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CORRESPONDENCE

WITH

BRITISH MINISTERS AND AGENTS

IN

FOREIGN COUNTRIES,

AND WITH

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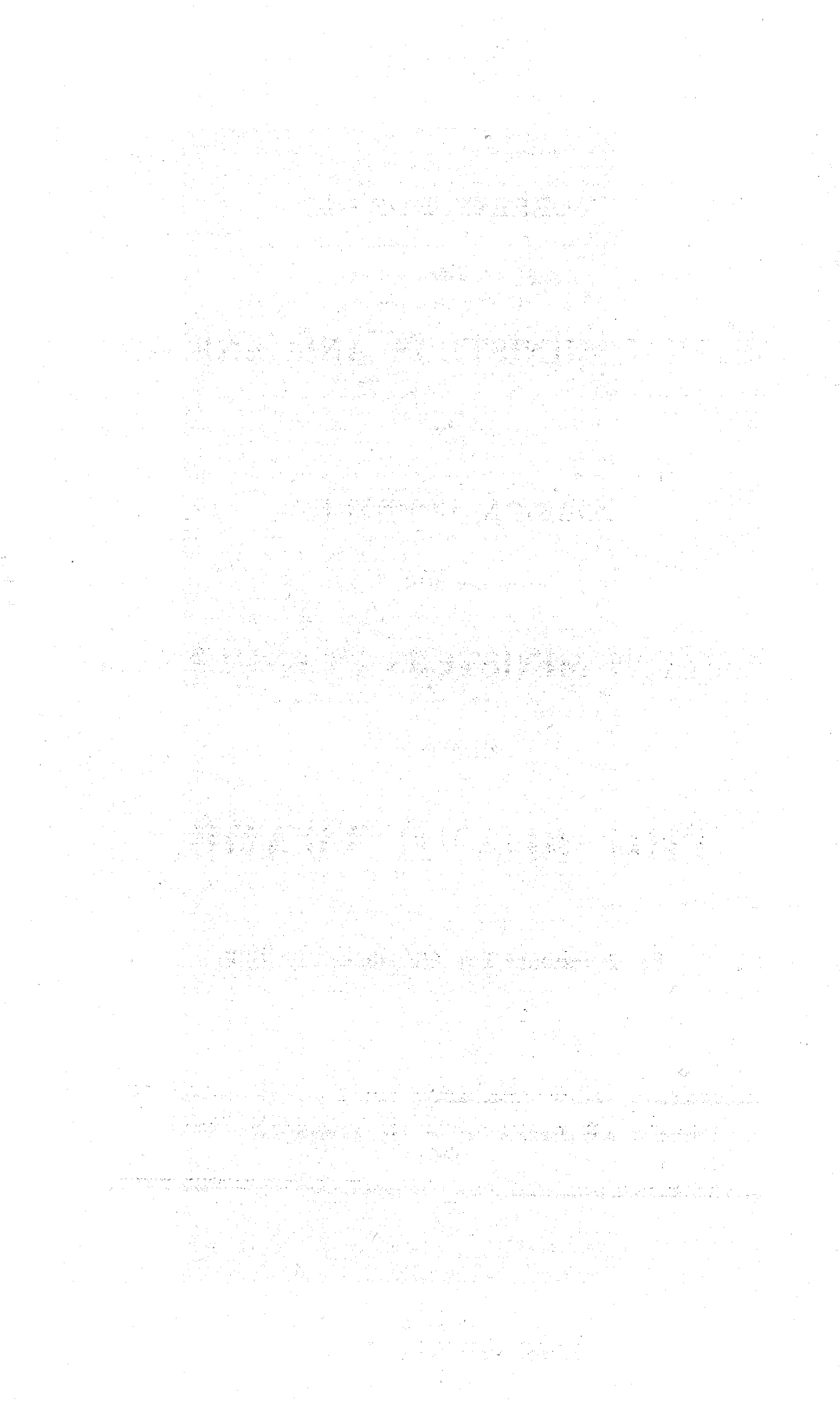
THE SLAVE TRADE.

From January 1 to December 31, 1863.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1864.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.



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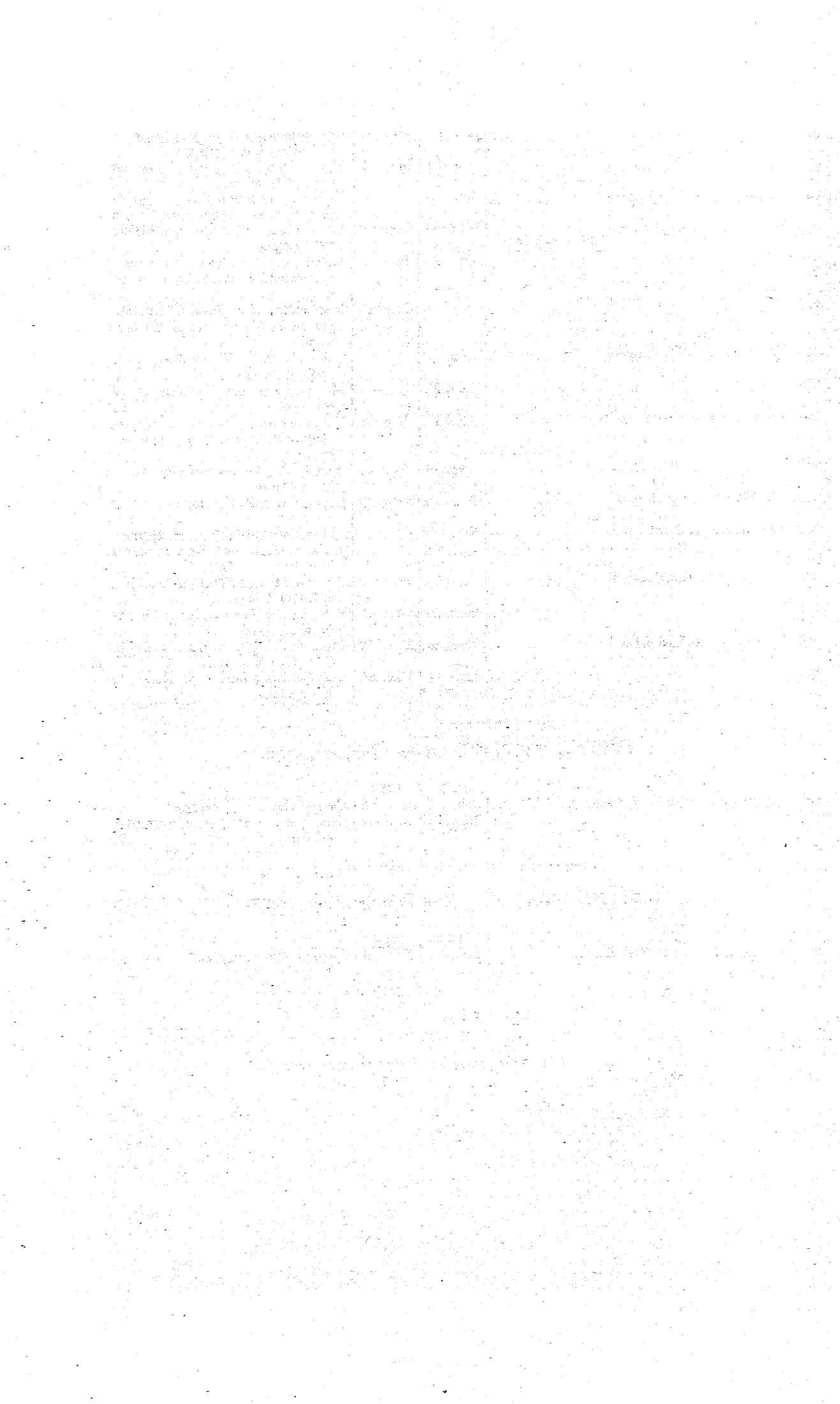
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Class B.

CORRESPONDENCE

WITH

FOREIGN POWERS.

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

No. 1.

Consul Freeman to Earl Russell.—(Received January 13, 1863.)

(Extract.)

My Lord,

Lagos, November 20, 1862.

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch of the 23rd October, on the subject of the lawlessness of the Egbas, I regret to have to state that affairs have gone on from bad to worse, till such a point has now been reached that either the Egbas must reform, or Her Majesty's Government will be forced to take some active measures to bring them to reason.

A short time since a robbery was committed on the river by the Egbas, and I soon after received a letter from the Bashorun (the Alake being dead), saying he regretted the occurrence, and would try and find out the culprits and punish them, and begging me to have patience and everything should be restored.

Though aware that the robbers were well known to be certain Chiefs, I waited, according to the Bashorun's request, to see what would come out of the matter. Instead of the stolen property being restored, and the robbers punished, a fresh robbery on a larger scale was committed, nearly 2,000*l.* worth of goods being taken in one week, and the communication with Abbeokuta was stopped, as every canoe attempting to pass was taken and robbed. Several canoe-men (Lagos people) have been killed, and two Englishmen coming down to Lagos were stopped and ill-treated, and, according to their statement, would have fared worse if some dispute had not arisen among their pursuers.

Applications were immediately made to me by the Abbeokuta Commercial Association, and by private individuals who had suffered losses, to obtain restitution of their property, and some guarantee that like outrages should not occur in future.

Having no power to protect life and property at Abbeokuta and on the river, and knowing that nothing short of very strong measures would put a stop to the robberies, I determined to recall from Abbeokuta all persons claiming British protection, and I accordingly addressed letters, of which the inclosed are copies, to the Bashorun and Elders of Abbeokuta and to the Abbeokuta Commercial Association, and published also a Proclamation recalling the British subjects from Abbeokuta, and holding the Bashorun and Chiefs responsible for their lives and property.

The merchants answered to the call immediately, but the missionaries refused to pay any attention to it. Had all the white men left Abbeokuta, the Egbas would have given in immediately; but when the latter see that all my words and actions are utterly disregarded by the missionary agents, they also are apt to pay little attention to them.

The fact of slaves having a secure refuge in the Colony of Lagos has but little to do with the opposition of the Egbas. It is true that this opposition has a slight connection with the Slave Trade, and the cession of Lagos may have had some influence in exciting them on. The real cause, however, of the present distracted state of these parts is, as I have mentioned on former occasions, the desire to kidnap.

The exportation of slaves from this coast being to a certain extent checked by the efforts of Her Majesty's Government, the majority of the population have turned to commerce and agriculture for a subsistence. In every town and every village, however, there is a party of wild, lawless spirits, who prefer making a venture at slave-trading when the opportunity offers, by which, if successful, they obtain much greater profits than by any other occupation. This War party, though in numbers a small minority of the inhabitants, being formed of the most spirited and reckless men, generally has a great predominance over the other, and when it can give any colouring of patriotism to its forays it carries with it the goodwill and assistance of the peaceful portion of the population. Thus all the wars are carried on for the benefit of this small party; the majority, even if not approving, not venturing to oppose.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Governor Freeman to the Bashorun and Elders of Abbeokuta.

Lagos, November 14, 1862

THE Undersigned presents his compliments to the Bashorun and Elders of Abbeokuta, and begs to acknowledge the receipt of their letter of the 14th of October, expressing their regret at the robbery committed on the canoes of merchants proceeding from Lagos to Abbeokuta, stating that they had sent to the camp to ascertain by whom the robbery was committed, and begging that he would take it patiently, as he would see that all the goods were restored.

The Undersigned has waited patiently for one month; but instead of the stolen goods having been returned, fresh robberies and outrages are being committed daily. The canoes from Lagos have been robbed to an amount already exceeding 2,000 bags of cowries.

Besides all these robberies of Lagos canoes, the canoemen in some cases having been murdered, and in many others more or less brutally treated, two Englishmen have been assaulted on their road near the Egba village of Tepona, and robbed, one having been beaten, and both threatened and insulted.

If the Bashorun and Elders were sincere in their expressions of regret at what took place a month ago, the recurrence of the outrages proves that they now either side with the aggressors, or are too powerless to protect the lives and property of British subjects and those under British protection.

The Undersigned therefore considers it his duty to recall from Abbeokuta all persons who claim British protection, until such time as the Chiefs of Abbeokuta shall be willing and able to give good guarantee for their safety.

Ever since the cession of Lagos the various parties in Abbeokuta have been perpetually insulting and giving cause of complaint to Her Majesty's Government, apparently forgetting the obligations they are under to them, and the power of the British nation.

England is slow to anger, but such outrages as have been and are still being committed against her people will arouse her, and she will require such reparation and satisfaction for those wrongs committed as will be sufficient guarantee that such abuses shall not recur again for the future.

These crimes have been committed either by or through the influence of Solauki, Chief of Igbein, and Ogubeyi, of Igbori, and their people; the same who robbed the messengers of the Queen of England on their way to the Niger in 1859.

The course of crime of these men has done enough injury to the Egba cause and to British interests, and it is time that a check were put on their villainies.

The Undersigned therefore demands, as a first step towards reparation for the late outrages, that the said Solauki, Chief of Igbein, and Ogubeyi, of Igbori, together with the ringleaders in the robbery, and also the men of Tepona who ill-treated Messrs. Hughes and Mills, be delivered up to him for punishment.

The Undersigned further, on the part of Her Majesty's Government, holds the Bashorun and Elders of Abbeokuta responsible for all the British property hitherto stolen, or which may be stolen hereafter; and if restitution of the same be long delayed, interest

will be charged to cover the losses of the merchants. Also all persons leaving Abbeokuta on account of the present state of affairs will place such property as they cannot bring down to Lagos with them under the charge of the Bashorun and Elders, who will be held responsible for the safety of it, as it is through the lack of protection afforded by them that the British subjects are obliged to leave Abbeokuta.

(Signed) HY. STANHOPE FREEMAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

Governor Freeman to the Honorary Secretary of the Abbeokuta Commercial Association.

Sir, *Lagos, November 14, 1862.*
I HAVE received your letter of the 6th instant, by the hand of Mr. Mills, informing me of the outrages committed by the Egbas, and the robbery of British property by them; and in the name of the Abbeokuta Commercial Association requesting that I should take such steps as I may deem advisable to obtain restitution of the stolen property, and to ensure greater safety to the river traffic for the future.

I herewith inclose copy of a letter I have addressed to the Bashorun and Elders respecting the robberies, and also a Proclamation which, not having any direct agent in Abbeokuta, I have to beg that the Commercial Association will communicate to the residents in Abbeokuta who claim British protection.

I must here remark that I have for some time observed arising in the Egbas, the spirit which has resulted in so much injury to British interests, and have protested against it. But, unfortunately, instead of receiving support, I only got opposition from the British residents in Abbeokuta, and thus my influence has been undermined. Had the British residents supported my representations it is scarcely to be doubted that affairs in Abbeokuta would never have reached the present state of anarchy and of impotence in those who call themselves Rulers. If now the residents of Abbeokuta wish for the interference of Her Majesty's Government, they must simply comply with my instructions, and they may rest assured that for every man who leaves Abbeokuta there is so much gained towards a satisfactory and speedy solution of the questions now pending. Every British subject, on the contrary, who remains, not only loses his claim to British protection in case of any outrage being committed on himself or his property, but also, even though he and his effects be safe, tends to strengthen the opposition of the Egbas by his defiance of the orders of his Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HY. STANHOPE FREEMAN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 1.

Proclamation.

By his Excellency Henry Stanhope Freeman, Governor, Commander-in-chief, and Vice-Admiral in and over the British Settlement of Lagos and its Dependencies, and Her Britannic Majesty's Consul for the Bight of Benin, &c.

WHEREAS certain parties of Egba belonging to and subject to the Government of Abbeokuta, have for some time past been committing robberies on Lagos canoes passing up the River Ogun to Abbeokuta, ill-treating and sometimes murdering the canoe-men, whereby, besides the loss of life, great injury has been done to British trade, and to the interests of British subjects domiciled in Abbeokuta as well as in Lagos; and whereas the Chiefs of the said town of Abbeokuta have taken no steps to effect the restitution of the stolen goods and the punishment of the criminals;

And whereas the Local Government of Lagos has no power to afford protection, under present circumstances, to the persons and properties of the British subjects residing in Abbeokuta;

Now, therefore, as far as possible to avoid any further loss of life or injury to person, or loss of any damage to British property by means of the want of will, or inability on the part of the Chiefs of Abbeokuta to grant such protection as British subjects are entitled to: We call upon all persons residing in Abbeokuta who have any claim to British protection forthwith to leave the said town, and to repair to Lagos, within the jurisdiction and protection of Her Majesty's Government. And further we order such

persons repairing for safety to Lagos, formally and officially to place under the protection of the Chiefs of Abbeokuta any property they may possess there which they cannot bring down the river with them, for which property the Chiefs of Abbeokuta will be held responsible by Her Majesty's Government.

And we do hereby declare that any British subject who, on any pretext whatever, fails or refuses to leave Abbeokuta, will forfeit all claim for British protection, and in the event of his being molested in his person or property, the Government of Lagos will not interfere in his behalf, as he will be considered to have resigned for the time being his nationality.

By command of his Excellency the Governor,
(Signed) WALTER LEWIS, *Acting Colonial Secretary.*

Government House, Lagos, November 14, 1862.

God save the Queen.

No. 2.

Consul Freeman to Earl Russell.—(Received January 13, 1863.)

(Extract.)

Lagos, December 6, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to report that Commodore Wilmot arrived in the Lagos Roads in Her Majesty's steam-ship "Rattlesnake" on the 23rd ultimo, and came ashore the following day.

According to the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch of the 23rd of October I consulted with the Commodore respecting the measures to be pursued with regard to Abbeokuta, and I have the honour to forward herewith inclosed copies of my letter to that officer and his reply.

The Commodore is now gone up on a visit to Dahomey.

Inclosure 1 in No. 2.

Consul Freeman to Commodore Wilmot.

Sir,

Lagos, November 26, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you, herewith inclosed, copy of a despatch I have received from Earl Russell respecting Abbeokuta, whereby I am instructed to consult with you as to the measures short of actual hostilities which it may be practicable to adopt to bring the Abbeokutans to reason.

I also inclose the whole of my correspondence with the authorities of Abbeokuta since my arrival in Lagos, in order that you may see how the affairs of the former place have been gradually going on from bad to worse, till at least the very Chiefs have become highway robbers and murderers. In the last outrage on the river, more than 2,000*l.* worth of British property was stolen, and several Lagos people were killed.

The recall of the Europeans from Abbeokuta has produced a profound effect in that town, but I fear that before the war party will give in, stronger measures will need to be adopted.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HY. STANHOPE FREEMAN

Inclosure 2 in No. 2.

Commodore Wilmot to Consul Freeman.

Sir,

"Rattlesnake," off Lagos, November 27, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of yesterday's date, inclosing your correspondence with the Alake and Chiefs of Abbeokuta, in which you request my opinion with regard to certain matters that have transpired between your Government and that place.

After reading over most carefully all the documents connected with this unhappy dispute, I am certainly of opinion that you have acted most judiciously, and with due regard to your own high position as well as to the dignity and honour of the British Government.

Before, however, arriving at any conclusion as to the means to be adopted for bringing the Alake, Chiefs, and people of Abbeokuta to reason, I perfectly agree with the opinion expressed in Lord Russell's letter to you, dated "Foreign Office, October 23, 1862, in which he says, "I have to state to you that I think it will be advisable to refrain for the present from taking any hostile measures, such as you suggest, against the Abbeokutans. Her Majesty's Government would prefer that time should, if possible, be allowed for the present hostile feeling to subside, which has not unnaturally been engendered on the part of the Abbeokutans by finding that their slaves have a secure refuge in the neighbouring Colony of Lagos."

I cannot but agree in this wish of Her Majesty's Government, and I earnestly hope that your decided line of conduct will produce the most satisfactory results.

It is probable that the Egbas have been led astray by bad advice, and from the want of a strong Government to restrain them.

If it is possible still to convince the Egbas that the only right way of restoring friendly relations between the Government of Lagos and themselves will be by receiving an accredited agent from you, with full powers to inquire into all matters of dispute, I have every hope that the present unpleasant state of things will cease, and that the old friendship and alliance will exist again.

I have written to Mr. Townsend strongly on this point, but have claimed as a preliminary measure that they first make an ample apology for all wrongs inflicted, as well as compensation for losses to individuals.

But, above all, they are to make a most ample apology to yourself for refusing to receive you at Abbeokuta, and slighting your good intentions.

These terms will be for your consideration, to accept or not, as you shall deem most fit.

I can have but one object in view in the settlement of this unhappy dispute, which is the upholding the honour and dignity of the British Governor of Lagos, and the happiness and well-being of this distracted country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. P. EARDLEY WILMOT.

No. 3.

Earl Russell to Consul Freeman.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 31, 1863.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 6th ultimo, inclosing copies of a correspondence which has passed between you and Commodore Wilmot relating to the affairs of Abbeokuta, and I have to acquaint you that I approve of that officer's views as expressed in his letter to you of the 27th of November last.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 4.

Earl Russell to Consul Freeman.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, February 6, 1863.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 20th of November last, reporting the steps taken by you to procure redress from the Bashorun and Elders of Abbeokuta for certain outrages and robberies committed by the Egbas on the persons and properties of British subjects.

I approve those proceedings, and am not without hope that they may have had the desired effect; but in the contrary event it may become necessary for Her Majesty's Government to take ulterior measures to obtain redress.

Consul Freeman to Earl Russell.—(Received February 12.)

(Extract.)

Lagos, January 3, 1863.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's instructions of the 31st October, referring me to a despatch of the 24th of March, by which your Lordship directed me to report whether any steps had been taken by the Alake and Chiefs of Abbeokuta to make good the value of the articles belonging to the Niger Expedition, which were stolen in the year 1859 whilst on their passage through the country over which the Abbeokutan Chiefs claim jurisdiction.

The Chiefs of Abbeokuta instructed the Abbeokuta Commercial Association to pay the amount still due out of the duties owing by the merchants to the Chiefs. The Secretary of the Association accordingly made some payments on account, but in consequence of the robberies on the River Ogun the merchants of Abbeokuta refused to pay up the duties, when the payments to me also ceased. Since then the Egbas have pursued such a course of robbery that it became useless for me to make any further representations.

I must again urge upon your Lordship to stop all trade with Abbeokuta until such time as the Egbas shall have made full reparation for the robberies they have committed, and have given some guarantee that similar depredations shall not be committed for the future.

I have long seen, and am still of opinion, that such a blockade is the only means, short of actual hostilities, of bringing the Egbas to reason. With Her Majesty's ships "Handy" and "Investigator" at my disposal I could easily enforce such a blockade from Porto Novo to Epé, without interfering with the trade of those places further than to stop their communication with Abbeokuta.

I beg again to point out to your Lordship that the real cause of the opposition offered by the Egbas to this Government is not that Lagos is a refuge for runaway slaves. In the course of a year not a dozen slaves from Abbeokuta have claimed protection here, and the Egbas and their supporters are perfectly aware that only the bad characters among them, or those who are ill-treated, do run away.

The real cause is that the Egba war-party see that they cannot be on friendly terms with Lagos, and continue their kidnapping and slaving expeditions, which, in principle, are the same as those of Dahomey. The bush now covers where stood thirty-two flourishing towns and villages which have been destroyed by the Egbas in the last twenty years, but the fanatic advocates of Egba civilization never allow the cry from the inhabitants of those towns who have been sold into slavery to reach the ears of the English public.

But a few days ago I received messengers from the town of Otta, which belonged to Lagos in Kosoko's time, but has been half ruined by Abbeokuta. I reproached them with joining the Egbas in their wars, and their answer was, "The Egbas rob and murder and sell us, and we would apply to you for protection; but we see that Lagos people are also robbed and murdered without your doing anything, and we therefore thought it better to do as the Egbas tell us." To this I could only reply that England was patient, but would exact reparation eventually.

The legitimate influence of Lagos is to put an end to slavery; and we must not, therefore, fight against that influence appearing as such, but rather use it impartially against all those who are determined to carry on the Slave Trade in these parts.

Earl Russell to Consul Freeman.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, February 21, 1863.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 3rd ultimo, reporting that the Chiefs of Abbeokuta have failed to make good the value of the articles belonging to the Niger Expedition, which were stolen in the year 1859 whilst on their passage through the country under their jurisdiction, and you again urge, as the only means of bringing the Chiefs to reason, the entire stoppage of all trade between Abbeokuta and the sea until reparation is made for the robberies and outrages committed by the Egbas on the persons and property of British subjects.

In the event of Commodore Wilmot concurring with you in opinion that a blockade

of the entrance of the river leading to Abbeokuta will be sufficient to procure reparation for the wrongs done to British subjects, you are authorized to take the necessary steps for carrying this blockade into effect.

No. 7.

Consul Freeman to Earl Russell.—(Received April 13.)

My Lord,

Lagos, March 2, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Egbas, far from making any sort of amends for their previous conduct, have continued in so determined a manner to oppose this Colony that the legitimate traders dare no longer send goods up the river, while certain persons were granted protection by the Chiefs, and thus kept the little trade that was going on to themselves, and furnished the Egbas with everything they required.

To put a stop to this state of affairs, I have closed all trade with Abbeokuta from Porto Novo to Epé, and have blockaded the entrances to all the creeks, and stopping the markets.

I have reason to hope that this measure will bring the Egbas to reason, for I have received a civil letter from the Bashorun stating that he was too busy, preparing for the defence of the town against the Dahomians, to do anything in the matter, but that so soon as the danger was over he would give his attention to it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HY. STANHOPE FREEMAN.

No. 8.

Consul Freeman to Earl Russell.—(Received May 16.)

My Lord,

Lagos, April 6, 1863.

HEREWITH I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a despatch I have addressed to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies respecting the affairs of Abbeokuta, by which your Lordship will see that in consequence of the Egbas having promised to indemnify the owners of the property stolen on the River Ogun, I have removed the blockade which I had established some two months ago.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HY. STANHOPE FREEMAN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 8.

Governor Freeman to the Duke of Newcastle.

(Extract.)

Lagos, May 6, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Grace that I deemed it advisable before leaving Lagos to make a final attempt to induce the Egbas to come to terms with this Government, and I therefore addressed a letter to the Bashorun and Elders of Abbeokuta, informing them of my intended departure, and suggesting that they should send an envoy to Lagos with authority to settle all pending questions.

In their reply, though they said the time was too short to send an envoy, yet they declared themselves willing to pay for all the property of British subjects which was stolen on the river if I would send up to them a list of the amount and owners of it.

I accordingly addressed them another letter inclosing affidavits sworn to by the different persons at Lagos who had been robbed, and stating at the same time that as I was willing to believe that they were earnest in their promise to pay the damages demanded, I had removed the blockade on the Abbeokuta trade, which was done by proclamation on the 6th April.

Inclosure 2 in No. 8.

*Governor Freeman to the Bashorun and Elders of Abbeokuta.**Lagos, March 20, 1863.*

THE Undersigned presents his compliments to the Bashorun and Elders of Abbeokuta, and begs to inform them that he purposes proceeding to England by the next homeward-bound mail to recruit his health.

It would be very gratifying to the Undersigned, as well as to Her Majesty's Government, if he could be the bearer of intelligence of the settlement of all questions pending between Abbeokuta and England.

The Undersigned, therefore, hopes that the Bashorun and Elders of Abbeokuta will show their desire for peace and friendly relations with the British Government by sending down to him some Chief with full power to come to a settlement of affairs. If the people of Abbeokuta desire peace, they must send at once, or the Undersigned will have left Lagos on a visit to England, and much time will be consequently lost in communicating.

The Undersigned hears that the Dahomians are encamped before Abbeokuta, but that the Egbas are fully powerful enough to protect themselves. They could, therefore, send a Chief down on such an important mission as to make peace with England.

The Undersigned wishes health and prosperity to the Bashorun, Elders, and people of Abbeokuta.

(Signed)

HY. STANHOPE FREEMAN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 8.

The Rev. H. Townsend to Governor Freeman.

Sir,

Abbeokuta, March 28, 1863.

I AM requested by the Bashorun and Elders to acknowledge your letter of the 20th instant.

They desire me to inform you that the Dahomian army encamped around the Ibara wood in sight of Abbeokuta sixteen days, but being made acquainted with the preparation made to receive them here were afraid to attack, and left without making any attempt upon Abbeokuta.

They desire me to state that they are not able to send messenger to Lagos. That they did by letter promise to make compensation for the robberies on the river before you put the blockade on them; they wish me now to ask you for information as to the amount robbed by their people that they may make preparations to fulfil their promise.

They hope to be able to prove that they have not, and never had, any intention to act towards the English Government but with the best feelings and intentions.

With best wishes for your health and happiness, I remain, &c.

(Signed)

H. TOWNSEND.

No. 9.

Consul Freeman to Earl Russell.—(Received May 18.)

(Extract.)

Lagos, March 20, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that a short time since I received an application, of which Inclosure No. 1 is a copy, from Wm. McCoskry, Esq., to the effect that I should rent the hulk belonging to this Colony to enable him to make an expedition up the Niger. I also inclose a copy of a letter addressed to me by the Rev. Samuel Crowther, pointing out to me the necessity of communicating this year with our stations on the above-named river.

Urged by the arguments brought forward by these gentlemen, and influenced by a report, which appeared well-founded, that Her Majesty's Government has not decided on sending a vessel up the river this year, I deemed it advisable to accede to Mr. McCoskry's proposition. I therefore strongly urge that Her Majesty's Government should take advantage of Mr. McCoskry's expedition to communicate with Dr. Baikie, and, if possible, to make Treaties with some of the Native Chiefs.

Mr. McCoskry talks of leaving for the Niger in the first week of July; any despatches, therefore, or other things for the establishment at Lukoja should be dispatched by the mail leaving England on the 24th May, that they may reach Lagos in time.

Inclosure 1 in No. 9.

Mr. Mc Coskry to Consul Freeman.

Sir,

Lagos, March 11, 1863.

FROM several considerations, I have come to the conclusion to make a commercial speculation up the Niger as far as the Confluence, if I can obtain a vessel to take in tow for the reception of cargo, the tug "Advance" being unable to carry.

No vessel would suit my purpose better than the hulk belonging to the Colony, and if your Excellency would let me have the use of her on reasonable terms, I conceive she could not be put to a better use.

Apart from my special interest, I think it is important to keep up a communication with the population of territories so abounding in valuable natural productions, and as no Government expedition is expected to ascend the river this year, I could enable many who are now here to get to their homes, and give an opportunity to the friends of those already there to send them supplies, of which I am informed they are much in want.

The Rev. S. Crowther, upon whose representations chiefly I have formed my plan, wishes himself to visit various stations on the Niger, and I have requested him to lay before your Excellency his various reasons for the expedition.

With me it will be a commercial speculation, for which I must take what measures I can to insure success; and without a vessel to receive cargo it cannot succeed. There is no vessel to be got here so suitable as the hulk referred to. I hope, therefore, for your favourable consideration of my application.

I am, &c.

(Signed) W. Mc COSKRY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 9.

The Rev. S. Crowther to Consul Freeman.

(Extract.)

Lagos, March 2, 1863.

MANY circumstances have conspired which hindered me from writing to you on a subject of very great importance respecting the River Niger, from which place I have but lately returned, to solicit your kind influence and attention to its continued regular yearly visit, as I know you are very much interested in the opening of increased commerce to European markets, as well as in the civilization and evangelization of the teeming population on the banks of that noble river and its tributary the Tshadda.

The advantages of these rivers have been so often reported by competent persons that it is needless to repeat them here. There are many persons now here at Lagos who came from Sierra Leone last year, with a view to return and settle in their own country, and many others in Sierra Leone ready to follow, but were sadly disappointed that they could get no passage on board Her Majesty's steam-ship "Investigator," being so small, and she went alone.

There were another large party of Christian teachers, connected with the Church Missionary Society, waiting at the mouth of the Nun, with their packages and those for the Mission, and the cotton-press and gins for the Mission stations at Onitsha and the Confluence, to encourage the cultivation of that most useful staple, but most of these were with great regret left behind at the Nun for want of room in the "Investigator."

From these considerations, a yearly visit of a gun-boat, with an assistance or facility given to an owner of a steam-tug with a cargo-vessel in tow, will not fail to open the Niger to extensive commerce, which will be greatly encouraged by such regular yearly visits. The natives know no other European nation in that river but the English, who have explored it, prepared the people to call forth the vast resources of the country, and who ought also to reap them, as they are now ready to be bought of the people.

I hope your Excellency will excuse the liberty I have taken in thus freely expressing myself, when you know that I have been, since the last two-and-twenty years, in connection with the exploration of the Niger, and with the attempts of the Church Missionary Society in the civilization and evangelization of the natives on its banks, which it is hoped will ultimately result in the abolition of the Slave Trade on that great natural highway to the sea.

No. 10.

Earl Russell to Acting Consul Glover.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 23, 1863.

I HAVE received a despatch and its inclosures from Mr. Freeman, of which I annex copies,* reporting the circumstances under which he has agreed to lease to Mr. McCoskry for a few months the hulk belonging to the Colony, in order to enable him to make an expedition up the Niger.

I have to acquaint you that I approve this arrangement, and that Her Majesty's Government have determined to avail themselves of the terms of the contract with Mr. McCoskry to forward supplies by this opportunity to Dr. Baikie.

I accordingly authorize you to purchase and to entrust to Mr. McCoskry's care goods to the value of not exceeding 300*l.* Your experience and knowledge of the country will enable you to make a proper selection of supplies for Dr. Baikie, and you will make such arrangements as you may deem necessary for ensuring their safe arrival at their destination.

It is of great importance that Her Majesty's Government should receive advices from Dr. Baikie by the opportunity that will be afforded on the present occasion of communicating with him, and if you should think it necessary to do so you will send a messenger of your own for this purpose.

When Her Majesty's ship "Investigator" ascended the Niger last year you are aware that Dr. Baikie was absent on an expedition into the interior of the country, and that therefore no advices were received from him. It is not impossible that he may, from unforeseen causes, still be detained in the interior of Africa, and in this case it would be important to know when and where Dr. Baikie was last heard of. King Masaba is the only Chief who would be likely to furnish this information, and it would, therefore, be advisable to make arrangements, if possible, for communicating with that Chief. I must leave, however, the decision in this case to your discretion and judgment.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 11.

Acting Consul McCoskry to Earl Russell.—(Received June 10.)

My Lord,

Lagos, May 9, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship abstract of the case of a vessel adjudicated in the Vice-Admiralty Court of this Colony on the 7th ultimo, for being engaged in the Slave Trade.

This vessel, a schooner, on being chased by the whaler of Her Majesty's gun-boat "Mullet," was run on shore and abandoned by her crew at Point Padron.

In consequence of the violence of the surf preventing the approach of the whaler, Lieutenant Brooke beached her, and waded in the water, thereby saving the lives of many slaves, who were unfortunately afterwards consigned to slavery, as that officer could not convey them to his vessel. She was found to be fully equipped for the Slave Trade, and without any papers or colours to show her name or nationality.

A portion of the bulwark, the only thing saved from the wreck, was condemned, and the schooner pronounced to have been liable to forfeiture at the time of seizure.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. McCOSKRY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 11.

In the Vice-Admiralty Court of Lagos.

In the case of a schooner, name and nation unknown, master unknown, without papers or colours.

CHASED on the 9th August, 1862, near Point Padron, off the River Congo, West Coast of Africa, by the whaler of Her Majesty's gun-boat "Mullet," Courtland Herbert

* No. 19 and Inclosures.

Simpson, Esquire, Commander, where she was run on shore and deserted by her crew, and afterwards totally destroyed by the surf.

Lieutenant Brooke and four kroomen, in consequence of the violence of the surf, could not board, but ran the whaler ashore, for the purpose of saving the slaves on board, and obtaining a portion of the vessel.

A portion of the bulwark was brought to Lagos for adjudication in Her Majesty's gun-boat "Mullet."

Adjudicated on the 7th April, 1863. Vessel pronounced to have been liable to forfeiture at the time of seizure.

The portion of the bulwark condemned, and ordered to be sold.

Burden not calculated.

Measurement:—Length, 60 or 70 feet; breadth, 14 or 15 feet; depth, 9 or 10 feet, as near as Lieutenant Brooke was able to judge.

(Signed) WALTER LEWIS, *Registrar.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 11.

In the Vice-Admiralty Court of Lagos.

In the case of a schooner, name and nation unknown, captured by Courtland Herbert Simpson, Esquire, Commander of Her Majesty's gun-boat "Mullet."

AT a Court held at Lagos, West Coast of Africa, on the seventh day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, before the Worshipful William Mc Coskry, Esquire, Acting Judge and Commissary of the Vice-Admiralty Court of Lagos, lawfully constituted and appointed.

Our Sovereign Lady the Queen against a certain schooner or vessel, name and nation unknown, her tackle, apparel, and furniture, and the cargo laden therein, taken and seized by Courtland Herbert Simpson, Esquire, Commander of Her Majesty's gun-boat "Mullet."

In pain of parties cited not appearing, Mayne referred to the monition heretofore brought in duly executed, and also to the affidavits of Thomas A. Brooke, Lieutenant of and belonging to Her Majesty's gun-boat "Mullet," heretofore exhibited and remaining in the registry of this Court.

The Acting Judge at his petition having heard the said affidavit read on his monition as counsel on behalf of Her Majesty, by interlocutory Decree pronounced the said schooner or vessel, name and nation unknown, her tackle, apparel, and furniture, to have been at the time of seizure thereof equipped for and engaged in the Slave Trade, and employed in the illegal transport of negroes or others, for the purpose of consigning them to slavery contrary to the provisions of the statute or statutes in such case made and provided, and as such or otherwise subject and liable to forfeiture and condemnation to Our Sovereign Lady the Queen, her heirs and successors, and condemned a portion of the bulwark belonging to the said schooner or vessel, and brought to Lagos accordingly.

And further pronounced that the same should be publicly sold, as in and by law in such case made and provided.

(Signed) WALTER LEWIS, *Registrar.*

No. 12.

Consul Freeman to Earl Russell.—(Received June 20.)

(Extract.)

Lagos, April 10, 1863.

WITH reference to my report of the 8th of September last, relating to the complaint of Mr. Henry, of the Benin River, that an outrage had been committed on his factory by the natives, I have the honour now to inform your Lordship that I have just returned from a visit to that river, having settled all the questions there pending between the natives and British merchants.

Mr. Henry has never reported to me the amount of property which he states to have been stolen from his factory, and for which he now demands compensation; but in his letter to Her Majesty's Consul at Fernando Po, demanding support from that officer, he declares that property to the amount of 8,000*l.* has been taken from his stores.

As this is perfectly at variance with the result of my investigations, and further, as Mr. Henry has made several statements a confirmation of which I have not been able to obtain on the spot, I think it necessary to enter into all the details of this unfortunate affair.

In the spring of the year 1861, Mr. Henry, by one of those acts of prepotency to which the West Coast traders frequently resort to obtain a settlement of their claims, seized fourteen puncheons of oil belonging to a Chief of the name of Akebua, having first pretended he would pay him a good price for it. Of the fourteen puncheons two were said to have been seized by Mr. Henry as a debt of Akebua, six as a debt of Akebua's brother, and six due by a man who had been dead some years.

Akebua after this came several times to demand payment for the oil, and Mr. Henry at last seized him and put him in confinement; and, according to the general report in the river,—which is, however, denied by Mr. Henry,—kept him chained by the neck.

Soon after this occurred, and after Akebua had been released, Mr. Henry went to England, and on his voyage out again in the year 1862, addressed me a letter from the Lagos Roads under date the 23rd of April, a copy of which is inclosed.

At this date I knew nothing of Mr. Henry, save by public report, and I was unaware of the occurrences mentioned above; but I immediately perceived that all could not be fair by Mr. Henry anticipating an outrage, which the last paragraph in his letter manifestly shows.

Having, in reply, informed Mr. Henry that he should refer to me in the event of his requiring protection, I soon received another letter from him dated the 27th of May, informing me that an outrage had been committed on his factory during his absence at the bar, and demanding my assistance.

Not deeming it advisable to send to the Benin Her Majesty's ship "Investigator," I made a requisition to the Senior Officer of the Bights Division to have a gun-boat despatched to that river with instructions to the Commanding Officer to investigate the matter. Commander Beamish accordingly despatched Her Majesty's ship "Bloodhound," Lieutenant-Commander Stokes, to inquire into the affairs at Benin, instructing him to report to me. Lieutenant Stokes, however, appears to have obtained no further information than what I had already received, as will be seen by his correspondence, which I inclose.

A few days later I received another letter from Mr. Henry, a copy of which I also submit herewith, together with a copy of my reply.

Mr. Henry soon after came to Lagos on his way to England; and I informed him that as I had made another application to Captain Luce, C.B., to send a vessel to the Benin, I could take no further steps until I heard from Her Majesty's Government, or until such time as I might be able to visit the Benin River in person. He had already applied for assistance to Captain Burton, who made a requisition on Commander Stokes, of the "Bloodhound," to take him to Benin. Captain Burton saw none of the Chiefs of the river, and no investigation was made beyond, I believe, taking the deposition of one of Mr. Henry's own people. He then made a trip to the town of Benin with Commander Stokes, leaving the "Bloodhound" anchored off the factories, and subsequently left, having done nothing during a stay of three weeks in the river.

Being about to leave for England on account of my health, after settling everything here previous to my departure, I determined to visit the Benin to terminate the pending questions in that river.

I started in Her Majesty's ship "Investigator" on the 28th of March, and after passing a day at Palma on the way, reached the Benin River on the 30th. The agents of the firms possessing factories in the river immediately came off to me. I stated to them that I had come on purpose to settle the old-standing disputes on the river, and especially to investigate the circumstances connected with the attack on Mr. Henry's factory; and in order to arrive at the truth I was desirous to have a meeting of all the white people and Native Chiefs in the river.

The merchants doubted whether any of the Chiefs would come to see me, for they had refused to hold any communication with Captain Burton on the occasion of his visit to the Benin. On the following day, however, in consequence of a message I sent them, Jerry of Jacqua, styled Governor of the river, Jerbuffon, his brother, and Dola, an old female relative of the Kings of Wari who possesses great influence, came on board Her Majesty's ship "Investigator" to see me.

The English merchants being present, I examined them as well as the Chiefs, and also Mr. Henry's agent, and the krooboy and coopers belonging to his factory, and the result of the inquiry furnished me with the details of the circumstances which preceded, and evidently caused, the outrage as stated above, and further supplied me with the full

particulars respecting events subsequent to Mr. Henry's departure for England in 1861, and which are as follows:—

Nothing particular occurred until Mr. Henry was on his way back to the coast, but on the night of the 22nd of April, the very day before he addressed me his first letter, and of course unknown to him, four of the before-mentioned Chief Akebua's men attempted to steal a new canoe from his factory at Benin; the krooboys gave chase and brought back the canoe and one of the thieves, the other three having succeeded in escaping. The prisoner wounded several krooboys with his knife before he could be disarmed; he was taken to Mr. Henry's factory, and was given over to a friend of Akebua's the next day in a dying state. He only lived for a few hours after, and the natives pretend that he had a red-hot ramrod run into his head by Mr. Henry's krooboys. There was no evidence to prove this, but there can be no doubt he had been brutally ill-treated; for the krooboys not being armed when they seized him, he could not have been so seriously injured in the affray as to die from the effects of it.

Akebua then went to Mr. Henry's factory and demanded compensation for the loss of this man, and on being refused, left with the threat that when he came again he would obtain payment by force. Upon this Mr. Henry's agent applied to Jerry, Governor of the river, for protection, who sent an armed party to the factory; but Mr. Henry himself arriving a day or two after, sent away this guard, saying he could protect his own premises, thus taking the responsibility on himself.

Exactly one month after this, when Mr. Henry was absent from his factory on board the mail-steamer, the outrage of which he complains was committed.

After obtaining the above information I dismissed the Chiefs, telling them that on the 2nd of April I should return to Lagos, and before leaving should go ashore to Messrs. Horsfall's factory; that I should expect all the Chiefs, Akebua included, to be there, and that I should then make some settlement of the affair.

I was told that Akebua would not come, as he dare not trust himself in my hands. I however insisted on it, and a special messenger was sent to bring him, with an assurance from me that he should have a safe-conduct; that I deemed it necessary to have him present at the meeting, but that he should be allowed to go away again; and that if he deserved punishment I should take ulterior measures to capture him.

I then addressed a letter, copy of which I beg to inclose, to the agents of the different firms in the river, requesting information as to the outrage in writing, and an estimate of what they consider was the probable value of the goods taken from Mr. Henry's factory.

Their replies I also transmit herewith.

On the day fixed, the 2nd April, I landed at Messrs. Horsfall's factory, accompanied by Commander Lefroy and Captain Mulliner. The Chiefs had already arrived, and even the culprit, Akebua, trusting to my promise had made his appearance.

The result of this second investigation was merely to confirm the previous one; for the testimony of Akebua and his people was in the main to the same effect as that of the other persons examined, merely varying as to the amount of goods taken by him, and the provocation he had received, he of course endeavouring to make the best of his case.

Notwithstanding the circumstances which led to the attack on Mr. Henry's factory, in which I consider him so much to blame as almost to have deprived himself of any right to claim compensation, still such an outrage could not be allowed to pass unnoticed or unpunished by Her Majesty's Government; and I therefore held the Chiefs responsible for the property stolen, and declared my intention of punishing Akebua. I accordingly submitted to the assembled Chiefs an agreement which I had prepared, by which they were to bind themselves to pay the amount of thirty-five puncheons of palm-oil, a part as compensation to Mr. Henry for the losses he had sustained, and a part to Messrs. Harrison in restitution for 120 kegs of powder stolen recently from their factory,

This agreement, a copy of which is annexed, binds Jerry of Jaqua and the other Chiefs to pay the above-mentioned thirty-five puncheons of palm-oil, to deliver up Akebua to Her Majesty's Government within six months, and further to make such arrangements as will ensure better protection to British life and property for the future. On the other hand the compact guarantees to the Chiefs, after their fulfilment of the foregoing conditions, a fixed comey or duty on the trade of about 1 per cent., in order to enable them to maintain their authority.

At all the other rivers this comey is paid by the merchants, and the same was formerly the case at the Benin; but some years ago, in consequence of some robberies having been committed, for which the merchants could obtain no redress, the latter refused to pay it any longer. This alone is sufficient to account for many of the

irregularities and abuses of such frequent occurrence in the Benin; for it cannot be expected that Chiefs, who are such merely in name, and have not the means of supporting their authority, should be held responsible for acts which they have not the power to prevent.

After some discussion the Chiefs signed this document, which is witnessed by the merchants who were present.

I experienced much difficulty in obtaining their consent to Article 2, by which they engaged to deliver up Akebua within six months, but I insisted most strongly upon the fulfilment of this Article, and in this I was entirely successful, for Akebua, as I had anticipated, offered to pay any sum I might name, independently of the thirty-five puncheons to be paid by the Chiefs, to atone for his crime. I at last consented to receive twenty puncheons of palm oil, which is to be paid up before he is allowed to trade in the river. This was my only means of punishing and making an example of him.

With regard to Mrs. Henry, whom Mr. Henry chooses to consider murdered by the natives, because she died of fever soon after the outrage, I need only mention two or three points to show your Lordship that her death cannot be taken into consideration.

From the evidence of all the witnesses examined, neither Akebua nor any of his people attempted to lay hands on Mrs. Henry, and no insult was offered to her beyond Akebua threatening that if she made any opposition to his robbery he would throw her into the river. Had Akebua wished to prevent her she could not possibly have left the house and run to Messrs. Harrison's factory. Mrs. Henry had an attack of fever two or three days after the outrage, and recovered from it. She subsequently had another attack, which ended fatally, on the 11th June, eighteen days after the robbery at the factory. About the same time, or soon after, four or five more Englishmen (the total number of residents not exceeding eight) died, the river being very unhealthy.

I have omitted to mention that it appears from the evidence I obtained, that Akebua went to Mr. Henry's factory with only one large canoe and one small one, the former not being capable of holding more than forty men, and the latter four. These canoes were seen passing by the people at Messrs. Harrison's factory after the robbery, and Akebua was dancing on the stolen goods in the large canoe, which, considering its size and the number of men in it, could not have held more than from 200*l.* to 400*l.* worth of goods, according to their quality. It appears also that at a meeting of the Chiefs to try and settle the affair Akebua offered to give back 70 out of the 100 cases of gin he had taken, and pay for the rest in palm oil; but Mr. Henry refused to have back anything, and demanded an indemnity of 60 puncheons of palm oil, equal to about 800*l.*, to terminate the question, and this was after his wife's death. It is strange, therefore, that he should subsequently state to Captain Burton that 8,000*l.* worth of his property had been stolen, which would be a full cargo of a good-sized ship.

If your Lordship is pleased to approve of the arrangement I have made, I would venture to request that instructions should be sent to the Acting Governor of Lagos and the Commodore to take measures for paying periodical visits, say every three months, to the Benin to see that the conditions of the Treaty are strictly fulfilled, otherwise serious complications will eventually arise. But I have no doubt, if the Treaty is kept by both parties, an end will be put to the Benin disturbances.

Inclosure 1 in No. 12.

Mr. Henry to Consul Freeman.

Sir,

“*Armenian,*” Lagos, April 23, 1862.

I AM now on my passage to the Benin River, where I have property to the value of some 15,000*l.* in the hands of the different Chiefs and others in that river, and am under the impression that there will be both difficulty and danger in the effort to collect the same or any portion of the amount. I am induced to entertain this idea from the fact that heretofore no protection has been shown to European merchants there since the time of the late lamented Consul Beecroft's offices. It is true some ships of war have some three or four times visited that quarter, each time leaving without any decisive measures having been taken. Even last year murder and piracy have been committed with impunity; thus, as I am now determined to use my utmost endeavours to collect this said property (acting as justly and considerately as I can), I wish to know, in case of any unforeseen accident, or I should say outrage, to whom I am to apply for redress. Benin was in the jurisdiction of Lagos under the Consulate, but now I am ignorant if it is a dependency of Lagos.

I shall feel honoured if your Excellency will make your views known to me on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. C. HENRY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 12.

Mr. Henry to Consul Freeman.

Sir, *Lemnos, Benin River, May 27, 1862.*
I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your advices dated 22nd instant, and have to regret to be so soon obliged to seek protection from you.

From the following facts I should hope you will find it necessary to give me assistance with as little delay as possible.

On the 24th instant, and during my absence at the mail-steamer, my factory was plundered to a large amount. Mrs. Henry's life was threatened, and most gross insults offered to her; to save herself from being murdered or otherwise worse used, she had to run away through the bush; through this exposure, together with the shock her nervous system has received, she is now confined to her bed, and I fear incipient fever. The party who committed this outrage holds an independent position in the country; this is his second attack on my premises within the month; he has threatened to renew the act; I am obliged to keep an armed watch night and day. Should this matter be allowed to rest, there will be no such thing as safety for life or property here.

I trust you will, in person, honour us with a visit, as I much think both stringent and coercive measures will be required.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD C. HENRY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 12.

Lieutenant-Commander Stokes to Consul Freeman.

Sir, *"Bloodhound," Lagos, June 21, 1862.*
IN compliance with orders received from Commander Beamish, I beg to forward a copy of my letter to him relative to the late outrage committed in the River Benin. I shall remain at this anchorage till the 23rd instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN ED. STOKES.

Inclosure 4 in No. 12.

Lieutenant-Commander Stokes to Commander Beamish.

Sir, *"Bloodhound," Lagos, June 21, 1862.*
IN obedience to your orders, received on the 10th instant, to proceed to the Benin to inquire into the particulars of the late outrage committed on Mr. Henry's factory, I have the honour to report that I arrived off the Benin on the 14th instant.

The following day I forwarded a letter to Mr. Snape, the principal merchant in the river, requesting him or any of the merchants to repair on board, as I wished to see them on business concerning Mr. Henry's affair.

The same afternoon I received a despatch that was signed by all the merchants, a copy of which I inclose.

Probably the next day I should have gone in to inquire into the matter, but owing to the bar being impassable I was unable to perform this duty.

In answer to my first letter, requesting the merchants to come over the bar, their answer was, it was impossible for them to leave their factories, as they risk their property by so doing. I consider that one merchant could look after the factories for the space of eight hours or so, if they wished to have an interview with me.

In answer to their second letter, I informed them I was merely sent down to inquire into the particulars of the attack on Mr. Henry's factory, but I would not fail to lay all their letters before his Excellency the Governor of Lagos, and I thought his Excellency

the Governor would honour them with a visit on my return, when I laid their case before him.

I could not gain any information of the amount of property Mr. Henry lost, or anything concerning the outrage.

I consider it would be highly advantageous for a man-of-war of light draft to visit the river, as the natives are rather hostile towards the traders.

At present I consider there is not sufficient water for the "Bloodhound" to cross the Benin bar.

I remained off the Benin till the morning of the 20th to gain information, but received none.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN ED. STOKES.

Inclosure 5 in No. 12.

Messrs. Henry, Snape, &c., to the Senior Officer of the Bights Division.

Sir,

Benin River, June 16, 1862.

ON the 27th May a communication was forwarded by R. C. Henry, Esq., to his Excellency the Governor of Lagos, informing him that on the 24th May last an attack was made on Mr. Henry's establishment by a number of armed men, the place plundered of very valuable property, and Mrs. Henry's life threatened, and she was most violently assaulted and driven out of the house to seek protection at another establishment; the result of this most violent outrage brought on an attack of fever, and has since ended in fatal consequences to Mrs. Henry; and owing to fright and ill usage another European is at present insane.

Having informed the said Governor of the above circumstances, and soliciting his interference in vain (the boat having waited six days and then being dismissed without any written or verbal reply), we, the Undersigned, are enforced, for our own safety and the protection of the property placed in our charge, to make this present application to you for assistance and protection, to which we, as British subjects, are entitled, and also to request that justice will be done on the perpetrators of this most murderous and felonious attack on the lives and properties of British subjects.

We remain, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD C. HENRY.
JAMES SNAPE.
JOHN A. WHITE.
G. H. ROTHERY.

Inclosure 6 in No. 12.

Messrs. White, Rothery, and Henry to Lieutenant-Commander Stokes.

Sir,

Benin River, June 17, 1862.

WE are in receipt of your letter dated 16th instant, and as you are fully aware of all the particulars of the late outrage committed on the property of a British resident here, we of course leave the affair in your hands. We are quite unable to do anything ourselves, and are of the opinion that you are the proper party to apply to. In the letter you received yesterday, you had the unanimous opinion of all the agents or parties trading in the river, and it is impossible that any of the said parties can leave their establishments to meet you outside the bar, as we risk our property by so doing.

We sign this as Mr. Snape is unable to do so through sickness, and beg to remain, &c

(Signed) JOHN A. WHITE.
G. H. ROTHERY.
R. C. HENRY.

P.S.—The descendants of the late King are now in the river, awaiting the settlement of this affair.

Inclosure 7 in No. 12.

Mr. Henry to Consul Freeman.

Sir,

Lemnos, Benin River, July 4, 1862.

I BEG to inform you, in addition to my former advices, that this river is at present in a most unsettled state, and requires protection for European property, to say nothing of life. I now wish to know if you intend to see that property is protected or not. As to life, it seems of little consequence with you."

Statements have been made to you last month which any British subject should have expected would have been attended to, but I must say I am sorry to see they were not of sufficient weight with you. My wife now dead, one European nearly murdered, my property plundered to a large amount, and of course all my mercantile affairs interrupted, and I have no redress. If you are a married man, think, Sir, what your feelings would be if your wife lost her life through the hostility of a gang of savages, and you had no redress; would you bear with it? No, Nature would forbid such apathy. Every man, Sir, has his duty to perform; if he does so, he must feel satisfied with himself, let what may occur; but he that neglects it, in after-life must feel its consequences.

Messrs. C. Horsfall's establishment is left without any one to protect it since Mr. Snape's death on the 21st ultimo, and would have been plundered to the amount of many thousand pounds ere this had not Captain White, Messrs. Stewart and Douglass' agent, and the writer, exerted ourselves for its protection.

