, December 31, 1857.

(Signed)

JOHN MORGAN, Jun., Consul.

Inclosure 2 in No. 124.

LIST of VESSELS which have sailed from the Port of Bahia for the Coast of Africa, during the Quarter ending December 31, 1857.

No.	Date of Sailing.	Nation.	Class.	Name.	Tons.	Crew.	Master.	Owner.	Cargo.	Whither bound.	Remarks.
1	1857 Oct. 5	Portuguese	Schooner	Arabe	249	17	Marcellio G. Tinoco	Unknown	Rum and tobacco	Coast of Africa.	
2	" 17	Hamburgh	Ditto	Tender	111	6	— Lauten	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.	
3	Nov. 4	Portuguese	Brig	Angelica	311	11	Luiz N. Braz	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.	
4	Dec. 4	French	Schooner	Lagos	79	10	— Violeine	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.	
5	" 11	Dutch	Brigantine	Aca	281	20	W. Haas	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	4 guns.
6	" 13	Sardinian	Smack	Braziliano	129	9	G. Oxilia	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.	
7	" 13	Hamburgh	Schooner	Sylphide	140	10	C. F. Meyer	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.	
8	" 17	Portuguese	Brig	Providencia	225	12	Antonio D. Lima	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.	
9	" 17	Ditto	Ditto	Minho	297	..	M. F. de Magalhães	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.	
10	" 29	Ditto	Ditto	Athenas	259	14	José L. dos Sanctos	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.	

British Consulate, Bahia, December 31, 1857.

(Signed)

JOHN MORGAN, Jun., Consul.

No. 125.

Consul Morgan to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 12, 1858.)

My Lord,

Bahia, December 31, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the accompanying Lists of prices of slaves during the six months ended this day, and in which no alteration has taken place in the value of such slaves.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN MORGAN, Jun.

Inclosure in No. 125.

RETURN of the Prices of Slaves within the District of the Consulate of Bahia, at the respective times under-mentioned.

Description.	For the half-year ending June 30, 1857.				For the half-year ending December 31, 1857.			
	Currency.		Sterling.		Currency.		Sterling.	
	Reis.	Reis.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Reis.	Reis.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
African males	1,500\$ to 1,800\$		175 0 0 to 210 0 0		1,500\$ to 1,800\$		175 0 0 to 210 0 0	
Ditto females	1,200\$	1,500\$	130 0 0	175 0 0	1,200\$	1,500\$	130 0 0	175 0 0
Creole males	1,600\$	1,800\$	186 13 4	210 0 0	1,600\$	1,800\$	186 13 4	210 0 0
Ditto, with professions	2,200\$	2,800\$	246 13 6	316 13 6	2,200\$	2,800\$	246 13 6	316 13 6
Ditto females	1,400\$	1,500\$	163 6 8	175 0 0	1,400\$	1,500\$	163 6 8	175 0 0

British Consulate, Bahia, December 31, 1857.

(Signed) JOHN MORGAN, Jun., *Consul.*

No. 126.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Morgan.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 25, 1858.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 24th of December last, I have to acquaint you that I approve of your having called the attention of Her Majesty's Minister at Rio de Janeiro to the course pursued by the President of the province of Bahia in hiring out to a private individual the services of a large number of liberated Africans, a proceeding which is contrary to the spirit of the Brazilian Law of the 4th of September, 1850, and in violation of the understanding come to by the Brazilian Secretary of State with Her Majesty's late Minister at Rio, in the note which Senhor Limpo d'Abreu addressed to Mr. Howard on the 3rd of February, 1853.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

BRAZIL. (Consular)—Pará.

No. 127.

Consul Vines to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received May 13.)

Pará, March 28, 1857.

My Lord,

IN continuation of the despatch which I had the honour to address to your Lordship under date of the 24th of January last,* respecting the illegal apportionment of the property between Mr. Alexander Dickson and his children, whereby Mr. Dickson was prevented from effecting the manumission of his late wife's slaves Jacinto, Lazaro, and Ildefonso, I now beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 19th December last.†

In my above-named despatch I had the honour to report my having so far succeeded with the President of this Province, General Henrique de Beaurepaire Rohan, as to obtain his promise that the Judge of Orphans of this city would do his duty in this matter at the close of the long vacation, and would then, accordingly, restore Mr. Dickson to the guardianship of his children and of his late wife's slaves (which under the illegal division of the estate are the property of the children), and would reappportion the estate, assigning the slaves to Mr. Dickson (to put him in possession of such a title to them that his manumission of them should be legally valid), and the lands to his children.

I also expressed my hope that I should shortly be able to report to your Lordship the satisfactory conclusion of this affair.

In case any further difficulty might be thrown in my way, however, especially as I observed that Mr. Scarlett, Her Majesty's Minister at Rio de Janeiro, took an unfavourable view of the matter, as expressed in his Excellency's despatch of the 15th of November last, a copy of which is inclosed, and under the impression that, by want of clearness in my report to his Excellency, I had, unfortunately, failed to impress him with the merits of the case, and the necessity of his immediate interference with the Brazilian Government in the matter, I did myself the honour of addressing his Excellency again on the subject, under date of the 29th of January last, in the despatch copy of which is also inclosed.

In that despatch I endeavoured to explain the opinion expressed on the subject by Dr. Paes de Souza, an eminent lawyer in this city, that the necessary steps were—

1. To have Mr. Dickson reinstated in the guardianship of his children, and of the slaves which they derived from his late wife; and
2. That Mr. Dickson should commence a process, *pro forma*, in the Court of Orphans, to reverse the former and illegal division of estate, so that the slaves might be assigned to him by decree, and the deed of affranchisement executed by him in their favour might come into force.

I also endeavoured to explain to Mr. Scarlett the opinion of Dr. Paes that his Excellency's intervention with the Brazilian Government would be necessary, to induce the Judge of Orphans to resist the influences exerted over him by Colonel De Motta, Mr. Dickson's father-in-law and opponent.

A few days later the long vacation came to a close; and on the 7th of February the Judge of Orphans issued a mandate on his former inoperative judgment, restoring Mr. Dickson to the guardianship of his children and their slaves, a mandate which was put into force upon the 10th of February last.

At this point, however, the Judge of Orphans paused again, until I had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch of the 19th of December last.

The intimation conveyed in that despatch, to the effect that your Lordship had instructed Mr. Scarlett to represent the matter to the Brazilian Government, again induced the Judge of Orphans to expedite the proceedings required for the purpose of annulling

* Class B, presented 1857, No. 264.

† Ibid., No. 261.

the division of estate made in 1854 and 1855, and of obtaining a decree, assigning the lands to the children, and the slaves to Mr. Dickson.

The steps to be taken (under the advice of Dr. Paes de Souza), were as follows:—

1. That Mr. Dickson should petition the Court of Orphans to impose an embargo on the property, until further decision, which was done on the 18th of this month.

2. That he should grant a power of attorney to an advocate to act for him, as none but an advocate can proceed beyond the first petition. And, accordingly, Mr. Dickson executed such a power in favour of Dr. Paes de Souza, on the 19th of this month.

3. That Dr. Paes de Souza, the authorized advocate, should file a petition expounding the legal reasons for the reversal of the former decrees, which was done on the 20th of this month.

4. That the Judge of Orphans should pronounce his approval of those reasons, which he did on the 23rd of this month.

5. That the matter should be submitted to the Curator-General of Orphans, Dr. Gonçalves Nunez, for his opinion as to the propriety of sustaining the embargo for the purpose of reversing the former decrees, which was done on the 24th of this month.

It was at this stage that new impediments were thrown into Mr. Dickson's way.

As if by some preconcerted arrangement between the Judge of Orphans, Colonel de Motta, and the Curator-General, the latter pronounced his opinion against the continuance of the embargo.

It would seem as if the Judge of Orphans, fearing to expose himself any further to the remonstrances of your Lordship, had agreed with Colonel de Motta that he himself (the Judge of Orphans) should take every legitimate step expeditiously, but that an officer of the Court, hitherto wholly unconcerned, and against whom no remonstrance could arrive in less than four months, should interpose to impede the progress of these proceedings.

In Inclosure No. 3, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship copies of the documents lodged in the archives of the Court of Orphans, which show the stage at which the proceedings had arrived, and the legality of the steps which had been taken.

As I have not yet received any reply from Mr. Scarlett to my despatch of the 29th of January, and I am not informed that any steps have been taken by the Brazilian Government to promote the conclusion of this protracted case, I am at a loss to know, as I would respectfully submit to your Lordship, whether Mr. Scarlett yet retains the unfavourable opinion which his Excellency had formed.

Mr. Scarlett's opinion seems to have been that the proper course to be taken was by a series of appeals to Maranhão and Rio de Janeiro. But, as a proof that no such course was needful or proper, as I would deferentially submit to your Lordship, the Judge of Orphans has already reversed one portion of the former illegal decrees by reinstating Mr. Dickson in the guardianship of his children and their slaves, and has entertained and expressed his approval of the proceedings for the reversal of the partition of estate, as shown by the documents forming Inclosure No. 3.

In my despatch to Mr. Scarlett, under date of the 29th of January last, I further endeavoured to explain to his Excellency that Mr. Dickson had no subject of appeal; because the legitimacy of his complaint was already admitted in the Court of Orphans, and a judgment was recorded in his favour, remaining, however, inoperative, because the Judge of Orphans would not issue execution.

I further endeavoured to explain to Mr. Scarlett that, if appeals were necessary, Mr. Dickson was utterly unable to carry them on; and, therefore, that if the matter were left upon that footing, the emancipation of the three young slaves would never be accomplished.

Should I have been so unfortunate as to fail—owing, probably, to want of clearness in my own report—in impressing Mr. Scarlett with these views, I regret to say that all the trouble which your Lordship has taken for the purpose of securing the manumission of these three slaves may yet, possibly, be lost, because the present position of Mr. Dickson is as follows:

He continues to profess, and I believe with sincerity, his resolution to give effect, if possible, to his deed of enfranchisement: and, in fact, he has taken all the necessary legal steps to achieve this object. For, supposing he was legally invested with the possession of the slaves, that deed of enfranchisement would, according to Brazilian law, come, *ipso facto*, into force. But he has lost much, and become embarrassed, by the long litigation; and, owing to an accidental circumstance, the lands (which, under the old Decree of Partition, are his) have suddenly risen to about four times their former value; and a gentleman having a sugar-mill in the vicinity of those lands is ready to purchase them.

I have no control over Mr. Dickson, by means of which I could prevent his selling the lands; and, if I had, I would respectfully submit to your Lordship whether I could reasonably expect him to remain at my call, month after month, to carry on a legal process, in which he has now no personal interest, and which, but for vexatious delays, might have been carried through all its stages in twelve days.

Should Mr. Dickson resolve to sell his lands, the excuse of the Court of Orphans against a new partition will then be that he has ceased to possess the real estate which should have belonged to the children, and has, consequently, nothing left to convey to his children as an equivalent for the slaves.

But, if this result should come about, I would most respectfully submit to your Lordship that it will have been wholly and solely the result of the illegal acts of the Court of Orphans in this city, and of the vexations which it has heaped upon Mr. Dickson at the bidding of Colonel de Motta; for, throughout the proceedings taken in this matter, between the 27th of October, 1854, and this date, Mr. Dickson has observed all the formalities and complied with all the injunctions of the law. And, that being the case, I would also most respectfully submit to your Lordship whether there would or would not be sufficient ground for your Lordship to claim from the Brazilian Government that the 3 slaves, Jacinto, Ildefonso, and Lazaro, should be placed in the same position as they would have been if the law had been complied with by the Court of Orphans, and should accordingly be registered as free upon their respectively attaining the age of twenty-one years.

With respect to the quibbling objection now raised by the Curator-General, I am advised that it is worthless in law, because a partition, of which the most important document is unattested (as is the case with that of the Dickson estate), must be treated in law as if it had never existed; and that a partition must accordingly be made in compliance with the wishes and rights of the heirs.

The objection of the Curator-General as to the non-appearance of Mr. Dickson, to complain of the illegality, and to obtain a proper and legal partition, for nearly two years, is also false in fact. Because, whereas the partition bears date on the 27th of October, 1854, Mr. Dickson presented the petition included in Inclosure No. 3 (and marked B), on the 3rd of November of the same year, and, therefore, within the legal period of ten days. Nor does the second illegal decision of the Court of Orphans, dated on the 18th of May, 1855, in any way annul the claim which Mr. Dickson has to proceed upon the rights which he established by his petition of the 3rd of November, 1854.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SAMUEL VINES.

Inclosure 1 in No. 127.

Mr. Scarlett to Consul Vines.

Sir,

Rio de Janeiro, November 15, 1856.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 18th ultimo, relating to the law-suit in which Mr. Dickson is engaged, informing me that he has agreed to the manumission of 3 slaves, when they are of age, as soon as he is placed in the possession of his children, and of the property to which he lays claim.

If, after an appeal to the superior Courts of Rio de Janeiro, it shall appear to me that justice has been denied to Mr. Dickson, I shall consider it then my duty to interfere on his behalf; but, at present, whilst this suit is pending, I do not think it necessary to take any steps in the matter without instructions from Her Majesty's Government.

In the meantime I will forward your despatches on the subject to the Foreign Office.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CAMPBELL SCARLETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 127.

Consul Vines to Mr. Scarlett.

Sir,

Pará, January 29, 1857.

IN further reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 15th of November last (1856), respecting the case of Mr. A. Dickson's children, slaves, and landed estate, I

have now the honour to transmit to your Excellency copies of the correspondence which has since taken place between the Earl of Clarendon, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and myself, on the subject, together with a copy of the communication which I have received from the President of this Province, General Henrique de Beaurepaire Rohan, relating to the same matter.

Since the date of my inclosed reply to the Earl of Clarendon (the 24th of this month), I have seen Dr. Paes de Souza, and consulted him as to the method of carrying out the spirit of the instructions which I have received from Her Majesty's Government, namely, that of securing, beyond a doubt, the legal validity of Mr. Dickson's deed of enfranchisement, in favour of the 3 young slaves, Jacinto, Lazaro, and Ildefonso.

Dr. Paes tells me that it will be necessary that Mr. Dickson should first be restored to the guardianship of his children and slaves, as is now distinctly promised by the President; and that when he is so re-instated, he should petition the Court of Orphans to re-apportion the property according to law, and thus to assign the slaves to Mr. Dickson, and the lands to his children, thereby giving to Mr. Dickson an indisputable title to the disposition of the slaves, by which title the validity of the deed of enfranchisement would be irrevocably secured.

But Dr. Paes seems to think that Colonel da Motta (Mr. Dickson's father-in-law and opponent) will continue to exert every effort to throw obstacles in the way of such a disposition, and to influence the Judge of Orphans to avoid, or at all events to postpone, *sine die*, any such re-apportionment of the property. And Dr. Paes further intimates that the only way to resist the effect of the chicaneries of Colonel da Motta will be to bring the conduct of the Judge of Orphans under the immediate notice of the Imperial Government, so that positive instructions may be sent to the President of this Province to compel the Judge of Orphans to apportion the property as above stated, and as is in conformity with the law.

By these means the ultimate emancipation of the three young slaves will be readily and promptly ensured.

Referring, again, to your Excellency's above-named despatch, and looking to your Excellency's view, with respect to Mr. Dickson's course of successive appeals, to Maranhão and Rio de Janeiro, I beg leave to observe,—firstly, that supposing the judgment were adverse to Mr. Dickson, he has no means to carry on an appeal; whereas, as the judgment is in his favour (though nugatory because the Judge of Orphans has hitherto deferred execution), he has no cause of appeal; secondly, that the judgment being adverse to Colonel da Motta, if that person appealed, Mr. Dickson would be unable to carry on his suit; thirdly, that when restored to the guardianship and possession of his children and slaves, Mr. Dickson might very properly refuse to squander more money (even if he had it), in carrying on a suit the only additional issue of which would be the emancipation of his slaves.

Your Excellency will doubtless perceive, therefore, that to abandon the case in its present circumstances to the mercy of the Brazilian authorities, is only to hazard the freedom of the 3 slaves, whose enfranchisement is otherwise already secured.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SAMUEL VINES.

Inclosure 3 in No. 127.

Translations of Documents in the proceedings taken by Mr. A. Dickson, in the Court of Orphans of Pará, to reverse the illegal Partition of the Property of his late Wife, made on the 27th of October, 1854, and the illegal Decree made upon that Partition on the 18th of May, 1855.

(No. 1.)

Petition.

To the Illustrious Dr. Judge of Orphans.

Alexander Dickson seeks review for the purpose of embargo, on the ground of invalidity appearing in the documents of the inventory and partition to which he proceeded before this Honourable Court, through the death of his wife, Donna Antonia Florinda Freire da Motta. (Clerk of the Court, Nogueira.)

And prays your Honour will deign to grant to him according to his request, and will ever pray.

(Signed) ALEXANDER DICKSON.

Judge's Rule.

I concede.

Pará, March 18, 1858.

(Signed) M. F. DUARTE.

After this follows the power of attorney in the customary form, in which Mr. A. Dickson authorizes Dr. João Lourenço Paes de Souza to act as his advocate.

This power of attorney is attested by Manoel P. Gomes, as Notary Public, and is further signed and witnessed as follows:—

(Signed)

MANOEL P. GOMES.
ALEXANDRE DICKSON.
SAMUEL VINES, *Her Britannic Majesty's Consul.*
LUIZ GIRALDO DE MORAES BITANCOURT.

After this follows the formal recognition of the power of attorney by the clerk (*Escrivão*) of the Court of Orphans, and signed by him.

(Signed) JOSE GONCALVES NOGUEIRA.

After this follows the petition of the advocate Dr. Paes de Souza, thus:—

(No. 2.)

Advocate's Petition.

For the purpose of embargo on the ground of invalidity, the embargoer, Alexander Dickson, avers this and the like tenour of right.

1. It appears that, as is seen at page 45 [of the records of the case], that the partition of estate was decreed on the 18th of May, 1855, comprising the effects of the estate of the embargoer, and of his deceased wife, Donna Antonia Florinda Freire da Motta: but,

2. It appears that this decree, which confirmed as good and valid the irregular partition between the parties thereto [Mr. Dickson and his two sons], is itself null and void: because,

3. It appears that, against the spirit of the Ordinance, the orphans were provided for with personal property [moveables], and the embargoer with the lands which belonged to the estate. And, moreover,

4. It appears that, as is seen at page 30 [of the records of this case], neither the appointed arbitrator [divider], nor even the Judge, signed the record of attestation made by him (the arbitrator). Wherefore,

5. It appears that there should be received in these records the embargoes which are sustained by the very documents [relating to the proceedings], and are adjudged to be sustained, to the end that the proceedings respecting the partition of estate be cancelled, and that proceedings be taken in accordance with right.

By virtue of power of attorney,

(Signed) JOAO LOURENCO PAES DE SOUZA.

After this follows the certificate of entry of the foregoing petition according to form signed by the Clerk of the Court, thus:—

JOSE GONCALVES NOGUEIRA.

(No. 3.)

Then follows the

Judge's Rule.

Let the Curator-General of Orphans interpose his opinion.

Pará, March 23, 1857.

(Signed) DUARTE.

Then follow the three formal certificates of the foregoing stages of proceeding having been regularly passed through, signed by the Clerk of the Court, thus—

JOSE GONCALVES NOGUEIRA.

(No. 4.)

Next is the following declaration of opinion delivered by the Curator-General:—

Curator-General's Opinion.

Inasmuch as the Ordinance, lib. iv, d. 96, section 19, appears to exclude the annulment and revocation of the partition in all and every case, nevertheless the author of the first lines on the procedure of the Courts of Orphans No. 134, thinks that this must be understood as excepting those partitions which may be null and void [by their own illegality].

It is for this case of invalidity that I take into consideration the embargoes of page 47; because, as to the other, relating to the apportionment of the effects, there appears to me to be no foundation upon which, according to right, to ground the annulment or the amendment of the distribution, seeing that there is no reason of injury sufficient to bring about such a result.

These two are the only foundations for the said embargoes.

The motive of invalidity urged is, that the arbitrator [divider], who was named as the substitute for the other that was prevented from acting, did not sign the record at page 30 [of the documents relating to this case], on which he was sworn; and, in fact, that record is not signed, and this omission might have annulled the partition. But it is the case that the appeal for embargo comes late, because the Decree of Partition having been pronounced on the 18th of May, 1855, as in the record at page 45 [of the records of this case], and having been conveyed to the embargoer on the 19th of the same month and year, as in the other record inscribed on the same page, two years nearly have passed away, within which the embargoer has raised no objection to the Decree; whereas he ought to have done so within ten days.—Ordinance, l. 3, d. 79, of the same author, note 197.

I am thus of opinion that, therefore, these embargoes should not be accepted [sustained], because now the means by which the embargoer can impugn the partition is different, which partition I abstain from embargoing, or calling in question.

(Signed) GZ. NUNEZ.

(B.)

Petition.

[Seal of Registration, No. 71. Paid one hundred and sixty reis. *Pará*, November 7, 1854.]

To the Doctor Judge of Orphans.

Alexander Dickson, in the inventory to which he is proceeding, on account of the death of his wife, Donna Antonia Florinda Freire da Motta, because that he has observed certain irregularities which were committed in the partition, especially in that personal property only [moveables and part moveables] was apportioned to the orphans; whereas there exists real property, &c., &c.: and for this reason the petitioner prays that your Honour will deign to afford him a review of the partition, before it be confirmed by Decree, seeing that thus the arbitrators would allow the petitioner and his sons to be involved in greater expenses and delays.

And your petitioner will ever pray.

Pará, November 3, 1854.

(Signed) ALEXANDER DICKSON.

(B No. 2.)

Judge's Rule.

Let it (the petition) be annexed to the documents [relating to the matter], and in the course of time it shall be granted.*

Pará, November 3, 1854.

(Signed) PASSO.

* No further notice was taken of the petition.

No. 128.

Consul Vines to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 15.)

My Lord,

Pará, May 9, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the copy of a despatch which I have felt it my duty to address to Mr. Scarlett, Her Majesty's Minister at Rio de Janeiro, respecting a coloured woman named Carolina and her children, who have been illegally reduced to slavery by Senhor José Garcia da Silva, Sub-Delegate of Police at Cameté.

I have endeavoured to explain to Mr. Scarlett the reason why I did not address the President of the province, General Henrique de Beaurepaire Rohan, on the subject; and I would beg your Lordship's permission to add that, owing to the ill-health of the President, I have been anticipating that he would retire, and that his successor being untrammelled by any political connection with Senhor da Silva, might be disposed to entertain, in a proper spirit, my interference concerning Carolina and her children.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SAMUEL VINES.

Inclosure in No. 128.

Consul Vines to Mr. Scarlett.

(Extract.)

Pará, May 9, 1857.

I DEEPLY regret that I should have to inform your Excellency that a coloured woman, named Carolina, is illegally retained in a state of slavery at Cameté, in this province, and that her four children have been also illegally registered as slaves by Senhor José Garcia da Silva, the Sub-Delegate of Police of that place.

The facts of the case I will, with your Excellency's permission, endeavour to relate:—

The Reverend Vicar of Cameté formerly had a female slave called Anna Joaquina, who purchased her own freedom. After the date of her manumission she had three children—first a son, then Carolina, above-named, then another daughter, called Catherina.

These children, having been born after the manumission of Joaquina, were, by law, free; and, in fact, the eldest (the son) is in the National Guard. Nor could they otherwise have been held in bondage unless they had been registered at baptism as slaves by the owner of their mother, and that, subsequently, the payment of the poll-tax upon them had been duly entered upon the public records and vouched.

At a later date, however, the above-named Senhor da Silva took a fancy to Carolina, and, in order to retain power over her, he prevailed upon the Vicar to get back the original manumission purchased by Joaquina, and to substitute for it one post-dated, so that Carolina might appear to have been born before her mother's manumission.

This fraud has hitherto succeeded, merely from absence of investigation, because it was incomplete in this respect, that, as the Vicar did not register Carolina as a slave, even if he executed any assignement of her as such (which does not appear), that deed would be invalid.

Since that time Senhor da Silva has continued to retain Carolina as his slave, and has successfully and surreptitiously registered her children as his slaves also.

I am informed, as I would beg to submit to your Excellency, that, if Carolina were really a slave, nothing could be easier than for Senhor da Silva to prove it, because the baptism, poll-tax, transfer or sale tax, &c., of every slave must be separately and publicly registered and vouched by a dated stamp or seal, whereas, no such proofs can Senhor da Silva produce. Albeit, if the poor woman, Carolina, herself were questioned, she would, probably, own herself a slave, and his property.

When four of the officers of Her Majesty's ship "Virago" (Mr. Förde, Mr. Newton, Mr. Patch, and Mr. Dickenson) visited Cameté, they were spoken to on this subject, and they reported the matter to me as well as they could; but, owing to their very imperfectly understanding Portuguese, they could give me no clear account of the matter.

I would have gone to Cameté myself, could I have hoped to be of material service in the matter; but the most that I could have done would have been to obtain copies of the registers of the children of Carolina as slaves.

Being informed that communications had been addressed to the President of this province, General Henrique de Beaurepaire Rohan, on the subject, and that his Excellency had discouraged any inquiry (Senhor da Silva being of his own political party, and having been recently appointed Sub-Delegate by his Excellency himself), I refrained

from addressing the President on this matter, lest I might retard or endanger the freedom of the children in question by my interference; and this more particularly, that the penalties imposed by the law upon those who reduce free persons to slavery are very severe, and that every effort would, doubtless, have been made to screen Da Silva.

Under these circumstances I beg leave to submit the matter to your Excellency, and to solicit the favour of your Excellency's instructions thereupon.

No. 129.

The Earl of Clarendon to Acting Consul MacDermid.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 26, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Campbell, Her Majesty's Consul at Lagos, on the subject of the cultivation of cotton in Africa.*

You will perceive that Mr. Campbell states that the great drawbacks to an increased cultivation and exportation of cotton from Africa have hitherto been the want of good machines for separating the cotton from the seed, and of presses for compressing the cotton into small packages for convenience of carriage; and with the view to supply these deficiencies, he suggests that drawings and diagrams of the cleaning machines and presses used in the Southern States of America, and in Brazil, should be procured, with such descriptions as would render them intelligible to a Manchester mechanic; and I have to desire that you will use your best endeavours to procure and transmit to me drawings and descriptions of the machines suggested by Mr. Campbell, which may be in use in the cotton-growing districts within your Consular jurisdiction, and which may be of sufficiently simple construction to be worked by native Africans.

I have also to desire that you will, if possible, procure and forward to me some seed of the higher-priced description of cotton, which you will see Mr. Campbell is of opinion might be advantageously placed for cultivation in the hands of some of the native Christian converts.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

* No. 3.

BRAZIL. (*Consular*)—*Pernambuco.*

No. 130.

Consul Cowper to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 18.)

My Lord,

Pernambuco, March 24, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge, with feelings of deep satisfaction, your Lordship's despatch of the 3rd ultimo,* in which you were good enough to comply with my request of proposing to the Imperial Government the appointment of a Mixed Commission to inquire into the proceedings of the late President and myself in the Serinhaem Slave Trade case.

The refusal of the Imperial Government to accede to this proposition will, I trust, remove from the minds of all persons who might have formed an adverse opinion, all question as to the propriety of the course which I pursued in that regrettable affair.

Your Lordship's announcement that Her Majesty's Government considers that conduct to have been honourable and praiseworthy, repays me for all the annoyances and heart-burnings which it has caused me, and I can assure your Lordship that I will never cease my endeavours to merit the good opinion which you have been so kind as to convey to me.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. AUGUSTUS COWPER.

No. 131.

Consul Cowper to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received May 13.)

(Extract.)

Pernambuco, April 13, 1857.

NO vessel of suspicious character has traded betwixt this port and the coast of Africa during the past quarter; nor am I aware of any illegal traffic having taken place at any of the outports of this Consulate.

I inclose to your Lordship, however, the translation of an anonymous communication which I received upon the 28th ultimo in reference to this subject, and which I immediately laid before the President. His Excellency admitted some of the principal allegations, namely, that a slaver had been actually reported to have landed a cargo of Africans at or near Goiana; that he had sent a brig of war to the spot, and had certainly dismissed the police authorities; but he explained that the vessel of war had discovered no vestige or proof of any slaver having visited, much less landed slaves in, the locality; that his dismissal of the police authorities was for causes entirely unconnected with Slave Trade, and that he considered the denouncement of Senhor João de Rego Barros as the act of some disappointed candidate in the late election.

I need scarcely add, that if M. de Macedo be not himself deceived, I believe this statement to be the correct version of the affair, for I am sure that he is incapable of falsehood, but it is impossible altogether to divest one's self of the suspicion that he may have been so, when so many corroborative circumstances are admitted.

* Class B, presented 1857, No. 282.

Inclosure in No. 131.

Anonymous Communication addressed to Consul Cowper.

(Translation.)

Most Illustrious Sir,

MY determined hatred to the infamous Traffic in human flesh causes me to address this communication to you.

It appears to me that the example of Serinhaem is contagious, and that the Slave Trade is newly planted in this Province.

It is less than a month that a slaver appeared on the shores of Goianna : of this I am certain, and I am assured that the landing was effected.

The spot where the vessel appeared was the Bar of Catuama. In the vicinity of this bar (they say) 100 slaves were disembarked, favoured by the Sub-Delegate of Tegucupapo, José de Sá, who has been dismissed, with his deputies, as may be seen in the official column of the "Diario de Pernambuco."

It is said that the slaves crossing a locality called Pao de Sombra, were hidden in the forest of the engenho Tracunhem, and were consigned to Commander João Joaquim da Cunha Rego Barros, father-in-law of the tenant of that engenho ; the greatest suspicion exists that these slaves are now in the engenhos Bonito and Pangana, belonging to this proprietor, who had the misfortune to lose 50 slaves, more or less, during the cholera.

A slaver, supposed to be the same, also appeared upon the shores of Jacuman, requesting permission to land, and even offering money for this purpose. The police of Paraiba were informed of this, and a delegate and force proceeded there and prevented the landing, which was effected in Goianna.

A Brazilian brig-of-war was sent in chase of the slaver, and tacked for some time about the shores of Catuama. The Government oppose Slave Trade, but it is probable that it is desirous, in every way, of concealing the landing, to prevent those complications with England likely to arise from it. Besides which it is obliged to be on the best terms with the Commander João Joaquim da Cunha Rego Barros, a man of influence not only from his family but on account of his post of Commander-in-chief of the National Guards, and who, they assure me, purchased the slaves.

Your Excellency may avail yourself of this information in the manner which your known zeal in these affairs may suggest ; and if I see that my labour has not been in vain, perhaps I may send you further information of great value.

No. 132.

Consul Cowper to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 1.)

(Extract.)

Pernambuco, April 30, 1857.

A PROJECT of Law has been laid before the Provincial Legislative Assembly by Dr. Sabino Olegario L. Pinho, having for its object the introduction of Africans as colonists, and basing upon this preliminary step the gradual emancipation of the slaves now existing in the empire ; the project, of which I transmit to your Lordship a translation, has been referred to a Commission of Commerce and Art. I now transmit the proposition, as I deem it to be worthy of your Lordship's consideration.

There are grave and insuperable objections to it as it stands. In the first place, ten years appear to be an unreasonable length of forced service, for the Africans, imported as free men. Secondly, no provision being made for remunerating their services, their situation would be identical with that of the slaves that were emancipated. Thirdly, under the best regulated and most extensive system of immigration, no more than 50,000 Africans could be reasonably expected to be imported in any one year, say 500,000 in ten years; these would emancipate 250,000 slaves, leaving 750,000 slaves still in bondage in the empire (for I calculate their present number at 1,000,000), that is to say, if Dr. Sabino intends that the emancipation of each slave be preceded by the delivery of two Africans : if not, the proprietors would decidedly object to an unremunerated emancipation. Then the frauds which doubtless would be practised by the proprietors, and the stimulus given to the African Chiefs once more to obtain captives by internal wars, must render the project, in its present form, altogether unacceptable to the friends of freedom.

But if Dr. Sabino has made this proposition with the *bonâ fide* desire of emancipating the slaves here, it is certainly a matter of congratulation that such an effort (however defective) has originated with a Provincial Legislative Body so influential as that of

ernambuco; and I trust if it be ever discussed, that modifications may be introduced which may render it acceptable to Her Majesty's Government.

Your Lordship will perceive that the proposition is in the form of an address from the Provincial to the Imperial Legislature.

Inclosure in No. 132.

Extract from the "Diario do Pernambuco" of April 22, 1857.

(Translation.)

DR. SABINO OLEGARIO L. PINHO proposed yesterday in the Provincial Assembly the following motion, which was referred to a Commission of Commerce and Arts:—

"Project of Address to the General Legislative Assembly.

"August and most worthy Sirs, Representatives of the Nation.

"To the Commission of Agriculture.

"The Provincial Legislative Assembly of Pernambuco, taking into consideration the agricultural necessities of the province in general, and ardently desiring to co-operate in the solution of the great problem of the acquisition of labourers, which might at one and the same time give life to our dying agriculture, and substitute free for slave-labour, has the honour to offer, for the high consideration of the honourable Legislative body of the nation, some ideas which appear to it to be conducive to this double purpose, without violating the rights of the proprietors of slaves, or in the least outraging those generous ideas which form the appanage of the nineteenth century.

"The Provincial Legislative Assembly of Pernambuco profoundly recognises the great efforts employed by the august and most worthy Representatives of the nation, for the laudable purpose of calling to the country the excess of European population, the Imperial Government having already provided considerable sums, sufficient to satisfy the necessities of colonization, and guaranteed to the colonists rights, which, under ordinary or common circumstances, no country in the world has yet offered. Unfortunately these efforts of the high powers of the State, and the sacrifices from the national coffers, which all tend to import into the country sufficient hands to be employed in exploring the agricultural riches, which are so fertile, and which have so much contributed to the prosperity at which we have arrived, have not been crowned by happy results.

"It is known that European colonists who have come to Brazil have been unable to accustom themselves to the arduous service required for the planting of cane, especially in this and the Northern Provinces of the empire, where the burning rays of the sun determine the existence of climates, which contrast so greatly with those in which these individuals were born, and lived. This reason is perhaps insufficient to justify the repugnance which they have to being employed in cultivating the cane; but experience has shown that this labour is, from the nature of the plant, attended with notable inconveniences to their health, such as itches and ulcers, which are produced in proportion as they continue in this service. No one can doubt the social advantages which would be enjoyed by a most extensive country like ours, as yet but thinly populated, from European colonization: it is equally incontestable that European colonists might render valuable services in other kinds of labour, such as tea, coffee, wheat, &c., with advantage to themselves, and to the interest of the proprietors with whom they had contracted, but everything leads us to believe that these advantages could never be obtained in the culture of the sugar-cane; and when they were, it could only be in the Southern Provinces, where the climates are similar to those of Europe, where the land is more applicable to the production of provisions to which the colonists are accustomed, and consequently there, the transition would not be very sensible.

"But, as the advantages of colonization, in substitution of the hands of which we are deficient in our rural labours, ought to be extended to the whole of the Empire; and it being certain that European colonists are incapable of resisting in the north the labour which the sugar-cane requires, and which forms the principal base of the riches of this province, and of many others from the River Doce, to Pará, the Provincial Legislative Assembly of Pernambuco comes respectfully soliciting the august and most worthy Representatives of the nation, a provision which it judges important and of manifest interest to our agriculture. This provision consists in the admission of African colonists, whose services are incontestably preferable to those of Europeans in the culture of the sugar-cane.

“The Provincial Legislative Assembly of Pernambuco sees in this measure advantages for the internal economy of the country, and for the colonists themselves.

“All the world knows that the African nations found all their glory in wars, which they wage one against the other, the result of which is, that the conquered become the property of the conquerors, who dispose of them as they please, either selling them as slaves, or killing them when they cannot find purchasers.

“Putting aside the question of whether slavery be preferable to death or death to slavery, no one can deny that the ransom of the wretched vanquished, notwithstanding that it is accompanied by the condition of being transported to another country, where they will live, not as slaves, but as freemen, would be an act of charity practised towards them individually, and a valuable service to humanity. From this would arise their social and moral amelioration; and which would transform beings without useful knowledge, without true ideas of the Creator, into laborious men and fearers of God; thus would they escape from the trammels of gross paganism, to be enlightened by the refulgent sun of Christianity; and in this manner should we contribute to accomplish that law of Providence, which appears to ordain for the whole human race one only symbol of faith—the Cross.

“The African colonists imported to Brazil, besides the advantages conferred upon the agricultural proprietors, would put an end to all slavery, in a manner worthy the illustration of the nation, without violence on the part of the Government, and without repugnance upon that of the proprietors of slaves. This result, which is certainly one of the most beautiful aspirations of the civilisation of the world, and which so much distinguishes it from all former civilisations, being desired, as it has been with the greatest sincerity, by the high powers of the State in Brazil, meets with an easy solution in the importation of Africans, in a manner to distribute them among the proprietors; and the laws which should be promulgated with the view of regulating a matter of so much importance, should prevent abuses and guarantee the rights of both parties.

“In this endeavour it is impossible that England, which has so gloriously laboured to accomplish the freedom of slaves, and to whom the force of Treaties, which we have signed with her, gives the right of being heard on this question, can do otherwise than applaud our resolution, and congratulate us upon the means which we have raised to effect this measure, which equally interests her on account of the extension of her commerce, and from the necessity which she has for our agricultural produce, which is exclusively the raw material for her manufactures imported into the Empire.

“More, the measure proposed meets with its precedent in the proceedings of the English Government, which does not hesitate to employ the Africans captured by its cruisers in the rural services of its Colonies.

“The importation of the colonists being effected, it is necessary to distribute them amongst such proprietors as apply for them, who should sign a contract with the Government upon equitable conditions, one of which should be to liberate his slaves, they remaining upon his estate as colonists for the term of ten years, the proprietor receiving as remuneration two African colonists for each slave emancipated, who should work for him for the same period, at the end of which a new contract should be made, which a special law should establish, then based upon experience. It is so clear that in this manner not only the small, but the great proprietors, having in view the profits which would result from an augmentation of force for the working of their *engenhos*, would voluntarily liberate their slaves, from whom they draw little interest relatively, it being necessary with them to await thirty years to make that which the augmentation of labourers would do in ten.

“To this add the diminution of physical force of slaves by age and sickness, and the value is gradually lost until it disappears.

“Beyond these considerations, the Provincial Legislative Assembly could present many others, if they did not fear to abuse the patience of the august and most worthy Representatives of the nation, amongst whom there exists enlightenment, perspicacity and prudence, to carry out all the objects of the present address—objects, without doubt, very grave, and meriting the most profound study.

“*Hall of Sessions of the Provincial Legislative Assembly,*

“April 21, 1857.

(Signed)

“DR. SABINO OLEGARIO L. PINHO.”

No. 133.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Cowper.**Foreign Office, June 8, 1857.*

Sir, I HAVE received your despatch of the 30th of April last, inclosing a translation of a project of Law which has been laid before the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Pernambuco, having for its object the introduction of free African labourers into Brazil, with a view to the gradual extinction of slavery in that empire; and I have to state to you that this project, if carried into effect, would only be a revival of the Slave Trade under another form; and it is one, therefore, which Her Majesty's Government would on every account feel themselves bound to discountenance.

For it is not to be supposed that the Africans whom it is proposed to introduce into Brazil would voluntarily emigrate from Africa; indeed, the framers of this project do not themselves contemplate that such would be the case: they propose to purchase them as slaves from the native Chiefs and slave-traders on the African coast, and to emancipate them on their arrival in Brazil. But, apart from the objection which Her Majesty's Government would have to a project for the introduction of Africans into a country where slavery exists, and where, whatever laws might be made for their protection, they would be liable to be reduced to slavery, there are other more forcible reasons why Her Majesty's Government would feel it their duty to use their influence to prevent this project from being carried into effect.

This country has made great and costly sacrifices for the suppression of the Slave Trade; and the exertions of Her Majesty's Government have not been either unsuccessful or unproductive of good results: for the Slave Trade has been suppressed on a great part of the coast of Africa; and where this has been the case, a legitimate and prosperous trade has sprung up, and the native Chiefs are beginning to find it more to their profit to employ the hands at their disposal in the cultivation of the soil, and in bringing to market the produce of the country, than to sell their servants to the slave-traders.

But all the good which this country has done, and the objects for which it has laboured, would be frustrated, if the project introduced into the Provincial Legislature of Pernambuco were to be carried into effect: for the purchase of slaves on the African coast would be, as regards Africa, an actual renewal of the Slave Trade, and an incitement to the native Chiefs in the interior to make war on their neighbours for the purpose of supplying the demand for slaves on the coast, and experience has shown that Slave Trade and legitimate commerce cannot exist in the same locality.

Her Majesty's Government in thus stating their objections to a project which professes to have for its object the gradual extinction of slavery in Brazil, feel that they are only acting consistently with the line of policy which this country has adopted with regard to the question of African emigration, for they have refused to countenance the introduction of free Africans into British Colonies, and they have also used their best exertions with the French and Portuguese Governments to frustrate the efforts which have been lately made by the French colonists, in the Island of Réunion, to introduce free African labourers into that island from the Portuguese possessions in Mozambique.

Vessels bringing such cargoes of Africans to Brazil would, unavoidably, be dealt with as slavers by British cruisers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 134.

Consul Cowper to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 13.)

My Lord,

Pernambuco, July 6, 1857.

I HAVE the honour and satisfaction of reporting to your Lordship that no act of African Slave Trade has been attempted within the district of this Consulate during the quarter ended the 30th of June; and I am happy to add that a newly-established journal, the "Despertador Commercial do Norte," is denouncing Slave Trade, and advocating emancipation, with great zeal and ability.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. AUGUSTUS COWPER.

No. 135.

Consul Cowper to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 6.)

My Lord,

Pernambuco, August 16, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship statements of the prices of slaves in the different provinces composing this Consulate, for the quarter ended the 30th of June last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. AUGUSTUS COWPER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 135.

RETURN of the Prices of Slaves in the Province of Pernambuco, during the half-year ended June 30, 1857.

Description.	Currency.		Sterling.	
	Reis.	Reis.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
African males	900\$000	to 1,000\$000	105 0 0	to 116 13 4
Ditto females	900\$000	1,000\$000	105 0 0	116 13 4
Creole males	1,000\$000	1,200\$000	116 13 4	140 0 0
Ditto, with trades	1,500\$000	1,800\$000	175 0 0	210 0 0
Ditto females	1,000\$000	1,200\$000	116 13 4	140 0 0
Infants (from birth to 5 years)	150\$000	500\$000	17 10 0	58 6 8
Children (from 5 to 14 years)	500\$000	900\$000	58 6 8	105 0 0

British Consulate, Pernambuco, June 30, 1857.

(Signed)

H. AUGUSTUS COWPER, *Consul.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 135.

RETURN of the Prices of Slaves within the District of the Vice-Consulate of Paraiba, during the half-year ending June 30, 1857.

Description.	Price on December 31, 1856.		Currency.		Sterling.		Remarks.
	Reis.	Reis.	Reis.	Reis.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
African males	None imported.
Ditto females . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.
Creole males	1,000\$	to 1,200\$	1,000\$	to 1,200\$	112 10 0	to 125 0 0	There has been no alteration in the price of slaves during the last half-year.
Ditto, with trades	1,200\$	1,500\$	1,200\$	1,500\$	125 0 0	156 5 0	
Ditto females	1,000\$	1,200\$	1,000\$	1,200\$	112 10 0	125 0 0	
Infants (sucking to 5 years)	200\$	400\$	200\$	400\$	22 10 0	45 0 0	
Children (5 to 10 years)	500\$	800\$	500\$	800\$	56 5 0	90 0 0	

British Vice-Consulate, Paraiba, June 30, 1857.

(Signed)

WATSON VREDENBURG, *Vice-Consul.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 135.

HALF-YEARLY Return of the Prices of Slaves within the limits of the City of Maceio and Province of Alagoas.

Description.	Foreign Money.	Sterling Money.	Remarks.
	Reis.	£ s. d.	
Domestic Males and Females, of brown and pale colour, being young, and good figures . . .	1,400\$000	163 6 0	Exchange calculated at 28 <i>d.</i> per milreis.
Domestic Blacks, young and good figures	1,250\$000	146 13 0	
Other description of able-bodied slaves	1,100\$000	128 6 0	
Children (under and about 10 years of age)	400\$000 to 700\$000	46 <i>l.</i> 13 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i> to 81 <i>l.</i> 13 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>	

British Vice-Consulate, Maceio, July 1, 1857.

(Signed)

JAMES HUNTER, Acting Vice-Consul.

Inclosure 4 in No. 135.

RETURN of the Prices of Slaves within the District of the Vice-Consulate of Ceará, during the half-year ending June 30, 1857.

Description.	Currency.		Sterling.	
	Reis.	Reis.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
African males	1,000\$000	to 1,150\$000	114 11 8	to 131 15 5
Ditto females	1,000\$000	1,100\$000	114 11 8	126 0 10
Creole males	1,000\$000	1,200\$000	114 11 8	137 10 0
Ditto, with trades	1,200\$000	1,500\$000	137 10 0	171 17 6
Ditto females	1,000\$000	1,200\$000	114 11 8	137 10 0
Infants (sucking to 5 years)	300\$000	600\$000	34 7	68 15 0
Ditto (5 to 12 years)	900\$000	1,150\$000	103 2 6	131 15 5

British Vice-Consulate, Ceará, June 30, 1857.

(Signed)

J. W. STUDART, Vice-Consul.

No. 136.

Consul Cowper to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 14.)

(Extract.)

Pernambuco, October 16, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that no overt act of Slave Trade has taken place within the district of this Consulate during the past quarter. A report, which I first saw in the Rio papers, of an attempted landing of slaves upon the shores of this province, has not been confirmed.

I regret, however, to once more direct your Lordship's attention to the coasting Slave Trade, which continues in all its force and all its horrors. I inclose to your Lordship the translation of an article from the "Jornal do Commercio" of the 22nd of September, describing the state of the steamer "Imperatriz," upon her arrival here from Maranhã; and your Lordship will bear in mind that this is not a solitary case, but one of weekly occurrence. I am unable to comprehend the reported policy of the Legislature of that province in encouraging the free export of these unfortunate creatures, and of strictly prohibiting their import; one effect is unquestionably to makẽ Maranhã, that which she is described in the "Jornal do Commercio," the "coast of Africa of Brazil," and I greatly doubt if the province will be repaid for this disgraceful notoriety, by the immigration of white labourers, if that be its object, for I am satisfied that no white labourer could perform his duties and live under its burning and relaxing climate.

Your Lordship would confer an inestimable service to humanity if, through your influence, the Brazilian Government could be induced to propose a law prohibiting the export or removal of slaves from the province in which they were born.

Inclosure in No. 136.

Extract from the "Jornal do Commercio" of September 22, 1857.

(Translation.)

THE Province of Maranhão is, without the slightest contestation, the coast of Africa of Brazil.

The people of Maranhão traffic with the poor slaves in the same manner as they do upon the coast of Africa with the Africans, with this difference, however, that the people of Maranhão are more inhuman than the others, for they sell even newly-born infants, whilst the others choose adults, if not from a feeling of humanity, at least to obtain a larger quantity of tobacco or rum in exchange for these commodities.

We have long observed that the steamers of the Brazilian Company, whenever they arrive from the north, bring large quantities of slaves, but we supposed that these unfortunates came from different provinces; but no, the greater part, if not all of them, are from Maranhão, and this we observed in the last steamer, the "Imperatriz," which arrived on the 15th instant, having 90 odd, besides at least two dozen children, from one month to two years of age!

The deck of the steamer appeared like one of those vessels coming from the coast of Africa loaded with human flesh; we saw one unhappy child combatting with death, and others miserably naked!

The worthy Commander of the steamer "Imperatriz" felt so much compassion for these poor children, that he pressed them to his breast as if he were their father! whilst their heartless masters, in exchange for a vile interest, had given them up to sacrifice, separating them from their parents and friends, as the Africans do upon the coast.

Gentlemen of Maranhão, humanity has rights so sacred that they cannot be violated with impunity.

No. 137.

Consul Cowper to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 12.)

(Extract.)

Pernambuco, January 19, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship returns of the prices of slaves in this province, and that of Ceará, during the last half-year of 1857.

Your Lordship will perceive the same gradual increase in the value of labour which has characterized these returns for the last few years; and this will, I fear, continue until the failure of the various remedies proposed to check it, such as the importation of white labourers, the introduction of free African blacks, &c., shall have rendered its expense intolerable, when Slave Trade will be again resorted to.

A colonization society has been formed here upon the first principle, and two cargoes of Portuguese arrived a few days ago; the bulk of these men, women, and children, are as certain of almost immediate death as a sheep is when taken to the slaughter-house: and I cannot too often repeat, that any attempt at white colonization of tropical Brazil, for field labourers, will prove expensive and useless to the proprietor, and cruel and destructive to the immigrant. As regards the second principle, it would renew Slave Trade on the coast of Africa, however much it might improve the condition of the African, after arriving here; we thus see that there exists a demand for labour in Brazil, but that this demand cannot be supplied where it may, and may not be supplied where it can; first, because whites who may be imported cannot do field labour and live; and secondly, because blacks who can labour, may not be imported lest the Slave Trade should be renewed.

Inclosure 1 in No. 137.

RETURN of the Prices of Slaves within the District of the Vice-Consulate of Ceará, during the half-year ending December 31, 1857.

Description.	Currency.		Sterling.	
	Reis.	Reis.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
African males	1,100\$000	to 1,300\$000	126 0 10	to 148 19 2
Ditto females	1,100\$000	1,300\$000	126 0 10	148 19 2
Creole males	1,300\$000	1,400\$000	148 19 2	160 8 4
Ditto, with trades	1,500\$000	1,600\$000	171 17 6	183 6 8
Ditto females	1,200\$000	1,350\$000	137 10 0	154 13 9
Infants (sucking to 5 years)	200\$000	700\$000	22 18 4	80 4 2
Ditto (5 to 12 years)	700\$000	1,300\$000	80 4 2	148 19 2

British Vice-Consulate, Ceará, December 31, 1857.

(Signed) J. W. STUDART, Vice-Consul.

Inclosure 2 in No. 137.

RETURN of the Prices of Slaves in the Province of Pernambuco, during the half-year ended December 31, 1857.

Description.	Currency.		Sterling.	
	Reis.	Reis.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
African males	1,000\$000	to 1,100\$000	112 10 0	to 123 15 0
Ditto females	1,000\$000	1,100\$000	112 10 0	123 15 0
Creole males	1,100\$000	1,250\$000	123 15 0	140 12 6
Ditto, with trades	1,650\$000	2,000\$000	185 12 6	225 0 0
Ditto females	1,100\$000	1,300\$000	123 15 0	146 5 0
Infants (from birth to 5 years)	150\$000	500\$000	16 17 6	56 5 0
Children (from 5 to 14 years)	600\$000	1,000\$000	67 10 0	112 10 0

Average rate of exchange, 27d. per milrei.

British Consulate, Pernambuco, December 31, 1857.

(Signed) H. AUGUSTUS COWPER, Consul.

No. 138.

Consul Cowper to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 12.)

My Lord,

Pernambuco, January 19, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship a List of the vessels which have sailed from this port to the coast of Africa during the quarter ended 31st December, 1857, and to inform you, with much satisfaction, that no attempt has been made to renew Slave Trade during that period.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. AUGUSTUS COWPER.

Inclosure in No. 138.

LIST of Vessels which have sailed from the Port of Pernambuco for the Coast of Africa, during the Quarter ending December 31, 1857.

No.	Date of Sailing.	Nation.	Class.	Name.	Tons.	Crew.	Master.	Owners.	Cargo.	Where bound.
1	1857 Oct. 10	Sardinian	..	General Garibaldi	157	12	..	..	220 pipes rum	Coast of Africa.
2	Nov. 7	Portuguese	..	Portador	146	12	..	..	Sugar, rum, &c.	Loanda.

British Consulate, Pernambuco, December 31, 1857.

(Signed)

H. AUGUSTUS COWPER, Consul.

No. 139.

Consul Cowper to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 17.)

My Lord,

Pernambuco, February 19, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a Return of the prices of slaves from the Vice-Consulate of Paraiba.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. AUGUSTUS COWPER.

Inclosure in No. 139.

RETURN of the Prices of Slaves within the District of the Vice-Consulate of Paraiba, during the half-year ending December 31, 1857.

Description.	Currency.		Sterling.			Remarks.
	Reis.	Reis.	£	s.	d.	
African males	None imported during the period.
Ditto females .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
Creole males	1,600,000	1,800,000	180	0	0	The exportation of slaves from this Province has ceased altogether, and some have been imported from the northern Provinces.
Ditto, with trades	1,800,000	2,000,000	202	10	0	
Ditto females	1,500,000	1,800,000	168	15	0	
Infants (sucking to 5 years)	300,000	500,000	33	15	0	
Children (5 to 10 years) ..	500,000	1,000,000	56	5	0	

British Vice-Consulate, Paraiba, January 30, 1858.
(Signed)

HENRY KRAUSE, *Acting Vice-Consul.*

BRAZIL. (*Consular*)—*Rio Grande do Sul.*

No. 140.

Consul Vereker to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 18.)

My Lord,

Rio Grande do Sul, February 4, 1857.

THE question of immigration is one of the most important in connection with Brazil which can occupy the statesman or the philanthropist. I have therefore thought it not inappropriate to devote a separate Report to this subject; though the Report has proceeded to greater length than was anticipated, I am nevertheless sensible that the question is therein but very imperfectly treated.

I have inclosed the Report in duplicate, as it is possible your Lordship might desire to communicate a copy to another Department of Her Majesty's Government; and as the question which it refers to is very closely connected with that of slavery, and specially so in this province, I have considered this despatch as forming part of the Slave Trade series.

I have taken the liberty of transmitting this despatch, under flying seal, to Her Majesty's Minister at Rio de Janeiro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. P. VEREKER.

Inclosure in No. 140.

Report.

THE Province of Rio Grande do Sul possesses natural advantages, equalled by but few parts of the world; these are calculated to attract the emigrant from Europe.

The climate is suited to the growth of the grains of Europe, though it is probable other productions may yield a more profitable return. The district is large and fertile, capable, probably, of maintaining a population of 6,000,000, whereas the actual population is reputed not to exceed 200,000. The water-communications are numerous, for, besides the River Uruguay, which disembogues in the River Plate, and forms the interior boundary of the Province, and the tributaries of the same river, there are the two great Lakes Patos and Mirim, extending about 300 miles, and supplied by a number of rivers, percolating to almost every part of the interior, these being either navigable for large distances, or easily rendered so. The extensive virgin forests are in themselves, as it were, a mine of wealth: the matté tree, the leaves of which form a valuable article of commerce, grows spontaneously in abundance; whilst tobacco, indigo, the vine, the olive, maize, cotton of a superior quality, and many other vegetable productions, in which a large and lucrative commerce might be established, can with facility be cultivated.

Besides the natural advantages, the Province of Rio Grande do Sul is under a constitutional Government, and the security to life and property is believed to be greater therein than in any of the South American Republics, excepting, perhaps, Chile; on the other hand, the climate is more suited to Europeans than that of the northern Provinces of Brazil.

Under these circumstances, it might have been presumed that any attempts to establish European emigrants in this territory would have been eminently successful; but the facts speak the contrary, as the majority of the experiments made have proved utter failures. In searching for the reasons of this lamentable anomaly, they will, perhaps, be found in a combination of the following principal causes:—

1. Existence of slavery.
2. Prevalence of the Portuguese language.

Preliminary.

Climate and productions.

Security.

Colonization not successful.

3. Character of the inhabitants.

4. Errors in the system of colonization.

The emigration from Portugal consists chiefly of clerks, artificers, tradesmen, and other persons, who very soon mingle in the general population of the country; and such immigrants are unquestionably the most likely to succeed in this province. The immigrants from other countries are usually located in separate districts, forming, in fact, communities distinct from the general population, and called "Colonies." The principal of these, of late years, have been the Colonies of—1. São Leopoldo; 2. Tres Forquilhas; 3. Torres; 4. Mundo Novo; 5. Santa Cruz; 6. Dom Pedro II; 7. Monte Bonito; 8. Serra dos Tapes: others are now being attempted, but they cannot yet be considered as established. The four first-mentioned are situated to the northwards of Porto Alegre, and chiefly German; No. 5, near Rio Pardo, is also German; and the last three are to the south, near Pelotas, formed chiefly of British subjects.

The Colony of São Leopoldo was commenced in 1824, with 122 German immigrants; in 1850, the German population had increased to 9,678; in 1852, to 10,576; in 1854, to 11,172; and at the present time may be about 12,500; in addition to which there are, in the same locality, about 4,500 Brazilians, including their slaves. The value of the exports from this Colony, in 1850, amounted to 50,000*l.*, and is on the increase; and there were paid as taxes in that year about 1,200*l.* In the Colony are prepared wine, beer, spirits, oil, earthenware, leather, saddlery, hats, &c., and cotton, mandioca, beans, maize, and tobacco are cultivated with success; the agricultural produce is valued at from 40,000*l.* to 50,000*l.* annually.

This prosperity would have been more marked, were it not for the unwise jealousies of the natives respecting the increase of the foreign population. Marshal Andrea, then President of the Province, in his address on opening the Provincial Assembly in 1849, states: "The tendency of all the immigrants, as soon as they arrive in this Province, to unite themselves to their fellow-countrymen, has made the Colony of São Leopoldo larger than what was advisable, and as we ought not to desire a Germany amongst us, it is just that the admission of new colonists in that place be prohibited." And President Bello, referring to immigration in 1852, declares: "We are in want of many colonies, but it is convenient that they should not be populous." And the actual President, Senhor Coelho, although in other respects liberal in his propositions, adverts also to the advantage of impeding immigrants from proceeding to São Leopoldo.

The announcement of such views by leading authorities in the Province is very much to be regretted, as calculated to retard the progress of the country. It is manifest that whilst colonization is formed here on the present system, the Colony will be prosperous in proportion as it may be populous; for until it contains within itself the means of existence and advancement, and is free from reliance on external aid, it will have to struggle against many difficulties.

The population of São Leopoldo being mostly Protestant, the Colony has twelve Protestant churches, and about twenty-five schools, wholly maintained by the colonists; it has also nine Roman Catholic chapels.

The illiberal policy manifested in the paragraphs above quoted, has also been applied in the case of religion and education. Only 112*l.* was, on one occasion, allowed towards the building of a Protestant church, and caused a great deal of ill-feeling at the time against the enlightened President who sanctioned the expenditure; but 1,830*l.* has been paid by the Provincial Government for the Roman Catholic chapels. In 1852, Senhor Bello, then President, recommended that the extension of schools should be prohibited, and a fine imposed on the fathers of those children who should frequent them, before they had been conveniently instructed in the reading and writing of the national idiom.

São Leopoldo is, however, now sufficiently large to be in a great measure independent of external influences, and there seems no reason to doubt that it will continue to prosper.

The Colonies of Tres Forquilhas and Torres, the first consisting of Protestants, and the second of Roman Catholics, were established in 1826, but have never flourished. The population of both, amounting to about 700, have now mingled in the general population of the province.

Mundo Novo was a private speculation, and from its favourable position seems likely to succeed; the population amounted in 1852 to 400 persons, in 1854 to 579, and in 1856 to 600. The land is sold to the emigrants, and the price has been raised from 32*l.* 10*s.* to 65*l.* for 150,000 square braças (the braça is 6 feet).

Santa Cruz was a Colony founded by the Provincial Government in 1849. As the land is suited to agriculture, and wood and water are near, it may succeed, if roads are

made thereto, and a river which adjoins is cleared; but it is premature to form a definite opinion respecting this Colony. The population in 1852 was 254; in 1853, 692; in 1854, 891; and in 1856, 1,230; at present it amounts to 1,451 persons, and the emigrants who arrive are mostly sent thereto. The Government expenditure with this Colony has reached about 10,000*l.* sterling.

Dom Pedro II.

The Colony of British subjects. Dom Pedro II, has been referred to in former reports, and the causes of its failure detailed. The population had amounted to about 300; but, with the exception of about 60 who were in more favourable circumstances, they have been all distributed in other parts; the larger portion having proceeded, under satisfactory arrangements, to the River Plate estates. It may not be inappropriate to quote in this place a paragraph from the Report addressed, in 1853, to the Legislative Assembly by the President Senhor Cansação de Sinimbú. He says:—

“The Colony, Pedro II, in the Municipality of Pelotas, was an undertaking ill conceived, and on this very account came to an untimely end. * * *

I respect the good intentions of the founders, I am even persuaded that they were moved in this undertaking by a sentiment of honourable patriotism; but it is right to confess that if intentionally they had searched out the worst land for the purpose of rendering useless the efforts of an agricultural Colony, they could not have found any more fitting for this purpose than that in which they founded the Colony of Pedro II; I traversed it from one side to the other, and I did not meet any plants, excepting some miserable cabbage wrenched by the force of the manure from the sterility of the land. The Association expended of its funds twenty-four contos of reis (2,500*l.*), and the Province fourteen (1,500*l.*); the former is still due, and the Colonists reduced to the greatest wretchedness.”

The wretchedness referred to in this paragraph has ceased, as the Colonists have been otherwise provided for.

Monte Bonito and Serra dos Tapes.

The Colonies of Monte Bonito and Tapes were both in the nature of private speculations, the first promoted by a Brazilian, and the second by the British firm of Caruthers, Souza, and Co.; at neither of them did the number of Colonists, at any time, amount to 100, and, although the land in both cases was suited to agricultural purposes, yet the difficulties and expense of transport, and the uncertainty of a market for their produce, was sufficient to induce the Colonists to avail themselves of other offers of employment, and they gradually left; both Colonies being now abandoned.

Projected Colony.

Of the projected Colonies, the most important is one promoted by the Count de Montravel, late Vice-Consul for France in this Province. This gentleman obtained the grant of lands with very favourable terms from the Brazilian Government, on condition of establishing 576 families of agriculturists; the price of the land being fixed in this case at only half-a real ($\frac{1}{1000}$ ths of a penny) per 6 feet square, payable by the Colonist.

Review.

It will be perceived from the foregoing statement that, notwithstanding the many Colonies attempted, there is only one, that of São Leopoldo, which can be considered as firmly established; and it may be added that very few of those persons who have left the Colonies have remained in the country.

Slavery.

The causes which seem to have led to these disappointments have already been specified; the existence of slavery being undoubtedly the most manifest. By a Law passed the 18th October, 1850, the introduction of slaves into Colonies is prohibited, and this law is reported to be efficiently executed; but, although the principle involved therein is wise and important, it is evident its effects can only be very partial. The emigrant will very soon perceive the distinction made by the inhabitants between the slave and the free man; he will shrink from the performance of the ordinary labour which he may find usually performed by slaves, will object to work with slaves, will require a better treatment, and will often, following the example of the natives, come to look upon manual labour as a disgrace, though perhaps, he may be suited for and used to no other occupation. On the other hand, the Brazilian possessor of slaves will naturally employ first his own slaves; if he should require extra assistance, he will give the preference rather to slaves than free men, for the former he can lodge and maintain on a cheaper scale than would be consented to by the latter; he can treat hired or lent slaves on a par with the others in his establishment, and, especially, he can be secure of their services, whereas with the free man he has no control, excepting that which the payment of wages gives him, there being an absence of laws to regulate service, even the domestic servant having the power to leave whenever he thinks fit, without even giving notice to his employers. It is also to be remarked that in almost every branch of employment the emigrant will have to meet the competition of slave-labour, and, from the peculiarity of the occupations and habits prevalent in the province, this will deprive him of many means of advancement; this will be especially the case with those emigrants who temporarily or otherwise endeavour to

obtain employment beyond the limits of the Colonies—a course which will often be expedient, and which will become absolutely necessary if emigration on a large scale is to be encouraged.

Upon this part of the subject the following observations, which are creditable to the writer, were made by the actual President, Senhor Jeronymo Francisco Coelho, when opening the Provincial Parliament in December last:—"The extinction of the Slave Trade has produced the irresistible necessity of colonizing, and it is upon this means alone that it is lawful for us to found hopes for the future industry of the country. The race of slaves has a tendency towards extinction, inasmuch as its reproduction does not counter-balance its consumption, which formerly it was only its renewal, on a large scale, which was capable of compensating.

"The obligations of duty and of national honour, the Treaties, the sentiments of humanity, the general approbation of the civilized nations, have condemned the Slave Trade to perpetual extinction; it will not, therefore, again reappear, nor shall it in any manner be tolerated. Immigration is, accordingly, the only resource which remains to us, and it is alone the free arm of the colonist, his industry, and his machinery, which will be able to substitute the material assistance of slave labour."

Ignorance of the Portuguese language, which is characteristic of all European emigrants who come to this province, excepting those from Portugal, greatly increases the impediments which the immigrant has, at first, to contend with; his principal difficulties will, in general, arise in the first three years, and this is just the time when his ignorance of the language is calculated to augment those difficulties. Portuguese language.

The character of the natives is formed, in a great measure, from the existence of slavery, and, though their national pride is, in many respects, to be commended, it is to be regretted that there should exist, in the bulk of the population, a considerable jealousy of foreigners. The more enlightened will speak of the great advantage of attracting those of other nations, but their acts contravene their words, and the success of a foreigner is almost looked upon as a reproach to themselves; a considerable improvement has taken place in late years, and a more liberal feeling has been exhibited, but much, very much, yet remains to be effected. Character of natives.

Among the causes which had prevented successful colonization in Rio Grande do Sul, the last mentioned was "errors of system." The locating of the immigrants in separate communities is, in itself, an error, for, until the immigrants are received as part of the general population, it cannot be expected that there will be an extended, spontaneous, and useful immigration to these parts. The plan mentioned was seemingly adopted with a view not to disturb the institution of slavery; inevitably it will be remedied as soon as this blot is wiped off the Brazilian escutcheon, or so far diminished as not to cramp the general advancement of the people. Errors of system

The many attempts to promote immigration necessarily imply a variety of means, but the principle generally adopted may be stated as follows: the expenses of passage from Europe, of transit from Rio Grande to the colony of agricultural implements, provisions, clothing, &c., for one or two years, were, in the first instance, paid by the promoters, but remained a debt to be repaid by the settler; he also got as much land as he might require, for which, also, he had subsequently to pay; these expenses are usually lavishly made, and, besides, loans are given for building houses, &c.; the whole to be repaid, at latest, in five years. The mere enunciation of such a system, comprising, it is true, much mistaken liberality, is sufficient to show it is not calculated to promote permanent immigration in this province. The immigrants are usually of the lower order, improvident in their own country; they become more so on reaching a foreign land, and finding they can obtain all they require without immediate payment, they will naturally take as much as possible, regardless of the debt they will be liable for at some future time, and, there existing no sufficient incentive to cause them to prepare and till their farms, they will prefer to spend their time in idleness until the period is reached when they are called upon to pay for the land and other expenses; they will then, probably, find that the productive powers of their farms are undeveloped, that they themselves are no better circumstanced than when they arrived, and that their prospects, with an overwhelming debt hanging over them, are most unpromising: many will, therefore, as an alternative, almost necessary, leave the country, and thus at least escape their immediate responsibilities.

But to the provident and cautious emigrant the principle quoted is scarcely more favourable; his first three years will usually be occupied in fencing his farms, building his house, testing the soil, learning the language, gaining experience in the nature of the climate, and experimenting on the various crops which may profitably be planted. He is barely surmounting these difficulties when he is called upon to pay the price of the land,

as well as any other expenses to which he may have been subjected ; he must, therefore, resign himself to at least two more years of struggling, and to see the profits of his industry taken from him at the time when he is most specially deserving of encouragement.

Present system.

A more correct view of the measures to be adopted is now being taken, and the Regulation of the Presidency, dated the 30th of June, 1855, goes far to establish a better system ; copious translated extracts of this Regulation are adjoined (Annex A). It provides for the selling of land to immigrants who may spontaneously arrive and pay their passage from Europe ; it also regulates the supplies which may be granted to them, and their conveyance from Rio Grande to their destination in the interior : the limit within which repayments are to be made is fixed at five years, the land being absolutely forfeited if all is not paid within seven years.

The actual President, Senhor Coelho, makes the following suggestions to the Provincial Assembly now sitting, and with special reference to colonies promoted by individuals but aided by the Government:—1. That slaves should not be admitted. 2. That contracts of partnership should not be allowed. 3. That lots of land should be sold to colonists, which, after payment within a fixed period, should become the property of the colonist. 4. That the lots should remain hypothecated for the payment of all charges. 5. That a maximum and minimum value should be fixed for the lots, according to the number of square braças they may contain, in order to avoid the pretensions to a profit excessive, and greater than the means of the colonist ; and he adds, he considers that only on these conditions would the granting of public aid to private undertakings be advantageous or reasonable.

What immigrants are required.

In making the foregoing observations, it is intended merely to convey information to Her Majesty's Government, certainly not to tempt British subjects to emigrate to the Province of Rio Grande do Sul, nor yet to discourage them from making the experiment. The persons most likely to succeed are young unmarried men and women of the lower class, who will be able to turn to such employment as may be offered ; also, artificers, engineers, and tradesmen, specially masons and carpenters ; enterprising farmers have also opportunities for advancement : but the immigrant in this province requires to possess unusual perseverance, to act with considerable caution, and, above all, to be industrious ; he should also be able to pay his passage and have funds sufficient to support him until he becomes firmly established.

What immigrants are unsuited.

Persons of the middle class, and clerks, household servants, married persons with young families, &c., &c., are unsuited to the requirements of this district, and, if they should come, will probably be subjected to many difficulties and disappointments. Skill, capital, and perseverance, will, however, in this, as in most new countries, meet with its reward.

Conclusion.

In conclusion, it is to be remarked that advancing enlightenment and education, the increasing number of foreign residents, the diminution of slavery, and the extension of commercial and other relations with Europe, all which causes are, even at present, having a perceptible influence, will in time remove many of the objections which now deter the European emigrant from directing his views and linking his destinies to this immense and fertile country. Nature has surely been most bounteous to the Province of Rio Grande do Sul : it remains for man to do his part, and the Brazilian should feel that it is not alone his duty, but his interest, to open as much as possible to the world the natural riches over which he happens to have a controlling power, to promote the arrival, settlement, and prosperity of foreigners in his locality, to imitate them when advisable, and, instead of looking upon them with jealousy, to use the advantages which residence and experience give him to surpass them, and, above all, not to consider labour in those arts and occupations which have secured for other nations the greatest advancement and power and prosperity, as beneath the dignity of a Brazilian and disgraceful to a free man. The Brazilian should remember that in his endeavours to procure immigrants he has to compete with such nations as the British, the French, and the inhabitants of the United States ; and that unless he can offer the emigrant from Europe greater advantages than are presented by Australia, the United States, Canada, Algiers, the Cape of Good Hope, and the River Plate States, he cannot expect that the current of emigration will turn towards Brazil.

(Signed)

H. P. VEREKER,

Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, Rio Grande do Sul.

British Consulate, Rio Grande do Sul,

February 4, 1857.

ANNEX A.

(Translated from the German.)

Regulation.

(Conformably to the Provisions of the Provincial Law No. 304, of November 30, 1854.)

Article 1. "The Presidency of the Province of São Pedro to every colonist who should spontaneously present himself in the province, whatever may be his nation and estate, sells, in conformity with the authority conceded thereto by the Provincial Law No. 304 of 30th November, 1854, a lot of lands, with the number of braças* which may appear from the respective map, these lands being destined to agriculture."

Art. 2. (Treats of the steps to be pursued in choosing lots.)

Art. 3. (Treats of means to be followed to complete purchase of lots.)

Art. 4. (Treats of title to be granted for lot; colonist to sign bond to repay expenses incurred; lands to be liable.)

Art. 5. "The Presidency of the Province guarantees to every colonist who should spontaneously present himself in the province, whatever may be his age or sex, the expenses of the voyage and provisions from the city of Rio Grande do Sul to the place of their destination, and also the expenses of accommodation until they have a house of their own, not exceeding the space of sixty days. It guarantees equally to those who may be in greater necessity, the subsidy for three months, at the rate of 200 reis ($5\frac{1}{2}d.$) daily to the unmarried, and of 160 reis ($4\frac{3}{8}d.$) to each person of a family above two years old, including the parents.

Art. 6. "The colonists will be only obliged to the repayment of the expenses of subsidy, and of any extraordinary supply which may be conceded to them, and this according to the manner established for the payment of the lands.

Art. 7. "The minimum price of each square braça of land is 3 reis ($\frac{1}{12}d.$), being augmented according to their quality and situation, the value of which shall be completely indemnified in the following manner: In the first two years, nothing will be exacted from the colonist; at the end of three years, he will pay a tenth of the value of the lands; at the end of four years, two-tenths; at the end of five years, the seven-tenths remaining. The subsidy, and any other extraordinary supply, and the aid for passages, shall be, according to the disposition of the preceding Article, repaid in the same manner and at the same times."

Art. 8. (Imposes interest of 12 per cent. on sums not repaid within the five years mentioned.)

Art. 9. "The interest, of which the previous Article treats, shall be recovered only for the space of two years, counted from the finishing of the respective period; because, when these are ended, the right to residence will not be longer admitted; and, by the failure of the payment, in total or in part, the lands will revert to the Provincial control, the amounts of the payments he may have made being restored to the purchaser, and he being indemnified for the value of improvements, according to the judgment of arbitrators, and for the amounts which may have been discounted to him in the way of supply. The lands will also revert to the Provincial control if, at the end of the second year, the purchaser should not be established therein, with residence and tillage."

Art. 10. (Provides, in case of death, that heirs should have same powers and liabilities.)

Art. 11. (Prohibits sale of lots by purchasers, until all expenses should be paid, and lots fenced and rendered profitable.)

Art. 12. "The purchaser of provincial lands may cultivate them, by himself, or by persons of his family, or salaried persons; but not by means of his own slaves, or those of others, which under no pretext will he be allowed to retain on the lands he may purchase."

Art. 13. (Renders the making of a road, along the lot, obligatory.)

Art. 14. (Provides for the making of roads, and other public works, by lot, with compensation, and for rights of passage through the land; also, that the mines discovered should be subject to the laws in force.)

Art. 15. (Extends generally, to Brazilians wishing to settle, the dispositions of Regulation.)

Art. 16. (Treats of lands to be reserved for public purposes.)

Art. 17. (Imposes a quit-rent upon lands to be sold, to be regulated by Presidency of Province; both this and "laudimium" to be devoted to roads and improvements in neighbourhood.)

* The braça is six feet, or a fathom; here meaning six feet square.

Art. 18. "The present Regulation shall be applicable to the sale of all lands acquired by the Presidency in any part of the province, whether by purchase, or exchange, or in virtue of the disposition of Article 16 of the General Law No. 514 of 20th October, 1848.*

Palace of the Presidency, in Porto Alegre, June 30, 1855.

(Signed) JOAO LUIS VIEIRA CANSANSO DE SINIMBU.

No. 141.

Consul Vereker to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 17.)

My Lord,

Rio Grande do Sul, June 30, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a Return showing the average prices of slaves in this Province during the six months ending this day.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. P. VEREKER.

Inclosure in No. 141.

RETURN showing the Average Prices of Slaves in the Province of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, during the six months ending June 30, 1857, compared with the Prices in the preceding half-year.

Cases of Slaves.	Average Prices in six-monthly periods to				Difference in Price in last six months.	
	December 31, 1856.		June 30, 1857.		Increase.	Decrease.
	Currency.	Sterling.	Currency.	Sterling.	Sterling.	Sterling.
<i>Agricultural.</i>	Reis.	£ s. d.	Reis.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Males	1,000,800	108 6 8	1,000,800	108 6 8		
Females	940,800	101 16 8	900,800	97 10 0	..	4 6 8
<i>Domestic.</i>						
Males	1,120,800	121 6 8	1,200,800	130 0 0	8 13 4	
Females	1,050,800	113 15 0	1,050,800	113 15 0		
<i>Mining</i>	None.					
<i>Newly Imported</i> ..	None.					

Exchange at 26d. per milreis.

British Consulate, Rio Grande do Sul, June 30, 1857.

(Signed)

H. P. VEREKER, *Consul.*

No. 142.

Consul Vereker to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 17.)

My Lord,

Rio Grande do Sul, June 30, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to submit the following observations, intended to review the state of slavery and the Slave Trade in this Province, and it may be convenient to embrace in this retrospect the period which has elapsed since June 1855, the date of my last general Report.

There has been received at this Consulate no authentic information of any landing of African negroes upon the coasts of this district during the period referred to; it would,

* This Law provides for the disposal by Governments of Provinces of six square leagues for the purposes of colonization.

nevertheless, be very erroneous to conclude from thence that the Slave Trade has ceased, or to relax vigilance, for there is no doubt that the feeling which led residents in this country to enter upon such inhuman speculations, a few years since, still largely prevails, and that the present cessation of the Traffic is due to the activity of Brazilian officials and of British cruisers, to the determination manifested upon the subject by the British and Brazilian Governments, and to the pecuniary losses which would, almost certainly, be the reward of those who engaged at present in such speculations, rather than to the sincere and moral conviction of their iniquity. If, therefore, any want of activity were displayed by those opposing the Slave Trade, there is a probability that a host of speculators, tempted by the present high prices of slaves, would arise, and that the Slave Trade would be renewed, if not on the same scale as formerly, yet, at least, with similar barbarous cruelty.

Some young African negroes are stated to have lately appeared in this Province, and one to have been arrested by the authorities; this seems to have given rise to a rumour that a landing of negroes had been lately effected. The information I have been able to obtain does not confirm this rumour, but rather leads to the opinion that these negroes were part of those landed in June 1854.

During the past two years circumstances have occurred which lead to the hope that the day is not far distant when slavery will be wholly abolished in this Province, for not only has the free population considerably increased, but the slave population has diminished in an almost equal proportion, and a beneficial substitution of slave labour by free labour has taken place. A continuous demand from the northern provinces has served to draw away from this a large portion of the slave population. In the absence of exact information upon this subject, it may be estimated that the slaves who have left coastwise have exceeded those who have arrived, in the two years ending this day, by 2,000 persons; besides, an epidemic cholera prevailed in this Province during the last three months of 1855 and in January 1856, the slaves particularly suffered, and at least 2,000 are stated to have died of the disease: thus there would be a total diminution of 4,000 slaves, or somewhat over 5 per centum of the slave population, without counting those who escaped or obtained their freedom; and, as the demand from the northern provinces is likely rather to augment than to diminish, there seems no sufficient reason to suppose that the percentage of decrease above mentioned will be much lowered in future years; the consequence would necessarily be the practical extinction of slavery in this Province within a limited period.

It is to be regretted that a general and efficient measure for the registration of slaves has not hitherto been adopted. A census of the population of this Province has, however, been attempted, and though the information obtained is, as yet, scanty and imperfect, especially with reference to the slaves, there can be no doubt that perseverance in this useful statistical work will be the means of constituting a machinery which might, at a future time, be conveniently applied for the purpose of slave registry.

Continually recurring complaints are made with reference to the treatment as slaves, in this Province, of free persons of colour, subjects of the Republic of the Uruguay. In connection with this subject, a case may be mentioned which serves to show the feelings existing upon the question: The Consul for the Republic of the Uruguay having claimed the recognition of the freedom of a negress named Vicenta, and her children, on the grounds that she arrived in this Province from the Uruguay subsequently to November 1831, a letter appeared in the newspapers, avowedly from the person in whose power this negress and her family were, boldly alleging that (with the exception of one child, acknowledged to have been born free) they were legitimately his slaves; the negress, because she had come from the Uruguay in the year 1838, prior to the year 1847, when slavery was extinguished in that Republic, and the children from having been born in Brazil. I am not informed whether a final determination has been come to in this case, but the character of such pretensions does not appear to have been publicly condemned, or even animadverted upon.

A despatch, dated 16th October, 1856, was issued from the Presidency of this Province, pointing out the circumstances in which slaves, having proceeded from this Province to the State of the Uruguay, would be recognized by the authorities as free; the substance of the despatch is as follows: "That slaves, compelled by their masters to perform services in the State of the Uruguay, should be considered free; but that those who, in the ordinary course of their occupations, momentarily enter that State, independently of their masters' will, should be allowed to claim their liberty from that exceptive circumstance. That the slaves of those proprietors whose lands lie partly in the Uruguay, and partly in this province, shall not be considered free, as the junction of the lands implies the continuation of domestic jurisdiction. Finally, that slaves who, having been engaged, or in service, with the authority of their masters, in the territory mentioned,

should return to this province, ought to be considered as freed, inasmuch as the fact of their having remained with the consent of their master in a country where slavery is abolished, immediately places the slave in the condition of a freed man." The despatch referred to has been confirmed by the Central Brazilian Government, by a despatch of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, dated 26th November, 1856.

A Regulation (No. 367, of 4th March, 1857) has been determined on by the Legislative Assembly of this province, by which is imposed a tax of 200 milreis (22*l.* 10*s.*) on each slave introduced into this province, and of 50 milreis (5*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*) on each slave proceeding outwards: the object would seem to be to prevent changes in the slave population of the province, by what may be called the coastwise traffic. The importation of slaves has, however, almost wholly ceased; and the exportation will probably depend more upon the high prices which may prevail in the tropical provinces than upon checks adopted here; the effect of the measure referred to, will, therefore, probably be only temporary, staying for a time the continuous rise in prices which has taken place.

The augmentation of the prices of slaves is shown by the half-yearly returns; the average prices of domestic male slaves, for example, having risen from 87*l.* 15*s.* in 1855, to 130*l.* in 1857, and, besides, for able-bodied Creole slaves, much higher prices may be obtained. The wages of domestic slaves have also risen in the same period, about 6*l.* 10*s.* per annum for males, and about 5*l.* per annum for females: there appears to be an improvement in their condition and treatment, which, it is to be hoped, arises as much from advancing feelings of humanity as from the increased value of the slaves.

The number of slaves freed, appears to be progressive; in many cases the amount required to free the slave is obtained by subscription, and occasionally it is noticed that the native Brazilians are prominent in forwarding so praiseworthy and charitable an object.

In conclusion, my Lord, I would venture to point out, that although there has arisen in this province an improved feeling in reference to slavery, and although the ultimate abolition of slavery is looked to by many persons as a probable contingency, yet that the sentiments upon this subject scarcely keep pace, in these parts, with the spreading enlightenment of the present age; the events which are taking place in this district, disclosing a ray of hope to the unfortunate Negro race, are unquestionably the result, rather of the inevitable force of circumstances, than of the direct action of the authorities, or of the heartfelt convictions of the people. No substantial impediments are offered to the clandestine sales, as slaves, of persons of colour entitled to their freedom; no efforts are made to wrench from their wrongful claimants, those negroes who have been imported since November 1831, and their children. No efficient general registration of slaves has been established; no regulations to impede the cruel separation, by sale, of slave families, have been instituted, though such hardships are specially remarkable in judicial sales; no measures are adopted to secure the freedom of the new-born children of slaves, who, in the absence of such a measure, being added to the ranks of slavery, will but serve to augment the difficulty with which the Brazilian people will, one day, have to struggle, for it cannot be supposed that slavery will be permanent; and, in fine, no hopeful certainty of the ultimate extinction of slavery is raised to crush the lurking machinations of the slave-dealers, to attract the inquiring emigrants from Europe to the uncultivated wilds of this district, to secure the progress and prosperity of this country, and the benefit of those who would adopt it as their own.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. P. VEREKER.

No. 143.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Vereker.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 7, 1857.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 30th of June last, and I have to acquaint you that I have read with interest the Report which it contains on slavery and the Slave Trade in the Province of Rio Grande do Sul.

I have further to inform you that I have instructed Her Majesty's Minister at Rio de Janeiro to bring the state of things represented in the concluding paragraph of your above-mentioned despatch to the favourable notice of the Brazilian Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

BRAZIL. (Consular)—Rio de Janeiro.

No. 144.

Consul Westwood to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 13.)

My Lord,

Rio de Janeiro, July 4, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a Return showing the prices of slaves in this province during the six months ending on the 30th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JNO. J. C. WESTWOOD.

Inclosure in No. 144.

RETURN showing the Price of Slaves in the Province of Rio de Janeiro, during the half-year ending June 30, 1857, as far as can be ascertained by Her Majesty's Consul at Rio de Janeiro.

Class of Slaves.	Price of Slaves.				Price of Slaves as per last Return, in Sterling.				Remarks.
	In Currency.		In Sterling.						
	Reis.	Reis.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
<i>Agricultural.</i>									During the past six months the price of slaves has continued to average about the same as during the previous half-year.
Males	1,200\$000 to 1,800\$000		137 10 0 to 206 5 0		137 10 0 to 206 5 0				
Females	800\$000 1,400\$000		91 13 4 160 8 4		91 13 4 160 8 4				
<i>Mining.</i>									
Males	} About the same as Agricultural.								
Females									
<i>Domestic.</i>									
Males	1,000\$000 2,000\$000		114 11 8 229 3 4		114 11 8 229 3 4				
Females	1,000\$000 1,600\$000		114 11 8 183 6 8		114 11 8 183 6 8				
<i>Newly Imported.</i>									
Males	} None landed within the district of this Consulate during the past six months.								
Females									

Rio de Janeiro, July 4, 1857.

(Signed) JNO. J. C. WESTWOOD, Consul.

No. 145.

Consul Westwood to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 12.)

My Lord,

Rio de Janeiro, October 26, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a Return of the vessels that are reported to have arrived at this port from the coast of Africa during the quarter ending on the 30th ultimo; and also a List of the sailings for Africa during the same period.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JNO. J. C. WESTWOOD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 145.

ARRIVALS at Rio de Janeiro from the Coast of Africa, during the Quarter ending September 30, 1857.

Date.	Description.	Name.	Master.	Nation.	Tonnage.	Crew.	Where from.	Passage.	Reported Nature of Cargo.
1857 August 2	Brig	Portador ..	M. Goncalves, Jun.	Portuguese ..	146	14	Loanda ..	Days. 33	Sundries.
September 8	Schooner Brig ..	Atrevida ..	A. F. Vieira ..	Ditto ..	92	11	Ditto ..	36	Ditto.

(Signed) JNO. J. C. WESTWOOD, Consul.

Inclosure 2 in No. 145.

DEPARTURES from Rio de Janeiro for the Coast of Africa, during the Quarter ending September 30, 1857.

Date.	Description.	Name.	Master.	Nation.	Tonnage.	Crew.	Where bound.	Reported Nature of Cargo.
1857 July 6	Brig	Novo Vencedor ..	J. de A. Baptista ..	Portuguese ..	222	13	Loanda and Benguella ..	Sundries.
August 28	Ditto	Palanque ..	A. J. Correa ..	Ditto ..	200	9	Loanda ..	Ditto.

(Signed) JNO. J. C. WESTWOOD, Consul.

No. 146.

Consul Westwood to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 19, 1858.)

My Lord,

Rio de Janeiro, December 14, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have addressed under this date to Her Majesty's Minister at this Court, reporting certain proceedings which have come to my knowledge connected with the slaves belonging to the Imperial Brazilian Mining Association.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JNO. J. C. WESTWOOD.

Inclosure in No. 146.

Consul Westwood to Mr. Scarlett, December 14, 1857.

[See Inclosure in No. 106.]

No. 147.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Westwood.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 8, 1858.

I HAVE received your despatch dated the 14th of December last, inclosing a copy of a letter which you addressed to Mr. Scarlett, Her Majesty's Minister at Rio de Janeiro, reporting certain proceedings which have come to your knowledge, connected with the slaves belonging to the Imperial Brazilian Mining Association, and I have to desire that you will continue to watch and report the proceedings of any British companies or British subjects in Brazil in their dealings with slaves.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 148.

Consul Westwood to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 17.)

My Lord,

Rio de Janeiro, January 28, 1858.

I HAVE much satisfaction in reporting to your Lordship that, during the past year, no slaves were landed in this province from the coast of Africa, and that stringent measures continue to be adopted by the Imperial Government for the purpose of preventing any reappearance of the Traffic.

I beg leave to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a Return, showing the quantity and value of the staple productions (the result of slave labour) exported during the year 1857.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JNO. J. C. WESTWOOD.

Inclosure in No. 148.

STATEMENT of the Amount and Value of Exports of Staple Productions from Rio de Janeiro, the result of Slave Labour, during the Year 1857.

Description of Produce.	Quantity.	Sterling value, including Shipping Charges and Duties.			Total.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Coffee	2,088,316 bags	6,859,712	17	3			
Sugar	7,677 cases	210,375	10	0			
Rosewood	17,808 planks	58,738	0	0	7,128,826	7	3
The value of other articles of produce, such as Hides, Horns, Ipecacuanha, Rice, Rum, Tapioca, Tobacco, &c., exported during the year 1857, may be estimated at					300,000	0	0
Total value of produce shipped during 1857					7,428,826	7	3

(Signed) JNO. J. C. WESTWOOD, *Consul.*

No. 149.

Consul Westwood to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 17.)

My Lord,

Rio de Janeiro, January 28, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a Return, showing the prices of slaves in this Province during the six months ending on the 31st ultimo.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JNO. J. C. WESTWOOD.

Inclosure in No. 149.

RETURN showing the Price of Slaves in the Province of Rio de Janeiro, during the half-year ending December 31, 1857, as far as can be ascertained by Her Majesty's Consul at Rio de Janeiro.

Class of Slaves.	Price of Slaves.				Price of Slaves as per last Return, in Sterling.				Remarks.	
	In Currency.		In Sterling.							
	Reis.	Reis.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
<i>Agricultural.</i>										
Males	1,200\$000	to 1,800\$000	137 10 0	to 206 5 0	137 10 0	to 206 5 0			The Prices in this are the same as those given in the last Return, for although individual sales may have been made at a slight advance in price, still the average remains about the same.	
Females	800\$000	1,400\$000	91 13 4	160 8 4	91 13 4	160 8 4				
<i>Mining.</i>										
Males	} About the same as Agricultural.									
Females										
<i>Domestic.</i>										
Males	1,000\$000	2,000\$000	114 11 8	229 3 0	114 11 8	229 3 0				
Females	1,000\$000	1,600\$000	114 11 8	183 6 8	114 11 8	183 6 8				
<i>Newly Imported.</i>										
Males	} None landed within the district of this Consulate during the last six months.									
Females										

Rio de Janeiro, January 28, 1858.

(Signed) JNO. J. C. WESTWOOD, *Consul.*

BRAZIL. (Consular)—St. Catherine's.

No. 150.

Consul Callander to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 12, 1858.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that no case of slave-trading has occurred within my Consular district during the quarter ended this day.

St. Catherine's, December 31, 1857.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

RANDAL CALLANDER.

DENMARK.

No. 151.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 13, 1857.*
I INCLOSE, for your information, the accompanying copies of a correspondence which I have had with the Danish Minister at this Court, relative to a scheme which it would appear is entertained by the Danish Government, for procuring a supply of free African labourers for the Danish colonies in the West Indies.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 151.

Count Reventlow Criminil to the Earl of Clarendon, September 17, 1857.

[See Inclosure 1 in No. 65.]

Inclosure 2 in No. 151.

The Earl of Clarendon to Count Reventlow Criminil, September 29, 1857.

[See Inclosure 2 in No. 65.]

FRANCE.

No. 152.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, April 28, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a despatch from the Acting British Consul at Martinique,* reporting that the French Government has entered into a contract with Mr. P. J. Maës of Nantes, for the introduction into Martinique of 1,200 African labourers. I also inclose a copy of a letter from the Colonial Office upon this subject; and I have to instruct you to communicate the substance of these papers to Count Walewski, and to state to his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government cannot but express their regret that this contract should have been entered into by the French Government. In doing so, your Excellency will call Count Walewski's serious attention to the fact that it is impossible to obtain cargoes of emigrants from the West Coast of Africa without directly or indirectly purchasing them from the slave-owners, and that, consequently, the execution of the terms of the contract in question must have the effect of affording a positive encouragement to the Slave Trade.

The views of Her Majesty's Government upon the subject of the purchase of African labourers for the French colonies were so fully stated in the Memorandum which I sent you in February 1854, with reference to the scheme of the same nature which was proposed by the French Minister of Marine in his note of the 23rd of December, 1853, that it is unnecessary for me to repeat them in this despatch; but your Excellency will not fail to bear in mind the arguments contained in that Memorandum, in any communication which you may have with Count Walewski on the subject of the contract above referred to.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

Inclosure in No. 152.

Mr. Merivale to Mr. Hammond

Sir,

Downing Street, April 11, 1857.

I HAVE laid before Mr. Secretary Labouchere your letter of the 25th ultimo, inclosing the copy of a despatch from the British Consul at Martinique respecting the introduction of African labourers into the French West Indies.

Mr. Labouchere is bound to state, in reference to this communication, that all the experience of this Department shows it to be impossible to obtain cargoes of emigrants from the West Coast of Africa without directly or indirectly effecting the object by purchase of slaves, and he therefore trusts that Lord Clarendon will be enabled to make such representations to the French Government as will induce it to put an immediate end to this Traffic.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HERMAN MERIVALE.

No. 153.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 8.)

My Lord,

Paris, June 7, 1857.

LORD COWLEY had addressed a note to Count Walewski, as instructed by your Lordship's despatch of the 28th of April last, relative to the contract which the French Government had entered into with Mr. P. J. Maës, of Nantes, for the introduction of 1,200 African labourers into Martinique.

Inclosed is a copy of the answer which Count Walewski has addressed to me upon the above subject, referring me to a despatch which he had instructed the French Chargé d'Affaires in London to communicate to your Lordship on the 29th of April, and which his Excellency represents as explaining the views of the French Government upon the whole question; the affair of the contract with M. Maës, being a detail to which a separate answer is no longer necessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. HOWARD.

Inclosure in No. 153.

Count Walewski to Lord Cowley.

M. le Comte,

Paris, le 5 Juin, 1857.

J'AI reçu la lettre que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'écrire le 11 Mai, pour appeler mon attention sur un contrat passé entre l'Administration Française et M. Maës, de Nantes, pour l'introduction à la Martinique de 1,200 travailleurs libres Africains. Désirant répondre à des communications antérieures du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique touchant cette même question du recrutement des travailleurs noirs pour nos colonies, j'ai, le 29 Avril dernier, adressé au Chargé d'Affaires de l'Empereur à Londres une dépêche dont il s'est empressé, d'après mes ordres, de donner connaissance à Lord Clarendon. Cette dépêche, en exposant avec le plus complète franchise l'opinion que le Gouvernement Impérial a cru devoir adopter après un examen réitéré de la question, faisait ressortir le caractère complètement opposé des procédés de traités et des opérations de recrutement dont il s'agit. Les considérations dans lesquelles j'entrais à ce sujet étant encore celles que j'aurais à reproduire ici pour répondre à la dernière lettre de votre Excellence, je ne saurais que me référer à la communication qui a été faite par M. le Baron de Malaret au Principal Secrétaire d'Etat de Sa Majesté Britannique.

Agréé, &c.
(Signé) A. WALEWSKI.

No. 154.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 10, 1857.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 7th instant, I have to inform you that the Baron de Malaret has read to me the despatch from Count Walewski to which you allude, and which he had been instructed by his Excellency to communicate to me, as explaining the views of the French Government upon the question of the introduction of African labourers into French colonies. I observed to Baron de Malaret that it was impossible for the French Government to procure labourers in the manner they proposed, without establishing, in reality, a Slave Trade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 155.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Cowley

My Lord,

Foreign Office, July 13, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency the accompanying extract of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Commissioners at the Cape of Good Hope,* containing their report upon the state of the Slave Trade on the East Coast of Africa during the past year.

Your Excellency will perceive that the exportation of negroes, under the denomination of colonists and free labourers, from the Portuguese Possessions on the East Coast of Africa to the French Settlements, has been carried on to a great extent during the past year; and I have to instruct your Excellency to take an opportunity of expressing to Count Walewski the great regret of Her Majesty's Government that this traffic should be sanctioned by the French authorities, as it must not only have a detrimental effect on the legitimate commerce of the place from whence the slaves are exported, but also encourage the internal warfare by which the slave-markets are supplied.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 156.

The Earl of Clarendon to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, July 29, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency, herewith, copies of a despatch, and of its inclosures, from Her Majesty's Consul at Fernando Po,† reporting the arrival at that port of the French transport-ship "Phoenix," bearing a French pennant, and commanded by M. Chevalier, having on board, as voluntary emigrants, 300 Kroomen, some of whom were engaged at Sierra Leone, and others on the Kroo coast; and it would appear that they only consented to embark, because they were under the impression that they would be taken to the Gaboon river, there to serve for one year only.

I also inclose a copy of a despatch from the Governor of Sierra Leone upon this subject;‡ and I have to instruct your Excellency to bring the contents of the inclosed papers to the knowledge of Count Walewski, and to state that Her Majesty's Government feel convinced that the Government of the Emperor will immediately cause a rigid inquiry to be made into all the circumstances detailed in those papers, which, if correctly stated, leaves little doubt that a Slave Trade is being carried on under cover of the French flag.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 157.

The Earl of Clarendon to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, August 5, 1857.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch from the Governor of Sierra Leone, which has been communicated to me by the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, reporting the proceedings of the French naval forces in the River Cassino, near Bissao, on the West Coast of Africa.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

* Class A, No. 57.

† No. 51

‡ No. 69.

Inclosure in No. 157.

Governor Hill to Mr. Labouchere.

Sir,

Government House, Sierra Leone, May 14, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have heard from the senior naval officer present here that the slave-factory alluded to in your despatch of the 23rd of October, 1856, giving cover to a letter from the Earl of Clarendon, inclosing one from the Portuguese Minister, has been destroyed by two French steamers-of-war, having entered the Cassino river, near Bissao, and taken forcible possession; and this information is confirmed by two French officers commanding steamers, as well as by the Acting Consular Agent of France residing at Sierra Leone.

It is also positively stated that the French commanders, after destroying the factory, entered into a Treaty with the native Chief, and hoisted the flag of France, claiming the place as a French settlement.

I have in addition heard from the French naval officers that the Englishman Beaise, and the Frenchman Lecerf, are in great poverty, and unable to prosecute the Slave Trade, as their partner, Columbino Wiski, has run away to the United States with about 3,000*l.*, received for the purpose of purchasing slaves, all the capital they possessed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL.

No. 158.

The Earl of Clarendon to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, August 6, 1857.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch from Mr. Paget, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Lisbon,* inclosing a copy of a note which, in compliance with my instructions, he addressed to the Portuguese Government, respecting the exportation of negroes from the Portuguese Settlements on the East Coast of Africa to the Island of Réunion.

I also inclose a copy of a letter from Commodore Trotter,† commanding Her Majesty's naval forces on the Cape of Good Hope station, to Sir J. Higginson, the Governor of the Mauritius, reporting the result of inquiries which he had made, and of the communications which he had had with the Portuguese authorities at Mozambique, on the subject of the practicability of obtaining a supply of free African labourers from the East Coast of Africa.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 159.

The Earl of Clarendon to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, August 26, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency, in copy and extract, the accompanying papers, as marked in the margin,‡ which have been forwarded to me from the Admiralty, on the subject of the introduction of African labourers into Réunion.

It would appear from these papers, that notwithstanding the assurance conveyed to your Excellency by Count Walewski, in the note which he addressed to you on the 4th of October, 1855, to the effect that the Governors of French Colonies had been instructed to put an end to every operation having for its object the indirect Trade in Negroes, several French vessels are now openly employed, with agents of the Réunion Government on board, in carrying Africans, as free labourers, from Madagascar and from the East Coast of Africa to the Island of Réunion, and it is stated that these Africans, whether coming from Madagascar or from the African coast, are slaves, and are obtained by purchase.

I have to instruct your Excellency to place a copy of these papers in the hands of Count Walewski, with a request that inquiry may be made respecting the facts therein

* No. 256.

† Class A, Inclosure in No. 179.

‡ Ibid., No. 182, and Inclosures.

alleged, and, if they should prove to be correct, Her Majesty's Government are convinced that the Government of the Emperor will be of opinion that an active Slave Trade is carried on under the French flag, and will not tolerate its continuance.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 160.

The Earl of Clarendon to Earl Cowley.

Extract.)

Foreign Office, August 31, 1857.

I HAVE to instruct your Excellency to take an opportunity of sounding Count Walewski as to whether the French Government would be willing to renew the Convention for the suppression of the Slave Trade which was concluded between this country and France on the 26th of May, 1845.

The Xth Article of that Convention fixed its duration at ten years, and provided that if, at the end of the tenth year, the previous Conventions which had been concluded between this country and France for the suppression of the Slave Trade should not have been put again in force, they should be considered as definitively abrogated.

Your Excellency is aware that no communications passed between the two Governments on this subject, and that, consequently, the Slave Trade Treaties between the two countries lapsed on the expiration of the Convention of 1845.

But by the Xth Article of that Convention the two High Contracting Parties further engaged to continue to concert together for ensuring the suppression of the Slave Trade by all the means which might appear to them useful and efficacious, until the time when this Traffic should be completely abolished; and I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the renewal of an engagement between this country and France for putting a stop to the Slave Trade, would have a good moral effect, and would assist in suppressing this detestable Traffic.

No. 161.

The Earl of Clarendon to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, August 31, 1857.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 29th ultimo, inclosing copies of despatches from Her Majesty's Consul at Fernando Po, and from the Governor of Sierra Leone, relative to the course pursued on the West Coast of Africa by Captain Chevalier, the commander of the French transport "Phoenix," in procuring negroes for the French West Indian Colonies, I have to instruct your Excellency to remind the French Government of this matter; and you will ask Count Walewski whether any steps have been taken to put a stop to Captain Chevalier's proceedings, which the French Government cannot be supposed to approve.

I inclose, for your Excellency's information, copies of a despatch which the Secretary of State for the Colonies proposes to address to the Governor of Sierra Leone, and of a letter which I have directed to be addressed to the Colonial Office, with reference to that despatch, and also of an instruction which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Consuls at Fernando Po and Lagos on the same subject.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 161.

Draft of a Despatch from Mr. Labouchere to Governor Hill.

Sir,

Downing Street, August , 1857.

I HAVE received from the Earl of Clarendon copies of papers relating to the Kroomen who were taken on board the French transport "Phoenix," as voluntary emigrants.

Your despatch to Lord Clarendon of the 19th June seems to have offered almost all

* Nos. 18 and 53.

the information you were possessed of in regard to this matter; but I should wish you to report to me whether the "Phoenix" arrived at Sierra Leone empty, and took in all her emigrants there, or what number she received at that place, and whether these were embarked of heir own accord, and clearly understanding the terms offered in M. Chevalier's placard.

And further I have to instruct you to hold out no encouragement whatever, hereafter, to the emigration of Africans from Sierra Leone to foreign Colonies, and on board of foreign vessels, and not to permit any prisoners in jail to volunteer for such a purpose.

I have, &c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 161.

Mr. Hammond to Mr. Merivale.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 28, 1857.

I HAVE laid before the Earl of Clarendon your letter of the 25th instant, inclosing the draft of a despatch which Mr. Secretary Labouchere proposes to address to the Governor of Sierra Leone, respecting the recent embarkation of Africans from that Colony on board the French transport "Phoenix," and, in reply, I am to state to you, for the information of Mr. Labouchere, that Lord Clarendon concurs in the proposed despatch to Governor Hill, as far as it goes; but his Lordship would suggest that he should also be directed not to permit M. Chevalier, or any other French agents, to stick up handbills in the Colony for the purpose of inveigling natives to emigrate, and, on the contrary, if M. Chevalier persists in his attempts, the Governor should warn all the inhabitants not to be led by M. Chevalier to engage to go on board vessels in which they will be confined and treated like slaves, and will be exposed to the greatest hardships.

I am, &c.

(Signed) F. HAMMOND.

No. 162.

Earl Cowley to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 5.)

My Lord,

Paris, September 4, 1857.

COUNT WALEWSKI having left Paris, with the intention of being absent for some weeks, it will not be in my power to act upon the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 31st ultimo, until his Excellency's return.

I have, &c.

(Signed) COWLEY.

No. 163.

Earl Cowley to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 9.)

(Extract.)

Paris, September 7, 1857.

BEFORE Count Walewski's departure from Paris, I placed in his Excellency's hands copies of the inclosures in your Lordship's despatch of the 26th ultimo, and I again called his attention to the impulse indirectly given to the Slave Trade, by the persistence of the French Government in introducing what they term free labourers into the Island of Réunion, but what were, in reality, purchased slaves, who receive their freedom conditionally, and who had been made slave: for the express purpose of sale to French agents.

I regret to say that Count Walewski's answer was far from satisfactory. He stated that the whole question had already undergone a thorough examination in the Council of Ministers; that the prosperity of the Island of Réunion depended on being able to procure negro labour; and that, although the Imperial Government were firm in their determination to procure negroes from the coast of Africa, they would take care that it should be done without giving encouragement to the Slave Trade. He would not admit that the practice, against which Her Majesty's Government remonstrates, is a virtual encouragement of that Trade: for he affirms that all the accounts from the places where negroes are

procured, show that the local Chiefs are continually at war with one another, and that the negroes would be slaughtered if it was not known that the French Government was ready to purchase their freedom.

No. 164.

Earl Cowley to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 16.)

My Lord,

Paris, September 15, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the answer returned by Count Walewski to the note which I addressed to his Excellency on the 31st of July last, after receiving your Lordship's despatch of the 29th of the same month, relative to the proceedings at Fernando Po of the French transport-ship "Phoenix," commanded by Captain Chevalier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) COWLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 164.

Count Walewski to Earl Cowley.

M. le Comte,

Biarritz, le 8 Septembre, 1857.

PAR une lettre en date du 31 Juillet dernier, votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'entretenir d'opérations de recrutement effectuées, à la côte occidentale d'Afrique, par le Capitaine Chevalier. Elle m'informait que des renseignements, parvenus au Gouvernement Britannique, représentaient les hommes de la côte de Krou, embarqués à bord du "Phénix," comme n'ayant été rien moins que des enrôlés volontaires, tenus dans l'ignorance de leur véritable destination et de la durée du temps pour lequel on les engageait, ils auraient été, en outre, à bord, l'objet de traitement rappelant les procédés de la traite.

M. le Ministre de la Marine m'avait déjà communiqué, à cette époque, un rapport du Capitaine Chevalier concernant ces mêmes opérations, et qui en constatait la parfaite moralité. La présence sur le "Phénix" d'un délégué de l'Administration, et l'assistance que le commandant du vapeur de la Marine Impériale "l'Euphrate" avait prêtée à M. Chevalier, pendant une partie de sa mission, mettaient hors de doute la véracité de ce rapport. De plus, cette circonstance que l'autorité Anglaise de l'établissement de Sierra Leone avait, elle-même, offert au Capitaine Chevalier un certain nombre de noirs qui ont été compris dans ses enrôlements, impliquait, qu'aux yeux de tous, ils avaient un caractère bien établi de loyauté et de régularité. Je n'ai pas cependant voulu me contenter de ces premiers renseignements, pour répondre à votre Excellence, et je me suis empressé de communiquer sa lettre à M. l'Amiral Hamelin, en le priant de me fournir des éclaircissements plus complets sur chacun des faits qui y étaient signalés. Je ne crois pouvoir mieux faire que de vous adresser, ci-joint, copie de la lettre même que m'écrit, à ce sujet, mon collègue. L'enquête complémentaire à laquelle il a procédé, les explications nouvelles qu'il a pu, par suite de la présence à Paris du Commandant de "l'Euphrate," obtenir de cet officier, établissent, en effet, de la manière la plus incontestable, que les émigrants recrutés par le Capitaine Chevalier se sont engagés de leur plein et entier consentement et en parfaite connaissance de cause; que l'Administration Française n'a négligé aucun des moyens de s'assurer de la loyauté et de la régularité de ces recrutements; et que, ni le transport des engagés, ni leur traitement à bord, n'ont pu motiver de leur part la moindre plainte. Je ne doute pas que le Gouvernement de la Reine, mieux édifié sur les faits qu'il avait chargé votre Excellence de signaler à l'attention du Gouvernement de l'Empereur, ne reconnaisse le soin extrême qu'il apporte à garantir la moralité des recrutements opérés avec son autorisation, et l'inexactitude des informations qui présentent ces recrutements sous un jour si différent.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) A. WALEWSKI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 164.

Admiral Hamelin to Count Walewski.

M. le Ministre et cher Collègue,

Paris, le Août, 1857.

J'AI reçu avec votre lettre du 4 Août copie de la communication que vous avait adressé, le 31 Juillet, M. l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre au sujet de l'opération de recrutement d'Africains accomplie à bord du "Phénix" par le Capitaine Chevalier.

D'après votre désir je me suis mis en mesure de vous transmettre de nouveaux renseignements complétant ceux que contenait le rapport du Capitaine Chevalier joint à ma lettre du 23 Mai. J'ai profité à cet effet de la présence à Paris de M. le Lieutenant de Vaisseau Laputerie, qui, en qualité de Commandant du navire à vapeur "l'Euphrate," avait été chargé par M. le Commandant de la station des côtes occidentales d'Afrique, de surveiller les opérations de M. Chevalier, tout en lui prêtant assistance au besoin.

Déjà un premier rapport de cet officier m'était parvenu, dont je vous envoie l'extrait en ce qui concerne l'opération du "Phénix." Voici en somme ce qui en résulte :—

"L'Euphrate" avait été rejoint par le "Phénix" au Cap de Monte le 10 Mars, et le premier soin de M. Laputerie avait été de réunir les émigrants, de les inspecter, de les interroger, et d'examiner en détail leur installations à bord et le traitement qui leur y était assuré. Ils étaient déjà au nombre de 55 qui avaient été recrutés à Sierra Leone sous les yeux de l'Administration Anglaise. Tous se rendaient parfaitement compte de leur situation ; ils se montraient très satisfaits et n'ont adressé à M. Laputerie aucune réclamation, bien qu'il leur eût déclaré qu'il était disposé à recevoir ces réclamations et à les prendre en considération si elles étaient fondées. En outre le même officier a assisté à leurs repas et a constaté les soins intelligents dont ils étaient l'objet. Dans un rapport adressé par lui à M. le Commandant de la Station des côtes occidentales d'Afrique, il s'exprimait ainsi :—

"Bien vêtus, recevant de la viande et du riz deux fois par jour en qualité suffisante, joignant à cela une ration de tapioca qui s'augmente souvent de distributions supplémentaires, logés aussi convenablement qu'il se puisse à bord d'un bâtiment de commerce disposé pour ces transports, les émigrants m'ont paru être dans les meilleures conditions possibles à tous égards."

Le Commandant de "l'Euphrate" a dû, d'après ses instructions, accompagner le "Phénix" sur une partie de la côte, et il ne s'est, en effet, séparé que le 25 Avril de ce navire, qui l'avait rallié le 10 Mars ; à l'époque de la séparation des deux bâtiments, le "Phénix" avait à bord 216 Africains recrutés (à l'exception de ceux dont l'engagement s'était fait à Sierra Leone) sous la surveillance immédiate et constante du bâtiment de guerre. Il n'est donc pas admissible que les contrats passés avec M. Chevalier par les émigrants, aient eu rien d'illégal et que leur traitement n'ait pas été convenable pendant cette période.

Pour le reste, de la navigation jusqu'à l'arrivée du "Phénix" à la Martinique nous avons, indépendamment de la garantie résultant de la surveillance de l'officier d'administration embarqué sur ce navire comme Commissionnaire du Gouvernement, le témoignage des autorités de la Martinique. J'ai reçu en effet un procès-verbal constatant le débarquement des Africains introduits dans cette colonie par le "Phénix" à la date du 6 Juillet. Pour se conformer aux réglemens, le Commissaire de l'Immigration s'est transporté à bord et a procédé à l'enquête ordinaire, qui ne lui a révélé aucune irrégularité. Il a reconnu, au contraire, "que les dispositions faites à bord pour le logement des Africains étaient aussi convenables que possible, et que la manière dont ils avaient été traités pendant la traversée n'avait donné lieu à aucune plainte de leur part." La visite de santé, qui a été opérée ensuite, n'a signalé qu'un seul malade, atteint de douleurs rhumationnelles, et qui a été envoyé à l'hospice. C'est une des preuves les plus convaincantes de l'injustice des plaintes que le domestique du Consul Anglais de Fernando Po a dit avoir entendues dans une visite à bord du "Phénix" pendant la relâche de ce navire, et qui tendraient à représenter les émigrants comme privés d'air et d'une nourriture suffisante.

L'ensemble des témoignages que je viens de résumer serait déjà une ample réfutation de la plainte dont vous m'avez donné connaissance. Cependant, ainsi que je vous l'annonçais au début de cette lettre j'ai voulu y ajouter de nouvelles déclarations du Commandant de "l'Euphrate." Je lui ai donc transmis la plainte dont il s'agit, et je l'ai invité à m'adresser de nouvelles explications. J'ai l'honneur de vous adresser copie de la réponse de M. Laputerie. Vous y verrez avec un nouveau témoignage contre les accusations que vous m'avez communiquées, l'énonciation très plausible des motifs qui peuvent avoir porté des Kroomen à se plaindre sans raison. M. Laputerie s'explique parfaitement les précautions qu'a pu prendre M. Chevalier pour ne pas être le dupe de ceux de ses engagés qui,

après être venus volontairement à lui, avoir vécu à ses dépens pendant longtemps, et avoir disposé de la prime d'engagement offerte aux émigrants, eussent trouvé commode de retourner à terre pour recommencer plus tard la même spéculation. Il nie d'ailleurs que ces précautions aient dépassé la mesure et qu'elles aient pu nuire au bien-être des engagés.

Le Gouvernement Anglais ne mettra pas sans doute en balance ces considérations avec celles du domestique du Consul Anglais et du maître du navire de commerce qui se trouvait en rade de Fernando Po. En admettant d'ailleurs que ces individus n'aient fait que répéter des plaintes qu'ils auraient entendues, on sait maintenant à quoi s'en tenir sur la valeur de ces plaintes, qu'aucun émigrant n'a pu répéter devant l'autorité de la Martinique, malgré les interrogations les plus bienveillantes.

Agréer, &c.
(Signé) HAMELIN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 164.

The Commander of "L'Euphrate" to the French Commander-in-chief on the West Coast of Africa.

M. le Chef de Division,

A bord de "l'Euphrate," Goree, le 25 Avril, 1857.

J'AI l'honneur de vous rendre compte de la mission que vous m'avez confiée sur la Côte des Graines à l'égard du "Phénix," dont le Capitaine M. Chevalier opère des engagements de travailleurs libres, pour nos Antilles.

Le "Phénix" m'a rejoint au Cap de Monté le 10 Mars, où je l'attendais depuis le 8. Mon premier soin a été de faire réunir les émigrants qu'il avait pris à Sierra Leone. Je les ai inspectés, interrogés, et examinés dans tous les détails de leur installation à bord et de l'existence qui leur y est faite.

Tous se rendent parfaitement compte de leur situation, et se montrent très satisfaits de leur sort, qui, grâce à la manière de faire de M. le Capitaine Chevalier, n'a donné lieu à la plus minime réclamation, bien que j'aie déclaré que j'étais disposé à les entendre et à les prendre en considération dans le cas où elles seraient fondées.

J'ai assisté à plusieurs repas des émigrants, constaté l'ordre et les soins intelligents dont ils sont l'incessant objet, et oserai-je vous le dire, j'ai souhaité, dans le silence de ma pensée, un bien-être matériel semblable pour des masses de travailleurs Européens, assurément moins bien rémunérés de leurs labeurs que ces enrôlés Africains.

Bien vêtus, recevant de la viande et du riz deux fois par jour en quantité suffisante, joignant à cela une ration qui s'augmente souvent de rations supplémentaires, logés aussi convenablement qu'il se puisse à bord d'un bâtiment de commerce disposé pour ces transports, bonne entente de soins médicaux et hygiéniques, établissement d'une sage et ferme discipline assurant l'ordre et la sécurité de tous, les émigrants m'ont paru être dans les meilleures conditions possibles à tous égards. Pour ce qui est de la manière dont s'opèrent les engagements, je doute que l'on puisse les pratiquer avec plus de loyauté. Chacun sait au préalable les causes du contrat qui le lie, les captifs sont instruits de leur émancipation immédiate, et si quelques uns d'entre eux nous paraissent douter de cet immense bienfait, d'être confirmés dans cet croyance, M. Chevalier, l'Agent Administratif du Gouvernement, et moi, nous nous sommes empressés de leur faire comprendre qu'ils étaient dès à présent hommes libres, et qu'à l'expiration de leur engagement il leur sera loisible de rester comme travailleurs indépendants sur le sol Français. Son Excellence M. l'Amiral Hamelin peut donc recevoir de vous, M. le Commandant, l'assurance que la plus loyale exécution de ses intentions préside aux transactions opérées par M. le Capitaine du "Phénix."

Au moment où, selon mes instructions, je me suis séparé de M. Chevalier au Cap des Palmes, l'ensemble de ses opérations se décomposait ainsi qu'il suit :—

Hommes	208
Femmes	8
Total	216

Sur le nombre total de ces émigrants il n'y a que 10 captifs rachetés, 7 femmes et 3 hommes. Les autres engagés sont Kroomen libres, chez qui n'existe pas l'esclavage.

Inclosure 4 in No. 164.

Lieutenant Laputerie to Admiral Hamelin.

Paris, le 7 Août, 1857.

M. le Ministre,

J'AI l'honneur de retourner à votre Excellence les pièces qu'il lui a plu de me confier.

Les allégations produites dans la dépêche de Lord Cowley à M. le Comte Walewski, me suggèrent l'énonciation des faits et des réflexions que ma position d'officier commandant m'autorise à présenter avec l'autorité d'un fonctionnaire qui a eu précisément pour mission de contrôler les opérations du Capitaine Chevalier depuis le Cap de Monté jusqu'au Cap des Palmes.

Mon rapport du 25 Avril dernier, à M. le Commandant-en-chef de la Division Navale des Côtes Occidentales d'Afrique, relate les mesures qui ont été prises pour assurer la loyauté des engagements sur la côte de Kroo. Je ne puis à cet égard formuler qu'une pensée, c'est que pas un des engagés n'est fondé à exciper de son ignorance touchant les clauses du contrat qui le lie.

Si respectables que soient les affirmations contraires du jeune Krooman, domestique de M. le Consul Anglais à Fernando Po, je ne puis croire aux fausses impressions dont il est fait mention dans la dépêche précitée.

Je ne pense pas que l'on doive imputer les quatre décès survenus à bord du "Phénix" à l'insuffisance ou à la mauvaise qualité des vivres distribués aux immigrants.

En ce qui concerne leur logement, la commission du port d'armement avait fixé le nombre de travailleurs que pourrait recevoir le "Phénix," et j'ai eu l'honneur d'accompagner M. le Chef de Division Protet dans la visite minutieuse que cet officier supérieur a faite de ce bâtiment en rade de Sierra Leone.

Il a été reconnu que le procès-verbal d'état des lieux était conforme à ce qui existait à bord.

J'affirme de la manière la plus formelle que rien ne justifie à mes yeux le dire d'un domestique noir de l'agent de Sa Majesté Britannique à Fernando Po, non plus que celui du maître du navire Anglais, le "St. Georges;" et pour preuve c'est qu'il y a eu sur le "Phénix," jusqu'à la fin de son recrutement, un Commissaire du Gouvernement Français, M. le Blanc, fils du Vice-Amiral de ce nom, dont l'unique devoir était d'assurer la loyauté des opérations du Capitaine Chevalier.

Il n'y avait point de soldats embarqués sur le "Phénix;" le service y était cependant organisé pour assurer la sécurité de tous, et je ne cache pas qu'on puisse trouver dans ce fait matière à blâmer une mesure que commandait le plus simple bon sens.

Sur les 300 engagés dont il est fait mention, 216 ont été interrogés nominativement par moi; aucun n'a eu à me produire la plus minime réclamation, bien que j'aie poussé la précaution jusqu'à faire dire dans leur langage, à ceux des indigènes qui ne parlaient pas l'Anglais, que j'avais pour devoir de leur rendre justice, s'il m'apparaissait que leurs griefs fussent fondés.