I have now, Sir, only to remark that if you think well to attend to the affairs of this river, it will be much to the advantage of British subjects.

As I am anxious that no man should think me otherwise than candid, I must inform you that this communication will be made public.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. C. HENRY.

Inclosure 8 in No. 12.

Consul Freeman to Mr. Henry.

Sir,

Lagos, July 28, 1862.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of two of your letters of the 27th of May and the 4th of July.

The insolent tone of the latter would demand from me the severest censure did I not feel that some excuse may be made for your state of mind after what has occurred. This excusable excitement may have also made you forget (when you accuse me of not caring for British life and property, and say I have been applied to by you in vain) that I sent Her Majesty's ship "Bloodhound" on purpose to inquire into your case. The merchants at Benin, however, did not appear anxious to give Lieutenant-Commander Stokes any further information than what I had received already.

With regard to your expression that "all men have their duty to perform," I entirely agree with you, and would further add that I have perfect confidence that the majority, at least, of Her Majesty's officers are guided in their actions by a sense of that duty, and not by threats of abusive letters against them being published in the public journals. Such proceedings can never force attention to your affairs from me.

In conclusion, I have merely again to assure you that I quite pardon the tone of your last letter, which may be excused, though not justified, by the very natural state of excitement your sudden bereavement must have caused.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HY. STANHOPE FREEMAN.

Inclosure 9 in No. 12.

Consul Freeman to the Merchants in the Benin River.

Sir,

"Investigator," Benin River, March 30, 1863.

I AM desirous, before leaving this river, to obtain every possible information respecting the robbery at Mr. Henry's factory, and more especially with regard to the value of the goods stolen.

CLASS B.

Mr. Henry having left Mr. Brown in charge of his factory without informing him of the value of the stolen property, the latter gentleman can only roughly estimate the loss; and as his estimate differs materially from that made by Mr. Henry, I find it difficult to form any opinion on the matter.

I therefore have to request that you will give me your opinion, based either upon any certain knowledge you may possess, or else on probability and current report, as to the amount of property for which Mr. Henry might fairly and honestly claim compensation.

I should also wish to know whether you have heard of any previous dispute which led to this outrage, as Mr. Henry, by his letter to me of the 23rd of April, 1862, when on his journey out from England, evidently expected something of the sort would happen on his arrival here.

You will understand that in requesting this information I am actuated by a desire that both the white man and the black in this river should obtain strict and impartial and, if necessary, severe justice.

The British Government will certainly not permit the natives of these parts to commit unprovoked outrages on the factories with impunity; but it is equally certain that they will never allow the Englishmen residing in this river to violate all principles of law and justice in obtaining by violence a settlement of their mercantile affairs, and then acknowledge their right to appeal to them for protection against retaliation, or compensation for losses resulting to them thereby.

In conclusion, I have to beg that you will lay before me without delay a statement of any of your affairs in this river which require a settlement before my departure, which will be on the 2nd of April at the latest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HY. STANHOPE FREEMAN.

Inclosure 10 in No. 12.

Mr. Hooper to Consul Freeman.

Sir,

Fort Harrison, Benin River, April 2, 1863.

I RECEIVED your communication this morning, and, according to the best of my knowledge, I should estimate the amount of Mr. Henry's loss of goods to be the value of 200*l.* I know nothing of any previous dispute between Mr. Henry and the natives, excepting the stealing of the canoe, as mentioned by Mr. Brown, and which I heard of at the time it happened.

Respecting our own establishment, we have one long-boat and two kroomen detained at Becky by the natives. They will not deliver them up excepting by our paying between 60*l.* and 70*l.*, which we think is quite out of all reason. The "Sunshine's" pinnace they have also detained. I have also had on one occasion 25 quarter-barrels of gunpowder, and on another occasion, within six weeks following, 98 quarter-barrels of ditto, stolen, and for which no satisfaction or compensation has been had, although reported to Jerry, the Governor.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) F. HOOPER, *Master, ship "Sunshine."*

Inclosure 11 in No. 12.

Mr. Forshaw to Consul Freeman.

Sir,

Benin River, April 2, 1863.

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st ultimo. In regard to Mr. Henry's affairs I must state, in the first place, that the outrage took place in May 1862, and I did not come in the river till September 1862.

Mr. Snape, who was then here, and who relieved me in April 1861, wrote me on the 23rd May, 1861, of which the following is an extract:—

"Now for that simple cove, Aquabo: his canoes, with fourteen puncheons of oil in, were three or four miles up Warree Creek for eight days before you left there; they had orders to remain till you were gone."

(I must here state that Aquabo owed me thirteen puncheons of oil when I left here in April 1861.)

"Some few days after you left he came to tell me his oil had come from market, &c.; wanted the hogshead of tobacco, and trust from me for twenty puncheons before he would bring the oil to pay your trust. Of course I would do no such thing. Mr. Henry, hearing of this oil being there, goes to Batara, jams with him for it; following day Aquabo takes the fourteen puncheons to him, tom-toming in fine style close past our wharf. Well, Henry gets his oil on board, and settles with him so—

"Two puncheons, chop for trust he owes him.

"Six ditto ditto ditto Yellow, of Fishtown, his brother.

"Six ditto ditto ditto Accubo, a man who has been dead some six years.

"Mr. Aquabo returns to his virtuous home, highly indignant, of course, at being sold so. Two days after goes again to Henry, threatens war, &c., if not paid. Henry, not to be frightened by such a 'coon, sends his people away, confines Aquabo on account of some old trust of Dollas and Chenomi's, and does not let him go until after several great meetings, and Doz and Co. stand guarantee for him."

This account is substantiated by both white men and the natives. Mr. Henry went home soon after this, and left Mr. Brown in charge. In April 1862 there was some affair between Henry's kroomen and Aquabo's people, in which a slave of Aquabo's was killed. Aquabo is reported to have demanded payment for this slave in Mr. Brown's absence, threatened war, &c., and left the beach. Mrs. Brown (I believe) sent word of this to Jerry, who sent some of his people down to protect Henry's beach from Aquabo, and on Mr. Henry's arrival in the river in May 1862, he sent Jerry's people away, saying he could protect himself. On the 24th of May, while outside the bar, waiting for the mail, Aquabo landed on the beach, and robbed the place, after ill-using a European, and using threatening and insulting language to Mrs. Henry.

About the amount of property taken I can form no idea of what was taken further than by surmising what two canoes would carry of the description of property alleged to have been stolen. In the first place Aquabo acknowledges to 100 cases of gin, say $3\frac{1}{2}$ puncheons. Now I have never heard that any bales or cases of cloth were taken, only loose cloth and silk, in the shop. If he had 1,000 pieces of cloth loose in the shop, and all taken, it would amount to 12 puncheons of oil, and take up a great deal of room when bundled out by the natives. The silk, supposing it to have been bandana silk, say at the outside there was 200 pieces, this would realise 16 puncheons, in all $31\frac{1}{2}$. Now other small articles, which would take room in regard to their value to a puncheon of oil, such as knives, locks, matchets, &c., say $8\frac{1}{2}$ puncheons. This would quite fill a large and small canoe, which were said to be there on the day of the robbery. The value of 40 puncheons or 27 tons at invoice prices of the description of goods taken, would be about 485*l.*; of course this is all surmise on my part, but it is in relation to the means of conveyance and the description of articles I have heard were stolen that I have formed the idea.

I will now give you a copy of the letter I wrote to H. G. Foote, Esq., in March 1861, which will show you what little power of redress we have here. The affair has happened so long since that further than their being now made aware that such a thing shall not happen again with impunity, I do not wish the matter taken notice of:—

"H. G. Foote, Esq.

"Sir,

"Benin River, March 6, 1861.

"In consequence of a trader having carried off two of my kroomen, I deem it expedient to inform you on the 7th February my long-boat went up the river for water with four kroomen and six empty casks. On the 8th two canoes came and carried off two, the other two escaping in the bush. Since then I have got one krooman; they still have the other one. The Governor of river sent up for my boat, when she came down minus the sails, ropes, and three empty casks. The cause of this is my refusing to pay this trader for a half puncheon of oil, which was one-third all mud. Instead of him going to the Governor about it, he has acted as stated above. I have still the half puncheon on the beach. You are perhaps aware that things are not altogether right in this river concerning the Governor—he seeming to have no power further than his own town.

"I remain, &c.

(Signed) "THOS. S. FORSHAW."

There are other matters which have happened to Messrs. Harrison's factory, but of which I have no direct information; such as the murder of a krooman by some one unknown in 1861; the robbery of powder, and the detention of some of their kroomen and long-boat somewhere on the coast.

I must also state that there is a krooman now living at Fish Town or Beggy, who it

is the general wish of us white traders should be given up to be sent home to his country, or any other place he wants to go out of this river. He was steward with Captain McKay (now dead), whom he robbed to a great extent, and gave the proceeds of the robbery to a native for the use of his daughter or relation—I am not sure which. When Captain McKay found it out he flogged him severely, which caused him to run away; was given up by the natives. and ran away again. He is now living amongst them, and we think to our detriment, knowing that he had no property of his own when he came here first, and the natives are not likely to keep him for nothing.

In conclusion, I would beg to state that an occasional official visit of a man of-war, say once in six months, just to inquire into the state of the river would be beneficial, when your Excellency might be unable yourself to come; holding the Chiefs generally, and not Jerry solely, the responsible parties (they would be Jerry, Jebuffa, and Dolla, the latter representing the King's sons at Warree) for anything happening in this river.

I remain, &c.

(Signed) THOS. S. FORSHAW.

Inclosure 12 in No. 12.

Mr. White to Consul Freeman.

Sir,

Benin River, April 2, 1863.

IN reply to your letter of March 31st requesting information concerning the late outrage upon Dr. R. C. Henry's factory, I beg leave to state that in the first place, the perpetrator of the outrage, Ikebua, owed to Dr. Henry about fourteen puncheons of oil; another native, Accoradoz, informed Dr. Henry that Ikebua had just received from market about sixteen puncheons of oil, and suggested as a good plan that Dr. Henry should by offering a good price for that oil, induce Ikebua to put the sixteen puncheons oil upon his (Dr. Henry's) beach, when he could chop or seize the fourteen puncheons due to him: this was accordingly done.

Ikebua, it appears, after that determined to have revenge for losing his oil in the above manner.

After several months' time this man's people attempted to steal a canoe from Dr. Henry's factory, which attempt cost him a man killed; this again aroused Ikebua and he in person went to Dr. Henry's house, while Mr. and Mrs. Henry were away, and threatened, to the wife of Mr. Brown, to burn down the whole establishment.

Upon 24th May, Dr. Henry outside the bar, Ikebua attacked his factory with a number of people. Mrs. Henry being frightened ran away through bush to Messrs. Harrison's factory.

Ikebua took keys of the shop from a yellow-man, Emanuel, and helped himself to about 100 cases gin, half-cask bread, some silk and knives; other things also might have been taken away at same time, but as I have stated, so I heard from Dr. Henry himself. Supposing the silk taken to have been to the value of 200*l.*, knives to the value of 100*l.*, the gin 30*l.*, the bread 4*l.*, it would give a total of 334*l.*

Seventy puncheons of oil is the amount that Dr. Henry told me he claimed from Ikebua for the goods stolen. I should think that the claim of 500*l.* would well cover Dr. Henry's entire loss of cargo.

As regards my own affairs, I have only to say that everything has gone on quite unmolested in every way. I therefore have no fault to find further than this, that Jerry thought proper to stop my trade for eight days, and for re-opening the same received from me a puncheon of rum and other goods.

Cause of my trade being stopped was, that I could not pay Jerry salt for two puncheons oil he lent me. I had made no jam for this oil, and my salt was all sold.

The like of the above, I think, that Jerry would not hesitate to repeat, not only to myself, but to any one else for a like petty affair.

I am, &c.

(Signed) —. WHITE.

Inclosure 13 in No. 12.

Compact between his Excellency Henry Stanhope Freeman, Esquire, Governor and Commander-in-chief in and over the Settlement of Lagos and its Dependencies, Vice-Admiral of the same, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul for the Bight of Benin, &c., &c., on the one part, and Jerry of Jacqua, Governor of the Benin River, Jerbuffon of Jacqua, and Dola of Bubi, as representing the Chiefs of the Benin River, on the other part.

WHEREAS for some time past no adequate protection has been afforded by the Chiefs to the British merchants in this river, their factories having been attacked, their property stolen, and themselves insulted and threatened, without any redress.

In order, therefore, to terminate the existing disputes, and to ensure for the future greater protection to British commerce, and to the lives and property of British traders—

ARTICLE I.

It is agreed between the said Contracting Parties, that the amount of thirty-five puncheons of palm-oil be paid into the hands of whoever may be designated to that intent as the Representative of the British Government in these parts, the said oil to be paid as compensation to certain merchants whose property has been stolen by people of this river.

ARTICLE II.

Atuatioa, of Becky, shall be given up to the British authorities at Lagos within the period of six calendar months, and will be imprisoned at that place for one year, after the expiration of which he will be allowed to return to his country.

ARTICLE III.

Should any robbery be committed henceforward, unless the stolen property be immediately returned or paid for, and compensation made, the offender shall be delivered up to the authorities at Lagos, there to undergo imprisonment, the period of which will depend upon the circumstances of the case; and the Chiefs of the river will be made responsible for the stolen property.

ARTICLE IV.

Any white merchant who shall trade or attempt to trade with any native guilty of a robbery, or attempt to rob, or other crime, until full amends shall have been made for the same, shall have his trade stopped by the Government for a period not exceeding one month.

ARTICLE V.

Any white man who may attempt by violence to obtain payment of trust due to him shall have his trade stopped by the Governor for a period not exceeding one month for the first offence, or until such time as the British authorities at Lagos can be communicated with on the subject.

ARTICLE VI.

The thirty-five puncheons of oil mentioned in Article I shall be paid in the course of eighteen months; but if twelve puncheons of the same be not paid within the period of six months, and all the other conditions of this Agreement fulfilled, the British authorities will consider themselves entitled to adopt what measures they may think advisable to obtain satisfaction, as though this compact had never been made.

ARTICLE VII.

As soon as the indemnity guaranteed by Article I shall have been paid, and the other conditions of this Agreement fulfilled, a comey of one puncheon per 100 tons shall be charged on the European trade, and shall be paid by the merchants to the Chiefs

of the place, the division of the same to be made hereafter according to their rank and position in the country.

(Signed)

HY. STANHOPE FREEMAN.

JERRY OF JACQUA, his \times mark.

JERBUFFON OF JACQUA, his \times mark.

DOLA OF BUBI, his \times mark.

(Signed)

B. L. LEFROY, *Lieutenant and Commander, H.M.S. "Investigator."*

Witness:

The above document was explained in the Cheekree language, in our presence.

(Signed)

THOS. H. FORSHAW.

H. WHITE.

J. HARPER.

J. H. BROWN.

No. 13.

Mr. Layard to Acting Consul Glover.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 23, 1863.

I AM directed by Earl Russell to transmit to you a copy of a letter from Mr. Dalton, calling attention to his claim to be reimbursed the sum of 36*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, the value of some goods belonging to him which were stolen whilst on their passage through the territories belonging to the Chiefs of Abbeokuta when Mr. Dalton was attached to the Niger expedition, and with reference to the correspondence, which you will find in the archives of the Consulate respecting this case, I am to desire that you will not omit to include Mr. Dalton's claim in any arrangements that may be made with the Abbeokutans for the settlement of British claims.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 13.

Mr. Dalton to Mr. Layard.

(Extract.)

Brunswick Cottage, Forton, Gosport, May 27, 1863.

I RESPECTFULLY beg to call attention again to my applications for repayment of 36*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* owing to me for losses sustained during my service with the Niger expedition, as stated in my letter of the 24th February, 1862; and as in your letter of reply of March 26th it is stated that communications had been made to the Governor of Lagos, who is now in England, I hope such information will be obtained from him as will enable my claim to be settled forthwith.

No. 14.

Acting Consul Glover to Earl Russell.—(Received July 12.)

(Extract.)

Lagos, June 9, 1863.

I INCLOSE, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter I addressed to the Bashorun and Chiefs of Abbeokuta announcing my arrival, and trust that the sentiments I have therein expressed may meet your Lordship's approval. I also inclose a copy of their reply.

In sending my letter to the Bashorun and Chiefs I caused it to be intimated to them privately, by a person resident in Abbeokuta, that if my proposals should be accepted I would write officially and request an interview.

On the 6th instant messengers arrived from the Bashorun and the Chief Atambala, who presented me with a very large fat sheep. The following is the substance of the message they brought down, viz.:—

"Very glad to hear of my safe arrival; very glad to see the letter I sent, more especially as I was an old friend. Since their interview with the late Acting Governor and the Commodore they have been waiting to see what the Governor would do about settling the Icorodu matter. Since their promise of abstaining from hostilities towards Icorodu,

Iccorodu has carried on hostilities. Knowing that Iccorodu is under our protection they don't like to do anything offensive. They now beg to know what I intend to do about settling the Iccorodu matter, and they will remain quiet until they have heard from me. They beg that if I intend to settle the matter to do it as soon as possible; if otherwise, that they may be told in time, so that they may know what to do."

I proceeded the same day, viz., the 6th instant, in Her Majesty's ship "Handy," to Iccorodu. The people of Iccorodu declared that they will die where they stand, and see their town burnt, before they will again trust their King, because he has brought in the Egbas to destroy Makun and their own town; and during the war the Chiefs of thirty towns who had made their submission, as they are now requested to do, had been afterwards sacrificed, their wives, children and people sold into slavery, and their towns destroyed. I promised to stand between them and their King in negotiating peace, assuring them that Her Majesty's Government could never sanction such atrocity being committed upon them as that which had been perpetrated upon their tribe (viz., Jebu Remos in the interior).

After a long and very stormy debate I succeeded in getting them to place themselves entirely in my hands, and to abstain from further hostility until I had a conference with the other contending tribes.

By this your Lordship will see that I have shown the Egbas and the King of Jebu Ode my willingness to do all on my part to open a way to negotiation.

Your Lordship will observe by the message received from the Egbas, that there is no mention of my application for an interview being received by them; and it is privately intimated that the Iccorodu matter is to be settled (that is, given up to destruction) before my presence among them will be acceptable. I trust, however, that I may be enabled to open a communication with the King of Jebu, when, if the matter be plainly put before him, I think he may be more easily induced to listen than the Egbas, inasmuch as he is at present destroying his own interests, as well as the prosperity of his country.

Inclosure 1 in No. 14.

The Acting Colonial Secretary to the Bashorun and Chiefs of Abbeokuta.

Lagos, May 26, 1863.

I AM directed by his Excellency Lieutenant-Governor Glover, Commander in Her Majesty's Royal Navy, to inform the Bashorun and Chiefs of Abbeokuta that Her Majesty the Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint him her Lieutenant-Governor, Commander-in-chief and Vice-Admiral of her Colony of Lagos, and its dependencies, and his Excellency has desired me to express to the Bashorun and Chiefs of Abbeokuta his good wishes for the prosperity, safety, and peace of Abbeokuta, as well as of this country generally.

His Excellency takes this opportunity of reminding the Bashorun that they are not unknown to each other, and that when his Excellency was last at Abbeokuta the Bashorun said that he loved him. Mr. Townsend will remember this, and his Excellency has not forgotten it.

The Bashorun may be certain that his Excellency will, on his part, use his best endeavours towards obtaining a settlement of the present difficulties; and his Excellency would be delighted to receive from the Bashorun the assurance of his co-operation in all measures which may tend to the happiness, peace, and prosperity of the peoples over whom they have been called upon to govern and protect.

(Signed) WALTER LEWIS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 14.

Mr. Robbin to Lieutenant-Governor Glover.

Sir, *Aké, Abbeokuta, June 1, 1863.*

I AM requested by the Bashorun and Chiefs of Abbeokuta to acknowledge your letter of the 26th ultimo, informing them of your appointment as the Lieutenant-Governor of the Colony of Lagos.

They have requested me to offer you their congratulations on the event of this your appointment.

The Bashorun remembers well that he said that he loved you, and not being unknown

to each other, he and the Chiefs sincerely hope that your Excellency will agree with them in measures tending to the general welfare of the country.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. ROBBIN.

No. 15.

Earl Russell to Acting Consul Glover.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, July 20, 1863.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 9th of June, reporting upon the present political state of affairs in the countries surrounding Lagos, and the steps taken by you with the view to bring about an adjustment of the differences between the contending States; and I have to acquaint you that you appear to me to have acted judiciously in the matters touched upon in your despatch.

No. 16.

Earl Russell to Consul Freeman.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 31, 1863.

I HAVE to acquaint you that I approve the steps taken by you for the settlement of the various questions pending in the Benin River, as reported by you in your despatch of the 10th of April last.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 17.

Acting Consul Glover to Earl Russell.—(Received August 14.)

My Lord,

Lagos, July 10, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a letter which I have received from Mr. Henry, of the Benin River, together with a statement of the claims of that gentleman.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN H. GLOVER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 17.

Mr. Henry to Acting Consul Glover.

Sir,

"Ethiophe," Lagos, July 9, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inform you I have been at Benin River since the 24th of May last, up to the 22nd day of June; that I find it quite impossible to carry on any business whatever in that river. The natives will not come near my establishment, since they do not consider the outrage of May 1862 has been settled. They feel convinced that outrage was of so aggravated a nature that it deserved severe punishment, and they expect it will be inflicted.

The natives do not take the slightest notice of the compact of April 1863, made by Governor Freeman.

Jerry, the Governor of the River Benin, denies *in toto* the 1st, 2nd, and 6th Articles in the compact. Having asked him how I was to recover my property which was due me, I was advised to catch the slaves passing in the river, and sell them.

I have the honour to inclose you a list of property due me, and likewise an estimate of losses through this outrage, that should your Excellency visit the Benin River after the 2nd of October next, you may be better enabled to form an opinion of the extent of my pecuniary losses through this man's act.

I am now proceeding to England, and shall hope Her Majesty's Government will take my case into further consideration: it is the first of its nature on this coast; God grant it may be the last!

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. C. HENRY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 17.

STATEMENT of the Claims of Richard Charles Henry, late of Benin, West Coast of Africa, upon the Chief of that river, for loss sustained by him in consequence of an attack upon his house and property in that river by a Native Chief, on the 24th day of May, 1862; and his ultimate remove therefrom, consequent upon the non-punishment of the criminal.

1. A claim in respect of merchandize plundered from out of the store-house at Lemnoo, Benin River, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
200 cases gin	125	0	0			
1 cwt. of tobacco	7	0	0			
200 lbs. cotton cloth	75	0	0			
Hardwares, consisting of swords, matchets, knives, razors, and daggers	300	0	0			
50 pieces fancy silk	45	0	0			
Woollen goods	20	0	0			
Provisions	50	0	0			
				622	0	0

2. In respect of dwelling-house, furniture, boat &c., in river.. .. .	1,110	0	0
3. In respect of house and store at Wanu dwelling-house	500	0	0
180 tons of palm kernels at 8 <i>l.</i> per ton	1,440	0	0
25 acres of sugar-cane, estimated to produce 100 puncheons of rum, at 12 <i>l.</i> per puncheon	1,200	0	0
5 acres of rice, estimated to produce 2 tons, at 17 <i>l.</i> per ton	34	0	0
80 casks and shooks at 22 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	90	0	0
1 large boiler	30	0	0
5 nut-cracking machines	125	0	0

DISBURSEMENTS.

Travelling expenses of R. C. Henry on the coast, including bond, &c.	300	0	0
Voyage to England and back including wine bill, &c.	146	0	0
Expenses in England	350	0	0
Keeping and paying of 40 kroomen in my employ for 11 months, at 1 <i>l.</i> per month	440	0	0
Keep and pay of 3 coopers for 11 months, at 4 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> per month	149	10	0
Keep and pay of clerk for 11 months at 28 <i>l.</i> per month.. .. .	308	0	0

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Estimate profits on goods taken from store at river side, valued at 75 per cent. on 622 <i>l.</i>	466	10	0
Estimate profit on 180 tons palm kernels at 4 <i>l.</i> per ton	720	0	0
Estimate profit on 100 puncheons of rum, at 15 <i>l.</i> per puncheon	1,500	0	0
Estimate loss on 350 puncheons of oil out on trust in the Benin River at 39 <i>l.</i> per ton	9,000	0	0
Claim for loss of trade, 5 years' profit at 2,700 <i>l.</i> per annum, being the average on my trading over a period of five years	13,500	0	0
	£32,031	0	0

The Account of Oil due to R. C. Henry by the different Traders in Benin River.

Town of Jackwa—	Puncheons.*		Puncheons.
Governor Jerry	38	Affute (her slave)	3
Given to his people at his request—		Accibo 8, Agbobo 1	9
Andonbo, Epillo, Adia, Juttu,		Ajote	5
Michalamie	33		53
Agne	24½	Fish Town—	
Boggre	77	Jollo, Akibomia's brother	4
Jebuffu, on account of Allabah	5	Occubo (his slave)	5
Moniduwa	17½	Boddo	7
Alluma's boys, Jack 1½, Attewdo 1	2½	Onia.. .. .	4
(Moniduwa) Allubide Croigu	3½	Luo	1
Addo	3		21
Expesuma Baggie	9	King's House at Wanu—	
George Baggie.. .. .	2	Mamah	9
Missumaut	7	Nyowne	1
Accoro Amma.. .. .	2	Chamwanu	9
	208	Agbam	12
Battanic—		Madjoko	7
Abromoney	19½	Emie	3
Ocoroday	1	Cocka	4
Acquoru	5		45
Pedro	1	To cargo plundered on the 24th day of	
	26½	May, 1862.. .. .	90½
Boobie—			
Princess Dollar	22	Total	444
Channomi (her son)	14		

444 puncheons equal to 297¾ tons, at 35*l.* per ton equal to 10,421*l.* 5*s.*

* 1 Puncheon equal to 220 gallons.

No. 18.

Acting Consul Glover to Earl Russell.—(Received August 14.)

My Lord,

Lagos, July 10, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch dated the 23rd of May, and its inclosure, informing me that Her Majesty's Government have determined to avail themselves of the contract with Mr. Mc Coskry to forward supplies to Dr. Baikie, and authorizing me to purchase such goods for Dr. Baikie's use as I may consider suitable, to the amount of 300*l.*, and to entrust the same to Mr. Mc Coskry's care.

I shall take the necessary steps for executing your Lordship's directions; but I would beg leave to bring to the notice of your Lordship that I have been compelled to store a very great quantity of powder on board the hulk, viz., 9,488 kegs of gunpowder.

The quantity being so large (in consequence of our roads to the interior being closed), that the safety of the Colony required that it should be under the safe-keeping of the Government, I am preparing a temporary place where I hope this powder may be landed, stored in such security as I can give it, until the rains (which are at present unprecedented both in their continuance and force) shall be over, when I will build a magazine.

I would suggest to your Lordship whether it would not be better that the man-of-war which ascends the Niger shall tow up the schooner, as I consider that while the tug-steamer "Advance" is up the Niger, Lagos will be at a stand-still until she returns.

This is the worst season for the bar, and there are days, sometimes weeks, when even the "Investigator" dare not attempt to go out, neither can any ship enter or go out during the absence of the steam-tug "Advance."

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN H. GLOVER.

No. 19.

Earl Russell to Acting Consul Glover.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 24, 1863.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 10th ultimo, suggesting, with reference to Mr. Mc Coskry's proposed expedition up the Niger, whether it would not be better that the man-of-war steamer which ascends that river should tow up the schooner that has been lent to Mr. Mc Coskry to enable him to carry out his proposed expedition.

I have in reply to state to you that I am not aware that any arrangements have been made for sending a man-of-war steamer up the Niger this year, and even if arrangements had been made for sending one, I should not feel justified in asking the Lords of the Admiralty to instruct the Commander of one of Her Majesty's cruisers to tow a vessel engaged in a private speculation up that river.

It should be borne in mind that when Mr. Mc Coskry's request to be allowed to have the use of the hulk for the ascent of the Niger was acceded to, it was on the understanding that his own steam-vessel towed her up the river, and the fact that Lagos would be without the use of a steam-tug during the absence of the "Advance," must have been as well known at the time the request was made, as it was subsequently, when you wrote your despatch.

I trust, however, that Mr. Mc Coskry will be enabled to carry out his proposed expedition without the aid of one of Her Majesty's ships.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 20.

Acting Consul Glover to Earl Russell.—(Received September 11.)

My Lord,

Lagos, August 7, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 23rd June, transmitting copy of a letter from Mr. Dalton calling attention to his claim to be reimbursed the sum of 36*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, the value of some goods belonging to him,

which were stolen whilst in their passage through the territories belonging to the Chiefs of Abbeokuta when Mr. Dalton was attached to the Niger Expedition, and desiring me to include this claim in any arrangements that may be made with the Abbeokutans for the settlement of British claims.

I have the honour to state that due attention shall be paid to the same in any arrangements that may be made with the said Chiefs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN H. GLOVER.

No. 21.

Acting Consul Glover to Earl Russell.—(Received September 11.)

(Extract.)

Lagos, August 8, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copies of correspondence exchanged between this Government and that of Abbeokuta.

Trusting my reply to the Egba Chiefs may meet your Lordship's approval, I have, &c.

Inclosure 1 in No. 21.

Mr. Robbin to Lieutenant-Governor Glover.

Sir,

Aké, Abbeokuta, July 22, 1863.

I AM desired by the Bashorun and Elders of Abbeokuta to present you their respectful compliments.

In accordance with the suggestion in the latter clause of your letter of the 11th June last, they request me to inform you that it will give them great pleasure to receive the visit you kindly offered them at Abbeokuta for the calm discussion of the existing state of affairs.

They will be happy to send messengers to accompany you up, as soon as you give them notice of your readiness to start.

They further request me to state that, should you have any intention, on your coming, of bringing any Representative of the Ikorodus, you will kindly give them timely notice, that they may be able to send for a Representative of the Awujale.

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

Inclosure 2 in No. 21.

Mr. Robbin to Lieutenant-Governor Glover.

Sir,

Aké, Abbeokuta, July 22, 1863.

THE Bashorun and Elders of Abbeokuta request me to state for your information that the Ikorodu people have again been on a kidnapping expedition near their war camp in Makun, and have killed two of their men very near the walls of their camp.

Their people no sooner heard of this than they pursued them and caught five of them.

The Bashorun and Elders respectfully request that as the Ikorodu people are under your protection, you would examine into this act of aggression; this being the third time of their having committed acts of this kind on their people since your letter to them dated the 11th June last.

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

Inclosure 3 in No. 21.

Mr. Foresythe to Mr. Robbin.

Sir,

Lagos, July 30, 1863.

IN reply to your letter of July 22nd, reporting the three acts of aggression committed by the Ikorodu people, I am directed by his Excellency to state, for the information of the Bashorun and Chiefs, that from inquiry, his Excellency finds as follows:—

The people of Ikorodu are not to be held responsible for the actions of the remnants of the people of Makun who had escaped the destruction of the said town by the Egbas.

That the escaped from Makun gather themselves and encamp near Makun to worry the Egbas who are encamped in their said town.

The people of Ikorodu are attending their farms, and have nothing to do with the war.

That twenty-three days ago the people of Ofin came to and kidnapped seventeen persons from their farms.

That eleven days ago another attack was made on their farms by the Ofins, who took away eight men.

That yesterday a man, Ogufowora, fled from his farm, where were he and five other men, four of whom were taken away by the Ofins, and one killed.

The Jebu Ode have never kept the understanding come to between the Acting Governor and Commodore and Bashorun and Chiefs; viz., that hostilities should be suspended until the Acting Governor went to Makun.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. FORESYTHE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 21.

Mr. Foresythe to Mr. Robbin.

Sir,

Lagos, July 30, 1863.

I AM directed by his Excellency to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated July 22nd, and to request you to present his Excellency's compliments to the Bashorun and Elders of Abbeokuta.

In reply to their kind offer to receive his Excellency at Abbeokuta in accordance with the latter clause of his Excellency's despatch dated June 11, "for the calm discussion of the existing state of affairs," his Excellency desires me to state, for the information of the Bashorun and Elders, that if his Excellency's visit shall have for its purpose "the opening of negotiations for the settlement of a general peace," as stated in his Excellency's despatch dated June 11, it will afford his Excellency great pleasure to meet the Bashorun and War Chiefs at some place on the river, say Markoloki or other place near Makun; this would be carrying out the arrangements entered into between the Acting Governor and Commodore and the Bashorun and Elders of Abbeokuta.

The late visit of the Acting Governor and Commodore is not considered by this Government to have been attended with any satisfactory result; and after some days spent in long discussion, the Acting Governor was referred to Makun, an arrangement which has never been carried out (not through any fault of the Government of Lagos).

You will again express to the Bashorun, Elders, and War Chiefs of Abbeokuta the compliments of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, and assure them of his Excellency's readiness to do all on his part towards opening negotiations which may bring about the settlement of a general peace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. FORESYTHE.

No. 22.

Acting Consul Glover to Earl Russell.—(Received September 11.)

(Extract.)

Lagos, August 9, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, in compliance with your Lordship's directions, contained in despatch of the 23rd of May, I have purchased goods for Dr. Baikie to the amount of 300*l.*

No. 23.

Acting Consul Glover to Earl Russell.—(Received October 13.)

My Lord,

Lagos, September 8, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inclose for your Lordship's information, copies of the despatch addressed by me to Commodore Wilmot, C.B., and of the orders I communicated to

William McCoskry, Esquire, for his guidance in communicating with Dr. Baikie and King Massaba.

Trusting that my proceedings may meet your Lordship's approval, I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN H. GLOVER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 23.

Lieutenant-Governor Glover to Commodore Wilmot.

Sir,

Lagos, September 3, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inclose for your information a copy of the instructions I have given to W. McCoskry, Esq., agreeably with the directions contained in Earl Russell's despatch of May 23, 1863.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN H. GLOVER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 23.

Lieutenant-Governor Glover to Mr. McCoskry.

(Extract.)

Lagos, September 3, 1863.

HAVING been directed by Earl Russell to entrust to your care goods to the value of not more than 300*l.*, I have placed on board Her Majesty's ship "Investigator," (which vessel will convey you up the Niger) supplies for Dr. Baikie, amounting in value to 293*l.* 5*s.* 10½*d.*; also seven packages for Mr. and Mrs. Hinderer, who are in great distress at Ibadan.

I have also directed two Hausa men and a Yoruban to accompany you; the two men, viz., Harry and Mahomodo, are both known to King Massaba, as my people, and Oshotto the Yoruban is well acquainted with the country.

Should Dr. Baikie be absent from the Confluence when you arrive there, you will endeavour to ascertain where he is, and bearing in mind that the principal object of the expedition is to communicate with that officer, you will use your utmost endeavour to effect this.

Should Dr. Baikie not have been at the Confluence since the visit of the "Investigator" last year, you will at once proceed to King Massaba, at Bidda, or wherever that King may happen to be, taking with you in the "Investigator" the supplies which you have have for Dr. Baikie. I consider that these supplies should not be landed at the Confluence until you have either communicated with Dr. Baikie, wherever he may be (if that be possible), or have seen King Massaba, and learnt from him the latest intelligence of Dr. Baikie.

Should Dr. Baikie be absent from the neighbourhood of the Niger, you will consult with King Massaba as to how, if it be possible, you may obtain a personal interview with Dr. Baikie. You will find that King Massaba will afford you every facility in effecting this object, as I know that he was very much annoyed that Dr. Baikie was absent when the "Investigator" visited the river last year.

Should Dr. Baikie have died, you will endeavour to recover his property, and bring down with you anything that may be of sufficient value, but more especially make every effort to recover and bring away his journals, indeed every scrap of paper belonging to him that you can recover; you will endeavour to obtain every information respecting his death, should it have taken place—when, where, how, and among what people he died. Should any of them be at Bidda or the Confluence, you will (if you find from inquiry that he was kindly treated) reward them liberally. You will endeavour to obtain the amount of any debts he may have owed, and liquidate them; and you will deal most liberally with King Massaba from the supplies under your care.

I must request that as soon as possible you will despatch Harry and Oshotto with the seven packages for Ibadan, obtaining the necessary assistance from King Massaba, who will send his messengers and people with them. I consider that they should return from Ibadan to Lada (Lahday) on the Niger in fourteen days, so as to be enabled to return to the coast in the "Investigator," and I hope the "Investigator" may be able to remain in the neighbourhood of Egga or Lada for that time.

If Dr. Baikie should be sufficiently near to be communicated with, you will find Mahomodo a suitable and trustworthy person to send to him as a messenger. I am not

aware what orders Commodore Wilmot will give to the officer in command of the "Investigator," but there can be no doubt that as little delay as possible should take place until you have communicated with either Dr. Baikie or King Massaba; and all Treaty visits to the different towns on the river should be deferred until the principal object of your visit to the river has been effected, viz., communicating either with Dr. Baikie or King Massaba.

Should Dr. Baikie be alive and so far distant as to render any communication with him impossible during the short stay the "Investigator" can make in the river, you will leave the supplies under the charge of King Massaba, and no one else, always supposing that he is willing to undertake it.

You will be particular to impress upon King Massaba Her Majesty's appreciation of his kindness and the protection he has always afforded to her people since they came to him in 1857. You will assure him (and if it be possible make him believe) that we are some day coming to trade with him, and establish permanently factories in his country. You will find this a delicate subject to treat of with him; but from your long residence in this country as a merchant I am quite sure that your discretion and judgment will enable you to effect a good understanding with King Massaba on this point.

I must beg you to remember me to King Massaba, and assure him that I have never forgotten his kindness, in proof of which please hand to him the present I have sent. As soon as the war is over, which at present separates us, you will tell him that we must often see each other's messengers.

With full confidence in your zeal, ability, and discretion, I have, &c.

No. 24.

Earl Russell to Acting Consul Glover.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 23, 1863.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 8th of September last, transmitting a copy of a letter addressed by you to Commodore Wilmot, inclosing a copy of the instructions to Mr. McCoskry on his proceeding to communicate with Dr. Baikie and King Massaba, and I have to convey to you my approval of your having employed Mr. McCoskry on this service, and I concur in your instructions to him.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 25.

Acting Consul Glover to Earl Russell.—(Received December 11.)

Extract.)

Lagos, November 6, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inclose for your Lordship's information a copy of the report furnished me by Mr. McCoskry of his proceedings while on board Her Majesty's ship "Investigator," which returned here from the River Niger on the 17th October.

By this vessel King Massaba has sent a horse as a present to Her Majesty. I have taken charge of it until I can receive instructions from your Lordship.

There is also a letter from King Massaba to Her Majesty, but this the officer commanding Her Majesty's ship "Investigator" is forwarding by this mail to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

King Massaba has also sent me a horse in lieu of the one he sent to me last year, and which was drowned on the bar.

Inclosure in No. 25.

Mr. McCoskry to Lieutenant-Governor Glover.

Sir,

Lagos, October 24, 1863.

IN accordance with your wishes I herewith subjoin a report of the last Niger expedition in Her Majesty's ship "Investigator."

Having on the 3rd ultimo taken in charge the despatches and supplies for Dr. Baikie, and received your instructions, I went on board Her Majesty's ship "Investigator," and

soon after she crossed the bar and anchored close to the "Rattlesnake," Commodore Wilmot, who, having supplied her with officers, men, and fuel, despatched her the same day for the Nun.

The "Rattlesnake" (in which I was offered a passage, and which I gladly accepted) followed next morning, and early on the 5th came up with the "Investigator" at anchor some eight miles from the Nun. The "Rattlesnake" towed her the remaining distance, and this day and the next were employed in putting on board the "Investigator" fuel and other supplies for the expedition.

On the morning of the 7th all was ready, and the Commodore having given the Commander instructions with reference to the Treaties to be made, supplied him with drafts of the same, and furnished him with presents for the Chiefs with whom he treated.

I conceived that any interference of mine in this department would be unbecoming, and therefore whatever credit is due for the negotiation of Treaties belongs to the Commodore and his officers.

We crossed the bar, and anchored off the mission station at 2 P.M.; and the Commander having gone ashore, the Rev. Mr. Crowther called a meeting of some men styling themselves Chiefs of Acarsa, who the same day signed a Treaty, and promised to protect the English flag which was hoisted; they claim both banks of the river. These Chiefs, and the people I saw here, struck me as being the lowest type of African I have yet seen; the acquisition and consumption of rum and tobacco seem to be the chief end of their existence.

Having taken on board the Rev. S. Crowther and some other passengers at 10 A.M. next morning, we proceeded up the river; and while, within the influence of the tide, could see nothing but a gloomy luxuriance of mangrove vegetation. At 3 P.M. we passed sundry islands, in the neighbourhood of which some small clearings, growing bananas, and sugarcane were seen; as we ascend, these became larger and more numerous; and as the oil, palm, and silk-cotton tree supersede, the mangrove villages became frequent, the population turning out to gaze in wonder at the steamer; canoes, said to be from Brass, are seen going up and coming down the river, the one going for and the other returning with palm oil; they are all armed with one or more small carronades.

At 7 A.M. on the 13th anchored at Onitsha, the land being well above the highest level of the river, and from the bank slopes upwards gently till it attains, in a few miles, the height of 400 or 500 feet; the town is rather over a mile from the landing. The Church Missionary Society have here a station, which has a clean and healthy appearance; the soil is good and easily cleared; palm-oil is already produced in considerable quantities, and cotton only requires a steady demand to increase its production to an almost unlimited extent.

The King and Chiefs of this place are desirous of receiving emigrants from British Settlements; they would readily grant them land to cultivate, and afford them all the assistance and protection in their power.

Promising to make a long stay on our return, we were again under weigh by 3 P.M., and soon after passed the pretty village Asabi.

On the 15th, at 9.40 A.M., we passed the sandstone cliffs of Idda, waterworn and bare to the height of 80 feet, then sloping and covered with vegetation to the top. On the morning of the 16th arrived at Gbebe; here Mr. Crowther and the rest of the passengers left us, the station here being the highest point of missionary enterprise on the Niger. The King of Gbebe died about nine months ago, and the Government is now administered by three of the principal Chiefs, two of whom we met at the mission-house; the other Chief was ill. I learnt that here, and in all the towns about, the small-pox had been and was now carrying off numbers of the people. This town owes allegiance to the Alle of Idda, but it is virtually independent. By 11 A.M. we were moving towards Lukoja, where we arrived at noon. Dr. Baikie soon after came on board, and looked in better health than I expected. I delivered to him his mail-bag and packages; he informed me afterwards that he received letters now which should have come last year, and others, he feared, were missing altogether.

We remained at Lukoja till the afternoon of the 19th, when, Dr. Baikie having come on board, we started for Egga at noon. Next day we stopped at Bidon, called upon the Chief and desired him to send messengers to Bidda to announce our coming to the King, and also get him to send men with us to procure canoes at Egga.

On the 21st, at 8.25 A.M., anchored in the creek close to the town of Egga, and the men sent on shore about the canoes; during the day the natives brought off over half a ton of ivory, most of which they sold. Before dark the vessel went into the stream to avoid as much as possible the swarms of various insects which infest the river. Next morning, the canoes having come off, prepared to start; we then gave them our inter-

preter, servants, and luggage to convey, and the Commander, the Second Master, Dr. Baikie, and myself preferring the ship's gig, we pushed off at 10 A.M., and, about three miles higher up, crossed to the left bank, and pulled up a small river which passed the village of Wonagi, six miles of Bidda; the current was strong, and though the distance passed in the bush could not be more than 55 miles, we did not reach Wonagi till 9 P.M. on the 24th; and, being there detained till the King sent horses, we only got to Bidda at 6 P.M. on the 25th. The country between Wonagi and Bidda is all under cultivation; the shea-butter trees standing in the farms with just sufficient intervals between to avoid interference with the growth of the corn-crop below. Some distance outside the gates we were met by a mounted Chief and a party of horsemen, who saluted us, and led the way through the town to the King's residence, where we waited only a few minutes, and were then, without ceremony, ushered into the presence of the King. He was reclining on a mat, and had some spread for us, the custom here being to talk in this position; he said he merely wanted to see and welcome us, and as we must be tired he would not detain us, but would send to show us our quarters—a very sensible proceeding, of which we took immediate advantage and retired. I may here state that this day, and every day while we remained, the King sent food, both cooked and uncooked, sufficient for three times the number of our whole party, and he also sent cowries sufficient to defray all incidental daily expenses.

Next day we made an official visit, and His Majesty, without loss of time, went straight to the subject most interesting to him, and indeed to us. He said his father had seen white men at Rabbah, his brother also had seen them, and he himself had been visited several times; to both his predecessors and himself hopes had been held out of permanent trading establishments being formed in the country; but up to this time he had not seen any, and he did not know what to think. He said it was not his custom to deceive any one; the productions which he had before said his country afforded were still to be found, and his people were anxious to partake in the benefit they knew the Yoruba country derived from its trade with the white men. Dr. Baikie, acting as interpreter and spokesman, explained to him the reason why as yet no trading establishments had been made so high up as his country, and how the factories lower down the river, of which he had heard, had finally been withdrawn in consequence of the death of Mr. McGregor Laird; he assured the King that the attention of the people in England was more than ever directed to the countries on the Niger, and that there was little doubt that next year at least one expedition fitted out expressly for trade would ascend the river. He seemed so far satisfied with the explanation, and, alluding to the war in the Yoruba country, he said he was in favour of the Ibadans having direct road to Lagos; and he said when opportunity offered he would assist them: he added, however, that he thought if he kept a road open from his country to Ibadan, we should keep it open thence to Lagos. Nevertheless he maintained that the river is the safest and easiest route, and he urged us not to neglect it. He promised full protection now as far as the Confluence, and in a short time he hoped to be able to protect us efficiently as far as Idda; lower down we must manage ourselves. I learned that he can turn out 2,000 armed horsemen, and I saw reason to believe it. The walls of Bidda inclose a rectangular area of 3,000 by 2,500 yards or thereabouts; they are 7 to 8 feet high, with a ditch 10 feet wide, as many deep; the walls are in good repair. The population may be 70,000; the town does not occupy more than two-thirds of the inclosed space.

On the 28th we gave the King the presents; he examined each article, and at the end seemed much gratified. To-day it was settled that only loads made up in native fashion could safely be sent to the Rev. Mr. Hinderer at Ibadan, and these the King could not dispatch for some days to come; he promised, however, they should be sent the first safe opportunity. The two men who were to be left to take charge of them I instructed to make the best of their way from Ibadan through Ketu and Okeodan to Lagos.

This afternoon Commander Gambier, who had fever the day before, becoming worse, Dr. Baikie advised his immediate return to the vessel; and as the King would not hear of the whole party leaving, it was arranged that I should accompany him to the vessel next day, Dr. Baikie and Mr. Adlam remaining to receive the return presents and letter for Her Majesty and you which the King said he would write.

On the 29th at 7-30 we left Bidda, embarked in the boat at 10 A.M., and pulling all day with the current, arrived on board the "Investigator" at 7-45 P.M. Dr. Baikie and Mr. Adlam arrived on the afternoon of the 4th instant, the horses from the King arrived and were received on board safely on the afternoon of the 5th, and at 1 P.M. on the 6th anchored at Lukoja; observing that, although at Egga the river had fallen at least two feet, it had here risen about six inches. As the "Investigator" would go to-morrow to Gbebe to procure wood, I decided upon remaining with Dr. Baikie till the 9th, by which

time he would be ready with his despatches and letters. I had thus a few days to look around me at Lukoja; and the result of my observation is, that I consider it better adapted for the residence of Europeans than any other part in the Niger. The situation is dry and the water good; the soil is rich—corn, yams, sugar-cane, and other tropical productions growing luxuriantly with very little labour. Cotton of three varieties is indigenous, and is not grown in large quantities simply because there is no demand for it. This place possesses peculiar advantages for the establishment of trading factories, inasmuch as it is isolated, and free from the dangers and annoyances incident to living in a populous native town, ruled by a native Chief. Here Dr. Baikie has already established the nucleus of a British settlement: the people under his protection are all free, many of them having been redeemed by him; they have brought a considerable tract of land under cultivation, and the place seems perfectly self-supporting; in all disputes the people refer to him and abide by his decision. Massaba is willing to define a boundary within which British law should be administered; and if this was done, and the place managed with good sense and judgment, it would speedily become a most important centre of commerce and civilization. There, as elsewhere, the utmost caution would be necessary in dealing with runaway slaves seeking protection wherever possible; full value should be paid as redemption; but cases might arise in which the slave should be sent back to the master; for if the natives once see indiscriminate protection given to runaways, our position there would speedily become untenable.

On the 11th at 5:30 we left Gbebe on our way down; the Chiefs of the place would not sign the Treaty, referring the Commander to the Allah of Idda, at which place we anchored at 11:15 A.M., and the Commander, with the Rev. Mr. S. Crowther and others, having landed and ridden up to the town, it was found the King could not be seen for five days; so next morning we proceeded down the river, and arriving at Onitsha, a visit was made to the King, and he and his Chiefs having signed the Treaty, with the exception of the clause abolishing human sacrifices, which they said could not be done at once, the party returned on board. I observed that in this place though both oil and cotton is abundant, the natives were ignorant of the use of lamps, using instead, torches and lighted brands of resinous wood. At noon on the 13th, we were off Abo, and landing, found the town mostly under water, pulled through the town in the gig, and the old Chief Tchukuma having sent a boy, who spoke English, to welcome us, we called upon him, but finding no part of his house dry, he came into the boat, and talked a few minutes. He and Mr. Crowther were old friends, and from the latter I learned that Tchukuma has always been a steady friend to white men, and as far as he could protected the factory of Mr. Laird from the rapacity of the late King Aje; having procured a guide, we proceeded to the house of the King, which was in a very similar state to the rest. The King received us on the only dry spot there was; he was grotesquely dressed in a soldier's coat of the beginning of the century, a high red comical cap and green velvet breeches. He, however, talked sensibly; he was glad to see a ship off his town, as he feared the conduct of his predecessor Aje had given it a bad name. He said Aje was alone to blame for the plunder of Mr. Laird's factory, and he hoped as he was dead traders would again come to Abo; he assured us that during his rule both traders and missionaries would be protected; he readily signed the Treaty; and having given him his presents, which he received with great satisfaction, we took leave of him, and went on board. I sent a small present to Tchukuma, and the same day we got under weigh, and without communicating with any other place we arrived at the mouth of the river late in the day on the 14th. On the 15th, coal and wood was taken on board, and next morning crossed the bar, and arrived at Lagos on the 17th, without losing a man. The cases of fever we did have on board were, in my opinion, caused by exposure on shore, and the want of rest at night. I suffered only from a cold. The lower part of the Delta should always, if possible, be passed without stopping; higher up the river is as healthy as any other part of tropical Africa.

I am, &c.

(Signed) WM. Mc COSKRY.

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

No. 26.

Earl Russell to Consul Burton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 12, 1863.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a letter from the African Association at Liverpool, inclosing copies of Agreements proposed to be entered into between Pepple, King of the Bonny country, on the one part, and Messrs. Foster and Chamerovzow on the other part, by which certain exclusive privileges of trade and navigation are to be granted to the latter in consideration of the sum of 20,000*l.*, to be paid by them to the King.

I have to acquaint you that I referred the papers in question for the consideration of the proper Law Officer of the Crown, and in conformity with his opinion I have to state to you that the Agreement, which restricts for the period of twenty years, to particular persons, the rights of navigating the River Bonny, and of placing exclusive trading establishments thereon, is at variance with the letter and the spirit of the VIth Article of the Treaty with the King and Chiefs of the Bonny of the 21st of November, 1848, which confers upon all Her Majesty's subjects the right of trading freely in all the rivers, places, and ports of that kingdom.

I have accordingly to desire that you will inform King Pepple that any privileges of trade or navigation which he may grant to Messrs. Foster and Chamerovzow and Viscount Thury will be claimed equally for all British subjects.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 26.

The Vice-Chairman of the Liverpool African Association to Earl Russell.

My Lord,

African Association, Liverpool, December 18, 1862.

I HAVE been requested to forward to your Lordship the inclosed copies of Agreements proposed to be entered into between Pepple, King of Bonny, West Coast of Africa, and Messrs. John Foster and Louis Alexis Chamerovzow, of London, and Viscount de Thury, of Paris, by which it will be seen that exclusive trading privileges are proposed to be granted by the King to these parties. It is clear that such exclusive privileges will operate most prejudicially to the interests of all the other parties trading in that river. About 15,000 tons of palm oil are exported annually from that river to this country. Almost all this oil is brought down the creeks and rivers from the up-country, and such proposed trading-stations would, or might, effectually intercept this trade passing to the vessels trading in the river. It would also be very likely to lead to disturbances between the Native Chiefs and the persons living at such stations; and as some of the contracting parties are foreigners, it would probably lead to interference by the men of war of their respective countries, the result of which it is impossible to predict.

The proposed agreement would appear to be clearly at variance with the Treaty of the 21st November, 1848, concluded by this country with the King and Chiefs of the Bonny, and alluded to by Lord Palmerston in a letter to this Association, dated the 7th of November, 1849, viz.:—

Article VI. "The subjects of the Queen of England may always trade freely with the people of the Bonny in every article they may wish to buy and sell in all the places and ports and rivers within the territories of the Kings and Chiefs of the Bonny and throughout the whole of their dominions. And the King and Chiefs of the Bonny pledge

themselves to show no favour and give no privilege to the ships and traders of other countries which they do not show to those of England;—”

When the French Government attempted to obtain a Treaty by which English traders would have been effectually excluded, and no doubt the French Government would have endorsed the Treaty had it been made.

We consider it therefore highly important to draw your Lordship's attention to this matter in order that measures may be adopted to protect British interests in the Bonny.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS HARRISON, *Vice-Chairman.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 26.

Memorandum of Agreement made and entered into this 16th day of August, 1862, between Richard Thwaites, of Highbury Terrace, Islington, in the county of Middlesex, Esquire, Agent for and on behalf of King Pepple, of the Bonny, hereinafter called the said party hereto of the first part, and M. Etienne Vicomte de Thury, of 26, Rue de l'Université, Paris, in the Empire of France; John Foster, of 28, Queen-street, in the city of London, Gentleman, and Louis Alexis Chamerozow, of 27, New Broad-street, in the said city of London, Esquire, hereinafter called the said parties hereto of the second part: Witnesseth that the said party hereto of the first part agrees, on behalf of the said King Pepple, his heirs and successors, to grant to the said parties hereto of the second part the following privileges, that is to say:—

1st. THE exclusive right of way or navigation from above the town of Bonny for steamers and other vessels up, in, and through the River Bonny, which is the better of the two only practicable entrances into the Niger for the term of twenty years, from the 1st of January, 1863; such right, however, not to interfere with the rights of native traders to navigate the said river, or with the rights of the King and his successors to navigate the same.

2nd. The exclusive right of establishing trading stations on the banks of the said River Bonny above the town of Bonny, such right not to interfere with any rights of the King or his successors to establish stations to trade on his or their personal account, or in combination with any person or persons being the born subject or subjects of the said King or his successors, but not as agent for or in combination or co-partnership with any trade firm, company, person or persons whomsoever not born subjects of the said King or his successors.

And the said parties hereto of the second part agree that, upon proof being given to them in city of London of the ratification of this Agreement by the said King Pepple they will pay, within three months after such proof has been given as aforesaid, to the said King, or to his authorized agent or agents in that behalf, the sum of 20,000*l.*

And it is agreed and declared, by and between the parties hereto, that this Agreement and all stipulations herein contained is and are to become null and void in either of the following events:—

1st. If this agreement be not ratified by the said King within three months from the date hereof.

2ndly. If, upon such proof of the ratification thereof as aforesaid, the said parties hereto of the second part, or some or one of them, do not pay to the said King or his authorized agent or agents the said sum of 20,000*l.* within the time and manner aforesaid:

Provided always, and it is hereby further expressly understood and agreed between said parties hereto, that nothing herein contained shall exempt the said parties hereto of the second part from paying to the said King of Bonny and his successors such rates, tolls, customs dues, or other assessments in respect of their vessels, steamers, boats, and barges, or their freights, cargoes, or merchandize, or of the vessels, steamers, boats, barges, freights, cargoes, or merchandize of any person or persons, or company or companies for the time being claiming under the said parties hereto of the second part, or entitled to use the said right of way or navigation by virtue of this Agreement, or of any deed or deeds to be executed in pursuance thereof, as hitherto have been or shall be usually and from time to time levied and paid in respect of the vessels, steamers, boats, and barges, freights, cargoes, or merchandize of other parties passing into or up the said River Bonny as far or as high as the town and port of Bonny, or as the said King and his successors hitherto hath and have been, and now is or are entitled from time to time to

levy and enforce payment of in respect of such last-mentioned vessels, steamers, boats, and barges, freights, cargoes, and merchandize. And it is hereby agreed that ingress to and egress from the portion of the River Bonny the exclusive right of way or navigation whereof is the subject of this Agreement, from or to the sea, shall be only through the lower portion of the said river, passing the port and town of Bonny.

Provided also, and it is hereby declared, that every right of way, interest, and privilege whatsoever hereby provisionally agreed to be sold or assigned, is agreed to be so sold or assigned, and to be taken and accepted without any prejudice whatsoever, and entirely subject to all and every the vested rights or right, or interests or interest, of any third parties or party whatsoever in the premises, or any part thereof.

It is further agreed that, in case of the happening of either of the events on which this Agreement shall become so null and void as aforesaid, neither party shall have any recourse or claim whatsoever upon the other party in respect of the aforesaid Agreement. And particularly it is agreed that nothing herein contained shall in any manner render liable the said Richard Thwaites to any persons, or in any respect whatsoever. And lastly, it is hereby agreed that the words "the said party hereto of the first part" mean and shall include, as well the said King Pepple as his successors, and the words "the said parties hereto of the second part" mean and shall include, not only the said M. Etienne, Vicomte de Thury, John Foster, and Louis Alexis Chamerozvow, but also their heirs, executors, administrators, lessees, licensees, appointees, nominees, or assigns, and all persons lawfully claiming through or under them.

As witness the hands of the parties the day and year first above written.

(Signed)

RICHARD THWAITES.

THURY.

JOHN FOSTER.

LOUIS ALEXIS CHAMEROVZOW.

I, Pepple, King of the Bonny, do hereby ratify and confirm the above written Agreement.

As witness my hand this day of , 1862.

Witness:

I, William Webb Venn, jun., of London, Notary Public, by Royal authority, duly admitted and sworn, do hereby certify and attest unto all whom it may concern that the Agreement hereunto annexed under my official seal has been duly signed in my presence by Richard Thwaites, Esq., M. Etienne Vicomte de Thury, John Foster, Esq., and Louis Alexis Chamerozvow, Esq., the persons therein mentioned and described; so that full faith and credit may and ought to be given to the said Agreement in judicature and thereout.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office to serve and avail where needful, London, this twentieth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two.

Quod attestor.

(Signed) W. W. VENN, Jun., *Notary Public.*

To all to whom these presents shall come, I, Pepple, King of the Bonny, send greeting: Whereas by a Memorandum of Agreement bearing date the day of August, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, Richard Thwaites, of Highbury Terrace, Islington, in the county of Middlesex, as Agent for me, and on my behalf, agreed with M. Vicomte de Thury, John Foster, gentleman, and Louis Alexis Chamerozvow, Esquire, therein described, for the sale to them of the exclusive right of way or navigation through and of establishing trading stations on certain portions of the River Bonny as therein mentioned, and subject to the provisos and conditions therein contained for the term of twenty years, from the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, in consideration of the sum of twenty thousand pounds, to be paid by the said last mentioned parties to me or my agents as therein mentioned, but the said Agreement was made subject to the ratification thereof by me, and was to be void in case I should not within twelve months after the date thereof ratify and confirm the same:

And whereas I have this day ratified and confirmed under my hand the said Agreement:

And whereas I am desirous of appointing my said Agent Richard Thwaites, of Highbury Terrace, Islington, in the county of Middlesex, to act as my attorney and for me and in my behalf in carrying out the said Agreement, and in doing all acts necessary, or which may become necessary for or in that behalf:

Now know all men by these presents that I the said Pepple, King of the Bonny, have made, constituted, and appointed, and by these presents do make, constitute, and appoint the said Richard Thwaites my true and lawful attorney, for me and in my name or otherwise to carry out, fulfil, and perform all and every the terms and conditions of the said hereinbefore recited Agreement, and to do all acts necessary for carrying out, fulfilling, and performing the same, and for my use and in my name to ask, demand, and receive, sue for, either at law or in equity, and recover the said sum of twenty thousand pounds, and all and every sum and sums of money whatsoever that are or is or will become due and owing to me of and from the said parties to the said Agreement, or any of them, or any person or persons whomsoever claiming under them, and on receipt or payment thereof, or of any part thereof, for me and in my name, proper receipts and discharges for the same to sign and deliver, and to do all other lawful acts and things in and about the premises as effectually as I could do the same if I was personally present :

And also for me and in my name, and as my act and deed, to sign, seal, deliver, and execute all or any deeds or deed which shall appear to him or which he shall be advised to be proper for effectually conveying and assuring the rights or privileges, or any of them mentioned in the hereinbefore recited Agreement, or for carrying out, fulfilling, or performing the said Agreement, and the terms thereof, and also to do or execute in or about the premises any other acts, deeds, matters, or things whatsoever, and to take and institute any actions, suits, and proceedings at law or in equity which he said Richard Thwaites shall deem proper or necessary to be done or executed by or on my part and behalf.

And all and whatsoever the said Richard Thwaites shall lawfully do in the premises I the said Pepple, King of the Bonny, do hereby agree to ratify and confirm.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this day of
one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two.

Signed, sealed, and delivered by the above-named Pepple, King of the Bonny, in the presence of us.

Dear King Pepple,

6, *Old Jury, London, August 21, 1862.*

Your Agent, Mr. Richard Thwaites, called on us a short time since with reference to a proposal made by the Vicomte de Thury and some other gentlemen to purchase of you the exclusive right of way through and of establishing trading stations in the upper portion of the Bonny River. Mr. Thwaites informed us you were at present requiring a considerable sum of money, and we considered such an arrangement as the above would be advantageous to you, not only in meeting that requirement, but also that it would greatly extend the navigation through the lower part of the River Bonny, and proportionably increase your revenues from the Custom dues and tolls payable at the port of Bonny.

We therefore suggested that an Agreement should be drawn up between Mr. Thwaites and the parties with whom the arrangement was proposed, and after considerable negotiation the Agreement inclosed herewith has been come to and signed by Mr. Thwaites, on your behalf, and the other parties, subject however to its ratification by yourself.

You will at once observe that the Agreement in nowise interferes with your rights to trade as at present exercised.

We submit the terms of the Agreement with great confidence to your approval, and if, as we doubt not, you do approve, you will please act on the following instructions.

We send three signed Agreements, one of which is duly attested by Mr. Venn, the Notary Public of this city. At the foot of each Agreement there is appended a clause of ratification which you must sign, if you please, where we have marked your name, and let a witness sign his name and address where we have marked "A.B., of &c." When you have done this, please return two of the Agreements (the one attested by the Notary, and one of the others) to us by the next post. The third Agreement you can keep for your own satisfaction and use, and we also inclose for your use a plain copy of the Agreement.

It will be necessary, in order to carry out this Agreement, to appoint Mr. Thwaites your attorney for that purpose to receive the moneys payable, and execute the necessary deeds, &c.; and we herewith inclose also such power of attorney for your execution. Please execute it before two witnesses, who must sign their names and addresses where we have marked "A.B. and C.D., of &c."

We also inclose an authority to Mr. Thwaites to pay your necessary expenses in reference to the matter, and to pay the balance of the moneys to be received into Messrs. Gurney's bank, or any other bank or establishment you desire. Please sign this also, and fill up the blank left for the name of the bank or establishment.

In conclusion, we sincerely hope this scheme will meet your approbation, and that on your returning the papers all executed and signed by you, we may be able to carry it out successfully.

Awaiting your instructions, we are, &c.

(Signed)

BEVAN AND WHITTING.

To Pepple, King of the Bonny.

Dear Sir,

I hereby authorize and request you out of any sum or sums of money to be received by you as my attorney, under or by virtue of a power of attorney I have this day executed enabling you to act in my behalf in carrying out the terms of Agreement between yourself and M. Etienne Vicomte de Thury and others, to retain and reimburse yourself all expenses to which you have or shall have been put with reference to the said Agreement and power of attorney, or the subject matter thereof, and also to pay to Messrs. Bevan and Whitting, my solicitors, all their costs, charges, and expenses in reference thereto respectively, and I request you to pay the balance of any such sum or sums to _____, of London, to my account.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 1862.

I am, &c.

Richard Thwaites, Esq.,
10, Highbury Terrace, Islington.

(Signed)

KING OF THE BONNY.

No. 27.

Consul Burton to Earl Russell.—(Received January 23.)

(Extract.)

London, January 10, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to bring the following circumstances to your notice.

It would be uncalled for to prove by lengthy calculations that the Niger is the most promising of the four great African rivers. And it is hardly required to show that the malarious region at the mouth is rapidly traversed by means of steam, and that the upper regions are rendered undangerous by the use of quinine.

Still the work of exploitation remains. I need not enter into the history of previous explorations. Their failure, however, may easily be traced to a confusion of interests, scientific and naval, commercial and missionary. Promises were made to the natives which were never fulfilled, and at last the delight with which the advent of the white trader was hailed yielded to disappointment. Rivals in the Brass and Benin Rivers, jealous of the notice and of the subsidy bestowed upon the Niger, naturally did not attempt to allay the dissatisfaction of the Ibo (Eboe) peoples; the consequence has been bloodshed and waste of property as well as life.

There is little to be dreaded from the hostility of the villages on the lower course of the Niger. What they want is "comey," alias transit dues. Their claim is lawful as that of any European Custom-house, and it should be settled in a commercial and practical way by some official directly in the service of Her Majesty's Government. At the same time they might be warned against the machinations of the Brass traders, and these in their turn should be invited to co-operate in opening the Niger, a river to which they could so easily transfer themselves.

After these preliminary measures agents would be established at the following six stations, viz.:

1. On the Nun River at the mouth of the Akassa Creek.
2. Abo, at the head of the Lower Delta.
3. Anjama, at the head of the Upper Delta.
4. Onicha (Onitsha), midway between the sea and the Confluence.
5. Idda, on the left bank between Onicha and the Confluence.
6. The Confluence of the Kwora (Niger) and the Benin (Chad).

Where sufficient water is found, hulks should be preferred to habitations on shore. Agents should be in duplicate for each station, one being in the river whilst the other is recruiting his health in Europe. I need hardly say that the selection of sober and honest men is of primal importance.

But these establishments must fail unless supported by a regular line of steamers, and the want of it may be laid down as the main cause of failure in the Niger. Flat-bottomed boats, drawing not more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet, could reach the Confluence even in the driest season, and make Rabba during the greatest part of the year. Of these "inter-colonials," one should make the voyage once every month or six weeks.

It is clearly impossible for any individual single-handed to undertake this extensive project with reasonable prospect of success; and though several companies are spoken of, they will hardly think of forming without a subsidy. The African Steam-ship Company might undertake the scheme, although their present charter forbids them to trade. A Negro Association at Sierra Leone, and a West African Trading Company at Liverpool, confine themselves to the coast. The most capable, perhaps, would be the Niger Navigation and Trading Company now in process of formation. Of a total capital of 100,000*l.*, they desire to raise without going to the public 50,000*l.*, and of this sum 20,000*l.* has, it is said, been paid in.

The sum of 4,000*l.* was expended for three years on the Niger, and 5,000*l.* on the Zambesi River in South-Eastern Africa. This sum total allowed for a reasonable time within which new river-boats would pay themselves, and, devoted to a monthly postal vessel communicating with the Confluence, would, I believe, at once form a Company.

I would conclude by soliciting your Lordship's attention to the advisability of limiting upon the Niger River the importation of arms, ammunition, and spirituous liquors. The coast tribes of the Bight of Biafra have been singularly demoralized by the latter, and the former would be used merely as implements for slave-hunting by the now half-armed tribes of the interior.

No. 28.

Mr. Layard to Consul Burton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 23, 1863.

I AM directed by Earl Russell to transmit to you the accompanying copies of a letter and its inclosures from Admiral Sir Baldwin Walker, &c.,* relative to the conveyance by the British schooner "White Mouse" of African labourers from the Brass River to Fernando Po.

There are strong suspicions that the men taken to that island were slaves, and that a traffic in negroes is carried on between the mainland and Fernando Po, under the guise of introducing free labourers.

I am to desire that you will furnish his Lordship with a full report of the circumstances under which the negroes in question were introduced into Fernando Po; and I am further to desire that you will inform his Lordship what foundation there may be for the report referred to in Commander Douglas's letter of the 2nd December last, that it is the intention of the Spanish authorities to establish a system of free emigration from Africa to the Colony of Fernando Po; and, should the report be well founded, in what manner it is intended to carry it into effect.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 29.

Consul Burton to Earl Russell.—(Received June 10.)

My Lord,

Lagos, May 8, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I landed at this place on the 22nd ultimo, for the purpose of obtaining a cruiser to visit the Oil Rivers, and have addressed a requisition to Commodore Wilmot to that effect.

On the 2nd May the Commodore informed me that at present no cruiser can be spared, but that he will place one at my disposal when opportunity offers. The generally disturbed state of the coast causes me to fear a long period of inactivity.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHD. F. BURTON.

No. 30.

Earl Russell to Consul Burton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 23, 1863.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, copy of a despatch from Commodore Wilmot,† reporting the particulars of his visit to the King of Dahomey in the months of December and January last.

* Class A, No. 107.

† *Ibid.*, Nos. 103.

Although Commodore Wilmot did not succeed in getting the King to give up the Slave Trade, or to make any promise that he would desist from his barbarous massacres or customs, Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that it will on every account be advisable to cultivate the friendly relations which have been established between the British authorities on the coast and the King; for it is only by personal intercourse with the Dahomian Chief that we may hope to persuade him to give up his human sacrifices, and to turn his energies to the development of the resources of his country.

You will see from Commodore Wilmot's report, that he led the King to expect that he would either return himself to Abomey at the expiration of six months, or that he would be visited by some other officer deputed by Her Majesty's Government to confirm the friendly and conciliatory messages of which the Commodore was the bearer. It has been determined that the expectations thus held out to the King shall not be disappointed; but as the important duties devolving upon the senior officer on the African station will not permit of his absencing himself from his command, it will not be possible for Commodore Wilmot to return to Dahomey.

Under these circumstances Her Majesty's Government, having every confidence in your judgment, discretion, and knowledge of the African character, have determined to intrust to you the duty of making known their views to the King and Chiefs of Dahomey; and I have accordingly to desire that you will hold yourself in readiness to proceed to Abomey as soon as possible after the arrival on the African coast of the packet which will leave this country with the African mails on the 24th of July next.

You will receive by that opportunity further and detailed instructions for your guidance, together with such presents as it may be deemed advisable to make to the King, and in the meanwhile it will perhaps be expedient that you should announce through the authorities at Whydah that you will shortly proceed on a mission to Abomey.

I have requested the Lords of the Admiralty to give directions that you may be conveyed in a ship of war to and from Whydah, but that the journey to Abomey should not be undertaken till the close of the rainy season.

Your instructions will be forwarded to you at Lagos, at which place it will be desirable that you should wait the arrival of the next mail.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 31.

Mr. Layard to Consul Burton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 23, 1863.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 18th of December last, I am directed by Earl Russell to transmit to you a copy of a letter signed by certain Chiefs and traders in the Bonny River, complaining that the trade in that river has suffered greatly in consequence of the refusal of Her Majesty's Government to recognize the new Tariff proposed by King Pepple to be levied upon all vessels trading in that river, and requesting to be informed why Her Majesty's Government refuse to sanction the levying of dues from the African Steam-Packet Company's hulk anchored in that river.

I am to instruct you to inform the Bonny Chiefs, in reply to their letter, that Her Majesty's Government see no reason to alter the decision already come to regarding the Tariff and the demand made by them for duties on the African Steam-Packet Company's hulk. If the Bonny Chiefs wish to increase the revenue of the river, the wisest course to pursue will be to take proper steps for increasing the quantity of oil and other native produce, by which means they will obtain a larger trade and an increased revenue.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 31.

Chiefs of Bonny River to Earl Russell.

Sir,

Bonny Parliament House, May 5, 1863.

WE, Bonny Chiefs and traders, say, firstly, that it is necessary that you should sign and pass the new Tariff, as the natives in the interior will not be bound by any laws, nor will they make roads, nor anything else that is wanted to improve oil coming down, until

yearly presents are sent down to them by the King Pepple, that is the reason why King Pepple has made the dues higher, and last year canoes were sent to Eboe to ask them why oil did not come up: the Eboe Chiefs killed a great number of the men, and said they had not received their yearly presents; unless you sign the new Tariff oil cannot come up as before. Secondly, that the African Steam-Packet Company's hulk was in this river about two years, and sold coals to Captain Straw, Charles Horsfall and Son's agent, for their steamer; also a great quantity to one Spanish steamer. What reason, and why you say they must not pay?

Please to send your reply to Richard Thwaites, Esq., who will immediately forward it to us.

A letter nearly the same as this is sent, per this mail, to the Liverpool African Association.

We are, &c.
Principal Chiefs names,
(Signed) MANILLA PEPPLA, his X mark.
ANNIE PEPPLA, his X mark.
ADDA ALLISON, his X mark.

No. 32.

Earl Russell to Consul Burton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 23, 1863.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 23rd ultimo, instructing you to hold yourself in readiness to proceed on a Mission to the King of Dahomey, I have now to acquaint you that the presents with which you will be entrusted for the King, and the instructions for your guidance, will be forwarded to you by the packet which leaves Liverpool with the African mails on the 23rd of August, and you will therefore make your arrangements accordingly.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 33.

Consul Burton to Earl Russell.—(Received August 14.)

My Lord,

Bonny River, June 27, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have addressed King Pepple to the effect that according to the tenor of his Treaty engagements with Her Majesty's Government (21st November, 1848), he is not justified in granting exclusive privileges to any Company or foreign Power whatever.

Sundry irregularities have been brought to my notice by the Court of Equity, Bonny River, which, when forwarded to me in writing, shall be submitted to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHD. F. BURTON.

No. 34.

Earl Russell to Consul Burton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 20, 1863.

YOU were informed by my despatch of the 23rd of June last, that you had been selected by Her Majesty's Government to proceed on a mission to the King of Dahomey to confirm the friendly sentiments expressed by Commodore Wilmot to the King on the occasion of the visit which he made to that Chief in the months of December and January last.

I have accordingly to desire that as soon after the receipt of this despatch as it may be feasible to do so, you will proceed to Dahomey, taking care first, by previous communication with the King, to ascertain that a proper reception will be accorded to you.

You will on your arrival inform the King, that the many important duties which devolve on Commodore Wilmot as the officer in command of Her Majesty's naval forces

CLASS B.

on the African coast, have prevented him returning in person to confirm the good understanding which it is hoped has been established between the King and Her Majesty's Government by the Commodore's late visit. You will state that the Commodore faithfully reported all that passed between him and the King, and that he correctly made known the wishes and feelings of Her Majesty's Government on the several topics on which he addressed the King.

With regard to the question of the export of slaves from his territories, you will not fail to impress upon the King the importance which Her Majesty's Government attach to the cessation of this Traffic.

Her Majesty's Government admit the difficulties which the King may find in putting a stop to a trade that has so long existed in his country, and from which his ancestors have derived so much profit; but his income from this source must be very small compared with that of former Kings, and it will be to his interest to find out some other source of revenue before that which he now derives from the sale of his fellow-men to the slave-dealers is entirely put a stop to.

You will remind the King that he himself suggested to Commodore Wilmot that if we wished to put a stop to the Slave Trade, we should prevent white men from coming to buy slaves, and you will state that Her Majesty's Government having determined that the Traffic shall cease, will take steps to prevent effectually the export of slaves from his territories. You will add, in illustration of what you state, that Her Majesty's Government have concluded a Treaty with the United States' Government, which will prevent for the future any American vessels from coming to ship slaves.

With regard to human sacrifices, I rejoice to find from Commodore Wilmot's Report that the number of victims at the King's customs has been exaggerated.

It is to be feared, however, that much difficulty will be experienced in prevailing upon the King to put a stop entirely to this barbarous practice, which prevails more or less openly along the greater part of the Western Coast of Africa. But we must seek, by whatever influence we may possess or be able to attain, to mitigate, if we cannot at once prevent, the horrors of these customs, and I rely upon your using your best efforts for this purpose.

The King in his interview with Commodore Wilmot expressed a wish that English merchants should come and settle and make trade at Whydah, and he offered to help to repair the old English fort there, and to permit it to be garrisoned by English troops.

You will thank the King for this mark of his confidence, and you will at the same time state that, as he has promised to protect any British merchants who may settle at Whydah, Her Majesty's Government put entire faith in his promises, and see no necessity for sending English soldiers to garrison the fort there. You will, however, add that there is one thing needful in order that the King's wishes in regard to the settlement of English merchants at Whydah should be carried out, and that is, that there should be a sufficiency of lawful trade to induce them to do so.

English merchants cannot take slaves in return for their goods; they must have palm oil, ivory, cotton, and such other articles as the country is capable of producing. The King will see, therefore, that it very much depends on his own exertions and those of his subjects whether it will be worth while for British merchants to settle at Whydah. Should, however, the King think fit to enter into an engagement with Her Majesty's Government to encourage lawful trade, and to promote as far as lies in his power the development of the resources of his country, Her Majesty's Government would be willing to appoint an agent to reside at Whydah to be an organ of communication with the King, and to assist in carrying out his views.

As an earnest of their friendly feelings, Her Majesty's Government have caused the presents, of which a list is inclosed, to be prepared and forwarded to you for presentation to the King. You will see that, as far as possible, the King's wishes, as expressed to Commodore Wilmot, have been carried out in regard to the articles selected for presents, with the exception of the carriage and horses, and with respect to these you will explain to the King that, in the first place, it would be a difficult matter to get English horses out to the coast, and, even supposing they arrived safely at their destination, it would be very doubtful, from the nature of the country and climate, whether they would long survive their arrival.

If, however, our future relations with the King should be of a nature to warrant such a proceeding, Her Majesty's Government would not hesitate to endeavour to comply with his wishes by sending him an English carriage and horses.

I have only, in conclusion, to add, that it has been suggested to Her Majesty's Government that, among the King's captives, there may still be some of the coloured Christian prisoners taken at Ishagga; and if, on inquiry, you should be able to ascertain

that this is the case, you will state to the King that it would be taken by Her Majesty's Government as an earnest of his friendly feeling, and as showing a desire to perform his promise to them, if he would restore these prisoners to liberty.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

Inclosure in No. 34.

*List of Presents forwarded to Consul Burton by Packet of the 24th of August, 1863,
for Presentation to the King of Dahomey.*

ONE 40-feet circular crimson silk damask tent, with poles, complete (contained in two boxes).

One coat of mail, and gauntlets.

Contained in one deal case, addressed to Captain Burton, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul for the Bight of Biafra, West Coast of Africa:—

One richly-embossed silver pipe, with amber mouth-piece, in morocco case.

Two richly-embossed silver belts, with lion and crane in raised relief, in morocco cases.

Two silver and partly-gilt waiters, in oak case.

No. 35.

Earl Russell to Consul Burton.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, August 20, 1863.

WITH reference to my other despatch of this day's date, containing instructions for your guidance on proceeding to Dahomey, I have to state that you should, if possible, stipulate with the King, before proceeding to Abomey, that there shall be no human sacrifices during the time of your stay in his capital; and you will, under any circumstances, decline to sanction these sacrifices by your presence if they should unfortunately take place whilst you are in the country.

I have requested the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to give directions that you may be conveyed to and from Whydah in a ship of war; and I have also informed their Lordships that it would be advisable that a medical officer should accompany you, if one can be spared from Her Majesty's ships for this purpose.

No. 36.

Earl Russell to Consul Burton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 21, 1863.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copies of a letter and its inclosures from the Liverpool African Association, from which it would appear that King Pepple has proceeded to enforce his project of levying a largely increased Comey or Customs duties on vessels trading in the Bonny River, and that he has stopped the trade of the river until such increased duties are paid. You will perceive also from the letter from Mr. Thwaites to King Pepple, which forms one of the inclosures in the Liverpool African Association's letter, that this office is quoted as having acknowledged that Chief's right to enforce payment of the increased dues, if he is able to do so.

I have to acquaint you that there is no foundation whatever for this statement of Mr. Thwaites, and you will give Pepple distinctly to understand that he will not be allowed to levy any higher or other duties than those sanctioned by the Treaty of the 3rd of October, 1850, unless he shall have previously obtained the sanction of the British traders in the river.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 36.

*Mr. Cooper to Earl Russell.**Liverpool African Association, 3, Brown's Buildings,
Liverpool, November 12, 1863.*

My Lord,

I AM instructed by the Liverpool African Association to forward to your Lordship copies of two letters received from Bonny by the last mail, that your Lordship may be informed of the uses to which the name of the Foreign Office has been applied, doubtless without the authority or cognizance of that Department.

It appears to this Association that the closing of the trade of the River Bonny to enforce his demands for a largely increased Comey or Customs duty is in direct violation of the Treaty of the 3rd of October, 1850, made by King Pepple with this country, and is certain to result in serious injury to the trade, and loss to British interests generally (it is especially an injustice to those traders who had paid the usual Comey previous to these increased demands of King Pepple, and who are now prevented from loading their ships); and I am further instructed to request that your Lordship will be pleased to direct such representations to be made to King Pepple, through the Consul or otherwise, as will prevent him from persevering in his unreasonable demands, and stopping the course of legitimate commerce, as this Association cannot suppose the line of proceeding he has adopted can be either countenanced or approved of by your Lordship.

I have to express the hope that this matter will receive your Lordship's early attention, and that I may be favoured with a reply in time to enable the Association to communicate with its agents at Bonny by the mail leaving Liverpool on the 23rd instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. B. COOPER, *Secretary.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 36.

King Pepple to the West African Association, Liverpool.

Sir,

Bonny, October 5, 1863.

I RECEIVED copy of your letter sent to the Chairman of the Court of Equity here, dated Liverpool, 24th August, 1863, in which you state that you cannot recommend the new Tariff to Earl Russell as deserving of his sanction, &c., but I inclose you copy of a letter which will explain itself.

I am, &c.

(Signed) PEPPLÉ, *King of the Bonny, &c.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 36.

Mr. Thwaites to King Pepple.

My dear King,

10, Highbury Terrace, London, April 22, 1863.

FOREIGN Office say, if you be strong enough you must make the merchants pay you the new Tariff; you have a right to do so! All join with me in kind regards and love to George.

Believe me, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD THWAITES.

No. 37.

Consul Burton to Earl Russell.—(Received December 12.)

My Lord,

Fernando Po, October 27, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your despatches of 23rd June, 23rd July, and 20th August, conveying to me the gratifying intelligence that you have honoured me with a mission to Dahomey, and forwarding directions for my guidance.

With respect to the list of presents I would submit to you, that although those named are sufficient for the King, I shall be compelled to lay in at Whydah a certain provision of cloth and rum as "dash" to the Ministers and Amazons.

I will endeavour as much as possible to carry out your Lordship's wishes expressed in letter of 20th August, 1863, namely, that there shall be no human sacrifice during my stay at the capital. But there is little probability of success: it will be only after many interviews that I may be able to persuade the King to substitute bestial for human victims. Of course I shall refuse to witness the brutalities of the "customs," which have, I regret to say, been lately sanctioned by the presence of Europeans.

Her Majesty's steam-ship "Antelope," Lieutenant-Commander Allingham, has been ordered to convey me to Whydah, and I have to thank Commodore Wilmot for facilitating in every way my mission. The cruizer is expected here on November 20th, and it would be unadvisable to visit Agbomey before early December, the season having been exceptionally rainy in the Bights. Indeed, the rains have not yet ended.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHD. F. BURTON.

No. 38.

Mr. Layard to Consul Burton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 22, 1863.

I AM directed by Earl Russell to transmit to you a copy of a letter from the African Merchants' Company, stating that it is their intention to establish a commercial house at Whydah for the purpose of carrying on legitimate trade with Dahomey, and they propose to appoint Mr. Craft, a man of colour, as their agent at that place. I have accordingly to instruct you to inform the King of Dahomey that the Company of African Merchants are desirous of establishing lawful trade with his subjects, which cannot fail to benefit him and his people; and you will express the hope that the King will afford Mr. Craft his protection and support in carrying out the operations of the Company.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 38.

Mr. Fitzgerald to Earl Russell.

*Company of African Merchants, 8, Adelphi Terrace,
London, December 16, 1863.*

My Lord,

THE Company of the African Merchants, Limited (London and Liverpool), are most desirous to assist by every means consistent with sound mercantile principles in carrying out the views of Her Majesty's Government for the suppression of the Slave Trade, and the extension of legitimate commerce in Western Africa.

Believing that there is now an opening at Whydah for direct legitimate commercial relations with England, and that by means of a resident agent there, the King might be strongly influenced toward entering upon a new and more satisfactory course than that he has hitherto pursued, the Company have engaged with Mr. William Craft to represent them at that place. Mr. Craft is the person of colour who, following Commodore Wilmot's most beneficial visit, was soon after so favourably received by the King of Dahomey, and invited by him to commence business at Whydah. Mr. Craft will take charge of the Company's goods, and conduct their business at Whydah under arrangements which make him a participator in all profits to be thence derived.

As it is important that every precaution should be taken to make this effort at legitimate trade with Dahomey permanent and successful, the Company beg leave to solicit from your Lordship such letters to the King of Dahomey and to the British authorities on the coast in favour of Mr. Craft, as shall insure that protection to British subjects and property which your Lordship is ever so ready to accord.

Mr. Craft will leave England for Whydah by the mail packet of the 24th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. FITZGERALD, *Secretary.*

BRAZIL.

No. 39.

Earl Russell to Mr. Christie.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 8, 1863.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 24th of November last, inclosing a copy of the Regulations issued by the Brazilian authorities for the government of the free Africans at the naval establishment of Itapura, I have to instruct you to take such measures as you may deem best calculated for ascertaining whether among the Africans in that establishment there are any who were liberated through the late British and Brazilian Mixed Commission Court.

Should there be any negroes in this category, you will state that Her Majesty's Government are bound to see that faith is kept with them; and you are consequently instructed to claim from the Brazilian Government their unconditional freedom.

The effect of the Regulations recently issued for the government of the negroes at Itapura, is practically to consign to six years' forced servitude men, women, and children, who are free according to the showing of the Brazilian authorities themselves; and the Government of Her Majesty are consequently bound to require that those Africans who were liberated under British auspices, shall not be subjected to the Regulations in question.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 40.

Mr. Christie to Earl Russell.---(Received January 21, 1863.)

My Lord,

Rio de Janeiro, December 15, 1862.

I INCLOSE a copy of a note which I have addressed to the Marquis of Abrantes, in obedience to your Lordship's instructions in your despatch of November 8, to remind him of my many notes, long unanswered, about the free blacks.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. D. CHRISTIE.

Inclosure in No. 40.

Mr. Christie to the Marquis of Abrantes.

M. le Marquis,

Petropolis, December 8, 1862.

HER Majesty's Government have desired me once more to remind you of my many notes long unanswered, from two years and a-half to a year and a-half old, of which I urgently reminded Senhor Taques in two notes addressed to him on the 17th of April, on the subject of the free blacks handed over to the Brazilian Government by the Mixed Commission Court under the provisions of the Treaty of 1826.

Her Majesty's Government desire me to say on this occasion that the Africans have all served more than the time prescribed by the Brazilian Legislature for their apprenticeship, and are therefore incontestably entitled to their unrestricted freedom, and that, as they were emancipated under the conjoint auspices of the British and Brazilian Governments, Her Majesty's Government feel themselves in duty bound to see that faith is kept with them.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) W. D. CHRISTIE.

No. 41.

Mr. Christie to Earl Russell.—(Received February 23.)

My Lord,

Rio de Janeiro, January 24, 1863

IN a valuable article in the "Revue des deux Mondes" of the 15th of July of last year, on "Brazil and Colonization," is the following passage relating to the "free Africans," on which I have had occasion to write so much to your Lordship, and on which it is impossible to extort information from the Brazilian Government:—

"These agents" (*i.e.*, the parties to whom free Africans were assigned as apprentice labourers) "were themselves planters who received on their properties the negroes newly enfranchised, made them work like slaves, and in order to save themselves from the embarrassment of restoring them to liberty took care to exchange names between them and old labourers or invalids. Whenever one of these last died, they put one of the newly arrived blacks in his place on the list of deaths, and in this manner they kept their accounts right with the Government, who goodnaturedly closed their eyes to these malpractices."

It is a matter of common statement and belief that numbers of free Africans have in this way passed into slavery.

I mentioned this to your Lordship in a despatch dated the 27th May, 1861, which is printed at page 44 of the Slave Trade Correspondence, Class B, of that year, and I then pointed out that this was probably one of several reasons why we could not obtain from the Brazilian Government the information which has been so often asked for as to these blacks consigned to their care on a guarantee of freedom under Treaty with Great Britain.

It is not only that notes of mine asking for such information written two years and a-half ago yet remain unanswered, it is not only that a note written by your Lordship's express direction on the 18th of March, 1861, asking for a list of the free blacks yet remains unanswered, but similar demands have been made by the British Government since 1851, when Mr. Hudson was Minister, and they have always been evaded.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. D. CHRISTIE.

No. 42.

Mr. Christie to Earl Russell.—(Received April 6.)

My Lord,

Rio de Janeiro, February 26, 1863.

IN a report which I made to your Lordship not very long after my first arrival in this country, on the 5th of August, 1860, and which is printed in the Slave Trade Correspondence, Class B, presented in 1861, I gave the opinion, founded chiefly on communications made to me by a well-informed and intelligent Brazilian, that the slave population in Brazil had probably not been diminished since the cessation of importation, and that it was even slightly increasing. I have constantly paid such attention as I could to this subject, and am disposed to conclude, after inquiries and observations made during the subsequent two years and a-half, that the opinion which I was first led to form is not correct, and that the slave population is decreasing, though not very considerably. The mortality among the children of slaves is very great; and Brazilian proprietors do not appear to have given nearly so much attention as might have been expected, from obvious motives of self-interest, to marriages among slaves, or the care of mothers or children.

There are no statistics as to the slave population, and Government does not seem to care to have them.

On two cardinal points on which I early expressed decided opinions to your Lordship, my opinions remain unchanged: there is no possibility of a revival of Brazilian Slave Trade; and there is no sign of effort or preparation for the abolition of slavery.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. D. CHRISTIE.

No. 43.

Mr. Christie to Earl Russell.—(Received April 6.)

(Extract.)

Rio de Janeiro, February 26, 1862.

ON receipt of your Lordship's despatch of January 8, having no doubt of the fact that among the Africans at Itapura are free Africans liberated by the Anglo-Brazilian Mixed Commission of Rio de Janeiro, I have thought it best to address to the Marquis of Abrantes the note of which I inclose a copy. The attention of the Brazilian Government is, I have reason to believe, seriously turned to this subject of the free Africans.

Itapura is very distant from Rio, and is most easily arrived at by a circuitous voyage to the River Plate, and up the Rivers Paraná and Paraguay, and through Mattogrosso. The expense of sending an individual there to make inquiries on the spot would probably not be less than 200*l*.

Inclosure in No. 43.

Mr. Christie to the Marquis of Abrantes.

M. le Marquis,

Petropolis, February 12, 1863.

HER Majesty's Government have carefully considered the Regulations published by the Minister of Public Works under date of the 5th of November, 1862, for the free Africans employed in the naval establishment of Itapura.

Her Majesty's Government are yet without accurate information as to the number of free Africans employed at Itapura who were liberated by the British and Brazilian Mixed Commission Court.

I have again to call your Excellency's attention to the following notes addressed by me to your predecessors, referring to free Africans at Itapura;—December 19 and 28, 1860, January 10, 1861, to Senhor Sinimbú; June 3, 1861, to Senhor Sá e Albuquerque. I abstain from mentioning unanswered notes of mine asking for general information about free Africans, which of course include those employed at Itapura.

Her Majesty's Government instruct me to say that, with respect to Africans liberated by the late Mixed Commission Court of Rio de Janeiro, they are bound to see that the Brazilian Government keep faith with them; and I am instructed to claim for all such Africans unconditional freedom.

Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the effect of the new Regulations for the Government of Negroes in the Itapura establishment, is practically to consign to forced servitude for six years men, women, and children who are free according to the showing of the Brazilian authorities themselves; and Her Majesty's Government consequently feel themselves bound to require that these Africans, who were liberated under British auspices, shall not be subjected to the Regulations in question.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) W. D. CHRISTIE.

No. 44.

Mr. Christie to Earl Russell.—(Received April 6.)

My Lord,

Rio de Janeiro, March 5, 1863.

WITH reference to my preceding despatch dated the 21st ultimo, I inclose translation of a note which I have received from the Marquis of Abrantes, on the subject of the new Regulations of the naval establishment of Itapura, the application of which to free Africans liberated under British auspices I protested against under your Lordship's instructions; and I also inclose a copy of a further note which I have addressed to the Marquis of Abrantes in rejoinder.

I have made no remarks in my reply on the explanations offered as to the Regulations, which I leave entirely to your Lordship's judgment. But I thought it well to point out to the Marquis, in reply to his remarks on the danger of wholesale sudden emancipation, that, had the Imperial Government done their duty, and attended to the representations of successive British Ministers, all might by this time have been made free by gradual measures, and that the object of the fourteen years' apprenticeship, which all have now served, was to prepare for full freedom.

Your Lordship will observe that on this occasion I have received a sufficiently prompt answer. Since the reprisals the Marquis of Abrantes has become very prompt in answering.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. D. CHRISTIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 44.

The Marquis of Abrantes to Mr. Christie.

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rio de Janeiro,
February 28, 1863.*

(Translation.)

MR. WILLIAM DOUGAL CHRISTIE, &c., in his note of the 12th instant, calls my attention to various notes which he addressed to my predecessors on the subject of free Africans employed in the naval establishment of Itapura, and particularly respecting the instructions sent on the 6th of November last by the Ministry of Agriculture, Commerce, and Public Works, for the administration of the said Africans employed in that establishment.

In the same note Mr. Christie declares that he has been instructed by his Government to claim unconditional liberty in favour of the Africans who were freed by the last Mixed Commission.

In reply to this note, I now transmit to Mr. Christie the information which I received from the Minister of Agriculture relative to the said instructions

Before doing so, however, I have to assure Mr. Christie that the Imperial Government, with the greatest earnestness and solicitude, studies the question of the free Africans, and is collecting all the necessary information, in order to proceed with all such discretion and prudence as the case requires. It cannot escape the perspicuity of Mr. Christie, that serious inconvenience and dangers might result from letting loose at once among the population, without certain precautions, a large number of uneducated individuals, and without experience to guide them.

From the information above referred to, the result is, that the instructions of the 6th of November had in view the guaranteeing of the future existence of the free Africans of the establishment of Itapura, and of enabling them to become useful and morigerous citizens, habitually prone to work; they being to that end subjected to military discipline, and made equal to the military colonists of the third class existing in that same establishment.

For that reason pecuniary advantages were granted them, and the right to a portion of land, after six years of good services, this being the term in which not only the soldiers, volunteers from the army, and even the medical men and apothecaries of the Body of Health, are obliged to serve.

In the position thus prepared for those individuals, and in which they meet with the means of subsistence and the advantages of military colonists, the Imperial Government judged that the interests of these same individuals were reconciled with the necessary guarantees in favour of the society in which they live, against the dangers with which it would be menaced if they were to have been abandoned to their own discretion.

The instructions recognize the full and absolute right of those Africans to their liberty, and they recognize it in designating them as free Africans; declaring, in the 8th Article, that they have a right to the letter of emancipation, and ordering that, besides rations and clothes, which are furnished them, they are to be paid for their work.

And if, besides the time during which they have to serve in compensation of the advantages conferred upon them, proofs of good services and good behaviour are exacted for the delivery of their letters of freedom, the principle is only observed which prevails also in the army, when soldiers are punished for infractions of the Military Regulations with the loss of time of their previous services.

On this point the instructions agree with the general principles of the military legislation.

It is proper still to note that the Regulations of the garrisons and military Colonies of the Empire contain the same provisions as the instructions.

These are the elucidations which it behoves me to bring to the knowledge of Mr. Christie, and which appear to be sufficient to show that the individuals in question do not remain, by those instructions, subject to forced slavery.

I renew, &c.
(Signed) MARQUIS OF ABRANTES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 44.

Mr. Christie to the Marquis of Abrantes.

M. le Marquis,

Petropolis, March 4, 1863.

I HAVE received your Excellency's note of the 28th ultimo, giving explanations, in reply to mine of the 12th, as to the Regulations to which free Africans have been lately subjected in the naval establishment of Itapura.

I shall lose no time in forwarding a copy of your note to Earl Russell, and Her Majesty's Government will judge whether these explanations suffice to show that the condition of the free African under the Regulations in question is not one of forced servitude.

I restrict myself to remarks on some general propositions of your Excellency.

You say that the Imperial Government are attending to the question of the free Africans, and are collecting all the necessary information in order to act with the judgment and prudence required; but you do not say that they have been collecting information in order to communicate it to Her Majesty's Government, in compliance with the particular request which I addressed to Senhor Paranhos on the 18th of March, 1861, that is, two years ago.

You speak of the inconveniences which may follow from a general sudden emancipation of the free Africans, who are without education and experience. Let me remind your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have been urging this question on the Government of the Emperor from time to time, and in various ways, for the last thirteen years, and that similar language was held in 1856 to Mr. Scarlett by Senhor Paranhos, who at the same time declared that it was the intention of the Imperial Government to give all these free Africans their freedom. Had the interval been well employed in gradual emancipation, all might now be free. As it is, every free African who was liberated by the British and Brazilian Mixed Commission Court must have served more than fourteen years. And what was the object of this fourteen years' apprenticeship, but to train them for the full enjoyment of freedom?

I can perfectly understand that the labour of these free Africans is cheap and serviceable to the Imperial Government at Itapura and elsewhere.

I take occasion to remind your Excellency that in 1860 and 1861 Senhor Sinimbu' promised me on several occasions that no more free Africans should be sent to Itapura from Ypanema. Since then all my efforts to obtain particular information have been fruitless. It will be satisfactory to Her Majesty's Government to be assured that no free Africans were sent to Itapura from Santos or Ypanema after July 1860.

I need not tell your Excellency that the journey to Itapura is long and tiresome, that the place is notoriously unhealthy, and that such a destination is not likely to be chosen by free men.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) W. D. CHRISTIE.

No. 45.

Mr. Eliot to Earl Russell.—(Received May 6.)

My Lord,

Rio de Janeiro, April 3, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of an article which appeared in the "Diario" of Rio de Janeiro on the 2nd instant, showing the difficulties thrown in the way of the free Africans obtaining their liberty; difficulties which, as it appears, render it almost impossible for these unfortunate people to obtain that result unless powerfully protected.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. G. CORNWALLIS ELIOT.

Inclosure in No. 45.

Extract from the "Diario" of April 2, 1863.

(Translation.)

A NAME is a word by which things are expressed, according to Padre Antonio Pereira de Figueiredo and other simple-minded people of that age.

In Brazil, however, this note has its exceptions, exceptions very ironical and satirical as regards our "free institutions," if such they be.

The law which prohibited the traffic in human flesh declared free all the Africans taken from that time, providing for the protection of the rights of these unhappy creatures, giving them judges, guardians general, and special and temporary, and clerks; the special guardians are the private persons or public establishments to whose service the Africans were given over until they could be freed by law.

In the wretched condition in which the unhappy creatures live in Brazil, as well those delivered to private persons as to public establishments, it appears (unless satire and irony are legal) that the law ought to facilitate and protect, even directly and in all ways, the emancipation, the true liberty of the Africans, once that the time required for them to acquire moral capacity for self-government has elapsed.

However, let us see what facilities, what protection they meet for emancipating themselves, and how that emancipation is realised. The free African delivered to the service of a private person or of a public establishment does not cease to be practically a slave. Those who enjoy his services do not commit the folly of facilitating his emancipation, and slave as he is *de facto*, he is unable to obtain the pecuniary means to pay advocates to occupy themselves about it. It follows then that these wretched beings must resign themselves to the taunts of the law, or wait until chance procures for them a disinterested protector, and that clothed with the most evangelical patience they must prepare to suffer and follow the following proofs of this new moral inquisition:—

1. To ask from the Clerk of the Africans (Escrivão) the positive attestation that the time has elapsed.
2. Petition the Imperial Government through the Minister of Justice.
3. The Minister of Justice refers to the Judge of Orphans.
4. The Judge of Orphans gives information, and returns the petition to the Minister.
5. The Minister refers to the Chief of Police.
6. The Chief of Police refers to the General Guardian (Curador.)
7. The Guardian gives information, and returns the petition to the Chief of Police.
8. The Chief of Police refers to the Director of the House of Correction.
9. The Director of the House of Correction gives information, and sends back to the Chief of Police.
10. The Chief of Police gives the information, and sends back to the office of the Secretary of Justice.
11. The Secretary's office makes a précis of the information to be acted on by the Minister.
12. Finally the Minister acts, ordering a letter of freedom to be issued.
13. The petition returns to the Judge of Orphans.
14. Notification of the decision is sent to the Chief of Police.
15. The Judge of Orphans refers the petition to the Clerk, and orders a letter of freedom to be given; but retains it in his possession until the party pays the respective emoluments.
16. The letter is made over to the Chief of Police.
17. The Chief of Police communicates with the Director of the House of Correction, ordering the African to appear.
18. The Director sends for him, and the Chief designates his place of residence.
19. The Chief of Police of the City of Rio de Janeiro (Corte), communicates with the Provincial Chief of Police to whom the place designated belongs, and hands over the free African with the letter.
20. The Provincial Chief of Police hands over the wretched man and his letter to the police authority of the place approved by the Chief of Police of Rio de Janeiro, as place of banishment for a free man condemned for no crime.

And after all this work and expense incurred with procurators and intermediaries, in order that the petition may not remain buried in the great ocean of our departments, the wretched African succeeds in being banished from the place where he has lived ten, fifteen, or twenty years, in which he had taken root, where had begun to found his future, his hopes.

This in Brazil, in the year of grace 1863. This is not a censure on authorities or functionaries; it is an evil which is exclaimed against, and for which we claim the attention of the Imperial Government.

BRAZIL. (*Consular*)—*Bahia*.

No. 46.

Consul Morgan to Earl Russell.—(*Received February 6, 1863.*)

My Lord,

Bahia, December 31, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the half-yearly Return of the prices of slaves in this city,

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN MORGAN, Jun.

Inclosure in No. 46.

RETURN of the Prices of Slaves within the District of the Consulate of Bahia at the respective times undermentioned.

	For the half-year ending June 30, 1862.		For the half-year ending December 31, 1862.	
	Currency.	Sterling.	Currency.	Sterling.
	Reis.	£ s. d.		
African Males	1,200,000	130 0 0	} No alteration in prices.	
„ Females	1,000 000	108 6 8		
Creole Males	1,000 000	108 6 8		
„ „ with profession	1,500 000	162 10 0		
„ Females	600\$ to 800\$	65 0 0 to 86 13 4		

British Consulate, Bahia, December 31, 1862.(Signed) JOHN MORGAN, Jun., *Consul.*

No. 47.

Consul Morgan to Earl Russell.—(*Received August 3.*)

My Lord,

Bahia, June 30, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the half-yearly Return of the prices of slaves in this city.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN MORGAN, Jun.

Inclosure in No. 47.

RETURN of the Prices of Slaves within the District of the Consulate of Bahia, at the respective times undermentioned.

Description.	For the half-year ending December 31, 1862.		For the half-year ending June 30, 1863.	
	Currency	Sterling.	Currency.	Sterling.
	Reis.	£ s. d.		
African Males	1,200\$	130 0 0	} No alteration in prices.	
„ Females	1,000\$	108 6 8		
Creole Males	1,000\$	108 6 8		
„ with profession	1,500\$	162 10 0		
„ Females	600\$ to 800\$	65 0 0 to 86 13 4		

British Consulate, Bahia, June 30, 1863.(Signed) JOHN MORGAN, Jun., *Consul.*

BRAZIL. (*Consular*)—*Maranhã*.

No. 48.

Vice-Consul Wilson to Earl Russell.—(*Received November 19*)

My Lord,

Maranhã, September 30, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that there has been no renewal of the African Slave Trade within the limits of this Vice-Consulate during the whole of the quarter ending this day.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM B. WILSON.

BRAZIL. (*Consular*)—*Pará*.

No. 49.

Consul Perry to Earl Russell.—(*Received March 6.*)

My Lord,

Pará, January 10, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that there has been no renewal of the African Slave Trade within the limits of this Consulate during the quarter ending the 31st ultimo.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GERALD RAOUL PERRY.

No. 50.

Consul Perry to Earl Russell.—(*Received March 6.*)

My Lord,

Pará, January 10, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a Return showing the average prices of slaves in this province during the six months ending the 31st ultimo.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GERALD RAOUL PERRY.

Inclosure in No. 50.

RETURN of the Average Prices of Slaves within the District of the Province of Grand Pará, during the Half-year ending December 31, 1862.

	Currency.		Sterling.						
	Reis.	Reis.	£	s.	d.				
African Males	1,000\$000	to 1,300\$000	112	10	0	to	146	5	0
„ Females	900 000	1,000 000	101	5	0		112	10	0
Creole Males	1,000 000	1,300 000	112	10	0		146	5	0
„ „ with trades	1,200 000	1,400 000	135	0	0		157	10	0
„ Females	1,000 000	1,100 000	112	10	0		123	15	0
Infants from birth to 5 years old	400 000	600 000	45	0	0		67	10	0
Children from 5 to 14 years	700 000	800 000	78	15	0		90	0	0

Average rate of Exchange, 27 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per milreis.

British Consulate, Pará, December 31, 1862.

(Signed)

GERALD RAOUL PERRY, *Consul.*

No. 51.

Consul Perry to Earl Russell.—(Received May 22.)

My Lord,

Pará, March 31, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that there has been no renewal of the African Slave Trade within the limits of this Consulate during the quarter ending this day.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

GERALD RAOUL PERRY.

No. 52.

Acting Consul Bond to Earl Russell.—(Received August 31.)

My Lord,

Pará, July 10, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that there has been no renewal of the African Slave Trade within the limits of this Consulate during the quarter ending the 30th June.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

JAMES B. BOND.

No. 53.

Acting Consul Bond to Earl Russell.—(Received August 31.)

My Lord,

Pará, July 10, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a Return showing the average prices of slaves in this province during the six months ending the 30th ultimo.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

JAMES B. BOND.

Inclosure in No. 53.

RETURN of the Prices of Slaves within the District of the Province of Grand Pará, during the Half-year ending June 30, 1863.

	Currency.		Sterling.					
	Reis.	Reis.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
African Males	1,000\$000	to 1,300\$000	112	10	0	to 146	5	0
„ Females	900 000	1,000 000	101	5	0	112	10	0
Creole Males	1,000 000	1,300 000	112	10	0	146	5	0
„ „ with trades	1,200 000	1,400 000	135	0	0	157	10	0
„ Females	1,000 000	1,100 000	112	10	0	123	15	0
Infants (from birth to 5 years)	400 000	600 000	45	0	0	67	10	0
Children (from 5 to 14 years)	700 000	800 000	78	15	0	90	0	0

Average rate of exchange $27\frac{3}{4}d.$ per milreis.

British Consulate, Pará, June 30, 1863.

(Signed)

JAMES B. BOND, *Acting Consul.*

No. 54.

Consul Perry to Earl Russell.—(Received November 19.)

My Lord,

Pará, September 30, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that there has been no renewal of the African Slave Trade within the Provinces of Maranham, Pará, and Amazonas during this quarter.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

GERALD RAOUL PERRY.

BRAZIL. (Consular.)—Pernambuco.

No. 55.

Consul Hunt to Earl Russell.—(Received February 4.)

My Lord,

Pernambuco, January 3, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that no negroes from the coast of Africa have been introduced into this Consular district during the past year.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

G. LENNON HUNT.

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

No. 56.

Acting Consul Hollocombe to Earl Russell.—(Received February 4.)

My Lord,

Rio de Janeiro, January 2, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a Return showing the average prices of slaves within the district of this Consulate during the half-year ending on the 31st ultimo.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. HOLLOCOMBE.

Inclosure in No. 56.

RETURN of the Average Prices of Slaves within the District of the British Consulate at Rio de Janeiro, during the Half-year ending December 31, 1862, as far as can be ascertained by Her Majesty's Acting Consul at that Port.

Class of Slaves.	Prices of Slaves.				Price of Slaves as per last Return, in Sterling.			
	In Currency.		In Sterling.					
	Reis.	Reis.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
<i>Agricultural.</i>								
Males	1,000,000	to 1,800,000	107 6 0	to 193 2 0	107 6 0	to 193 2 0	107 6 0	to 193 2 0
Females	1,000 000	1,500 000	107 6 0	160 18 0	107 6 0	160 18 0	107 6 0	160 18 0
<i>Domestic.</i>								
Males	1,200 000	2,000 000	129 3 0	214 12 0	129 3 0	214 12 0	129 3 0	214 12 0
Females	1,000 000	1,800 000	107 6 0	193 2 0	107 6 0	193 2 0	107 6 0	193 2 0
<i>Mining.</i>								
Males	} About the same as Agricultural.							
Females								
<i>Newly Imported.</i>								
Males	} None landed within the District of this Consulate during the last six months.							
Females								

British Consulate, Rio de Janeiro, January 2, 1863.

(Signed)

THOS. HOLLOCOMBE, *Consul.*

No. 57.

Acting Consul Hollocombe to Earl Russell.—(Received August 3.)

My Lord,

Rio de Janeiro, July 2, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a Return showing the average prices of slaves within the district of this Consulate during the half-year ending on the 30th ultimo.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. HOLLOCOMBE.

Inclosure in No. 57.

RETURN of the Average Prices of Slaves within the District of the British Consulate at Rio de Janeiro, during the Half-year ending June 30, 1863, as far as can be ascertained by Her Majesty's Acting Consul at that Port.

Class of Slaves.	Prices of Slaves.						Prices of Slaves as per last Return, in Sterling.							
	In Currency.		In Sterling.											
	Reis.	Reis.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			
<i>Agricultural.</i>														
Males	1,000,000	to 1,800,000	107	6	0	to 193	2	0	107	6	0	to 193	2	0
Females	1,000 000	1,500 000	107	6	0	160	18	0	107	6	0	160	18	0
<i>Domestic.</i>														
Males	1,200 000	2,000 000	129	3	0	214	2	0	129	3	0	214	2	0
Females	1,000 000	1,800 000	107	6	0	193	2	0	107	6	0	193	2	0
<i>Mining</i>	About the same as Agricultural.													
<i>Newly Imported</i> ..	None landed within the District of this Consulate during the last six months.													

British Consulate, Rio de Janeiro, July 2, 1863.

(Signed) THOS. HOLLOCOMBE, Acting Consul.

BRAZIL. (Consular)—Rio Grande do Sul.

No. 58.

Acting Consul Gollan to Earl Russell.—(Received March 6.)