Parmi les émigrants, comme ailleurs, il y a des gens de mauvaise foi; cela explique les précautions qu'a dû prendre le capitaine du "Phénix," pour ne pas être la dupe de ceux de ses engagés qui, après être venus volontairement à lui, avoir vécu à ses dépens pendant longtemps et disposé de la prime d'engagement offerte aux travailleurs, eussent trouvé peut-être commode de retourner à terre pour recommencer plus tard cette spéculation de fripon.

Il n'est pas d'ailleurs à ma connaissance que le Capitaine Chevalier ait employé d'autres moyens préventifs ou coercitifs que ceux en usage dans la marine Impériale.

Il avait à son bord un agent administratif de la marine Impériale. Ce fonctionnaire établissait tout d'abord la qualité de sujets Français, en ce qui concernait les droits des émigrants à la protection de nos lois.

Quant à moi, je n'hésite pas à déclarer à votre Excellence que je classe les propos du domestique du Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique à Fernando Po dans la même catégorie que ceux que j'ai entendus à Sierra Leone à mon retour du Cap des Palmes, où je venais de me séparer du "Phénix." On prétendait qu'une révolte sanglante y avait eu lieu, qu'il avait fallu l'intervention d'un navire de guerre Anglais pour la comprimer, et cela nonobstant la connaissance que l'on avait de l'assistance donnée au "Phénix" par le bâtiment-à-vapeur "l'Euphrate" que j'avais l'honneur de commander.

Ce simple fait doit suffire pour démontrer à votre Excellence avec quelle facilité s'accréditent, en certains lieux, les bruits les moins faits pour mériter d'être pris en sérieuse considération.

En définitive, M. le Ministre, les imputations qui pèseraient gravement sur le Capitaine

CLASS B.

Chevalier, si elles étaient vraies, incrimineraient aussi les officiers qui ont eu pour devoir de surveiller ses opérations. Il ne doit pas suffire, en pareil cas, qu'un noir, domestique, tienne des discours sans portée, pour qu'on doive, ce me semble, s'en émouvoir comme parait l'avoir été M. le Consul Anglais à Fernando Po.

Je suis, &c.
Le Lieutenant de Vaisseau,
(Signé) LAPUTERIE.

No. 165.

The Earl of Clarendon to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, October 5, 1857.

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, the accompanying copy of a despatch from Mr. Sunley, Her Majesty's Consul at Johanna,* reporting the proceedings of French vessels which have arrived at the Comoro Islands in search of labourers for Réunion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 166.

Earl Cowley to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 10.)

(Extract.)

Paris, October 5, 1857.

IN compliance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 31st August last, I have inquired of Count Walewski whether the French Government would be willing to renew the Convention for the suppression of the Slave Trade, which expired in 1855. His Excellency replied, that he should be glad to do so ("qu'il ne demandait pas mieux"), but that there would be a great difficulty about it, as there was such a difference of opinion between the two Governments respecting the proceedings of the Imperial Government for the introduction of free labourers into their West India Possessions. He repeated what he had stated to me before, that this question was one of life and death ("de vie ou de mort") for the French Colonies, and that so long as Her Majesty's Government opposed the emigration of coolies to these Colonies, the French Government would be driven to persist in purchasing the freedom of negroes.

No. 167.

The Earl of Clarendon to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, October 19, 1857.

I INCLOSE herewith, for your Excellency's information, and for communication to the French Government, copies of two despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Lagos,† reporting the purchase, by the agent of Messrs. Regis, of Marseilles, of 1,200 slaves at Whydah, and their shipment, as free emigrants, on board a French screw-steamer.

The proceedings reported in these despatches place, beyond doubt, the fact that the Slave Trade is now practically carried on under the French flag, and I have to instruct your Excellency to express to Count Walewski the deep regret of Her Majesty's Government at the state of things which has thus been created, and which will entirely put an end to the growing industry of the African nations, and to the legitimate trade which has sprung up in those places where the Slave Trade has been suppressed, and in place of which we must now fear a renewal of warfare and atrocities in order to supply the demand for slaves. Your Excellency will remind the French Government of the solemn engagements entered into by France to co-operate with Great Britain for the total suppression of the Slave Trade, and you will appeal to the deliberate judgment of Count Walewski, to say whether it is possible to reconcile transactions such as those in question, and so flagrant in their nature, with those solemn and repeated engagements.

It may be said that the negroes in question are free emigrants, and that slavery being

* No. 202.

† Nos. 25 and 26.

abolished in the French dominions, these negroes will be free when they arrive in the French West Indies; but in reality these emigrants are slaves bought at so much per head, and brought by violence of every kind to the coast to be sold to the French purchaser, and it is impossible to look upon men, who are torn from their homes, their kindred, and their country, and doomed to labour in a foreign land, as free labourers in the just sense of that term.

If, however, it is admitted that the condition and treatment of these victims of violence is to be good, after their arrival in the French West Indies, the crimes of violence committed, and the misery suffered in Africa, caused by the means resorted to for the purpose of providing these slaves, would remain the same, and Her Majesty's Government are persuaded that, when the French Government seriously reflect upon the nature of these arrangements, which Her Majesty's Government cannot help thinking have been unguardedly sanctioned, and upon the extensive evils which these arrangements must necessarily create, and when they observe the entire incompatibility of these proceedings with the solemn and long-standing engagements of France, they will not hesitate in putting an immediate stop to so lamentable a state of things.

Her Majesty's Government are anxious about this matter, not only from the deep interest which the British Government has, for more than half a century, taken in the suppression of the Slave Trade, but because they well know the painful effect which would be produced upon the minds of the British nation if it were believed that the French Government had on a sudden changed its policy in regard to Slave Trade, and instead of co-operating with Great Britain to prevent other nations from continuing to commit this abominable crime, had lent themselves to the practical encouragement of it, notwithstanding their denouncement of that Traffic in 1815, in concurrence with the other Powers.

The sweeping nature of this denunciation is fully exemplified by the words of the Declaration of the 8th of February, 1815, of which the following are extracts:—

“Que les Plénipotentiaires rassemblés dans ce Congrès ne sauraient mieux honorer leur mission, remplir leur devoir, et manifester les principes qui guident leurs augustes Souverains, qu'en travaillant à réaliser cet engagement et en proclamant au nom de leurs Souverains le vœu de mettre un terme à un fléau qui a si longtemps désolé l'Afrique, dégradé l'Europe, et affligé l'humanité,” &c., &c.; and,

“Par conséquent,” &c., &c., “que l'engagement réciproque contracté par la présente Déclaration entre les Souverains qui y ont pris part ne sera considéré comme rempli qu'au moment où un succès complet aura couronné leurs efforts réunis.”

Her Majesty's Government feel sure that France cannot now be less alive to the calls of humanity than in 1815, when she cordially adopted this Declaration.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 168.

The Earl of Clarendon to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, October 28, 1857.

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, the accompanying extract of a despatch from Mr. Scarlett, Her Majesty's Minister at Rio de Janeiro,* reporting a conversation which he had with the Brazilian Minister for Foreign Affairs, relative to the evil effects likely to be produced in Brazil, if the scheme of the French Government is carried out for importing negroes from Africa into the French Colonies.

I also transmit copies of a despatch and its inclosure from Mr. Campbell, Her Majesty's Consul at Lagos,† containing some observations, showing on what erroneous data those schemes are founded which assume the existence of a superabundant population in Africa, and the possibility of obtaining from thence a supply of free labour.

Your Excellency will strongly represent the facts contained in these papers in any communications which you may have with Count Walewski on the subject of the French project for procuring a supply of labourers from Africa for the French Colonies.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

* No. 95.

† No. 21, and Inclosure.

No. 169.

The Earl of Clarendon to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, October 28, 1857.

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, the accompanying copies of a letter and its inclosure from Commander Gordon, of Her Majesty's ship "Hermes," to the Secretary to the Admiralty,* which have been forwarded to me from that department, respecting the employment of French vessels to convey negroes from the East Coast of Africa to the Island of Réunion,

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 170.

The Earl of Clarendon to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 6, 1857.

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, the accompanying copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Martinique,† containing information respecting the arrival of Coolie and African labourers in the French West Indian Colonies.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 171.

The Earl of Clarendon to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 17, 1857.

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Lagos,‡ relative to the failure of the firm of Régis and Co., of Marseilles, to obtain a cargo of African labourers in the Bight of Benin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 172.

The Earl of Clarendon to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 21, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a despatch from Mr. Morgan, Her Majesty's Consul at Bahia,§ containing an extract of a letter received by an old slave-dealer in that city from a correspondent at Ajuda (Whydah), relative to the purchase of slaves by the agent of Messrs. Régis, of Marseilles, for shipment to the French West Indian Colonies, and containing also some observations with regard to the effect which this proceeding on the part of the French is likely to have in encouraging other countries to pursue a similar course.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 173.

Earl Cowley to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 1.)

(Extract.)

Paris, November 29, 1857.

I HAVE thought it right to place on record the opinion of Her Majesty's Government regarding the French proceedings in Africa, as conveyed to me in your Lordship's

* Class A, No. 184 and Inclosure.
‡ No. 35.

† No. 197.
§ No. 120.

despatch of the 19th ultimo, and on the 9th instant, therefore, I addressed to Count Walewski the note a copy of which is inclosed; and in placing it in his hands, I drew his notice, in a friendly tone, to the attention which those proceedings were beginning to excite in England.

In a subsequent conversation which I had with Count Walewski, I observed to his Excellency that, as your Lordship would probably be questioned in Parliament on this matter, it was very desirable that, in replying, you should be enabled to state with great exactitude what the intentions of the French Government were, and I should be glad, therefore, if his Excellency would tell me what language he desired that Her Majesty's Government should employ.

Being desirous that in a matter of such consequence there should be no mistake, I made a memorandum of his Excellency's answer, which I afterwards showed him. He concurred in its accuracy, and I therefore inclose a copy of it for your Lordship's guidance.

Inclosure 1 in No. 173.

Earl Cowley to Count Walewski.

M. le Ministre,

Compiègne, November 9, 1857.

ALTHOUGH the various communications, both verbal and written, which I have had the honour to make to your Excellency on the part of Her Majesty's Government, regarding the purchase of slaves on the coast of Africa by French agents, acting in the name of the Imperial Government, have not had the success which Her Majesty's Government had anticipated, yet Her Majesty's Government are so persuaded that this want of success is to be attributed to the imperfect knowledge which the Imperial Government must have of the real state of matters in those countries, and of the disastrous consequences which must follow a persistence in procuring, by purchase, African labourers for the French Colonies, that they do not hesitate to continue to lay before the Imperial Government all the information which they receive upon the subject from persons who, from their position and experience, are peculiarly competent to afford it correctly.

It is with this view that I am directed by the Earl of Clarendon to put your Excellency in possession of the accompanying extracts of despatches from Her Majesty's Consul at Lagos, respecting the purchase, by the agent of Messrs. Régis of Marseilles, of 1,200 slaves at Whydah, and their shipment as free emigrants on board a French screw-steamer.

The proceedings reported in these despatches place beyond doubt the fact that the Slave Trade is carried on practically, though Her Majesty's Government are persuaded unintentionally, as far as the Imperial Government is concerned, under the French flag. It is impossible not to see that these free emigrants are in reality slaves bought at so much a head, and brought by violence to the coast, to be sold to the French purchaser; nor can it be argued that men who are torn from their homes, their kindred, and their country, and doomed to labour in a foreign land, can be looked upon as free labourers in the just sense of that term.

Willing as Her Majesty's Government are to admit that the treatment of these poor people will be all that could be desired after their arrival in the French Colonies, yet they cannot on that account forget the violence committed and the misery suffered in Africa, caused by the means resorted to for supplying the demands of the French agents; they cannot shut their eyes to the fact that the growing industry of the African nations, and the legitimate trade which has sprung up in those places where the Slave Trade has been suppressed, is likely to be replaced by a renewal of warfare and atrocities, in order to supply the demand for slaves, and they are persuaded that when the Imperial Government seriously reflect upon the nature of the arrangements which have been sanctioned, and upon the extensive evils which these arrangements must necessarily create, they will not hesitate in putting an immediate stop to so lamentable a state of things.

Her Majesty's Government are anxious about this matter not only from the deep interest which the British Government has, for more than half-a-century, taken in the suppression of the Slave Trade, but because they well know the painful effect which would be produced upon the minds of the British nation, if it were believed that the French Government had changed its policy upon this question.

That policy is laid down in the Declaration signed by France in conjunction with the other Powers on the 8th of February, 1815, and the sweeping nature of the denunciation of the Slave Trade then made, may be best exemplified by quoting the following extracts from it:

“Que les Plénipotentiaires rassemblés dans ce Congrès ne sauraient mieux honorer leur mission, remplir leur devoir, et manifester les principes qui guident leurs augustes Souverains, qu'en travaillant à réaliser cet engagement, et en proclamant, au nom de leurs Souverains, le vœu de mettre un terme à un fléau qui a si longtemps desolé l'Afrique, dégradé l'Europe, et affligé l'humanité,” &c., &c. And,

“Par conséquent,” &c. “que l'engagement réciproque, contracté par la présente Déclaration entre les Souverains qui ont pris part, ne sera considéré comme rempli qu'au moment où un succès complet aura couronné leurs efforts réunis.”

Her Majesty's Government feel sure that these observations will be received by the Imperial Government in the same friendly spirit in which they are made. Neither Government can be less alive now to the calls of humanity than they were when they so cordially adopted the Declaration of 1815. All that is required in the present instance, is a just appreciation of facts, and to a careful examination of those which I have had the honour thus to bring to your Excellency's notice, Her Majesty's Government are convinced that the Imperial Government will willingly lend themselves.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) COWLEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 173.

Memorandum.

THE French Government have no intention whatever of giving encouragement to the Slave Trade. Although the Slave Trade Treaty with Great Britain has expired, they still consider themselves bound by its spirit, and have as much at heart the extinction of the trade, as when the Declaration of 1815 was signed.

The French Government, on the other hand, cannot admit that the means which they have taken for procuring negroes in the Island of Réunion, and the French Antilles, constitute a violation of the engagements which they have contracted. The question has been submitted to the best French jurists, and their opinion coincides with that of the Government. The French Government, moreover, maintain that the purchase of the negroes for the purpose of setting them free, is an act of humanity; for the negroes thus set free, would be otherwise kept for the clandestine Slave Trade still carried on, and submitted to all the horrors which that trade entails.

But, while insisting that the purchase of negroes for the purpose of setting them free cannot be qualified as a Trade in Slaves, the French Government are most anxious that the proceedings which they have sanctioned should not give rise to any abuse, and they have taken into their serious consideration the friendly communications and observations of Her Majesty's Government, with a view of remedying the inconveniences to which the system they have adopted may give rise.

Labour can only be carried on in the Isle of Réunion and in the French Antilles, by negroes procured from Africa, or by coolies. It is obvious, therefore, that, if the latter can be procured, the former will not be necessary.

No. 174.

The Earl of Clarendon to Earl Cowley.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, December 5, 1857.

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency that I approve the note which you addressed to Count Walewski, a copy of which is inclosed in your despatch of the 29th ultimo.

No. 175.

The Earl of Clarendon to Earl Cowley.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, December 5, 1857.

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a Memorandum, which, by my directions, has been drawn up in this Department, and which will, I think, show the true nature and tendency of the proceedings of French agents on the African coast.

Your Excellency may find the information contained in this Memorandum useful in any further conversations which you may have with Count Walewski upon this subject.

Inclosure in No. 175.

Memorandum respecting the Slave Trade which is carried on under the French Flag.

THE remonstrances which the English Government has addressed to that of France on the subject of the Slave Trade which is carried on under the French flag are founded on the proceedings of French subjects on both the Eastern and Western Coasts of Africa.

On the Eastern Coast, according to reports received by Her Majesty's Government from Her Majesty's Consul at the Comoro Islands, from the Commanders of Her Majesty's ships on the Cape station, and from the authorities at the Mauritius, vessels are fitted out at the Island of Réunion for the purpose, ostensibly, of procuring free African labourers for that Colony from the neighbouring African coast. The commanders of these vessels proceed to the Comoro Islands, to the Portuguese possessions at Mozambique, and to other parts of the mainland of Africa, where, under the pretence of procuring free labourers, they were lately in the habit of purchasing slaves, or, what amounted to the same thing, paying the Portuguese Governor, or the native Chiefs, to deliver to them, for so much a head, a certain number of slaves, who are then taken on board ship, where the formality is gone through of asking them whether they are willing to proceed to the Island of Réunion to work for a certain period at stated wages. It being quite evident that, under such circumstances, even if these negroes understand the nature and bearing of the question put to them, they can have no free choice really left to them on the subject.

As far as regards the Portuguese possessions, we have reason to believe that this Slave Traffic has been put a stop to by orders from the Lisbon Government, and it would appear by reports recently received from the commander of one of Her Majesty's ships-of-war on the coast, that the officers in command of French vessels engaged in procuring negroes on the East Coast have orders not to embark Africans from the Portuguese possessions, unless with the consent of the Portuguese authorities.

No official assurance to this effect has, however, been received by Her Majesty's Government from the Government of France, and the purchase of slaves at the Comoro Islands, and on the mainland of Africa, is, as far as we have any knowledge, still authorized and encouraged by the French authorities at Réunion.

At the commencement of the present year, however, rumours reached Her Majesty's Government, which subsequently formed the subject of discussion in both Houses of Parliament, that the French Government had contracted with the firms of Régis and Co.,* of Marseilles, and Maes and Co., of Nantes, for the supply of several thousands of Africans, to be transported under the denomination of free labourers to the French West Indian Colonies.

Her Majesty's Government did not at the time give credit to these reports, because they did not think it possible that the Government of France would give its sanction to a scheme which experience had shown it was impracticable to carry out without directly encouraging the Slave Trade—a Traffic which the Government of France, equally with the Government of Great Britain, is bound in honour, and by a series of national engagements, publicly contracted in the face of the civilized world, from 1815 down to the present time, to use its utmost exertions to suppress.

But there could be doubt that these reports were well founded, when, in the month of July last, Her Majesty's Government received intelligence from Her Majesty's Consul at Fernando Po that the French transport "Phoenix," bearing a French pennant, and commanded by a French naval officer, had arrived there, having on board 300 Africans, procured at Sierra Leone, and at other places situated on the Kroo coast, and destined to be carried, under the name of free labourers, to the French West India Colonies.

Those procured at Sierra Leone may, undoubtedly, be said to be willing emigrants, the greater part of them having been discharged by the authorities at Sierra Leone from the public jail, in order to enable them to emigrate; but those taken from the Kroo coast are reported to have been engaged under the impression that they were to go to the River Gaboon for one year only; and when, on their arrival at Fernando Po, they learnt their true destination, some of them escaped from the vessel in which they were confined by swimming on shore, and it became necessary strictly to confine the remainder below deck in order to prevent others from following the example of their comrades.

The "Phoenix" soon afterwards sailed for her destination, without having been able to procure her full complement of emigrants.

Her Majesty's Government have since received intelligence that the steam-ship

* With regard to the firm of Régis & Co., some information has been received in a despatch from Mr. Campbell, extracts of which are annexed as an inclosure to this Memorandum.

“Stella,”* and sailing-vessel “Clara,” have arrived on the African coast, and also that the “Dahome” and “Siam” have been dispatched from France for the same destination, and have been chartered for the same purpose as the “Phoenix.”

With regard to the “Stella,” Mr. Campbell, Her Majesty’s Consul at Lagos, in a despatch dated the 10th of August last, reports as follows:—

“I have received a communication from Commander Day, of Her Majesty’s ship ‘Firefly,’ who had lately arrived from cruising off Whydah, in which, among other Slave Trade movements, he mentions having boarded a French screw-steamer at Whydah (the ‘Stella’) that was engaged in shipping 1,200 slaves from the French factory of M. Régis, and that the slaves were being purchased at fifty dollars per head, and were shipped under the name of free emigrants.”

But even this plan of procuring a supply of African labourers does not appear to have been successful, for in a despatch of a later date (October 2nd), Mr. Campbell states:—

“I have the honour to report that the Régis contract, so far as attempting to obtain, by purchase, in the Bight of Benin, a cargo of enslaved Africans to be embarked on board the screw-steamer ‘Stella,’ has proved a decided failure.

“The terms on which M. Régis undertook this contract not permitting him to offer more than fifty dollars a-head for the slaves he was to purchase, he found himself unable to compete with the Spanish slave-traders, who pay from eighty to ninety dollars per head, and he could only obtain such slaves as those slave-traders rejected, stated by some accounts to be forty to sixty in number, with which the ‘Stella’ has proceeded to the Congo, in the hope of being able to purchase slaves there at a cheaper rate, and to obtain a full cargo.”

Rear-Admiral Grey, the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty’s naval forces on the African station, in writing on the subject of this French scheme, reports as follows:—

“The first scheme was to allow free Africans to be engaged, but finding that a sufficient number cannot thus be obtained, a license has now been given to M. Régis, the contractor, to purchase slaves, who, before they can be embarked, are to be liberated, and voluntarily to engage themselves for a period of six years.

“One barque, the ‘Clara,’ has, I believe, embarked some who were slaves, and has gone to Cabinda for more.

“The steamer ‘Stella’ is now at Punta da Lenha” [in the Congo river].

But the French agents do not appear to have been more successful in the Congo, in procuring a supply of free Africans, than they were at Whydah and other parts of the African coast; for, in a further letter from Rear-Admiral Grey, dated the 24th of September, he reports that the French Commodore had informed him that, up to the time of his writing, the French agents in the Congo had obtained only two emigrants.

Sir F. Grey states also, that the cause of the failure of the French agents in procuring slaves is, that the slave-dealers offer a higher price than the contractor, from the terms of his contract, can afford to pay, without subjecting himself to loss; and he adds, that Commodore Protet has mentioned to him, in conversation, that the King of Dahomey had entered into a contract to furnish a certain number of slaves at 400 francs each, but that, finding he could gain more for them from the Spanish and other slave-dealers, he broke his agreement.

It will be seen, from the foregoing, that the scheme of procuring free Africans as labourers to emigrate to the French West Indian colonies has, as was to be expected, failed, and that French agents have openly contracted with the King of Dahomey for a supply of slaves, and that they have entered into competition in the slave-markets with the regular slave-traders of other nations. The fact that the French agents have failed in procuring the requisite number of slaves, in no way alters the nature of the transaction, which can only be considered as a case of actual Slave Traffic on the part of French agents, and the injury which this scheme has caused, and which, if persisted in, it must continue to produce, is incalculable.

The experiment of procuring a supply of free Africans, as labourers, for the British West Indian Colonies, was tried by Her Majesty’s Government in the year 1846, and it entirely failed, and the accompanying extracts of a despatch from Mr. Campbell † show the causes of its failure, and how vain it is to expect that any large number of free Africans can, under any circumstances, be induced to emigrate from their country for the purpose of labouring in another quarter of the globe.

* Mr. Campbell reports that the master of this vessel is an old captain in the employ of the house of Régis, who was expatriated for ten years by the French Government, on account of his Slave Trade transactions, and returned to France about a year ago.

† Extracts from Consul Campbell’s despatch of September 15, 1857.

It follows then, that, if African labourers are to be procured at all, they must be obtained and bought as slaves, and in order to procure them the Chiefs who sell them to the slave-dealers, must either kidnap men who are free, or go to war with their neighbours for the purpose of making prisoners, who are afterwards to be sold as slaves. It is in this latter way that slaves are most frequently procured :—The Slave Trade is thus the direct and positive cause of barbarous wars, in which thousands of lives are annually lost, by which whole districts are depopulated, and legitimate commerce and peaceful and productive agricultural industry prevented, and the extent of human misery and suffering occasioned by these slave-hunting wars may, in some degree, be estimated by the fact that, besides the number of people who perish in the conflicts to which these wars give rise, not one-half of the prisoners who are made live through the privations, fatigues, and sufferings which they have to undergo in their journey down to the coast.

The course pursued by French agents in purchasing slaves, although it may be with the object of giving them their freedom when in the West Indies, has a direct tendency to encourage these desolating wars, to obstruct civilization, and to put a stop to the valuable legitimate commerce which has of late years sprung up on the coast of Africa, taking the place of the suppressed Slave Trade in the very localities where it used to be prosecuted most vigorously, and thriving and increasing exactly in proportion as that abominable crime has been put down.

The exports from the port of Lagos alone, from whence a few years ago scarcely anything but slaves was exported, but where now the Slave Trade has been entirely suppressed, were last year of the estimated value of 178,828*l.*, consisting of palm oil, ivory, and cotton ; the exports from the Bight of Benin were valued at 862,328*l.*, and the exports from the whole of that part of the Western Coast of Africa were estimated to exceed in value the sum of 2,000,000*l.* sterling.

But all this development of peaceful and productive industry, all these indisputable evidences of progressive improvement, of increasing happiness among the long-persecuted nations of Africa, would speedily disappear if the Slave Trade, with its concomitant barbarities, were allowed again to rear its head ; and this calamitous state of things would inevitably ensue if the French Government were to sanction, by the high authority of its example, the revival of the Slave Trade. The progress which native industry has of late years made in Africa, the consequent development of the resources of the country, and the tendency of this progress to do away entirely with the state of slavery in Africa, are shown in interesting detail by the contents of two despatches from Mr. Campbell, which were laid before Parliament during the last session of Parliament,* and of which copies are hereunto annexed.

But all the good which has been effected in Africa by the efforts made for the suppression of the Slave Trade will be undone, and things will go back to their former state, if French agents are allowed to persist in the course which they are now pursuing.

It would appear that the contract made with the firm of Régis at Marseilles, for the supply of African labourers, was published some months since in a Bahia newspaper, and the fact becoming known to the Brazilian slave-dealers, their agents at Whydah immediately bought up all the slaves to be had in that market, thus causing an increased demand and enhanced prices.

The effect of this demand for slaves was soon felt on the surrounding countries.

The native Chiefs, in order to supply this sudden demand for slaves, commenced making war on their neighbours.

Mr. Campbell, in a despatch dated the 6th of August last, reports that “ there is now little doubt that the war of the Abbeokuta people has been instigated by the slave-traders at Whydah.” He adds : “ The bulk of the people joined this war most reluctantly.”

On the 10th of August he reports :—

“ Nothing more prejudicial to the peace of the country, or tending more to the interruption and (if to be followed by other monster purchases and shipments of slaves under the French flag) to the destruction of the rapid progress now being made in legitimate commerce and the peaceful cultivation of the soil, could have happened, than this wholesale slave-dealing of M. Régis, under the sanction, doubtless, of the Imperial Government at Paris.

“ The sudden determination of the Abbeokuta people to go to war, or rather to hunt for slaves, is, no doubt, connected with the great demand for slaves for shipment at Whydah, and Kosoko’s hostile preparations to attack this place may be, in a great measure, attributed to this cause. Already there is an uneasy feeling on the part of the old Slave Trade Cabooceers of this place, and an anxious desire, which they do not conceal, for a revival of the Slave Trade at Lagos ; and were Kosoko to appear in force off Lagos,

* January 5, and March 14, 1857.

to-morrow, they would, unless restrained by the presence of a British force, make their submission to him at once."

On the 31st of August Mr. Campbell writes—

"There is now no doubt that the revival of an active Cuban Slave Trade at Whydah and the neighbouring ports has arisen from the intention of the Imperial Government of France to purchase slaves at Whydah, having been made known several months since in the Havana, in the Brazils, and at New York.

"The agent of Messrs. Régis at this port (Lagos) was also cognizant of their intention to purchase slaves at Whydah, to be sent to the West Indies, but he concealed that intention from me, informing me that the steamer they had purchased, the 'Stella,' and others that are building in England, are intended for a line of packets to run from Marseilles to Gaboa, touching at the intermediate French settlements, and that the Imperial Government support Messrs. Régis in this undertaking, with an annual subsidy. On receiving this information, I could not help expressing my surprise that the Government of France should support a line of steam-packets for the convenience of a single mercantile firm; Messrs. Régis being the only firm possessing mercantile establishments south of Sierra Leone.

"Unless the Imperial Government of France soon abandons its intention of purchasing slaves at Whydah, we shall have the whole of the Yoruba country plunged into warfare to supply the demand of the slave-market at Whydah; the example of the people of Abbeokuta is to be followed by the people of Ibaddan, who are preparing to attack the Jaboo country, and as a preliminary step, several Jaboos peacefully attending the market at Ibaddan have been seized, some put to death, and others sent to Whydah for sale, and all intercourse between the two countries has been stopped by the closing of the paths and roads; and the example of France will, if the speculation through Messrs. Régis is carried out, be followed by Spain, Brazil, and the United States.

"The attempt to veil this revival of the Slave Trade by France, under the pretext that the slaves purchased are afterwards made free, cannot impose on any one personally acquainted with Africa, or those who have been officially, philanthropically, or commercially acquainted with the country and its people: the purchase of Africans from the slave-dealers is Slave Trade and nothing else, in Africa at least; and, after the King of Dahomey, or any other slave-dealer, has parted with his property, the slave, for what is considered his equivalent, he neither cares nor gives a thought of what may be the fate of the human being he has delivered over to the purchaser. The wrong done to Africa is the same, and the same violent means by fire, sword, devastation, and kidnapping must be pursued, to obtain a further supply to meet the demand; thus subverting the rapid progress that was being made by the introduction of legitimate commerce to promote peace, tranquillity, and security in the interior of this country. While an active Slave Trade was being pursued on the south coast, and in the neighbourhood of Sierra Leone, the Bight of Benin was comparatively free from Slave Trade. The slave-traders, emboldened by the example and countenance of France, have recommenced their operations at Whydah."

In a letter dated the 3rd of September last, he expresses his fears that the cultivation of cotton will be entirely put a stop to, if French agents persist in continuing to purchase slaves at Whydah. He states: "Already the Abbeokutans have gone to hunt for slaves, and the Ibbadans, a more numerous and warlike people than the Abbeokutans, are preparing to do the same in the Jaboo country, near to Lagos."

He proceeds as follows:—

"To give you an idea of the influence created by nearly three years of peace, and the pursuit of legitimate commerce on the minds of the mass of the population of Abbeokuta, heretofore so ready to engage in war, I send you the proclamation of the Chiefs of Abbeokuta, who found the greatest unwillingness on the part of the population to follow them in this war, now that they have felt what it is to earn a livelihood by peaceful trade and the cultivation of cotton, getting the whole benefit themselves; whereas, when they follow the Chiefs in war, they run all the risks of the musket-balls and poisoned arrows, and the Chiefs take more than the lion's share of the slaves captured, and of plunder taken."

The following are extracts of the proclamation:—

"1. In order to procure a large army for the Aibo war, soon to be undertaken, trade must be stopped now, and during the war nothing must be sold, and nothing bought.

"2. In order to this, the passengers by land and the river, to Ijai, Ibaddan, Ikorodu, Ilorim, Lagos, and other adjacent towns that trade with Abbeokuta, must be stopped.

"3. No canoe or canoes shall be allowed to appear on the river, excepting the missionaries, who are no traders.

"4. That instant death on the spot be the penalty inflicted upon violation of any of these rules."

The foregoing will, perhaps, suffice to show the impulse that has been given to the

internal Slave Trade in Africa, by the demand for slaves at Whydah, and the injury which has been occasioned to legitimate commerce by the wars undertaken to supply the slave-dealers.

But it is not alone the evil effect which the open purchase of slaves by authorized French agents must have in encouraging Slave Trade, and injuring legitimate commerce: the example set by the French Government in this matter would naturally be followed by other countries, whose subjects might be in want of African labourers to cultivate their plantations.

Already the Danish Government has applied to Her Majesty's Government to know what understanding has been come to between the English and French Governments for the exportation of Africans, as free labourers, to the West Indies, in order that they may make similar arrangements for procuring a supply of Africans for the Danish West Indian Colonies.

In Brazil, also, a project for procuring a supply of so-called free Africans has been brought before the Provincial Legislature of Pernambuco, and although the scheme has hitherto been discountenanced by the Brazilian Government, yet if French subjects are allowed to purchase Africans to labour in their plantations, Brazilian and Spanish planters will not be long in asserting their right to pursue a similar course.

In conclusion, it may be observed, that the practical encouragement which it has been shown that the course now pursued by French agents on the African coast has given to the Traffic in Slaves, is directly at variance not only with the engagements contracted by France in the Treaty of Vienna, but also by the Convention concluded in 1845 between Great Britain and France, for the suppression of the Slave Trade; for, although the executive stipulations of that Convention have now lapsed, by the effect of the 9th Article, yet the two High Contracting Parties mutually engaged "to continue the prohibition for ever, of all Slave Trade in the colonies which they now possess, or may hereafter possess, and also to prevent, so far as the laws of each country shall permit, their respective subjects from being engaged directly or indirectly in this Traffic."

The representations which have been addressed to Her Majesty's Government from all parts of the kingdom, and by all classes of Her Majesty's subjects, both by memorial and by deputation, prove that the feelings of excitement and alarm with regard to the recent proceedings of French agents on the African coast, are universal throughout the country. It is considered that these proceedings, if continued, must lead to a revival of the Slave Trade in all its horrors; but at the same time it is right to state that the feeling is equally universal in this country, that the Government of the Emperor would view with as much abhorrence as would the people of England, the establishment of this inhuman Traffic. The belief in England is, that the Imperial Government has proceeded upon erroneous information, and that it only requires that unquestionable facts should be brought to the knowledge of the French Government, in order to induce it to put an end to a system which, however benevolent in its intention, must inevitably be productive of disastrous consequences.

Foreign Office, November 28, 1857.

No. 176.

The Earl of Clarendon to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, December 9, 1857.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 5th instant, I have to state to your Excellency that it would perhaps be useful that Count Walewski should be furnished with a copy of the Memorandum which was drawn up in this Department, for the purpose of showing the nature and tendency of the system pursued by France for procuring negro labourers from Africa, and I have accordingly to authorize your Excellency to place a copy of the document in question in the hands of the French Minister.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 177.

The Earl of Clarendon to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, December 21, 1857.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 21st ultimo, I inclose, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Bahia,* containing

* No. 122.

some further observations with regard to the effect which the recent proceedings of French agents in purchasing slaves on the African coast, is likely to have in encouraging other countries to pursue a similar course.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 178.

The Earl of Clarendon to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, December 26, 1857.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Lord Napier, Her Majesty's Minister at Washington,* inclosing a copy of a letter addressed to his Lordship by Mr. Evans, the Secretary to a Committee of the Society of Friends at Philadelphia, containing some observations on the French project of importing free labourers from Africa.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 179.

The Earl of Clarendon to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, December 26, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith, for communication to the French Government, a copy of a despatch from the Governor of Sierra Leone, to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, which has been communicated to me by the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, containing information respecting the shipment of 170 slaves on board a French emigrant vessel in the month of June last in the Gallinas river.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

Inclosure in No. 179.

Governor Hill to Mr. Labouchere.

Sir,

Government House, Sierra Leone, October 29, 1857.

HAVING heard that a French emigrant ship had taken slaves from the Gallinas, and that a Mr. Nathan, a factor of the first mercantile house in this Colony, and residing in the Sherbros, could afford me some information on the subject, I requested Mr. Heddle, his employer, to communicate with Mr. Nathan, from whom I received a letter to the following effect :—

“ Sir,

“ Sierra Leone, October 23, 1857.

“ Mr. Heddle has handed me your note of this morning, and in answer, I beg to inform you that W. E. Tucker (and some other Chiefs of the Sherbro whose names I cannot at this moment recollect) told me, that about the first or second week in June, a French vessel anchored off the Gallinas to purchase slaves; that Sandy Harker, brother to Prince Mannah, was on board the whole of the time she laid there; and as the people were brought alongside, goods to the amount of about sixteen dollars were paid for each, to Sandy Harker, Prince Mannah's agent, and that the vessel had taken about 170.

“ It is unnecessary for me to add, that in that part of the country no free emigrants can be obtained.

“ I have, &c.
(Signed) “ N. NATHAN.”

This communication agrees with the report in circulation here, and I have the honour to submit it for your information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL.

No. 180.

The Earl of Clarendon to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 4, 1858.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Lawless, Her Majesty's Consul at Martinique,* reporting the arrival of the French barque "Clara," bringing the first instalment of Africans which Messrs. Régis of Marseilles have contracted to introduce into that island.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 181.

The Earl of Clarendon to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 12, 1858.

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, and for communication to the French Government, the accompanying copy of a despatch from Mr. Campbell, Her Majesty's Consul at Lagos,† containing some observations with regard to the cause of the failure of the French scheme for procuring labourers from Africa for the French West Indian Colonies.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 182.

The Earl of Clarendon to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 28, 1858.

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, the accompanying copies of a correspondence which I have had with Mr. Howard, Her Majesty's Minister at Lisbon,‡ on the subject of the French scheme for procuring Africans to be exported as free labourers to the French West India Colonies.

I also inclose copies of my correspondence on the same subject with Mr. Gabriel, Her Majesty's Acting Commissioner at Loanda,§ which is referred to in my correspondence with Mr. Howard.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 183.

The Earl of Clarendon to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 16, 1858.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 29th of July of last year, respecting the proceedings of French agents on the African coast in procuring labourers for the French West India Colonies, I transmit herewith a copy of a despatch on this subject which I have received from Mr. Hutchinson, Her Majesty's Consul at Fernando Po,|| inclosing a letter addressed to him by the Kings and Chiefs of the Kroo coast.

Your Excellency will see from this letter, which I send to you in original, in order that you may show it to Count Walewski, the deception which is stated to have been used by M. Chevalier in carrying out the scheme in which he is engaged; and in bringing this matter to the notice of the French Minister, you will express the hope of Her Majesty's Government that an inquiry may be instituted into the proceedings of M. Chevalier, and if it should prove that these Kroomen, who form a most valuable class of labourers on the African coast, have been inveigled away from their homes under false pretences, that steps may be taken to restore them to their country.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

* No. 198.

† No. 45.

‡ Nos. 286 and 290.

§ Class A, Nos. 115 and 120.

|| No. 61.

No. 184.

The Earl of Clarendon to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 16, 1858.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 28th of October last, I inclose, for your Excellency's information, the accompanying extracts of a letter from Captain Lyster, of Her Majesty's ship "Castor,"* to Rear-Admiral Sir F. Grey, the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's naval forces on the African station, containing information respecting the proceedings of the French on the East Coast of Africa in procuring labourers for the Island of Réunion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 185.

The Earl of Malmesbury to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, March 13, 1858.

IN a letter from Captain Lyster, of Her Majesty's ship "Castor," extracts of which were transmitted to your Excellency in Lord Clarendon's despatch dated the 16th ultimo, mention was made of a French vessel having been captured by the Portuguese authorities at Mozambique, on suspicion of having been engaged, in contravention of the Portuguese laws, in shipping slaves as free emigrants for the Island of Réunion; and with reference to this case, I now transmit, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch from Mr. Howard, Her Majesty's Minister at Lisbon,† inclosing a translation of an account which has appeared in a Lisbon paper, called the "Jornal do Commercio," relative to the capture of the vessel in question, called the "Charles et Georges," of St. Malo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MALMESBURY.

No. 186.

The Earl of Malmesbury to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, March 13, 1858.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch from Mr. Lawless, Her Majesty's Consul in Martinique,‡ reporting the arrival at St. Pierre of the French ship "Orion," from Cayenne, whither she had conveyed 370 negroes, procured by Messrs. Régis and Co. from the African coast, in fulfilment of the contract made by that firm with the French Government for the introduction of labourers into the French West India Colonies.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MALMESBURY.

No. 187.

Earl Cowley to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(Received March 16.)

My Lord,

Paris, March 15, 1858.

WITH reference to the French barque captured in the waters of Mozambique, to which allusion is made in the Earl of Clarendon's despatch of the 16th ultimo, and in your Lordship's despatch of the 13th instant, I have the honour to state that Count Walewski has made a complaint on this subject to the Portuguese Minister at this Court, but, at the suggestion of the latter, the matter remains in abeyance until the French Government shall have received their official accounts concerning the capture, which, it appears, is not the case at present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) COWLEY.

* Class A, No. 186.

† No. 303.

‡ No. 201.

No. 188.

The Earl of Malmesbury to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, March 17, 1858.

WITH reference to Lord Clarendon's despatches dated the 28th of January and 16th of February last, I inclose, for your Excellency's information, copies of a further correspondence which has passed between this Department and Her Majesty's Minister at Lisbon,* on matters connected with the French scheme for procuring Africans to be exported as free labourers to the French Colonies.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MALMESBURY.

No. 189.

The Earl of Malmesbury to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, March 18, 1858.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 13th instant, I transmit, for your Excellency's information, the accompanying copy of a further despatch which I have received from Mr. Howard, Her Majesty's Minister at Lisbon,† reporting what has passed between the Portuguese and French Governments relative to the capture, by the Portuguese authorities at Mozambique, of the French vessel the "Charles et Georges" with slaves on board, destined for the Island of Réunion, and containing some observations on the subject of the evil effects of the French scheme for exporting slaves from Africa under the denomination of free labourers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MALMESBURY.

No. 190.

The Earl of Malmesbury to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, March 18, 1858.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency the accompanying extract of a letter from the Admiralty, containing the substance of a report from Commodore Wise, and also an extract of a despatch from Her Majesty's Commissioners at the Cape of Good Hope,‡ reporting the evil effects which the French scheme for procuring labourers from Africa for the French Colonies, has had in encouraging intestine wars, and increasing the Traffic in Slaves both on the Western and Eastern Coasts of Africa.

I also transmit copies of a despatch and its inclosure, from Her Majesty's Minister at Washington,§ by which your Excellency will perceive the incalculable mischief which the course pursued by the French in purchasing and exporting slaves under the denomination of free labourers, has already caused, and is likely to produce, by encouraging other countries to follow the example of France in this matter.

I need scarcely state, that the views and opinions of Her Majesty's present Government with regard to this question of the French Slave Trade—for it cannot properly be designated by any other name—in no way differ from those of their predecessors; and I have to instruct your Excellency to omit no opportunity of impressing on Count Walewski, and on the Imperial Government, the deep interest which is taken by Her Majesty's present advisers in the abandonment by the French Government of their African Emigration scheme, which has already produced such disastrous results.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MALMESBURY.

* Nos. 292 and 301.

† No. 306.

‡ Class A, No. 70.

§ No. 614.

Inclosure in No. 190.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Fitzgerald.

(Extract.)

Admiralty, March 13, 1858.

ON the 2nd November last Commodore Wise reported that the French Emigration scheme had had a very considerable effect in increasing the Traffic in Slaves on the coast of Africa, the natives being of opinion that all difficulties opposing the Trade were about to be removed. Disturbances had in consequence been created, and fresh bands of prisoners of war were daily being obtained to fill the barracoons.

My Lords also desire me to transmit to you the copy of a letter dated the 29th October last, addressed by the Governor of Sierra Leone to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, relative to the shipment, off the Gallinas, of about 170 slaves on board a French emigrant ship, in the month of June last.

No. 191.

Earl Cowley to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(Received March 25.)

My Lord,

Paris, March 23, 1858.

I HAVE informed Count Walewski, as directed by your Lordship's despatch dated the 18th instant, that the views and opinions of Her Majesty's present Government with regard to the French scheme of procuring free labour from the coast of Africa in no way differ from those of their predecessors, and that they trust that a plan which has already produced such disastrous results will be abandoned by the Imperial Government.

Count Walewski replied, in much the same language that he has used before, that he could not admit the conclusions of Her Majesty's Government to be correct. The Emperor, his Excellency said, had been so anxious to elicit the truth, that a Commission had been named to examine the question, "whether the engagement of free labourers encouraged the Slave Trade or not." The Report of this Commission, while stating all that was to be said for and against the plan pursued by the French Government, gave, on the whole, an opinion favourable to its continuation. On the other hand, the Dutch Government had pronounced itself in favour of the French proceedings, and had declared that, in their judgment, the Slave Trade could only be put an end to by adopting a system of free labour.

I observed, in reply, that the value of the Report of the Commission to which Count Walewski had alluded would depend on the data furnished for their information. With regard to the opinion of the Dutch Government, it was to be presumed, I said, that it only referred to the voluntary engagements of emigrants, but could not apply to slaves captured in war made for the purpose of procuring slaves, who were afterwards brought to the coast to be disposed of to French agents waiting to receive them. As usual, Count Walewski insisted that such was not the case; that wars took place, under any circumstances, to supply the illicit Slave Trade, and that, consequently, the negroes emancipated under the proceedings of the French Government were not to be commiserated.

I rejoined that the reports received from the British agents were at complete variance with Count Walewski's statements. Her Majesty's Government could not doubt that, with the gradual extinction of the Slave Trade, internal war, for the purpose of procuring slaves, had ceased in Africa, and commerce, and, with it, prosperity, had been on the increase. This happy state of things was now threatened by the proceedings of France.

Count Walewski answered, that here the two Governments were at issue, and all that he could say was, that if what I had stated could be satisfactorily proved, the scheme to which Her Majesty's Government objected would be abandoned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) COWLEY.

No. 192.

The Earl of Malmesbury to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, March 25, 1858.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 18th instant, and in further illustration of the evil effects of the French scheme for procuring slaves from Africa, to be exported as

free emigrants to the French Colonies, I inclose, for your Excellency's information, the accompanying copies of two despatches from Lord Napier, Her Majesty's Minister at Washington,* containing some observations on the subject of the proceedings which have lately taken place in certain of the Southern States of America, and which have for their object the introduction of Africans, either as apprentices, or undisguisedly as slaves.

I am, &c.

(Signed) MALMESBURY.

* Nos 615 and 617.

FRANCE (*Consular*)—Algiers.

No. 193.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Bell.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 29, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith an extract of a despatch from the Acting British Vice-Consul at Mourzouk to Her Majesty's Consul-General at Tripoli,* relative to the Slave Trade which is stated to be carried on from Ghat, for the supply of the Arab tribes of Algeria; and I have to desire that you will furnish me with any observations which you may have to offer as to the correctness of the report with regard to the introduction of slaves into the Algerine territory.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 194.

Consul-General Bell to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 3.)

My Lord,

Algiers, October 8, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 29th ultimo, inclosing an extract of a despatch from the Acting British Vice-Consul at Mourzouk to Her Majesty's Consul-General at Tripoli, relative to the Slave Trade which is stated to be carried on from Ghat, for the supply of the Arab tribes in Algeria, and requesting observations from me as to the correctness of that report.

I have, in reply, the honour to inform your Lordship that the Government of this Colony has taken, particularly in 1848, and continue to take, all possible measures for preventing this Traffic, and with success so far as Algeria proper is concerned. All slaves are free on their entry upon territory administered under civil or military French law, and to wherever the jurisdiction of a "bureau Arabe" extends; but in the south of Algeria, that is, the Souf, Tuggurt, and the Zab and Chaamba, where there are no French stations, it is possible that individual slaves may be bought and sold, but certainly not in quantities of 500. These districts are occasionally visited by French troops, but they are governed by native Chiefs who are protected by the French.

The negroes in Algeria are perfectly aware that slavery no longer exists in this country, and were slaves introduced and bought, they would immediately claim their liberty. Cases have happened of Morocco slaves coming into this territory for the purpose of claiming freedom. I may however remark, that in some of the large towns, many negroes who were slaves refuse to quit their masters, and are still living with them, and at their own free will helping to support the families of their formerly wealthy owners.

I should judge, from the extract of the Acting Vice-Consul's despatch at Mourzouk, that the slaves referred to were bought by the Maroquins for their own country; the Touat people having little or no commerce with the Algerine tribes.

In reference to the last paragraph of this extract I would observe, that French interests can in no way be benefited by the Slave Traffic in the southern districts, and they are far from encouraging this commerce in any way whatever.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BELL.

* See extract, in No. 497.

FRANCE. (*Consular*)—*Marseilles*.

No. 195.

Acting Consul Birch to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 18.)

My Lord,

Marseilles, July 14, 1857.

I HAVE the honour of informing your Lordship, that reports have reached me of a mercantile house in this city having entered into arrangements for the importation into the French Colonies of free labourers from the Western Coast of Africa. I have learnt the following particulars, which I believe may be relied upon.

Some little time ago the master of a French ship called the "Siam" made overtures to a highly respectable firm in this city to charter his vessel for the importation of free labourers from the coast of Africa into the French Colonies, the said labourers, as I understood, to be engaged for a certain time, to be paid wages, and at the expiration of their engagements to be at liberty to return to their own country; but the firm in question not clearly seeing their way, and fearing to meet with obstructions from the English cruizers, declined to enter into the speculation. Another firm, however, that of Régis, took the affair up, and chartered the "Siam," which has since sailed for the coast of Africa. Messrs. Régis have also recently bought an English steamer called the "Dahome," which vessel arrived a few days ago from Glasgow, where she was recently built. This steamer is publicly announced to sail for the following places towards the end of the present month, namely, Gorea, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Grand Bassam, Assimee, Discour, Cape Coast Castle, Accra, Whydah, Lagos, and Palma; and I have been informed that, once arrived on the coast, she will be employed in the exportation of free labourers as above stated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. H. BIRCH.

P.S. The number of free labourers contracted to be supplied by Messrs. Régis is 13,000.

T. H. B.

FRANCE. (*Consular*)—*Martinique.*

No. 196.

Acting Consul Lawless to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 20.)

My Lord,

St. Pierre, January 20, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Governor of this island has been informed by the Minister of Marine, that the French Government has entered into a contract with the firm of P. J. Maës, of Nantes, for the introduction into Martinique, of 1,200 African labourers.

I have not yet been able to procure a copy of this contract, but the following are its principal conditions:—

1st. It is stipulated that the operation is to commence in 1857, and must be brought to a close on or before the 1st of August, 1858.

2nd. The minimum number of emigrants introduced before the 15th of May, 1857, to be 400.

3rd. Mr. P. J. Maës to receive from the Colonial Treasury, for each adult African landed in Martinique, after such African has been indented to a planter approved of by the Government, a sum of 129 francs; for each non-adult, 110 francs. Mr. Maës to have a further right to reclaim from the planter to whom the emigrants shall be allotted, a supplementary bounty, in no case, however, to exceed the sum of 221 francs for each adult, and 210 francs for each non-adult African.

4th. Are to be considered as non-adults, children of from 10 to 14 years of age. No bounty to be accorded on those under 10 years.

5th. The engagement to labour to be, at least for six years certain.

6th. The conditions of these engagements to be similar to those generally adopted in the Colony, and at the usual rates of 12 to 15 francs per month.

7th. The contracting parties here, that is, the planter and the emigrant, to enjoy the right of making any such modification in the engagement to labour, as may be mutually agreed upon hereafter, with a view to its prolongation.

I have not been able to learn the conditions of the contract with respect to the voyage. I hope, however, to be enabled to inform your Lordship of their nature by the next mail.

The number of applications made to the Government for African labourers, since the announcement of the above-mentioned contract, has been very great; and it would require above 1,000 emigrants to meet the demands received. The following extract from a letter, addressed by the master of one of Mr. P. J. Maës' ships to the agents here, shows no time is being lost in giving effect to the contract:—

“Je pars dans trois jours pour la Côte Occidentale d’Afrique à bord du navire le ‘Phénix,’ pouvant prendre 460 cultivateurs, que j’ai ordre de diriger sur la Martinique, sous le commandement de mon second, car je resterai à la côte pour former la cargaison de mon deuxième navire ‘l’Orion,’ qui partira après moi pour me rejoindre à la côte. Je mettrai à bord de ce dernier 400 travailleurs que je dirigerai soit sur la Martinique, soit sur Cayenne, mais probablement sur cette dernière colonie.”

From the instructions sent to the coast of Africa from the agents here, it is probable that both the vessels referred to in the foregoing extract will come to this island.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WM. LAWLESS.

No. 197.

Consul Lawless to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 31.)

(Extract.)

St. Pierre, October 10, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship the arrival of a fresh batch of coolie emigrants, from Karikal and Pondicherry, in the French ship "Richelieu," belonging to the "Compagnie Générale Maritime," and in execution of the terms of the contract existing between that Company and the French Government for the supply of a certain number of the above class of labourers to this Colony.

The "Richelieu," a new ship of 514 tons burthen French, or about 539 tons English measurement, sailed from Pondicherry on the 10th of June last, with 523 coolie emigrants, viz., men 457, women 51, boys 7, children 8; total 523: and she arrived at this island on the 20th of September ultimo, after a rather long passage of 102 days, including twenty-four hours spent at St. Helena to procure provisions and water. On the same day she landed her passengers, as follows: men 446, women 51, boys 7, children 9; total 513.

From the above statement it appears that, during the voyage, there occurred on board one birth and eleven deaths, all of the latter among the adult male emigrants. Of those landed here, 13, who were suffering from dysentery and rheumatic affections, were sent to the hospital, from which they have since been discharged in perfect health. It follows, therefore, that the ratio of mortality on board of the "Richelieu," during the voyage, did not exceed 2·10 per cent., a result which speaks highly in favour of the arrangements of the "Compagnie Générale Maritime" for the conveyance of their coolie passengers, and also of the manner in which their regulations seem to have been carried into effect on board of the vessel in question.

The medical officer who had charge of the "Richelieu" is a native of India.

Information has been received here of the arrival at Karikal of two other of the Company's ships for the conveyance of a further supply of coolie labourers to the French West Indian Colonies. According to a list published, subsequently to the arrival of the "Richelieu," in the local "Moniteur" here, the demands remaining yet unsatisfied exceed 12,000 coolies for this island alone.

At Guadaloupe the "Siam," a large vessel, has arrived from the coast, where she was unable to procure more than sixty emigrants, owing, it is said here, to the new regulations imposed by the French Government with regard to the manner of recruiting them, and which, in the present case, appear to have been strictly carried into effect by the Government agent who was on board.

I shall continue to report to your Lordship any fresh information which may come to my knowledge on this subject.

No. 198.

Consul Lawless to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 1, 1858.)

My Lord,

St. Pierre, December 8, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship the arrival at Fort de France, in this island, of the French barque "Clara," bringing from the coast of Africa the first instalment of labourers to be introduced into this island by Messrs. Régis Ainé and Co., of Marseilles, in fulfilment of the contract entered into with that firm by the French Government.

The "Clara" sailed from the coast on the 8th of November last, and arrived at this island on the 6th instant, after a passage of twenty-nine days, and without having encountered any very bad weather.

The labourers brought by this vessel were recruited at Loango, on the western coast of Africa. She took on board previous to sailing 325 Africans, and she landed at Fort de France, in this island, but 290, as follows: adults, male 186, female 83, boys 14, girls 10; total 290.

Of the above, 23 were sent to the hospital on landing, and of that number 7 have since died, while several of the remainder are still in a very precarious state.

The authorities here have caused an inquiry to be instituted with a view to ascertain the causes of the excessive mortality that occurred on board, and nothing has appeared to

show that there was any neglect on the part of the master of the vessel ; on the contrary, he appears to have done all in his power to prevent disease, and make the emigrants comfortable. An officer of the Imperial marine was on board, as emigration agent, on the part of the Government.

The ship, however, is far from being as well fitted up as those which I have seen here previously, belonging to other Companies engaged in the transport of emigrants, and the same proportion has not been observed between the number of passengers carried and the tons measurement of the ship. In all former cases, not more than one emigrant per ton measurement was received on board, while in the present instance 325 were conveyed in a vessel of $261\frac{60}{100}$ tons French measurement.

No proper medical officer appears to have been on board, the person shipped in that capacity having been engaged on the coast of Africa, of which he is a native ; and I have heard that the provisions taken on board consisted principally of rice, which is said not to be the usual food of the natives of that part of Africa from which these labourers come.

Dysentery appears to have caused the larger number of the deaths that took place on board. Venereal affections of a serious nature were very common among the female portion of these labourers.

The Portuguese on the coast appear to have offered every possible opposition to the agents of Messrs. Régis and Co. ; and the interference of a French vessel of war at last became necessary. In consequence of this state of things, Messrs. Régis were unable to cause to be built on shore the sheds commonly used to lodge the labourers until the necessary complement for the voyage is collected, and they had, therefore, to be taken on board as they arrived from the interior. The consequent long confinement on board must have been very prejudicial, and, no doubt, accounted for much of the subsequent mortality occurred during the voyage.

It is rumoured that previous to sailing, twenty-five deaths took place on board, and I have every reason to believe that the statement is correct.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. LAWLESS.

No. 199.

Consul Lawless to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 8.)

My Lord,

St. Pierre, January 27, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship of the arrival in this port of a French ship, the "Orion," from Cayenne, to which colony she had just conveyed from the coast of Africa 370 labourers, in fulfilment of the contract passed by the Government of France with Messrs. Régis, of Marseilles.

The "Orion" is a ship of $320\frac{76}{100}$ tons, French measurement ; and she received on board, before leaving Africa, 376 labourers. The number of deaths that occurred on board during the passage, which lasted thirty-three days, only amounted to six.

Since the arrival of the "Clara," reported in my despatch of the 8th of December last, there has been no new arrival of any class of immigrants in this island.

I am, &c.
(Signed) WM. LAWLESS.

GREECE.

No. 200.

Mr. Manley to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 31.)

(Extract.)

Athens, October 22, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of the note which, in pursuance of your Lordship's instructions, I addressed to M. Rangabé, inclosing copy of a Resolution voted by the House of Commons on the 14th July, 1857, for an Address to Her Majesty upon Slave Trade; together with copy of the answer which Her Majesty was pleased to return to that Address; and requesting the co-operation of the Greek Government in the total suppression and extinction of that Trade, both in its direct and indirect practice.

I have also the honour to inclose herewith the answer which I have received from M. Rangabé.

Inclosure 1 in No. 200.

Mr. Manley to M. Rangabé.

Sir,

Athens, October 5, 1857.

I HAVE been instructed by the Earl of Clarendon to communicate to you the inclosed paper, being a copy of a Resolution which was voted by the House of Commons, on the 14th July, 1857, for an Address to Her Majesty upon Slave Trade, and a copy of the answer which, on the 27th of the same month, Her Majesty was pleased to return to that Address.

You will see, from these papers, the unceasing and anxious desire of the Parliament and Government of Great Britain for the extinction of the Traffic in Slaves.

I am further instructed to state to you that Her Majesty's Government earnestly entreat that the co-operation of the Greek Government may actively and efficiently be given towards the total suppression and extinction of this piratical crime, both in its direct and indirect practice.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WM. CAMPBELL MANLEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 200.

M. Rangabé to Mr. Manley.

Monsieur,

Athènes, le $\frac{4}{18}$ Octobre, 1857.

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir la communication que vous avez bien voulu me faire, le 5 Octobre, au sujet des nouvelles mesures qu'il s'agit d'adopter, en Angleterre, pour rendre plus efficaces les poursuites que l'humanité a dicté contre la Traite des Nègres.

En d'autres occasions, lorsque la Légation de Sa Majesté Britannique a été invitée à attirer l'attention du Gouvernement Royal sur un sujet si important, mes prédécesseurs ont exprimé les sentiments qui ont constamment animé le peuple Grec au sujet d'une question si intéressante, et se sont fait un devoir de faire connaître à la Légation Britannique les dispositions législatives que le Gouvernement Royal a depuis longtemps adoptées contre un Trafic honteux que la religion et l'humanité reprouvent.

Le caractère national et les mœurs de nos marins ne nous ont heureusement offert

aucune occasion d'appliquer la rigueur de la loi adoptée à ce sujet. Néanmoins, j'ai communiqué au Ministère de la Justice votre office précité avec son annexe, et je puis vous donner l'assurance que le Gouvernement du Roi ne manquera d'être aussi vigilant que par le passé à ce que les marins Grecs continuent à s'abstenir de prendre part à un commerce qui déshonore l'humanité.

Agréés, &c.
(Signé) A. R. RANGABE.

HANSE TOWNS.

No. 201.

Colonel Hodges to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 10.)

(Extract.)

Hamburgh, October 7, 1857.

IN compliance with your Lordship's instructions, I have communicated to the Hanseatic Governments the copy of a Resolution which was voted by the House of Commons on the 14th of July, 1857, for an Address to Her Majesty upon Slave Trade, and the copy of the answer which Her Majesty was pleased to return to that Address; and I have now the honour to transmit translations of the despatches which I have received, in reply, from the Syndics for Foreign Affairs of the Hanse Towns, and in which they state, that the co-operation of the Senates of Hamburgh, Lubeck, and Bremen shall, as far as lies in their power, be afforded towards effecting the total suppression of this piratical crime.

Inclosure 1 in No. 201.

Dr. Merck to Colonel Hodges.

Sir,

Hamburgh, October 2, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 12th September, 1857, accompanying a copy of the Resolution voted by the House of Commons on the 14th of July of this year, for an Address to Her Majesty the Queen upon Slave Trade, and a copy of the answer which Her Majesty was pleased to return to that Address.

The Senate of Hamburgh fully concur in the wishes of Her Britannic Majesty's Government, for the total extinction of the Traffic in Slaves; and have, therefore, authorized me to assure you that they will always, as far as it is in their power, give their full co-operation towards the total suppression of this abominable crime.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. H. MERCK, Dr.

Inclosure 2 in No. 201.

M. Curtius to Colonel Hodges.

M. le Colonel,

J'AI reçu et porté à la connaissance du Sénat la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'adresser le 12 courant, pour communiquer l'Adresse Parlementaire du 14 Juillet dernier, et la réponse de Sa Majesté Britannique du 27 du même mois, relatives à la suppression de la Traite des Nègres, et au renforcement des mesures y tendantes. Le Sénat me charge de vous faire ses remerciements sincères de cette communication, et de vous prier d'être assuré de ce qu'en reconnaissant le but salulaire dont il s'agit, il ne manquera pas dans les occasions qui pourront se présenter de contribuer de son côté à atteindre ce but par tout ce qui dépend de lui.

En vous, &c.

(Signé) C. G. CURTIUS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 201.

M. Duckwitz to Colonel Hodges.

(Translation.)

Bremen, September 24, 1857.

THE Undersigned has had the honour to receive, and to lay before the Senate, the letter of Colonel George Lloyd Hodges, Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires to the Hanse Towns, dated the 12th instant; together with copy of a Resolution which was voted by the House of Commons on the 14th of July last, for an Address to Her Majesty upon Slave Trade, and copy of the answer of Her Majesty to that Address of the 27th of the same month.

The Senate has seen, with lively satisfaction, from these documents, the unceasing and anxious desire of the Government and Parliament of Great Britain, for the total suppression of the Traffic in Slaves; and the Undersigned is instructed to state to the Representative of Her Majesty's Government the readiness of the Bremen Government to give, in suitable cases, their zealous co-operation in support of these endeavours.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

DUCKWITZ.

JOHANNA.

No. 202.

Consul Sunley to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 12.)

My Lord,

Johanna, February 17, 1857.

I BEG to make the following Report upon the operations of French vessels engaged in the transport of labourers to Bourbon, which arrived at Johanna during the year 1856 :

In January, the steamer "Mascareignes," Villeon, Master, called on her way from Oibo to Bourbon, with 350 negroes on board, for the purpose of obtaining a person who could communicate with the negroes.

In May, the "Mascareignes" again called, on her way to Oibo, for the purpose of ascertaining whether any labourers could be had at Johanna.

In June, the barque "Aurélie," Durand, Master, arrived from Comoro, with about 120 negroes on board, who had been embarked at Maroni, the principal town in the island, and the residence of Sultan Amadi or Achmet. The "Aurélie" had been dispatched from Bourbon to procure labourers at the Comoro Islands, and the captain not being able to obtain as many labourers as his vessel could carry, came to Johanna, where about 80 negroes were embarked, and the vessel sailed for Bourbon.

On the 7th of June the "Mascareignes" arrived from Oibo, with 450 negroes on board, and landed an agent to procure 700 or 800 labourers, for a large vessel, which was expected to be at Johanna in the following month.

In July, the ship "Ville de Metz," Villers, Master, arrived from Bourbon and Algoa Bay, to take the labourers which the agent who landed from the "Mascareignes" was to have had in readiness for her. This vessel embarked 140 negroes, and sailed, on the 27th August, for Bourbon.

In July, the ship "Paul Adrienne," Grenier, Master, arrived from Pondicherry, in search of labourers, but the Master seeing no chance of procuring any at Johanna, proceeded to the coast, from whence he returned on the 15th September, with about 320 negroes, whom he had procured at Oibo. He came to Johanna for water.

In December, the barque "Milan" arrived from Bourbon in search of labourers, but sailed without any, on the following day, for Zanzibar.

The whole of the negroes taken in the "Aurélie," from Comoro and Johanna, were slaves, and the sum of 40 dollars was paid for each of them ; the same sum was also paid for those taken in the "Ville de Metz."

Captain Durand, the master of the "Aurélie," told me that the Chief at Comoro asked him to remain there until dhows arrived from the coast, with as many negroes as he wanted.

I have seen the instructions given to the Government agents on board of the "Aurélie" and of the "Ville de Metz," and they clearly show a desire on the part of the French Government to obtain labourers from the Comoro Islands, without encouraging the Slave Trade, as the agents are forbidden to accept any one as a labourer who is not a native of these islands.

The agent for the "Ville de Metz" proposed to the Sultan of Johanna, and to his people, that they should send dhows to the coast for negroes, but on my representing that such a violation of the Anti-Slavery Treaty made with England would not be passed over lightly by Her Majesty's Government, the Sultan did not send any dhows to the coast, and returned the money which had been advanced to him to facilitate his obtaining slaves. I remonstrated with the Sultan for permitting his people to sell their slaves to the "Aurélie" and to the "Ville de Metz," and pointed out to him that it would have the effect of renewing the Slave Trade in his island, as his people had not many slaves, and that they would replace those which they sold by others from the coast. His excuse for

allowing his people to sell slaves to these vessels was—that he wished a number of rogues and bad people to be sent out of the island ; and that his subjects were very poor, and had so set their hearts upon getting a few dollars, that he dared not forbid them selling their slaves. He promised that no more vessels should have labourers.

The visits of these vessels will have the effect of inducing the inhabitants of Johanna and Comoro to bring slaves from the coast, where they can be had for 8 dollars and 10 dollars each.

The “*Ville de Metz*” endeavoured to get labourers at Mohilla, but the authorities refused to sell any slaves, as they had lately made a Treaty against the Slave Trade with the English Consul.

The mode of obtaining labourers for Bourbon, at the coast of Africa, is much the same as at Comoro. The master or person in charge of the operation, obtains permission from the Chief or other authority to take the people from the place, and slaves are purchased and sent on board of the vessel, where the Government agent takes down their names, and asks them if they are come on board willingly, and will engage to work for five years ; this proceeding is a mere form. The price usually paid for labourers is from 30 dollars to 40 dollars, including presents and duties to the authorities. On the arrival of the vessel at Bourbon, the contracts of service which the negroes are supposed to have entered into, are sold. The price of these contracts, when I was at Bourbon in October, was 600 francs, or 120 dollars.

If the vessel sent for labourers obtains them readily, and makes a quick passage, the parties interested in the operation make a very profitable venture.

The “*Mascareignes*” made three voyages to Oibo, and carried from there between 1,200 and 1,300 slaves. The “*Paul Adrienne*” took away from Oibo about 320 slaves ; the whole of these slaves were purchased through the Governor of Oibo, who charged 30 dollars per head for those embarked in the “*Mascareignes*,” and 35 dollars per head for those embarked in the “*Paul Adrienne*.” The ordinary value of such slaves as those which I saw on board of the “*Mascareignes*” when she called at Johanna on the 7th June, is about 15 dollars, and I am of opinion that between 4,000*l.* and 5,000*l.* sterling was realised by supplying the “*Mascareignes*” and “*Paul Adrienne*” with labourers.

The condition of the negroes who are carried to Bourbon is very much improved, for slaves on the coast are little cared for, and when food is scarce, which is very often the case, they are very poorly fed, and this is all that can be said in favour of the present system of procuring negro labourers for Bourbon.

The very great number of slaves taken from the coast to Bourbon in the last year, and the very considerable profit made in selling them to French vessels, must very greatly increase the Slave Trade between the interior of Africa and the coast. In the month of June there were six French vessels lying at one time in the harbour of Mozambique, all of them engaged in procuring labourers for Bourbon ; and I have heard of vessels having been to Angoxa and other ports within the limits of the Portuguese possessions, from whence the greater number, indeed nearly all, the labourers are procured.

Whatever regulations the French Government may make for obtaining labourers for Bourbon from Africa, I am of opinion that, under existing circumstances, they cannot be obtained without encouraging the Slave Trade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. SUNLEY.

No. 203.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Sunley.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 5, 1857.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 17th of February last, reporting the proceedings of French vessels which have arrived at the Comoro Islands in search of labourers for Réunion ; and I have to acquaint you that I approve of your having remonstrated with the Sultan of Johanna for permitting his people to sell their slaves to the masters of these French vessels, and I have to desire that you will use your best efforts to induce the Sultan to prohibit all Traffic in Slaves.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

PORTUGAL.

No. 204.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 3.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, March 23, 1857.

IN my despatch of the 18th of October last,* I had the honour of reporting that Senhor Maciel Monteiro, the Brazilian Minister at this Court, had, at my solicitation, written to his Government requesting that measures might be taken to secure the freedom of such negroes as, having resided in this country, afterwards returned to Brazil.

I now have the satisfaction of inclosing a copy of a letter of the 21st instant, which I have received from M. Monteiro, acquainting me with the result of his application to his Government on that subject.

Your Lordship will perceive that M. Monteiro's communication having been submitted to the Imperial Council of State, the latter body have decided that, excepting in the sole case of flight, such negroes and men of colour would enjoy in Brazil the full rights of liberty; that the Imperial Government have already given orders to that effect to the Governors of the Brazilian Provinces; and that, on his side, he was about to transmit similar orders to the Brazilian Consular Agents in this country.

M. Maciel Monteiro tells me that the decision thus taken will receive immediate practical application, inasmuch as he will now send back to Brazil two mulattoes who were desirous of returning to Brazil, and whom he had supported at the expense of his Government, but whom he had been unwilling to forward until a definition of the Brazilian law, favourable to their liberty, should have taken place.

I further beg to inclose a copy of the letter of yesterday's date which I addressed to M. Monteiro, requesting him to accept himself, and convey to his Government, my thanks for the favourable manner in which my suggestions had been received, and stating that I would not fail to transmit to your Lordship a copy of his communication.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

 Inclosure 1 in No. 204.
Senhor Monteiro to Mr. Howard.

Mon cher Collègue,

Lisbonne, ce 21 Mars, 1857.

JE m'empresse de porter à votre connaissance le résultat de mes démarches près du Gouvernement Impérial, relativement au sujet de votre lettre du 9 Octobre; j'entends parler de la condition où doivent être placés les nègres et les hommes de couleur qui retournent au Brésil, quand le droit de liberté ne leur est pas reconnu préalablement.

Mes observations à cet égard ont été soumises à la résolution du Conseil d'Etat; et celui-ci a décidé qu'excepté le cas unique de fuite, qui est d'ailleurs excessivement rare, les individus dont il est question jouiraient au Brésil de tous les droits de liberté.

Dans ce sens des ordres ont été déjà donnés aux Gouvernements des Provinces Brésiliennes; et aussi de mon côté je m'en vais faire la même chose à mes Agents Consulaires.

Je suis bien heureux de pouvoir vous communiquer cette bonne nouvelle, que

* Class B, presented 1857, No. 381.

d'ailleurs je suis chargé par le Gouvernement de vous transmettre avec promptitude, et dans les termes les plus flatteurs pour vous personnellement et pour votre Gouvernement.

Profitant de cette circonstance, je m'empresse, &c.

(Signé) A. P. MACIEL MONTEIRO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 204.

Mr. Howard to Senhor Monteiro.

Mon cher Collègue,

Lisbonne, le 22 Mars, 1857.

C'EST avec infiniment de plaisir que j'ai reçu votre obligeante lettre d'hier, dans laquelle vous portez à ma connaissance le résultat de vos démarches auprès du Gouvernement Impérial, afin d'assurer la liberté des nègres et hommes de couleur à leur retour au Brésil de pays étrangers, et je vous prie de vouloir bien agréer vous-même, et offrir à votre Gouvernement, mes remerciements les plus empressés pour l'accueil favorable que les suggestions que j'avais pris la liberté de vous soumettre dans ma lettre du 9 Octobre passé, ont rencontré de votre part, ainsi que de celle du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté l'Empereur.

Les dispositions que le Gouvernement Impérial a prises dans le but précité, fournissent une nouvelle preuve des sentiments de justice et d'humanité qui l'animent.

Je ne manquerai pas de transmettre votre communication à mon Gouvernement, auquel elle causera, j'en suis convaincu, une vive satisfaction, et je vous prierai de vouloir bien exprimer au Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté l'Empereur combien je suis sensible aux termes flatteurs pour mon Gouvernement, et pour moi-même personnellement, dans lesquels vous avez été chargé de me la faire.

En vous remerciant de nouveau pour la co-opération si empressée et si efficace que vous me prêtez dans tout ce qui concerne la suppression de la Traite, et dont les résultats ont été si heureux, je profite, &c.

(Signé) HENRY F. HOWARD.

No. 205.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 3.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, March 24, 1857.

IN my despatch of the 7th instant* I had the honour of transmitting a copy of a note which I addressed on the 28th ultimo to the Marquis de Loulé, requesting information relative to the suspicious circumstances in connection with the Slave Trade, under which the schooner "*Locomotora*" lately put into Setubal from Oporto.

I now beg to forward a translation of a note of the 21st instant, which I have received from the Marquis de Loulé in reply, as well as of a report upon the subject, addressed to his Excellency on the 17th instant by the Minister of the Interior.

The account given in this report of the transaction tends to confirm the suspicions entertained concerning the intended employment of the "*Locomotora*" in the Slave Trade, and states that the vessel has been embargoed at Setubal; that the captain and part of the crew have already been arrested, whilst warrants have been issued against the remainder of the latter; and that the affair has been placed in the hands of the judicial authorities, with a view to the institution of legal proceedings against those individuals, not only in respect to the fact of the disappearance of the French captain, but likewise with regard to the real destination of the vessel.

With the final result of these proceedings, the Marquis de Loulé states in his note that he will acquaint me.

In thanking the Marquis this day in a note, of which I have the honour of inclosing a copy, for his communication, I have pointed out the desirableness of the attention of the judicial authorities who are employed in investigating the case, being drawn to the suspicions of implication in it as regards the Slave Trade, attaching to Senhor Bernardo José Machado, of Oporto, the consignee of the vessel, with a view to their instituting judicial proceedings against him, should there be sufficient grounds for so doing.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

* Class B, presented 1857, No. 442.

Inclosure in No. 205.

The Marquis de Loulé to Mr. Howard.

(Translation.)

Palace, March 21, 1857.

HAVING received the note which you were pleased to write to me on the 28th of February last, respecting the schooner "*Locomotor*," which by order of the local authorities is now laying under embargo at St. Ubes, upon suspicion of being destined for the Slave Trade, I wrote on that same date to the Home Department, in order to be enabled to give you the necessary information with reference to the actual state of this question.

From the inclosed copy of the despatch addressed to me by that Department on the 17th instant, you will learn what has taken place with reference to that vessel, and the steps taken without delay by His Majesty's Government, for inquiring not only into the fact of the disappearance of the French captain, but also with reference to the true destination of that vessel.

This affair being, then, in the hands of the judicial authorities, I will duly communicate to you the final result of it.

I renew, &c.

(Signed) MARQUIS DE LOULE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 205.

The Minister of the Interior to the Marquis de Loulé.

(Translation.)

Most Illustrious and Excellent Sir,

Home Office, March 17, 1857.

WITH reference to the despatch addressed by your Excellency to this office on the 28th February last, requesting to be enabled to reply to the note, of which you sent me a copy, from Her Britannic Majesty's Minister at this Court, relating to what took place with the schooner "*Locomotor*," which having left the Douro was supposed to be intended for the Slave Trade, I have the honour to inform your Excellency in reply to the said despatch, that previously to the departure of that vessel some suspicion was entertained that she was destined for the Slave Trade. However, as the indispensable proofs could not be obtained for taking legal proceedings, she was furnished by the Marine Department with the Royal pass, and allowed to depart for the ports of North America, touching at St. Ubes.

It having become known, however, some time after, that at sea they had taken on board in a clandestine manner a foreigner, who took the command of the vessel, and gave indications of being about to carry out a Slave Trade undertaking; that a part of the crew opposed this intention; that this foreigner, either through violence or by accident, had fallen overboard, and had never been seen since; and that in consequence of a storm which came on while they were off the coast waiting to receive from Povoá de Varzim the necessary articles for carrying out the speculation, they put into St. Ubes; the Government ordered, without delay, the necessary inquiries to be made in the latter town, which resulted in the schooner being laid under embargo, and prevented from sailing with a cargo of salt for New York, the captain, João José Rato, and two of the sailors who left Oporto in her having been arrested, and a warrant issued for the arrest of Manuel José Cardozo, the mate, and three others of the crew, on their arrival at Oporto; information having been given of these proceedings to the judicial authority at Oporto and St. Ubes, transmitting the documents composing the procès-verbal, to be examined legally, with reference as well to the disappearance of the foreigner as to the true destination of the vessel; this being the present state of this question.

God preserve, &c

Inclosure 3 in No. 205.

Mr. Howard to the Marquis de Loulé.

Sir,

Lisbon, March 24, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of the 21st instant, inclosing the copy of a Report from the Minister of the Interior, relative to

the measures taken by His Most Faithful Majesty's authorities in the case of the schooner "*Locomotora*," suspected of being intended for the Slave Trade, and now embargoed at Setubal.

In returning my best thanks to your Excellency for this obliging communication, which I will not fail to transmit to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I beg to point out the strong suspicions of implication in the Slave Trade transaction in which there is but little doubt that the "*Locomotora*" was engaged, that must attach to Senhor Bernardo José Machado of Oporto, her consignee, who, as I observed in my note of the 23rd of June last to your Excellency, was likewise the consignee of the well-known slave vessel "*Guerra*," and to suggest that if the attention of the judicial authorities who are investigating the case has not already been directed to those suspicions, it should, without loss of time, be drawn to them, with a view to instituting legal proceedings against Senhor Machado, should sufficient grounds be found for so doing.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

No. 206.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 3.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, March 28, 1857.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 14th instant,* I have the honour of transmitting herewith a translation of a note of yesterday's date which I have received from the Marquis de Loulé, containing the information which he had already verbally given me, that he had sent my note of the 13th instant and its inclosures, relative to the trials of Senhor Baptista, the Portuguese Vice-Consul at Baltimore, and of his clerk, A. C. Stabell, for having fitted out the "*C. F. A. Cole*" for the Slave Trade, to the Attorney-General, to whom all the other papers concerning this affair had previously been referred, in order to his reporting upon them without delay.

I have communicated to the United States' Minister at this Court, Mr. O'Sullivan, the steps which I have taken in this matter, and have learnt from him that he has not received any recent instructions from his Government respecting it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

Inclosure in No. 206.

The Marquis de Loulé to Mr. Howard.

(Translation.)

Palace, March 27, 1857.

IN acknowledging the receipt of the note which you were pleased to address to me on the 13th instant, and of the documents which accompanied it, relating to the conduct of the Portuguese Vice-Consul at Baltimore, Augusto Lopes Baptista, who is suspected of connivance in Slave Trade transactions, I have the honour to acquaint you that on the 21st of this month the note and documents above mentioned were transmitted to the Attorney-General, in addition to the transmission already made to him, on the 2nd, of all the papers relating to this question, in order that he may without delay give his opinion thereon.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) MARQUIS DE LOULE.

No. 207.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 3.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, March 28, 1857.

THE Marquis de Loulé acquaints me, in a note of yesterday's date, just received, with his communication to the Minister of the Interior, for the proper objects, of the contents of my note of the 24th instant (a copy of which I had the honour of inclosing in my despatch of that date), relative to the suspicions attaching to Senhor Bernardo José Machado, as consignee of the suspected slave-vessel "*Locomotora*."

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

No. 208.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 8, 1857.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 23rd ultimo, I have to instruct you to convey to M. Monteiro the thanks of Her Majesty's Government for the prompt and successful representation made by him to his Government, with the view to secure the full enjoyment of their freedom by negroes and men of colour, who may return from Portugal to Brazil.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 209.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 16.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, April 6, 1857.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have received a note, of the 3rd instant, from the Marquis de Loulé, informing me that he had been acquainted, by the Home Department, that the proper judicial proceedings in the case of the schooner "*Locomotora*" had been already instituted, and that Senhor Bernardo José Machado, her consignee at Oporto, was involved in them, and would be dealt with according to law.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

No. 210.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 16.)

(Extract.)

Lisbon, April 7, 1857.

THE circumstances under which, as reported in the despatch of Her Majesty's Commissioners at Loanda, dated the 16th of October last, the American schooner "*Flying Eagle*" arrived at Benguella, from New York, in the preceding month of August, with a cargo of goods for different individuals in the Province, and 432 sovereigns consigned to Major Bastos of Benguella, and the important discoveries relative to slave-trading transactions which were the result of the seizure of various correspondence and bills of lading in the premises of the persons to whom the goods were consigned, will doubtless be fresh in your Lordship's recollection.

CLASS B.

According to the information I have received, an American vessel, the "Vickerg," lately arrived here, on her way to Loanda and Benguella, whither she is sent by Senhor J. A. Machado, of New York, the owner of the "Flying Eagle," for the purpose of claiming as his property, and re-exporting, the 432 sovereigns, as well as the unsold part of the goods.

The master of the "Vickerg," Captain Booth, who had been directed to proceed, in the first instance, to Lisbon, to confer with Mr. O'Sullivan, brought the latter a letter from M. Machado, who, though a Portuguese by birth, is a naturalised American citizen, complaining, in strong language, of the conduct of the Portuguese colonial authorities in embargoing the 432 sovereigns, and in obliging his vessel to touch at Loanda, and requesting Mr. O'Sullivan's intervention with the Portuguese Government, in order to procure for him the restitution of the sovereigns, and an order to re-export the unsold goods duty free. Captain Booth preferred a similar request.

Mr. O'Sullivan having made himself master of the circumstances of the case, from the inspection which was accorded him by the Viscount de Sá da Bandeira of the documents relating to it, answered M. Machado, as he likewise did Captain Booth, that the sovereigns having been embargoed in virtue of a judicial order on account of the suspicions entertained that they were the product of a slave-trading transaction, the law must take its course, and he could not interfere with it, and that he did not either see any reason to claim the favour of a remission of the duties on the re-exportation of the unsold goods, which had not been embargoed, and which could therefore be reshipped on the same terms as were applicable to any other goods. Mr. O'Sullivan added, that if M. Machado thought he had any claim upon the Portuguese Government for compensation on account of the "Flying Eagle" having been obliged to proceed to Loanda from Benguella, he should address such claim to the United States' Government.

Amongst the papers which the Viscount de Sá showed Mr. O'Sullivan, there was the letter, alluded to by Her Majesty's Commissioners in their despatch of October 16, of Lucas to Soares, the consignee of the "Flying Eagle," giving an account of the produce of the shipment at Lucira, of which he was the manager, according to which account the share accruing to the Benguella shippers was 37,000 dollars. From an examination of the bills of lading of the cargo of the "Flying Eagle," and the price for which a part of it was sold, it appeared that the cargo and the 432 sovereigns would make up, as closely as it was probably feasible to make an estimate, the 37,000 dollars due to the shippers. There is another circumstance which likewise strengthens the suspicions against Machado, viz., that Lucas in writing to Soares, informs him that he has paid to Machado Soares' share of the slave adventure by the "P. Soulé."

The fact of Machado now being desirous of re-exporting the cargo of the "Flying Eagle," indicates that it was not a legitimate trading transaction, as Machado pretends it to have been. In a letter from Azevedo, who acted as consignee to the "Flying Eagle" in Soares' absence, he complains bitterly of the confusion produced by the general rout of the individuals for whom the cargo was destined; and it is now known that Machado intends giving up his trade with Angola, which does not look as if it had been a legitimate one.

No. 211.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 16.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, April 8, 1857.

IN my despatch of the 28th ultimo, I stated that I had urged the Viscount de Sá da Bandeira to cause the proceedings in the appeal of the notorious slave-trader, Don Benito Derizanz, which was coming before the Court of Relação, in this capital, to be strictly watched by the Minister of Justice, as I had no doubt but that every effort would be made by his friends to procure his acquittal.

What I apprehended has come to pass. According to the report of the trial given in an article of the "Jornal do Commercio" of the 2nd instant, of which I have the honour to inclose a translation, the Court, by a judgment pronounced on the 28th ultimo, ordered Derizanz to be set at liberty, on the grounds that he was comprehended in the amnesty issued by His Most Faithful Majesty on the 20th of October, 1855, seeing that his crime was to be considered as contraband, and that the said Decree of Amnesty was

published at Angola subsequently to the apprehension of the slave-vessel on which he was taken.

A translation of this amnesty I beg herewith to transmit.

By a reference to my despatches of the 18th of August, and inclosures, and of the 8th of October last, your Lordship will see that the vessel in question, the "*General Pinkney*" or "*General Pierce*," was captured near Old Benguella on the 18th of February, 1856, by the Portuguese man-of-war "*Serra do Pilar*;" that she was condemned by the Prize Court at Loanda on the 27th of that month; and that Benito Derizanz, who figured on her as a passenger, was, together with the crew, sentenced by the tribunal at Loanda on the 9th of June following, to serve three years without pay in vessels belonging to the State, and to pay the costs; the reputed master and owner, and the mate, being condemned in higher penalties.

Thus Derizanz was acquitted on the grounds of an amnesty promulgated four months before his capture, and nearly eight months before his condemnation.

These grounds appeared to me so extraordinary, that on meeting the Marquis de Loulé on the 3rd instant, I made to him various observations upon them; and on the following day I recorded those observations in the note of which the annexed is a copy, my object being to induce his Excellency to cause instructions to be given to the Crown Advocate, who has appealed from the sentence of the Court of Relação, to the Supreme Tribunal for a revision of the trial, to use every effort, and exhaust every constitutional means of appeal, in order to obtain the reversal of the sentence of the Relação.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 211.

Extract from the "Jornal do Commercio" of April 2, 1857.

(Translation.)

AT about 10 o'clock on the morning of the 28th of last month, the Court of Appeal met for the trial of one D. Benito Derizanz, merchant, and a native of Maracaiba, who was accused of taking part in the crime of slave-trading.

The counsellor, Neto, stated the nature of the offence, the terms of the indictment, and the foundation for the accusation in the first hearing.

The Crown Advocate, Forjaz, upholds the justice of the condemnation, but in accordance with the law which he quotes, he would vote for the substitution of the minor penalty.

The barrister, Gil, contested the condemnation, upon the grounds of the nationality of the accused, and of his being simply a passenger on board the captured vessel, and finally he put forward the amnesty of 1855.

Senhor Forjaz did not admit the nationality of the vessel, inasmuch as she sailed without any papers, and had on board articles reputed as preparatory for the Slave Trade; nor the fact of his being simply a passenger, in view of the depositions of the witnesses, of the other persons jointly accused, and of the documents which state him to be the owner or part owner of the vessel; nor finally, the applicability of the amnesty, the date of the Decree granting it being anterior to the perpetration of the offence.

The barrister, Gil, alluded to a Portaria which the present Minister of Marine addressed a short time ago upon this same question to the Colonial Board, for preparing a project of law in which passengers shall be included in the Penal Law, which leads to the supposition that they were not so included; and presented the "*Boletim Official*" of Angola, to show that the Decree of amnesty was published subsequently to the capture of the vessel.

Senhor Forjaz replied that the Portaria would only imply that passengers should be punished with greater severity than heretofore; that amnesties did not belong to the general rule of laws which are only binding subsequently to their publication, and that the amnesty of October 1855 granted pardon for the offence, but did not do away with the penalty attached to smuggling.

After a conference, which lasted one hour, the Court decided by a majority of votes, that D. Benito Derizanz was included in the amnesty, seeing that the offence was considered

as that of smuggling for the effect of the penalty, and that the Decree had been published in the Colonies subsequently to the capture of the vessel, and for these reasons it ordered the proceedings to be stopped for ever, and this individual to be discharged.

The Crown Advocate appealed for a revisal of this sentence.

Inclosure 2 in No. 211.

Decree.

(Translation.)

WISHING to celebrate the period of my accession by an act of clemency as ample as may be compatible with the public security and with the discipline of the army, I am pleased, in the exercise of one of the attributes of the moderating power the most agreeable to me, and having consulted the Council of State, to decree the following :

Article I. An amnesty is hereby granted for the following offences :

1. For abuse of the liberty of the press in cases wherein the Crown Advocate alone is prosecutor.

2. For smuggling, the articles of contraband being forfeited in favour of the Treasury, and of the persons to whom they belong in accordance with the law.

3. For first or second simple desertion from the army or navy, or for aggravated desertion, if the aggravation consists only in the subtraction or loss of articles belonging to the State.

§ 1. The judicial proceedings instituted for these offences are hereby declared of no effect, and they shall be stopped for ever. The culprits who may be in prison shall be discharged, if no other motive requires their further detention.

§ 2. Deserters will only enjoy the benefit of this amnesty if they present themselves within two months for the kingdom, four months for the adjacent islands, and six months for the Colonies : to be counted with reference to the kingdom and adjacent islands from the date of the publication of this Decree in the military or naval "Gazette;" and with reference to the Colonies, from the day on which it is published in the capital of the Province.

Art. II. The students of the university and of other establishments of superior and secondary instructions are hereby relieved from any penalties which may have been imposed upon them for offences against the special laws regulating the above scientific establishments, and they will be allowed to continue therein their studies as if they had not committed any offence.

Art. III. Offenders condemned by a sentence given in a Court of Justice, to the higher temporary penalties for a term, shall be relieved from the remaining portion of such term of punishment, provided it does not exceed three years, and should it exceed they will be relieved of three years' penalty.

Art. IV. The correctional penalties of imprisonment or transportation imposed by a Court of Justice, and not exceeding the term of one year, are hereby repealed, and should the term exceed one year this latter period shall be taken off.

Art. V. The provisions of the two preceding Articles do not include such offenders as may have already obtained a commutation or diminution of their penalties ; nor those who may not have received the pardon of the party whom they have offended.

The Ministers and Secretaries of State for the several Departments shall have thus understood, and cause it to be carried out.

Palace, October 20, 1855.

(Signed) KING.

(Countersigned)

DUKE OF SALDANHA.
RODRIGO DA FONSECA MAGALHAES.
FREDERICO GUILHERME DA SILVA PERREIRA.
ANTONIO MARIA DE FONTES PERREIRA DE MELLO.
VISCONDE D'ATHOGUIA.

Inclosure 3 in No. 211.

*Mr. Howard to the Marquis de Loulé.**Lisbon, April 4, 1857.*

Sir, IT will be in your Excellency's recollection that, in the month of February last, a brig under the American flag, but without any papers to establish her nationality, and supposed to have formerly borne the name of "*General Pinkney*" or "*General Pierce*," was captured, near Old Benguella, by His Most Faithful Majesty's brig-of-war "*Serra do Pilar*," under the command of Captain Rodovalho, and was condemned during the course of the same month by the Portuguese Prize Court at Loanda as a legal prize, in virtue of the laws for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

This slave-vessel, having been taken on account of His Most Faithful Majesty's Government, now bears, if I am rightly informed, the name of "*Rodovalho*," in compliment, I conclude, to the distinguished officer of His Majesty's navy who captured her, and who rendered such important services towards the suppression of the Slave Trade during the period when he was in command of His Majesty's naval station on the West Coast of Africa.

The nature of her cargo, the absence of all papers, and the evidence given on her trial, left no doubt as to her employment in the Slave Trade. She had on board the notorious slave-trader Don Benito Derizanz, who afterwards passed himself off as a mere passenger, but who, there is no doubt, had a prominent interest in the slave-trading transactions for which she was destined or employed.

On the 9th of June, 1856, according to my information, John E. Silvia, the master and pretended owner, and Manoel José Dias, the mate of the brig, were condemned by a sentence of the tribunal at Loanda to the galleys for three years, and to a fine 500 milreis; whilst the sailors who formed the crew, and Benito Derizanz, who figured as a passenger, as I have observed, were condemned to serve three years without pay in vessels belonging to the State, and to pay the costs.

From this sentence Derizanz appealed to the Court of Relação in this capital, and after an ineffectual attempt on his part to quit Loanda in a merchant-vessel, nominally for Lisbon, which was frustrated by the interposition of the Governor-General, he arrived here, some time ago, on board His Most Faithful Majesty's corvette "*Dom João*," to await, in prison, the result of his appeal.

On the 28th ultimo, according to an article in the "*Jornal do Commercio*" of the 2nd instant, Derizanz's appeal came before the Court of Relação, by a majority of whose votes he is stated to have been acquitted, and ordered to be set at liberty, on the grounds that he was comprehended in the amnesty issued by His Majesty on the 20th of October, 1855, seeing that his crime was to be considered as contraband as regards its penal character, and that the said Decree of Amnesty was published at Angola subsequently to the apprehension of the vessel.

It is further stated, that the Crown Advocate appealed for a revision of this judgment.

The grounds of the acquittal thus pronounced by the Court appear to me so extraordinary, that I can hardly believe them to have been correctly stated in the newspaper to which I have referred, but, nevertheless, I take the liberty of calling your Excellency's attention to them.

Without entering into the question, whether the amnesty graciously granted by His Most Faithful Majesty shortly after his taking upon himself the reins of government, comprised persons under prosecution or sentence for slave-trading, I beg to observe that an amnesty, according to the universal acceptation of the word, means a pardon, in full or in part, according to its terms, of past offences, and not an indemnity for future offences, and that, in my opinion, it is not regulated by the same rules in respect to publication as are applicable to laws. A law to be obeyed must be made known, otherwise there could be no penalty attaching to its infringement. But as an amnesty is granted for offences committed down to a certain specified period, the exact period of its publication in a colony has not the same bearing as a law; and in respect to His Most Faithful Majesty's above-mentioned amnesty, it was not to be supposed that it was His Majesty's intention to assign a more extended period for its application in the colonies than in the mother-country; certainly, in the amnesty itself, there is no such stipulation.

It therefore appears almost incredible, setting aside the question whether the amnesty applied to the particular crime of Derizanz, that the Court of Relação should have declared him to be comprised in an amnesty which was issued on the 20th of October, 1855,

whilst the vessel on which he was taken was captured and condemned in February 1856, and he himself was sentenced in the following month of June, the grounds of such decision being those which I have above stated.

I had the honour of submitting these observations verbally to your Excellency yesterday, when I called your attention to the acquittal of Derizanz, but thinking it as well to present them more specifically to your Excellency, I have recorded them in this confidential form, although I feel persuaded that His Most Faithful Majesty's Government, who have so much at heart the suppression of the Slave Trade, and the punishment of its authors and accomplices, will already have directed the Attorney-General to use the utmost vigilance and energy in conducting the further proceedings in this case, and to exhaust every constitutional means of legal appeal in order to obtain the reversal of a sentence which appears to militate against all sound principles of law and justice.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

No. 212.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 16, 1857.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 24th ultimo, I have to acquaint you that I approve the note which you addressed on that day to the Marquis de Loulé, respecting the case of the schooner "*Locomotora*," which is suspected of being intended for employment in the Slave Trade.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 213.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 21, 1857.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch from Mr. Gabriel, the Acting British Commissioner at Loanda,* inclosing copies of a correspondence which has passed between him and the Governor-General of Angola, respecting the course pursued by the Court of *Relação* in that colony, in offering for sale, entire, the hull of the condemned slave-vessel "*Rosario*."

You will perceive from this correspondence, and from the papers referred to in Mr. Gabriel's despatch, which you will find in the archives of Her Majesty's Legation at Lisbon, that the course pursued by the Portuguese authorities in offering the hull of the "*Rosario*" for sale entire, even with the condition that the purchaser should break it up within thirty days after the completion of the purchase, is directly contrary to the understanding which has been come to between the British and Portuguese Governments with regard to the manner in which the hulls of condemned slave-vessels should be disposed of; and I have to instruct you to bring the circumstances of this case to the knowledge of the Portuguese Minister for Foreign Affairs, and to request that instructions may be sent to the Governor-General of Angola, directing him to carry out the provisions of the Decree of the 10th of September, 1846, by which it is provided that the hulls of all condemned slave-vessels shall be broken up immediately after condemnation and sold in separate parts.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 214.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 21, 1857.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, copies of despatches, as marked in the margin,* from Her Majesty's Consul at the Cape Verd Islands, and from Her Majesty's Commissioners at Loanda, containing information respecting an American vessel, called the "*N. Hand*," which is reported to have shipped a cargo of slaves from a place called Cabeça de Cobra, towards the end of August or beginning of September last.

I also transmit copies of a despatch and its inclosure from Her Majesty's Minister at Washington,† from which it would appear that the parties who freighted the "*N. Hand*" were two firms of the name of Figanieri, one of which is represented by the Portuguese Consul, of the same name, at New York, whose exequatur, you are already aware, has been suspended by the United States' Government, in consequence of their being persuaded that he has been implicated in the Slave Trade. And I have to instruct you to bring the information contained in the inclosed papers to the knowledge of the Portuguese Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 215.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 24.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, April 15, 1857.

IN pursuance of the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 30th ultimo, I this day addressed to the Marquis de Loulé a note conveying to him the thanks of Her Majesty's Government for his obliging communication of the circular addressed by him, in March last, to the Portuguese Consuls in Brazil, with a view to prevent the recurrence of inhuman conduct on the part of masters of Portuguese vessels towards liberated Africans, similar to that which took place last year in the case of the "*General Rego*."

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

No. 216.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 24.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, April 15, 1857.

IN compliance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 8th instant, I yesterday conveyed, by letter, to M. Monteiro, the Brazilian Minister, the thanks of Her Majesty's Government for the prompt and successful representations made by him to his Government, with a view to secure the full enjoyment of their freedom by negroes and men of colour returning from Portugal to Brazil.

M. Monteiro was much gratified by this communication.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

No. 217.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 24.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, April 18, 1857.

HER Majesty's Minister at Rio de Janeiro having transmitted to me, officially, a copy of his despatch of the 13th ultimo, to your Lordship, recommending the demolition of the whole of the barracoons existing in the possessions of the Crown of Portugal on the West and East Coasts of Africa, I submitted Mr. Scarlett's suggestions for the favourable

* Class B, presented 1857, No. 453; Class A, presented 1857, No. 98.

† No. 547.

consideration of the Marquis de Loulé in the note of the 15th instant, of which I have the honour of inclosing herewith a copy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

Inclosure in No. 217.

Mr. Howard to the Marquis de Loulé.

Sir,

Lisbon, April 15, 1857.

THE Earl of Clarendon having transmitted to Mr. Scarlett, Her Majesty's Minister at Rio de Janeiro, copies of the note which I had the honour of addressing to your Excellency on the 25th of November last, as well as of your Excellency's obliging reply of the 29th of that month, relative to certain Slave Trade proceedings in the Portuguese possessions on the West Coast of Africa, Mr. Scarlett has recently addressed to his Lordship a despatch, of which he has sent me a copy, hailing with satisfaction the earnest determination of His Most Faithful Majesty's Government to suppress the Slave Trade, and the meritorious efforts of the Governor-General of Angola to second that determination; and suggesting that, in addition to the punishment of the old and incorrigible offenders, the Governor-General should be instructed to cause the immediate demolition of the whole of the barracoons within the said possessions, which have hitherto served as depôts of the slave-traders, and many of which, Mr. Scarlett states, are large enough to contain many thousands of the unfortunate Africans, kidnapped and confined there until opportunities offer for shipping them to Brazil, and where they are taught sufficient of the Portuguese language to answer the purpose of being taken for Creoles or Ladinos, if, upon escaping the cruizers, their disembarkation should be effected. This, Mr. Scarlett is of opinion, would be an important additional and most effective measure for putting a stop to the nefarious Traffic in question.

Mr. Scarlett adds, that it appears to him that, as Portugal has likewise extensive possessions on the East Coast of Africa, whither the Spanish North American and Portuguese slave-traders may think of resorting when they shall find themselves shut out of their old haunts, it would be very desirable that His Most Faithful Majesty's Government should order the Governor-General of Mozambique, and the Governors of Quillimane and of other places on the East Coast, to adopt the same measure towards the extinction of the Traffic.

In submitting the foregoing suggestions of Her Majesty's Minister in Brazil, for the favourable consideration of your Excellency, I avail, &c.

(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD

No. 218.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 24.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, April 18, 1857.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 6th instant, I beg to report that, according to intelligence received in this capital, from Oporto, Senhor Bernardo José Machado, the consignee of the suspected slave-vessel "*Locomotora*," has succeeded by flight in escaping arrest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

No. 219.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, April 30, 1857.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 8th instant, I have to acquaint you that I approve the note which you addressed to the Marquis de Loulé, on learning that the sentence pronounced by the tribunal at Loanda upon the notorious slave-trader Derizanz, who was captured in the month of February 1856, in the American slaver "*General Pierce*," or "*General Pinkney*," had been reversed, on appeal, by the Court of Relação at Lisbon.

No. 220.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 30, 1857.*
 WITH reference to your despatch of the 18th instant, I have to acquaint you that I approve the note which you addressed to the Marquis de Loulé, submitting to the favourable consideration of the Portuguese Government the suggestions contained in Mr. Scarlett's despatch of the 13th of March, with regard to the destruction of the barracoons existing in the Portuguese possessions on the Western and Eastern Coasts of Africa.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 221.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received May 4.)

My Lord, *Lisbon, April 27, 1857.*
 WITH reference to my despatch of the 8th instant, I have the honour of inclosing a copy of a confidential note which I addressed to the Marquis de Loulé on the 22nd instant, on learning that the slave-trader, Don Benito Derizanz, had been set at liberty by the Court of Relação on his finding bail for the trifling sum of 730 milreis (about 162*l.* 4*s.*), and was at large in this capital.

Your Lordship will perceive that in my note I have called the attention of his Excellency to the fears that may be entertained lest the ends of justice should be defeated by the liberation of Derizanz, considering the probability of his absconding, and that I have urged the adoption of timely precautions by the Portuguese authorities in order to prevent that result.

I have further the honour of transmitting a translation of a note of the 23rd instant, which I received from his Excellency in reply, on the 25th, stating that having paid due attention to my observations, he was that day addressing the Minister of Justice in order that the case might be taken into the consideration which it merited.

Previously to the receipt of this note I saw the Marquis de Loulé on the 25th instant, and had some conversation with him on the subject of my communication to him. I observed to him that, even supposing the crime of slave-trading, on account of which Derizanz had been condemned at Loanda, to be aailable offence, which I doubted, considering its gravity and the spirit of our Treaty with Portugal of the 3rd of July, 1842, for the suppression of the Slave Trade, the bail which he had been obliged to find was by no means in proportion to the sentence passed upon him at Loanda; that there was every reason to suppose that he would not hesitate to sacrifice so trifling a sum, and would abscond; and that, if such a probable contingency were to occur, it would no doubt be said (and I did not see how the assertion could be contradicted) that slave-traders enjoyed impunity in Portugal. I therefore urged his Excellency to move the Minister of Justice to cause inquiry to be made as to how far Derizanz had been lawfully admitted to bail, and I also reverted to the necessity of his Excellency's giving orders that a strict watch should be kept by the authorities over his movements with a view to his escape being prevented.

The Marquis de Loulé replied that this affair was exceedingly disagreeable to him; that, immediately on receiving my note of the 22nd instant, he had sent it to the Minister of Justice with a view to an inquiry, and that he had instructed the Civil Governor of Lisbon to cause Derizanz's movements to be watched, and his escape prevented; and that he would, at once, again send for that functionary in order to recommend to him increased vigilance in the matter.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 221.

Mr. Howard to the Marquis de Loulé

Sir, *Lisbon, April 22, 1857.*
 IN thanking your Excellency for the obliging communication contained in the note which you did me the honour to address to me on the 15th instant, of the Portaria issued
 CLASS B.

by the Minister of Justice to the Attorney-General, directing him to promote effectually, in accordance with the law, the prompt and regular administration of justice in the case of the slave-trader Don Benito Derizanz, I beg leave to call your Excellency's attention to the fears which may be entertained lest the ends of justice should be defeated, in consequence of this individual having been set at liberty, on finding the trifling bail of 730 mil-reis, and being now at large, notwithstanding that the crime for which he was condemned by the tribunal at Loanda is declared by the Treaty of the 4th of July, 1842, between Great Britain and Portugal, for the suppression of the Slave Trade, to be of a highly penal nature, and that an appeal is pending from the judgment of the Court of Relação, by which he was declared to be comprehended in the Royal amnesty of October 1855.

If the report which I have seen in the public newspapers be correct, Senhor Bernardo José Machado, the consignee of the schooner "*Locomotora*," against whom, as your Excellency was so good as to inform me in your note of the 3rd instant, judicial proceedings had been instituted, has escaped arrest by flight, may it not be apprehended that Derizanz will not be deterred by the paltry amount of his bail from absconding, and will thus escape the punishment which may await him, unless efficient precautions be taken by His Most Faithful Majesty's authorities to prevent such a result?

It is, therefore, with a view to the adoption of such timely precautions, that I have done myself the honour of bringing the fact of Derizanz's liberation under your Excellency's notice, and of submitting to you the foregoing considerations.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 221.

The Marquis de Loulé to Mr. Howard.

(Translation.)

Palace, April 25, 1857.

I RECEIVED the confidential note which you were pleased to address to me on the 22nd instant, in which, with reference to the Portaria, a copy of which I had communicated to you under date of the 15th, and issued to the Crown Advocate, relating to the brig "*General Pierce*," which was condemned at Loanda as a lawful prize, you make various reflections upon this affair.

Having given due attention to what you state, I have the honour to acquaint you that I this day write officially to the Minister of Justice, in order that the whole of this affair may be taken into the consideration which it deserves.

I renew, &c.

(Signed) MARQUIS DE LOULE.

No. 222.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received May 4.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, April 27, 1857.

WITH reference to my despatches of the 26th of January last, inclosing a copy of a note which I addressed to the Marquis de Loulé on the 23rd of that month, recommending, by your Lordship's directions, to the favourable consideration of the Portuguese Government the adoption of various suggestions made by Senhor Alfonso, late Judge at Benguella, of alterations in the law for the prosecution and trial of slave-traders; and of the 5th of February, covering a copy of a further note of mine to his Excellency of the 2nd of that month, requesting the communication of copies of certain papers relative to a shipment of slaves which took place at Lucira, near Benguella, on the 31st of December, 1855; I have the honour of transmitting herewith a translation of a note of the 23rd instant, which I have received from his Excellency, and of a despatch addressed to him by the Minister of Marine, the Viscount de Sá da Bandeira, on the 8th instant, in reply to my two above-mentioned notes.

With regard to the subject of the first of those notes, viz., the measures suggested by the Judge of Benguella, the Viscount de Sá states, as your Lordship will perceive, that the Portuguese Government have considered that it belonged to the administrative authorities to indicate such measures, and they had consequently been instructed to report whether any further measures for the suppression of the Slave Trade were required.

With regard to the request contained in my second note for copies of the documents

in question, the Viscount observes, that as the affair is still secret, pending judicial proceedings, they cannot yet be given.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 222.

The Marquis de Loulé to Mr. Howard.

(Translation.)

Palace, April 23, 1857.

HAVING acquainted the Minister of Marine with the subject of the notes which you were pleased to address to me, dated respectively the 23rd of January and 2nd of February of this year, calling the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the expediency of adopting the measures suggested by the Judge of the district of Benguella, Luis José Mendes Affonso, with reference to slave-trading, and requesting copies of any documents appertaining to the judicial proceedings instituted there in consequence of a shipment of slaves effected on the 31st of December, 1855, on the beach at Lucira, and to which the Portaria of the 10th of January last, published in the "Diario do Governo" of the 12th of that month, refers; the said Minister in his reply, dated the 8th instant, has stated what you will have the goodness to read in the despatch of which I have the honour of placing in your hands a copy for your use.

I renew, &c.
(Signed) MARQUIS DE LOULE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 222.

The Minister of Marine and the Colonies to the Marquis de Loulé.

(Translation.)

Illustrious and Excellent Sir,

Marine and Colonial Department, April 8, 1857.

I HAD the honour to receive the despatch which your Excellency was pleased to address to me on the 3rd of February last, inclosing translations of two notes from Her Britannic Majesty's Minister at this Court, dated respectively the 23rd of January and 2nd of February, in the first of which, referring to the proceedings instituted at Benguella respecting the embarkation of slaves effected on the 31st of December, 1855, on the beach at Lucira, and to the observations and proposal made by the local Judge for the promulgation of fresh measures with reference to judicial proceedings in cases of slave-trading, he recommends, by the order of his Government, the adoption of these measures to the favourable consideration of the Portuguese Government; and in the second, referring to the Portaria issued by this Department on the 10th of January last, to the above-mentioned Judge relating to the same question, he expresses, by order of his Government, their satisfaction at the zeal and energy evinced by the Judge, Luis José Mendes Affonso, at the approval by the Portuguese Government of his conduct in this affair, and at the recommendation for carrying on judicial proceedings contained in the said Portaria, and addressing personally to me an expression of thanks, on the part of the British Government, for my exertions in this affair, and requesting copies of the documents relating to the said proceedings, in order to enable the British Government to prove to the Governments of Spain and of the United States of America the infringement of their laws by the individuals who took part in the shipment of slaves in question; and in reply, I have to state to your Excellency that it will cause His Majesty's Government much satisfaction that the result of the proceedings instituted by the Judge of Benguella should be the due punishment of the offenders in the case of the Lucira outrage, and that appreciating and returning thanks for the expressions of the British Minister, on the part of his Government, with reference to some of my acts in particular, and to those of the other Portuguese authorities who acted in this affair, I trust to the justice of that Government for recognizing the desire and efforts of the Portuguese Government to put a stop to such nefarious Traffic.

With regard to the measures suggested by the Judge of Benguella, His Majesty's Government have considered that it belonged to the administrative authorities to indicate such measures, and they have, consequently, been instructed to report whether any further measures were required for abolishing the Traffic in Slaves, and for bringing to punishment the offenders, and, if so to point out such measures as may be proper to be adopted by

Her Majesty's Government, after consulting the Colonial Board, and with the sanction of the Cortes.

Lastly, with reference to the request for copies of the documents in the proceedings above alluded, instituted at Benguella, as this affair is still under the secrecy of the ends of justice, copies cannot as yet be given of those documents, as I have already verbally stated to Her Britannic Majesty's Minister at this Court.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed)

SA DA BANDEIRA.

No. 223.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 6, 1857.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 27th ultimo, inclosing a copy of a note which you addressed to the Marquis de Loulé on learning that the slave-trader Don Benito Derizanz had been liberated by the Court of Relação at Lisbon, on his finding bail for the trifling sum of 730 milreis (about 162*l.* 4*s.*); and I have to acquaint you that I entirely approve the communication addressed by you to the Marquis de Loulé on this matter.

I have to observe, with reference to the proceedings which have taken place in this case, that there seems to be an intention among the subordinate Portuguese authorities to allow Derizanz to escape, and should he do so, after the warning conveyed in your note to M. de Loulé, the Portuguese Government must feel that the responsibility will attach to them of having permitted a notorious slave-trader to escape the punishment which he so richly deserves.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

CLARENDON.

No. 224.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.— (Received May 13.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, May 6, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 21st ultimo; and to inclose a copy of the note which, in compliance with the instructions contained in it, I yesterday addressed to the Marquis de Loulé, bringing to his knowledge the circumstances of the case of the condemned slave-vessel "*Rosario*," the hull of which, entire, was offered for sale by the Court of Relação at Loanda; and requesting that instructions may be sent to the Governor-General of Angola to carry out the provisions of the Decree of the 10th of December, 1846, by which it is provided that the hulls of all condemned slave-vessels shall be broken up immediately after condemnation, and sold in separate parts.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

HENRY F. HOWARD.

Inclosure in No. 224.

Mr. Howard to the Marquis de Loulé.

Sir,

Lisbon, May 5, 1857.

IN obedience to the instructions which I have received from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I have the honour of laying before your Excellency the following statement.

Mr. Gabriel, Acting British Commissioner at Loanda, having perceived by an edital of the Court of Relação of that place, published in the "*Boletim*" No. 589, that the hull of the prize barque "*Rosario*" was about to be sold by auction entire, the purchaser covenanting to break it up within thirty days from the date of sale, thought it his duty to direct, in a letter of the 12th January last, the attention of the Governor-General of Angola, Senhor Amaral, to the correspondence which had already taken place between

Her Majesty's Government and the Government of Portugal, on the subject of the disposal of slave-vessels condemned by the Tribunal of Prizes at Loanda.

Mr. Gabriel in this letter stated that the evil consequences resulting from selling the hulls of those vessels entire having been submitted to the consideration of Her Most Faithful Majesty's Government, a Decree was issued on the 10th September, 1846, ordaining that in those cases in which the Government may not desire to retain possession of them, the hulls of all vessels captured as slavers, and condemned as such, shall, after condemnation, be completely broken up, and sold separately.

On the receipt of that Decree, the then Governor-General represented to his Government the difficulty of carrying it into execution, and proposed that it should be so far modified as to allow of such vessels being sold entire, the purchaser obliging himself to break it up within a specified time, and the Prize Court being invested with full power to enforce this obligation.

Renewed representations were then made to Her Most Faithful Majesty's Government, and on the 30th of May, 1848, orders were issued to the Prize Court to cause the above-mentioned Decree to be carried into execution.

Finally, it was suggested that, if the process of breaking up these condemned vessels should be troublesome and expensive, a small quantity of gunpowder, properly applied, would effectually break up any slave-vessel; and in reply, Her Most Faithful Majesty's Minister for Foreign Affairs stated that on the 29th August, 1848, orders had been transmitted to the Governor-General of Angola, indicating that method of destroying such vessels as preferable to any other.

Mr. Gabriel, in concluding his letter, expressed the hope that his Excellency would cause the orders of his Government in respect to the sale of the hulls of slave-vessels to be carried into full effect.

Senhor Amaral in his reply of the 14th ultimo, stated that he could not understand the inconvenience resulting from the sale of the hulls of vessels entire, with the condition of their being afterwards broken up; nor could he appreciate the difference, with a view to rendering the vessels useless, between proceeding in the latter manner, or breaking them up after the sale.

After some comments upon the Law of the 10th September, 1846, Senhor Amaral observes, that he believes conscientiously that it will be carried out by the mode intended to be pursued in respect to the "*Rosario*," but that he will take the orders of his Government on the subject, in order to carry them out in future cases. His Excellency likewise expresses his objection to the use of powder for the destruction of slave-vessels.

By a reference to his Excellency Senhor Gomes de Castro's notes of the 13th May and 9th September, 1848, to Sir Hamilton Seymour, your Excellency will perceive that the course pursued by His Most Faithful Majesty's authorities in offering the hull of the "*Rosario*" for sale entire, even with the condition that the purchaser should break it up within thirty days after the completion of the purchase, is directly contrary to the understanding which has been come to between the British and Portuguese Governments with regard to the manner in which the hulls of condemned slave-vessels should be disposed of; and I have accordingly been instructed by the Earl of Clarendon, in bringing this case to your Excellency's knowledge, to request, as I have now the honour of doing, that instructions may be sent to the Governor-General of Angola, directing him to carry out the provisions of the Decree of the 10th September, 1846, by which it is provided that the hulls of all condemned vessels shall be broken up immediately after condemnation, and sold in separate parts.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

No. 225.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received May 13.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, May 6, 1857.

INCLOSED I have the honour of transmitting a copy of the note which, in compliance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 21st ultimo, I yesterday addressed to the Marquis de Loulé, bringing to his knowledge the information furnished in the papers forwarded to me by your Lordship respecting an American vessel called the "*N. Hand*," which is reported to have shipped a cargo of slaves

from a place called Cabeça de Cobra, off the Congo river, towards the end of August or beginning of September last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

Inclosure in No. 225.

Mr. Howard to the Marquis de Loulé.

Sir,

Lisbon, May 5, 1857.

IN compliance with the instructions which I have received from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I have the honour of bringing to the knowledge of your Excellency the following information relative to the American brigantine "*N. Hand*," Michael Stevenson master, and George W. Rosevelt owner, which is reported to have shipped a cargo of slaves from a place called Cabeça de Cobra, on the West Coast of Africa, towards the end of August or beginning of September last.

This vessel, according to a despatch of the 26th of July last from Her Majesty's Consul at St. Vincent, Mr. Miller, arrived there on the 11th of that month from New York, bringing a quantity of food sent to be gratuitously distributed to the poor inhabitants of the Cape de Verd Islands. At the time of entering the vessel at the Custom-house, it was declared that she would proceed to the neighbouring Island of St. Jago, and from thence to the West Indies.

In consequence of certain expressions used by the master of the "*N. Hand*," and repeated to Her Majesty's Consul, Mr. Miller thought it his duty to direct, in a letter of the 18th of July last, the attention of the Military Commandant of St. Vincent, Major J. P. Machado, to the suspicious nature of the circumstances connected with this vessel.

The master, whilst under the influence of intoxicating liquor, had openly declared that he had manacles on board where he only could find them; that the vessel was not going to St. Jago to discharge the rest of her cargo, nor afterwards to the West Indies, as had been declared; that she had all the water necessary for a slave voyage on board; and that the only persons on board who could speak English were himself and the steward. Mr. Miller added, in this letter, that the vessel actually had a larger quantity of water than her crew could possibly require, and that, as he was informed, the crew were Spanish, the supercargo a Portuguese, and the captain the only American on board.

Major Machado replied by a letter of the 20th of July, in which he states that, the vessel having been searched, the cargo on board was found to be in conformity with the manifest signed and sealed by the Consul-General of Portugal at New York, and that the crew, as he had learnt from the Vice-Consul of the United States, were all American citizens excepting one.

Notwithstanding this statement, Mr. Miller expressed to the Earl of Clarendon his conviction, from the circumstances of the "*N. Hand*" having fifty-six water-pipes on board, and a larger quantity of provisions than required, and of her crew, with the exception of two persons, not speaking the English language, that she was engaged on a slave-trading voyage.

Her Majesty's Commissioners at Loanda, in a despatch to the Earl of Clarendon dated the 23rd of October last, report that Her Majesty's ship "*Teazer*" had met with and boarded the "*N. Hand*" off the Congo, not far from the Cabeça de Cobra, on the 27th of August, and that this vessel had sailed from St. Vincent's on the 8th of that month, having shipped there as passenger a Portuguese of the name of Almeida for Benguella, for which place, when boarded by the "*Teazer*," the master, Stevenson, declared himself to be bound.

Her cargo, entered on the manifest, consisted of 315 barrels of corn-meal (the residue of the original stock shipped), 55 water-casks, and two tanks. She had a crew of eight sailors, not one of whom could answer to his name when mustered by the crew-list.

She was lost sight of by the "*Teazer*" in the night, and never appeared at Benguella.

Her Majesty's Commissioners add, that it was reported that she took off 200 slaves from Cabeça de Cobra, which agrees with the statement made by His Most Faithful Majesty's brig-of-war "*Villa Flor*," then cruising off the Congo, whose Commander wrote word some weeks previous to the date of Her Majesty's Commissioners, that such a shipment was effected about that time and place.

The Earl of Clarendon having transmitted copies of the above-mentioned correspond-

ence to Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, Lord Napier, the latter Minister, in a despatch of the 28th of March last, reports the result of the inquiries which he had caused to be made at New York, regarding the ownership and destination of the "*N. Hand*," and of which the following is the substance.

By a registry at the Custom-house of New York, George W. Rosevelt, shipwright, appears to have been the owner of the vessel when, on the 9th of June, 1856, she was dispatched from that port, and cleared for the Cape de Verd Islands, loaded with a cargo of flour, rice, corn, meal, beef, pork, and other provisions, together with fifty water-casks.

A portion of this cargo consisted and was reported in the manifest as a donation from the Corn Exchange Company of New York, and was shipped on behalf of that Company by Mr. Peter Rice.

The other shippers were João C. Abreo, Figanière and Figanière, Reis and Co. It is by the latter firm that the vessel is believed to have been chartered with the avowed object of carrying relief and sustenance to the people of the Cape de Verd Islands, reported to be in a state of famine.