My Lord,

Rio Grande do Sul, December 31, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a Return of the average prices of slaves in this province during the half-year ended this day, by which your Lordship will perceive that no alteration has taken place in their value since the date of last Return.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALEX. GOLLAN.

Inclosure in No. 58.

RETURN showing the Average Prices of Slaves in the Province of Rio Grande do Sul, during the Six Months ended December 31, 1862, compared with the Prices in the preceding Half-year.

Classes of Slaves.	Average Prices in Six-Monthly Periods to				Difference in Price in last Six Months.	
	June 30, 1862.		December 31, 1862.		Increase.	Decrease.
	Currency.	Sterling.	Currency.	Sterling.	Sterling.	Sterling.
	Reis.	£ s. d.	Reis.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
<i>Agricultural.</i>						
Males	1,400\$000	140 0 0	1,400\$000	140 0 0	—	—
Females	1,250 000	125 0 0	1,250 000	125 0 0	—	—
<i>Domestic.</i>						
Males	1,600 000	160 0 0	1,600 000	160 0 0	—	—
Females	1,400 000	140 0 0	1,400 000	140 0 0	—	—
<i>Mining</i>	None.					
<i>Newly Imported</i> ..	None.					

Remark.—No change in value during the half-year.

Exchange, 24*d.* for milreis.

(Signed) ALEX. GOLLAN, *Consul.*

British Consulate, Rio Grande do Sul, December 31, 1862.

No. 59.

Acting Consul Gollan to Earl Russell.—(Received August 31.)

My Lord,

Rio Grande do Sul, July 2, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a Return showing the average prices of slaves in this province during the half-year ended June 30, 1863.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALEX. GOLLAN.

Inclosure in No. 59.

RETURN showing the Average Prices of Slaves in the Province of Rio Grande do Sul during the Half-year ended June 30, 1863, as compared with the Prices in the previous Half-year.

Classes of Slaves.	Average Prices in Six-Monthly Periods to				Difference in Price in last Six Months.	
	December 31, 1862.		June 30, 1863.		Increase.	Decrease.
	Currency.	Sterling.	Currency.	Sterling.	Sterling.	Sterling.
	Reis.	£ s. d.	Reis.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
<i>Agricultural.</i>						
Males	1,400\$000	140 0 0	1,400\$000	140 0 0		
Females	1,250 000	125 0 0	1,250 000	125 0 0		
<i>Domestic.</i>						
Males	1,600 000	160 0 0	1,600 000	160 0 0		
Females	1,400 000	140 0 0	1,400 000	140 0 0		
<i>Mining</i>	None.					
<i>Newly Imported</i> ..	None.					

Exchange 24*d.* per milreis.

British Consulate, Rio Grande do Sul, June 30, 1863.

(Signed) ALEX. GOLLAN, *Acting Consul.*

CENTRAL AMERICA.

No. 60.

Mr. Mathew to Earl Russell.—(Received October 14.)

(Extract.)

Guatemala, August 29, 1863.

I HAVE received from Mr. Kirkpatrick, Her Majesty's Consul in Honduras, a despatch, under date of the 13th of July, of which I inclose a copy, communicating to me an insurrection, on the 5th, at Truxillo, headed by the late Commandant, Colonel Fonseca, and apparently fomented by persons interested in the Slave Trade, and connected with the slaver "*Noc d'Aqui.*"

In pursuance of the instructions conveyed by your Lordship's despatch of the 28th of July, 1862, I demanded the dismissal of Commandant Fonseca, for his evident and notorious participation in the arrangements for facilitating the Cuban Slave Trade; but the Government of Honduras judged that the decision of a tribunal was necessary for this object, and, as they stated, for his further punishment; and, by the usual chicanery of Central American law, the matter was still pending, and Colonel Fonseca remained in a probably nominal confinement.

A subsequent letter of the 31st, which has reached me by way of La Union, states that Colonel Fonseca pillaged from the Custom-house 12,000 dollars which, by the especial assignment of the duties at Truxillo, under the Convention of March 2, 1852, were due, on the 1st of this month, to British claimants. Mr. Kirkpatrick adds that Fonseca had arrived at Comayagua, and had not only been received with great cordiality by General Medina, the recently declared President by the Guatemalan forces in Gracias, but, as was currently reported, was about to be named to a command.

 Inclosure 1 in No. 60.
Consul Kirkpatrick to Mr. Mathew.

Sir,

Comayagua, July 13, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to communicate to you the inclosed copy of a despatch addressed to me by the Minister, Señor Garrigó, referring to a serious insurrection which has broken out in Truxillo, and which seems to be fomented by persons interested in the Slave Trade.

It appears that Antonio Fonseca escaped from prison, and prevailed on the garrison to unite and pronounce against the Government.

They incarcerated the authorities, seized the arms and Custom-house funds, and having rendered themselves masters of the town, called on the rebels in Olancho to join them, and unite their combined forces against the Government.

The Captain of the slaver "*Noc Daqui*" is expected at Truxillo with arms, ammunition, &c., and there is every probability that the whole conspiracy is set on foot by the slave-traders of the Havana, in order to profit by the anarchy, and fit out other vessels for the Slave Trade.

Under these circumstances the Government solicit the assistance of a British vessel of war to protect the port and Custom-house, and to put down the rebels.

The information of these occurrences has come from Yoro. No communication has been received from Truxillo, and consequently I have not heard from Mr. Melhado since the outbreak. But four days ago I received from him a letter dated June 25, in which he states:—

"Don J. Julio, the consignee of the '*Noc Daqui*,' after having been absent a very suspicious period of over seven months, has returned here in a three-masted American flat-bottomed centre-board schooner, originally the '*George K. Dixon*,' but subsequently white-washed and re-named '*Numero Uno*.' She is now under a British license for six

months, and so sailed from Philadelphia to Havana ; thence here. The license expires on the 14th of September ; the owner is represented as one Mr. Henry Henderson, of London. She is bought ostensibly for the cattle trade with this and Batabano, and all her papers are at present in proper form. Yet grave suspicions are entertained, from her build and other circumstances, that she is destined for the Slave Trade, which, after or about September, she will manage to facilitate.

“ I will note that the schooner is 206 tons, and sailed on the 24th instant for Batabano with 210 head of cattle, from which you can judge of her capacity.”

From this letter, and from the appearance of Don José Julio in Truxillo about the time of the outbreak, I am led to give full credit to the assertion of the Government that the insurrection is in connection with the slave-traders.

I have already despatched a special courier to his Excellency Governor Seymour, giving him all the information I have on the subject, and inclosing a copy of the Minister's despatch.

I trust his Excellency will be able to send a vessel of war to the coast, for, with a revolution in Olancho, and a factious Government established in Gracias under the protection of Guatemala, I fear the Honduras Government will be a long time before it can restore order in Truxillo, and prevent the farther extension of the Slave Trade along its coast.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD KIRKPATRICK.

Inclosure 2 in No. 60.

Señor Garrigo to Consul Kirkpatrick.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Comayagua, July 13, 1863.

BY the annexed copy you will see that the garrison of Truxillo has been seduced and turned against the legitimate authority ; that as soon as the revolt had taken place they invited the rebels of Olancho and Yoro to occupy the port, and that probably it has fallen into the power of the latter.

Still, this intelligence would not be so alarming if it were not positively stated that the Captain of the “ *Noc Daqui* ” has brought, or was about to arrive with munitions of war, which proves this to be a conspiracy with him.

Under these circumstances the Government, who see in this an event not exclusively concerning Honduras, and because they have seized the Custom-house, which is especially devoted to the payment of the English debt, hasten to communicate it to you, in order that you may, if you think fit, induce his Excellency the Governor of British Honduras to send a ship of war to watch our coasts, and even assail the rebels of the port whilst the forces of the Department of Yoro attack them by land.

The Government do not doubt that you will immediately take this determination ; certain that the Minister of Her Britannic Majesty, to whom, under this date, I communicate what has occurred, will give you his approval ; the more so that he has always shown himself so zealous in the affair of the slave-ship that is now the occasion of this disturbance.

(Signed) M. GARRIGO.

Inclosure 3 in No. 60.

Señor Lara to the Chief Civil Authority of the Department.

(Translation.)

Sir,

July 9, 1863.

WITHOUT knowing how the constraining circumstances which overturn Honduras will affect your policy, I send you positive information upon which you may act.

Antonio Fonseca has raised a revolt in the garrison of the port, has made prisoners of the authorities, and summoned the Olanchans to arm themselves against the Government.

Bernabé Antunes occupied the arsenal on the 5th, with Olanchans and Yorans, so that these will doubtless make the people of Olanchito pronounce themselves, then communicate with Fonseca, and then attack us.

If you wish us to resist in this place, send a despatch to the Government requesting the munitions requisite, such as gun-flints, &c., and a hundred men under a good commander. Whatever your determination is, I will obey you with pleasure.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DOLORES LARA.

COMORO ISLANDS.

No. 61.

*Mr. Layard to Consul Sunley.*Sir, *Foreign Office, May 5, 1863.*

I AM directed by Earl Russell to call your attention to a despatch which his Lordship addressed to you on the 14th of June last, acquainting you that you must give up the employment of slaves on your estates, or be prepared to resign your Commission as Her Majesty's Consul for the Comoro Islands.

Lord Russell concludes as you have taken no notice of the despatch, that it may not have reached your hands. I am, therefore, to transmit to you a duplicate copy of it, and to desire that you will communicate to his Lordship, with as little delay as possible, the decision you may have come to in this matter, and you will also explain the cause of your delay in replying to his Lordship's despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 62.

*Consul Sunley to Earl Russell.—(Received July 7, 1863.)*My Lord, *Johanna, December 31, 1862.*

I WAS informed that four dhows arrived at Mohilla with slaves in March and April, but I have not been able to obtain any particulars about them.

I have not heard of any dhows having carried slaves to Comoro.

In March, 53 slaves were landed on the east side of the Island of Johanna from a dhow navigated by a Soorie Arab named Hamisse Washalla. On my speaking to the Sultan on the subject, he stated that the dhow had been blown off Mayotte, and had put into Johanna for water and food; that the slaves were very feeble, and some of them very ill; and that he thought it would have been very cruel not to have allowed them to be put on shore. I accepted this excuse, as there was a design to make a disturbance in the island, when the Sultan was openly taxed with breaking his Treaty with the English Government.

I have no knowledge of any slaves having been taken from Mohilla and Comoro to Mayotte or Nossi Bé.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. SUNLEY.

No. 63.

*Consul Sunley to Earl Russell.—(Received July 7.)*My Lord, *Johanna, February 20, 1863.*

COMMANDER CHAPMAN, of Her Majesty's ship "Ariel," the Senior Officer, has informed me that Sub-Lieutenant Fellowes, in the cutter of that vessel, chased a dhow, under Arab colours, on the 21st of December, off the south-west end of Comoro, which ran on shore at Ytsanda, where the crew and about 60 slaves escaped. The Chief at Ytsanda would not permit them to enter his town, and they proceeded to Maroni. On Captain Chapman requesting the Chief of Maroni to give up the slaves, he denied all knowledge of their being in his territory; and as the seizure took place in the waters of this Consulate, Commander Chapman did not take strong measures to get them, and reported the matter to me.

The anchorage at Maroni is very unsafe at this season; when the monsoon changes,

and I have an opportunity, I shall communicate with the Chief at Maroni upon the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. SUNLEY.

No. 64.

Consul Sunley to Earl Russell.—(Received July 7.)

My Lord,

Johanna, February 22, 1863.

YOUR Lordship's despatch of the 14th of June last was received on the 30th of December by Her Majesty's ship "Ariel."

In reply to my explanation of the circumstances under which I employ slaves as labourers upon my sugar estate, your Lordship informs me that if Her Majesty's Government were to countenance my proceedings they could not consistently refuse to do the same in other cases; that their motives would be misunderstood, and they would lay themselves open to the charge of tolerating the employment of slave-labour by a British officer, while they denounced the employment of slaves by the planters of other countries; and your Lordship observes that I must have been aware that in employing slaves I was acting contrary to the Regulations laid down by Her Majesty's Government for the guidance of their Consular Officers, and that I shall therefore be prepared for their decision, namely, that I must give up the employment of slaves in my service, or be prepared to resign my commission.

In a matter where I am so deeply interested it would not become me to attempt to alter the decision of Her Majesty's Government by offering any further explanation of the circumstances under which I employ slaves; but I cannot but think that if they were to receive an account not only of my proceedings, but also of the condition of the population of the island, from a disinterested person, they would pronounce that the labour which I employ is not what is usually meant by the term "slave-labour;" and that I am, in the limited sphere in which I am placed, practically working against slavery. The Arab element in the population of the island is fast disappearing, and it is the slaves and their progeny that will people the island. These people I am civilizing.

Before I had the honour to be appointed Her Majesty's Consul I employed the people of the island as I now do, and I was not aware that I was acting contrary to the Regulations made by Her Majesty's Government for the guidance of their Consular Officers.

I cannot, without serious inconvenience, immediately dismiss the slaves in my service; and I respectfully request your Lordship will allow me to defer for a few months the resignation of my commission, that I may try—what I am afraid is impossible—to employ none but free persons as labourers on my sugar estate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. SUNLEY.

No. 65.

Earl Russell to Consul Sunley.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 31, 1863.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 20th of February last, reporting the refusal of the Chief of Maroni to give up some slaves who escaped from an Arab slave-dhow which was run ashore by her crew when chased by a boat from Her Majesty's ship "Ariel," I have to desire that you will call upon the Sultan of Johanna to procure the release of these slaves should they be within his jurisdiction, and you will report to me the result of your proceedings in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 66.

Earl Russell to Consul Sunley.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 31, 1863.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 22nd of February last; and in reply I have to acquaint you that you may delay, for a period of six months from the date of this despatch, your decision whether you will resign your commission, or give up the employment of slave-labour on your sugar estates in Johanna.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

FRANCE.

No. 67.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 13, 1863.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 15th of September last, relative to the Spanish steamer "*Noc d'Aqui*" which was reported as being about to sail from the port of Bordeaux, where she had been equipped for the African Slave Trade, I now transmit, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Bilbao,* reporting that the "*Noc d'Aqui*" has landed a cargo of upwards of 1,000 slaves in Cuba.

This vessel is doubtless the one referred to in Mr. Consul Freeman's despatch of the 29th of October last, as having shipped a cargo of slaves from Aghwey under French colours, on the morning of the 20th of that month.

I have to instruct your Excellency to bring the particulars respecting this vessel to the notice of the French Government, and you will express a hope that strict inquiries will be made into this case, with the view to the punishment of any parties who may be amenable to French laws for their participation in the equipment of the "*Noc d'Aqui*."

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 68.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received May 23.)

My Lord,

Paris, May 21, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I communicated to the Imperial Government the information contained in your despatch of the 31st December of last year, respecting the shipment of a cargo of 1,000 slaves on board a steamer under French colours from Aghwey, and on the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of January 13th last I addressed a note to M. Drouyn de Lhuys, stating that the Spanish steamer "*Noc Daqui*" which was reported to have been equipped in Bordeaux for the African Slave Trade, had landed a cargo of slaves in Cuba, and that this vessel was doubtless the one which shipped a cargo of slaves from Aghwey, and I expressed to his Excellency the hope of Her Majesty's Government that the parties concerned in the equipment of this vessel would be brought to punishment. In the answer which I have received from M. Drouyn de Lhuys, a copy of which I have the honour to inclose, his Excellency admits that the vessel was equipped at Bordeaux, but with so much secrecy that it was not possible to ascertain whether she sailed under French colours. His Excellency requests me further to call the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the fact that ten or twelve days after the departure of the slaver the two shippers arrived at Lagos, and embarked on the 10th November on board the English packet, of which the Governor of Lagos could not have been ignorant. His Excellency concludes by assuring me that the "*Noc Daqui*" will not escape the vigilance of the marine authorities, should she again appear in a French port.

I have, &c.

(Signed) COWLEY.

Inclosure in No. 68.

M. Drouyn de Lhuys to Earl Cowley.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Paris, le 19 Mai, 1863.

VOUS m'avez fait l'honneur de me communiquer à la date du 3 Janvier dernier un rapport de M. le Gouverneur de Lagos, d'après lequel une opération de Traite aurait été effectuée à Aghwey le 20 Octobre, 1862, sous pavillon Français. Le Commandant du navire de Sa Majesté Britannique le "Griffon" ayant appris qu'un chargement d'esclaves se préparait à Whydah, s'était d'abord mis à la poursuite d'un vapeur Français qu'il supposait avoir ce chargement à bord, mais ce vapeur était l'avisio le "Lamothe Piquet," de la marine Impériale, et cette méprise du Commandant Perry avait permis au négrier qu'il voulait atteindre de lui échapper. Par une lettre subséquent du 22 Janvier, votre Excellence m'annonçait que le navire qui avait embarqué des noirs à Aghwey n'était autre que le steamer Espagnol "Noc Daqui" dont les préparatifs dans le port de Bordeaux avaient précédemment éveillé des soupçons qui se trouvaient ainsi justifiés.

Je m'étais préoccupé dès la réception de la première lettre de votre Excellence d'obtenir sur les faits qu'elle me signalait des informations qui me manquaient. Il résulte de celles qui viennent de me parvenir que le navire étranger indiqué comme ayant été se reparer à Bordeaux dans le courant de 1862, après une première opération de Traite faite peu de temps auparavant à la côté d'Afrique, en aurait, en effet, effectué une seconde dans les mêmes parages au mois d'Octobre dernier. Mais le secret avec lequel il s'y est livré n'a pu permettre de constater qu'il se fut couvert pour cela du pavillon Français, et rendait d'ailleurs inutile cette simulation de pavillon. Il n'y a donc eu de la part de M. le Commandant Perry qu'une supposition provenant peut-être d'avis calculés pour lui faire prendre le change ainsi qu'il lui est arrivé en se mettant à la poursuite du "Lamothe Piquet." Ce qui est certain, au contraire—et je dois à mon tour prier votre Excellence d'appeler sur cette circonstance l'attention du Gouvernement Britannique—c'est que dix à douze jours après le départ du bâtiment négrier, les deux chargeurs avoués et reconnus de cette cargaison arrivaient tranquillement à Lagos, s'y embarquaient le 10 Novembre à bord du paquet Anglais, et que M. le Gouverneur de Lagos n'a pu l'ignorer.

Quoiqu'il en soit, au surplus, le "Noc Daqui" n'échapperait pas à la surveillance de nos autorités maritimes s'il venait à reparaître dans un de nos ports.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) DROUYN DE LHUYS.

No. 69.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, May 23, 1863.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a letter from the Admiralty inclosing copies of a correspondence which has passed between the French and English Commodores on the African station,* relative to the boarding of vessels under French colours by British cruizers on the African coast.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 70.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, May 27, 1863.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 21st instant, inclosing the reply of M. Drouyn de Lhuys to the note which you addressed to him, expressing the hope of Her Majesty's Government that the parties concerned in the equipment at Bordeaux of the Spanish slave-steamer "Noc Daqui," in the month of August last, would be brought to punishment.

It would appear, from the tenour of the French Minister's reply, that his Excellency is under the impression that blame in some measure attaches to the Governor of Lagos, for permitting two persons whom he knew had been engaged in shipping the cargo of

* Class A, No. 111 and Inclosures.

slaves on board the "*Noc Daqui*," to pass through Lagos, and to embark on board the English packet; but I have to instruct your Excellency to point out to M. Drouyn de Lhuys that, although the individuals who shipped the slaves on board the steamer were known to the Governor, yet as they had committed no crime which a British authority would have been entitled to take cognizance of, the Governor would not have been justified in detaining or otherwise interfering with them on their passage through Lagos.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 71.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, June 30, 1863.

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, copy of a despatch from Commodore Wilmot* respecting his visit to the King of Dahomey, which has been laid before Parliament by command of Her Majesty.

I have at the same time to acquaint your Excellency that it is the intention of Her Majesty's Government to send Captain Burton, Her Majesty's Consul for the Bight of Biafra, to Abomey, to confirm to the King of Dahomey the friendly messages of which Commodore Wilmot was the bearer, and I inclose for your Excellency's information a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Captain Burton on this subject.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 72.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, June 30, 1863.

WITH reference to my despatch of this day's date, I transmit for your Excellency's information copies of a letter from the African Aid Society to Viscount Palmerston, and of the answer which by my directions has been returned to their communication relative to the affairs of Dahomey.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 72.

The Chairman of the African Aid Society to Viscount Palmerston.

*African Aid Society, 8, Adelphi Terrace, Strand,
London, June 8, 1863.*

My Lord,

THE Council of the African Aid Society beg leave respectfully to recall to your Lordship's recollection that they have from time to time, in memorials and letters, by deputations and at interviews, brought the subject of Dahomey, its laws, customs, and Slave Trade, under the notice of Her Majesty's Government, with a view to obtain some remedial action on their part for bringing about a change of system in Dahomey. They have urged at various times the sending of a Commissioner to Dahomey, the granting of an adequate annual subsidy to the King under certain conditions, and the occupation of Whydah by Her Majesty's forces. In doing this, they have been seconded and supported by the principal Chambers of Commerce throughout the country, and by the merchants, manufacturers, and other principal persons in London, Liverpool, and Manchester.

The recent visit of Commodore Wilmot to Dahomey, the nomination of a French Consul at Whydah, and the acceptance on the part of his Government by the French Commodore on the coast, of the Protectorate of Porto Novo, render it necessary for the Council to appeal again to your Lordship on the same subject of Dahomey.

The facts observed and the statements elicited by Commodore Willmot during his late visit to Abomey, and the recent invasion of the territory of Abbeokuta, prove that no beneficial change whatever has yet taken place in Dahomey. But not only the great

* Class A, No. 103.

† No. 30.

interests of humanity, but also those of the cotton-manufacturing population of Great Britain, France, and other European countries, demand that such a change should no longer be delayed. The industrial regeneration of, and the spread of civilization over, a most important tract of country as regards cotton supply depend upon such change. Whatever may be the issue of the war now devastating the Cotton States of America, it cannot be expected that those States will ever again furnish to Europe a dependable supply of cotton to such an extent as heretofore. And yet the increasing populations of the world and the march of civilization among them render continually increasing supplies of cotton necessary to them, as well as to our manufacturers. Dahomey and the adjacent valley of the Niger are adapted to the production of that particular quality of cotton which the Cotton States of America had until lately supplied with so much advantage to the manufacturers of Europe. And yet, in consequence of the atrocious system which prevails there, Dahomey is not only herself unproductive, although the population is one of the most systematically agricultural in Africa, but she is also the cause of unproductiveness in adjacent territories. Ishagga was a cotton producer; Dahomey destroyed it and its people. Abbeokuta is a cotton producer; Dahomey impedes the extension of cotton production there, and threatens to annihilate it altogether.

Under these circumstances, the Council beg leave to urge upon your Lordship the immediate adoption and exercise, by Her Majesty's Government, of every possible means for bringing Dahomey within the circle of advancing civilization.

The King of Dahomey has expressed to Commodore Wilmot his desire that the British should occupy the fort at Whydah. The Council cannot, at this moment, urge upon Her Majesty's Government the immediate occupation of the British fort at Whydah by a detachment of one of the West India Regiments, because the trouble with Ashantee may render it necessary to send every available portion of those regiments to the protected territories and to Quittah. But as the King of Dahomey has expressed a desire that the English should occupy that fort, and that a Government Agent should be established there, the Council beg to state their conviction that the permanent presence of some British authority at Whydah—Consular or other—would tend materially to bring about a better state of things at Whydah, and to impede or destroy the Slave Trade from that port.

The Council beg leave further to point out to Her Majesty's Government that the presence of a French Consul at Whydah, and the French Protectorate at Porto Novo, may be made instrumental for effecting the desired change in Dahomey. The Council have reason to believe that the French Government are strongly impressed with the great productiveness of the soil of Dahomey, and the great cotton capabilities of the Dahomian territory. They therefore believe that the French Government would readily co-operate with that of Her Majesty if invited to do so. And so strongly are the Council impressed with the truths that African regeneration will spring only from European influence, and that questions of European domination in Africa are of trivial importance when compared with the universally-beneficial results of the industrial regeneration of Africa, that they feel no jealousy as regards the preponderance of French influence in Dahomey, provided that influence be directed to the annihilation of the Slave Trade and the development of the vast natural resources of the soil and climate of the Dahomian territory.

The Council beg further to express the hope that Her Majesty's Government will not overlook those peculiarities of African character which render necessary a second visit of Commodore Wilmot to the capital of Dahomey. The expression of the King, that he could not know whether Her Majesty's Government were in earnest until he had received a second visit from Commodore Wilmot is in strict keeping with the general prejudices and customs of Africa. The Council have therefore no hesitation in urging upon Her Majesty's Government that due authorization be given to Commodore Wilmot to proceed again to Dahomey and that he be duly furnished with the necessary presents for that purpose. But the Council beg leave to suggest that Commodore Wilmot be instructed to make it a condition of his revisiting Abomey that no human sacrifices should be offered during his stay at the Dahomian Court, such sacrifices being abhorrent to the feelings and principles of Christian people, and such as no Christian Envoy should ever sanction by his presence.

The Council, in conclusion, beg leave once again to direct the consideration of Her Majesty's Government to the question of a subsidy to the King of Dahomey, to cease when he may obtain from legitimate trade a revenue equal to that hitherto derived from the sale and export of slaves. They entreat Her Majesty's Government not only to order Commodore Wilmot to revisit Abomey, but to furnish him also with full instructions and powers to enter into a Treaty with the King; to appoint a British Resident to the fort at Whydah; to order the occupation of that fort by a detachment of Her Majesty's forces,

so soon as the other exigencies of the public service may permit of this being done; and to endeavour earnestly to obtain the co-operation of the Government of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of the French for obtaining, by joint representation, remonstrance, and subsidy if necessary, that change of system in Dahomey which can alone satisfy Christian Europe, and lead to the realization of those hopes which have been formed of the great capabilities of the soil and climate of Dahomey, and of the agricultural character of its people.

We have, &c.
 (Signed) ALFRED S. CHURCHILL,
Chairman of the Executive Committee.
 T. LYONS McLEOD,
Honorary Secretary.

Inclosure 2 in No. 72.

Mr. Layard to Lord A. Churchill.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, June 29, 1863.

I AM directed by Earl Russell to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, addressed to Viscount Palmerston; and I am to inform you, in reply, that it is the intention of Her Majesty's Government to send an Envoy to the King of Dahomey; and I am to add that the suggestions contained in your letter will meet with due consideration.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 73.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received July 3.)

My Lord,

Paris, July 2, 1863.

WITH reference to the inclosures in your Lordship's despatch of the 30th ultimo, I beg to ask whether it may not be advisable that I should communicate to M. Drouyn de Lhuys those parts of the letter of the African Aid Society to Viscount Palmerston which express a desire for the co-operation of the French Government in aid of the suppression of the Slave Trade and of the cultivation of cotton in the Kingdom of Dahomey.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) COWLEY.

No. 74.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, July 3, 1863.

IN reply to your Excellency's despatch of the 2nd instant, I have to acquaint your Lordship that you may communicate to M. Drouyn de Lhuys those parts of the letter of the African Aid Society in which a desire is expressed for the co-operation of the French Government in aid of the suppression of the Slave Trade and of the cultivation of cotton in the Kingdom of Dahomey.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 75.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received July 8.)

My Lord,

Paris, July 7, 1863.

IN accordance with your Lordship's permission I have communicated to M. Drouyn de Lhuys such portions of the letter of the 8th ultimo from the African Aid Society to Viscount Palmerston, inclosed in copy in your Lordship's despatch of the 30th ultimo, as regards the question of the cultivation of cotton in the Kingdom of Dahomey; and I have

the satisfaction to inform your Lordship that M. Drouyn de Lhuys promises that he will act in compliance with the wishes expressed by the Society.

I have, &c.
(Signed) COWLEY.

No. 76.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received July 24.)

My Lord,

Paris, July 23, 1863.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 21st May, I have now the honour to transmit copy of a further note from M. Drouyn de Lhuys, inclosing copy of the Judgment of the Juge d'Instruction at Bordeaux respecting the case of the "*Noc Daqui*," whereby it appears that no French subject took part in the slaving expedition of that steamer, which was carried out in foreign waters; that the real object of the voyage was only known to the owner, an inhabitant of Bilbao, and to the Spanish captain; and that the authorities and merchants at Bordeaux all considered that the "*Noc Daqui*" was going on a trading voyage to Vera Cruz.

I have, &c.
(Signed) COWLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 76.

M. Drouyn de Lhuys to Earl Cowley.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Paris, le 21 Juillet, 1863.

J'AI eu l'honneur de communiquer à votre Excellence le 19 Mai dernier les premières informations que j'avais pu recueillir sur le fait de Traite qu'elle m'avait signalé par ses lettres du 3 et du 22 Janvier. Je lui faisais savoir que le navire Espagnol le "*Noc Daqui*," désigné comme s'étant armé à Bordeaux et sur lequel s'étaient portés les soupçons, avait effectué ses opérations avec des précautions telles qu'il n'avait pas dû être possible de constater qu'il se fût réellement couvert du pavillon Français. M. le Ministre de la Justice avait toutefois, sur ma demande, prescrit d'ouvrir à Bordeaux une procédure sur cette affaire. Or, il résulte de l'ordonnance de non-lieu qui vient d'être rendue, qu'aucun Français n'a pris part à l'opération de Traite dont il s'agit, laquelle s'est effectuée dans des eaux étrangères; que le véritable but de l'expédition est demeuré secret entre l'armateur, habitant de Bilbao, et le capitaine Espagnol commandant le navire, et, qu'aux yeux de l'autorité comme de tout le monde de Bordeaux, le "*Noc Daqui*," armé pour un voyage de commerce, n'a paru avoir bien effectivement d'autre destination que la Vera Cruz. Je m'empresse de communiquer confidentiellement à votre Excellence cette ordonnance de non-lieu, qui, ainsi qu'elle le verra, met notre commerce complètement hors de cause.

Agréez, &c.
(Signed) DROUYN DE LHUYS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 76.

Judgment in the case of the "Noc Daqui."

NOUS a Ste. Marie, Juge d'Instruction à Bordeaux.

Vu le procédure suivie contre quidam inculpé du crime de Traite;

Vu la réquisition de M. le Procureur Impérial;

Attendu que s'il paraît résulter de l'instruction que dans le courant d'Octobre 1862, à Aghwey, sur la côte d'Afrique, le navire le "*Noc Daqui*" s'est livré à une opération de Traite en se couvrant des couleurs Françaises qu'on sait être pures et respectées, il est établi—

Qu'aucun Français n'a pris part à cette opération;

Que le crime a été commis dans des eaux étrangères et par des étrangers;

Qu'entré au mois d'Août 1862 dans le port de Bordeaux pour s'y réparer, le "*Noc Daqui*" en est sorti le 14 Septembre suivant, sans que les dispositions prises à bord et le chargement aient en rien décelé le but de l'armement;

Qu'il ne résulte de la procédure aucun indice de culpabilité contre des capitaines armateurs, bailleurs de fonds, ou assureurs Français;

Qu'il appert, au contraire, de la correspondance saisie, que le véritable but de l'expédition est demeuré secret entre l'armateur Tsadi de Bilbao et le capitaine Espagnol commandant le navire;

Enfin, qu'aux yeux des autorités et des commerçants de Bordeaux le "*Noc Daqui*" armé pour un voyage de commerce n'a paru avoir d'autre destination que la Vera Cruz;

Par ces motifs déclarons n'y avoir lieu à suivre.

Fait à Bordeaux, en mon cabinet, le 6 Juillet, 1863.

(Signé) ST. MARDI (*le Juge d'Instruction*).

No. 77.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, September 11, 1863.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency copies of a letter and its inclosures from Rear-Admiral Sir B. Walker,* reporting the boarding by Her Majesty's ship "*Ariel*" of a dhow under French colours off the Comoro Islands, on the 26th of April last.

As there appears to be little doubt that the dhow in question was about to ship slaves at Comoro for Mohilla, I have to instruct your Excellency to bring the circumstances of this case to the notice of M. Drouyn de Lhuys; and at the same time to request that instructions may be sent to the French Consul at Zanzibar to use particular discretion in granting the protection of the French flag to dhows trading in those waters.

I will not fail to furnish your Excellency with Commander Chapman's more detailed Report on this case as soon as it is received in this office.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 78.

Mr. Grey to Earl Russell.—(Received September 16.)

My Lord,

Paris, September 15, 1863.

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 11th instant to Earl Cowley, I have laid the circumstances of the case reported by Commander Chapman in regard to the boarding of a dhow under French colours off the Comoro Islands, before M. Drouyn de Lhuys.

I placed in his Excellency's hands a short Memorandum of the case, and I expressed the hope of Her Majesty's Government that instructions might be sent to the French Consul at Zanzibar to use particular discretion in granting the protection of the French flag to dhows trading in those waters.

M. Drouyn de Lhuys said he would inquire into the case, and let me know the result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. G. GREY.

No. 79.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, October 31, 1863.

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a Memorial to the Queen from the inhabitants of Jamaica on the subject of the Cuban Slave Trade, which has been communicated to me by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

Inclosure in No. 79.

Memorial.

Unto Her Most Gracious Majesty Victoria, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, India, and other Colonies of the British Empire.

The Memorial of the undersigned inhabitants of the parish of Hanover, in Her Majesty's Island of Jamaica.

May it please your Majesty,

Your Memorialists desire very humbly to approach your Majesty's Throne with feelings of the most profound respect and regard for your Majesty's person and Government, and with the most grateful acknowledgements to the Giver of all good for the innumerable and most precious blessings which they enjoy in their connection with the British Empire, and under your Majesty's benignant reign.

That your Memorialists crave permission to represent to your Majesty that their hearts are deeply oppressed with grief when they consider the horrors and cruelties of the inhuman Slave Trade which is now being carried on between the Western Coast of Africa and the Spanish Island of Cuba, and which, as proved by documents laid before the British Parliament, all the efforts of your Majesty's cruisers stationed on the coast of Africa have failed to prevent, or even greatly to mitigate.

That many of your Majesty's Memorialists belong to the emancipated class in this island, and that many others of them are descended from those who once were slaves, and therefore regard with feelings of peculiar sadness and sorrow this monstrous traffic in human beings with which the world is still cursed.

That your Memorialists have reason to believe that the provisions of the Treaties which now exist between your Majesty's Government and the Government of Her Majesty the Queen of Spain for the suppression and extinction of this accursed traffic, are systematically avoided and violated by some of the officials of the Spanish Government, whose duty it is to implement these Treaties; and that, in consequence of this, no fewer than at least 30,000 African slaves were last year landed in the Island of Cuba. That other and more stringent measures than have yet been adopted are therefore necessary to secure the fulfilment of these Treaties.

That your Memorialists are grateful to learn that the right of search has now been conceded by the United States of America as well as by other nations, and that accordingly the objections do not now exist which formerly applied to the stationing of your Majesty's cruisers off the coast of Cuba for the purpose of intercepting slavers engaged in this unholy and most hateful and abhorrent traffic; and your Memorialists have reason to cherish the conviction that, should this mode of dealing with the case be adopted by your Majesty's Government, it would speedily prove completely successful, and the whole system of slavery and the Slave Trade, in connection with the Island of Cuba, would receive a fatal blow.

May it therefore please your Majesty to take this most solemn and important matter into your most gracious consideration, and so to instruct your Majesty's Government in reference to it, as that farther steps may be speedily taken for the final extinction of the accursed African Slave Trade throughout the whole world; and thus "hearing the groaning of the prisoner and loosing those that are appointed to death, the blessing of those who are now ready to perish and are doomed by man to die," will descend yet more abundantly on your Majesty's person and reign.

And your Majesty's Memorialists, as in duty bound, shall ever pray that your Majesty may be long spared, and still more highly honoured by the Father of Mercies, as the instrument of abounding blessing to the British Empire and to the world at large.

Lucia, Jamaica, August 1863.

(Signed)

H. A. WHITELOCKE, *Custos of Hanover, Jamaica.*
And 398 others.

No. 80.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 30, 1863.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency, for your information, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Zanzibar,* inclosing copies of a correspondence which has passed

* No. 82.

between him and the Gérant of the French Consulate in that city upon the subject of the assumption of the French flag by Soorie Arabs who are in the habit of making periodical visits to the East Coast of Africa for the purpose of obtaining slaves for conveyance to the Persian Gulf. It appears that these Arab vessels are furnished with accurate registers, issued to them by the French authorities at Mayotte and Nossi-Bé, which entitle them to French protection, and thereby enable them effectually to evade the search of Her Majesty's cruizers on that coast.

The piratical tribes by whom the Slave Trade on the East Coast of Africa is now carried on will not be slow to take advantage of this state of things, and the effect will be to give a new impetus to the Slave Trade on that coast, which has of late years received a severe check and been considerably diminished by the exertions of Her Majesty's cruizers.

Her Majesty's Government feel assured that the Imperial Government will not countenance this abuse of the French flag for Slave Trade purposes, and I have accordingly to instruct your Excellency to bring this matter to the notice of the French Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

MUSCAT.

No. 81.

Lieutenant-Colonel Plagfair to Earl Russell.—(Received October 9.)

(Extract.)

Zanzibar, August 26, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, copies of the despatches I have addressed to the Government of Bombay on the subject of the Slave Trade.

Inclosure 1 in No. 81.

Lieutenant-Colonel Playfair to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

(Extract.)

Zanzibar, May 23, 1863.

IN a former letter I reported my arrival at Zanzibar. After the first visits of ceremony were paid and returned, His Highness Sayid Majid granted me a private interview, at which we discussed several points, and foremost amongst these the question of the Slave Trade and the modification of the existing Treaty.

It is my pleasing duty to report that His Highness has, during the present season, evinced the utmost anxiety to fulfil his Treaty obligations; instead of succumbing to the insolent threats of the Northern Arabs, he has opposed them vigorously, and has even had recourse to arms to prevent them taking slaves from Zanzibar. Some he has flogged, one or two have been killed in resisting his soldiers, while others are even now in prison, and he has deprived them of upwards of 300 slaves whom they had purchased in the market, or kidnapped for embarkation on board their boats.

He assures me that he will continue to adopt like energetic measures, and in future he intends preventing the Northern Arabs from hiring houses at all in Zanzibar. If, says he, "the British Government could only prevent their leaving the Arab coast at all, I should be delighted, and the Slave Trade would be almost extinguished; but if they must come, they shall stay on board their boats, for I will not again permit them to reside on shore."

He has further conceded an important point—he has ordered that all his boats engaged in the *bonâ fide* transport of slaves from port to port in his dominions shall have a Custom-house manifest stating the exact number on board, and he has permitted our cruisers to seize all boats contravening this order, or all in which a greater number are embarked than that specified in the manifest; thus, no doubt can exist regarding boats engaged in the transport of slaves as sanctioned by the Treaty, and such as are destined for exportation.

I think it would have a good effect, and would confirm His Highness in the decided course he has adopted, were his Excellency the Governor in Council to communicate to him, in a khareeta, the gratification with which he regards this altered policy.

I regret to state that His Highness the Sultan of Muscat appears to be engaged in the African Slave Trade. It is well known that a dhow captured by the "Ariel" at Melinda with 59 slaves on board was engaged in His Highness's service; the nacoda and crew of the dhow admitted the fact, the superior character of some of the slave girls lends probability to it, and if further proof be necessary I have in my possession a letter from His Highness bearing his seal, admitting that last season a boat carrying slaves for him was run on shore to avoid capture near Magdashooa, and calling on the Chiefs of that country, who are subjects of Sayid Majid, to restore and deliver them up to his agent, Sayid Mahomed ben Boo Bekr, a native of Shehr.

I attach this letter in original, with an English translation.

A question of great difficulty now remains to be considered. Under date of the 7th of June last, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, addressing Colonel Pelly, refers him to previous correspondence, and desires him to propose to the Sultan of Zanzibar that orders should be given by His Highness prohibiting the transport of slaves from one portion of his dominion to another, and that His Highness should consent to the embodiment of the point in the existing Treaty; in other words, that while the status of slavery should remain unchanged in each separate portion of his dominions, no fresh supply of slaves should ever again be introduced, nor should the old ones be transported from one place to another.

I brought this to the notice of His Highness, and explained to him in detail what the desire of Her Majesty's Government was; but I received a reply to the effect that he was ever ready to listen to the English Government, but it was too much to expect that he should agree to a measure which must certainly prove his ruin. He was willing to take any steps in his power, or which we could suggest, to prevent the export of slaves from his dominions, but he really could not cut off the supply of slave labour from them.

It is for Her Majesty's Government to consider whether a measure should be forced on the Sultan which must inevitably cause the downfall of his House, or whether we should not rather await the time when the natural resources of Zanzibar having been more fully developed, such a measure may be carried out with safety.

Although Nature appears to have lavished her choicest gifts on the island, man has done little to turn them to advantage. The revenue of the island consists almost entirely of the Custom duties levied on foreign trade, whereas by the introduction of European capital and enterprise the island might be made to yield valuable crops of sugar and cotton.

The Sultan is very anxious to encourage enterprise of this nature. He has already made arrangements with a planter of Bourbon, of a very liberal nature; he has assigned him an estate whereon to cultivate sugar, and provides him with labour on condition that the speculator furnishes his own machinery, and allows him half the profit of the concern.

He is anxious to extend this system, and already an English and a Hamburg firm have it in contemplation to accept his offer.

I mention this to show that there is by no means a remote prospect of the natural advantages of this island being turned to good account; but I feel assured that until this be done our efforts to effect a sudden revolution in the institutions of the country will prove most disastrous.

I trust that his Excellency the Governor in Council will approve of my taking no further steps to cause the Sultan to consent to an amendment of the Treaty until I receive further instructions.

Inclosure 2 in No. 81.

Lieutenant-Colonel Playfair to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

(Extract.)

Zanzibar, August 26, 1863.

IN continuation of my letter dated the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor in Council, that I have not been able to carry out my intention of visiting the ports in the Zanzibar dominions. The season is not favourable for doing so in the "Pleiad," and Captain Gardner, who had volunteered to take me in the "Orestes," received intelligence of a suspicious Spanish brig being at Mozambique, and hurried off in pursuit of her.

Early on the morning of the 1st instant the boats of Her Majesty's ship "Orestes" captured a small bedan, leaving the harbour of Zanzibar, with 64 slaves on board; these were owned by a party of Joasmee Arabs, who were conveying them to Pemba, there to await the opening of the season; they would then have been transhipped to a larger vessel and conveyed to the Persian Gulf.

The present case was one of more than ordinary atrocity. The Gulf Arabs, finding it difficult to obtain cargoes of slaves by open purchase, have adopted the economical expedient of kidnapping all on whom they can lay hands. In this instance the majority of the slaves belonged to residents at Zanzibar, and had either been decoyed into their captors' possession by temptation, or taken by force.

Two of them belonged to a respectable Arab of this city; they had been seized and gagged on their way home from market: the elder offered considerable resistance; he was, on this account, mercilessly murdered in the presence of numerous witnesses, and his body was cut in pieces and thrown into a cesspool.

CLASS B.

After the capture of the bedan his comrade reported what had taken place, and I immediately waited on His Highness and represented very strongly the necessity for making a severe example, as the Arabs in question had committed the triple crime of murder, robbery, and disregard of the Slave Trade regulations.

His Highness admitted the propriety of my suggestion, and said that on Friday (it was then Monday the 3rd instant) the actual murderer should be executed, and the rest condemned to imprisonment.

Later in the day he wrote me to the effect that many of the slaves had been stolen from their legitimate owners, and he hoped that if any were proved to be such, I would restore them.

I replied that the question of restoring the slaves rested with Captain Gardner, their captor; that the ordinary maxim of municipal law which requires that stolen property should always revert to its rightful owner could not hold good in the present instance; the slaves in question were captured at sea, on their way to a slave-market; that the moment they trod the deck of the "Orestes" they became free, and we could not, consistently with our law, restore to slavery those whom we had been instrumental in liberating. This was the opinion expressed by Captain Gardner, and I fully concurred with him.

I received no reply to this letter, but on the day appointed for the execution His Highness sent his Secretary to say that Friday being the Mahomedan holiday, it had been deferred till the following morning. Saturday and several other days passed without any execution having taken place; and on the 18th instant I wrote to request that he would let me know, for the information of Government, what decree he had made in the case, as it was provided in the Treaty that all who export slaves, contrary to its provisions, should be severely punished.

He replied that as I had stated that the question of restoring the stolen slaves rested with Captain Gardner, he had deferred the case till the return of the "Orestes."

I may mention that the proposal to execute the murderer emanated from Sayid Majid. I was glad that he showed so much decision, and I knew that it would produce a most salutary effect: at the same time it was not a point that I could have insisted on; the murder was simply a criminal offence, which had no connection with our Treaty relations with His Highness. Moreover, according to Mahomedan law, a free man cannot be executed for the murder of a slave.

On the 20th instant the "Orestes" returned to Zanzibar, and Captain Gardner and I waited on His Highness; we explained to him how impossible it was to restore any of the slaves, although they had been captured within three miles of his coast, and therefore in his waters. He could not be convinced that we were right, and I promised to solicit the opinion of Government on the question, whether, should a man-of-war make a capture within his waters, and any of the slaves on board should prove to have been kidnapped from their legal owners at Zanzibar, we can be called upon to surrender them like any other stolen property?

It appears to me monstrous to suppose that Her Majesty's vessels especially engaged in the suppression of the Slave Trade can be expected to act as police for the recovery of stolen slaves, when the Government of the country is too weak to prevent them being stolen and exported.

I insisted that His Highness should punish severely the Arabs who owned this boat and had kidnapped the slaves, and he assured me he would imprison them for life. I expressed a hope that he would not include them in the general release of prisoners he is in the habit of making each Ramazan, his answer was:—"When you intercede in their behalf I shall release them, but not till then."

I have further to report that on the 14th instant I received information that a boat was on the point of starting with a cargo of slaves, there was no vessel of war in the harbour, and it was too late at night to communicate with His Highness, but the soldiers consented to act upon my request and the boat was seized. The greater portion of the slaves were secreted on shore, but nine were found on board; these with the boat were confiscated by His Highness, and the crew were imprisoned.

Inclosure 3 in No. 81.

The Sultan of Muscat to the Sultans of the protected Bunders (viz., Merka, Magdeshooa, and Brawa).

WE inform you that last year a bedan went ashore at Magdeshooa, with slaves in her, belonging to us. Now, our beloved Sayid Mahommed is sent to you, and we desire that

you will make them over to him wherever they may be, and give them into the hands of the Sayid Mahommed above mentioned. We only mention this in the way of friendship; this is what is required between us.

Inclosure 4 in No. 81.

Lieutenant-Colonel Playfair to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

(Extract.)

Zanzibar, June 15, 1863.

I EMBRACE the opportunity of a vessel proceeding to Bombay, to report for the information of his Excellency the Governor in Council that my relations with his Highness Sayid Majid continue on the most friendly footing.

2. I have recently had several interviews with him, and have induced him to assent to two measures of great importance, the first towards the suppression of the Slave Trade, and the second for the improvement of his dominions.

3. The months during which the exportation of slaves is carried on are January, February, March, and April, and his Highness has consented to prohibit the transport of slaves entirely during that period, even from port to port in his own dominions. If this be carried out in good faith the Northern Arabs will find great difficulty in obtaining slaves in any number, and every boat found by our cruizers with slaves on board will be a legal capture.

No. 82.

Lieutenant-Colonel Playfair to Earl Russell.—(Received November 21.)

My Lord,

Zanzibar, September 20, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to bring to your Lordship's notice a new phase in the Slave Trade on this coast, which threatens to paralyze the operations of our cruizers for its suppression.

2. The Soorie Arabs have had recourse to every possible expedient to escape the search of our vessels. Last season, instead of coasting northwards according to their usual custom, they sailed in small fleets and stood out to sea, every eight or ten boats being provided with a person qualified to navigate out of sight of land. This will hardly succeed a second year, and of that they are well aware, and some new expedient is necessary.

3. This they have found in the protection of the French flag. They are well aware that under it the right of search is denied to us, and it has now become the great object of their desire to obtain a French register.

4. I attach copies of a correspondence which has passed between the Gérant of the French Consulate at Zanzibar and myself on the subject. In my first letter I have stated that I was assured that the boats alluded to were engaged in legitimate commerce, and so far, it is true, that they are, and I do not doubt that the French authorities have full belief in that alone being their object; but further inquiries have altered my opinion considerably, and a glance at the character of the boats now in port will, I doubt not, convince your Lordship, as it has convinced me, that the French character has been assumed for no other reason than to secure them an opportunity of continuing their nefarious Traffic unmolested by our cruizers.

5. the boats now in port are—

(1.) A bugalow belonging to Mahommed-bin-Nasir, a native of Soor, who has never resided in any French Colony, and has only visited Nossi Bé occasionally for the purpose of trade. This, indeed, may be said of them all.

(2.) A bugalow belonging to Ahmed-bin-Saeed, also a native of Soor.

(3.) A bedan belonging to Ahmed-bin-Salim, of Soor. The owner is known to have taken a cargo of slaves from this coast to Soor in 1860, and Colonel Rigby reported this fact to His Highness Sayyid Majid.

(4.) A bugalow belonging to Mahommed Mobarak and Saleem, of Soor. The former is a notorious slave-dealer, and had a contract with M. Mas for the supply of slaves for the Cuban market; in this service he had eleven boats engaged.

(5.) A bugalow belonging to Mahommed-bin-Ahmed, a Soorie, from Ras-el-Had.

(6.) A kanja belonging to Salim Saeed-el-Hajeree, a native of Soor, who is known to have taken a cargo of 200 slaves from Kilwa.

(7.) A bugalow belonging to Wuhed Esh-Shervi, of Soor.

(8.) A bugalow belonging to Rashid-el-Murzooki, of Soor.

(9.) A kanja belonging to Mahommed-bin-Ahmed Bardthawan, of Shehr, a notorious slave-dealer, belonging to a more notorious slave-port.

(10.) The kanja belonging to the natives of Kutch, alluded to in my second letter to M. Jablonski.

6. That these men have any real claim to French protection it is impossible to believe, but so great is the facility of obtaining registers at Nossi Bé and Mayotte, that I confidently expect that every slave-dealer who can manage to make one or two preliminary voyages to those Colonies will thenceforth be able to carry on the Slave Trade without fear of interruption; at least he will run a single cargo, and if he succeeds in that, he can afford to burn his vessel and commence *de novo*.

7. M. Jablonski states that he cannot see in what respect the presence of French boats can embarrass our officers engaged in the suppression of the Slave Trade, and he quotes the Convention of the 31st March, 1859. A single paragraph from that document sufficiently answers his objection:—

“7. To inquire into the nature of the cargo, or the commercial operations of the vessel, or any other fact, in short, than that of the nationality of the vessel, is prohibited; every other search and inspection whatever is absolutely forbidden.”

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. L. PLAYFAIR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 82.

Lieutenant-Colonel Playfair to M. Jablonski.

Sir,

Zanzibar, September 14, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract of a letter to my address from His Highness Sayyid Majid, complaining of the act of certain boats of Her Majesty's ship “Orestes.”

2. The complaint, if well grounded, is a very legitimate one, and it will be carefully investigated; but my object in now addressing you is to call your attention to what I cannot but observe, to what is patent to every resident at Zanzibar, and to what Sayyid Majid himself admits—that the flag of France is used by vessels at this port which have no claim whatever to its protection.

3. It may be, and doubtless is true, that some of the complaints made against vessels of Her Majesty's navy are not altogether groundless, although in the performance of so difficult and disagreeable a duty as that of suppressing the Slave Trade, mistakes cannot always be avoided, but it is no less true that it has become the expressed object of vessels engaged in the Slave Trade to obtain the protection of the French flag, as a means of ensuring them that security which their own cannot afford.

4. That they usually succeed in obtaining their desire I do not assert or believe; on the contrary I am assured that most of the Arab vessels now sailing under French colours are engaged in legitimate commerce: but exceptions do occur, and one has been officially reported to this Agency and to Her Majesty's Government by the Commander of the “Ariel.” Certainly the practice offers great temptation to a race not remarkable for its scrupulousness, to abuse the privilege conferred upon them.

5. I am not aware what the law of France may be regarding the grant of registers, or whether the Government of His Imperial Majesty approves of the use which is made of the French flag at Zanzibar, but I believe that the laws of all civilized nations are very similar in this respect, and that a vessel, to obtain the flag of any country, must be owned, *bonâ fide*, by a subject of it.

6. That such is not the custom here I need hardly point out to you; it would not be difficult to prove that most of the boats now in harbour under the French flag are in reality owned by natives of the African and Arabian coasts. How they obtain the privilege I cannot say, possibly through the fiction of representing the owner to be a native of Mayotte, but that the name thus used is merely the *nominis umbra* is thoroughly understood.

7. The inconvenience likely to arise from this system, and the difficulties and embarrassment it will present to officers of the Royal Navy engaged in the suppression of the Slave Trade, are so great, that it will be necessary for me to bring the matter to the notice of Her Majesty's Government. I would therefore beg the favour of your informing me whether such dhows receive their French papers at your office, or, as I suspect is sometimes the case, at Madagascar, and what constitutes a title to the privilege of using the French flag.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. L. PLAYFAIR.

Inclosure 2 in No. 82.

The Sultan of Zanzibar to Lieutenant-Colonel Playfair.

(Translation.)
(Extract.)

23 *Rubeca-el-evvel* (September 8, 1863).

TO-DAY a complaint has reached me from Pemba, that Government boats are cruising there, and that they (*i. e.* their crews) land on shore, and whenever a slave runs away they take him from his master. If Government boats continue this practice most of the Arab boats will place themselves under French protection, as has been done, and only for the reason I have mentioned.

Inclosure 3 in No. 82.

Lieutenant-Colonel Playfair to M. Jablonski.

Sir, *Zanzibar, September 14, 1863.*
 SINCE the dispatch of my previous letter of this day's date, it has come to my knowledge that a kanja (native boat) named "Baroongoo" (?) belonging entirely to subjects of the British protected State of Kutch, and therefore to individuals entitled to all the rights and privileges of British subjects, is in the harbour of Zanzibar with French colours and a French register, obtained at Nossi Bé.

2. I should esteem it a favour if you would permit me to inspect the papers of the said kanja.

3. I inclose copies of the depositions of one of the owners, and of the agent of the other, in order that you may be aware of my grounds for making the above statement.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) R. L. PLAYFAIR.

Inclosure 4 in No. 82.

Deposition of Sewjee Mahommed.

Appearance and depositions of Sewjee Mahommed, on solemn affirmation, before me, Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Lambert Playfair, Acting Political Agent at Zanzibar, this 14th day of September, 1863, who saith:—

I am a British subject, and usually reside in Kutch, in Hindostan. I have lately come from the French Colony of Nossi Bé. The kanga "Baroongoo," now in the harbour of Zanzibar, under French colours, belongs half to me and half to Suleiman Jooma, also a resident of Kutch, and a sepoy of the Rao. The share of Suleiman was purchased with the money of a Bhattia named Ketu Ludda, also a resident of Kutch, and therefore I presume the last-mentioned is the real owner of the second half of the kanja. No other party has any share or interest in it.

Suleiman has a wife belonging to the French Settlement of Nossi Bé, but he himself is not a French subject.

Suleiman obtained a French register for the said kanja in Nossi Bé.

Mark ✕ of SEWJEE MAMOMMED.

Before me, the date first before written,
 (Signed) R. L. PLAYFAIR.

Inclosure 5 in No. 82.

Affirmation of Khimjee Damjee.

Appearance and Deposition of Khimjee Damjee, on solemn affirmation, before me, Lieutenant-Colonel R. L. Playfair, Acting Political Agent, Zanzibar, this 14th day of September, 1863, who saith:—

I am a native of Kutch, and represent here the firm of Ketu Ludda, also of Kutch. I know the kanga now in the harbour of Zanzibar, under French colours, but not its name.