The cargo is said to have been purchased out of the avails of pecuniary contributions from the public, a strong appeal for such aid having at the time been made by the Portuguese Consul-General.

The "*N. Hand*" had not returned to New York.

Lord Napier refers to the existence of suspicions that the subscription promoted at New York by the Consul-General of Portugal, for the sustenance of the starving population at the Cape de Verd Islands, and the despatch of the "*N. Hand*," freighted with provisions, were merely the pretext for furthering a nefarious design, and that under the cloak of a charitable office there was concealed a slave speculation.

Lord Napier has brought the case of the "*N. Hand*" under the notice of the United States' Secretary of State, and the United States' authorities will ascertain whether any legal proceedings can be founded on the information collected.

In thus laying before your Excellency a statement of this case, with which the Earl of Clarendon has thought it advisable that His Most Faithful Majesty's Government should be made acquainted, I avail, &c.

(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

No. 226.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received May 13.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, May 8, 1857.

WITH reference to my despatches of the 8th of October last, reporting the sentences passed by the tribunal at Loanda upon the master, the mate, the passenger, and the crew, of the condemned slave-vessel "*General Pinkney*," or "*General Pierce*," and of the 8th ultimo, reporting the reversal of that sentence by the Court of Relação, of this city, as far as D. Benito Derizanz, the nominal passenger, was concerned, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the appeal of the master, mate, and crew, from which Derizanz had contrived to have his case separated, came on two days' ago before a different section of the same Court of Relação, when the original sentence passed upon them at Loanda was confirmed by a unanimous vote of the seven Judges, who pronounced that their crime did not come within the provisions of the amnesty of October 1855, being considered as piracy according to the laws.

Thus the extraordinary spectacle is presented of contradictory sentences by the same Court, and in what was the same case.

I have been urging the Marquis de Loulé to hasten the proceedings before the Supreme Tribunal in the case of Derizanz, so as to leave him less time for escape, though that is an event which appears almost inevitable. The person whom the Court of Relação has admitted as his security is a man of bad character, known to have passed off false coin; but I have no doubt there are other more influential slave-traders behind him.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

No. 227.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 16, 1857.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 6th instant,* I have to acquaint you that I approve the note which you addressed to the Marquis de Loulé, respecting the proceedings of the Portuguese authorities at Loanda in regard to the hull of the condemned slaver "*Rosario*."

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 228.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 16, 1857.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 6th instant,† I have to acquaint you that I approve the note which you addressed to the Marquis de Loulé, calling his Excellency's attention to the proceedings of the American vessel "*N. Hand*."

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 229.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 16, 1857.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 8th instant, calling the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the anomaly presented by the fact that the Court of Relação at Lisbon has confirmed, on appeal, the sentence pronounced by the Tribunal at Loanda upon the master, mate, and crew of the condemned slave-vessel "*General Pinkney*," whilst Derizanz, a passenger on board that vessel, who was also condemned by the Loanda Tribunal, but who managed, on appeal, to get his case separated from the rest, has been released by the decision of a different section of the Lisbon Court of Relação; and I have to observe to you that this proceeding on the part of the Court of Relação at Lisbon is an additional proof of the necessity of dealing promptly with Derizanz, as the determination to let him escape appears evident.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 230.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.— (Received May 25.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, May 12, 1857.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 18th of March last, and to my previous despatches on the subject of the extinction of slavery in the Cape Verd Islands, I have the honour of transmitting, herewith, a translation of a Portaria, issued on the 6th instant by the Viscount Sá da Bandeira, and published in the "*Diario do Governo*" of the 9th, signifying His Most Faithful Majesty's approbation of the conduct of the Governor-General of those islands, in promoting the emancipation of certain slaves in the Island of Santo Antão, and of his endeavours, in conjunction with Mr. Miller, Her Majesty's Consul, to effect, by means of a subscription in London, the liberation of the remaining slaves in that island.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

* No. 224.

† No. 225.

Inclosure in No. 230.

Portaria.

(Translation.)

HIS Majesty the King having seen the despatches Nos. 203 and 204, both dated the 3rd April last, addressed by the Governor-General of the Province of Cape Verd, Antonio Maria Barreiros Arrobas, through this Department, inclosing a list of 26 slaves, who died at the Island of Santo Antão, and another list of 30 slaves who were liberated there by their owners, besides two others who, by the exertions of the Governor-General, had just been liberated, and 8 more who would shortly obtain their liberty, and 1 female slave whom the Governor had liberated at his own expense, the result being that out of 170 slaves existing in that island on the 11th June, 1856, there were only 103 remaining, for the liberation of whom he, the Governor-General, and the British Consul, Thomas Miller, were endeavouring to promote a subscription in London, by the aid of which, and depending upon the goodwill of the slave-owners, he hoped before long to do away with slavery *de facto* in the District of Barlavento: His Majesty commands that through the Marine and Colonial Department, a communication be made to the said Governor-General in answer to his despatches, conveying His Majesty's Royal approbation of the Governor-General's conduct in this affair, of his zeal in promoting the liberty of these slaves, and of his endeavours, in connection with the British Consul, to obtain the extension of emancipation to others; and His Majesty the King, judging that these acts are worthy of praise, makes known the same to the Governor-General for his own satisfaction, and for the information of the above-mentioned British Consul, and of those individuals who, without recompense, have emancipated their slaves.

Palace, May 6, 1857.

(Signed) SA DA BANDEIRA.

No. 231.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received May 25.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, May 16, 1857.

I COMMUNICATED yesterday to the Marquis de Loulé the approval which your Lordship has been so good as to signify to me in your despatches of the 30th ultimo and of the 6th instant, of my notes of the 4th and 22nd ultimo, to the Marquis de Loulé, on the subject of the reversal, by the Court of Relação of this capital, of the sentence pronounced by the tribunal at Loanda on the slave-trader, D. Benito Derizanz, and of the subsequent liberation of the latter; and I called his Excellency's attention to the observations made in your Lordship's last-named despatch, relative to the conduct of the subordinate Portuguese authorities in this matter, and to the responsibility which will attach to the Portuguese Government, if Derizanz should be permitted to effect his escape.

The Marquis de Loulé repeated to me the great annoyance which this case caused him, and stated that he had directed the most stringent precautions to be taken in order to prevent the escape of Derizanz.

After some further conversation on the subject, his Excellency requested me to give him the contents of your Lordship's despatch of the 6th instant in writing.

I accordingly addressed to him this day the note, of which I have the honour of transmitting a copy, and in which I have embodied the contents of your Lordship's two above-named despatches.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

Inclosure in No. 231.

Mr. Howard to the Marquis de Loulé.

Sir,

Lisbon, May 16, 1857.

I DULY transmitted to the Earl of Clarendon copies of the two confidential notes which I had the honour of addressing to your Excellency on the 4th and 22nd ultimo, the first commenting upon the reversal by the Court of Relação of this capital of the sentence of condemnation pronounced by the tribunal at Loanda upon the slave-trader, D. Benito Derizanz; the second calling your Excellency's attention to the fears that may be enter-

CLASS B.

tained lest the ends of justice should be defeated by the liberation of Derizanz on his finding the trifling bail of 730 milreis, and urging the adoption of precautions to prevent his effecting his escape.

I likewise did not fail to forward to the Earl of Clarendon copies of the notes which your Excellency was so good as to address to me in reply on the 15th and 23rd ultimo, and to report to his Lordship my conversations with your Excellency on the subject of them.

I now beg to inform your Excellency that I have received two despatches from the Earl of Clarendon of the 30th ultimo and 6th instant. In the one his Lordship acquaints me with his approval of my note of the 4th ultimo, and states the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government had learnt the views entertained by your Excellency with regard to this case, and the adoption of legal steps to abrogate the decision of the Court of Relação.

In the other despatch his Lordship likewise signifies to me his entire approval of my note of the 22nd ultimo, and in doing so, observes that, with reference to the proceedings which have taken place in this case, there seems to be an intention amongst the subordinate Portuguese authorities to allow Derizanz to escape; and that should he do so, after the warning conveyed by me in my note to your Excellency, His Most Faithful Majesty's Government must feel that the responsibility will attach to them of having permitted a notorious slave-trader to escape the punishment which he so richly deserves.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

No. 232.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received May 25.)

(Extract.)

Lisbon, May 16, 1857.

M. DE NANTEUIL, the Delegate of the Island of La Réunion, residing at Paris, has arrived at Lisbon for the purpose of pressing the request put forward by the French Government on behalf of the planters of that island, for permission to continue to import negroes from the Portuguese Possessions on the East Coast of Africa, and has been introduced by the Marquis de Lisle to Viscount de Sá da Bandeira and the Marquis de Loulé. He has likewise found his way to the King, and represented the permission he solicits to His Majesty, as he has done to the two above-named Ministers, in the light of a great benefit to the negroes.

The Viscount de Sá has, I learn, flatly refused to entertain the proposal.

The Marquis de Loulé told me yesterday that he replied to M. de Nanteuil, that the purchase of the negroes in question appeared to him to be Slave Trade, which the Portuguese Government were bound to suppress, but that he had not yet studied the question thoroughly, and it would therefore be necessary that it should be laid before him in writing.

This I learn, from the Marquis de Loulé, that M. de Nanteuil, conjointly with the Duc de Bellune, has since done.

I did not fail to remind the Marquis de Loulé that the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, founded upon the reports of Her Majesty's naval officers and Agents, entirely coincided with the views of his colleague, the Viscount de Sá, as to the encouragement given to the internal Slave Trade in the Province of Mozambique by the exportation of negroes.

His Excellency has expressed to me his own concurrence in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, and of his colleague, as to the illicit nature of such exportations.

The negroes, I should observe, are not free men when they are exported, but are bought of their masters.

No. 233.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 26, 1857.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 16th instant, I have to acquaint you that I approve the note which you addressed to the Marquis de Loulé, embodying the contents

of my despatches of the 30th of April and 6th of May, respecting the case of the slave-trader Dom Benito Derizanz.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 234.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, May 26, 1857.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 16th instant, reporting the answer returned by the Viscount Sá da Bandeira to an application made to his Excellency to allow negroes to be exported from the Portuguese Possessions at Mozambique to the Island of La Réunion; and I have to instruct you to acquaint the Viscount de Sá that Her Majesty's Government have learnt with sincere pleasure the firmness with which his Excellency has resisted these demands, which, if acquiesced in, could not fail to give a great stimulus to the Slave Trade in the interior of Africa.

No. 235.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 3.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, May 25, 1857.

MR. O'SULLIVAN, the United States' Minister at this Court, informed me yesterday that, in reply to the application for his intervention which, as I had the honour of reporting in my despatch of the 28th of March last, John Silvia, the master of the condemned slave-vessel "*General Pinkney*," or "*General Pierce*," had made to him, he had sent word to that individual that he could not interfere in his behalf, and that John Silvia must undergo the sentence pronounced upon him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

No. 236.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 3.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, May 26, 1857.

IN answer to the note which I addressed to the Marquis de Loulé on the 16th instant, and of which a copy was inclosed in my despatch of that date, embodying the observations contained in your Lordship's despatches of the 30th ultimo and of the 6th instant, relative to the reversal, by the Court of Relação of this capital, of the sentence pronounced by the Tribunal at Loanda, on the slave-trader Dom Benito Derizanz, and to the subsequent liberation of that individual, I, yesterday, received a note from his Excellency, of the 22nd instant, stating that having paid due attention to the contents of my above-mentioned note, he was that day again addressing the Minister of Justice, and that he would not fail to communicate to me the answer he might receive.

In the meantime, I had communicated to the Marquis, on the 24th instant, the observations contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 16th instant, relative to the necessity of dealing promptly with Derizanz.

I saw Count Sobral, the Civil Governor of Lisbon, this evening, when he told me that Derizanz was still here, and watched, by his orders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 4, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a despatch from Mr. Gabriel, Her Majesty's Acting Commissioner at Loanda,* inclosing copies of a correspondence with the Governor-General of Angola, and with the President of the Court of Relação, relative to a proposal made by the Governor-General to Mr. Gabriel, to the effect that the Judge and Secretary of the newly-created Court of Relação at Loanda should, on the occasion of their installation into those offices, be at the same time sworn in respectively as Portuguese Commissioner and Secretary of the British and Portuguese Mixed Commission, established at Loanda, under the provisions of the Treaty of the 3rd of July, 1842, between Great Britain and Portugal, for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

You will perceive that Mr. Gabriel declined to recognize as Portuguese Commissioner in the Mixed Commission, the gentleman, Senhor José Julio Rodriguez, who had been proposed to him by the Governor to fill that office, on the ground that Senhor Rodriguez was not furnished by his Sovereign with any diploma nominating him to the post of Commissioner on the part of His Most Faithful Majesty, and because Mr. Gabriel had not received from Her Majesty's Government any intimation of the appointment of Senhor Rodriguez to that office; and I have to instruct you to acquaint the Portuguese Government that the Government of Her Majesty, after having attentively considered the matter, are of opinion that Mr. Gabriel was borne out in refusing to acquiesce in the arrangement proposed to him by the Governor-General, and that the arguments by which he justified that refusal are well founded.

The proposal of the Governor-General to Mr. Gabriel, was, it would appear, made in conformity with the enactments of the Portuguese Decree of the 30th of December, 1852, the 75th Article of which Decree, and its accompanying paragraphs, provide as follows:—

“The Senior Judge in the Court of Relação at Loanda shall be the Portuguese Commissioner in the Portuguese and British Mixed Commission.

“§ 1. The Junior Judge in that same Relação shall be the Portuguese Arbitrator in the said Commission.

“§ 2. Whoever acts as Secretary to that Relação shall also act as Secretary to the Mixed Commission.”

But you will state to the Portuguese Government, that Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the Decree above quoted cannot authorize the appointment of Portuguese officers to act under the Treaty *ex officio*, and merely by virtue of their holding some other office, without their having been also expressly named by the Crown of Portugal, as required by the Treaty, and that the fact of their holding any other office cannot dispense with the necessity for a formal and separate nomination.

Her Majesty's Government, however, do not object to an arrangement by which the persons holding the posts of members in the Mixed Commission shall at the same time hold other appointments, the only question being the mode and form of their appointment; and if the Portuguese Government choose to name certain members of the Court of Relação to fill the posts of the Portuguese members of the Mixed Commission they would appear to be peculiarly fit persons so to act, and on their being furnished by the Crown of Portugal with separate and distinct Commissions, Her Majesty's Government will, on the fact being notified to them, send instructions to Mr. Gabriel to recognize the gentlemen so appointed, as his Portuguese colleagues in the Mixed Commission.

And as serious inconvenience may result, especially in the case of condemnations, if any doubts should arise as to the legal constitution of the Court of Mixed Commission, you will express the hope of Her Majesty's Government that this solution of the difficulty, which you are now instructed to propose, will be acceptable to the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty, and that the persons appointed to fill the posts of Portuguese Commissioner and Arbitrator in the Mixed Commission will be furnished, as soon as it is possible to do so, with Commissions emanating from the Crown of Portugal.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

P.S.—I also inclose a copy of the despatch of the 22nd of January, 1856,† from Her Majesty's Commissioner at Loanda, which is referred to in the second paragraph of Mr. Gabriel's despatch.

C.

* Class A, No. 78 and Inclosures.

† Class A, presented 1857, No. 56.

No. 238.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 5, 1857.*
 I TRANSMIT to you, herewith, an extract of a letter from the Chairman of the Chamber of Agriculture at the Mauritius, which has been communicated to me by the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, relative to the alleged intention of a French firm, established in that Colony, to fit out a steamer under French colours, to carry Africans from the Portuguese possessions in Africa, to the Island of Réunion; and I have to instruct you to acquaint the Portuguese Government with the designs of the firm in question.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) CLARENDON.

Inclosure in No 238.

Extract from a Letter from Mr. Currie, the Chairman of the Chamber of Agriculture in Mauritius.

IN regard of immigration, Menon has chartered the "Azoff" for the mails, and declares his intention of putting the steamer "Governor Higginson" under the French flag, and fitting her out in this British port, to carry Africans from the Portuguese barracoons in Africa to Bourbon. These labourers are, I have not the slightest doubt, captured in the interior, brought down and sold as slaves; but it is said that the Emperor, in spite of Lord Clarendon's protest, has sanctioned this traffic.

We are shut out from India; from getting free men from Siam (who, we believe, would willingly immigrate); from getting Chinese, who are carried to Cuba and Brazil in British ships, in numbers, disgracefully and cruelly crowded. The price of sugar has already increased the Yankee clippers trading to Africa; and now, under our eyes, a vessel is fitting out to take Africans to Bourbon. Human nature is weak, and people here think it a curious advantage of being under the British flag.

No. 239.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 8, 1857.*
 WITH reference to your despatch of the 27th ultimo, and to your previous despatches, respecting the refusal by the Portuguese Government of the request made by the French Government, for permission to continue to export negroes as free labourers from Mozambique to the Island of Réunion, I transmit to you, herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Mr. Cowper, Her Majesty's Consul at Pernambuco,* stating the views of Her Majesty's Government with regard to a Project of Law which has been laid before the Legislative Assembly of that Province, and which has for its object the introduction of free African labourers into Brazil, and the gradual emancipation of the slaves now existing in the Brazilian Empire.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) CLARENDON.

P.S.—I also transmit a copy of a despatch from Mr. Cowper, inclosing a translation of the Project of Law above referred to.†

C.

* No. 133.

† No. 132.

No. 240.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 13.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, June 3, 1857.

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 26th ultimo, I yesterday communicated to the Viscount de Sá da Bandeira the sincere pleasure with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt the firmness with which his Excellency has resisted the demands made to him by the French Minister, to allow negroes to be exported from the Portuguese possessions at Mozambique to the Island of Réunion.

His Excellency requested me to present to your Lordship his compliments and his best thanks for this agreeable communication.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

No. 241.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 13.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, June 6, 1857.

SUBSEQUENTLY to the date of my despatch of the 6th ultimo, forwarding a copy of a note which I had addressed on the preceding day to the Marquis de Loulé relative to the course pursued by the Court of Relação at Loanda, in offering for sale the hull of the condemned slave-vessel "*Rosario*," entire, I received a note of the 7th ultimo from his Excellency, stating that he had transmitted my communication to the Minister of Marine.

I have now the satisfaction of forwarding a translation of a note of the 3rd instant, which I have received from the Marquis de Loulé, as well as of a Portaria inclosed in it, addressed on the 30th ultimo by the Minister of Marine, the Viscount de Sá da Bandeira, in pursuance of the orders of the King of Portugal, to the Governor-General of Angola, and entirely meeting the request which I had been directed by your Lordship to prefer, that instructions should be sent to that functionary to carry out the provisions of the Royal Decree of the 10th of September, 1846, by which it is enacted that the hulls of all condemned vessels shall be broken up immediately after condemnation, and sold in separate parts.

In a note of this date I have returned my best thanks to the Marquis de Loulé for the communication of this Portaria, and have stated my conviction that it would cause great satisfaction to Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 241.

The Marquis de Loulé to Mr. Howard.

(Translation.)

Palace, June 3, 1857.

IN addition to my note of the 7th of May last, I have the honour to acquaint you that the Minister of Marine, to whom I had addressed myself upon the subject of your note to me of the 5th, has communicated to me, in a despatch of the 30th of that month, the Portaria, which was on the same day about to be issued to the Governor-General of the Province of Angola, with reference to the provisions of the Decree of the 10th of September, 1846, enacting the breaking up and sale, in pieces, of vessels condemned by the Prize Court at Loanda, as implicated in the Slave Trade.

In answer, then, to your above-mentioned note, I beg to place in your hands the inclosed copy of the Portaria in question, for the information of your Government.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) MARQUIS DE LOULE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 241.

Portaria.

(Translation.)

HIS Majesty the King having seen the despatch dated 3rd of February, 1857, addressed to the Marine and Colonial Department by the Governor-General of the Province of Angola, transmitting the correspondence which passed between the Governor-General and the Arbitrator acting as British Commissioner in the Mixed Portuguese and British Commission established at Loanda, relating to the advertisement by the Prize Court for the sale of the hull of the barque "*Rosario*," which had been condemned some years back by that Court, with the condition of being broken up by the purchaser, this condition having given rise to the above-mentioned correspondence with the Acting British Commissioner, who considered that, according to the Decree of the 10th of September, 1846, and to the declarations made by the Portuguese Government to the British Government upon this subject, the said hull ought to have been first broken up, and then sold in separate pieces, and it appearing from the Governor's answer that, with regard to the mode of proceeding in future in similar cases, he would solicit, as he did in his above-mentioned despatch, the orders of His Majesty's Government, and that the sale of the hull in question was effected under the condition stipulated: His Majesty having also seen the translation of the note which Her Britannic Majesty's Minister at this Court addressed to the Foreign Department on the 5th of May, and which was sent to this Department for Marine and Colonies, with a despatch dated 7th of the same month, requesting, by order of his Government, that His Most Faithful Majesty's Government should give instructions to the Governor-General of Angola, for the carrying out of the provisions of the Decree of the 10th September, 1846, which enact that vessels condemned for being engaged in the Slave Trade shall be broken up and sold in separate pieces: And His Majesty considering the provisions of the Decree of 10th of September, 1846, to be clear and precise, enacting that vessels in such cases, when not purchased by the Government, "shall immediately upon condemnation be broken up entirely, and then sold in separate pieces;" and, further, that with respect to doubts which subsequently arose as to the full execution of this precept of the Decree, the Portaria issued on the 1st of September, 1847, to the Prize Court had decided that it should be fully carried out: His Majesty, in reply, commands that it be signified, through the Marine Department, to the Governor-General of Angola, that upon this subject he was not justified in requesting the orders of His Majesty's Government, inasmuch as the law is clear and explicit; rather that he, the Governor-General, being bound to watch over the execution of the laws, ought in this case to have made official application to the law officer of the Crown, in order that the latter might have required the Prize Court to fulfil the stipulations of the law, and this will be a guide for his future conduct; the Governor-General will also make known this Royal Resolution to the said Court. His Majesty also determines that the Governor-General shall obtain the necessary information from the Prize Court, and report, without delay, to this Department whether it is apparent from the proceedings that the barque in question is called the "*Rosario*."

Palace, May 30, 1857.

(Signed)

SA DA BANDEIRA.

No. 242.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 13.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, June 8, 1857.

I HAVE the honour of inclosing herewith a translation of a Portaria addressed by the Marquis de Loulé on the 5th instant to M. de Figanière, the Portuguese Minister in the United States, and published in the "*Diario do Governo*" of the 6th instant, acquainting him that His Majesty the King of Portugal had been pleased to dismiss the Portuguese Vice-Consul at Baltimore, who has gone by the name of Baptista, and directing him to cancel the patent under which that individual has been acting.

No reference is made in this Portaria to the implication of the supposed Baptista in the Slave Trade, but his dismissal is assigned to the circumstance, which I had the honour of reporting in my despatch of the 14th of March last, that he, being a Brazilian subject, had assumed the name of Baptista, whilst his real name is Domingos José da Costa Florim, which he had sought to conceal on account of his having been indicted at

Rio de Janeiro in 1846, for having absconded with the public moneys whilst an employé in the Imperial Treasury.

The Brazilian Minister, M. Maciel Monteiro, tells me that it was upon the Marquis de Loulé receiving the confirmation from the United States of the statements which he had made to his Excellency relative to the pretended Baptista, that the dismissal of the latter was decided upon and notified to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

Inclosure in No. 242.

Portaria.

(Translation.)

HIS Majesty the King commands that : through the Foreign Department it be notified to the Counsellor Joaquim Cesar de Figanière e Morão, his Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in the United States of America, that His Majesty having learnt that the Portuguese Vice-Consul at Baltimore, a Brazilian subject, makes use of the false name Augusto Lopes Baptista, when his true name is Domingos José da Costa Florim, which he has sought to conceal owing to the circumstance of his having been indicted at Rio de Janeiro in 1846 for the embezzlement of public moneys while filling the post of cashier in the office of the National Treasury of the Empire of Brazil, he is pleased to dismiss the said Vice-Consul, and to instruct the above-mentioned Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to cause his letters of appointment to be withdrawn immediately, and sent to the said State Department for the necessary ends.

Palace of Necessidades, June 5, 1857.

(Signed) MARQUIS DE LOULE.

No. 243.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 16, 1857.

I HAVE to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government learn with satisfaction, from your despatch of the 6th instant, that the Portuguese Government have instructed the Governor-General of Angola to carry out the provisions of the Royal Decree of the 10th of September, 1846, by which it is enacted that the hulls of all vessels condemned as being implicated in Slave Trade, shall be broken up immediately after condemnation, and sold in separate parts.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 244.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 23.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, June 15, 1857.

IN compliance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 4th instant, I have this day brought under the consideration of the Marquis de Loulé, in the note of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, the proposal made by your Lordship for the solution of the difficulty which has arisen between Mr. Gabriel, Her Majesty's Acting Commissioner at Loanda, and the Governor-General of Angola, relative to the appointment of the Judge and Secretary of the newly-created Court of Relação at Loanda as Portuguese Commissioner and Secretary of the British and Portuguese Mixed Commission established at that place under the provisions of the Treaty of the 3rd of July, 1842, between Great Britain and Portugal, for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

Inclosure in No. 244.

*Mr. Howard to the Marquis de Loulé.**Lisbon, June 15, 1857.*

Sir,

HER Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has received a despatch of the 31st of December last, from Mr. Gabriel, Her Majesty's Acting Commissioner at Loanda, inclosing copies of a correspondence with the Governor-General of Angola, and with the President of the Court of Relação, relative to a proposal made by the Governor-General to Mr. Gabriel, to the effect that the Judge and Secretary of the newly-created Court of Relação at Loanda should, on the occasion of their installation into those offices, be at the same time sworn in respectively as Portuguese Commissioner and Secretary of the British and Portuguese Mixed Commission established at Loanda, under the provisions of the Treaty of the 3rd July, 1842, between Great Britain and Portugal, for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

From these papers it appears that Mr. Gabriel declined to recognize as Portuguese Commissioner in the Mixed Commission, the gentleman, Senhor José Julio Rodrigues, who had been proposed to him by the Governor-General to fill that office, on the ground that Senhor Rodrigues was not furnished by his Sovereign with any diploma nominating him to the post of Commissioner on the part of His Most Faithful Majesty, and because Mr. Gabriel had not received from Her Majesty's Government any intimation of the appointment of Senhor Rodrigues to that office; and I have now been instructed by the Earl of Clarendon to acquaint your Excellency that the Government of Her Majesty, after having attentively considered the matter, are of opinion that Mr. Gabriel was borne out in refusing to acquiesce in the arrangement proposed to him by the Governor-General, and that the arguments by which he justified that refusal are well founded.

The Earl of Clarendon observes, in the despatch in which he conveys this instruction to me, that the proposal of the Governor-General to Mr. Gabriel was, it would appear, made in conformity with the enactments of the Portuguese Decree of the 30th December, 1852, the 75th Article of which Decree, and its accompanying paragraphs, provide as follows:—

“The Senior Judge in the Court of Relação at Loanda shall be the Portuguese Commissioner in the Portuguese and British Mixed Commission.

“§ 1. The Junior Judge in that same Relação shall be the Portuguese Arbitrator in the said Commission.

“§ 2. Whoever acts as Secretary to that Relação shall also act as Secretary to the Mixed Commission.”

But I am directed by the Earl of Clarendon to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the Decree above quoted cannot authorize the appointment of Portuguese officers to act under the Treaty *ex officio*, and merely by virtue of their holding some other office, without their having also been expressly named by the Crown of Portugal, as required by that Treaty, and that the fact of their holding any other office cannot dispense with the necessity for a formal and separate nomination.

Her Majesty's Government, however, do not object to an arrangement by which the persons holding the post of members in the Mixed Commission shall at the same time hold other appointments, the only question being the mode and form of their appointment; and if His Most Faithful Majesty's Government choose to name certain members of the Court of Relação to fill the posts of the Portuguese members of the Mixed Commission, they would appear to be peculiarly fit persons so to act; and on their being furnished by the Crown of Portugal with separate and distinct Commissions, Her Majesty's Government will, on the fact being notified to them, send instructions to Mr. Gabriel to recognize the gentlemen so appointed as his Portuguese colleagues in the Mixed Commission.

And as serious inconvenience may result, especially in the case of condemnations, if any doubts should arise as to the legal constitution of the Court of Mixed Commission, I am further directed by the Earl of Clarendon to express the hope of Her Majesty's Government that this solution of the difficulty, which I am now instructed to propose, will be acceptable to the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty, and that the persons appointed to fill the posts of Portuguese Commissioner and Arbitrator will be furnished, as soon as it is possible to do so, with Commissions emanating from the Crown of Portugal.

I conclude that His Most Faithful Majesty's Government will have received copies of Mr. Gabriel's correspondence above referred to, with the Governor-General of Angola and with the President of the Court of Relação at Loanda; but in case they should not have done so, I do myself the honour of inclosing herewith those which have been forwarded to

CLASS B.

me by the Earl of Clarendon, with the request that your Excellency will be so good as to return them to me with your answer to this note.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

No. 245.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 23.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, June 15, 1857.

I HAVE the honour of inclosing a copy of the note which I this day addressed to the Marquis de Loulé in execution of the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 5th instant, communicating the information conveyed in the extract of a letter from the Chairman of the Chamber of Agriculture at the Mauritius, which had been transmitted to your Lordship by the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, relative to the alleged intention of the French firm of Menon, established in that colony, to fit out a steamer, under French colours, to carry Africans from the Portuguese possessions in Africa to the Island of Réunion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

Inclosure in No. 245.

Mr. Howard to the Marquis de Loulé.

Sir,

Lisbon, June 15, 1857.

IN compliance with the instructions which I have received from the Earl of Clarendon, I have the honour to acquaint your Excellency that it appears from a letter from Mr. Currie, the Chairman of the Chamber of Agriculture at the Mauritius, which has been communicated to his Lordship by the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, that M. Menon, of the French firm of the same name established in that colony, who has chartered the "Azoff" for the mails, declares his intention of putting the steamer "Governor Higginson" under the French flag, and of fitting her out to carry Africans from the Portuguese possessions in Africa to the Island of Réunion. Mr. Currie adds that he has not the slightest doubt that these labourers are captured in the interior, and brought down and sold as slaves.

In transmitting this information to your Excellency by the orders of my Government, I avail, &c.

(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

No. 246.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 23.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, June 18, 1857.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 15th instant, I beg to state that I have received a note of the 16th from the Marquis de Loulé, informing me, in reply to mine of the previous day's date, acquainting him with the designs of the French firm Menon at the Mauritius, as stated in the letter of the Chairman of the Chamber of Agriculture in that colony, that he was that day addressing the Minister of Marine, in order that his Excellency might take the measures which he might think proper on that subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

No. 247.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 23.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, June 18, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a translated abstract of the information which the Brazilian Minister at this Court, Senhor Maciel Monteiro, has received from his

Government, as transmitted to them from Cadiz, in February last, and which he has communicated to me, relative to the proceedings of the slave-trader Don Francisco Riverosa.

Senhor Monteiro is engaged in making inquiries on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

Inclosure in No. 247.

Memorandum.

A COMMUNICATION from Cadiz, under date of the 2nd of February last, states as follows :

“Don Francisco Riverosa having gone from hence to Seville, to come to an understanding with the contrabandist Don Salvador, received from him 3,000 dollars, on account of a larger amount, for which he is a creditor to him.

“On his return from Seville, meeting in Cadiz with the Commander Luiz Antonio de Carvalho, who had gone there to await his arrival, being a creditor for a large amount, obtained from him 200*l.* and odd, sterling, and proceeded at once to Lisbon. There, having caused a vessel to be purchased at Vigo, he loaded it for the coast of Africa, and it is not known whether or not he had started for his destination. When he goes to Lisbon he lodges at the house of one Souza.

“Don Salvador, mentioned in the beginning of this report, having at a former period gone from Havana to Rio de Janeiro, offered himself to the contrabandists, to receive the remittances of Africans, assigning the sum of 500 milreis for each one. He obtained large consignments, and, taking possession of all, including a part of what belonged to Don Francisco Riverosa, he became rich, and possesses at present a large fortune at Havana.

No. 248.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 26, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to you, herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Commissioners at the Cape of Good Hope,* expressing their satisfaction at the appointment of the Chevalier Duprat, as Portuguese Commissioner in the British and Portuguese Mixed Commission at the Cape of Good Hope.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 249.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 4.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, June 22, 1857.

I HAVE this day notified to the Marquis de Loulé the satisfaction, as stated in your Lordship's despatch of the 16th instant, with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt that the Portuguese Government have instructed the Governor-General of Angola to carry out the provisions of the Decree of the 10th of September, 1846, by which it is enacted that the hulls of all vessels condemned as being implicated in Slave Trade shall be broken up immediately after condemnation and sold in separate parts.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

No 250.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 13, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to you the accompanying extracts of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Commissioners at the Cape of Good Hope,* containing their Report upon the Slave Trade on the East Coast of Africa during the year 1856.

You will perceive from these extracts that the exportation of negroes, under the denomination of colonists and free labourers, from the Portuguese Possessions on the East Coast of Africa, has been carried on to a great extent during the past year, notwithstanding the instructions forbidding this traffic, which have, from time to time, been transmitted by the Portuguese Government to the authorities in Mozambique; and I have to instruct you to communicate the substance of these extracts to the Marquis de Loulé, and to express to his Excellency the hope of Her Majesty's Government that the Portuguese authorities on the East Coast of Africa will receive such instructions from their Government as will insure their effectually carrying out the determination which has already been expressed by the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty, not to allow the exportation of negroes from Mozambique to the French Settlements in that part of the world.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 251.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 14.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, July 3, 1857.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 15th of June, inclosing a copy of the note which I addressed to the Marquis de Loulé on the same day, requesting that the Judges of the Court of Relação at Loanda, who are intended to act as Portuguese members of the British and Portuguese Mixed Commission at that place, may be furnished with separate commissions as such, I beg to inform your Lordship that, on the 30th ultimo, I received a note of the 23rd of that month, acknowledging the receipt of my note, and stating that, having on that day addressed the Minister of Marine on the subject, he reserved to himself to answer my note shortly.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

No. 252.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 14.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, July 7, 1857.

WITH reference to my despatches of the 15th and 18th ultimo, relative to the alleged intention of the French firm of Menon, at the Mauritius, to fit out a steamer, under French colours, to carry negroes from the Portuguese possessions on the East Coast of Africa to the Island of Réunion, I have the honour of inclosing herewith a translation of a note of the 6th instant, which I have received from the Marquis de Loulé, acquainting me, in reply to mine of the 15th ultimo, with the instructions sent by the Minister of Marine to the Governor-General of Mozambique, to prevent the exportation of such negroes from that province, and in order to ascertain whether any Company has actually been formed in the Island of Réunion, and if so, whether any contract has been entered into for the exportations in question.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

Inclosure in No. 252.

*The Marquis de Loulé to Mr. Howard.**Palace, July 6, 1857.*

(Translation.)

IN reply to the note which you were pleased to address to me on the 15th of June last, respecting the projects of a French commercial firm established in the Mauritius, for the conveyance, to the Island of Réunion, of negro labourers from the Portuguese possessions in Eastern Africa, I have the honour to inform you that the Minister of Marine, to whom I applied upon this subject, has stated to me, in a despatch dated the 30th of that month, that the orders issued to the present Governor-General of the Province of Mozambique, João Tavares d'Almeida, contained in his instructions under date of 24th Mareh last, expressly forbid the departure of negro settlers from the said province; and that subsequently to that date, a Portaria of the 18th of this month had been issued to the said Governor, inquiring of him whether it was true that a Company was formed at the Island of Réunion, with the object of exporting negroes from Mozambique, and if so, whether any contract was made, and by whom signed.

The above-mentioned Governor-General being thus placed on his guard, it is to be expected that any attempt to send negro colonists out of the Portuguese possessions of Eastern Africa will be completely frustrated.

I renew, &c.
(Signed) MARQUIS DE LOULE.

No. 253.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Paget.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 16, 1857.

WITH reference to my despatch to Mr. Howard, dated the 13th instant, I transmit to you, herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris,* respecting the exportation of negroes, under the denomination of colonists and free labourers, from the Portuguese possessions on the East Coast of Africa to the French settlements.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 254.

Mr. Paget to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 28.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, July 16, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a translation of a Portaria from the Governor of St. Thomas, giving effect to the Portaria, a translation of which was inclosed in Mr. Howard's despatch of the 19th of December, 1856, for the liberation of certain negroes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 254.

Portaria.

THE Acting Governor of the Province of St. Thomas and Prince's, and its dependencies, has determined as follows: The liberated negroes belonging to the State that are mentioned on the list forming a part of this Portaria, and signed by me, having completed the seven years' service to which they are bound, in accordance with Annex C of the Treaty between Portugal and England of the 3rd July, 1842, and seeing that they are more than twenty years old, I judge it convenient to declare the same negroes to be free; and *sui juris*, or emancipated those among them who are over twenty-five years of age, the

* No. 155.

others to remain subject, up to the period of attaining their majority, to the direction of the Board of Guardians, formed by virtue of Article 10 of the Decree of 14th December, 1844: Further, I judge it convenient to determine that the office of this Governorship shall furnish to each of these liberated negroes a document constituting them free, with the understanding that these documents, for those who will have to remain under the direction of the Board of Guardians, ought to be transmitted to the said Board to be delivered to them when their term of tutelage shall expire. The authorities whom this may concern shall have thus understood, and carry out the same.

Palace of the Governorship of the Province at St. Thomas, March 3, 1857.

(Signed)

ADRIANO MA. PASSALAQUA,
Acting Governor of the Province.

[Here follows a list of the negroes belonging to the State, liberated as above stated, being 10 males and 13 females.]

No..255.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Paget.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 31, 1857.

I COMMUNICATED to Mr. Gabriel, Her Majesty's Acting Commissioner at Loanda, a copy of Mr. Howard's despatch of the 7th of January last, inclosing a copy of a Portaria dated the 31st of December, 1856, and addressed by the Viscount de Sá da Bandeira to the Governors of the different Portuguese colonies in Africa, on the subject of the application of the funds administered by the Boards of Protection of slaves and liberated negroes established under the provisions of the Decree of the 14th of December, 1854.

I now transmit to you a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Gabriel, upon this subject;* and I have to instruct you to express to the Portuguese Minister for Foreign Affairs the regret with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt from this despatch, that, although the Portaria above referred to has been published in the official newspaper of Loanda, no instructions have been received by the authorities of that province with regard to the freedom of the slave Fabião, whose case was so fully brought under the notice of His Most Faithful Majesty's Government by Mr. Howard in his note to the Marquis de Loulé of the 3rd of January last, of which a copy was inclosed in Mr. Howard's despatch of the 5th of that month.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

CLARENDON.

No. 256.

Mr. Paget to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 3.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, July 25, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship a copy of a note which I have addressed to the Marquis de Loulé in execution of the instructions contained in your despatch of the 13th instant to Mr. Howard, relative to the exportation of negroes as free labourers or colonists to the French possessions about Madagascar.

I saw Viscount Sá da Bandeira yesterday on this subject, and as he had not yet received communication of my note from the Marquis de Loulé, I related to him the substance of it. His answer was, that the Portuguese Government had received information of a similar purport to that contained in the report of Her Majesty's Commissioners at the Cape of Good Hope, viz., that the instructions sent from Lisbon for putting an end to this trade in negroes had been very negligently carried out by the authorities on the spot; that in consequence of this a new Governor-General of Mozambique had been appointed, who had taken his departure in March or April, and that he had been furnished with such stringent and positive orders not to allow the trade in question, that he thought it now impossible that the views and wishes of the Home Government should not be properly executed.

* Class A, No. 91.

Viscount Sá da Bandeira said that as soon as, in due course, my note to the Marquis de Loulé should reach him, he should reply to it in the above sense.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 256.

Mr. Paget to the Marquis de Loulé.

M. le Ministre,

Lisbon, July 22, 1857.

WITH reference to the communications which have already taken place, between Her Majesty's Legation at Lisbon and the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty, relative to the exportation of negroes to French settlements, I have the honour to inform your Excellency, in compliance with instructions from the Earl of Clarendon, that Her Majesty's Commissioners at the Cape of Good Hope report, on the 14th of April, 1857, that the exportation of negroes under the denomination of colonists and free labourers, to the French settlements about Madagascar, has been carried on to a very great extent, by permission of the Governor-General of Mozambique, and of the Governors of Ibo and Quillimane, and that none of these officers appear to have received, officially, the Portaria issued by the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty on the 30th of July, 1856, by which the Governor-General was again directed to put an end to the practice which had already been disapproved by the Portaria of February 27, 1855, and to declare all contracts entered into for the purpose, null and void. Her Majesty's Commissioners hope that this important document will, ere this, have been received and acted upon by the Portuguese authorities; for the exportation of these so-called free labourers is not only detrimental to the agriculture and legal commerce of the places from which it is carried on, by diminishing the amount of labour available for developing the resources of the country, but it tend also to continue the evils attendant upon the Slave Trade; the individuals exported being of the same class as those provided for the cargoes of slave-vessels: while, unless the authorities are belied, these transactions are a source of emolument to the officers of Government, by whose authority they are effected.

Her Majesty's Commissioners add, that the Portuguese authorities on the coast seem utterly powerless to carry out the measures ordered by the Government at Lisbon for the suppression of the Slave Trade, and therein for the advancement of legal commerce and civilization: the Decrees of 1853, for opening the ports in the Mozambique; of 1854, for the registration and prospective emancipation of slaves in the Portuguese possessions; and of 1855, against the exportation of free labourers,—remain alike unexecuted.

It thus appears, that notwithstanding the instructions forbidding this traffic, which have from time to time been transmitted by the Portuguese Government to the authorities in Mozambique, the objectionable proceedings still continue; and I am therefore directed by the Earl of Clarendon, in making these facts known to your Excellency, to express the hope of Her Majesty's Government that the Portuguese authorities on the East Coast of Africa will receive such orders from their Government as will ensure their effectually carrying out the determination which has already been expressed by the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty, not to allow the exportation of negroes from Mozambique to the French settlements in that part of the world.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 257.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Paget.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 7, 1857.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 25th ultimo, inclosing a copy of a note which you addressed to the Portuguese Government, relative to the proceedings of the Portuguese authorities at Mozambique, in permitting the exportation of negroes to the French settlements in that neighbourhood, I inclose, for your information, a copy of a letter addressed by Commodore Trotter, the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's naval forces on the Cape of Good Hope station, to Sir J. Higginson, the Governor of the

Mauritius,* reporting the result of the inquiries which he had made, and of the communications which he had had with the Portuguese authorities at Mozambique, on the subject of the practicability of obtaining a supply of free African labourers from the East Coast of Africa.

And I have to desire that you will take an opportunity of communicating the substance of Commodore Trotter's letter to the Portuguese Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 258.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Paget.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, August 7, 1857.

I INCLOSE, for your information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Gabriel, Her Majesty's Acting Commissioner at Loanda,† stating that the law, as it now stands, has no power over the slave-traders, and that some more restrictive legislative measures are necessary to put a stop to the frivolous pretexts by which its provisions are evaded; and I have to desire that you will take an opportunity of making known Mr. Gabriel's opinions on this subject to the Marquis de Loulé and to the Viscount de Sá da Bandeira.

No. 259.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Paget.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 15, 1857.

WITH reference to Mr. Howard's despatch of the 15th of November last, I inclose, for your information, a copy of a despatch from Mr. Gabriel, the Acting British Commissioner at Loanda,‡ respecting the permission given by the Portuguese Government to Senhor Pedreira to transport 100 freed negroes from Angola to the Island of San Thomé.

Mr. Gabriel reports that Senhor Pedreira has not hitherto availed himself of the permission which has been granted to him by the Portuguese Government, but it would appear that he still purposes effecting the purchase of 100 slaves in the Province of Angola, and transporting them to San Thomé.

I have to instruct you to call the attention of the Marquis de Loulé to the note which Mr. Howard addressed to him on the 14th of November last on this subject; and you will state to his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government do not doubt that the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty, if they should not already have done so, will, upon reconsideration, revoke this concession, which, if acted on by Senhor Pedreira, cannot fail to prove an indirect encouragement to the Slave Trade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 260.

Mr. Paget to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 23.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, August 17, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, in compliance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 31st ultimo, I have addressed a note to the Marquis de Loulé, relative to the liberation of the slave Fabião, at Loanda.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

* Class A, Inclosure in No. 181.

† Ibid., No. 86.

‡ Ibid., No. 87.

No. 261.

Mr. Paget to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 23.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, August 17, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 7th instant, inclosing a copy of a letter from Commodore Trotter to the Governor of Mauritius, relative to the exportation of free negroes from the East Coast of Africa, and I have communicated the contents of it to the Viscount Sá da Bandeira.

With regard to what Commodore Trotter states to be the feelings of the then Governor-General of Mozambique, Viscount Sá remarked that he had been recalled on that very account, and he repeated what he told me on a former occasion respecting the instructions given to the new Governor-General of that colony.

Viscount Sá da Bandeira made no further comment on the latter part of Commodore Trotter's letter than to show me an extract of the "Moniteur" of Réunion, copied into the Paris "Presse" of the 27th of June, 1857, giving an account of the massacre of the captain and crew of a French vessel in Baly Bay by the so-called free negroes who were on board for exportation; an additional proof, he said, that negroes thus exported, were so against their will and consent, and that the term "free negroes" was merely a fiction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 262.

Mr. Paget to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 23.)

(Extract.)

Lisbon, August 17, 1857.

I HAVE communicated to the Viscount Sá da Bandeira, as instructed in your Lordship's despatch of the 7th instant, the opinions of Mr. Gabriel, Her Majesty's Acting Commissioner at Loanda, as to the necessity of some more restrictive legislative measures for putting a stop to the frivolous pretexts by which the law relating to slave-dealing is now evaded, and, in compliance with his Excellency's request, I have consented to furnish him with a copy of Mr. Gabriel's despatch.

He said he was very anxious to take the most effective measures on this subject, but that the reasons which prevented him presenting his Bill to the Chamber of Peers last year would, in all probability, prevail to the same extent this year.

With regard to the participation of foreigners in slave-dealing the local authorities had greater power, but even in these cases it was necessary to proceed with caution.

Viscount de Bandeira is so well known, and so strenuous an opponent of the Slave Trade, that I felt it would be useless in me to press him in a matter where he is naturally, and of his own accord, anxious to do all he can.

No. 263.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Paget.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 25, 1857.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Gabriel, Her Majesty's Acting Commissioner in the Mixed British and Portuguese Commission, established at Loanda,* containing his annual report on the subject of the Slave Trade, and containing also some information on other matters connected with the trade of the Province of Angola, and of other parts of the adjacent African coast.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 264.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Paget.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 25, 1857.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 17th instant, I have to acquaint you that I approve of your having communicated to the Viscount de Sá da Bandeira a copy of

* Class A, No. 85.

Mr. Gabriel's despatch respecting the defective state of the Portuguese laws against slave-trading.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 265.

Mr. Paget to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 14.)

My Lord,

Cintra, September 5, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a translation of a Decree which appeared in the "Diario do Governo" of the 1st instant, granting the concession of a tram-road through the Province of Angola, to a Company headed by Senhors Courson and Affonseca.

Viscount Sá de Bandeira has informed me that the original proposal of this Company was to construct a similar means of communication in this country, and that it was owing to his representations to them that they had consented to transfer their operations to Angola, as he conceived that nothing will lead so much to the extinction of the Slave Trade, as the encouragement which the establishment of an easy means of transport for the merchandize produced in the interior, will give to the legitimate commerce of the country. Viscount de Sá added that it was his intention that the Government of that colony should give every support to this undertaking, and he had no doubt of its success, both as regards the objects which the Government had in view, and the material interests of the Company.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 265.

Decree.

(Translation.)

TAKING into consideration the petition addressed to me by Alfred Courson and Luiz Vincente de Affonseca, as the representatives of various capitalists, requesting permission to form a Company for the construction of railroads (tram-roads) in the Province of Angola, these roads being known by the designation of "American tramways:"

Considering that the carrying out of this project would be of great utility for the said province, from the important benefits which it would bring with it, by developing the natural resources of the country, which, although valuable, are as yet so little available, owing to the want of means of internal communication and transport, I am pleased, in conforming with the Report of the Colonial Board, dated 25th April last, to grant to the above-mentioned Alfred Courson and Luiz Vincente de Affonseca, as representatives of various capitalists, the permission required to form a Company for the above purpose of constructing, in the Province of Angola, railways, known by the designation of "American tramways," in the manner, and under the conditions, annexed to this Decree, and signed by the Viscount Sá de Bandeira, peer of the realm, Minister and Secretary of State for Marine and Colonial Affairs. The same Minister and Secretary of State shall have thus understood, and shall cause it to be carried out.

Palace, August 28, 1857.

(Signed) SA DA BANDEIRA.

(Signed) KING.

N.B. The conditions to which this Decree refers will be published shortly.

No. 266.

Mr. Paget to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 23.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, September 18, 1857.

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 31st of August, I have transmitted to the Portuguese Government copies of the Address voted by the House of Commons to the Queen, and of Her Majesty's reply, relative to

the Slave Trade; and I embodied the substance of your Lordship's despatch in a note which I addressed to the Marquis de Loulé.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 267.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Paget.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 29, 1857.*
I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, and for communication to the Portuguese Government, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Vigo,* respecting the landing, by the Portuguese brig schooner "*Theodora*," of a cargo of slaves near Trinidad, in the Island of Cuba, in the month of March last.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 268.

Mr. Paget to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 15.)

My Lord, *Lisbon, October 8, 1857.*
WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 31st of August last, I have the honour to inclose herewith translation of a note which I have received from M. de Loulé, in answer to my note of the 11th ultimo, inclosing copy of the Address voted by the House of Commons to Her Majesty on the subject of the Slave Trade, together with a copy of the answer which Her Majesty was pleased to return to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 268.

The Marquis de Loulé to Mr. Paget.

(Translation.)

Palace, September 25, 1857.

I HAD the honour to receive the note which you were pleased to address to me on the 11th instant, transmitting to me, by order of your Government, a copy of the Resolutions taken by the House of Commons, expressing the wishes of the House with regard to the extinction of the Traffic in Slaves, and also of the answer returned by Her Britannic Majesty to the Message of the House.

In thanking you for the transmission of this document, I must state to you that His Majesty's Government will not fail to co-operate effectually in the complete extinction of that odious Traffic, by faithfully complying, as they have hitherto done, with the stipulations of the Treaty of the 3rd July, 1842, between Portugal and Great Britain.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) MARQUIS DE LOULE.

No. 269.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Paget.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 16, 1857.*
I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, copies of a despatch and its inclosures, from Mr. Gabriel, Her Majesty's Acting Commissioner at Loanda,† reporting the capture by the Portuguese war-schooner "*Cabo Verde*," of the American barque "*Splendid*," equipped for the Slave Trade; and I have to instruct you to express to the Portuguese Government the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt the capture of this vessel by a Portuguese cruiser.

* No. 493.

† Class A, No. 105.

You will add that this satisfaction has been materially enhanced by the intelligence contained in Mr. Gabriel's despatch, that the notorious slave-trader, Pedro da Cunha, who it appears landed from the "*Splendid*," has been arrested by the Portuguese authorities; and you will state to the Marquis de Loulé, that Her Majesty's Government trust that the Portuguese Government will take such steps as they may deem best calculated to ensure to this individual, and to the other parties who may be implicated in this case, the punishment which their crimes so richly deserve.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 270.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Paget.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 26, 1857.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Gabriel, the Acting British Commissioner at Loanda,* in reply to one which I addressed to him, inclosing a copy of the answer of the Portuguese Government to the representation which, in conformity with my instructions, Mr. Howard addressed to the Marquis de Loulé on the 3rd of January last, respecting the proceedings of the Board of Protection established at Loanda, in the case of the slave Fabião, and in the matter of the loan made by that Board to the Colonial Government, for the purpose of enabling them to carry out the expedition to the mines of Encoge.

And I have to instruct you to take an opportunity of bringing to the notice of the Marquis de Loulé the statements contained in Mr. Gabriel's despatch with regard to the non-payment of the interest on the loan made by the Board of Protection to the Colonial Government; and with regard also to the non-receipt by the Colonial authorities of any instructions in the case of the slave Fabião.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 271.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Paget.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 31, 1857.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 25th of August last, I inclose, for your information, the accompanying copies of a despatch, and its inclosures, from Mr. Gabriel, the Acting British Commissioner at Loanda,† reporting the result of the legal proceedings instituted at Benguella against the parties implicated in the shipment of slaves on board the American brig "*P. Solé*," at Lucira, in December 1855.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 272.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Paget.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 31, 1857.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, copies of a despatch and its inclosures from Mr. Gabriel, the Acting British Commissioner at Loanda,‡ relative to the proceedings of the Commander of the Portuguese brig-of-war "*Villa Flor*," in the Congo river.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

* Class A, No. 98.

† Ibid., No. 99.

‡ Ibid., No. 100.

No. 273.

Mr. Paget to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 3.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, October 26, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship, herewith, a copy of a note which I have addressed to the Marquis de Loulé in execution of the instruction contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 16th instant, relative to the claim put forward by Senhor Julio Candido Pereira Cabral, who is acting as Second Judge of the Court of Relação at Loanda, to be admitted as Portuguese Arbitrator in the Mixed Commission, in virtue of the Decree of His Most Faithful Majesty of the 30th December, 1852.

Viscount Sá da Bandeira leads me to expect that the answer of the Portuguese Government on this subject will be in accordance with the views and wishes of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 273.

Mr. Paget to the Marquis de Loulé.

M. le Ministre,

Lisbon, October 22, 1857.

WITH reference to the note which Mr. Howard addressed to your Excellency on the 15th of June last, relative to a proposal made by the Governor-General of Angola to Mr. Gabriel, Her Majesty's Acting Commissioner at Loanda, that the Judge and Secretary of the newly-created Court of Relação at Loanda should, on the occasion of their installation into those offices, be, at the same time, sworn in respectively as Portuguese Commissioner and Secretary of the British and Portuguese Mixed Commission, established at Loanda under the provisions of the Treaty of the 3rd of July, 1842, between Great Britain and Portugal for the suppression of the Slave Trade, and containing the views of Her Majesty's Government on this subject; I have the honour to inform your Excellency, by direction of the Earl of Clarendon, that a further despatch has been received from Mr. Gabriel, inclosing copies of a correspondence which has passed between him and the Governor-General of Angola relative to a claim put forward by Senhor Julio Candido Pereira Cabral, who is acting as Second Judge of the Court of Relação at Loanda, to be admitted as Portuguese Arbitrator in the Mixed Commission, in virtue of the Decree of His Most Faithful Majesty of the 30th of December, 1852, in which Mr. Gabriel again puts forward the objections to the admission of an officer of the Court of Relação to posts in the Mixed Commission without having received any diploma from the Crown of Portugal.

I have, therefore, been instructed to call the attention of His Most Faithful Majesty's Government to Mr. Howard's note of the 15th of June, above mentioned, to which no answer has yet been returned; and I am at the same time to request that a decision may be come to in conformity with the views therein expressed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 274.

Mr. Paget to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 3.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, October 26, 1857.

WITH reference to Mr. Howard's despatch of the 24th of March last, and to his previous correspondence on the subject of the Portuguese schooner "*Locomotora*," which put into St. Ubes from stress of weather, and was there seized on suspicion of being engaged in the Slave Trade, I have the honour of inclosing to your Lordship, herewith, a translation of the sentence passed by the Judge of the Court at St. Ubes upon the captain and crew of that vessel.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 274.

Sentence in the case of the Schooner "Locomotora."

(Translation.)

THEREFORE in view of what has been stated, and what is further shown by the Minutes, considering that no judicial or reasonable foundation can be attached to the argument brought forward in the defence, that the captain of the vessel in question, not having been met with to the south of the twentieth degree of north latitude, and within 200 miles from the continent of Africa, no penalty can therefore attach to the said captain and crew, according to the provisions of the 15th Article of the Decree of 10th December, 1836; inasmuch as such an admission would lead us to the judicial absurdity of the legislator, besides rejecting the proofs in common law, not wishing to punish, except in the above hypothesis, those engaged in the Slave Trade, notwithstanding the most abundant proofs against them, including that of finding slaves on board of a vessel; when, on the contrary, not only the provisions of the above-mentioned Decree, but also those of the Decrees of the 3rd and 25th of July, 1842, with other Laws, clearly showing that the legislators sought to repress, and to punish severely, this shameful offence, under any form that it might occur; and further, knowing the difficulty of obtaining proof against similar offences, they contented themselves with less positive proofs; otherwise they would not have arrived at the desired result, there being so little doubt of this, that Article IX of the Treaty of 3rd July, 1842, between Portugal and Great Britain stipulates that should one or more of certain presumptions or indications of the Slave Trade be met with on board of any vessel, such as, among others, a greater quantity of rice, or other articles than that required for the ostensible and stated voyage (this being the case with the "*Locomotora*," as is shown), such vessel shall be condemned and declared to be a lawful prize, excepting when clear and unquestionably true and satisfactory proofs to the contrary can be furnished by the captain or owners to the Judges (which is certainly not the case, in our opinion, with the present offenders); it being, moreover, certain that the Decree of 10th December, 1836, in Article 9, § 5, contains provisions which completely do away with such inconsistency:

Considering that it is proved that the schooner "*Locomotora*" left Oporto for the coast of Africa on a slave-trading voyage:

Considering that the accused João José Rato was the captain and commander of the said schooner, and sailed in her from Oporto, on 31st December, 1856, for the criminal purpose of trading in slaves; having commenced carrying out his project, which was put off through circumstances beyond his control:

Considering that the same João José Rato, captain of the schooner "*Locomotora*," robbed the greater part of the effects which had belonged to the murdered Frenchman, Francisco Lecrampe, to the value of 200 milreis:

Considering that the seaman Agostinho Ferreira took part in the murder of the above-mentioned Frenchman, Francisco Lecrampe, and further that he was found on board of the schooner "*Locomotora*," bound on a slave-trading voyage:

Considering that the seaman Aurelio Pinto Soares and Manuel Cansella were also on board the said schooner, as seamen, when they were arrested in this town, where they had been some time, and knowing that they were going on a slave-trading voyage to the coast of Africa:

Considering that when an offender is convicted of many offences, the highest penalty alone is imposed upon him (Article 1173 of the "*Novissima Reforma Judiciaria*"), I hereby give judgment, in accordance with No. 10 of Article IX, and with Article XXI of the Treaty of 3rd July, 1842, between Portugal and Great Britain, and condemn the schooner "*Locomotora*" as a lawful prize, to be entirely broken up, and sold in parts, the proceeds to be applied as stipulated in Article XI of said Treaty, and Articles II and VI of the Annex B, regulating the execution of said Treaty, by the two Contracting Powers, after paying the expenses mentioned in Article II of the said Annex B, excepting in the event of either of the two Governments wishing to purchase her for the Royal navy, the Government of the captors having the preference, and in this case the proceeds of the said schooner shall have the same application; I condemn the accused João José Rato, captain of the schooner "*Locomotora*," in accordance with Article XV of the said Treaty, and the Decree of 25th July of that year, declaring the Slave Trade to be classed as piracy, and punished as in Article 162 of the Penal Code, to public labour for life, beyond the sea, and to the fine of two years, according to Article 41 of the said Code, this fine to be calculated at 120 reis per diem; I condemn the accused Agostinho Ferreira, in accordance with Articles 315 and 19, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6, of the Penal Code, to the penalty of death, to be carried into execution in the public square of Povoá de Varzim; and finally, I condemn the accused Aurelio Pinto Soares and Manuel Cansella, in accordance with Article 19, § 2, of the Decree of 16th December, 1836, to two years' service, without pay, on board of the

ships of the Royal Navy; and all of them to their share of the costs, excepting in case of poverty.

St. Ubes, in Court, October 12, 1857.

(Signed)

JOAO ANTO. RODRIGUEZ DE MIRANDA.

No. 275.

Mr. Paget to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 3.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, October 28, 1857.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 13th of July, addressed to Mr. Howard, and to your despatch of the 16th of July last to myself, relative to the exportation of negroes from the East Coast of Africa to French settlements, I have the honour to transmit herewith a translation of a note which I have received from the Marquis de Loulé in answer to the one which I addressed to his Excellency on the 22nd of July last, which was inclosed in my despatch of the 25th of that month on this subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 275.

The Marquis de Loulé to Mr. Paget.

(Translation.)

Palace, October 26, 1857.

IN reply to the note which, by order of your Government, you were pleased to address to me on the 22nd July last, relative to the exportation of negroes from the East Coast of Africa to the French settlements of Madagascar, under the denomination of colonists and free labourers, which has, it is said, lately taken place on a large scale with the concurrence of the Portuguese authorities, it is my duty to state to you that His Majesty's Government, being truly desirous of putting a stop to the Traffic of Slaves in the Portuguese transmarine possessions, have taken, as Her Britannic Majesty's Government fully admit, every means conducive to this end, and have constantly refused to permit the exportation of negroes from the ports of Mozambique, even under the denomination of free labourers, considering always that such exportation would greatly increase that odious Traffic in the interior of Africa.

Furthermore, the ex-Governor of the Island of Réunion, M. Sarda Garriga, having, in his own name, and in that of M. de Routaunay, another French subject, solicited from His Majesty's Government permission to engage for the said island a certain number of labourers from among the free inhabitants of Inhambane, this request was not only refused, but His Majesty's Government thought proper to issue to the Governor-General of the Province of Mozambique the Portarias of 27th February, 1855, and 30th July, 1856, referred to by the British Commissioners in the Report made by them to their Government, and to which you allude.

The first of these Portarias instructs the Governor-General not to permit any engagement of the nature of that proposed, and the second, which is published in the "Diario do Governo," No. 181 of the 2nd of August, 1856, strictly enforces and reiterates these instructions.

It has even been requested of the Government of His Majesty the Emperor of the French, that in conformity with the measures taken by His Majesty's Government, they would be pleased to instruct the Governor of the Island of Réunion not to admit in that island any colonists from Mozambique.

His Majesty's Government further refused to the Governor-General of this province the permission which he requested for sending some free negroes, not only to that island, but even to the Mauritius, in order that they might there learn the culture of the sugar-cane, and of other colonial products.

The proposal made by the Steam Navigation Company between Réunion, the Mauritius, and Aden, for sending one of the steamers to Mozambique monthly to conduct the official correspondence gratuitously to Europe, in return for the privilege of engaging negro labourers for those islands, was likewise rejected by His Majesty's Government.

His Majesty's Government therefore experienced great satisfaction on learning that the Government of His Majesty the Emperor of the French had issued orders in strict

conformity with their wishes, inasmuch as the Governor-General of Mozambique reports, under date of the 14th July of this year, that Captain Méguet, in command of the French naval forces in those seas, had assured the said Governor-General that, as the exportation of negroes from that province was not permitted, even as free labourers, no vessels of his nation should go and fetch them, and that if they had hitherto done so, it was under the impression entertained by his Government that such a course was not objected to.

In bringing the above statement to your knowledge, in order that you may be pleased to lay it before your Government, it is my duty further to inform you that the Minister of Marine tells me that the new Governor-General of Mozambique has received positive instructions to prevent the renewal of the Slave Trade, under any denomination whatsoever, and to proceed in the most summary manner against all those who do not obey his orders in this respect; His Majesty's Government being firmly resolved to adopt every means for causing a strict compliance with their orders.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) MARQUIS DE LOULE.

No. 276.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Paget.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 7, 1857.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 28th ultimo, inclosing a copy of a note from the Portuguese Minister for Foreign Affairs, informing you of the steps which have been taken by the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty, with the view to prevent the exportation of negroes from the Portuguese Possessions on the East Coast of Africa, whether under the denomination of free labourers, or in any other character; and I have, in reply, to instruct you to express to the Marquis de Loulé the great satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt the humane and vigorous measures taken by the Portuguese Government in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 277.

Mr. Paget to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 14.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, November 7, 1857.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 16th of October, I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship a translation of a note which I have received from the Marquis de Loulé, in answer to that which, in compliance with your Lordship's instructions, I addressed to his Excellency on the 22nd ultimo, relative to the capture of the American barque "*Splendid*" by the Portuguese war-schooner "*Cabo Verde*."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 277.

The Marquis de Loulé to Mr. Paget.

(Translation.)

Palace, October 31, 1857.

I HAD the honour to receive the note which you were pleased to address to me on the 22nd instant, making known to me, by order of your Government, an extract from a despatch of the British Commissioner at Loanda, relating to the capture of the American barque "*Splendid*" by the Portuguese war-schooner "*Cabo Verde*," and to the arrest of the slave-trader Pedro da Cunha, who, it appears, landed from the said barque.

I have to state to you that after perusal of your above-mentioned note, I have, under yesterday's date, brought before the Minister of Marine the remarks on this subject which you have made by instructions of your Government, and I have, on my part, to express to you the satisfaction of His Majesty's Government at seeing that Her Britannic Majesty's Government do justice to the service rendered by the Portuguese cruisers.

Awaiting a further occasion to address you with reference to the measures to be adopted towards the accomplices of this undertaking, I avail, &c.

(Signed) MARQUIS DE LOULE.

No. 278.

Mr. Paget to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 24.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, November 13, 1857.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 26th of October, I have the honour to inform you that I have taken an opportunity of bringing under the notice of the Marquis de Loulé and of Viscount Sá da Bandeira, the observations contained in Mr. Gabriel's despatch of the 15th of May, relative to the non-payment of the interest on the loan made by the Board of Protection to the Colonial Government, and also with regard to the non-receipt by the Colonial authorities of any instructions in the case of the slave Fabião.

On the first question, Viscount de Sá replied that it was one which concerned exclusively the Portuguese Government, but that he could assure me that that interest would be duly paid. I said, in reply to this, that as the Board of Protection was established for a common object, which the two Governments had equally in view, if the funds at its disposal were turned aside from the purposes to which they were destined to be applied, then the intentions of the two Governments would be defeated, and we, as a party interested, had a right to point out the irregularity.

With regard to the slave Fabião, as the Viscount de Sá had but an indistinct recollection of what had taken place, I propose, if I do not, in the course of a few days, receive any answer to a note which, in execution of your Lordship's instructions, contained in a despatch dated the 31st of July, I addressed to the Marquis de Loulé on the 11th of August last, to bring the case again under the notice of the Portuguese Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 279.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Paget.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 5, 1857.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 13th ultimo, I have to acquaint you that I approve the language held by you to the Viscount de Sá da Bandeira, in the conversation which you had with his Excellency on the subject of the non-payment of the interest on the loan made by the Board of Protection to the Colonial Government at Loanda. I shall also approve of your again calling the attention of the Portuguese Government to the case of the slave Fabião, in the event of your not receiving an answer to the note on this case, which you addressed to the Marquis de Loulé in the month of August last.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 280.

Mr. Paget to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 7.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, November 28, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Commissioner at Loanda, which reached me under flying seal on the 25th instant, by the Portuguese brig-of-war "Cabo Verde."

The Marquis de Loulé has informed me that he intends to write to London by this mail on the subject of the communications which the Portuguese Government have received from the Governor of Loanda by this vessel.

I have caused a copy of Mr. Gabriel's despatch to be made for the archives of this Legation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 281.

Mr. Paget to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 12.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, December 7, 1857.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 17th of November, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a translation of a note which I have received from the Marquis de Loulé, stating that His Most Faithful Majesty had been pleased to appoint the Secretary of the Court of Appeal at Loanda, Antonio Urbano Perreira de Castro, to the post of Secretary to the Portuguese and British Mixed Commission established at that place by virtue of the Treaty of the 3rd of July, 1842.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 281.

The Marquis de Loulé to Mr. Paget.

(Translation.)

Palace, November 25, 1857.

IN addition to the note which I addressed to you on the 10th instant, I have the honour to acquaint you, for the information of your Government, that His Majesty the King has been pleased to appoint the Secretary of the Court of Appeal at Loanda, Antonio Urbano Perreira de Castro, to the post of Secretary to the Portuguese and British Mixed Commission, established at that place by virtue of the Treaty of the 3rd of July, 1842, as he possesses the qualifications required by Article 75 of the Decree with force of law, of 30th December, 1852.

Awaiting the opportunity to inform you of the appointment of Arbiter of the above-mentioned Mixed Commission, I avail, &c.

(Signed) MARQUIS DE LOULE.

No. 282.

Mr. Paget to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 24.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, December 18, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 5th instant, and with reference to the last paragraph of it, to inform you that I did, on the 21st of November last, address a note to the Marquis de Loulé, calling his Excellency's attention to a former note which I addressed to him on the 11th of August, respecting the case of the slave Fabião, and requesting to know what steps had been taken by His Most Faithful Majesty's Government in this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 283.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 4, 1858.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a despatch from Mr. Mc Leod, Her Majesty's Consul at Mozambique,* inclosing copies of a correspondence which has passed between him and the Governor-General of Mozambique, relative to the Slave Trade which is stated to be carried on from the Portuguese possessions on the East Coast of Africa with the sanction of the Portuguese authorities.

Her Majesty's Government have reason to believe that the proceedings of the Portuguese authorities in this matter are contrary to the wishes and in defiance of the orders of the Portuguese Government; but I have to instruct you to call the serious attention of the Portuguese Government to the state of things as represented by Mr. Mc Leod, and you

will suggest to the Portuguese Ministers that a searching inquiry should be made into the proceedings which have taken place at Mozambique in connection with the Slave Trade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 284.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January 5, 1858.*
IN the correspondence which passed between Mr. McLeod, Her Majesty's Consul at Mozambique, and the Portuguese Governor-General of that Colony, copies of which are inclosed in my despatch of the 4th instant, mention is made of a vessel called the "*Minnetonka*," having shipped a cargo of 1,200 slaves, which she obtained at Ibo.

I now inclose a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul-General in Cuba,* by which you will perceive that this vessel has not only landed her cargo of slaves safely in that island, but that she has sailed again on a fresh slave-trading expedition; and I have to instruct you to bring these facts to the knowledge of the Portuguese Government as an additional reason why a searching investigation should be instituted into the proceedings of the Portuguese authorities on the East Coast of Africa.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 285.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, January 6, 1858.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, copies of a despatch from Rear-Admiral Sir Frederick Grey, and of a report from the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "*Hermes*,"† relative to the Slave Trade which is carried on from the Portuguese possessions on the East Coast of Africa.

I also inclose a copy of a letter which, by my directions, has been addressed to the Admiralty relative to the manner in which the dhows or native vessels are to be dealt with which may be found exporting slaves from any part of the African coast situate within the territories claimed by Portugal on the East Coast of Africa.

Inclosure in No. 285.

The Earl of Shelburne to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 5, 1858.

I HAVE laid before the Earl of Clarendon your letter of the 28th ultimo, transmitting copies of a despatch and its inclosure from Rear-Admiral the Hon. Sir F. Grey, relative to the Slave Trade which is carried on from the Portuguese Possessions on the East Coast of Africa; and in reply to your request to be informed as to the manner in which the dhows or native vessels are to be dealt with, which may be found with slaves on board, I am to request that you will state to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that Lord Clarendon is of opinion that any native craft which may be found exporting slaves from any part of the African coast lying within the territory claimed by Portugal, viz., between Cape Delgado on the north, and the Bay of Lourenço Marques on the south, ought properly to be sent to the Cape of Good Hope to be adjudicated before the Mixed British and Portuguese Commission established in that Colony.

But if, owing to the unseaworthiness of the vessels, or from other causes, it may not be practicable to pursue this course, then his Lordship thinks that they might, as suggested by Rear-Admiral Grey, be sent to Mozambique, to be dealt with by the Portuguese authorities; but it would be preferable that the slaves should, if possible, be sent to the Cape of Good Hope, because if landed at Mozambique, there is no machinery in that Colony for their proper supervision, and there would be no security that they might not be again

* No. 467.

† Class A, No. 185, and Inclosure.

kidnapped and sold into slavery, whereas if sent to the Cape they would be properly looked after by the Mixed Commission, and their liberty would be assured.

I am to add, that it is very important that measures should be adopted to put a stop to the exportation of slaves which is carried on in native vessels from the East Coast of Africa to Madagascar and to other places in the Mozambique Channel, from whence they are reshipped to Cuba, or as free emigrants to Bourbon; for if some steps are not taken to put a stop to this Traffic, it will soon assume large proportions, and any good which may have been effected in the suppression of the Slave Trade on the Western Coast, will be neutralized by an increased export of slaves from the East Coast, to which the slave-dealers will transfer their operations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SHELBURNE.

No. 286.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 8, 1858.

MR. PAGET, in his despatch dated the 28th of November last, forwarded to me a despatch which had reached him under flying seal, from Mr. Gabriel, Her Majesty's Acting Commissioner at Loanda, reporting the proceedings of French agents in the Congo river, and the language held by the Governor of Angola to the French Commodore on the subject of the French scheme for procuring Africans to be exported as free labourers to the French West India Colonies.

I now inclose, for your information, a copy of the answer which I have returned to Mr. Gabriel's despatch,* and in order that the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty may be in complete possession of the views of Her Majesty's Government regarding the proceedings of the French on the African coast, I inclose also a copy of the Memorandum referred to in my despatch to Mr. Gabriel,† which has been drawn up in this Department, and sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, for communication to the Government of the Emperor.

I transmit also a copy of a despatch which I addressed on the 19th of October last to Lord Cowley,‡ on the subject of the proceedings of French agents on the African coast; and I have to instruct you to communicate copies of these papers to the Portuguese Government, and in doing so you will, at the same time, express to the Marquis de Loulé the great satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt the proceedings and language of the Governor-General of Angola, regarding this French scheme, as reported in the despatch from Mr. Gabriel, which was forwarded to me by Mr. Paget.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 287.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 8, 1858.

WITH reference to my despatches of the 4th, 5th, and 6th instant, I inclose, for your information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Commissioners at the Cape of Good Hope,§ relative to the Slave Trade which is carried on from the Portuguese Possessions on the East Coast of Africa; and I have to instruct you to make use of the information contained in this despatch, in the representation which you will address to the Portuguese Government on the subject of the Slave Trade proceedings of the authorities at Mozambique.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

* Class A, No. 120.

† Inclosure in No. 175.
§ Class A, No. 63.

‡ No. 167.

No. 288.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January 13, 1858.*
 I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch from Mr. Gabriel, Her Majesty's Acting Commissioner at Loanda,* inclosing copies of a correspondence which has passed between him and the Governor-General of Angola on the subject of the proceedings of the Portuguese Prize Court at Loanda, in selling entire, by auction, a dongo or native boat recently captured with slaves on board by the Portuguese brig "Carvalho."

I also inclose a copy of a further despatch from Mr. Gabriel,† reporting the publication, in the official "Boletim" of Angola, of the Portaria addressed on the 30th of May last by the Portuguese Minister of Marine to the Governor-General of Angola, by which that officer was directed to carry out the provisions of the Decree of the 10th of September, 1846, which enacts that the hulls of condemned slave-vessels shall be broken up immediately after condemnation and sold in separate parts.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 289.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 24.)

(Extract.)

Lisbon, January 17, 1858.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatches of the 4th, 5th, 6th, and 8th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the note which, in compliance with your Lordship's instructions, I yesterday addressed to the Marquis de Loulé, calling the serious attention of the Portuguese Government to the Traffic in Slaves which is stated to be carried on from the Portuguese Possessions on the East Coast of Africa with the sanction of the Portuguese authorities, and suggesting to that Government that a searching inquiry should be made into the proceedings which have taken place at Mozambique in connection with the Slave Trade.

At interviews which I had on the 15th instant with the Marquis de Loulé and the Viscount de Sá da Bandeira, I announced to them my intended communication, and requested the favour of their special attention to it.

Viscount de Sá adverted, as a proof of the anxiety of the Portuguese Government to put down the Slave Trade in the Province of Mozambique, to the recent recall of the late Governor-General, Senhor Menezes, on account of the want of energy he had shown in its suppression, and repeated to me the confidence which he entertained, and which he had on previous occasions expressed to me, in the firm determination of the new Governor-General, Colonel Tavares d'Almeida, to do everything in his power to extinguish the Traffic. His Excellency stated that Colonel d'Almeida had been directed to transfer the Governor of Ibo St. Neves to Sofalla, and to institute an inquiry into the affair of the shipment of negroes who, under the denomination of free labourers, have been transported to the Island of Réunion.

His Excellency likewise informed me that, in consequence of the intelligence from Mozambique relative to the Slave Trade, the Portuguese naval station there is to be augmented by two cruizers.

Inclosure in No. 289.

Mr. Howard to the Marquis de Loulé.

M. le Ministre,

Lisbon, January 16, 1858.

IN compliance with the instructions of Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I have the honour of bringing under your Excellency's notice the following information which has reached Her Majesty's Government, relative to the Slave Trade which is stated to be carried on upon the East Coast of Africa, with the apparent concurrence of the official Agents of the Portuguese Government.

* Class A, No. 113.

† Ibid., No. 122.

According to a despatch dated the 3rd of October, 1857, addressed to the Earl of Clarendon by Mr. McLeod, Her Majesty's Consul at Mozambique, and to the correspondence inclosed therein, between that functionary and the Governor-General Menezes, it appears that on or about the 1st of July of last year, a barque engaged, as your Excellency will presently perceive, in the Slave Trade, called the "*Minnetonka*," under American colours, anchored off Barrow Hill, at which time the Portuguese schooner of war "*Zambesi*" was at anchor inside the bar of Inhambane harbour; that the next morning the "*Zambesi*" crossed the bar, and, under easy sail, stood towards the vessel at anchor off Barrow Hill; that the said vessel lowered a boat, and that this boat, with a crew of four men, and under the command of the boatswain of the barque, went alongside of the "*Zambesi*," when the boatswain went on board and entered into conversation with the captain of the "*Zambesi*" and another person, who was a passenger; that, shortly afterwards, the "*Zambesi*" hoisted a white flag at the foretop-gallant-mast-head, and a similar one at the end of her gaff, as a signal to the barque, which immediately slipped from her anchor and stood to sea; that the "*Zambesi*" then shaped her course for the Bayouto Islands. The person on board the "*Zambesi*," who communicated with the boatswain of the barque, was Senhor Leotti, ex-Governor of Inhambane.

Mr. Consul McLeod likewise refers, in this correspondence, to the information which had reached him of the shipment from Ibo, of slaves in Spanish vessels, for the Havana, and of negroes, under the denomination of free labourers, in French vessels to the Island of Réunion; and he calls upon the Governor-General to dismiss the Governor of Ibo, with whose sanction, it is affirmed, these shipments took place—a request, however, with which the Governor-General did not think himself authorized to comply, pending an inquiry.

These circumstances were brought under the notice of the Governor-General Menezes by Her Majesty's Consul at Mozambique, in a letter dated the 1st of September, and his Excellency stated, in reply, that he had caused both the captain of the "*Zambesi*" and Senhor Leotti to be arrested, and that they would be tried before the proper tribunals. It appears, however, in a subsequent letter, that although the captain of the "*Zambesi*" had been arrested, Senhor Leotti was still at large.

His Excellency likewise informed Mr. Consul McLeod, in reply to his representations, that he had appointed official agents to make inquiries as to what had taken place in Inhambane and Ibo; but afterwards said that these agents would not proceed on their mission, in consequence of letters which he had received from the Procureur du Roi and the Juge de Droit. On what grounds did these persons interfere with the mission of the agents above alluded to?

According to the assertion of Mr. McLeod there is reason to believe that one of these officers, at all events, was interested in the concealment of the truth respecting slave-dealing transactions at Ibo; and if this should be the case, a heavy responsibility would certainly attach to the Governor-General Menezes, for having departed from his original intention of appointing special officers to inquire into the suspicious circumstances brought under his notice by Mr. McLeod.

Her Majesty's Commissioners at the Cape of Good Hope report, in a despatch dated the 31st of October, 1857, that the barque "*Minnetonka*," under American colours, had called off Natal on the 21st of June, and that they have reason to believe that she left Ibo in the beginning of July with a cargo of 1,200 slaves. Her safe arrival, and the landing of her cargo in the Island of Cuba, is reported by Her Majesty's Acting Consul-General, in a despatch dated Havana, November 30, 1857, and he adds that she has again left that island for the East Coast of Africa, on a fresh slave-trading expedition.

Mr. Consul McLeod has been informed that no less than 14,000 slaves had left the Province of Mozambique within the three months preceding the date of his despatch, and he does not hesitate to assert that this has taken place with the connivance of the Portuguese authorities, but Her Majesty's Government believe in defiance of the orders of the Portuguese Government.

In view, however, of these circumstances above alluded to, Her Majesty's Government trust, and I am instructed by the Earl of Clarendon to suggest this course, that His Most Faithful Majesty's Government will cause a searching inquiry to be made into the proceedings which have taken place at Mozambique in connection with the Slave Trade.

In connection with this subject, there is also another point mentioned in the Reports of Rear-Admiral Sir F. Grey, to which it may not be inexpedient to call the attention of the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty, and that is, the increased Traffic which takes place in slaves, in the native boats or dhows, from the coast of Mozambique to the Comoro Islands, and to ports in Madagascar frequented by French ships, and which the

late Governor-General of Mozambique, Menezes, stated he had not sufficient power to repress. The slaves thus transported are afterwards sold to French and other dealers.

His Most Faithful Majesty's Government will, therefore, no doubt also deem it advisable to recommend to the new Governor-General of Mozambique, Senhor Almeida, the utmost vigilance, with a view to the suppression of this illicit Traffic.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

No. 290.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 24.)

(Extract.)

Lisbon, January 17, 1858.

THE inclosed is a copy of the note which I yesterday addressed to the Marquis de Loulé, communicating to him confidentially, in compliance with your Lordship's instructions, for the information of the Portuguese Government, copies of the various papers relative to the proceedings of the French agents on the African coast in connection with the Slave Trade, either referred to or transmitted to me in your Lordship's despatch of the 8th instant.

Inclosure in No. 290.

Mr. Howard to the Marquis de Loulé.

M. le Ministre,

Lisbon, January 16, 1858.

IN compliance with the instructions which I have received from the Earl of Clarendon, I have the honour of inclosing to your Excellency, for the information of His Most Faithful Majesty's Government, the following papers:—

1. A copy of a despatch to his Lordship of the 1st of October last, from Mr. Gabriel, Her Majesty's Acting Commissioner at Loanda, reporting the proceedings of French Agents in the Congo river, and the language held by the Governor-General of Angola to the French Commodore on the subject of the French scheme for procuring Africans, to be exported as free labourers to the French West India Colonies.

2. A copy of the answer of the 19th of December last, returned by Lord Clarendon to Mr. Gabriel's despatch.

3. A copy of the Memorandum referred to in his Lordship's despatch to Mr. Gabriel, which has been drawn up in Her Majesty's Department for Foreign Affairs, and sent to Lord Cowley, Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, for communication to the Government of the Emperor of the French; and

4. A copy of a despatch addressed by Lord Clarendon on the 19th of October last to that Ambassador on the subject of the proceedings of French Agents on the African coast.

In making this communication to your Excellency, I am directed by Lord Clarendon to express the great satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt the proceedings and language of the Governor-General of Angola, regarding this French scheme, as reported in Mr. Gabriel's above-named despatch of the 1st of October last.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

No. 291.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 28, 1858.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 17th instant, I have to acquaint you that I approve the note which, in compliance with my instructions, you addressed to the Marquis de Loulé, calling the attention of the Portuguese Government to the Slave Trade which is stated to be carried on from the Portuguese possessions on the East Coast of Africa.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 292.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, January 28, 1858.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 17th instant, I have to acquaint you that I approve the note which you addressed to the Portuguese Government, communicating copies of the various papers referred to in my despatch of the 8th instant, relative to the proceedings of the French agents on the African coast in connection with the Slave Trade.

No. 293.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 3.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, January 25, 1858.

A PORTARIA, signed by the Viscount de Sá da Bandeira on the 11th instant, and published in the "Diario do Governo" of the 21st instant, signifies the commands of His Majesty the King of Portugal that, in view of the manner in which the Counsellor José Rodriguez Coelho do Amaral has discharged the functions of Governor-General of the Province of Angola, he shall continue in the exercise of those functions for the term of three years, and beyond that period until His Majesty shall decree the contrary.

The zeal which Senhor Amaral has displayed in the suppression of the Slave Trade renders the prolongation of his term of office a subject of interest and satisfaction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

No. 294.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 3.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, January 26, 1858.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 19th of December, 1856,* transmitting a translation of a Royal Decree of the 3rd of that month and year, abolishing in the territories of the Province of Angola, the forced labour called "serviço de carregadores" ("service of carriers"), and other forced service, till then exacted from the free negroes; I have the honour of inclosing a translation of a Portaria addressed on the 19th instant by the Viscount de Sá da Bandeira to the Governor-General of Angola, and published in the "Diario do Governo" of the 21st instant, directing that the forced labour called "service of carriers," having been abolished by the above-mentioned Decree, the term "carriers," taken in the sense of involuntary service, was also implicitly abolished by the same Decree, and therefore that this term ought no longer to be used in official documents, and fixing the amount of remuneration to the several Chiefs for the payment of the men in their service.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

Inclosure in No. 294.

Portaria.

(Translation.)

HIS Majesty the King having had submitted to him the despatch No. 1004, dated 13th November of last year, in which the Board of Finance of the Province of Angola submits for the Royal approval the determination taken in the Session of the 9th of October of the same year, to allow 50 reis per diem to the heads of the districts for payment of the carriers ("carregadores") so-called "of the Gate," His Majesty commands that, through the Marine and Colonial Department, it be declared to the Governor-General of the said Province, for the information of the above-mentioned Board,—first, that the forced labour called "service of carriers" having been abolished by Decree of the 3rd November, 1856, the term "carriers," taken in the sense of involuntary service, was also implicitly abolished by the same Decree, and that, therefore, this term ought no longer to be used in official

* Class B, presented 1857, No. 414.

documents; secondly, that the amount of remuneration to each Chief for payment of the men in their service, in accordance with the Portaria of the Governor-General, No. 623, of the 31st of October last, shall be, as voted by the Board of Finance, and now approved by His Majesty, that of 200 reis per diem to each one of the Chiefs of the Bar of the Bengo, of the Bar of the Dande, of Bumbo, Calumbo, Calumbella, Dande Alto, Dembos, Dombe Grande, Egypto, Gambos, Icollo e Bengo, Libouge, Muxima, Novo Redondo, Quilhengues, and Zeuza do Galungo; and the amount of 300 reis per diem to each one of the other Chiefs of Ambaca, Cambambe, Caconda, Cazengo, Duque de Bragança, Encoge, Huilla, Massangano, Pungo-Andongo, and Talla-Muzongo. His Majesty hereby commands that the said Governor-General shall cause to be applied, without repeal, the penalties enacted in Article 5 of the said Decree, to any authority who may infringe the provisions of the said Decree of 3rd November, 1856, and that he shall transmit, without delay, to the above-mentioned Department, a detailed report as to the manner in which these provisions have been carried into effect in the Province which he administers.

Palace, January 19, 1858.

(Signed) SA DA BANDEIRA.

No. 295.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 3.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, January 26, 1858.

I BEG to inform your Lordship that I have received a note of the 20th instant from the Marquis de Loulé, thanking me for the communication which I made to him by my note of the 16th instant (a copy of which was inclosed in my despatch of the 17th instant), of the various papers relative to the proceedings of the French agents on the African coast in connection with the Slave Trade, referred to in your Lordship's despatch of the 8th instant, and stating his communication to the Minister of Marine of their contents, as well as of the satisfactory manner in which the conduct of the Governor-General of Angola in this matter had been appreciated by Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

No. 296.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 3.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, January 28, 1858.

THE official journal of this day contains a Portaria, issued by the Viscount Sá da Bandeira, under date of the 26th instant, to the Governor-General of the Cape de Verd Islands, instructing him, by command of His Majesty, to furnish letters of enfranchisement to a certain negro called Pedro, if found to be the same man who, together with another negro called José, had been brought to the Archipelago as free men, by Major Francisco Alberto de Azevedo, in the year 1845, and who had enfranchised the negro José in December 1856, retaining, however, his companion in bondage. The Governor is further instructed to notify to the said Major Azevedo to present documentary proof that the negro called Pedro is legally his slave, in order that he may be paid his just value by the Board of Guardians; but that failing to bring forward such proof, he will not only forfeit all right to any compensation, but will be amenable to the action of the laws in force against those who retain persons of free condition, in bondage.

Another Portaria, dated the 27th instant, and also addressed to the above-mentioned Governor-General, conveys to him the expressions of Royal approval of his conduct in having, by various means, obtained the enfranchisement of about 100 slaves in the Windward Islands; thus aiding in carrying out one of the most anxious desires of his Government, viz., the entire abolition of slavery in all the Portuguese dominions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

No. 297.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 12.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, February 5, 1858

WITH reference to Sir Richard Pakenham's despatch of the 8th of January, 1855, transmitting a translation of the Royal Decree of the 14th of December of the preceding year, for the registration and partial emancipation of slaves in the Portuguese Colonial possessions, I have the honour of inclosing a translation of a Portaria issued by the Viscount Sá da Bandeira on the 18th ultimo, and published in the "Diario do Governo" of the 29th ultimo, in reply to a despatch of the 12th of October, 1856, from the President of the Board of Guardians of Slaves and Liberated Negroes at Angola, requesting information upon various points connected with the interpretation of the above-mentioned Decree.

The interpretations of the Decree contained in this Portaria appear to me to be greatly to the benefit of the negroes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

Inclosure in No. 297.

Portaria.

(Translation.)

HIS Majesty the King, having seen the despatch addressed on the 12th October, 1856, to this Department of Marine and Colonies, by the President of the Board of Guardians of Slaves and Liberated Negroes at Angola, the said despatch, with the documents annexed, serving as a report of the first year's operations of the Board, and referring, among other subjects, to the following:—

1. To the enjoyment of full liberty granted by the Board, to 32 liberated negroes, who were considered as such before the Board was established.
2. To the adoption, by the Board, of the system of establishing the liberated negroes under its charge, in an agricultural colony, in preference to placing them in service with private individuals.
3. Requesting information upon certain points relating to the liberation of slaves.
4. Upon the power of the Board, in cases specified in § 1, Article 16, of the Decree of 14th December, 1854, to call upon the owners of slaves, and to admonish them.
5. To the interpretation of the provisions of Article 29 of the Decree, with reference to the guardianship of liberated negroes, in special cases pointed out.
6. As to how the slaves belonging to fresh conquests are to be dealt with.
7. To the circumstance of having furnished the means to two liberated negroes for their education, as they had evinced a capacity for pursuing their literary studies.
8. With reference to measures for baptizing all slaves that are unbaptized.
9. Suggesting the convenience of causing the slaves and free negroes of the city to dress in the European style, and that among the natives the Portuguese language should be spoken, in order gradually to civilize them.

In reply, His Majesty commands it to be declared, through the said Department, to the Board of Guardians of Slaves and Liberated Negroes of the Province of Angola:—

1. That he signifies his Royal approval of the conduct of the Board with reference to the 32 liberated negroes, in its report, as capable of conducting their own affairs, inasmuch as it being the duty of the Board to exercise the guardianship over said liberated negroes, according to Article 12 of the Decree creating it, the duty likewise devolves upon it, of appreciating their capability for emancipation from such guardianship, as set forth in the Regulation of 25th October, 1853, to be followed by the Board, in accordance with Article 30 of the above-mentioned Decree.
2. That, as it is within the attributes of the Board, according to Article 18 of the above Decree, to direct the education of liberated negroes, and to provide for the wants of the necessitous portion of them, it is evident that the Board were acting within those attributes, when establishing these liberated negroes in an agricultural colony.
3. That with reference, first, to a slave who desires to emancipate himself, but whose resources are not adequate to the amount he is valued at; secondly, to a slave having no

money of his own for emancipating himself, but having motives of complaint against his master for unmerited barbarous treatment; and thirdly, with reference to an infant slave, the child of a female slave, offered by his mother's master, when the latter refuses to allow the mother to nurse the child, or in the event of the death of the mother, or when the mother cannot suckle the child; the Portaria of the 31st December, 1856, specifies the means at the disposal of the Board to be applied to liberating slaves; this, with reference to the first-mentioned case: with regard to the other two points, as they are dependent upon the regulation which the Board will have to draw up in accordance with Article 17 of the Decree of its foundation, it becomes the duty of the Board to follow up this object without delay, keeping in view Articles 12 to 16, § 1, 18, and 38, of the Decree of foundation, and No. 5, of Article 15 of the Regulations of 25th October, 1853, as also Article 36 of the above-mentioned Decree, as far as it regards the pecuniary means of which it may be in want; and the Board will always, as far as possible, seek to attend to the rights of the owners of slaves, in order to arrive, with the least possible amount of vexation, at the humane purposes of the Board's foundation; the provisions of Article 24 of the corresponding Decree being perhaps sufficient to regulate the compensation due to owners of slaves, for the loss of the services of such female slaves as are required to nurse their children.

4. That this subject will also form a part of the respective Regulations, keeping in mind that the authority of the Board is not limited to the city of Loanda, nor to the places of residence of its delegates, in order that no provisions may be established which, owing to the distances and to the difficulty of transit, may become oppressive to the people.

5. With reference, first, to the liberty of a minor slave accorded by his master, but keeping him in his power; secondly, to the liberty of a slave granted in the lifetime of the owner, or declaring it in his will, and that he is capable of conducting himself; thirdly, to the liberty of a slave accorded by the master on his being emancipated by his relations: That, by Article 29 of the Decree establishing the Board, all slaves acquiring their liberty, in any way, become liberated negroes, and are therefore subject to the guardianship of the Board, which, in accordance with Article 30, is bound to adopt as its provisional Regulation with regard to liberated negroes, the system of registration, and the rules for administration contained in the instructions of the 25th of October, 1853; and that, keeping in view the humane object of the Decree, viz., to protect slaves, and promote their emancipation and their well-being in the condition of liberated negroes, it is evident that, as regards the first instance, it is to the advantage of the slave, a minor, to continue till he becomes of age in the service of his former master, inasmuch as, if, from affection, and with no interested motive, he granted him his liberty, and wishes to keep him with him, it is to be presumed that he wishes to promote his well-being. That, as regards the second instance, the liberated negro must have the authorisation of the Board for conducting his own affairs (Article 12 of the Decree), this authorisation being provided for in the rules for administration contained in the instructions of the 25th of October, 1853 (Articles 11 and 19, §§ 1 and 28); and, finally, as regards the third and last instance, liberated negroes must be subject to the guardianship of the Board until it grants them the liberty to conduct their own affairs.

6. That the Law of the 5th of July, 1856, provides what is to be done with regard to slaves in fresh conquests.

7. That as, in accordance with the 18th Article of the Decree, it is one of the attributes of the Board to direct the education of liberated negroes, the Board acted well in providing, for the two referred to, the means of devoting themselves to literary pursuits.

And, finally, with reference to the 8th and 9th points: that the Board, and more especially its President, are bound to use every effort in their power to induce the owners of slaves to cause them to enter the pale of the Catholic Church, and to convince them of the benefits they will derive therefrom, and to make known to the people how much it will contribute to the improvement of their social condition to abandon their uncivilized habits and superstitious practices. Towards these ends much will be done by the diffusion of public instruction, as promoted by His Majesty's Government through the beneficial provisions of the Law of the 14th of August, 1845, and through the establishment of primary schools in many settlements and districts; and this will also facilitate the introduction of the Portuguese language among the natives. And His Majesty commands, further, that the negroes under the guardianship of the Board shall dress in the European style.

His Majesty further notifies to the Board of Guardians of Slaves and Liberated Negroes of the Province of Angola that, when the pecuniary means at the disposal of the Board, and within their attributes, are found to be insufficient, the said Board shall submit

to His Majesty's Government such measures as it may think most appropriate for arriving at the desired results.

Palace, January 18, 1858.

(Signed)

SA DA BANDEIRA.

No. 298.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 15.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, February 8, 1858.

MR. PAGET having, in compliance with your Lordship's instructions, communicated to the Marquis de Loulé, in a note of the 13th of October last, a copy of the despatch of the 17th of September last from Her Majesty's Consul at Vigo, inclosed to him in your Lordship's despatch of the 29th of the latter month, respecting the alleged landing, by the Portuguese brig-schooner "*Teodoro*," of a cargo of slaves near Trinidad in the Island of Cuba, I have received from his Excellency the note of the 5th instant, and the report of the Portuguese Vice-Consul at Vigo to the Portuguese Consul-General at Madrid, of which I have the honour of transmitting, herewith, translations, containing all the information which the Portuguese Government have been able to obtain relative to that vessel.

It appears from the Marquis' note, that down to the 12th of January last the "*Teodoro*" had not arrived at Madeira, for which port she is stated to have cleared out from Vigo on the 14th of February, 1857, commanded by Captain Santos.

The Portuguese Vice-Consul at Vigo states that he is not aware that Carlos Lavandeira had sailed in the "*Teodoro*," as captain or otherwise, and that he is a native of that place, where he resides with his wife.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

HENRY F. HOWARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 298.

The Marquis de Loulé to Mr. Howard.

(Translation.)

Palace, February 5, 1858.

HAVING communicated to the Minister of Marine the contents of the note which Mr. Paget sent me under date of the 13th of October last, and of the despatch, a copy of which accompanied it, from the British Consul at Vigo, respecting the destination of the Portuguese brig-schooner "*Teodoro*," at the request of the said Minister I demanded from the proper Consul-General's office all the information that it was possible to obtain relating to the departure of the above-mentioned brig-schooner from the port of Vigo.

Between the information thus received, and that furnished by the said Consul to Her Britannic Majesty's Government, affirming that the vessel in question had landed a cargo of slaves at the Island of Cuba, there exists such disparity that I have thought it right to transmit to you, for the information of your Government, a copy of this report.

On this occasion it becomes my duty to state to you that, from the despatches, now before me, of the Minister of Marine, it appears that the said brig-schooner, then commanded by Francisco José Rodriguez, sailed from Lisbon on the 18th of January of the past year, bound for the Island of St. Michael, and that from the report of the Captain of the Port at Funchal, for which port it is said that this vessel had cleared out from Vigo on the 14th of the month of February following, it is shown that she had not arrived there up to the 12th of January last.

I avail, &c.

(Signed)

MARQUIS DE LOULE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 298.

Senhor Filgueira to the Baron de Horteza.

(Translation.)

Vigo, November 7, 1857.

I RECEIVED the communication dated the 2nd instant, in which you were pleased to transmit to me the despatch of his Excellency the Minister and Secretary of State for

Foreign Affairs, dated 26th of October last, and, in compliance with the same, I have the honour to state to you that at 4 o'clock P.M., on the 12th of February last, the Portuguese brig-schooner "*Teodoro*," Captain Francisco José Rodrigues, of 128 tons burthen, and with a crew of 10 men, entered this port; she sailed from St. Michael's in ballast, for the port of Santander, on the 31st of January. On the 8th of February she met with a violent gale of wind, which damaged part of her bulwarks and sprung her bowsprit; in consequence of this she was forced to put into this port, where the captain fell sick, and delivered up the command of the vessel to Francisco dos Santos, a Portuguese subject, and the firm of Carsi Brothers, of this city, having provided her with some freight for the Island of Madeira, she cleared out for that island on the 14th, commanded by Captain Santos.

I am not aware, nor has it in any way come to my knowledge, that Don Carlos Lavandeira sailed from this port on board of the vessel in question, either as captain or otherwise. Senhor Lavandeira is a native of this city, where he resides with his wife.

This is all that I am enabled to have the honour to report to you with reference to the brig-schooner "*Teodoro*," and this information is taken from the book of protests, and the register of arrivals of vessels, and of ship's manifests, kept at this Consular office.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed)

FRANCISCO FILGUEIRA,

In charge of the Vice-Consulate.

No. 299.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Howard.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 16, 1858.

I INCLOSE, for your information, the accompanying copy of a letter from Captain Lyster, of Her Majesty's ship "*Castor*," to the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's naval forces on the African station,* which has been communicated to me by the Admiralty, containing information respecting his proceedings in the Mozambique Channel, and reporting what passed at a conversation which he had with the Governor-General of Mozambique on the subject of the Slave Trade on the East Coast of Africa, and relative to the proceedings of the French in procuring labourers for the Island of Réunion.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

CLARENDON.

No. 300.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 24.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, February 17, 1858.

THE Viscount de Sá da Bandeira mentioned to me on the 14th instant, that having learnt through the Chevalier Duprat, the Portuguese Commissioner at the Cape of Good Hope, that Admiral Sir Frederick Grey had intimated his intention of giving up to the Portuguese authorities at Mozambique the negroes he might capture off that coast in such native dhows as he might not be able to take to the Cape for adjudication, he would direct the Governor-General of Mozambique, who was without instructions on the subject, to receive such negroes, who, the Viscount added, might, he thought, be advantageously disposed of in agricultural Colonies.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

HENRY F. HOWARD.

No. 301.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 24.)

(Extract.)

Lisbon, February 17, 1858.

THE Viscount de Sá informed me that, according to accounts which he had received from Mozambique, a French vessel had recently arrived on that coast for the purpose of taking in a cargo of negroes for the Island of Réunion; that the Governor-General of

Mozambique having sent a detachment of troops to prevent the embarkation being effected, the vessel had moved off, but subsequently reappeared at another point of the coast, and succeeded in shipping some 20 negroes. This time, however, she was secured by the force sent by the Governor-General and taken to Mozambique, where the case was placed in the hands of the judicial authorities. Some of the slaves shipped by the French vessel belonged, it appears, to persons at Mozambique.

No. 302.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 24.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, February 18, 1858.

WITH reference to the Royal Decree of the 14th December, 1854, for the registration and partial emancipation of slaves in the Portuguese Colonial Possessions, a translation of which was inclosed in Sir Richard Pakenham's despatch of the 8th of January, 1855, I have the honour of transmitting herewith a translation of a Portaria issued by the Viscount de Sá da Bandeira on the 20th ultimo, and published in yesterday's "Diario do Governo," directing that the Boards of Guardians of Slaves and Liberated Negroes in the Transmarine Provinces should accompany the half-yearly Reports, which they are bound to transmit to the Government, according to the 44th Article of the above-mentioned Decree, with Returns relative to the slaves and liberated negroes under their protection, made out in conformity with the five forms annexed to the Portaria.

The Portaria now inclosed is a copy of that addressed to the Governor of the Islands of St. Thomas and Prince, but identical Portarias are stated to have been transmitted to the Governors of all the other Transmarine Provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

Inclosure in No. 302.

Portaria.

(Translation.)

HIS Majesty the King is pleased to command, through the medium of the Secretary of State's Office for Marine and Colonial Affairs, that the Boards of Guardians of Slaves and Liberated Negroes in the Transmarine Provinces shall, together with the Reports to be sent in by them to the Government, in the months of January and July respectively, in accordance with the provisions of Article 44 of the Decree of the 14th December, 1854, also send, duly filled up, the five Schedules, models of which are annexed to this Portaria, and marked with the letters A, B, C, D, and E.

And this for the due execution thereof is hereby made known to the Board of Guardians of the Province of S. Thomé e Principe, to which Board His Majesty strongly recommends the transmission of the above-mentioned Reports and of the Schedules which, in compliance with the present Portaria, ought to be annexed to them; keeping in mind that the said Schedules must always be transmitted with the Reports, even should there be nothing to note on some of them, and this will be stated at the foot of the Schedule.

Palace, January 20, 1858.

(Signed) SA DA BANDEIRA.

Similar Portarias were issued to all the Governors of the Transmarine Provinces.

SCHEDULE A. Province of

LIST of Liberated Negroes existing on the 31st March (or 30th September), 185 , under the supervision of the Board of Guardians of Slaves and Liberated Negroes.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Minors under 12 years of age			
Above 12 years and under years			
Above years			
Total			
Liberated negroes maintained and educated by the Board			
Ditto ditto during last half-year			
Ditto dismissed, having completed their studies			
Ditto deceased			
Ditto entered again on their studies			
Total			

Office of the Board of Guardians of Slaves and Liberated Negroes, January (or July) 185 .
Signed by the Members of the Board.

SCHEDULE B. Province of

LIST of Slaves liberated during the half-year of 185

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Slaves liberated by their masters			
Ditto by the funds of the Board of Guardians			
Ditto by special donations			
Ditto by money belonging to themselves			
Ditto in consequence of being imported subsequent to the publication of the Decree of December 14, 1854			
Ditto in consequence of having been born subsequently to the publication of the Law of July 26, 1856			
Total			

Office of the Board of Guardians of Slaves and Liberated Negroes, January (or July) 185
Signed by the Members of the Board.

SCHEDULE C. Province of

LIST of Liberated Negroes liable to labour, and who were during the half-year of 185 , entirely freed from that liability.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
By persons who had a right to their labour			
By the funds of the Board of Guardians			
By private donations			
By having completed term of service			
Total			

Office of the Board of Guardians of Slaves and Liberated Negroes, January (or July) 185 .
Signed by the Members of the Board.

SCHEDULE D. Province of

ACTIONS for recovery of liberty, in the cognizance of the Board, during the half-year of 185 , both for emancipation of slaves, and for entire freedom of liberated negroes liable to labour.

Actions brought on by the slaves themselves .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Actions brought by private individuals in favour of slaves .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Actions brought by the Board of Guardians in favour of slaves .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Actions brought by liberated negroes themselves .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Actions brought by private individuals in favour of liberated negroes .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Actions brought by the Board of Guardians in favour of liberated negroes .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Total .. .. .	..	..	..	..

Office of the Board of Guardians of Slaves and Liberated Negroes, January (or July) 185 .
Signed by the Members of the Board.

SCHEDULE E. Province of

ACCOUNT of Receipts and Expenditure of the Coffers of the Board of Guardians for the half-year of 185

Legacies, Donations, &c., in favour of slaves in general (Art. 12) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	Purchases of slaves (Art. 12) .. .. .	..	..
Ditto in favour of individual slaves (Arts. 12 & 34) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	Purchase of services of liberated negroes (Art. 12) . .. .. .	..	..
Special sums for the liberation of infants (Art. 31, 3) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	Liberation of infants (Art. 31, 3) .. .. .	..	..
Produce of labour of liberated negroes (Art. 36, 1) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	Expenses of maintenance and education (Art. 12) .. .. .	..	..
Fines and penalties per Decree of 14th December, 1854 (Art. 36, 2) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	Sums given to the poor (Art. 18) .. .. .	..	..
Five per cent. upon the sale of slaves (Art. 36, 3) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	Law charges .. .. .	..	..
Amounts voted from the Municipalities (Art. 36, 4) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	Moneys restored .. .. .	..	..
Amounts voted from the revenues of the Charitable establishments (Art. 36, 4) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	Balance .. .. .	..	..
Amounts allowed by the General Board of the District .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Fines, penalties, and securities marked in Decree of December 10, 1836 (Art. 42) . .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Moneys belonging to slaves .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Total .. .. .	..	..	..	..	Total .. .. .	..	..

Office of the Board of Guardians of Slaves and Liberated Negroes, January (or July) 185
Signed by the Members of Board.

No. 303.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 8.)

(Extract.)

Lisbon, February 24, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt, on the 22nd instant, of your Lordship's despatch of the 16th instant, transmitting to me a copy of a letter of the 24th of December last, from Captain Lyster, of Her Majesty's ship "Castor," to the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's naval forces on the African station, reporting his communications with the Governor-General of Mozambique, respecting the Slave Trade on the East Coast of Africa, and relative to the proceedings of the French in procuring labourers for the Island of Réunion.

I now beg to inclose a translation of an account which has appeared in the "Jornal do Commercio" of this morning, of the capture of the vessel referred to in Captain Lyster's letter, called the "Charles et Georges," of St. Malo.

Inclosure in No. 303.

Extract from the "Jornal do Commercio" of February 24, 1858.

(Translation.)

FROM advices received at the Cape of Good Hope from Mozambique, and from thence forwarded to Lisbon, under date of 26th of December, 1857, we learn:—

1. That a French barque belonging to St. Malo, called the "*Charles et Georges*," bound from Bourbon, went to the port of Conduncia, about two or three leagues from Mozambique, and was anchored there some days.

2. That suspicion having been excited at Mozambique, a small vessel was sent from thence on the 21st of November to search the barque, under the charge of a navy officer, and with a detachment of twenty men and an officer, in order to prevent the embarkation of negroes at that place, if such should be the intention of those on board the barque.

3. That on the arrival of this vessel at Conduncia the barque got under weigh, and cruized off the coast.

4. That this proceeding having caused her to be suspected, the Mozambique vessel sailed along the coast, and on her return to Conduncia, they found the French barque with 110 negroes on board, the most part boys of 16, and old men.

5. That as this took place where no Portuguese authorities were established, the French barque was captured and conducted to Mozambique on the 27th of November, and there subjected to an inquiry by a Committee, who at last found on board the above-mentioned number of 110 negroes, 59 of whom were embarked at Quitangonha; it was also found that they were not volunteers, but had been sold to the captain, and some of them even stolen from their masters, a few of whom belonged to the city of Mozambique.

6. That in consequence of the report of the said Committee, the matter was referred to the Crown Lawyer and to the Government Council, and the case was to be ultimately given into the hands of the Judicial Courts, to be dealt with according to the laws of the country.

Besides what precedes, it is further stated that there was on board the said barque a delegate of the administration of the Island of Réunion, who on being requested to produce the contracts that he might have drawn up, could not show a single one; nor could he do so—for instead of contracts with the negroes he had made deeds of purchase from their masters, or from those who represented themselves to be their masters: for slaves can be stolen as well as anything else.

No. 304.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 8.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, February 27, 1858.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 17th ultimo, transmitting a copy of a note which, in compliance with your Lordship's instructions, I addressed on the 16th of that month to the Marquis de Loulé, calling the serious attention of the Portuguese Government to the Traffic in Slaves which, as reported by Mr. McLeod, Her Majesty's Consul at Mozambique, is carried on from the Portuguese possessions on the East Coast of Africa, with the sanction of the Portuguese authorities, I have the honour of inclosing a translation of a note of the 24th instant, which I yesterday received from his Excellency, sending me, in reply to that note, a copy of a despatch from the Minister of Marine, dated the 11th instant, together with a copy of the "*Jornal do Commercio*" of the 24th, containing the article reporting the capture of the French vessel "*Charles et Georges*," at Conduncia, in the Province of Mozambique, of which a translation is annexed to my preceding despatch of the 24th instant. From the accompanying translation of Viscount de Sá da Bandeira's above-mentioned despatch, your Lordship will perceive that his Excellency replies, *seriatim*, to the various points contained in my note, expresses his regret that it should be found that the Portuguese authorities in the Province of Mozambique do not carry out the instructions of the Government in respect to the suppression of the Slave Trade, and refers to the Portaria issued in December last, to the new Governor-General of that province, Colonel Tavares d'Almeida, in whose zeal great confidence is placed, directing him to see to the punishment of the offenders, and suggesting to him the removal, without exception, of all the authorities of Inhambane.

His Excellency further refers to the dismissal of Captain Leotte, the Governor of
CLASS B.

that place, and to the instructions sent to Colonel Almeida to inquire into the case of the slave-vessel "*Minnetonka*."

His Excellency then mentions the instructions which have, at different times, been sent to the Governor-General to prevent the exportation of negroes as free labourers from the province; but states that it cannot be a matter of much surprise that the Governor-General should have refused to dismiss the Governor of Ibo, upon the demand of Her Majesty's Consul, inasmuch as such a demand was irregular, the proper course being to indict the Governor to his trial, if sufficient motives existed for such a proceeding.

His Excellency afterwards states that it appears that proceedings were about to be instituted against the ex-Governor of Inhambane, and the commander of the schooner "*Zambesi*;" and that two officers had been named to proceed on an inquiry to Inhambane and Ibo respectively; but that no intelligence has been received of the interference of the judicial authorities alluded to by Mr. McLeod; and, in regard to the opinion expressed by the latter gentleman, that one of the authorities who thus interfered was interested in concealing the truth, his Excellency observes that he is about to instruct the Governor-General to proceed to a minute inquiry into the subject, and that he hopes Mr. McLeod will furnish the Governor-General with the information which led him to bring forward so serious a charge.

His Excellency proceeds to repeat the regret of His Most Faithful Majesty's Government to see that, according to Mr. McLeod's report, the Slave Trade should have been carried on so largely in the Portuguese possessions on the Eastern Coast of Africa, especially as Mr. McLeod affirms it to be by the connivance of the Portuguese authorities. His Excellency adds, that he will again enjoin upon the Governor-General the execution of the Portaria sent to him on this subject, and will point out to him this assertion of the British Consul; but expresses his regret that Mr. McLeod should not have been more explicit in naming the authorities he accuses.

His Excellency concludes his despatch by saying that, with reference to the conveyance of slaves to the Comoro Islands, to be afterwards sold to French traders, this matter is already provided for in the instructions given to the Governor-General Almeida relating to the exportation of negro labourers.

As I have already had the honour, in my above-named despatch, of transmitting to your Lordship a translation of the article from the "*Jornal do Commercio*," reporting the capture of the French vessel "*Charles et Georges*," with slaves on board, a copy of which journal has now been forwarded to me by the Marquis de Loulé, I will confine myself to inclosing it herewith in original, and to reporting that the Marquis de Loulé yesterday expressed to me his opinion that, supposing the circumstances of this case to be such as had been reported, the capture, having been effected in Portuguese waters, was perfectly justifiable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 304.

The Marquis de Loulé to Mr. Howard.

(Translation.)

Palace, February 24, 1858.

IN answer to the note which you were pleased to address to me under date of the 16th of January, last, relating to the Slave Trade transactions said to be effected on the East Coast of Africa, with the connivance of the Portuguese authorities established there, and in spite of the orders and efforts of His Majesty's Government, I have the honour to transmit to you the inclosed copy of a despatch which I received from the Minister of Marine, dated the 11th instant, from the contents of which you will perceive what measures have been adopted by that Department, and also those proposed by his Excellency to be adopted upon this subject, and with reference to the information contained in your above-mentioned note.

As a corroboration of what I have stated, I have the honour likewise to transmit to you the inclosed copy of the "*Jornal do Commercio*" of this day, transcribing the advices lately received from Mozambique, from which it appears that, in December of last year, the capture of the French barque "*Charles et Georges*" took place, this vessel being engaged in the Slave Trade; and it is my duty to add, that His Majesty's Government were informed of this capture, and that, although the news was of a private nature, it deserves some degree of credit, owing to the source from whence it proceeds.

I renew, &c.
(Signed) MARQUIS DE LOULE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 304.

The Minister of Marine and the Colonies to the Marquis de Loulé.

(Translation.)

*Marine and Colonial Department,
February 11, 1858.*

Illustrious and Excellent Sir,

WITH the despatch which I had the honour to receive from your Excellency, dated the 25th of January last, I received a translation of the note of the 16th of the same month, which Her Britannic Majesty's Minister at this Court addressed to your Excellency by order of his Government, and to which you request to be enabled to reply.

The above-mentioned note treats:—

1. Of the apparent connivance of the Portuguese authorities in the Slave Trade said to be carried on on the East Coast of Africa.

2. Of what, according to the report of Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Mozambique, had taken place between the American barque "*Minnetonka*," and the Portuguese war-schooner "*Zambesi*," at Inhambane, on board of which latter vessel, Leotte, the ex-Governor of Inhambane, was going as passenger.

3. Of shipments of slaves referred to by the said Consul, as effected from Ibo to the Havana in Spanish vessels, as well as of negroes, under the name of free labourers, to the Island of Réunion, in French vessels, and of the request of the said Consul to the Governor-General for the dismissal of the Governor of Ibo, who, it was said, had allowed these shipments to take place.

4. Of the report of these occurrences, made by the said Consul to the Governor-General of Mozambique, and the statement of the latter, to the effect that the Commander of the "*Zambesi*," and Leotte, would be arrested and tried by the proper tribunals, but that it appears that only the Commander of the "*Zambesi*" had been arrested.

5. Of the statement made by the Governor-General to that Consul, that he had appointed officers to institute an inquiry into the occurrences of Inhambane and Ibo, and, with reference to this, of his having subsequently said that they had not proceeded on their mission, in consequence of letters which he had received from the Crown Lawyer and from the Judge. And, relative to this, a question is put in the said note as to the motives of the interference of these authorities with the mission of these officers, adding that, upon the affirmation of the Consul, there was reason for supposing that one of the said authorities was interested in suppressing the truth with regard to the cases of Slave Trade at Ibo.

6. Of the report of Her Britannic Majesty's Commissioner at the Cape of Good Hope, that the barque "*Minnetonka*," under the American flag, had touched at Natal on the 21st of June, it being supposed that she had sailed from Ibo in July, with 1,200 slaves, and that Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General at Havana had reported, on the 30th of November, the arrival of this same barque, and the landing of her cargo at the Island of Cuba, from whence she had again sailed for the East Coast of Africa for a similar purpose.

7. Of the statement of the Consul at Mozambique, that not less than 14,000 slaves had been sent out of that province during the three months preceding the date of his despatch, affirming that this had taken place with the connivance of the Portuguese authorities; the note, however, stating the conviction of Her Britannic Majesty's Government that such had happened in opposition to the orders of the Portuguese Government.

And, finally, Her Britannic Majesty's Minister requests that an inquiry may be instituted into what has taken place at Mozambique with reference to the Slave Trade, calling at the same time the attention of the Portuguese Government to the circumstance referred to by Admiral Sir F. Grey, of the transfer of slaves in dhows, from the coast of Mozambique to the Comoro Islands and other places, a practice which the Governor-General Menezes stated he had not sufficient means to prevent, these slaves being afterwards sold to French dealers, and requesting that instructions may be sent to Governor-General Almeida for the suppression of this Traffic.

In complying, then, with the request contained in your Excellency's above-mentioned despatch, I now reply by stating, with reference to the paragraphs of the said note,—

1. That I cannot but regret that, notwithstanding the instructions and efforts of His Majesty's Government, to the effect that the authorities may put a stop to the Slave Trade, it should be found that some of the local authorities still exhibit a doubtful proceeding in the suppression of this Traffic, and that they do not comply with the wishes His Majesty's Government, who having taken into consideration reports which have reached them, issued through this Department a Portaria, dated 28th December last, to the present Governor-General of the Province of Mozambique, Colonel Tavares d'Almeida,

charging him to look well into what is passing in his Province with reference to the Slave Trade, in order that offenders may be punished with the rigour of the law, and suggesting to him the removal, without exception, of all the authorities of Inhambane, and that even the troops forming the garrison should be relieved if he, the Governor-General, considered that these measures were opportune; and it is undoubted that the said Governor-General in his zeal will not fail to make use of every means for arriving at the truth, and for causing the guilty parties to be punished in accordance with the law.

2. That His Majesty's Government, by a Decree dated the 24th of August of last year, dismissed Captain Antonio Corrêa da Silva Leotte from the post of Governor of Inhambane, but had subsequently learnt that the said Governor, when a passenger on board the Portuguese war-schooner "Zambesi," had frightened away a barque under American colours, and taken one of her boats with five Spanish sailors, notwithstanding which, this barque had afterwards taken in slaves. The present Governor-General has likewise, in the said Portaria, been instructed to obtain information respecting this circumstance for the guidance of His Majesty's Government, and for the due punishment of the criminal parties.

3. With reference to the several points of this paragraph: the above-mentioned Portaria specially enjoins upon the Governor-General of Mozambique a careful inquiry into what has taken place with regard to the Slave Trade in that province during the period alluded to; that although, by former instructions from His Majesty's Government, it is prohibited to export negroes under the name of free labourers, yet special mention was again made of this prohibition in the instructions furnished to the present Governor-General of that province; and that it cannot be a matter of surprise that the predecessor of the present Governor should have refused to dismiss the Governor of Ibo upon the demand of Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, inasmuch as such a demand was irregular, especially on the part of a Consul, the proper measures being to indict and to bring the Governor to his trial, if sufficient motives existed for such a proceeding.

4 and 5. It appears that judicial proceedings were about to be instituted against the ex-Governor Leotte, and the commander of the brig-schooner "Zambesi," and that two officers had been named to proceed with an inquiry, one to go to Inhambane and the other to Ibo. There is no mention, however, of the interference on the part of the judicial authorities, alluded to by Her Britannic Majesty's Consul; and in view of the important statement which the said Consul makes relative to one of these authorities, without specifying which of them, I am about to instruct the Governor-General of that province to proceed to a minute inquiry on this subject, trusting that the said Consul will furnish the Governor-General with the information which led him to bring forward so serious a charge.

With regard to the sixth and seventh paragraphs, His Majesty's Government regret all the more to see these fresh attempts at a renewal of the Slave Trade in the Portuguese possessions on the East Coast of Africa, inasmuch as they had flattered themselves that the Slave Trade had come to an end in those possessions. These attempts are undoubtedly, as is most satisfactorily acknowledged by Her Britannic Majesty's Government, in direct opposition to the wishes and instructions of His Majesty's Government; and they, moreover, much regret to see that, according to the report of Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, this Traffic should have been carried on so largely, especially if, as he affirms it to be, by the connivance of the Portuguese authorities. I am about, therefore, to enjoin again upon the Governor-General of Mozambique the stipulations of the above-mentioned Portaria, pointing out to his notice this assertion of the British Consul; and it is to be regretted that the said Consul was not more explicit in specifying the authorities that he accuses, and his motives for doing so, owing to the injury which his assertion inflicts upon the dignity of the Portuguese authorities.

I trust that this statement will meet the request that is contained in the latter part of the British Minister's note; and with reference to the conveyance of slaves to the Comoro Islands, to be afterwards sold to French traders, this matter is already provided for in the instructions given to Governor-General Almeida relating to the exportation of negro labourers.

It appears to me that I have complied with the request contained in your Excellency's despatch, to which I have the honour of replying.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed)

SA DA BANDEIRA.

No. 305.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(Received March 16.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, March 6, 1858.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 17th ultimo to the Earl of Clarendon, I have the honour of inclosing a translation of a Portaria issued on the 19th ultimo by the Viscount de Sá da Bandeira, the Minister of Marine and Colonies, and published in the "Diario do Governo" of the 3rd instant, directing the Governor-General of Mozambique to do everything in his power to prevent the transport of slaves which is stated to be effected in Arab dhows from various parts of that coast to the Comoro Islands and Madagascar for the purpose of being there sold, with the understanding that any negroes taken in such boats captured by the Portuguese authorities, as well as those who, having been taken by the British cruisers, may be placed at the disposal of the Governor-General of Mozambique, shall be at once considered as liberated negroes in accordance with the existing laws.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

Inclosure in No. 305.

Portaria.

(Translation.)

WHEREAS it has come to the knowledge of this Department that many Arab boats (pangaios) are engaged in conveying numerous slaves from various parts of the coast of Mozambique to Comoro and the Island of Madagascar to be there sold: His Majesty the King commands that instruction be sent through the Marine and Colonial Department to the Governor-General of that province to employ every means in his power to embarrass this Traffic, with the understanding that, if any of the said boats should be captured by the Portuguese authorities, the negroes taken therewith shall be at once considered as liberated negroes, in accordance with the existing laws, and the same will happen to any negroes taken by the British cruisers, when placed by them at the disposal of the Governor-General, in consequence of not being willing or able to convey them to the Cape.

Palace, February 19, 1858.

(Signed) SA DA BANDEIRA.

No. 306.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(Received March 16.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, March 6, 1858.

WITH reference to my despatches of the 24th and the 27th ultimo, relative to the capture in November last, by the Portuguese authorities at Mozambique, of a French vessel, the "*Charles et Georges*," with slaves on board destined for the Island of Réunion, I beg to state that the Marquis de Loulé informed me on the 5th instant, that Count Walewski had lately spoken to Baron Paiva, the Portuguese Minister at Paris, of this capture, as being a very grave affair, and had stated that the Marquis de Lisle, the French Minister at this Court, had reported to him that he had had a conference with the Marquis de Loulé on the subject of it, but that the explanations which he had received from his Excellency were not of a satisfactory nature.

Baron Paiva, it appears, replied to these observations of Count Walewski, by referring to the fact not only of the Portuguese Government having prohibited the exportation of negroes, whether as free labourers or otherwise, from their African possessions, but likewise of the French Government having themselves prohibited that exportation from the Portuguese province of Mozambique. Hereupon Count Walewski allowed the subject to drop.

The Marquis de Loulé remarked to me that the version, stated by Count Walewski to Baron Paiva, of what had passed between the Marquis de Lisle and himself, was not quite accurate, inasmuch as the French Minister had only touched, in conversation with him, upon the subject of the capture in question, without making any demand for explanations, but that he (Marquis de Loulé) had, in consequence of this conversation, sent the

Marquis de Lisle a copy of the letter which the Portuguese Government had received from the Cape of Good Hope relative to the capture, and the substance of which is given in the article in the "Journal of Commerce," of which a translation is inclosed in my above-mentioned despatch of the 24th ultimo.

I need not point out to your Lordship the difficult position in which the Portuguese Government are placed by the proceedings of the French Government in regard to the exportation of slaves, under the name of free labourers, from Africa—proceedings that have given so great an impulse to the Slave Trade in and around their possessions, both on the Eastern and Western Coasts and thwart their strenuous efforts, under the able direction of the present Minister of Marine and Colonies, the Viscount de Sá da Bandeira, to suppress that Trade, and promote legitimate commerce. The Portuguese Government are, therefore, deeply interested in the success of the negotiations which are being carried on by Her Majesty's Government with the French Government, in order to induce the latter to abandon the exportation of negroes from Africa to their colonies, and will be most gratified to be informed when these negotiations are happily brought to a termination.

For my own part, I cannot but consider this French scheme the most serious obstacle that has presented itself to the successful issue of our efforts for the suppression of the African Slave Trade, and as one calculated, if persevered in, to undo the great progress which has been made towards that most desirable object for which Great Britain has been so long and unremittingly contending.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

No. 307.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(Received March 16.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, March 8, 1858.

WITH reference to the Earl of Clarendon's despatches of the 26th of December, 1856, to myself, and of the 26th of October, 1857, to Mr. Paget, and to my despatches of the 5th and 7th January, and of the 2nd of March, 1857, to his Lordship, as well as to Mr. Paget's despatches to his Lordship of the 17th of August, of the 13th of November, and of the 18th of December, 1857, relative to the question of the emancipation of the slave Fabião at Angola, I have the honour of inclosing a translation of a note of the 5th instant, which I have received from the Marquis de Loulé, acquainting me that the Minister of Marine has informed him that the Colonial Board had determined to apply to the Board of Guardians of Slaves and Liberated Negroes for their report upon this question, and that, pending the receipt of such report, the Government are unable to decide upon the justice of the case, as it involves a question of law; and communicating to me an observation of that Minister that if the slave Fabião wishes to avail himself of the provisions of the Portaria of the 31st of December, 1856, which was published in the "Boletim Official" of Angola, he ought to request the Board of Guardians to supply the sum which is wanting for effecting his emancipation.

I beg to remark that a translation of the Portaria cited by the Minister of Marine was inclosed in my despatch of the 7th of January, 1857, above referred to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY F. HOWARD.

Inclosure in No. 307.

The Marquis de Loulé to Mr. Howard.

(Translation.)

Palace, March 5, 1858.

WITH reference to Mr. Paget's notes of the 11th of August and 21st of November of last year, and in continuation of the note which I addressed to you on the 25th of February of that year, relative to the emancipation of the slave Fabião, I have the honour to state to you that the Minister of Marine has informed me that the Colonial Board had come to the decision to apply to the Board of Guardians of Slaves and Liberated Negroes for their report upon this question, and that the solution of it is, therefore, dependent upon the report of the last-mentioned Board, inasmuch as the Government are not yet able to decide upon the justice of this affair, as it involves a question of law. If, however,

the said slave, as the Minister of Marine observes, wishes to avail himself of the provisions of the Portaria of the 31st of December, 1856, which was published in the "Boletim Official" of Angola, it is plain that to this end he should request the Board of Guardians to supply the sum which is wanting for effecting his emancipation.

I renew, &c.

(Signed) MARQUIS DE LOULE.

No. 308.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(Received March 25.)

(Extract.)

Lisbon, March 18, 1858.

I HAVE the honour of inclosing herewith a translation of the communication, published in the "Diario do Governo" of the 12th instant, by which the Viscount de Sá da Bandeira, the Minister of Marine and Colonies, submitted, on the 10th instant, to the Chamber of Deputies, a most important project of Law, enacting that the condition of slavery is to be entirely abolished throughout the Portuguese monarchy, without any exception, on the day which completes twenty years, to be counted from that of the publication of this Law in the official journal of the Government; and providing that those persons who, on the day thus specified for the total abolition of the condition of slavery, may still possess slaves, shall be compensated for the value of the same, in the manner pointed out by a special Law.

The Viscount de Sá, in his interesting report, enumerates the different measures that have been adopted during the last twenty-two years by the Portuguese Government, not only to ameliorate the condition of the slaves in the Portuguese transmarine possessions, but likewise to bring about the ultimate abolition of slavery. His Excellency calculates that the effect of these various measures, and more particularly of the Law of the 24th of July, 1856, which declares the children of female slaves to be born free, will go so far to reduce the number of slaves existing in the Portuguese monarchy twenty years hence, that the compensation which will have to be paid to the lawful owners of such as then remain, will amount but to a moderate sum.

His Excellency states, in conclusion, that the Government being persuaded that, with a view to complete the system so earnestly carried on during those twenty-two years, it will be necessary to limit, irrevocably, the state of slavery, the immediate abolition of which is not permitted by the circumstances of the public Treasury, he accordingly submits the project of Law in question.

I should observe, that the Viscount de Sá is the author, either directly or indirectly, of almost all the measures to which he refers in his report, for the amelioration of the condition of the slaves in the Portuguese possessions, and for the general extinction of slavery, which latter object he has had constantly in view, and has pursued with as much perseverance as judgment.

Inclosure in No. 308.

Extract from the "Diario do Governo" of March 12, 1858.

(Translation.)

Gentlemen,

THE indefinite toleration of the state of slavery in the transmarine possessions cannot be conciliated with the principles contained in the Constitutional Charter which governs the whole of the Portuguese monarchy. It is, therefore, the strict duty of the Government, taking this Constitution as their guide, to seek to give to these principles a rigorous and liberal application, as they deserve, by promoting the complete liberation of the thousands of unfortunate beings who are still undergoing the bitterness of slavery in the Portuguese possessions beyond the sea.

In furtherance of this duty, various measures have at different times been decreed, all tending not only to better the condition of the slaves existing in the above-mentioned possessions, but also to shorten the period within which that important result may be obtained, without prejudice to interests established by former social enactments, and which the force of circumstances have obliged us to keep up. The Cortes, to whom these measures have been submitted, have not only approved them, but have also extended them by their own initiative, thus effectually co-operating with the Government in this work of humanity and of justice.

In 1836, the Decree of the 10th of December was published, which prohibits the exportation of slaves, by sea or over land, and the importation of slaves by sea in the Portuguese dominions. In 1842 was celebrated with Great Britain the Treaty of the 3rd of July, for the suppression of the Slave Trade. In 1854, was promulgated the Decree of 14th December, which, among other provisions, established the registration of slaves; enacted that all slaves imported by land into the said dominions subsequently to the publication of the said Decree, should be considered as liberated negroes; provided them with means for obtaining their manumission; designated a fund for their liberation by the Boards of Guardians; and granted liberty to all Slaves belonging to the state. In 1855, the Portaria of the 10th of March was issued, which abolished the state of slavery at the Island of St. Vincent, Cape de Verdes; and in 1856, the Law of 30th June was sanctioned, which gave liberty to the slaves belonging to the Municipal Chambers and to charitable institutions; also that of the 5th of July, which extinguished slavery in the district of Ambriz; also those of the 24th and 25th of same month, the first considering as free the children of female slaves born after its publication; the second extending to slaves belonging to the Churches, the grant of liberty made to those of the State by the above-mentioned Decree of the 14th December, 1854; also that of 18th of August, likewise considering as free the slaves on board of Portuguese vessels entering into any port or other anchorage in the territories forming the States of India, and in the city of Macao and its dependencies, as well as those slaves belonging to foreigners, and landing on the above-mentioned Portuguese territories; and finally the Decree of the 23rd December, which abolished slavery in Macao. The total of all these measures cannot fail to produce the result of a constant and considerable decrease in the number of slaves in the transmarine provinces, until such time as slavery shall become completely extinct, by virtue of the above-mentioned Law of 24th July, 1856, which declares the children of female slaves to be born free. There is, therefore, foundation for calculating, that at the expiration of the term of twenty years, the number of slaves existing in the monarchy will be so far reduced that the compensation which will have to be paid to the lawful owners of such as then exist, in order that all without exception may receive their liberty, may be stated at a moderate sum.

Under these circumstances, the Government being persuaded that, for completing the system which has been so earnestly and persevering carried on for the last twenty-two years, it will be necessary to limit, in an irrevocable manner, the duration of the state of slavery, seeing that the present circumstances of the Public Treasury will not permit it to be at once abolished, owing to the large amount of compensation which would have to be given now, and as it appears that the period at which slavery should cease entirely may with security now be fixed, I have therefore the honour to submit for the approval of this Chamber, the following

Proposal of Law.

Art. 1. The condition of slavery will be entirely abolished in all the Portuguese Monarchy, without any exception, on the day which completes twenty years, to be counted from that of the publication of this Law in the official journal of the Government.

Art. 2. Those persons who, on the day specified in the preceding Article for the total abolition of the condition of slavery, may still possess slaves, will be compensated for the value of the same in the manner pointed out in a special Law.

Art. 3. All legislative enactments to the contrary are hereby revoked.

(Signed) SA DA BANDEIRA.

Secretary of State's Office for Marine Affairs, March 10, 1858.

No. 309.

The Earl of Malmesbury to Mr. Howard.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 16, 1858.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, an extract of that part of the annual report from Her Majesty's Commissioners at the Cape of Good Hope, which relates to the Slave Trade which has been carried on from the Portuguese possessions on the East Coast of Africa.*

I am, &c.

(Signed) MALMESBURY.

No. 310.

The Earl of Malmesbury to Mr. Howard.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 19, 1858.*
 I HAVE received your despatch of the 27th ultimo, addressed to the Earl of Clarendon, inclosing a copy of the answer returned by the Portuguese Government to the note which you addressed to the Marquis de Loulé on the 16th of January last, relative to the Slave Trade which is reported by Mr. McLeod, Her Majesty's Consul at Mozambique, to be carried on with the sanction of the Portuguese authorities, from the Portuguese possessions on the East Coast of Africa.

And with reference to the wish expressed by the Portuguese Minister of Marine, that Mr. McLeod should furnish the Governor-General with the information on which he founded the charge preferred by him against one of the judicial authorities of that colony, I have to instruct you to acquaint the Portuguese Minister that I have given directions in this matter, in conformity with his wishes, to Her Majesty's Consul at Mozambique.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) MALMESBURY.

No. 311.

The Earl of Malmesbury to Mr. Howard.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 31, 1858.*
 I HAVE received your despatch of the 8th instant, inclosing a copy of a project of Law, introduced by the Viscount de Sá da Bandeira into the Chamber of Deputies, and which has for its object the entire abolition of the condition of slavery in the Portuguese dominions at the end of a period of twenty years, to be reckoned from the day on which the Law is published in the official journal of the Government; and I have to instruct you to express to the Portuguese Government the sincere gratification with which Her Majesty's Government has received the intelligence of the introduction of this measure into the Portuguese Cortes.

You will also convey to the Viscount de Sá da Bandeira the acknowledgments of Her Majesty's Government for the steps which his Excellency has at various times taken with the view to ameliorate the condition of the slaves, and to bring about the extinction of slavery in the Portuguese possessions.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) MALMESBURY.

PORTUGAL. (*Consular*)—*Cape Verds.*

No. 312.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Vines.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 23, 1858.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, a copy of despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Minister at Lisbon,* relative to two Portarias, dated the 26th and 27th ultimo, addressed by the Viscount de Sá da Bandeira to the Governor-General of the Cape Verd Islands, and published in the "Diario do Governo" of the 28th of January last: the former containing instructions for his guidance respecting the enfranchisement of a negro called Pedro, and the latter conveying to the Governor-General the expressions of Royal approval for his conduct in procuring the enfranchisement of a considerable number of slaves in the Windward Islands.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

* No. 296.

PORTUGAL. (*Consular*)—*Mozambique.*

No. 313.

Consul McLeod to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 15.)

(Extract.)

"Hermes," off Natal, July 6, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to report that, from intelligence received here, the nefarious Traffic in Slaves between the Island of Cuba and the East and West Coasts of Africa has been renewed on a scale of such magnitude as to lead to the belief that it is now carried on with the entire sanction of the Spanish authorities at that island.

2. By the accompanying inclosures your Lordship will observe that information has reached me that, about the earlier part of the month of April, no less than twenty-one vessels left the Havana in open day, some of them being towed out by steamers, and the destination of all of them well known at that place.

3. Seven of these vessels, of a considerable tonnage, and armed, at least, to resist the boats of our cruisers, capable of, and fitted for, carrying from 800 to 1,500 slaves, are said to be bound to places in the Mozambique Channel; while the remaining fourteen vessels, being smaller and of a light draught of water, are intended for taking slaves from the Gallinas, Shea Bar, and the Rio Pongo.

4. The chances of capture by our cruisers are considerably lessened, from the whole of these vessels being supplied with specie for the purchase of their cargoes of slaves, and carrying a second, or flag captain, who makes his appearance when it is necessary to produce the American ensign and to assume that nationality.

5. It appears that the report of the successful manner in which slaves have been supplied to Réunion, under the denomination of free labour emigrants, has been the cause of endeavouring to renew the Slave Trade between Cuba and places in the Mozambique Channel.

6. From the high prices now given for slaves in Cuba, and the facilities for importing them afforded by the Spanish authorities in that island, considerable profits may be reasonably expected from the present venture, which will lead to the embarkation of large amounts of capital in similar speculations; so that we may shortly expect to see the Slave Trade, with all its horrors and degradations, renewed in the Mozambique Channel, at a time when there is every prospect of having its ports opened to legitimate commerce with Europe and America.

7. To meet this state of things it will be necessary for us to maintain an active squadron in the Mozambique Channel, for the purpose of annihilating the Slave Trade in these parts, and to give every assistance to a young and legitimate trade for the development of the natural productions of this portion of Africa.

Inclosure 1 in No. 313.

Mr. Bell to Mr. Sargeant.

Sir,

Port Office, Natal, June 22, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to inform you, for the information of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, that the barque "*Minnetonka*," nation unknown, 297 tons, with a crew of about 35 men, principally Spanish, arrived off this port on the night of the 21st instant. The captain reports from Havana, April 5th, to Madagascar, with a cargo of rum, and that he had been set into this coast by contrary winds; he also states that he had picked up the crew of the barque "*Georgeanna*," seventeen in number, off the Cape; and on Saturday last anchored off the Umlass, about ten miles to the south-west of this,

where he dispatched a boat on shore in charge of the mate and five men: on attempting to land she was upset, and the crew reached the shore with difficulty.

After making inquiry as to the number and probable position of the ships-of-war on this coast, he made all sail, and proceeded on his voyage; he also wished to know if the natives were at peace.

During the afternoon the mate and boat's-crew arrived from the *Umlass*; he denies all knowledge of the "*Georgeanna*," and states that the "*Minnetonka*" belongs to New York.

It is my opinion this vessel is a slaver, bound to some of the ports in the Mozambique Channel; and their object in touching here was to gain information respecting the cruisers, or chance of procuring a cargo on the border of this district. As I have no doubt the late disturbance would draw forth the attention of slave-dealers, from my knowledge of the natives of Madagascar, I do not think they would take rum in exchange for slaves; but it is customary in the Portuguese settlements on this coast.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WM. BELL, *Port Captain*.

Inclosure 2 in No. 313.

Mr. Bell to Mr. Sargeant.

Dear Sir,

Port Office, Natal, July 4, 1857.

I INCLOSE you a copy of my official report to his Excellency at the time the suspicious vessel arrived off this port. It has oozed out since, from the mate, that they have no more rum on board than required for the ship's crew, and that she has specie on board for the purpose of purchasing the cargo, and sufficient water and provisions for the voyage. It would appear that they do not barter for slaves as formerly, but pay cash, as the former practice was attended with greater risk and delay. I may also add that the mate states there are other vessels on the coast.

Yours truly,

(Signed) WM. BELL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 313.

Mr. Bell to Mr. Sargeant.

Dear Sir,

Port Office, Natal, July 5, 1857.

I UNDERSTAND the mate of the barque "*Minnetonka*" has made inquiry as to the distance and difficulty he would be likely to meet with, if he should undertake a journey by land to Cape Corrientes; this strengthens my opinion that she is bound to some port on the African side of the Channel.

Yours truly,

(Signed) WM. BELL.

Inclosure 4 in No. 313.

Mr. Wilson to Captain Gordon.

Sir,

Durban, July 6, 1857.

I BEG leave to forward to you, according to promise, the information relative to the slaver that came off this port on the 22nd ultimo, with reference to her destination. From all the information I have been able to receive from the mate of said ship, she proceeds first to Quillimane, where she expects to get the principal part of her cargo; there is a place in the river called by the Spaniards Port Champan, the same as, I think, is marked in our charts Chapone; there is a considerable trade done there in slaves. In that place there lives a Portuguese curate, whose name I can't find out, who has been successful in dispatching two cargoes: one of the seamen here lived in his house, while he, the curate, was getting the slaves ready for embarking, to the number of 800, and another cargo, previous, of 1,000, all of which were safely landed in Cuba.

There is a small island in the vicinity called Ebo, or Ebro, which those connected with that Trade use as a depôt, ready for embarking when the vessel comes. There is

likewise a considerable Trade done in the River Meancursi. This vessel had no agent at either place: she goes to pick up a cargo as she best can in the above-mentioned places, paying cash on delivery. Besides the "*Minnetonka*," who has no name on her stern, there are six others: one full-rigged ship called the "*Venus*," built in the Island of Foisa. The "*Minnetonka*" belongs to a merchant in Havana; his name is Don Antonio Caborgas. The others belong to different owners: a number of them subscribe and fit out these expeditions; they make a sort gambling of it, they buy and sell frequently during the absence of the ship. There is one seaman here who has been three times in Chapone, and landed them all safe. I shall be most happy if the above information will conduce to your success, which I have no doubt of.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DAVIS WILSON.

P.S.—There were twenty-one vessels sailed from Havanna early in April; fourteen small vessels for the West Coast, and seven of a larger class for Mozambique, averaging from 250 to 400 tons.

D. W.

No. 314.

Consul McLeod to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 24.)

(Extract.)

Mozambique, October 3, 1857.

IN my despatch, dated Natal, the 6th of July, I had the honour to forward to your Lordship intelligence of an alarming nature, relative to the Slave Trade having been renewed in the Mozambique Channel.

The accompanying inclosures will not only give you some idea to what a fearful extent this Traffic is carried on, but also inform your Lordship somewhat as to the sanction given to it by the authorities here.

Your Lordship will remark that the Governor-General informs me of his having stated to Admiral Grey, that the population were disposed for the Slave Traffic. I have been here but a short time, and therefore, perhaps, my opinion is not worth much; but I feel constrained to tell your Lordship that I look upon this statement as a libel on the Portuguese portion of the population of this colony, and I believe that if your Lordship will grant me a Commission of Inquiry, I will prove that the authorities alone are implicated in the Slave Trade, and produce evidence which will point out to the Portuguese Government who are the guilty parties, and to what extent these Government officials, of all ranks and denominations, have been benefited by the vessels which have visited this coast for slaves, or free labourers, during the last two or three years.

The machinery for such an inquiry now exists. Let the British and Portuguese Commissioners in the Mixed Commission Court at the Cape of Good Hope be duly authorized by their respective Governments to inquire into the conduct of the authorities in this province for the last two or three years, relative to the Slave Trade: the expense of such an inquiry would be but trifling; the benefit, in suppressing the Slave Trade and drawing attention to the resources of this country, incalculable. I would propose that these gentlemen should accompany the Admiral when he visits this portion of his station in June or July next, those being the healthiest months on this coast.

The despatch of the Governor-General of this province, dated the 31st of August, was addressed to me after his Excellency had paid me a visit two days previously, when he asked me if I was in receipt of any intelligence relative to slaving on the coast, and especially at Ibo. I replied that I had just addressed a despatch to him on this matter; he begged that I would wait until he wrote to me on the subject. On the 31st, having received his despatch, in which he did not refer to absolute slaving at Ibo, I forwarded mine of the 29th of August.

In his Excellency's despatch of the 2nd September, your Lordship will observe that I am informed that agents have been appointed to inquire into the statements that I made respecting slaving at Ibo and Inhambane; but your Lordship will remark, on perusing the inclosed correspondence, that on the 12th of September, the Governor-General states that, in consequence of letters addressed to him by the Procureur du Roi and the Juge de Droit, those agents have not been dispatched. The question naturally arises why these officers took upon themselves to interfere with the Governor-General's agents; the Commission of Inquiry, for which I pray your Lordship, would satisfy the Portuguese

Government that certainly one of these officers received three dollars for every free labourer who left this province last year.

I think your Lordship will feel that I am fully justified in repeating the application contained in my despatch of the 6th July, for a squadron of steam-ships in this Channel, more especially when you are informed that the only vessel which has been sent to me is Her Majesty's steam-ship "Geyser," and, that on arriving here, there was a despatch awaiting her, by which this vessel was recalled to the Cape of Good Hope; so that I cannot avail myself of the presence of this steamer to visit Ibo and Inhambane, and personally to inquire into the infringement of Treaties; and I have to add that I am now left without any assistance, and the Mozambique Channel is perfectly open to the Slave Trade.

After the successful trade carried on by the slavers this year, your Lordship will find that in April next, when the south-western monsoon sets in, there will not be less than 100 vessels on this coast engaged in the Slave Trade.

I hear that 14,000 slaves have left this province within the last three months.

Inclosure 1 in No. 314.

Consul McLeod to the Governor-General of the Province of Mozambique.

Your Excellency,

Mozambique, August 29, 1857.

AFTER the solemn assurances that you have made relative to the suppression, on your part, of the nefarious Traffic in Slaves, I am convinced that your Excellency will feel great mortification on hearing that I have received intelligence that a Spanish vessel left Ibo with a cargo of slaves in the month of July, and, further, that French vessels are being supplied with cargoes of slaves for Réunion, under the denomination of free labourers; and I have good reason for stating that this is done, not only with the connivance, but actually with the sanction and assistance of the authorities at Ibo.

I am unwilling at present to give credence to other reports which have reached me; but I may candidly inform your Excellency that nothing would so materially tend to restore my confidence in the sincerity of your intentions to suppress all traffic in our fellow-beings, as your at once superseding the Governor of Ibo, and appointing in his place some person who will carry out the intentions of the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty the King of Portugal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. LYONS McLEOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 314.

Consul McLeod to the Governor-General of the Province of Mozambique.

Your Excellency,

Mozambique, September 1, 1857.

IT may be in your recollection that at my first interview after my arrival here, I called your attention to the fact of my having received information that seven large vessels had left the Havana, in the Island of Cuba, bound for the East Coast of Africa, and that they had all large sums of money on board for the purchase of slaves; that I was further informed that one of those vessels, the "*Minnetonka*," under American colours, was off the port of Natal on the 22nd of June; and urged upon your Excellency the necessity of your candidly informing me if there was any point on the coast where you believed a cargo of slaves might be obtained.

Your Excellency was pleased to reply that there was no place on the coast, from Lorenzo Marques to Cape Delgado, where a cargo of slaves could be obtained.

I then stated that the "*Minnetonka*" was bound to Cape Corrientes, close to Inhambane; you assured me that it was quite impossible to get a cargo in that neighbourhood.

It is my painful duty, after this statement on your part, to inform you that, in substance, the following has been deposed on oath before me.

A barque, which from other portions of the deposition I know to be the "*Minnetonka*," under America colours, anchored off Barrow Hill on or about the 1st day of July, at which time the Portuguese schooner-of-war "*Zambesi*" was at anchor inside of the bar of Inhambane harbour, the wind being fresh from the south-west. That the next morning the "*Zambesi*" crossed the bar, and under easy sail stood towards the vessel at anchor off Barrow Hill; that the said vessel lowered a boat, and that this boat, with a crew of four

men, and under the command of the boatswain of the barque, went alongside of the "Zambesi;" that the boatswain of the barque went on board of the "Zambesi," and entered into conversation with the captain of the "Zambesi," and another person who was a passenger; that shortly afterwards the "Zambesi" hoisted a white flag at the foretop-gallant masthead, and a similar flag at the end of her gaff as a signal to the barque; immediately after which the barque slipped from her anchor and stood to sea. That the boat belonging to the barque accompanied to the shore the boat which landed the pilot who had brought the "Zambesi" out of the harbour; and that the "Zambesi" then shaped a course for the Bazaruto Islands.

Your Excellency will be greatly startled by reading facts so deeply implicating any one in command of a Portuguese vessel-of-war; but I have yet to learn what may be your reply to the statement that the other person who entered into conversation with the boatswain of the slaver, and under whose orders the captain of the "Zambesi" was acting, was no less a personage than Senhor Leotte, ex-Governor of Inhambane, and that I am in a position to prove that this personage returned from the Bazaruto Islands to Inhambane in the "Zambesi," about the 15th of July, and, as your Excellency must be aware of a fact known to every one in this port, endeavoured to usurp the government of Inhambane from his successor, by whom he had been relieved just previous to his leaving that place in the "Zambesi," on the occasion already referred to. The certainty of the profit to be made by supplying the barque "*Minnetonka*" with a cargo of slaves, appears to have been a sufficient inducement to tempt this officer to endeavour to perpetrate so rebellious an act.

Awaiting your Excellency's reply to this communication, when I have no doubt you will be able to afford me full information as to the movements of the "*Minnetonka*," after communicating with the Portuguese schooner-of-war "Zambesi" on the 1st of July, I have, &c.

(Signed) J. LYONS Mc LEOD.

Inclosure 3 in No. 314.

Extract from the Deposition of Henry Batt, Second Mate of the late Barque "Ocean Queen," wrecked on the Bazaruto Islands on the 3rd of March, 1857.

ON or about the 1st of June, the Portuguese schooner of war "Zambesi" arrived at Santa Carolina, with despatches for the Governor of the Bazaruto Islands. She had on board, as a passenger, Major Oliveira, the new Governor of Inhambane, sent by the Governor-General of Mozambique to supersede the Governor Leotte. She left Santa Carolina on the 5th of June; and in her, myself, and the crew of the "Ocean Queen," were sent to Inhambane. About the 12th of June we arrived at Inhambane, and remained there about three weeks. The "Zambesi" returning to Bazaruto, we were ordered to go in her. On 29th June, weighed, and stood for the bar; anchored in ten fathoms, abreast of Mafouroon Island. About 11 A.M. on the 30th June, still at anchor, observed a clipper barque, painted all black, standing in for Barrow Hill. She stood off and on there, until she clewed up everything, and anchored off there about 3 P.M. The same afternoon the pilot came on board the "Zambesi," blowing strong from the south-west.

Next morning, weighed, and proceeded. After crossing the bar, stood to the southward, and observed a boat lowered from the barque at anchor off Barrow Hill. This boat, with the boatswain of the barque, and four men, came alongside of the "Zambesi." After she had been alongside about five minutes, and the boatswain of the barque had conversed, during that time with the captain of the "Zambesi," and the late Governor Leotte, of Inhambane, as a signal to the barque, a white flag was hoisted at the foretop-gallant-mast head, and a similar one at the peak. The "Zambesi" now stood for the barque, which immediately made sail, slipped from her anchor, and stood out to sea. The pilot in his own boat, accompanied the boat of the barque to Inhambane, and we, in the schooner, proceeded to Bazaruto Islands.

During the time that the boat of the barque was alongside the "Zambesi," I had a conversation with one of the men, belonging to the boat, who spoke English. He informed me that, some time previous, they anchored on the coast, further to the south, where the mate and an armed boat's crew went on shore to obtain slaves; he believed that this party had been murdered by the natives. Observing a vessel to the southward, which they believed to be an English man-of-war, they slipped, and ran away to the northward and eastward, towards Madagascar, from which island they came to Inhambane. In reply to a question, he said, with a laugh, that he had quite forgotten the name of the barque, but that she was under American colours. The crew were principally Spaniards;

they had plenty of powder on board; they were well armed, and could show fight: they had six guns, and they were well armed for boarders; they had irons down below for the negroes, when they got them on board, and a large stock of provisions and a great deal of money for purchasing slaves. He had heard the captain of the barque say that he thought he would be able to get the slaves at Inhambane. When the barque made sail, the man with whom I had been conversing spoke to the boatswain about it; and he replied, That is nothing; she will be back in a few days.

Eight days after this, we arrived at Santa Carolina, where we were landed. The "Zambesi" remained at Santa Carolina two or three days, and then returned to Inhambane, with the late Governor Leotte. I wished to go to Inhambane in the "Zambesi," but I was not allowed so do so. In about a month's time, the "Zambesi," with Leotte on board, returned to Santa Carolina; she remained two days, and then we and Leotte came up in her to Mozambique.

(Signed) HENRY BATT, *Second Mate.*

Witness to signature:

(Signed) JOHN TURNER.

The deposition of Henry Batt, second mate of the late barque "Ocean Queen," from which the above is an extract, was taken, on oath, before me, on the 28th day of August 1857.

(Signed) J. LYONS Mc LEOD, *Her Majesty's Consul for Mozambique.*

Inclosure 4 in No. 314.

The Governor-General of the Province of Mozambique to Consul McLeod.

M. le Consul,

Mozambique, le 31 Août, 1857.

JE viens de savoir que des batiments Français de commerce ont mouillé dans quelques points de la côte de cette province, et dans les îles de Cabo Delgado en particulier; et craignant qu'ils se proposent à engager des nègres, ce qui leur est défendu par le Gouvernement Français, comme il m'a été assuré dernièrement par le commandant de la station Mequel, et est aussi défendu par mon Gouvernement, dont les ordres ont été communiqués par moi à toutes les autorités de cette colonie, en leur recommandant avec instance l'exécution; je vous prie, M. le Consul, de vouloir bien ordonner aux commandants des bâtimens de la station Anglaise dans cette côte, que de leur côté ils fassent tout leur possible pour que de telles entreprises ne se réalisent pas, en écartant de la côte les entrepreneurs qui, faisant des affaires défendus par les deux Gouvernemens, doivent être considérés si non comme traiteurs, au moins comme contrebandiers.

Je compte, M. le Consul, sur votre bonne volonté et sur l'équité de ma demande, et ainsi j'espère qu'elle soit agréé.

Agréé, &c.

Le Gouverneur-Général,

(Signé) VASCO GUEDES DE CARVO. E MENEZES.

Inclosure 5 in No. 314.

Consul McLeod to the Governor-General of the Province of Mozambique.

Your Excellency,

Mozambique, September 8, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 31st ultimo, in which you state that you have just received information that French merchant-vessels are anchored on certain points on the coast of this province which you suppose to be engaged in the Slave or Free Labour Trade, and call upon me to direct the commanders of Her Majesty's ships on this station to do all in their power to prevent this Traffic, by driving away from the coast the said vessels.

In reply, I have the honour to state that your Excellency may, at all times, depend on my assistance in suppressing the Slave Trade; and, in regard to the present matter, I shall feel obliged by your Excellency informing me, very distinctly, what measures you wish to be taken by Her Majesty's ships for the suppression of this Traffic in the ports of the province of Mozambique, as Her Majesty's naval officers must not, in any case, exceed the limits of the requisition for co-operation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. LYONS Mc LEOD.

Inclosure 6 in No. 314.

The Governor-General of the Province of Mozambique to Consul McLeod.

M. le Consul,

Mozambique, le 2 Septembre, 1857.

J'AI reçu à l'instant votre dépêche du 29 dernier, et une autre en date d'hier, dans lesquelles vous vous en rapportez à des conversations tenues entre nous, en disant que je vous ai assuré qu'il était impossible d'obtenir un chargement d'esclaves dans la côte Portugaise, et dans lesquelles vous voulez bien me communiquer les renseignements que vous avez reçus sur l'arrivée de bâtiments Espagnols à Inhambane et à Ibo, et de bâtiments Français à ce dernier port, aussi bien que ce que l'on vous a raconté sur la communication qu'il y a eu entre un trois-mâts portant le drapeau Américain, et le patacho "Zambesi," à l'entrée du port d'Inhambane, en ajoutant des renseignements sur les actes du dernier Gouverneur d'Inhambane, Leotte.

En réponse donc je dois vous dire d'abord que vous êtes en erreur, Monsieur, et que j'ai eu certainement le malheur de ne pas être compris par vous. Je ne vous ai pas dit qu'il était impossible de faire un chargement de nègres dans cette côte; c'est tout le contraire que je vous ai dit.

Je vous ai dit, et l'ai dit aussi à M. l'Amiral William Grey dans la lettre que je lui adressai par le Capitaine Gordon, que jusqu'alors pas un nègre n'était sorti de cette côte pour au-delà du Cap de Bonne Espérance pendant mon gouvernement; mais j'ai dit en même temps que la population était toute disposée pour la Traite, et que si les traiteurs se présentent, ils ont toujours de la facilité pour faire leur chargement. C'est donc ceci que je vous ai dit, M. le Consul, et l'ai aussi dit parfois au Gouvernement de mon pays.

A l'égard de tout ce qu'on raconte à propos d'Inhambane et d'Ibo, j'ai à vous dire que je n'ai reçu des renseignements officiels que sur le trois-mâts qui s'est présenté à l'entrée du port d'Inhambane, qui a communiqué avec le "Zambesi," et qui après cela a pris la mer; et le Gouverneur d'Ibo vient de me dire que sept bâtiments Français de commerce s'étaient présentés à la rade, et avaient demandé permission d'y rester, en disant qu'ils attendaient un bâtiment de guerre avec des ordres de leur Gouvernement, et qu'il lui a accordé cette permission-là, et veillait sur eux. Et quant à ce que vous dites des efforts faits pour le capitaine de corvette Leotte pour se saisir de nouveau du gouvernement d'Inhambane, je le sais aussi officiellement. Pour tout le reste je n'ai que des renseignements particuliers.

Maintenant, M. le Consul, je dois vous faire part, que le commandant du "Zambesi" et le capitaine de corvette Leotte se trouvent arrêtés et livrés aux tribunaux; que j'ai déjà nommé des agents officiels pour aller prendre des renseignements sur les lieux à Ibo et à Inhambane; que j'en ai fait part au Procureur du Roi pour qu'il agisse de son côté; que j'ai mis le Gouvernement de mon pays au courant de cette affaire et lui ai dit qu'il faudrait mettre l'autorité de cette province à même d'empêcher de telles entreprises; et qu'avec le peu de moyens dont je dispose, je ferai en attendant tout mon possible pour cela; quoique comme je dois remettre dans peu le gouvernement à mon successeur, il me manque de la force à cause de cela, parceque l'on pense que je n'ai plus le temps de punir ceux qui ne remplissent mes ordres.

Quant au remplacement du Gouverneur de Ibo, bientôt que les renseignements que l'on va prendre de mon côté et de la part du Procureur du Roi me soient arrivées, s'il est en effet coupable, je vous assure qu'il sera de suite déplacé et puni; avant cela je ne crois point qu'il soit prudent de la faire, vu qu'il est nommé par le Roi, et je ne le fais pas.

Vous voyez donc, M. le Consul, que je prends à cœur de remplir mon devoir dans ce qui concerne cet important sujet, comme tout autre; et qu'ainsi je crois avoir le droit d'espérer que vous ne doutiez jamais de la sincérité de mes intentions pour la complète cessation de la Traite.

Agréer, &c.

Le Gouverneur-Général,

(Signé)

VASCO GUEDES DE CARVO. E MENEZES.

Inclosure 7 in No. 314.

Consul McLeod to the Governor-General of the Province of Mozambique.

Your Excellency,

Mozambique, September 9, 1857.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 2nd current, acknowledging my despatches of the 29th ultimo and of the 1st of this month, in which you state that the Governor

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of Ibo has informed you that seven French vessels had arrived in the harbour and asked permission to remain there, saying that they awaited the arrival of a French ship-of-war with Government orders, I have information from Captain Gordon, of Her Majesty's steam-vessel "Hermes," that these vessels have arrived for slaves under the denomination of free labourers; that up to the date of Captain Gordon's letter he had not met with this French ship-of-war; and that he had remonstrated with the Governor of Ibo on this matter.

I believe that there is no French ship-of-war engaged in this affair, and I form my opinion on Count Walewski's letter to Lord Cowley dated, Paris, October 4, 1855, a copy of which I have the honour to forward for your Excellency's information.

I will avail myself of the earliest opportunity to inform the British Government of the promptitude with which your Excellency noticed my report relative to the Portuguese schooner-of-war "Zambesi" communicating with the "Minnetonka" off Barrow Hill on the 1st of July, and I will convey to the Government your statement, "que le commandant du 'Zambesi' et le capitaine de corvette Leotte se trouvent arrêtés et livrés aux tribunaux;" but, it will be my duty to add that, although I know the Moor who was in command of the "Zambesi" on the occasion referred to, is in prison, I am also aware that, up to the date of this despatch, the ex-Governor of Inhambane, le capitaine de corvette Leotte, is still at large.

I regret that your Excellency has received no official information about the "Minnetonka," and I have therefore to refer you to another despatch of this date relative to the movements of that vessel after leaving Inhambane.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. LYONS McLEOD.

Inclosure 8 in No. 314.

Consul McLeod to the Governor-General of the Province of Mozambique.

Your Excellency,

Mozambique, September 9, 1857.

I HAVE again to call your serious attention to the manner in which the authorities at Ibo, totally disregarding Treaties, and in defiance of the orders of his Most Faithful Majesty, are openly engaged in the Slave Trade.

In my despatch of the 29th ultimo I brought this matter before your Excellency, stating that "a Spanish vessel left Ibo with a cargo of slaves in the month of July, and, farther, that French vessels are being supplied with cargoes of slaves for Réunion, under the denomination of free labourers, &c.;" and, I have now to add, that I have learned that the "Minnetonka," a barque under American colours, referred to in my despatch of the 1st current, not being able to obtain, with dispatch, at Inhambane the number of slaves she required, proceeded to Ibo, where she was supplied with a cargo of 1,200 slaves, and sailed from that place in the end of July. That the "Minnetonka" having 70,000 dollars on board for the purchase of slaves, was able to give a higher price than the captains of the free labour ships, under French colours, were willing to give; in consequence of which they remonstrated with the Governor of Ibo, and, a Spanish vessel presenting herself for a cargo, some days afterwards, the captains of the French ships would not allow the Governor of Ibo to supply her, and she was sent to Inhambane for the slaves which had been ordered for the "Minnetonka." This Spaniard was to have been off Inhambane on the 16th ultimo, when she would be fitted up with water and make her final arrangements, so that on her return to the coast, seven days afterwards, she would ship her cargo of slaves off Barrow Hill with dispatch.

I have further to inform your Excellency that, at Ibo, slaves are supplied to the so-called free labour ships at 40 dollars a-head, and that these slaves are afterwards sold at Réunion for from 80 dollars to 120 dollars each.

I am most anxious to know what immediate steps your Excellency will take to put an end to this state of affairs at Ibo; and I have to call your attention to the Portarias of the Imperial Government of Portugal dated 27th of February, 1855, and 30th of July, 1856.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. LYONS McLEOD.

Inclosure 9 in No. 314.

The Governor-General of the Province of Mozambique to Consul McLeod.

M. le Consul,

Mozambique, le 12 Septembre, 1857.

J'AI reçu hier vos deux dépêches du 9 courant dans lesquelles vous me parlez de nouveau des affaires d'Ibo et d'Inhambane, à propos de bâtimens Français et Espagnols qui cherchent des nègres pour exportation.

J'ai d'abord à vous remercier, M. le Consul, des renseignements et des détails dont vous voulez bien me mettre au courant, et j'espère que vous continuerez à me rendre le grand service de me communiquer tout ce qui vienne à votre connaissance sur cet important objet.

Mais pour ma part, je n'ai rien à ajouter à ce que je vous ai dit dans ma dernière dépêche à cet égard, parceque je n'ai reçu d'autres renseignements officiels. Quant aux mesures à prendre pour ma part, dont vous désirez être informé, je dois vous dire que n'ayant des bâtimens de guerre à ma disposition, je suis forcé de me limiter à des mesures indirectes. Vous savez que les Gouverneurs des districts ont des ordres instans pour ne pas permettre la Traite ni la sortie de travailleurs engagés, et qu'ils doivent employer tous les moyens pour les exécuter; et qu'ainsi, de ce côté, ce que je peux faire, c'est les instruire de nouveau pour qu'ils ne manquent pas de remplir leur devoir.

Je vous avais dit dans ma dernière dépêche, que j'allai envoyer des agents officiels à Ibo et à Inhambane pour prendre des renseignements spéciaux, et que j'en avais fait part au Procureur du Roi pour qu'il prit toutes les mesures de son côté.

Or, mes agents étaient nommés, l'un avait déjà pris passage sur le trois-mâts "Tejo," qui était assigné à partir aujourd'hui pour Inhambane, et j'avais déjà fait louer un transport pour porter l'autre à Ibo; mais avant-hier et hier, j'ai reçu les uns après les autres, des dépêches du Procureur du Roi et du Juge de Droit, dans lequel on me priait de ne pas envoyer mes agents, en disant qu'ils allaient faire un procès régulier sur cette affaire, et que la présence de mes agents sur les lieux pouvait être nuisible à l'action des tribunaux.

Ainsi je contremandai le départ de mes agents, et j'ai communiqué cela au Juge et au Procureur du Roi, en leur disant que dorénavant cette affaire les regardait tout-à-fait, et que j'espérais qu'ils rempliraient entièrement leur devoir. Voilà donc, M. le Consul, dans quels termes se trouve l'affaire; elle est soumise aux tribunaux et j'attends leur décision. Cependant, je vous assure que je ne manquerai pas d'employer tous les moyens à ma portée, pour que les ordres et les désirs de mon Gouvernement sur cet objet soient satisfaits, si on peut l'obtenir.

Enfin, M. le Consul, je vous assure, et j'espère que vous n'en douterez pas, que le capitaine de corvette Leotte est arrêté et soumis aux tribunaux, quoiqu'il lui soit permis de rester chez lui et de se promener en ville, de laquelle il ne peut pas sortir; et je dois même vous dire que j'ai donné la même permission au pilote du "Zambesi," et que ça se fait partout dans des cas égaux.

Agréé, &c.

Le Gouverneur-General,

(Signé)

VASCO GUEDES DE CARVO. E MENEZES.

No. 315.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul McLeod.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 5, 1858.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 3rd of October last, inclosing copies of a correspondence which has passed between you and the Governor-General of Mozambique relative to the Slave Trade which is carried on from the Portuguese possessions on the East Coast of Africa, and I have to acquaint you that I approve your proceedings as reported in your above-mentioned despatch.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

CLARENDON.

No. 316.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Mc Leod.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 5, 1858.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 6th of July last, relative to the proceedings of a vessel called the "*Minnetonka*," and to your correspondence with the Captain-General of Mozambique, inclosed in your despatch of the 3rd of last October, relative to the shipment by this vessel of a cargo of slaves at Ibo, I inclose, for your information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul-General in Cuba,* by which you will perceive that the "*Minnetonka*" has arrived safely at that island, and that she has sailed again on a fresh slave-trading expedition; and I have to instruct you to communicate this information to the Governor-General of Mozambique.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 317.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Mc Leod.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 5, 1858.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information and guidance, a copy of a letter which, by my directions, has been addressed to the Admiralty,† in reply to one received from that Department, requesting to be informed what instructions should be given to the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's naval forces on the Cape of Good Hope Station with regard to the manner in which the dhows, or native vessels, are to be dealt with, which may be found exporting slaves from the Portuguese possessions on the East Coast of Africa.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 318.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Mc Leod.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 30, 1858.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 3rd of October last, I inclose, for your information, a copy of a despatch from Mr. Howard, Her Majesty's Minister at Lisbon,‡ inclosing a copy of a note which, in compliance with my instructions, he addressed to the Marquis de Loulé on the subject of the Slave Trade which is stated to be carried on, with the sanction of the Portuguese authorities, from the possessions of Portugal on the East Coast of Africa.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 319.

The Earl of Malmesbury to Consul Mc Leod.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 27, 1858.

WITH reference to Lord Clarendon's despatch of the 5th ultimo, I inclose, for your information, the accompanying copy of a despatch from Mr. Howard, Her Majesty's Minister at Lisbon,§ by which you will perceive that the Governor-General of Mozambique will be directed to receive the negroes that may be captured by British cruizers in such native vessels as may be unfit to be sent to the Cape of Good Hope for adjudication in the Mixed Commission Court.

I am, &c.

(Signed) MALMESBURY.

* No. 464.

† Inclosure in No. 285.

‡ No. 289.

§ No. 300.

No. 320.

The Earl of Malmesbury to Consul McLeod.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 19, 1858.

WITH reference to Lord Clarendon's despatch of the 30th of January last, I transmit herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch from Mr. Howard, Her Majesty's Minister at Lisbon,* inclosing a translation of the answer which has been returned by the Portuguese Government to the note which Mr. Howard addressed to the Marquis de Loulé, on the 16th of last January, relative to the Slave Trade which is reported by you to be carried on, with the sanction of the authorities, from the Portuguese possessions on the East Coast of Africa.

You will perceive from the despatch of the Portuguese Minister of Marine, which is inclosed in the Marquis de Loulé's note, that the Governor-General of Mozambique will be directed to make minute inquiries relative to the interference on the part of the "Procureur du Roi" and "Juge de Droit," which had the effect, as reported in your despatch of the 3rd of October last, of preventing the Governor from dispatching the agents whom he had appointed to inquire into the Slave Trade proceedings at Ibo and Inhambane.

You will also perceive that the Portuguese Minister expresses a wish that you should furnish the Governor-General with the information on which the charge brought by you against one of these judicial authorities is founded; and I have accordingly to desire that you will afford the Governor all the information in your power with regard to this particular case, and also, generally, in any case in which you may have reason to believe that the Portuguese authorities are conniving at the Slave Trade, or are not acting up to the orders and intentions of their Government for the suppression of this Traffic.

I think it right at the same time to enjoin you to be careful not to make any charges against the Portuguese authorities, unless you are in a position to substantiate such charges upon good authority.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MALMESBURY.

No. 321.

The Earl of Malmesbury to Consul McLeod.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 20, 1858.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information a copy of a Portaria issued by the Portuguese Government on the 19th ultimo,† and published in the "Diario do Governo" newspaper of the 3rd instant, directing the Governor-General of Mozambique to employ all the means in his power to suppress the Traffic in Slaves which is carried on in native vessels from the Portuguese possessions on the East Coast of Africa to the Comoro Islands and to Madagascar.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MALMESBURY.

* No. 304.

† Inclosure in No. 305.

SARDINIA.

No. 322.

The Earl of Clarendon to Sir J. Hudson.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 28, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copies of a despatch and its inclosures from Mr. Morgan, Her Majesty's Consul at Bahia,* reporting that some of the foreign steam-vessels navigating to the Brazils are in the habit of carrying slaves between the ports of that Empire, and that the Sardinian steam-vessel "Vittorio Emanuele" is one of the vessels so employed—a proceeding which Mr. Morgan believes to be contrary to the laws of Sardinia; and I have to desire that if you should think it advisable to do so, you will make known the proceedings of this vessel to the Sardinian Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 323.

Sir J. Hudson to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 29.)

My Lord,

Turin, June 23, 1857.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 28th ultimo, inclosing a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Bahia, reporting that some of the foreign steam-vessels navigating to the Brazils are in the habit of carrying slaves between the ports of that Empire, and that the Sardinian steam-vessel "Vittorio Emanuele" is one of the vessels so employed, I have the honour to report that I have called the attention of Count Cavour to the circumstance in question, and that his Excellency expressed his disapprobation of this practice of carrying slaves (for sale), and would see what measures he could legally take to put a stop to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES HUDSON.

No. 324.

Sir J. Hudson to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 19.)

My Lord,

Turin, September 16, 1857.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch instructing me to communicate with the Sardinian Government a Resolution of the House of Commons against Slave Trade, I have the honour to transmit herewith the copy of a note from the Sardinian Minister for Foreign Affairs, requesting me to assure your Lordship that the Sardinian Government will continue to use their utmost endeavours for the extinction of this piratical crime.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES HUDSON.

Inclosure in No. 324.

Count Cavour to Sir J. Hudson.

M. le Ministre,

Turin, le 14 Septembre, 1857.

J'AI l'honneur de vous accuser réception et de vous remercier de l'office en date du 9 courant, par lequel vous avez bien voulu me communiquer une copie de l'adresse de la Chambre des Communes concernant la Traite des Esclaves, et une copie de la réponse de Sa Majesté la Reine de la Grande Bretagne.

Le Gouvernement Britannique rend justice aux sentiments dont le Gouvernement du Roi s'est toujours montré animé, en comptant sur sa coopération pour contribuer à réprimer un commerce criminel, et si hautement condamné par tout principe d'humanité, comme par les lois.

Vous pourrez donner l'assurance, M. le Ministre, que le Gouvernement du Roi continuera, ainsi qu'il a fait par le passé, à employer loyalement et activement ses efforts dans les limites que lui assignent les Traités et ses propres moyens pour la répression efficace de la Traite.

Je saisis, &c.
Pour le Ministre,
(Signé) DI SALMOUR.

SPAIN.

No. 325.

Lord Howden to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 2.)

My Lord,

Madrid, March 28, 1857.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch to Mr. Otway, dated the 25th of September last, directing him to inform the Spanish Government that the Captain-General of Cuba, in absence of orders from Madrid, had refused to swear in Mr. Lousada as Her Majesty's Arbitrator in the British and Spanish Mixed Court of Justice at Havana, I have now the honour to acquaint your Lordship that I have received a note from Señor Pidal, in which his Excellency states that the necessary orders have been sent, received, and duly carried into effect by General Concha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HOWDEN.

No. 326.

Lord Howden to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 12.)

My Lord,

Madrid, April 1, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a translation of a long note from Señor Pidal, in answer to the one which, by your Lordship's orders, I addressed to his Excellency on the subject of the certificates which the Spanish Government desire may be given to vessels by their Consuls on the African coast.

Without more precise instructions and data I do not think myself in a position to answer this communication, and I therefore leave it for your Lordship's consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HOWDEN.

Inclosure in No. 326.

The Marquis de Pidal to Lord Howden.

(Translation.)

Most Excellent Sir,

Madrid, March 21, 1857.

BY your Excellency's note of the 12th ultimo, I have made myself acquainted with the reasons which, notwithstanding the arguments contained in my note of the 12th of December last, prevent the British Government from acceding to the wishes of Her Catholic Majesty's Government, on the subject of the authorization for Spanish Consuls to issue the certificates which, according to Article X of the Treaty of 1835, are required for vessels bound for the coast of Africa, when carrying on board a large number of empty casks.

The perusal of your Excellency's above-mentioned note has made a painful impression on my mind, because, finding that it does not destroy the reasoning set forth by Her Catholic Majesty's Government in support of the legality, the expediency, and even the necessity of the measure in question, and that nothing is therein adduced but arguments which Her Catholic Majesty's Government consider not to be sufficiently well founded for justifying the refusal of the British Government,—this refusal appears to be the result of a previous decision on the subject, in the adoption whereof neither have the observa-

tions contained in the notes from this Secretary of State's office been taken into account, nor has the legitimate interest of Spanish trade been attended to, the encouragement of which on the Northern Coast of Africa is the sole object aimed at by the circular of the 28th of September, 1856, which has given rise to the present discussion.

If Her Catholic Majesty's Government had not entertained the most perfect conviction that the tenour of the aforesaid circular introduced no alteration whatsoever into the essence of the Treaty of 1835, and that still less could it in any way interfere with the proper effect of the measures of repression adopted against the Slave Trade, it would certainly have abstained from following the course which it has pursued on this matter, for the sole purpose of protecting the *bonâ fide* commercial expeditions which Spanish merchants send to the ports of the African coast; and it was to be expected that the British Government would at once have considered the question under this point of view, in consequence of the striking proofs which the Government of the Queen, my Sovereign, has given, as well of its respect for Treaties as of its increasing efforts to obtain the extermination of the Slave Trade; but since neither these precedents, nor the contents of my above-mentioned note, have been sufficient to modify the erroneous appreciation which has been made of the measure in question, it becomes necessary to add some further observations to those which have already been made, though it be only to the effect that the justice and reason of our request may ever be extant.

The alterations which your Excellency supposes to have been introduced into Article X of the Treaty of 1835 are three in number, namely, the permission granted to Spanish vessels for obtaining in foreign ports, and not in the port of their clearance, the certificates which are required for carrying on board a large number of empty casks; the substitution of Consular Agents in the room of the Custom-house authorities, as the officers by whom the aforesaid certificates are to be issued; and the power granted to ships' masters of giving the security which, according to the Treaty, can only be admitted from the ship-owners themselves.

Following your Excellency in this order of subdivision, I trust fully to prove that no essential alteration has been introduced into the Treaty of 1835, and that no just nor well-founded motive exists for believing that the aforesaid circular of the 28th of September may give rise, in its practical operation, to the inconveniences alluded to by your Excellency.

With regard to the first of the three alterations quoted by your Excellency, you state that if it were allowed to the masters of vessels bound for Africa to take on board, in foreign ports, the casks they may require for the palm-oil trade, there would be an infraction of the English law, whereby the provisions of the Treaty of 1835 were put in force, and according to which the operation in question must be performed at the port of departure.

This incorrect supposition proceeds from your Excellency's having had strictly in view the letter of the Treaty, without penetrating into the true spirit of the same, and without taking into account that the natural interpretation of international compacts, and the most conformable to the principles of law, in general, is always the most favourable one.

Moreover, it could never be the object of the measure we are now discussing to limit to the port of departure alone the operation of taking on board the casks required for palm-oil; because it being acknowledged, as it is in the Treaty, that it is necessary not to put illegal trammels in the way of *bonâ fide* trade; it being also acknowledged that the casks in question are indispensable for the exportation of palm-oil, and that they cannot be found in Africa, wherefore the embarkation thereof is authorized under certain formalities, it is not possible to admit in good logic that the fact of taking them on board at the port of departure, or at any other one at which they may touch, can, in any way, contribute to the attainment of the objects which the Treaty has in view.

The circumstance of the casks being taken on board at this or the other port, provided the required formalities have been observed on their embarkation, does neither facilitate nor render more difficult the abuse which it might be intended to make thereof by employing the casks for a reprobated object; whilst the means of preventing such an abuse is the pecuniary security which is to be given on taking the casks on board, and the vigilance of cruizers—two precautions the result of which is quite irrelevant from the circumstance of that security having been given at this or the other port, or from the class of the functionary who has authorized the proceeding, provided that he be a legitimately constituted authority, responsible for his acts, and exercising functions of a high character, as are those assigned to Consuls. Consequently, the power of taking on board the casks in question either at the port of departure, or at another one at which the vessel may

touch, being in harmony with the spirit of the Treaty, and this circumstance introducing no alteration into the essence of the stipulations of the same, since it is therein consigned that it will be allowed to vessels to carry empty casks on board—a permission to which no definite limits are marked, there exists no reason for stating that the English law which put in vigour the provisions of the Treaty would be infringed by the authorization of an act which is consented to by the same Treaty.

With reference to the supposed second alteration, which consists in the power granted to Consuls of issuing the certificates which are, at present, issued by the Custom-house officers, on the embarkation of the casks so much spoken of, your Excellency is pleased to bring forward, as the sole reason for not consenting to it, the danger that Consuls, whether Spanish or English ones, being generally persons engaged in trade, may have an interest in facilitating the unlawful operations which the aforesaid certificates are intended to prevent.

It is to be regretted that your Excellency has expressed an opinion so unfavourable to Consuls, of whose upright conduct and loyalty Her Catholic Majesty's Government neither can nor ought to entertain the least doubt; and it was under this conviction that it appeared to the Spanish Government that no inconvenience whatever could result from authorizing Spanish Consuls to perform an act, hitherto performed, according to the Treaty, by other functionaries of no higher rank, and whose functions are not of so transcendental and elevated a character as those of Consuls, as I endeavoured to prove in my note of the 12th of December last.

Recognizing, therefore, in the Consuls, as well as in the Custom-house authorities, the qualifications of honesty, ability, and responsibility, the unfounded suspicion alluded to by your Excellency cannot be a plausible motive for refusing to the former the power in question; but Her Catholic Majesty's Government, being desirous of completely removing the apprehension entertained by the British Cabinet with regard to Consuls who are engaged in trade, will willingly accept a modification, whereby the aforesaid power of issuing the certificates in question may be granted only to those Consuls who receive a salary from the Public Treasury, and to whom it is strictly prohibited, by our regulations, to engage in any commercial operations whatsoever.

The so-called third alteration, which I am going to reply to in a few words, is confined to the circumstance that the pecuniary security which is to be given before issuing the certificate, when the empty casks are taken on board, may be given by the masters of vessels, as well as by the owners thereof.

In order to prove to your Excellency that this substitution of persons, in determined cases, does not alter the essence of the Treaty, nor injure the object for which it is intended, it is sufficient to observe to your Excellency that the guarantee against the abuse which it is intended to prevent, by means of the security, consists in the security itself, and not in the person who gives it; and that, so soon as this security has been given, and its amount, in cash, has been deposited, with the proper formalities, the object of the provisions contained in the 6th clause of Article X, quoted by your Excellency, will be completely attained; since, although in that Article no mention is made of shipmasters, when speaking of the security in question, no exclusion is specified concerning them; because the essential point of the aforesaid clause is the consignment of the pecuniary guarantee to prevent the abuse which might be made of the empty casks, without taking into consideration the person by whom such a guarantee is given. In corroboration of this argument, I beg to observe to your Excellency that if the spirit of the above-mentioned Article were, that the shipowners alone were to be permitted to give the security in question, the *bond fide* trade with the ports of Africa would be limited to shipowners, to the exclusion of the great number of merchants who charter vessels, not their own, for the transport of their merchandize; since it would not be an easy matter to find any shipowners who would accept the condition of giving a considerable security on chartering their vessels for Africa; whilst merchants would be compelled to give up all speculations with the ports of that continent, so long as they should not possess vessels of their own.

Such a trammel—as arbitrary as it would be contrary to the system of ample protection to commerce adopted by almost every Government in Europe—is not, and can never have been, in the spirit, nor even in the letter, of the Treaty of 1835, concluded by Spain for the suppression of the Slave Trade; but not for the purpose of rendering impossible the *bond fide* trade with African ports.

With regard to the amount of the above-mentioned security, Her Catholic Majesty's Government sees no objection whatever to its being fixed at the sum of 50,000 reals, being the equivalent of the 500*l.* which your Excellency mentions in your note; because,

taking as much interest as the British Government in the suppression of the Slave Trade, it could never make any opposition to the adoption of a precautionary measure, intended to guarantee the fulfilment of the provisions of the Treaty.

From the above statement, your Excellency will have felt convinced that the circular of the 28th of September introduces no alteration whatever into the essence of the afore-said international stipulation, with the spirit whereof it is in perfect harmony, without its offering any pretext, unless it be interpreted in a violent and erroneous sense, for supposing that it may protect the interests of slave-dealers.

The British Government must be persuaded that the intention of Her Catholic Majesty's Government, on issuing the above-mentioned circular, was only to protect, as it is its duty to do, the *bond fide* trade, and to afford to it those reasonable and just facilities which it wants for its speculations in Africa, a country in which it has so many natural difficulties to encounter.

It is not to be expected, therefore, that the British Government will insist upon the refusal it has opposed to the wishes of the Government of Her Catholic Majesty; a refusal which might be supposed to be inspired with the object of excluding the Spanish flag from the markets of the Northern Coast of Africa, rather than by the conviction of its justice.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) EL MARQUES DE PIDAL.

No. 327.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Howden.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, April 13, 1857.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Lordship's information, copies of two despatches which I have received from Mr. Crawford, Her Majesty's Consul-General at the Havana,* dated respectively the 28th of February and 1st of March last: the first reporting the removal, by the Captain-General of Cuba, of Brigadier Serrano, from the command of the district of Trinidad, on account of his connivance at the landing of slaves within the limits of his jurisdiction; the second, inclosing copies of a correspondence which has passed between Mr. Crawford and the Captain-General, relative to the landing of two further cargoes of slaves, reported by Mr. Vice-Consul Smith to have taken place in the district of Sancti Spiritus.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 328.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Howden.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, April 14, 1857.

I HAVE to acquaint your Lordship that I transmitted to Mr. Crawford, Her Majesty's Consul-General at the Havana, a copy of your Lordship's despatch of the 3rd of January last,† inclosing a copy of a note from the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, in which his Excellency acknowledges that the report of a landing of slaves having been effected at Sierra Morena, in the month of February of last year, was not without foundation; but he adds that the number landed was much smaller than that reported by Mr. Crawford.

I now inclose to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Crawford,‡ stating that the vessel from which the slaves were disembarked, on the occasion in question, was named the "*P. Soulé*." And I also inclose extracts of despatches from Her Majesty's Commissioners at Loanda,§ which show that a vessel called the "*P. Soulé*," or "*P. Soli*," did embark a cargo of upwards of 500 slaves, at a place between Benguella and Mossamedes, about the 31st of December, 1855, and that they were successfully landed in Cuba in the month of February following. And I have to instruct your Lordship to communicate the substance of the inclosed papers to the Spanish Government, in confirmation of the accuracy of Mr. Crawford's original report.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

* Nos. 407 and 408.

† Class B, presented 1857, No. 494.
§ Class A, presented 1857, Nos. 57, 97, and 99.

‡ No. 406.

Lord Howden to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 16.)

My Lord,

Madrid, April 10, 1857.

UPON the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 10th ultimo,* inclosing a Return of the number of slaves landed in Cuba during the year 1856, I lost no time in calling the attention of the Spanish Government to the fact of the slave-dealers experiencing little difficulty in procuring cédulas, or tickets of registration, for the newly-imported negroes, whereby great facilities were afforded for increasing the Traffic.

I have received, in reply the note, translation of which I have the honour herewith to inclose, and in which your Lordship will observe that, although it is affirmed that the exertions of the Captain-General of Cuba have been successful in entirely suppressing the Traffic, fresh instructions have been forwarded to his Excellency, as well as a copy of the aforementioned communication.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HOWDEN.

Inclosure in No. 329.

The Marquis de Pidal to Lord Howden.

(Translation.)

Most Excellent Sir,

Madrid, April 3, 1857.

I HAVE received the note which your Excellency has done me the honour of addressing to me on the 28th of March last, inclosing a copy of the despatch addressed to Lord Clarendon by the English Commissioners at the Havana, respecting the activity with which the Slave Trade is supposed to have been carried on in the Island of Cuba during the year 1856.

I must state to your Excellency at once, that Her Catholic Majesty's Government considers the information contained in the above-mentioned despatch to be exaggerated, since the Spanish Government, besides knowing nothing at all about it, receives repeated assurances to the contrary from the Governor and Captain-General of the island, who congratulates himself on having put an end to that criminal Traffic, and to the remonstrances on the part of England on this question, by causing the repression of the Slave Trade to be a real truth.

However, copies of the above-mentioned inclosures have been sent to General Concha, instructing him to make a report upon the contents thereof; but, at the same time, I have the pleasure of being able to state to your Excellency, that before receiving the note which I am replying to, and without having the slightest notice of the facts denounced by Her Britannic Majesty's Commissioners, fresh instructions had been sent to the aforesaid superior authority in Cuba, confirmatory of those which have been constantly issued by this First Secretary of State's office, directing his Excellency to redouble his vigilance, and to adopt such measures as may be most proper and conducive to the total suppression of the Slave Trade, this being the object which the efforts of the two Governments of Spain and England are intended to attain.

On communicating the above to your Excellency, requesting that you may be pleased to bring it to the knowledge of your Government, I avail, &c.

(Signed) EL MARQUES DE PIDAL.

No 330.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Howden.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, April 21, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to your Lordship herewith a copy of a Memorial which has been presented to me by a deputation from the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, calling the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the continued importation of slaves into Cuba, and requesting that the influence of the British Government may be used at Madrid, with a view to induce the Government of Spain to take efficient measures to prevent the continuance of this detestable Traffic.

I have to state to your Lordship, that without expressing their concurrence in all the

* Class B, presented 1857, No. 503.

observations contained in the inclosed Memorial, Her Majesty's Government have no doubt of the fact that the Slave Trade does continue to be extensively carried on in Cuba, and that the measures of repression employed by the Spanish Government are not only entirely inadequate for the purpose, but that they have in some cases been turned to account by the slave-traders, and made the means, as in the case of the cédulas referred to in my despatch of the 10th ultimo, of preventing the discovery of the newly-imported slaves.

I have to instruct your Lordship again to call the serious attention of the Spanish Government to the impunity with which the Cuban Slave Trade is carried on. In doing so, you will state to the Marquis of Pidal the conviction of Her Majesty's Government that one of the most effectual means of deterring the slave-traders from carrying on their abominable Traffic, would be the passing of a law rendering the Slave Trade piracy; and you will urge his Excellency to introduce a Law for this purpose, during the forthcoming Session of the Cortes.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

Inclosure in No. 330.

Memorial.

To the Right Hon. the Earl of Clarendon.

My Lord,

27, New Broad Street, February 21, 1857.

THE Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society respectfully solicit your Lordship's attention to the present Memorial on the subject of the continuance of the African Slave Trade.

The Committee rejoice to find that this inhuman Traffic appears to be confined at present chiefly, if not exclusively, to the Island of Cuba, the most recent accounts tending to confirm the encouraging fact of its extinction in Brazil. It is, however, deeply to be deplored, that notwithstanding the measures which have been adopted for its suppression, it has received no material check in Cuba; a circumstance the Committee feel justified in ascribing as much to the bad faith of the Spanish Government as to the lack of earnestness on the part of the Captain-General of Cuba. In confirmation of this view, the Committee would refer your Lordship to the annual Reports of Her Majesty's Commissary Judges at the Havana,* and especially to that of the late G. C. Backhouse, Esq., for the year 1854, in which, adverting to the then recent efforts of the Marquis de la Pezuela, Captain-General at that period, he says:

“These facts, resulting from the orders issued, and the measures taken by the supreme authority of the island, for the abolition of the Slave Trade, though they prove the existence of the Trade, show the good effects of the exertions of the Captain-General against it, and prove the truth of what has often been asserted, that with him rests the responsibility of its continuance.”

There appears to exist such perfect unanimity on this latter point that the Committee deem it unnecessary to adduce additional evidence in support of it. Under such circumstances, therefore, it is exceedingly to be regretted that no sooner does a Captain-General afford proof of his determination to put an end to slave-trading than he is superseded; a fact which goes far to establish the insincerity of the Cabinet of Madrid, and implies a determination on its part to evade its treaty obligations. As an illustration, the Committee may point to the superseding of the Marquis de la Pezuela by General Don José de la Concha, the present Captain-General, whose antecedents and well-known views on the subject of slavery as an agricultural system, and on the Slave Trade, as a necessary adjunct thereto, foreshadowed that his policy would tend to strengthen the system which, in his published work on Cuba,† he had maintained to be indispensable to the prosperity of that island.

With reference to the number of slaves officially reported as having been landed in 1855, the Committee would observe that, if the accuracy of the Report on this head could be relied upon, it would exhibit a diminution of the Traffic. The Committee, however, have reason to believe that this number is far below the actual amount, for those who are in a position to obtain the best information, assert that in 1855, and in the previous year, the number was not below 20,000. Of this fact there is evidence in the Parliamentary Papers themselves. In Mr. Commissary Backhouse's Report for 1854, dated 1st January,

* Slave Trade Papers, Classes A and B.

† “Memorias sobre la Isla de Cuba,” por El Teniente General Don José de la Concha: Madrid, 1851.

1855,* adverting to the large number of landings in that year, he states that it exceeded "that of any year, except the immediate preceding one, for a considerable time past."

Her Majesty's Acting Commissary Judge opens his Report dated 1st January, 1856, by stating that "the Slave Trade during the past year has been carried on with more than the ordinary activity."† Yet, during the year then just expired, only 6,408 negroes are reported to have been landed, whereas, in the previous year, the number reached 11,400, according to the official returns.

This discrepancy between statements and figures tends to prove that, however zealous and active, Her Majesty's Commissioners possess no reliable data on this subject, and that whilst their reports are based upon such facts only as come to their knowledge through channels more or less equivocal, they themselves have a conviction that the Trade is carried on to a far greater extent than they are in a position to establish on evidence that would be deemed conclusive for official purposes. But on this point the Committee beg to submit further evidence.

In the correspondence between the Spanish and the British Governments on the subject of the abolition of the Slave Trade, it is stated that the Local Census returns exhibited a positive annual increase in the slave population up to the year 1843, of no fewer than 15,000.‡ But the Right Honourable the Earl of Aberdeen, writing to Mr. Bulwer on the 31st December, 1843, states authoritatively that the census of 1841, which served as a basis for the foregoing estimate, was well known to be incorrect, and only a few thousands above the half of the actual slave population at the period it was taken; for the most intelligent inhabitants of the island asserted that, at that very time, it amounted to between 800,000 and 900,000, although in 1821, the date of the previous census, it was set down at only 265,000. As the augmentation of the slaves by natural increase is merely nominal, whilst the mortality is notoriously excessive, the fact above referred to furnishes conclusive evidence that within a period of twenty years the slave population had been nearly quadrupled, by illegal importations, at the annual average rate of upwards of 30,000.

The Committee believe they may assert, upon evidence in every respect unexceptionable, that from 1841 to the close of 1853, at least 15,000 negroes had been annually added to the slave population. They would observe that 20,000 is estimated to be a low annual average. Assuming, however, the number officially reported to be correct, the Committee submit that these continued importations constitute a flagrant breach of international faith, and that the interests of humanity require that Her Majesty's Government should adopt decisive measures to ensure the fulfilment of the Treaties into which Spain has entered with this country. The Committee would add that this breach of faith is the more flagrant on the part of Spain, by reason of her having been paid out of the British Treasury, as an indemnity for the abandonment of the Traffic, the large sum of 400,000*l.*; which, with the interest thereupon, would now amount to upwards of a million and a quarter sterling.

The Committee observe that Her Majesty's Commissary Judge at the Havana has expressed the following opinion:—

"That the law as it is, and as it is administered, is wholly inadequate to the correction of the crime of slave-trading, and that this abominable Traffic is not likely to be suppressed until it has been declared piracy, and the penalty attaching thereto made to extend to the owners, outfitters, masters, and crews of the vessels, and the whole class of agents engaged in it—to the owners of the negroes and their agents, and brokers, as well as to the Lieutenant-Governor and officers of the districts where slaves may be landed; the fact of a disembarkation of slaves at any place being taken as presumptive evidence of the complicity of the parties referred to."

The Committee have also noticed the efforts which, under instructions from your Lordship, Her Majesty's Representative at Madrid has made, to induce the Spanish Government to propose to the Cortes the enactment of a stringent law making the Slave Trade piracy. That the Spanish Government should, up to the latest date on which the Committee possess information, not only not have taken a decisive step in this direction, but have sought to evade the question, excites no surprise in the mind of the Committee, seeing how scandalously that Government has hitherto disregarded its most solemn engagements. Nevertheless, it may be considered as something gained, that the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs has announced that "the Spanish Cabinet does not reject the request set forth by Her Britannic Majesty's Government, but only defers its decision until it has collected the necessary data, in order to ascertain whether it will be possible for

* Slave Trade Papers, Class A, 1855.

† *Ibid.*, 1856.

‡ *Vide* Slave Trade Papers and other Parliamentary documents relating to Cuba

it to make the declaration in question without putting in jeopardy the sacred interests which are entrusted to its loyalty."*

That no such danger as the Spanish Government affects to apprehend would result from the measure suggested, appears to be conclusively demonstrated by Mr. Consul Crawford in his despatch to your Lordship, dated Havana, 3rd January, 1855, from which the Committee beg leave to quote an extract. He says:—

“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 apprehension 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 allegations of such motives 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 always 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.”†

As Her Majesty’s Government appears to have arrived at the conclusion that, to declare and to constitute slave-trading to be piracy, is the only measure calculated to ensure its speedy suppression; as this view also appears to be confirmed by Her Majesty’s Representatives at the Havana; and as by this time the Cabinet of Madrid must have received from Cuba full information on this subject, and be aware that the contemplated measure would not entail the disastrous results that were alleged, the Committee would respectfully submit, whether the time has not arrived when Her Majesty’s Government may press the Cabinet of Madrid for an immediate decision.

Another subject to which the Committee desire to call your Lordship’s attention is, the projected scheme for the importation into Cuba of from 40,000 to 50,000 Africans as apprentices, reference to which is made in the Annual Report, for 1855, of Her Majesty’s Commissary Judge at the Havana, as having been then quite recently again under discussion.

The Committee have received information that this scheme has obtained the sanction of General Concha, who is stated to have even proposed to suppress the Slave Trade to Cuba, provided the Cabinet of Madrid will grant him the exclusive privilege of hiring out or assigning these “aprendices;” and the Committee are further informed that an agent, whose name the Committee are prepared to produce, has been dispatched to Europe to procure the assent of the French and British Governments to this scheme, which agent was very recently in Paris. Their sanction is sought with a view to enable the traders to repair to and to quit the African coast without molestation; but it is obvious that this nefarious project is intended merely as a cover for prosecuting, with impunity, the Traffic in our fellow-men. Indeed, the parties to it do not scruple to avow their intention to carry it out, with or without the sanction of the Governments referred to. Should the attempt prove successful, there can be no doubt that these so-called “aprendices” would be at once reduced to hopeless slavery. It may be stated that, on the assignment of the Africans thus introduced, the local authorities in Cuba are to receive a certain sum per head by way of fee, as is done in the case of the emancipados, with a view to compensate them for the loss of hush-money by the suppression of the Trade in Slaves. It is evident that, should this astute immigration scheme be carried out in defiance of the Governments whose sanction is sought, the parties will simply incur the risks of ordinary slave-trading. If the vessels should be captured in the Cuban waters, as slavers, they will be adjudicated by the Mixed Commission Court, in due course, and the negroes assigned as emancipados in the usual way. Such as may be taken, through the efforts of the Captain-General, after they have been landed, will be subjected to the same ordeal; but he will gain credit for activity in the suppression of the Slave Trade, and the British Government will continue to be altogether deceived as to the extent to which it is prosecuted. It is to be presumed that many vessels would evade detection, as they now do, and would, through the connivance of the local authorities, succeed in disembarking their human freight. The purchasers of the cargoes would then procure “cedulas” for them as unregistered slaves, on the payment of a comparatively small fee, or would altogether evade General Concha’s new regulation, by submitting to a fine, as is notoriously done at this time to any extent.

It cannot but be obvious to your Lordship that such a scheme is open to the severest condemnation, as fraught with the gravest objections. Apart from the fact that there is not, nor can there be, a free emigration of negroes from Africa in the present condition of

* Slave Trade Papers, Class B, 1855, page 455.

† Ibid., page 513.

native society, it is well known that immigrants in Cuba are worse off than slaves, or than even the emancipados, and that laws to regulate immigration to a slave colony, however benevolently framed, will inevitably be evaded.

With reference to the measures that might be adopted for the suppression of the Slave Trade, the Committee would observe that, until the system of slavery is abolished in Cuba, there must ever exist the strongest incentives to continue the Traffic; and though it might be sensibly diminished were it made piracy, no measure short of emancipation is likely to bring it to an end. The Committee have ever advocated these views, and have, on various occasions, earnestly besought Her Majesty's Government to require of the Cabinet of Madrid that Spain should fulfil her Treaty obligations with this country, and restore to liberty the negroes who have been introduced into Cuba in violation of the most solemn engagements. It is demonstrable that the bulk of the actual slave population of Cuba has been surreptitiously imported, and there is no question that it is entitled, under the Treaties of 1817 and 1835, to immediate and unconditional freedom. Were these Treaties carried into effect, therefore, slavery would be virtually abolished, and the Slave Trade must come to an end. The Committee respectfully but earnestly submit to your Lordship the propriety of bringing these views under the notice of the Spanish Government, and of urging their adoption, not only for the sake of a too long and deeply-injured humanity, but for that of simple justice.

The Committee beg, in conclusion, to acknowledge their appreciation of your Lordship's efforts for the suppression of the Slave Trade generally, and to express their earnest hope that, for the honour and credit of a nation professing the Christian religion, you will exert the influence attaching to your elevated position to bring this wicked system to an end, seeing that the responsibility of its continuance in this instance rests, in a great measure, with the British Government, in permitting that of Spain to persist in openly violating her solemn engagements.

On behalf of the Committee,

(Signed)

GEORGE WM. ALEXANDER, *Chairman.*

LOUIS ALEXIS CHAMEROVZOW, *Secretary.*

No. 331.

Lord Howden to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received May 12.)

My Lord,

Madrid, May 2, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a note which, in obedience to your Lordship's despatch of the 21st ultimo, I addressed to the Marquis of Pidal relative to the petition to your Lordship of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society; and I have received from his Excellency, in reply, the note, a translation of which I have also the honour herewith to transmit, in which he states that he has made himself acquainted with the subject above referred to.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

HOWDEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 331.

Lord Howden to the Marquis de Pidal.

Sir,

Madrid, April 27, 1857.

A PETITION, presented by the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society to the Earl of Clarendon, has been forwarded to me. The object of this petition is the hope of inducing the Government of Her Catholic Majesty to declare the crime of slave-trading piracy, as the only means of effectually putting an end to this nefarious Traffic. The Spanish Government having so often stated that, through their own determination and good faith, and the energy and activity of its functionaries in Cuba, this trade was fast extinguishing, the Society thinks it possible, and Her Britannic Majesty's Government joins in the wish, that the Spanish Government might, in its wisdom and humanity, think it expedient, by one grand and finishing stroke, to prevent the revival of so odious a commerce, and thus merit the loud and immediate approbation of the whole Christian world.

I avail, &c.

(Signed)

HOWDEN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 331.

The Marquis de Pidal to Lord Howden.

(Translation.)

Most Excellent Sir,

Madrid, April 30, 1857.

I HAVE made myself acquainted with the note which your Excellency has done me the honour of addressing to me on the 27th instant, relative to the petition presented to the Earl of Clarendon by the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society concerning the abolition of slavery.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) EL MARQUES DE PIDAL.

No. 332.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Howden.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, May 18, 1857.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch from Mr. Crawford, the British Judge in the Mixed Court of Justice established at the Havana,* stating that he has good reasons for knowing that some fifteen vessels have been dispatched on slave-trading expeditions from the port of New Orleans alone within the last two months.

No. 333.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Howden.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, May 19, 1857.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Lordship's information, copies of despatches, as marked in the margin,† from Mr. Crawford, Her Majesty's Consul-General at the Havana, inclosing copies of his correspondence with the Captain-General of Cuba on matters connected with the Cuban Slave Trade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 334.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Howden.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, May 19, 1857.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 2nd instant, I have to acquaint you that I approve of the note addressed by you to the Spanish Government upon the receipt of the petition from the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, which was forwarded to you in my despatch of the 21st ultimo. And I have to instruct your Lordship to take an opportunity of inquiring from the Marquis de Pidal whether it is the intention of the Spanish Government to introduce a Bill during the present Session of the Cortes to render Slave Trade piracy.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

* Class A, No. 34.

† Nos. 409, 411, 412, and 413.

Lord Howden to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received May 18.)

My Lord,

Madrid, May 9, 1857.

IN conformity with the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch of the 14th ultimo, I lost no time in bringing to the knowledge of Her Catholic Majesty's Government the landing of Bozal negroes effected at Sierra Morena, in Cuba, in the month of February 1856, together with all the collateral circumstances connected therewith, as reported to your Lordship by Mr. Consul-General Crawford.

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship translation of the note which I have received, in reply, from the Marquis de Pidal, stating that the above communication has been sent to the General Direction of the Colonies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HOWDEN.

Inclosure in No. 335.

The Marquis de Pidal to Lord Howden.

(Translation.)

Most Excellent Sir,

Madrid, May 8, 1857.

I HAVE transcribed, under this day's date, to the General Colonial Office, the further note which your Excellency has done me the honour of addressing to me on the 28th of April last, relative to the disembarkation of Bozal negroes which took place at Sierra Morena, in Cuba; and adding some facts connected with this affair, which have been transmitted to your Excellency by Lord Clarendon.

I will lose no time in replying to your Excellency more in detail, when I shall receive from the above-mentioned office the information it may acquire on the subject of the disembarkation in question; and, meanwhile, I avail, &c.

(Signed) EL MARQUES DE PIDAL.

No. 336.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Howden.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, May 20, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to your Lordship herewith, a copy of a despatch from Mr. Crawford, Her Majesty's Consul-General at the Havana,* inclosing copies of a correspondence which has passed between him and the Captain-General of Cuba, respecting a Spanish vessel, called the "*Restauracion*," reported to be fitting out at Matanzas for a slave-trading expedition.

Your Lordship will perceive that Mr. Crawford reports that never since he has been at the Havana has the Slave Trade been carried on with such vigour as it is at present, and has been for some time past; and you will make this fact known to the Marquis de Pidal, with reference to his Excellency's note of the 3rd ultimo, in which he informed your Lordship that the Government of Her Catholic Majesty had received repeated assurances from the Captain-General of Cuba, that the Slave Trade had been entirely suppressed.

Your Lordship will add, that the information which is constantly reaching Her Majesty's Government from different places, and from sources entirely unconnected with each other, leave no room to doubt not only that the reports of the British Agents as to the activity with which the Slave Trade has, for some time past, been carried on in Cuba, are well founded, but also that extensive preparations are making for carrying on this nefarious Traffic with increased vigour; and your Lordship will state that the honour and good faith of the Spanish Government require that some more effective measures than have hitherto been taken, should be adopted by the Spanish Government to put a stop to the Cuban Slave Trade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 337.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Howden.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, May 20, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to your Lordship, herewith, a copy of a despatch and of its inclosure, received at the Admiralty from Commodore Kellett, the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's naval forces on the Jamaica station,* reporting the capture, by a boat of Her Majesty's sloop "Arab" on the 12th of April last, off the coast of Cuba, of a slave-vessel with between 300 and 400 slaves on board, which were intended to be landed in that island.

Your Lordship will make such use of this information as you may deem advisable, with reference to the statement contained in the Marquis de Pidal's note of the 3rd ultimo, that the Slave Trade had been entirely suppressed in Cuba.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 338.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Howden.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, May 20, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to your Lordship herewith, for your information, copies of a despatch and of its inclosure from Her Majesty's Consul at Teneriffe,† the contents of which corroborate the reports which I have communicated to your Lordship from various quarters, of the activity with which the Slave Trade is now carried on.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 339.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Howden.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, May 21, 1857.

I HAVE received your Lordship's despatch of the 1st ultimo, inclosing a copy of a note from the Marquis de Pidal, in reply to the note which, in compliance with the instructions contained in my despatch of the 7th of February last, you addressed to his Excellency on the 12th of that month, stating the reasons which prevented Her Majesty's Government from acceding to the request of the Government of Her Catholic Majesty, that Spanish Consuls should be authorized to issue the certificates which Article X of the Treaty of 1835 between Great Britain and Spain requires should be exhibited by all vessels trading to the coast of Africa, and carrying an unusual number of empty casks or other vessels capable of holding water.

I have to instruct your Lordship to inform the Marquis de Pidal in reply, that Her Majesty's Government much regret that his Excellency should think that the refusal of Her Majesty's Government to accede to the wishes of the Spanish Government in this matter was the result of a previous decision, and should imagine that the observations contained in the notes from the Spanish Foreign Office have not been taken into due consideration by Her Majesty's Government; and your Lordship will state that it was only after an attentive consideration of the Spanish proposal in the first instance, and, subsequently, of the arguments by which that proposal was supported, that Her Majesty's Government felt themselves bound not to acquiesce in the proposed alterations in Article X of the Treaty, being convinced that, if carried into effect, they would materially facilitate the operations of the slave-traders.

Señor Pidal, in replying to the objections of the British Government to the Spanish alterations, states that Her Majesty's Government in coming to the decision which they have arrived at, must have had in view the letter of the Treaty only, and not its true spirit, for that it never could have been the object of the stipulations contained in Article X of the Treaty of 1835, to limit to the port of departure alone, the permission to ship the casks required for palm-oil, and that the fact of the shipment of the casks being limited to

* Class A, No. 187.

† No. 194.

any particular port cannot in any way contribute to the attainment of the objects which the Treaty has in view ; and, moreover, that the means of preventing the employment of the casks for an illicit purpose, consists in the security which is given on the shipment of the casks, and in the vigilance of the cruisers—two precautions which his Excellency considers as having no bearing whatever upon the question, whether the security is given at any particular port, or whether the shipment of the casks is authorized by any particular class of officers ; and M. Pidal argues that there is no reason for asserting that the English law which carried out the provisions of the Treaty would be infringed by the fact of the permission to ship casks, an act which is authorized by the Treaty being extended to ports other than those from which vessels might have cleared.

But your Lordship will state to the Spanish Minister that Her Majesty's Government contend that it was the intention of the parties framing the Treaty of 1835 to limit to the port of departure alone the permission to ship an extra quantity of casks by vessels trading to the coast of Africa ; for, the object of the Treaty being the suppression of the Slave Trade, Article X of that Treaty was framed with the view to obtain the greatest possible security that articles, shipped ostensibly for the purposes of lawful trade, should not be applied for slave-trading adventures ; and it was therefore provided that the security should be given by the owners of the vessel, and at the port of departure.

By this course of proceeding, besides the pecuniary bond which is required from the owners of the vessel, there is the additional security offered by the fact that the character of the parties giving the required bond is at stake, and that those parties would be liable to the penalties attaching to persons conniving at the Slave Trade, in the event of its being ascertained that the vessel shipping the casks had subsequently been employed in that Traffic.

But the same security could not be attained if vessels were allowed, as the Spanish Government proposes, to ship their casks at foreign ports, and if masters or consignees were permitted to give the usual bond, in the place of the owners ; for parties intending to engage in the Slave Trade would then have no difficulty in fitting out their vessels for the Traffic, the master or consignee might give the required security, which might be considered as a payment for permission to equip, and, if the venture proved successful, nothing more would be heard of the vessel. She might be destroyed, if necessary, after she had landed her cargo, and the master would be free to proceed to another port in a fresh vessel to repeat his operations.

Nor even if it should come to the knowledge of a Spanish Consul that the vessel in whose behalf he had issued a certificate had subsequently been employed in the Slave Trade, does it at all follow that he would be able to enforce the payment of the security, if given by the consignees of the vessel ; for it would depend on the laws of the country in which he might be residing, and on the evidence he might be able to obtain, whether he could substantiate the charge against the vessel.

Moreover, the same provisions that are contained in Article X of the Treaty between Great Britain and Spain, are contained in sixteen other Treaties, which have at various times been concluded between this country and foreign States for the suppression of the Slave Trade, and no complaints have been made by the Governments of those States with regard to the stringency of the regulation that requires the security to be given by the owner of the vessel, and the certificate to be issued by the Customs authorities at the port of clearance.

Spanish subjects in this respect are on the same footing as British subjects, and as the subjects of those countries with which Great Britain has concluded Treaties for the suppression of the Slave Trade, and if the merchants of this and other countries whose vessels are placed under the same restrictions as Spanish vessels, have not found it impossible to carry on a legitimate and *bonâ fide* trade with the coast of Africa, there is nothing in these restrictions to prevent Spanish merchants from engaging with equal advantage in that Trade ; and the Government of Her Catholic Majesty cannot, in justice, expect that greater facilities should be afforded to Spanish vessels than are granted to British vessels and to the vessels of those countries which have entered into Treaty engagements for the suppression of the Slave Trade ; nor can the refusal of Her Majesty's Government to acquiesce in the Spanish proposal be with any justice imputed, as M. Pidal would seem to argue, to a desire on the part of the British Government to exclude the Spanish flag from the markets of the Western Coast of Africa.

Her Majesty's Government trust that the foregoing observations will convince the Government of Her Catholic Majesty that every consideration has been given by the British Government to the Spanish proposals, and that their refusal to acquiesce in the proposed alterations is to be attributed only to the conviction that, by so doing, they would be affording great facilities to the slave-traders to carry on a Traffic which this

country has made such great sacrifices of life and treasure to suppress, and which the Crown of Spain has bound itself in honour to exterminate.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 340.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Howden.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, June 13, 1857.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Crawford, Her Majesty's Consul-General at the Havana,* reporting that extensive preparations are being made for carrying on the Slave Trade in Cuba.

Your Lordship will make use of the information contained in this despatch in any communications which you may have with the Spanish Government on the subject of the Cuban Slave Trade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 341.

Lord Howden to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 13.)

My Lord,

Madrid, June 7, 1857.

IN answer to your Lordship's desire to know whether the Spanish Government have any intention of presenting, in this Session of Parliament, a Bill for declaring the Slave Trade piracy, I have to state to your Lordship that the Spanish Government have not the slightest intention of doing so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HOWDEN.

No. 342.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Howden.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, June 15, 1857.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 10th of March last, I transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch from Mr. Crawford, Her Majesty's Consul-General at the Havana,† inclosing a copy of a Decree which has been promulgated by the Captain-General of Cuba, containing regulations for the purpose of enforcing a more strict registration of the slaves existing in that island, and of preventing a fraudulent issue of cedulas.

Your Lordship will perceive that Mr. Crawford is of opinion that the regulations promulgated by the Captain-General of Cuba will not be effectual for the purposes for which they are intended, and that nothing short of a general capitulation, carried out with the utmost rigour by officers of undoubted probity, will obtain a correct registration of the slaves; but Mr. Crawford adds, that if the Spanish Government would consent to an arrangement by which Her Majesty's Commissioners should be associated with the authorities of Cuba in the registration of the slaves, he has no doubt that the desired object would be satisfactorily accomplished; and I have to instruct your Lordship to make a proposal on the part of Her Majesty's Government to the Government of Spain, embodying the suggestion contained in Mr. Crawford's despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

* No. 420.

† No. 417.

Lord Howden to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 24.)

My Lord,

Madrid, June 19, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith translation of a note I have received from the Marquis of Pidal, in connection with your Lordship's despatch to me of the 20th ultimo, and my despatch to your Lordship of the 8th instant, and in consequence of a note which I addressed to his Excellency, stating that the information supplied to the Spanish Government, as to the extinction of the Slave Trade, must come from erroneous or interested quarters, as all the concurrent testimony received by the Government of Her Britannic Majesty tended to prove the lamentable fact that this abominable Traffic was carried on more vigorously and more perseveringly than ever.

I have also the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy of the answer which I am about to return to the above note of the Marquis of Pidal, in which I have made use of the information furnished me in your Lordship's despatch of the 13th instant, received yesterday.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HOWDEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 343.

The Marquis de Pidal to Lord Howden.

Translation.)

Most Excellent Sir,

Madrid, June 16, 1857.

I HAVE received the note which your Excellency has done me the honour of addressing to me on the 27th of May last, in which your Excellency states that the Spanish vessel "*Restauracion*" is actually fitting out at Matanzas for a slave-trading expedition; and your Excellency also states, at the same time, that other expeditions of the same kind are being prepared in the Island of Cuba, and that this reprobated Traffic is now carried on with extraordinary activity and vigour.

I transcribed, without loss of time, your Excellency's note to the Captain-General of the aforesaid island, instructing his Excellency to report to the Government upon the contents thereof, and to adopt the proper measures to the effect of defeating the reprobated intrigues which your Excellency denounces, in case they should prove to be correct.

But I must, at the same time, repeat to your Excellency what I stated in my note of the 3rd of April last, namely, that Her Majesty's Government considers the information which is communicated to the British Government on this subject to be exaggerated; because, besides Her Catholic Majesty's Government having no knowledge of it whatsoever, it receives repeated assurances to the contrary, which represent the Slave Trade to be at an end; and this information certainly does not proceed from persons interested in the continuation of so criminal a Traffic, but from the Governor and Captain-General of the island himself, whose veracity and uprightness are completely out of reach of any suspicion.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) EL MARQUES DE PIDAL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 343.

Lord Howden to the Marquis de Pidal.

Sir,

Madrid, June 19, 1857.

I HAVE had the honour of receiving your Excellency's esteemed note of the 16th instant; and I rejoice at your Excellency's intention expressed therein of demanding explanations on the facts which I have brought to your Excellency's notice.

I should conceive myself not performing the duty entrusted to me if, while perfectly convinced of your Excellency's own wish to put down the abominable Traffic in human flesh, and to fulfil, in the strictest manner, the Treaties between Spain and England, I did not assure you that, from concurrent testimony, which cannot be doubted, the Slave Trade in Cuba, from being encouraged in some quarter or another, has increased in the last two years to a frightful extent. I should conceive myself equally wanting in my duty if I concealed from your Excellency, and the Government of Her Catholic Majesty, that this increase in a Traffic so reprobated in England is producing a gradually increasing feeling,

exerting a pressure on its Government, and, in a country where Governments are made by public opinion, and only exist by it, I look forward with disquietude to the complications which this feeling may produce.

I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the following American vessels have been purchased in Cuba with the intention of being sent to Africa, and returning with slaves :—

The schooner "Abbot Devereux"	..	..	113 tons.
" brig "R. B. Lawton"	..	..	198 "
" schooner "J. H. Record"	..	..	109 "
" bark "Clara B. Williams"	..	..	331 "
" bark "Minnetonka"	..	..	320 "

The first-mentioned cleared for Monrovia, the last-mentioned for Madagascar, and the others for Boston.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) HOWDEN.

No. 344.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Howden.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, June 26, 1857.

I HAVE received your Lordship's despatch of the 19th instant, inclosing copies of your correspondence with the Marquis of Pidal, respecting the increase of the Slave Trade in Cuba; and I have to acquaint your Lordship that Her Majesty's Government approve the note which you addressed to his Excellency on the 19th instant upon this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 345.

Lord Howden to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 2.)

My Lord,

Madrid, June 25, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship translation of a note I have just received from the Marquis of Pidal, in answer to mine of the 19th instant, copy of which I transmitted to your Lordship in my despatch of the 19th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HOWDEN.

Inclosure in No. 345.

The Marquis de Pidal to Lord Howden.

(Translation.)

Most Excellent Sir,

Madrid, June 20, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency, in reply to the note which your Excellency has been pleased to address to me, under yesterday's date, relative to the progressive increase of the Slave Trade in the Island of Cuba, that I have transcribed its contents, under this day's date, to the Colonial Office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EL MARQUES DE PIDAL.

No. 346.

Lord Howden to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 16.)

My Lord,

Madrid, July 10, 1857.

IN connection with your Lordship's despatch to me of the 15th of June, recommending that Her Majesty's Commissioners at the Havana should be associated with the

authorities of the island in the registration of slaves, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith, in translation, the answer which Señor Pidal has addressed to the recommendation I made to his Excellency, pursuant to your Lordship's instructions contained in the above despatch. His Excellency merely states that due course is being given to my note through the Spanish Colonial Office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HOWDEN.

Inclosure in No. 346.

The Marquis de Pidal to Lord Howden.

(Translation.)

Most Excellent Sir,

Madrid, July 8, 1857.

I HAVE transcribed, under this day's date, to the General Colonial Office, in order that it may follow its due course, the note which your Excellency was pleased to address to me on the 5th instant, suggesting the expediency of the British Commissioners being associated with the authorities of the Island of Cuba, for the execution of the Decree issued by the Captain-General for the registration of slaves.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) EL MARQUES DE PIDAL.

No. 347.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Howden.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, July 21, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Commissioners at the Havana,* inclosing copies of a correspondence which has passed between Mr. Crawford and the Captain-General of Cuba, with regard to the petition of an emancipada named Trinidad, who was captured in the early part of the year 1836, by Her Majesty's schooner "Pincher," and who now applies for her free papers.

Your Lordship will call the immediate and serious attention of the Spanish Government to the condition of the emancipados in Cuba, as set forth in the inclosed papers, and particularly to the case of the emancipada Trinidad.

You will state that Her Majesty's Government learn with great regret that the Spanish Government have not fulfilled the assurance given by them to Her Majesty's Government, through Her Catholic Majesty's Minister at London, on the 15th of July, 1842, that at the end of five years from the 1st of January of that year, all the emancipados should have their absolute freedom; for, if that assurance had been fulfilled, this poor woman Trinidad would have been freed, at the latest, on the 1st of January, 1847, upwards of ten years ago.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 348.

Lord Howden to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 22.)

My Lord,

Madrid, July 17, 1857.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 21st of May last, I have the honour to inclose translation of a further note which I have just received from the Marquis de Pidal, in reply to the one which I addressed to his Excellency, explaining the reasons which prevented Her Majesty's Government from acceding to the request of the Spanish Government, that the Consuls of Spain should be authorized to issue the certificates to vessels trading to the coast of Africa, and carrying an unusual number of empty casks, and which certificates are required according to Article X of the Treaty of 1835.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HOWDEN.

Inclosure in No. 348.

The Marquis de Pidal to Lord Howden.

(Translation.)

Most Excellent Sir,

Palace, July 8, 1857.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Excellency's note dated the 30th of May last, in which, pursuant to the instructions of your Government, you reply to my note of the 21st of March last, respecting the authorization to Spanish Consuls to give the certificates with which, in conformity with Article X of the Slave Trade Treaty of 1835, ships whose destination is the African coast, and who have on board a large number of empty water-casks, are bound to provide themselves.

Her Majesty's Government have given earnest consideration to the reasons on which that of Her Britannic Majesty ground the refusal they oppose to the just pretensions of the Spanish Cabinet in the matter of which we are treating, and not one of them, notwithstanding the spirit of strict impartiality with which they have been considered, has succeeded in destroying, or even in the smallest degree diminishing, Her Majesty's Government's conviction that the above-mentioned authorization would in no way prejudice the attainment of the ends contemplated by the Treaty of 1835, whose spirit can never have been to establish such difficulties in the way of *bonâ fide* commerce, as would completely separate it from the ports on the Western Coast of Africa.

The reasons which present themselves in answer to the last exposition of your Excellency's views are obvious, but before submitting them to your Excellency's enlightened criticism, I cannot conceal from you that Her Majesty's Government sincerely deplore that their just demand has not been received by Her Britannic Majesty's Government with that consideration which they thought they might expect on their part in a subject of such legitimate interest for commerce.

Your Excellency having duly weighed the arguments brought forward in my note of the 21st of March, is good enough to say that the spirit of Article X of the Treaty of 1835 was to limit the permission to take on board empty water-casks to the port from which the vessels sailed, because the end of that international stipulation being the abolition of the Traffic in Slaves, the Article quoted ought necessarily to aim at obtaining the greatest possible security against the giving to the aforesaid casks an improper object; it having to be considered that, in establishing that the owners of the vessel alone could give the bail in money at the port of clearance, it was intended to obtain that, in addition to this pecuniary responsibility there should be the criminal one, which would be carried into effect by the application of the penalties which the law lays down for those cases where the casks taken on board for carrying palm-oil have been employed in slave expeditions.

Your Excellency adds that this double guarantee against the abuse of the permission referred to would disappear, if it was allowed, as Her Majesty's Government proposes, to take on board these empty casks at any port whatever, and if the captains were permitted to give the above-mentioned bail in the absence of the owners.

To explain this assertion, your Excellency says that the slave-dealers would find no difficulty in preparing their ships for that Traffic, if the captain could become depository of the bail, for, if the expedition was successfully effected, he would destroy every vestige of his criminality by burning the ship, whose name would never more be heard, leaving himself thus at liberty to enter upon fresh enterprises of the same nature.

The whole force of this argument lies in the supposition that, by limiting the permission to take on board these casks to the port of clearance, and obliging the shipowners to give the bail; a stronger guarantee is obtained against the danger of these casks being applied to Slave Trade purposes.

But your Excellency will not fail to recognize the fact of a similar supposition being entirely destitute of foundation. If a slave captain proposed to effect an expedition, preparing himself, to all appearance, for lawful commerce, and taking on board the empty casks in compliance with the formalities prescribed by Treaty, far from seeing an obstacle in the necessity of giving the required bail in the port of clearance, he would prefer to fulfil this condition rather than pass on to a foreign port to comply with it before a Consul; for he would thus be submitting himself twice to the action of a Spanish authority, who might discover his improper designs, while by giving it at the port where he fitted out, he would elude new investigations inimical to his project.

For it is indubitable that the limitation of the permission of which we are treating to the port of clearance, can have no other result than that of unnecessarily trammelling lawful commerce, without in any way contributing to put a stop to Slave Trade enterprises; it being, as it is, shown by experience that slave-dealers, when they have once made up

their minds to run the risk of an expedition, invariably endeavour to avoid every species of intervention on the part of authorities, be they who they may, and in no case shield their criminal projects by a document which they can only obtain by exposing themselves to the danger of discovery.

With respect to the giving of the bail of which we have spoken, by the owners of the vessels to the exclusion of the captains, which your Excellency looks upon as a check upon the abuses of the permission to take on board empty casks, one single observation will suffice to persuade your Excellency that it is only by an ignorance of our penal legislation, and its application to correct every description of abuse, and to punish offences, that the idea can have been entertained that the criminal responsibility would become illusory, in the case to which your Excellency refers, if it was admitted, as the Spanish Government desires, that the captains should have power to give the bail in question.

When, after the giving to a ship of the certificate which Article X of the Treaty contemplates, bail has been given and every prescribed formality has been complied with, and it has yet been successfully proved that this ship has been employed in the Traffic, the law and its penalty are carried into effect against as many persons as appear, on investigation, to have been implicated in the offence, without reference to the person who gave the bail, which, once given, renders of no importance the condition of the person who gave it.

The offence once proved, the same proceedings are taken against the owners of the ship as against the captain, or any other individual a stranger to the embarkation, if reasons for this course result from the judicial procedure; it might happen that a captain might laugh at the good faith of the owners of the vessel, and destine it to an illicit Traffic without their knowledge.

Hence, even if the owners of a vessel which is fitting out for Africa are not the persons who give the bail referred to, they do not for this reason elude, nor can they elude, as your Excellency pretends, the responsibility attaching to the illegal object of their embarkation. And, under these circumstances, what inconvenience, what difficulty, in the way of the execution of the Treaty, can the fact of the bail being given by the captain or by the owners of the vessel occasion? Are not they all equally responsible, if it is proved that the vessel was prepared for legitimate commerce, and that the object of its voyage has been a slaving expedition, of whose proposed existence no idea has been entertained?

Even if the captain should have recourse to the expedient of burning his vessel, in order better to conceal his offence, as your Excellency points out, it is impossible that he should with impunity enter upon fresh slaving enterprizes under cover of the measure which Her Majesty's Government proposes.

The Spanish merchant captains are all inscribed in their respective registers, and before obtaining the command of an embarkation, they have to fulfil the many formalities laid down to insure their discharging the grave duties which are entrusted to their care, and to guard against any fraud the important interests which are confided to their good faith; so that if a merchant captain, after having fitted out for lawful commerce, should enter upon a slaving expedition, and burn his ship after having successfully effected it, he would have to give up his profession, renounce all "avenir," and even his country, for in whatever part of it he presented himself, far from meeting with the facilities which your Excellency supposes would be extended to him for a fresh slaving enterprize, he would have to subject himself to such an information as would force him to declare his offence.

It is no doubt a fact that there have been cases where ships have been burnt after having succeeded in landing a cargo of negroes; it is also a fact that the case may occur again: but the success of these expeditions will not depend upon the defective nature of the law, but upon the audacity and adroitness of the professional slaving captains, who, even if infinitely greater restrictions existed than at present exist, will always attempt the same class of audacious enterprize, stimulated by the large gain it offers, taking especial care not to expose themselves to the action of the authorities, as they would have to do, in order to conceal their criminal proceedings, as your Excellency thinks, under the character of merchant captains.

Your Excellency will observe, then, that it is demonstrated that the measure which is the cause of this discussion can in no way, look at it as you will, serve as a stimulus for the Traffic in Slaves, nor even facilitate slaving expeditions.

The refusal of the British Government will succeed in establishing a difficulty in the way of the development of Spanish commerce on the West Coast of Africa, and if the commerce of England and other countries can flourish in those parts of the world without the necessity, as your Excellency says, of any analogous measure to that proposed by Her Majesty's Government being felt, why, that can never prove anything contrary to what has been said in favour of the same: for the conditions of the commerce of various nations are

entirely different, and that of Spain has to seek in foreign ports many of the articles which it takes on board to exchange against palm oil, while English vessels find them in the home markets.

The British Government will weigh in its mind the above reasons, and I do not doubt will convince itself that the spirit and end of the authorization to Consuls of Spain to give the certificates of which Article X of the Treaty speaks, has not been, nor could be, other than that of favouring the legitimate interests of commerce, which are now disregarded without any justifiable cause.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) EL MARQUES DE PIDAL.

No. 349.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Otway.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 10, 1857.*
WITH reference to Lord Howden's despatch of the 10th of April last, I inclose, for your information, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Commissioners at the Havana,* containing some remarks upon the reply of the Marquis de Pidal to the note which Lord Howden addressed to his Excellency upon the subject of the Report of Her Majesty's Commissioners on the Slave Trade in Cuba during the year 1856.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 350.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Otway.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 10, 1857.*
I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, copies of two despatches from Mr. Crawford, Her Majesty's Consul-General at the Havana,† inclosing copies of a correspondence which has passed between him and the Captain-General of Cuba, respecting the landing of a cargo of Bozal negroes, which is reported to have taken place at Vertientes, on the southern coast of Cuba.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 351.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Otway.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 10, 1857.*
I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Commissioners at the Havana,‡ inclosing a copy of a circular order, dated the 2nd of May last, which has been addressed by the Captain-General of Cuba to the Governors and Lieutenant-Governors in that island, with the view to put a stop to the Slave Trade which is carried on in Cuba.

You will perceive from this Report of Her Majesty's Commissioners, that they do not expect that the circular in question will have any effect upon the proceedings of the slave-traders, further than to render their operations more costly, and that they are of opinion that more effective measures must be taken before the Captain-General will be able to reckon upon the support of his officers in the suppression of the Slave Trade in Cuba.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

* Class A, No. 40.

† Nos. 430 and 432.

‡ Class A, No. 41.

Mr. Otway to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 12.)

My Lord,

Madrid, August 7, 1857.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 21st ultimo to Lord Howden, instructing his Lordship to call the immediate and serious attention of the Spanish Government to the state of the emancipados in Cuba, and to claim the immediate liberation of the emancipada Trinidad, I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship, herewith, copy of the note I addressed to M. de Pidal, in obedience to these instructions, as also a translation of his Excellency's reply to me in acknowledgment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. C. OTWAY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 352.

Mr. Otway to the Marquis de Pidal.

Sir,

Madrid, July 29, 1857.

IN consequence of very pressing instructions to that effect from the Earl of Clarendon, I am about to take the liberty of laying before your Excellency the condition of the emancipados in Cuba, and I venture to hope that I shall be able to show that the case is one calling for the immediate and serious attention which I ask for it, on the part of Her Catholic Majesty's Government.

Your Excellency will allow me to recall to your Excellency's remembrance the fact that, on the 15th of July, 1842, an assurance was given to Her Britannic Majesty's Government by General Sancho, at that time Spanish Minister in London, that, at the end of five years, to commence from the 1st of January of that year, all emancipados should have their absolute liberty.

That this assurance has not been properly acted upon, I cannot better show your Excellency than by detailing the case of the emancipada negress Trinidad Carabeli, whose name I am directed by Her Majesty's Government to couple with my earnest appeal to the Spanish Cabinet for the redress of the grievances suffered by the class to which she belongs.

This emancipada was captured in 1836, by the English schooner "Pincher." She has passed twenty years of probation, is intelligent of her class, and fully capable of providing for herself; moreover, her present master is assisting her to obtain free papers—a clear proof that her character is good. Under these circumstances she solicits her free papers, and Mr. Crawford, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General at the Havana, has addressed a letter to the Captain-General, in support of her petition.

It appears, however, from his Excellency's (General Concha's) reply, that the negress in question has not, "notwithstanding her twenty years of probation," been in the island the "time necessary for her free papers to be given to her." His Excellency considers, very properly, that "the issuing of this document to the emancipada in question" would give umbrage "to other emancipados of greater antiquity than she is by several years, as regards their residence in the island."

So that the Captain-General admits that there are emancipados of greater antiquity who have not received their free papers; and yet this poor woman ought to have been free, in virtue of the solemn assurance to which I have referred above, on the 1st of January, 1847, now more than ten years ago.

In bringing the condition of the emancipados thus prominently under your Excellency's notice, I am the more pressing on the subject, as it has been proved by experience, since 1853, that the measure of that year, which provided for the freedom of the emancipados, has not given them their absolute freedom; in fact, has done no more than call them in from the parties to whom they had been assigned to work without pay, and then assign them to other masters, at a rate of pay not equal to one-third of that at which slaves are hired, while, of that one-third, a quarter is appropriated by the Government, and applied to a fund for their relief in sickness or distress; whilst, in point of fact, these emancipados, were they absolutely free, are capable of providing for themselves, and of earning wages at least equal to what are current for slave-labour.

It is under these circumstances that Her Majesty's Government are anxious that that of Her Catholic Majesty should be made acquainted with their great regret at learning that the assurance, to which I have twice alluded, has not been fulfilled. Had it been other-

wise, the case of the emancipada Trinidad, which is a specimen of what her unfortunate class are exposed to, would not have occurred.

I therefore venture to express a hope—my knowledge of the feelings of cordiality towards England and of humanity to the unfortunate, by which the Spanish Cabinet are constantly actuated, leads me to add a confident hope—that the right of England to request the performance of so solemn an assurance as that given by General Sancho will be recognized, and that the Spanish Government will cause their free papers to be delivered without delay to the members of the unhappy class whose grievances are the cause of, and the excuse for, my having addressed your Excellency at such length.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) L. C. OTWAY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 352.

The Marquis de Pidal to Mr. Otway.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Madrid, August 4, 1857.

I HAVE received your courteous note, in which, on speaking of the negress Trinidad Caraveli, you plead the cause of all the emancipados in the island, and describing their condition as a very hard one, you request, in virtue of a promise made by General Sancho, that free papers be given to them. All the reasons and data on which your statements are founded have been communicated by me, under this day's date, to the Colonial Office, to the effect either that the wish of the English Government may be complied with, or that I may be made acquainted with the causes and reasons which may exist for not doing so.

I will lose no time in communicating to you the definitive answer which I may receive on this subject from the above-mentioned Colonial Office.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) EL MARQUES DE PIDAL.

No. 353.

Mr. Otway to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 12.)

My Lord,

Madrid, August 7, 1857.

PURSUANT to the instructions conveyed to Lord Howden in your Lordship's despatch of the 10th March last, his Lordship made the Spanish Government acquainted with the substance of a Report from Her Majesty's Commissioners at the Havana, transmitted in the above despatch, and inclosed at the same time to them a return of the number of slaves landed in the Island of Cuba in the course of the year 1856.

I have now, after the expiration of the time necessary for communications on the subject to have passed between Her Catholic Majesty's Government and the Captain-General, the honour to transmit to your Lordship a translation of the reply of his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

This document differs but little from the many that have preceded it. It is in great part devoted to a profuse expression of the sincerity of Her Catholic Majesty's Government in their desire for the suppression of the Slave Trade; what remains behind, after the subtraction of this tinsel, is the unequivocal denial of the correctness of the information, transmitted home by Her Majesty's Consul-General, and two arguments, I should say two replies to arguments, contained in the Report of Her Majesty's Commissioners, which are really curious in their eccentricity. The very small number of slaves captured, as compared with the number landed, appears to Her Majesty's Commissioners naturally enough to argue a laxity on the part of the authorities of the island, but to the Spanish Government it only proves that the vigilance of these functionaries has driven the slave-dealers to take extraordinary measures of precaution against discovery. Next, the fact that outfits for slave-trading, by vessels from the Havana, under the flag of Spain, have been but few, does not show that slave-traders find it less dangerous, and in other respects more advantageous, to purchase vessels, fit them out, and sail from the United States, the agents for such adventures being chiefly Portuguese: it only proves that public opinion is opposed to the Slave Trade; for the hypothetical generalization of which respectable way of thinking the Captain-General takes great credit to himself.

The Marquis of Pidal, however, takes no notice of the question which, in the absence of any chance of persuading the Spanish Government to take effective general measures for the suppression of this Traffic was particularly insisted upon in Lord Howden's note of the 28th of March last, as an especially flagrant abuse, namely, the fact that slave-dealers find no difficulty in obtaining cédulas, or tickets of registration, for the newly imported slaves; and this reticence has made me consider it my duty to address the accompanying note to his Excellency calling his attention to that omission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. C. OTWAY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 353.

The Marquis de Pidal to Mr. Otway.

(Translation.)
Sir,

Madrid, July 23, 1857.

IMMEDIATELY upon the receipt of the note from the British Legation of the 28th of March last, transcribing to me the observations made by the British Consul at the Havana, and by the Arbitrator, Mr. Lousada, upon the Slave Trade, I wrote to the Captain-General of Cuba, requesting his Excellency to give me his opinion on the subject, and recommending again to his Excellency the most rigorous vigilance and the continuation of the measures adopted for the complete suppression of the Slave Trade. The Captain-General has replied to my communication in such words, and with such a profusion of data, that they cannot but confirm still more my conviction that the suppositions on the part of the British Commissioner and Arbitrator are unfounded, and that the criminal Traffic in question, already efficiently repressed, would have been totally suppressed, if the powerful efforts of private interest, and the incentive of a large profit, did not counteract the zeal of the Spanish authorities and the vigilant care of Her Britannic Majesty's cruizers.

But, notwithstanding these inducements, which promote the importation of slaves into the island, surmounting, sometimes, the greatest obstacles, the number of slaves introduced in 1856 is not, by far, so large as has been supposed by the aforesaid Commissioner and Arbitrator. Neither does the small number of slaves that were seized by the authorities during the aforesaid year, prove that there was any negligence on the part of these authorities, but only that extraordinary precautions were taken by the parties who imported them. The slave-dealers, finding themselves driven to the last extremities by the persecution which they experience, have resorted to the system of reducing the number of their expeditions, whereby they succeed in distributing the slaves without any delay, in small lots, amongst the estates situated in the neighbourhood of the place at which they are landed.

Another circumstance, also wrongly appreciated by the British Commissioner and Arbitrator, as the Captain-General assures, is that of the slave-dealers finding it less dangerous to purchase the vessels and fit them out in the United States, the agents of these expeditions being generally, of late, Portuguese subjects, who carry on this kind of traffic on the American Continent, and also act as agents of the slave-dealers in Africa. And I say that this circumstance has been wrongly appreciated, inasmuch as it seems to allude to Spanish merchants. To the latter it would be far more advantageous to purchase themselves the vessels in the United States, and to do the business by themselves, as they have done for some time past, than to purchase them from the Portuguese and Americans, when the latter, baffling the vigilance of the English cruizers and that of Her Catholic Majesty's Government, succeed in placing in safety their small vessels in the numerous cays by which the island is surrounded, and sell their slaves, with a considerable profit, to whomsoever presents himself, allured by the profit he can still make by selling them to other parties. This circumstance proves that the active and energetic measures adopted by the Captain-General of Cuba for the complete suppression of the Slave Trade, and the opinion, adverse to so reprobated a traffic, which has already arisen from the sole consideration of the inconvenience and dangers which it may cause to the prosperity of the island, have been the cause of inducing almost all those persons who were formerly engaged in the aforesaid Traffic, to desist from carrying it on any longer, even prompted to do so by a patriotic feeling.

The Captain-General of the Island of Cuba also maintains that he has himself been principally instrumental in spreading this opinion contrary to the Slave Trade, which has been the cause of deterring Spaniards from engaging in it; those who carry it on at present being foreigners, and especially Portuguese. This fact is corroborated by the British

Consul himself, who is well aware of the strict orders which have been issued for the expulsion from the island of all foreigners suspected of being engaged in the aforesaid Traffic. Lately, two of the most conspicuous of these slave-dealers were arrested at the moment they were landing; one of them was called Ancha Rey, whose correspondence was intercepted in a vessel captured by the English cruisers. However, as no legal proof could be found against him from the scrutiny of his papers, the authorities took no other measure than ordering his immediate re-embarkation.