Ketu Ludda has an interest in the said kanja, but he has not written to me to say how much that interest is. Suleiman, a sepoy of the Rao of Kutch, purchased it in Nossi Bé, but he has now returned to Kutch.

I believe that Sewjee Mahommed also has an interest in the said kanga, but I have no certain knowledge of the fact.

I never heard that any French subject had an interest in the said kanga.

Signed in the Guzerattee character by

KHIMJEE DAMJEE.

Before me, the date first before written,

(Signed) J. L. PLAYFAIR.

Inclosure 6 in No. 82.

M. Jablonski to Lieutenant-Colonel Playfair.

(Translation.)

M. le Consul,

Zanzibar, September 15, 1863.

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of the letter which you have done me the honour to address to me of yesterday's date, on the subject of the nationality of the French boats which frequent this port.

All the boats which carry the French flag are furnished with papers in proper order, delivered to them in our Colonies, stating that they belong to Frenchmen. Their papers are all visé at this Consulate on arrival and departure.

It is true that the proprietors and Commanders of these boats are all of Arab or Sowaheli origin, but I have the honour to make you aware that the condition of French citizen is obtained not only by birth, but by benefit of the law, namely, by naturalization, and that a stranger, associated with a Frenchman, may be the proprietor of a French ship.

I abstain from citing here our laws concerning the enjoyment of civil rights and the "francisation" of boats, because it is impossible for me to admit that a French authority, in matters concerning those under him, can submit to any control other than that of His Imperial Majesty's Government.

His Highness himself cannot object to this state of affairs, because he has declared to us in writing that there is no law which prevents any of his subjects expatriating himself.

I do not see, M. le Consul, in what respect the presence of French boats can occasion embarrassment to officers commanding vessels of Her Britannic Majesty engaged in the suppression of the Slave Trade. The Convention dated the 31st March, 1859, of which I have the honour to transmit you a copy, regulates the conduct to be pursued, as well on the high seas as in those of a neutral country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. JABLONSKI.

Inclosure 7 in No. 82.

M. Jablonski to Lieutenant-Colonel Playfair.

(Translation.)

M. le Consul,

Zanzibar, September 15, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, demanding explanations on the subject of the French boat "Ambanourow," in which certain subjects of Her Britannic Majesty pretend to be co-partners, and I beg to inclose an authenticated copy of the "acte de francisation" of this boat.

As you may convince yourself, the sole legal proprietor of this boat is a French subject, named Sélémani bin Djouma, domiciled at Ambanourow. I do not know what title this person may unite with that of a French citizen; if he was born at Kutch, as is stated in the deposition which you did me the honour to transmit, it is evident that, having complied with the necessary formalities prescribed by the law of the Empire, he has demanded and obtained French naturalization.

I regret, M. le Consul, not to be able to give effect to the depositions of Sewjee Mahommed and Kimjee Damjee; the simple affirmation does not, according to our law, constitute a title to property. That affair is entirely the concern of the tribunals of Nossi-Bé, the domicile of the defendant, and I do not doubt, if it be true that this individual has deceived the aforesaid subjects of Her Britannic Majesty in taking their money

and making them believe that they were admitted into partnership in the boat, that prompt justice will be rendered them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. JABLONSKI.

Inclosure 8 in No. 82.

Extract of "Acte de Francisation des Batiments de Commerce Français."

(Translation.)

French Colony of the Island of Mayotte and its Dependencies.

In the name of the Emperor of the French, the Commandant of Nossi-Bé declares that the Sieur Sélémani bin Djouma, "Français domicilié" at Ambanourow, is entitled to be the proprietor of the boat "Ambanourow," below described, which has been registered at the port of Hellville (Nossi-Bé).

The said boat having been previously measured, and found to be, &c.

(Here follows measurement, &c.)

Seen—The Acts establishing that the said boat is French property, and that the oath has been received;

Seen also—The recognisance and the security bond deposited in the Post Office, Nossi-Bé, on the 27th of November, relating to the registry of "Francisations," exceptionally granted in the Colony;

The present Act is given by us in order to confer the privilege of navigating under the French flag.

In consequence we pray and require all Sovereigns, &c.

No. 83.

Earl Russell to Lieutenant-Colonel Playfair.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 30, 1863.

THE Secretary of State for India has communicated to me a copy of a despatch dated the 18th of May last from Brigadier Coghlan to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, inclosing copies of two Treaties concluded with the Chiefs of Maculla and Shuhar for the suppression of the Traffic in Slaves within their territories.

I transmit to you copies of the Treaties in question, together with an extract from Brigadier Coghlan's despatch, by which you will see that Silah bin Mahomed and Ali bin Najee, the Nukeeb of Maculla and Shuhar, on signing these Treaties, expressed a wish that the Sultans of Muscat and Zanzibar might be informed of the engagements which they had contracted towards Her Majesty's Government, and that Brigadier Coghlan promised that the Chiefs' wishes should be attended to.

I have accordingly to desire that you will take an opportunity of informing the Sultan of Zanzibar of the engagement concluded by these Chiefs with Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 83.

Brigadier Coghlan to the Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay.

(Extract.)

Aden, May 18, 1863.

LEAVING Bunder Muryah on the 12th instant, I crossed the Gulf of Aden to Shuhur on the Arabian coast. The hope of concluding a Treaty with the Nukeeb of this port, and also with the Nukeeb of Maculla, has been long cherished by me; but it always happened formerly that, just as I was on the point of setting out to confer with these Chiefs, some impediment arose to mar my scheme,—either I was detained at Aden by pressing business there, or my ship was suddenly called away on other duty. My design, however, is at last accomplished.

These two independent ports, Maculla and Shuhur, are the principal slave-depôts or entrepôts on these coasts; it is at either of them (but chiefly at Maculla) that the slaves brought from the East Coast of Africa, from Zanzibar, from the Somali and the Donkali ports, are lodged, pending despatch to their final destination, in the Yemen, in the Hedjaz, or in the Persian Gulf. The Slave Traffic constitutes a considerable portion of their revenue, and the institution is so blended with their interests, their prejudices, and even their religion, that I entertained more of hope than of expectation when I presented the question to them.

Hence I was not surprised at my proposal being somewhat coldly received by Ali Najee, the Nukeeb of Shuhur. He was willing, he said, to oblige Her Majesty's Government, he had no interest in the Slave Traffic, as little or none came to his port; but with regard to making a Treaty on the subject, it had always been his rule to follow the example of Maculla; he would do so in this instance, and therefore until he could ascertain the mind of the Nukeeb of that place he must decline to make any engagement with me.

I lost no time in proceeding to Maculla, where I was received by the Nukeeb Silah bin Mahomed with the usual courtesies and with a friendly cordiality which the tone of his correspondence with me during the last eight or nine years led me to expect. He entered frankly on the subject of my visit, discussed the effects of the proposed Treaty with intelligence, and having himself suggested a clause postponing the operation of the engagement for twelve months, in order that due notice may be given to all concerned, he concluded the Treaty which is herewith forwarded in original with an English translation.

Silah bin Mahomed expressed his wish that their Highnesses Seyed Thoweynee of Muscat, and his brother Seyed Majid of Zanzibar, should be informed of this engagement by Her Majesty's Government. I felt no difficulty in promising that this should be done, and I accordingly solicit Government to redeem my pledge.

Cheered by this success at Maculla, I returned to Shuhur, where, without any difficulty worth mentioning, I obtained the assent of the Nukeeb Ali Najee, who stipulated only for the same interval of time as had been agreed on with Silah bin Mahomed of Maculla. He intimated a desire also that Her Majesty's Government should communicate this Treaty to the Governments of Muscat and Zanzibar, and I engaged that his wish should be complied with. The original Treaty in Arabic, with an English translation, is herewith forwarded.

Thus these two noted independent slave-depôts are brought legally under the control of Her Majesty's Government, with whom it now rests to give effect to the compact made with each. At present we are without any means to that end. Slaves may be and are carried by thousands to the Turkish ports in the Red Sea and to the Persian Gulf, and we have not a single vessel available to interrupt the traffic. The scale on which that traffic is conducted is enormous. So long as I had two or three vessels of the Indian navy at my disposal I was able to give a very material check to the export from the Somali Coasts, and if I could not wholly prevent it I at least rendered it exceedingly hazardous, but the withdrawal of these vessels leaves the coasts absolutely clear of every obstruction, and as long impunity will assuredly beget confidence, it is to be feared that if vigorous measures be not adopted to enforce our Treaty obligations the traffic will revive and the Treaties might as well never have been made.

Inclosure 2 in No. 83.

Treaty with the Nukeeb of Maculla.

(Translation.)

In the name of the most merciful God, and Him we implore.

THE reason of writing this bond is, that influenced by motives of humanity, and by a desire to conform to the principles on which the great English Government is conducted, we lend a willing ear to the proposals of our sincere friend Brigadier William Marcus Coghlan, Governor of Aden, that we shall covenant with him to abolish and prohibit the export and import of slaves from or to any part of our territory to any other place in Africa or in Asia or elsewhere.

Therefore I, whose name and seal are set to this bond, do in the sight of God and of men solemnly proclaim my determination to prohibit the export or import of slaves by every means in my power. I will neither export nor import any myself, nor will I permit my subjects to do so, and any vessel belonging to my subjects found carrying slaves shall

be seized and confiscated by me or by any ship belonging to Her Majesty the Queen of England, and the slaves shall be released. Peace!

This covenant is to have effect at the expiration of one year from this date. Peace!

(Signed) SILAH MAHOMED.

W. M. COGHLAN, *Political Resident, Aden.*

Maculla, May 14, 1863.

Witnessed:

(Signed) OMAR BA SALIM KAISAN.

H. RASSAM, *Assistant Political Resident.*

Dated 25 Dhee Alckada, 1279.

Inclousure 2 in No. 83.

Treaty with the Nukeeb of Shubar.

(Translation.)

In the name of the most merciful God, and Him we implore.

THE reason of writing this bond is that, influenced by motives of humanity, and by a desire to conform to the principles on which the great English Government is conducted, we lend a willing ear to the proposals of our sincere friend Brigadier William Marcus Coghlan, Governor of Aden, that we shall covenant with him to abolish and prohibit the export or import of slaves from or to any part of our territory to any other place in Africa or in Arabia or elsewhere.

Therefore I, whose name and seal are set to this bond, do in the sight of God and of men solemnly proclaim my determination to prohibit the export or import of slaves by every means in my power. I will neither export nor import any myself, nor will I permit my subjects to do so, and any vessel belonging to my subjects found carrying slaves shall be seized and confiscated by me or by any ship belonging to Her Majesty the Queen of England, and the slaves shall be released. Peace!

This covenant is to have effect at the expiration of one year from this date. Peace!

(Signed) ALI BIN NAJEE.

W. M. COGHLAN, *Political Resident at Aden.*

Shuhar, May 14, 1863.

Witnessed:

(Signed) MAHOMED BIN AHMED BIN MATRAF.

H. RASSAM, *Assistant Political Resident.*

Dated 25 Dhee Alckada, 1279.

No. 84.

Lieutenant-Colonel Playfair to Earl Russell.—(Received March 15, 1864.)

My Lord,

Zanzibar, November 16, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, extracts of my letter dated the 15th instant, to the Government of Bombay.

The passages omitted are merely descriptive or historical, and have no bearing whatever on the subject of the Slave Trade.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. L. PLAYFAIR.

Inclousure in No. 84.

Lieutenant-Colonel Playfair to the Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay.

(Extract.)

1. I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor in Council, that, impressed with the importance of making myself well acquainted with the various countries around Zanzibar, especially those more or less connected with the Slave Trade, I left Zanzibar on my projected tour on the 8th of October.

2. I had intended proceeding at once to the south in the "Pleiad," but Commander Chapman, R.N., who purposed leaving the same day for Pemba, invited me to accompany

CLASS B.

him in Her Majesty's ship "Ariel." I gladly availed myself of his kindness, and sent the "Pleiad" to await my arrival at Ibo.

3. We anchored off Chak-chak, the principal port of Pemba, on the morning of the 9th, and left on Sunday the 11th. These two days were occupied by the ship's boats in searching the numerous creeks and harbours for slave-dhows, and by Captain Chapman and myself in visiting the main and adjacent islands.

4. Next to Zanzibar, Pemba is the most considerable islands in the dominions of His Highness Sayid Majid, and produces considerable quantities of rice, manioc, fruit, and vegetables. It is cut up in every direction by creeks, which are much frequented by country craft engaged in the Slave Trade, while, owing to the numerous reefs and shoals, and to the imperfect survey of the island, they are quite impracticable for vessels of war. No slaves were found on this occasion.

5. It is more unhealthy than Zanzibar, and the mortality from fever is so great that it is a question whether it could be kept under cultivation were the supply of slave labour cut off.

11. We arrived at Ibo, or Weebo (where I found the "Pleiad" awaiting me) on the morning of the 18th. This is one of a numerous group of islands to the south of Cape Delgado, and capital of the district of the same name. It contains nearly 3,000 natives, but very few Europeans. There are twelve Banian merchants and one Frenchman, representing the well-known firm of Regis Ainé, of Marseilles, a house once deeply engaged in "free engagé" trade.

12. The town is clean, and the houses, though poor, are neatly built and kept, but its aspect is most depressing. The Governor assured me that it had an important trade in ivory, copal, &c., but assuredly one could not divine this fact from the appearance of the town. There were very few dhows in the harbour, no signs of life or commercial activity in the streets. The European and half-caste population appeared to a man to be miserable fever-stricken wretches, and the only signs of work I observed were the processions of prisoners or refractory slaves engaged in carrying building material for the public works in course of erection.

14. From Ibo I proceeded to Mozambique, where I arrived on the morning of the 21st, and remained till the afternoon of the 26th. I met with a very hospitable reception from the Governor-General, Brigadier João Tavarez de Almeida, who invited me to reside at the Palace, and from one of the principal merchants of the city, with whom I spent two days at his villa on the mainland at Cabaceira.

15. The city of Mozambique is situated on a sandy island, about a mile long and 300 paces broad. I was prepared by the Report of Captain Crawford, R.N., quoted in the last Blue Book on the Slave Trade, to find it "a heap of ruins," but I was agreeably surprised to find it clean and solidly built. The houses of the Europeans are large double-storied buildings, in excellent preservation, many of them superior to the best at Zanzibar; the public buildings are equally good, especially the Palace of the Governor-General, once the Jesuit College of San Paulo, which may fairly claim to possess a certain amount of magnificence.

39. The heavy duties and obstructive fiscal arrangements of the Portuguese have almost annihilated trade, and until very lately no traffic but that of ivory and slaves was deemed worthy of attention. Thanks to the energetic measures of the British Government and its cruisers, and, I firmly believe, to the uprightness and loyalty of the present Governor-General, Colonel João Tavarez de Almeida, the Slave Trade has greatly decreased, though the desire to participate in its unholy gains remains unabated.

40. It is difficult, especially for a British official, to obtain correct information on this point, but it is commonly believed that two European vessels have succeeded in obtaining cargoes during the past twelve or fourteen months, while small numbers of slaves are constantly taken away by dhows, touching at unfrequented parts of the coast. One Spanish vessel, the "America," is now supposed to be watching for an opportunity to obtain a cargo. I left her at Zanzibar; she had previously remained some weeks at Mozambique, and she appears to be spending time, under the pretext of legitimate trade, till her consorts arrive. She was carefully searched by the Governor-General, but no conclusive proof of her character was obtained. I cannot refrain from recording that it was his Excellency who first communicated to our naval officers the fact of her presence on the coast, and his suspicions regarding her.

41. I do not entertain a doubt that his Excellency is sincere in his desire to prevent this execrable Traffic, but he meets with no support from his subordinates. In the last Blue Book, there is a correspondence on the subject, and in one of his despatches (pp 185, 186, 187) he indignantly denies that his subordinate officers are in any way concerned with it at the present day, whatever might have been the case formerly

42. This despatch is dated 15th February, 1862, but in conversation with me, his Excellency frankly admitted that had his information been as correct then as it is now, he would have modified his language considerably.

43. The particular instance which has induced this change of opinion is as follows:— Major Carvalho, late Governor of Ibo, was an officer in whom he placed the utmost confidence; he was poor, but esteemed honourable, and he was on this account specially selected for the Government of Ibo.

44. Two months ago, on his death-bed, he called the Judge of Mozambique, and requested him to make his will; amongst other requests he made one that his effects should remain untouched for a period of two years. It was explained to him that this was impossible, and he died intestate. On an examination of his property one box was found to contain 20,000 dollars in gold, and a nominal list specifying the shares due to each of the public officers of Ibo on account of some particular slave-venture.

46. Slavery is sanctioned as a domestic institution, and I believe that with the single exception of the Governor-General, there is not a man in the province who has a free servant. As the law now stands, all slaves are to become free in 1878, but whether this will take effect without considerable exterior pressure is very doubtful.

47. My short residence at Mozambique does not enable me to speak authoritatively of the state of the domestic slaves. I was told that they are generally well treated; nevertheless I was forcibly struck with the difference between them and those at Zanzibar. The latter are the gayest and happiest class of the community, continually dancing and singing; for two days in the week they are allowed to work for themselves, and their manner is free and unconstrained. Here they never meet an European without making the deepest reverence; they address their masters with bated breath, and appear to stand in the greatest awe of them. It is true that a master may not, by law, beat his slave, but he may send him to the police to be beaten, or he may sentence him to imprisonment with hard labour in irons, on the public works, without cause shown before any legal tribunal.

49. I left Mozambique on the 26th October, and arrived at Mayotta on the morning of the 1st November.

56. The labourers on the sugar estates are principally negroes, who are imported from the adjacent islands and from Madagascar as “free engagés.” Whatever name may be given to the system by which these are procured, it is simply and undisguisedly a phase of the Slave Trade. Thus a planter desirous of obtaining a supply of labourers applies to the Commandant Supérieur, who appoints a delegate (invariably a private soldier of the garrison) to accompany him, say to Mohilla; there the necessary number of slaves are purchased from Arab dealers; they are then liberated and bound to serve their new masters for periods of not less than three and not more than five years. The average price paid for the slaves is 35 dollars, and by the time they are landed at Mayotta as “free engagés” they cost about 40 dollars per head. Their master is bound to pay them 1½ dollars per mensem as wages, and to allow them a weekly ration of 12 lbs. of rice, with a small quantity of salt and butter.

57. These negroes are usually, if not always, brought by Arabs from the mainland of Africa to the various islands, whence they are shipped to Mayotta; they are then *bonâ fide* slaves, and it is certain that their purchase by the French, even though by this fact they become transmuted into “free engagés,” fosters and tends to perpetuate the Slave Trade. I do not propose any remedy for this, I merely state facts which no colonist at Mayotta will dispute.

58. I left Mayotta on the 3rd of November, and arrived at Pomoni in Johanna on the following morning; during the passage we met a boat at sea containing seven “free engagés,” who had fled from Mayotta in their master’s boat; they were in great distress, and it seemed doubtful whether they could reach their destination. They were received on board the “Pleiad,” and the boat was made over to Mr. Sunley, Her Majesty’s Consul at Johanna, to be returned to its owner.

59. These men called themselves slaves, and had evidently failed to appreciate their altered condition as “free engagés;” they said they preferred death to returning, and as they were found on the high seas I did not feel myself called on to restore them, even had I possessed the power to do so.

60. Colonel Pelly has left me little to say regarding this island, but I cannot refrain from adding my testimony to his regarding the marvellous results which the skill and energy of Mr. Sunley have produced, and the humanizing effects on the population which have followed.

61. He has already 300 acres of land planted with sugar cane, which produces upwards of 300 tons of sugar per annum.

62. Unfortunately he has been compelled to employ slave labour, but in so mitigated

a form as to rob it of all its terrors. The importation of slaves into the island has long ceased; it received a temporary stimulus from the "engagé" system, but that was of short continuance. The institution of domestic slavery of course prevails, and the climate of the island, unlike that of Zanzibar, Mozambique, &c., is so congenial to the African constitution that the births pretty nearly equalize the deaths; thus the supply of slave-labour is perpetuated.

63. Mr. Sunley hires these domestic slaves from their owners, paying the latter $1\frac{1}{2}$ dollars per mensem, and a further allowance of from half a dollar to two dollars, together with food and clothing, is made to the slaves themselves. Out of the 230 men in his employment, not more than 50 are free men.

64. Her Majesty's Government deemed it impossible that a British Consul could be permitted to employ slave-labour in any form, and Mr. Sunley was given to understand that he must employ free men only, or resign his Consulate. He had sunk all his capital in the enterprize in which he was engaged, and finding it impossible to continue it without the assistance of slave-labour, he has accepted the latter alternative.

65. The loss to him is insignificant; his remuneration as Consul is only 150*l.* per annum, while his sugar plantation yields ten times that amount, but the loss to the public service will be far more serious.

66. Mr. Sunley's long residence here, and his sterling qualities have given him an influence in the councils of the King and his Chiefs, such as few Consuls succeed in obtaining; this has always been used for good, and the result is that the island, once noted for disaffection to its ruler, and for the intestine feuds amongst its Chiefs, has enjoyed uninterrupted tranquillity.

68. On the 9th of November, in company with Mr. Sunley, I steamed round to Mootscunoodoo, the capital, to pay my respects to the King. I was much pleased with His Highness, who appears to be a young man of considerable intellect and a fair English scholar.

71. I left Johanna on the morning of the 10th instant, and returned to Zanzibar on the 14th instant.

NETHERLANDS.

No. 85.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Milbanke.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January 21, 1863.*
 WITH reference to my despatch of the 29th of December last, I transmit herewith, for your information and for communication to the Netherlands Government, copies of a further despatch and its inclosures from Mr. Skelton, Her Majesty's Judge in the British and Netherlands Mixed Commission Court at Sierra Leone,* reporting the condemnation of the Netherlands barque "*Jane*," on a charge of being equipped for the Slave Trade, and inclosing copies of the proceedings in the case of this vessel.

I also inclose a copy of a letter from Commander Douglas of Her Majesty's ship "*Espoir*,"† which has been communicated to me by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, reporting his reasons for detaining the "*Jane*," and containing information respecting two persons calling themselves passengers who were found on board this vessel.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 86.

Sir J. Milbanke to Earl Russell.—(Received February 28.)

My Lord,

The Hague, February 23, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a note which has been addressed to me by the Netherlands Minister for Foreign Affairs, in reply to those in which I transmitted to his Excellency the documents forwarded in the despatches of Mr. Skelton, Her Majesty's Judge in the Mixed Commission Court at Sierra Leone, to Her Majesty's Government relative to the seizure and condemnation of the Netherlands barque "*Jane*," on the ground of her being engaged in the Slave Trade.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) J. R. MILBANKE.

Inclosure in No. 86.

*M. van der Maesen to Sir J. Milbanke.**La Haye, le 21 Février, 1863.*

LE Soussigné, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, a eu l'honneur de recevoir les notes que Sir J. Milbanke, Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté Britannique, lui a adressées le 5 et 31 Janvier dernier, relative au navire "*Jane*," détenu et condamné pour avoir été engagé dans le Commerce d'Esclaves.

Le Gouvernement du Roi regrette qu'on ait abusé du pavillon Néerlandais pour se livrer à un Trafic également réprouvé par la morale que par les Conventions conclues à différentes époques entre les Pays-Bas et la Grande Bretagne; mais il se hâte d'ajouter qu'il favorisera autant que possible les recherches exactes et sévères auxquelles se livrera la justice. A cet effet les pièces de la procédure ont été déjà confiées aux mains du fonctionnaire compétent, avec ordre d'instituer des poursuites. Il est cependant probable que celle-ci n'aboutiront pas aussi longtemps que les prévenus ne seront pas retournés

* Class A. No. 2.

† Ibid., No. 92.

dans les Pays-Bas, et ne peuvent dès-lors être entendus par devant le Juge Néerlandais. Il résulte de ce qui précède, qu'il serait fort à désirer dans l'intérêt de la vindicte publique que le Gouvernement Britannique facilitât autant que possible le retour des dits individus, et voulût communiquer au Soussigné le projet qui pourrait surgir chez un ou plusieurs des prévenus de revenir dans les Pays-Bas.

Le Soussigné, &c.

(Signé)

P. VAN DER MAESEN DE SOMBREFF.

No. 87.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Milbanke.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 18, 1863.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for communication to the Netherlands Government, a copy of a despatch from Mr. Skelton, Her Majesty's Judge in the Mixed Commission Courts at Sierra Leone,* inclosing an account sales of the Netherlands barque "Jane," condemned in the British and Netherlands Mixed Court of Justice on the 10th of December last, for being engaged in the Slave Trade.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

RUSSELL.

No. 88.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Milbanke.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 25, 1863.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 23rd of February last, inclosing a copy of a note addressed to you by the Netherlands Minister for Foreign Affairs, expressing a wish that steps might be taken by Her Majesty's Government to bring to justice the parties connected with the Netherlands barque "Jane," lately condemned by the Mixed Commission Court at Sierra Leone for being engaged in the Slave Trade, I transmit to you, for communication to the Netherlands Government, a copy of a despatch from Mr. Skelton, Her Majesty's Judge at that port,† inclosing the muster-roll of the "Jane," showing that only three of the crew besides the master were Dutch subjects; and further stating that the master of that vessel left Sierra Leone on the 19th of December last on board the British barque "Venus" for Antigua, and that no trace can be procured of the crew who are supposed to have shipped on board other vessels leaving Sierra Leone.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

RUSSELL.

No. 89.

Mr. Ward to Earl Russell.—(Received November 30.)

My Lord,

The Hague, November 24, 1863.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch to Sir John Milbanke of the 29th December, 1862, instructing him to press the Netherlands Government to procure the punishment of the parties who may have been engaged in the slaving adventure of the Netherlands barque "Jane," I have now the honour to forward the copy of a note addressed by M. Van der Maesen de Sombreff to Sir John Milbanke on that subject.

His Excellency, after mentioning that a prosecution had been commenced against Captain Prince, the Commander of the "Jane," proceeds to state that the copies of the documents respecting the condemnation of the "Jane," were not considered sufficient by the Court at Curaçoa to procure the conviction of the accused; and accordingly requests that Her Majesty's Government will be pleased to order that the originals of the documents on which the Judgment of the Court of Sierra Leone was grounded, may be transmitted to him, together with a copy of the Judgment duly authenticated, for the purpose of farthering the ends of justice.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

WILLIAM R. WARD.

* Class A, No. 10.

† Ibid., No. 11.

Inclosure in No. 89.

*M. van der Maesen to Sir J. Milbanke.**La Haye, le 20 Novembre, 1863.*

LE Soussigné, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, a l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de Sir J. Milbanke la communication suivante, concernant l'affaire du navire la "*Jane*," qui a fait en dernier lieu le sujet des notes de M. l'Envoyé Britannique, du 28 Mai et 10 Juin derniers.

Le nommé B. A. Prince, capitaine de la "*Jane*," étant arrivé à Curaçao, le tribunal de cette île a d'après les ordres du Gouvernement du Roi, commencé des poursuites contre lui. Le dit tribunal regarde toutefois les copies de différentes pièces ayant rapport à la condamnation de la "*Jane*," que le Cabinet de la Haye lui a fait parvenir, comme insuffisantes pour la procédure criminelle en question, et se voit hors d'état de mener ces poursuites à bonne fin, à moins d'être mis en possession des pièces originales qui ont donné lieu à la confiscation du dit navire par la Cour de Justice Mixte de Sierra Leone.

Tout à cause de la gravité du méfait commis, que pour contribuer à prévenir qu'on n'abuse impunément du pavillon Néerlandais pour couvrir la Traite, le Gouvernement du Roi attacherait grand prix à voir les coupables subir la punition qu'ils méritent, et il est convaincu que le Gouvernement Britannique partage entièrement cette manière de voir.

Le Soussigné ose donc se flatter que le Cabinet de St. James voudra bien coopérer à l'atteinte du but désiré, en lui faisant parvenir en original, et légalisées par les autorités Britanniques compétentes, toutes les déclarations ayant servi à motiver l'Arrêt de la Cour de Justice de Sierra Leone, ainsi qu'un exemplaire authentique du dit Arrêt.

Le Soussigné, &c. (Signé) P. VAN DER MAESEN DE SOMBREFF.

NETHERLANDS. (*Consular*)—*Rotterdam.*

No. 90.

Consul Sir R. Turing to Earl Russell.—(Received January 6.)

My Lord,

Rotterdam, January 3, 1863.

WITH reference to my despatches of last year, on the subject of the Dutch barque "*Jane*," captured by Her Majesty's steamer "*Espoir*," on a charge of being equipped for the Slave Trade, I beg further to state that it appears that the master of the said vessel, Captain Prince, is a native of Curaçao, and that he endeavoured when here, in August last, to become a naturalized Dutch subject.

The Dutch Government, however, declined to meet his wishes in this respect, and he did not therefore succeed in obtaining papers of naturalization as a Dutch subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. F. TURING.

PORTUGAL.

No. 91.

Sir A. Magenis to Earl Russell.—(Received February 16.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, February 7, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a despatch to your Lordship which I have received, under flying seal, from Mr. Hewett, Clerk to Her Majesty's Commissioners at Loanda,* containing the intelligence of the death of Mr. Gabriel, Her Majesty's Commissioner at that place, and which occurred at sea on the 14th December last.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

No. 92.

Earl Russell to Sir A. Magenis.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 20, 1863.

YOU will have learnt from the despatches from Mr. Hewett which have passed through your hands the decease of Mr. Edmund Gabriel, who, for a period of eighteen years, faithfully and ably performed the duties, first of British Arbitrator, and subsequently of British Commissioner in the British and Portuguese Mixed Commission Court at Loanda.

Mr. Hewett reports that, on the occasion of the interment of Mr. Gabriel, the Governor-General of Angola was represented by both his Aides-de-camp; and that, by his Excellency's orders, the honours due to the highest judicial authority were paid to Mr. Gabriel's remains. I have to desire that you will request the Portuguese Government to convey to the Governor-General and other authorities at Angola the acknowledgments of Her Majesty's Government for their attention and respect on this melancholy occasion.

I have at the same time to instruct you to acquaint the Portuguese Government that Mr. Watson Vredenburg, Her Majesty's Arbitrator in the Mixed Commission Court at Loanda, has been appointed to succeed Mr. Gabriel as Commissioner, and that he will leave England for his post by the packet appointed to take out the African mails of the 24th instant; and you will at the same time request that this appointment may be made known to the authorities at Angola.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 93.

Sir A. Magenis to Earl Russell.—(Received March 26.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, March 17, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the copy of a note which, in obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 20th ultimo, I have addressed to the Duke de Loulé, expressing the thanks of Her Majesty's Government for the honours paid to the remains of the late Mr. Gabriel; and announcing the appointment of Mr. Vredenburg as his successor as British Commissioner in the British and Portuguese Commission Court at Loanda.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

Inclosure in No. 93.

Sir A. Magenis to the Duke of Loulé.

M. le Ministre,

Lisbon, March 16, 1863.

I HAVE been instructed by Earl Russell, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to request your Excellency to have the goodness to cause the acknowledgments of Her Majesty's Government to be conveyed to his Excellency the Governor-General and the other authorities at Angola for the attention and respect which were paid by them to the remains of the late Mr. Gabriel, British Commissioner in the British and Portuguese Mixed Commission Court at Loanda, on the occasion of the interment of that lamented gentleman, the particulars of which were duly reported to Her Majesty's Government by Mr. Hewett, Clerk to Her Majesty's Commissioners at that place.

I have also been instructed by Earl Russell to inform the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty that Mr. Watson Vredenburg, Her Majesty's Arbitrator in the Mixed Commission Court at Loanda, has been appointed to succeed the late Mr. Gabriel as Commissioner in the same; and that he was to leave England for his post by the packet appointed to take out the African mails on the 24th of last month.

I have further to request your Excellency to have the goodness to cause the appointment of Mr. Vredenburg to his new post to be made known to the authorities at Angola.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

No. 94.

Sir A. Magenis to Earl Russell.—(Received April 6.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, March 24, 1863.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 17th instant I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the translation of a note which I have received from the Duke de Loulé, acknowledging the receipt of my note to his Excellency expressive of the thanks of Her Majesty's Government for the attention paid to the remains of the late Mr. Gabriel; and informing him of the appointment of Mr. Watson Vredenburg as that gentleman's successor, and which formed the inclosure in my above-mentioned despatch.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

Inclosure in No. 94.

The Duke of Loulé to Sir A. Magenis.

(Translation.)

Foreign Office, Lisbon, March 20, 1863.

I HAD the honour to receive the note which you were pleased to address to me, under date of the 16th instant, informing me of the appointment of Mr. Watson Vredenburg to the post of British Commissioner in the Mixed Commission at Loanda, and thanking, in the name of your Government, for the attentive manner in which the Governor-General of Angola and the other authorities had acted on the occasion of Mr. Gabriel's death.

In compliance with the wishes which you expressed, it is my duty to inform you that, under this day's date, I address myself to the Minister of Marine, not only in order that his Excellency may acquaint the aforesaid Governor-General with the contents of your said note, for the proper purpose, but also that he may be pleased to issue the necessary orders to the effect that Mr. Watson Vredenburg should be recognized by the authorities of the province in his new capacity of Commissioner.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) DUKE OF LOULE.

No. 95.

Earl Russell to Sir A. Magenis.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 13, 1863.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a letter from Commander Hoskins, of Her Majesty's ship "Zebra,"* which has been communicated to me by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, reporting that the Portuguese schooner "Mondego," belonging to Lisbon, which arrived in the River Congo from the Island of St. Thomas, ostensibly bound for Loanda, left that river on the night of the 21st of October last with 494 slaves on board.

I have to instruct you to communicate this information to the Portuguese Government, who will doubtless take steps to enforce the forfeiture of the bail bond which the owners of the "Mondego" must have given for the lawful employment of their vessel on her departure for the African coast. You will at the same time express the earnest hope of Her Majesty's Government that the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty will use their utmost endeavours to find out and to punish the parties engaged in this transaction. You will keep me informed of the measures that may be adopted by the Portuguese authorities for this purpose.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 96.

Earl Russell to Sir A. Magenis.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 8, 1863.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, copies of a despatch and its inclosures from Mr. Hewett, the Clerk to Her Majesty's Commissioners at Loanda,† reporting the circumstances under which the Portuguese brigantine "Paquete de Mossamedes" was boarded and brought to an anchor by the boats of Her Majesty's ship "Torch" when leaving the harbour of Loanda on the 16th of December last.

I have communicated copies of Mr. Hewett's despatch and its inclosures to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and I will not fail to make known to you their Lordships' opinion on Commander Smith's proceedings as soon as I am in a position to do so.

In the meanwhile, however, I think it right to place you in possession of Commander Smith's version of this affair, in case the subject should be brought to your notice by the Portuguese Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 97.

Earl Russell to Sir A. Magenis.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 23, 1863.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a despatch from Mr. Hewett, the Clerk to Her Majesty's Commissioners at Loanda,‡ reporting the capture, on the 26th of December last, by Her Majesty's ship "Wrangler," of a barque called the "Island Queen," fully equipped for the Slave Trade.§

I also inclose a copy of Commander Beamish's report of the capture of this vessel.

As this is the second prize taken within the last few months by Her Majesty's cruisers, equipped for the Slave Trade, to the southward of Loanda, there is much reason to fear that some organized scheme exists for exporting slaves from the Portuguese possessions in that locality, and the information contained in a report from Rear-Admiral Sir Baldwin Walker, of which I inclose an extract,|| gives additional ground for this suspicion.

I have accordingly to instruct you to call the earnest attention of the Portuguese Government to this matter, in order that any attempt that may be made to revive the

* Class A, No. 99.
§ Ibid., No. 105.

† Ibid., No. 58.

‡ Ibid., No. 59.
|| Ibid., No. 106.

exportation of slaves from the Portuguese possessions on the West Coast of Africa may be at once put a stop to.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

P.S. June 8.—Since writing the above I have received a letter and its inclosure from the Admiralty, copies of which are annexed,* pointing out that the Slave Trade from the Portuguese possessions to the south of Loanda has revived to such an extent as to necessitate the employment of two cruizers on that part of the coast.

You will not fail to call the serious attention of the Portuguese Government to this subject.

R.

No. 98.

Earl Russell to Sir A. Magenis.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, May 25, 1863.

I TRANSMIT to you, for your information, a copy of a despatch from Mr. Hewett, the Clerk to Her Majesty's Commissioners at Loanda,† reporting the capture, by Her Majesty's ship "Zebra," of the Portuguese brigantine "*Liberdade*" on the 20th of November last, in the River Congo, and the steps taken by the Governor-General to enforce the forfeiture of the bail bonds entered into by her owners at St. Thomas.

I have to instruct you to bring this case to the notice of the Portuguese Government; and in doing so you will express the hope of Her Majesty's Government that the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty will omit no measures it may be in their power to take to bring to justice the parties engaged in this slave-trading transaction.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 99.

Earl Russell to Sir A. Magenis.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 25, 1863.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 8th instant I transmit, for your information, the accompanying copy of a letter from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, by which you will perceive that their Lordships wholly disapprove the conduct of Commander Smith, of Her Majesty's ship "Torch," in sending the boats of his ship to compel the Portuguese brigantine "*Paquete de Mossamedes*" to come to an anchor when that vessel was about to leave the harbour of Loanda in the month of December last.

I have accordingly to instruct you to express, in suitable terms, to the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty the regret of Her Majesty's Government at the conduct of Commander Smith, whose proceedings on the occasion in question you will state are wholly disapproved by Her Majesty's Government; and you will add that this disapproval will be communicated to Commander Smith by the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's naval forces on the African Station.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 100.

Sir A. Magenis to Earl Russell.—(Received June 12.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, June 5, 1863.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 25th of April of last year, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the translation of a note, together with its inclosures, which I have received from the Duke de Loulé; by which your Lordship will perceive that the Governor-General of the Province of Angola declares that the

* Class A, No. 112.

† Ibid., No. 65.

statements which had reached Her Majesty's Government of a traffic in slaves as free labourers being carried on between Loanda and the Island of St. Thomas are unfounded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 100.

The Duke of Loulé to Sir A. Magenis.

(Translation.)

Foreign Office, Lisbon, May 22, 1863.

HAVING communicated to the Governor-General of the Province of Angola the contents of the note which you were pleased to address to me under date of the 24th of April of last year, as well as of the despatch from Her Britannic Majesty's Commissioners in the Mixed Commission Court at Loanda, copy of which was inclosed therein, with respect to the carrying of negroes from that Province to that of St. Thomas, the answer of the aforesaid Governor-General has been received in the Marine Department, an extract of which I have the honour to transmit to you.

By the aforesaid answer, both you and your Government will perceive in what manner the authorities of the same Province have acted in this question, and the utter absence of grounds for the charges which have been brought forward against them on this account.

I renew, &c.
(Signed) DUKE OF LOULE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 100.

The Governor-General of the Province of Angola to the Minister of Marine.

(Translation.)

(Extract.)

July 16, 1862.

I ACKNOWLEDGE the receipt of the copy of a note which your Excellency was pleased to forward to me, addressed to His Most Faithful Majesty's Government on the 24th of April last, by Her Britannic Majesty's Minister at the Court of Lisbon, inclosing copy of a despatch dated the 8th of January of this current year, addressed by Her Britannic Majesty's Commissioners in the Mixed Commission Court at Loanda to their own Government, respecting the transportation of negroes from this Colony to that of St. Thomas.

Your Excellency must already be in possession of the whole correspondence which has taken place between the General Government of Angola and the British functionaries; the subject is fully elucidated in this correspondence.

During the space of three months and six days alluded to in the note, there departed for St. Thomas 22 slaves, 78 libertos (freedmen), and 384 free Portuguese blacks, on board different vessels, as may be seen from the inclosed map, document No. 1, which has reference not to this period alone, but to the whole time which has elapsed since I took possession of the Government of this Province on the 7th of February, 1862, until the 2nd of this current month of July, the day of the departure of the steamer "D. Antonia," belonging to the Mercantile Union Company. The said map contains an account of the despatches, and lists which were forwarded to the Governor of the Province of St. Thomas, accompanying the individuals in question; as well as the answers of the said Governor, acknowledging the entry and appearance of the same individuals in their condition as slaves, free, and libertos (freedmen).

I send, together with the map, all the original documents which preceded the issuing of passports to those blacks who have proceeded on their voyage from this port of Loanda to St. Thomas during the period above-mentioned, with the exception of those having reference to three of them, which I forwarded to His Majesty's Government on the 5th of December last, in order that it might become acquainted with the mode of proceeding which has been followed.

No other blacks have left for St. Thomas beyond those referred to in the documents which I forward; and even all these did not proceed on their voyage, some of them having failed to do so after having taken their passports. From the said map and documents it may be clearly seen:—

1st. That no ship ever took more than 10 slaves, there being even a scrupulous care

not to allow libertos (freedmen) to be shipped, they not being excluded by the Treaty of the 3rd of July, 1842, whatever might be their number.

2ndly. That I never allowed more than 10 to be shipped, either of the former or of the latter.

3rdly. That all the other passengers are free men, who cannot be registered either as slaves or as libertos (freedmen), their condition of free men being stated, whenever the passengers are blacks, in the passports which are personally delivered to each of them. There is no occasion to issue a deed of manumission, or any other document, unless it should be declared that this ought to be done with respect to all citizens who are blacks.

If any of the black passengers appertained to the class of slaves, they remain free by the fact of their quitting this port with a passport as free men, and for this purpose all the individuals in question were properly guaranteed by an adequate surety; the Police Department in this city having previously declared them free to proceed in their condition of free men, those who are so, or noted down in the same condition those who are not so, in order that they may never again be considered as slaves in the Portuguese dominions, should their departure take place. In this manner the condition of slaves would be quickly abolished, were all masters to allow their slaves to depart, which neither did nor will happen.

At St. Thomas there neither is, nor can there be, any registration in the book of slaves or in that of libertos (freedmen), and whenever any negro has asked for a passport there, it has been granted to him by the Governor of St. Thomas, for the same reasons and in the same manner as I grant for that province.

Her Britannic Majesty's Government cannot be ignorant of the scrupulous care taken by His Most Faithful Majesty's Government in the execution of the Treaty, nor ignore the zeal which animates it for the suppression of the Slave Trade; it must be aware that in the Portuguese dominions there exists by law a registration of slaves, which the Government has ordered to be organized of its own good pleasure; and it ought further to know that slavery is abolished in the Portuguese dominions, in virtue of the Decrees of the 14th of December, 1854, and of the 29th of April, 1858, from those dates forward; that no more slaves are registered, and that no free men can be carried from one province into another for the purpose of being registered as slaves, or even as libertos (freedmen), who are, however, nothing else but free men liable to serve in a certain manner for the space of ten years,—a service, however, which, if they wish, it is left to their choice to select to whom and in what manner they are to perform it, looking out for another master who will indemnify their former one for that part of their services which they were still bound to perform, and making an agreement with the latter with respect to the conditions of their future services.

Nature has adapted a race of men for these regions, and if they cannot be peopled by free negroes, when blacks alone can resist the climate and apply to labour, what can be done to people them and cultivate them, when they are in want of cultivators? Are they to be condemned to be perpetually abandoned?

In my despatch of the 5th of May last, I reported to your Excellency the mode of proceeding of the Commissioner Edmund Gabriel, who after the legality had been recognized with which the patacho (ship) "*Liberdade*," as well as all the passengers which she took to St. Thomas in the month of April last, had been dispatched, went to the house of the owner of the said vessel to threaten him that she would be visited and captured. The vessel (patacho) sailed, was visited, and from the despatch noted down in the map, under No. 425 of the 3rd of May last, your Excellency will see that she arrived at St. Thomas.

Now, however, there occurs another fact, upon which I shall abstain from passing any comment, and proceed to submit it to the consideration of His Majesty's Government.

At this Office of the General Government the following letter from the agent of the Mercantile Union Company was received:—

*"General Agency of the Mercantile Union Company ;
Agent's Office at Loanda, July 5, 1862.*

"Most Illustrious Sir,

"I have the honour to inform you, in order that you may communicate the same to his Excellency the Governor-General, that, from Lisbon, the agent of the Mercantile Union Company announces to me, in a letter of the 30th of May of this year, that the Directors of the same Company had come to the decision which is laid down in the paragraphs which I beg leave to transcribe in this place:—

"As you will perceive, in virtue of the Vth Article of the Treaty of the 3rd of July,

1842, copy of which I send you, it is forbidden to carry slaves beyond the number which is stipulated in the same Article; but I know that there has been an abuse going on in our steamers in carrying negroes from Loanda to St. Thomas, so much so that the British Minister has given us notice that the steamers of the Company might be captured on this account. In consideration of these circumstances this Direction has decided that not more than 10 negroes shall be received on board our steamers when accompanying any family removing to another place, and 2 for each farmer going from one point of Africa to another. With these exceptions we have given orders to the Commanders not to receive any more negroes beyond those stipulated in the contract, and in the conditions laid down in the same; because you must very well see that the credit and prosperity of the Company ought not to be risked for so insignificant a freight, you rendering yourself responsible for any infraction of what has been decided upon.

“Although the Treaty has never been violated, and there never have been such abuses as those on which account the British Minister at Lisbon gave notice to the Mercantile Union Company, with the threat that their ships might be captured, and although not even so many slaves have been carried as the Directors allow their captains to take on board the steamers, I have thought proper to communicate to you what has been above transcribed, in order that you may inform his Excellency the Governor-General of the same.

“God preserve, &c.

(Signed)

“FRANCISCO ANTONIO FLORES.

“To the Most Illustrious the Secretary-General
to the Government of the Provincia of Angola.”

In the despatch of the 8th of January above quoted, the British Commissioner alludes in terms of censure to the sale of negroes in Angola. Such a transaction is perfectly legal in the Portuguese dominions with respect to slaves who existed as such previous to the Decree of the 14th of December, 1854, as is also the case in conformity with the 4th Article of the said Decree with regard to the redemption of slaves imported overland into those dominions, they subsequently remaining in the condition of libertos (freedmen), under the safeguard of the Protecting Board, subject to ten years' service as a remuneration for the liberty which they have obtained. Any agreements that may take place with respect to the transmission of the services of the libertos (freedmen) are also equally legal.

Consequently neither Her Britannic Majesty's Government nor their Agents have any reason to be surprised at or censure the carrying on of these transactions made in conformity with the laws of the country, and without violating either the Treaty of the 3rd of July or the true principles of humanity and philanthropy, and all this is fully proved in the correspondence which has taken place between this General Government and the British Agents at Loanda.

These transactions are identical with those which, with slight difference of form, are carried on, as I am informed, with respect to the black labourers in the British Colonies, and even with respect to white men at different points of the globe, whenever they engage their services for a certain term under the mutual guarantee of the law.

It is not sufficient to state that frauds are committed, and that passports become mere pieces of paper, on the arrival of the steamers at St. Thomas, as may be read in the same despatch from the British Commissioner at Loanda; it is also necessary to prove that statement. If this were admitted, it would follow that no black citizen could be taken by sea from one point of the Portuguese dominions to another. This would indeed be the true state of slavery not for negroes alone but even for white men, and for the nation which possesses Colonies on the African Continent and Islands.

I cannot help clearing up a fact mentioned in the despatch from the British Commissioner Edmund Gabriel with respect to the compulsion used towards a negro, and one will be able to form an idea of the reliance which the information, unaccompanied by documents, which has been obtained upon the subject in question deserves.

During the whole period which has elapsed since the 7th of January, 1861, up to the date of this despatch, not a single negro has embarked for St. Thomas under compulsion. The negro Antonio Salvador, registered as a slave of Felix Correa da Silva at folio 146 of the Proper Book under the No. 5,392, obtained permission on the 18th of December, 1861, as is proved by the proper document, to proceed to St. Thomas, on board the steamer “Zaire,” in the capacity of a free man, and his name was noted down as such at the police office for the same purpose on the 18th of October of the same year, under No. 624, as the aforesaid document shows. As this individual was a slave, and could not be reduced to the class of a free man without a violation of the right of property, a bond was drawn up at the General Office (document No. 2) by Ignacio Jozé de Moraes, jun.,

on the 18th of October, 1861, whereby the identity of the individual is guaranteed and bail given for his liberty, the surety engaging to indemnify the owner of the slave, who becomes free by the mere fact of departure, should any one appear in due terms claiming the indemnity; the said surety submitting, moreover, to any fine which may be imposed upon him.

I forward to your Excellency document No. 3, which is a copy of the registration respecting the negro Antonio Salvador; the remark of his having passed to a state of liberty is not put down under the head of remarks, because his departure for St. Thomas did not take place.

This negro preferred the state of slavery in the province of Angola to that of a free man at St. Thomas, under the same conditions in which a servant man is placed who is serving in a house having entered into a private agreement with his master. He ran away when he was going on board without any compulsion having been used. He did not even go on board or leave the port; and, consequently, the condition under which his liberty was given him was never realized. If the negro Salvador had gone away there would have been one free man more in the province of St. Thomas and a slave less in that of Angola.

For a negro to wound himself, or even to commit suicide, is a very common occurrence. On the 19th of this month a slave belonging to Dona Isabel Shap de Fabia, hanged himself without any reason, as he was very well treated by his mistress. It is not to be wondered at that a being in such a state of mind as the one to whom the British Commissioner alludes should be accompanied by police agents.

Had this negro, who was a slave in Angola, embarked for St. Thomas by order of the Government, in the condition of a free man, this would not be a violation of the Treaty of the 3rd of July. The Government might, if it thought proper, declare all slaves proceeding from Angola to St. Thomas to be free, indemnifying their masters, although, for all this, such a measure tending to the emancipation of negroes could not be put down as Slave Trade in disguise. If I am mistaken, the reason is, because the feeling of philanthropy and liberty in favour of the man of colour disappears in consequence of the fact that negroes go and apply themselves to the cultivation of the Province of St. Thomas.

In order further to enlighten your Excellency as to the mode of proceeding in Angola, I shall relate a fact which occurred with regard to the free negro Jozé Guese. This negro was ordered by the police to disembark on the 29th of January under No. 202, and he obtained a passport on the same date in order to proceed on his voyage to St. Thomas on board the steamer "D. Antonia," as it appears from the proper document. When he was already on board he reconsidered and came ashore, although he had made an agreement with Jozé de Jezus Rodrigues as to the conditions of his passage. On presenting himself to the Chief of the Police after a few days, he petitioned for leave to be given him to enlist into the Corps of Public Security, which was granted to him, and he is now serving in that corps under No. 117.

No concealment is made of any facts of this nature; everything respecting the slave Antonio Salvador, to whom the British Commissioner alludes, is stated in the Police Reports inserted in the official bulletins of this Province, Nos. 838 and 845. The name of Nazareth is given there to the negro slave, because he was thus known; and there is a mistake with respect to the name of the master, who is not Ruy Maltoso da Camara, as may be seen above.

Inclosure 3 in No. 100.

List of Negroes who have left Loanda for St. Thomas, since February 1861, up to this date.

Dates.	Vessels.	Number of Individuals and Conditions.			Communications made to the Governor of St. Thomas, forwarding the Nominal List of Negroes.	Replies to the same, from the Governor of St. Thomas.
		Slaves.	Libertos (freedmen).	Free.		
1861						
February 7	Steamer Estephania	3	7	12	Despatch No. 21 of February 2, 1861	
February 13	Brig Amelia	1	9	5	25	13, "
April 4	Steamer Zaire	9	1	9	40 of April	4, " Despatch No. 253 of April 20, 1861
" 19	Patacho (ship) Doudo	5	10	5	51	19, " 875 of May 15, "
" 28	Steamer Africa	5	5	17	58	28, " Ditto.
May 6	Hiate (yacht) San Thomé	10	...	1	60 of May	6, " 594 of June 17, "
" 27	Steamer D. Antonia	3	7	20	67	27, " 638 " 20, "
June 12	Brig Activo	...	10	10	74 of June	12, " "
July 4	Steamer Don Pedro	...	10	16	83 of July	4, " "
August 7	Patacho G de Fevereiro	4	6	10	102 of August	8, " 1,085 of August 17, "
" 10	Steamer Estephania	4	2	52	103	8, " Ditto.
" 16	Patacho Emilia de Lisboa	...	10	15	108	10, " 1,147 of August 26, "
" 19	Patacho Doudo	...	10	6	109	10, " 1,279 of September 19, "
September 7	Steamer Africa	...	2	38	133 of September 7	7, " 1,293 " 20, "
" 30	Patacho Estrella d'Ouro	3	7	10	143	30, " 1,446 of October 23, "
" 30	Steamer D. Antonia	...	10	50	144	30, " Ditto.
October 3	Patacho Andorinha do Tejo	...	10	7	146 of October	2, " Ditto.
" 11	Patacho Doudo	...	10	5	150	11, " 1,567 of November 20, "
" 18	Brig Andorinha	2	8	72	153A	18, " 1,569 " 23, "
November 18	Steamer Zaire	...	10	10	160	18, " 1,567 " 22, "
" 30	Brig Parajo 2	...	10	20	161 of November 30	30, " 1,658 of December 26, "
December 5	Steamer Don Pedro	...	10	83	162 of December 5	5, " Ditto.
" 5	Brig Sophia	...	10	16	163	5, " Ditto.
" 19	Patacho Liberdade	10	...	21	165	19, " 14 of January 4, 1862
" 22	Patacho Massango	...	10	10	166	22, " 17 " 7, "
1862						
January 7	Steamer Estephania	115	2 of January	7, 1862
" 31	Patacho Quinta de Ponten	10	...	20	3	10, "
February 3	Steamer D. Antonia	10	...	104	9	31, " 158 of February 21, "
" 18	Patacho Doudo	...	10	10	17 of February	13, " 290 of March 31, "
February 19	Patacho Rio Ave	...	10	10	19	19, " Ditto.
March 5	Patacho 68	...	8	2	28 of March	5, " Ditto.
" 19	Steamer Africa	...	6	4	26	12, " 304 of April 5, "
" 20	Patacho Massang	...	10	10	26A	20, " "
" 27	Steamer Zaira	...	10	32	29	27, " "
April 13	Patacho Libe	...	10	62	32 of April	12, " 425 of May 3, "
" 24	Patacho Mr. ssango	...	10	10	37	24, " 463 " 17, "
June 26	Steamer F. J. Antonia	3	4	75	50 of June	26, " 650 of July 26, "
Gr and Total		105	244	1,105		

Office of the General Government of the Province of Angola,
July 16, 1862.

During the inability to act of the Secretary-General,
(Signed) MANOEL DA SILVA FRANCO, Chief Clerk.

Inclosure 4 in No. 100.

Bond for Bail.

(Translation.)

ON the 18th day of the month of October, 1861, in this city of Loanda, and in the office of the General Government, there appeared Ignacio Jozé de Moraes, junior, and he declared to me that, in consequence of the orders of his Excellency the Governor-General, he guaranteed the identity and became surety for the freedom of the free negroes Manoel Francisco, Sarmiento Jozé, Thereza Maria, Felicio Joaquim, Jozé Francisco, Sofia Antonia, João Francisco, Arthur Francisco, Francisco Manoel, Jorge Jozé, Miquelina Maria, Julio Antonio, Roza Jozepha, Antonio Salvador, who proceed on their voyage to St. Thomas in the steamer "Zaire," engaging to pay the value of the afore-said negroes, should any person claim any of them as slaves, or prove that they belong to him, besides subjecting himself to the fine which may be imposed upon him.

And in proof of his having made this declaration, and taken the said engagement upon himself, he signed it, together with myself.

In the inability to act of the Secretary-General,
(Signed) MANOEL DA SILVA FRANCO, Chief Clerk.
IGNACIO JOSE DE MORAES, Jun.

Inclosure 5 in No. 100.

Registration of Antonio Salvador.

(Translation.)

REGISTRATION of the negro Antonio Salvador. Book No. 5. Serial number of masters, 609. Name of the master, Felix Correa da Silva. Serial number of slaves, 5,392. Name of the slave, Antonio Salvador. Place of birth, Loanda. Probable age, 22 years. External signs, black colour, ordinary stature. Remarks, none.

During the inability to act of the Secretary-General,
(Signed) MANOEL DA SILVA FRANCO, *Chief Clerk.*

No. 101.

Earl Russell to Sir A. Magenis.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 26, 1863.*
WITH reference to my despatch of the 25th ultimo I inclose, for your information, copies of a correspondence between the Portuguese Minister at this Court and myself respecting the proceedings of Commander Smith, of Her Majesty's ship "Torch," in boarding and bringing to anchor the Portuguese brigantine "Paquete de Mossamedes" in the harbour of Loanda in the month of December last.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 101.

Count Lavradio to Earl Russell.

(Translation.)

London, June 13, 1863

THE Undersigned, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of His Most Faithful Majesty, has received the most positive orders to make known, without the smallest delay, to his Excellency the Earl Russell, Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the following statement of acts done in the harbour of Loanda by order of the Commander of the British man-of-war the "Torch."

On the 16th day of December of last year, the Portuguese patacho "Paquete de Mossamedes," having completed all the legal forms, sailed from the port of Loanda, and, according to the statement of the British war-ship "Torch," passed so near the British ship that the officer who was on board, appearing to apprehend a collision, weighed the anchor and made sail. It is, therefore, beyond all doubt that the "Torch" suffered no damage. But the Commander of the "Torch," F. H. Smith, arriving at this time on board his vessel, considered himself authorized to send three of his boats, commanded by his Lieutenant, with orders to board the Portuguese patacho, to oblige her to suspend her departure, and to visit her, an order which is proved to have been executed by the communication of the Commander of the "Torch" himself.

As soon as the Governor-General was informed of the outrage committed by the Commander of the "Torch," he addressed to him a solemn protest, to which that officer replied, as it appears from the accompanying copies, both of the protest of the Governor-General of Angola and of the reply of Commander Smith.

In view of the declaration of Commander Smith himself, there can be no doubt, as the Undersigned has already mentioned, upon the acts done by that Commander; as also there can be none that these acts constitute an offence to the Portuguese flag, and a violation of territory.

This being stated, the only thing remaining to the Undersigned is to examine, first, whether, in the outrage committed by F. H. Smith, the Commander of the "Torch," the existence of any extenuating circumstance can be admitted; secondly, whether the letter which that Commander addressed to the Governor-General of Angola can be considered as a sufficient reparation for the outrages mentioned.

The Undersigned, after a very serious examination of the facts, not only cannot admit any circumstance which could extenuate the conduct of the Commander of the "Torch," but, on the contrary, he finds in it very aggravating circumstances; among others, that the Commander formed his violent resolution when there could not remain any apprehension of danger for his ship, if, in fact, any had existed; and further, that he did not hasten to make some communication, either to the Governor-General of the Province or even to the harbour authorities. The outrage committed by the Commander

CLASS B.

of the "Torch" took place at 5.15 P.M. of the 16th day of December, and even on the following day, the 17th, he had made no communication to any authority, nor, perhaps, would he have ever made any, had it not been induced by the protest of the Honourable Governor-General of the Province.

Nor can the Undersigned consider the letter which Commander Smith addressed to the Governor-General of Angola as a sufficient reparation for his very improper proceeding. The Commander of the "Torch" alleges, in excusal of his acts, that he had no intention to insult the Portuguese flag; but it is not the province of the Undersigned to appreciate the intentions of Commander Smith, but his acts, done publicly, in the middle of the day, in the harbour of Loanda.

The Undersigned has therefore the honour to declare, in the name of the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty, to his Excellency Earl Russell, that in the acts done in the harbour of Loanda, on the 16th day of December last, by the Commander of the British man-of-war "Torch," he cannot admit the existence of any extenuating circumstance, nor can he consider the declaration of his intentions as a sufficient reparation of the acts done by him.

Having detailed and given his opinion of the facts above mentioned, the Undersigned abstains (in obedience to the instructions which he has received from his Government) from pointing out the satisfaction to which His Most Faithful Majesty's Government is entitled, as also the indemnification due to the owner of the patacho "Paquete de Mossamedes;" but, recognizing the justice which guides the deliberations of Her Britannic Majesty's Government, the Undersigned limits himself to claiming a reparation equal to what Her Britannic Majesty's Government would claim in the like circumstances from any other Power.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

LAVRADIO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 101.

The Governor-General of the Province of Angola to Commander Smith.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Palace of Government in Loanda, December 17, 1862.

I RECEIVED last night an official communication, stating that a great insult had been offered by Her Britannic Majesty's ship "Torch" under your command, which at 5.15 P.M. within the harbour of this city boarded with three boats the patacho "Paquete de Mossamedes" after she had set sail, having been cleared by all the competent authorities.

It is painful to me to imagine an outrage of such a nature, done by British forces against all the rights of the nation which is proud of being the ancient and faithful ally of England, and which has always acted towards her with the most rigorous good faith in the maintenance of Treaties, even though for this effect she may have been obliged to hazard her interest with the most powerful nations.

I am, therefore, in the necessity of protesting, as I do solemnly protest, against such an audacious affront to the Portuguese flag; and I expect that my Government will obtain from the uprightness and impartial justice of yours the due reparation, not only of the offence to the dignity and independence of the nation so outraged, but also in respect to the injury caused to commerce, in consequence of a ship being forcibly compelled to anchor, when she was engaged in the voyage for which she had been legally authorized.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed)

JOSE BAPTISTA D'ANDRADE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 101.

Commander Smith to the Governor-General of the Province of Angola.

Excellent Sir,

St. Paul de Loanda, December 17, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Excellency's communication of this day's date, complaining of an insult which had been offered to the Portuguese flag in this port by the boats of Her Majesty's ship under my command, in having last evening boarded the Portuguese brigantine "Paquete de Mossamedes," and brought her to anchor.

In answer to the above, I beg to furnish your Excellency with the following explanation: Upon returning to the "Torch" last evening about 5.30 P.M., in company with

Commander Beamish of Her Majesty's ship "Wrangler," and being about 500 yards from the "Torch," I observed the "Paquete de Mossamedes" steering (as it appeared to me) for the bows of the vessel under my command. Sail being quickly made on board the "Torch" and cable served out, prevented the collision which must otherwise inevitably have ensued.

Having by this time arrived on board the "Torch," and considering the circumstances of the case required explanation, I desired my Lieutenant to take the boats and bring the brigantine to an anchor, which was accordingly done. When I observed the vessel anchored, I at once recalled the boats, and to call attention to the signal, fired again; the Lieutenant immediately returned with the boats and men under his command. I may add that he was not on board the brigantine a quarter of an hour.

I cannot nor should I wish to attribute the conduct of the master of the "Paquete de Mossamedes" on this occasion to malice, and I have therefore but to suppose that it was owing to extreme incompetency or gross negligence.

By the above statement your Excellency will perceive that what was done on the occasion by me was really called for, and as the brigantine was leaving the port rapidly with a fair wind, it was inopinative, in order to obtain the explanation sought for, that she should be at once brought to, which I took upon myself to do, as there was no time to communicate with the authorities of the port.

By the early receipt of your Excellency's letter I have been anticipated in making the complaint which I intended doing in the course of this day.

I must express my extreme regret that your Excellency should suppose that an insult would at any time be offered to the Portuguese flag by a British officer, more particularly at the present time, when such friendly feeling towards our country was displayed on the recent melancholy occasion.

I beg to assure your Excellency in conclusion, that it has ever been and will continue to be my earnest wish to cultivate the amicable relations which have for so long a period existed between our respective countries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. H. SMITH.

Inclosure 4 in No. 101.

Earl Russell to Count Lavradio.

M. le Comte,

Foreign Office, June 23, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 13th instant, bringing to the notice of Her Majesty's Government the conduct of the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Torch," in boarding and bringing to an anchor the Portuguese patacho "Paquete de Mossamedes," in the harbour of Loanda, on the 16th of December last, and stating that you have been instructed to claim from Her Majesty's Government such reparation and indemnity as Her Majesty's Government would, in like circumstances, feel justified in demanding from any other Power.

I beg leave, in reply, to acquaint you that the circumstances which form the subject of your note were reported to Her Majesty's Government by the Acting British Vice-Consul at Loanda, in a despatch dated the 19th of January last, on the receipt of which I lost no time in instructing Her Majesty's Minister at Lisbon to express in suitable terms to the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty the regret of Her Majesty's Government at Commander Smith's proceedings.

I inclose for your information a copy of the despatch which I addressed to Sir A. Magenis on the occasion in question.

I trust that the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty, when made acquainted with the instructions which I have sent to Sir A. Magenis, will accept the action taken by Her Majesty's Government in this matter as a proof of their earnest wish to make such reparation as is due for the conduct of their officer in this affair.

It only remains for me to add that Her Majesty's Government will be happy to make to the master of the "Paquete de Mossamedes" any reasonable compensation for losses which he may have suffered by reason of the detention of his vessel.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 103.

Sir A. Magenis to Earl Russell.—(Received July 5.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, June 19, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have, in obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatches of the 23rd and 25th ultimo, addressed representations to His Most Faithful Majesty's Government, drawn up as nearly as possible in identical terms with those employed in the above-mentioned despatches, and in their several inclosures, respecting the circumstances connected with the capture of the "*Island Queen*," slave-vessel, by Her Majesty's ship "*Wrangler*;" and the capture of the "*Liberdade*," slave-vessel, by Her Majesty's ship "*Zebra*."

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

No. 104.

Sir A. Magenis to Earl Russell.—(Received July 5.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, June 19, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the copy of a note which, in conformity with the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch, I have addressed to the Duke de Loulé, expressing the disapproval by Her Majesty's Government of the conduct of Commander Smith, of Her Majesty's ship "*Torch*," with respect to the Portuguese vessel "*Paquete de Mossamedes*."

I have also the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 6th instant, with its inclosures.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

P.S. *June 23.*—Since writing the above despatch I have received the note, of which I inclose a translation, from the Duke de Loulé, expressing the thanks of His Most Faithful Majesty's Government for the disapproval of the conduct of Commander Smith upon the occasion referred to by Her Majesty's Government.

A. C. M.

Inclosure 1 in No. 104.

Sir A. Magenis to the Duke of Loulé.

M. le Ministre,

Lisbon, June 15, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have been instructed by Earl Russell, Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to convey to the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty the regrets of the Government of the Queen my Sovereign, at the conduct pursued by Commander Smith, of Her Majesty's ship "*Torch*," in sending the boats of the ship under his command to compel the Portuguese brigantine "*Paquete de Mossamedes*" to come to an anchor when that vessel was about to leave the harbour of Loanda, in the month of December last.

Earl Russell has been in communication with the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty upon this subject; and I have also been instructed by his Lordship to add, for your Excellency's information, that the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's Naval Forces on the African Station will be instructed to communicate to Commander Smith the disapproval by their Lordships of the course which he thought fit to adopt with regard to a Portuguese ship under the protection of the Portuguese flag, and which was most unjustifiable in the opinion of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 104.

The Duke of Loulé to Sir A. Magenis.

(Translation.)

Foreign Office, Lisbon, June 20, 1863.

I HAVE received the note which you were pleased to address to me on the 15th instant, wherein, in accordance with the instructions which you had received, you make known to me how much Her Britannic Majesty's Government had regretted the conduct pursued by Commander Smith, of the ship "Torch," in sending the boats of the ship under his command to oblige the Portuguese brigantine "Paquete de Mossamedes" to anchor, when that vessel was on the point of quitting the port of Loanda in December last.

Having taken cognizance of the contents of your said note, and of the opinion of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, to whom Earl Russell addressed himself on this subject, I have the honour to request you to have the goodness to thank, in the name of His Majesty's Government, Her Britannic Majesty's Government, for the promptitude with which they consented to disapprove the proceedings of that officer towards a Portuguese vessel under the protection of the flag of its own nation.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) DUKE OF LOULE.

No. 105.

Sir A. Magenis to Earl Russell.—(Received July 5.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, June 22, 1863.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 15th January, 1862, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the translation of a note from the Duke de Loulé, and of its inclosures, by which your Lordship will perceive that his Excellency strives to refute the charges brought against the Portuguese authorities on the coast of Africa of conniving at the Slave Trade, consigned in my note to M. d'Avila, of the 14th of January, 1862, and which formed the inclosure in my despatch above alluded to.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 105.

The Duke of Loulé to Sir A. Magenis.

(Translation.)

Foreign Office, Lisbon, May 30, 1863.

THE Governor-General of the Province of Mozambique was acquainted in due time with the contents of the despatch addressed to Her Britannic Majesty's Government, under date of the 31st December, 1860, by Commander Oldfield, on the station on the Eastern coast of Africa, which you communicated to my predecessor, and of your note dated the 14th January, 1862, both of them having reference to the Slave Trade operations carried on at different points of that coast, and in which the Portuguese authorities in the said province are charged with conniving at the aforesaid operations.

The Marine Department having received from the said Governor-General the despatches in which, in answer to the "Portarias" (Ministerial Orders) which had been sent to him, he refutes the charges in question, and makes several remarks on the subject, it is my duty to transmit to you an extract from those despatches, so as to enable you to make known to your Government how groundless the accusations are which have been brought forward against the Portuguese authorities above-mentioned.

I renew, &c.

(Signed) DUKE OF LOULE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 105.

The Governor-General of the Province of Mozambique to the Minister of Marine.

(Translation.)

(Extract.)

Mozambique, October 14, 1862.

I HAVE read Commander Oldfield's report with all the attention, and with the greatest equanimity, as much as the serious attack made against my reputation by a foreign officer would allow me, whom I have met more than once, and in whose opinion I thought I deserved to be held as a man of honour and probity, as a man might be supposed to be who has the honour of being worthy of his Sovereign's confidence, so as to entrust to him the government of one of his most important colonies; who occupies high rank in the noble profession of arms, which is a proof at least that he has rendered some services, and who acts with frankness, openness, and good faith, which the tranquillity of his conscience and the faithful fulfilment of his duty inspire him with; who always makes use of the open and sincere language of a soldier; who can never suppose that any individual, either a foreigner or a native, with whom he is upon good terms, should form a bad opinion of him without grounds. Very unfortunately for our credit, I know that the British functionaries complain, and sometimes with reason, of the proceedings of our authorities, who very often do not correspond to the confidence which His Majesty's Government places in them; but my own actions at the beginning of my government in this province, and the sincerity of my endeavours to put an end to and to prevent the Slave Trade, have been so sincere, and I have given such evident proofs of the same, that I could not for a moment think, not that it was not carried on, because unfortunately I know that not only it is carried on, but has been and will be carried on as long as it will afford such profits as speculators derive from this infamous trade, which any man of moderate instruction and acquainted with economical and political principles condemns as a most inhuman crime, but that I might be suspected of consenting to the same, in contravention of the wishes and orders of His Majesty, whom I flatter myself I serve with honour, zeal, and loyalty.

The accusations made by Captain Oldfield surprise me still more, inasmuch as that officer, when I went to Zanzibar, paid me very particular attention, inviting me to a special dinner on board his ship, a favour which he was not bound to do me even indirectly, inasmuch as he only chanced to be there on the occasion of my going, and was not upon any other terms with me beyond those of mere civility and consideration due to my position, and which did not oblige him to do so much. I shall now analyse Captain Oldfield's assertions, and I cannot help considering the statistics of the exportation of slaves from the coast as curious, these same being audaciously presented without proofs, or without any other reason to justify the same. He says that from Ibo between 2,000 and 3,000 slaves are exported, and from Quillimane 1,000 to 1,500 annually, under the protection of their Excellencies the Governors. It is, however, to be wondered at that this officer, knowing that such a number of slaves are exported from these two points, and having the faculty to cruize wherever and howsoever he may choose, and having a steam-ship under his command, as well as many other smaller vessels, is not able to capture the greater part, not only of the slaves which are exported annually, as he says, but also of the ships and dhows which carry the same. The faculty of cruizing on this coast is carried to excess, not only by Captain Oldfield himself, but also by all the other cruizers, who, in violation of the Treaties, carry launches and boats, which are freely introduced into the canals amongst the islands of that district, of which I should not complain if the crews of those ships did not commit every kind of abuse against the inhabitants, stealing from them fowls, kids, and provisions, and being guilty of other violence, against which I have already written to the Admiral commanding the Cape Station, and of which I have apprised His Majesty's Government on different occasions. I am opposed to the trade; but for that very reason that I feel conscious of complying with my duty, and am not obliged to cast down my eyes before any one, either native or foreigner, it is that I complain and make representations without any consideration for anything. And my complaints are not grounded upon reports, which, if they may be true, may also be incorrect, like the one of which he made use in order to throw discredit upon an authority which can only be accused by means of reports; but I believe that reports, even in England, and even with respect to the odious Slave Trade, are not sufficient grounds for accusing anybody, and still less for condemning any one, even a Portuguese authority, whom Captain Oldfield does not seem to consider entitled to be held in good opinion.

The same Captain further says:—"The conduct of his Excellency the Governor of

Ibo is so well known, and his Excellency the Governor of Mozambique shows himself so prejudiced in defending him from the charges which have been brought against him with respect to his bad conduct, that I cannot help believing the report to be true that the accounts from his Excellency the Governor of Mozambique are contradictory in themselves, that half, or the greater part, of the sums received by the Governor of Ibo from the agents of the Trade and from the captains are paid to his Excellency the Governor."

I do not know what feeling possesses me on reading these assertions. I become warm in defence of any subordinate of mine, when I think the charges brought against him slanderous, and I become excited, that is warm, as I always do, with respect to all things entrusted to my charge, care, and protection, because being a victim myself to similar accusations I cannot see with indifference the facility of bringing forward charges which affect the most sensitive part of an individual—his reputation and honesty—and as I consider myself responsible to His Majesty and to my country, and to my own conscience, for the honour and honesty of an officer whom I appointed as being worthy of my confidence to that post, I cannot hear with indifference, and still less coincide in the opinion that this officer should forfeit in my judgment the only condition which recommended him to my confidence—his honour and honesty, proved by many years of good and zealous services, in more humble capacities it is true, but which always, or almost always, are the only and the safest recommendation, inasmuch as the antecedents of an individual are the only means of judging of his future conduct, as I do not know of any other title for obtaining the proper confidence of the authorities. And I was not then aware that I should have to reply to gratuitous assertions, taking for my basis the expression of a noble feeling, the defence of a subordinate whom I consider innocent. But the reliance placed on reports attacking the honour of a functionary of high rank does not end here: "The sum of 9,000,000 reis (2,000*l.*) was given to the Governor of Ibo for his assistance and permission in purchasing a cargo of slaves, and it is said that 4,000,000 reis (888*l.*) were given to the Governor-General,"—an expression of which Captain Oldfield has the goodness to make use in my regard, based upon a mere "it is said."

I beg your Excellency to allow me, in spite of the length of this reply, to add a few further observations, not to enable the Government to refute Captain Oldfield's assertions, because for this end the reasons for confidence which, to my great honour, I find stated in the "Portaria" (Ministerial Order), to which I reply are quite sufficient—an honour which alone obliges me to extend this answer to so great a length, but only for the purpose of proving once more the injustice with which such accusations are made. And, incidentally, I will say that nothing could be easier than for Captain Oldfield, or for any other officer capturing a slaver, to make an inquiry into the facts of which he accuses the authorities, from the same; if they could succeed in making an inquiry, it might be known up to a certain point, which does not appear to me to be difficult, whether the authorities and their agents are always the receivers of the money, and who the former and the latter are; and although such evidence could not constitute a proof, it would justify certain hypotheses, which not possessing even such a basis, fall to the ground, when they are directed against individuals who can oppose a groundless suspicion by many years of good and honourable services to their country in different posts without ever soiling their hands by extortion or speculation.

I have already told your Excellency that the trade is carried on, and will be carried on for a long time on this coast, which cannot be prevented either by the superior authority, and very often not even by that of the districts in so vast a portion of the coast; where it cannot be prevented by numerous and active cruisers like the British with capital ships, and with officers and crews animated, not only with good and noble sentiments, because I do them the justice to consider as such those that move them to comply with their duty in repressing the trade, but urged on moreover by the profits which they may derive from the prizes. But if neither they nor their Government will admit—and they are right—that such officers should be charged with connivance or neglect of their duties when these vessels escape them, why should the British Government admit without criticism, and our own not energetically repel, all these frivolous charges of connivance which are brought forward against the Portuguese authorities?

The points occupied by troops (and not very good) from the south of Cape Delgado up to this Island of Mozambique, which includes three degrees of latitude, are the towns of Ibo and Cape Mira-membo in Pemba Bay. From Mozambique southwards to Quillimane, three degrees of latitude are included; the only point occupied by a regular garrison is Angoche, and this only about a year ago. From Inhamissingo, or Luabo, to Sofala, which includes two degrees, the only point occupied on the coast is the said fort of

Sofala. From Sofala to Inhambane, which includes four degrees of coast, the points occupied are Chiloane and Bazaruto. And from Inhambane to Lorenzo Marques, which is two degrees distant, there is no intermediate point that is occupied. It is, therefore, almost impossible to prevent the entrance of dhows which take shelter and hide themselves in any point of the coast, which introduce themselves into the creeks, where they are concealed from the vigilant eye of the British cruiser, and stay there during the time necessary to obtain the number of negroes of which they are in need; when this comes to the knowledge of the authorities, the vessel has departed long ago with the number of slaves which it came to fetch. How are the Governors to be made responsible? The Chiefs and Chieftains, whose ideas agree with the speculators, neither denounce them nor capture them. When ships come into the ports, then it is clear proceedings are instituted; when this happens, then although there should be no proofs, because it is difficult to obtain them, in consequence of the particular disposition of our people, which is well known in this respect, where nobody wishes to be an accuser, and where all exempt themselves from giving evidence against criminals, whom very often they do not support, but still feel repugnance in general to injure them by means of their evidence. And in this case all suspected Governors have been dismissed by me.

On my part I think I have stated what appears to me to be sufficient for my defence. My zeal, the services which I have performed, and the sacrifices which I make for the good of His Majesty's service, and for it alone, may induce me to continue in my position which exposes me to affronts which I am only allowed to repel by words. Your Excellency is aware that a few months after my arrival in this Province, I requested His Majesty to appoint my successor, because I considered the task of governing this Province, as I still do now, far above my strength. If I still continue here, it is not by my own will.

With respect to the Governor of Ibo I have already replied in my despatch No. 24 of 1861, and as yet I do not possess any proofs which can make me change the good opinion which I entertain in his regard; and I do not think him capable of betraying the confidence which I have placed in him, and still continue to place, both as a soldier and as a private individual. At his own request, and not on account of accusations which I hold to be groundless, I relieved him, and ordered him to be replaced by Major Tito Augusto de Araujo Siccard, who was afterwards substituted, at his own repeated request, by Captain Antonio José Rodrigues Pinho, who, after he had been there only four months, was substituted by the present Governor by His Majesty's appointment, who is still there, and wishes to be removed elsewhere.

In fine, I shall conclude by declaring to your Excellency that one of the reasons which has most forcibly obliged me to request His Majesty at different times to be pleased to appoint my successor, is that of seeing myself continually exposed to be the butt of unjust accusations, which are the more wounding and painful inasmuch as they are unmerited.

I shall again request His Majesty that, taking into consideration those slight services which through my zeal and goodwill I may have rendered in this difficult post to His Majesty and to my country, he would be pleased, as a special favour, to concede my dismissal, appointing my successor; because by my dismissal His Majesty will be better served in the Government of this province, and I shall then cease to be the victim of these and other accusations which embitter my position, which is already quite difficult and painful enough.

Inclosure 3 in No. 105.

The Governor-General of the Province of Mozambique to the Minister of Marine.

(Translation.)

(Extract.)

Mozambique, November 8, 1862.

IN the "Portaria" (Ministerial Order) No. 23 of 1862, issued by the 2nd Direction, 2nd Section of your Department, His Majesty orders me to endeavour by all the means in my power to investigate the facts set forth in the note from Her Britannic Majesty's Minister at the Court of Lisbon, of which a copy was forwarded to me, with respect to several Slave Trade operations carried on in different parts of the Province of Mozambique with the connivance of the Portuguese authorities, and that in case the same should have taken place, and should the authorities of those localities have connived at such unlawful operations, I should proceed to adopt all those measures which I might

think necessary in order to prevent their continuance, either dismissing the said authorities in case it should be proved that they were involved in such speculations, or suspending them from their functions if they have only become suspected; and His Majesty hopes that I shall use zeal and activity in carrying out this inquiry, the same august Sire considering as amongst my most important duties those endeavours which I may make for the most rigorous suppression of the Slave Trade, and for the purpose of removing, once for all, from my subordinate authorities the offensive suspicion of their connivance at such a Traffic.

It is with extreme regret that I see myself obliged to analyse these accusations in compliance with His Majesty's orders. The note dated the 14th of January of this year says that the information received from the British Consul at Zanzibar, and from the Admiral in command of Her Britannic Majesty's naval forces at the Cape station, confirm the Report of Her Majesty's Commissioner at the Cape, wherein that functionary alludes to the supposed connivance of the Portuguese authorities at the exportation of slaves from the Portuguese Possessions on the Eastern Coast of Africa; that the accounts received from the Eastern Coast of Africa during the past year all tend to show that the Slave Trade really continues to be carried on on a grand scale; that the principal trade of the Portuguese Possessions to the north of the 13th degree of south latitude is in slaves at the price of about 30 dollars (patacos) per head; that at Ibo, Cape Pangane, Matémo, Lambro, Quissanga, and Querimba, from 5,000 to 6,000 slaves were seen ready to be shipped.

I quote these first paragraphs of the note in order to reply to these charges immediately, reserving my reply to the others until afterwards, having to repeat what I have told your Excellency more than once, for the information of His Majesty's Government, and in answer to similar charges brought forward on other occasions.

The fault of these repetitions does not lie with me, but rather upon the charges themselves, which are continually reproduced under different forms without any great variation, because their origin is the same, that is, the fixed purpose of accusing the Portuguese authorities of connivance, without further inquiry, except—"it is said," "it appears," and other similar assertions, which there really is no other means of repelling in any other way except by denying the fact of a general connivance, without denying that of the shipping of slaves, because it is undoubtedly carried on, not only at those points, but also at all the others resorted to by "dhows," both on that part of the coast which belongs to us, as well as on the whole of the same to the north of Cape Delgado. It is impossible to prevent this contraband, because no ships, however numerous, could put a stop to it; and those points are neither occupied by troops nor have they got any Portuguese authorities, but rather native authorities who yield us obedience, but whom it is not possible to punish or dismiss, as this would be equivalent to declare war against the tribes or villages over which they preside, and by which they are chosen and elected. There is consequently no necessity for the connivance of the Portuguese authorities at the trade, who cannot prevent this contraband, in the same manner as they cannot prevent the one in goods, which is also carried on, and which is so prejudicial to the receipts of the Custom-houses of this Province.

If it be proved that there are no troops at these points because there is not a sufficient force for this purpose, if it be proved that there are no other authorities in the same except native ones, if it be proved that there is no means of guarding the coast and the innumerable ports, bays, rivers, and other places accessible for Arabian dhows which frequent them for the purpose of introducing goods into the wilds, in order to purchase slaves therewith—proved as it is by Dr. Livingstone's reports, and by the testimony of many Portuguese travellers, that the Arabs, the chief abettors of the purchase and of the stealing of slaves and of people in general, are to be found in the wilds near Tete, and even still further in the interior; it is proved that the trade can be carried on, and, I believe, it is carried on without the necessity of a connivance on the part of the Portuguese authorities, as is constantly stated in the reports which are communicated to us, unless they give the name of Portuguese to these native authorities who deal in negroes for their own profit, through their want of civilization, and even owing to religious ideas,—since they are all Mahomedans,—and the Koran, which is their civil and religious law, does not forbid them to possess slaves, or to trade in the same, and consequently they think that they do not commit a crime in evading the demands of a more advanced civilization, and other moral and social principles which they do not understand. The places Ibo, Cape Pangane, Matemo, Lambro (probably Lumbo) Quissanga, and Querimba, are parts of the district of Cape Delgado, situated on the Continent; Ibo, Matemo, and Querimba being the only three islands of the district which are inhabited, where I do not think that such Slave Trade operations are carried

on,* because they all are very near the seat of the Government of the district, and at a distance from the place where slaves can be more easily collected without running any risk, which is on the Continent. It is asserted that in those places from about 5,000 to 6,000 slaves were seen ready to be shipped. I know not whether this is meant during a year; it is likely that it is so, as in one of the preceding paragraphs it is said "from the accounts received during the past year."

The exaggeration of these numbers immediately appears at first sight, inasmuch as if this were so, a great many dhows would be required to ship them; for, granting that each of them could take, on an average, 100 slaves, which is inadmissible, because, in general, they are vessels of small tonnage, and cannot carry such a large number of persons, and the water and provisions necessary for them, however small the quantity they might give them, and it is known that they usually take about 10, 20, or 30 slaves, even in that hypothesis no less than 80 or 100 dhows, or 10 or 12 large vessels carrying from 400 to 600 slaves would be required. This does not appear to be a serious assertion; the facility in receiving the information given by the Arabs, whose character is familiar to the whole world, is almost incredible.

Can the English really believe in the good faith of the Arabs? I think that they only believe in it when they incriminate the Portuguese; and let it be remarked that these informers receive a salary, and that it is chiefly their interest in keeping those who pay them under deception, since this is their means of living; making use also, as it appears, of the protection given them, for the purpose of doing under safeguard of the same what suits them best. But to return again to the assertion of the 5,000 or 6,000 slaves which were seen ready for shipment in the district of Cape Delgado, wherein, as I have already said, the places above-mentioned are situated. I know not how to make this information agree with that given under date of the 31st of December, 1860, by Captain Oldfield in his Report, of which a copy was sent to me with the "Portaria" (Ministerial Order) No. 79 of 1861, to which I reply in my despatch No. 226 of 1862, who asserts that from Ibo 2,000 to 3,000 slaves are exported annually. This officer asserts this positively, and I do not know which is the true number, when two authorities differ upon a subject which they must have studied. In my opinion, as I have already stated to your Excellency, there is a great, an enormous, exaggeration in each of these assertions, and the Portuguese Government has the right to doubt of their sincerity. On my part, I declare that, convinced as I am that slaves are exported from this coast, I do not believe in such numbers, although I regret it, and exceedingly too, and do not wish that even a single slave should quit the Portuguese coast. Truth forces me to declare that I know that they are exported very much against my wish, and in opposition to our well understood interest. I condemn the fact with all the strength of my conviction, but, in admitting the same, I cannot agree with the wide proportion in which it is represented, perhaps without the slightest (evil?) intention, and only based upon erroneous and exaggerated information, which there has been no wish to scrutinize with a judicious and prudent criticism, although an attack is made therein against the good name even of those who had heretofore been considered as honourable and honest, and of sentiments opposed to a trade which religion, policy, and right reason, and our own laws, justly condemn.

Is there indeed not a single honest man in this country? Even Major Siccard, who might be respected on account of the good opinion in which he seemed to be held by the English, has not escaped the stigma of being a slave-dealer whilst Governor of Ibo, whereas it was precisely on account of this good opinion that I selected him for that post, giving, in this manner, another guarantee of the earnest wish which I entertained that the aforesaid trade should not be carried on: but not even he, held in such good reputation, could escape the shame which without more ado is thrown upon every one, and at all times. His promotion, as they say, instead of confirming him in his good ideas, as it appears from the note, caused him to forget them, and made him prevaricate. His well-earned reputation, which had been so often and so repeatedly manifested, vanished, and he remained suspected and contaminated by the eternal "it is said," against which neither name, possession, position, antecedents, nor services, are of any avail, in order to protect a Portuguese authority.

Let me therefore be allowed to doubt the truth of these charges against this officer, of whom I still hold the same good opinion. He was replaced, at his own request, after he had been only a few months at the head of that Government. His successor, appointed on the 19th of June, 1861, was also there hardly four months, and the independence of character which he had acquired was such that, although he is married here, he joyfully

* The text is: "taes escravos se façam" (such slaves are made).

accepted the appointment which I gave him of commander of the fortified place of Bazaruto, a real banishment. This Acting Governor was succeeded by the present one, Major Barros, who was appointed by His Majesty, and of whose character nothing unfavourable is known up to the moment I am writing. I do not therefore perceive the connivance which is denounced.

The note continues: "In the Settlement of Pemba Bay, formed by Captain Romero in 1858, the Commissioner at the Cape has received information that the only trade carried on there is exclusively that in slaves, who are kidnapped from the tribes in the neighbourhood and sent to Ibo in the droves employed in provisioning Pemba Bay."

In my despatch No. 41 of 1862, I gave an account of the unfortunate manner in which that Settlement at Pemba had come to an end in November 1861, and consequently your Excellency will perceive how groundless those accounts are. Since the extinction of the Colony, there has only been at Miranembo Point a detachment of about fifteen or twenty soldiers, commanded by an officer who is sent there from Ibo. During the harvest season, from March till June, several launches from Ibo go there for the purpose of buying provisions, and for this end a few traders settle there. The Chiefs of the Bay are, on the south the Mugato, and on the north Said Aly; the former lives in the interior and is poor and has no prestige, and the latter lives to the north of the Bay, and although he has received a subsidy from the Government, he has lived in continual disputes with the Government of Ibo, on which account his pay was ordered to be stopped, and he is not on good terms with the Portuguese authorities, without however being hostile. He is a Moor, an old slave-dealer, and does not go to Ibo, on account of the great number of debts which he has incurred there; two or three of his dhows have already been captured, the same having been found with slaves on board. This shows that the authorities have not been, and are not at present, guilty of connivance with him, and at the same time proves the exaggeration of the statement that the Slave Trade is the only one carried on there; because several dhows have been captured by the authorities, and the only vessel at the disposal of the Governor of the district is a launch armed with a pivot-gun, which is always stationed there in order to protect the detachment, to whom even provisions are sent from Ibo during the time when no trade is carried on in the Bay, which is the case during the greater part of the year.

In the Bulletin No. 13, 1862, your Excellency will see the traffic of that port, and also the number of launches which went there to fetch provisions, which they were in the habit of doing even before the establishment of the Colony there, which, as you are aware did not come to an end from the advantages which this trade, so profitable as it is, might have given it. Consequently there is also a manifest exaggeration in the information received by the Commissioner at the Cape, and which he forwarded. Accounts and news are not all true; and God forbid that they should be so, even when they are pleasing to our ideas and suit the dispositions of our mind. In order to prove that the Trade is very profitable to the authorities at Ibo, the note states, "the successive Governors acquire a competency so speedily in consequence of the bribes they receive, that an instance is quoted in which the Governor of Ibo paid a bribe of 500 cruzados (crowns) to an Arab of Zanzibar, to induce him to abstain from giving any information respecting the supercargoes who were then in the place."

I think that what is meant by this sum is that any one that can dispose of the same must be very rich. This instance, if it did take place, would only prove the stupidity of the Governor who had thus acted, because it amounts to nothing else to imagine that this payment could prevent the Arab of Zanzibar, and therefore a foreigner, from speaking out, or that he would allow himself to be bribed, and would remain faithful to the gift of 50,000 reis (11*l.*) which is the amount, or value of the 500 crowns above-mentioned. "Cruzado" (crown) is the name which is still given here and in the whole province at the present day to 100 reis (nearly 6*d.*) in good money, which had formerly the value of 400 reis of bad money, and it does not appear to me that a present of 50,000 reis can be a sign of great wealth. Admitting the case in question to be true, it is this part of the note which refers to facts, which, from what I have said, it is at least perfectly lawful to doubt, inasmuch as they are nothing else but vague words and assertions, which may be answered by denying them. The connivance with which the authorities are positively charged is the effect of the information given by the Arabs to those individuals who employ them as their Agents, grounding their opinion upon the exportation which is really carried on, but which can be, and I believe has been, carried on, at least of late years, without any connivance on the part of the Governors, because, as the said connivance is not indispensable, it is not to be presumed that individuals who set all laws, human and divine, at defiance, and incur

innumerable dangers, in order to satisfy their immense ambition of gain, will go and share those gains uselessly and unnecessarily with persons who cannot prevent the trade, and with whose assistance they can very well dispense.

I still repeat once more that, from what I have above stated, I neither wish to deny, nor do I deny, that there has been, and that there may still be, connivance on the part of some authorities who may take part in the trade, but rather that the charges which are now brought forward do not prove that connivance, and are nothing else but assertions more or less vague, and not entitled to belief without further criterion or consideration. And this criterion and consideration are sufficient, according to my mode of thinking, to prove that it is not possible to admit the shameful charge of connivance at the Slave Trade against officers who have the right to be esteemed as men of honour, until it be proved that they are not so, because, as malevolent suspicions do not respect anybody, a Government which would blindly admit them as sufficient proofs against the honesty of their employés, would not find any one whom it might trust. This is inadmissible.

In compliance, however, with His Majesty's orders, my vigilance and attention on this subject will not abate, and I shall use all the means in my power in order that His Majesty's orders may be faithfully complied with, as I have done up to the present time, and shall continue to do whilst carrying on the difficult task of governing this province, as His Majesty does me the distinguished honour to believe. I see that the honour of His Majesty's Government is pledged to this, having made so many efforts and sacrifices to put an end to this iniquitous and barbarous trade. I see that the honour of the Portuguese authorities is pledged to the same; but, above all, I see the demands of civilization, the good name of the Portuguese nation, and the future prospects of this province.

I have had, until now, to make observations upon the facts to which your Excellency will attach the importance and value due to them; it is now my duty to proceed to the suppositions with which the note concludes, and if I was able to prove the injustice and exaggeration of the former, it will be much easier still to prove the utter absence of grounds for the latter. And I must declare that unfortunately they confirm my opinion that the only object in view is to accuse, without caring for anything else, inasmuch as the informers (I shall not call them accusers), not satisfied with exaggerating facts, have recourse to the vast field of conjecture, in order not to allow us to entertain the slightest doubt that the question is merely "to accuse."

"It is also supposed that the Slave Trade will be resumed on a grand scale at Quillimane, as a Portuguese resident there, called Da Cruz, when at Zanzibar, openly declared that he would soon make good the losses which he had suffered by the sale of 4,000 slaves he possessed at Quillimane."

I shall state what I know, and what are the facts of the case, and my account will destroy the not over flattering hypothesis in the note.

This Cruz is a certain Antonio Jozé da Cruz Coimbra, to whom the suspension of the exportation of colonists in 1856, long before my arrival in this province, occasioned some losses, which he said amounted to about the value of 1,000 and odd slaves, who were then called colonists, whose price and maintenance that suspension had caused him to lose. On this account a suit took place at the Island of Réunion for losses and damages, which was instituted by him against a French merchant whom I saw at Zanzibar when I went there in October of last year on His Majesty's service. The said Cruz having gone to the Mauritius and Réunion in 1860, returned in a French ship which he had freighted, which he afterwards sent to Calcutta, calling at Zanzibar on his own account (a brother of his proceeding in the ship, and died in that city shortly after his arrival); and he himself went in the month of September 1860 to Bombay, as may be seen from the inclosed note drawn up at the General Office. He returned from that city, calling at Zanzibar on the 4th of July, 1861, and proceeded to Quillimane on the 3rd of August. He returned to this city; and having embarked on board the Portuguese barque "Clementina," with a passport of the 15th of October, he quitted this port, bound to Lisbon, on the 2nd of November of the same year. He touched at Quillimane, Inhambane, and at Lorenzo Marques, where it appears that he arrived in March last; and having had some disagreements with the captain of the said barque, he landed, and proceeded on his journey overland to Port Natal, whence he wrote to Quillimane on the 6th of May, informing his father-in-law, Lieutenant-Colonel Custodio Jozé da Silva, that he was going to start by the first packet to England on his way to Lisbon, where I now suppose him to be. This took place in 1861 and 1862, as is shown by the inclosed note from this General Office. Consequently this supposition also falls to the ground completely, and proves that the apprehensions that the Slave Trade will be extensively

resumed at Quillimane on account of the resident called Cruz are, luckily, wholly destitute of foundation.

I believe that I have fully proved the exaggeration of the accounts alluded to in Her Britannic Majesty's Minister's note of the 14th of January, and that the supposition that the Trade will be extensively resumed, according to the authors of those accounts, is groundless. This, however, which serves as a commentary upon the accounts referred to in the note, does in no way exempt me either from adopting all measures and precautions against the Trade, however inefficacious they may be, or of proceeding with all severity, in accordance with law, against all the authorities, and any other persons whatever, who may be suspected of being involved in the said Trade. Thus have I done and shall continue to do; and no considerations of any kind whatever, not even these offensive suspicions, will restrain me from complying with my duty to the best of my knowledge and ability, and from obeying His Majesty's orders on this point with all the zeal and diligence which my position, the honourable but difficult post in which I am placed, and the marks of distinction with which His Majesty, in his Royal munificence, has been pleased to honour me, demand.

Inclosure 4 in No. 105.

Certificate of Passports.

(Translation.)

FRANCISCO DE SALLES MACHADO, Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel in the Portuguese army, and Acting Secretary-General to the General Government of this province of Mozambique, &c. I certify that on examining the registers of passports and of the traffic of the ports of this city and of that of Quillimane, I find the following entries:—

On the 17th of January, 1860, a passport was issued to Fortunato José da Cruz for Calcutta, to sail in the French barque "Angelina," which quitted this port on the 25th of the same month.

On the 21st of September, 1860, a passport was issued to Antonio José da Cruz Coimbra for Bombay, calling at Goa. He departed in the Portuguese hiate (yacht) "Filippino," which left this port on the 27th of the same month.

On the 4th of July, 1861, there appeared in this general office Antonio José da Cruz Coimbra, who arrived from Zanzibar in the American barque "Persia."

On the 3rd of August, 1861, a passport was issued to Antonio José da Cruz Coimbra for Quillimane. He departed in the Portuguese hiate (yacht) "Aguia" on the 4th of the same month.

On the 26th of August, 1861, there appeared in this general office Antonio José da Cruz Coimbra, who arrived from Quillimane in the yacht "Filippino."

On the 15th of October, 1861, a passport was issued to Antonio José da Cruz Coimbra, who quitted this port on the 2nd of November in the barque "Clementina," and it appears from the port traffic of Quillimane that he left that port on the 18th of December of that same year.

And nothing else is to be found on this subject either in the passport registers or in those of the traffic of the ports; and in order to make this known I have ordered this certificate to be issued, which I sign.

Office of the General Government of the Province of Mozambique, November 8, 1862.

(Signed)

FRANCISCO DE SALLES MACHADO,

Acting Secretary-General.

No. 106.

Sir A. Magenis to Earl Russell.—(Received July 5.)

(Extract.)

Lisbon, June 26, 1863

IN the sitting of the Cortes of the 19th instant the Duke de Loulé read to that Assembly the note copy of which is inclosed in my despatch of the 19th instant, which I had addressed to him on the 15th, expressing, in the name of Her Majesty's Government, their regret and their disapproval of the conduct of Commander Smith, of Her Majesty's ship "Torch," in stopping the Portuguese vessel "Paquete de Mossamedes," when about to leave the harbour of Loanda in the month of December 1862.

I inclose, for your Lordship's information, a short précis of the debate which followed,

in which the Duke de Loulé was complimented by the leading members of the Opposition on the successful result of this negotiation, and in which full justice was rendered to Her Majesty's Government for the promptitude with which they had disapproved of Commander Smith's conduct; and, in the words of Senhor Carlos Bento, late Minister of Marine, showed "that the British Government is that of a nation sufficiently enlightened and sufficiently powerful to admit the justice of any reclamations that may be well grounded."

In alluding to what had taken place in the Chamber of Deputies on this subject to the Duke de Loulé when last I saw him on the 25th instant, his Excellency, who was very much pleased with what had occurred, told me that he had received a despatch from Count Lavradio, informing him that on the 13th instant he had addressed a note to your Lordship, complaining of Commander Smith's conduct; and he asked me if I recollected the date of your Lordship's despatch on which my note to him of the 15th was founded.

I answered that I would let him know when I returned home; but it was clear that if Count Lavradio had only addressed his note to your Lordship on the 13th instant, that your instructions to me could not have been the result of that note, as those instructions were not transmitted by telegraph.

I addressed a private letter to the Duke de Loulé yesterday, informing him that your Lordship's despatch was dated the 25th of May, and had reached me on the 13th instant by the Brazil steamer; and further, that the letter from the Admiralty to your Lordship's Department was of the 14th of May; and, consequently, it was clear that the expression of regret of Her Majesty's Government was entirely spontaneous.

I added, that as the reading of my note had produced so good an impression in the Chamber, I thought that impression would be increased if he stated that, by a comparison of dates, it was clear that the regret expressed by Her Majesty's Government was entirely spontaneous, and not the result of Count Lavradio's remonstrances.

Inclosure in No. 106.

Precis of the Report of the Speeches in the Chamber of Deputies in the Sitting of the 19th of June, 1863.

THE President of the Council of Ministers, Duke of Loulé, requested to be allowed to make a communication to the Chamber, which he believed would be agreeable to it. As the question of the insult offered to our flag at Loanda was treated here not long ago, he wished that the Chamber should become acquainted with the note which had been addressed on the subject to him by Her Britannic Majesty's Minister at this Court, dated the 15th instant. He read the aforesaid note, translated into Portuguese. (General applause.) He considered it a most complete satisfaction.

M. Carlos Bento da Silva (late Minister of Marine).—After the communication just made by the noble President of the Council, the Chamber can have no hesitation in causing it to be inserted in the records of the Chamber, "that it was perfectly satisfied with the same."

He added:—"In this we have received a practical proof that the British Government is that of a nation which is sufficiently enlightened and sufficiently powerful to admit the justice of any reclamations that may be well grounded." (Cheers.) He moved the insertion in the records of the Chamber of the declaration above alluded to.

M. Jozé de Moraes seconded the motion, and asked the Government to have the note printed in the Official Gazette.

M. Martens Ferrão (Opposition member, and Minister of Justice in 1860), felt great pleasure in hearing the communication just made by the Duke of Loulé.

He said, this fact proved to his mind that nations should always endeavour to obtain satisfaction for insults offered to them, in a dignified manner, because by thus acting they will always obtain it from those nations which entertain a respect for justice and law.

He added, England has just given a proof of the prudent, judicious, and dignified manner with which she attends to all matters of importance, and of the impartiality with which she decides them. On the occasion in question it was certainly her duty not to forget, and she did not forget, the ancient relations of good and loyal friendship between herself and her most ancient and loyal ally. (Cheers.) A friendship which will not certainly be diminished, but will rather be drawn closer in consequence of the complete satisfaction given, which is as honourable for the nation which demanded it as for the one which offered the same.

"Mr. President, as the Government has communicated to the Chamber the note from the British Government, it has come under the dominion of the public, and it cannot

therefore be inexpedient to have it printed in the 'Diario;' but the Government is the best judge on this point."

In cases of this nature he thought it was flattering to the national dignity that it should be generally known how two nations which respected each other had acted, inasmuch as such questions affect their dignity and honour.

He concluded by expressing his pleasure at the satisfactory manner in which reparation had been made to this country.

M. Quaresma moved that a vote of thanks should be offered to the Duke of Loulé for the able manner with which he had conducted these negotiations.

M. Sant' Anna e Vasconcellos seconded the motion. He concluded by saying that "we had obtained a favourable solution to a question of great importance for ourselves, who, although we are a small nation, know how to esteem our own dignity and honour."

M. Martens Ferrão declared that he certainly would not oppose the vote.

M. Mattos Correia moved that the Minister of Marine should be also included in the vote of thanks.

The two motions were unanimously approved, the Minister of Marine being included in the vote of thanks.

The President of the Council thanked the Chamber for the kindness shown to him; he did not know whether he deserved it, as he had merely done his duty; at all events, it would urge him to endeavour to serve his country well. He would have the said note printed in the Report of that day's sitting (which was done).

The Minister of Marine also returned thanks. He concluded by saying "that, as a member of the Cabinet, it had not been a subject of surprise to him that the powerful Government of Great Britain should have acknowledged our right in the document in question; in this it did no more than render due homage to the principles of justice which regulate the relations of ancient and mutual friendship between the two countries, and which ought to be the rule with respect to the relations between all civilized countries." He said, "It was therefore quite logical, and at the same time very satisfactory, to see an enlightened Government and a great people—great because it is patriotic, and great because it is free (cheers)—sanctioning by their conduct a rule of universal interest, which tends to the respect and independence of all, and tightening the bonds of mutual interest and friendship which have for centuries united the two countries.

"In reference to questions of this kind, there are neither strong nor weak nations; but law, justice, and reason alone exist. In the present state of the world these alone constitute true greatness, strength, and power; such principles honouring both those who defend them and those who recognize them."

No. 107.

Earl Russell to Sir A. Magenis.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 20, 1863.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Commissioner at Loanda,* reporting the condemnation of the Portuguese brigantine "Laura," by the British and Portuguese Mixed Commission Court, on a charge of being equipped for the Slave Trade.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 108.

Earl Russell to Sir A. Magenis.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 8, 1863.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Commissioner at Loanda,† reporting the capture by the Portuguese authorities at Novo Redondo, of a launch with 79 slaves on board, destined, it is supposed, to have been shipped on board a slaver in the offing.

You will see that Mr. Vredenburg also expresses his fears that more slave-trading is carried on from the Portuguese territories to the southward of Loanda than we have hitherto been aware of.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

* Class A, No. 70.

† Ibid., No. 71.

No. 109.

Earl Russell to Sir A. Magenis.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 8, 1863.

WITH reference to Mr. Herries' despatch of the 1st of September of last year, I transmit to you, for your information, copies of a despatch and its inclosures from Her Majesty's Commissioner at Loanda,* stating that the custom of allowing negroes to the number of ten to each vessel to be shipped from that port to St. Thomas under the name of libertos provided with passports is still continued, notwithstanding the assurance made by the Marquis de Loulé to Mr. Herries, that effectual measures had been taken to put a stop to this practice, and that any connivance at this traffic would no longer be permitted. I have to instruct you to take an opportunity of bringing this matter to the serious attention of the Portuguese Government, and you will request that steps may be taken to give effect to the assurances given by the Marquis de Loulé.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 110.

Sir A. Magenis to Earl Russell.—(Received November 4.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, October , 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship copy of a note which I have, in obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 8th instant, addressed to the Duke de Loulé, complaining of the continuance of the practice of shipping negroes from Loanda to St. Thomas under the name of "libertos."

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 110.

Sir A. Magenis to the Duke of Loulé,

M. le Ministre,

Lisbon, October 16, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have received the instructions of my Government to call the serious attention of His Most Faithful Majesty's Government to the custom of allowing negroes to the number of ten to each vessel, to be shipped at Loanda under the name of "libertos," and provided with passports granted by the Provincial Government for the Island of St. Thomas, which, according to information received from Her Majesty's Commissioner at Loanda, still continues, notwithstanding the assurances given by your Excellency in the month of September of last year to Mr. Herries, at that time Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, that effectual measures had been taken to put a stop to the practice complained of, and that any connivance at the Slave Trade would no longer be permitted.

In the course of the correspondence which has lately taken place between Her Majesty's Commissioner and the Governor-General of Loanda upon this subject, his Excellency admits that, on taking charge of the Government of the province, the most serious attention to the terms of the Treaty of the 3rd July, 1842, concluded between Great Britain and Portugal for the suppression of the Slave Trade, and the exact fulfilment of the same, were particularly recommended to him; nor does Mr. Vredenburg, Her Majesty's Commissioner, in the least infer that his Excellency is actuated by any disinclination to carry out the instructions of his Government, entertaining on the contrary a conviction that he is acting in a spirit of good faith, although far from feeling satisfied that the precautions taken by him will attain the end he proposes. Mr. Vredenburg considered it his duty to call his Excellency's attention to the fact of the steamer "Donna Antonia" having left the port of Loanda of the 12th April last for St. Thomas with so-called "libertos" on board, and the steamer "Paquete de Mossamedes" having also left on the 13th of May with ten on board, at the same time informing his Excellency that the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Griffon" had upon visiting the schooner "Nini" found twelve so-called "libertos" on board of her, provided with passports from the Provincial Government.

* Class A, No. 74.

In reply to the representations of Her Majesty's Commissioner, his Excellency states that he has never granted passports for the Island of St. Thomas to more blacks in the condition of "libertos" than to the number permitted by the Treaty in respect to slaves, and under the circumstances specified in the Treaty, always declaring their condition as "libertos" in the passports, and addressing besides a despatch to the Governor of St. Thomas, calling his attention to their condition as free men.

With respect to the schooner "Nini" his Excellency informed Her Majesty's Commissioner that he granted passports by her for the Island of St. Thomas to a colonist who took ten "libertos" with him, and who had duly fulfilled the requisite legal formalities, and also to another European passenger, and that he was not aware of any other person being on board; but as twelve blacks were discovered, he imagined they could not be all provided with passports, admitting at the same time that on certain occasions twelve blacks had gone on board the same vessel to St. Thomas, ten in the condition of "libertos" accompanying some colonist, and two as free blacks provided with passports, which they had applied for under circumstances which did not admit of their being withheld, since, otherwise, many persons in the country would be prevented from leaving it merely on account of their colour.

In conclusion, I have been instructed by Her Majesty's Government to request your Excellency to have the goodness to cause steps to be taken to give effect to the assurances made by your Excellency to Mr. Herries, to which I have above referred, so that the practice complained of may no longer, under any pretence, be permitted.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

No. 111.

Sir A. Magenis to Earl Russell.—(Received November 19.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, November 11, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a despatch addressed to your Lordship which I have received, under flying seal, from Mr. Vredenburg, Her Majesty's Commissioner at Loanda, inclosing further correspondence with the authorities at Loanda respecting the continuation of the practice of exporting blacks to the Island of St. Thomas under the name of libertos.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

No. 112.

Sir A. Magenis to Earl Russell.—(Received December 5.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, November 26, 1863.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 20th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of a note which I have received from the Duke de Loulé, by which your Lordship will perceive that His Most Faithful Majesty's Government allege that they are unable to hinder the shipment of free negroes (libertos) from Loanda to the Island of St. Thomas, when provided with documents proving their condition; the Treaty of the 3rd July, 1842, between Portugal and Great Britain being in no way violated thereby.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 112.

The Duke of Loulé to Sir A. Magenis.

(Translation.)

Foreign Office, Lisbon, November 24, 1863.

WITH reference to the note which you were pleased to address to me under date of the 16th of October last, calling the attention of His Majesty's Government to the practice of allowing the shipment of free negroes (libertos) from Loanda to St. Thomas, with passports from the local authorities, it is my duty to forward to you the inclosed extract

CLASS B.

from a despatch which I have received from the Minister of Marine under date of the 10th instant.

From the contents of that despatch, and from a part of a former one, dated the 27th of June last, to which his Excellency alludes, copy of which is likewise inclosed, you will observe that in consequence of the rules laid down in the Decree, having the force of law, of the 14th of December, 1854, His Majesty's Government cannot hinder the shipment of free negroes (libertos) to that island, and that as the said blacks are provided with documents proving their condition as free or freed-men (libertos), they depart for their destination in due accordance with the law.

Therefore inasmuch as this shipment of free negroes or freed-men (libertos) is carried on in conformity with the laws of the country, and watched over by the competent authorities, His Majesty's Government trusts that Her Britannic Majesty's Government will not fail to acknowledge that the practice pursued at present does not in any way violate the Treaty of the 3rd of July, 1842, between Portugal and Great Britain, which has only reference to slaves properly so called, as the Minister of Marine remarks.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) DUKE OF LOULE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 112.