It is to be expected that the foregoing statements will convince you and the Government of Her Britannic Majesty that that of Her Majesty the Queen, my Sovereign, and its functionaries, are exerting themselves, with the same zeal, for the suppression of that criminal Traffic, and procure, by every means in their power, the fulfilment of Treaties. If their zeal, their vigilance, and the severe measures they have adopted, and which they will adopt hereafter, should not be sufficient to obtain the complete suppression of the Slave Trade, it ought to be attributed only to the nature of things, which is sometimes beyond the reach of human efforts. Her Majesty's Government trusts, however, that it will not be utterly impossible to surmount these obstacles, and that by the introduction of free labourers into Cuba in sufficient number to meet the necessities of the island, it will be possible to extirpate even the last vestige of the immoral Traffic of Slaves. This Traffic, according to the documents transmitted by the Captain-General, has greatly diminished, and those who are still carrying it on are running the chance of considerable losses, although they now and then succeed, by taking unheard-of precautions, in baffling the vigilance of the authorities of Cuba and that of Her Britannic Majesty's cruisers.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) EL MARQUES DE PIDAL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 353.

Mr. Otway to the Marquis de Pidal.

Sir, *Madrid, August 1, 1857.*
I HAVE had the honour to receive, and shall lose no time in transmitting to my Government, the note your Excellency has addressed to me under date of the 23rd ultimo, in reply to one from Lord Howden of the 28th March last, relative to the report transmitted to the Earl of Clarendon by Her Britannic Majesty's Commissioners at the Havana upon the Slave Trade in Cuba during the year 1856.

Until I receive further instructions from Lord Clarendon, I consider it my duty to abstain from making any reply to your Excellency's remarks, but I cannot avoid expressing surprise that the last, and by no means most unimportant, part of Lord Howden's above-mentioned note has been passed over wholly unnoticed. In it attention was called to the fact of the slave-traders finding no difficulty in obtaining cédulas, or tickets of registration, for the newly-imported slaves; and the hope of my Government, which I beg leave hereby to repeat and renew, was expressed, "that the Government of Her Catholic Majesty will send such orders to the Captain-General of Cuba as may have the effect of putting a stop to this flagrant abuse."

I avail, &c.

(Signed) L. C. OTWAY.

No. 354.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Otway.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 17, 1857.*
I HAVE received your despatch of the 7th instant, and in reply, I have to acquaint you that I approve the note addressed by you to the Spanish Government on the subject of the state of the emancipados in Cuba, a copy of which is inclosed in your above-mentioned despatch.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 355

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Otway.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 17, 1857.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 7th instant, inclosing the reply of the Marquis de Pidal to the note which Lord Howden addressed to his Excellency on the 28th of March last, communicating to the Government of Her Catholic Majesty the substance of a Report from Her Majesty's Commissioners at the Havana, upon the subject of the Slave Trade in Cuba during the year 1856; and with reference to the omission of Señor Pidal to take any notice of that part of Lord Howden's note in which his Lordship called the attention of the Spanish Government to the fact that the slave-traders find no difficulty in obtaining cédulas, or tickets of registration, for the newly-imported slaves, I have to acquaint you that I approve of your having renewed the request made by Lord Howden, that the Government of Her Catholic Majesty will send such orders to the Captain-General of Cuba as may have the effect of putting a stop to this flagrant abuse.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 356.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Otway.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 21, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith for your information, copies of despatches, as noted in the margin, from Her Majesty's Commissioners at the Havana,* and from Mr. Consul-General Crawford,† relating to the present state of the Slave Trade on the coast of Cuba, and to the proceedings of the Captain-General, with a view to its suppression.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 357.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Otway.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 29, 1857.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Vigo,‡ respecting the landing by the Portuguese schooner "*Theodora*," commanded by a Spaniard named Carlos Lavandeira, of a cargo of slaves near Trinidad in the Island of Cuba, in the month of March last; and I have to instruct you to communicate the information contained in Mr. Brackenbury's despatch to the Spanish Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 358.

Mr. Otway to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 30.)

My Lord,

Madrid, September 25, 1857.

PURSUANT to the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch of the 31st ultimo, I lost no time in communicating to Her Catholic Majesty's Government the Resolution voted in the House of Commons, on the 14th of July last, for an Address to Her Majesty upon the Slave Trade, and the answer which Her Majesty was pleased to return to that Address; and I at the same time called the attention of Señor

* Class A, Nos. 43 and 44.

† No. 436.

‡ No. 493.

Pidal to the unceasing and anxious desire of the Parliament and Government of England for the extinction of this iniquitous Traffic.

I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship, in translation, the note which I have received in reply from his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in which old assurances of the sincerity of Spain in her desire for the suppression of this national crime, and of her co-operation in every measure tending to that object, are renewed and insisted upon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. C. OTWAY.

Inclosure in No. 358.

The Marquis de Pidal to Mr. Otway.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Madrid, September 17, 1857.

I HAVE received your note of the 15th instant, the contents whereof, together with the copies therein inclosed, I have transcribed to the Colonial Office.

On having the honour of conveying this information to you, I have to state to you again that Her Majesty's Government is animated by a not less sincere and ardent wish than that which prompts the Government of Her Britannic Majesty for the complete extinction of the Slave Trade, and that it has hitherto made, and will continue making hereafter, the most strenuous efforts to attain that object.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) EL MARQUES DE PIDAL.

No. 359.

Mr. Otway to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 19.)

My Lord,

Madrid, October 6, 1857.

I HAVE had the honour this morning to receive your Lordship's despatch of the 29th ultimo, and have hastened to fulfil the instructions contained in it by addressing a note to the Marquis of Pidal, communicating to his Excellency the information your Lordship had received from Her Majesty's Consul at Vigo relative to the landing of a cargo of slaves near Trinidad, in the Island of Cuba, in the month of March last, from the Portuguese schooner "*Theodora*," under the command of a Spaniard named Carlos Lavandeira.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. C. OTWAY.

No. 360.

Mr. Otway to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 19.)

My Lord,

Madrid, October 12, 1857.

WITH reference to my preceding despatch, I beg leave to inclose to your Lordship herewith a translation of the note which I have just received from Señor Pidal on the subject of the supposed complicity in a slave-trading transaction of the Spanish subject, Carlos Lavandeira.

His Excellency states that the necessary steps are being taken for arriving at the truth in this matter, and that Lavandeira will be punished, should the accusation brought against him prove to be well founded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. C. OTWAY.

Inclosure in No. 360.

The Marquis de Pidal to Mr. Otway.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Madrid, October 8, 1857.

I HAVE received your note of the 6th instant relative to the supposed complicity of the Spanish subject Lavandeira in the Slave Trade, and I have transcribed its contents to the Colonial Office, in order that the proper measures may be adopted for ascertaining the truth on this matter, and for the punishment of Lavandeira, should the accusation prove to be well founded.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) EL MARQUES DE PIDAL.

No. 361.

Mr. Otway to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 19.)

My Lord,

Madrid, October 13, 1857.

WITH reference to Lord Howden's despatch of the 19th of June last, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a translation of a note and its inclosure which the Marquis of Pidal has addressed to me, containing an extract from the indignant communication from the Captain-General of Cuba, denying the statement in Lord Howden's note, that unfortunately the abominable Traffic in Slaves had, within the last two years, been carried on more vigorously and perseveringly than ever, in consequence of encouragement received from some quarter or other.

I have, &c.

(Signed) L. C. OTWAY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 361.

The Marquis de Pidal to Mr. Otway.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Palace, October 6, 1857.

IN answer to the note of your Legation dated the 19th of June, which I transmitted to the Captain-General of the Island of Cuba through the Colonial Office, that gentleman has addressed to the above-mentioned office a despatch, from which I have the honour of transmitting to you the accompanying extract. Her Britannic Majesty's Government will be enabled to learn from it the undeniable facts and grounded reasons by which the Captain-General proves that the Traffic in Slaves, instead of being connived at and stimulated, is now being persecuted more actively than ever.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) EL MARQUES DE PIDAL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 361.

The Captain-General of Cuba to the Minister of the Colonies.

(Translation.)

(Extract.)

Havana, August 12, 1857.

I HAVE received the Royal Order which your Excellency transmitted to me, dated the 25th June last, as well as a copy of a further communication from his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs, accompanied by a note from the British Minister Plenipotentiary in Madrid, on the subject of the Traffic in Bozal negroes in this island. In this note it is stated upon the strength of reliable authority, that "Slave Traffic, connived at and stimulated in some way or other, has of late years acquired terrible proportions." I should be failing of respect for my own honour as a gentleman, and for the duties which the high position I occupy imposes upon me, if, while so offensive an imputation weighs upon me, I did not refute it energetically by proving, as I hope to do, in this communication, that the information upon which the above-mentioned note is based, is completely false. This information is, without doubt, the same which induced the correspondent of the "Times" to write that the present Captain-General of this island had received more than a million

of dollars ; for the words " for the last two years the Traffic in Slaves has been connived at and stimulated in this island," mean neither more nor less than that. To refute a similar calumny, I will not employ the official statistics, which are current in the Colonial Office under your worthy charge, and which, in my opinion were amply sufficient to answer the British Minister's note, because many of those statistics may be unknown to him. It will be enough for me to examine the official correspondence of the English Government's agents in this island, published by order of Parliament, and, by opposing it to this information, I shall be able to show that it is not by any means a fact that within the last two years the Traffic in Bozal negroes has acquired terrible proportions, and still less so that it is in any way connived at and stimulated.

"The number of slaves disembarked during the year 1854," says Mr. Backhouse, Judge for Her Britannic Majesty, in the Mixed Court of Justice established in this city, in his despatch No. 39 to Lord Clarendon, written on the 1st January, and received on the 17th February, 1855, " was 8,564 ; large in comparison with that of the previous years, with the exception of the year 1853." Now let us see what number the importation reached during the last two years to which Her Britannic Majesty's Minister refers. In the despatch No. 45, addressed by the same gentleman to Lord Clarendon, it is said, " I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a list of the slaves disembarked in 1855 : they amount to 4,806 ;" and in the statement transmitted on the 31st of January, 1857, it appears that the number of slaves landed during the year 1856 was 5,468. Let these two last years be compared with the years 1853 and 1854, and it will be seen if it can with any reason be said that, within the former, the Slave Trade has acquired terrible proportions.

This is what appears by the statements furnished to the British Government by their official agents in this island, always disposed to exaggerate the number of landings, and the number of slaves landed in each, as I have had occasion to point out to your Excellency in a long despatch dated the 12th June last, and other previous ones. But it will be said, if it is a fact that fewer negroes have been introduced into the island in 1855 and 1856 than in 1853 and 1854, it is also a fact that the number of slaves captured in the former two years has also been smaller. Doubtless, but that does not prove that the persecution was not as active and rigorous. Does Her Britannic Majesty's Minister wish to learn the reason of those captures ? He will find it in the first of the two despatches quoted. In it Mr. Backhouse says that the local authorities captured a part of the cargo, the sickly part of the Bozal negroes. Further on he adds, " the more sickly out of the cargo," in the hope that the Captain-General would be satisfied, and suppose that the whole cargo had been captured. The present local authorities know very well that the decorum of the Government would not for a moment allow any manner of transaction with the infringers of the Treaty.

Now let us see what is the opinion of my conduct held by the agents of the British Government in this island, who are not only witnesses, but up to certain point censors, of all the proceedings of the Spanish authorities, which have any connection with so disagreeable a subject. In the second of the two despatches quoted, speaking of an expedition of Bozal negroes which, in August 1855, arrived at the port of Santa Cruz, it is said, " General Concha dismissed the whole of these officers, delivering them up to the Court of Justice for punishment, but I am told that there is not sufficient proof to convict them for this offence." He adds, " The present Captain-General cannot do more than he has done, by showing his moral conviction of the infamous conduct of these officers, and dismissing them from the situations which they held."

" Although General Concha," he says elsewhere in this despatch, " is heartily disposed to persecute this Traffic, his authority is insufficient to punish those persons respecting whom he has only a moral conviction that they are implicated in it, or that they favour and assist it."

So true is this, your Excellency (and I can give no better proof of not only my good faith, but of the zeal, which many consider exaggerated, with which I persecute the abominable Traffic), that I have at the present moment either dismissed, or under trial, the following functionaries, viz., two Lieutenant-Governors of Nuevitas, one of Villa Clara, another of Guanajay, another of Sagua, and lastly, Brigadier Serrano, who was Governor of Trinidad ; the Alcaldes Mayores of Puerto Principe and Villa Clara, the latter of whom is now in Manzanillo, as the Court of Justice has acquitted him of the charges which were the causes of his dismissal from Villa Clara ; the Postmasters of Puerto Principe and Villa Clara ; the Administrator of Taxes in Santa Cruz ; more than twenty captains of districts, and as many more subaltern agents and carabineers. Can it then be said, with a shadow of reason, that the Slave Trade in Cuba is connived at and stimulated in some way or another in the Island of Cuba ? Perhaps, it will be asked, why are measures adopted for

its extirpation, insufficient? In the very despatch of this Judge of the Mixed Court, of the 14th January, 1856, Her Britannic Majesty's Minister will be able to find an explanation, to a certain extent, of this deplorable fact. These are the words: "The high price of sugar produces such a strong desire for an extension of the cultivation of the sugarcane, that the greatest efforts are being made to obtain arms with which to increase the cultivation, and if they are unable to procure them by one of these two means" (the immigration of free negroes and of Chinese) "the Slave Trade will continue to be carried on with increased activity."

Since the 14th January, 1856, when he wrote that despatch, the price of sugar has almost doubled, there has been no immigration of free blacks, and that of Chinese is, as it were, paralyzed, as no decision has as yet been come to with respect to the judicial process instituted on that subject. And, nevertheless, the number of slaves introduced into the island has been, according to the British Government's agents, much smaller in 1855 and 1856 than it was in 1854. The fact of the matter is, that the same means have not been employed in order to put a stop to the traffic in Bozal negroes, as were employed in 1854, and were the object of so much praise from the British agents and even from the British Government itself; but then its inefficacy to attain the desired result is proved by the number of slaves introduced during that year, just as much as it proves the great perturbation which was produced by the most important of those measures, which was the formation of a Slave Register, the secret circular of June 1, of the same year, which my predecessor saw himself under the obligation of issuing. By it, is enjoined upon the authorities of the island to use the greatest and most convenient indulgence in their operations of search towards the slave proprietor, giving them power to alter the form of the registers, if they think necessary, and even allowing them to be satisfied with the depositions upon oath of the proprietors who appear worthy of confidence, suppressing in their case the intervention of the District Captain, if they have not confidence in him.

A few days afterwards, on the 9th of the same month, orders were given to omit in the registers the detail of the slave's nationality, and although at the same time the form of these was strongly insisted upon, the fact is, that when, in September of the same year, I was invested with this command, not one single register had been made out, and the execution of the Royal Decree of March 22, which established a general register of slaves in this island, may be looked upon as having been completely suspended. Defective as the system of tickets of inscription still is, which was established in lieu of that of registration, which, as I have said, was never put into execution, and was not susceptible of being realized, those tickets, nevertheless, sometimes serve as a proof by which to detain the negroes, and the fact that they are able to provide themselves with them, cannot be a guarantee to the persons who hold Bozal negroes, as they are police documents, which, in the form in which they are given, must not be considered as real titles of property.

Your Excellency knows that I am occupying myself with the amelioration of this system, and in endeavouring to avoid the abuses which the form of these inscription tickets gives rise to. Besides this, the British Minister may see, that before receiving a copy of his last note, I had, as I considered the means of repression at my command under existing regulations to be insufficient, exercised, upon my own responsibility, the extraordinary powers which Indian Law gives to Viceroy's, of banishing any one who disturbs the tranquillity of the land, by pronouncing a sentence of banishment against the persons who, according to my own moral convictions, were implicated in this infamous Traffic; for I do really consider such persons to be disturbers of the public tranquillity. Your Excellency will, moreover, receive other communications from me in which I bring to your knowledge all the energetic measures which I have taken in order to oppose the landing of those slaving expeditions which, it is true, have been prepared within the last few months, and many of which are still standing off our coast, not because it is thought that I will connive at their disembarkation, but rather because my being relieved from this post is considered inevitable, and because the persons who apply themselves to the abominable Traffic in Slaves know very well that no more favourable occasion than the changing of the principal authority in the island can present itself, as, in the commencement of his tenure of office, the successor has not the necessary knowledge and experience to oppose to them. I hope Her Majesty's Government will find in this communication sufficient proofs to admit of their bringing it to the cognizance of the British Minister, and your Excellency will not be surprised that, considering, as I do, my honour gravely compromised by the gratuitous and unfounded accusation above-mentioned, I await anxiously a reply, in which Her Majesty's Government will be good enough to declare itself satisfied with the way in which I have conducted myself in this most important question.

No. 362.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Otway.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 21, 1857.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Crawford, Her Majesty's Consul-General in Cuba,* inclosing copies of a correspondence which he has had with the Captain-General of that island, relative to the frequent importations of Bozal negroes which have recently taken place into Cuba; and inclosing also copies of two Orders which have been issued by the Captain-General on the subject of the abuses which are being practised with respect to the cedulas, which documents, instead of being a means of preventing the importation of slaves into Cuba, are now extensively used to cover the Slave Traffic.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

CLARENDON.

No. 363.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Otway.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 26, 1857.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, copies of a despatch and its inclosures from Commander Day, of Her Majesty's steamer "Firefly," to the Secretary to the Admiralty,† which have been forwarded to me from that Department, reporting the circumstances under which the Spanish barque "Conchita" has been detained and sent to Sierra Leone for adjudication, on suspicion of being intended to be employed in the Slave Trade.

I also inclose an extract of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Campbell, Her Majesty's Consul at Lagos,‡ relative to the capture of this vessel.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

CLARENDON.

No. 364.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Otway.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 26, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copies of a despatch and its inclosures, from Mr. Crawford, Her Majesty's Consul-General at Havana,§ relative to the capture off the coast of Cuba, by the Spanish war-schooner "Christina," of the American barque "Mazeppa," with 385 slaves on board.

I also inclose a copy of a further despatch from Mr. Crawford,|| reporting the landing of a cargo of slaves by the Spanish schooner "Villanueva," at the entrance of the port of Havana; and I have to instruct you to call the attention of the Spanish Government to the extraordinary fact reported by Mr. Crawford, that the landing of these slaves was carried on and completed under the guns of the forts, in view of the sentries at the entrance of the port, so near also to the guard-vessel, and at a place especially subject to the vigilance of the coast-guard stationed at the Punta.

You will also at the same time express to the Spanish Minister the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have received the intelligence of the capture of a slave-vessel by the Spanish war-schooner "Christina," but you will add that experience has proved that the measures hitherto adopted by the Spanish authorities for putting a stop to the Cuban Slave Trade have been totally inadequate for the purpose required, and that the vast scheme which has been recently organized for introducing slaves into Cuba, urgently requires that some more effective measures should be taken to prevent the designs of slave-traders from being carried into effect.

The Spanish Government ought not only to give the Captain-General of Cuba the powers which he asks for to put down the Slave Trade, but he should be directed summarily to dismiss the Governor or senior officer of every province or district in Cuba in which a landing of slaves shall have been effected; and I have to instruct you strongly to urge the

* No. 442.

† Class A, No. 161.

‡ No. 29.

§ No. 445.

|| No. 444.

Spanish Government to send instructions to General Concha in accordance with the above suggestions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 365.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Otway.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 27, 1857.

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration the note addressed by the Marquis de Pidal to Lord Howden on the 8th of July last, a copy of which was inclosed in his Lordship's despatch of the 17th of the same month, and I have to instruct you to acquaint the Spanish Minister, in reply, that the arguments contained in his Excellency's note in no way change the views of Her Majesty's Government with regard to the alterations which the Spanish Government proposes should be made in Article X of the Treaty for the suppression of the Slave Trade, which was concluded between this country and Spain on the 28th of June, 1835.

The grounds on which Her Majesty's Government have declined to acquiesce in the proposed alterations have been fully communicated by Lord Howden to the Spanish Minister; and I have only now further to observe, that the effect of the concessions demanded by the Spanish Government, if acquiesced in, would be to enable Spanish vessels, and the vessels of the sixteen other countries with which England has concluded Treaties containing the same stipulations as those inserted in the Spanish Treaty, to ship casks or other articles capable of holding liquids (one of the most material equipments for a slave-trading voyage), and to take their departure for the coast of Africa from foreign ports, whereas those vessels can now do so only from national ports. And it is proposed to make this concession with no other security for the lawful employment of the empty casks than that of the master or consignees of the vessel.

Such a concession would amount virtually to the opening of the chief ports of the world to the slave-trader as places of equipment; and yet the Marquis de Pidal expresses the conviction of the Spanish Government that the alterations for which they contend would in no way prejudice the attainment of the ends contemplated by the Treaty of 1835, namely, the suppression of the Slave Trade; and a refusal to acquiesce in the proposed alterations is moreover represented as creating difficulties which would completely prevent Spanish merchants from participating in the *bonâ fide* trade with the ports of Western Africa.

Her Majesty's Government are convinced that the alterations proposed by the Spanish Government would materially impair the efficiency of the Treaty of 1835 in one of its most important Articles, and they do not feel that, in declining to concur in those alterations, they can with any reason be accused of refusing to comply with the just demands of the Spanish Government—demands which, if conceded to Spain alone, would place Spanish vessels on a more favourable footing than British vessels and the vessels of those other countries which have entered into Treaty engagements with England for the suppression of the Slave Trade similar to those contained in the Spanish Treaty.

In conclusion, I have to instruct you to state to the Spanish Minister, that Her Majesty's Government are the more confirmed in the decision which they have come to not to relax the stipulations of the Anti-Slave Trade Treaty with Spain, by the advices which they received by the last mail from the African coast.

Those advices brought intelligence which shows the bold and increasing attempts of the slave-traders to ship slaves for the Cuban market, and amongst the captures made by Her Majesty's cruizers were two Spanish vessels fully equipped for the Slave Trade, and a third, a barque called the "*Conchita*," has also been detained, and sent to Sierra Leone for adjudication, on suspicion that she was destined to be employed in the Slave Traffic.

This vessel is stated to be the property of Messrs. Vidal y Rivas, of Barcelona, the firm on whose special representation it was, as will be seen by the "*Madrid Gazette*" of the 10th of October of last year, that the Spanish Government founded their request to Her Majesty's Government to make those alterations in the Treaty which have formed the subject of the present correspondence.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 366.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Otway.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 13, 1857.*
 WITH reference to your despatch of the 7th of August last, I inclose for your information a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Commissioners at the Havana,* re-asserting the correctness of the statements contained in their Report upon the Slave Trade in Cuba during the past year, the accuracy of which was impugned in the note addressed to you by Señor Pidal, a copy of which was inclosed in your above-mentioned despatch.

You will communicate the substance of the despatch from Her Majesty's Commissioners, now inclosed to you, to the Spanish Government.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 367.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Otway.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 13, 1857.*
 I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, copy of a despatch from Mr. Lousada, the Acting British Consul-General at Havana,† on matters connected with the Cuban Slave Trade.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 368.

Mr. Otway to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 14.)

My Lord, *Madrid, November 9, 1857.*
 I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatches of the 26th and 27th ultimo.

I beg leave to inclose copy of a note which, in conformity with the instructions in that dated the 26th ultimo, I addressed to Señor Martinez de la Rosa, expressing to his Excellency the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government had learnt the capture by the Spanish war-schooner "Cristina," of the American barque "Mazeppa," with a cargo of slaves, and also their surprise and regret at the landing of another cargo of negroes in the very port of Havana, and strongly urging that instructions should be sent to the Captain-General of Cuba in the sense of the suggestions sketched out by your Lordship.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) L. C. OTWAY.

Inclosure in No. 368.

Mr. Otway to Señor Martinez de la Rosa.

Sir, *Madrid, November 2, 1857.*
 I HAVE the pleasing duty of expressing to your Excellency the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt the brilliant capture, by the Spanish war-schooner "Cristina," of the American barque "Mazeppa" (now the "Paes"), with 385 Bozal negroes on board, and of congratulating your Excellency, most warmly, upon this proof of the efficacy of Her Catholic Majesty's cruisers. Mr. Crawford, Her Majesty's Consul-General in the Island of Cuba, has informed Lord Clarendon that the captured slaves were carried into Cardenas, but that all legal proceedings have been stayed by the rigorous quarantine rendered necessary by certain infectious disorders among the slaves; as, however, his Excellency General Concha has assured Mr. Crawford that, when the virulence of the infection has abated, the proceedings shall be carried on with the utmost

* Class A, No. 48.

† No. 450.

activity, Her Majesty's Government are quite tranquil as to the issue of the affair, which has caused them lively satisfaction.

I can assure your Excellency that I greatly regret being unable to end my note here, the more so, as its continuation will turn upon a circumstance which, while it must be known to your Excellency, cannot fail to have caused you both surprise and disappointment. I allude to the landing of a considerable number of slaves at the entrance of the port of Havana, by the Spanish schooner "*Mercedita Villanueva*," about the 18th of September last, and, in so doing, I cannot refrain from calling your Excellency's attention to the extraordinary fact that the landing of these slaves was carried on and completed under the guns of the forts, in view of the sentries, at the entrance of the port, within a very short distance of the guard-vessel, and at a place especially subject to the vigilance of the coast-guard stationed at the Punta. The authorities have, however, reason to believe, I learn, that the consequences of this landing have, in some measure, been neutralized by the capture, owing to the vigilance and stringent measures of Captain-General Concha, of a large proportion of the cargo; and the instructions, therefore, which I have received from the Earl of Clarendon, while they direct me to call your Excellency's attention to this daring landing of negroes, also direct me to subordinate the expression of Her Majesty's Government's surprise at its success, to their satisfaction at learning the capture of a slave-vessel by Her Catholic Majesty's cruiser "*Cristina*." But I must add, and frankly, your Excellency will not be surprised at my doing so, that experience has abundantly proved that the measures hitherto adopted by the authorities in Cuba for putting a stop to the Slave Trade in that island, have been totally inadequate for the purpose required, and that the vast scheme which has been recently organized for introducing slaves into Cuba, urgently requires that some more effective measures should be taken to prevent the designs of the slave-traders from being carried into effect. To attain this end, Her Majesty's Government think it indispensable that that of Her Catholic Majesty should not only give to the Captain-General of Cuba the powers which he asks for to put down the Slave Trade, but should direct him summarily to dismiss the Governor or senior officer of every province or district in the island, in which a landing of slaves shall have been effected.

I must, therefore, conclude my note, which has turned upon two subjects so like in their nature and so opposite in their results, by strongly urging your Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty's Government, to send instructions to General Concha in accordance with the above suggestions. That officer's undoubtedly cordial desire for the extinction of an iniquitous Traffic cannot but be fettered by the insufficiency of his powers to punish any subordinate official who, whether from his want of vigilance, or from his lukewarmness in the cause, has allowed, or may allow, proceedings of such unparalleled audacity to take place.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) L. C. OTWAY.

No. 369.

Mr. Otway to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 16.)

My Lord,

Madrid, November 11, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a translation of a note from Señor Martinez de la Rosa, dated the 2nd instant, in answer to the one which I addressed to his Excellency, under the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 27th ultimo, in which I stated the reasons which prevented Her Majesty's Government from entertaining the proposal of the Spanish Government for an alteration of Article X of the Treaty for the suppression of the Slave Trade, concluded between Great Britain and Spain on the 28th of June, 1835.

Señor Martinez de la Rosa's communication, as your Lordship will observe, is dated the 2nd instant, and only reached my hands last night—a fact which I have thought it right to record in my reply to his Excellency acknowledging its receipt, copy of which I also beg leave to inclose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. C. OTWAY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 369.

Señor Martinez de la Rosa to Mr. Otway.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Madrid, November 2, 1857.

I HAVE had the honour of receiving your note of the 1st instant, in which you are pleased to state to me, that, notwithstanding the reasons contained in the Marquis de Pidal's note dated the 8th of July last, the British Government insists upon considering as a relaxation of the prescriptions established against the Slave Trade, the authorization requested for Spanish Consuls to be allowed to issue the certificates alluded to in Article X of the Treaty of 1835, whenever vessels bound for the Western Coast of Africa should carry empty casks on board.

On replying to you, it is not my intention to take into consideration the reasons adduced in your aforesaid note, not only because they have already been extensively refuted, as you will be able to see in my predecessor's communications relative to this matter, but also from the conviction I entertain of the inutility of this discussion, such as it is, being carried on.

It is only the duty of Her Majesty's Government, at the present moment, to defend the reputation of the respectable mercantile firm, owners of the Spanish barque "*Conchita*," lately captured by the English cruisers, to which you make reference, adding that the circumstances of the aforesaid firm having been the originator of the measure which has given rise to this correspondence, aggravates the suspicion that the vessel in question was destined for the Slave Trade.

It is true that Her Majesty's Government took into consideration the reasons stated by Messrs. Vidal y Rivas when they requested the British Government's conformity with the measure in question; but this very same fact ought to have made on the mind of the English Cabinet an impression contrary to that which is to be inferred from your note: because it was not credible, nor is there any reason whatever for believing that Her Majesty's Government would have acted, on such a matter as the one in question, with such want of reflection and deficiency of information with regard to the above-mentioned mercantile firm, that it could have been deceived to the point of contributing to afford facilities to the illicit Traffic of Slaves, with measures adopted by suggestion of the parties interested.

The British Government, which must be informed, as well as that of Her Catholic Majesty, through the British Consul at Barcelona, of the highly respectable position which Messrs. Vidal y Rivas hold amongst the mercantile community of that city, both on account of their character and of their wealth, can have no well-founded motives for entertaining suspicions as to the legitimacy of the mercantile operations of the aforesaid firm, to which the Spanish Government is bound to afford protection for a branch of trade with the Western Coast of Africa which cannot give rise to the slightest suspicion, as it is carried on with all the prescribed guarantees and conditions.

With respect to the seizure of the said vessel "*Conchita*," and with regard to the subject to which this note refers, instructions are addressed to Her Majesty's Representative in London, and I entertain the hope that he will succeed in conducting both affairs to a satisfactory solution for both Governments.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) FRANCISCO MARTINEZ DE LA ROSA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 369.

Mr. Otway to Señor Martinez de la Rosa.

Sir,

Madrid, November 11, 1857.

IN doing myself the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Excellency's note dated the 2nd instant, in reply to mine of the 1st, containing the reasons which, in the opinion of Her Britannic Majesty's Government, justified their refusal to accede to the request of that of Her Catholic Majesty, for a modification of Article X of the Slave Trade Treaty of 1835, it is right that I should state to your Excellency that this note, a copy of which I shall immediately transmit to Her Britannic's Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, only reached my hands last night, and, consequently, I am in no way answerable for the delay of nine days between its date and its transmission to London.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) L. C. OTWAY.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Otway.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 16, 1857.

I INCLOSE, for your information, the accompanying copies of a correspondence which I have had with M. Gonzalez Bravo, the Spanish Minister at this Court, arising out of the detention of the Spanish barque "*Conchita*," by a British cruizer on the coast of Africa, for being equipped for the Slave Trade, and the absence of any Spanish officer authorized by Treaty to adjudicate in this case in the Mixed Commission Court at Sierra Leone.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 370.

M. Bravo to the Earl of Clarendon.

(Translation.)

My Lord,

Spanish Legation, October 21, 1857.

THE Government of Her Majesty the Queen of Spain has been informed that the corvette "*Conchita*," belonging to Messrs. Vidal and Ribas, merchants of Barcelona, has been detained by English cruizers, notwithstanding that she had her papers *en règle*, and the "*visto bueno*" of another cruizer of the same nation, who had searched her. It appears that this vessel was detained in Ajuda on the 24th August last, and conveyed to Sierra Leone with all her cargo, to be there subject to the adjudication of the Mixed Tribunal, which takes cognizance of those matters.

The Consul and Vice-Consul of Spain being absent from that place, the consequence is that there is no Judge there to protect the interests of Spanish subjects; and in such case the Consul of France having charge, *ad interim*, of the Spanish Consulate, I hope from the rectitude of Her Britannic Majesty's Government that it will be pleased to direct that the said Consul be admitted as a member and judge, *ad interim*, of the said Tribunal. I will not dwell on the reasons of evident justice which require this concession; it might, however, be the case that the English Government should have some objection to grant it, and in such case, as it cannot, nor ought in any manner to be admitted, that in this adjudication, or in any other of this nature, the interests of our countrymen should not be represented, in accordance with the spirit of existing Treaties, I have no doubt that your Excellency will allow and direct that the trial and sentence which may take place and be passed on this affair, may be suspended until the arrival at Sierra Leone of the Consul recently nominated to that place, when this affair may be determined with all the guarantees of impartiality stipulated between the two nations. It is so much the more to be expected that your Excellency will accede to one or other of these very just demands, inasmuch as the above mentioned firm, owning the "*Conchita*," has suffered great losses on another occasion, after having been fully acquitted by their judges, being now once more subjected to trial in a case where the vessel has had the advantage of approval on search, and of the official "*visto bueno*" of a cruizer equally competent with the one which detained her, notwithstanding the regularity of her papers.

On this occasion, and in a certain degree generalising the question, your Excellency will allow me to make one observation. The energy which is displayed for the prevention of the trade in negro slaves on the coast of Africa is, without doubt, legitimate; nevertheless, I consider it perfectly and radically unjust, under colour of preventing and suppressing the Slave Trade, to destroy in its birth and to suppress, the trade in palm-oil and other articles to which the firm of Vidal and Ribas, and other Spanish houses, are beginning to apply themselves. I do not cherish the belief that this has occurred in the present case, because I cannot morally or legally suppose that Her Britannic Majesty's Government intends to avail itself of the power given to it by the Treaties for suppressing the Slave Trade, to discourage, by onerous annoyances, and to destroy in the birth, other trades which are evidently lawful. It could not, however, be denied that, from a multitude of circumstances apparently unconnected with each other, some previous instances of which might easily be mentioned, there would be some cause for inferring what I have herein intimated, if the good faith which actuates the English Government were not so well known as it is; for the same reason as I have confidence in that good faith, I feel sure that the observation which I have very incidentally made, will induce the enlightened equity of your Excellency not only to grant one or other of the cases of this really moderate demand, but also that,

the concession which I ask for may be made with the promptitude which the nature of the occurrence requires. If in addition to the very rigorous exercise of vigilance which is established on those coasts, if in addition to the irreparable losses caused to us by the excessive zeal of some commanders of cruizers, the example should be given of a wish to carry out an adjudication and a sentence, without the intervention, though, *ad interim*, of some person to represent our interests, and this in a case where such favourable circumstances exist as those present in this affair, then, indeed, it might be thought, as there are not wanting some who think, unjustly without a doubt, that it is not the interest of humanity and civilization, but another much less noble and ostensible interest, which actuates Her Britannic Majesty's Government, when, with so much tenacity and such great eagerness, it arms itself with all that can be founded upon the legitimate suppression of a Traffic which Spain is the first to condemn, against other trades the lawfulness of which cannot be doubted by the Government of Her Britannic Majesty, or by any one, and the interests and rights of which the Spanish Government is bound, and is determined, to defend and protect. I am convinced, however, that your Excellency in the present case will furnish no motive for putting faith in such inferences, by refusing such reasonable, plain, and equitable things as those which I have the honour to solicit in this communication.

I take, &c.
(Signed) LUIS GONZALEZ BRAVO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 370.

The Earl of Clarendon to M. Bravo.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 10, 1857.

I HAVE received the letter which you did me the honour to address to me on the 21st ultimo, stating that the Spanish vessel "*Conchita*" has been recently detained on the coast of Africa by a British cruizer, and sent to Sierra Leone for adjudication, on suspicion of being intended to be employed in the Slave Trade, and requesting that, in the absence of any Spanish officer authorized by Treaty to fill the post of Spanish Judge in the Mixed Commission Court at Sierra Leone, the French Consul who is in temporary charge of the Spanish Consulate may be admitted as Spanish member of the Mixed Commission, and be allowed to adjudicate in this case; or, in the event of Her Majesty's Government objecting to make this concession, you request that the trial which has taken place, and the sentence which has been passed, may be suspended until the arrival at Sierra Leone of the Spanish Consul who has been recently nominated to that place. And, in reply to your first request, I beg leave to refer you to the fourth paragraph of Article IX of Annex B to the Treaty of the 28th of May, 1835, between Great Britain and Spain, for the suppression of the Slave Trade, of which the following is an extract:—

"And in case the vacancy be both of the Spanish Judge and Spanish Arbitrator, and there be neither Spanish Consul nor Spanish Vice-Consul to fill *ad interim* the vacancies, then the British Judge and the British Arbitrator shall sit, and in all cases brought before them for adjudication shall proceed to adjudge the same and pass sentence accordingly."

It will be seen from the foregoing extract, that the case which has arisen of the absence of all Spanish officers authorized by Treaty to fill the posts of Spanish Judge and of Spanish Arbitrator in the Mixed Commission Court at Sierra Leone, is foreseen and provided for by the Treaty, and this being so, Her Majesty's Government would not feel themselves justified in giving their consent to any arrangement which would have the effect of substituting as member of the Mixed Commission Court at Sierra Leone any other than the person designated by Treaty to fill that post. Nor can Her Majesty's Government accede to your request to postpone the trial of the "*Conchita*" until the arrival at Sierra Leone of the recently nominated Spanish Consul; for, according to the stipulations of Article III of Annex B to the before-mentioned Treaty, it is the Court of Mixed Commission at Sierra Leone that is alone competent to grant any delay in the adjudication of the cases that may be brought before it—a delay that in no case can exceed four months; and if the parties interested in the case of the "*Conchita*" had been desirous that the adjudication in this case should be suspended, then application should have been made to the Mixed Commission Court, and not to Her Majesty's Government. There are some observations, however, in your letter, which I cannot let pass without remark.

You observe that the energy displayed on the African coast for the prevention of the trade in negro slaves, is, without doubt, legitimate; but you state, nevertheless, that you

consider it perfectly and radically unjust, under colour of preventing and suppressing the Slave Trade, to destroy in its birth the trade in palm-oil, &c., to which the firm of Vidal and Ribas, and other Spanish merchants, are beginning to apply themselves; and you not only suggest that there might be ground for the above accusation, but you more than leave it to be inferred, that if Her Majesty's Government do not accede to one or other of the requests which you have made with regard to the adjudication in the case of the "*Conchita*," there will be some justification for the accusation made against Her Majesty's Government, that it is not in the interest of humanity and civilization that they are actuated in the course pursued by them on the African coast, but that they are guided by another motive less noble and ostensible.

I beg to assure you in reply, that Her Majesty's Government have no fear that it will be seriously believed by any impartial person that they endeavour to suppress legitimate trade, which on every account they desire to promote, and the very existence of which is owing to the efforts of Her Majesty's Government to extinguish the Slave Trade; and it would, indeed, be a source of sincere satisfaction to Her Majesty's Government, if the thousands of negroes who are annually exported to Cuba as slaves, were henceforward to be employed as freemen at home in the production of palm-oil, and in developing the other resources of their country.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 371.

Mr. Otway to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 24.)

(Extract.)

Madrid, November 19, 1857.

IN connection with your Lordship's despatch of the 29th September last, and with my own despatch, in acknowledgment of it, of the 6th ultimo, respecting the landing of a cargo of slaves near Trinidad, in the Island of Cuba, by the Portuguese schooner "*Teodora*," I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship translation of a note from Señor Martínez de la Rosa, in which his Excellency admits the fact of such a landing having taken place, but states that the matter has immediately been brought before the proper Courts; and that every officer whose conduct lays him open to the suspicion of complicity in it, or of a want of zeal in the prosecution of the proceedings which have resulted from it, has been dismissed.

Inclosure in No. 371.

Señor Martínez de la Rosa to Mr. Otway.

(Translation.)

Madrid, November 16, 1857.

IN reply to your note of the 8th of October last, relative to the landing of negroes on the Island of Cuba, carried into effect by the Portuguese schooner "*Teodora*," I have the honour to inform you that, having referred this matter to the General Colonial Office, I have received an answer from that office stating, with reference to a communication from the Captain-General of the aforesaid island, that it was perfectly true that a disembarkation of negroes had taken place in February last, at the town of Trinidad. On the above-mentioned superior authority being informed of this occurrence, he caused Brigadier Don Luis Maria Serrano to be dismissed from the command of the above-mentioned town, and ordered the Judge Don Mariano Palan de Mesa to start, without loss of time, from the Havana, and proceed to Trinidad, for the purpose of instituting the proper judicial investigation, which is being carried on with the greatest activity. Other public functionaries have likewise been dismissed, not on account of any connivance on their part, but only because they did not display, in the search of the disembarked negroes, the zeal with which it was their duty to have acted on that occasion. This conduct on the part of the Governor and Captain-General clearly shows the care with which the Government exerts itself for the exact fulfilment of the existing Treaties relative to the persecution of Slave Trade.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) FRANCISCO MARTINEZ DE LA ROSA.

No. 372.

*The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Otway.**Foreign Office, December 5, 1857.*

Sir, WITH reference to your despatch of the 19th ultimo, I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government learn with satisfaction the steps that have been taken by the Captain-General of Cuba to punish the parties who were implicated in the landing of a cargo of slaves which took place at Trinidad in the month of February last.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 373.

Mr. Otway to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 12.)

(Extract.)

Madrid, December 7, 1857.

I BEG leave, in pursuance of the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 13th ultimo, to transmit herewith copy of the note which I addressed to Señor Martínez de la Rosa, communicating to his Excellency the substance of the despatch from Her Majesty's Commissioners at the Havana, reasserting the correctness of their report as to the increase of the Slave Trade in Cuba during the last year, the accuracy of which was impugned in the Marquis of Pidal's note to me of the 23rd of July last. Your Lordship will, perhaps, observe that I took the liberty, though not precisely instructed to that effect, of repeating the suggestions forwarded to me in your Lordship's despatch of the 26th of October last, and of laying a stress upon them, as offering the only remedy to a state of things respecting the existence of which no reasonable doubt could exist.

Inclosure in No. 373.

*Mr. Otway to Señor Martínez de la Rosa.**Madrid, November 28, 1857.*

Sir, I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I lost no time in transmitting to the Earl of Clarendon copy of the note which the Marquis de Pidal was good enough to address to me on the 23rd of July last, containing his Excellency's answer to the report sent home by Her Majesty's Commissioners at the Havana, upon the Slave Trade in Cuba during the past year, which note Lord Clarendon, in his turn, forwarded to the gentlemen upon whose report it was founded, for any observations they might have to offer thereupon. From their answer to his Lordship, it appears that what has struck them principally in the communication referred to, is the curious absence, which I had the honour to remark upon at the time, of any reference to a very important, perhaps the most important, part of their report, viz., the facility with which cédulas may be obtained by almost any one requiring them. It is true, they are the first to allow that the Captain-General has lately exerted himself considerably, and has issued some very stringent regulations on the subject; but, unfortunately, the issuing of these regulations, and the enforcing their observance, are two very distinct affairs. To such an extent, indeed, is this the case, that it is a thing of frequent occurrence to be offered Bozals at one price without their cédulas, and at another with them. Can any proof be clearer than this, that these documents continue to be marketable?

Her Majesty's Commissioners state that, after carefully looking over their report, they cannot consider that they have made any over-statements, and remark, with regard to the assertion of Captain-General Concha, which I communicated to my Government, that he has been the means of setting public opinion against the Slave Trade, and has thus induced Spaniards to discontinue the Traffic, and leave it in the hands of foreigners, that, in their opinion, the most distinct refutation of the latter part of this assertion may be gathered from the events of the last nine months, during which the Traffic has notoriously increased, and the audacity of the slave-traders reached its climax, by the introduction of a cargo of Bozals into the very port of Havana, the importers and all concerned being Her Catholic Majesty's subjects, who avail themselves of foreigners to fit out vessels in the United States, while the capital is all provided in the Island of Cuba.

The gentlemen whose opinions, formed upon the spot, and with everything in favour

of their correctness, I am expressing to your Excellency, entirely agree with Her Catholic Majesty's Government that the material difficulties are great, owing to the extent of coast, the numerous cays, and the natural desire of the planters to obtain a supply of labour; but they cannot go so far as to admit the "impossibility" (I employ the Marquis de Pidal's expression) of checking the Slave Trade, if it were possible to ensure honest co-operation towards this object, by a proper exercise of their duty on the part of the minor officials. To obtain this so desirable result, I cannot conceive any means containing such elements of success as the conceding to the Captain-General of Cuba of such increased powers as would enable him to execute summary justice on offending officials; in a word, the adoption of the measures of repression which, pursuant to the wish of Her Majesty's Government, I had the honour of suggesting to your Excellency in my note of the 2nd instant.

In concluding my communication, I am anxious to express to your Excellency my regret that so many notes of mine should contain the expression and reiteration of the same sentiments on this subject, and to beg you to see the excuse of this fact in the little change that has taken place in the causes which make it incumbent upon me to address you; in the little change for the better which appears likely to take place in them, as long as Her Catholic Majesty's principal officer is not enabled to enforce a zeal corresponding to his own, upon his subordinates.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) L. C. OTWAY.

No. 374.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Otway.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 15, 1857.

I INCLOSE for your information a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul-General at the Havana,* reporting the capture of two slave-vessels by Spanish cruizers off the coast of Cuba.

I also inclose a list containing the names of twenty-one vessels which have been captured or destroyed by British cruizers off the African coast within the last nine months.

All these vessels are stated to have been destined to carry slaves to Cuba, and they were captured either with slaves on board, or fully equipped for the Slave Trade, and other vessels are known to have got clear off the coast with cargoes of slaves also destined for the Cuban market.

It is evident, from the increased vigour with which the Cuban Slave Trade is now carried on, that the Spanish laws are totally ineffective to put a stop to this Traffic, and I have accordingly to desire that in bringing these captures to the notice of the Spanish Government, you will again strongly urge upon the Spanish Ministers the necessity of some more severe and stringent laws being enacted for the punishment of the parties engaged in this detestable Traffic.

In my despatch to Lord Howden of the 21st of April last, I instructed his Lordship to state to M. Pidal the conviction of Her Majesty's Government that one of the most effectual means of deterring the slave-traders from carrying on their abominable Traffic, would be the passing of a law rendering the Slave Trade piracy, and I have to instruct you again to urge this suggestion upon the consideration of the Spanish Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 375.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Otway.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 15, 1857.

I INCLOSE for your information a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Lousada. Her Majesty's Acting Consul-General at the Havana,† inclosing copies of a correspondence which he has had with the Captain-General of Cuba, relative to the landing of several cargoes of slaves in that island.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

* No. 458.

† No. 460.

No. 376.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Otway.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December 17, 1857.*
 I TRANSMIT to you herewith, under flying seal, a despatch and its inclosures which I have addressed to Mr. Brackenbury, Her Majesty's Consul at Vigo,* relative to the case of a Spanish barque called the "*Restauracion*," which was fitted out at that port in the month of July last, and sailed thence for the coast of Africa, where she was captured on the 2nd of September, by a boat belonging to Her Majesty's steamer "*Alecto*," fully equipped for the Slave Trade.

And I have to desire that you will communicate the particulars of the capture of this vessel to the Spanish Government, and you will request that a searching inquiry may be made with the view to ascertain and to punish the parties who may have been engaged in this slave-trading adventure.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 377.

Mr. Otway to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 21.)

My Lord, *Madrid, December 16, 1857.*
 IN connection with your Lordship's despatch to me dated the 26th of October last, I have now the honour to transmit, in translation, a note from Señor Martinez de la Rosa, which will give your Lordship an opportunity of learning a Spanish account of the daring landing of slaves effected at the entrance of the port of Havana on the 18th of September.

It is, however, but right to say, in justice to Her Catholic Majesty's Government, that their version of the affair does not differ very materially from that given to your Lordship in Consul-General Crawford's despatch of the 22nd of September last, except as to the utter impossibility of having prevented the landing in question, and the consequent faultlessness of the Spanish officials.

I should, perhaps, warn your Lordship not to consider the last phrase of the accompanying note, laudatory of the instructions given by Her Catholic Majesty's Government to their officers in Cuba, as in any way intended to be an answer to the suggestions which I was directed to submit to Señor Martinez de la Rosa, or even as suggested by their communication.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) L. C. OTWAY.

Inclosure in No. 377.

Señor Martinez de la Rosa to Mr. Otway.

(Translation.)

Madrid, December 10, 1857.

I HAVE received a communication from the General Colonial Office, containing a report of the disembarkation of Bozal negroes denounced by you in the note which you were pleased to address to me under date of the 2nd of November last.

It appears therefrom, that, on the 18th of September last, at daybreak, the merchant-schooner "*Merceditas*" was seen lying abandoned between the castle called De la Punta and the hulk "*Villavicemio*;" which vessel, after baffling the active chase given to her by Her Majesty's schooner of war "*Cristina*," and having lost all hopes of being able to approach the place which had been selected for the disembarkation, had landed, at the aforesaid place, her cargo of Bozal negroes, some of whom were seized by the watchmen and policemen of the neighbouring districts. So soon as the authorities were informed of the occurrence, they adopted, with praiseworthy zeal and activity, the measures they considered to be most expedient for the capture of the remaining Bozal negroes, who, it was reported, had been sent off to several places of concealment.

Amongst other measures, orders were given to the battalions of Chasseurs stationed at the Morro and Cabaña Castles, to send some detachments of their corps to make a reconnaissance along the beach as far as the village of Cojémar, in combination with the forces detached from Guanabacoa, for the same purpose. In the meantime, the police were making a minutious search in the moles, dockyards, and other places, which afforded some facilities for the concealment of the Bozals; while the Marine and Custom-house authorities were also taking well-combined steps to the same effect: the result of all these measures being, the seizure of 81 Bozal negroes, out of the 118 which, according to the deposition of a sailor of the "*Merceditas*," who was arrested at the moment he was landing, was the total number of the cargo of that vessel: a result which was not obtained without some of the captors having been compelled to struggle, hand to hand, with the parties who were carrying away the unfortunate negroes.

The authorities directed, moreover, the Commandants of the Punta and Morro Castles, and the Chiefs of the port, of the preventive service, and the police, respectively, to institute a judicial investigation, in order to ascertain whether the service of vigilance had been properly performed, and all those measures had been taken which could have prevented the disembarkation. The result of this investigation clearly proved the utter impossibility of seeing what was going on in the channel which forms the entrance of the harbour, owing to the great darkness of the night.

Finally, all the judicial proceedings, official reports, and other papers, drawn up with reference to this occurrence, have been transmitted to the proper Judge, who is to institute a regular process on this matter, and at whose disposal have been placed all those persons who had been arrested as apparently implicated in the concealment of the negroes, the latter having been sent to the depôt of emancipados.

Such has been the success which has attended the daring act attempted by the "*Merceditas*," and such the measures adopted by the zealous authorities at the Havana, who have given, on this occasion, a fresh proof of the sincerity and good faith with which they endeavour to repress the Slave Trade; as well as of the wisdom and efficiency of the instructions which they have received from Her Majesty's Government.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) FRANCISCO MARTINEZ DE LA ROSA.

No. 378.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Otway.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 21, 1857.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 26th of October last, I inclose, for your information, the accompanying copies of a despatch and its inclosures from Mr. Skelton, Her Majesty's Acting Judge in the Mixed Commission Courts at Sierra Leone,* reporting the condemnation of the Spanish barque "*Conchita*," which was detained by Her Majesty's ship "*Firefly*," on suspicion of being intended for employment in the Slave Trade.

Mr. Skelton has reported that he has not been able to forward, by the mail which brought his despatch, the copies of the evidence and proceedings in this case; but he adds that he will not fail to send them by the next packet: and I have to state to you that copies will be transmitted to you as soon as they are received.

I also inclose a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Parkinson, the Acting British Consul at Teneriffe,† reporting the arrival in that island of the master and three seamen of the "*Conchita*," who had been sent thither by the Mixed Commission Court, to be dealt with according to Spanish laws.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 379.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Otway.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 21, 1857.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 7th instant, inclosing a copy of a note which you addressed to Señor Martinez de la Rosa, communicating to his Excellency

* Class A, No. 20.

† No. 492.

the substance of a despatch from Her Majesty's Commissioners at the Havana, in which they re-assert the correctness of their report with regard to the increase of the Cuban Slave Trade during the last year; and I have to acquaint you, in reply, that I approve of your having repeated, in the note in question, the suggestions conveyed to you in my despatch of the 26th of October last, as to the expediency of increased power being conferred by the Spanish Government on General Concha, in order to enable him to put down the Slave Trade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 380.

Mr. Otway to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 25.)

My Lord,

Madrid, December 20, 1857.

IN connection with my despatch to your Lordship dated the 9th ultimo, in which I had the honour to report the communication to the Spanish Government of the suggestions contained in your Lordship's despatch of October 26, respecting the extension of powers which Her Majesty's Government were desirous should be granted to the Captain-General of Cuba over his subordinates, as the only probable remedy to the late increase of slave-trading, I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship, in translation, a note from Señor Martinez de la Rosa, containing the answer of Her Catholic Majesty's Government to the above suggestions. I am, perhaps, wrong in calling it an "answer," for, in point of fact, the accompanying note, however much it may be intended as such, is not an answer to the vigorous suggestions which called it forth. Your Lordship will, however, gather from it that there is small hope of those suggestions being adopted; and will observe that the only reason alleged for this refusal is the hope, which I agree with Señor Martinez de la Rosa in calling a "flattering" one, that the working of the "cedulas," or tickets of registration, will prove a universal panacea, and remedy every evil of the existing system.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. C. OTWAY.

Inclosure in No. 380.

Señor Martinez de la Rosa to Mr. Otway.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Madrid, December 16, 1857.

BY your courteous note dated the 28th of November, the Government of Her Majesty the Queen, my Sovereign, has seen that, although the Government of Her Britannic Majesty acknowledges and avows the great difficulties which the authorities of Cuba have to overcome in order to put an end to the Slave Trade, and the zeal and decision with which many of them, and especially the worthy Captain-General, exert themselves for the fulfilment of the solemn Treaty of 1835, yet they still think that the non-extinction of the Slave Trade is to be attributed to the Spanish Government and its functionaries, and require still greater sacrifices and efforts, on our part, for the attainment of this object. But the Government of the Queen, my Sovereign, has already adopted all the measures conducive to so philanthropic and Christian an end, and is disposed to persevere with energy in this purpose, and therefore is entitled to expect, if such an end has not yet been attained, that Her Britannic Majesty's Government will do it full justice, and will not ascribe the want of success to any omission on its part, but only to the nature of things themselves, which, though not rendering the attainment of our object impossible, yet it may, perhaps, subordinate it to circumstances independent of our will, and require a longer lapse of time in order to overcome all difficulties.

A fresh and evident testimony of the energy with which the Captain-General persecutes the Traffic in question, and a clear proof of his sparing for this purpose not even the hazardous means which may endanger the tranquillity of the island, has been the establishment of tickets of registration of slaves, which ensure the presumption of the great vigilance and control which is carried on even in the interior of the plantations and private dwellings, for the purpose of ascertaining that no slave whomsoever is therein concealed, who is not provided with his ticket of registration accrediting his legitimate procedency.

CLASS B.

By these means it will, no doubt, be easy to ascertain who are the Bozal negroes who may have been clandestinely introduced into a plantation, and distinguish them from the legitimate slaves which existed in it before; but Her Britannic Majesty's Government will not fail to perceive how difficult it must be for these perquisitions not to disturb the tranquillity and relax the discipline which ought to exist wherever, unfortunately, slavery exists, and will form a just idea, by the dangerous nature of this measure, of the philanthropic zeal of the authorities who have dictated it, and of the Government which has approved it.

If, with these tickets of registration, all the results which are desirable have not yet been obtained; if, in their issue, abuses are committed; these tickets are nevertheless, as has already been said, the only means of verifying, in the plantations themselves, the existence of Bozal negroes, and thus render difficult, if they have not, as yet, made it entirely impossible, to effect landings, it being necessary to be provided with them beforehand at the points where the landing has to take place. As for the abuses which have been, and may be, committed in the issue of these tickets, the Captain-General is endeavouring to remedy them, as the measures recently taken in this particular prove; upon them may be founded the flattering hope that a true and most exact register of the slaves in the island will end by being made, and that this will be the most efficacious means of putting an end to the Slave Trade.

This is all that I have to reply to your above-mentioned note of the 28th November, and to the observations contained in it upon this particular.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCISCO MARTINEZ DE LA ROSA.

No. 381.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Howden.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 13, 1858.

I INCLOSE, for your Lordship's information, the accompanying copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at the Havana,* on matters connected with the Cuban Slave Trade.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 382.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Howden.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 13, 1858.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Lordship's information, copies of two despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Puerto Rico,† containing information relative to proceedings connected with the Slave Trade in that island.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 383.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Howden.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 9, 1858.

WITH reference to my despatch to Mr. Otway, dated the 21st of December last, I inclose, for your Lordship's information, the accompanying copies of the evidence and proceedings in the case of the Spanish barque "*Conchita*,"‡ recently condemned in the Mixed Commission Court at Sierra Leone, for being equipped for the Slave Trade.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

* Nos. 464, 465, 466, and 469.

† Nos. 483 and 484.

‡ Class A, Inclosures in No. 20.

No. 384.

Lord Howden to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 11.)

My Lord,

Madrid, February 1, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship translation of a Memorial from the commerce of Barcelona to Her Catholic Majesty on the capture of the vessel "*Conchita*" by an English cruizer, under the supposition of her being engaged in the Slave Trade.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HOWDEN.

 Inclosure in No. 384.
Petition.

(Translation.)

THE commerce of Barcelona, which was the first to establish mercantile relations with the coasts of Africa near the Islands of Fernando Po and Annobon, could not see with indifference the scandalous capture of the corvette "*Conchita*," which we noticed a few days back, and of which we shortly intend to speak more fully. The honourable Committee of Commerce in the capital of the Principality, as soon as it learnt the outrage committed by the Tribunal of Sierra Leone, addressed to Her Majesty's Government the statement which we insert. This remarkable document needs no comment. It is as follows:—

Madam,

The Committee of Commerce in Barcelona again approaches your Majesty's royal feet to implore the protection of which respectable mercantile interests stand in need, being at the present moment deeply wounded and menaced with extinction, when they might be one of the principal causes of the restoration of our commercial prosperity.

Since the year 1853, Spanish vessels have been in the habit of visiting the Western Coast of Africa and Fernando Po, and carrying on the lawful and lucrative traffic of bartering palm-oil and other products of those parts for European articles, which are popular with the natives. Now, as ever, commerce has become one of the vehicles of civilization, for while it carries cultivation home to the backward African tribes, teaching them to substitute the barter of merchandize against merchandize, for their criminal traffic in men, showing them how to turn their activity to account in the cultivation of the soil and the sale of its fruits, instead of dedicating it to the plunder of each other's cottages and the sale of their prisoners, it, at the same time, contributes to the strengthening, more especially in Fernando Po, of the evangelical work which Catholic missionaries have undertaken there, and which will some day have for its result to make this island a true Spanish colony, a fresh jewel set in the royal diadem of your Majesty.

The advantage which, in its turn, our commerce must derive from the opening up of direct commercial intercourse between Spain and those countries, your Majesty understood when you established Consulates in several ports of Africa. Up to that time we had received the products of that soil generally from England, whose commercial houses had a sufficient supply of them for Spain and other nations, who left them the direct traffic with Africa as a kind of monopoly, paying thus a higher price for what they bought, and not obtaining a new market for our own home and colonial produce.

Now, however, this commerce offers great remuneration to the expeditions which have been sent to Fernando Po, as well as to the neighbouring coast. Several vessels, fitted out by respectable houses of this capital, have made the Spanish flag float there, and it has been received joyfully, more especially in the island which is our property; and, had it not been for the disagreeable occurrences which bring this Committee to the foot of your Majesty's throne, other expeditions would be at the present moment in course of preparation, for although the voyage is a long one, and a great outlay of capital is required to realize the speculation, there are not wanting in this town, either the patient perseverance nor any of those (manifold) means which are all necessary to arrive at a favourable conclusion.

But the Royal English marine, which cruizes in the Western Seas of Africa to repress the Slave Trade, has proposed to itself, as it would appear, to destroy, with armed hand, the Spanish commerce with those countries, in its bud; for the Spanish vessels

which visit them find themselves incessantly pursued by English cruizers, who obstinately impute to them the taint of being suspected of dedicating themselves to the commerce in slaves. They detain them on the most frivolous pretexes, send them to Sierra Leone for a sentence to be pronounced upon them by a tribunal, which should be mixed, but which in point of fact is not so at the present moment: they force them thus to submit to a prolonged trial, and are the cause of their destruction; for although occasionally the absolution of this tribunal may proclaim their innocence, the vessels have become unseizable for the Sierra Leone waters.

This is the misfortune which, in the short space of two years, has fallen to the lot of two vessels, the "*Fernando Po*" and the "*Conchita*," who sailed from this port not again to enter it. The former was taken at Accra in 1855, and although the sentence of the Mixed Court declared her innocent on the 3rd of November of that year, the vessel was wrecked the following day; for during the many months through which the trial was prolonged, the crew being in custody, the persons who had confiscated the vessel neglected her in the most culpable manner. The second has very recently been declared a lawful prize, upon these grounds: that at the moment of her seizure she had on board more than 3,290 gallons of water, a quantity sufficient for the consumption of a crew of 13 persons for a period of 253 days; and because 55 reserved planks, for the construction of a second deck or planking for slaves, were found on her; and the fact was entirely lost sight of, that vessels sailing for Africa are obliged to make their provision of water for the whole voyage round the coast (which generally lasts a year), as the water in those parts is of a bad quality and very dear; that to build such a planking at least 200 or 300 planks are necessary; that the vessel was inspected at Whydah by an English cruizer, whose commander signed her certificate; and that no objection could be made to the legality of her papers, nor to the vessel herself, when she was inspected.

The fact is, Madam, that at the time that this sentence was passed, there was no Spanish Consul in Sierra Leone, nor had Spain any representative in the tribunal, which, agreeably to Treaties, should be a mixed one. But your Majesty will understand that this was no fault of the outfitters, and that after a violation of lawful right, it is still more painful to think that the absence of the born defenders of Spaniards should have been beyond any doubt the cause of the complete failure of a legitimate speculation.

For this reason the undersigned Committee of Commerce thinks it right to call your Majesty's attention to so scandalous an occurrence. National decorum rises to protest against this violation of the sacred law of nations, committed, as it were, in parade of the right of the stronger over the weaker; justice clamours for redress against an outrage which hides itself badly behind the humane principle of abolishing slavery, while its real object is no other than that of securing to England a commercial monopoly of the trade with the West Coast of Africa. But the Spanish Government must show, Madam, in its turn that, if Spain is unfortunate, she is not yet to be trampled upon, and that she has still sufficient power left her to protect her subjects, and to call for a reparation of any infringement of their rights.

This Committee of Commerce is aware that the Government of your Majesty has claimed of that of England a proper indemnity for the Spanish subjects who have been victims of previous outrages, and has little doubt that indemnity will also be claimed for that which has been committed in the case of the corvette "*Conchita*;" but they are likewise aware of the delay which takes place in all diplomatic questions, and they do not doubt that your Majesty's Government will understand that private persons may suffer losses which end by being irreparable, if the payment of an indemnity is delayed too long. So that this Committee hold to be indispensable the principle that the State should indemnify, though only as an advance, the private individuals who have been victims of such outrages, without prejudice to the subsequent energetic prosecution of the claims which have already been presented; that the Government should dispatch some vessels of war to the Western Seas of Africa, which, while letting the arm of the law fall upon any one dedicating himself to the accursed Traffic in Slaves, shall protect Spanish ships against the arbitrary detentions which English cruizers allow themselves to subject them to; and that there may never be absent from the Mixed Tribunal of Sierra Leone a Spanish Representative, nor Consular Agents of Spain in the ports most frequently visited by our vessels, in order that lawful commerce with the African coast may be protected, as it is in all the other seas where our flag is seen.

If this were not done, Madam, one of the first duties of justice would be lost sight of; the absence of the above-mentioned functionaries in representation of Spanish authority, the entire absence of war-vessels in the western seas of Africa, are of powerful service to the English cruizers in allowing them to give way to their violence, and it is quite certain that if the Consul named to Sierra Leone had arrived at his post, and had, as such, acted

as a representative of Spain in the Mixed Tribunal, the corvette "*Conchita*" would never have been pronounced a lawful prize. It is therefore necessary either to renounce the carrying on of any commerce by Spain with Africa, or to view this commerce with the favour it deserves; for, if for the future it is left without the protection which it requires now more than ever, the fortunes of the outfitters being thus exposed to such grave risks, it is possible that this commerce may be nipped in the bud, ignominiously for our decorum and injuriously to the prosperity of the country. With these sentiments the undersigned Committee of Commerce, placing themselves at your Majesty's royal feet, respectfully beg your Majesty to sanction the measures which it has made bold to point out, and any others which may be necessary for the encouragement and protection of the direct commerce between Spain and the Western Coast of Africa. This it hopes from your Majesty's elevated sentiments, and it implores God to protect your life during many years for the good of the nation.

Barcelona, December 31, 1857.

(The signatures follow.)

No. 385.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Howden.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 22, 1858.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch from Mr. Crawford, Her Majesty's Consul-General at the Havana,* inclosing copies of a correspondence which he has had with the Captain-General of Cuba, relative to a rumoured landing of slaves at Cayo Levisa, in that island.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 386.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Howden.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 22, 1858.

WITH reference to my despatch dated the 13th ultimo, I inclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a further despatch from Mr. Hunt, Her Majesty's Consul at Porto Rico,† reporting the progress of the proceedings in the case of the Spanish schooner "*Paquete*," which was seized by the Spanish authorities on suspicion that she was intended to be employed in the Slave Trade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 387.

The Earl of Malmesbury to Lord Howden.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, March 8, 1858.

I HAVE to acquaint your Lordship that the Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint William D. Ryder, Esq., in the room of Mr. Lousada, appointed Her Majesty's Consul at Boston, to be Her Majesty's Arbitrator in the Mixed British and Spanish Court of Justice established at the Havana, under the Treaty of the 28th of June, 1835, between Great Britain and Spain for the abolition of the Slave Trade; and I have accordingly to instruct your Lordship to announce this appointment to the Spanish Government, and to request that orders may be sent, without delay, to the Havana for the due recognition of Mr. Ryder in the above-mentioned capacity, and that all privileges and immunities granted to Mr. Ryder's predecessors may in like manner be extended to him.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MALMESBURY

* No. 475.

† No. 485.

No. 388.

The Earl of Malmesbury to Lord Howden.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, March 17, 1858.

I TRANSMIT, for your Lordship's information, the accompanying copies of despatches, and of their inclosures, from Mr. Crawford, Her Majesty's Consul-General at the Havana,* on matters connected with the Cuban Slave Trade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MALMESBURY.

No. 389.

The Earl of Malmesbury to Lord Howden.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, March 19, 1858.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Commissioners at the Havana,† inclosing a statement showing, as far as they have been able to ascertain, the number of slaves landed in Cuba during the past year, and the proportion captured by the Spanish authorities.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MALMESBURY.

No. 390.

The Earl of Malmesbury to Lord Howden.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, March 19, 1858.

WITH reference to Mr. Otway's despatch dated the 16th of December last, I inclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch from Mr. Crawford, Her Majesty's Consul-General in Cuba,‡ containing some observations with regard to the Spanish account of the steps taken by the Cuban authorities on the occasion of the landing of a cargo of slaves which was effected at the entrance of the port of Havana on the night of the 17th of September last.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MALMESBURY.

No. 391.

The Earl of Malmesbury to Lord Howden.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, March 19, 1858.

WITH reference to my despatch dated the 17th instant, I inclose, for your Lordship's information, copies of two further despatches from Mr. Crawford, Her Majesty's Consul-General at the Havana,§ dated the 12th and 13th ultimo, the former reporting the departure from that port of several vessels for the African coast destined to be employed in the Slave Trade, and stating that great preparations are making for carrying on this Trade with increased activity; and the latter containing an account of the manner in which cedula, or tickets of registration, are procured for the newly imported slaves, and the course pursued by the slave-traders in landing their cargoes.

Your Lordship will communicate the substance of these two despatches to the Spanish Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MALMESBURY.

* Nos. 476, 477, and 479.

† Class A, No. 55.

‡ No. 478.

§ Nos. 480 and 481.

No. 392.

Lord Howden to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(Received March 23.)

My Lord,

Madrid, March 15, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a translation of an extract from a Spanish newspaper, stating some circumstances respecting the exportation of Chinese to the Island of Cuba, which may, in connection with other reports made to your Lordship on the subject, not be uninteresting.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HOWDEN.

Inclosure in No. 392.

Newspaper Extract.

(Translation.)

NEWS has been received from Macao up to the 12th of January, and amongst it there is one which interests Spain.

The number of expeditions of Chinese coolies for the Island of Cuba being on the increase, the American Consul at Macao has transmitted to our Consul-General a communication from the Minister of the United States, Mr. Reed, stating that, by the laws of his country, it is forbidden for the vessels of the Republic to transport to countries in which slavery prevails any individuals who are bound to remain in such countries during an indefinite period of time. Consequently, the American Minister requested that our Consul would refuse to authorize the expeditions of coolies to the Island of Cuba in American vessels. Our Consul judiciously answered that he could not do otherwise than obey the orders of his Sovereign, and protect those who were engaged in a lawful traffic, under the shade of the Spanish laws, and that if the American Plenipotentiary had any objections to set forth on this subject, he could address himself to the Government at Madrid, through the Agents of his nation; he, the Spanish Consul, being ready to obey the decision which, after negotiating, might be come to by the two Governments.

There the matter rests for the present, and, at last, it will be for the Governments of Madrid and of Washington to give the proper solution to this question.

No. 393.

Lord Howden to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(Received March 30.)

My Lord,

Madrid, March 20, 1858.

UPON receipt of your Lordship's despatch dated the 8th instant, I lost no time in announcing to the Spanish Government the appointment of William Ryder, Esq., to be Her Majesty's Arbitrator in the Mixed British and Spanish Court of Justice at the Havana, in the room of Mr. Lousada; and I have received, in reply, the note from Señor de Isturiz, translation of which I have the honour herewith to inclose, informing me that orders will be immediately expedited by the Department for the Colonies to the Captain-General of Cuba, for the due recognition of Mr. Ryder in the above capacity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HOWDEN.

Inclosure in No. 393.

Señor de Isturiz to Lord Howden.

(Translation.)

Most Excellent Sir,

Madrid, March 15, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have transcribed to the General Colonial Office the note which your Excellency was pleased to address to me under yesterday's date, informing me that Mr. William D. Ryder has been appointed British Arbitrator to the Mixed Court of Justice established at the Havana, in order that the proper orders may be communicated, through that office, to the superior authority of the Island of Cuba, with the speediness requested by your Excellency for the recognition of

Mr. Ryder as such Arbitrator, and for his entering into the exercise of the privileges and immunities which have been enjoyed by his predecessors.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) XAVIER DE ISTURIZ.

No. 394.

The Earl of Malmesbury to Lord Howden.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, March 30, 1858.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Lordship's information, copies of a correspondence which has passed between me and the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires at this Court respecting the Cuban Slave Trade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MALMESBURY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 394.

Señor Conte to the Earl of Malmesbury.

(Translation.)

My Lord,

Legation of Spain, London, March 3, 1858.

THE Government of Her Catholic Majesty has, on various occasions, assured that of Her Britannic Majesty that it does not leave any means untried to prevent the Slave Trade in the possessions of Spain. The present Government of the Queen, my august Sovereign, is in a position to prove by facts these repeated assurances. In the latter months of 1856 three bodies of Bozal negroes were captured in the Island of Cuba, one of 99, another of 81, the third of 91. In the past year, 1857, the Captain-General of that colony organized a small squadron, consisting of four steamers and several schooners, under the command of a naval captain, intended exclusively for the repression of the Traffic. Those vessels have made considerable prizes of slavers on the very shores of the island, chiefly those of the United States. Amongst them may be reckoned a brig with 395 Bozal negroes, a frigate with 537, the brig "*Lexington*" with 497, another with 179, and a hooker ("urca") with 360.

In the same interval the following have been captured on land, shortly after being landed and concealed:—55 Bozal negroes in Santa Espiritu, 29 in Susana, 20 in the establishment ("ingenio") of Almendares, 13 in the savana of Amaro, and 65 in Cara.

The sum total of these prizes amounts to 2,321 negroes, who were subsequently set at liberty, in accordance with the declaration made by the competent Court, that they were unlawfully obtained.

In communicating these facts to your Excellency by command of my Government, I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTO CONTE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 394.

The Earl of Malmesbury to Señor Conte.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 26, 1858.

I HAVE received the letter which you did me the honour to address to me on the 3rd instant, stating that the Government of Her Catholic Majesty has on various occasions assured Her Majesty's Government that it leaves no means untried to put a stop to the Slave Trade in the Spanish Possessions; and in order to prove that these assurances are borne out by facts, you now inform me that in the latter part of the year 1856 the authorities in Cuba captured three parties of Bozal negroes, numbering 99, 81, and 91 respectively, who had been recently landed in that island.

You further state, that in the early part of 1857, the Captain-General of Cuba organized a small squadron destined exclusively for the suppression of the Slave Trade, and that the vessels composing this squadron have made some important captures of slave-vessels on the very shores of Cuba; amongst which you mention a brig with 395 slaves on board, a frigate with 537, the brig "*Lexington*," with 497, another with 179, and a hooker with 360.

And you add, that besides these captures by sea, the authorities during the past year have also captured on land shortly after their disembarkation, 55 Bozal negroes in Sancti Espiritu, 29 in Susana, 20 in the establishment of Almendares, and 65 in Cara. The total number of slaves thus captured and liberated is stated to amount to 2,321.

I beg leave in reply, to assure you that Her Majesty's Government has received with much satisfaction the communication which you have been instructed by your Government to make to me on this matter, and Her Majesty's Government trusts also that the success which has thus far attended the efforts of the Captain-General of Cuba to put down the Cuban Slave Trade, will stimulate his Excellency to increased exertions for the suppression of this Traffic.

But I must at the same time inform you, that the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government has received the announcement of the captures made by the Spanish authorities, has been much alloyed by the proofs which it has had of the magnitude of the operations of the Cuban slave-traders during the past year.

In the year 1857 the British squadron has captured or destroyed on the African coast no less than twenty-three slave-vessels, besides one which was taken by Her Majesty's ship "Arab," on the coast of Cuba, and two vessels fully equipped for the Slave Trade were also captured by Portuguese cruizers off the Portuguese Possessions on the West Coast of Africa.

In addition to these captures, many other vessels are known to have shipped their cargoes of slaves, and to have got clear off from the African coast; and when it is borne in mind that the whole of these slave expeditions were destined for the Cuban market, the Spanish Government cannot but admit that the representations which Her Majesty's Government has from time to time addressed to the Government of Her Catholic Majesty on the subject of the Cuban Slave Trade, have not been either exaggerated or ill founded.

There cannot be a doubt of the fact that the Slave Trade has been carried on to a very great extent in Cuba during the past year, notwithstanding the vigilance of the British cruizers on the African coast, and in spite of the exertions for its suppression of the Cuban authorities.

But Her Majesty's Government cannot for one moment admit that, because the measures hitherto adopted by the authorities in Cuba have failed in the attainment of the desired end, it is therefore impossible to put a stop to the Cuban Slave Trade, for it has recently seen what the Brazilian Government has been able to accomplish when it resolutely determined to put a stop to the importation of slaves into that Empire.

With a much larger extent of coast to guard, with fewer means to guard it, and with a demand for slave labour equalling, if not exceeding, that in Cuba, the Brazilian authorities have been able to put a stop entirely to the importation of African slaves into that Empire. And the Government of Her Catholic Majesty will not, it is presumed, assert that what the Brazilian authorities have been able to accomplish, it is impossible for the Spanish authorities, under like circumstances, to perform.

It cannot be doubted that, notwithstanding the precautions taken by the slave-traders in carrying on their nefarious Traffic, every disembarkation of slaves that takes place in Cuba must be known to a very considerable number of persons of all classes in that island, and to the authorities also, if they efficiently perform their duties; and the inference to be drawn from this state of things is, either that the subordinate authorities are remiss in their duties, and connive at the Slave Trade, or else that the laws under which they act, and the powers with which they are armed, are inadequate for the suppression of the Slave Trade, and therefore that more stringent enactments are required to enable the authorities to put down this Traffic.

The captures recently made would seem, however, to forbid the idea that the Spanish authorities are wanting in their endeavours to suppress the Slave Trade, and therefore the same conviction is forced on Her Majesty's present Government as was entertained by the late advisers of Her Majesty, namely, that the Spanish laws are insufficient for the suppression of the Slave Trade in the Spanish possessions, and that stronger repressive measures are required to meet the exigencies of the present state of things.

By the last mail from the Havana, Her Majesty's Government received intelligence that fresh expeditions had left that port for the African coast to procure slaves, and that great preparations were making for carrying on the Traffic on an extended scale.

The same accounts stated that the system of cédulas, or registration tickets, on which the Government of Her Catholic Majesty so strongly relied to enable them to put a stop to the importation of slaves, has been rendered almost entirely nugatory, by the plan now adopted by the slave-dealers, of procuring from the United States fictitious tickets of the various colours required in the different districts of Cuba, and with fac-similes of the

handwriting and signatures of the various Spanish authorities authorized to issue these tickets.

Her Majesty's Representative at Madrid has been instructed to communicate the above-mentioned facts to the Spanish Government, and it will be for the Government of Her Catholic Majesty to adopt such measures as they may think necessary for the purpose of defeating the machinations of the slave-dealers.

I will, in conclusion, observe that it is only on Spanish soil that the slave-trader can now land his cargo of human beings ; and if the Government of Her Catholic Majesty is desirous of proving by deeds what you state to me at the commencement of your note of the 3rd instant, namely, that it leaves no means untried to put a stop to the Slave Trade in the Spanish Possessions, Her Majesty's Government trusts that the Government of Her Catholic Majesty will lose no time in passing such laws, and in conferring upon the Captain-General of Cuba such additional powers, as may be necessary to enable the Spanish authorities to carry out the Treaty engagements by which Spain is bound to this country entirely to suppress the Cuban Slave Trade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MALMESBURY.

SPAIN. (*Consular*)—*Barcelona*.

No. 395.

Consul Baker to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 1.)*Barcelona, March 28, 1857.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 21st instant,* acquainting me that Commodore Adams, Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's naval forces on the West Coast of Africa, had reported to the Board of Admiralty his having boarded the Spanish barque "*Conchita*," off Accra, under suspicion that she was intended to be employed in the Slave Trade; but that the master of the "*Conchita*" having exhibited my certificate, stating that the owners of that vessel had entered into the usual security that she was engaged in lawful commerce, he could not detain her.

In consequence of this report, your Lordship is pleased to inform me that British Consuls are not required, by the Anti-Slave Trade Treaty between Great Britain and Spain, to furnish the masters of Spanish vessels with such certificates; and, further, to direct that I am, for the future, to abstain from issuing them.

On referring to the Record Book of this Consulate, I find that the master of the Spanish barque "*Conchita*" merely received from me a certificate as to my belief in the legitimate object of the ship's voyage, such belief being founded on similar *bond fide* voyages having already been performed by the same vessel, in which she brought to this port palm oil and other African produce; and, further, on the well-known respectability of her owner, Don José Vidal y Ribas, a merchant of this city.

It further appears, from the same record, that my legalization establishes, at the same time, the genuineness of the signatures attached to two certificates issued by the Comptroller of this custom-house, in which he expressly declared that the aforesaid merchant had given to the custom-house the proper security required by Treaty for the lawful use of empty water-casks and barrels shipped in the vessel, the former having for their object to contain water for ship's use, and the latter to bring away palm oil, and, as the certificate states, under formal engagement to verify these facts on the vessel's return, if called on to do so.

The master of the "*Conchita*" carried with him these three certificates, and the other documents issued to him by this custom-house, according to law required by all vessels clearing from this port on foreign voyages, distinctly mentioning the articles of trade, and provisions embarked at this port.

Since then, similar documents were produced at this Consulate, and also legalized by me in February last, presented by Messrs. Charles Montague and Co., of this city, respecting the voyage for the same lawful trading purpose to the coast of Africa of their polacca "*Taimada*," Sebastian Sabaté, master, under identical bonds lodged in this custom-house; whereby your Lordship will observe that this branch of commerce, recently commenced at this port, and entered into even by a British subject, with the Treaty fully explained to the parties, appears to be, for the present, legitimate. The masters of both the vessels in question carried with them all these documents, and must have had them when boarded.

I therefore confidently trust that your Lordship will accept this explanation of all the particulars in the case, as a proof of the caution with which I gave the certificate alluded to on the express application of the parties interested; and will, moreover, consider that the circumstances under which I acted acquit me of any undue assumption of official duties, or unnecessary intervention in so delicate a matter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAMES BAKER.

* Class B, presented 1857, No. 506.

No. 396.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Baker.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 8, 1857.

I HAVE received your despatch dated the 28th ultimo; and I have to acquaint you that the explanations therein contained with regard to the circumstances under which you furnished a certificate to the master of the Spanish barque "*Conchita*," are satisfactory.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 397.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Baker.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 28, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copies of papers, as marked in the margin,* containing information respecting a Spanish vessel called the "*Sultana*," which is suspected of being intended for employment in the Slave Trade; and I have to instruct you to report to me the movements of this vessel, and also any other information which you may be able to obtain respecting her, and which may tend to show whether the suspicions entertained with regard to her character are well founded.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 398.

Consul Baker to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 13.)

My Lord,

Barcelona, June 9, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 28th ultimo, transmitting copies of papers containing particulars respecting a Spanish vessel called the "*Sultana*," and directing me to report her movements, together with any information in my power tending to justify the suspicions entertained about her character.

In reply, I hasten to acquaint your Lordship that the brig "*Sultana*" arrived in this port yesterday, after having performed quarantine at the Lazaretto of Port Mahon, with a full cargo of flour taken in at Rio de Janeiro. This vessel is consigned to Señor Barradat and Sons, merchants of this place, trading in sugar and other colonial produce, with the Island of Cuba. It is believed that, this market being favourable, the "*Sultana*" will dispose of her cargo here; her future destination cannot at this early period be ascertained, but I shall make it my duty to report to your Lordship such further information as I may be able to obtain.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAMES BAKER.

No. 399.

Acting Consul Prat to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 17.)

My Lord,

Barcelona, August 11, 1857.

WITH reference to Mr. Consul Baker's despatch of the 9th June last, I now have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Spanish brig "*Sultana*," of 268 tons burthen, José Roldos, master, left this port on the 8th instant, bound for Marañon and Buenos Ayres, though cleared for Rio de Janeiro.

Her crew consists of fifteen men altogether, and she has been provided with seven tuns of water, besides a fair cargo of wine, onions, garlic, almonds, and sweet oil, shipped in her by her owners, and other parties.

The inquiries I have made and caused to be made respecting her present voyage and

* Nos. 74 and 403.

destination do not appear to confirm, at all events on this expedition, the suspicions entertained as to her possible connection with the Slave Trade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN PRAT.

No. 400.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Baker.

Foreign Office, October 31, 1857.

Sir,
WITH reference to former correspondence respecting your having furnished the master of the Spanish vessel "*Conchita*" with a certificate, testifying to the genuineness of the signatures attached to two documents issued by the customs' authorities at Barcelona, and expressing your belief in the legitimate object of the "*Conchita's*" voyage, I inclose for your information the accompanying copies of a letter and its inclosures from the commander of Her Majesty's ship "*Firefly*," to the Secretary to the Admiralty, reporting the circumstances under which he has detained the "*Conchita*," and sent her to Sierra Leone for adjudication, on suspicion of being intended to be employed in the Slave Trade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 401.

Consul Baker to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 10.)

Barcelona, November 5, 1857.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 31st ultimo, together with its inclosures, relative to the detention, off Whydah on the coast of Africa, by Commander Day, of Her Majesty's ship "*Firefly*," of the Spanish barque "*Conchita*," belonging to this port, on suspicion of being intended for the Slave Trade.

I have perused these documents with every attention, and respectfully beg to state with reference thereto, that since the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 21st March last, I have been extremely cautious and guarded in any document required from me, having strictly limited my acts to the mere attestation of the signatures appended by the chief officers of this Custom-house, to the documents issued to vessels departing from this port, with the avowed intention of proceeding to the coast of Africa; and even in thus attesting and legalizing such signatures, I distinctly state on them that I do so at the special request of the parties interested, as I am under the belief that I am not authorized to refuse such attestations, strictly confined to the legitimation of a signature, when officially called upon to perform this duty.

In adopting these prudent precautions, it is my endeavour to conform as closely as possible to your Lordship's instructions, which it is my earnest desire at all times strictly to carry out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES BAKER.

SPAIN. (*Consular*)—*Cadiz*.

No. 402.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Brackenbury.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, April 30, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Scarlett, Her Majesty's Minister at Rio de Janeiro,* containing information respecting the Spanish brig "*Sultana*," which is suspected of being intended for employment in the Slave Trade.

You will see, from Mr. Scarlett's despatch, that the "*Sultana*" was boarded off Rio de Janeiro by the commander of Her Majesty's ship "*Virago*," when it appeared from her papers that she was bound to Cadiz; and I have to desire that you will inform me whether the "*Sultana*" has arrived at Cadiz, and if she should have reached that port, you will report to me her movements, together with any information which you may be able to obtain, and which may tend to show whether the suspicions entertained with regard to this vessel are well founded.

No. 403.

Consul Brackenbury to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received May 25.)

My Lord,

Cadiz, May 16, 1857.

IN acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch dated the 30th of April, with its inclosures, I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship that the Spanish brig "*Sultana*" arrived at this port last evening, in seventy-five days, from Rio de Janeiro; was ordered to sea by the Board of Health, vessels from Rio de Janeiro being inadmissible at this season of the year; and sailed this morning for the Mediterranean, supposed to have gone to Barcelona—an excellent market just now for her cargo of American flour.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. M. BRACKENBURY.

SPAIN. (*Consular*)—*Havana.*

No. 404.

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

My Lord,

Havana, February 28, 1857.

I HAVE the honour of reporting to your Lordship that the Captain-General having at last come to the conclusion that Brigadier Serrano, the Lieutenant-Governor of Trinidad, was enriching himself by conniving at the introduction of slaves in that district and Sancti Spiritus, sent from hence Colonel de la Muela to supersede him, with orders for the Brigadier to proceed to Villa Clara and assume the command of the Cinco Villas.

I understand from Mr. Vice-Consul Smith, that Serrano hesitated about giving up the command at Trinidad to Colonel Muela, because he had not been separately notified of his removal, but had only been shown Colonel Muela's orders to act as Lieutenant-Governor, and that for him to proceed to Villa Clara; but he thought it better to give over the post in obedience to the superior disposition, refusing, however, to go to the Cinco Villas, and requesting leave to retire to Spain.

I presume that his Excellency Lieutenant-General Manzano's having been rather suddenly dispatched to Trinidad, had connection with the Brigadier Serrano's affair (General Manzano being the Segundo Cabo); as, a few days afterwards, the Brigadier arrived here in the Havana, and presented himself to General Concha, and will be dealt with according to the result of the investigations which have been ordered of his conduct at Trinidad.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 405.

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

My Lord,

Havana, February 28, 1857.

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 27th ultimo,* transmitting the copies and extract of three despatches which your Lordship had received from Her Majesty's Commissioners at Loanda, relative to the arrival at Benguella, of an American vessel, called the "*Flying Eagle*," and the interception of letters found in that vessel, which show that a person named Lucas shipped, in December 1855, at a place between Benguella and Mossamedes, and on board a brig named "*P. Soulé*," a cargo of more than 500 slaves, which he successfully landed in Cuba, in February 1856. and instructing me to communicate the substance of these despatches to the Captain-General of Cuba.

I shall take an early opportunity of apprizing his Excellency of these important despatches, and I shall avail of the opportunity to express to him my apprehensions that the Slave Trade is being more extensively carried on, in the manner described by Her Majesty's Commissioners, by Spanish merchants of this city, and others residing elsewhere in Cuba, as I have information of several vessels having been purchased at New Orleans, and at other ports in the United States, to be employed in that detestable Traffic.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

* Class B, presented 1857, No. 549.

No. 406.

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

My Lord,

Havana, February 28, 1857.

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 29th ultimo,* transmitting, for my information, a copy of a despatch which your Lordship had received from Lord Howden, Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid, inclosing a copy of a note addressed to him by the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, stating the result of the inquiries which had been instituted, and reporting the steps taken by these authorities with regard to the landing of 524 Bozal negroes at Sierra Morena, on the 14th February, 1856, reported in my despatch of the 28th of that month.

That slaver, I have to observe to your Lordship, was the brig "*P. Soulé*," the same which was loaded and dispatched from a place between Benguella and Mossamedes, by a person named Lucas, in December 1855, with upwards of 500 slaves, as appears by the despatches of Her Majesty's Commissioners at Loanda, which your Lordship did me the honour of transmitting on the 27th ultimo.

Your Lordship must, then, be able to judge what the Spanish Government's assertion is worth, that "the number of landed slaves was considerably smaller than that mentioned by Mr. Crawford."

The truth is, that there has not, perhaps, amongst the innumerable instances of corruption which appear in the history of slave-trading in the Island of Cuba, been one more infamous and degrading, and yet we have not heard of any of the principal actors' conviction or punishment.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 407.

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

(Extract.)

Havana, March 1, 1857.

I HAVE the honour of laying before your Lordship a copy of a correspondence which I have had with the Captain-General respecting two cargoes of slaves which Vice-Consul Smith, of Trinidad, reported to me had been landed in the jurisdiction of Sancti Spiritus.

Your Lordship will perceive that his Excellency's officers had given him information as to one of these cargoes, some of the Bozals having been detained by the Commandant of a detachment of cavalry, when on their way to one of the estates, but General Concha supposes there had been one expedition only.

Having intelligence upon the subject from another quarter, I am disposed to think that Mr. Smith's information is correct, and that two slavers had succeeded in running their cargoes, as denounced by me in my letter to the Captain-General of the 27th ultimo.

It appears that one of the Oidores of the Royal Audiencia has been commissioned to proceed to Trinidad to follow out the investigation of the acts of slave-trading which have occurred there and in Sancti Spiritus.

The Brigadier Serrano having, as I now learn, left Trinidad, it is more probable that important disclosures may be made, if witnesses can be found to declare freely, and the Oidor does his duty conscientiously; but there is no doubt, in my mind, that every effort will be made by the rich and powerful slave-traders of Trinidad and Sancti Spiritus, to buy off and to deter those who could declare respecting the recent glaring in those districts, which have been given rise to by the example of the Brigadier Serrano's venality and corruption.

Inclosure 1 in No. 407.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Captain-General of Cuba.**Havana, February 27, 1857.*

I HAVE received information, which is reliable, that a cargo, consisting of 258 Bozal negroes, was landed, about a week or ten days previous to the 23rd instant, at a

* Class B, presented 1857, No. 550.

place about twelve miles to windward of Zarza. The slaver which brought that cargo is said to have been a topsail schooner; and the slaves were conveyed to an estate called the Dos Hermanos, which adjoins the Hacienda de la Ceiba, in the district of Sancti Spiritus, where my informant says he was told they still remained on the 23rd instant.

The British Vice-Consul writes me from Trinidad, under date the 20th instant, that a cargo of about 300 slaves was reported to have been landed in the neighbourhood of the Zarza; and I am informed that that cargo is not the same which is denounced at the beginning of this communication: so that it appears there have been two disembarkations of slaves near the same place, and very nearly about the same time.

It is to be hoped that the removal of Brigadier Serrano from the command at Trinidad, and the appointment of Colonel Muela as Lieutenant-Governor of that district, by your Excellency, will have the effect of putting a stop to the recent most glaring infractions of the law, and of the Treaty for the suppression of that most detestable Traffic.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 407.

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

Havana, February 28, 1857.

(Translation.)

WITH your Honour's communication has coincided that which I have received from the Lieutenant-Governor of Sancti Spiritus, in which he participated to me that, warned of the possibility of a landing of Bozals, he had taken beforehand the steps to prevent it; and that the Commander of a detachment of Cavalry had reported to him his having detained some negroes, apparently Bozals, who were on the way to one of the estates in that jurisdiction.

I regret, therefore, to believe that that expedition has managed to land; supposing, nevertheless, that the two referred to in your Honour's communication are, in reality, only one.

I give, per telegraph, the order, that if the Alcalde Mayor has not set out to raise the corresponding proceedings at the supposed place of the landing, he is immediately to do so; and I have ordered that, by the first steamer to Trinidad, a Judge of the Royal Audiencia shall proceed, in order to continue that investigation, and lay bare all the acts, and the conduct of the authorities and functionaries charged with preventing the immoral Traffic in Slaves, in the fulfilment of their duties.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed)

JOSE DE LA CONCHA.

No. 408.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 21, 1857.

I INCLOSE, for your information, the accompanying extract of a despatch from Mr. Gabriel, the Acting British Commissioner at Loanda,* reporting that information has reached him, from sources worthy of credit, that two vessels recently shipped upwards of 1,200 slaves from the neighbourhood of the Congo.

You will perceive that Mr. Gabriel states that he has not been able to learn the destination of these slaves; but as Cuba is now the only place where the slave-traders can land their cargoes of African slaves, there can be little doubt but that they were destined for the Cuban market.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

CLARENDON.

No. 409.

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

My Lord,

Havana, March 13, 1857.

I HAVE the honour of laying before your Lordship a copy of a letter which, in obedience to your Lordship's direction, I addressed to the Captain-General of Cuba upon

* Class A, No. 75.

the subject of your Lordship's despatch dated the 27th of January, and also a translation of his Excellency's reply thereto, in which he states his intention of instituting a species of inquisitorial surveillance over the Portuguese who may in future arrive at the ports of this island, with a view to discover, by their papers, whether or not they have come to carry on the Slave Trade.

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

Inclosure 1 in No. 409.

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

Havana, March 4, 1857.

I AM directed by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to communicate to your Excellency the substance of despatches which his Lordship has received from Her Majesty's Commissioners at Loanda, which contain certain information respecting several persons here who are referred to in the letters of slave-agents, which have been intercepted on board of the slavers lately captured and condemned by the Mixed Courts of Justice established at the coast of Africa.

It appears by said intercepted correspondence, that a number of slavers' agents, chiefly Portuguese, have come here, and have been commissioned to obtain vessels in the ports of the United States to proceed to the ports of the coast of Africa, from whence they have dispatched numerous cargoes of slaves, which have been successfully landed on this island, for account of Spanish merchants of this city.

The names of these Portuguese agents given in the Commissioners' despatches are, Lucas, Cunha Reis, João Soares, Ignacio Monteiro, agent for Cunha Reis at Ambriz, Mechas, Branco, Patricio, João Alberto Machado of New York, and José da Silva Maia Ferreira of the Portuguese Consulate, New York.

Of these, the individual named Lucas writes from New York the 30th of May last, giving an account, first, of the facility with which he had effected the landing of slaves in Cuba, which had met with no opposition, except the refusal, on various pretexts, of those to whom the slaves were consigned to pay him the price demanded; and, lastly, his own imprisonment while yet in Havana, from which he managed to release himself by some fortuitous circumstances and thirty onzas; and in another letter, of a later date, he announces that he has bought a vessel of 385 tons, which he is about to dispatch to the coast, under charge of the before-mentioned José Pedro da Cunha, which he hopes will be more profitable than that which he shipped in December. In this letter he speaks with satisfaction of his having to do business in future with a person who was considered one of the most honourable merchants of the Havana, by the name of Zulueta.

Her Majesty's Commissioners at Loanda also allude to the American brig "*Flying Eagle*," which, it appears, was another slaver dispatched by Lucas, loaded by João Soares, and they state to Lord Clarendon that "it appears, by the papers which have been seized, that the vessel on board of which the slaves were shipped in December 1855, at Lucira, was a brig named the '*P. Soulé*,' and that the merchants at Havana with whom Lucas negotiated the shipment, were Don Justo Mazorra & Co., Don Martin Riera, and Don Nicolas Valdiviezo."

The cargo brought by the "*P. Soulé*" was safely landed on the north side of Cuba, as has been known here for some time past.

The vessel of 385 tons alluded to in another letter was that which, by means of smaller craft, had her cargo taken out at Sierra Morena and landed elsewhere, the slaves being provided with cedulas, "fées de bautismo," and "pases," as denounced by me to your Excellency.

And I cannot close this most important letter without stating to your Excellency the serious apprehensions which I entertain that the Slave Trade is being carried on with very much increased activity by persons here and elsewhere in this island by means of vessels purchased and dispatched to the coast of Africa, under American colours, two of them, viz., the "*Adams Gray*" and "*William Clark*," having been sent from New Orleans, and another, the "*W. D. Miller*," sailed yesterday from this port, besides those which, it is known, have been dispatched from other parts of the United States for the purpose of bringing cargoes of slaves to be landed here, in defiance of the law and of the existing Treaties.

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

Inclosure 2 in No. 409.

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

(Translation.)

Havana, March 12, 1857.

I HAVE received your Honour's communication of the 4th instant, and in consequence thereof I have given the necessary orders that the Portuguese subjects therein mentioned may be detained, and may not be permitted to remain here, reserving to myself, in the event of their being found with correspondence proving their participation in the Slave Trade, to deliver them to the tribunals, in order that they may be dealt with according to law.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed)

JOSE DE LA CONCHA.

No. 410.

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

My Lord,

Havana, March 23, 1857.

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch dated the 20th ultimo,* transmitting for my information an extract of a despatch which your Lordship had received from Lieutenant-Colonel Hill, Her Majesty's Acting Commissary Judge at Sierra Leone, reporting that 900 slaves were at that time assembled in a river to the northward of that colony, and that they were destined for Cuba.

I have communicated this intelligence to the Captain-General, so as to enable him, if he pleases, to give such orders and adopt the measures which he thinks proper to prevent said slaves being landed on this island.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 411.

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

My Lord,

Havana, March 25, 1857.

I HAVE had the honour of receiving the Earl of Shelburne's despatch dated the 28th ultimo,† transmitting to me, for my information, and for communication to the Captain-General of Cuba, if I should think fit, certain papers received from Mr. Bartlett, the Acting British Consul at Baltimore, containing an account of the trial of Baker, Baptista, and Stabell, who were indicted for carrying on the Slave Trade in an American vessel called the "*C. F. A. Cole*."

Conceiving that it would have a good effect, and might operate to deter Don Pedro Martinez and others, slave-traders like him, from carrying on that most detestable Traffic, the showing him up, as he appears, upon the trial of the persons indicted at Baltimore, to have been the principal owner of the "*C. F. A. Cole's*" expedition, I have addressed a communication to the Captain-General, a copy of which I shall do myself the honour of laying before your Lordship, as soon as I have received his Excellency's answer upon this subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 412.

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

My Lord,

Havana, March 26, 1857.

IN consequence of a letter which I received from Mr. Vice-Consul Smith, I addressed a communication to his Excellency the Captain-General, a copy of which and of his answer I have the honour of inclosing herewith to your Lordship; and General Concha, besides, informing me that he had issued such orders as he considered opportune to prevent the landing of the cargo of slaves from the vessel referred to, has availed himself of the oppor-

* Class B, presented 1857, No. 554.

† Ibid., No. 556.

tunity of my letter to advert to the Commission which he sent to Trinidad and Sancti Spiritu, to investigate the actions of the slave-traders there during the latter period of Brigadier Serrano's government, whose labours, his Excellency states, are being prosecuted with vigour.

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

Inclosure 1 in No. 412.

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

Havana, March 21, 1857.

I HAVE received information, of a reliable nature, that a vessel, barque-rigged, and having on board 500 to 600 slaves, after hovering off the coast of this island between Trinidad and Sancti Spiritus, finding that the slaves could not be landed there, has proceeded to some other place, in the hope of better success.

It is said that this slaver's destination will be on the north side, and probably to the coast between Mariel and Bahia Honda, or between Cardenas and Sagua la Grande; that it is an expedition which was expected by Don Mariano Borrel; and the orders for the vessel to proceed from Trinidad were sent on board of her by a pilot named Francisco Pacheco.

I have also learnt, with great satisfaction, that some Bozal negroes have been seized at the estate of Don Francisco Marin, by your Excellency's officers of Sancti Spiritus, which will, no doubt, have a most salutary effect in checking the ardour of the slave-traders in that direction.

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

Inclosure 2 in No. 412.

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

(Translation.)

Havana, March 26, 1857.

I AM informed of the contents of your Honour's communication of the 21st instant, relative to the particulars which you give me of a landing of 500 to 600 Bozals attempted in the jurisdiction of Trinidad, and other places; and, in consequence thereof, I shall dictate the necessary measures, in order to prevent said disembarkation.

I consider it opportune to manifest to your Honour, at the same time, that, by the Lieutenant-Governor of Trinidad, and by the Judge charged with the formation of the suit relating to the last landing which took place in that district, the steps for the discovery of the guilty parties who shared in that expedition, are being prosecuted with vigour.

God preserve, &c. (Signed) JOSE DE LA CONCHA.

No. 413.

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

My Lord,

Havana, March 30, 1857.

HIS Excellency the Captain-General having replied to my communications of the 23rd, 24th, and 25th instant, which I addressed to him in consequence of your Lordship's despatches of the 20th, 27th, and 28th of February,* I have found it necessary to lay before your Lordship, herewith inclosed, the copies of my said communications, and a copy of General Concha's letter, which is dated the 28th, acknowledging the receipt of these important denouncements.

I am disposed to think that the slaver which landed a cargo about five weeks ago, between Cardenas and Matanzas, could not have been the "*Sultana*," since it would be almost impossible for her to have gone from the Uruguay to Africa, and bring a cargo of slaves to Cuba, between the 31st of December and the 25th of February. It was, therefore, some other vessel which effected the landing west of Cardenas at the date mentioned; and the "*Sultana*," if she comes, is still to arrive, unless she has run her slaves at some

* Class B, presented 1857, Nos. 554, 555, and 556.

other place, as she must have been due about a week ago, if she met with no detention at the coast of Africa.

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

Inclosure 1 in No. 413.

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

Havana, March 23, 1857.

I CONSIDER that it is my duty to acquaint your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have received information, dated the 10th of January, from Sierra Leone, which has been communicated to me by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to the effect that 900 slaves were then at a place to the northward of that colony, the property of a Spaniard who left that coast, intending to proceed to this place to make arrangements for the disposal of these slaves, and to procure vessels to bring them to this island.

Orders had been given to have the place where the slaves were assembled, closely watched; but as it is possible they may have escaped, I hasten to make this communication to your Excellency.

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

Inclosure 2 in No. 413.

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

Havana, March 24, 1857.

IT appears, by intelligence which has been received by Her Majesty's Government from Her Majesty's Consul at Buenos Ayres, respecting the Trade in Slaves which has been carried on by a Spanish barque called the "*Sultana*," that, about the month of July last, 800 slaves were landed from that vessel near Matanzas, which were sold at 32 ounces each. And the same barque, the "*Sultana*," being, at the date of the last information, ready to sail from Guadequaelan, a place near the mouth of the River Uruguay, as it was supposed upon another slaving voyage to the coast of Africa, I have been instructed to communicate this information to your Excellency, which I hasten to do, in obedience to the direction of Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State, the Right Honourable the Earl of Clarendon; but, at the same time, I have to state my suspicions that it was from the "*Sultana*" that upwards of 600 Bozal negroes were landed about the 25th ultimo, to the westward of Cardenas, divided, immediately after their being landed, into gangs of 100 and 150; thus conveyed to the estates about three or four leagues distant from the place of disembarkation, and there concealed.

Indeed, I have no doubt that this was the case; because the slaver from which the Bozals were landed on the 25th of February was barque-rigged; and although she showed American colours when she was seen from and communicated with Cardenas, the day previous, her appearance was that of the "*Sultana*."

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

Inclosure 3 in No. 413.

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

Havana, March 25, 1857.

I BEG leave to acquaint your Excellency that I have received a full report of the trial of Augusto L. Baptista and Albert C. Stabell, at Baltimore, in the United States, for being concerned in fitting out and using the schooner "*C. F. A. Cole*" in the Slave Trade. And I have to state to your Excellency that it appears, by the evidence which was adduced upon said trial, that the said schooner the "*C. F. A. Cole*" was purchased in the United States by Augusto L. Baptista, who acted for Don Pedro Martinez, of this city; and that said vessel went from the United States to the coast of Africa, where she took

on board 335 negroes; that 35 of them died on the voyage, and that they landed the remaining 300 safely at Sagua la Grande, some time in the month of May or June last. A person of the name of Labradada acted as the captain; six men of the crew were landed at Sagua, and the remaining eight brought the vessel to Piney Point, in the United States, where she was sunk.

There seems to be no doubt, by this evidence, that 300 Bozal negroes were landed at Sagua, in May or June, last year, from the schooner "C. F. A. Cole," and that that expedition was fitted out, and planned, and carried into effect by the agents, and for account, of Don Pedro Martinez, of this city.

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

Inclosure 4 in No. 413.

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

(Translation.)

Havana, March 28, 1857.

I HAVE received your Honour's communications of the 23rd, 24th, and 25th instant, all relating to various expeditions of Bozals effected or denounced at several points of the island.

As regards the former, no information has reached this Government of any such occurrences, which certainly would not be the case had they taken place.

As regards the latter, the information which your Honour gives me will serve to watch Don Pedro Martinez, alluded to in one of these letters: the only measure which, as your Honour will understand, can be adopted at present by this Government.

God preserve, &c. (Signed) JOSE DE LA CONCHA.

No. 414.

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

My Lord,

Havana, April 6, 1857.

I BEG leave to lay before your Lordship a copy of a communication which I addressed to the Captain-General respecting the Spanish barque "Restauracion" (á) "Toro," fitting out and about to sail from Matanzas, to be employed in the Slave Trade.

Your Lordship will observe, by his Excellency's answer, that he had passed my communication to the General of Mariné, with a request that the vessel in question might be searched.

I have but little expectation that the search will frustrate the intentions of the interested in this expedition; on the contrary, I have little doubt that the "Restauracion" is fully equipped and on her voyage at this time, and I regret that none of Her Majesty's cruisers were here, or at my disposal, as in that case I feel certain that the barque would have been captured.

Never since I have been at this station has the Slave Trade been carried on with such vigour as it is at present, and has been for some time past.

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

Inclosure 1 in No. 414.

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

(Translation.)

Havana, March 31, 1857.

I HAVE learnt from a creditable source that the Spanish corvette "Restauracion" (á) "Toro," at present in Matanzas, is fitting out for the coast of Africa, to be employed in the Slave Trade; that she only waits for her water, which she is to take in as if it were aguardiente, and she will receive it at that port or at Cardenas.

Which I have the honour of participating to your Excellency, for such purposes as you may deem necessary in the matter; and I am of opinion that, by proceeding with

all the circumspection which is required, it would be easy to detain this expedition *in flagrante*.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 414.

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

(Translation.)

Havana, April 1, 1857.

I HAVE transmitted to the Commandant-General of the Marine of this station the reserved communication you sent to me of yesterday's date, as to the corvette "*Restauracion*" being fitted out to be employed in the Traffic of Negroes, indicating at the same time to his Excellency that it will be convenient that he should give his orders that the said vessel be searched.

God preserve, &c,

(Signed) JOSE DE LA CONCHA.

No. 415.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 23, 1857.

WITH reference to my despatch dated the 27th of February last,* I inclose, for your information, the accompanying copies of a despatch and its inclosures, from Mr. Scarlett, Her Majesty's Minister at Rio de Janeiro,† containing further information respecting the movements of the Spanish barque "*Sultana*," and also respecting another Spanish vessel called the "*Urania*."

You will perceive from these papers, with reference to your despatch of the 30th of March last, that you were right in your conjecture that the "*Sultana*" could not have been the vessel that landed a cargo of slaves near Matanzas in the month of February last.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 416.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 25, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copies of a despatch and its inclosure, which have been received at the Admiralty from Commodore Kellett,‡ reporting the particulars of the capture, off the coast of Cuba, by a boat belonging to Her Majesty's ship "*Arab*," of a slave-vessel, with between 300 and 400 slaves on board.

You will doubtless have received intelligence of this capture from the Commander of the "*Arab*;" but there is one point in the report of the officer commanding the boat which made the seizure, to which I wish particularly to call your attention. I allude to that part of Lieutenant Stubb's letter, in which he states that the pilot at Cay Grande, who was known to have a large store of provisions, refused to sell them any, or to hold any communication with him; and I have to instruct you to bring the conduct of this individual to the notice of the Captain-General.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 417.

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

(Extract.)

Havana, April 25, 1857.

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch dated the 10th ultimo,§ in which, with reference to a despatch from Her Majesty's Commis-

* Class B, presented 1857, No. 555.

† Class A, No. 187.

‡ No. 73.

§ Class B, presented 1857, No. 562.

sioners, dated the 31st of January, relative to the manner in which cedulas, or tickets of registration, have been fraudulently obtained by the slave-traders, which have been used by them to prevent the detection of their newly-imported African slaves, your Lordship instructs me to bring the whole subject of these cedulas under the serious consideration of the Captain-General.

I shall take an opportunity of making such a representation as your Lordship instructs me, to General Concha. But in the meantime I beg leave to state to your Lordship, that I have availed myself of every occasion, in conversation with his Excellency, to show the pernicious effects of the imperfect registration by means of the cedulas, and it is owing to my constantly bringing the abuses of that system under his notice, that a Decree, of which I have the honour of transmitting herewith a translation, has been promulgated, requiring greater caution on the part of the authorities entrusted with the issues of the cedulas, and certain Returns periodically to be made, comparing these with those of the previous six-monthly results.

From these Returns the Captain-General informs me that he expects a very important result, and the checking of the abuses which have taken place.

I am, however, of opinion, that nothing short of general capitation, carried out with the utmost rigour by officers of undoubted probity, will obtain a correct and complete registration of the slaves in this island. The proprietors themselves will not apply for the cedulas, which they ought to have for all their slaves, and they will find out a way to quiet the local authorities, whose duty it would be, either to enforce upon them the corresponding fines, or to seize the slaves for want of the cedulas which by law they ought to have for their protection.

If the Spanish Government would consent to Her Majesty's Commissioners being combined with the authorities of Cuba in the registration of the slaves, there is no doubt that that great desideratum would be satisfactorily accomplished: in any other manner, I may certainly predict that it never will.

Inclosure in No. 417.

Decree.

(Translation.)

THE results obtained to this date from the labours with regard to the registry and capitation of slaves, place this Government in a situation to adopt a resolution that will completely regulate the issue of slave-cedulas, as well as obviate the difficulties hitherto experienced.

The establishment of the cedulas for the security of slaves was a measure of police and of government, and possesses the same character as all the subsequent depositions given in explanation or for the appliance of the orders of Her Majesty in the Royal Decree, which approved of the creation of this class of documents. It is, therefore, within the attributes of this Government to adopt such measures as it may deem necessary for the punctual and exact fulfilment of Her Majesty's Decree, taking advantage of the results offered by the comparison between the issues of cedulas during each of the last half-years. Taking into consideration, therefore, the explanations which some Lieutenant-Governors have given of the differences noticed, and having previously heard the opinion of the Royal Commission on the subject, I have resolved that, in future, the following dispositions shall be observed:—

1. The application for country cedulas of slaves of every proprietor in the present half-year shall be compared with the previous one; and the parties interested shall be called upon to explain any difference there may be in the number or in the classes, and this will be checked by the reports and other police data, which the District Captains should have received opportunely.

2. In default of these vouchers, the corresponding fines for each omission shall be applied; and in the cedulas issued for the slaves causing the difference, as likewise upon their respective margins, it shall be noted that they will be of no value for the issue of the ensuing half-year, without visé on the cedulas, and the express order of the Governor or Lieutenant-Governor upon the margins.

3. In any case which may give rise to the application of the preceding disposition, the "Pedáneo" (district head of the police) shall, besides the issue of the cedulas, raise an administrative process, in which must be shown the deaths, births, sales, purchases, &c., causing the aforesaid difference; and when he is satisfied therewith, or the party interested manifests that he has not the means of justifying himself as required, he shall submit the case for the decision of the Lieutenant-Governor.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor, when the increase is accounted for by purchase from a proprietor residing in another jurisdiction, shall always require proof, by letter, from the other Lieutenant-Governor, that the slaves purchased were registered in his district, and that the respective cédulas, for the current half-year, have not been issued for them.

5. If the data collected in the inquiry leaves no doubt that the cédulas were asked for slaves in the possession of the applicant, and that they were duly registered, the Lieutenant-Governor will approve of the confirmation of said cédulas, viséing them so as to make them valid for the following half-year, and on the tallies, annulling the note of the "Pedáneo" who issued them.

6. If, on the contrary, the inquiry does not account for the increase or diminution, the Lieutenant-Governor will impose the fine specified in Clause 10 of the Decree of the 19th of December, 1857, and he will transmit the inquiry or report to the office of the Government.

7. The application for slave cédulas by any person who it is notorious never had any, or who has no profession, sugar-estate, or property whereon to employ them, should be sufficient reason for the "Pedáneo" to refuse them, and he may send the applicant to the Lieutenant-Governor, in order to obtain from him the necessary order. He will also report immediately to the Lieutenant-Governor the fact of the application and the reasons he may have for doubting the existence and the possession of the slaves, by the circumstances of the person representing himself as the holder or owner.

8. The Lieutenant-Governors will advise each other of the increase or decrease which takes place in their jurisdictions, through the transfer of slaves from one to the other; and they will give the "Pedáneos" or Commissaries of Police timely notice for their guidance in the issue of cédulas the following half-year.

9. The captains of districts will make a comparative statement according to the accompanying form, which they will immediately transmit to the Governors and Lieutenant-Governors as regards the present half-year, and on the 15th of February and 15th of August of the following half-years. The Governors and Lieutenant-Governors will form, from the above, a general statement by districts, which they will transmit to this office, with a note expressing the summary inquiries which, in virtue of the preceding articles, may have been instituted and are still pending.

10. The issue of cédulas for town slaves will be reported separately and in the same form hitherto observed.

Havana, March 23, 1857.

(Signed)

JOSE DE LA CONCHA.

No. 418.

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

My Lord,

Havana, April 25, 1857.

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch dated the 13th ultimo,* transmitting, for my information, a copy of a despatch from the Governor of Sierra Leone to Mr. Labouchere, containing further particulars with regard to 900 slaves collected in the River Pongas, for exportation to Cuba, referred to in your Lordship's despatch of the 20th of February last.

I shall communicate this intelligence to the Captain-General, in order that his Excellency may dictate such orders as he thinks proper, to prevent said slaves from landing on this island.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 419.

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

My Lord,

Havana, April 25, 1857.

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch dated the 19th ultimo,† transmitting, for my information, a copy of a despatch from

* Class B, presented 1857, No. 563.

† *Ibid.*, No. 565.

Mr. Campbell, Her Majesty's Consul at Lagos, containing information respecting the shipment of two cargoes of slaves from the Bight of Benin.

I have not been able to obtain any positive traces of the arrival of these adventures, but I have no doubt that the slaves are, by this time, safely landed, as it is notorious that every vessel which arrives from the coast of Africa is sure of being able to effect the disembarkation of her miserable cargo on some part or other of this island.

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

No. 420.

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

My Lord,

Havana, May 6, 1857.

NOT for many years has the Slave Trade been carried on as it is now. The preparations have been of late more extensive than they were during the period when the detestable Traffic was at its height of prosperity.

The high price of sugar naturally induces speculators to embark in the formation of new plantations, and to extend those already in use by bringing more land into cultivation, requiring more working hands, which has raised the price of labour, and, consequently, has enhanced the value of slaves, and called into action the slave-traders, who had at one time begun to withdraw their capital from that degrading employment; encouraged also by the impunity with which they have seen that cargo after cargo has been landed at various places, it seems that they have returned to their former occupations with extraordinary energy, and besides the great number of vessels which it is known have been bought in the ports of the United States to be employed in slave-trading, the following American vessels have been purchased, and have come here to be sent to the coast of Africa:—

The schooner " <i>Abbot Devereux</i>"	..	..	..	113 tons
The brig " <i>R. B. Lawton</i>"	..	..	..	198 "
The schooner " <i>J. H. Record</i>"	..	..	..	109 "
The barque " <i>Clara B. Williams</i>"	..	..	..	331 "
The barque " <i>Minnetonka</i>"	..	..	..	320 "

The first-mentioned cleared for Monrovia; the last-mentioned for Madagascar; the others for Boston. All these vessels sail under the flag of the United States until they have got their cargo of slaves on board, and most likely, even after that, they will use American colours, if fallen in with by any of Her Majesty's cruizers, although they have no papers of nationality whatever on board.

The Spanish ship "*Venus*," of 419 tons, which cleared out in ballast from this port for Buenos Ayres, is also said to have proceeded to the coast of Africa for a cargo of slaves, as well as the ship "*Restauracion*" (á) "*Toro*," from Matanzas, so that in July, August, and September, quite a fleet of slavers may be expected.

But neither in the meantime nor afterwards is it likely that there will be wanting a supply of slaves to meet the increased demand here in Cuba; for the Lieutenant-Governor of Trinidad admitted to Mr. Vice-Consul Smith, about ten days ago, that he had information of no fewer than five cargoes which were expected to make their appearance on that part of the coast, and had made his dispositions to hinder their landing, or capture them afterwards wherever he found them. It remains to be seen whether or not he will do either the one thing or the other; but of this I am certain that, if those five cargoes arrive, they will most assuredly be landed, probably not in the district of Trinidad, but somewhere in the island.

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

No. 421.

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

My Lord,

Havana, May 8, 1857.

I HAVE the honour of laying before your Lordship copy of a letter which I have just received from Mr. Vice-Consul Smith, reporting the capture, at the Cayos de las

Doce Leguas, of a slave-schooner, with 380 negroes, from Cabinda, by Lieutenant Stubbs, in the pinnace of Her Majesty's brig "Arab," and the arrival of said prize at Port Royal.

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

Inclosure in No. 421.

Vice-Consul Smith to Consul-General Crawford.

Sir,

Trinidad de Cuba, May 3, 1857.

I HAVE the satisfaction to acquaint you that, on Easter Sunday last, Lieutenant Edward Stubbs, in the pinnace of Her Majesty's brig "Arab" (Captain Pearse), captured at the Cayos de las Doce Leguas, an American-built schooner, with 380 slaves on board, from Cabinda.

The schooner was fitted out and sailed from New York; but when taken, I understand, she had neither flag nor papers of any kind, so that her name is not yet known. She left Africa with 500 slaves.

The "Arab" having gone off on a cruize, Lieutenant Stubbs bore up for Jamaica, and anchored his prize in St. Ann's harbour, from whence she was towed to Port Royal.

Her Majesty's screw-steamer "Victor," Commander D. Horsey, arrived here this morning, and will cruize on this station for some time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. SIDNEY SMITH.

No. 422.

Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 30.)

My Lord,

Havana, May 23, 1857.

I HAVE the honour acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 21st ultimo, accompanying extract of a letter from the Acting British Commissioner at Loanda, dated the 30th November, 1856, reporting the shipment and departure of upwards of 1,200 slaves from the neighbourhood of the River Congo, probably destined for Cuba.

I have no doubt that these slaves were of the number of those which were landed in this island during the early part of this year, and which were duly reported to your Lordship, after having been brought under the notice of the Captain-General.

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

No. 423.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 30, 1857.

WITH reference to your various despatches, reporting the activity with which the Slave Trade has for some time past been carried on in Cuba, and the extensive preparations which are making for prosecuting this nefarious Traffic with increased vigour, I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government consider it desirable that any vessels engaged in the Slave Trade, which may be captured off Cuba by British cruisers, and may be found without papers of any kind to show their nationality, should be taken to a British Colony, Jamaica, for instance, to be dealt with according to British law.