The Minister of Marine to the Duke of Loulé.

(Translation.)

(Extract.)

November 10, 1863.

I HAVE just received your Excellency's despatch of the 24th of October, inclosing the translation of a note in which Her Britannic Majesty's Minister at this Court calls the attention of His Most Faithful Majesty's Government to the practice of allowing the shipment of negroes from Loanda to St. Thomas, under the title of freed-men (libertos), with passports from the local authorities; and your Excellency requests me to enable you to reply as soon as possible to that note, whilst you declare that you had already communicated to the same Minister my despatches of the 24th of February, 7th of March, and 28th of October, 1862.

I observe that the aforesaid Minister takes for his ground the assurances which your Excellency gave to Mr. Herries in the month of September of last year, that effective measures had been adopted to put an end to the practice which gave rise to this complaint, and that any further acts of connivance in the Slave Trade would no longer be allowed.

I am ignorant of what expressions your Excellency made use of to give the British Minister, Mr. Herries, those assurances, but an absolute prohibition could only apply to any act of connivance in the Slave Trade. But not even with respect to freed-men (libertos) could such an absolute prohibition be made, not only because they are not in the same category as slaves, to whom the Treaty of the 3rd of July, 1842, refers, but also because, inasmuch as they are not in the same category, neither can the Portuguese Government forbid their shipment when duly legalised, nor is it known upon what grounds the British Government demands that prohibition, depriving St. Thomas of free workmen, whom both the laws of the country and the Treaty above alluded to do not deprive it of.

The Governor of the province was enjoined to adopt the most rigorous measures and the necessary steps, in order that the negroes proceeding to St. Thomas should be provided with documents to prove their condition as free or freed-men (libertos), namely, with respect to the former, the deed of their manumission, and with respect to the latter, their passports and the proper passes with which documents they appear before the protecting Board of slaves and freed men (libertos) at St. Thomas, so as to enable the same to exercise its salutary vigilance in regard to them.

As is evident, the legal shipment of freed-men (libertos) is one thing, the shipment of slaves another. It is important not to confound the two.

Energetically repressed as the traffic has been, which the Government can prove by many facts, it draws a distinction where it ought to do so. Up to this the Government has been a faithful observer of the said Treaty.

As it appears even from the note of Her Britannic Majesty's Minister, the Governor-General of Angola has curtailed the issuing of passports for St. Thomas, granting them only to ten negroes to be shipped in each vessel, the number of these in the condition of freed-men (libertos) being equal to the number of those whom the Treaty allows to be shipped in the same manner, in the condition of slaves, without in any way destroying the right possessed by the Portuguese Government, of allowing the shipment, up to any number, of free negroes or freed-men (libertos) from Angola to St. Thomas, as I stated to

your Excellency in my despatch of the 27th of June last ; an essential point, with respect to which I refer you altogether to the observations mentioned in that despatch.

I cannot therefore say anything more on this subject, except that it appears to me to be extremely expedient, before anything else, to ascertain upon what international rule is the objection to the shipment of any number of free negroes (libertos) from one Portuguese possession to another grounded ? Where, when, and in what manner was it settled, that not even that which the Treaty authorizes to be done with respect to negro slaves, cannot be allowed with respect to free negroes (libertos) ?

My opinion is that these preliminary considerations are essential, and that until they shall have been duly weighed, not a single step can be taken in this matter.

Inclosure 3 in No. 112.

The Minister of Marine to the Duke of Loulé.

(Translation.)

(Extract.)

June 27, 1863.

AT present, as your Excellency is aware, the Decree, having the validity of law, of the 14th of December, 1854, is in full force, which Decree regulated the registration of slaves, and settled once for all the legal meaning of the word, and of the condition of freed-men (libertos).

That Decree contains amongst other rules, the following :—

All slaves existing in the Portuguese ultramarine dominions at the time of the publication of this Decree shall be registered within thirty days.

All those who may not have been presented and inscribed in the said register shall be held to be freed-men (libertos).

From the date of the publication of this Decree, all slaves belonging to the State are to remain free.

All slaves who may be imported overland into the said dominions after the publication of this Decree shall also be registered in a special book, and shall be considered to remain in the condition of freed men (libertos), but under the obligation of serving their masters for the space of ten years.

The sale of the services of these freed-men (libertos) is lawful with respect to the whole of the time during which they are bound to perform them, or during any part of that time.

The State is the patron and natural guardian of slaves, freed-men (libertos), and of their children.

The exercise of this guardianship is entrusted in each of the Ultramarine Provinces to a Board, called "The Protecting Board of Slaves and Freed-men" (libertos).

These contracts, having reference to their services, entered into with African Chiefs or individuals, are to be subject to the special control of the Protecting Boards, it being the duty of the other authorities also to watch that no abuse be made of those contracts in contravention of the laws which prohibit the Traffic in Slaves.

From these regulations it is evident that free negroes (libertos) who may have sold their services to individuals residing at St. Thomas, cannot be prevented from embarking for that island ; and that, as they are provided with documents proving their condition as free or freed-men (libertos), such as a deed of manumission, or a passport and, with respect to the latter, a safe-conduct to enable them to appear before the Protecting Board of Slaves and Freed-men (libertos) at St. Thomas, they depart for their destination in due accordance with the laws ; and that as they continue to be subject there to the control of the aforesaid Boards, whilst at the same time the other authorities are bound to watch that these transactions which are carried out in conformity to the laws of the country, do not violate those which prohibit the Traffic in Slaves, the Treaty of the 3rd of July, 1842, which only refers to slaves properly so called, neither can, nor ought to be, held to have been violated on this account.

Finally, these transactions are identical with those which, as I am informed, are carried on with a slight difference of form among the black labourers in the British Colonies, and even amongst the whites in different parts of the globe, when they engage their services for a certain term under the mutual guarantee of the law ; and as the Portuguese Government has never interfered in these transactions carried on in the British Colonies, it appears to me that there exists a right to hope that Her Britannic Majesty's Government will act in a similar manner when negroes, held to be Portuguese subjects, provided with official documents, and protected by the authorities, make use of the liberty which all other subjects possess, of changing their place of residence as it may suit their purpose.

No. 113.

Earl Russell to Sir A. Magenis.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 17, 1863.

I TRANSMIT to you, for your information, an extract of a despatch from Her Majesty's Commissioners at the Cape of Good Hope,* reporting on the Slave Trade from the Portuguese dominions on the East Coast of Africa for the year ending September 30, 1863.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

RUSSELL.

PORTUGAL. (Consular)—Cape Verds.

No. 114.

Acting Consul Coaffee to Earl Russell.—(Received November 5.)

(Extract.)

St. Vincent, Cape de Verd Islands, September 30, 1863.

WITH reference to the reports that slave-vessels call at the Cape Verd Islands for supplies, and that a slave-vessel called the "*Atlantic*," with a cargo of slaves on board, had called off Porto Praya in the month of September 1862, and had been furnished with supplies from thence; also, that there is reason to believe that a person residing at Porto Praya was the owner of a schooner called the "*Caledonia*," which is stated to have been captured by one of Her Majesty's cruizers off the African Coast; I have the honour to report that when Mr. Henrique José d'Oliveira, the Consular Agent for Praya, was here awaiting the arrival of the "*Parana*," to embark for Lisbon, on a visit of several months, I addressed him a letter, calling attention to these matters, and I have the honour to transmit herewith a translation of his reply.

With reference to the "*Atlantic*" and "*Caledonia*," if I have any hesitation in supporting the statement made by Mr. H. J. Oliveira, that no vessels for many years past have called at the Cape de Verde Islands for refreshments, and continued their voyages for Traffic of Slaves, I have none whatever in declaring it impossible that the "*Atlantic*" could have called off Porto Praya, with a cargo of slaves on board, and obtained supplies there, without the fact coming to Mr. Consul Miller's knowledge, or to mine. I would beg to represent to your Lordship that the law and the regulations of the Customs at the Cape de Verdes require vessels calling for supplies (much or little) to first anchor in the port, so that the visit of health may be made, and communications with shore permitted or restricted. Regarding the "*Caledonia*," I am unable to gather any further information than that stated in Mr. H. J. Oliveira's letter.

As to whether there is any reason to believe that slaves are still in the habit of touching for supplies at the Cape de Verde Islands, I beg to state that nothing has transpired to warrant that belief; but that on the 5th June last Mr. Consul Miller received information that at the port of Tarrafal de Monte Trigo, in the Island of St. Antonio, there exists a deposit, consisting of 150 casks, with water and provisions, for the purpose of supplying vessels engaged in the Traffic of Slaves; which information he communicated to his Excellency the Governor-General of these Islands, so as to enable his Excellency to ascertain its truth, and to take measures accordingly; but his Excellency replied, under date of the 15th June last, "that for a long time no attempts have appeared in this province in respect of the wicked Traffic of Slaves, yet his Excellency assured Mr. Consul Miller that special instructions have been given to seriously examine into the matter, and in case of encountering signs indicative of that traffic, to legally prosecute all concerned in its extinction." Again, on the 19th September last, I addressed a letter to his Excellency, to the effect that recently a further importation of 150 water-casks had been made into this island; these were shipped at Lisbon on board the steamer "*Donna*

Antonia," one of the line of steamers running between Lisbon and Loanda, and the casks are now in deposit in the Custom-house of this island. I may be permitted to add, for your Lordship's information, that a Portuguese schooner, fore and aft rigged, named "Dois Amigos," captain and owner H. A. de Brion, of about 100 tons burthen, is about to ply between Bissau and these islands, for the purpose of importing corn, &c., as no rains have fallen amongst any of them this season—thereby causing scarcity of food; the schooner belongs to the port of Lisbon. Finally, I have the honour to state that beyond the matter of the water-casks before-mentioned, I see no reason to believe that slavers are still in the habit of touching for supplies at the Cape de Verde Islands.

Inclosure in No. 114.

Mr. Oliveira to Acting Consul Coaffee.

(Translation.)

(Extract.)

St. Vincent, September 22, 1863.

ANSWERING your official letter dated 21st September instant, in which you ask me for explanations upon the different questions respecting the steamer "Dart," Commander Richards, as also if in the port of Praya it is still customary for vessels to call for refreshments that are concerned in the Traffic of Slaves, I beg to say:

1. Upon slavery I will say positively that many years have passed since vessels have called at the Cape de Verde Islands for refreshments that pursued their voyage to that traffic; such assertion is false, and much more so all that is said in relation to schooner "Caledonia," a schooner that never existed amongst the Cape de Verde Islands. There sailed from Porto Praya for Bissau the schooner "Candinha," the property of Hannibal José da Silva, with lawful merchandise, and as no notices had been heard of her she was considered to be lost, and the American Consul (friend of the owner of the schooner) asked the Commander of the "Dart" if by chance he knew anything of the said schooner. This perhaps gave cause to the Commander to suspect that she was engaged in Traffic (slave); but one month afterwards it was known that the "Candinha" had arrived at Goree for repairs, and that after repairing she came to Porto Praya. I ought to state that there has never been known nor heard suspicion that the house of Barboza and Sons, established in Bissau and the Island of Fogo, made traffic with slaves.

2. Finally, it is entirely thoughtless and short of common sense to believe that in Porto Praya, the residence of the Governor-General and the capital of the Archipelago of the Cape de Verds, it should be permitted that there should be equipped or provisioned slave-vessels, when, otherwise, it is well known that in that city there is every philanthropy in respect of slavery; and, besides, not four years ago I myself gave liberty to all the slaves I possessed, they being considered as men entirely and truly free.

I assure you that all I have said is pure truth, and that you may certify the Government of Her Britannic Majesty that for many years in the Cape de Verde Islands the contraband in slaves has been unknown.

PORTUGAL. (*Consular*)—*Quillimane.*

No. 116.

Dr. Livingstone to Earl Russell.—(Received July 22, 1863.)

(*Extract.*)

River Zambesi, December 29, 1862.

BY information from various sources, which I have every reason to believe thoroughly reliable, I regret to find that slaving continues to go on briskly between the valley of the Shire and Tette, and that white men are employed to lead the black slave-hunters. A few Makololo left by us near the cataracts took it on themselves to disperse several slaving parties, but at last refrained on seeing two whites in a company, in order, they say, to avoid even by accident shedding white men's blood. A famine caused partly by a drought, but chiefly by the inroads of the slave-hunters, has added greatly to the evil; and the country below the cataracts will soon be as scarce of population as that near the Portuguese settlements. So many are taken down to Quillimane, that whereas during the continuance of the Bourbon emigration system, eight fathoms of calico were paid for each slave, they now fetch only a fathom a-piece. From Tette they are sent up the Zambesi to purchase ivory, and the Governor, who is the principal slave-merchant there, speaks of this as binding them apprentices for ten years according to law.

In connection with our attempts to put a stop to the above-mentioned Traffic, and to the much more extensive Slave Trade on Lake Nyassa, amounting, it is believed, to at least 20,000 annually, I beg to inform your Lordship that the case of six tradesmen has lately been brought to my notice by his Excellency the Governor of the Cape. By trade they are two carpenters, two masons, and one smith, and are Scotchmen. The leader is an Englishman. They worked at their trades in the Cape Colony, and their wages went to a common fund, with which two waggons were bought in order to proceed overland and join us. Their good conduct is testified to by the Magistrate of Aliwal North, who is said by the Colonial Secretary to be a man of sound judgment. I have approved of their being sent round by sea, and recommended them to aim as soon as possible at giving the people on the Lake an example of independent industry and Christian life. We may employ them for a short time in transport and in erecting a station above the cataracts and another on the Lake, but as soon as we can afford them protection by the steamer they must act as an independent body. They are probably hardy, frugal, and industrious, and seem just the men we need, brought to hand without our seeking.

In accordance with the attempt to supplant the Slave Trade by lawful commerce I purchased 230*l.* worth of calico, and have it now on board the "Pioneer." It is intended as an experiment, and, not to complicate the Government in trading, is from private resources. It would not have been mentioned at all at present, but for the proceedings of the Governor-General of Mozambique and the Governor of Quillimane, who affect alarm lest damage should be done to the commerce of the country by the quantities of luggage brought in through the Kongone mouth of the Zambesi "for the scientific and exploring expeditions under Dr. Livingstone and Bishop Mackenzie." He is well aware that our expedition received none of the luggage referred to, and that we have materially increased the lawful commerce by opening up districts into which no Portuguese durst previously enter, and that even his own brother is enriching himself by turning our discoveries to a purpose we never anticipated. A short explanation, however, of the distinction between the Government expedition and the mission of the Universities, avoiding any phrase provocative of discussion, which has a tendency here to glide into altercation, will probably calm his alarm for the present. But the question of free navigation of the Zambesi and Shire becomes increasingly urgent. No Portuguese ever uses the Zambesi as it flows into

the sea below Mazaro, nor do they ever enter the Shire. And Mr. Sunley, Her Majesty's Consul at Johanna, and others, are desirous to establish centres of industry on Lake Nyassa, provided the ingress be made free. The offer of Mr. Sunley is of great value, for I can confidently affirm that had he given employment and wages on the same scale in Africa as he has done in the paltry Island of Johanna, he would have rooted out slavery over a very large district: The beneficial effects of his experiment have been marred by the very limited sphere to which it has been confined, and by his political relations with the head men of the island or slaveholders. He assured me that he would willingly hand over his present manufactory to a deputy in order to make a trial of free labour in Africa. And I believe, not for the sake of gain, but to leave his mark in good done in the world. Your Lordship will judge how valuable his experience would be in reducing to order the mass of population that crowds round an English establishment, when the missionaries, who are all intelligent men, were so bewildered with about 200 free people that no sanitary regulations were made, the station became a cesspool, and about fifty of the people perished. But no one in his senses would come under any sort of subjection to the officers of Portuguese convict settlements. And yet it seems essential to a practical change of the system that has allowed the region between Cape Delgado and Delagoa Bay to be virtually a private "slave preserve" that our countrymen should have free access. The way in which the passions of the natives are turned to account is quite beyond the control of the Government of Lisbon. The Ajawa, for instance, were furnished with arms and ammunition by means of Tette slaves, to be paid for in Manganja captives. The forays that followed drove the Manganja away from their well-cultivated fields; famine followed, and now the fugitives as well as the victors are almost compelled to sell their people to the Tette agents to keep themselves from starving. They are at present, and as we saw a year ago in coming down the Zambesi from the Makololo country, sent up this river beyond Tette, and each slave commands an elephant's tusk, value 10*l.* or 12*l.* This market is limited, for the demand is chiefly for wives; but the trade is quite ready to turn to the coast, as indeed it now is at Mhambane, whence we hear the boast that three slavers lately departed.

Taking it for granted that the Portuguese Government is really anxious to suppress the Slave Trade, they are only required to yield the joint use of forty miles of river, on one side of which there is only one Portuguese, and on the other they have to pay heavy annual tribute. This is the space between Mazaro and the mouth of the Shire. The Zambesi below that point and the Shire never are used by any Portuguese, nor have they ever been put to commercial uses other than occasional slaving. All commerce might be considered in bond till up the Shire, or the custom-house be placed at Senna; and as all the dues levied at Quillimane, amounting at least to only 600*l.* per annum are, derived from merchandise going and coming from Senna and Tette, the revenue would be increased by the stimulus which lawful traders would impart to the whole country.

In coming lately from Johanna our coals were expended before we could enter this river, and the wind being against us we had to sail away back to the Quillimane river to cut wood. We found a Portuguese barque named "Joven Carlotta" anchored at Quillimane village. She had been disabled in the Mozambique Channel nine months previously, and was leaking badly, but the Governor said she had loaded partially with rice, which at her alleged destination (Mozambique) would yield scarcely any profit. An officer from the "Pioneer" went aboard, ostensibly to make a trifling purchase, when a tarpaulin was thrown across the hatch and all work stopped till he left. Having some Zambesi natives serving in the "Pioneer," one of them familiar with Quillimane remarked in our hearing to his companions, "Senhor Pimento has the slaves for this barque in the village; it was he who sent for her." Pimento was the coadjutor of Senhor Cruz during all the sad slave emigration by the French. Her Majesty's ship "Rapid" happening to call, I accompanied the first lieutenant from the place where we were wooding up to the village, met the Governor on the jetty, and felt surprised that he should at once off-hand begin to explain that the barque was not going to Mozambique if the wind did not suit, but would start for Lisbon, "as it might not be safe to beat against the wind." On my remarking that a voyage round the Cape and storms seemed more dangerous than that of a few days to Mozambique, his Excellency tendered the explanation that the leak was in her stem, and in going to Lisbon she would have the wind all the way in her stern! Having communicated my [suspicions?] to the captain of the "Rapid" (Jago), with not much prospect that she will be caught, I expect soon to hear that she loaded with slaves at the Mokuse river, a little north, or at another a little south of the Quillimane. And this is the way it will go on, because they do not regard the traffic as immoral, and seem to ignore the dreadful amount of misery and woe to which it gives rise. We might leave all we have done in obtaining influence by this entrance to the independent tribes and begin at the bottom of

the ladder in the Rovuma, but this would be only consenting to this region still being held as the slave-preserve of the Portuguese.

Inclosure 1 in No. 116.

Mr. Burnet to the Colonial Secretary, Cape Town.

Sir,

Civil Commissioner's Office, Aliwal North, September 8, 1862.

I HAVE the honour herewith to transmit, for the favourable consideration of his Excellency the Governor, a letter, to-day handed in to me, by John Jehan, an Englishman, who as the chosen head of a select party of Scotch emigrants, mechanics, arrived with them at Aliwal North about the month of January last, with the avowed intention of prosecuting their journey to the far interior, and there by their own exertions founding an independent Christian mission.

Mr. Jehan states that he was formerly connected with the London City Mission, and came out to South Africa purely for missionary purposes, where he has gradually, one by one, gathered the few young men he mentions round him.

I am bound in justice to say that their conduct has been most exemplary, and although their proposed expedition seems to partake of romance, they adhere to their resolution, and, one and all, at their trades respectively, are diligently working to complete what means are still wanting to enable them to carry out their object. They are one and all fine sober young men, and Mr. Jehan as their head seems to have a very extraordinary command over them. This has appeared more clearly from his having some time ago, summarily, and with the full consent of the others, expelled one of the party who had broken through the rules by which they had bound themselves to carry out the object in view.

I think such a party might form a valuable addition to the Zambesi mission; I can scarcely doubt their persevering in the course they propose to themselves. Mr. Jehan appears under a very unassuming modest exterior to be a man of great strength of mind and firmness of character. He has shown his love and aptitude for missionary work by visiting the sick and distressed in this neighbourhood since his arrival.

I will add nothing more at present; but should his Excellency see fit to take Mr. Jehan's proposal under consideration, any information will be at once afforded by him to enable his Excellency better to comprehend the fitness of him and his party for the work in view.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BURNET,
Civil Commissioner of Aliwal North.

Inclosure 2 in No. 116.

Mr. Jehan to Mr. Burnet.

Sir,

Aliwal North, September 8, 1862.

THE deep interest which is taken in the efforts which Dr. Livingstone is now putting forth in the interior induces me to lay before you a few facts connected with a party of young men of whom I am the leader. After reading Livingstone's work on the interior, I was strongly impressed with the idea that if a few mechanics could be induced to enter into a journey of exploration it would prove successful. These views I communicated to five other young men of different trades, who at once saw the possibility of accomplishing such a journey. We formed ourselves into a company in July 1861, since which time we have worked together, each man depositing his earnings with the Treasurer, and receiving only clothes and food. We are now armed, have two waggons, and two spans of oxen, and means to buy such outfit as we need for our journey. We have determined to start from here in March next, cross the Kahatakari desert, and thence to the Zambesi.

But after consulting together, we have come to the conclusion, that if his Excellency the Governor will accept our services to aid Livingstone's efforts, we shall forego our inland journey, and proceed to the scene of the Doctor's labour. All we require is, that one of Her Majesty's ships would take us on board at any port, say East London, the nearest, and land us on the nearest shore to Livingstone, under whose instructions we shall place ourselves, and whose efforts we shall aid with all the ability at our disposal.

Supposing that this proposition be accepted, we shall be ready to start from here on

the 1st day of January. We are by trade—two masons, two carpenters, and one blacksmith.

The writer has spent his time hitherto in missionary labours.

Our ages are between 25 and 32 years. We are inured to toil, in possession of sound health.

If the above facts approve themselves to your mind, you will confer a great favour upon us by placing them before the Governor.

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

Inclosure 3 in No. 116.

The Colonial Secretary, Cape Town, to Mr. Burnet.

Sir, *Colonial Office, September 26, 1862.*

IN answer to your letter of the 8th instant, inclosing a communication from Mr. Jehan, in which he requests on behalf of himself and his companions a passage in one of Her Majesty's ships to the mouth of the Zambesi, I am directed to inform you that his Excellency, after communicating with the Admiral, learns that it is not probable that he will be sending a ship up the coast in January, and the Governor thinks that it would be unadvisable for the party to proceed to join Dr. Livingstone without some previous communication.

A vessel is about to proceed up the coast in a few days, and his Excellency will send copies of your letter and its inclosure to Dr. Livingstone. The reply will be forwarded as soon as it is received.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAWSON RAWSON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 116.

Memorandum.

THE slave-hunting on the east or left bank of the Shire is referred to separately because it began seven years before the Tette people engaged in it from the opposite bank, and because its history shows how little is to be hoped for from the present system of government. A half-caste Portuguese called Marianno used a stockade at the mouth of the Shire as a convenient point from which to make forays up the river to supply his brother-in-law, M. Cruz, with slaves for export. In 1856 I found him living in open defiance of the Government, and he even proceeded so far as to attack Senna and kill Portuguese troops. He gradually became more and more bloodthirsty, till the murders he committed made him the terror of the country; yet, feeling sure that the wealth he had acquired would smooth everything before him, he voluntarily went to Quillimane and delivered himself up for trial. On condemnation for over forty murders, most of them in cool blood, to make an impression in the country, the sentence was only three years' imprisonment, and the amount of liberty he enjoyed during the punishment caused the general impression that his money had not been without effect on the authorities. He came back to Quillimane last year, and lived with the Governor until, as is said, "he ran away." The Governor made as if he would run after him, and when we came down the Shire a year ago he made very eager inquiries as to Marianno's whereabouts. Marianno, with about 1,000 arms in the hands of his slaves, has been ravaging all the country around Mount Clarendon, and inflicting all that misery south and east of the Shire cataracts which the Tette people are doing in the country farther north. The fugitives are crowded down to the Shire near the Rus, and here again famine will follow and cut off far more than are taken out of the country. It has not yet transpired where his captives are sent to, but he has no difficulty in procuring arms and ammunition from the traders of Quillimane and the Zambesi.

Nine hundred miles of the East Coast were acknowledged as nominally Portuguese on the express understanding that the Slave Trade should be put down. As already mentioned, it has been made a private slave-preserve instead. Between Sierra Leone and Loanda, on the West Coast, with only about double the number of miles, we have seven or eight English settlements from which potent moral influences are shed inland. In this 900 miles we have not one free avenue; and the system of warfare and alarm which any private

Portuguese may with his slaves carry on is a terrible barrier to the efficiency of our cruisers. The wars, or rather forays, of private people, such as Marianno, Belchior, Sekwasha, and the Tette merchants, amass large numbers of slaves which, at the shortest notice, are sent down to the coast, while the state of alarm in which wide regions are thrown renders industrial pursuits impossible. If none but the lowest class of Portuguese were admitted into the West Coast, the vast benefits which the squadron has there conferred could never have been realized. And if your Lordship can prevail upon the Portuguese to grant the same privileges of free trade as the English settlements on the Gold Coast offer to all nations, an inestimable boon will be conferred on Eastern Africa.

It appears to me that the system revealed in this despatch has had the direct effect of nullifying the policy which Her Majesty's Government have laboured so long and so hard to uphold. The squadron was expected, by keeping the Slave Trade in check for a time, to allow Christianity and civilization to put forth their influence, and thus indirectly to eradicate the evil. In the West Coast a large amount of success has followed. Lawful commerce, which previously did not amount to 20,000*l.* annually, is now worth between 2,000,000*l.* and 3,000,000*l.*, and the tonnage employed in carrying it exceeds that of the Slave Trade in its palmiest days. It is yearly increasing in value, and will continue so to do. Stability has been given to various settlements on the coast. Missions have been protected and their efficiency promoted by the countenance and respect shown by the officers; the country dialects have been reduced, and the way paved to the interior by the blessings of peace to millions there, who, before the cruisers came, could only expect marauders from the coast. On this coast, however, the same repressive measures have not influenced in the least the paltry peddling in ivory and gold-dust, which constitute the trade on the Zambesi.

(Signed) DAVID LIVINGSTONE.

Inclosure 5 in No. 116.

The Government Secretary of the District of Quillimane to Dr. Livingstone.

(Translation.)
Sir,

*Government House of the District of Quillimane,
Quillimane, December 15, 1862.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency, for your information and for due effects, the inclosed copy of the note which was addressed to me on the 14th August last from the Secretariat of the General Government of this province, forwarded by the Military Section.

In fulfilment of the orders contained in the former part of the said note, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the Government of His Majesty the King, in ordering that your Excellency in your quality of scientific explorer in Southern Africa, and the members of any other scientific explorations, should be assisted by the authorities of the province, did not and could not grant to you the privilege of exemption from payment of duties on merchandize which may be imported into our dominions, but wholly and solely on articles for your own use or that of the exploration which cannot be considered as objects of commerce.

With respect to what is determined in the second part of the said note, it is my duty to inform your Excellency that by an order (Portaria) of the Governor-General of the province, dated 13th August of the present year, No. 171, published in the official Bulletin of the General Government of this province, No. 33 of the 9th day of August, a Delegation of the custom-house of this town was erected at the bar of Inhamessengo,* and to make the same known to your Excellency, and that those objects alone can be exempted from payment of fiscal duties which are especially intended for the private use of the individuals composing scientific expeditions or explorations, but not those articles which, by the regulations in force in this province, are required to pay duties, such as cottons, arms, gunpowder, and other articles; and to prevent all doubt, your Excellency will have the goodness to transmit to me, in your official character of Her Britannic Majesty's Consul in Quillimane, a statement of the articles which are permitted to enter without paying duties, in order that I may transmit the same to the Secretariat of the General Government of the province, as I am ordered to do in the last part of the letter from the said Secretariat.

And as your Excellency is directly in communication with the learned explorers of the party of the late Bishop Mackenzie, and will be so with any others who may possibly come at a future time, I request that you will have the kindness, in your official character

* Say Kongone.—D. L.

as Her Britannic Majesty's Consul in Quillimane, to inform all of them of this, and particularly to make known to them everything which I have the honour to communicate to your Excellency in this note.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed)

JOAO DA SILVA.

Inclosure 6 in No. 116.

The Secretary to the General Government of the Province of Mozambique to the Government Secretary of the District of Quillimane.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Mozambique, August 14, 1862.

HIS Excellency the Governor-General of this Province, having considered the several communications which you have made to him relative to the entry, through the Bar of Luabo, of various articles which, under the pretext of being intended for the scientific expedition of Drs. Livingstone and Mackenzie, should from their quantity and quality be considered as articles of commerce, and are liable to the customs duties, which are paid upon similar articles in all parts of the Province, for whatever they may be intended, I am directed by his Excellency to suggest to you to inform Dr. Livingstone or the members of any other scientific exploration that the Government of His Majesty the King, in ordering that these and similar scientific explorations should be aided by the authorities of the Province, did not and could not grant to them the privilege of exemption from paying duties on the merchandise which they might import into our dominions, but solely upon articles for their own private use, or that of the exploration, which cannot be considered as objects of trade; as otherwise there would exist a privilege injurious to the interests of the public treasury, and to all the foreign nations which are established in this Province. You will therefore, in compliance with the order (Portaria) which I have sent you under this date, forthwith inform Dr. Livingstone, or any other person, that a delegation of the Custom-house here is established at Inhamessengo,* in order that they may be aware that such articles only can be exempted from fiscal duties which are especially intended for the private use of the individuals composing the scientific explorations or expeditions; and not those articles which, according to the regulations in force in this Province, ought to pay duties, such as cotton, arms, gunpowder, and other articles. And, in order to obviate all doubt, you will require of the said Dr. Livingstone, in his official quality as British Consul, in Quillimane, declaration of the articles which are to enter the Luabo, in the former case of entering without payment of duty. And in order that the Government of His Majesty the King may be faithfully informed, you will transmit to this General Government copies of all the communications which you make in this matter.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed)

FRANCISCO DE SALLES MACHADO,
General Secretary, ad interim.

No. 117.

Dr. Livingstone to Earl Russell.—(Received July 22.)

My Lord,

River Shire, January 28, 1863.

IN coming up this river with the lake steamer in tow, we have met no obstruction till within forty miles of the cataracts, but we hope to overcome all difficulties within a few days.

In my despatch of the 29th of December last, I gave some information respecting the effects of the slave-hunting on this river—famine followed; we have witnessed its effects in the comparatively few villages to be seen on the banks of the river, in the emaciated forms of the poor wretches who try to save themselves by fishing, and in the numerous dead bodies that daily float down the stream—we counted nineteen in a week. As many as have had strength to go have fled to other districts, and here, where we could get any amount of provisions at the cheapest rate, cultivation is entirely abandoned, and nothing whatever can be purchased. The slave-dealers of Tette, taking advantage of this state of want, now bring food, and with it buy the starving and dispirited inhabitants. The difficulties of our undertaking will now be greatly increased by our being obliged to bring every morsel of provisions for ourselves and natives between 200 and 300 miles.

When we came into the Shire, a large canoe laden with gunpowder, arms, wines, &c. had been seized passing up to the slave-hunting rebel Marianno as mission property!

* Say Kongone.—D. L.

These supplies cannot be sent without the connivance of the Governor of Quillimane, and it is highly probable that he induced the Governor-General to believe that we were making use of the Kongone to introduce arms and ammunition in order to screen his own connivance.

With this Marianno slave-hunting east of the Shire, near Mount Clarendon; with two private Portuguese, Belshore and Mello, making forays at pleasure west of the said point; with several parties from Tette actually out in the country north of this; and several slaving parties from Senna in the country south of that village; and the fact that any one at will may, with a few armed slaves, make a foray in any direction, I see more plainly than ever that, without an alteration in the exclusive system of the Portuguese, the beneficial effects of Her Majesty's cruizers can never be realized here as they have been on the West Coast. The question assumes the greatest importance to me, inasmuch as, if they are to follow us into the Lake region, our labours will be in vain. The idea of this takes the pith out of one's heart; but we shall go on with our road-making.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DAVID LIVINGSTONE.

SPAIN.

No. 118.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received January 10.)

My Lord,

Madrid, January 6, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a note which, on the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 31st ultimo, I lost no time in addressing the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, apprizing his Excellency of the shipment, on the morning of the 20th October last, of a cargo of upwards of 1,000 slaves at Aghwey, destined, there can be no doubt, for the Cuban market.

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

Inclosure in No. 118.

Sir J. Crampton to Señor Collantes.

M. le Ministre,

Madrid, January 6, 1863.

A DESPATCH has been received by Her Majesty's Government from Mr. Freeman, the Governor of Lagos, informing them that a shipment of 1,007 slaves, on board a steamer under French colours, was effected at Aghwey at about 11 o'clock in the morning of the 20th of October last.

Although the cruisers were on the alert expecting this steamer, which was to have shipped the slaves at Whydah, the slave-dealers appear to have obtained such precise information of the movements of the vessels of war that they abandoned this plan, and the slaves were sent by lagoon to Aghwey to be embarked there.

Her Majesty's ship "Griffon" gave chase to a French steamer which was descried in the neighbourhood, but the suspected vessel turned out to be the French man-of-war the "Lamothe Piquet," Commander Lefevre. The "Griffon" having exhausted her fuel in the chase was obliged to proceed to Fernando Po to coal, when the expected slave steam-vessel ran in and succeeded in carrying off her cargo.

As there can be no question that these slaves are destined for the Cuban market, I am instructed by Her Majesty's Government to lose no time in apprizing your Excellency of the facts above stated.

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

No. 119.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 13, 1863.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 31st ultimo, instructing you to acquaint the Spanish Government of the shipment from the African coast, on the 20th of October last, of a cargo of upwards of 1,000 slaves destined for the Cuban market, I now transmit to you a copy of a despatch from Mr. Young, Her Majesty's Consul at Bilbao,* reporting that the Spanish steamer "Noc Daqui" landed 1,010 slaves in Cuba, on the 28th of November last.

There can be little doubt, therefore, that it was the "Noc Daqui" that succeeded in

evading Her Majesty's cruisers on the African coast in October last, and subsequently landed her slaves in Cuba.

This is the third if not the fourth time that this vessel has been successfully engaged in introducing slaves into Cuba, and although these facts must be as notorious to the Spanish authorities as they are to the British Government, no steps would appear to have been taken to prevent the owners of the "*Noc Daqui*," who are Spanish subjects and well known, from continuing to employ their vessel in this nefarious Traffic.

I have to desire that you will communicate to the Spanish Government the information respecting this vessel which is contained in Mr. Young's despatch, and you will urge them to adopt measures for the arrest and punishment of the parties concerned in this affair.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 120.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 21, 1863.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 6th instant, and I have to convey to you my approval of the note which you addressed to M. Calderon Collantes, informing him of the shipment of upwards of 1,000 slaves from Aghwey destined for the Cuban market.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 121.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received January 27.)

My Lord,

Madrid, January 3, 1863.

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 13th ultimo, I have not failed to bring to the knowledge of Marshal O'Donnell the facts of the case reported to Her Majesty's Government by Mr. Acting Consul-General Crawford, of the landing in Cuba of 490 slaves with the connivance of the authorities of the district of Trinidad.

I stated that Her Majesty's Government felt pleasure in acknowledging the promptness with which the Captain-General of Cuba punished, as far as in him lay, the complicity of those authorities of whose guilt he felt persuaded, by summarily dismissing the Lieutenant-Governor of Trinidad and the Lieutenant of Police at Casilda; but I added that Her Majesty's Government could not but feel deep regret that the existing state of the internal laws and regulations in Cuba was such that, as is proved by this case, in spite of the energetic measures which the Spanish Government are adopting by sea, and in spite of the disposition evinced by the Captain-General to exert the powers vested in him to punish those concerned in this infamous Traffic, it is nevertheless carried on with an impunity which appears now solely to result from the impossibility of obtaining legal evidence of offences, the commission of which is nevertheless notorious to the highest official authority of the island.

It was obvious, I remarked, that such a state of things called for remedy; for it could not be supposed that any Government would embark in measures entailing trouble and expense, would authorise their highest officers to resort to acts of summary authority, and yet submit to have their endeavours defeated through the admitted defects of laws which it was in their own power to amend.

I availed myself of the information contained in Mr. Crawford's despatch to your Lordship of October 30th, to say that I was persuaded no one was more alive to those defects than Marshal Serrano himself; and I remarked that his Excellency in speaking to Her Majesty's Vice-Consul had frankly admitted the necessity of adopting the very measures of improvement which had been repeatedly recommended by Her Majesty's Government.

Marshal O'Donnell said to me, in reply, that he was acquainted with, and entirely approved of, the summary action of the Captain-General in the case to which I alluded. His Excellency added that I might safely assure Her Majesty's Government that the

Spanish Government were sincerely desirous to bring the Cuban Slave Trade to an end, and were determined to use every means in their power to effect this object. His Excellency then repeated to me what I have already reported to your Lordship respecting the increase in number, and the improvement in the efficiency, of the Spanish naval force to be employed upon the coasts of Cuba; and upon my pressing him in regard to measures of internal police recommended by Marshal Serrano, his Excellency observed that that officer was now upon his way to Spain; that upon his arrival he, Marshal O'Donnell, would lose no time in consulting him upon this subject, and he could assure me that the measures Marshal Serrano might recommend would be taken into the serious consideration of the Spanish Government, with a view to the immediate adoption of such of them "as could properly be accepted" or found practicable by the Council of State.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

No. 122.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received January 27.)

My Lord,

Madrid, January 23, 1863.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 6th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a translation of a letter which I have received from M. Calderon Collantes, stating that he has communicated to the Minister of War and the Colonies the information which, in conformity with your Lordship's instructions, I gave to his Excellency respecting the shipment at Aghwey of a cargo of negroes on board a steamer under the French flag.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Inclosure in No. 122.

Señor Collantes to Sir J. Crampton.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Palace, January 14, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the note dated the 5th instant, which you were good enough to address to me relative to a cargo of negroes embarked at Aghwey on board a steamer under the French flag, has been transmitted to the Department of War and the Colonies.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) S. CALDERON COLLANTES.

No. 123.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received February 3.)

My Lord,

Madrid, January 30, 1863.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 13th instant, I have the honour to transmit the copy of a note which I have addressed to the Duke de la Torre upon the subject of the "*Noc Daqui*."

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Inclosure in No. 123.

Sir J. Crampton to the Duke de la Torre.

My Lord Duke,

Madrid, January 29, 1863.

WITH reference to the note which I addressed to Señor Calderon Collantes upon the subject of the slaver "*Noc Daqui*," dated the 11th of September last, I have now the honour to communicate to your Excellency the following additional information in regard to the proceedings of that vessel.

It has come to the knowledge of Her Majesty's Consul at Bilbao that news has reached that place of the arrival of the "*Noc Daqui*," Captain Arteli, at Havana, where she succeeded in landing 1,010 slaves.

From the date of the "*Noc Daqui's*" arrival at Havana, it would appear that her ostensible voyage from Bordeaux to Vera Cruz with stores for the French Government was a blind to cover her real intentions, as it seems almost impossible that she could have gone to that port, from thence to the African coast, and then to Havana, within the period between her leaving Bordeaux and arriving at her ultimate destination.

There can be little doubt, therefore, that it was the "*Noc Daqui*" that succeeded in evading Her Majesty's cruizers on the African coast in October last, and subsequently landed her slaves at Cuba.

It is thus evident that this is the third, if not the fourth time that this vessel has been successfully engaged in introducing slaves into Cuba; and although these facts must be as notorious to the Spanish authorities as to the British Government, it does not appear that any steps have been taken to prevent the owners of the "*Noc Daqui*," who are Spanish subjects and well known, from continuing to employ their vessel in this nefarious Traffic.

Her Majesty's Government have consequently instructed me to make known these facts to your Excellency, and to express their confident hope that measures will be taken for the arrest and punishment of the parties concerned in this affair.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

No. 124.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received February 7.)

My Lord,

Madrid, January 28, 1863.

I TOOK the earliest opportunity of bringing the subject of the Cuban Slave Trade under the attention of the Duke de la Torre.

I remarked that Her Majesty's Government had learned, with satisfaction, by late reports from the Havana, that his Excellency, by certain acts of summary punishment of persons in authority who had betrayed their duty in this respect, had evinced, when Captain-General of Cuba, a sincere desire to put an end to the Slave Trade in that island; and had, moreover, in a conversation with Mr. Acting Consul-General Crawford, expressed opinions, in the soundness of which Her Majesty's Government concurred, as to the means by which only that cruel abuse could be finally extirpated.

I observed that I had lately conversed with Marshal O'Donnell upon this subject, who had promised that on his (the Duke de la Torre's) arrival in Spain, Her Catholic Majesty's Government would consult with him with a disposition to adopt any recommendation which he might make as to efficacious measures for extinguishing Slave Trade in Cuba.

I added that it was a matter of peculiar satisfaction to me to enter upon this subject with his Excellency now that he was in a position in which his views and recommendations in regard to this matter—always, no doubt, valuable in the counsels of Her Catholic Majesty's Government—would carry with them the greatest possible weight and authority.

The Duke de la Torre's reply to these observations was very satisfactory. His Excellency in no way receded from the opinions which he expressed to Mr. Crawford. He said that he had frequently recommended that the Slave Trade should be declared piracy; and that he still held that opinion. He acknowledged that considerable changes in the organization and practice of the Tribunals in Cuba were essential; and he added, with much frankness, the expression of his firm belief that, if proper measures were adopted, there would be little difficulty in putting a final stop to the Slave Trade in Cuba; admitting, in reference to a remark of mine to that effect, that the Brazilian Government had been perfectly successful in suppressing it under circumstances still more unfavourable.

I concluded our conversation by expressing my earnest hope that his Excellency's advice would be concurred in by his colleagues in the Cabinet, and by remarking that I knew of no question, the honourable close of which would tend more to smooth down on the part of the Government and people of Great Britain a certain asperity of feeling, which was kept alive by a constant recurrence to the well-grounded complaint that the

solemn obligations of a Treaty with Spain were continually violated in the sole interest of a system which was now held in universal abhorrence by civilized nations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

No. 125.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received February 18.)

My Lord,

Madrid, February 14, 1863.

I HAD the honour in my despatch of the 4th instant to inclose the Report in Spanish of a debate in the Spanish Cortes on the subject of the Italian question, in the course of which Señor Valera made some observations regarding the Slave Trade, which were responded to by the Duke de la Torre.

I have now the honour to inclose a translation of those passages.

Your Lordship will perceive that, in answer to Señor Valera's complaint that the commerce of Spain in Africa suffered in consequence of the Treaty of 1834 with England, and to his remark that it could not be successfully prosecuted until this Treaty was abrogated, the Duke de la Torre observed that the true way in which any inconveniences which resulted from the Treaty in question could be practically obviated would be by the final extirpation of the Slave Trade; and his Excellency added that the Spanish Government had determined to put down this iniquity by the adoption of the most energetic measures.

I took an opportunity of expressing to the Duke de la Torre my gratification at this announcement, when his Excellency renewed to me in decided terms the expression of his opinion that this object could be effected by the measures which the Spanish Government had determined to adopt.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Inclosure in No. 125.

Extract from the Speeches of Señor Valera and the Duke de la Torre, reported in the "Diario de las Sesiones de Cortes" of February 3, 1863.

(Translation.)

Señor Valera.—In regard to the question of the coasts of Africa, I am not surprised that Spanish vessels which have been seized do not go for redress to the Court of Havana or of Sierra Leone, because the shipowners and masters, seeing that if a vessel was seized, by the time the trial finished her hull was already rotten, her cargo damaged, and everything ruined, must have withdrawn from this Traffic; and I beg General Serrano to believe me, when I state that so long as the Treaty of 1834 upon the Slave Trade is not revised, it will be impossible for Spain to carry on any sort of trade with the African coasts.

The Minister of State (the Duke de la Torre).—I shall begin by stating, that in respect to the Treaty with England upon the Slave Trade, the present Government propose to annul it in the most efficacious manner, that is to say, by putting an end to this Traffic; for which purpose they intend to employ every means suggested by the wish to attain the object aimed at. The moment the Slave Trade ceases to exist the Treaty is brought to an end. It may continue to exist *de jure*, but *de facto* it will be annulled, because there will then be nothing to treat upon; and when the Government shall have entirely put an end to the Slave Trade, they will then negotiate with England that the Treaty may cease as unnecessary. If the impatient gentlemen of the Opposition have not understood this, they must learn that the Minister (who is addressing the House) meant and explained that when the Slave Trade comes to an end, they will then take steps to put an end to the Treaty, for England will not be able to reject this natural and legitimate claim of right on the part of Spain. To this end it is necessary that the Slave Trade should be brought to a termination; that we should all unite our efforts to get rid of this iniquity, which can no longer be tolerated; and that the dealers in slaves should convince themselves that it is necessary to entertain humane and patriotic sentiments rather than to make money. I think the Government are very explicit upon this subject.

No. 126.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 19, 1863.

I TRANSMIT to you, herewith, for your information, copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Consul-General at the Havana relative to the Cuban Slave Trade.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 127.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 21, 1863.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Milne,† which has been communicated to me by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, relative to the landing of slaves on the coast of Cuba.

The disembarkations effected at the estate "Proyectos," in the district Remedios, and on the Isle of Pines, are evidently those alluded to in the despatch from the Acting British Consul-General at the Havana, of which a copy was communicated to you in my despatch of the 19th instant, but the cargoes landed near Havana and at the Jardinillos Cays would seem to be fresh infractions of the Treaty.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 128.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 19, 1863.

WITH reference to former correspondence relative to the Spanish steamer "*Noc Daqui*," which has been for some time past notoriously engaged in the Cuban Slave Trade, I now transmit, for your information, copies of further despatches as marked in the margin,‡ from Mr. Crawford, the Acting British Consul-General at the Havana, reporting the circumstances under which this vessel has been seized at Isla de Mugerés, off the coast of Yucatan, and taken out of the hands of the Mexican authorities by Rear-Admiral Wilkes, of the United States' navy.

I also transmit copies of a letter and its inclosures from Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Milne,§ commanding Her Majesty's naval forces on the North American and West Indian Stations, reporting the detention by Commander Grant, of Her Majesty's ship "*Steady*," of the Spanish smack "*Matilde*," and the subsequent release of that vessel.

The Spanish Government will probably have received information of these occurrences, but as the career of the "*Noc Daqui*" as a slave-vessel has doubtless now come to an end, I have to desire that you will request the Spanish Minister to inform you whether it is the intention of the Government of Her Catholic Majesty to take any steps for prosecuting the owner of the "*Noc Daqui*" on account of the Slave Trade proceedings of this vessel.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 129.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 26, 1863.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, under flying seal, a despatch which by my directions has been addressed to Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz,|| relative to the equipment of vessels at that port for the Slave Trade.

* No. 163.

† Class A, No. 132.
§ Class A, No. 133.‡ Nos. 166, 168, and 169.
|| No. 159.

From the information which has reached Her Majesty's Government from various sources, there can be little doubt that several vessels have within the last few months been fitted out at Cadiz for the Slave Trade, under circumstances which lead to the inference that the authorities of that port could not have been ignorant of the destination of these vessels; and I have accordingly to instruct you to call the attention of the Spanish Government to the case of the "*Island Queen*," or "*Josephine*," and you will request that inquiries may be instituted with the view to ascertain how it happened that this vessel was allowed to equip for the Slave Trade and to leave Cadiz in the open manner in which she appears to have sailed from that port.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 130.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received March 30.)

My Lord,

Madrid, March 25, 1863.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 19th instant, I have the honour to transmit the copy of a note which I have addressed to the Marquis of Miraflores, informing his Excellency of the circumstances under which a slaver called the "*Noc Daqui*" has been seized off the coast of Yucatan, and inquiring whether it is the intention of Her Catholic Majesty's Government to take any steps for prosecuting the owner of that vessel on account of her Slave Trade proceedings.

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

Inclosure in No. 130.

Sir J. Crampton to the Marquis of Miraflores.

My Lord Marquis,

Madrid, March 23, 1863.

WITH reference to the note which I addressed on the 29th of January last to the Duke de la Torre, and to previous communications with the Spanish Department for Foreign Affairs, relative to the proceedings of a slave-vessel called the "*Noc Daqui*," I have now the honour to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul-General at the Havana reports detailing the circumstances under which this vessel has been seized at the Isla de Mugerres, off the coast of Yucatan, and taken out of the hands of the Mexican authorities by Admiral Wilkes, of the United States' navy, on the grounds of her being engaged in the service of the so-called Confederate States of North America.

Her Majesty's Government have also received a report from Rear-Admiral Sir A. Milne, Commanding Her Majesty's naval forces on the North American and West Indian Station, respecting the detention by Commander Grant, of Her Majesty's ship "*Steady*," of the Spanish smack "*Máthilde*," and the subsequent release of that vessel.

The Spanish Government will no doubt have received information of these occurrences; but as the career of the "*Noc Daqui*" as a slave-vessel has doubtless now come to an end, I am instructed by Her Majesty's Government to request your Excellency to inform me whether it is the intention of Her Catholic Majesty's Government to take any steps for prosecuting the owners of the "*Noc Daqui*" on account of the Slave Trade proceedings of that vessel.

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

No. 131.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir,
Foreign Office, April 6, 1863.
WITH reference to my despatch of the 19th ultimo I transmit to you herewith a copy of a further despatch from the Acting British Consul-General at the

Havana,* relative to the landing in the Island of Cuba of a cargo of slaves from the Spanish steamer "*Noc Daqui*," and the expulsion of two notorious slave-traders, Durañona and his partner Tuero, by the new Captain-General.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 132.

Mr. Edwardes to Earl Russell.—(Received April 22.)

My Lord,

Madrid, April 18, 1863.

WITH reference to Sir John Crampton's despatch of the 20th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit a translation of a note I have received from the Marquis de Miraflores stating that his Excellency has submitted the case of the slaver "*Noc Daqui*" to the Colonial Department, and that he will not fail to communicate the result to me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. EDUARDES.

Inclosure in No. 132.

The Marquis of Miraflores to Mr. Edwardes.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Palace, April 14, 1863.

IN order to give a proper course to the notes of your Legation dated the 29th of January and 23rd of March last, relative to the vessel "*Noc Daqui*," they have been transmitted to the Director-General of the Colonies, and as soon as the information required shall have been received I will communicate it to you; and availing, &c.

(Signed) MARQUIS OF MIRAFLORES.

No. 133.

Earl Russell to Mr. Edwardes.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 22, 1863.

WITH reference to Sir J. Crampton's despatch of the 18th of July last, and to former correspondence respecting the case of the "*Buenaventura Cubano*," which was first detained by the Liberian authorities in the Gallinas River for being engaged in the Slave Trade, and was subsequently taken out of their hands and destroyed by the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "*Torch*," I now transmit to you copies of a letter, and its inclosures, from the Admiralty,† containing further information respecting this Spanish vessel.

Señor Calderon Collantes, in his note to Sir J. Crampton of the 12th of July last, assumes that the only evidence that the "*Buenaventura Cubano*" was engaged in the Slave Trade is founded on the testimony of the Chief of one of the native tribes; but the Spanish Minister is mistaken on this point, as will be seen by the declaration, of which a copy accompanies the Admiralty letter, made on oath before the Judge of the Vice-Admiralty Court at Sierra Leone by Lieutenant Martin, the officer belonging to Her Majesty's ship "*Torch*," who boarded the Spanish schooner.

That officer deposes that on boarding the "*Buenaventura Cubano*" he found on examination:—

1st. Seventeen large water-casks in her hold capable of containing 130 gallons each, being a larger quantity than was requisite for the crew of the vessel; a quantity of wooden spoons, such as are generally found in slave-vessels, and four large boilers capable of cooking for a great number of persons.

2ndly. A sufficient quantity of plank for laying a second or slave-deck, necessary tubs usually seen in slave-vessels, and a large quantity of firewood.

3rdly. A great quantity of rice, calavances, and fish, far beyond that requisite for the use of the crew.

4thly. The hatches were very large, and there were irons for gratings on board.

* No. 170.

† Class A, No. 109.

After the most diligent search Lieutenant Martin deposes that he was unable to find any papers, flag, or documents showing the right of the vessel to claim the protection of any State or nation.

I have to instruct you to communicate a copy of Lieutenant Martin's declaration to the Spanish Government, and in doing so you will state that Her Majesty's Government cannot doubt that the depositions of this British officer will set at rest any doubts that may have been entertained by the Government of Her Catholic Majesty as to the true character of the "*Buenaventura Cnbano*," and the nature of the voyage in which she was engaged.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 134.

Earl Russell to Mr. Edwardes.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 30, 1863.*
WITH reference to my despatch to Sir J. Crampton of the 20th of March of last year, inclosing a copy of a despatch from the Acting British Consul-General at the Havana relative to the landing of a cargo of upwards of 300 slaves near Trinidad, with the connivance of the Spanish authorities on that part of the coast, I transmit to you, for your information, a copy of a further despatch from Mr. Crawford,* forwarding a translation of a note which he has received from the Captain-General, reporting the result of the investigations made by the Spanish authorities in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 135.

Earl Russell to Mr. Edwardes.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 5, 1863.*
I TRANSMIT to you, for your information, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz,† reporting the result of inquiries which I directed him to make respecting a ship called the "*Island Queen*," which was captured by Her Majesty's ship "*Wrangler*," off the African coast, in the month of December last, equipped for the Slave Trade.

You will perceive by Mr. Brackenbury's despatch that this vessel was fitted out at Cadiz, whence she was allowed to clear for the African coast, apparently with the connivance of the Spanish authorities, for she does not appear to have been visited, or any other steps taken to ascertain that she was about to proceed on a legal voyage.

I have to instruct you to call the attention of the Spanish Government to the case of his vessel, and in doing so you will state that Her Majesty's Government do not doubt that the Government of Her Catholic Majesty will take such steps as they may deem calculated to prevent, for the future, the slave-traders from equipping their vessels at Cadiz.

It will be right that you should acquaint the Spanish Minister that Señor Botelho, who, it would appear, privately purchased the "*Island Queen*" at Cadiz, has long been known to Her Majesty's Government as a most notorious slave-trader.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 136.

Earl Russell to Mr. Edwardes.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 5, 1863.*
I TRANSMIT to you, for your information, an extract from a letter from Commodore Wilmot, of Her Majesty's ship "*Rattlesnake*,"‡ reporting the capture, by Her

* No. 171.

† No. 161.

‡ Class A, No. 110.

Majesty's ship "Brisk," off Anna Bon, of a slaver, without name, colours, or papers, bound for Cuba, and having on board 368 slaves when taken, nearly 100 of whom died on the passage to Sierra Leone.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 137.

Mr. Edwardes to Earl Russell.—(Received May 6.)

My Lord,

Madrid, April 27, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the translation of a note from the Marquis of Miraflores, stating that he has submitted to the Minister of Marine the request of Her Britannic Majesty's Government that Her Catholic Majesty should revoke the order lately given by the superior authorities of Cuba, to the effect that all vessels of war desiring to communicate with Havana must make their formal entry into the port.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. EDWARDES.

Inclosure in No. 137.

The Marquis of Miraflores to Sir J. Crampton.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Palace, April 4, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have received your note of the 23rd ultimo, in which you demand, in the name of your Government, that that of the Queen my Sovereign should revoke the order lately given by the superior authorities of the Island of Cuba, to the effect that all vessels of war desiring to communicate with Havana must make their formal entry into the port.