And I transmit to you herewith, for your information, a copy of a letter which, after consulting the proper Law Officer of the Crown upon the subject, I have caused to be addressed to the Admiralty, requesting that instructions to the above effect may be sent to the Admiral commanding Her Majesty's Naval Forces on the West India Station.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

Inclosure in No. 423.

The Earl of Shelburne to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 30, 1857.

WITH reference to the correspondence which has lately passed between this Department and the Admiralty, respecting the increase of the Slave Trade in Cuba, I am directed by the Earl of Clarendon to request that you will acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that Her Majesty's Government, having consulted the proper Law Officer of the Crown upon the subject, are of opinion that there is nothing contained in the provisions of the Anti-Slave Trade Treaty with Spain, of the 28th June, 1835, which would prevent the commanders of cruizers who may capture on the high seas (either off Cuba or elsewhere) slave-vessels not having papers showing their nationality, from taking such vessels to a British Colony, Jamaica, for instance, to be dealt with according to British law.

Although the stipulations of the Treaty of 1835 apply to Spanish merchant-vessels, such vessels as those above alluded to must be treated as vessels "not justly entitled to claim the protection of the flag of any State or Nation;" and the Statute 2 & 3 Vict., cap. 73, as also Section 4 of the Official Instructions for the guidance of Her Majesty's Naval Officers employed in the suppression of the Slave Trade, appear to be applicable to this case.

Lord Clarendon requests that instructions to the above effect may be sent to the Admiral commanding Her Majesty's naval forces on the West India station.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SHELburne.

No. 424.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 30, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch from Mr. Howard,* inclosing a translated abstract of the information which the Brazilian Minister at Lisbon has received from his Government, respecting the proceedings of the slave-trader Don Francisco Riverosa.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 425.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 31, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith an extract of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Campbell, Her Majesty's Consul at Lagos,† inclosing a letter from a Spanish emancipado, named Joaquim d'Abreu, addressed to his daughters residing at the Havana, and who he is anxious should join him at Lagos; and I have to desire that you will forward the inclosed letter to its destination, and that you will afford any assistance in your power to D'Abreu's daughters in procuring a passage to the coast of Africa.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

* No. 247.

† No. 11.

No. 426.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 1, 1857.

I INCLOSE to you herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Campbell, Her Majesty's Consul at Lagos,* on matters connected with the Cuban Slave Trade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 427.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 1, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch addressed by Commander Hope, of Her Majesty's ship "Prometheus," to Commodore Adams,† relating to the seizure and detention, by Commander Hope, of the slave brigantine "Adams Gray," upon suspicion of being engaged in the Slave Trade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 428.

Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 3.)

My Lord,

Havana, June 26, 1857.

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch dated the 23rd ultimo, inclosing for my information copies of a despatch and its inclosures from Mr. Scarlett, Her Majesty's Minister at Rio de Janeiro, containing further information respecting the movements of the Spanish barque "Sultana," and also respecting another vessel called the "Urania."

It appears by Commander Haggard's letter of the 4th March to Mr. Scarlett, that that the "Sultana" sailed from Rio on the 28th of February, that she was searched a few miles outside that port, and her papers, &c., for her cargo of flour were found to be correct; and as no tidings of her having landed slaves on the coast of this island have reached me, I think it is most probable she was proceeding on a lawful voyage to the port for which she cleared, as foreign flour was admissible in Spain because of the scarcity of cereals.

If the "Urania," to which it was said the shooks for water-casks were previously transferred from the "Sultana," proceeded on a slaving expedition, she has had more than time, since February last, to have brought a cargo in this direction.

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

No. 429.

Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 3.)

My Lord,

Havana, July 1, 1857.

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch dated the 23rd of May, transmitting to me copies of a despatch and of its inclosure which had been received at the Admiralty from Commodore Kellett, reporting the particulars of the capture off the coast of this island, by a boat belonging to Her Majesty's sloop "Arab," of a slave-vessel, with between 300 and 400 slaves on board.

And your Lordship, calling my attention particularly to that part of Lieutenant Stubbs' letter in which he states that the pilot at Cayo Grande, who was known to have had a large store of provisions, refused to sell him any, or to hold any communication with

him, instructs me to bring the conduct of this individual to the notice of the Captain-General.

I have the honour of laying before your Lordship a copy of the letter which, in obedience to your Lordship's instruction, I addressed to General Concha on this subject.

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

Inclosure in No. 429.

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

Havana, June 30, 1857.

I AM instructed to bring under your Excellency's notice the conduct of the pilot at Cayo Grande, near Trinidad, who, although he had a large stock of provisions, refused to supply Lieutenant Stubbs, of Her Majesty's sloop "Arab," when he applied to him to purchase a supply for the use of the slaves on board a schooner which the lieutenant captured at the entrance of Boca Grande of those cays in April last.

It appears that the stock of provisions on board the slaver at the time of the capture was nearly exhausted, and Lieutenant Stubbs in his official letter to the Commodore commanding Her Majesty's ships and vessels at Port Royal, Jamaica, states that, the slaver having been deserted by the master and crew previous to her capture, "the slaves had broken open everything during the short interval between their leaving her and his taking possession, and had eaten large quantities of salt fish and beef, and were raging with thirst, having drunk all the water within reach."

He anchored in Boca Grande for the night, in order to put things to rights, and "next morning he sent to Cayo Grande, where he knew that the pilot had a large store of provisions, to try and purchase some, but they refused to speak or to sell anything."

I need not represent to your Excellency how exceedingly reprehensible, inhuman, and unfriendly such conduct must be considered; and in thus carrying out the instructions of Her Majesty's Government, by bringing the matter under your Excellency's notice, I feel confident that the conduct of the pilot in question will be marked in such a manner as to deter others from a repetition of such behaviour.

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

No. 430.

Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 3.)

My Lord,

Havana, July 4, 1857.

HAVING received intelligence from Mr. Vice-Consul Sanchez Dolz, of Nuevitas, that a cargo of slaves had recently been landed within his district, but at a place called Vertientes, on the south coast of the island, I have addressed a letter to General Concha, copy of which I have the honour of inclosing to your Lordship, and I have requested his Excellency to favour me with such particulars as may have come to his knowledge for your Lordship's information.

This landing, it appears, was effected about the 20th ultimo, with the utmost secrecy, and with the connivance of the principal authorities of Puerto Principe; the Lieutenant-Governor, Colonel Pozas, being absent; that those concerned had omitted to include an officer of the police who immediately set about making a stir, and interested the commanding officer, so that some persons had been arrested; but I have not heard that any of the slaves, who it was known had been taken to an estate in the neighbourhood of Vertientes, had been captured, and it will readily be understood by your Lordship, that so considerable a number as 420 Bozals could not pass from the place of landing to the hacienda referred to, that of Don Mauricio Montijo, without the connivance of the authorities, or the seizure of the entire expedition, if those authorities did their duty.

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

Inclosure in No. 430.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Captain-General of Cuba.**Havana, July 4, 1857.*

I HAVE received information upon which I can rely, that a cargo consisting of 400 slaves, in a healthy state, with 20 sick, had recently been landed at Vertientes, and I understand that these slaves were conveyed to the estate of Don Mauricio Montijo, divided into four lots. That besides those who were landed above mentioned, the expedition consisted of 70 more, who died on the passage.

This violation of the law and of the Treaty for suppression of the Slave Trade, it is stated, had been effected with the greatest privacy, and the connivance of certain of the local authorities; but that others of the authorities, in the execution of their duties, were actively engaged in the prosecution of the offenders, and had arrested several persons who were supposed to have been engaged in this affair.

I have not, however, been able to ascertain whether the Bozals who were thus illegally introduced had been captured or detained, and I shall be much indebted to your Excellency for such information as may have reached you, which I hope will enable me to address a satisfactory communication to Her Majesty's Government by the earliest opportunity.

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

No. 431.

Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 3.)

(Extract.)

Havana, July 4, 1857.

I HAVE the honour of laying before your Lordship a list of the Chinese imported here as free labourers up to the 30th ultimo, in continuation of my previous list of the 1st of October last year.

Since that time, 5,560 men have been landed, and with the previous 11,579 men and 7 females, make a total of 17,139 men and 7 women imported since 1847, all of whom have found immediate employment, so that those engaged in bringing them from China have found it a very lucrative business.

The opinion of the planters, and others who have availed themselves of these labourers' services, continues to be favourable generally. They are more intelligent, although not so robust and athletic as the negro, and they require a treatment which is combined with justice and kindness, but by no means relaxed in its character, to make them most valuable servants, and in a great measure supersede the slave-labour of this island.

A short work upon the sanatory position of Havana and its neighbourhood, and the study, moral and physical, of these Colonies, has just come forth from the pen of Dr. Dupierris, who has had a great deal of experience of these people, of their character and of their complaints.

I consider that in this work the sanatory position of this city is well described; that the character of the Chinese colonists, or free labourers, is very correctly delineated; and that, if attention is paid to Dr. Dupierris' opinions in the treatment of the Chinese by their "patrones" or masters, they will find them, generally, both willing and obedient servants, far superior to the negro slave in usefulness and intelligence, and, although not capable of undergoing the same amount of hard work, still able to do as much or more labour in proportion to the costliness of the African, whilst, as the contracts of the Chinese expire, new hands can be obtained, with the advantage that some of the old ones, whose characters have been tested, will always be re-engaged to initiate their more recently imported countrymen, and thus a succession of efficient labour can be depended upon, which would in time do away with slavery and the Slave Trade, because of its cheapness and abundance.

I am, therefore, of opinion that the immigration of free colonists or labourers from China ought to be continued and promoted, under proper regulations, and that the opposition to it should be restricted to the necessary interference for securing to the coolies safe transit in well-ventilated transports, and an inspection in China to prevent kidnapping or fraudulent contracts being acted upon, as it is supposed has sometimes been the case, and that the insurrections which have occurred on board of many of the passenger vessels have been owing to the discontent of those Chinese who have discovered, too late, that they have been unfairly dealt with.

Upon the other hand, it cannot be expected that an efficient, a numerous, and contented body of such colonists or free labourers can subsist for any length of time without a proportionate number of females; and with regard to this point, I would represent to your Lordship the expediency of withdrawing the restrictions which have until now operated to prevent the Chinese women from accompanying their husbands, or from otherwise engaging themselves as free colonists. Their doing so would, as I am informed, with regard to their position in their own country for such description of females, be materially to better themselves, as here they would be free, whereas in certain districts of China their life is a sort of bondage or vassalage, and their treatment anything but humane, or such as they would meet with here.

If, as I consider, the substitution of free colonist labour in Cuba for that of African slaves, is to be the means of abolishing slavery and the Slave Trade, I would respectfully represent to your Lordship that immigration must be encouraged by all means, under proper regulations, and that the restrictions hitherto subsisting as to women should forthwith be modified or done away with, so that they may be allowed to accompany their husbands, or emigrate themselves on their own account whenever they think proper to do so, of their own free will and accord.

The redundant population of the Chinese Empire presents ample means for trying this great and most interesting experiment of superseding the necessity of slave labour. There are numerous parties already engaged in the bringing of Chinese colonists or free labourers to Cuba. These have been found to answer all the purposes required as well as African slaves. They are cheaper to hire, and will turn to be useful inhabitants when their eight years' contracts have expired, or they will re-engage themselves on more advantageous terms, since it is the characteristic of the Chinaman (who is well-behaved) that he always betters his condition. But the original contracts ought not to be for less than eight years, looking to the length and cost of the voyage, and that the labourer must pass through a certain period of probation before he can be of much use to his employer.

Inclosure in No. 431.
List of Chinese Labourers imported at Havana, up to the 30th of June, 1857, with Dates of Arrival, Names, and Tonnage of Vessels, &c.

Date of Arrival.	Nation.	Name of Vessel.	Tonnage.	Where from.	Consignees.	No. of Chinese.		Deaths, &c., at Sea.	Length of Voyage.	Remarks.
						Males.	Females.			
1856			Tons.						Days.	
Nov. 25	British, barque	Ellen Oliver	683	Swatao	Torices and Co.	268	..	63	198	
" 27	Ditto	Henry Miller	433	Hong Kong	Drake and Co.	185	..	6	124	
Dec. 2	Spanish, ship	Emigrante	448	Macao	Pereda and Co.	320	..	194	230	
" 22	Dutch, ship	Bellona	1,300	Amoy	Torices and Co.	319	..	159	226	
1857										
Feb. 14	Peruvian, ship	Cora	1,297	Swatao	Drake and Co.	308	..	292	117	
" 26	Dutch, ship	Johanna Maria	481	Macao	Torices and Co.	288	..	11	117	
" 26	Ditto	Dina	675	Ditto	Ditto	309	..	10	165	
March 30	Ditto	Vrau Johanna	529	Ditto	Ditto	281	..	11	115	
" 30	Ditto	Doggerbank	695	Ditto	— Campbell	373	..	9	141	
April 3	American, ship	Florida	689	Swatao	José Pastor	341	..	7	114	
" 7	Dutch, ship	Vriendschap	707	Ditto	Torices and Co.	352	..	49	139	
" 8	British, ship	Catherine Glen	1,326	Hong Kong	Drake and Co.	435	..	..	133	
" 29	Ditto	Joseph Shepherd	630	Ditto	Ditto	299	..	12	106	
May 17	American, ship	Waverly	749	Swatao	Pereda and Co.	364	..	8	104	
" 29	French, ship	Succès	414	Macao	Torices and Co.	346	..	25	127	
June 14	Bremen, ship	Felix	560	Swatao	Ditto	236	..	13	104	
" 14	Peruvian, ship	Maria Natividad	550	Macao	Ditto	344	..	9	120	
" 20	Dutch, ship	Christina	347	Ditto	Ditto	192	..	8	146	
						5,560				
						11,579	7			
						17,139	7			

Add those previously reported in despatch dated October 1, 1856

Total number arrived up to this date

Havana, June 30, 1857.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD, Consul-General.

Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 3.)

My Lord,

Havana, July 9, 1857.

I HAVE the honour of laying before your Lordship a translation of a letter which I have received from the Captain-General in answer to that which I addressed to him on the 4th instant respecting the slaves landed at Vertientes, subject of my despatch of the same date

Your Lordship will observe that his Excellency admits my information to be correct, but he makes exception to my having qualified this landing as an "infraction of the Treaty," holding that such occurrences of contraband are not infractions of the Treaty, since the efforts of the Spanish authorities are used to prevent the disembarkation of slaves; and that so long as slave-trading is not allowed by the Spanish authorities, but is opposed by them, such acts of contraband cannot be classed as "infractions."

In justice to General Concha it must be said that he has dictated the most stringent orders for the prevention of the Traffic, but his orders have not been obeyed, and his authority has not been sufficient to punish the connivance and disobedience of the local authorities, because he has no power to punish without legal proofs against the offenders, and such legal proofs it has been found impossible to obtain; consequently, however strong the moral presumptions may have been against the various persons who have, at different times, been arrested for slave-trading, they have gone unpunished, and this, most probably, will be the result with regard to the parties arrested for the offence at Vertientes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure in No. 432.

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

(Translation.)

(Extract.)

Havana, July 6, 1857.

I HAVE received your Honour's communication which treats of the introduction of a cargo of Bozals on the south coast of the jurisdiction of Puerto Principe. I regret to state to your Honour that the information you give me I consider correct, as the Acting Lieutenant-Governor of that jurisdiction reports to me that the Chief of the Police had arrested Don Mauricio Montijo, Don Juan Bautista Parés, and Don Cirilo Morell, as suspected of having taken part in the said introduction of negroes, and which act the Chief of Police had reported to the Lieutenant-Governor, who had left town previously, on hearing that said landing had taken place.

The Acting Lieutenant-Governor had also set out afterwards to reconnoitre, himself, the places in which he expected the Bozals were, and I await reports of the result of the measures adopted by those authorities. I have, at once, approved the measures of the Chief of Police, and I gave orders to an Oidor of the Supreme Court to proceed by the first steamer to Puerto Principe to institute the corresponding proceedings upon the crime committed in the introduction of slaves, in order to judge of the conduct observed by the authorities.

After what I have just informed your Honour, in answer to your said communication, I must manifest to you that I regret the qualification of infraction of the Treaties which your Honour gives to the mere fact of the actual landing of a cargo of slaves. The existing Treaties, considering the Slave Trade as a crime, establish the principles by which its suppression ought to be procured; and the Law of the 4th of March, 1845, made in consequence of those Treaties, marks the penalties to be suffered both by those who commit the crime of introducing slaves and by the authorities who, in any manner, permit it, or do not perform their duty with the zeal they ought in the prosecution of that infamous Traffic. If therefore, in the present case, as in others, a landing of Bozal negroes has been effected, a crime which the existing Treaties have wished to avoid, has, undoubtedly, been committed; but if the local authorities, fulfilling their duty and the severe orders given by the Government, have done all in their power to prevent the landing, it cannot be reasonably said that there has been an infraction of the Treaties even when the landing has been effected, provided that afterwards they have endeavoured to capture the slaves, and have arrested and handed over to the tribunals those who have taken part in their introduction.

And this may also be said, even when there may have been mistakes of any kind on the part of any of the authorities in the execution of their duties, provided that the Governor Captain-General, Representative of Her Majesty's Government in this island, responsible for the fulfilment of the existing Treaties for the suppression of the Slave Trade, procures the elucidation of the facts and the punishment which, according to the Treaties and the laws dependent thereon, corresponds to the fault which said authorities may have committed.

Your Honour is aware that, for my part, I have never once gone from the duties which said Treaties impose upon me, and I cannot, therefore, admit that upon me weighs the responsibility of having ever infringed those Treaties, which I have endeavoured to fulfil with the zeal and the loyalty with which I have always proceeded in the execution of the high post I hold, and which I owe to the confidence of Her Majesty.

God preserve, &c

No. 433.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 12, 1857.*
I HAVE received your despatch of the 4th ultimo, together with its inclosures, on the subject of Chinese immigration into Cuba; and with reference to that part of your despatch in which you suggest that Chinese women should be permitted and encouraged to accompany their husbands, and to emigrate as free colonists, I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government have been informed that not only the law of China forbids the emigration of females, but that the women themselves have the greatest repugnance to it, and that this is the main reason why none of them ever accompany their husbands.

I have, however, to state to you, that it would be desirable that you should cause inquiry to be made amongst the more intelligent of the Chinese labourers brought to Cuba, and ascertain whether, in their opinion, women would be willing to leave China, if permitted to do so by the authorities, and if they felt sure that they would not be separated from their husbands in the country to which they might emigrate.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 434.

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

My Lord,

Havana, July 24, 1857.

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch dated the 30th ultimo, acquainting me that Her Majesty's Government consider it desirable that any vessels engaged in the Slave Trade which may be captured off Cuba by British cruizers, and may be found without papers of any kind to show their nationality, should be taken to a British Colony, to be dealt with according to British law; and transmitting, for my information, a copy of a letter which your Lordship had caused to be addressed to the Admiralty, requesting that instructions to the above effect may be sent to the Admiral commanding Her Majesty's Naval Forces on the West India station.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 435.

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

My Lord,

Havana, July 24, 1857.

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch dated the 30th ultimo, transmitting, for my information, a copy of a despatch from

Mr. Howard, inclosing a translated abstract of the information which the Brazilian Minister at Lisbon had received from his Government, respecting the Slave Trade proceedings of Don Francisco Riverosa.

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

No. 436.

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

(Extract.)

Havana, August 9, 1857.

AT a conference which I had this morning with his Excellency the Captain-General, he took occasion to advert to certain inculpations which appear in a rather recent note from Lord Howden to the Marquis de Pidal (20th of June, if I mistake not), upon the subject of Slave Trade, which General Concha complains of, and which appear to have affected him in a great degree.

His Excellency admitted the inadequacy of the penal law to meet the exigencies constantly occurring in the Slave Trade, and lamented that his authority was limited thereby, as he assured me that "his principles and convictions were decidedly anti-slavery."

He adverted to the case of the Brigadier Serrano, late Governor of Trinidad de Cuba, and informed me that he was pressing for his conviction before the Royal Audiencia, upon the charge of not having executed the orders which he had received, by which neglect or disobedience more than one cargo of slaves had been introduced within the limits of his command.

He stated that he never had, nor never would, admit of any compromise with the slave-traders, either for them to give up a portion for the safety of the rest, or in any way admit conditions which had been proposed, but had always been inaccessible upon that subject, contending for the destruction of the Traffic and the faithful observance of the Treaties; but that he had found the authority confided to him insufficient for that purpose, as he had repeatedly represented to his Government.

I have always considered that the judicial proofs which by the penal law are required to convict and punish the slave-traders and their accomplices, not being obtainable, as long experience has shown, that law must be considered as a dead letter, and only serving to protect offenders who, if dealt with "gubernatively," would not escape the punishment they deserve.

His Excellency informed me, this morning, that dealing summarily with several persons, against whom there are good grounds for believing their complicity in slave-trading, he had had them brought here, and had ordered them peremptorily to leave the island by the first opportunity.

No. 437.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 29, 1857.

I INCLOSE for your information a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Vigo,* containing information respecting the landing, by the Portuguese brig-schooner "*Theodora*," of 478 slaves near Trinidad, in the Island of Cuba, in the month of March last.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 438.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 29, 1857.

I HAVE to acquaint you that, with the view to the suppression of the Slave Trade on the coasts of Cuba, it has been decided to employ a class of vessels of lighter draught

* No. 493.

of water than those hitherto employed on the Cuban coasts, and the "Jasper" and "Jaseur" gun-boats accordingly sailed from England, on the 6th instant, for Bermuda, from whence they will proceed to Cuba. Two other gun-boats of a lighter draught of water will be dispatched in a few days to the same quarter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 439.

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

My Lord,

Havana, August 25, 1857.

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch dated the 31st ultimo, inclosing an extract from a despatch which your Lordship had received from Mr. Campbell, Her Majesty's Consul at Lagos, with a letter from a Spanish emancipado, named Joaquin Abreu, addressed to his daughters who are residing here, and who their father is anxious should join him at Lagos.

I have caused said letter to be safely delivered, and I shall, whenever Abreu's daughters propose going to him, afford them every assistance in my power to facilitate their passage to the coast of Africa.

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

No. 440.

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

My Lord,

Havana, August 26, 1857.

I HAVE read with great interest the copy of Consul Campbell's (of Lagos) despatch of the 11th of May, which your Lordship did me the honour of inclosing, for my information, in your Lordship's despatch dated the 1st instant, the receipt of which I beg leave to acknowledge.

It is much to be wished that the occupations of commerce should supersede the barbarities of the Slave Trade, and I hope that the legitimate trade in palm oil may continue to be as prosperous as Mr. Campbell describes it at the place of his residence.

The other cause to which the Consul refers as having operated in discouragement of slave-trading, is without doubt well-founded. The nature of Slave Trade is to demoralize; next to piracy, its contaminating influence has reduced all who have engaged it; and even to that criminal debasement some are supposed to have fallen; it is, therefore, not to be wondered at that dishonesty should prevail here amongst the consignees of slaves.

We have, however, seen that on board the vessels recently captured by Her Majesty's cruizers, considerable sums of money have been found, sent to purchase their return cargoes, and probably such moneys have been shipped; the parties interested having been aware of the distrust which, by Mr. Campbell's report, prevails at Lagos, and likely enough at other places on the coast of Africa, arising from similar proofs of the dishonesty of the parties in Cuba: and my doubt is, whether in the end the allurements of the Traffic will not prove superior to the common profits of legitimate commerce; the enormous prices paid here for slaves enabling the traders to give so very much more than the collectors of them on the coast of Africa have been accustomed to receive.

One thousand dollars may now be quoted as the rate at which Bozal negroes are selling; more has been paid for them recently, and even at a considerably less price the adventurers can afford to double the offer of the supercargo of the "*Adams Gray*," to which Mr. Consul Campbell alludes as having been made to Domingo Martins, in which case it might be difficult for him, or others like him, to resist the temptation. Still, under any circumstances, it is a great step towards the extinction of slave-dealing in Africa, that legitimate commerce prevails to some extent, and is fairly appreciated by the natives and other inhabitants.

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

No. 441.

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

(Extract.)

Havana, August 27, 1857.

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 1st instant, transmitting to me, for my information, a copy of a despatch addressed by Commander Hope, of Her Majesty's ship "Prometheus," to Commodore Adams, reporting the seizure and detention of the slaver brigantine "Adams Gray."

I have to state to your Lordship that that vessel is one of those which was withdrawn from the trade between this port and New Orleans, and sold to the slave-traders, in March, or early in April last, and it is to be hoped that others which left New Orleans about the same time may also have been fallen in with by Her Majesty's cruisers.

No. 442.

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

(Extract.)

Havana, September 8, 1857.

I HAVE the honour of laying before your Lordship a copy of a correspondence which I have had with the Captain-General upon the subject of the scandalous introductions of Bozal negroes that for some time past have been carried on here and elsewhere in this island.

Slaves are now brought to preconcerted places where they are received by the coasting schooners and other craft of the island, and by them brought in considerable numbers into Havana, or landed where they best can; the arrangements for that purpose being, as I understand, perfectly complete, and this is sometimes effected with cédulas, the traffic in which must be a considerable source of profit.

Your Lordship will observe, by General Concha's reply to my letter, that he seems to be aware of how slaves are now being introduced here, and also that some have been captured provided with cédulas, which he admits were of improper origin.

I have also the honour of transmitting to your Lordship two copies of the orders referred to upon the subject of the abuses which are being practised with the cédulas as a means for the safe introduction of Bozal negroes.

But I must not fail in expressing my opinion to your Lordship that all those decrees and regulations can only be looked upon as so much waste paper, so long as they are not enforced, and so long as those who are entrusted with the issues of the cédulas dispose of them for money, and go unpunished.

His Excellency alludes to certain parties who are under surveillance, suspected of being engaged in these adventures, and as they have been pointed out clearly enough to draw the attention of his Excellency's officers to their malpractices, it ought not to be difficult to detect them *in flagrante*. But those persons are the actuaries, who, although they themselves may not be in any particularly elevated situation, it is to be feared are rich enough to purchase immunity, and there is little doubt of those behind them, who are both elevated and influential in this society.

Inclosure 1 in No. 442.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Captain-General of Cuba.**Havana, August 29, 1857.*

THERE have been so many rumours of late, with regard to the Slave Trade, that I have found it almost impossible to ascertain their truth; and as there is, no doubt, good reason for believing that, of the expeditions to the coast of Africa, which it is known were dispatched from the ports of the United States since the month of March last, some of them must have returned to the coast of this island with their unlawful cargoes, I deem it my duty to state to your Excellency that I have received information of two slavers having transferred their cargoes to coasting schooners, from on board of which coasting craft the slaves have been safely landed.

I am informed that one or more of the owners of those expeditions reside in Havana, having partners at Cardenas, and that that Association is expecting four more cargoes of slaves.

It appears to be the practice now for the slaves to arrive at some place which has been preconcerted, and there the slaves are transferred to coasters to be landed on the island.

I have learnt, with great satisfaction, that a coaster, having some Bozal negroes on board, has been seized by your Excellency's officers at Cardenas. The confiscation of that vessel, and the capture of the slaves, cannot fail to have a salutary effect, and should also increase the vigilance of the officers in searching all the coasters whenever it is supposed they may have Bozal negroes on board; because, even into this port, those craft bring slaves occasionally.

It has come to my knowledge that a brig and schooner were seen on fire at the cays beyond Cardenas, a few days ago; and as it is known to be the frequent practice of the slavers to set fire to their vessels after they have got rid of their cargoes, it is to be inferred that those vessels were of that description.

I have to request that your Excellency will be pleased to let me have such information respecting the coaster and slaves captured near Cardenas, as may be interesting to Her Majesty's Government; and also inform me whether any information has reached the Government respecting the vessels which were seen on fire a few days ago.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 442.

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

(Translation.)

(Extract.)

Havana, September 5, 1857.

I HAVE learned the contents of your Honour's letter of the 29th ultimo, referring to the information you have received of the landing of several of the expeditions of slaves from Africa, fitted out in the United States.

This circumstance at once proves the difficulties which the outfitters meet with here to get up such expeditions; it being also public that many of them are not inhabitants of this island, although, unfortunately, some of humble position, upon whom I intend to keep a strict look-out, have been able to participate in some of them.

Notwithstanding this, and considering that, on account of the high price to which slaves have risen, the efforts of the speculators in this abominable Traffic must be greater to introduce them into the island, and still greater that of the planters, to obtain hands or which they are in want, I had taken the most energetic steps to prevent the landing of those expeditions, prepared with the idea of my removal from this command, which, at the time your Honour refers to, was publicly announced as very close at hand.

To obtain that result, I have stationed numerous parties of soldiery—not without great difficulties and sacrifices—at the places considered most favourable for the landing or expeditions; but as it is impossible to cover, in that manner, a coast of more than 2,000 miles, I ordered the formation of a division of four war-steamers, and an equal number of schooners, under the command of an active officer for the persecution of slave-vessels.

In consequence of these measures, which have rendered the disembarkation or expeditions, at any one point, very difficult, those engaged in that Traffic have adopted the method of trans-shipping the negroes to coasting-schooners at sea where they cannot be searched by the men-of-war, landing them afterwards in small lots and at different places in the island.

This system has just been put into practice, for the first time, by a vessel of the United States, near Cayo Bahia de Cadiz, neither the vessels of war being able to prevent it, nor the authorities of the neighbouring jurisdictions, who themselves examined the cays where it was believed the cargo had been landed.

Upon the news of the circumstance reaching me, I gave the necessary orders, so as to effect the capture of those who might have succeeded in landing; and the Lieutenant-Governor of Jaruco seized a party of 45 Bozals, without cedulas, and that of Cardenas detained 21 of another lot, which had entered this port in a coasting-schooner, and who passed on board the steamer "Almendares," were being transferred to Cardenas with cedulas illegally obtained.

To prevent this new method of introducing Bozals—which is practicable, because the present regulations permit the coasting-steamers and schooners to enter and depart, at all hours of the night, without being visited—I have issued a regulation for the purpose,

published, in the "Gazette" of the 2nd instant, as well as others, to prevent the abuses which have been committed with the cédulas of protection for slaves.

The good faith and loyalty with which I think myself obliged to fulfil the Treaties existing for the suppression of the Slave Trade, place me in the position of being able to satisfy your Honour with these details which you politely solicit, and which will at the same time serve as an answer to the odious asseveration so lightly made by Lord Palmerston in the House of Commons, speaking of the authorities of this island, and against which I have appealed to Her Majesty's Government, as calumnious, and highly offensive to my honour, and to the reputation which I have known how to maintain in this command, as well as everywhere, at the height corresponding to the name I bear, and the position I hold.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed)

JOSE DE LA CONCHA.

Inclosure 3 in No. 442.

Decree.

(Translation.)

WITH the object of preventing the abuses which are committed with the cédulas of country slaves, and until the requisite orders are given for the renewal of said cédulas in the coming year of 1858, I have deemed it necessary, that the following regulations be observed and kept:—

1. It being enacted by Article 4 of the Government Decree of 19th December, 1854, that in removing slaves from the jurisdiction in which their cédulas of protection have been issued, these must be presented to the local authority at the terminus of their journey, or of their new residence, a fine of ten dollars for each slave will be imposed upon the owner or holder who does not do so within the precise term of three days, to the Captain of the District, or to the Commissary or Celador of the corresponding head-quarters, the cédulas being retained until such time as their validity is proved by the Governor or Lieutenant-Governor of the jurisdiction in which they were issued.

2. The owners or holders of slaves who, at the time of this Decree being published, may have them out of the jurisdiction in which their respective cédulas of protection were issued, will present them to the Commissaries or Inspectors of Police of the towns, or to the Captains of the Districts where the slaves are, within the period of eight days, counted from the time of the fixing of this Decree by placards in the usual localities.

3. After the eight days designated in the preceding Article, the cédulas of protection issued previously in another jurisdiction will be of no value, and in order to obtain new ones, the parties must apply to the respective Governors or Lieutenant-Governors, who, after a gubernative inquiry, will act in accordance with the orders then in force.

4. For the transfer of country slaves from one estate to another, not in the same jurisdiction, it will be necessary to have a transient pass, and the corresponding notation, sealed by the Commissary or Captain of the District, on all the cédulas of the slaves who are being removed; the regulation contained in Article 4 of the said Decree being annulled in this respect, and as regards country slaves.

Havana, September 1, 1857.

(Signed)

JOSE DE LA CONCHA.

Inclosure 4 in No. 442.

Decree.

(Translation.)

TO prevent the abuses which may be committed in the transport of slaves, on board the coasting steamers and vessels, I have deemed it necessary to decree:—

1st. The captains or masters of steamers and coasting-vessels will not be allowed to receive on board or to convey slaves, without their previously showing their corresponding cédulas of protection, and their travelling licenses, as required by the Decree of this date, for the transfer of country slaves.

2ndly. The Governors and Lieutenant-Governors will, at all times, cause the coasting steamers to be visited on their coming in and leaving port, in order to satisfy themselves as to the exact compliance with the provisions of the preceding article, and they will exercise the strictest vigilance over all coasting vessels, having them overhauled as often as they may deem necessary for the furtherance of the object indicated.

3rd. In the event of any of the said vessels conveying slaves, who, besides not being

provided with the police documents required in Article I, should appear to be Bozals, it shall, with its crew and negroes, be detained in order to draw up the primary proceedings, remaining afterwards at the disposal of the judge who may have to deal with the corresponding suit.

Havana, September 1, 1857.

(Signed)

JOSE DE LA CONCHA.

No. 443.

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

My Lord,

Havana, September 12, 1857.

I HAVE the honour of laying before your Lordship a copy of a letter dated the 9th instant which I have received from General Concha, in answer to that which I addressed to his Excellency on the 30th of June last, upon the subject of the pilot at the cays near Trinidad having refused a supply of provisions to Lieutenant Stubbs, of Her Majesty's sloop "Arab," upon the occasion of his capturing a slaver near said cays, in the month of April last.

A copy of my letter to the Captain-General, just referred to, I did myself the honour of submitting to your Lordship in my despatch dated the 1st of July.

It appears that the officer of marine at Trinidad pretends to be ignorant that, at the date of the capture of the slaver by the boat of the "Arab," there was any pilot at those Cays, and as Lieutenant Stubbs could not be mistaken in his statement to the Commodore at Jamaica, there was a wilful or culpable neglect on the part of said Spanish marine officer, which might easily be construed into connivance with the slave-traders, who, for their own purposes, maintained the pilot and a store of provisions at Cayo Grande; and this the more so as, whoever that pilot was, he is evidently screened from the punishment he so richly deserves, by the pretended ignorance of the maritime authority, whose duty it was to have exercised a proper vigilance in his jurisdiction.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure in No. 443.

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

(Translation.)

Havana, September 9, 1857.

UPON the receipt of your Honour's communication of the 30th of June last, in which you represent to me the inhuman conduct observed towards Lieutenant Stubbs by a person your Honour calls the pilot of Cayo Grande, near Trinidad, who refused to furnish him with water and provisions, which he had in abundance, in order to succour the negroes of a vessel captured by the former, after she had been abandoned by her crew, I asked for information from the Lieutenant-Governor of Trinidad, with the object of ascertaining who was the person against whom such a charge resulted.

That authority endeavoured to find it out, asking from the Comandancia de Matriculas (Marine Register Office), a list of the licenses which might have been issued for that place during the period named by your Honour. From that list it appears that in all the month of April there was no pilot at Boca Grande, nor any registered seaman ("matriculado") with a supply of provisions, and that only on the 26th of May a license was issued to the matriculated seaman, José de Jesus Tapia, in the launch "San Vicente," for three months; but notwithstanding this, the Lieutenant-Governor would cause him to return in order to verify whether he was the person who denied the assistance to Lieutenant Stubbs.

This is what I can manifest to your Honour; nevertheless, the necessary steps are being continued for the discovery and the punishment of the fact denounced.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed)

JOSE DE LA CONCHA.

No. 444.

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

My Lord,

Havana, September 21, 1857.

IT having come to my knowledge that a slaver, barque-rigged, having 385 Bozal negroes on board, had been captured by a Spanish schooner of war about the 10th instant, and carried into Cardenas, I addressed a communication to the Captain-General upon the subject, a copy of which, and of his Excellency's answer of yesterday's date, I have the honour of transmitting herewith to your Lordship.

It appears that the vessel on board which the above-mentioned number of slaves were found, was fallen in with by Her Catholic Majesty's schooner "Cristina," near the Falcones; that she was the American barque "Mazeppa" (now the "Paez"), was fitted out and sailed from New York; that when captured she had no national colours nor papers; that the master is an American called George L. Palmer, and that the crew consisted of seven Portuguese, four Spaniards, and a native of Manilla; and that the slaves are infested with infectious diseases so as to render it indispensably necessary to subject them to rigorous quarantine, a hundred odd of the negroes, and several of the crew having died previous to their capture.

His Excellency adds that the being in quarantine prevents the proceedings being carried on with that activity which would otherwise be the case; and the Vice-Consul at Cardenas states that, for the same reason, he has been unable to obtain further particulars.

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

Inclosure 1 in No. 444.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Captain-General of Cuba.**Havana, September 17, 1857.*

I HAVE learnt with the greatest satisfaction that a barque-rigged vessel, having on board some 385 Bozal negroes, has been captured by one of Her Catholic Majesty's cruisers, and carried into Cardenas.

Permit me, in the first place, to congratulate your Excellency upon this proof of the efficacy of the cruisers employed upon this service; and as it will be my pleasing duty to avail myself of the earliest opportunity for reporting the circumstance to Her Majesty's Government, I have to request that your Excellency will be pleased to favour me with full particulars of this capture, and of all that may have been discovered with regard to the vessel, her master and crew, and the parties who were the owners of the adventure, which cannot but be interesting to Lord Clarendon, Her Majesty's Secretary of State.

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

Inclosure 2 in No. 444.

The Captain General of Cuba to Consul-General Crawford.

(Translation.)

Havana, September 20, 1857.

I AM in possession of your polite communication of the 17th instant, relating to the capture of 385 Bozals by the cruisers of Her Majesty near Cardenas, respecting which your Honour desires to know the particulars, for transmission to Her Britannic Majesty's Government.

At present I can only manifest to your Honour that the barque "Paez," American built, cleared at New York for St. Thomas, her master an American, George L. Palmer, with a boatswain and six men, all Portuguese, four Spaniards, a Venezuelan, and a Manilla man, was chased and captured, without colours, by the schooner "Cristina," near Los Falcones, having actually on board 385 Bozals, after having lost on the passage more than 100 from diarrhoea, typhoid fever, and small-pox, which have infested the vessel, and which have caused her to be placed in quarantine, and rigorous incommunication, with the necessary precautions, however, that proper assistance shall not be wanting.

I have much pleasure in furnishing your Honour with these details, to be communi-

cated to Her Britannic Majesty's Government as you desire, not having further particulars, yet, on account of the unavoidable paralyzation of the judicial proceedings during the rigorous observation to which the vessel is subjected, but which will afterwards be followed up with the greatest activity.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed)

JOSE DE LA CONCHA.

No. 445.

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

My Lord,

Havana, September 22, 1857.

ON the morning of the 18th instant, a schooner was discovered laying at anchor in the entrance of this port, which turned out to be a slaver, on board of which there was found the body of a dead negress.

But it was soon known that a considerable number of Bozals had been landed from the vessel during the night, and that the crew also had succeeded in getting on shore here in Havana.

In consequence of so scandalous an affair, enacted between the Castles of the Moro and the Punta, where the width of the entrance of this harbour is not more than a quarter of a mile, and also at about an equal distance from the "buque avanzado," or outer guard-ship, the greatest activity was displayed on the part of the Governor of the Plaza, and in the course of the day a boy belonging to the crew and 18 of the Bozal negroes had been captured. The search being continued up to this time, upwards of 80 of the slaves and three of the crew have been taken, and several persons implicated in this transaction, some of them of respectability, have been put in prison.

The schooner has been recognised as the "*Mercedita*" (á) "*Villanueva*," which cleared from this port as a coaster for San Juan de Remedios in April last, and it is stated by the crew who have been captured, that the master took 6 of the slaves, and a considerable balance (said to be about 8,000 dollars) in money, which he had belonging to the owners, surplus of what had been intrusted to him for the purchase of the cargo, and, accompanied by the supercargo, left the schooner near Cayo Bahia de Cadiz, and proceeded to land opposite to that place, and did not return, but that the supercargo did go again on board, when he told the mate that the master had not been able to make arrangements for landing the rest of the negroes, and he again landed, taking with him 7 more of the slaves.

The crew also state, that having been chased by a Spanish man-of-war schooner, in order to escape they ran in between the cays, where they grounded, and that in order to get their vessel afloat, they started all their water excepting one pipe, and threw overboard their provisions and stores; so that finding themselves afterwards in that condition, and that the master did not return, they came to the desperate resolution of running into the Havana in the night, as coasters are permitted to do, and that they found the means of landing the slaves with their own boats, and others which came to them, as soon as they had anchored.

They state that they had a crew of 15, four of whom died; that they took in 133 slaves (Sangas), of whom 45 were females, and that 10 of the Bozals died on the passage. If this statement of the crew is correct, the authorities here have captured the greater part of this cargo; and, in connection, they have arrested parties who can hardly escape punishment if the law is properly administered.

I understand that amongst the arrested is Mr. Durañona, in whose house 11 Bozals were found secreted and disguised: he is a storekeeper of this place, and has had much to do with slave-trading; his partners at Cardenas are also taken up, and there are others, prisoners, who are supposed to be implicated in the illegal issue of cedulas.

It will not fail to attract your Lordship's notice, as it has that of others as well as my own, the extraordinary circumstance of such a transaction being carried on and completed under the guns of the forts, and in view of the sentries at the entrance of the port, so near also to the guard-vessel, and at a place especially subject to the vigilance of the coast-guard stationed at the Punta.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 446.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 24, 1857.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, copies of a despatch, and its inclosures, from Mr. McLeod,* who is on his way to assume his duties as Her Majesty's Consul at Mozambique, containing information respecting the proceedings of a vessel called the "*Minnetonka*," suspected of being engaged in the Slave Trade, and stating also that twenty-one vessels are reported to have left the Havana, in the month of April last, destined to be employed in the Traffic in Slaves.

You will make use of the information contained in this despatch in any conversation which you may have with the Captain-General of Cuba on the subject of the Slave Trade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 447.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 24, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch from Rear-Admiral Sir F. Grey, the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's naval forces on the African station,† to the Secretary to the Admiralty, containing information respecting the movements of the "*Minnetonka*," a vessel which is reported to have left Havana on the 4th of April last, on a slave-trading voyage, and reporting that six other vessels had sailed from Havana for the East Coast of Africa, which were also destined to be employed in the Slave Trade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 448.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 30, 1857.

I INCLOSE, for your information, a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Mr. Otway, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Madrid,‡ transmitting copies of your despatches of the 21st and 22nd ultimo, reporting the landing of a cargo of slaves at the entrance of the port of Havana, and also the capture, by the Spanish war-schooner "*Christina*," of the American barque "*Mazeppa*," with 385 slaves on board; and I have to desire that you will express to the Captain-General of Cuba the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt the capture of this slave-vessel by a Spanish cruiser, and which they trust will be an incentive to further and increased efforts on the part of the Spanish authorities for the suppression of the Cuban Slave Trade.

You will also report to me the proceedings that may be adopted against the master and crew of the "*Mazeppa*," for it is very desirable, with the view to deter others from taking charge of slave-vessels, that a severe example should be made of the commander of this vessel, and if the Spanish laws cannot inflict upon him the punishment which his crimes deserve, he might be handed over to the United States' authorities to be dealt with according to the United States' laws, and having been caught *in flagrante*, it is to be presumed that he could not well escape punishment.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

* No. 313.

‡ No. 364.

† Class A, No. 183.

No. 449.

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

My Lord,

Havana, September 26, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 12th ultimo, in which, with reference to the suggestion contained in my despatch of the 4th July last, that Chinese women should be permitted and encouraged to accompany their husbands, and to emigrate as free colonists, your Lordship states to me that Her Majesty's Government have been informed that not only the law of China forbids the emigration of females, but that the women themselves have the greatest repugnance to it, and that this is the main reason why none of them ever leave China.

In obedience to your Lordship's desire, I shall cause inquiry to be made amongst the more intelligent of the Chinese labourers brought to Cuba, and ascertain whether, in their opinion, women would be willing to leave China, if permitted to do so by the authorities, and if they felt sure that they would not be separated from their husbands on their arrival here, and I shall report the result to your Lordship as soon as possible.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 450.

Acting Consul-General Lousada to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 31.)

(Extract.)

Havana, October 8, 1857.

HAVING had occasion to go out yesterday to the Quinta of the Captain-General, to endeavour to obtain the release of the "Brisk" (unduly detained by the Spanish Admiral), his Excellency entered very warmly on the subject of the Slave Trade, citing the strenuous efforts he had made to put it down—efforts "he meant to prove in his place in the Senate."

His Excellency stated that in addition to the material difficulty of guarding 700 leagues of coast, he had to contend with the enormous bribes offered by the traders; that within his own knowledge, as much as 40,000 dollars had been offered to a simple *Capitano de Partido*, "an offer the more difficult to resist as it was not for the committal of any crime, but simply to aid in doing what he had been brought up to believe was a service to his country, and always secured him popular sympathy and applause:" "that as to the Governors of the coast towns, any one of them who chose might easily net 100,000 dollars, and there would be no proof against him."

His Excellency attributed the late increase to the calculation the traders had made of his recall, and their being able to introduce a quantity under the presumed relaxation attendant on the outset of a fresh Government.

His Excellency further desired me to note, and wished me to report, that he had lately taken, after they had been landed, as many as from 400 to 500 Bozals.

No. 451.

Acting Consul-General Lousada to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 31.)

My Lord,

Havana, October 8, 1857.

IN consequence of information received of the landing a cargo of 300 Bozals near Jaruco, I wrote to the Captain-General, and I have the honour of inclosing copies of the correspondence, by which it appears that 91 have already been taken.

I believe a large cargo was landed at Bahia Honda, which, however, is denied.

The barque "*Paéz*," taken at Cardenas, has arrived at this port with a loss, by sickness, of twenty-nine of her cargo.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS LOUSADA.

Inclosure 1 in No. 451.

*Acting Consul-General Lousada to the Captain-General of Cuba.**Havana, October 2, 1857.*

VARIOUS reports being in circulation regarding the landing of a cargo of Bozals in the neighbourhood of Jaruco, the Lieutenant-Governor of which place it is said is now under arrest, and also with respect to another disembarkation of Bozals near Bahia Honda, from a vessel said to have been formerly the American barque "*Minnetonka*," I request the favour of your Excellency to furnish me with such particulars as may have been discovered with regard to these cases and the parties who were the owners of said expeditions, in order that I may be enabled to report correctly thereon to Her Britannic Majesty's Government.

The active measures used at Jaruco, and the capture of Bozals reported to have been made at that place, afford me the opportunity of congratulating your Excellency.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

FRANCIS LOUSADA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 451.

The Captain-General of Cuba to Acting Consul-General Lousada.

(Translation.)

Havana, October 9, 1857.

I HAVE received your Honour's communication of the 2nd of the present month, respecting the capture of Bozal negroes at Jaruco, and the disembarkation of an expedition near Bahia Honda.

It is true that the Lieutenant-Governor of Jaruco reported to me the capture of 41 Bozal negroes as the result of his proceedings consequent on the information which he had of a suspicious vessel near Gebacoa: but, subsequently, from information which I had from the head Chief of Police, and on sending an officer and special Commissioners the capture of 50 more Bozals was effected in the same jurisdiction of Jaruco. In order to inquire into and examine into their conduct, the Lieutenant-Governor and two Captains of Partido have been superseded, and have been placed at the disposition of the Oidor who is directing the proceedings, in order to elicit proofs of the occurrence; those who concealed the captured Bozals being also in custody.

With regard to the disembarkation near Bahia Honda I have no information, and the Lieutenant-Governor of that jurisdiction would not have neglected to give it me, especially as I have just given him that appointment as a recompense for the efficacy with which he followed up the Slave Traffic in Puerto Principe, where he was Chief of Police, effecting the apprehension of a large portion of those disembarked in that jurisdiction.

This is all I can state to your Honour concerning the disembarkation of Bozals, of which you desire information, in order to communicate it to your Government.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed)

JOSE DE LA CONCHA.

No. 452.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 31, 1857.

I INCLOSE, for your information, the accompanying copies of two despatches which I have received, one from Lord Howden, Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid, the other from Mr. Otway,* who is acting as Chargé d'Affaires in Lord Howden's absence, inclosing copies of correspondence which has passed between Her Majesty's Legation and the Spanish Government, on the subject of the report contained in your despatch of the 6th of April last, relative to the increased vigour with which the Slave Trade is now carried on in Cuba.

You will perceive that the Captain-General of Cuba, who has been referred to on the subject, denies the accuracy of the statement contained in Lord Howden's note to the Spanish Minister to the effect that the Traffic in Slaves has, within the last two years, been carried on more vigorously and perseveringly than ever.

* Nos. 343 and 361.

And I have to desire that you will furnish me with any observations which you may have to offer on General Concha's report.

I am, &c.
(In the absence of Lord Clarendon),
(Signed) SHELburnE.

No. 453.

The Earl of Clarendon to Acting Consul-General Lousada.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 30, 1857.

I INCLOSE, for your information, the accompanying copy of a letter from the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Sappho," to the Secretary to the Admiralty,* which has been communicated to me by that Department, reporting the capture and destruction of a schooner from the Havana, fully equipped for the Slave Trade, but without name, papers, or colours.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 454.

The Earl of Clarendon to Acting Consul-General Lousada.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 30, 1857.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, a copy of a letter from Commander Burgess, of Her Majesty's ship "Hecate,"† which has been communicated to me by the Board of Admiralty, containing information respecting the proceedings of slave-vessels on the African coast.

You will perceive that Commander Burgess refers in his report, on more than one occasion, to the proceedings of a Company which has been established in Cuba for carrying on the Slave Trade under the American flag; and in a postscript to his letter he states that he has learnt that the shares of this Company, which is called the "Espedicion por Africa," are openly posted on the Exchange at Havana.

I have to desire that you will make inquiries on this subject, and if you should have reason to believe that Commander Burgess's information is well founded, you will represent to the Captain-General of Cuba the encouragement which must be afforded to the slave-dealers by the fact that the shares of a Company got up solely for the purpose of carrying on the Slave Trade should be allowed to be openly posted and quoted at the Havana Exchange; and you will request his Excellency to take measures to put a stop to such a state of things.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 455.

The Earl of Clarendon to Acting Consul-General Lousada.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 30, 1857.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, a list which has been prepared in this Department,‡ containing the names of the vessels which have been recently captured on the African coast with slaves on board, or on suspicion of being intended to be employed in Slave Traffic.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

* Class A, No. 168.

† Ibid., Inclosure 2 in No. 166.

‡ Inclosure in No. 613.

No. 456.

Acting Consul-General Lousada to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 3.)

My Lord,

Havana, October 26, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 29th ultimo, inclosing copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Vigo, containing information respecting the landing of 478 slaves from the Portuguese brigantine "*Theodora*," near Trinidad de Cuba, in the month of March last.

This was, no doubt, one of the expeditions which were reported at the time to have succeeded in effecting the disembarkation of their cargoes, and which were duly brought under the notice of the Captain-General.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS LOUSADA.

No. 457.

Acting Consul-General Lousada to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 3.)

My Lord.

Havana, November 2, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 29th September, containing the information that the two gun-boats "*Jaseur*" and "*Jasper*" were on their way here, and that two more were to follow shortly.

These boats will doubtless be very serviceable in checking the present revival in the Slave Trade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS LOUSADA.

No. 458.

Acting Consul-General Lousada to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 3.)

My Lord,

Havana, November 6, 1857.

THE urgent representations said to have been made by our Government on the subject of the increased Slave Traffic, seems to have at length roused the apathy of the authorities here; and I have the satisfaction of reporting to your Lordship the capture of two more slavers by the Spanish cruizers, viz., a barque, name unknown, but evidently of American build, having on board 536 Bozals, captured by Her Catholic Majesty's steamer "*Neptuno*," off Bahia Honda; the other a barque having the name "*Vesta*" of Boston, painted on her stern, taken with 179 negroes, by the schooner "*Isabel*," near Sagua la Chica, in the Old Bahama Channel.

It appears that the "*Vesta*" took in her cargo on the Gold Coast, and that in consequence of the appearance of two of our cruizers in that vicinity, she had to leave 150 more slaves behind, who were ready for shipment.

Both prizes have been brought to this port, and the negroes have been portioned out as emancipados.

Many more slavers are still expected, and the Vice-Consul at Trinidad de Cuba has just advised of the advent of one who is watching her opportunity of landing her cargo, and of another that has succeeded in doing so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS LOUSADA.

No. 459.

Acting Consul-General Lousada to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 3.)

My Lord,

Havana, November 7, 1857

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch of the 12th August, on the subject of Chinese women, I hope by next mail to forward a detailed report on the subject, to the purport that the Chinese would gladly be accompanied by their wives, and that the wives them-

selves would willingly emigrate, but that the obstacles arise from the British functionaries at the ports of embarkation. There seems to be no doubt upon this point.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS LOUSADA.

No. 460.

Acting Consul-General Lousada to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 3.)

(Extract.)

Havana, November 9, 1857.

I HAVE the honour of laying before your Lordship copy of a correspondence which I have had with the Captain-General respecting several slave-landings.

His Excellency denies those said to have occurred at Santa Cruz and Ensenada de los Cochinos, admitting that at Guantanamo, where the authorities seized 361 negroes, which his Excellency states composed the whole of that expedition.

Mr. Consul Forbes, of St. Jago de Cuba, in a despatch dated the 31st ultimo, confirms the latter intelligence, adding that the vessel was a Spanish barque, name unknown, which afterwards put to sea; the adventure being said to be for Havana account.

Regarding the other landings denounced to the Captain-General, the Vice-Consul at Trinidad writes that Governor de la Muela had mentioned to him that he had heard of the two cargoes at the Ensenada de los Cochinos.

I beg leave to call your Lordship's attention to that part of his Excellency's answer throwing discredit on our informants, and criticising myself for giving credence to them.

It is scarcely necessary to observe the great difficulty there is of Her Majesty's officers obtaining information of any kind on Slave Trade matters, and although the denouncements which are made to the Captain-General, from time to time, may not be circumstantially borne out, still there is very little doubt as to the fact of the disembarkations complained of.

Inclosure 1 in No. 460.

Acting Consul-General Lousada to the Captain-General of Cuba.

Havana, November 5, 1857.

I HAVE received information upon which I can rely, that a cargo of about 400 Bozals was landed near Guantanamo on the 23rd ultimo, and that two cargoes of negroes have been landed in the Ensenada de Cochinos within the last six weeks.

I have further to report to your Excellency, that a slaver was seen hovering off Trinidad about a week ago, seeking an opportunity to land her illegal cargo, and that she is said to belong to the notorious Don Mariano Borrel, who, it appears, has sent a schooner and a sloop to facilitate the landing of the slaves at one of the neighbouring cays.

It is also currently stated that another vessel has quite recently successfully landed about 400 Bozals in the vicinity of Santa Cruz.

These violations of the law and of the Treaty for suppression of the Slave Trade cannot have escaped the vigilance of your Excellency's officers; and I request the favour of your Excellency to afford me such information as may have reached you, which I trust will enable me to make a satisfactory report to Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS LOUSADA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 460.

The Captain-General of Cuba to Acting Consul-General Lousada.

(Translation.)

(Extract.)

Havana, November 7, 1857.

I HAVE received the communication which your Honour has been pleased to address to me on the 5th instant, stating to me that 400 Bozals had been disembarked on the 23rd ultimo, near Guantanamo, two other cargoes at the Ensenada de Cochinos, and one of 400

CLASS B.

in the direction of the port of Santa Cruz. Your Honour adds of a slaver having been seen, about a week since, belonging to the well-known Don Mariano Borrel, endeavouring to disembark in the vicinity of Trinidad; and your Honour concludes by saying to me, that these breaches of the law and the Treaties should not be hidden from the vigilance of the authorities; and you consequently ask from me the information that may have reached me respecting the occurrences.

It is not certain that there has been any disembarkation of negroes, either at the Ensenada de Cochinos, which is watched over by one of the men-of-war on this station, or in the vicinity of the port of Santa Cruz. A slaver having been seen in the direction of Trinidad should not be strange, but the fact of her not having succeeded in any disembarkation manifests the vigilance of the authorities, and she may have been one of those recently captured. And if, indeed, it is true that in the direction of Guantanamo, not 400, but 361, were disembarked, it likewise is so that all, without a single exception, and the greater part of the crew of the vessel in which they came, were seized by the Lieutenant-Governor of the jurisdiction; and the vessel should have been so likewise, if the authorities of that distant and unpopulated district could have availed themselves of a steamer, but all those at command being employed on the same service in parts of more importance on our extensive coasts, it could not be afforded to them on that occasion.

The favourable results from the measures which are being adopted, show your Honour that the Government of Her Majesty are doing everything that is at all possible to put an end to that abominable Traffic; and if, neither heretofore nor at present, nor perhaps at a future period, its complete suppression could be attained, it ought to be attributed to the nature of the matter, which presents obstacles which are impossible to entirely overcome.

I feel sorry, for this reason, to see in the communication from your Honour, the occurrences which you denounce termed as violations of the law and the Treaties: they would be so did not the Government do everything possible on its part to frustrate them; but doing so, as your Honour is aware, there is no more reason in terming as violations of the law and the Treaties the few importations which, in spite of its efforts, are succeeded in, that there would be in blaming the cruizers of Her Britannic Majesty on the coast of Africa, as, notwithstanding their activity and zeal, the slave-traders succeed, in despite of their vigilance, in loading their vessels and coming with them to this island.

I will conclude this reply by stating to your Honour that I cannot admit of the terming as violations of the law and the Treaties, occurrences which, although they were certain, occurred against the wishes of this Government of Her Majesty in this island; and when, to impede them, it has recourse to every measure that the most scrupulous zeal can suggest. That it is not true that the other disembarkations which your Honour states in your communication have been effected; that that at Guantanamo, the report of which reached this capital at the same time as that of their capture by the authorities of the district; for which reason it does appear but strange, likewise, that your Honour says nothing about the latter in the communication to which I reply.

No. 461.

Acting Consul-General Lousada to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 15.)

My Lord,

Havana, November 24, 1857.

IN reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 29th September, the subject of the advent of some of Her Majesty's gun-boats, I beg to report that they have not yet made their appearance at any port of this island, and I consider that although they may be cruising off it, yet that the moral effect on the slave-traders would have been much strengthened by their touching at this port, and that the ends in view would have been furthered by their being in communication with the Consulate, and their captains possessing themselves of any information which Her Majesty's Consul-General might possess, as to the movements of the slave-vessels.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS LOUSADA.

No. 462.

The Earl of Clarendon to Acting Consul-General Lousada.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 30, 1857.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch which, on the receipt of Mr. Crawford's despatches of the 21st and 22nd of September last, I addressed to Mr. Otway,* instructing him to suggest to the Spanish Government the necessity of more extended powers being granted to the Captain-General of Cuba in order to enable him to put down the Cuban Slave Trade.

I also transmit a copy of a despatch from Mr. Otway,† inclosing a translation of a note from the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, containing the answer of the Spanish Government to the above suggestions.

You will perceive that the Spanish Minister expresses the hope that the working of the system of registration of slaves in Cuba, and the issue of cédulas, or tickets, will be found an efficient means of putting a stop to the importation of fresh slaves into that island. Judging, however, from the facility with which these cédulas have been hitherto supplied to newly imported slaves, Her Majesty's Government cannot but look upon this system as one calculated to prevent the discovery of Bozals when once landed, rather than as an efficient preventive of the Slave Trade.

Before, therefore, making any further representation on this subject to the Spanish Government, I should be glad to receive from you a report on the present working of the system of registration, and I should also wish to be informed whether any, and if so what, steps have been taken to put a stop to the fraudulent issue of cédulas by the Spanish authorities.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 463.

The Earl of Clarendon to Acting Consul-General Lousada.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 30, 1857.

WITH reference to Mr. Crawford's despatch of the 22nd of September last, reporting the disembarkation of a cargo of slaves at the entrance of the port of Havana during the night of the 17th of that month, I transmit, for your information, the accompanying copy of a despatch from Mr. Otway, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Madrid,‡ inclosing a translation of a note addressed to him by the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, containing an account of the steps taken by the Cuban authorities with regard to this affair.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 464.

Acting Consul-General Lousada to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 1, 1858.)

My Lord,

Havana, November 30, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Lordship's despatch of the 24th ultimo, on the subject of the "*Minnetonka*," desiring me to make use of the information in conversation with General Concha.

His Excellency denied the accuracy of the information *in toto*, but, on the subsequent day, one of the Brothers Cabargas, to whom Rear-Admiral Bruce states this vessel to belong, admitted to me, in private conversation, that she had not only arrived safely, but had already left on a fresh expedition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS LOUSADA.

Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 1, 1858.)

My Lord,

Havana, December 7, 1857.

UPON the occasion of paying my respects to the Captain-General after my return to the execution of my duties at this place, I had an interesting conversation with his Excellency, in which I received from him the most satisfactory assurances of his determination to follow up the course of persecution which has for some time been adopted for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

I took the opportunity, and stated to General Concha some of the rumours which had reached me, as to his having determined to relax these measures, and, especially, that it had been very industriously reported (to his Excellency's prejudice, in my opinion) that the Spanish cruizers would not capture any more slavers, because their doing so had been prejudicial to his popularity; and I adverted to what I had heard stated, that the captures which had been made were arranged with the slave-traders, to whom the negroes, after they had been declared emancipados, were assigned, thus placing them in a situation which is worse than slavery.

His Excellency, after thanking me for the frankness which had characterized my statements, assured me that, whatever effect his measures for putting down the Slave Trade might have upon his popularity, no consideration of that kind would have any weight; that instead of relaxing, he had been reinforcing the squadron of cruizers, which had just been increased by two schooners, and that he had taken steps for fitting out the captured slavers, as soon as possible after they should be condemned by the Royal Audiencia, to cruise for the suppression of the Traffic.

With regard to the assignment of the captured negroes as emancipados, General Concha referred me to the lists which are published of such assignments in the Government Gazette, and he informed me, that in a great measure he had put their distribution out of his own control, by referring the memorialists' applications for such assignments to a Commission which he had appointed, but that, as a general rule, he had prohibited the assignment of these emancipados to districts where slave-trading had been conspicuous, and had recommended that they should, in preference, be allotted to persons residing in districts where the Slave Trade had not been carried on, and where the Lieutenant-Governors had carried out the orders given to them for its suppression, a rule which, I have no doubt, will be approved by your Lordship; and I am disposed to confide in General Concha's assurances as to following up the measures of this Government and the vigilance of the Spanish cruizers.

I have, besides, the satisfaction of acquainting your Lordship that two of the British gun-boats, viz., the "Jaseur" and the "Jasper," are now cruising off the southern coast of this island, and the Vice-Consul at Trinidad reports that Lieutenant Scott, of the former of those vessels, informed him Her Majesty's steam-sloop "Basilisk" and two more gun-boats, the "Skipjack" and the "Forward," may very soon be expected.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 466.

Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 1, 1858.)

My Lord,

Havana, December 8, 1857.

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 24th October, inclosing copies of Mr. Consul McLeod's (of Mozambique) despatches, respecting the slaver "*Minnetonka*," and other slavers, as well as his remarks generally upon the subject of the Slave Trade in that Channel. The "*Minnetonka*" was one of a number of vessels which were dispatched from hence about the month of April last, to be employed in the Slave Trade, and was no doubt owned by a company of adventurers in shares: it is quite probable that Don Antonio Cabarga figured as the owner; but even if captured with a cargo of slaves on board, it would be a very difficult matter to obtain proofs of that, or any other slaver's ownership, sufficient to convict the parties interested, because, in all probability, their papers would be destroyed.

I shall take an early opportunity, in conversation with General Concha, to refer to this subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 467.

Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 1, 1858.)

My Lord,

Havana, December 8, 1857.

IN consequence of your Lordship's despatch dated the 30th of September, the receipt of which I have now the honour to acknowledge, Mr. Lousada addressed a letter to the Captain-General on the 28th ultimo, to which as yet no answer has been received; a copy of that letter I have the honour of laying before your Lordship, and I am enabled to state to your Lordship, that the sentence of condemnation against the "*Mazeppa*" not having been promulgated, the crew are still in prison awaiting that punishment, which no doubt will be inflicted upon them for their participation in the Traffic.

I shall take an opportunity of expressing to his Excellency, in obedience to your Lordship's instructions, the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at the capture of this slaver by a Spanish cruizer, and that they trust it will be an incentive to further and increased efforts on the part of the Spanish Government for the suppression of the Cuban Slave Trade; that part of your Lordship's despatch having somehow or other been omitted to be noticed by Mr. Lousada, in his communication to General Concha

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

P.S.—Mr. Lousada having seen this despatch, assures me that he did not omit to convey to General Concha the expression of the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government, but that he did so verbally, when in conversation with his Excellency.

J. T. C.

 Inclosure in No. 467.
*Acting Consul-General Lousada to the Captain-General of Cuba.**Havana, November 28, 1857.*

I AM instructed by the Earl of Clarendon to report what proceedings have been adopted against the master and crew of the "*Mazeppa*," as his Lordship considers it would be very desirable, with the view to deter other persons taking charge of slave-vessels, that a severe example should be made of the commander of this vessel; and if the Spanish laws cannot inflict upon him the punishment which his crimes deserve, that he might be handed over to the United States' authorities, to be dealt with according to the United States' laws, and having been caught *in flagrante*, it is to be presumed he could not well escape punishment.

I shall be obliged, therefore, by information on the subject, to enable me to reply correctly to his Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS LOUSADA.

 No. 468.
Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 1, 1858.)

My Lord,

Havana, December 9, 1857.

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of the Earl of Shelburne's despatch dated the 31st October, transmitting copies of two despatches from Her Majesty's Minister and Chargé d'Affaires at Madrid, on the subject of Slave Trade, with copy of General Concha's official communication, addressed to the Marquis de Pidal, for my observations thereon. This important document will have my earliest attention.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD

No. 469.

Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 1, 1858.)

My Lord,

Havana, December 10, 1857.

GENERAL CONCHA having requested my certificate to the signature of his Excellency the Regent of this Royal Audiencia, to a document which I considered of importance, and which would be interesting to your Lordship, I requested and obtained leave to copy it, and I have the honour of inclosing herewith a statement of the criminal causes which have recently been formed for offences in connection with the Slave Trade.

I regret that the shortness of the time until the closing of the mails for this packet does not allow for making a translation, but only some short notes which I have added in explanation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 470.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 13, 1858.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 7th ultimo, reporting what passed at a conversation which you had with the Captain-General of Cuba on the subject of the Slave Trade, on the occasion of your recent return to the Havana to resume your official duties; and I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government learn with satisfaction the assurance conveyed to you by the Captain-General, that he is determined to follow up the course which has for some time past been adopted for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 471.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Crawford.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 13, 1858.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 10th ultimo, inclosing a statement of the criminal causes recently instituted for offences connected with the Cuban Slave Trade, and I have to instruct you to forward to me a translation of the document in question.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 472.

Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 5, 1858.)

(Extract.)

Havana, December 24, 1857.

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch dated the 30th ultimo, inclosing for my information copy of a letter from Commander Moresby, of Her Majesty's sloop "Sappho," to the Secretary of the Admiralty, dated the 18th of September last, reporting the capture and destruction of a schooner from the port of Havana, fully equipped for slave-trading, but without name, papers, or colours.

It appears to me that, upon occasions of this nature, every pains should be taken to obtain information as to the ownership of the vessels from the masters or supercargoes, and I would venture to suggest to your Lordship, that the Mixed, and also the Admiralty Courts at the coast of Africa should, by every means, endeavour to obtain proofs of the ownership of all slave-vessels which come under their jurisdiction, with a view to the prosecution of such owners here before the Royal Audiencia, under the provisions of the Penal Law of Spain.

There must be some person on board the slavers who well knows the owner or owners of these expeditions, and I consider it of the utmost importance that their declarations should, if possible, be obtained, to be used here against the guilty parties: and that when-

ever such proofs can be obtained, they should be transmitted to the Regente of the Royal Audiencia, along with the witnesses, and an "exorto" from the Mixed or Admiralty Court to that tribunal here, in order to institute the necessary proceedings under the Spanish law.

Nor do I see any reason why the Spaniards found on board slavers condemned in the Mixed Courts on the coast of Africa should not be sent here, or to Spain, with the proofs against them, so as to have them punished under the penal law, in the same manner as they are turned over from the Mixed Court here to the Royal Audiencia for criminal prosecution, in cases of the condemnation of slavers, by which means we are enabled to secure their punishment.

No. 473.

Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received February 5, 1858.*)

My Lord,

Havana, December 26, 1857.

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch dated the 30th ultimo, transmitting for my information a copy of a letter from Commander Burgess of Her Majesty's ship "Hecate," respecting the proceedings of slave-vessels on the coast of Africa.

And with reference to a report to which the Commander refers, of a Company which has been established in this island called the "Expedicion por Africa," as Commander Burgess had heard, I have to observe that I think it possible, or even very probable, that such an Association may have been formed, and that the American vessels mentioned by the Commander, as well as several others, may belong to that Company.

But that that Association or any such joint stock or share company has been advertised at the Exchange here, or is known to any other persons than the slave-traders, is not the fact. It was well known some months ago, that an American, who passed by the name of Captain Drinkwater, and stated himself to belong to Portland, in the State of Maine, was engaged in the purchase of fast-sailing vessels; that he bought a number of them here, which were supposed to be intended for the Slave Trade; and several of those purchased by him have subsequently been fallen in with, and been captured and condemned at the coast of Africa.

Respecting that person, whose operations did not escape my notice, I had some conversations with General Concha, and also with the Acting Consul for the United States, but there was no law to warrant his being interfered with, or to detain the vessels he had bought, and they sailed from hence under the American flag, most probably fully equipped for the trade they were to be engaged in, and, no doubt, with a private understanding as to their American papers, in the event of their being fallen in with by our cruisers, which they hoped would prevent their being searched, until their cargoes of slaves had been received on board.

If something could be devised with the Government of the United States for the enactment of a law that would reach such characters as Captain Drinkwater, it would be a great step towards hindering the ships and flag of that country from being used in carrying on that detestable Traffic in the manner which the American objections to the search of their vessels at present enable the slave-traders to continue to fit out, and dispatch expedition after expedition to the coast of Africa.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 474.

Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received February 5, 1858.*)

My Lord,

Havana, December 26, 1857.

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch dated the 30th ultimo, transmitting, for my information, a list of the names of vessels which have been recently captured on the African coast with slaves on board, or on suspicion of being intended to be employed in the Slave Trade.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

No. 475.

Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 5, 1858.)

My Lord,

Havana, December 26, 1857.

I HAVE the honour of laying before your Lordship a copy of a correspondence which I have had with the Captain-General of Cuba respecting a rumour which reached me of a landing of slaves in October last at Cayo Levisa. The statements I heard were so circumstantial that I deemed it my duty to communicate them to his Excellency, and I am happy to be able to assure your Lordship that I am satisfied there was no such disembarkation as that described in the information, at that time or place.

I have expressed to General Concha my conviction of this result, and I have thanked him for the pains which I have had occasion to know that he took to investigate the matter most thoroughly.

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

Inclosure 1 in No. 475.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Captain-General of Cuba.**Havana, December 9, 1857.*

AS it is possible that no intelligence may have reached this Government as to a disembarkation of Bozal negroes which took place in October last on the north coast of this island, I have to state to your Excellency that, about the middle of October, a brig barque, under Spanish colours, arrived at Cayo Levisa, and effected the landing of his cargo, consisting of more than 400 slaves. Upon arrival of this slaver at Cayo Levisa a person was landed, who proceeded to Havana, and, in consequence, a coasting schooner came to Cayo Levisa, into which 200 of the Bozals were put, and the said schooner took them away in the direction of Havana. The rest of them were landed and sold by a person who came to the place where they were, and it is strongly suspected that this landing was effected with the knowledge of the local authorities.

I have learnt that, subsequently, some 17 of these Bozals were stolen from those who had purchased them, and that there are, at present, three white men in prison at Bahia Honda accused of said robberies, from whom, probably, full information may be obtained relative to this disembarkation.

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

Inclosure 2 in No. 475.

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

(Translation.)

Havana, December 22, 1857.

I HAVE carefully put myself in possession of the communication of the 9th of this month, which your Honour has addressed to me, respecting the disembarkation of more than 400 Bozals, which you mention as having been effected in the month of October of this year at Cayo Levisa, to which place they were brought by a brig barque with Spanish flag. This report and the details which you give respecting the incidents which, subsequently to the disembarkation, had relation to the affair, urged me to make some secret inquiries, although doubting that they could produce any result, the more so as I had not the least indication as to the reality of the act which your Honour denounced. I am aware that, in the district of Sagua, in the month of October, a landing of Bozal negroes did take place, an act which now is an undeniable truth, as a part of these Bozals have been apprehended by the authorities of the jurisdiction. It is likewise very possible that some portion of that cargo might have been sent to the district of Bahia Honda, and from that number might have proceeded the 15 negroes lately stolen there; but none of these details and suppositions confirm the reality of the principal act which your Honour relates in your communication (already) cited. I am induced to believe it to be so by the confidence with which the person who is in the command of the district of Bahia Honda at present inspires me, and with the details entered on the process. This employé, a captain

of artillery, has fulfilled, to the satisfaction of the Government, various commissions; amongst others, that of Chief of Police of Puerto Principe. During the time he held this employment, far from giving even a pretext that his probity and good behaviour could be doubted, he gave very good assistance, being able to cite one instance, that of having contributed efficaciously to the capture of a considerable part of an expedition of Bozals, which was succeeded in being introduced into his district. As a recompense for the distinguished service he was appointed Lieutenant-Governor, an employment corresponding to a military rank higher than that which he held in the Artillery corps, and which he fills since the 26th of August of this year, without having given cause for any diminution in the estimation in which he was held, and these antecedents make me reject, as regards that employé, all idea as to connivance, but even of apathy in the fulfilment of his duties.

I have believed it proper to give to your Honour, in reply to your despatch (already) cited, all these explanations for the reasons for which I hold as inexact the disembarkation to which your Honour refers.

When your Honour has denounced acts of the same kind which, unfortunately, I was certain of, I have confirmed them with that frankness and loyalty which are characteristic to me; but when I do not believe them to be such, my duty is to deny them decidedly, as I do in the case of which we treat, and to remove from the functionaries dependent on my authority even the most remote shadow of doubt which may unjustly hurt their good behaviour. The experience which your Honour ought to have acquired during the length of time you have filled your employment in this island, on all matters having reference to the Traffic in Negroes, will have shown you that it is in the disposition of those who dedicate themselves to this odious commerce, to impute connivance on the part of the authorities encharged with following them up, and this same will enable your Honour to understand the precaution with which reports of this kind ought to be received.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed)

JOSE DE LA CONCHA.

No. 476.

Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 8.)

My Lord,

Havana, January 15, 1858.

I BEG leave to lay before your Lordship copies and translations of a correspondence which I have had with the Captain-General of Cuba, respecting an occurrence which took place recently, when a boat from one of Her Catholic Majesty's cruisers, the schooner "Christina," was fired upon from on board of a slaver, which effected her escape; and also respecting a vessel that had been a slaver, which was fallen in with at sea, taken possession of, and brought into this port by another Spanish cruiser a few days ago, supposed to be the same from which the slaves had been taken who were on board the schooner which fired upon the boat of the other cruiser.

It will not escape your Lordship's notice, the extraordinary circumstance of the crew of the larger slaver taking to their boats and effecting their escape, in the presence of the Spanish cruiser, the "Isabel Francisca," and that cruiser a screw steam-vessel, the commander of which must have known what had occurred a few days before to the boat of the "Christina."

I have, &c.

(Signed)

JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 476.

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

Havana, January 9, 1858.

I HAVE been informed that a few days ago a slave-schooner, supposed to have effected the landing of her cargo of slaves on the north coast, near Matanzas, whilst being chased by one of Her Catholic Majesty's cruisers, fired into one of her boats, and was thereby enabled to escape.

I have also learned that, by the vigilance of your Excellency's officers, a considerable number of Bozals have been captured to the eastward of and near Matanzas; and as the particulars of such occurrences must be interesting to my Government, I request the favour of your Excellency to inform me what has actually occurred.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed)

JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

CLASS B.

Inclosure 2 in No. 476.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Captain-General of Cuba.**Havana, January 11, 1858.*

I HAVE to congratulate your Excellency on the occasion of a new proof of the vigilance of Her Catholic Majesty's cruisers, having just learnt that a barque has been brought into this port by the schooner of war "Isabel Francisca," having on board the usual equipments for slave-trading, and that, from the state of said barque, it was evident she had quite recently landed her cargo of slaves.

To enable me to report to Her Majesty's Government correctly this capture, I request that your Excellency will be pleased to furnish me with the necessary information, as to the name of the captured vessel and her captain, her nationality, place of capture, and tonnage, with such other circumstances as your Excellency may consider of interest; and especially if there is reason to infer that the slaves from this vessel have been landed, the place where it is supposed, or it is known, that their disembarkation was effected, and whether any of them have been captured by the authorities on shore.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 3 in No. 476.

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

(Translation.)

Havana, January 13, 1858.

I HAVE received the two communications of your Honour of the 9th and 11th of this month, in which you participate to me the information which you had acquired respecting the capture of a cargo of Bozals on the northern coast of this island, and you request me to furnish you with the details which I may have of the occurrence, in order to enable you to report them to Her Britannic Majesty's Government.

To-day, fortunately, I am able to satisfy your desires, and in virtue thereof, I proceed to state to you that on the 3rd day of this month I received a telegraphic despatch from the authorities of Sagua, reporting to me that a boat of the man-of-war schooner "Christina," stationed at the Falcones to watch that part of the coast, sighted a schooner, which was standing in towards the shallows of Cayo Bahia de Cadiz, bringing a cargo of Bozals, and that, endeavouring to seize her, she opened a very brisk fire of musketry on the boat, which she sustained for more than three minutes, until the vessel escaped, shaping her course to the north-west. Immediately I gave to all the authorities adjacent to the threatened point the most stringent orders to redouble their vigilance, and, in virtue thereof, the Brigadier-Governor of Matanzas succeeded in capturing 63 negroes, of whom 4 were found dead, and the remainder in so lamentable a condition that I doubt much whether the greater part of them can survive.

This being undoubtedly the cargo of the schooner "*Esperanza*," which fired into the boat of the "Christina," on the first advice of this occurrence I ordered, likewise, that the screw-schooner "Isabel Francisca" should immediately leave this harbour: on the 9th she sighted a suspicious-looking barque, and on giving chase she observed that the crew of that vessel was taking to the boats, and when she came up with her she found her entirely abandoned, without any documents to show her name or place from whence she came, and without other provisions than a small quantity of rice.

This is the official information which appears on the proceedings. From private information which I have, I believe that vessel to be the one I refer to, which left Africa with 700 negroes, and lost 500 on the voyage; the remainder taken on board of the schooner "*Esperanza*," which schooner being hard pressed by the cruisers, was obliged to change her course, and to land the Bozals at a place called Punta de Guano, where the Brigadier-Governor of Matanzas effected their capture; and from the said state in which these were, I doubt whether the remainder of those transferred to that coasting-schooner have been saved. The "*Esperanza*" could not be seized, and I suspect that she has been destroyed.

I believe that these details will satisfy the wishes of your Honour, and I am pleased in affording them to you, in order that you can make them known to your Government, as you point out in your two communications referred to.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed)

JOSE DE LA CONCHA.

No. 477.

*Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 8.)**Havana, January 28, 1858.*

(Extract.)

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 30th ultimo, and its inclosures, by which it appears that the Spanish Government flatter themselves that a true and correct registry of the slaves in this Island of Cuba will be obtained by means of the schedules or tickets issued periodically, and which ought to be carried into complete effect; but that is not the case, for a complete and correct registry of the slaves has not been obtained, notwithstanding that the cédulas have been in use now upwards of three years.

The alteration lately introduced by General Concha would seem calculated to interrupt the facilities of abuse in the issue of those documents, and obstruct the transit of slaves from one district to another in the island; the paper upon which the cédulas are now printed being of different colours in the various districts, and the issue of the cédulas being restricted to the Governors and Lieutenant-Governors, and not entrusted to the Captains of Partidos as formerly.

If honestly set about, there seems nothing more easy than, by means of these cédulas, to obtain a registration; but, as almost everybody's interest is that no correct registry should be arrived at, the inducements are too powerful to be resisted, and the opposition to a straightforward execution of the law is greater than the principles of those who are entrusted with the carrying out of so important a measure have been able to surmount.

Therefore, I do not hesitate in stating my opinion to your Lordship, as I have done to General Concha, that it is useless to hope for a true and complete registry of the slaves, so long as it is (as is now the case) the firm conviction of every Spaniard that a complete registry being once obtained it would be easy to put an end to the African Slave Trade, provided the authorities acted conscientiously and proceeded to a strict execution of their duties by seizing every slave, wherever met with, that had not been registered.

But, it is asserted now, that the 366,000 slaves* to whom cédulas were issued, according to the statements published under the authority of this Island Government, corresponding to the second half-year of 1855, comprehended all that were in the island. I ask then, would these authorities proceed to confiscate all other slaves wherever they might be found. I very much doubt that such a measure would be had recourse to, even after a notoriously faithfully executed registry had been obtained, and, consequently, it is of little or no importance the obtaining of such a registration at all.

No. 478.

Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 8.)

My Lord,

Havana, January 29, 1858.

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 30th ultimo, addressed to Mr. Lousada, in which, with reference to my despatch of the 22nd of September, your Lordship transmits to me, for my information, a copy of a despatch from Mr. Otway, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Madrid, inclosing a translation of a note addressed to him by the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, containing an account of the steps taken by the Cuban authorities with regard to the disembarkation of slaves at the entrance of this port during the night of the 17th September.

This account, excepting that it is somewhat over-coloured, is nearly correct, and with regard to the impossibility of seeing what was going on, such was the darkness of that night, there must be something peculiar in the optics of these people, since it is known that any number of filibusters, or others who attempt to pass from one place to another, are at once seen and arrested; whereas their eyesight constantly fails them in discovering slaves, or slavers, under similar circumstances.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

* See Class A, presented 1857, page 18.

Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 8.)

(Extract.)

Havana, February 3, 1858.

I HAVE the honour of laying before your Lordship a copy of a letter which, in consequence of information I had received from Her Majesty's Consul at Santiago de Cuba, I addressed to the Captain-General respecting a disembarkation of slaves, in number about 400, which took place at Sigua, on that coast, a short distance to the eastward of the port of Santiago; and I beg leave to draw your Lordship's attention to his Excellency's answer, translation of which follows my letter.

In conversation, General Concha has informed me that he believes Mr. Consul Forbes' information as to this landing is but too well founded; and your Lordship will notice that his Excellency has not been able to send the cruizers which the Governor of the Oriental division of this island, the Brigadier Bargas, had asked for, to guard that part of the coast, and that the Captain-General also complains of the inefficiency and insufficiency of the naval force at his disposal for the prevention of the Traffic.

For a long while there have been none of Her Majesty's vessels cruizing against the Slave Trade on the northern coast of this island. The last was the "Atalanta," in December 1856.

The two gun-boats and the steamer "Basilisk," which have been cruizing on the southern coast since the end of November last, have been insufficient to prevent the landing effected at Sigua; and if the two other gun-boats expected by the Commodore should arrive, and be sent to cruize, along with the two already on that station, the four will hardly be enough to watch the whole of that side of Cuba.

I am not aware that the Admiral or the Commodore has any more force of a suitable description to detach upon this service.

In the meantime the slave-traders are as active as ever, and many expeditions have lately been sent to the coast of Africa. So far from being checked by the numerous captures on the coast of Africa, and those effected by the Spanish cruizers, I consider that slave-trading has not, for very many years, been carried on with so much energy and to such an extent as it is at present, and that, therefore, there must have been many cargoes safely introduced into this Island of Cuba, about which we have had no intelligence whatever.

The Spanish cruizers are now, some of them, and very soon will, most of them, be inefficient; and the limited number of British cruizers is totally insufficient to check the increasing adventures of the slave-traders. They must, therefore, calculate upon a safe return and enormous profits, the more so as they are well aware that the season of the fisheries approaching, almost the whole of our naval forces are retired from these waters.

In a letter to Commodore Kellett, copy of which is inclosed, I have referred to the reports conveyed to me by the United States' Consul here, with regard to the facilities which slavers have found at the Caymans on the part of the American Consul there, or his Agent. It has been stated to me that the American Consul, or his Agent there, is a resident British subject, and that the little vessels of the Caymans carry the slavers' crews from thence to wherever they wish to go. Indeed, it has been, impudently enough, asserted here, that these vessels even assist slavers to run their cargoes on to this coast, which I cannot permit myself to believe, and have repelled the insinuation with indignity whenever it has been alluded to by Spanish naval officers, for it is from them that this assertion has proceeded.

But as it is notorious that a community like that of the Caymans, principally composed of wreckers, is not generally very nice in their endeavours to make money or a livelihood, I consider that there is occasion for investigation of what may have given rise to the reports communicated to me by the United States' Consul here, as to what some American seamen stated was going on at a British dependency, as affording facilities to the slave-traders.

Inclosure 1 in No. 479.

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

Havana, January 25, 1858.

I REGRET to be obliged to notice to your Excellency a disembarkation of slaves which has been effected at a place called Sigua, near Santiago de Cuba, in the early part of this month, and which consisted of 400 Bozals.

Her Majesty's Consul, in reporting this landing of slaves, observes that as it was effected at the foot of a chain of mountains, close to an abandoned coffee district, thinly populated, there was little fear of a denouncement or a surprise before the cargo could be disposed of, and that great secrecy has been observed respecting this transaction; and the Consul states that it is understood the expedition belongs to persons of good rank in society, which will render it difficult for the authorities to obtain information that might lead to their detection; indeed, he says it is not improbable that the fact of a disembarkation having taken place may be denied altogether, but that it is nevertheless true.

And I hasten to give this information to your Excellency, for such purposes as may be deemed convenient.

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

Inclosure 2 in No. 479.

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

Havana, February 3, 1858.

(Translation.)

I HAVE received your Honour's communication of the 25th ultimo, in which you impart to me the information you possessed that a landing of 400 Bozals had been effected about the beginning of January, at a place called Sigua, near Santiago de Cuba, the negroes having been afterwards hidden on a coffee plantation of the district.

I have not as yet received any official or ex-official advice which confirms the circumstance your Honour denounces to me, and I have communicated my orders to the Acting Commandant-General of the Eastern Department, in order that, should it be true, he may strive by every possible means to effect the capture of the Bozals which may have been landed.

I had previously ordered that a steamer should be sent to cruize on the coasts of the Eastern Department, the Brigadier Don Carlos Vangas, who is at present on service in this city, having manifested to me the necessity of detaching two vessels to cruize on those coasts, because in consequence of the difficulty which the slave-traders met with in effecting the landing of Bozals in the Western Department, owing to the vigilance of the vessels of war employed on this service, they would try, at all hazards, to effect the disembarkations on the eastern coasts.

Unfortunately, two of the steamers employed as cruisers having become crippled from the constant service which they have performed, it is a difficult matter to cover, as it is desirable, the large extent of the coasts of this island. This deficiency must, however, be made up by the activity of the vessels of war employed in putting down the Slave Trade; and I am inclined, moreover, to detach for the same service, if necessary, other vessels of war, no matter of what class they may be.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed) JOSE DE LA CONCHA.

Inclosure 3 in No. 479.

Consul-General Crawford to Commodore Kellett.

Havana, January 27, 1858.

(Extract.)

I THINK it my duty to mention to you, that the Consul of the United States has informed me that it has been stated at his office by American seamen who have been at the Caymans, their having seen vessels there that had landed their cargoes of slaves on that island, and that that fact was well known to the American Consul at the Caymans, from whom the slavers received every aid and assistance. I am not aware of who the American Consul at the Caymans is, and can hardly give credit to what has been stated to me, that he is a resident British subject. But I certainly think that this matter ought to be strictly inquired about.

No. 480.

Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 10.)

My Lord,

Havana, February 12, 1858.

IN confirmation of what I stated to your Lordship in my despatch dated the 3rd instant, as to the continued activity of the slave-traders, I have now to report that

several vessels have since that time sailed from this port, which are said to be bound to the coast of Africa, to be employed in the Slave Trade. The brig "*Putnam*," 197 tons, and the schooner "*Angelina*," have been specially mentioned to me, and I have strong suspicions that the "*Putnam*" is the same vessel from which, under the name of the "*James Buchanan*," a cargo of slaves was landed, not long ago, on the north coast of this island.

I understand that a celebrated slaver captain, Don N. Aragon, has just returned from the United States to this place, he having there purchased a vessel which is expected here to receive her commander and slaving equipment.

A slaver sailed under the charge of a certain Señor Blanco, from the Province of Cuba, in October last, and is soon expected with her cargo from the coast.

I have just heard of a cargo having been run safely, a few days ago, at Ganiman, a place inside the Isle of Pines, to the westward of Batabano, on the mainland of this island.

I believe that there are many cargoes about, and many more expected to arrive; and as the Spanish cruizers are now, for the most part of the time, in port under repairs, the slavers will doubtless make a fine business.

From information of the most undoubted nature which I have received within the last few days, I can assure your Lordship that the number of slaves which have been landed in Cuba, as reported by Her Majesty's Commissioners, is very far short of the reality, and that numbers of cargoes have been run, as to which, neither the Spanish Government of the island, nor Her Majesty's officers, have had any intelligence. I doubt much if ever the Slave Trade was carried on as extensively, or as successfully, as it has been for several months past, and I consider it equally flourishing at this present time, with vast preparations for the future.

It seems very unfortunate, under these circumstances, that the other attentions of the public service should not have admitted of the detaching cruizers to this coast for so long a time.

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

No. 481.

Consul-General Crawford to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 10.)

My Lord,

Havana, February 13, 1858.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch dated the 30th of December last, and to my despatch of the 28th ultimo, upon the subject of the cédulas as a registration of the slaves in this island, I have just learnt, from an undoubted source, that any number of cédulas, with any signatures that may be required, executed upon paper of any colour, and so exactly imitated as to make it almost impossible to detect their forgery, can be had at a very small price in the United States (2 reals, or 1s. sterling each), from whence they are brought in great numbers, and that it has become a business in this island for certain persons to keep the falsificators of those documents supplied with facsimiles of the handwriting of the authorities who are authorized to issue the cédulas in the several districts, so that the newly-landed Africans are at once supplied with those tickets of protection when landed. I learn from the same source, that it is now the practice of the slavers to arrange a place for landing their cargoes, and having done so, the slaves are sold in lots, deliverable at the landing-place; that the purchasers there receive them and carry them off to their plantations at once, by which means the slavers avoid the risk of having the Bozals captured by the Government officers at places of concealment as formerly; and the planters being provided with passes and these cédulas, find no difficulty in conveying such newly-introduced Africans to their estates: once there, they know that they are safe.

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

SPAIN. (*Consular*)—*Porto Rico.*

No. 482.

Consul Hunt to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 17.)

My Lord,

Porto Rico, June 20, 1857.

IN my despatch of the 8th of April last, I had the honour to transmit to your Lordship a Return of the deaths from cholera in this island, from its first appearance in 1854, till the termination of the epidemic at the commencement of the present year, by which your Lordship will have observed the great mortality which prevailed among the slave population, and which amounted to nearly 14 per centum of deaths among this class.

It was confidently anticipated that the great increase in the value of slaves occasioned by the sudden disappearance of so many from the island, would foster attempts to introduce fresh supplies from the coast of Africa; I have much satisfaction, however, in stating to your Lordship, that no attempts have been made since my arrival here to carry any designs to this effect into execution, and that the Governor has, upon all occasions when reference has been made to this Traffic, expressed a strong desire to prevent its renewal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LENNON HUNT.

No. 483.

Consul Hunt to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 1, 1858.)

My Lord,

Porto Rico, December 8, 1857.

IN my despatch of the 20th of June last, I had the honour to state to your Lordship, that not only had no slaves been landed in this island for some time past, but that there appeared to be no prospect of attempts being made to renew this Traffic.

It was, however, rumoured lately that several persons in the island had subscribed a certain sum of money for the purpose of fitting out several expeditions to the coast of Africa, in search of cargoes of slaves.

I therefore sought an interview with General Cotoner, and communicated to him what I had heard; and observed to him that the renewal of this trade in the island would be a great calamity, not only on account of the evils attending it wherever it might be carried on, but because the population of the country being extremely dense, in consideration of the area of the island, the lower classes were gradually acquiring habits of industry, which, if duly encouraged, would supply the requisite quantity of labour; but that, if any hope were held out to the planters of a supply of slave labour, it would render them disinclined to submit to the increased cost of free labour.

His Excellency informed me that the rumours to which I referred had also reached him, that he was prepared to do everything in his power to defeat these designs, if they were really entertained, and that stringent orders should be given to the proper authorities, to carry out the law in this matter.

On the 30th of October I received information that the brigantine "*Veloz*," Juan Carreras, master, under Spanish colours, was about to be fitted out here for an illegal voyage to the coast of Africa; I immediately forwarded this intelligence to St. Thomas, and afterwards to Jamaica, in the hope that it might be possible for Her Majesty's senior naval officer at either of those places, to dispatch a cruizer to search the "*Veloz*," upon her quitting the harbour, should any doubt be entertained as to the intention

of the master to carry out the projected voyage, after the vessel had been examined by the local authorities.

I had been positively assured by my informant, that the "*Veloz*" would not be ready for sea before the 20th ultimo, and relying upon this information I determined to defer denouncing the "*Veloz*" until the latest moment, so that if the intended voyage were really of an illegal character, the largest amount of evidence might be permitted to accumulate on board; but on the 6th of November she quitted the harbour, and no reference was made to her departure in the usual printed list of vessels about to sail.

She left here ostensibly for St. Thomas, but the British Acting Consul there has informed me that she did not enter that port, and there is great reason to suppose that she has succeeded in commencing her voyage to the coast of Africa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LENNON HUNT.

No. 484.

Consul Hunt to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 1, 1858.)

My Lord,

Porto Rico, December 9, 1857.

A SHORT time since I received a visit, at the request of the Captain-General, from Señor Almeda, the resident senior naval officer, who stated to me that he had received instructions from his Excellency to act upon any suggestions received from me, with reference to attempts that might be made to introduce slaves or fit out expeditions to the coast of Africa.

As there was reason to believe that the schooner "*Paquete*," Juan Alcina, master, of 99 tons burthen, with nine hands and a Spanish register, was being prepared in this port for a voyage in quest of slaves, I called upon Señor Almeda, and made him acquainted with the intelligence which I had obtained.

He replied that the proceedings on board of the "*Paquete*" had already awakened the suspicions of the authorities, but we decided that no steps should be taken until she was declared to be ready for sea, when the usual clearance would be granted, and at the same time a strict search should be made on board, and the vessel be detained if anything were found to exist which would warrant such a proceeding.

On the 30th ultimo, the master having applied for his clearance, no obstruction was offered, but a search was at once made, the result of which left no doubt whatever of the criminal nature of the voyage in which she was about to be engaged. The hold contained a large number of water-casks, some of which were filled; there was a very large quantity of biscuit and grain, and two large coppers; and the number of hands was wholly disproportionate for a vessel of 99 tons.

The "*Paquete*" was immediately seized and brought to the jetty of the arsenal, and the whole of the crew were consigned to prison, where they have remained to this time.

I saw the Captain-General on the 7th instant, who observed to me that the position of the crew of the "*Paquete*" was a very melancholy one, for if the law were carried out, they would be sent to work in a chain-gang, and that it was to be regretted that the promoters of the scheme could not take their place.

To this I entirely assented, but trusted that no mistaken feeling of clemency would be permitted to interfere with the course of justice in this instance; that these men had engaged in the business with a full knowledge of the consequences of detection; and that, by carrying out the law, such an impression would be produced upon the minds of those persons here likely to be tempted to engage in the Traffic, as would deter them from making any further efforts to revive the Slave Trade.

The Captain-General assured me, distinctly, that he should not exercise any influence which he might possess on either side of the question, and that the law should be permitted to take its course.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LENNON HUNT.

No. 485.

Consul Hunt to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received February 5.*)

My Lord,

Porto Rico, January 7, 1858.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 9th ultimo, I have now the honour to inform your Lordship that the preliminary proceedings having been completed in the matter of the Spanish schooner "*Paquete*," seized by order of the Government of Porto Rico, on suspicion that she was about to be employed in the Slave Trade, the master and crew have been transferred to the custody of the civil authorities, and are now awaiting their trial.

The nominal owner of the "*Paquete*," whose name appeared upon the register of the vessel, is José Carreras, an alcalde at Dorado, a village about fifteen miles from Porto Rico; he has been suspended in the exercise of his functions pending the forthcoming trial.

He is not, I believe, the real owner, but has permitted his name to appear on the register, in return for a share in the expected profits. It is said that the "*Paquete*" was bought by four persons resident here, whose names have been mentioned, but the evidence at present is not sufficiently clear to warrant a positive assertion upon this point.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LENNON HUNT.

No. 486.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Hunt.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 13, 1858.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 8th ultimo, stating the course pursued by you, on learning that attempts were about to be made to fit out expeditions to the African coast for the purpose of introducing slaves into the Island of Porto Rico, and reporting also what passed at a conversation which you had with the Captain-General of the island on this subject; and I have to acquaint you in reply, that I approve your proceedings in this matter, as reported in your above-mentioned despatch.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 487.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Hunt.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 13, 1858.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 9th ultimo, reporting the seizure by the Spanish authorities of a schooner called the "*Paquete*," in the harbour of Porto Rico, for being equipped for the Slave Trade, and I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government learn with satisfaction the proceedings of the Spanish authorities in this case.

I have further to state to you that I approve the language held by you to General Cotoner, in the conversation which you had with his Excellency on the subject of the seizure of this vessel.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

SPAIN. (*Consular*)—*Teneriffe*.

No. 488.

Consul Murray to the Earl of Clarendon.—(*Received May 13.*)

My Lord,

Canary Islands, Teneriffe, April 18, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch I addressed on the 9th instant to Commodore Adams, commanding Her Majesty's naval forces on the West Coast of Africa, on the subject of a suspicious schooner called the "*Jupiter*," under the United States' flag; this vessel having lately visited this port of Santa Cruz to land part of a cargo from New Orleans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY JOHN MURRAY.

Inclosure in No. 488.

Consul Murray to Commodore Adams.

(Extract.)

Canary Islands, Teneriffe, April 9, 1857.

A FINE clipper schooner called the "*Jupiter*," Gilbert, master, about 167 tons burthen, and carrying the United States' flag, is discharging a small cargo of provisions and timber at this port, from New Orleans; she is to leave shortly for Liberia, to take a cargo of ground-nuts and palm-oil for the United States.

From information I have received, I have little doubt but that this vessel is intended for Slave Trade purposes; in the first place, she brought with her as nominal supercargo a person named Gabriel Perez, a man well known in this Traffic; secondly, inquiries have been made by the consignees for the purchase of a large copper-boiler, which cannot be required for a crew of nine men; thirdly, she has twenty-five large water-casks on board; fourthly, she has a quantity of timber, which can be made available for the construction of slave-decks; fifthly, she has altered her rig, on her arrival at this port she carried a fore-gaff-topsail only, but has now just rigged a foretop-gallant-sail. The "*Jupiter*" is painted black, and has seven painted stern windows, and is evidently a very fast sailer.

An United States' brig-schooner, from New Orleans, is shortly expected here, and rumour also gives her a similar destination.

Information has been received here from the Havana, that the Spanish schooner "*El Paquete de Trinidad*," which was the subject of my communication of the 15th of April last, succeeded in conveying from the coast to Cuba a valuable cargo of slaves.

The free-port system now in force in these islands, and the consequent absence of the former "*resguardo*," or custom-house officers, will not only offer great inducements for the fitting out of slave-vessels, but will also give these authorities an excuse for non-interference, on the ground of ignorance; and, unfortunately, most of the information obtained by me on these occasions is of such a confidential character that I am unable to make official use of it.

P.S.—There is a rumour that the "*Jupiter*" is going down to the Gallinas.

No. 489.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Murray.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 23, 1857.*
 WITH reference to your despatch of the 18th of April last, I have to acquaint you that I approve the letter which you addressed to Commodore Adams, communicating to that officer the intelligence which you had received respecting the American schooner "*Jupiter*," which was suspected of being about to engage in the Slave Trade.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 490.

Acting Consul Parkinson to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 9.)

My Lord, *Canary Islands, Teneriffe, June 6, 1857.*
 I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 23rd ultimo, approving Mr. Consul Murray's letter addressed to Commodore Adams on the 18th of April last, and also to transmit herewith a copy of a communication I addressed to that officer on the 3rd instant, with reference to the above-named despatch of Mr. Murray.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) JOHN PARKINSON.

Inclosure in No. 490.

Acting Consul Parkinson to Commodore Adams.

Sir, *Canary Islands, Teneriffe, June 3, 1857.*
 WITH reference to Mr. Consul Murray's despatch addressed to you on the 9th of April last, I beg to acquaint you that the United States' brigantine therein alluded to as being expected here from New Orleans, and suspected of being about to engage in the Slave Trade, arrived at this port of Santa Cruz, Teneriffe, on the 8th ultimo, and proved to be the American brigantine "*William Clark*," 199 tons, of and from New Orleans, Ranger, master, with a cargo of provisions and timber. After discharging part of the cargo here, this vessel sailed for Sierra Leone on the 28th ultimo, and I deem it my duty to communicate this information to you, as, although I am unable to gather any direct evidence of the fact, it is supposed that this brigantine is destined for Slave Trade purposes.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) JOHN PARKINSON.

No. 491.

The Earl of Clarendon to Acting Consul Parkinson.

Sir, *Foreign Office, July 23, 1857.*
 WITH reference to your despatch of the 6th of June, I have to acquaint you that I approve of the letter which you addressed on the 3rd of that month to Commodore Adams, respecting the movements of the American brigantine "*William Clark*," suspected of being intended for the Slave Trade.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 492.

Acting Consul Parkinson to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 12.)

My Lord, *Canary Islands, Teneriffe, December 1, 1857.*
 I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the master and three seamen of the Spanish barque "*Conchita*," transmitted by the Mixed Commission at Sierra Leone to

the Regente of the Court of Justice of these islands, arrived here this day on board the British mail contract steamer "Gambia," which I immediately communicated to the Captain-General of this province, and these prisoners were then delivered over to his Excellency, and conducted to the jail of this town, from whence they will be forwarded to the Island of Grand Canary for trial by the competent tribunal.

I shall duly report to your Lordship the future proceedings in this case.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN PARKINSON

SPAIN. (*Consular*)—*Vigo*.

No. 493.

Consul Brackenbury to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 24.)

My Lord,

Vigo, September 17, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I have been enabled to ascertain that the Portuguese brig-schooner "*Teodora*," which put into this port on the 12th of February last, and was reported as from St. Michael's in ballast, sailed from hence on the 15th of the same month, nominally in ballast for Santander, but went to the coast of Africa, where she embarked a cargo of negroes, of which she landed 478 on the Island of Cuba, near to Trinidad, on or about the 24th March.

The voyage was performed under Portuguese colours, and the vessel was commanded, after her sailing from this port, by a Spaniard, a native of Vigo, named Carlos Lavandeira, who embarked on board the "*Teodora*" in this bay, and who returned to Vigo in the French contract steam-packet which sailed from Havana on the 12th July.

The "*Teodora*" was burnt after landing her cargo of slaves on the coast of Cuba.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. CONGREVE C. BRACKENBURY.

No. 494.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Brackenbury.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 17, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copies of two despatches which I have received from Mr. Gabriel, the Acting British Commissioner at Loanda,* reporting the capture of the Spanish barque "*Restauracion*" in Cabinda Bay, on the 2nd of September last, by a boat belonging to Her Majesty's ship "*Alecto*."

I also inclose, in original, a document dated Vigo, July 4, 1857, signed by Mariano Perez, which was found on board the "*Restauracion*," † and which shows that this vessel took on board at that port the equipments necessary for the reception of a large cargo of slaves, with which she cleared out for the coast of Africa; and I have to desire that you will use your best exertions to ascertain who are the parties engaged in this slave-trading adventure, and also whether the owners and master of the "*Restauracion*," before she quitted Vigo, complied with the formalities which are required by the 6th clause of the Xth Article of the Treaty of the 28th June, 1835, between Great Britain and Spain, in the case of vessels trading to the African coast.

You will report to me, and to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Madrid, the result of the inquiries which you will make in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

* Class A, Nos. 110 and 114.

† Ibid., Inclosure in No. 114.

Consul Brackenbury to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 26.)

(Extract.)

Vigo, January 19, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 17th December last, inclosing copies of two despatches which your Lordship had received from Mr. Gabriel, the Acting British Commissioner at Loanda, and, in original, the account furnished by Don Mariano Perez of this city, as consignee of the Spanish barque "*Restauracion*," Juan Nuñez, master.

In compliance with your Lordship's instructions, I have the honour to report that the barque "*Restauracion*," which is registered at the Havana, arrived in this bay on the 13th of June last, with a cargo of sugar and brandy, from Matanzas, for Barcelona.

On her arrival she went to the lazaretto to perform quarantine, and was cleared under date of the 3rd July, after her return to the bay, when she landed part of her cargo, and was reported as having sailed with the remainder for Barcelona.

I should here state that vessels which are cleared at this Custom-house, bound coast-wise to Seville, Cadiz, or ports in the Mediterranean, frequently ship empty casks in which wine or oil have been imported, and fill them with water as ballast. Such was the course pursued by the master of the "*Restauracion*," who stated that his vessel was to proceed from Barcelona on a voyage to Montevideo, with passengers.

It appears, from what I have learnt, that the owner of the "*Restauracion*" intended to have sent the vessel direct from the Island of Cuba to the coast of Africa, but that the intention was discovered, and finding that it was impossible, he sent her with a cargo of sugar and brandy, nominally for Barcelona.

The cargo was shipped with five Custom-house cockets or "hojas," thus dividing the cargo into five different portions, and affording additional facility for landing any portion of it at an intermediate port.

I have further learnt that the "*Restauracion*" took a portion of the crew on her passage out of the port, and that they came alongside when the vessel was off Bouzas, a small fishing-town in this bay.

Don Mariano Perez was the consignee of the "*Restauracion*." He is a native of Vigo, and is at present the Second Alcalde of this city; he was for some years resident at the Havana, and carries on an active correspondence with merchants at that port.

Your Lordship will perceive from the foregoing statement, that although the barque "*Restauracion*" sailed from hence direct to the coast of Africa, the master cleared his vessel at the Custom-house, as bound on a coasting-voyage to Barcelona, thereby officially evading the suspicion of the intended voyage to the coast of Africa, and the necessity of complying with the 6th clause of Article X of the Treaty of the 28th June, 1835, between Great Britain and Spain.

TRIPOLI.

No. 496.

Consul-General Herman to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received May 2.)

My Lord,

Tripoli, March 28, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith inclosed, Returns of the number of slaves exported from this port and Bengazi during the past year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. HERMAN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 496.

RETURN of slaves, males and females (the sex not being specified in the custom house books), exported from the port of Tripoli in the West, during the year 1856: 1,187.

(Signed) G. F. HERMAN.

British Consulate-General, Tripoli, January 1, 1857.

Inclosure 2 in No. 496.

RETURN of the number of negroes exported from Bengazi during the year 1856: Total number, 900.

(Signed) PAOLO XERRI, *Acting Vice-Consul.*

Bengazi, December 31, 1856.

No. 497.

Consul-General Herman to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 23.)

My Lord,

Tripoli, September 10, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship an extract from a despatch of the 22nd ultimo, which reached me by the last courier from Her Majesty's Acting Vice-Consul at Moorzouk:—

“By reports from Ghat, and from an undoubted source, it would appear that, during the last few months, some 500 negro slaves were brought there by the Tibboos, and sold to some Maroquins for the Tuat market, for the purpose of being eventually disposed of to the Arab tribes of Algeria.”

M. de Fremaux further adds, that his informant sarcastically observed: “The French are sporting with both the Sultan and the English, to the profit of their own immediate interests.”

By what means negro slaves are introduced into the Algerine territory, whether by the tacit consent of the local authorities, or by contraband—and in the latter case it must, in justice, be admitted, from the extent of the frontier line, the means of prevention are extremely difficult—at this distant point it is impossible to correctly determine; but so long as a vent can only be found for it, the Slave Trade will continue to flourish, constituting, as human flesh has done from time immemorial, the circulating medium of Central Africa.

The loud murmurs, therefore, of the population of this Regency, at the abolition of the Slave Trade, may, in some degree, be justified by the fact that the immediate result of the measure has been to divert a once lucrative Trade into a new and foreign channel.

It may also, not unreasonably, account for the lamentable lack of zeal displayed from

the first by the local authorities of Tripoli, in carrying out the provisions of the Sultan's prohibitory Decree.

In fact, by the culpable connivance of the authorities, small parties of negro slaves are conveyed away by every vessel leaving this for Constantinople, and the other ports of the Levant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. HERMAN.

No. 498.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Herman.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 13, 1857.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 10th of September last, I inclose, for your information, the accompanying copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Algiers,* in reply to one which I addressed to him requesting him to furnish me with any observations he might have to offer as to the correctness of the report made to you by the Acting British Vice-Consul at Moorzouk with regard to the introduction of slaves into the Algerine territory.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 499.

Consul-General Herman to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 28.)

My Lord,

Tripoli, December 14, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. HERMAN.

Inclosure in No. 499.

Consul-General Herman to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

(Extract.)

Tripoli, December 14, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency the arrival here, yesterday, of the Turkish steam-frigate "Feizi Bahri," having on board Nusred Bey, on his return from his mission to Tunis.

On her arrival it was officially intimated to the Consular corps that she would proceed on the following day at noon to Constantinople.

During the night I have discovered, from the most creditable sources, that some 100 or more negroes have been embarked; the precise number it is, of course, utterly impossible to state.

No. 500.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Herman.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 20, 1858.

I INCLOSE, for your information, and for any observations which you may have to offer thereupon, the accompanying copy of a despatch from Mr. Alison, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople,† by which you will perceive that the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs denies that any slaves arrived at Constantinople by the Turkish steam-frigate "Feizi Bahri," on board which vessel you reported, in your despatch of the 14th ultimo, that you had been credibly informed that upwards of 100 negro slaves had been shipped.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 501.

Consul-General Herman to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 6.)

(Extract.)

Tripoli, February 16, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 20th ultimo, transmitting copy of a communication from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, in which it is stated that the Ottoman Minister of Foreign Affairs denies that any slaves arrived there by the Turkish frigate "Feizi Bahri." I have further the honour to state that, in my despatch of the 14th of December last to the Viscount Stratford de Redcliffe, I reported that some 100 negroes had been embarked on board the vessel in question; a fact the knowledge of which I derived from a Maltese boatman, whose deposition is inclosed, and who witnessed the embarkation during the night.

From the various devices adopted to give a legal colouring to the embarkation of slaves, I did not venture to qualify these negroes as such, a question that can be only established at the port of disembarkation.

On the other hand it may be urged, from the humble condition in life of the deponent, that his deposition is comparatively valueless; but the testimony of many other persons of a far higher status might be added, were not their lips hermetically sealed by the fears of the consequences that would be entailed upon them by the slightest revelation.

Inclosure in No. 501.

Deposition.

(Translation.)

PERSONALLY appeared before Richard Reade, Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul at this British Consular Office, and in the presence of the two undersigned witnesses, Giacomo Muscat, a British subject, for many years resident in this town, who upon oath made the following declaration:—

"That for a long series of years, he, together with his two sons, have gained their livelihood as boatmen in the harbour of this town, and have three boats their property.

"That in December last the Ottoman war-steamer 'Feizi Bahri' being at anchor in this port, he and his sons passed the nights in their boats, as they are in habit of doing in similar circumstances, in order to be at hand in case of work being offered.

"That during the night in question they saw from the mole under the Castle (residence of the Governor-General), the boats of the above-mentioned steamer transporting many people on board, among whom the deponents and his sons clearly distinguished and recognized many blacks. Next morning the said boats returned from the ship and disembarked many people, of whom many were negroes, and conducted them to the lazaretto. Next day the above-mentioned boats of the steamer took on board again all those people, and they (the deponents) did not see them come ashore again.

"Whilst the steamer was in port, and after her departure, the deponents, Giacomo Muscat and his sons, were told by several natives, servants, and sailors, that the operation of disembarkation at the lazaretto had no other view than that of washing and dressing in new clothes those people whom the Commander refused to receive on board, on account of the extreme filthy state of the blacks."

In faith whereof, &c.

Tripoli, February 22, 1858.

(Signed)

his
GIACOMO ✕ MUSCAT.
mark.

his
LUCA ✕ MUSCAT, his Son.
mark.

(Signed) J. CASALAINA, *Chancellor.*

Witnesses:

(Signed) FRANCO. AQUILINA.
FRANCO. PAVIA.

In my presence,

(Signed) R. READE, *Vice-Consul.*

No. 532.

Consul-General Herman to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 6.)

My Lord,

Tripoli, February 22, 1858.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 16th instant, I have the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copy of a communication from Admiral Slade to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at the Porte, which reached me yesterday, and by which it will appear that the report of the embarkation of some 100 negroes on board the frigate "Feizi Bahri" was, after all, substantially correct.

The Admiral states that I had been deceived, and had confounded black slaves with black marines; but the distinction is rather technical than absolute, since these recruits were forcibly abducted from their homes, in direct contravention to the Military Conscription Law of the Empire, which closely assimilates in all its material points to that of France.

Among several who narrowly escaped from this razzia of blacks, was Osman, a servant of Dr. Barth's, and under the protection of this Consulate.

Your Lordship will also perceive that it is the intention of the Capudan Pasha to draw further detachments of negroes from Tripoli, for enrolment in the navy. Upon this point I will take the liberty of observing, that should such a system be allowed to prevail, it is much to be feared that the Imperial firman prohibiting the exportation of slaves from this Regency would soon become an absolute fiction, and a traffic formerly open to all converted into an official monopoly.

In fact, should this ingenious movement be inaugurated, henceforward recruits and slaves will be synonymous terms.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. F. HERMAN.

P.S.—It would appear to be equally the intention of the Porte to form a corps of Amazons, as, independently of the 70 black marines, the "Feizi Bahri" conveyed to Stamboul some negresses, the precise number of which is not ascertained. Already the report of the approaching return of the "Feizi Bahri" has been circulated, and recruits of both sexes are being trooped for embarkation in different parts of the town.

Inclosure in No. 502.

Admiral Slade to Mr. Alison, January 25, 1858.

[See Inclosure 3 in No. 533.]

No. 503.

Consul-General Herman to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 29.)

My Lord,

Tripoli, March 10, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a memorandum on the Slave Trade, with the object of bringing to your Lordship's notice the new direction which the Traffic has taken since the promulgation of the Imperial Decree prohibiting the exportation of slaves from this Regency.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. F. HERMAN.

Inclosure in No. 503.

*Memorandum.**Tripoli, March 10, 1858.*

NOTWITHSTANDING the exportation of negro slaves from all parts of the Regency of Tripoli was rigorously prohibited by an Imperial Firman of February 1856, an extensive contraband Traffic has since been actively carried on both by sea and the overland route of Egypt.

From the extent and unguarded state of the frontier, the latter line of operation is of a nature to sport with the most indefatigable vigilance of the local authorities, even were not the sympathies of the entire population actively arrayed against a measure that suddenly abolished, without stipulation or condition, an institution coeval with their earliest traditional records, sanctioned by immemorial custom, and hallowed by religious precept—for slavery is a part of Islam itself: in fact to the Oriental mind a constitution of society of which domestic slavery forms not the key stone, is as utterly incomprehensible as are the loftiest aspirations of western philanthropy—thus the most cynical contempt of truth and the most unscrupulous use of every ingenious device and surreptitious measure to defeat the operation of the abolitionary firman have been studiously resorted to, from the highest to the lowest authority in the Levant.

Nevertheless, the Imperial Decree has inaugurated another victory, which true philosophy has obtained over the greatest of social evils. But a far more comprehensive measure, of no easy attainment, remains for consummation.

The immediate result of the laudable efforts of the Porte to suppress slavery have been the diversion of the Trade from those channels which Herodotus first revealed to us, and through which it has continued to flow for upwards of 2,000 years, into a new and exclusive direction; for commerce, like war, has its strategic routes, traced by the hand of Nature herself. Thus the great caravans from Bornou, the Soudan, and other parts of Nigritia, as far as the district of Noufi on the Niger, which formerly found their way, *viâ* Moorzouk and Ghadames, to Tripoli and Tunis, and, again, from Moorzouk, by the oasis of Augela, to Bengazi and Upper Egypt, now move concentrically upon Ghat, from that point upon Insalah in Tuat, and finally, from thence enter the Algerine territory by Mitlile or Wurglah. Ghat has, in fact, suddenly become the entrepôt of the commerce of the interior, and between that place and the Algerine southern frontier a most extensive trade is at present in full operation, both in slaves and the various industrial and agricultural productions of Central Africa, upon which, for the period of fifteen years, with the object of attracting the whole commerce of the interior to her frontier, France has remitted all duties.

This policy, coupled with the patent fact that the importation of negroes is not only permitted in Algeria, but that they actually realise there very high prices, will speedily accomplish the end for which it was framed.

Whether any stipulations or conditions are annexed to the faculty possessed by the French Mussulman population of acquiring negro slaves, whether on entering the territory the slave be first manumitted, and subsequently compelled to serve an apprenticeship for a period of years determined by law, this is a point that here it has hitherto not been possible to establish. Be the conditions, however, what they may, the policy of France is obvious and twofold.

First, to attract to her frontier all the commerce of the interior, by opening markets for a commodity that constitutes more than two-thirds of the value of all the caravan trade, and for which, excepting in Morocco, no other vent can now be found.

Secondly, by a large infusion of the negro element into the sparse population of Algeria, she will in a few years acquire a race of colonists far better suited to the rude and unremitting labours of agriculture, than the indolent Arab or the nomadic Bedouin.

The population of this Regency naturally view with sullen discontent the operation of a measure which, while it has not achieved the benevolent objects of its institution, has suddenly diverted into the hands of a neighbouring State a commerce that not only formerly enriched them, but which is associated with so many ancient customs and national peculiarities.

Some months ago a large caravan which reached Borgu from Wadai, destined for Moorzouk, took the direction of Ghat, where the slaves were disposed of for the Algerine market; another caravan that had actually reached Augela, *en route* for Bengazi, was countermanded upon the same point.

With the view of restoring the disturbed equilibrium of trade, the Governor-General, a short time ago, consulted me on the policy of removing the restrictions which, both at Moorzouk and Ghadames bear so onerously upon the caravan trade. His Excellency's project was certainly a measure in the right direction, as far as it could go; but I question if any adequate result would be derived from it so long as Algeria may continue to offer a vent for slaves, who, as I have had the honour of observing to your Lordship, have constituted hitherto, in the ratio of 3 to 1, the aggregate value of the caravan trade. As an obvious consequence it follows, that where the people of the interior can find a ready market for their slaves, there will they also carry their other commodities. I accordingly took the liberty of suggesting to the Governor-General the propriety of submitting the whole matter to the serious consideration of the Porte, with the object, if possible, of

inducing, on the part of the French Imperial Government, a cordial reciprocity of action on the question of slavery. This course his Excellency now tells me he has pursued, and, moreover, has requested of me to equally submit the matter to your Lordship. In accordance, therefore, with his Excellency's wishes, I do myself the honour of transmitting to your Lordship the present brief report.

(Signed)

G. F. HERMAN.

TURKEY.

No. 504.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 26.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 9, 1857.

I HAVE obtained copies of the Slave Trade firmans from Edhem Pasha, and propose to forward translations of them to your Lordship as soon as the translations are made.

I understand that the original firmans have been sent to their respective destinations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

P.S.—Finding that the translations are already completed, I forward them herewith, though I have not had time to read them.

S. DE R.

Inclosure 1 in No. 504.

Firman to the Pasha of Egypt.

(Translation.)

WHEREAS, the beneficial effects of the measures adopted and proclaimed by my Government respecting the prohibition of Negro Slave Trade have not become apparent in some parts of my Imperial dominions, that trade being still in force; and whereas, a great number of these slaves, during their journey from their own country to the coast, perish from the fatigues and hardship they are exposed to in the deserts, whilst the remainder, owing to their passage from warm to cold countries, become subject to pulmonary and other diseases, by which means most of them are cut off from the enjoyment of life at an early age: this distressing state of things has exceeded the limits of sufferance to an extent which humanity cannot sanction, and the prohibition of this trade, by means of an universal and continuous prevention, has become necessary.

After the arrival of my Imperial firman, no negro slaves shall be allowed to leave the Province of Western Tripoli, which is the Mediterranean outlet, for any place whatever.

This matter shall be immediately announced to the slave-dealers in the province as well as to such of them as may be dispersed in the interior of Africa. But a period of delay of eight weeks shall be fixed for those of the latter who are in distant places.

Should, however, any negro slaves arrive after this period, permission shall not be given for their sale, even within the province, but the slave-dealers who shall have brought them, shall be compelled to liberate them.

But as sending the liberated slaves back to their country would be, in fact, to expose their lives to danger a second time, they shall be placed in suitable situations and families, and enabled to gain their living.

A period of six weeks being sufficient for the promulgation of this prohibition in the Mediterranean, any ship arriving at any port or scala after that period with slaves on board, such ship being a merchantman, subject to my Government, it shall be confiscated, its captain shall be imprisoned, and the occurrence shall be reported to Constantinople. The slaves come by it shall be forcibly liberated by their owners, they being, as above, put in suitable situations, and enabled to gain their living.

The commanders of my ships-of-war cruising in the Mediterranean shall watch over and survey this matter without intermission; and, after the expiration of the above period, they shall receive positive instructions to seize and take possession of any ship they may meet carrying negro slaves, and send it to Constantinople.

Although it is natural that this liberation of slaves should only obtain in the case of those to be in future imported anywhere by slave-dealers, and that those who have previously become private property should remain in their original condition until it may please their masters to dispose otherwise, yet, as their purchase and sale by auction will not be permitted, it will be necessary to manage (the transaction) in some suitable manner, *i. e.*, in a way consonant with generosity. This matter, also, must be well and carefully explained to those whom it concerns.

This prohibition will be fully carried out in the Province of Irak (Bagdad).

A period of three months' delay will be fixed for the Persian Gulf; after that, appropriate vessels from among my men-of-war, belonging to the arsenal of Basra, will be sent to cruize about, and will confiscate such ships as they may meet with negro slaves on board, and report the matter here.

My Imperial orders to that effect will be sent to the Governors of Western Tripoli and Bagdad. The necessary orders will also be sent to the authorities of the islands and coasts of the Archipelago and Mediterranean.

Although this prohibition is at present in force in the country of Egypt, yet as the present formal resolution is meant to signify an universal prohibition, when any negro slaves shall in future arrive there also, the above rules shall be fully carried out, both as regards themselves and their dealers.

My Imperial order to that effect shall be issued separately.

These matters having been discussed and agreed upon in my Privy and Cabinet Councils, they have been submitted to me, and my permission asked. My Imperial decree for their execution accordingly has been issued. My sovereign orders, in the same sense, have been proclaimed, and the official communications have been effected. Therefore, you who are my Vizier aforesaid, on the arrival of this my Imperial firman, you will proclaim the matter in due form, and, in accordance with the judgment, intelligence, and zeal which characterizes you, you will take heed and exert yourself to prevent the departure of negro slaves, after the date of your proclamation, from any one of the places situated within your jurisdiction, for any other, and to ensure the entire enforcement of the above prohibition in the country of Egypt.

5 *Gemazil*, 1273.

Note.—Same to Pashas of Tripoli and Bagdad, with slight variation of words. All have received Vizirial letters couched in the same words. The others are the Pashas of Salonica, Scodra, Izmid, Aleppo, Candia, Rhodes, Sidon, Adana, Cyprus, Dardanelles, Jerusalem, Gallipoli, Rhodosto, Volo, Brussa, Cyzicus, Mytilene, Scio, Cos, Lemnos, Tenedos, Teke, and Kodjaili.

Inclosure 2 in No. 504.

Vizirial Letter to the Governor-General of Egypt, Tripoli, and Bagdad.

(Translation.)

YOUR Highness is aware that the Negro Slave Trade has been prohibited by His Imperial Majesty's commands, and that the necessary injunctions on this subject have been repeatedly sent to every part of the Empire. In some places, nevertheless, the prohibition has been unattended with any effect, and it was, therefore, considered necessary to prohibit the Traffic altogether. Owing, however, to well-known circumstances of delicacy respecting the Hedjaz, that sacred province will be excepted for a time from the prohibition, but stringent measures will be taken from the date of the receipt of the Imperial firman, to prevent the passage outwards, in any direction whatsoever, of slaves coming to the coast of Tripoli West, which is the place of export of negro slaves in the Mediterranean; at the same time, this total prohibition will be notified at once to the troop of slave-dealers in the interior of the province, and to those scattered in remote parts of Africa; but to the latter a period of eight weeks' delay will be granted. Should any negro slaves again arrive, after the expiration of this period, their sale shall not be lawful, even within the province itself; the slave-dealers shall be compelled to emancipate them, and the slaves themselves will be put into a state of liberty.

As the sending back of the slaves to their own country would be exposing the lives of those unfortunates to fresh danger, it shall not be permitted. They shall be placed in suitable situations and houses, and enabled to gain their livelihood.

Although the confiscation of the slaves imported by slave-dealers after the expiration of the above period of eight weeks is, in itself, a series of punishment, yet it will be necessary to give a progressive extension to the degrees of punishment. On the first

repetition of the offence, they shall be imprisoned for one year. On the second, they shall be confined for two years, and an additional year will be given each time the offence is repeated.

Such are the dispositions contained in a firman sent to his Excellency the Pasha of Tripoli, in the west.

Although exertions are being made in Egypt to carry out this prohibition, the present official Resolution is intended to signify a total prohibition, and should any black slaves come thitherwards, an Imperial firman will be sent to your Highness in a separate form, in order that you may exactly carry out the whole of the above conditions, both as regards slaves and slave-dealers.

All the functionaries of the Sublime Porte, in all the islands and coasts of the Empire, will be instructed respecting the treatment to be practised towards negro slaves, the capture, for account of Government, of ships arriving with slaves on board after the expiration of the prescribed period, the imprisonment of their captains, and report to Government.

The captains of His Majesty's cruizers in the Archipelago and Mediterranean will receive instructions to devote their care and attention to this object, and to make a prize of such ships as they shall meet with negro slaves on board.

Another Imperial firman has also been sent to the Governor of Bagdad, informing him of this prohibition, and assigning a period of three months for the Persian Gulf.

This rule of emancipation is only to affect such slaves as may in future be imported by slave-dealers. The emancipation by their masters of such slaves as shall have become their property previously to this, shall naturally remain in its original condition until their pleasure. But as their purchase and sale by auction will not be lawful, the transaction must be managed in some suitable manner, that is, in a mode consistent with the attributes of generosity.

These subjects have been decided upon in Council, and the firman of His Imperial Majesty has been issued to this effect, and as its execution has been forthwith commenced, your Excellency will also exert your noble offices for the proclamation of this decision in the country of Egypt, and for the procuring of the perpetual means for carrying out this necessary prohibition.

No. 505.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 2.)

(Extract.)

Constantinople, March 19, 1857.

THE British steamer "*Kangaroo*," Captain Knaggs, owner Mr. Weare, of this place, after landing its passengers and cargo, either wholly or in part, at sundry places on the coast of Circassia, returned here with about 200 Circassian passengers, of whom a considerable portion were women and children, suspected, naturally enough, to be, in great part, slaves.

Informed of these circumstances by Captain Knaggs himself, who, immediately on his arrival, brought me a letter, copy inclosed, from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond; and having also received an intimation from the Russian Envoy that the passengers in the "*Kangaroo*" were slaves, I called upon the Consul General to take the necessary steps for ascertaining the real state of the case; I apprized Admiral Lord Lyons of the circumstances in question; and I also required of the Porte that orders should be given for releasing the slaves, if such, and restoring them to their country.

I learnt, on the following day, that while Captain Knaggs was with me, and the Consul-General, to whom I had sent him, the passengers on board the "*Kangaroo*" had all left the vessel immediately after dark.

Mr. Cumberbatch instituted a searching inquiry; and the result of it appears from his despatch, and accompanying depositions, which I have the honour to forward herewith in copy.*

The disappearance of the passengers, as soon as they landed, made it easy for the Turkish authorities to evade the obligation of detaining them. There could not possibly have been any inclination on their part to carry out my requisition on the subject. In spite of the Sultan's firman, a cargo of slaves from Circassia would be welcome.

Whether we look to this particular case, or to the Trade from which it is supposed to spring, the difficulties of acting with effect are almost insuperable.

* See Class B, presented 1857, No. 648 and Inclosures.

The inhabitants of Georgia and Circassia consider the slave-markets of Turkey as offering prospects of desirable employment and fortune to their children. The Russian Government, as I learn from M. Bouteneff, are indifferent to the Traffic in their present state of warfare with Circassia. The Turkish authorities, many of whom come originally from the slave countries, have numerous inducements for conniving at the Trade; the owners and masters of merchant-vessels find their interest in the same source of profit; and the Consuls are unable to distinguish between the slave and the free passenger—the actual slave and the slave in prospect.

On referring to the various papers which I have the honour to forward with this despatch, your Lordship can hardly fail to appreciate the extreme embarrassment arising out of these circumstances.

Her Majesty's Consul at Diarbekir reported to me, a short time ago, that he had seen hundreds of slaves at Batoum, on their way hither, and that their almost universal appearance was one of contentment.

Inclosure I in No. 505.

Consul Stevens to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

(Extract.)

Trebizond, March 4, 1858.

I HAVE the honour of reporting to your Lordship that the steamer "*Kangaroo*" arrived in this port this morning from Thouabes in Circassia, with 200 passengers destined for Constantinople.

The "*Kangaroo*" was chartered at Constantinople to land at Thouabes about 150 military men of all ranks, chiefly Poles and Hungarians. This was effected on the morning of the 23rd ultimo. The vessel then coasted downwards to Batoum, receiving, at divers places where she touched, in all about 200 passengers destined to Constantinople.

On her anchoring here, I was informed that a large portion of these passengers were slaves.

Not losing sight of your Lordship's instructions dated the 12th January, 1855, I summoned the captain of the "*Kangaroo*" to appear before me, and give me an account of his passengers, impressing upon him the necessity of declaring the existence, or not, of slaves in his ship. Captain Knaggs at once stated that there were fifty or sixty children, of both sexes, with some aged women, on board; that they had embarked on the Circassian coast; that he had no means of ascertaining if they were slaves; but invited me to examine into the matter, declaring his willingness to land any individual that might be pointed out to him.

Further inquiry left no doubt as to the existence of slaves on board, and I called upon the captain to land the same here, affording him my assistance, and the co-operation of the local authorities. This led to a question as to how far we could, with any degree of prudence, and without exposing the ship to some serious accident, attempt the forcible expulsion of the Circassians from the vessel, and, after much consideration, knowing as we do their reckless spirit, we agreed in the opinion that the attempt ought not to be made, lest it should give them umbrage and lead to serious disorder. I therefore advised Captain Knaggs to proceed on his voyage, and on his arrival at Constantinople, previous to disembarking his passengers, to report himself to your Lordship. Captain Knaggs solemnly declared that when he received the suspected individuals on board, he really considered them as ordinary passengers.

I ought to observe that when Captain Knaggs found himself under examination he expressed a wish to make affidavits of the circumstances under which the Circassians embarked in his vessel. That document was drawn up and executed, and Captain Knaggs has a copy of it, under my signature and seal.

I beg to close this despatch with the assurance that being well acquainted with Captain Knaggs, I believe him to be a prudent and cautious man, quite incapable of committing himself intentionally, and, if he has innocently transgressed on this occasion, he did so being ignorant of the Circassians being slaves, considering them as ordinary travellers. I, moreover, believe that he regrets the position he has fallen into, and his expressed readiness to remedy the evil is an ample proof of his remorse.

Inclosure 2 in No. 505.

Consul-General Cumberbatch to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

Dear Lord Stratford,

Pera, March 9, 1857.

CAPTAIN KNAGGS informs me that there are about 50 women and 28 children, with 120 armed men, on board of the "*Kangaroo*," who were picked up on different parts of the coast of Circassia. It is impossible to keep all these people on board against their will; therefore, unless some measures can be taken by your Lordship, with the Turkish Government, to secure the passengers supposed to be slaves, until it is possible for an inquiry to take place, it is probable that all the passengers will leave the ship, and it will not be possible to send them back to their own country. Although there may be a strong suspicion that some of the passengers are slaves, the fact can only be ascertained of the crew, and even then it will, probably, be difficult to obtain conclusive proof of it. I have told the captain to bring his log-book to-morrow morning to the Consulate, and his men, and they shall be examined.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CARLTON CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 505.

Consul-General Cumberbatch to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 14, 1857.

IN consequence of the intimation which I received from your Lordship, that the "*Kangaroo*," William Knaggs master, had arrived in this port from the Black Sea, having on board a number of passengers, men, women, and children, some of whom were supposed to be Circassian slaves, I directed Mr. Vice-Consul Robert Cumberbatch to proceed on board, and to make a strict inquiry into the circumstances, and I have now the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, the depositions which have been taken.

I shall also transmit to the Earl of Clarendon another copy by the first opportunity.

There is no evidence to show that either the master or the crew knew or suspected that any of the passengers were slaves, or destined to be sold, until they were informed by Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond that a rumour to that effect had come to his knowledge.

The passengers were landed as soon as the "*Kangaroo*" arrived, and none remained when the Vice-Consul went on board early on the 10th instant; but Ismail Pasha, whose name is referred to in the depositions, must be well acquainted with them, and is looked upon as a guarantee for the payment of their passage-money, half of which he is entitled under the charter-party to receive; and two of the children said to be his nieces, were among the number of the passengers. He should, therefore, I think, be called up and examined by the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CARLTON CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 4 in No. 505.

Mr. Moore to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

(Extract.)

Constantinople, March 10, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I called to-day upon his Highness the Grand Vizier, and communicated to him your verbal message respecting the arrival of the "*Kangaroo*," with about 200 Circassians, supposed to be slaves.

Reshid Pasha replied that he was not aware of the fact, and observed that it was an English vessel which had brought them down to Constantinople. However, he desired Raouf Bey, in my presence, to make inquiries in the proper quarter, and inform him of the result with the least practicable delay.

His Highness desired me to assure your Excellency, that in the event of these Circassians being slaves, the necessary steps would be taken to set them at liberty.

No. 506.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, April 16, 1857.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 19th ultimo, reporting the steps that have been taken, by your Excellency's directions, in the case of the British steam-vessel "*Kangaroo*," which recently made a trip to the Circassian coast, and returned from thence to Constantinople, with upwards of 200 passengers, many of whom are supposed to have been Circassian slaves.

I have also received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Constantinople, copies of the depositions of the master and crew of the "*Kangaroo*," with regard to the circumstances under which the passengers were shipped on board that vessel, and brought to Constantinople; and I have to state to your Excellency that you appear to me to have done all that was practicable in this case, which I concur with your Excellency in thinking was one of great embarrassment.

I can only suggest that, with the view to prevent a recurrence of similar proceedings, Her Majesty's Consuls should be instructed to give the earliest information of intended shipments of slaves, and the vessels carrying them might then be detained on arriving at Constantinople.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 507.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received May 7.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 25, 1857.

I REQUEST your Lordship's attention to the accompanying copy of a despatch, with inclosure, addressed to me on the 23rd instant by Her Majesty's Consul at Smyrna.

It is gratifying to have this further evidence of the sincerity with which the late firman against Slave Trade, which does so much honour to Reshid Pasha's Administration, is now carried out.

I have written to Mr. Vedova for a list of the persons who have taken into their service any of the slaves in question as free men hired on wages.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

No. 508.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, May 8, 1857.

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, the accompanying copies of Returns which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Tripoli,* of the numbers of slaves exported from that port, and from the port of Bengazi, during the past year.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 509.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, May 8, 1857.

I HAVE received from Mr. Consul Ongley a copy of a despatch which he addressed to your Excellency on the 16th of March last, conveying a request from Veli Pasha, the

* No. 496.

Governor of Crete, that your Lordship would use your influence with the Porte, to have the position of the slaves in that island placed on a more humane footing; and I have to instruct your Excellency to express to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs the hope of Her Majesty's Government that the humane proceedings of Veli Pasha, as reported by Mr. Ongley, may meet with the approval of the Government of the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 510.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 18.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, June 8, 1858.

SOME negroes, 6 in number, described as slaves, have been notified to the Embassy by the British commander of an Ottoman trading-vessel, which recently arrived in this port with negroes on board.

My instruction to Mr. Sarell, and his report, both inclosed herewith in copy, will inform your Lordship of the course which I have pursued on this occasion, and of the degree to which the Ottoman Ministers are disposed to acquiesce in my views respecting the negroes.

Mr. Sarell was to see them again upon the subject; and I expect his final report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 510.

Memorandum.

THE Ambassador desires that a Dragoman attend forthwith on the Ottoman Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, with the 6 negroes on board the Turkish vessel commanded by Captain Folland, and their respective papers of manumission, and that he claim, on the part of Her Majesty's Embassy, the application to these negroes of the Sultan's firman abolishing the Trade in Black Slaves; and, moreover, that he explain why the British captain found it his bounden duty not to allow of the disembarkation of the negroes, without making their arrival known previously to his own authorities.

The negroes, whether male or female, are entitled to their freedom in virtue of the papers of manumission, independently of the firman; and the Dragoman charged with the execution of this instruction, will not leave them at the Porte, or in the hands of any Turkish authority, without an official assurance in writing that they will be treated as free, and kindly taken care of, in a clear ostensible manner.

Pera, June 4, 1857.

(Signed) STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 510.

Mr. Sarell to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

(Extract.)

Pera, June 4, 1857.

IN obedience to your Excellency's instructions of this day, I waited "upon the Ottoman Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, with the 6 negroes on board the Turkish vessel commanded by Captain Folland, and the respective papers of manumission, and claimed, on the part of Her Majesty's Embassy, the application to those negroes of the Sultan's firman abolishing the Trade in Slaves," demanding, at the same time, at the hands of his Highness "an official assurance in writing that they would be treated as free, and kindly taken care of, in a clear ostensible manner."

His Highness stated that he would not have the least hesitation in giving the slaves their liberty immediately, but as the condition of "kindly taking care of them" admitted of a wide interpretation, he could not engage himself to do so until he was made acquainted with your Excellency's view of its content.

The Musteshar's opinion was asked on the subject: he said they could be placed in some of the Sultan's manufactories; or, as he, himself, and several other functionaries of the Porte, happened to be in want of domestics of this description, should your Excellency authorize such a disposal of them, he and they would be too happy to receive them as free servants in their houses.

Under the circumstances, I had no alternative but to bring the slaves back to the "Brandon," and wait for further instructions from your Excellency.

This is what I did, but I had as much difficulty on prevailing on Captain Folland to receive them on board his ship again, as in persuading some of the slaves themselves to remain when there. The two eldest of the number, a male and female, cried bitterly, and wished to return to their owners. The others, judging from their dress, were apparently but just purchased, and had not had time to become acquainted with their masters' qualities or defects.

No. 511.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, July 1, 1857.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 8th ultimo, and I have to acquaint your Excellency that I approve the instruction which you addressed to Mr. Sarell with regard to the 6 negroes reported in that despatch to have arrived at Constantinople in an Ottoman trading-vessel.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 512.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 2.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, June 22, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith in copy, for your Lordship's information, a report and inclosure, addressed to me by Mr. Sarell, respecting the disposal of 6 negroes, brought to Constantinople as slaves, and denounced to the Embassy by the Captain, an Englishman in command of the Turkish vessel which brought them.

As it is the first time that slaves imported here have been brought to my knowledge, I think the proceedings which regard their liberation and treatment may have some interest for Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 512.

Mr. Sarell to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

(Extract.)

Pera, June 11, 1857.

IN further execution of your Excellency's instructions of the 4th instant, I have the honour to inclose an official assurance, in writing, from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, by which he has provided, as far as in him lies, for the future liberty and kind treatment of negroes.

It was not until Monday the 8th instant that I was finally enabled to give them up to Ali Ghalib Pasha. They considered their being kept four days on board the "Brandon" a great hardship, although they were well treated there; and they ended by asking, one and all, to be restored to their respective masters. I held out to them the prospect of being admitted as servants in a Pasha's house, wearing fine clothing, and receiving high wages, but to no purpose.

Thinking that they did not perhaps speak their minds to me, I caused Nouredin Bey, the Under-Secretary of State, in the absence of Ghalib Pasha, to put the same questions to them, through the oldest male among them, and their answers were identical.

On Monday, Ghalib Pasha called them before him, told them they were free, and

asked them what use they wished to make of their liberty? They all declared they wished to remain with their masters.

Mr. Moore and Mr. Simmons were present on this occasion, and heard them refuse renewed offers of service in Pashas' establishments.

Under the circumstances, no alternative remained but to allow them to make such use of their liberty as they thought fit, providing such guarantees for their good treatment as the law would allow. These consisted in binding over their masters to give them wages, &c.

I accompanied them before a Cadi, who told them again they were free, and fixed the rate of 50 piastres a-month for the wages of the three eldest, and 20 piastres a-month for those of the youngest. My name was admitted into the acts of manumission, so that I enjoy the right, at any future time, of making personal inquiries into their condition.

Then their masters gave each individually sealed bonds to the Porte, by which they engaged themselves to respect the liberty of their former slaves.

Should your Lordship ask my candid opinion as to the worth of these solemn engagements, and as to the possibility of their being evaded, I should reply that the three eldest, at least, are intelligent enough to know that they are free, and to object to being re-sold to another person, unless such should be their wish. One of the three youngest is the brother of the eldest female, so that it may be admitted she will take as much care of him as of herself. The fate of the two youngest may be less certain; but, unfortunately, there was no other course to be followed than that of placing them in a Pasha's house, where, it must not be lost sight of, they are equally exposed to ill-treatment on the part of the upper servants.

From what I saw, however, of their masters, I do not anticipate an unfavourable result; and I think that, even were they disposed to be cruel, the trouble they were put to, and the importance attached to this affair, will have inspired them with a wholesome terror, and put them on their guard.

It is but just to them to say, that the chief officer of the "Brandon" bears witness to the kindness with which they treated them during their voyage, and their subsequent detention on board the ship.

In case of any more slaves who are minors being emancipated under similar circumstances, might not the Porte appoint a guardian, whose duty it would be to inquire, from time to time, into the condition of his wards?

Inclosure 2 in No. 512.

Declaration.

LE Ministère Impérial déclare avoir reçu de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique quatre nègres et deux négresses arrivés de Tripoli par le "Brandon."

Quoiqu'ils soient tous munis de pièces constatant leur liberté, le Ministère Impérial les a de nouveau déclarés libres, en vertu du firman Impérial sur l'abolition de la Traite des Esclaves, et il a fait constater leur affranchissement par devant les Magistrats de la Loi.

Comme tous ont déclaré vouloir rentrer au service de leurs anciens maîtres, le Ministère Impérial a pris de ces derniers des engagements par écrit, où ils promettent de donner à ces nègres des gages en leur qualité de serviteurs libres, de les traiter avec bonté, et de respecter leur entière liberté.

Le 11 Juin, 1857.

No. 513.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, July 29, 1857.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 22nd ultimo, reporting the steps taken by your Excellency on learning that several Circassians destined for Constantinople had been shipped under suspicious circumstances from the ports on the eastern shores of the Black Sea, and I have to acquaint your Excellency that I approve of your proceedings in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

TURKEY.

No. 514.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, July 29, 1857.

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency that I approve the proceedings adopted in the case of the 6 negro slaves who were brought to Constantinople and denounced to Her Majesty's Embassy by the master of the Turkish vessel "Brandon," as reported in your Excellency's despatch of the 22nd ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 515.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, August 12, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a despatch from Mr. Maltass, the Acting British Consul at Diarbekir,* from which it appears that slaves are being sold by public auction in the bazars of that city; and I have to instruct your Excellency to communicate to the Ottoman Government the contents of that despatch, and to request that they will cause an inquiry to be made into the circumstances mentioned by Mr. Maltass.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 516.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon— (Received August 23.)

My Lord,

Therapia, August 12, 1857.

HAVING received information from the British Acting Consul at Trebizond that several Circassian slaves were coming to Constantinople in Turkish steamers, I lost no time in apprizing the proper authorities of this circumstance, and taking such steps as might be necessary for restoring the slaves to liberty.

The result of my inquiries is contained in the correspondence which I have the honour to inclose herewith.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 516.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to Mr. Simmons.

Sir,

Therapia, August 7, 1857.

HAVING received information from Trebizond that 4 girls, slaves, are come or coming to Constantinople in the steamer "Malakoff," in charge of a Turkish merchant, I have to direct that you will lose no time in apprizing the proper authorities of this circumstance, and taking such steps as may be necessary for restoring the slaves to liberty.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

P.S.—I wish you to extend your inquiries to the "London" steamer, in which I understand there is a girl, carried off by a "Laz," and 3 other slave girls, embarked at Cavata towards the end of last month.

S. DE R.

Inclosure 2 in No. 516.

Mr. Simmons to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

My Lord,

Pera, August 9, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to return, inclosed herewith, your Excellency's instruction dated the 7th, and received yesterday towards evening only, respecting 8 slave girls, 4 of whom

were embarked at Trebizond on board the steamer "Malakoff," and the other 4 at Cavata on board the steamer "London," for Constantinople; and I have the honour to report that I have this day apprized their Highnesses the Grand Vizier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of this circumstance, and requested, in the name of your Excellency, the restoration of them to liberty.

The Grand Vizier replied that he would see Aali Pasha on the subject, will make the necessary inquiry, and should the facts be founded will act according to the decision come to, and sanctioned by the Sultan some years ago.

Aali Pasha stated that he is well aware of the prohibition of the negro Slave Trade; but respecting that from Circassia he never heard that it had been prohibited, though he knows that some decision had been come to, and strong orders given at a time. He also said that he will see the Grand Vizier, and the decision, and act accordingly.

Having suggested the necessity of his taking measures to secure the slaves before they are disposed of, his Highness called in the Mektoubji Effendi, and ordered him to write to the Captain Pasha a letter, requesting his making inquiry, his securing the slaves, and his reporting to the Porte without delay. Having followed the Mektoubji to his office, I gave him the names of the steamers and other necessary particulars, and the draft being forthwith prepared was submitted to the Pasha, myself receiving the assurance from the Mektoubji that he would send it to-day to the Captain Pasha.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY SIMMONS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 516.

Mr. Simmons to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

(Extract.)

Pera, August 10, 1857.

IN addition to the report I had the honour of submitting yesterday, respecting the Circassian slaves, I have the honour to state the communication which Aali Pasha and the Grand Vizier have made to me this day.

Aali Pasha stated that having seen Reshid Pasha on this subject, he learnt that no decision had been come to several years back; that the so-called slaves are no slaves, as most of them come to Constantinople of their own accord, to become the wives of the Sultan and of the Pashas, &c., and the young men to become Beys and Pashas; others, of more tender age, are sent by their parents or relatives, and enter the houses of great people, where they are adopted as their own children, and make part of the family. Aali Pasha added, that instead of the Circassians being slaves to them, they are the slaves of the Circassians, whom they find themselves somehow or other obliged to take into their houses.

The Grand Vizier has told me, also, that no decision had been come to, and gave several instances showing the manner in which the Circassians are treated. Two of these most striking instances are, that Missirly Hanoum had two young Circassian girls, of between four and six years of age, adopted as her daughters, the one of whom she lately gave to the Sultan, and the other, on Friday last, to his (the Grand Vizier's) son in marriage.

No. 517.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 23.)

My Lord,

Therapia, August 12, 1857.

THE accompanying copies of a despatch from Sir John Young to me, and of my reply to the same, will acquaint your Lordship with an incident which has taken place at Corfu.

I have had no representations on the subject of Ali Bey's slave from the Porte; but if the subject were mentioned to me, I should not hesitate to remind the Sultan's Ministers of the principle that every slave who sets his foot on land under the British Crown becomes *de facto* free.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 517.

Sir J. Young to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

My Lord,

Corfu, July 2, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship that on the 30th ultimo Ali Bey, described as a Colonel in the Ottoman service, arrived at Corfu by the steamer from Constantinople, and remained here two days, to await the departure of the branch steamer to Valona, in Albania, whither he was bound; he was accompanied by a black slave, as servant, who refused to accompany his master on his departure for Valona, and taking refuge at the police office, claimed the protection of the British flag. I inclose a copy of his deposition.

A representation was made to me by Ali Bey, through the Ottoman Consul at Corfu, that the negro was a soldier in the Turkish service; but this is positively denied in the deposition, as you will perceive. Even were the negro a deserter from the Turkish army, there is no Treaty, or law, by which he could be delivered up by the authorities of the Ionian States.

Under all the circumstances of the case, I caused Ali Bey to be informed that his servant was at liberty to take his departure along with him, if he went voluntarily, but that he could not be compelled by force to do so. The negro accordingly remained at Corfu.

I have informed the Secretary of State for the Colonies of what has occurred, and told him that I have sent a statement of the case to your Lordship. The Ottoman Consul will also make his report to the Turkish Government. Looking at the state of the law and of public opinion in England, on the subject of slavery, I am of opinion that I had no option as to the course which I should pursue, more especially as the Ionian police is under the exclusive direction of the Lord High Commissioner of the protecting Sovereign.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN YOUNG.

Inclosure 2 in No. 517.

Deposition.

(Translation.)

DEMETRIUS FETA, of Ithaca, the Turkish interpreter, ordered to present himself at this office, and, after having been sworn, the following questions were put, by his means, to the Arab Suliman:—

Q. Are you a Turkish soldier?

A. No; I am a slave.

Q. What religion do you profess?

A. The Mahometan.

Q. How long have you been in the service of Ali Bey, and in what capacity?

A. During the Eastern war, and I served him as pipe-holder and cook.

Q. Are you willing to continue your journey with him?

A. No.

Q. What are your reasons for wishing to remain here?

A. To free myself from being maltreated and beaten by him.

Q. Where were you born?

A. In Habes, of Arabia.

The questions having been read to the Interpreter, he confirmed and affixed his signature to the same.

(Signed) DEMETRIUS FETA.

This is to certify that the above questions were asked, and that the oath was taken by the Interpreter, in the presence of the undersigned witnesses, each of whom affixes his signature.

Police Office, Corfu, June 30, 1857.

(Signed)

S. BALDRESCAS, Registrar.

CURZOCOPULO, Superintendent.

W. H. LAWRENCE, Director-General of Police.

Inclosure 3 in No. 517.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to Sir J. Young.

Sir,

Therapia, July 22, 1857.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 2nd instant, and to express my persuasion that you could not have acted otherwise than you did, respecting the slave who took refuge in the police office at Corfu.

No application has yet been made to me by the Porte, and I think it advisable not to take the lead in raising a question between the two Governments.

I shall feel much obliged to your Excellency for the communication of any official decision which may be taken upon this subject in England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

No. 518.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, August 25, 1857:

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 12th instant, reporting the steps taken by your directions on learning that some Circassian slaves were about to arrive at Constantinople in steamers from the Black Sea; and I have to acquaint your Excellency, in reply, that I approve your proceedings in this matter, as reported in your above-mentioned despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 519.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, August 25, 1857.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 12th instant, I inclose for your information a copy of a letter which, by my directions, has been addressed to the Colonial Office, in reply to a communication received from that Department relative to the case of the slave belonging to Ali Bey, a Colonel in the Ottoman service, who, on his arrival at Corfu, claimed British protection, and refused to accompany his master when he left that island.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

Inclosure in No. 519.

The Earl of Shelburne to Mr. Merivale.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 11, 1857.

I HAVE laid before the Earl of Clarendon your letter of the 31st ultimo, addressed to Mr. Hammond, transmitting copies of a despatch and its inclosure from the Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands, relative to a black slave belonging to Ali Bey, a Colonel in the Ottoman service, who, on his arrival with his master at the Island of Corfu, claimed British protection, and refused to accompany Ali Bey to Valona; and in reply, I am to state to you, for the information of Mr. Secretary Labouchere, that his Lordship is of opinion that the course pursued by the Lord High Commissioner in this matter should be approved, provided it is perfectly clear that there is no Treaty or law of the Ionian States under which the Arab, Suliman, even if he were a deserter from the Turkish army, could be delivered up.

His Lordship observes that the fact of Suliman having been a slave rests entirely upon his own assertion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SHELBURNE.

No. 520.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, September 29, 1857.

I INCLOSE for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Tripoli,* relative to the Traffic in Slaves which is stated to be carried on to a considerable extent from Ghat, for the supply of the Arab tribes in Algeria, and also from Tripoli, in small numbers, by vessels leaving there for Constantinople and other ports in the Levant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 521.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 26.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 14, 1857.

IN pursuance of your Lordship's instructions, I have communicated to the Porte a printed copy of the Resolution of the House of Commons, dated July 14th, this year, conveyed by-address to Her Majesty, and of the Queen's most gracious answer.

The Ottoman Secretary of State replied to my communication that, since the Sultan has abolished the Slave Trade in negroes from Africa, no effort will be wanting on the part of His Majesty's Government to suppress the Traffic in black slaves, and to lend its co-operation for that purpose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

No. 522.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 31.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 21, 1857.

WITH reference to my despatch of August 12th, respecting a slave belonging to a Colonel in the Turkish army who had claimed British protection on landing at Corfu, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship, copy of a further letter which I have received on the same subject from his Excellency Sir John Young.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 522.

Sir J. Young to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

My Lord,

Palace, Corfu, October 5, 1857.

IN reply to your Lordship's letter of the 27th July ultimo, relative to the case of a black slave, or servant, of Ali Bey, a Colonel in the Ottoman service, I have now the honour to transmit copy of a communication on that subject, received from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies. I have further to add, that the person in question has, since the date of my last letter, voluntarily quitted Corfu for Scutari, in Albania, in the service of an Albanian Mahometan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN YOUNG.

Inclosure 2 in No. 522.

Mr. Labouchere to Sir J. Young.

Sir,

Downing Street, August 20, 1857.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 2nd of July, relative to the case of a black slave, belonging to Ali Bey, a Colonel in the Ottoman service, who, on his arrival

* No. 497.

with his master at Corfu, claimed British protection, and refused to accompany Ali Bey to Valona.

You state that even were the negro a deserter (as alleged by Ali Bey) from the Turkish army, there is no Treaty nor law of the Ionian States under which he could be delivered up. If it be perfectly clear that it is so, Her Majesty's Government approve of the course pursued by you; but they observe, that the fact of the Arab, Suliman, having been a slave, rests entirely on his own assertion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 523.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 21.)

(Extract.)

Therapia, November 11, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Consul at Rhodes, remarking on the contents of his despatch to your Lordship of the 22nd ultimo, and which was communicated to me, in copy, by Mr. Campbell.

Inclosure in No. 523.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe to Consul R. Campbell.

Sir,

Therapia, November 9, 1857.

I HAVE taken notice of your despatch of the 22nd ultimo to the Earl of Clarendon. As you have applied to his Lordship for instructions I confine myself to remarking that, although the distinctions which you have drawn in point of character and conduct between one fugitive slave and another are sufficiently correct, I do not see how the test is to be applied with any degree of certainty or regularity, nor am I quite able to recognize the right of a foreign Consul to exercise jurisdiction over persons who, according to the law of the country, are esteemed not only as subjects but as property.

When, at my repeated instances, the Turkish Government completed the abolition of Slave Trade from Africa into Turkey, it was declared to be with the view of ultimately abolishing the slavery of blacks altogether, but the law has not yet attained that degree of perfection in its application to slaves previously introduced into the country, and I would, therefore, suggest that, whilst waiting for instructions from home, you should bear this distinction in mind, and direct Mr. Palma to do the same.

It is not by violence, or an irregular assumption of authority, that the crying evil of slavery is to be put down; but by gradual pressure, and friendly concurrence with the law in its improved state, and, above all, by good example.

I am, &c.
(Signed) STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

No. 524.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 30, 1857.

I TRANSMIT, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a letter which has been received at this office from the Board of Control, inclosing a copy of a letter from the Acting British Consul at Massowah, containing information relative to the proceedings of the Governor of that place, who, it is alleged, protects and carries on the Traffic in Slaves; and I have to instruct your Excellency to call the attention of the Ottoman Government to the contents of this despatch, and to request that stringent orders may be sent to the Governor of Massowah to desist from any participation in Slave Trade proceedings in which he may have been engaged, and to use his utmost efforts to suppress this Traffic, which has been forbidden by the firmans of the Sultan.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 525.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Alison.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 5, 1858.

COLONEL HERMAN, Her Majesty's Consul-General in Tripoli, has transmitted to me a copy of a despatch which he addressed to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe on the 14th ultimo, reporting to his Excellency the embarkation of upwards of 100 negroes, on board the Turkish steam-frigate "Feizi Bahri," which touched at Tripoli, on its way back to Constantinople, having on board Nusret Bey, on his return from his mission to Tunis.

You will, doubtless, have already communicated to the Turkish Government this violation of the Imperial firmans; but I have to instruct you to make known, officially, to the Government of the Porte that you have been directed by Her Majesty's Government to request that a searching inquiry may be made into the circumstances reported by Colonel Herman, with the view to the punishment of the parties who may have been implicated in this transaction.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 526.

Mr. Alison to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 9, 1858.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, December 28, 1857.

IN pursuance of the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 30th ultimo, I have procured from Aali Pasha, and have the honour to transmit, herewith, the translation of a Vizirial letter to the Governor of Jeddah, renewing strict orders for the suppression of the Traffic in African slaves.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ALISON.

Inclosure in No. 526.

Vizirial Letter to the Pasha of Jeddah.

(Translation.)

3 Djemazi-el-ewal, 1274. (December 27, 1857.)

IT having been reported that the Kaimakam of Massowah gives encouragement to, and even derives a profit from, the black Slave Trade—as your Excellency is well aware this Trade, whether as regards males or females, has been abolished in every part of His Imperial Majesty's dominions, and, consequently, the realization of profits from this illicit source by functionaries of the Government, or the facilitating of the same, will bring down blame and responsibility on them—should the character of the slave-dealer be attributed to the above Kaimakam be true, your Excellency, in accordance with the knowledge of business and capacity which characterize you, will see that he is positively made to renounce it.

No. 527.

Mr. Alison to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 15.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, January 4, 1858.

I AM emphatically assured by the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs, that no negro slaves arrived at Constantinople by the Turkish steam-frigate "Feizi Bahri," as reported to have been embarked at Tripoli, in Colonel Herman's despatch dated the 14th December, to Lord Stratford. The Pasha says that the frigate took on board at Tripoli only two passengers, a Mussulman and his wife, a woman of colour.

I have &c.
(Signed) C. ALISON.

No. 528.

Mr. Alison to the Earl of Clarendon. —(Received January 31.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, January 19, 1858.

A FEW days ago, an Abyssinian slave, who had been ill-treated by his master, took refuge at this Embassy. The Grand Vizier, on my representing the case to him, kindly took him into his own household. I do myself the honour of inclosing Mr. Sarell's report of his interview with his Highness.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ALISON.

Inclosure in No. 528.

Mr. Sarell to Mr. Alison.

Sir,

Pera, January 19, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to report that, in accordance with your instructions, I waited, yesterday, upon the Grand Vizier, and reported to his Highness the case of the Abyssinian slave who had taken refuge in the Embassy, seeking protection against his master, who had shamefully misused him, and demanding his liberty.

His Highness appeared much concerned, and immediately gave orders for his master to be summoned to appear, and give account of his conduct.

As this slave has already accomplished the period of servitude allowed by the Mussulman law, I have no doubt that the Grand Vizier will obtain his liberation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. SARELL.

No. 529.

Mr. Alison to the Earl of Clarendon. —(Received January 31.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, January 19, 1858.

IN pursuance of the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch dated the 5th January, I have made known officially to the Government of the Porte that I had been directed by Her Majesty's Government to request that a searching inquiry might be made into the circumstances reported by Colonel Herman of the embarkation of upwards 100 negro slaves on board the Turkish steam-frigate the "Feizi Bahri."

I have already conveyed to your Lordship the unqualified denial of the Ottoman Government of this assertion; and this is again repeated by the present Minister for Foreign Affairs. His Excellency has, nevertheless, promised to make a searching inquiry into the subject, and to inform me of the result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ALISON.

No. 530.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Alison.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 3, 1858.

I HAVE to acquaint you that I approve your proceedings in the case of the Abyssinian slave who had been ill-treated by his master, and took refuge at Her Majesty's Embassy, as reported in your despatch of the 19th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 531.

Mr. Alison to the Earl of Clarendon. —(Received February 7.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, January 27, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Bagdad, giving an account of the steps taken by him on the arrival at that city of a number of slaves, and bearing testimony to the willingness with which Kheyree Pasha has entered into the views of Captain Kemball, for the abolition of the Slave Trade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ALISON.

Inclosure in No. 531.

Consul-General Kemball to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

My Lord,

Bagdad, December 17, 1857.

INFORMATION having reached me of the importation of a number of slaves into Bagdad, I lost no time in communicating the fact to our Acting Governor, Mustafa Faig Effendi, and in suggesting to him the propriety of executing the orders of the Porte with respect to this iniquitous Traffic.

The result was the seizure of 2 male and 9 female slaves, who, the Effendi having done me the honour to consult me on the subject, observing that he was at a loss what to do with them, were, with my cognizance, distributed among various respectable Mahometan families in the town, as per statement subjoined, to be by them taken care of, pending the arrival of Omer Pasha, or pending the decision of the Turkish Ministers as to their disposal.

Of a further batch of 9 slaves brought to Bagdad, 7 have escaped detection by the authorities. Their efforts are now, however, directed, I trust with some prospect of success, to the seizure of three other batches of 9, 16, and 9 slaves respectively, of whose arrival in the vicinity of Killah, *en route* to Bagdad, I possess very positive information.

In reporting the above particulars to your Lordship, I am bound to acknowledge the readiness with which Kheyree Pasha, the Military Commandant of the garrison, has entered into my views, and has adopted my suggestions for giving effect to the interdict upon the Slave Trade. One good effect of the present measure has been, at least, to give publicity to the renewed injunctions of His Majesty the Sultan, and as it may be presumed that in this instance the liberated slaves will not be restored to the importers or consignees the loss they have sustained will doubtless operate as an example generally with persons of this class.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. K. KEMBALL.

No. 532.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Alison.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 11, 1858.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 27th ultimo, I inclose under flying seal a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Consul-General at Bagdad,* and, in conformity with what I have stated to Captain Kemball, I have to instruct you to express to the Government of the Porte, the thanks of Her Majesty's Government for the promptness with which Kheyree Pasha adopted measures for giving effect to the orders of the Sultan for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 533.

Mr. Alison to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 12.)

(Extract.)

Constantinople, January 28, 1858.

OWING to the pertinacious denial of the Sublime Porte, that any negroes had been embarked at Tripoli on board the Turkish steam-frigate the "Feizi Bahri," in the quality implied in Colonel Herman's despatch dated the 14th December last year, to Viscount Stratford de Redcliffe, I instituted every inquiry in my power, to ascertain whether any negroes had been imported into this place, on board that vessel.

The investigations made for this purpose by Her Majesty's Consul-General were attended with no result, as will appear by his inclosed reply, dated 26th January, to my instruction.

The accompanying report, in copy, from Mr. Sarell, dated the 25th January, although not bearing directly upon the question affords favourable testimony to the measures adopted by the Sublime Porte for suppressing and detecting the importation of slaves into the capital.

* No. 535.

Admiral Slade who has been good enough to assist me in my endeavours to clear up this question, has, it seems to me, solved it satisfactorily.

The measure would seem, from the communication inclosed in copy, addressed to me by Admiral Slade, under date of the 25th January, to have been dictated by a feeling of humanity towards the class of freed slaves, or slaves abandoned by merchants at Tripoli, who have been unable to sell them, owing to the prohibition.

Colonel Herman, in his despatch dated Tripoli, 20th June, 1856, alludes to this subject in the following terms:—"His Excellency the Governor-General states, that at the period when he received orders from the Porte to prohibit the further importation of slaves from the recent arrival of several large caravans from different points of the interior, there were upwards of 6,000 in the Regency, and that, from the difficulty of supporting these unfortunates, exhausted as the country is by the triple calamity of civil war, pestilence, and famine, he had, by the advice of the Municipal Council, taken upon himself to extend the period of exportation to the 19th of May" (last).

I have sent Colonel Herman a copy of Admiral Slade's letter to me.

Inclosure 1 in No. 533.

Consul-General Cumberbatch to Mr. Alison.

Sir,

January 26, 1858.

IN reply to your despatch of the 19th instant, I have the honour to state, that the Harbour Master has made inquiries as to whether any negroes, stated to have been embarked at Tripoli, on board the Ottoman Government steamer "Feizi Bahri," were landed here, and that he has not been able to obtain any information on the subject as yet.

He states, that the engineers of that vessel are not Englishmen, and that no note of any passengers or cargo having arrived by her, has been kept at this quarantine office.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. CARLTON CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 533.

Mr. Sarell to Mr. Alison.

Sir,

Pera, January 25, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to report, that the Comptroller of the Customs having applied to me to-day for some information, I took that opportunity of asking him in return some questions, with a view to clearing up the question of Colonel Herman's alleged importation of slaves.

I begged him, therefore, to inform me whether negro Slave Trade had been abolished.

He replied, that the Customs Department (which used, prior to this abolition, to levy a duty of 30 or 40 piastres a-head on black slaves), had received a copy of the Imperial firman announcing this abolition. It had, moreover, received a formal instruction from the Minister of Finance (under whose jurisdiction the Customs are placed), acquainting the said Department with the prohibition, in future, of the importation of slaves, and ordering it to exercise a strict watch in order to ensure the observance of this prohibition. There was a functionary called "Pengikgee," whose special duty it was to detect any infractions of this prohibition, and to report them to the Chief Customer, whose duty it was to bring such infractions to the knowledge of the Porte, and hold the slaves themselves, now an unlawful article of commerce, at its disposal.

I then asked him if any such infractions ever took place.

He said it might, perhaps, be possible for a small number of slaves, say from 3 or 4 to 8, provided, perhaps, for the nonce, with acts of manumission, to deceive the vigilance of the detective; but he considered it quite impossible for any larger number than that to be smuggled into Constantinople. Even supposing what is impossible, that a man so well known as Ahmed Bey should lend himself to such a transaction, it could not be conducted with secrecy enough to escape the observation of people of all sorts and all nations, who are constantly withdrawing their goods from the custom-house, who know that such a trade has been forbidden, and who would have made such a proceeding a matter of public notoriety. My own experience goes to confirm this.

I was charged during the spring of last year, by Lord Stratford, to take possession of a party of alleged slaves, also from Tripoli, and deliver them into the hands of the Minister for Foreign Affairs. I had no sooner landed at a spot, by no means much frequented, when I was met by a "Pengikgee," and obliged to follow him with my charge to the custom-house, where, after a proper explanation, and an examination of their acts of manumission, which did not answer to Colonel Herman's description of them, I was allowed to proceed on my errand.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP SARELL.

P.S.—In alluding to Colonel Herman's description of the above acts of manumission, I do not wish to be understood as having seen any despatches from him on that subject, because he did not write to the Embassy on the subject; I mean his verbal description as given to Captain Bolland at the hour of his departure.

P. S

Inclosure 3 in No. 533.

Admiral Slade to Mr. Alison.

My dear Alison,

Imperial Arsenal, January 25, 1858.

BLACK slaves and some black marines have been confounded together. The negroes about whom you have requested information, were sent by the Governor of Tripoli, in the "Feizi Bahri," by the Capitan Pasha's desire, expressly for enrolment in the navy. They are from the class of freed slaves, or slaves abandoned by merchants unable to sell them. There are always many such at Tripoli. I believe the Local Government acquainted the Porte with the embarrassment caused by their numbers and irregularities, and this mode of relief was adopted. Those brought by the "Feizi Bahri," about 70 in number, were on their arrival enrolled as a black company in the marine corps. They are exactly in the same position with respect to pay, quarters, rations, and clothing, as the Turkish marines, and will equally receive their discharge at the expiration of the allotted term of service. They are, in short, on the books of the navy. They have received very kind treatment here, lodged in warm rooms, with charcoal burning in them day and night. A negro lieutenant and some negro serjeants, already in the service, have been appointed to look after and instruct them. They have been drilled in the manual exercise in their warm quarters, and have not been set to do any duty on account of the weather. They should not have been sent here in winter. Those among them unwell on their arrival, were sent at once to the naval hospital. Two only have died of the whole number. The men in the barracks are healthy, and appear contented. No amount of ingenuity can conjure up any connection between their condition and the condition of slavery. Colonel Herman has heard only one part of the story; it might be well to acquaint him with the other, since the Capitan Pasha contemplates procuring more negroes from Tripoli for enrolment in the marines. About 70 Arabs, troublesome subjects, came with the said negroes in the "Feizi Bahri," for enrolment in the army I believe.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) A. SLADE.

No. 534.

Mr. Alison to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 12.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 2, 1858.

WITH reference to my despatch dated the 28th ultimo, respecting the alleged embarkation of negroes at Tripoli, on board the Ottoman steam-frigate "Feizi Bahri," I have the honour to inclose copy of a report dated the 30th January, addressed by the Imperial Commissioner, Nousret Bey, to the Grand Vizier, and communicated to me by Fuad Pasha, denying the fact of any slaves having been admitted on board that vessel.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ALISON.

Inclosure in No. 534.

Nousret Bey to the Grand Vizier.

(Translation.)

Constantinople, January 30, 1858.

HAVING been requested by your Highness to report the truth as to the alleged shipment for Constantinople, and for purposes of trade, of 90 black slaves on board His Majesty's steamer "Feizi Bahri," on her return trip from Tripoli, to which place and to Tunis I had been sent on a mission in her, I have the honour to state, that being a staff officer in His Imperial Majesty's service, and on a special mission of His Majesty's Government to those parts, knowing that it was my first bounden duty to execute *ad literam*, and see executed, the orders of that Government, I have acted in a manner calculated to inspire confidence to its best friends and allies, and I have not gone a step beyond the laws or regulations, nor allowed others to do so. This being as clear as the sun, whoever has written what is not true, and assimilated marine troops to slaves, has calumniated me and the Local Government, and has offended military honour and my own. I cannot, therefore, allow, not indeed that such things should be written, but that they should even be pronounced.

It looks, in my humble opinion, as if these statements were based upon some misunderstanding or effort of imagination.

Charged with the duty of putting down the sedition of Ghouma, and restoring tranquillity to the two provinces of Tunis and Tripoli, I left Constantinople by His Majesty's order, on board the "Feizi Bahri," and reached Tripoli viâ Tunis. The result of my interview with the Governor of Tripoli being the acknowledged necessity of proceeding to Tunis, where Ghouma then was, I went there, proposing to return subsequently to Tripoli. Two days previous to my departure, I received charge of one hundred and odd natives of Jebeli Gharbieh, Bengazi, and Hams, as part of the contingent supplied by Tripoli, in common with other maritime provinces, for service during the established period on board His Majesty's ships. These men were provided by his Excellency the Governor, and his Excellency, moreover, informed me that 500 more would be sent to the arsenal, and desired me to give this information in the proper quarter, promising to prepare some more for my return.

One day previous to my departure from Tripoli, I saw, in a friendly manner, all the Consuls in Tripoli, Colonel Herman among others. He gave me a letter for Mr. Wood. M. Botta gave me one for M. Roches and another for Ghouma. On my return from Tunis I called at Malta and Tripoli, having these men on board. All the Consuls came to see me, and not one of them said a word about my passengers. Most of them were white, and all of them free or freed natives of the place. Not only the Consuls, but every one, knew this fact. It was a proceeding in accordance with the rules established by Government. On our arrival in Constantinople these privates were made over to the arsenal. Moreover, although his Excellency the Governor desired me to give a passage to ten officers going to the capital on leave, with their families, I would not receive, even in the boats, not the steamer, any one of their servants, whether male or female, unprovided with a certificate attesting their liberty. This written statement will prove what exertions I gave myself, in the eyes of the whole world, to execute faithfully the orders of my Government.

The only explanation that one can give to the whole story is, that the inhabitants of the Province of Tripoli, although white, are called Arabs, and that it was reported to the writer of this story that so many Arabs were shipped on board the "Feizi Bahri." He immediately, without making any inquiry, supposed they were black Arabs, and arrived at the conclusion they were slaves.

On my second visit to Tripoli, an employé of the American Consulate came on board and saw the men, and knew they had entered the marine service.

(Signed)

NOUSRET.

TURKEY. (*Consular*)—*Bagdad.*

No. 535.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Kemball.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 11, 1858.

HER Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople has transmitted to me a copy of a despatch which you addressed on the 17th of December last to Viscount Stratford de Redcliffe, giving an account of the steps taken by you and by Kheyree Pasha, with regard to several batches of slaves imported by slave-dealers into Bagdad and its neighbourhood, and I have to acquaint you that I approve your proceedings in this matter, as reported in your above-mentioned despatch.

I have at the same time to inform you that I have instructed Mr. Alison to express to the Government of the Porte the thanks of Her Majesty's Government for the promptness with which Kheyree Pasha adopted measures for giving effect to the orders of the Sultan for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

TURKEY. (*Consular*)—*Canea in Crete.*

No. 536.

Consul Ongley to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 8.)

(Extract.)

Canea in Crete, January 16, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Ottoman schooner "Rahmaniya," Osman Beyzade master, arrived at Suda Bay, from Bengazi, on the 29th December. Suspicions having been entertained that there were slaves on board, Arif, Captain of the Turkish man-of-war "Perkezedé," on the station, was directed by Veli Pasha to ascertain the fact, and he found on board, concealed in the hold, fourteen females. These were taken to the Council, where they were interrogated, and told that they were free, and might go where they pleased.

From the statement of these persons, it would appear that the greater part of them had been slaves, who had gone to the Governor of Bengazi at different times, to complain of the treatment they experienced from their owners.

The Governor, Zeki Effendi, was in the habit of sending them to his harem; and one night he embarked them all on board a vessel, and sent them off in charge of the captain, to be sold in Anatolia.

One girl in particular said she was not a slave, but that she had gone to inquire for her mother; and they told her they would send her to her mother, and thus kidnaped her.

Veli Pasha has taken steps to find them situations; and many of them have already found husbands among the numerous free blacks in Canea. The captain's vessel is to be confiscated.

The correspondence of Zeki Effendi has been seized on board the vessel, and will be forwarded unopened to the authorities at Constantinople with the Report of the Council.

I believe that it was Captain Arif who first communicated his suspicions to Veli Pasha.

No. 537.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Ongley.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 16, 1858.

I HAVE to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government learn with satisfaction the liberation of the slaves which were found on board the Ottoman schooner "Rahmaniya," under the circumstances reported in your despatch of the 16th ultimo.

You will inform me whether this vessel really is confiscated by the Turkish authorities.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

TURKEY. (Consular)—Diarbekir.

No. 538.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 5.)

My Lord,

Diarbekir, April 21, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 18th ultimo,* answering my despatch of the 20th of January, which inclosed a copy of a report to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, regarding the present state of the Slave Trade in this part of Turkey; and I beg to thank your Lordship for the approval of my proceedings contained therein.

I have just returned from a visit to Bessim Pasha, made for the purpose of expressing to him, according to your Lordship's instructions, the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government learnt the prompt and effectual measures taken by his Excellency to restore to freedom the two slaves in question. The Pasha appeared exceedingly gratified, and desired me to express to your Lordship his high sense of the flattering manner in which his proceedings have been viewed by Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 539.

Acting Consul Maltass to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 1.)

My Lord,

Diarbekir, June 25, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, a little time ago, having heard that several white and black slaves, of both sexes, had been sold at public auction in the bazars, I informed Bessim Pasha of the fact, and his Excellency replied that he had prohibited the sale of slaves at Diarbekir, and would inquire into the matter. A few days after I was told that a female slave had been offered for sale in the market, and that two boys and three women had been brought from Bagdad to be disposed of here. I again informed Bessim Pasha of this, and gave him the names of their owners. His Excellency sent for the men, and, as they say, told them to dispose of their slaves privately.

Slaves are, however, still being bought and sold in the bazars.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. MALTASS.

TURKEY. (Consular)—Rhodes.

No. 540.

Consul R. Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 9.)

My Lord,

Rhodes, October 22, 1857.

MR. VICE-CONSUL PALMA, at Larnaca, writes to me under date of the 8th instant, that several slaves, in different parts of the Island of Cyprus, have fled to the British Vice-Consulate there for protection; that he has given these slaves their freedom and placed them as servants in families. He further states that this movement is considerably on the increase, and has requested me to send him explicit instructions for his future guidance under present circumstances.

I have desired him to pursue the same line of conduct as that adopted by me here, namely, to cause the master and slave to be called before the Pasha (Mr. Palma to be present at the time), and if any gross act of cruelty has been committed on the slave by his master or mistress, as the case may be, to insist on the slave having his or her freedom, and to see that the "azad kaghadi," or ticket of freedom, is duly given; but that if a slave has run away from his master or mistress in a fit of caprice, with no proofs of ill-treatment, and the slave is willing to return to the said master or mistress, Mr. Palma may agree to such an arrangement. On the other hand, if any slaves of notoriously bad character seek to leave their masters or mistresses, not to protect them in any way, and on all occasions to discourage, rather than to encourage, such acts of desertion.

Should you Lordship not approve of these my instructions to Mr. Vice-Consul Palma, I shall be glad to receive such others for my guidance as your Lordship may be pleased to transmit to me.

I have forwarded copy of this despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT CAMPBELL.

No. 541.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul R. Campbell.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 16, 1857.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 22nd ultimo, and in reply I have to acquaint you that I approve the instructions given by you to Mr. Palma, the British Vice-Consul at Larnaca, for his guidance, with regard to slaves who flee for protection to the Vice-Consulate.

Nothing contrary to law should be done, but the emancipation of slaves should be encouraged by all fair and legal means.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 542.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul R. Campbell.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 5, 1857.

I HAVE received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople a copy of a despatch which his Excellency addressed to you on the 9th ultimo, containing some observations on your despatch to me of the 22nd of October last, reporting the instructions given by you to the British Vice-Consul at Cyprus, for his guidance, with regard to fugitive slaves who make seek protection in the British Vice-Consulate, and I have to acquaint you that I concur in the observations contained in his Excellency's despatch to you on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 543.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul R. Campbell.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 19, 1857.

HER Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has transmitted to me a copy of a memorandum communicated to his Excellency by the Government of the Porte, complaining of the proceedings of the British Vice-Consul in Cyprus, who is represented to have liberated, and to have hired out to another person, some black female slaves who fled to him for protection; and I have to desire that you will point to Mr. Vice-Consul Palma that he had no authority to liberate these slaves, and you will enjoin him to be careful in future not to allow the sympathy which he naturally must feel in favour of negro slaves, to carry his interference on their behalf beyond proper bounds.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 544.

Consul R. Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 1.)

My Lord,

Rhodes, January 20, 1858.

I DO myself the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 19th ultimo, copy of which I have transmitted to Mr. Vice-Consul Palma, in Cyprus, accompanied by a communication from myself, reproving him for not pursuing the line of conduct which I had previously laid down for his guidance respecting fugitive slaves, with a caution not to carry his interference in their behalf beyond proper bounds.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT CAMPBELL.

TUSCANY.

No. 545.

Mr. Lyons to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 15.)

My Lord,

Florence, September 10, 1857.

I HAVE to-day had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch of the 31st ultimo, transmitting to me copies of the Resolution of the House of Commons for an Address to Her Majesty upon Slave Trade, and of the answer which Her Majesty was pleased to return to that Address.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of a note by which, in obedience to your Lordship's instructions, I have communicated these papers to the Tuscan Minister for Foreign Affairs, and have informed his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government earnestly entreat the co-operation of the Government of Tuscany for the suppression of the piratical crime of the Traffic in Slaves.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. B. P. LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 545.

Mr. Lyons to Signor Lenzoni.

Sir,

Florence, September 10, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency herewith the copy of a Resolution which was voted by the House of Commons on the 14th of July, 1857, for an Address to Her Majesty upon Slave Trade, and a copy of the Answer which, on the 27th of the same month, Her Majesty was pleased to return to that Address.

Your Excellency will see from these papers the unceasing and anxious desire of the Parliament and Government of the United Kingdom for the extinction of the Traffic in Slaves.

The Earl of Clarendon, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has, by command of Her Majesty, instructed me to communicate these papers to the Government of His Imperial and Royal Highness the Grand Duke of Tuscany, and to state that Her Majesty's Government earnestly entreat that the co-operation of the Government of Tuscany may actively and efficiently be given towards the total suppression and extinction of this piratical crime, both in its direct and indirect practice.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) R. B. P. LYONS.

No. 546.

Mr. Lyons to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 20.)

My Lord,

Florence, September 14, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of an answer which I have received from the Tuscan Minister for Foreign Affairs to the note in which I transmitted to his Excellency copies of the Address of the House of Commons upon Slave Trade, and of Her Majesty's Answer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. B. P. LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 546.

Signor Lenzoni to Mr. Lyons.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

Florence, le 12 Septembre, 1857.

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir l'office par lequel vous m'avez fait l'honneur de me transmettre un exemplaire de l'Adresse votée, le 14 Juillet, dernier par la Chambre des Communes à Sa Majesté la Reine, relativement à la Traite des Noirs, ainsi qu'un exemplaire de la réponse qu'il a plu à votre très gracieuse Souveraine de donner à cette Adresse.

En vous offrant bien des remerciements de cette obligeante communication, je vous prie d'assurer le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté (qui connaît d'ailleurs depuis longtemps le sentiment de répugnance que cet exécrationnel Trafic inspire à Son Altesse Impériale et Royale le Grand Duc, mon auguste Maître) de la constante sollicitude du Gouvernement à co-opérer, en conformité des arrangements en vigueur, et autant qu'il sera en son pouvoir, à la destruction de ce Trafic,

Je saisis, &c.

(Signed)

O. LENZONI.

UNITED STATES.

No. 547.

Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 13.)

My Lord,

Washington, March 28, 1857.

ON my arrival at New York, I communicated to Mr. Fowler, Her Majesty's Acting Consul, the correspondence contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 19th ultimo,* and requested him to obtain some additional information regarding the ownership and destination of the vessel "*N. Hand*," which, after discharging a cargo of breadstuff for the relief of the people at the Cape de Verd Islands, was suspected of being engaged in the Slave Traffic on the coast of Africa.

I have received the inclosed report from Mr. Fowler, which states that the vessel in question has not returned to the port of New York, but shows that part of the cargo was shipped by two firms of the name of Figaniere, one of which is represented by the Consul of Portugal of the same name, whose exequatur has been suspended by the Government of the United States, on a persuasion that he has been otherwise implicated in the Slave Trade.

It seems more than probable that the subscription promoted at New York by the Consul of Portugal, for the sustenance of the starving population at the Cape de Verd Islands, and the despatch of the vessel "*N. Hand*," freighted with provisions, were merely the pretexts for furthering a nefarious design, and that under the cloak of a charitable office there was concealed a slave speculation.

I have placed your Lordship's despatch, with its inclosures, in the hands of General Cass, together with a memorandum of the particulars reported by Mr. Fowler; and the United States' authorities will ascertain whether any legal proceedings can be founded on the information thus collected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 547.

Acting Consul Fowler to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

New York, March 19, 1857.

I BEG leave to own receipt of your Lordship's despatch bearing date New York, 9th March instant, and relating to the American vessel "*N. Hand*."

By registry at the Custom-house of this city, George W. Rosevelt, shipwright, and a resident here, appears to have been the owner of the vessel in question, when on the 9th of June, 1856, she was dispatched from this port, and cleared for the Cape de Verd Islands, loaded with a cargo of flour, rice, corn meal, beef, pork, and other provisions, together with (and this is a suspicious feature) fifty water-casks.

A portion of this cargo consisted, and is reported in the manifest as a donation from the Corn Exchange Company of this city, and is shipped on behalf of the said Company by Mr. Peter Rice. The other shippers are João C. Abrea, Figaniere and Figaniere, Reis, and Co.

It is by the latter firm the vessel is believed to have been chartered with the avowed object of carrying relief and sustenance to the people of Cape de Verde Islands, reported to be in a state of famine. Indeed, I have every reason to believe the cargo was purchased

* Class B, presented 1857, No. 687.

out of the avails of pecuniary contributions from the public, a strong appeal of such aid having been made at the time by the Portuguese Consulate of this city. The vessel has never returned to this port, and what or whether any transfer or change of ownership has taken place can hardly be ascertained until she does reappear in American waters.

No. 548.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, April 17, 1857.

I HAVE received your Lordship's despatch of the 28th ultimo, reporting the steps taken by you in the case of the American vessel "*N. Hand*," which is suspected of having been engaged in the Slave Trade; and I have to acquaint your Lordship that I approve your proceedings in this matter, as reported in your above-mentioned despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 549.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, May 8, 1857.

I INCLOSE for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch from Mr. Crawford, the British Judge in the Mixed Court of Justice established at Havana,* reporting that he has good reasons for knowing that some fifteen vessels have been dispatched on slave-trading expeditions from the port of New Orleans alone, within the last two months.

No. 550.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, June 18, 1857.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Howard, Her Majesty's Minister at Lisbon,† inclosing a translation of a Portaria issued by the Portuguese Government, and published in the "*Diario do Governo*" newspaper of the 6th instant, dismissing from his post the Portuguese Vice-Consul at Baltimore, who had gone by the name of Baptista, but whose real name is Florim, and who was implicated in the slave-trading transactions of the United States' vessel "*C. F. A. Cole*."

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 551.

Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 29.)

(Extract.)

Washington, June 13, 1857.

I HAVE placed in the hands of the Acting Secretary of State the report of Mr. Crawford, relative to the increase of the Slave Trade in Cuba, and the extensive participation of United States' vessels in that traffic.

I have requested Mr. Appleton to lay this report before the President, and on the first convenient occasion I will engage his Excellency's attention on that subject.

No. 552.

Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 7.)

(Extract.)

Washington, June 23, 1857.

I LEARN from Her Majesty's Consul at Richmond that he has succeeded in procuring the final conviction of the owners of the United States' vessel "Alfano" on a charge of kidnapping a coloured boy, a subject of Her Majesty, and selling him into slavery. Mr. James has forwarded to me his despatch to your Lordship on this subject, and he addressed to Her Majesty's Legation a report commenting in strong, but appropriate, terms on the atrocity of this transaction.

It appears that the parties implicated have it under contemplation to petition the President for the remission of the pecuniary penalty to which they have been sentenced.

No. 553.

Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 7.)

My Lord,

Washington, June 23, 1857.

I LEARNED from Mr. Appleton, yesterday, that he had laid before the President your Lordship's despatch of the 8th ultimo, which I had placed in his hands. The Acting Secretary of State expressed the concern with which he learned that the exercise of this Traffic was increasing in the ports of the United States, and added that his own correspondence tended to justify the impressions of Her Majesty's Agents in Cuba. He had written to the United States' district attorneys in the suspected localities with a view of obtaining more complete information.

The language of Mr. Appleton was more energetic and satisfactory than that of General Cass, and I believe that he would gladly contribute to the suppression of this disgraceful practice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER,

No. 554.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, July 17, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to your Lordship herewith, for your information, copies of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Lagos,* and of a despatch addressed by Commander Hope, of Her Majesty's ship "Prometheus," to Commodore Adams,† relating to the seizure and detention, by Commander Hope, of the slave-brigantine "Adams Gray" upon suspicion of being engaged in the Slave Trade, and to the pursuit, by Commander Grubbe, of Her Majesty's ship "Teazer," of another vessel, the "W. D. Miller," also supposed to be engaged in this abominable Traffic.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 555.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, July 31, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to your Lordship herewith copies of several reports which have been received from the commanders of Her Majesty's ships on the West Coast of Africa,‡

* No. 8.

† Class A, Inclosure 1 in No. 150.

‡ Ibid., Nos. 152 and 153.

relating to the Slave Trade carried on, on that coast, under the American flag; and, with reference to the case of the American vessel "*Panchita*," which was detained off the Congo river, and sent to New York by Commander Moresby, of Her Majesty's ship "*Sappho*," on suspicion of her being engaged in the Slave Trade, I have to inform you that it appears from a report which was received in December last from Mr. Dalrymple, Clerk to Her Majesty's Commissioners at Loanda, that this vessel, in which he had taken a passage from New York to the coast of Africa, was, when about to sail, detained by the United States' authorities on suspicion that she was intended to be employed in the Slave Trade.

Your Lordship will perceive from the contents of the inclosed papers that serious inconvenience is occasioned by the fact that there are no American ships-of-war on the African station, and that it was owing to this circumstance that Commander Moresby was obliged to send the "*Panchita*" to New York; and your Lordship will therefore earnestly press upon the consideration of the United States' Government the necessity for the presence of American cruisers on the African coast, with a view to prevent the United States' flag being abused for the purpose of covering the iniquitous Traffic in Slaves.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 556.

Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 3.)

My Lord,

New York, July 21, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at New Orleans, from which it is apparent that the accounts forwarded to the Foreign Office by Her Majesty's functionaries in Cuba in regard to the Slave Traffic from that port are somewhat overstated.

Your Lordship will be gratified to observe that Mr. Mure has formed a high estimate of the vigilance and sincerity of the United States' functionaries there, in the scrutiny of suspected vessels. I am enabled to give your Lordship the same impression of the disposition of the Federal authorities at New York. The District Attorney and the Marshal are both distinguished in the active performance of their duty in this respect, and are even remarkable for a very creditable animosity against the Slave Trade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 556.

Consul Mure to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

New Orleans, July 7, 1857.

AS vague and exaggerated reports have been put in circulation relative to the fitting out of a large number of vessels at New Orleans for the purpose of being engaged in the Slave Trade, I think it my duty to communicate to your Lordship the facts which came to my knowledge.

The rumours were in some measure attributable to the number of small vessels driven from the regular channels of trade by the depressed state of freights, and leaving the port either in ballast, or with very small cargoes. Two or three of the schooners, with provisions for Walker's forces, cleared at the Custom-house in rather a mysterious manner, and gave rise to similar reports.

Two cases, however, of rather a suspicious character occurred, which induced the United States' authorities to seize the vessels and proceed to an investigation before the United States' Commissioner. One was that of a small American vessel called the "*William Clark*," which cleared for Teneriffe with a small cargo of provisions; but, after a rigid examination, she was released, there being no evidence adduced to show that she was engaged in any other than legitimate trade. Another American schooner, called the "*Louis Mc Lane*," cleared, on the 1st of May, for Ambriz, Africa, with a small cargo of provisions, and 100 empty casks. She was, however, released on the 20th ultimo, by the United States' Marshal, there being no evidence to show that she was destined for the Slave Trade. Her small size, and the want of those large kettles and

boilers usually found on board slavers, would render her not adapted for the Trade. This vessel cleared and went to sea on the 23rd ultimo, destined for Annabon, Africa.

I ought, in justice to the Government officials, to state to your Lordship that they scrutinized the character, cargo, and destination of these vessels very closely, and from the course pursued by them it would seem to indicate that they are determined to frustrate any attempt at fitting out vessels at New Orleans for the purpose of engaging in this unlawful Traffic.

No. 557.

Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 11.)

(Extract.)

Washington, July 27, 1857.

THE circumstances attending the capture of the American vessel "*Panchita*," and her arrival in the port of New York in charge of Lieutenant Odevaine, of Her Majesty's sloop "*Sappho*," with a prize crew, have been communicated to your Lordship by Her Majesty's Acting Consul at New York.

The "*Panchita*" is now prosecuted by the United States' District Attorney as a slaver, while Lieutenant Odevaine, with the Assistant Surgeon of the "*Sappho*," are prosecuted by the owners of the "*Panchita*" for damages, consequent on her detention.

Lieutenant Odevaine and his companion are held to bail for 3,000*l.*, and are now residing at New York, awaiting the opening of the trial, which is expected to take place in the month of September.

Their presence is also desirable as witnesses in the suit of the United States against the "*Panchita*."

I have brought the subject under the notice of General Cass, who states that the two suits at law, viz., that against the "*Panchita*," and that against Lieutenant Odevaine, must take their course. There are no means by which Her Majesty's officers can be delivered or exonerated from the proceedings against them.

No. 558.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, August 13, 1857.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 17th ultimo, I inclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Skelton, Her Majesty's Acting Commissary Judge in the Mixed Courts of Justice established at Sierra Leone,* reporting the condemnation, by the British Vice-Admiralty in that Colony, of the brigantine "*Adams Gray*," of New Orleans, on the ground of her being engaged in the Slave Trade.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 559.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, August 14, 1857.

I INCLOSE, for your Lordship's information, the accompanying extracts of a report which I have received from Mr. Gabriel, the Acting British Commissioner at Loanda,† containing some observations with regard to the extent to which the United States' flag is used to cover the Traffic in Slaves.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 560.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, August 17, 1857.

WITH reference to my despatches of the 31st ultimo and 14th instant, I inclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Campbell, Her Majesty's Consul at Lagos,* relative to the use of the American flag to cover the Traffic in Slaves, and to the absence of United States' cruisers on the African coast.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 561.

Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 24.)

(Extract.)

Washington, August 3, 1857.

IN my conversation with General Cass respecting the capture of the "*Panchita*," I have taken occasion to call his attention to the state of the American squadron on the coast of Africa; and I have stated that it would afford me much satisfaction to be able to furnish your Lordship with such information as would enable you to contradict the prevalent assertion that the naval force of the United States is not kept up to the number prescribed by Treaty.

I have begged the Secretary of State to furnish me with the number of ships and guns on service during the year 1856 and the first half of 1857. General Cass has not yet replied, and I am left to gather the facts from unofficial sources. I am under the impression, that during the whole of last year the squadron did not show more than fifty guns; and at present, as far as I can learn, there are only three vessels, the "*Dale*," of 16, the "*Prince Louis*," of 20, and the "*Cumberland*," lately cut down, of 26, making in all 62, or about 20 short of the right number. A sloop of 22 is, however, under orders to visit the coast, and I do not doubt that steps will be taken to strengthen the squadron permanently without delay.

I have unofficially communicated to General Cass the report of Her Majesty's Consul at Lagos, inclosed in your Lordship's despatch of the 17th ultimo, which illustrates the manner in which the United States' flag is made to cover the nefarious Trade.

No. 562.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, August 25, 1857.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 3rd instant, I have to acquaint you that I approve of your having taken an opportunity of calling the attention of General Cass to the reduced state of the United States' squadron on the African coast; and I have further to state to your Lordship that I approve of your having communicated unofficially to the General a copy of Mr. Consul Campbell's report, in which he illustrates the manner in which the United States' flag is used to cover the Slave Trade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 563.

Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 30.)

(Extract.)

Washington, August 18, 1857.

IN my despatch of the 3rd instant I had the honour to report that I had applied to General Cass for a Return of the United States' vessels of war employed during

the year 1856 and the first half of 1857, in the suppression of the African Slave Trade. I at the same time stated that I learned from other sources that the squadron comprised at present three vessels, with an aggregate of sixty-two guns.

At an earlier period of the current year, if the official Navy List may be trusted, the force was still weaker, embracing the same number of vessels, but carrying only forty-six guns.

The official registers may, however, be published at a moment when vessels are being changed, and may not convey an accurate impression of the force maintained during the whole year. I consequently wished, before venturing on any formal affirmation, to possess the particulars desired under the authority of the Secretary of State; and I again called the attention of General Cass to the state of the American squadron in conversation this morning.

General Cass frankly confessed that the force prescribed by Treaty had not been maintained. He said that it fell short of the requisite strength at present by nineteen guns, and allowed that it had done so for some time past. He added that he did not understand how the late Government had allowed this diminution to occur, for the necessary appropriation had been regularly provided by Congress.

I asked General Cass whether I might inform your Lordship that the force would be promptly increased.

He replied that he could not at that moment give me any official assurance that such would be the case, for he had not learned from the Secretary of the Navy what steps would be sanctioned to supply the deficiency, but that he personally had no doubt that the requisite measures would be adopted for the execution of the Treaty. The President had already declared himself to that effect.

I then pressed upon the Secretary of State the propriety of making an effort for the suppression of a Traffic which was branded by the law of the United States as piracy, and observed to him that the spirit of the Treaty would not be realised by merely maintaining the number of guns prescribed. Fewer guns in more ships would be better adapted to the purpose, and that it was chiefly in the size and swiftness of the vessels that their efficiency consisted.

General Cass allowed the justice of these observations, remarking that what they required was a class of light steam-vessels.

In the course of this conversation he stated that his inquiries led him to believe that the number of guns prescribed by the Convention of 1842 had not been maintained by Her Majesty's Government.

I said that I could not then affirm that the number of guns had been accurately looked to, but that I was confident that the sense of the Treaty had been carried out by the commission of a number of small active vessels perfectly adapted to the service on which they were employed.

I then read aloud to the Secretary of State your Lordship's despatch of the 31st ultimo, respecting the capture of the "*Panchita*," in which I am instructed to press earnestly upon the attention of the United States' Government the necessity for the presence of United States' cruisers upon the African coast.

No. 564.

Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 30.)

My Lord,

Washington, August 17, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship's favourable consideration, the accompanying letter from the Committee of the Society of Friends at Philadelphia, conveying their desire to be furnished with copies of the reports, respecting the Slave Trade, presented to Parliament since the year 1850.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 564.

Mr. Evans to Lord Napier.

Respected Friend,

Philadelphia, 8th month, 7th day, 1857.

THE Representatives of the Society of Friends, in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware, have appointed a Committee to draw up an address to the people of the United States, setting forth the present condition of the African Slave Trade, in the hope of awakening fresh interest in the painful subject, and a disposition to take some steps for suppressing this cruel and unchristian traffic.

That Committee has reason to believe that much important information, as regards the Slave Trade, will be found in the Parliamentary Reports of the English Government, and is desirous to procure copies of those documents since the year 1850.

On a former similar occasion they were furnished with the reports up to that period inclusive, through the kindness and liberality of the Prime Minister of England, but I thought it probable an application to thee might procure them with less delay and trouble.

I trust the nature of the object in view will apologise for the liberty I have taken, and should it be agreeable to thee, and in thy power to comply with the request, it may serve the cause of humanity, and oblige, &c.

Thy sincere Friend,
(Signed) THOMAS EVANS.

No. 565.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, August 31, 1857.

I INCLOSE, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Gabriel, the Acting British Commissioner at Loanda,* relative to the shipment of a cargo of slaves from the African coast, in the neighbourhood of Cabinda, by the American brig "Putnam," and respecting also the proceeding of the supercargos of the American barque "Panchita" in connection with this affair.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 566.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, September 4, 1857.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 17th instant, I have to acquaint you that I have given directions that copies of the Slave Trade papers which have been laid before Parliament from the year 1851 inclusive, up to the present time, shall be forwarded to you for presentation to the Society of Friends at Philadelphia.

Your Lordship, in communicating these papers, will state that Her Majesty's Government have had much pleasure in acceding to their request to be supplied with the papers in question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 567.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, September 10, 1857.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch from Mr. Gabriel, the Acting British Commissioner at Loanda,† inclosing copies of a correspon-

* Class A, No. 102.

† Ibid., No. 101.

dence which has passed between him and the Acting Brazilian Consul at that place, relative to the Slave Trade which is being carried on in the neighbourhood of the River Congo. And with reference to the 4th and 5th paragraphs of Mr. Gabriel's despatch, I have to instruct your Lordship again to call the attention of the United States' Government to the urgent necessity for some effectual steps being taken to put a stop to the Slave Trade which is carried on under cover of the American flag.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 568.

Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received September 14.)

(Extract.)

Frostburg, Maryland, August 27, 1857.

I HAVE shown to General Cass two extracts from the newspapers, inclosed herewith, one of which announces the capture of the American schooner "*Jupiter*," with slaves on board, and the other announcing the sale of three American vessels to the Cubans, two of which have sailed on a slave-voyage under the United States' flag.

Inclosure in No. 568.

Newspaper Extracts.

THE schooner "*Jupiter*," under American colours, was seized in the Bight of Benin, Africa, on the 15th of June, and condemned. She had 70 slaves on board, and there were many more waiting shipment on the beach.

The captain threw the "*Jupiter's*" papers overboard.

THE SLAVE TRADE IN CUBA.—The Slave Trade flourishes amazingly. I have heard of four or five cargoes of Bozal negroes having been landed since I last wrote you; the last but one, beyond Trinidad de Cuba, 600 in number, has been seized by Brigadier Morales de Rada, who happened to be in that vicinity, and who also made prisoners of all the parties concerned in the landing. They, with the Africans, are now on their way to this city. This certainly has the appearance of an attempt to put a stop to the African Slave Trade. The last cargo of Bozals was landed on a cay near Santa Cruz. It had been found impossible to effect their landing without detection, on the mainland of the island, so they were landed on the cay.

Three more American vessels have been sold to the Spaniards, and will, most probably, be employed in the Slave Trade. Two have already sailed with a "sea letter" under the United States' flag.—[*Correspondent of Louisiana Courier.*]

No. 569.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, September 25, 1857.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Lordship's information, copies of a despatch and its inclosures from Mr. Campbell, Her Majesty's Consul at Lagos,* reporting the capture, by Her Majesty's steamer "*Antelope*," off Praia Nova, of the American schooner "*Jupiter*," with slaves on board, the master of which vessel had previously gone on shore, carrying with him his American flag and papers.

Mr. Campbell's despatch also contains information respecting other vessels under American colours, which are hovering off the African coast, in the Bight of Benin, waiting to embark slaves.

I also inclose a copy of a further despatch from Mr. Campbell,† reporting the capture

* No. 19.

† No. 22.

by Her Majesty's steamer "Teazer" of another American vessel, the "Abbot Devereux," with 270 slaves on board.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 570.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, September 25, 1857.

WITH reference to my other despatch of this day's date, I inclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Skelton, Her Majesty's Acting Commissary Judge in the Mixed Court of Justice established at Sierra Leone,* reporting the condemnation of the schooner "Jupiter" in the Vice-Admiralty Court of that Colony.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 571.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, September 26, 1857.

I HAVE received your Lordship's despatch of the 18th ultimo, reporting what passed at a conversation which you had with General Cass, on the subject of the deficiency in the number of the United States' vessels of war employed on the African coast; and I have to acquaint your Lordship that I approve your proceedings in this matter, as reported in your above-mentioned despatch.

And with reference to the observation made to you by General Cass, that he believed that the number of guns prescribed by the Convention of 1842 between England and the United States had not been maintained by Her Majesty's Government on the African coast, I inclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a statement which has been furnished to me by the Admiralty, showing the number of vessels and the total number of guns of the British squadron on the West Coast of Africa on the 1st of January of each year, since 1843, inclusive.

Your Lordship will perceive that in two years only, namely, in 1855 and 1856, have the number of guns of the African squadron fallen short of the number, eighty, prescribed by the Treaty, in the former year by nine guns, and in the latter by eight. But although there may have been a deficiency in the number of guns employed in the British squadron, your Lordship was, nevertheless, borne out in the observation which you made to General Cass, that the spirit of the Treaty had been carried out on the part of the British Government; for if the Slave Trade has not been put a stop to on the African coast, it is not on account of the deficiency in the number of British cruisers, or of the number of guns which they carried; but because, owing to the almost total absence of United States' cruisers, the flag of that country is used with impunity to cover the nefarious transactions of the slave-traders.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

Inclosure in No. 571.

Memorandum.

BY Article VIII of the Treaty made between Great Britain and the United States, dated the 9th of August, 1842, it was stipulated that each should prepare, equip, and maintain in service, on the coast of Africa, a sufficient and adequate squadron of suitable number and description, to carry in all not less than eighty 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.

* Class A, No. 10.

The following is a statement of the number of vessels and total number of guns of the British squadron on the West Coast of Africa, on the 1st of January of each year, from 1843 :—

Year.	Vessels.	Guns.
1843	14	141
1844	14	117
1845	20	180
1846	23	245
1847	21	205
1848	21	208
1849	23	155
1850	24	154
1851	26	201
1852	25	174
1853	19	117
1854	18	108
1855	12	71
1856	13	72
1857	16	84

No. 572.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, September 28, 1857.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 25th instant, I inclose for your Lordship's information, the accompanying extract of a further despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Lagos,* containing some observations with regard to the extent to which the United States' flag is used to cover the Slave Trade; and with reference to the case of the American barque "Charles," of Baltimore, which is particularly mentioned in Mr. Campbell's despatch, I have to instruct your Lordship to call the attention of General Cass to the fact that the master of this vessel when she was boarded by Her Majesty's steamer "Prometheus" did not attempt to disguise the object of his voyage, showing his slave-deck already laid, his twelve dozen mess-kids and other fittings, and admitting that he had on board 176 leaguers full of fresh water, and expected to carry off 1,000 slaves from the neighbourhood of Ambriz; and Her Majesty's Government cannot doubt that General Cass will be of opinion that the honour and good faith of the United States' Government require that steps should be taken to put a stop to the Slave Trade, which is now carried on with impunity under the American flag, and which the United States are bound by her Treaty engagements to use their best exertions to suppress.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 573.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, September 28, 1857.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Commissioner at the Havana,† containing information

* No. 20.

† Class A, No. 43.

respecting the Cuban Slave Trade, and I have to instruct your Lordship to communicate the substance of this despatch to the United States' Government, as showing the deplorable and increasing abuse of the American flag.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 574.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, September 29, 1857.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 10th instant, I inclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a letter from the Admiralty, by which you will perceive that all the reports which reach that Department confirm the opinion expressed by Mr. Gabriel, Her Majesty's Acting Commissioner at Loanda, that it is impossible effectually to check the Slave Trade, whilst the flag of the United States is so universally used to cover that Traffic.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

Inclosure in No. 574.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Hammond.

Sir,

Admiralty, September 24, 1857.

WITH reference to your letter of the 8th instant, with its inclosed copy of a despatch from Mr. Gabriel, the Acting British Commissioner at Loanda, relative to the Slave Trade carried on in the neighbourhood of the River Congo, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Earl of Clarendon, that the opinion expressed by Mr. Gabriel, that it is impossible effectually to check the Slave Trade, whilst the flag of the United States is so universally used to cover it, is in accordance with every report which reaches this Board.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. G. ROMAINE.

No. 575.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, September 29, 1857.

IN compliance with a request which I have received from the Board of Admiralty, I have to instruct your Lordship to convey to Commodore Kearney, of the United States' ship "North Carolina," the thanks of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, for his very great courtesy in receiving on board his vessel the officers and men of Her Majesty's ship "Sappho," who arrived at New York in charge of the suspected slave-vessel "Panchita."

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 576.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, October 2, 1857.

I INCLOSE, for your information, a Memorandum which has been prepared in this office, the contents of which will enable your Lordship effectually to demonstrate, should you think it expedient to do so, the groundless character of reports which have been circulated in the United States as to the ill treatment, in British colonies, of free African blacks and Indian and Chinese coolies.

Inclosure in No. 576.

Memorandum with reference to that part of Lord Napier's Despatch No. 10 of the 14th of September, 1857, which relates to Coolie and Chinese Immigration into the British Colonies, and to the evils which are supposed to accompany it.

Foreign Office, October 1, 1857.

THERE is no pretext for comparing the system of immigration into the British Colonies, which is sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government, with the Trade in African Slaves, the revival of which is advocated by certain parties in the Southern States of America.

In the first place, the immigrants into the British Colonies, whether Africans, coolies from India, or Chinamen, are all free men: they embark of their own free will, and are not, like the African slave, captives obtained in desolating wars carried on solely for the purpose of making prisoners to be sold to the slave-dealers.

And it is only necessary to become aware of the precautions taken to ensure the proper treatment of the immigrants, whether on the voyage, or on their subsequent arrival in a British Colony, to be convinced that there is no ground whatever for the opinion which it would appear is entertained in some parts of the United States, that the British Government winks at abuses in their own Colonies, bearing a comparison to the treatment received by African slaves.

The number of passengers allowed to be carried on board vessels taking emigrants from India to the British Colonies, is regulated according to the size of the vessel, one adult passenger only being allowed for every twelve superficial feet of deck. The vessels carrying the immigrants, moreover, must be commodious, none being accepted having a less height between decks than 6 feet 2 inches.

The dietary, also, is ample, as is shown by the scale annexed to the accompanying form of charter-party for the conveyance of coolies from the East to the West Indies. An experienced surgeon accompanies each ship; and the vessel is supplied with a liberal store of medicines and medical comforts.

The payment of the passage-money for the immigrants is made contingent on the receipt of documents from the Government of the Colony where the immigrants are landed, or from some other competent authority, to the effect that the passengers have been well treated, and that the terms of the charter-party have been complied with; and no payment is made for any passenger who may have died, or have left the ship on the voyage.

On the part of the Government, therefore, every precaution is taken to ensure the good treatment and comfort of the immigrants on board ship; and on the part of the owners, there is the self-interested motive that their payment depends on the good faith with which they may have complied with the terms of their contract. It is important to notice, also, that no coolie or Chinese emigration is now permitted into British Colonies, unless a proportionate number of females accompany the males.

Nor are the precautions taken for the supervision of the immigrants when they have arrived in the British Colonies less stringent than those which provide for their fair treatment on board ship.

In the Colony of British Guiana, which has received the largest number of coolie immigrants dispatched to the West Indies, special agents are appointed to see that the laws and regulations for the protection of the immigrants are properly carried out. These laws require that any employer who may be desirous of locating immigrants on his plantation, shall make application to the Immigration Agent-General, setting forth in writing the situation of such plantation, the name of the proprietor thereof, the number and description of the immigrants required, the nature of the labour to be performed, and all other particulars; and such application is not received unless accompanied by a certificate of the Special Justice of the district where such emigrants are to be located, that comfortable and sufficient accommodation, and suitable hospital and medical attendance, according to law, have been provided for them.

The Immigration Agent-General is also bound to keep a register of all immigrants introduced into the Colony, containing all particulars respecting each immigrant, the name of the vessel in which he arrived, whether he will be entitled or not to a return passage, and the amount of money which may have been advanced to such immigrant previous to his arrival in the Colony, which is to be repaid out of his wages.

And if any emigrant shall not, on his arrival, be immediately provided with employment, the Immigration Agent is bound to provide him with wholesome and sufficient

food, and convenient lodging on shore, until the means of earning his own livelihood is procured for him.

The foregoing are some of the principal regulations for the protection of the coolie immigrant in the Colony of British Guiana, and the rules in force in this Colony are the model on which the regulations and laws of most of the other British West Indian Colonies are founded.

The Colonial Laws provide also for the protection of the emigrant from personal ill-usage, or from a breach of contract on the part of the employer.

The longest period for which a coolie immigrant can be engaged on leaving India is ten years, at the end of which time he is entitled to a free passage back to India; but provision is made also for a reduction of this period of industrial service, on the immigrant defraying a certain portion of the cost of his passage back to India.

It will be seen from the foregoing, that whether on the part of the British Government, or on that of the Colonial authorities, all possible precautions are taken to ensure the proper treatment of coolie immigrants into British Colonies.

Nor are the authorities in the East Indies less vigilant in watching that the coolies are properly cared for, for in one instance, where considerable mortality occurred in a cargo of coolies at the quarantine station at the Mauritius, which was attributed to the unfitness of the place appointed for a station, and the want of proper accommodation, the East India Government immediately prohibited the emigration of a single coolie until steps had been taken by the authorities of that island to provide a proper quarantine establishment, and to remedy the state of things which had caused the mortality amongst the coolies.

With regard to Chinese immigrants, the total number introduced into the British West India Colonies is 2,107; and none have been imported since the year 1854, owing to the impossibility of procuring the necessary proportion of females to accompany the male emigrants.

The laws for the protection of Chinese immigrants, whether on the voyage, or on their arrival in British Colonies, are no less stringent than those framed for the protection of the coolie.

And it is to be observed, that the coolies and Chinese are brought into a country in which the condition of slavery does not exist, and where, consequently, they are under the protection of laws which are equal for them and their employers; whereas African slaves are imported into countries where the condition of slavery exists, and where the law is not equal for the master and the slave, and where, therefore, they are without redress, at the mercy of their owner.

As regards the results of the measures taken by the authorities to protect the coolie and Chinese immigrants, they are, as far as Her Majesty's Government are informed, entirely satisfactory.

Very few complaints have been made by the immigrants, and they have been of a trivial character.

It may be added, that the scheme of employing coolie and Chinese labourers in the West Indian Colonies has been most successful and satisfactory to the planters who have employed them, the only difficulty having been to procure a supply sufficient for the demand.

The reports which Her Majesty's Government have received also from Cuba show that the Chinese labourer is looked upon as a valuable addition to the agricultural population of that island.

Her Majesty's Consul-General at the Havana reports as follows on the subject of Chinese immigration:—

“The total number of Chinese labourers imported into Cuba since the year 1847 amounts to 17,139 men, and 7 women, all of whom have found immediate employment.

“The opinion of the planters and others who have availed themselves of these labourers' services continues to be favourable generally. They are more intelligent, although not so robust and athletic as the negro, and they require a treatment which is combined with justice and kindness, but by no means relaxed in its character, to make them most valuable servants, and in a great measure supersede the slave labour of this island.”

Mr. Crawford adds that the emigration of labourers from China ought to be continued and promoted under proper regulations, and that the opposition to it should be restricted to the necessary interference for securing to the coolies safe transit in well-ventilated transports, and an inspection in China to prevent kidnapping or fraudulent contracts being acted upon, as it is supposed has sometimes been the case, and that the insurrections which have occurred on board of many of the passenger-vessels, have been owing to the

discontent of those Chinese who have discovered, too late, that they have been unfairly dealt with.

Mr. Crawford further states that they have been found to answer all the purposes required of them as well as African slaves; that they are cheaper to hire, and will turn to be useful inhabitants when their eight years' contracts have expired.

He also recommends that Chinese women should be allowed to accompany their husbands, and that a proportionate number of future immigrants should be females.

Mr. Sullivan, also, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Lima, in a despatch dated the 11th of August last, speaking of the condition of the Chinese labourers in the Chincha Islands, in whose welfare Her Majesty's Government had taken a lively interest, and had communicated to the Peruvian Government the reports which had reached them of the ill-usage to which the labourers had at first been exposed, says:—

“I am happy to be able to report to your Lordship, that whatever may have been formerly the ill-treatment of the Chinese labourers, no such complaint can be made now. There are at present about 400 Chinese under contract, and about 150 free labourers. The Chinese who are under contract are paid 8 dollars a-month, are well fed, lodged, and clothed. The free Chinese, that is to say, those whose contracts are ended, are paid according to their work, at the rate of 2½ reals a load of about 1,800 pounds, of which they can with ease dig four a-day, and many of them dig six.

“Most of the Chinese have saved money, and some of them are wealthy. They appear to be perfectly satisfied; and the Peruvian Government connive at the erection of a temple in which they celebrate their religious rites.”

No. 577.

Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 4.)

My Lord,

Washington, September 16, 1857.

IN pursuance of your Lordship's instructions, I have addressed the inclosed letter to General Cass, transmitting the Resolution of the House of Commons of July 14, and Her Majesty's gracious answer to the same.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 577.

Lord Napier to General Cass.

Sir,

Washington, September 16, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to impart to you, by the orders of Her Majesty's Government, the inclosed Resolution of the House of Commons, directing that a humble address should be presented to Her Majesty, with a view to the suppression of the African Slave Trade. A copy of Her Majesty's gracious answer is also transmitted herewith.

In communicating these papers, I am instructed to convey to you the earnest entreaty of Her Majesty's Government that they may have the advantage of the active and efficient cooperation of the United States, in the extinction of this piratical crime, both in its direct and indirect practice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 578.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, October 5, 1857.

I INCLOSE, for your Lordship's information, the accompanying copy of a letter addressed by Mr. Hutchinson, Her Majesty's Consul at Fernando Po, to the Commander of Her Majesty's steam-vessel "Bloodhound,"* which has been forwarded to me by

* Inclosure in No. 54.

Mr. Hutchinson, containing information respecting two American vessels, the "*Jamestown*," and "*Onward*," equipped for the Slave Trade, which had entered the River Congo, and not being able to procure slaves there, had proceeded to the Congo to obtain them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 579

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, October 8, 1857.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 16th ultimo, I have to acquaint you that I approve the note which you addressed to General Cass, communicating copies of the Address of the House of Commons to the Queen, and of Her Majesty's answer, on the subject of the suppression of the African Slave Trade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 580.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, October 9, 1857.

I ENCLOSE, for your Lordship's information, the accompanying copies of a correspondence which I have had with Mr. Dallas, the United States' Minister at this Court, respecting the proceedings of Commander Moresby, of Her Majesty's ship "*Sappho*," in detaining on the coast of Africa, and eventually sending to New York, the American barque "*Panchita*," on the ground that she was engaged in the Slave Trade.

And with reference to the immunity from visit which it would appear, from Mr. Dallas's note, is asserted by the Government of the United States, on behalf of American vessels, Her Majesty's Government conclude that by the term "visit," General Cass does not mean that any vessels, no matter to what nation belonging, which may choose to hoist an American flag, shall not be boarded for the purpose of ascertaining whether her papers bear out the national character assumed by her flag, as that would be at once to proclaim and to afford complete immunity to the slave-dealers of every country in the world.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 580.

Mr. Dallas to the Earl of Clarendon.

*Legation of the United States, London,
September 16, 1857.*

My Lord,

IT has been made my duty to call to the notice of Her Majesty's Government, certain proceedings of Commander Fairfax Moresby, of the Royal Navy, on the Western Coast of Africa, in the early part of May last; and to avert, if possible, any unfavourable influence which those proceedings might have upon the relations of the two countries, by inviting from your Lordship such early and distinct disclaimer and assurance as may be esteemed adequate. No doubt is entertained that the acts of Commander Moresby were unauthorized; that, however plausibly pursued, they were the suggestions of his own discretion, not of his official instructions, and that all danger of their repetition will be promptly removed.

The barque "*Panchita*," Frederick B. Sladden, master, owned by citizens of New York, with an American register, and trading under the flag of the United States, was, on the 9th of May, 1857, lying at Punta de Lenha. At the same date, in the River Congo, was Her Majesty's sloop "*Sappho*," commanded by Commander Moresby, one of the

British squadron then stationed off the African coast to prevent the Traffic in Slaves. The "*Panchita*" had, in some manner, awakened suspicions as to her objects in the mind of Commander Moresby, who (agreeably to his own narrative) with "the pinnacle and gig" of his armed vessel, proceeded to Punta de Lenha "for the purpose of examining her." Meeting Captain Sladden, Commander Moresby "expressed" to him "a wish to muster his crew," and "no objection being made," went, accompanied "by Mr. Frederick Wells, master of Her Majesty's sloop under his command, on board the '*Panchita*;' " mustered the crew; asked, and was refused, permission to look into the holds; became confirmed in his "opinion" of her being "engaged in the illegal Traffic of Slaves," and was thus "induced to inform" Captain Sladden, that he should "detain him," with a view to give him over to the first American man-of-war he could meet. Finally, the "suspicions" of Commander Moresby being "by the vast quantity of fresh water" aboard "still further corroborated," he took "upon himself the great responsibility of sending" the barque to New York "for the decision of the United States' authorities," detailing for that purpose, Lieutenant C. D. J. Odevaine, with a party of seamen, and giving special and prudent directions for their conduct.

It may be added that the "*Panchita*" duly arrived at New York, was transferred to the custody of the Marshal of the United States for that district, and was libelled in the proper Court of Civil and Admiralty jurisdiction as a forfeiture. The question whether or not her voyage was, either in fact or intention, connected with the Traffic in Slaves will ultimately be determined in that still pending judicial proceeding; but its decision, one way or the other, can have no bearing on the violation of sovereign right now brought to your Lordship's attention.

This statement of Commander Moresby's conduct is made, as already intimated, almost exclusively in his own words: nor is it deemed necessary to the design of the present communication that the striking discrepancies of detail between his statement and that of Captain Sladden should be drawn into relief by comment. They illustrate, it is true, the conflicts to which a course of action like that of Commander Moresby necessarily leads, so liable to exasperate popular sensibilities on either side, and, in the end, to endanger the friendship and peace of nations. But I am unwilling to mix with the public aspect of the subject the colouring of individual imputation.

The Earl of Clarendon will, then, perceive that Commander Moresby, on the occasion described, impelled by "suspicion," actually effected a visitation, search, and seizure of the "*Panchita*;" that he knew her to be an American vessel; that, for predetermined "examination," he went to her, accompanied by a show of force, namely, the master of the "*Sappho*," and two boats' crews from his sloop-of-war; and that, excited by discovering what he construed to be badges of a criminal employment, he assumed the responsibility of disregarding the flag she bore, and of wresting her from the control and possession of her American captain.

Against each leading feature characterizing this transaction—the visit, the search, the seizure—the Government of the United States has uniformly, on all appropriate opportunities, for more than fifty years, openly and effectually protested, as inconsistent with the laws of nations, sanctioned by no Treaty, subversive of the separate rights and derogatory to the honour of independent communities. It was not the exercise of any fancied privilege of war, for profound peace prevailed; and yet, without the pretence of belligerent necessity, in respect to contraband or blockade, the property and citizens of a friendly Power were invaded and arrested, and the protecting presence of their national symbol irreverently slighted.

The flag of the United States has a meaning which should not be hastily overlooked. Like that of Great Britain, or of any other civilized country, no matter how distant the sea, or humble the lorch on which it floats, it implies a pledge of a nation's power and honour to shelter what is beneath it from invasion or wrong. All flags are but hoisted emblems asserting the national presence and jurisdiction. Commander Moresby, even while recognizing the genuineness of the "*Panchita's*" flag, failed to appreciate its real dignity and inviolability.

The reasons assigned for this extraordinary proceeding are certainly as distinctly confessed as they are frivolous. They are found in the report of Commander Moresby to his superior officer, Commodore John Adams, of Her Majesty's ship "*Scourge*," dated the 15th of May, 1857. They do not call for much elaboration of analysis or remark.

Commander Moresby "suspected," say, confidently believed, that the "*Panchita*" was engaged in the illegal Traffic of Slaves.

I need not remind your Lordship that since the United States led the way, by their Federal Legislation, to the abolition and penal proscription of the African Slave Trade, they have manifested, in every manner deemed compatible with their fundamental institu-

tions, the fixed opinions of their people, and considerations of the highest moment, the utmost determination and sincerity in carrying out that policy of philanthropy and justice. But the United States, although they went far, stopped at the line which the reckless zeal of Commander Moresby overleaped. Though often persuaded, they have invariably declined to concede to any nation, upon any terms, for any object, a right irreconcilable with the perfect immunity of their mercantile marine from foreign interference. Without their previously obtained consent, no visit, or search, or seizure, of an American vessel can take place except with defiance and insult to their flag. The Convention of the 9th of August, 1842, signed at Washington by its negotiators, Mr. Webster and Lord Ashburton, with the principles and provisions of which your Lordship is familiar, arranged for a small squadron of the United States' navy on the coast of Africa, in order, first, that their public force might co-operate with that of Her Majesty in extinguishing the Slave Trade; and, secondly, that their merchant-vessels, if suspected, or even flagrantly guilty, should, nevertheless, be liable to visitation, or search, and seizure, by the officers and seamen of their own country only. Eagerly, even at great cost, as the suppression of the noxious Traffic might be sought, it was still not an aim to which the United States would consent to sacrifice the more dearly valued exemption of their own citizens from coercion by strangers. I may be pardoned for here adverting to the language used on this very topic, by one of the brightest and most authoritative ornaments of English judicature: "No one nation has a right to force its way to the liberation of Africa by trampling on the independence of other States, or to press forward to a great principle by breaking through other great principles that stand in the way. The right of visitation and search on the high seas does not exist in time of peace. If it belongs to one nation, it equally belongs to all, and would lead to gigantic mischief and universal war."

It is hardly worth adding that the mere "suspicion" or belief of Commander Moresby of the illegal occupation of the "*Panchita*" cannot be accepted as the slightest possible basis for his proceeding, when the open avowal or the living proof of the supposed fact of guilt is not itself admitted, by compact between the two nations, to be a justification of search or seizure.

Some difficulty is naturally felt in adverting to the remaining reasons with the respect due to an officer honoured in the possession of the Queen's commission. But I feel assured that Lord Clarendon will understand me as only desirous to bring out the true lineaments of the transaction.

Commander Moresby informs Commodore Adams that in sending the "*Panchita*" across the Atlantic, in charge of his lieutenant, to New York, he was "incited by the unfortunate fact of the total absence of anything like an American naval authority, and that in consequence the '*Panchita's*' detention may be prolonged for an indefinite period."

It would, perhaps, be harsh and invidious to scan too closely the statement that the sending the vessel to New York was regarded as the step which involved him in his alleged "great responsibility." In the chain of his acts, that one is the only link not liable to objection, at least on the part of the United States. The American Government is outraged, not by the subsequent misgiving and politic device of a reference to its own tribunals, but by the violation of its flag at the outset, the unwarranted intermeddling with the property and pursuits of its citizens, the "examination" and "detention."

Actual trial for a number of years has, perhaps, demonstrated the inadequacy of the squadrons on the Western Coast of Africa to accomplish the great end contemplated by their respective Governments. The vessels are, probably, too few; necessarily distant from each other; and occasionally disabled by the diseases incident to climate, or the disasters of weather. They certainly cannot be ubiquitous, and yet without that attribute they are no match for the wary and covetous slave-traders on that extensive shore. Such difficulties, if remediable at all, are to be remedied, not at the discretion of any one, or all, of the naval agents in both services, but by the concurring action of the two Governments. Commander Moresby alleges "the total absence of anything like an American authority;" but such absence (in one aspect, rather fortunate than otherwise) justified, as regards the flag of the United States, and the lives and property over which it waved, no arbitrary substitution of himself in the stead of the American absentee, for the purposes of visitation and search. An American authority might, very possibly, upon receiving from Commander Moresby a revelation of his "suspicion" of the "*Panchita*," have done precisely what Commander Moresby did; but Captain Moresby could under no circumstances or pretext whatever do it, without usurping a supervisory function, not only not confided, but expressly forbidden, to him.

It would seem as if the imposed restraints, and the purposed omissions, of the Treaty of 1842, were not in harmony with the speculative opinions, and chafed the eager spirit, of

this subordinate officer. He entertained "a firm conviction that if some steps be not taken, there is nothing whatever to prevent the American flag from sanctioning any vessel, openly in the eyes of the world, equipping and trading with slavers in any part of the African coast;" and he proceeded to take the reformatory steps of visitation and seizure of the "*Panchita*." This may be one mode by which the gordian knot of the "consuetudinary Law of Nations," "great principles that stand in the way," and even precise conventional stipulations, can be cut. But Commander Moresby has to learn from your Lordship that it is an absurd and indefensible mode. It is absurd, as having a tendency to alienate and detach from the united undertaking a powerful people who first legislated to abolish the Trade; who first, by municipal enactment, made that Trade punishable as piracy; and whose armed force has been perseveringly stationed to watch and prevent it. It is indefensible, as placing the matured policy and peace of nations at the mercy of their rash and presumptuous servants, and as "leading to gigantic mischief and universal war."

It would be unjust to ascribe to Commander Moresby the mistaken impression that, because the Criminal Code of the United States denounced as piracy the Traffic of which he suspected the "*Panchita*" to be guilty, he was, therefore, at liberty to search and seize that vessel and her crew as "enemies of the human race." He puts forward no such erroneous reason for his conduct. Ignorance of the wide distinction between the Law of all Nations, and the Municipal Law of a single one, cannot fairly be attributed to him, or to any British officer. The protection or rescue of the American flag from prostitution to illegal aims, still rests exclusively with the American Government and people, whose will and ability to enforce their own statutes cannot, or need not, be questioned. On one or more occasions, the Secretary of State, by direction of the President—both of them ardently disposed to combined movement against the Trade, and stimulated by a Resolution of the House of Representatives—proposed to Her Majesty's Government a scheme for the extirpation of that condemned commerce, to be incorporated, by universal consent, into the Law of Nations, and involving mutual concessions of the right of search. The discussions, perplexities, and obstacles encountered by that proposition need not be recalled; it is enough to say that its ultimate failure left the Law of Nations, which it was designed to modify on the point referred to, unaltered.

I trust I am not too sanguine when anticipating that Her Majesty's Government, aware how occurrences such as the one on which I have thus animadverted grate upon the sentiments of an independent people, and how rapidly they become unmanageable causes of estrangement and quarrel, will promptly mark the act of Commander Moresby with just reproof, and otherwise render its repetition extremely improbable.

Copies of the documents transmitted to me from Washington, and which have been observed upon, accompany this communication.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. M. DALLAS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 580.

Orders addressed to Lieutenant Odevaine.

Memo.

"*Sappho*," *River Congo*, May 15, 1857.

IT is my directions that you proceed with the American barque "*Panchita*" to New York, using all dispatch.

Being at New York, you are to lose no time in delivering the "*Panchita*" over to the American authorities; indeed, you are to take care and express to the first Government officer boarding you, your wish to give up the temporary charge which I have intrusted to you, expressing (either by letter, or by showing these your orders) to the authority so receiving the "*Panchita*" from you, that you are distinctly forbidden to retain charge of her one moment after being in the presence of an American authority, in the search of which I consider it my duty to send you.

You are, with all speed, to communicate with the British Consular authority at New York, whose counsel you will take with regard to the temporary disposal of yourself and party, and the stay of which party is not to be delayed one moment longer than necessary at that place.

You are to concert measures for the readiest means of conveying yourself and party to the nearest British port or vessel of war attached to that station, taking care to report your arrival and subsequent proceedings to the Commander-in-chief, or senior naval officer, on the North American and West Indian station.

I need scarcely inform you that every courtesy is to be shown to all Americans, authorities or others, during your stay in that country.

You are to take particular precautions that, by being kept in due subordination, the conduct of your party will be such as under no circumstances to give cause of complaint to the American Government.

You are to give the American authorities, if required, the documents with which I furnish you, relating to my reasons for detaining the "*Panchita*," and also containing the list of the goods in her hold, as well as the certificate of her mustering of the crew.

The officers and crew of the "*Panchita*" are to be treated with all respect and consideration during the time you are in temporary charge, and with no restrictions of any kind, except for the safety of the barque, yourself, and party.

The deportment of your party is to be in all respects the same as if on board of any of Her Majesty's ships of war.

You are to take the earliest opportunity of communicating to me all your movements, and news of the "*Panchita*," and any other matter you consider worthy of notice, keeping a log of your proceedings.

You are to remember that the greatest care is to be taken of the ship and everything belonging to her, so that she may be handed over in every respect as near as possible as in her present condition. You will be victualled for three months, and will be guided by the copy of the Admiralty instructions herein inclosed.

(Signed) FAIRFAX MORESBY, *Commander,*
Lieutenant C. D. J. Odevaine. *Her Majesty's sloop "Sappho"*

Inclosure 3 in No. 580.

Commander Moresby to Commodore Adams.

Sir,

"*Sappho*," *River Congo*, May 15, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that on the 9th instant I proceeded with the pinnace and gig of this sloop to Punta de Lenha, for the purpose of examining the American barque "*Panchita*," on my way to which vessel I met the master, to whom I expressed a wish to muster his crew; and no objection being made, in company with him I proceeded, first, to a Portuguese factory on shore, where three of his crew lay sick. Having seen them, I went (still accompanied by the master of the "*Panchita*" and a Mr. Rickaby, agent for Brockhouse and Co., as well as by Mr. Frederick Wells, master of Her Majesty's sloop under my command), on board the "*Panchita*," where, on continuing the muster, I found the crew-list incorrect, several men not being able to answer the names stated to belong to them on the muster-list, the master not appearing to know his own crew. I then asked permission to look into the holds; the master refused, though having previously stated, in the presence of Mr. Rickaby, that he had no objection to my looking, provided that I did not go down. These circumstances confirming the opinion that I had already received of the "*Panchita*" being engaged in illegal Traffic in Slaves, induced me to inform the master that I considered it my duty to detain him, with a view to give him over to the first American man-of-war I could meet; on which the master threw up all further charge of the vessel, informing me that he did not know what was in his hold, and saying he wished to have a correct list taken, which on the 11th was done (10th, Sunday, intervening), when was found, as by the accompanying account.

The vast quantity of fresh water still further corroborating my suspicions, I have taken upon myself the great responsibility of sending the said "*Panchita*" to New York for the decision of the United States' authorities.

This I do in perfect knowledge of the importance of the step I take, incited thereto by the unfortunate fact of the total absence of anything like an American naval authority, and that in consequence the "*Panchita's*" detention may be prolonged to an indefinite period; and further, by the firm conviction that if some steps be not taken, there is nothing whatever to prevent the American flag from sanctioning any vessel openly in the eyes of the world equipping and trading with slaves in any part of the African coast, rendering not only the Treaty between Great Britain and the United States a dead letter, but making all other Slave Treaties, with whatever nations, just the value of so much waste paper.

I here again heartily deplore the singular absence of all American naval force, which has thrown on my shoulders this onerous duty, almost more than their share, and trust, under the circumstances, I may look for your approval and support, in moving my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to countenance the steps I have taken, solely with the

view to prevent the wholesale pursuance of the nefarious traffic I am here to put a stop to by every means in my power.

The "*Panchita's*" requiring some ballast, and a trifling refit (being ill-found to a degree very unusual in an American merchant-vessel), will not start till on or about the 20th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) FAIRFAX MORESBY.

Inclosure 4 in No. 580.

Inventory.

WE, the Undersigned, with the Captain of the American barque "*Panchita*," and at his own request, have taken a strict and careful account of all the goods contained in the hold of the said barque, and find as follows, viz:—

Butter, in cask ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42 lbs.
Rum, in casks ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10 in number.
Water-casks, containing	salt water ..	..	..	..	..	..	3 "
"	fresh water ..	..	..	..	..	..	46 "
"	brackish water ..	..	..	..	..	..	24 "
Empty water-casks	..	..	..	..	..	..	22 "
Salt beef, in casks	..	..	..	..	..	..	9 "
Gum, in bags ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39 "
Bread, in casks ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11 "
Mackerel, in half-barrels	..	..	..	..	..	..	2 "
Cracked corn, in barrels	..	..	..	..	..	..	12 $\frac{1}{3}$ "
Vinegar ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2 gallons.
Molasses, in barrel	..	..	..	..	..	..	$\frac{1}{2}$ in number.
Salt, in barrel ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	$\frac{3}{4}$ "
Rice, in barrels ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

Given under our hands, on board the "*Panchita*," May 11, 1857.

(Signed)

JAMES BOYD, *Captain of English brig "Dauntless,"*
as Referee for Commander Moresby.

J. F. D. RICKABY, *Agent for R. Brockhouse, Esq.,*
Salem, Mass., as Referee for Captain Sladden.

We hereby certify this to be a true and correct account.

(Signed)

FAIRFAX MORESBY, *Commander, Her Majesty's sloop "Sappho."*
FREDK. B. SLADDEN, *Master of "Panchita."*

I hereby certify this to be a true copy.

(Signed)

FREDK. WELLS, *Master, Her Majesty's sloop "Sappho."*

Inclosure 5 in No. 580.

Certificate.

THIS is to certify that I detained the American barque "*Panchita*" on suspicion of being engaged in the Slave Trade, and, in the absence of any American man-of-war, to whom reference might be made, have sent her to New York for the decision of the United States' authorities.

Given on board Her Majesty's sloop "*Sappho*," this 15th day of May, 1857.

(Signed)

FAIRFAX MORESBY, *Commander.*

Inclosure 6 in No. 580.

Certificate.

THIS is to certify that we, the Undersigned, were present during the time that Captain Moresby was mustering the crew of the American barque "*Panchita*" (with the consent of the captain) on the afternoon of the 9th instant, and that the crew list was not

found to be correct: also, that some of the men could not answer their names when called.

Given under our hands, on board the "*Panchita*," May 11, 1857.

(Signed)

FREDK. WELLS, *Master, Her Majesty's sloop "Sappho."*
J. F. D. RICKABY, *Merchant, at Punta de Lenha.*

Inclosure 7 in No. 580.

Deposition.

United States of America, Southern District of New York, ss.

FREDERICK SLADDEN, of the city of Brooklyn, county of Kings and State of New York, being duly sworn, says that he is, and was at the several times hereinafter mentioned, a citizen of the United States, and was a resident thereof.

That in December of the year 1856 the barque "*Panchita*" was lying in the port of New York; that said vessel was then owned by John P. Weeks, of the city of New York, and said Weeks being such owner, hired and engaged the deponent as the master of said vessel for a voyage from the said port of New York to the coast of Africa on a trading voyage, and from thence back to New York, the voyage being not to exceed seven months; that the said voyage was a legal and legitimate voyage, and one allowed by the laws of the United States, and that deponent did not ship or agree for any other voyage or employment but as above stated, and that no other voyage was agreed for or understood; that no agreement, express or implied, was ever made by this deponent for any other voyage or business, nor was any other business or employment ever spoken of, referred to, or hinted at for said vessel, except such coasting voyage above described; that deponent would not have shipped or agreed, or gone on any other business on said vessel or any other.

And deponent further says that, during the whole time he was on board or attached to said vessel, until her seizure hereinafter mentioned, said vessel was a regularly registered and documented vessel of the United States, regularly fitted out as such, and owned by a citizen of the United States, and was, at the time of such seizure, sailing under, and had been sailing under, the flag of the United States, and under the laws thereof, and entitled to the protection of the same.

And deponent further says, that a copy of the shipping articles, register, and documents of said vessel, are hereunto annexed, marked respectively B, C, D, E, F, G, and that the same are true and perfect copies of the register and ship's documents of said vessel, and the endorsements thereon, and that the originals are in the usual and proper form, according to the laws, usages, and customs of the United States, and that the same are all and the only documents or ship's papers on board said vessel.

And deponent further says, that the cargo of said vessel, at the time of sailing from the United States, is fully set forth in the manifest annexed, and that the same was the only cargo on board said vessel at the time of her leaving the United States.

And deponent further says, that the said vessel duly sailed from the United States for the coast of Africa aforesaid, and duly arrived at the River Zaire or Congo, on or about the 19th day of March, for which she was bound, and there discharged nearly all the cargo on board said vessel, and took on board a part of return cargo, to wit, thirty-nine bags of gum copal.

That the mainmast of the said vessel having been found defective had to be replaced, and that, in consequence of the slow and negligent habits of the natives of the said coast of Africa, and the sickness of deponent and his crew, it was not until the _____ day of April, 1857, that the same was finished.

That said mainmast having been finished, and the part cargo having been taken on board, the said vessel was ordered by the charterer thereof to proceed to the port of Cabinda to take in some palm oil there waiting for her, also part of her cargo.

That while ready for sea, and before sailing, the said barque "*Panchita*" was boarded by a boat from the British sloop-of-war "*Sappho*," containing an officer and some men, who insisted on searching and examining the said barque "*Panchita*;" that said barque "*Panchita*" was then under American colours, and was documented as, and was, an American vessel, which was known to the said officer and boat's crew, and that deponent objected to, and protested against, any such search by any vessel other than one of the United States, and claimed that, being such American vessel, the said British officer and his crew had no right so to act. That deponent gave them all the information in his power, and exhibited to them his papers, which were the only ship's papers on board, and, after

deponent had so exhibited such papers, and given such officer such assurances, the said British officer insisted on searching said vessel, contrary to the rights of the owners of such vessel and the flag of the United States, and deponent declined allowing him to do so, whereupon the said officer, having superior force at his command, took and seized the said barque "*Panchita*," and the crew were not allowed to go below or forwards.

That there was no concealment or secrecy in the movements or business of the said vessel, and that all the acts and doings of this deponent, and the crew and charterer of said vessel on the coast, were open and above board, and all the affairs of said vessel were conducted as usual in the case of fair and legitimate voyages, as this was; and that in all deponent did in the premises, he acted in perfect good faith and without the slightest intention to engage in, or carry on, any illegal Traffic.

That neither at the time of such seizure, nor at any time before, had said vessel any slave-deck, or materials or preparations therefor, or any substitute for such deck or preparation therefor; that said vessel, at the time of the seizure thereof, had on board no more than the absolutely necessary provisions for her then crew under her charter, and no provisions for, or means of cooking any provisions for, any number of slaves whatever, or any number of persons beyond her own crew, and no preparations for any such slaves or cooking for them.

That, at the time of such seizure, there remained on board no lumber at all, but the lumber carried out was landed and used for building a house for A. J. Fernandez on the coast of Africa, and for no other purposes. That there also remained on board about 3,000 gallons of rum, part of the outward cargo, to be landed at the port of Cabinda, for which said vessel was bound.

And deponent further says, that he never was attached to a slave-vessel, but that many years ago, when on the coast of Africa, he saw vessels which had been seized for connection with such trade, and saw their fitment and preparation, and that this vessel was not in any way prepared or fitted for such business, nor was she fit therefor.

(Signed) FREDK. B. SLADDEN.

Sworn to before me, the 10th day of July, 1857.

(Signed) Z. LEAVER, *Notary Public*.

Inclosure 8 in No. 580.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Dallas.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 8, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th ultimo, respecting the proceedings of Commander Moresby, of Her Majesty's ship "*Sappho*," in detaining on the coast of Africa, and eventually sending to New York, the American barque "*Panchita*," on the ground that she was engaged in the Slave Trade.

I feel that I can return no more satisfactory answer to your representation on this matter, than by communicating to you, for the information of the Government of the United States, a copy of the reply which I have received from the Board of Admiralty to the reference which I made to them on the receipt of your letter, from which you will perceive that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have highly disapproved the conduct of Commander Moresby, and have directed that he should be removed from the station where he might again have to deal with vessels suspected of being engaged in the Slave Trade.

There can be no doubt that the detention of the "*Panchita*," and the sending her to New York, constituted an infraction of the Treaty between Great Britain and the United States; but the view which the British Admiral on the station has taken of Commander Moresby's proceedings in this case, and the terms in which the displeasure of the Lords of the Admiralty have been conveyed to that officer, will, I feel assured, be satisfactory to the Government of the United States.

But I feel equally assured that great allowance will be made by the Government of the United States for officers charged with the suppression of the Slave Trade, who are compelled to witness the frequent and unchecked abuse of the American flag, in the prosecution of that Trade, and who see that, under the protection of that flag, and in consequence of no American ship-of-war having for nearly a twelvemonth appeared on the station, the nefarious Traffic is now carried on in the most open and daring manner, and with a constantly increasing activity.

In corroboration of what I have stated above, I beg leave to transmit copies of a

despatch, and its inclosures, received at the Admiralty from Rear-Admiral Sir Frederick Grey,* the officer commanding Her Majesty's Naval Forces on the West Coast of Africa, which contain the most recent information upon the subject which has reached Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

Inclosure 9 in No. 580.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Hammond.

Sir,

Admiralty, October 1, 1857.

I HAVE received and laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your letter of the 21st September, inclosing the copy of a note from Mr. Dallas, the United States' Minister at this Court, to the Earl of Clarendon, remonstrating against the conduct of Commander Moresby, of Her Majesty's sloop "Sappho," in searching, detaining, and sending to New York for trial as a slaver, the United States' barque the "Panchita."

My Lords had been aware of this transaction some time ago, but owing to some delay in the communication, arising from the movements of the vessels on the Coast of Africa station, it is only recently that they have received the report of it from Commodore Adams.

My Lords inclose for Lord Clarendon's information a copy of the letter from Commodore Adams which contains that report, as well as his opinion of Commander Moresby's conduct.

Their Lordships had thought it right to abstain from taking any notice of this transaction until they received the report of Commodore Adams, but on the receipt of it they have communicated to Rear-Admiral Sir Frederick Grey, the Commander-in-chief on the African station, the expression of their deep regret that any officer should have acted in a manner contrary to the stipulations of the Treaty with the United States, to the express and well-known orders of the Admiralty on the subject, and to the opinion of the senior officer on the station, conveyed to him only a short time previously.

My Lords are of opinion that Commander Moresby has, by his conduct on this occasion, shown himself unfitted to be trusted with the important but delicate duty of acting for the suppression of Slave Trade, and they have desired Sir Frederick Grey to convey to him the view which my Lords take of his proceedings, with the expression of their displeasure, and they have directed Commander Moresby to be removed from the station, where he might again have to deal with vessels suspected of being engaged in the Slave Trade.

Whilst, however, my Lords so strongly condemn the conduct of Commander Moresby, they cannot but think that some allowance should be made for the feeling by which they have no doubt that he has been actuated.

It is notorious that, however much it may be against the wishes and intentions of the Government of the United States, the flag of that country is used largely to protect vessels engaged in the Slave Trade; and the almost total absence of any cruisers of the United States on the coast of Africa affords to such vessels the most complete impunity.

Commodore Adams reported towards the end of May, that no United States' ship-of-war had been fallen in with by any of our cruisers since November last, and similar reports have been received from other sources.

Whilst, therefore, my Lords have expressed their entire disapprobation of Commander Moresby's conduct, they trust that Lord Clarendon will feel how galling it must be to the officers employed in the suppression of the Slave Trade to see their best efforts for putting down that nefarious Traffic entirely set at nought by the abuse of the United States' flag, which, however much it is disapproved of by the Government of that country, is, from the want of adequate means of repression, practically unchecked.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. OSBORNE.

No. 581.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, October 15, 1857.

WITH reference to my despatches of the 25th ultimo, I inclose, for your Lordship's information, copies of a letter and its inclosures from Lieutenant Pike, the commander of Her Majesty's ship "Antelope," to Commodore Adams, reporting the circumstances attending the capture of the American schooner "Jupiter."*

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 582.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, October 16, 1857.

I INCLOSE, for your Lordship's information, copies of letters, and of their inclosures, received at the Admiralty from the commanders of Her Majesty's ships "Alecto" and "Antelope," reporting the capture of the American vessels "Eliza Jane" and "Joseph H. Record," without papers or colours; the former vessel being thoroughly equipped for the Slave Trade, the latter having, at the time of capture, 191 slaves on board.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 583.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, October 16, 1857.

I INCLOSE, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Gabriel, Her Majesty's Acting Commissioner at Loanda,‡ containing some observations with regard to the increase which has lately taken place in the number of vessels engaged in the Slave Trade under the American flag.

I also transmit copies of a further despatch and its inclosures from Mr. Gabriel,§ reporting the capture, by the Portuguese schooner of war "Cabo Verde," of the American barque "Splendid," equipped for the Slave Trade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 584.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, October 16, 1857.

IN a letter from Rear-Admiral Sir F. Grey to the Secretary to the Admiralty, dated the 14th of August last, which formed one of the inclosures in my despatch of the 9th instant, mention is made of the American barque "Minnetonka," as being one of seven vessels lately purchased in the United States to be employed in the Slave Trade; and I now inclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a further letter from Rear-Admiral Grey, containing information respecting the proceedings of this vessel.||

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

* Class A, Inclosure in No. 159.

† Ibid., No. 104.

§ Ibid., No. 105.

† Ibid., Nos. 153 and 160.

|| Ibid., No. 183.

No. 585.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, October 16, 1857.

IN my despatch of the 28th ultimo, I instructed your Lordship to bring to the notice of General Cass the particulars mentioned in a despatch from Mr. Campbell, Her Majesty's Consul at Lagos, with regard to the open manuer in which the Master of the American barque "*Charles*" avowed his intention of engaging in the Slave Trade.

If your Lordship should not already have communicated officially to the United States' Government the substance of Mr. Campbell's report respecting the "*Charles*," I think it advisable that you should do so in an official note to the American Minister.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 586.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, October 23, 1857.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Lordship's information, copies of a despatch and its inclosures from Commander Day, of Her Majesty's ship "*Firefly*," to the Secretary to the Admiralty,* which have been forwarded to me from that Department, reporting the capture of the American brigantine "*William Clark*," of New Orleans, but without colours or papers, on suspicion of being engaged in the Slave Trade; and also containing information as to the course adopted in clearing out from New Orleans by vessels intended to be dispatched on slave-trading voyages.

I also inclose an extract of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Campbell, Her Majesty's Consul at Lagos, relative to the capture of the "*William Clark*." †

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 587.

Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 26.)

My Lord,

Washington, October 12, 1857.

IN conformity with the sense of your Lordship's instruction dated the 10th ultimo. I have read to General Cass the report of the 28th of June last, addressed to the Foreign Office by Her Majesty's Acting Commissioner at Loanda, and its inclosures, illustrative of the increase of the Slave Trade under the American flag, in the absence of United States' cruisers on the coast. General Cass assured me, in reply, that the squadron would be, without delay, reinforced to the full extent required by Treaty.

I am, however, afraid that the addition of a sloop of war of twenty guns, or even of two sloops of that class, will not be of essential service in the suppression of the Traffic.

A less number of guns than that prescribed, dispersed in a larger number of light steam-vessels, would be more efficient.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

* Class A, No. 162.

† No. 29.

No. 588.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, October 29, 1857.

I HAVE received your Lordship's despatch of the 12th instant, in which you report that General Cass had assured you that the United States' squadron on the African coast would, without delay, be reinforced to the full extent required by Treaty; and I have to acquaint your Lordship that Her Majesty's Government have received this assurance with much satisfaction.

But I have to state to your Lordship that I entirely concur with you in opinion that the addition to the American squadron of one or two sloops of war of twenty guns each, will not be of essential service in preventing the United States' flag from being used to cover the Slave Trade, and that even a less number of guns than that prescribed by the Treaty, if they were dispersed in a larger number of light vessels, would be more efficient for the purpose. And I have accordingly to instruct your Lordship to suggest to General Cass the expediency of adopting this plan in the reinforcements now to be sent to the American squadron on the African coast.

To be efficient, also, for the purpose for which they are required, the vessels composing the American squadron should be employed actually on the African coast, and not in the neighbourhood of the Western Islands, where the United States' cruizers have hitherto been in the habit of spending the greater portion of their time.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 589.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 7, 1857.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 17th of August last, I transmit to you, for presentation to the Society of Friends at Philadelphia, a copy of the Slave Trade Papers laid before Parliament this year.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 590.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 13, 1857.

IN my despatch of the 16th ultimo I transmitted to your Lordship copies of two despatches from Mr. Gabriel, Her Majesty's Acting Commissioner at Loanda:* one containing some observations with regard to the great increase which has lately taken place in the number of vessels engaged in the Slave Trade under the American flag; the other reporting the capture, by the Portuguese schooner-of-war "Cabo Verde," of the American barque "*Splendid*," fully equipped for the Slave Trade; and I have to instruct your Lordship, if you should not already have communicated the substance of these despatches officially to the United States' Government, to do so in a note to General Cass.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 591.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 20, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to your Lordship herewith copies of a letter and its inclosure, from the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Alecto," to the Secretary to the Admiralty,* reporting the circumstances under which he had captured the brigantine "Onward," of Boston, and sent her to Sierra Leone for adjudication, for being equipped for the Slave Trade; and I have to instruct your Lordship to communicate officially to General Cass the particulars of this capture, as showing the abuse which is made of the American flag, in order to cover the Slave Trade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 592.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 20, 1857.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 16th ultimo, I inclose, for your Lordship's information, the accompanying copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Commissary Judge at Sierra Leone,† reporting the condemnation of the American vessel "Eliza Jane," in the Vice-Admiralty Court of that Colony; and I have to instruct your Lordship to communicate officially to General Cass the particulars relating to this vessel.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 593.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 27, 1857.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 28th of September last, respecting the case of the American barque "Charles," of Baltimore, the master of which vessel acknowledged that he intended to carry off a cargo of slaves from the African coast, I inclose for your information the accompanying extracts of a despatch from Rear-Admiral Grey, the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's naval forces on the West Coast of Africa,‡ together with copies of its inclosures, reporting the circumstances attending the destruction of a vessel supposed to be the "Charles," by Her Majesty's steamer "Sappho," near Snake's Head, at the mouth of the Congo, on the 18th of September last.

Your Lordship will communicate the particulars respecting the destruction of this vessel officially to the United States' Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 594.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, December 11, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Gabriel, Her Majesty's Acting Commissioner at Loanda,§ relative to the Slave Trade which is carried on in the Congo river under the American flag, and I have to instruct your Lordship to communicate the substance of this despatch, officially, to the United States' Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

* Class A No. 163.

† Ibid., No. 15.

‡ Ibid., No. 167 and Inclosures.

§ Ibid., No. 111.

No. 595.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, December 11, 1857.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 9th of October last, I inclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a letter which I have received from Mr. Dallas, the United States' Minister at this Court, in answer to the note which I addressed to him on the 8th of last October, communicating to him the decision of Her Majesty's Government with regard to Commander Moresby's proceedings in the case of the "*Panchita*."

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

Inclosure in No. 595.

Mr. Dallas to the Earl of Clarendon.

My Lord,

Legation of the United States, London, December 9, 1857.

AGREEABLY to my letter addressed to your Lordship on the 10th of October last, I transmitted to Washington the reply with which I was honoured under date of the 8th of that month, to the representation made by me on the 16th of September, 1857, respecting the proceedings of Commander Moresby, of Her Majesty's ship "*Sappho*," in the search and seizure of the American barque "*Panchita*" on the Western Coast of Africa.

I have now the honour to inform your Lordship that the President, regarding the conduct of Commander Moresby as wholly inconsistent with that perfect immunity from foreign interference in time of peace, which the American Government has always asserted in behalf of merchant-vessels of the United States, has instructed me to express his high gratification at learning that it has been disclaimed and censured by Her Majesty's Government, and that measures have been taken by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to prevent its repetition.

I beg, &c.

(Signed) G. M. DALLAS.

No. 596.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, December 18, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to your Lordship herewith copies of two letters and their inclosures from the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "*Alecto*" to the Secretary to the Admiralty,* which have been forwarded to me from that Department, reporting the capture of the American vessels "*Lewis McLane*" and "*Clara B. Williams*," fully equipped for the Slave Trade, and I have to instruct your Lordship to communicate the particulars of these captures to the United States' Government.

I also inclose a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Commissioner at Loanda,† reporting the capture by Her Majesty's ship "*Myrmidon*" of a brig without colours or papers, but with all necessary fittings for carrying slaves, the master of which vessel, an American citizen, declared that he had fitted out at New York; and I have to desire that your Lordship will also make known to the United States' Government the circumstances attending the capture of this vessel.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 597.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, December 18, 1857.

I TRANSMIT to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Lagos,* reporting the embarkation of two cargoes of slaves from the African

* Class A, Nos. 169 and 170.

† Ibid., No. 117.

‡ No. 44.

coast, one in a small Spanish felucca, the other on board the American schooner "*James Buchanan*."

Your Lordship will make known, officially, to General Cass the proceedings of this American vessel.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 598.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, December 18, 1857.*

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Lordship's information, copies of a despatch and its inclosure from Rear-Admiral Grey, the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's naval forces on the African station, to the Secretary to the Admiralty,* relating to Slave Trade proceedings on the West Coast of Africa.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 599.

Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 21.)

My Lord, *Washington, December 8, 1857.*

IN obedience to your Lordship's instructions, I have forwarded to the Society of Friends at Philadelphia a copy of the Slave Trade correspondence communicated to Parliament in the year 1857. Mr. Evans, Secretary to a Committee of that religious body, in conveying their thanks to Her Majesty's Government in the accompanying letter, has alluded in terms of severity to the French project of importing free labourers from Africa. The unfavourable opinion conveyed by Mr. Evans is common to all parties in this country. The abolitionists contend (and, no doubt, with much reason) that the scheme alluded to will produce in Africa many of the evils belonging to an increased demand for slaves, while the slaveholders do not cease to assert that this is a fraudulent attempt to revive the forbidden Traffic under a specious name, for the sake of stimulating the industry of colonies impoverished by abolition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 599.

Mr. Evans to Lord Napier.

My esteemed Friend, *Philadelphia, December 5, 1857.*

ON my return home I have the pleasure of receiving thy esteemed favour of the 30th ultimo, conveying the gratifying intelligence that the British Government, with its accustomed liberality, had directed the correspondence respecting the Slave Trade, presented to Parliament during the year 1857, to be transmitted for the use of the religious Society of Friends.

I have not yet had the pleasure of receiving the volume, but it may be lying in the Post Office here, and I shall make inquiry for it.

Meanwhile permit me, on behalf of the Society of Friends, to tender my grateful acknowledgments for this fresh evidence of consideration for the wishes of the Society.

In looking over the former volumes sent, as well as other documents relating to this affecting subject, it is mournful and humiliating to see how large a share the capitol and the citizens of the United States bear in this abominable Traffic, and yet how little legal proof exists of their complicity, or proof which can lead to conviction and punishment.

I lament to contemplate the fresh impetus given to the reckless and wicked cupidity of the man-stealer by the recent course of the French Government, the effect of which must be to revive the iniquitous Trade in all the slave-ports of Africa, and I earnestly desire the British Government may make every proper use of its vast and well-earned influence on this subject, to induce the Emperor of the French to interdict the further prosecution of this ill-advised and most injurious movement.

I am, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS EVANS.

No. 600.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 7, 1858.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Gabriel, Her Majesty's Acting Commissioner at Loanda,* reporting the arrival on the African coast of the United States' ships of war "Cumberland" and "Dale," and inclosing copies of a correspondence which has passed between him and Commodore Conover, the commander of the American squadron, on matters connected with the Slave Trade.

I also inclose a copy of the answer which I have returned to Mr. Gabriel's despatch.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 601.

Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 12, 1858.)

My Lord,

Washington, December 25, 1857.

I HAVE been instructed by recent despatches from your Lordship to communicate to the Government of the United States several incidents in illustration of the manner in which the flag of the United States is employed in the prosecution of the African Slave Trade. In lieu of imparting these particulars separately to the Department of State, I have reserved them until accumulating information should enable me to present such a general view of this subject as might produce a serious impression, and afford to the American Cabinet ground for an unequivocal and energetic course of action.

I have now the honour to submit to your Lordship copy of a note to General Cass, in which I have transmitted selections from the reports of the British authorities in Cuba and on the African coast, as well as extracts from the despatches of the officers in command of Her Majesty's cruisers on the African station.

It appeared to me desirable that the United States' Government should be informed without reserve of the amount of force employed by Great Britain on the coast of Africa since the year 1842.

I have, therefore, sent in a copy of the tabular return inclosed in your Lordship's despatch of the 26th of September last.

The accompanying estimate of the number and force of the vessels employed in the same service by the United States during the same period was compiled by Mr. Hope, Attaché to Her Majesty's Legation, from materials obligingly communicated to him by Mr. Toucey, Secretary for the Naval Department.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 601.

Lord Napier to General Cass.

Sir,

Washington, December 24, 1857.

IT has been my duty, under the instructions of Her Majesty's Government, to draw your attention verbally, on several occasions, to the present activity of the African Slave Trade, to the fact that it is now chiefly prosecuted by the criminal and fraudulent assumption of the United States' flag, and to the incommensurate means which are employed for its suppression.

I have also, in an official letter of the 16th of September last, conveyed to you the hope of Her Majesty's Government that their unceasing efforts for the extinction of this Traffic may be supported by the hearty co-operation of the naval forces of the United States.

In answer to these representations, I have had the satisfaction of learning from you that the Federal authorities are instructed to use their best exertions, in conformity with the laws, to prevent vessels being fitted out for this piratical trade in the ports of the

* Class A, No. 125.

† *Ibid.*, No. 129.

Union; that the diminution of the American squadron, maintained on the coast of Africa under Treaty engagements, has been the result of some past accident or negligence, in which the existing Cabinet of the United States has no part, and that the force employed on the African station will be increased to the amount contemplated by Treaty.

Since I had the honour of addressing you, additional evidence has transpired of the abuses to which I have alluded. I have been directed by the Earl of Clarendon to make a written communication to you of certain particulars hereafter stated, and I deem the occasion proper for presenting, at the same time, such a general view of the subject as the materials at my command afford, and which I trust, notwithstanding its incompleteness, will furnish the United States' Cabinet with ground for serious deliberation, and for repressive measures of an energetic character.

The demand for slaves in the Cuban market is supplied by vessels constructed, purchased, and often possessed and fitted out in the ports of the United States. The number of ships so employed cannot be exactly ascertained, but in the opinion of competent judges it is considerable, and increasing.

The accompanying extracts from the official correspondence of Her Majesty's Consular authorities in Cuba, and the reports of the British functionaries on the coast of Africa, which I have also the honour to inclose, are submitted to the attention of the Government of the United States, in the belief that similar information has not reached them from any other quarter.

The vessels engaged in this branch of the Slave Trade, which alone possesses any vigour or extension, whether owned by American citizens, colonial Spaniards, or by foreign residents in the Union, whether issuing from the harbours of the United States or from those of Cuba, have now embraced the almost universal habit of hoisting the colours of the United States, for the purpose of sheltering themselves from the scrutiny of the British cruisers. This precaution does not protect the slaver from visit, but it exonerates him from search. When boarded, the master of the vessel claims the privilege of his flag, and frequently exhibits American papers, forged, or obtained on false pretences from the Custom-house authorities of the port from which he has sailed. With these specious but fraudulent signs of nationality he defies the British officer to raise the hatches, under which are securely hidden the proofs of meditated crime. In some cases, the master of the vessel does not affect to conceal his nefarious purpose; with the American flag overhead, and American papers in his hand, he avows the object of his voyage, and points to the instruments and appliances of the trade. Sometimes the perseverance of the British cruiser exhausts the patience of the slaver, or surprises some flagrant act of deception; some times the suspected ship is relinquished, reaches the coast, takes her slaves on board, is met again and seized; too often the guilty vessel eludes the vigilance of the English squadron, and lands her cargo in Cuba, by the laxness or connivance of the Spanish authorities. There she is either destroyed or refitted for another venture.

When the vessel is overtaken with negroes on board, or in such a state of preparation that no doubt can exist of her immediate intention, the American ensign and papers are made away with. The origin and ownership are then deduced from the nationality of the master, supercargo and crew, from documentary evidence discovered on board, or from information elicited on trial.

In illustration of the statements which I have brought under your notice, it may be desirable that I should add a brief catalogue of vessels captured by Her Majesty's cruisers on the West Coast of Africa, previous to the month of October last, with some of the circumstances attending their seizure; but in framing this list, I must regret that there may be others of which the designation has not yet reached Her Majesty's Legation.

The "*Adams Gray*" was seized on the 16th April, by Her Majesty's ship "*Prometheus*," under Spanish colours: her name, and "*New Orleans*," being painted on the stern. The master and steward were, to all appearance, United States' citizens. She was fitted for the Trade at New Orleans, and carried American papers, which were thrown overboard before the seizure.

The schooner "*Jupiter*" fell into the possession of Her Majesty's ship "*Antelope*," with 70 slaves on board; this vessel was fitted out at New Orleans. The American papers and ensign were destroyed before the capture.

The "*Abbott Devereux*" was taken by Her Majesty's ship "*Teazer*," with 270 slaves on board. She cleared from Havana, but is mentioned among several vessels observed previously off the coast under United States' colours.

The brigantine "*Eliza Jane*," fitted out at New York, was captured by Her Majesty's ship "*Alecto*," on the 22nd of August, without papers or colours. The particulars of this seizure are set forth in the accompanying despatch from the Acting Commissary Judge at Sierra Leone to the Earl of Clarendon, which I am desired by his Lordship to lay before the Department of State.

The schooner "*J. H. Record*," from Newport, Rhode Island, had 191 slaves on board when arrested by Her Majesty's ship "*Antelope*." Her crew consisted of eighteen Spaniards, and five United States' citizens.

The "*William Clark*," of New Orleans, was seized after prolonged observation, by Her Majesty's ship "*Firefly*." She exhibited American colours, and forged American papers, which baffled, for a time, the measures of Her Majesty's officers; but when the latter finally decided to open her hatches, the flag and documents were thrown into the sea, and she became a lawful prize. This vessel was remarked to be in correspondence with another craft in the offing, under American colours.

The brigantine "*Onward*," of Boston, was more than once remarked, and suspected under American colours. When, at length, searched by Her Majesty ship "*Alecto*," the ensign was voluntarily struck, and all pretensions to American nationality renounced. She was owned by Messrs. Lafitte, of New York, and fully fitted for the Slave Trade. Her Majesty's Government are desirous that the circumstances attached to this capture should be fully imparted to the Government of the United States.

The barque "*Charles*," of Baltimore, fitted at New Orleans, is believed to be identical with a vessel destroyed on the 18th of September last, by Her Majesty's ship "*Sappho*." Having been visited previously off the coast by Her Majesty's ship "*Prometheus*," the Master of this vessel, confiding in the colours of the United States, had the effrontery to exhibit his mess-kids, his slave-deck already laid, and the other conveniences of a negro cargo. The incident is related in a report from the British Consul at Lagos to the Earl of Clarendon, and is specially recommended to your consideration by Her Majesty's Government.

In addition to the eight vessels above-mentioned, seized and condemned in the earlier portion of the present year by Her Majesty's squadron, I find two cases of capture by Portuguese ships of war alluded to in the correspondence of the Foreign Office with this Legation.

The "*General Pinkney*" or "*General Pierce*," was taken by the sloop "*Serra do Pilar*," in 1856, under United States' colours, without papers, commanded by one Silva or Silvia, who was in possession of a document alleged to be a passport or "protection" from the United States' authorities. The claims of Silva were, however, repudiated by the United States' Minister at Lisbon.

The barque "*Velha Anita*," or more correctly the "*Splendid*," of Boston, directly from New Orleans and the Havana, was arrested by the Portuguese schooner "*Cabo Verde*." The prize was fully fitted for the reception of 1,000 slaves. The captain of the vessel and three seamen, all Americans, escaped on shore, according to the terms of the sentence of the Portuguese Court, inclosed for your perusal by the orders of Her Majesty's Government.

It is due to the Spanish authorities to state that they have lately captured several slave-vessels on the coast of Cuba, according to the accounts contained in the public journals, but of these incidents I have no official intelligence.

I am not informed whether the United States' cruizers have succeeded, during the past year, in making many captures, but I observe in a recent newspaper transmitted herewith, an account of the proceedings taken by the United States' ship "*Cumberland*," in reference to a suspected vessel in the River Canuna, which illustrates the preceding remarks in a striking manner. The American ship of war approaches the slaver under British colours; the slaver instantly displays the United States' flag.

The number of vessels captured and condemned on the coast forms but a small proportion of those of which the character and movements warrant suspicion, without justifying actual seizure. In the category of ships visited and questioned, I find the following suspected slavers denounced, or incidentally mentioned in the despatches which have reached me from Her Majesty's Government:—

The "*N. Hand*" was chartered for the purpose of carrying sustenance to the starving inhabitants of the Cape de Verde Islands, but with an ulterior view of a slave voyage. She was boarded on the African coast under American colours, but in the absence of convincing evidence could not be arrested. She is believed to have delivered a cargo of slaves in Cuba, and to have been destroyed. In this affair, where benevolence was made subservient to crime, the notorious house of Figaniere, Reis, and Co. was busy.

The "*W. D. Miller*," a vessel previously seen under American colours, escaped from Her Majesty's ship "*Teazer*," discharged her slaves in Cuba, and was burnt there to avoid subsequent condemnation.

The "*Panchita*," arrested by the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "*Sappho*," in the Congo river, under an erroneous impression of his duty and powers, was sent into New York, and is now under indictment for slave-trading by the Federal authorities.

The "*Nancy*," of New Orleans. The master of this vessel, emulating the effrontery of the master of the "*Charles*," declared the object of his voyage under the American flag to the officers of Her Majesty's cruizers. This incident is reported in the accompanying extract of a despatch from Mr. Gabriel to the Earl of Clarendon.

The "*Minnetonka*" is stated, by Rear-Admiral Sir F. Grey, commanding at the Cape of Good Hope, to be one of seven American vessels fitted out for the Slave Trade on the East Coast of Africa.

The "*Isle of Cuba*;"

The "*Jamestown*," of New York;

The "*Putnam*;"

The "*Wizard*," of New Orleans;

The "*Petrel*," of New York;

The "*Charlotte*," of New York;—belonging to the firm of Figaniere.

The "*Ellen*," of New York;

The "*Cole*;"

The "*Globe*;"

The "*Spirit of '76*;"

The "*Reindeer*;"

The "*Flying Eagle*;"

The "*Vesta*;"

The "*James Buchanan*."

It is not necessary that I should occupy your attention by further recapitulation. Additional evidence would be superfluous. These facts are undisputed. The coast of Africa continues to be infested by slavers, and the slavers endeavour to prosecute their commerce with impunity, by the assumption of the flag of the United States. It is equally apparent that this abusive practice can only be extinguished by the presence and exertions of a competent American squadron. The principles of maritime law asserted by the United States render the efforts of Her Majesty's Government powerless for the abatement of the evil.

By the Treaty of 1842, between Great Britain and the United States, each of the Contracting Parties engaged to maintain on the coast of Africa a sufficient and adequate squadron, of suitable number and description, to carry, in all, not less than eighty guns.

You have informed me of an impression which has reached the Government of the United States, to the effect that there has been some relaxation in this respect on the part of England, as well as on the side of America. The inclosed tabular Return shows the number and armament of British vessels stationed on the coast on the 1st of January of each year from 1843 to 1857 inclusive. It results that the average British force during these fifteen years has been 19 ships and 148 guns. In thirteen years, the force has been above the amount prescribed by Treaty; in the years 1855 and 1856, it fell slightly below the requisite number. This is to be regretted, and I am not informed of the causes of the diminution. It may have been owing to the great demand for vessels of light draught during the Russian war; it may have been caused, and, I think, more probably, by the removal of an old-fashioned class of ships, and the substitution of a newer and more efficient kind, furnished with auxiliary engines. Whatever may have been the reason, the error was transitory, and the correction spontaneous. On the 1st of January, 1857, there were 16 British men-of-war, mounting 84 guns, upon the African coast, whose diligence has been signalized by repeated captures. It will, probably, be allowed that, in its spirit, the Treaty has been executed with conspicuous fidelity by the Government of England.

During the same period, if the accompanying table be correctly framed, the average force set apart for this duty by the American Government has been on the 1st of January of each year, about 4 vessels, and 77 guns; but the force habitually and actively engaged in cruising on the ground frequented by slavers has probably been less by one-fourth, if we consider the size of the ships employed, and their withdrawal for purposes of recreation and health, and the movement of the reliefs, whose arrival does not correspond exactly with the departure of the vessels whose term of service has expired.

It is far from my purpose, in presenting these reflections to the Government of the United States, to heighten the merits of Great Britain, or to disparage the conduct of America. I should ill convey the sentiments of my Government if I pressed this matter in a spirit of complacency or a spirit of reproach. To insist upon a mere literal execution of the provisions of the Treaty of 1842, would be to embrace a very low estimate of the great moral duty incumbent on both Governments alike, with a view to the vindication of their laws, and with regard to the highest interests of humanity and civilization. The letter of the Treaty of 1842 might be observed by both parties, and nothing would be done for the extinction of the Slave Trade. Her Majesty's Government hope that the Govern-

ment of the United States will enter upon an active, liberal, expansive execution of our mutual engagements, not because these engagements are binding, but because they are salutary and just. The Traffic in Slaves is still persevering and audacious; but it is reduced in compass. The field of action was never before so limited and so accessible; it is almost restricted to the Cuban market. It may, consequently, be affirmed, without enthusiasm, that if the operations of Her Majesty's cruizers be now seconded by the interposition of a numerous, zealous, well-adapted, and well-directed squadron from America, the object of so many aspirations and so many sacrifices will be at length accomplished.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 601.

Her Majesty's Commissary Judge at the Havana to the Earl of Clarendon.

(Extract.)

Havana, April 13, 1857.

I REGRET that it should be my duty to state to your Lordship that the expeditions to the coast of Africa have not for many years been upon so extended a scale as they are and have been lately.

I have good reason to know that some fifteen vessels have been dispatched from the port of New Orleans alone, within the last two months, some of them of large tonnage, whilst from other ports of America the outfits have been proportionately numerous, and several vessels have also gone from this port and Matanzas.

Inclosure 3 in No. 601.

Her Majesty's Commissioners at the Havana to the Earl of Clarendon.

(Extract.)

Havana, August 4, 1857.

WE beg leave to represent to your Lordship, that notwithstanding the enormously extensive expeditions for slave-trading which had been prepared and had sailed from many of the ports of the United States and from this island, more vessels are purchased equipped, and sent off from this, all under the American flag, with the exception of the Spanish brig "*Tres Hermanos*," altered into a barque, and her name changed to the "*Eliza*," which has gone first to land a cargo of sugar at Antwerp.

The American ship "*Hydra*," 499 tons, cleared in ballast for Batavia.

The American brig "*Windward*," 177 tons, cleared for the coast of Africa. The American brig "*Braman*," 185 tons, and schooner "*Niagara*," 72 tons, and the Peruvian ship "*Architect*," 520 tons, are still in this port, but said to be bound upon slave voyages.

The "*Braman*" had a slave-deck and all her fittings on board, but neither the United States' Consul nor any other had a right to interfere with American vessels, and so they make their preparations without being liable to interruption.

We understand that an American citizen, by name Drinkwater, calling himself a resident at Portland, is the purchaser of almost all these American vessels, and figures as their outfitter; but there can be but little doubt that this person is only put forth by the slave-traders to cover their transactions.

In the meantime, of those expeditions which left the United States the earliest are already returning with their miserable cargoes, and we have rumours of numerous disembarkations of slaves at various places on the coast of this island, which we doubt not are nearly all well founded, but we abstain from reporting those cases respecting which our information is not in all respects to be relied upon.

We are thus enabled to state to your Lordship, that 415 Bozals were recently landed at Sierra Morena, from the American brig "*W. D. Miller*," which vessel was afterwards burnt; 600 men were landed at Vertientes, about ten days ago, but we have no information as to the vessel in which they arrived, this being a second cargo landed there within a month's date.

Inclosure 4 in No. 601.

Her Majesty's Acting Commissioner at Loanda to the Earl of Clarendon.

(Extract.)

Loanda, February 11, 1857.

THE whole, or nearly the whole, of the Slave Trade at present carried on upon this part of the coast is for the supply of the Island of Cuba, and pursued under the American flag.

I am led to think that, if the humane efforts of Her Majesty's Government be followed up by the same energy and vigour as they have hitherto been, and if the concert and co-operation of the United States could be obtained in preventing the scandalous abuse of the United States' flag, the permanent cessation of this Traffic is not beyond the range of reasonable calculation. Only three vessels have been captured on the coast south of the Equator in 1856, two of which were taken or destroyed by Her Majesty's squadron off the River Congo, and one, the "*General Pierce*," captured by the Portuguese brig-of-war "*Serra do Pilar*," south of Loanda. This last-mentioned slave-vessel hoisted the American flag when chased by the "*Serra do Pilar*," and probably might have effected her escape, had she not fortunately been met with by a Portuguese cruizer in Portuguese waters.

It is reported that when taken, she was on her third slaving voyage, having previously succeeded in carrying off two cargoes of slaves under American colours.

Several instances have come to my knowledge in which the flag of the United States has lately availed to protect the Slave Trade on this coast; in short, this evil has now become so great, that it is necessary I should trouble your Lordship with a few details and remarks thereon.

The escape of three vessels has been reported by this Commission during the past year; they are all said to have arrived on the coast wearing the American flag.

The schooner "*N. Hand*," Michael Stevenson, master, boarded by Her Majesty's steamer "*Teazer*," under American colours, off the River Congo, and said to have been bound to Benguella, had on board a cargo which would at once have condemned as a slaver any vessel belonging to the nations that are parties to the equipment article.

The American brigantine "*Ellen*," of New York, Mathias Sind, master; Vamburg, owner; fallen in with by Her Majesty's steamer "*Alecto*," off the Congo in December last, was strongly suspected of being engaged in the Slave Trade. The master of this vessel, which, like the "*N. Hand*," had a Portuguese or Spanish passenger on board, declared that he also was bound to Benguella. Neither of them, however, ever made their appearance at that place, but they are both reported to have shipped their slaves at Cabeça de Cobra, about twenty miles south of the Congo, and sailed for the Havana.

Besides the above-mentioned vessels, several others, having the flag of the United States, have appeared on this coast during the past year, under very suspicious circumstances. The "*Ilha de Cuba*," "*Cole*," "*Globe*," "*Spirit of '76*," "*Reindeer*," "*Charlotte*," and "*Flying Eagle*," have all of them been consigned to parties connected with firms at New York, which are notoriously concerned in the Slave Trade, and some of them are reported to have succeeded in carrying off cargoes of slaves.

This system wholly cripples the efforts of Her Majesty's cruizers; for the commanding officers, zealous as they are in the discharge of their duty, and anxious to frustrate the schemes of slave-dealers, are naturally cautious in hazarding a search when there are not strong grounds for presuming that the vessel is not what the flag announces.

Her Majesty's Government labours in vain to accomplish the final and complete extinction so long as American vessels are ever ready to assist the slave-dealer in his various schemes to elude punishment.

The Government of the United States has solemnly pledged itself by Treaty "to use its utmost endeavours to promote the entire abolition of the Slave Trade." It was also honourably distinguished as being among the first which pronounced the condemnation of this guilty Traffic—a Traffic which has been since declared by the whole civilized world as a disgrace to the age. I would fain hope, therefore, that the experience of the past year will sufficiently convince that Government of the necessity of taking some decisive steps to vindicate the flag.

The great haunt of these vessels is the River Congo, and if I might presume to submit a recommendation on this subject, I should say it would be very desirable if an American vessel-of-war were permanently stationed there to act in concert with Her Majesty's cruizers: although that measure might afford but a partial remedy, yet it is to be hoped that some good would result from it in at least restraining the extent to which the Slave Trade is now carried on in the vicinity of that river.

The influence attending the presence of an American cruizer might consist principally in deterring slaves from producing American papers, but even that influence would be of great efficacy.

The American brigantine "*Dolphin*" showed herself in this port in July last, and soon afterwards took her departure for Liberia. The corvette "*San Louis*," Captain Livingstone, arrived on the 2nd November last, and after remaining in the harbour about a month proceeded also direct to Liberia.

These two vessels of war form the whole of the American squadron which have

appeared on the coast to the southward of the equator from the beginning of the year 1856 to its end.

Inclosure 5 in No. 601.

Her Majesty's Acting Commissioner at Loanda to the Earl of Clarendon.

(Extract.)

Loanda, June 22, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship a translation of a letter which I have received from the gentleman at present charged with the duties of the Brazilian Consulate at this place, containing intelligence with respect to the Slave Trade now carried on in the neighbourhood of the River Congo,

I lost no time in conveying a knowledge of the information communicated to me by Senhor Moraes to the senior officer at present in command of Her Majesty's forces on this station.

Having lately had occasion to remark on this increased activity of the River Congo, I regret to add that there continues every appearance of its being persevered in there with the same vigour as during last year.

The flag of America is still resorted to by the slave-dealers to shelter their operations, and, until some effectual measures are applied to put a stop to this practice, I see no hopes of its complete repression.

The means of controlling this growing evil, and to which I took the liberty of drawing your Lordship's attention in my despatch of the 11th February last, still appear to be greatly called for. No vessel of war of the United States has appeared on any part of the coast south of the equator during the last eight months.

Inclosure 6 in No. 601.

Senhor Moraes to Her Majesty's Acting Commissioner at Loanda.

(Extract.)

Loanda, June 17, 1857.

IT has come to my knowledge that a cargo of Africans is being prepared in the Rivers Zaire and Cassenda for exportation to the Havana, and as I suspect the slave-dealers may be emboldened to attempt to introduce into the Brazils a similar nefarious as well as criminal cargo, I hasten to inform you that, according to the information which I have received, two ships are expected in that neighbourhood from New York ready to receive these slaves.

Inclosure 7 in No. 601.

Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon, July 6, 1857.

[See No. 15.]

Inclosure 8 in No. 601.

Her Majesty's Acting Commissioner at Loanda to the Earl of Clarendon.

(Extract.)

Loanda, July 31, 1857.

IT is again my disagreeable duty to report to your Lordship that vessels protected by the flag of America, in increasing numbers, flagrantly continue the Slave Trade on this part of the coast.

The ship "Charles" of Baltimore, under American colours, a vessel of about 400 tons burthen, from New Orleans, has been met with by two of Her Majesty's cruisers off the coast to the north of the Congo. She is reported to me by Commodore Hope, of the "Prometheus," as being fully equipped for the Slave Trade, having a slave-deck laid, with her water-casks and provisions on board. The master of this vessel, when boarded by the "Prometheus" some days since, declared that he was bound to Ambriz, and on being subsequently boarded by the "Myrmidon" he said that he had left that place and was

bound to the Bights ; but I am able to affirm that he has never made his appearance at Ambriz, and I have no doubt of the intention to employ her in the conveyance of slaves.

I am informed by the Commander of Her Majesty's steamer "Bloodhound," who has just arrived here, that, on the 16th ultimo, whilst on his passage from Ascension to this place, and being in latitude 3° 29' south and longitude 11° 6' west, he sighted and gave chase to a brig, which, judging not only from her very suspicious appearance, but from the position in which she was seen, and the course she was steering, there is every reason to suppose was a vessel laden with slaves from this part of the coast. It is probable that this may have been the "Putnam," whose escape was reported in my despatch of the 25th of June last : every effort was made to capture her, but night having set in, her manœuvres were no longer visible, and she unfortunately escaped.

The arrival of four other suspicious vessels in the Congo, all wearing the American flag, has been reported to me. They are, the brig "Nancy," of New Orleans, Roderick, master ; the brig "Wizard," of New Orleans, Miller, master ; the barque "Petrel," of New York ; and the brig "Charlotte," from the same port, J. Lockhail, master.

This last-mentioned vessel has made two or three voyages between the United States and this coast, with lawful cargoes, on account of her owners, the well-known firm of Figaniere, Reis and Co., of New York. This, however, is a mere cloak, and she has brought over on this occasion 45,000 dollars, it is sometimes said even a much larger sum, as the proceeds of shipments recently effected from this coast.

The captain of the "Nancy" upon being asked by the officers of some of Her Majesty's cruisers what he was doing on this coast, had the effrontery to answer the engineers by openly boasting "that he intended to ship slaves as soon as his arrangements were completed."

Inclosure 9 in No. 601.

Her Majesty's Acting Commissioner at Loanda to the Earl of Clarendon, August 3, 1857.

[See Class A, No. 105.]

Inclosure 10 in No. 601.

Sentence in the case of the barque "Splendid."

[See Class A, Inclosure 4 in No. 105.]

Inclosure 11 in No. 601.

Consul Campbell to the Earl of Clarendon.

(Extract.)

Lagos, August 1, 1857.

IN Inclosure No. 1 in my despatch dated July 27, 1857, forwarded by the present packet, your Lordship will find particulars of an American barque the "Charles" of Baltimore, boarded by Her Majesty's ship "Prometheus." This vessel, it appears, fitted out at New Orleans ; the captain made no disguise as to the object of his voyage, and he appears to have had no reluctance in showing his slave-deck, regularly fastened down, his twelve dozen of mess-kids and other fittings, and he admitted having on board 176 leaguers full of fresh water, and that he expected to carry off (from Ambriz, he stated), at least 1000 slaves.

Inclosure 12 in No. 601.

Her Majesty's Acting Judge at Sierra Leone to the Earl of Clarendon, October 5, 1857.

[See Class A, No. 15.]

Inclosure 13 in No. 601.

Commander Hunt to the Secretary to the Admiralty, September 15, 1857.

[See Class A, No. 163.]

Inclosure 14 in No. 601.

Mr. Seymour to Commander Hunt, September 15, 1857.

[See Class A, Inclosure in No. 163.]

Inclosure 15 in No. 601.

Extract from the "New York Herald" of December 12, 1857.

THE AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE.—We have to thank Captain Ward, of the barque "W. H. Shailer," who has arrived at Salem, Massachusetts, from Loanda and Congo, on the West Coast of Africa, for the following interesting letter:—

*United States' Flag-ship "Cumberland,"
Loanda, West Coast of Africa, October 10, 1857.*

On the 3rd of October, while running down the coast, a schooner was discovered at anchor off the mouth of the River Camma. When within distance we displayed English colours from our gaff, and immediately she ran up the American ensign, thinking herself perfectly safe, no doubt; but, alas, she very soon found her mistake. Feeling confident that she was a slaver, we stood on, defying the enemy in his very den, and when abreast of him clewed up and anchored. Marines were immediately detailed, armed and equipped for the capture, and three boats, their crews fully armed, with four officers, were appointed and sent as a covering party, in case the soldiers should be repulsed by the daring slaver. The boats pulled off in gallant style (we having some time previously hoisted the stars and stripes), rendezvousing astern of the slaver, when they formed in line abreast guns, and carrying the enemy by boarding, with the loss only of a few moments of time.

By the aid of the glass we could distinctly see a large barracoon a short distance from the mouth of the river, and two large boats under heavy press of sail and paddle coming down the river. These boats not being seen from the schooner, two of ours started on their return to the ship, leaving the third in charge of the slaver; but upon seeing the boats, immediately returned to aid the two soldiers.

The excitement on board of this ship was now intense. The enemy proved pacific in his intentions, and desired only (ostensibly) to barter a few mats and a single grey parrot for old trowsers, or anything in that line, but really to ascertain the true character of the vessel. The commander of the boat came on board, and on being asked if this was a slaving port, replied indignantly, and with an air of perfect innocence, that he had lived here many years, "No sell slaves, but trade with English, French, and American." Having acquired the desired information, and disposed of two mats, he put off for the barracoon. In the course of half-an-hour two of our boats returned, leaving the third in charge of the slaver.

She proved to be the "Cortes," of New York, nominally trading for palm oil, &c. She had two muster-rolls, one evidently a Portuguese, and signed by "Wilson," as Collector of New York; mate's name totally different from that on the roll, and crew not corresponding; no cargo, large number of casks, some farinha, provisions, &c.: hold in

confusion, as though just broken out, as no doubt it had been since we hove in sight and were signalled by the fire on shore. Captain had gone up the river for his cargo, and would not be back until Monday, though, no doubt, he had landed in a boat that left just as our boats were going to the schooner. One of her crew acknowledged that there was a barracoon in sight, and one of our crew stated that he knew her to be in the Slave Trade four years ago, when he was in the same line.

Despite all these suspicious circumstances, however, she was declared a legitimate trader, her papers were returned, and matters assumed their wonted aspect. We, however, consoled ourselves with the reflection that in case there had been any call for fire-arms, we had not needlessly made preparation for the defence of our guard; for, on attempting to discharge his piece, after all danger had passed, one was necessitated to explode three or four caps ere his weapon would emit its death-dealing contents.

There was manifest uneasiness on board, and all of the boarding officers thought, beyond question, that she was a slaver; but our boats having returned, were hoisted up, the anchor weighed, and sail made in hot haste for Loanda, to send the "Dale" up to take possession of the "Cortes;" and we are now at anchor on the coast Africa, though some imaginations place us at Loanda, it being only six miles from our anchorage. As the bay is not over two miles in width, and has not more than fifteen fathoms average depth, it is deemed too dangerous an attempt to beat this ship up, and so we are to remain at our present anchorage, and date our communications "Loanda."

Inclosure 16 in No. 601.

THE following is a statement of the number of Vessels, and total number of Guns, of the British Squadron on the Coast of Africa, on the 1st of January, from 1843 to 1857, inclusive:—

Year.	Vessels.	Guns.
1843	14	141
1844	14	117
1845	20	180
1846	23	245
1847	21	205
1848	21	208
1849	23	155
1850	24	154
1851	26	201
1852	25	174
1853	19	117
1854	18	108
1855	12	71
1856	13	72
1857	16	84
Average ..	19·26	148·8

Inclosure 17 in No. 601.

THE following is a statement of the number of Vessels, and total number of Guns, of the United States' Squadron on the Coast of Africa, on the 1st of January, from 1843 to 1857, inclusive:—

Year.	Vessels.	Guns.
1843	2	30
1844	4	82
1845	5	98
1846	6	82
1847	4	80
1848	5	66
1849	5	72
1850	5	76
1851	6	96
1852	5	76
1853	7	136
1854	4	88
1855	3	82
1856	3	46
1857	3	46
Average ..	4.46	77.06

No. 602.

Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 12, 1858.)

My Lord,

Washington, December, 26, 1857.

IN conformity with the tenour of your Lordship's instruction of December 11, I have addressed the accompanying letter to General Cass, covering an extract of Mr. Gabriel's report to your Lordship of September 20, relative to the Slave Trade carried on in the Congo river, under the American flag.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 602.

Lord Napier to General Cass.

Sir,

Washington, December 26, 1857.

SINCE I had the honour of addressing you on the 24th instant, I have received an instruction from the Earl of Clarendon by which I am directed to communicate to you the accompanying extract of a despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Commissioner at Loanda relative to the Slave Trade, which is carried on in the Congo river, under the flag of the United States.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 603.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 14, 1858.

I HAVE received your Lordship's despatch of the 25th ultimo, transmitting copies of a note and its inclosures addressed by you to the Government of the United States on the subject of the Slave Trade which is carried on under the United States' flag on the African coast; and I have to acquaint you, in reply, that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve the note on this subject which you have addressed to General Cass.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 604.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 15, 1858.

I INCLOSE, for your Lordship's information, the accompanying extracts of a letter from Commodore Wise to Rear-Admiral the Honourable Sir F. Grey, the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's Naval Forces on the African station, and also a copy of a letter from the former officer to the Secretary to the Admiralty, relative to the capture by Her Majesty's ship "Vesuvius," on the 9th October last, of the slave brigantine "Braman," or "Bremen," which had fraudulently assumed the American flag.*

I also transmit a copy of a despatch from Rear-Admiral Grey to the Secretary to the Admiralty,† inclosing copies of a correspondence which has passed between him and the Commander-in-chief of the United States' squadron on the African coast, relative to the capture of this vessel.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 605.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 20, 1858.

I INCLOSE, for your Lordship's information, the accompanying copies of a letter and its inclosures from Commander Hunt, of Her Majesty's ship "Alecto," to the Secretary to the Admiralty,‡ reporting the circumstances attending the capture, on the 3rd of November last, of a brigantine whose name was given by the master as the "Lucia," but which is supposed to be the "Windward" of New Orleans, with 603 slaves on board.

Your Lordship will perceive, on referring to my despatch of the 28th of September last, that both the "Windward" and the "Braman," (the circumstances attending the capture of which latter vessel were communicated to you in my despatch of the 15th instant,) were denounced by Her Majesty's Commissioners at the Havana as being about to proceed to the coast of Africa for slaves.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 606.

Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 26.)

My Lord,

Washington, January 11, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a letter which I have addressed to General Cass, communicating to him the particulars of the destruction of a slaver of unusual dimensions by Her Majesty's ship "Sappho," believed to be identical with the "Charles," of Baltimore, a ship previously visited by Her Majesty's cruisers under American colours.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

* Class A, Nos. 171 and 172.

† Ibid., No. 174.

‡ Ibid., No. 176.

Inclosure in No. 606.

Lord Napier to General Cass.

(Extract.)

Washington, January 7, 1858.

THE accompanying despatch from Rear-Admiral Sir Frederick Grey to the Admiralty, inclosing one from Commander Moresby, of Her Majesty's ship "Sappho," lately employed on the coast of Africa, is communicated to you by order of Her Majesty's Government.

The report of Commander Moresby conveys a narrative of the wreck of a slaver, which was abandoned by her crew, and exposed to destruction with hundreds of slaves on board, under circumstances of peculiar atrocity.

Notwithstanding the most devoted efforts on the part of the officers and crew of the English vessel, only about 358 negroes could be saved out of a number estimated at 1,200.

During their humane exertions, the seamen of Her Majesty's ship of war were fired upon by a party on shore, composed of native Africans, headed by the crew of the wreck and the Portuguese owners of the neighbouring barracons.

The vessel thus lost, with such a deplorable sacrifice of human life, appears to have been built and fitted out in the United States. In the absence of colours, papers, and other evidence, it is not possible at present to decide to what nationality she belonged, or under what ensign she prosecuted her criminal Trade. There is, however, reason to believe that she may be identified with the "Charles," of Baltimore, formerly visited under the American flag by Her Majesty's ship "Prometheus," as stated to you in my letter of the 24th ultimo. Whether such be the case or not, the Government of the United States will see, in the size and character of the vessel, and in the revengeful spirit of her crew, formidable indications of the confidence and cruelty with which the Traffic is at present carried on.

No. 607.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 28, 1858.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 11th instant, I have to acquaint you that I approve the note which you addressed to General Cass, communicating to him the particulars of the destruction on the coast of Africa, by Her Majesty's ship "Sappho," of a large slave-vessel, supposed to be the "Charles," of Baltimore.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 608.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 30, 1858.

I TRANSMIT to your Lordship herewith a copy of a letter from Commander Burgess, of Her Majesty's ship "Hecate," to the Secretary to the Admiralty,* reporting the circumstances under which the master of the schooner "Niagara," sailing under American colours, surrendered that vessel to Commander Burgess, in Loango Bay, on the 6th of December last, when she was found to be fully equipped for the Slave Trade.

Your Lordship will communicate the particulars of this capture to the United States' Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 609.

Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received February 1.)

My Lord,

Washington, January 19, 1858.

IN conformity with the tenour of the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 13th ultimo, I have in the accompanying note communicated to General

* Class A, No. 177.

Cass full particulars of the capture of three slavers by Her Majesty's "Myrmidon" and "Sappho," as well as the escape of the American vessel "*James Buchanan*," with a cargo of 300 negroes.

I have also thought it right to impart to the Secretary of State some extracts from the correspondence of Her Majesty's officers, illustrative of the organization and resources of the slave-dealers in Cuba, and of the equipment of vessels in the ports of the United States for this piratical Trade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 609.

Lord Napier to General Cass.

Sir,

Washington, January 17, 1858.

IT is again my duty, under the instructions of Her Majesty's Government, to communicate to you some additional particulars respecting the recent revival of the African Slave Trade, under the fraudulent assumption of the American flag.

I have thought it right, at the same time, to select from the correspondence of Her Majesty's officers certain passages which indicate the origin of the present Traffic, and illustrate the system under which it is carried on, in the hope that information thus imparted may be serviceable to the Government of the United States in their endeavours to suppress this increasing evil.

In the accompanying extract of a despatch from Captain Burgess, of Her Majesty's ship "*Hecate*," it is stated that the late expansion of the Slave Trade has been stimulated by the formation of a Company in Cuba, styled the "*Expedicion por Africa*," the existence of which is supported by a house of notorious opulence. This Association has deliberately adopted the use of American vessels, and assumed the American flag, for the purposes of their nefarious commerce.

The same report alleges that the "*Charles*," of Baltimore, a vessel which I recently announced to you as having been wrecked by her crew, and destroyed by Her Majesty's ship "*Sappho*," cleared at the Custom-house of New Orleans, with articles inscribed in her manifest which might have awakened the suspicions of the Federal authorities, and justified the detention of the ship.

Her Majesty's Commissioner at Loanda, in a despatch of which copy is inclosed herewith, relates that a brig of 240 tons, without colours or papers, has been taken by Her Majesty's ship "*Myrmidon*," being fully fitted for the Slave Trade. The master of this vessel, a citizen of the United States, declared that he had fitted out at New York, and had baffled the precautions of the Federal authorities, which we know, however, to have been strenuously exerted at that port.

An American ensign, floating astern, intimated the national character previously assumed by the captured slaver.

The British cruizer "*Alecto*" has been so fortunate as to make prize of two vessels, the "*Louis Mc Lane*" and the "*Clara Williams*," both equipped for the Trade, both hoisting American colours for the purpose of deception, both exhibiting papers of a character so fraudulent or imperfect as to constitute no evidence of American nationality.

The "*James Buchanan*" has escaped with a cargo of 300 slaves, though chased by Her Majesty's ship "*Teazer*," under steam and canvas, for 140 miles.

In reporting this incident, Her Majesty's Consul at Lagos mentions that a very fast steam-slaver is expected on the coast, a new feature in the Trade, one which marks the perseverance and resources of the slave-traders, and which will, no doubt, incite the Governments of Great Britain and the United States to the adoption of corresponding means of repression.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 610.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 4, 1858.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 19th ultimo, I have to acquaint you that I approve the note which you addressed to General Cass, communicating to him the particulars of the capture, by Her Majesty's cruizers on the African coast, of three vessels engaged in the Slave Trade, the "*Louis McLane*," the "*Clara B. Williams*," and a brig, name unknown, which had been fitted out in United States' ports, and sailed under American colours, for the purpose of carrying on this nefarious Traffic.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 611.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 12, 1858.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Gabriel, Her Majesty's Acting Commissioner at Loanda,* reporting the circumstances under which the Commander of the United States' corvette "*Dale*" has detained an American barque called the "*W. G. Lewis*," in the Congo river, and sent her to the United States for adjudication on suspicion of her being engaged in the Slave Trade.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 612.

The Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, February 12, 1858.

I TRANSMIT to your Lordship, under flying seal, the accompanying despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Consuls at New York, New Orleans, Boston, and Baltimore,† inclosing lists of the vessels which have been captured or destroyed by British cruizers, during the past year, on the African coast; and I have to desire that you will forward these despatches to their destinations.

No. 613.

The Earl of Malmesbury to Lord Napier.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, March 5, 1858.

I TRANSMIT herewith amended lists of the vessels engaged in the Slave Trade, which have been either captured or destroyed by the British cruizers during the past year on the African coast; and I have to instruct your Lordship to forward these documents to Her Majesty's Consuls at New York, New Orleans, Baltimore, and Boston, to be substituted for the lists inclosed in the despatches which were sent under flying seal, through your Lordship, to Her Majesty's Consuls at the above-mentioned places.

* Class A, No. 131.

† No. 629.

Inclosure in No. 613.
AMENDED LIST of Slavers captured or destroyed by British Cruisers, on the Coast of Africa, during the year 1857.

Name and Description of Captured Vessel.	Flag under which she was sailing.	Names of Masters and Owners.	Port from which the Captured Vessel cleared.	Number of Crew.	Date of Capture.	Tonnage of Captured Vessel.	Names of Captor and Capturing Vessel.	REMARKS.
"Adams Gray," brigantine	Spanish	Don Henry	New Orleans	12	April 16	about 200	Commander Hope, "Prometheus"	The "Adams Gray" was boarded after a chase of nearly four hours, when the master gave her up as a prize. She was found to be fully equipped for the Slave Trade. The crew were all either Spaniards or Italians, except the master and steward, who both spoke English perfectly. The master declined to state to what country he belonged. This vessel had "Adams Gray, New Orleans," painted on her stern. Condemned at Sierra Leone.
"Panchita," barque	American	"	"	"	May 9	"	Commander Moresby, "Sappho"	"
"Jupiter," schooner	Ditto	J. Gilbert; owner said to be Spaniard	"	12	June 29	143 ^{7/8}	Lientenant Pike, "Antelope"	"
"Abbot Devereux," schooner	Spanish	J. M. Pedermonito	"	22	August 1	88	Lientenant Whyte, "Teazer"	"
"Eliza Jane," brigantine	"	Owners, Spanish merchants in New York	New York, for Caracas	9	August 24	208	Commander Hunt, "Alceto"	American built; is stated by the crew to belong to some Spanish merchants in New York; was found fully equipped for the Slave Trade. The master gave her up as a prize, declining to claim any nationality.
"Joseph H. Record," schooner	"	H. F. Williams	Newport	23	September 4	111 ^{1/2}	Lientenant Pike, "Antelope"	An American schooner; when captured she had 191 slaves on board; the master gave her up as a prize. No colours or papers were found on board. Condemned at Sierra Leone.
"Conchita," barque	Spanish	E. Bayona	"	"	August 27	850	Commander Day, "Firefly"	"
"W. Clark," brigantine	American	T. Ranger	New Orleans	"	August 22	181 ^{1/2}	Commander Day, "Firefly"	This vessel was boarded by Her Majesty's ships "Teazer," "Hecate," and "Medusa," when she showed American colours and papers; but some of the crew having informed the commander of Her Majesty's ship "Firefly," that she was fully equipped for, and intended to ship slaves, she was again boarded, when the master threw overboard his colours and papers, and gave the vessel up as a prize. Condemned at Sierra Leone.
Nameless schooner	"	"	"	"	August 6	106	Lientenant Robinson, "Antelope"	Ready for reception of slaves. No papers; Spanish flag found on board. Condemned at Sierra Leone.
"Onward," brigantine	American	W. P. Seymour; owners, Messrs. Lafitte and Co.	Boston	"	September 13	174 ^{5/8}	Commander Hunt, "Alceto"	This vessel had the remains of another name on her stern. When met with by the "Alceto," the master showed American colours and papers, and said he was bound to Leona, to which place he accepted the offer of a tow; but whilst on her way there, owing to some suspicious proceedings on the part of the crew, in throwing overboard planks, &c., she was boarded by the Commander of the "Alceto," when the master acknowledged that he was equipped for the Slave Trade, and gave the vessel up, throwing overboard his papers and colours. Condemned at Sierra Leone.
"Charles," ship	Ditto	"	Baltimore	"	September 18	1,088 ^{1/2}	Commander Moresby, "Sappho"	This vessel, when chased by Her Majesty's ship "Sappho," was run ashore by her crew; is stated to have had 1,200 slaves on board, of whom 355 only were saved. Sails stamped "James Tins, N Orleans." The master, when the vessel was previously met with and boarded by the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Prometheus," openly declared that he was equipped for that purpose, but his papers being in order he was not further molested.
Nameless schooner	"	"	"	8	September 10	141 ^{1/2}	Commander Moresby, "Sappho"	Burnt, being unseaworthy.
"Restauration," barque	"	"	Vigo	"	"	"	Commander Hunt, "Alceto"	"

Amended List of Slavers, &c.,—continued.

Name and Description of Captured Vessel.	Flag under which she was sailing.	Names of Master and Owners.	Port from which the Captured Vessel cleared.	Number of Crew.	Date of Capture.	Tonnage of Captured Vessel.	Names of Captor and Capturing Ship.	REMARKS.
"Lewis McLane," schooner	American	W. H. Hinekey	New Orleans	...	October 15	170 ^{3/4}	Commander Hunt, "Alceto"	This vessel, when boarded, had American colours flying and showed American papers, but upon information received from some natives, she was boarded a second time, when the master gave her up as a lawful prize, stating that she was not entitled to any flag or nationality, and was going to embark 600 slaves. She was found to be fully equipped for the Slave Trade.
"Clara B. Williams," barque	Ditto	M. Gonzalez	...	...	October 26	834 ^{1/2}	Commander Hunt, "Alceto"	The master of this vessel, which was flying American colours, on being boarded and informed that information had been received from the Havana that she was intended to be employed in the Slave Trade, immediately destroyed his papers and colours, and gave the vessel up as a good prize. Condemned at Sierra Leone.
"Niagara," schooner	Ditto	...	...	...	December 7	180	Commander Burgess, "Hecate"	This vessel was chased into Loango Bay, where she anchored, and on being visited produced American papers and colours. The master was told that his papers were informal, having a Consular certificate only and no register, but the vessel was not on that account molested. An hour afterwards the master went on board the "Hecate," and gave her up as a good prize, stating she was Spanish property.
"Windward," brigantine	...	...	New Orleans	...	November 4	177	Commander Hunt, "Alceto"	This vessel was captured after a long chase. The master gave the name as the "Lacia," but she was recognized as the "Windward," of New Orleans, having been met with in the Congo river under United States colours, where she shipped her slaves, 603 in number. The master gave her up as a prize, declining to produce papers or colours. Condemned at St. Helena.
"Braman," brigantine	American	Smith	...	...	October 19	...	Commodore Wise, "Yesurius"	This vessel was met with by several of Her Majesty's cruisers, flying American colours, and furnished with American papers. On being boarded by Commodore Wise, he informed the master that he was acquainted with the character of the vessel, and knew that she intended to ship slaves. The master then asked whether he would be treated as a pirate if he surrendered. On being answered in the negative, he threw his colours and papers overboard, and gave up the ship as a good prize.
Nameless barque	...	...	...	...	September 2	350	Commander Hunt, "Alceto"	Condemned at Sierra Leone.
"Antonio," schooner	Spanish	Juan Ross	...	...	August 3	91 ^{3/4}	Governor of Gold Coast	Condemned at Sierra Leone.
Nameless brig	...	...	...	...	October 4	154 ^{1/2}	Commander Robinson, "Myrmidon"	Condemned at Sierra Leone.
Nameless brigantine	...	W. A. Spencer	...	...	October 9	145 ^{1/2}	Commodore Wise, "Yesurius"	...
Nameless schooner	...	...	...	10	April 12	...	Commander Pearce, "Arab"	Had 370 slaves on board.

No. 614.

Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 15.)

My Lord,

Washington, February 28, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an extract from the "New York Times" of yesterday's date, with telegraphic intelligence from New Orleans of the 26th. It appears that a depôt has been established on Pearl river, Mississippi, for the introduction of African slaves, and that negroes have been already imported and sold. I have called the attention of Her Majesty's Consul at New Orleans to this report, although I am confident it has already attracted his attention. I am prepared to learn that the report is unfounded. It has probably been circulated, as many other statements are, for the purpose of familiarizing the public with the notion of a restoration of the African Slave Trade. I must remark to your Lordship that the French project for the importation of free African labour is uniformly cited by the ultra-Southern men in this country in defence of the revival of the Slave Trade; it is always spoken of as being virtually the same thing, and commended accordingly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 614.

*Extract from the "New York Times" of February 27, 1858.**New Orleans, February 26, 1858.*

RE-OPENING OF THE AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE IN MISSISSIPPI.—An editorial article in the "Delta" of to-day asserts that the South has already re-opened the African Slave Trade, and that a regular depôt has been established on Pearl river, in Mississippi, where cargoes have been received, the negroes sold and put to work. The "Delta" says the vessels engaged in the trade generally use the French flag, because the British cruisers on the African coast will not trouble it.

No. 615.

Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 23.)

(Extract.)

Washington, March 6, 1858.

A MEASURE was lately introduced into the Senate of Louisiana, to sanction the importation of 5,000 negro apprentices. This proposal was not seriously entertained, and was laid upon the table. We now learn by a telegram from New Orleans that a bill, authorising the formation of a company for the introduction of 2,500 African labourers bound to servitude for fifteen years, has passed the House of Representatives of that State.

This movement is the direct result of the French scheme of the same kind, and has been more remotely prompted by the Coolie Trade, as practised partly in the British, but especially in the Spanish colonies. It may also be regarded as a manifestation of sectional jealousy and anger, consequent on the attitude taken by the Northern States in the Kansas question.

It is not necessary to demonstrate to your Lordship that the new project, if carried into operation, would be tantamount to the revival of the African Slave Trade. It is obvious that a negro, bound to labour for fifteen years, would, in the United States, be virtually bound for life. Absorbed in the middle of a slave population, he could scarcely be identified and reclaimed by the Civil Magistrate, even if the Magistrate were disposed to recover him, and if he possessed, at the termination of that formidable period, the strength or skill necessary for self-support. From motives of humanity, if from no other motives, the law would be obliged to interfere on behalf of the exhausted savage, and impose on the employer the obligation of affording him sustenance, for the community would hardly accept the burden. Enactments would undoubtedly be made for the prolongation of the period of compulsory labour, and if the apprentice were permitted to propagate his species, some pretext would be found for reducing his offspring to bondage. In fact, an honest system of apprenticed black labour could not safely be maintained in a slave-holding community. Either the condition of the slave must be assimilated to that of

the apprentice, or the apprentice must be reduced to perpetual servitude. The slave would not work resignedly beside one who had the prospect and reversion of freedom. There can be no doubt as to which alternative would be chosen. The apprentice would become a slave.

No. 616.

Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 23.)

My Lord,

Washington, March 6, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 12th ultimo, covering four despatches respectively to Her Majesty's Consuls at Baltimore, New York, Boston, and New Orleans.

In conformity with your Lordship's instructions, I have read those despatches, and forwarded them to their several destinations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 617.

Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 23.)

My Lord,

Washington, March 7, 1858.

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship dated the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith an extract of the "New Orleans Delta" of the 26th ultimo, affirming with the greatest assurance that the African Slave Trade has been opened in the State of Mississippi.

I am still under the impression that this announcement is fraudulent, and is intended merely to prepare the public mind for the passage of the Negro Apprenticeship Act, pending in the Louisiana Legislature, or for an undisguised proposal in favour of the re-establishment of the regular Traffic in human beings.

I am informed, however, from a reliable source, that the Federal Government have obtained information that a slave-vessel is expected to attempt a landing at the mouth of the Mississippi, or in Texas, and that orders have been given to the revenue cutters to watch the coast with particular vigilance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 617.

Extract from the "New Orleans Delta" of February 26, 1858.

SOME startling and significant facts have come to our knowledge. We have hesitated to disclose them; but, after inquiry, examination, and consultation, we are convinced that both duty and policy demand disclosure. The facts, we say, are startling; they are crucial. They will surprise and encourage many in our counting-rooms and offices, and many on the plantations and in the towns; but, most of all, they will astound the Cabinets of Western Europe, and eminently assist to confirm, between the genial French people and our own Norman and Huguenot South, an unwritten, but hearty, magnanimous, and unconquerable league against the allied avarice and envy, cant, and rapacity of England and the Northern States.

Although the foiled and furious enemies of our institutions may shake up, uncork, and pour out on our battered brows the foaming vials of their wrath; although the President may be shocked and embarrassed; and although the great parties of the country may be bitterly disappointed and imbrangled, let it go forth that Southerners have taken into their own hands the law, and opened the African Slave Trade with the South; that Africans are now imported into Mississippi and other sea-shore States; that in Mississippi there is a market for African slaves; and that on plantations in that great and intrepid State, negroes recently imported from Africa are at their daily work.

The authority on which we make this announcement is indisputable. We even have advices that in Mississippi, Henry Hughes and some of his party now privately urge the Labour

CLASS B.

Immigration movement, not to open the supply of Africans, but to legitimate, moralize, regulate, and equalize the supply already opened and impossible to be closed. We have some further details. Some negroes are disembarked on the Atlantic coast, and brought overland to the Mississippi cotton-fields, but the Mississippi sea-coast's peculiar facilities for landing and secreting cargoes, and the conveniences of Pearl river as a channel for distribution, are not overlooked.

The profits of the Mississippi Slave Trade are enormous. We have been so fortunate as to procure from undoubted authority some interesting details. They relate to the operations of the Missouri Slave Trade, and are authenticated by operators. It need not be said, in the first place, that the barque engaged in the Traffic to the South must be a fast sailer, for this is indispensable to the security of the officers and crew, the health of the cargo, and the rapidity of the pecuniary returns. For a trip from the Missouri coast to Africa and back, there must be a captain, supercargo, three mates, three cooks, steward, and between twenty and thirty first-class seamen. The vessel must be well supplied with extra running and standing rigging, and also supernumerary spars, ropes, topmasts, and suits of sails. An assortment of the flags of all nations will be particularly desirable, but the most useful is now the French flag, because British cruizers will not verify the colours, and take the same liberties as with the United States' flag. The fare of the ship's crew must be the very best, and their goodwill must be carefully conciliated, because during the voyage a mutiny is disastrous; and after the voyage a treacherous or vindictive information is, to say the least, troublesome and expensive. To procure the goodwill of the men, much depends on the mates, over whom the captain ought to keep a strict watch. For the subsistence of the negroes there must be a plentiful supply of hard bread, corn-meal, rice, and an abundance of vinegar, red pepper, pure water, and drugs. In distributing diet, the greatest regularity is to be observed, and the very first symptoms of disease promptly treated.

As to the capacity of the superior officer, it may be safely said that a slaver requires in it more courage, talent, honesty, fidelity, skill, and discretion, than any other ship in any other trade. Indeed, the captain and supercargo must, between them, act as navigator and naval officer, merchant and physician, diplomatist and magistrate, not to mention the functions of chaplain.

As to the expenses and profits of the voyage, the latest advices were from the captain of a barque which sailed from one of the Georgia ports. He has quite recently returned, and reports that on account of the vigilance of cruizers, negroes had accumulated on the coast, and in a manner glutted the markets, and that in consequence of this the price had fallen to under thirty dollars a-head. The payment, however, must be in gold or silver, as the head men will not, as formerly, barter for merchandize.

We may estimate a cargo to number 700 negroes, although many more than that are often carried; but whatever the number, none purchased should be over twenty-five years of age: 700, at an average cost of 30 dollars a-piece, will amount to 21,000 dollars, and their price in this country or Cuba will range from 450 to 1,200 dollars. But if sold for say 500 dollars, the cargo will net 350,000 dollars. Freely allowing, then, 150,000 dollars for the entire expenses of the voyage, and all possible loss, the profits of one round voyage will amount to 200,000 dollars.

Where the profits are so exorbitant, we can well understand why the business has been begun in the South. We can well understand the impossibility of closing the Trade now begun, and, most of all, we can now understand that the great question is not whether there shall be for the South a supply of African labour, because that is now settled; and the great and absorbing question is, whether, according to Hughes' method, the supply shall be so modified as to be legitimate, fair, regular, and equal.

No. 618.

Lord Napier to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 30.)

My Lord,

Washington, March 12, 1858.

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship of the 6th instant, I have now the honour to transmit herewith extracts of two of the leading journals at New Orleans, highly condemnatory of the measure which has lately passed the House of Representatives of Louisiana, sanctioning the importation of 2,500 negro apprentices. The arguments of these newspapers are both honourable and convincing, and should the project under consideration be acceded to by the Senate of the State, which is not expected, it will, probably, be arrested by Federal legislation, or the intervention of the executive authority of the Union. I still,

however, entertain the impression that this proposal is but one of the initiatory movements in an agitation for the revival of the African Slave Trade stimulated by the scarcity of tropical labour and the envy with which the citizens of the Slave States witness the aggrandizement and expansion of the northern section of the Republic. While the Federal Union lasts this agitation will not be successful, but will become a source of discord, and in connection with other questions, eventually a cause of dissolution.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 618.

Extracts from New Orleans Newspapers.

THE THREATENED AFRICAN IMMIGRATION.—Our citizens were quite startled by the telegraphic announcement, yesterday morning, of the passage, through one House of the Legislature, of a Bill authorizing the importation of 2,500 negroes from the coast of Africa into this State, to be indentured for a term not less than fifteen years. It has been known that some such project was entertained at Baton Rouge, and had some advocates out of it, but it has never been thought there was a serious intention to press it through, or any prospect of its final success. We believe that if it had been supposed that there was any danger of the State's embarking in a scheme to revive the Slave Trade, by indirection, and bringing into Louisiana gangs of Pagan labourers, fresh from the bloody and barbaric wars of the African coast, there would have gone up from this city a protest, speaking the utter repugnance of five-sixths of the population.

We cannot speak of the project in detail as it has passed thus far. But described as it is to us, as a scheme for importing under the fallacious designation of "free immigrants" the wild negro of Africa upon Louisiana plantations, it will have our decided opposition on every ground of expediency and principle, and that not so much on any humanitarian grounds, for the sake of the imported negro, as upon considerations of the interests and the honour of the State. We do not doubt that nineteen-twentieths of the negroes anywhere in Africa would be positively benefited by being transferred from their native land to the Southern United States; from a condition of want, ignorance, and constant suffering, as brutal masters or brutal slaves, to one of assured comfort, protection, and abundance, as dependent and contented labourers under the mild sway of a civilized and Christian race. But there are means for bringing this about which are abhorrent to every sense of what is right and what is merciful, and these make the Slave Trade a horror to many who conscientiously uphold the institution of slavery as it exists among ourselves. A direct proposition to revive the African Slave Trade would meet, as the occasional suggestions have already met, a strong, and we believe a predominating, opposition in the Southern slave-holding States, on grounds of policy and self-interest as much as of conscience. The new project for importing "free" immigrants into Louisiana is, term it as we may, a Traffic in Slaves, and one of its features is that it is a Traffic in Slaves from the coast for making them free negroes here.

The plan is, in substance, the same as that recently so much debated, which the French Government has authorized and is prosecuting, through the Regis contract for providing negro labourers from the coast for the use of her West India possessions. But the French Government does not disguise the fact that it deals in slaves. All experiments upon the contract for voluntary emigrants have proved failures. The negroes can only be obtained from the native slave-dealers, and are sold to the French contractors at so much per head—just as they used to be sold in the old times of the Trade—from the barracoons of the Spanish and Portuguese slave-dealers. There is no such thing to be had on the African coast as a negro willing to contract, and able to contract, understandingly, for a free labourer. The whole country is a drive for the Chiefs, who monopolize the Traffic, and whom the new French market has incited to new wars for the purpose of getting captives to be sold on the coast, or made "free" emigrants of, by the French contractors. The French, indeed, defend their system on the ground that slavery—brutalized and absolute—is the normal condition of the native African, and that their free emigrant plan is an emancipation plan—a system for the withdrawing of the savage from the oppressions of his native master and making him a free man in the West Indies, after he is prepared for the condition by some years of preparation in a state of legalized servitude.

The people of this State, when they examine the bearings of these projects, will hardly consent to the introduction, among their own well-trained and contented population,

of a multitude brought here directly from the lowest and most depraved state of barbarism and lawlessness as "free" immigrants. The policy of all the laws of the State, for many years, has been to repress the growth of the number of free negroes, to restrain the power of emancipation, and to demand the exodus from among us of all of the free or emancipated class who have not some special claim upon our good faith, or some special merit to exempt them from the operation of a rule of established and necessary State policy. How can this policy be reconciled with the scheme for authorizing the entry into the State, in the assumed character of "free" negroes, of the untamed and untaught Pagan, clothed with rights of which they cannot be divested, but by new acts of legislation which change his character and convert him directly into a slave.

There is no demand by the individual interests of Louisiana, for the increase of her labouring population, by such means, of such a class, and with the inevitable mischiefs that must follow. If they are not to be treated as "free," but the contract is to be made a device, by which the Slave Trade is to be covertly practised under the authority of the State of Louisiana—a mere evasion of the laws of the United States against the African Slave Trade—it is hardly less objectionable in its character, will be of doubtful success under the definitions of the statutes, which are the laws of the land, and is not worthy of the manliness and loyalty which ought to pervade the legislation of a Sovereign State, or the good faith which, in maintaining her rights, does not shrink from the honourable and punctilious fulfilment of her obligations.

If it is this African project which has been endorsed by the House of Representatives, we hope there is time for reconsideration, or that the Senate will put its face against such innovations.

THE IMPORTATION OF FREE NEGROES.—For some years past complaints have been made in this State of the increase of free negroes. They have been justly deemed an undesirable class of persons to have in a slave-holding State. In consequence of these complaints and of this undesirableness, past Legislatures have felt called upon to pass such laws as would gradually rid us of the evil referred to. Free negroes from other States were forbidden under severe penalties from coming here with the intention to remain; and finally, last year, a law was passed prohibiting absolutely any further emancipation. This law has been, so far as we know, generally acquiesced in by the people of the State. We have not heard a solitary word spoken, in fact, from any quarter against it. Under this state of things, and with the approval of the efforts heretofore made to rid the State of free negroes manifested by the people, the public will view with surprise, if not indignation, an attempt on the part of a majority of the House of Representatives completely to reverse this safe policy, and to flood the State with free negroes! It would scarcely have been believed when the Legislature assembled that half-a-dozen votes could be obtained in either House for so strange and mischievous a proposition. Yet it seems that the proposition actually passed by a vote of forty to twenty-one! By what authority do these people act? Did the people elect them to change the settled policy of the State, and to inaugurate the dangerous measure of flooding Louisiana with free negroes? Have the people called upon them to do anything of this kind? Have they expressed any dissatisfaction with the line of legislation which has been adopted upon this subject? The bill, as announced by telegraph, authorizes the importation of 2,500 free negroes in a batch; that is, it authorizes somebody to assist free negroes to enter this State in violation of existing laws! But these free negroes are to be indentured for a period of fifteen years. What is to become of them, then! Are they to be left to wander about the State, so many wrecks of humanity, to die of starvation, or to be driven away to the inhospitable North, there to linger out a wretched existence amid cold and want? Or are they to be sent back to Africa? If so, at whose expense? and what provision is to be made to secure the faithful performance of the contract to send them back? Or, once here, and the fifteen years having expired, are they to be seized for being in the State in contravention of law, and sold into slavery? These are questions the people of the State will be likely to require to be answered before giving their assent to a measure well calculated to create excitement among our servile population, and to demoralize it by the introduction of a foreign, savage, and heathen element.

But we ought, perhaps, to apologise to our readers for treating the subject in so respectful a manner. Every body well knows that this importation of free negroes from Africa is, from beginning to end, a sheer, unmitigated, transparent fraud. It is an effort to revive the Slave Trade under the hypocritical and flimsy disguise of a word. Free Africans, forsooth! All the objections to it exist that ever existed to the Slave Trade, and without a solitary redeeming feature. If the negroes are to be real apprentices, and not slaves, to

be free at the expiration of their term of service, then the strongest temptations will be held out to unprincipled persons to extort from them the utmost possible labour that flesh and sinews are capable of yielding, with the very least possible expense for food and clothing from the master ; consequently there will be opportunities for exercising towards them oppression and cruelty. If, on the contrary, the intention or the result of the operation be to make the free negroes really slaves for life—which we take to be the real object, however it may be disguised—then the pretence of bringing them here as free negroes and apprenticing them, is a fraud that ought to mantle with shame the cheek of every honest, high-minded savage, much less of every civilized man. The Legislature owes it to the dignity, peace, and welfare of the State, if not to its own dignity, to put a stop to this thing at once. It can do no good, and must certainly result in harm.

UNITED STATES. (*Consular*)—*Galveston.*

No. 619.

Consul Lynn to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received August 11.)

My Lord,

Galveston, July 18, 1857.

I HAVE to report to your Lordship that, on the 8th of June last, a lad of colour, named Charles Thomas, presented himself at this office, and stated that he was a British subject, a native of the Island of St. Thomas, but the offspring of parents who are also British subjects, though residents of the same island, and solicited my protection against the authority of a person named Kleiber, who held him in servitude.

The boy furthermore stated that he had been a resident of the Island of Trinidad, and had been engaged in discharging the cargo of the American schooner "Velasco," Johnson, master, at Port of Spain; and that, by the representations of the master, and his promise to take him to New York to which port the master said his vessel was bound, he was induced to ship as one of the crew.

The schooner, however, was destined for this port, and arrived in the month of December last; Thomas remained on board, and subsequently proceeded with the schooner to Pensacola, where, he states, the master endeavoured to sell him as a slave, but was prevented from so doing by the mate.

In February last, the schooner again arrived at this port, and was then sold, and the boy discharged without any provision being made for his subsistence.

In this condition, the boy states that, through intimidation, and the fear of being sold into slavery, he was induced to sign an instrument in writing; and that, having obtained his signature, Kleiber proceeded to exercise acts of ownership over him, and to offer him for sale as a slave.

This writing I subsequently found to be a bond of servitude to Kleiber for a period of sixty years, at the expiration of which time Thomas was to receive 5 dollars (*1l. 2s. 6d.*), a suit of clothes, and three months' provision.

Upon a verification of the fact of this lad having been one of the crew of the "Velasco," by reference to the records of the custom-house; and of the acts of ownership exercised by Kleiber, by reference to the records of the Mayor's office; to those of Mr. Justice Rump; and by the testimony of Mr. McCarty, an agent for the sale of slaves, I considered it my duty to extend to him the protection he required; and, in courtesy to the Governor of the State, as well as to obtain an exposition of his Excellency's views on this first attempt, presented to my notice, to kidnap a person of colour being a British subject, to address to his Excellency a letter, a copy of which, with its inclosures, I have the honour herewith to transmit, and also a copy of his reply, inclosing the opinion of the Attorney-General for the State.

In this opinion, your Lordship will observe that I am directed to the local Courts of the State to obtain redress; and, with continual reference to Lord Palmerston's despatch dated December 5, 1851, I presented a statement of the above facts to the District Attorney for the action of the Grand Jury now impanelled; they have, however, refused to find a bill of indictment against Kleiber, and I have, consequently, engaged a passage to Boston for Thomas, in the American barque "D. Godfrey."

I cannot dismiss this subject without referring your Lordship to the opinion of the Attorney-General, wherein he states that "the Courts of the country are open for the redress of wrongs suffered by all classes of persons within their jurisdiction, whatever be their condition in life, or place of citizenship."

The result of the present investigation has proved the contrary. The Courts of the State do not admit of the evidence of persons of colour against a white citizen, but only against negroes; consequently, any accusation which a free person of colour, kidnapped

into slavery, might prefer against a white man, would be rejected by the Courts. Free negroes "may be compelled to leave by proper legal process, or be reduced to slavery, if they persist in remaining;" the cause of action may, therefore, be peremptorily removed, and the only redress granted to the negro would be a restoration to that freedom of which he had been deprived.

The Attorney-General states that, "so far, however, as relates to the whipping said to have been inflicted, it seems to have taken place under judicial sanction. It was the penalty affixed by the law for the offence charged; and the presumption is, that it was deserved, or would not otherwise have been suffered." It must also be stated that Thomas was summarily convicted before a Justice of the Peace, on the evidence alone of his accusers; was not allowed the benefit of counsel to produce rebutting testimony, if any could have been offered; and was punished as a slave, as the record of the Court proves.

The statements published in the public journals, and herewith subjoined, must, in part, be rejected as not true; the statement of Thomas possesses a truthfulness and connection too probable to be rejected; and I could not admit that a person in the favourable condition of a seaman would voluntarily sell himself into a state of slavery of which he was totally ignorant; besides, Thomas was at Port of Spain obtaining constant employment with remunerative wages. These statements were, I presume, intended to destroy any sympathy which might have been felt for the boy, and to palliate the conduct of the persons engaged in this evident attempt to kidnap.

I have now only to add, that a knowledge of the Consular office was studiously withheld from Thomas until the day he presented himself to me; and, I presume, the same cause prevented any intimation to me of his arrival.

I have also the honour to state that I have transmitted to his Excellency Lord Napier a copy of this despatch, with its inclosures.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR T. LYNN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 619.

Consul Lynn to the Governor of the State of Texas.

Sir,

Galveston, June 13, 1857.

I HAVE to request your Excellency's attention to an outrage of a flagrant character, which has been committed upon the person of a British subject named Charles Thomas, a young lad of colour, and a native of the Island of St. Thomas, the circumstances of which may be thus stated:—

This youth, Charles Thomas, formed one of the crew of the American schooner "Velasco," and was shipped by the American Consul at Port of Spain, Trinidad, as appears from the inclosed copy of a certified extract from the records of the Custom-house at this port; and, on the arrival of the "Velasco" at this port in the month of February last, from a voyage to Pensacola, was discharged, without any provision having been made for his subsistence. It further appears, that about that period a person named Kleiber, a citizen of Galveston, obtained the signature of this lad Thomas to a bond of servitude to exist for sixty years, and has since that time, until the 8th of the present month, exercised control over him as the master of a slave, received the wages of his hire, caused him to be publicly whipped, and offered him for sale as a slave. These facts I learn from the verbal testimony of Mr. Allen, of the constable of this city, and of Mr. Mc Carty, and which are also supported by the evidence afforded in the inclosed copy of a certified copy of the records of the Mayor's office at Galveston, and in the inclosed copy of a letter from Mr. Justice Rump.

The lad Thomas is now under my protection, and, as it appears to me that the laws of the State of which your Excellency is Governor have been wilfully violated by these acts of aggression on the person of this lad, I shall consider it my duty to detain him as a necessary evidence of the facts set forth, until I shall have the honour to receive from your Excellency a reply to this communication.

With high consideration, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR T. LYNN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 619.

*Certificate.**Custom-House, Galveston, June 9, 1857.*

I HEREBY certify that, in the list of persons composing the crew of the schooner "Velasco," of Baltimore, which arrived at this port from the Port of Spain, Island of Trinidad, on the 12th of December, 1856, the name of C. H. Thomas appears as one of the crew of said schooner, with the following indorsement upon the crew list:—

*"Consulate of the United States, Port of Spain,
Trinidad, November 6, 1856.*

"I hereby certify that C. H. Thomas shipped at this port at the rate of twenty-five cents per month.

(Signed) "E. B. MARACHE, *United States' Consul.*"

Given under my hand, and seal of the Custom-house, at the port of Galveston, the day and date above mentioned.

(Signed) H. STUART, *Collector.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 619.

Depositions, &c.

The State of Texas, City and County of Galveston.

Mayor's Office.

PERSONALLY appeared before me, John Henry Brown, Mayor of the aforesaid city, C. E. Kleiber, who states on oath that William Nieman did, on or about the 20th day of May, A.D. 1857, commit a breach of city ordinance, by attacking and threatening a negro boy of complainant.

Subscribed to before me this 4th day of June, A.D. 1857.

(Signed) JNO. HENRY BROWN, *Mayor.*

The State of Texas, City and County of Galveston.

Mayor's Office.

To the Marshal of said City, greeting.

You are hereby commanded to seize the person of William Nieman, and him safely keep, and cause the same to appear before me at the Mayor's office, at 7 o'clock A.M. on the 5th day of June, A.D. 1857, to answer to a charge of a breach of city ordinance, by attacking and threatening a negro boy of C. E. Kleiber.

(Signed) JNO. HENRY BROWN, *Mayor.*

Galveston, June 4, 1857.

A true copy of the original complaint and warrant.

Attest.

(Signed) CHAS. E. THOMPSON, *Secretary of the Council.*

Inclosure 4 in No. 619.

Mr. Rump to Consul Lynn.

Sir,

Justice's Court, Presct., No. 2.

IN answer to yours of to-day concerning the negro Charles, I have to state that, on 6th May current, a young negro, who gave his name as Charles, and was represented as the property of H. M. Kleiber, was brought before me on the charge of larceny; that, having been found guilty of having stolen a watch, he was ordered to receive thirty-nine lashes on his bare back, and that, according to return of the officer, he suffered this punishment on the 8th May, 1857

H. M. Kleiber, having been named as the owner, was served with notice of the case; he appeared, and attended the trial as owner.

The case is entitled in my docket, "No. 19. State of Texas *v.* a negro, Charles, said to be the property of H. M. Kleiber."

(Signed) J. E. RUMP, *Justice of Peace, Galveston County.*

Inclosure 5 in No. 619.

The Governor of the State of Texas to Consul Lynn.

Sir,

Executive Office, Austin, Texas, June 23, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant, in which you state that "you request my attention to an outrage of a flagrant character, which has been committed upon the person of a British subject named Charles Thomas, a young lad of colour, and a native of the Island of St. Thomas."

Your letter, with the papers that accompanied it, have been referred to the Attorney-General of this State for his opinion, "what action, if any, it is my right or duty to take as Governor in relation to this matter."

I inclose you a copy of his opinion, in which he states that this is not a case in which I am authorized by the constitution or laws to interfere in any manner, and that the Courts of this State are open for the redress of any wrongs that may have been inflicted upon the said Thomas. After an examination of all the circumstances detailed in your letter and the accompanying papers, I have come to the same conclusion expressed in the opinion of the Attorney-General.

Very respectfully, &c.

(Signed) E. M. PEASE.

Inclosure 6 in No. 619.

Mr. Willie to the Governor of the State of Texas.

Sir,

Attorney-General's Office, Austin, June 22, 1857.

I HAVE examined the papers transmitted to you as the Executive of the State, by Arthur T. Lynn, Esq., British Consul at Galveston. The official communication of Mr. Lynn, and the documents accompanying, show these facts:—

A coloured boy, called Charles Thomas, a native of the island of St. Thomas, and a subject of Great Britain, was on the 6th day of November, 1856, shipped on board an American schooner at Port of Spain, Trinidad.

In February last, on the arrival of the schooner at Galveston, from a voyage to Pensacola, he was discharged without provision being made for his subsistence.

A citizen of Galveston, named Kleiber, procured from the boy his signature to a paper (called by the Consul "a bond of servitude for sixty years"), under which he claims him as a slave, has received the wages of his labour, and exercised other acts of ownership. The boy was arrested by the civil authorities in May last, on a charge of theft, and being found guilty, received the punishment affixed by law to the offence, was publicly whipped.

The British Consul upon this state of facts represents "that the laws of the State of which your Excellency is Governor have been wilfully violated by the acts of aggression upon the person of this lad." The Consul has taken him under his protection as a British subject, and states that he will detain him as necessary evidence of the facts until a reply is received to his communication.

The question upon which you request an opinion is, what action, if any, it is your right or duty to take as Governor in relation to this matter?

There can be no hesitation or doubt as to the true answer: it is not a case in which you are authorized by the laws or constitution to interfere in any manner.

The courts of the country are open for the redress of wrongs suffered by all classes of persons within their jurisdiction, whatever be their condition in life or place of citizenship. If the person of this individual is illegally held in servitude, his remedies are ample, and redress will undoubtedly be afforded upon proper application. The history of our judicial decisions leaves no doubt that perfect and ample justice will be done in a case like the present.

The class of persons to which this boy is represented to belong (free negroes) are not permitted by the laws to remain in the State, and may be compelled to leave by proper legal process, or be reduced to slavery if they persist in remaining; but though labouring under this disability, they enjoy while remaining here the protection of the law, and receive it from the courts.

The writ of *habeas corpus* may be sued out for the enlargement of a person from any illegal detention whatever.

Our laws punish as an offence all attempts to reduce free persons to a state of slavery,
CLASS B.

and, upon the whole, there cannot be any just complaint either against the laws themselves or their administration by the courts, in respect to the protection of personal liberty.

As to the merits of the present case upon the facts presented, they do not concern the Executive, nor have I anything to do with considering the subject in this point of view; so far, however, as relates to the whipping said to have been inflicted, it seems to have taken place under judicial sanction. It was the penalty affixed by the law for the offence charged, and the presumption is that it was deserved, or it would not otherwise have been suffered.

I repeat, then, that the matter is one which it belongs to the courts of the State to determine, and with which no other department of the Government can interfere.

(Signed) JAMES WILLIE, *Attorney-General*.

Inclosure 7 in No. 619.

Newspaper Extracts.

EDITOR'S NEWS.—Your neighbour, the "Civilian," has allowed himself to be induced, probably unawares, to insert an erroneous statement in his paper. In his daily of the 16th instant, he has quite an alarming article headed "Kidnapping Her Britannic Majesty's Subjects." All that I intend to notice of said article, is, what relates to the mulatto boy, C. H. Thomas, having "been induced to sign indentures for sixty years."

The facts are simply these:—

The young man, to whom this boy bound himself of his own free will and accord, out of pure motives of humanity, picked him up out of the street, sick, starving, and almost naked. When this boy applied to him for assistance, he told him that he could not afford to lay out any money for him unless he would arrange it so as to remunerate him at some future time. Whereupon the mulatto begged him on his knees to take him and have him cured and taken care of, and, in return, he would serve him as long as he lived. The next step was to get legal advice whether the mulatto had a right to bind himself. That having been obtained, the indentures were drawn up, and, in the presence of several respectable witnesses, they were signed by the parties. All this was done at the mulatto's own agent's request. It is also proper to add, that the young man expressed his doubts of the legality of the agreement to the mulatto, whereupon the mulatto begged him most earnestly not to allow that to deter him from taking him; that if he would only take him, he would serve him faithfully.

In return, by way of gratitude for having procured him medical assistance, clothing and food, negro-like, this subject of Her Britannic Majesty has applied to his fellow British subject, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Galveston for the British Lion's protection, and the consequence is that the lion has taken him under his paw, and the person to whom he had indentured himself will lose about 100 dollars.

Now, the question is, why was not this protection or assistance extended when the negro was starving? Had it been done then, it would have been a very ordinary affair, and it would not have furnished any capital to make a big fuss over; it would not have furnished matter for a startling newspaper article; and, lastly, it would not have furnished the British Consul an opportunity to rescue a fellow-countryman and subject from bondage—for which feat he will, of course, receive due credit at head-quarters in Downing Street.—J. K.

EDITOR'S NEWS.—In the "Civilian" of June 16th, I observed an editorial heading "Kidnapping Her Britannic Majesty's Subjects." What relates to Charles Thomas, a mulatto, who was with another on board the schooner "Velasco," is simply this:—Under charter, the "Velasco" went to Pensacola for a cargo of lumber for me. On her return, the boy Charles was sent ashore for some bad conduct whilst on board. Learning the cargo was for me, he made his appearance at my shop and related to my clerk, Mr. Kleiber, his wrongs, sufferings, and sickness. Under that state of mind, he offered to bind himself for any number of years, to any one who would provide for him a home, saying that a kind master was better than the freedom he had been enjoying in St. Thomas, where the free negroes were in a state of nudity and starvation. His desire to come into a Slave State was solely, he said, to get a good master, &c.

The vessel having come up to the wharf, he was sent back, but refused to do duty; as he was in port, he was unwilling to work any more.

He returned to my shop complaining of illness, and some medicine was given him and some food.

He again called, and wanted some one to take him under his care. Charles A. Kleiber, my clerk, offered to take him, if he promised to do his duty in all respects. During the week, an agreement of indenture was drawn up for signature between them. Being called on to be a witness, I asked the boy, Charles Thomas, his motive for binding himself for life; his reply was, "to have a kind master and a good home." I remonstrated with him, suggesting the importance of the act. He again replied that he preferred a master to such a freedom as he had enjoyed. He had suffered too much in St. Thomas, he said, and, after all, it was all he could do to get scanty food and poor clothing, and he had come to Texas, where all the slaves were so much better off than the free negroes he had seen in St. Thomas. Judge Trueheart, who had drawn the indentures, was a witness with me, and before Charles put his mark, he had heard the paper read and commented on.

Captain Johnson hearing of this, came two or three times and tried to dissuade him from such a step. Before he went away, he again urged him, and offered him a free passage on some Northern vessel. Again he declined. In the meantime, his comrade was put in jail for disorderly conduct, and was finally sent off.

Mr. Kleiber being now in Mr. Parsons' employ, Mr. Barnett, who took his place in my employ, complained one morning of having thirty dollars stolen from his pocket while asleep. Charles was called on to answer the charge; he denied it bitterly. A few weeks after, Mr. Barnett's silver watch was missing. These thefts aroused my feelings, and I gave orders to turn him (Charles) out at once. Meanwhile, he showed the watch, which led to his arrest, and he was brought to trial before the Magistrate, Mr. Rump. He was found guilty of stealing the watch, and sentenced to receive thirty lashes.

The thirty dollars he acknowledged to have stolen, which, together with the costs of court, had to be paid by Mr. Kleiber. Had he been looked upon as a free mulatto, the penitentiary, or worse, would have been his punishment.

I learn the British Consul has him in charge. What he did, in binding himself for a term of years, is no more nor no less than what Her Britannic Majesty's subjects are doing in her West Indian colonies. He came out as a free mulatto, and he had either to have protection, or go to jail, and be sent back to a free State.

It would be an act of kindness for our laws to take him up and sell him into bondage for the theft he has been guilty of.

The thirty dollars he stole were refunded by Mr. Kleiber, for which he was neither prosecuted nor punished.

N. D. LABADIE.

No. 620.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Lynn.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 20, 1857.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 18th ultimo, reporting the steps taken by you, in the case of a young lad of colour, named Charles Thomas, a British subject, who was taken away from the Island of Trinidad, by the master of the American schooner "Velasco," by whom he was subsequently cast adrift at Galveston, where attempts were made to sell him into slavery; and, in reply, I have to acquaint you that I approve your proceedings in this case.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

UNITED STATES. (*Consular*)—*New Orleans.*

No. 621.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Mure.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 26, 1857.

I HAVE to acquaint you that I have received a despatch dated the 13th ultimo from Mr. Crawford, Her Majesty's Consul-General at the Havana, in which he states that he has good reasons for knowing that some fifteen vessels have been dispatched on slave-trading expeditions from the port of New Orleans alone, within the last two months; and I have to desire that you will use your best exertions to ascertain whether the information which has reached Mr. Crawford, with regard to the fitting out of slave-vessels at New Orleans, is well-founded.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 622.

Consul Mure to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 18.)

(Extract.)

New York, July 6, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch dated May 26, in reference to a report made by Mr. Crawford, Her Majesty's Consul-General at the Havana, that he has good reasons for believing that some fifteen vessels had been fitted out at New Orleans, for the purpose of being engaged in the Slave Trade, and desiring me to use my best exertions to ascertain whether the information which has reached Mr. Crawford, is well-founded.

I cannot explain how rumours of such a large number of vessels having been fitted out for the Slave Trade at New Orleans could have been put in circulation, except from the circumstance that, in consequence of the very depressed state of the shipping interest, many of the smaller class of vessels were driven out of the regular channels of trade, and compelled to leave the port either in ballast, or with very small cargoes. Some two or three small schooners, laden with provisions, &c., cleared at the Custom-house rather mysteriously, and their destination having been kept secret, also gave rise to rumours to their being engaged in the Slave Trade, but upon inquiry I found that they were chartered to convey supplies for Walker's forces in Nicaragua.

In this way, vague rumours occasionally reached me that vessels were leaving for the purpose of being engaged in the Slave Trade, and I at once instituted inquiries on the subject; but I could ascertain nothing that authorized me to call upon the United States' authorities to prevent their leaving port. At the same time I ought, in justice, to state to your Lordship that the Government officials closely scrutinized the character, cargo, and destination of these vessels; and the course pursued by them in the two suspicious cases which have occurred this season, would seem to indicate that they were determined to frustrate any attempt at fitting out vessels for the purpose of engaging in this unlawful Traffic.

One of these cases was that of a small American vessel, called the "*William Clark*," which cleared out at the Custom-house for Teneriffe. Her cargo consisted of 500 barrels of flour, 180 barrels of whiskey, 100 barrels of bread, 65 barrels of rice, and 100 bales of tobacco. From information communicated to the Surveyor of the Customs, he made an affidavit before the United States' Commissioner that this vessel was intended for the Slave Trade. After a rigid examination of the case the vessel was released, there being no evidence to show that she was engaged in any other but legitimate trade.

Another American schooner called the "*Louis McLane*," cleared on 1st of May for Ambriz, Africa. Her cargo consisted of 200 barrels of whiskey, 12 tierces of rice, 12 barrels of beef, 5 ditto of flour, 4 ditto of pork, 17 ditto of beans, 53 ditto of bread, 2,500 feet of lumber, 150 bricks, 100 bars of iron, 100 empty casks, 8,500 staves, and 53 packages of merchandise. The master's name was Hinckley. This vessel proceeded as far as the mouth of the Mississippi river, where she was stopped by the United States' revenue cutter, and brought back to the city. A minute examination has been made before the United States' Commissioner, but nothing was elicited to show that she was intended for the Slave Trade. The number of empty casks was certainly calculated to create suspicion, but from her small size, and the absence of those large kettles and boilers usually found on board slavers, she seemed not adapted for the Traffic.

I felt it my duty, however, to instruct Mr. W. D. Hennen, the attorney for the Consulate, to make investigation, and watch the progress of the case. He has accordingly made various inquiries, and had interviews with the United States' District Attorney Marshall, and United States' Commissioner, and he was of opinion that there was no sufficient ground to detain the vessel. She has been accordingly released by the United States' Marshall, and has cleared on 20th ultimo for Annabon, Africa.

I have communicated the result of this investigation to Mr. Crawford, Her Majesty's Consul-General at the Havana, and also to Lord Napier, Her Majesty's Minister at Washington.

I ought also to state to your Lordship that, as usual, several Spanish brigs arrived this year from Havana, seeking cargoes. Having been informed by Mr. Crawford that one, if not two of them, were owned in Havana by notorious slave-dealers, I kept a watch upon their movements, but I found that they cleared for Barcelona with cargoes of cotton. Of this Mr. Crawford was duly advised.

Your Lordship will therefore perceive that the United States' authorities at New Orleans, acting upon mere rumours, have left nothing undone to prevent vessels embarking in this unlawful Traffic, and I am of opinion that the feeling of the community is strongly in favour of the law being enforced. Apart from considerations of humanity, the sugar planters of Louisiana, a powerful and numerous body, are naturally opposed to permit the Cuba planters to import slaves, giving them, as the former suppose, apparently cheaper labour, so that the sugar of Cuba would enter into competition with that of Louisiana in the United States' markets upon more favourable terms.

No. 623.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Mure.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 8, 1857.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 6th ultimo, reporting the result of the inquiries which you have made, and the steps taken by you, regarding the alleged equipment of vessels at New Orleans, for the purpose of being employed in the Slave Trade; and I have to acquaint you that I approve your proceedings in this matter, as reported in your above-mentioned despatch.

With regard, however, to the case of the "*William Clark*," a vessel which you state was rigidly examined by the United States' authorities on suspicion that she was intended to be employed in the Slave Trade, but which was subsequently released on account of there being no evidence to show that she was engaged in any other than legitimate commerce, I inclose, for your information, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Teneriffe,* respecting this vessel; and also a copy of a Report from the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "*Medusa*" to the Secretary to the Admiralty,† showing the suspicious circumstances under which the "*William Clark*" was met with on the African coast.

I also inclose a copy of a letter from Commander Hope, of Her Majesty's ship "*Prometheus*," to the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's Naval Forces on the West Coast of Africa,‡ reporting the capture of the "*Adams Gray*," another vessel from New Orleans, equipped for the Slave Trade; and with reference to that part of your despatch in which you state that the authorities at New Orleans have left nothing undone to prevent vessels embarking in this unlawful Traffic, I have to desire that you will communicate unofficially to the authorities at New Orleans, and in the manner you may think most

* No. 490.

† Class A, No. 149.

‡ Ibid., No. 150.

opportune, the information contained in the inclosed papers, respecting the "*William Clark*" and "*Adams Gray*."

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 624.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Mure.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 13, 1857.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 8th instant, I inclose, for your information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Skelton, Her Majesty's Acting Commissary Judge in the Mixed Courts of Justice established at Sierra Leone,* reporting the condemnation by the British Vice-Admiralty Court in that Colony, of the brigantine "*Adams Gray*," of New Orleans, on the ground of her being engaged in the Slave Trade.

I have to call your particular attention to that part of Mr. Skelton's despatch in which he reports that the master of the "*Adams Gray*" had stated that he had fitted out at New Orleans, and had taken on board all his stores and slave-trading equipment at that port; and you will make such use of this information as you may think fit, in your unofficial communication with the authorities at New Orleans, on the subject of the Slave Trade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 625.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Mure.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 29, 1857.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 6th July last, I inclose, for your information, the accompanying copy of a letter from Commander Day, of Her Majesty's ship "*Firefly*," to the Secretary to the Admiralty, † reporting the circumstances under which he had captured the brigantine "*William Clark*," of New Orleans, but without colours or papers, on suspicion of being engaged in the Slave Trade; and containing also information as to the course adopted in clearing out from New Orleans by vessels intended to be dispatched on a slave-trading voyage, and I have to desire that you will furnish me with any observations which you may have to offer upon Commander Day's report.

I also inclose a copy of a despatch from Mr. Crawford, Her Majesty's Commissary Judge at the Havana, ‡ containing some observations on your despatch above referred to, relative to the fitting out of slave-vessels at New Orleans.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 626.

Consul Mure to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 4, 1858.)

My Lord,

New Orleans, December 10, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of two despatches from your Lordship, dated the 8th and 13th of August, transmitting copies of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Teneriffe, and of a report from the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "*Medusa*," respecting the suspicious circumstances under which the American vessel "*William Clark*," which cleared from this port in March last, was met with on the African coast.

I have also perused a copy of a letter from Commander Hope, of Her Majesty's ship "*Prometheus*," to the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's naval forces on the West Coast of Africa, advising the capture of the "*Adams Gray*," another vessel which cleared from this port equipped for the Slave Trade; and from the despatch transmitted by

* Class A, No. 9.

† Ibid., No. 162.

‡ Ibid., No. 46.

Mr. Skelton, Her Majesty's Acting Commissary Judge established at Sierra Leone, reporting the condemnation of the above vessel, the "*Adams Gray*," I perceive that the master had stated that he had fitted out at this port, and had taken out all of his stores and slave trading equipments here.

In obedience to your Lordship's instructions, I shall take care to communicate unofficially to the Collector of the Port, and the other United States' authorities, this information, in order that greater diligence may be used by them to prevent vessels from being fitted out and equipped for the purpose of being engaged in this nefarious Traffic.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. MURE.

No. 627.

Consul Mure to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received January 12, 1858.)

My Lord,

New Orleans, December 18, 1857.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of a despatch from your Lordship, dated 29th October last, transmitting copy of a letter from Commander Day, of Her Majesty's ship "*Firefly*," to the Secretary of the Admiralty, in reference to the circumstances attending the capture of the "*William Clark*," of New Orleans, on suspicion of being engaged in the Slave Trade, and containing also information as to the course adopted in clearing out vessels from New Orleans, intended to be dispatched on a slave-trading voyage, most of which information appears to have been voluntarily furnished by the master of the "*William Clark*."

In obedience to your Lordship's instructions, to transmit any observations upon Commander Day's report which may occur to me, I beg to state that I have no means of ascertaining accurately whether the vessels which have cleared here for Africa have taken their slave-kettles, water-casks, and other equipments for the Trade.

Two or three of them may have done so, but the majority have merely taken on board rice, bread, and other provisions, with a small quantity of lumber, and get a clearance for St. Thomas, Teneriffe, or some other port. The water-casks and cooking apparatus for a large number of persons might be taken on board immediately before departure from the port, or, as is more probable, the vessel touches at some quiet place, on the coast of Cuba, where she completes her equipment.

Under the law of the United States, as it exists at present, there is nothing to prevent a vessel clearing in this way, with a small quantity of provisions; such vessel being generally registered in the name of an American citizen: and as all the papers of the vessel and manifest of the cargo appear regular, the Custom-house authorities have no hesitation in granting the usual clearance.

I have no doubt that, as Commander Day states in his report, "vessels in this trade generally go to Teneriffe to complete their arrangements," when the former nominal master becomes a passenger, and some Portuguese or Spaniard takes charge of the vessel, unless she should be boarded by one of our cruizers, in which case the vessel again claims the protection of the American flag, and the real sailing-master becomes a passenger, or, perhaps, cook or steward.

There is a firm here by the name of Goldenbow and Lesparre, which, I presume, is the firm alluded to by Commander Day, and called Golden, Shaw, and Lespanna. They do business as brokers for procuring freight, and agents for some small vessels trading between this port and Havana and Vera Cruz. It is possible that they may be employed by parties for the purchase of vessels, which are afterwards destined for the Slave Trade, but I should doubt very much the accuracy of the statement that they find the funds or have any interest in the venture.

In reference to my despatch of the 10th current, I now beg to inform your Lordship that I have communicated to the Attorney for the Consulate the purport of the despatches from Her Majesty's Consul at Teneriffe, and also from the Commanders of Her Majesty's ships "*Medusa*" and "*Prometheus*," respecting the capture of the "*William Clark*" and "*Adams Gray*," and he is to communicate to the United States' District Attorney here the particular circumstances under which these vessels were captured, in order that the authorities may be more on the alert, and prevent the fitting out of slave vessels at this port.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. MURE.

No. 628.

Consul Mure to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 29.)

My Lord,

New Orleans, March 5, 1858.

I THINK it my duty to inform your Lordship that intelligence was received here yesterday, that a Bill has passed the Lower House, by a vote of 40 to 21, of the Legislature of this State, authorizing a Company, said to be already formed, to import 2,500 free negroes from the coast of Africa, to be apprenticed for a term of not less than fifteen years.

I have not seen a copy of the Bill, and I therefore cannot give your Lordship the details of the measure, but I understand that it is, in substance, similar to that which the French Government has authorized, through the Regis contract; and there can be little doubt that, however the measure may be disguised under the name of encouraging immigration of the free blacks, or in whatever way provisions may be made, with the apparent object of protecting the coloured labourers from oppression, the scheme is neither more nor less than a revival of the Slave Trade under a specious pretext, and without any redeeming feature.

It is unnecessary to point out to your Lordship the absolute impossibility of procuring negroes on the coast of Africa, willing or able to contract, understandingly, as free labourers. A stimulus will be given to the native Chiefs to embark in new wars, for the purpose of getting captives to become emigrants. Besides, the apprenticeship for fifteen years will open the door to unprincipled persons to extort the greatest amount of labour at the least expense for food and clothing, so that the poor labourers must become the victims of oppression and injustice. Then, what is to be the fate of those who survive their long apprenticeship?

The whole spirit of the legislation of this State has been, for several years, to prevent the increase of free negroes, so that severe laws have been passed, forbidding free negroes from other States from coming into this State; and so far has this been carried, that a law was passed last year, prohibiting any further emancipation.

The law now introduced and passed by the Lower Branch of the Legislature is totally at variance with the letter and spirit of the recent enactments, and I am of opinion, from the indignant opinions which have been generally expressed here on the subject, that such a measure will not pass the Senate, or, if it did, receive the signature of the Governor.

Such a law is generally regarded as derogatory to the dignity of the State, and a mere evasion of the United States' Law against the African Slave Trade.

There is only a very small party in favour of the measure in this city—that which is considered ultra-Southern in its views, arguing that the condition of the slave is the normal one for the African, and asserting that slavery is not an evil, but a blessing, both to the slaves and their masters.

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a slip taken from the "Delta" newspaper, in reference to this measure. The idea of procuring free blacks from Jamaica and St. Domingo, to work upon the sugar estates of Louisiana, is very significant, and indicates what might be attempted under colour of the law.

As a contrast to the sentiments expressed in the above organ, I beg to transmit to your Lordship a slip taken from the "Commercial Bulletin" of to-day, which your Lordship will perceive denounces the measure in very strong terms. I believe that the "Bulletin" expresses the feelings and opinions of a large majority of the community of this city regarding this question.

I shall take care to advise your Lordship of the further course which may be adopted in reference to this measure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. MURE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 628.

Extract from the "New Orleans Delta" of March 4, 1858.

LOUISIANA AND AFRICAN IMPORTATION.—Since more than a year ago, when we commenced advocating the importation and employment of Africans, under a system similar to the English and Spanish Coolie system, the idea has made indisputable advances towards accomplishment. Convinced that labour was the great want of the South; con-

vinced that Africans, or the descendants of Africans, could only safely and effectually supply the want; and convinced that, however wrongfully the foreign Slave Trade was closed to the South, it was, if not vain to urge and idle to expect, at least impolitic to wait for its re-opening, we turned to the introduction of voluntary immigrants from Africa, as an expedient at once practicable and, for present necessities, sufficient. Since then, we say, the idea has grown apace. Southern men have begun to think upon it, and think in earnest; and such thought is the legitimate parent of action. As men think, they are and do, individually or aggregately. If Louisiana thinks African immigration, Louisiana will assuredly enjoy the benefits of African immigration. So of Texas, so of Mississippi, so of Alabama, and the rest.

That the Louisiana Legislature has been thinking in this connection, we have lately had some very wholesome indications. We have seen nothing for some time of Senator St. Paul's proposition to authorize the Governor to import 5,000 free Africans. That was rather a crude shape to put the question in, and it is quite probable that it has been withdrawn in favour of the Bill reported in the telegram yesterday as having passed the House by a large majority, authorizing a company already organized to import 2,500 free blacks from the coast of Africa, to be indentured for not less than fifteen years. So far, very good. We trust that the cotemporaneous movements in this State and Mississippi in the same direction, may lead to a vigorous co-operation of the parties in each State who may have the execution of the details of the African immigration project. Nay, we do not see why they could not be advantageously consolidated in one company, having New Orleans as its consultative and financial head-quarters.

Of course there would be no legal impediments in the way of such an association importing free blacks from Canada, Jamaica, or St. Domingo. Indeed the last island, especially, is so near, convenient, and inviting, that it would seem almost like throwing away an advantage in possession to pass it by and go all the way to Africa. Its black inhabitants are certainly as capable of voluntary emigration as the native Africans, and, for that matter, it is every bit as proper a subject to be colonized, civilized, and reclaimed by us, as the country along the Zambesi river is to be occupied and converted by the English into cotton fields, in the name of civilization and the Gospel. Hereby, at least, hangs a suggestion which will have all the more pith and substance the more it is ruminated.

Inclosure 2 in No. 628.

Extract from the New Orleans "Commercial Bulletin."

[See Inclosure in No. 618.]

UNITED STATES. (*Consular*)—*New York.*

No. 629.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Archibald.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 12, 1858.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a list containing the names of vessels which, up to the latest advices, have been captured or destroyed during the past year by British cruisers on the African coast, either with slaves on board or equipped for the Slave Trade.*

This list gives the names of the ports at which some of the vessels are reported to have been equipped and from whence they sailed on their slave-trading voyages, and it shows also the extent to which the flag of the United States is used to cover this Traffic.

You will perceive that some of the vessels are stated to have sailed from the port of New York, and I have to desire that you will ascertain, if possible, whether these vessels were regularly cleared by the authorities at New York, and if so, who were the owners and charterers, or other parties, interested in them. You will also endeavour to ascertain whether the vessels were sold either previous to or subsequent to their departure from the United States; and in the event of a sale having taken place, whether their original owners have complied with the provisions of the United States' laws, which, it is believed, require that when a vessel is sold to a foreigner, the owners shall return the ship's register to the port to which she belonged, or else that they shall make a declaration at the Custom-house to the effect that the vessel was lost, and the certificate of registry with it.

Her Majesty's Government are not aware whether it would be competent to the United States' authorities to adopt proceedings against any of the parties who may have been engaged in fitting out these vessels in the United States for slave-trading expeditions to the coast of Africa; but if such should be the case, and it should be deemed expedient to adopt legal proceedings against them, you will inform the United States' authorities that every assistance will be afforded on the part of Her Majesty's Government in furnishing any evidence that it may be in the power of the British authorities to produce in order to enable the United States' authorities to bring the guilty parties to justice.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

* Inclosure in No. 613.

UNITED STATES. (*Consular*)—*Richmond.*

No. 630.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul James.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 12, 1858.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a despatch from Mr. Gabriel, the Acting British Commissioner at Loanda,* reporting the circumstances under which the Commander of the United States' corvette "Dale" has seized the American barque "*W. G. Lewis*," in the Congo river, and sent her to Norfolk for adjudication, on suspicion of her being engaged in the Slave Trade; and I have to desire that you will inform me of the result of the proceedings which may be adopted against this vessel.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 631.

Consul James to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received March 23.)

My Lord,

Richmond, March 5, 1858.

I HAD yesterday the honour of receiving your Lordship's despatch dated February 12, and inclosing copy of Mr. Gabriel's despatch from Loanda.

I have since seen Mr. Gregory, the United States' District Attorney, who informs me that the ship "*W. G. Lewis*" arrived at Norfolk some time ago, and was immediately libelled. The case will come up for adjudication in the month of May next; but Mr. Gregory fears that the amount of testimony will not be sufficient to condemn the vessel. He states, however, that there are very suspicious circumstances in the build of the ship, which, under the flush deck, has, not exactly a slave-deck, but a sort of compartment, four feet high, which would contain 600 negroes; and he has no doubt, personally, that she was destined for the Slave Trade. With this conviction, he will assuredly use all lawful means to procure the condemnation of the vessel.

I beg leave to report to your Lordship that, with Mr. Gregory's co-operation and assistance, and the zealous aid of all the functionaries here, I have been able to put a stop entirely to the system of kidnapping free negroes from British possessions, which, some years ago, I had frequently to bring under your Lordship's notice. For more than two years, not a single instance has been reported to me.

I will watch the proceedings in the case of the "*W. G. Lewis*;" and, as soon as any decision has been arrived at, will report to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. P. R. JAMES.