I this day acquaint the Minister of Marine with the contents of the said note, in order that, after having consulted the Captain-General of that island, he may adopt the determination best suited to justice and the requirements of the service, and I shall hasten to communicate it to you as soon as it comes to my knowledge.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) THE MARQUIS DE MIRAFLORES.

No. 138.

Mr. Edwardes to Earl Russell.—(Received May 14.)

My Lord,

Madrid, May 8, 1863.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch to Sir John Crampton of the 26th of March, I have the honour to transmit the copy of a note which I have addressed to the Marquis of Miraflores, respecting the equipment at Cadiz of vessels for the Slave Trade, and calling the attention of the Spanish Government to the case of the "Island Queen" or "Josephine."

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. EDWARDES.

Inclosure in No. 138.

Mr. Edwardes to the Marquis of Miraflores.

My Lord Marquis,

Madrid, May 2, 1863.

FROM information which has reached Her Britannic Majesty's Government from various sources, there can be little doubt that several vessels have, within the last few months, being fitted out at Cadiz for the Slave Trade, under circumstances which lead to the inference that the authorities of that port could not have been ignorant of the destination of those vessels, and I have accordingly been instructed by Earl Russell, Her

Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to call your Excellency's attention to the case which I am about to state of the "*Island Queen*" or "*Josephine*," and to request that inquiries may be instituted with the view to ascertain how it happened that this vessel was allowed to equip for the Slave Trade, and to leave Cadiz in the open manner in which she appears to have sailed from that port.

The above-mentioned vessel was captured on the 28th of December last by Her Majesty's ship "*Wrangler*," in latitude 14° 37', longitude 9° 19' east.

It has been represented to Her Majesty's Government that the "*Island Queen*" was fitted out in the United States or Havana in March 1862, with United States' colours and papers, and was commanded by R. Ducham, a noted slave captain. The vessel proceeded to Cardiff or Swansea, and there took in a cargo of coals for Cadiz. Arrived at that place she discharged all her coals except a few tons sufficient for another trip, and she remained at anchor in Cadiz Bay to fit for slaving.

Before fitting for the coast of Africa, she is said to have changed ownership, and to have taken out Spanish papers under the name of the "*Josephine*." Two brothers, said to be Portuguese, named Botelho, made no secret of being part-owners: one of them took a passage out in the slave-vessel, and the other in the Portuguese mail-steamer (said to be the "*Estafania*"), to St. Paul de Loanda, carrying out the purchase-money for the slaves.

A nephew of theirs (a Portuguese youth named Teixeira Souza) took a passage in the ship, being about to enter a merchant's house in Havana. Twenty thousand dollars were given to the American owners for the ship.

She received during her stay at Cadiz a new captain (a Portuguese named Luis Fonseca), and a Portuguese and Spanish crew.

The Spanish authorities appear to have put no difficulty in the way of her preparations for a slave voyage, and to have visited her after she had received all her slave equipments.

The shipping agent, who engaged the crew, did so undisguisedly for the Slave Trade; and the agreement was made that should the voyage be successful, each seaman should receive 400 dollars, but that if they should be captured they should receive nothing.

Rice, beans, fish, biscuit, slave medicines, wooden spoons, tin-dishes, &c., were received at Cadiz in sufficient quantity to last about 1,000 slaves from Africa to Cuba, and she actually got in 300 pipes of fresh water, plank for her slave-deck, very large quantities of fire-wood, and her slave-coppers for cooking. Before leaving she was supplied with four ensigns, Spanish, American, French, and Dutch.

On the 21st of September she left Cadiz, and without touching anywhere, arrived on the 26th November off Almeira Grande, near Esquimina Bay, where she landed her part-owner and supercargo, Botelho, and communicated with her consignee, from whom directions were received to cruize at sea until the 4th of January, and then to return to Almeira Grande, where she would receive directions about her slaves, which were to be ready by that date.

Her first mate was a Spaniard named Domingo Raccira. He had been in the Spanish Navy, and held a commission from the Queen of Spain as a "pilote."

I avail, &c.

(Signed) R. EDWARDES.

No. 139.

Mr. Edwardes to Earl Russell.—(Received May 14.)

My Lord,

Madrid, May 8, 1863.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to transmit the copy of a note which I have addressed to the Marquis of Miraflores respecting the case of the "*Buenaventura Cubano*."

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. EDWARDES.

Inclosure in No. 139.

Mr. Edwardes to the Marquis of Miraflores.

My Lord Marquis,

Madrid, May 2, 1863.

WITH reference to the correspondence which has taken place between this Legation and your Excellency's Department, respecting the case of the "*Buenaventura Cubano*" which was first detained by the Liberian authorities in the Gallinas River for being engaged in the Slave Trade, and was subsequently taken out of their hands and destroyed by the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "*Torch*," I have been instructed by Earl Russell, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to submit to your Excellency some further information respecting that Spanish vessel.

Señor Calderon Collantes in his note to Sir John Crampton of the 12th of July last, assumes that the only evidence of the "*Buenaventura Cubano*" having been engaged in the Slave Trade is founded on the testimony of the Chief of one of the native tribes. But your Excellency's predecessor is mistaken on this point, as will be seen by the declaration made on oath before the Judge of the Vice-Admiralty Court at Sierra Leone by Lieutenant Martin, the officer belonging to Her Majesty's ship "*Torch*" who boarded the Spanish schooner, a copy of which declaration his Lordship has directed me to transmit to your Excellency.

That officer deposes that upon boarding the "*Buenaventura Cubano*" he found on examination,—

1st. Seventeen large water-casks in her hold capable of containing 130 gallons each, being a larger quantity than was requisite for the crew of the vessel, a quantity of wooden spoons such as are generally found in slave-vessels, and four large boilers capable of cooking for a great number of persons.

2nd. A sufficient quantity of plank for laying a second or slave-deck, necessary tubs usually seen in slave-vessels, and a large quantity of firewood.

3rd. A great quantity of rice, calavances, and fish, far beyond that requisite for the use of the crew.

4th. The hatches were very large, and there were iron gratings on board.

After the most diligent search, Lieutenant Martin deposes that he was unable to find any papers, flag, or documents, showing the right of the vessel to claim the protection of any State or nation.

Under these circumstances Earl Russell has instructed me to state that Her Majesty's Government cannot doubt that the depositions of this British officer will set at rest any doubts that may have been entertained by the Government of Her Catholic Majesty as to the true character of the "*Buenaventura Cubano*," and the nature of the voyage in which she was engaged.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) R. EDWARDES.

No. 140.

Earl Russell to Mr. Edwardes.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 11, 1863.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copies of two despatches from Her Majesty's Acting Consul-General in Cuba,* relative to the landing of two cargoes of slaves in that Island.

You will see by Mr. Crawford's despatch of the 5th ultimo, that owing to the praiseworthy energy of Colonel Causillos, who was acting as Lieutenant-Governor of Trinidad during the absence of the Governor, Brigadier Caraza, the entire cargo of one of the vessels, numbering 530 slaves, was captured by the authorities; and I have to desire that you will take an opportunity of making known to the Spanish Minister that Her Majesty's Government have heard with pleasure the conduct of Colonel Causillos in this affair.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 141

Mr. Edwardes to Earl Russell.—(Received July 2.)

My Lord,

Madrid, June 26, 1863.

IN conformity with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 11th instant, I took an opportunity of stating to the Marquis of Miraflores the satisfaction felt by Her Majesty's Government at the praiseworthy conduct of Colonel Cansillos, by whose energy and zeal, while acting as Lieutenant-Governor of Trinidad, the entire cargo of a vessel, consisting of 350 slaves, had been captured.

His Excellency remarked that, so long as General Dulce remained Captain-General of Cuba, no effort tending to the suppression of the Slave Trade would be left untried.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. EDWARDES.

No. 142.

Earl Russell to Mr. Edwardes.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 7, 1863.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Consul-General at the Havana relating to the Cuban Slave Trade.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 143.

Mr. Edwardes to Earl Russell.—(Received July 25.)

My Lord,

San Ildefonso, July 20, 1863.

IMMEDIATELY upon my arrival here I waited upon the Marquis of Miraflores, and alluded to the substance of your Lordship's despatch of the 9th instant.

His Excellency again repeated to me that so long as General Dulce remained in Cuba your Lordship might rest assured that everything would be done to put an end to the Slave Trade. I then expressed the hope that General Dulce would, in his laudable exertions, meet with every assistance at the hands of the home authorities, and the Marquis of Miraflores said that he most undoubtedly would, for they were determined to stop the nefarious Traffic.

In conformity with your Lordship's instructions I next urged his Excellency to consent to recommend to the Cortes a new law, declaring the Slave Trade piracy, and making the possession of newly imported negroes, or the retaining them in slavery, punishable with fine and imprisonment.

The Marquis of Miraflores said that he could not at that moment give me an official answer to so important a request; that it must be submitted to the Council of Ministers: but he told me he would take the subject into his consideration, adding that I might state to your Lordship that you may rely upon his doing all he possibly could to meet your wishes.

Before I left Madrid, and previously to the receipt of your Lordship's despatch above referred to, I had a conversation with a person in a high official position upon the Slave Trade, in the course of which I said I hoped that General Dulce would meet with every support from the Home Government, to which he replied, "He certainly will do so; he is doing much, but we mean to do more if possible: but we have great prejudices to combat on the part of the Cuban proprietors, and we cannot do it all at once. I myself do not agree with them that the Slave Trade is necessary to their existence. To do away with slavery in Cuba at the present moment is an impossibility; we might as well abandon the island; but there are now 60 negroes to every 100 negroes, and that ought to suffice to put an end to the trade."

With regard to two persons expelled from Cuba, it is most true that they have been for some time past in Madrid; they are very wealthy, and are making every endeavour to obtain permission to go back to Cuba; they are known to be two persons of very bad

characters, and the gentleman to whom I have referred assured me they had been told that when General Dulce wished to have them in the island, they would be allowed to return, but not before.

I have heard the same in other quarters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. EDUARDES.

No. 144.

Earl Russell to Mr. Edwardes.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 28, 1863.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, copies of a correspondence which has passed between M. Comyn, the Spanish Minister at this Court, and myself, arising out of the proceedings of Commander Robeck, of Her Majesty's ship "Myrmidon," in the River Pongo in the year 1856, in destroying a factory and burning a schooner belonging to a Spanish subject named José Berriz.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 144.

Señor Comyn to Earl Russell.

(Translation.)

My Lord,

Spanish Legation, London, June 22, 1863.

I HAVE to make known to your Excellency, by order of my Government, a circumstance which occurred some time ago, to which the Legation under my charge has not hitherto called your Excellency's attention, having waited for detailed and complete reports of all the incidents appertaining thereto; but which, nevertheless, is worthy of the serious consideration of Her Majesty's Government, and makes it its duty to demand, at all times, a due reparation from those who were the authors of it.

It appears, from the official as well as private documents received by my Government, that, on the 19th of May, 1856, Commander Robeck, of Her Britannic Majesty's steamer "Myrmidon," entered the Bay of Tintimar, and, without any previous dispute, explanation, pretext, or intimation whatever, gave orders to reduce to ashes the factory which a Spanish subject named Don José Berriz had established, by dint of troubles and labours, on the Rio Pongo,—gave everything that appertained to it to the natives of the country, and afterwards ordered them, with the help of the crew of the steamer "Myrmidon," to proceed to burn also the schooner "Julia," the property of the same Berriz; all which was strictly effected, not leaving to this unfortunate man any more property than the clothes he had on.

This act, which might well be ascribed to mental aberration, constitutes, as your Excellency will understand, an incomprehensible abuse of force, on the one hand, and a violation, on the other hand, of the Convention of 1835, which only authorizes the Commanders of war-ships to search, detain, and bring before the Mixed Tribunals the ships which may be occupied, or which are suspected of being occupied in the Slave Trade; but never, and under no point of view, to take the law into their own hands, nor to destroy houses ("fincas"), or dispose of property belonging to subjects of the other Power.

If the suspicions were certain, although the contrary is shown to be the case, that Don José Berriz was occupied in that hateful Traffic, it was the duty of the English Commander to take the ship before the Mixed Tribunal of Sierra Leone, and not to destroy her himself without bringing his case forward, and in opposition to the provisions of the Convention, thus annihilating the material proofs which might have been brought before the Court in contradiction to his assertion.

My Lord, I hope from your Excellency's justice that, on a full investigation of the facts, you will entirely disapprove the conduct of Commander Robeck as illegal and arbitrary, and that you will do what is expedient, as well for giving effect in this case to the provisions of Article IX of the Convention, as also for granting a just indemnification for the serious injuries which have been suffered.

I take, &c.
(Signed) JUAN S. COMYN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 144.

Earl Russell to Señor Comyn.

M. le Ministre,

Foreign Office, July 23, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd ultimo, stating that you have been instructed to bring to the notice of Her Majesty's Government a circumstance which occurred in the River Pongo in the year 1856, when Commander Robeck, of Her Majesty's ship "Myrmidon," is represented to have entered the Bay of Tintimar, and without any previous dispute, explanation, pretext, or intimation, to have given orders for the destruction of a factory belonging to a Spanish subject named José Berriz, and then to have proceeded, with the assistance of the natives, to burn the schooner "Julia," belonging to the said Berriz.

You also express the hope that on a full investigation of the facts of this case Her Majesty's Government will disapprove the conduct of Commander Robeck, and will grant an indemnity to Señor Berriz for the losses he has sustained.

I beg leave, in reply, to state that Her Majesty's Government would on this, as on all occasions, be most willing to make reparation for any wrongs which it might be proved that the subjects of Her Catholic Majesty had suffered at the hands of the Commanders of British cruizers employed in the suppression of the Slave Trade.

It appears, however, from a letter received in this Department in the month of June 1856, reporting Commander Robeck's proceedings in the River Pongo on the occasion referred to in your letter, that that officer on his arrival at the town of Tintimar, in May 1856, found there a schooner without colours, papers, or other proofs of nationality, and learnt on inquiry that she belonged to a person engaged in the Slave Trade named José Berriz, who was stated to be waiting for an opportunity to convey his slaves to Bissam, from whence they were to be shipped to Cuba. He thereupon caused the vessel to be destroyed.

Commander Robeck having been further informed that the said Berriz possessed a large barracoon capable of holding between 500 and 600 slaves, at a place well concealed about three miles inland, proceeded at the request of the Native Chiefs, and with their assistance, to destroy the barracoon in question.

Berriz having, however, received information of Commander Robeck's intended visit, removed his casks, cooking apparatus, &c., and sent his slaves up the country six days before the intended attack.

If Señor Berriz had been engaged in honest and legitimate trade, there could have been no reason why he should not have remained at Tintimar, and have claimed for his property the protection of the Spanish flag, which would most assuredly have been respected by the English Commander.

Instead of doing so, however, he abandoned his property, leaving no trace of the nationality of his vessel, and fled with his slaves into the bush; thus, by his conduct, confirming the information furnished to Commander Robeck as to the guilty nature of the transactions in which he was engaged.

Her Majesty's Government saw no reason at the time to disapprove the proceedings of the Commander of the "Myrmidon," who in acting as he did in this affair only gave effect to the stipulations of the Treaty existing between Her Majesty's Government and the Chiefs of the Pongas country for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

Seven years have elapsed since those proceedings occurred. During that period they have not in any way been called in question by the Spanish Government, and at this distance of time Her Majesty's Government would not feel themselves justified in opening a discussion upon a case which has so long been allowed to lie dormant, and which has reference to property unprovided at the time of its destruction with any proof of Spanish nationality.

If the Spanish Government will impress upon the subjects of Her Catholic Majesty the guilt of engaging in a Traffic prohibited by Treaties as well as by religious obligations and natural law, such complaints as the present will not arise.

Her Majesty's Government have to lament the continued violation of Treaty on the part of the subjects of Spain, as shown by the eagerness of planters in Cuba to purchase men of African origin, for the purpose of holding them in slavery. This crime ought to be punished by the Spanish laws.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

Earl Russell to Mr. Edwardes.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 31, 1863.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a letter addressed to the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade by Walter Ridley, a coloured British subject, and a certificated mate on board a British ship engaged in the Cuban trade, praying for the protection of Her Majesty's Government against the operation of the Cuban laws. By these laws, as now enforced, the master of a British merchant-ship on board whose vessel there may be a coloured British seaman is compelled; on entering a Cuban port, to give bond for the sum of 1,000 dollars that such coloured seaman shall, during the stay of the vessel in port, have no communication with the shore, and failing to give this bond the seaman is put into prison until the departure of the vessel.

You will see that Ridley states that he himself, on his last voyage as an apprentice to St. Jago de Cuba, was put into prison for safe keeping.

The effect of this Law is virtually to shut out from the Cuban trade a large class of industrious British subjects who are peculiarly fitted for the manning of vessels engaged in the trade of that island; or if, as in the case of Ridley, an apprentice is compelled to go with his ship to a Cuban port, and the master, from whatever reason, does not enter into the required bond, the seaman is sent to prison, and is thus subjected to punishment without having been guilty of any offence.

I have to instruct you to take an opportunity of calling the attention of the Marquis de Miraflores to the hardship and injustice of the Cuban laws affecting British coloured subjects, and you will point out to his Excellency that it would be consistent with the liberal and enlightened principles professed by the Spanish Government if laws so much in opposition to them were repealed.

There may have been some excuse for the enactment of stringent Regulations against the appearance of free blacks in the ports of the Spanish possessions in the West Indies at the time when the emancipation of the negroes in the British possessions caused some excitement among the coloured population in those seas, but any uneasiness arising from this event must have long since passed away.

You will also remind the Spanish Minister that, in the eyes of the British Government, there is no distinction between the white and coloured subjects of Her Majesty, and that Her Majesty's Government are bound to see that the rights secured by Treaty to the one are enjoyed equally by the other.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

Inclosure in No. 145.

Walter Ridley to the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade.

My Lords,

5, Fynone Street, Swansea, June 29, 1863.

I, WALTER BRANDON RIDLEY, born in the Island of Jamaica (Kingston), and having previously passed an ordinary examination at Bristol as only mate on the 16th day of December, 1862, which certificate is No. 27,258, and have made a voyage to the Island of Barbadoes as mate of the brig "Osborn and Elizabeth," of Faversham, from which vessel I was discharged with due testimonials for the purpose of resuming a berth in the copper-ore trade.

I now humbly request the aid of my Lords' influential powers in granting this your humble servant a protection against the uncalled-for law of the Island of Cuba, more especially in the port of St. Jago de Cuba, which port is entirely shut against me, although I had made five voyages thereto during my apprenticeship, and in the last I was actually cruelly put in prison as if I had committed any crime, whereas the result was, that I was put in for safe keeping, also that I may not entice their slaves to run away.

Now, my Lords, see you into this state of unlawful punishment I, as a British subject, went through innocently during my apprenticeship in December 1860, and now that I have thus passed your examination as an officer in the merchant service, seeking a livelihood in your British merchantmen, that berths should be denied me in consequence of such abominable laws. I was denied a berth by Harrison, master of the barque "Cobrero," of London, on the St. Jago trade, he protesting of being answerable for the sum of 1,000 dollars as a bond for all coloured men when they go there.

My Lords, whenever I go there I never interest myself with the Spaniards nor their slaves; I always look to my own duties and no other.

Now, my Lords, with a feeling of humanity for a servant in your service, whose petition is now sent in to ask for a protection, as a faithful British subject, that I may get a living in the Cuban trade when berths are filled up in any other.

I must state that I was taken from the British barque "Countess of Bective" in the time aforesaid (December 1860) before the sails were furled, and kept in prison at the disposal of Pedro Ferer Landa, of St. Jago de Cuba; after addressing him two letters I was let out, and went on board my ship the best way I could.

In conclusion, my Lords will pardon my troubling them with directing the said protection, if my Lords will grant it, to the shipping master at Swansea, for which your humble servant will ever be in duty bound to acknowledge your Lordships' kindness.

(Signed) WALTER BRANDON RIDLEY.

No. 146.

Mr. Edwardes to Earl Russell.—(Received August 23.)

My Lord,

San Ildefonso, August 17, 1863.

IN conformity with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 31st of July, I availed myself of an opportunity of calling the attention of the Marquis of Miraflores to the present state of the Cuban laws affecting British coloured seamen on board British merchant-ships entering a Cuban port; and I pointed out to his Excellency that it would be consistent with the liberal and enlightened principles professed by the Spanish Government if laws so much in opposition to them were repealed.

After listening to me, his Excellency said that the case, as I had pointed it out, appeared to him to be a hard one; but any decision upon it did not depend upon him alone, and he requested me to draw up a Memorandum upon the subject in order that he might forward it to the Minister of the Colonies with a strong recommendation that he would take it into his favourable consideration.

I acceded to the request of the Marquis of Miraflores by embodying your Lordship's despatch in a Memorandum, a copy of which I have the honour to inclose.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. EDWARDES.

Inclosure in No. 146.

Memorandum.

I HAVE been instructed to call the attention of the Marquis of Miraflores to the hardship and injustice of some of the Cuban laws as affecting British coloured subjects; and at the same time to point out to his Excellency that it would be consistent with the liberal and enlightened principles professed by the Spanish Government if laws so much in opposition to them were repealed.

By these laws, as now enforced, the master of a British merchant-ship, on board of whose vessel there may be a coloured British seaman, is compelled, on entering a Cuban port, to give a bond for the sum of 1,000 dollars that such coloured seamen shall, during the stay of the vessel in port, have no communication with the shore, and, failing to give this bond, the seaman is put into prison until the departure of the vessel.

The effect of this law is virtually to shut out from the Cuban trade a large class of industrious British subjects who are peculiarly fitted for the manning of vessels engaged in the trade of that island; or if an apprentice is compelled to go with his ship to a Cuban port, and the master, from whatever reason, does not enter into the required bond, the seaman is sent to prison, and is thus subjected to punishment without having been guilty of any offence.

There may have been some excuse for the enactment of stringent regulations against the appearance of free blacks in the ports of the Spanish possessions in the West Indies at the time when the emancipation of the negroes in the British possessions caused some excitement among the coloured population in those seas; but any uneasiness arising from this event must have long since passed away.

I have been further instructed to remind the Marquis of Miraflores that, in the eyes of the British Government, there is no distinction between the white and coloured subjects of Her Majesty; and that Her Majesty's Government are bound to see that the rights secured by Treaty to the one are enjoyed equally by the other.

San Ildefonso, August 17, 1863.

Mr. Edwardes to Earl Russell.—(Received September 1.)

My Lord,

San Ildefonso, August 27, 1863.

WITH reference to my despatch of April 8, 1863, I have the honour to transmit the translation of a note which I have received from the Marquis of Miraflores, regarding the case of the "*Buenaventura Cubano*," from which your Lordship will perceive that his Excellency states that after what was said by M. Calderon Collantes to Sir John Crampton in his note of the 12th of July last year, the Spanish Government does not see the necessity of discussing the matter with Her Britannic Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. EDUARDES.

Inclosure in No. 147.

The Marquis of Miraflores to Mr. Edwardes.

(Translation.)

Sir,

San Ildefonso, August 20, 1863.

I RECEIVED in due course the note which you were so good as to address to me on the 2nd of May last, inclosing the declaration made by the Lieutenant of the "*Torch*," who seized and burned the Spanish vessel "*Buenaventura Cubano*."

The Government of the Queen, as my predecessor Don Saturnino Calderon Collantes stated at length to Sir J. Crampton, under date of the 12th of July of last year, does not see the necessity of discussing this subject with the English Government.

You are aware that the circumstance to which Her Britannic Majesty's Government refers was subsequent to what took place with the Government of Monrovia, who, by capturing a Spanish vessel, which was performing her voyage with entire regularity, committed an act which they were in no manner bound to commit, inasmuch as there exists no Treaty authorizing the Republic of Liberia to exercise the right of visit in regard to Spanish vessels, even if suspicion should fall upon the latter of being employed in the Slave Trade.

This is all which it is in my power to state to you upon the subject, after what was observed to the Legation of which you are temporarily in charge, in the note which I have already mentioned.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) MARQUIS OF MIRAFLORES.

No. 148.

Earl Russell to Mr. Edwardes.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, September 1, 1863.

IN Mr. Acting Consul-General Crawford's despatch of the 6th of July, a copy of which was transmitted to you in my despatch of the 11th ultimo, mention is made of a slave-vessel having called off Camarioca, on the Cuban coast, and transferred her cargo of negroes to coasting craft, one of which landed 60 negroes at the mouth of the River Caminar, in the Bay of Matanzas.

According to the information received by Her Majesty's Government, this system of transferring slaves from the vessels on board which they arrive from Africa to small coasting vessels is very generally practised now on the Cuban coast.

Sometimes there is a preconcerted rendezvous appointed at one of the small uninhabited cays off Cuba; at other times the slaver runs in sufficiently near the coast to communicate by boat with the shore, when arrangements are made at sea for transferring the slaves to coasting craft, by which they are distributed at different small ports along the coast, open only to Spanish coasting vessels.

The recent complaints on the part of the Cuban authorities that British cruisers are in the habit of anchoring in Spanish waters, and of entering Cuban ports that are not open to foreign vessels, may probably, therefore, be traced to the fears of interested parties that if British cruisers are allowed to continue this practice they may materially interfere with the plans now adopted for landing slaves.

There is another motive, moreover, which doubtless has hitherto had considerable

weight in influencing Cuban authorities to throw all the obstacles possible in the way of British cruisers making captures of slaves on the Cuban coast. It is this: when slaves are captured by British cruisers, the negroes are sent to Jamaica and manumitted, and their labour is of course lost to the Cuban planters; but if they are captured by Spanish authorities, the labour of the negroes is still retained in the Island, the only difference being that instead of the slaves remaining in the hands of the parties who planned the adventure, they are called emancipados, and are hired out by the Spanish authorities to favoured planters.

Her Majesty's Government trust, therefore, that the Spanish Government will allow British cruisers engaged in the suppression of the Slave Trade to anchor in Spanish waters off the Cuban coast.

Her Majesty's Government are the more inclined to hope that this permission will be granted, as the maintenance of an anti-Slave Trade policy by General Dulce is highly honourable to the character for good faith and honour of the Government of Her Catholic Majesty.

No. 149.

Earl Russell to Mr. Edwardes.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 3, 1863.*
 WITH reference to my despatch of the 13th of December last, inclosing a copy of a despatch from the Acting British Consul-General at Havana reporting the dismissal of the Lieutenant-Governor of Trinidad and the Lieutenant of Police at Casilda, on suspicion of their having connived at a landing of 490 slaves in the district of Trinidad in that Island, I transmit to you, for your information, a copy of a further despatch from Mr. Crawford,* inclosing a translation of a note which he has received from General Dulce, stating that the Royal Audiencia, before whom the case has been brought, have decided that there does not appear to be any grounds for suspecting that the landing in question actually took place, nor evidence to convict the authorities of bribery in the matter.

I likewise transmit, for your information, a copy of a further despatch from Mr. Crawford,† inclosing a copy of a note from General Dulce, stating that a cargo of slaves which it was expected would have been landed last July at Manzanillo has not since been heard of.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 150.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 27, 1863.*
 WITH reference to my despatch to Mr. Edwardes of the 11th of June last, inclosing copies of despatches from the Acting British Consul-General at Havana, relative to the landing of slaves at Trinidad in the Island of Cuba, I transmit to you, for your information, a copy of a further despatch from Mr. Crawford,‡ reporting on the general treatment to which slaves rescued by the Spanish authorities in Cuba, and designated "emancipados," are subjected; and I have to instruct you to address a note upon this subject to the Marquis de Miraflores, remonstrating against the practice pursued by the Spanish authorities in regard to the emancipation of these unfortunate negroes.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) RUSSELL.

* No. 179.

† No. 180.

‡ No. 186.

No. 151.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 31, 1863.

I INCLOSE, for your information, a copy of a Memorial to the Queen from the inhabitants of Jamaica on the subject of the Cuban Slave Trade which has been communicated to me by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

Inclosure in No. 151.

Memorial.

[See Inclosure in No. 88.]

No. 152.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 12, 1863.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, copies of a despatch and its inclosures from the Acting British Commissary Judge at the Havana,* containing a Report upon the Cuban Slave Trade for the twelve months ending the 30th of September last.

This Report, Her Majesty's Government rejoice to find, shows that there has been a very considerable decrease in the number of slaves introduced into Cuba during the past year, and it is satisfactory to know that this is owing to the determination evinced by Captain-General Dulce to carry out the engagements of the Spanish Crown for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

Mr. Crawford reports, however, that so great are the temptations and inducements to introduce slaves into Cuba, that the Trade cannot be entirely suppressed unless very strong measures are sanctioned by the Government of Madrid, such as declaring the Slave Trade piracy, or by revoking the 9th Article of the Penal Law, which in its present state only acts as a protection to the slave-trader.

I have to instruct you to take an opportunity of making known to the Spanish Minister the tenour of Mr. Crawford's Report, and while expressing the gratification of Her Majesty's Government at the diminution of the Cuban Slave Traffic and the amelioration in the treatment of the slaves in that Island, you will at the same time urge the Government of Her Catholic Majesty to strengthen the hands of the present Captain-General, and thus to enable that officer, who does not lack the will, to put a stop at once and for ever to the importation of slaves into Cuba.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 153.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received March 17.)

My Lord,

Madrid, November 13, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the copy of a note which, in conformity with your Lordship's instructions contained in your despatch of the 27th of October, I addressed to the Marquis of Miraflores respecting the treatment to which negroes called "emancipados" are subjected in the Island of Cuba, as well as the translation of his Excellency's reply to that communication.

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

Inclosure 1 in No. 153.

Sir J. Crampton to the Marquis of Miraflores.

M. le Ministre,

Madrid, November 6, 1863.

IN connection with the subject of African Slave Trade which, in despite of the efforts of the Spanish Government to prevent it, is still carried on with deplorable success in the Island of Cuba, the attention of Her Majesty's Government has lately been called to the condition of those negroes called *emancipados*, or those who have been taken by the Spanish authorities from captured slave-vessels, or seized within the island, into which they have been illegally imported.

It would appear from the reports which have reached Her Majesty's Government that this unfortunate class of persons, although in the eye of the Spanish law they cannot be regarded otherwise than as free men, are, under the regulations now in force and in consequence of gross evasions of the law, subjected to a treatment which practically keeps them in a condition little differing from actual slavery, and the hardships of which in many instances are as great as, if not greater than, those which slaves are obliged to endure.

Her Majesty's Government, convinced that it could never enter into the designs of the Government of Her Catholic Majesty that this unfortunate class of persons who have been rescued by the Spanish authorities themselves from slavery should be allowed to revert to a position so nearly equivalent to it, have instructed me to bring this matter under your Excellency's serious consideration, and earnestly to recommend to Her Catholic Majesty's Government the adoption of measures calculated to remedy so great an abuse.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 153.

The Marquis of Miraflores to Sir J. Crampton.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Palace, November 7, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have this day communicated the contents of your note of yesterday's date relative to the condition of free negroes in Cuba to the Minister of the Colonies.

I will hasten to send you his answer as soon as I receive it, and avail, &c.

(Signed) MARQUIS OF MIRAFLORES.

No. 154.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received December 22.)

My Lord,

Madrid, December 16, 1863.

IN conformity with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 12th ultimo, I did not fail to express to the Marquis de Miraflores the gratification of Her Majesty's Government at the diminution of the Slave Trade and the amelioration in the treatment of slaves in Cuba, reported by Her Majesty's Acting Consul-General in his despatch to your Lordship of the 30th September.

I said that it was satisfactory to know that these improvements resulted from the determination of the present Captain-General; and on the Marquis de Miraflores replying that General Dulce, by the manner in which he had acted, had faithfully carried out the wishes of Her Catholic Majesty's Government, I observed that such being the case, I could feel no doubt that his Excellency would take into serious consideration two measures which it appeared to Her Majesty's Government, and indeed to all persons acquainted with the subject, were wanting to enable that officer, who does not lack the will, to put a stop at once to the importation of slaves into Cuba, and to realize a wish which his Excellency had so often concurred with me in expressing, that the serious and painful question which was continually recurring between the two Governments in regard to this matter should be for ever set at rest.

The two measures I alluded to were, I said:—

- 1st. An enactment declaring the Slave Trade to be piracy.
- 2nd. The modification of the Penal Code in force in Cuba, and particularly of the 9th and 13th Articles.

CLASS B.

With respect to the first of these measures, I observed that its efficacy had been shown in the case of Brazil, and no reasonable objection had ever been alleged against it by the Spanish Government.

With respect the second, the 9th and 13th Articles of the Code acted as a protection to the slave-traders, and defeated the intention of the law and the well-intended efforts of the Spanish superior authorities. The Marquis of Miraflores promised that he would take these matters into his consideration, and assured me that goodwill on his part would not be found wanting to do all that was possible to put an end to the Slave Trade.

As I had referred to particular Articles of the Penal Code, he requested me to address him a note in which they should be particularized, in order that he might be able at once to direct his attention to the points to which Her Majesty's Government alluded.

I have consequently, in the note of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, pointed out to the Marquis de Miraflores the effect of the 9th and 13th Articles of the Code, which are clearly stated in Mr. Crawford's report of September 30, 1861, inclosed in your Lordship's despatch of November 12 of that year.

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

Inclosure in No. 154.

Sir J. Crampton to the Marquis of Miraflores.

M. le Ministre,

Madrid, December 16, 1863.

IN conformity with the wish expressed by your Excellency in the conversation which I had the honour of holding with you on the 14th instant upon the subject of the Slave Trade in the Island of Cuba, I proceed to particularize in writing those measures to which I alluded as being, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, calculated to put a final stop to that deplorable Traffic; the adoption of which measures I am instructed to press upon Her Catholic Majesty's Government.

As I had the honour of stating to your Excellency, the Government of the Queen my Mistress have learned with extreme satisfaction, from the official Reports of Her Majesty's Consul at Havana, that a considerable diminution in the number of negroes illegally imported into Cuba within the year ended the 5th of last September has taken place as compared with former years, and also that a well-judged amelioration in the treatment of those legally held in slavery there has been encouraged by the authorities of Her Catholic Majesty; a measure, as Her Majesty's Consul remarks, which has happily combined a regard for humanity and a sensible increase in the productiveness of the plantations in which it has been adopted.

Her Majesty's Government have pleasure in recognizing the good will and activity displayed by the present Captain-General of Cuba, as well as the measure of his success in checking the Slave Trade. It appears, however, that such are the temptations to unprincipled individuals to introduce slaves into Cuba, and such the facilities still afforded to them by the defects in certain parts of the Spanish laws regarding the subject, that without some modifications in these, his well-meant efforts must continue to fall short of their intended object.

The measures to which Her Majesty's Government would call your Excellency's attention are—

1st. An enactment declaring Slave Trade to be piracy.

This is a measure which has been adopted by many nations, including those possessing large numbers of slaves. Its success has been signal in checking the Slave Trade in countries where it most prevailed. It has mainly contributed to free Brazil from the stigma attaching to this inhuman Traffic, and that without any injury to her productiveness or material prosperity. Her Majesty's Government are not aware of any sound argument which can be alleged against this measure.

2nd. A modification of the 9th and 13th Articles of the Spanish Penal Code in force in the Island of Cuba.

According to the former of these Articles the authorities cannot seize imported negroes when once they have been conveyed to a property or plantation, however notorious the fact of such violation of the law having been committed may be.

According to the latter, the legal punishment of slave-traders and their accomplices can only be inflicted in virtue of a sentence by the Royal Audiencia Pretorial. Now it is well known that the difficulty of producing evidence before this Court is so great that

proof to convict those accused of such charges is seldom if ever obtained, however morally convinced the ruling authorities may be of their guilt. It is true that the Captain-General has power to remove officers of whose delinquency he feels certain, and it is true that the present Captain-General Dulce, his predecessor the Duke de la Torre, and others, have exercised this power in regard to certain flagrant cases. But how much more effective, as regards public opinion, how much more satisfactory to Her Catholic Majesty's Government would it be that such punishment and degradation should result from a legal conviction rather than from the exercise of discretionary power?

I believe that in stating that the experience of the Duke de la Torre, as well as that of General Dulce, have caused them to coincide in the opinion that the adoption of both the measures to which I have above adverted would be expedient and necessary for the final extirpation of the Slave Trade in Cuba, I am not overstepping the truth. In bringing, however, these measures under your Excellency's attention, I feel confident that they will be submitted to the enlightened examination due to the intrinsic merits of the great end they are meant to forward, and also with the most friendly disposition on your Excellency's part to set at rest for ever a serious and painful matter of discussion between the Governments of Great Britain and Spain.

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

No. 155.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received December 27.)

My Lord,

Madrid, December 23, 1863.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 16th instant, I have the honour to inclose translation of a note which I have received from the Marquis de Miraflores, stating that my note on the subject of the Cuban Slave Trade had been sent to the Colonial Department.

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

Inclosure in No. 155.

The Marquis of Miraflores to Sir J. Crampton.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Palace, December 19, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have this day communicated to the Colonial Department your note of the 16th instant relative to the measures proposed by your Government for the diminution of the Slave Trade to the Island of Cuba.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) M. DE MIRAFLORES.

SPAIN. (*Consular*)—*Bilbao*.

No. 156

Consul Young to Earl Russell.—(Received January 9.)

My Lord,

Bilbao, January 5, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Spanish steamer "*Noc Daqui*," Captain Arteti, arrived at Havana on the 28th of November last, where she landed 1,010 slaves.

The information, therefore, which I had the honour to convey to your Lordship in my despatches of September 12 and of October 9 last, respecting this vessel, proves to be correct.

From the date of the "*Noc Daqui's*" arrival at Havana, it would appear, as I suspected, that the ostensible voyage from Bordeaux to Vera Cruz, with stores for the French Government, was a blind to cover her real intentions, as it seems almost impossible that she could have gone to that port, from thence to the African coast, and then to Havana, within the period between her leaving Bordeaux and arriving at her ultimate destination.

I am also informed that two of Her Majesty's cruizers captured another Spanish slaver at the very time that the "*Noc Daqui*" was completing her nefarious transaction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HORACE YOUNG.

SPAIN. (*Consular*)—*Cadiz*.

No. 157.

Consul Brackenbury to Earl Russell.—(Received February 11.)

My Lord, *Cadiz, February 5, 1863.*
I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship that the American brig "*Souther*," 197 tons, which arrived in this harbour on the 31st of December last with a cargo of staves from New Orleans, sailed the day before yesterday in ballast, nominally for St. Thomas, but in reality for the coast of Africa for slaves.

She is an old vessel, is painted black, and is commanded by H. Phinney.

The American brig "*Huntress*" is still in this bay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. BRACKENBURY.

No. 158.

Consul Brackenbury to Earl Russell.—(Received March 5.)

My Lord, *Cadiz, February 26, 1863.*
I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship that the Spanish ship "*America*," 602 tons, Manuel Bisquert, master, sailed from this port on the 24th instant, with a cargo of rice, nominally for Buenos Ayres, but in reality for the coast of Africa. She had on board boilers for a steam-mill which I understand is to be erected at Zanzibar for grinding rice.

The American brig "*Huntress*" is still in the harbour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. BRACKENBURY.

No. 159.

Mr. Murray to Consul Brackenbury.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, March 26, 1863.*
I AM directed by Earl Russell to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a letter from Commander Beamish,* of Her Majesty's ship "*Wrangler*," reporting the

* Class A, No. 105.

circumstances under which he captured a ship fully equipped for the Slave Trade off the African coast, on the 28th of December last.

This vessel was formerly the "*Island Queen*," of Washington, but you will see that she is stated to have changed ownership at Cadiz, where she was fully equipped for the Slave Trade, and furnished with Spanish papers under the name of the "*Josephine*." The crew are stated, moreover, to have been engaged undisguisedly for the Slave Trade, and the Spanish authorities appear to have visited this vessel after she had all her slave-equipments on board, and to have placed no difficulty in the way of her sailing, although there could have been little doubt as to the nature of the voyage in which she was about to be engaged.

I am further to call your attention to that part of Commander Beamish's letter, in which mention is made of five other vessels, one of them a steamer, having left Cadiz to be engaged in the Slave Trade; and I am to state that whether there is any foundation for this latter statement or not, sufficient information has reached Her Majesty's Government from other sources to prove that Cadiz has now become notoriously a port of equipment for the slave-traders.

As regards the "*Island Queen*" or "*Josephine*," I am to desire that you will forward to his Lordship, through Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid, a full and particular report of all the circumstances connected with this vessel and the parties interested in her.

No. 160.

Consul Brackenbury to Earl Russell.—(Received April 6.)

My Lord,

Cadiz, March 31, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship that the American brig "*Huntress*," Captain Duncan, is now sailing out of this harbour for the coast of Africa to be employed in the Slave Trade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. BRACKENBURY.

No. 161.

Consul Brackenbury to Earl Russell.—(Received April 28.)

My Lord,

Cadiz, April 22, 1863.

IN acknowledging the receipt of Mr. Murray's despatch dated March 26, transmitting to me copy of a letter from Commander Beamish of Her Majesty's ship "*Wrangler*," I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship that the American ship "*Island Queen*" was built at Providence, in the State of Rhode Island, in the year 1854; was owned and commanded by James Botelho, and hailed from Washington, Delaware County.

She arrived at this port on the 22nd of February, 1861, with coals from Cardiff, and remained here till the 20th of May, when she sailed, without paying port charges, for the coast of Africa, to be employed in the Slave Trade, as reported in my despatch dated May 29, 1861. Mr. J. J. Tunstall was then United States' Consul at this port. The "*Island Queen*" returned to this harbour on the 4th of May, 1862, with a cargo of coals from Leith, having touched at Corunna on her passage, and was then commanded by R. C. Denham, who discharged the crew here, and he then embarked as first mate on board of the American barque "*Garibaldi*," bound to the United States.

The "*Island Queen*" was privately sold here to Don Antonio Augusto de Oliveira Botelho, a Portuguese, who fitted her out for the Slave Trade.

A crew consisting of Spaniards and Portuguese were shipped here, and she sailed without clearing at the Custom-house, and without any name or papers, on the 21st of September, for the coast of Africa. She was reported to your Lordship by Mr. White in his despatch dated August 22, 1862. She was not visited by any Spanish authorities previous to her sailing, nor are there, that I can ascertain, either a steamer or other vessels at this moment fitting out for the coast of Africa.

The statements made by the crew are not to be relied upon. They frequently invent very plausible stories to curry favour with the captor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. BRACKENBURY.

SPAIN. (*Consular*)—*Havana.*

No. 162.

Earl Russell to Acting Consul-General Crawford.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 13, 1863.

I TRANSMIT to you, for your information, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Bilbao,* stating that he has received intelligence to the effect that the Spanish steamer "*Noc Daqui*" landed a cargo of upwards of 1,000 slaves in Cuba on the 28th of November last.

I have to desire that you will inform me whether this landing was known to the Spanish authorities, and if so what steps were taken by the new Captain-General in the matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 163.

Acting Consul-General Crawford to Earl Russell.—(Received January 31.)

My Lord,

Havana, December 10, 1862.

A RUMOUR having reached me that the steamer "*Noc Daqui*" had returned from the coast of Africa, and had landed her cargo, consisting of 1,200 Lucumi negroes, at the estate Proyecto, district of Faquayabon, in the jurisdiction of San Juan de los Remedios, on the north side of Cuba, and also that another cargo of 650 negroes had been landed at the Isle of Pines, I mentioned the subject this morning to General Serrano on the occasion of taking leave, after his Excellency had delivered up the command to General Dulce.

General Serrano informed me that the rumour in both cases was unfortunately true, and that one of his last acts as Captain-General of this island had been to remove the Lieutenant-Governors of both the jurisdictions alluded to.

The "*Noc Daqui*" has made three successful trips to the coast of Africa within the last twelve months, and must have realized a very large fortune for her owners.

I have no doubt that she will continue to be employed in this detestable Traffic, as her reputed owners are incorrigible slave-traders.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN V. CRAWFORD.

No. 164.

Acting Consul-General Crawford to Earl Russell.—(Received January 31, 1863.)

My Lord,

Havana, December 12, 1862.

I HAVE the honour of reporting to your Lordship that Lieutenant-General Don Domingo Dulce, Marques de Castell-Florite, arrived here on the 8th instant, and took over the command of Cuba from the late Captain-General Don Francisco Serrano, Duque de la Torre, on the 10th instant.

General Serrano embarked for Spain by the steam-transport "*San Quintin*," and takes with him the good wishes of the inhabitants of this Island, with whom he was very popular, having proved himself by far the most liberal and most courteous Captain-General they have yet had.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN V. CRAWFORD.

No. 165.

Acting Consul-General Crawford to Earl Russell.—(Received January 31, 1863.)

My Lord,

Havana, December 23, 1862.

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of Mr. Layard's despatch of the 25th ultimo, transmitting to me a copy of a Report from Mr. Gabriel, Her Majesty's Commissioner in the Mixed Court at Loanda, relative to the destruction of a schooner fitted to receive slaves, and without papers or colours, which was captured by Her Majesty's ship "Zebra" on the 27th of August last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN V. CRAWFORD.

No. 166.

Acting Consul-General Crawford to Earl Russell.—(Received March 2.)

(Extract.)

Havana, January 14, 1863.

HAVING received information that a suspicious screw-steamer was fitting out for the Slave Trade at Isla Mugerres on the coast of Yucatan, and that two small sailing-vessels had been dispatched from this port, with a crew, fittings, and money for said steamer, I requested Commander Grant, of Her Majesty's ship "Steady," to proceed to that place on the 5th instant, to verify the truth of the said information.

Commander Grant returned this morning, having succeeded in intercepting one of the vessels, on board of which was a merchant of Havana, Mr. F. P. Drain, who had a considerable sum of money with him, and who stated that he was a citizen of the Confederate States, and that having purchased a steamer at Isla Mugerres, he was proceeding to that place for the purpose of completing her equipment, and of dispatching her for Mobile, as the Confederate steamer "Virginia."

Upon Commander Grant's arrival at Isla Mugerres, he found that the United States' Admiral Wilkes had taken possession of the steamer (together with the Spanish schooner which had conveyed her new crew, her provisions, and a small quantity of cargo, consisting of clothing and shoes, and a few articles suited for the Southern States) on the plea that she was a Confederate steamer engaged in running the blockade.

Commander Grant further ascertained that the steamer was no other than the famous slaver "*Noc Daqui*;" that she had cleared at Bordeaux with a cargo of wine for Vera Cruz, but instead of going there, she had shipped a large cargo of slaves at the coast of Africa, and that having landed them on the south side of Cuba, she was proceeding to Vera Cruz, when something went wrong with her machinery, and she was obliged to put into Isla Mugerres for repairs. This was fully corroborated by the slave-deck, which was still on board, and by a large quantity of wine, which was also found in the hold.

Under these circumstances, and there being nothing to criminate Mr. Drain, Commander Grant released him, and returned to this port.

The "*Noc Daqui*" was owned by D. Julian Zulueta, and other incorrigible slave-traders of this place and of Matanzas; and from all I have been able to gather respecting Mr. Drain's statement, I believe it to be true in the main, and I have been assured that the vessel was really bound for Mobile for the purpose of obtaining new papers there; but I cannot help thinking that Mr. Drain was only acting as agent for his intimate friend M. Zulueta throughout the whole of this strange transaction.

It is supposed that Admiral Wilkes will send the "*Noc Daqui*" to some port of the United States for adjudication.

No. 167.

Acting Consul-General Crawford to Earl Russell.—(Received March 2.)

My Lord,

Havana, January 22, 1863.

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch dated the 27th ultimo, transmitting to me a copy of a letter from Commander Hoskins, of Her Majesty's ship "Zebra," to the Secretary of the Admiralty, reporting his having captured on the 3rd of October last, off Mangue Grande, a barque without name or papers, which at first showed Spanish colours, and was fully equipped for the Slave Trade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN V. CRAWFORD.

No. 168.

Acting Consul-General Crawford to Earl Russell.—(Received March 2.)

My Lord,

Havana, January 23, 1863.

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of Mr. Layard's despatch of the 31st ultimo, inclosing an extract of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Lagos, reporting the shipment on the morning of the 20th of October last from Aghwey, of a cargo of upwards of 1,000 slaves on board of a steamer under French colours, and instructing me to use my best endeavours to ascertain the name of that vessel, and any other particulars which may throw light on this slave-trading transaction, and the parties engaged in it.

I beg leave to refer to my despatch of the 10th ultimo and the 14th instant, reporting the movements of the screw stramer "*Noc Daqui*," which landed a large cargo of slaves in this island early last month, and I think that there cannot be the slightest doubt that this was the vessel which shipped the negroes at Aghwey under cover of the French flag.

I have to correct the report contained in my despatch of the 10th ultimo, with reference to the "*Noc Daqui*" having landed her cargo at Remedios. That adventure was by a large sailing vessel, whereas the steamer's cargo was transferred to coasters on the south side of Cuba, and was landed at Mayabeque and at the Ensenada de los Cochinos, thus making two separate infractions of the Treaty, instead of one, as I had been led to suppose.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN V. CRAWFORD.

No. 169.

Acting Consul-General Crawford to Earl Russell.—(Received March 2.)

My Lord,

Havana, January 31, 1863.

I HAVE the honour of transmitting herewith to your Lordship an extract of a letter which I have this day received from Mr. Pedro Regil y Peon, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Merida, Yucatan, giving some further particulars relative to the seizure of the steamer "*Noc Daqui*" at Isla de Mugerres, by Admiral Wilkes of the United States' navy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN V. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure in No. 169.

Vice-Consul Regil y Peon to Acting Consul-General Crawford.

(Extract.)

Sisal, January 21, 1863.

THE Government of Yucatan having been apprised that there was a steamer at anchor at Isla Mugerres, suspected that she might be engaged in the Slave Trade, and gave orders to seize her, so as to inquire into the cause of her being there, which was very suspicious, as other illegal transactions of this nature had occurred at that place.

The steamer which carried the Spanish flag, and which was reported to be bound from Bordeaux to Vera Cruz, but had put in to repair her machinery, was accordingly taken possession of by Mexican soldiers. The Captain and his Engineer were sent to Merida, to the Admiralty Court there, and the crew remained under detention at Isla Mugerres.

In the meanwhile two Federal steamers, on board one of which was Admiral Wilkes, arrived at the island, at the same time that a Spanish schooner also made her appearance, bringing goods, and a fresh crew for the Spanish steamer, which was then to assume the Confederate flag; a Mr. Drain, a Southerner, having purchased her to run the blockade at Mobile.

Admiral Wilkes examined the steamer and the crew, and under pressure of his two steamers made an arrangement with the Mexican Commandant, by which he was to be allowed to take charge of the detained vessels, but holding them at all times subject to the action of the Mexican Courts.

The latter have claimed both the schooner and the steamer, for although it is doubtful that they were engaged in the Slave Trade, it is unquestionable that they were infringing the Revenue laws of the country, and were therefore subject to the competent tribunals.

Admiral Wilkes sent by letter to the United States' Consul, Captain Johnson's declaration stating the ship to be Confederate, together with other documents which appeared to prove it, and he gave the Judges the term of fifteen days to decide the question.

This pretension of dictating terms to the tribunals of an independent nation was repelled, and the Government insisted that the vessels should be brought to Sisal.

It was then that Admiral Wilkes sent the "Sonoma" to this port, with an officer who went on to Merida, with a communication to the Government in which he stated, "that he was convinced that the steamer under detention was Confederate, and that under no pretext whatsoever, nor under any circumstances, would he fail to capture and send her to the United States for trial."

The Government has protested against this breach of international law, and the violation of neutral waters and neutral territory; but the Americans have landed an armed force, and have seized the crew of the steamer which was under detention by the Mexican authorities, in spite of their protestations against such violence.

I have to remark that the steamer has a Spanish register, and that although she is said to have been sold, she had not been delivered up to her new owners, and therefore she preserves her Spanish nationality.

Remark.—Mr. Regil is wrong in the last sentence, for the "*Noc Daqui*" having been engaged in the Slave Trade cannot be entitled to Spanish protection.

(Signed) JOHN V. CRAWFORD.

No. 170.

Acting Consul-General Crawford to Earl Russell.—(Received March 31.)

My Lord,

Havana, February 24, 1863.

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 13th ultimo, transmitting to me, for my information, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Bilbao with reference to the landing of a cargo of upwards of 1,000 slaves in this island, on the 28th of November last, from the Spanish steamer "*Noc Daqui*," and desiring me to report to your Lordship whether this landing was known to the Spanish authorities, and, if so, what steps were taken by the new Captain-General in the matter.

In obedience to your Lordship's instructions I respectfully beg leave to refer to my despatches of the 14th and 23rd ultimo, in which the "*Noc Daqui's*" performances are fully reported.

The landing having taken place during Marshal Serrano's government, and having been very secretly managed, the authorities now in power had no jurisdiction or cognizance in the matter, and I have reason to believe that the late Captain-General did not know of the landing until some time after it was too late to prevent it or to capture the guilty parties, the negroes having been transferred from the "*Noc Daqui*" to small coasting-vessels, which took them to different places on the coast of this island; and your Lordship is aware that, once a slave is upon a plantation, he cannot be seized.

In a conversation which I had lately with General Dulce, the present Captain-General, he expressed his firm determination to put down the Slave Trade; and his recent act, in expelling from Cuba the notorious slave-traders Durañona and his partner Tuero, may be accepted as a strong proof that his Excellency is in earnest.

I would also remark, that since General Dulce's arrival I have not heard of any more infractions of the Treaty, nor of any further outfits for the Slave Trade; which goes to prove that either the slave-traders are observing greater secrecy in their operations, or that the well-known probity of the Captain-General, backed by the vigilance of the British and Spanish cruisers in these waters, is producing the desired effect of putting an end to the inhuman Traffic in African Slaves.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN V. CRAWFORD.

No. 171.

Acting Consul-General Crawford to Earl Russell.—(Received April 28.)

My Lord,

Havana, March 30, 1863.

I HAVE the honour of transmitting to your Lordship a translation of a letter, dated the 27th instant, which I have received from Captain-General Dulce, acquainting me that the result of the steps taken to inquire into the facts of the landing of African slaves which took part in the early part of January 1862 near Trinidad de Cuba, as reported in my despatch dated the 20th of that month to your Lordship, is that no trace of any such landing has been discovered by any of the authorities, and that the Royal Audiencia has therefore ordered the further prosecution of the case to be suspended.

This result, my Lord, is not to be wondered at. That the negroes were landed, and that the resident authorities at Trinidad were bribed on the occasion, is notorious; but, as has so frequently been stated to Her Majesty's Government by the Consul-General, the archives of the Courts of this island do not show a single case of slave-trading in which legal proof has been elicited to criminate, far less to condemn, any one connected with it; and so the all-powerful influence of gold will continue to protect the slave-trader and his accomplices as long as that infamous Traffic lasts.

The same farce of a judicial investigation will be gone through on every occasion, and always with the same barren result.

I have, however, great confidence in the present Captain-General, and I expect that he will adopt very vigorous measures should any case of slave-trading come under his notice, and that he will act independently of the Royal Audiencia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN V. CRAWFORD.

 Inclosure in No. 171.
The Captain-General of Cuba to Acting Consul-General Crawford.

(Translation.)

Havana, March 27, 1863.

AS a definitive answer to the official letters addressed by your Consulate to my worthy predecessor on the 9th of January and 3rd of February last year, the former denouncing a landing of Bozal negroes in the jurisdiction of Trinidad in the beginning of that month, and the latter inquiring the result of the steps taken to discover the truth of that fact, so that your Honour might report it to your Government, I have to state to you that, however reliable the information which was received at the time with regard to the said landing may have appeared to your Honour and to this Government, all the verosimilarity of this information changed its character, even to the degree of appearing without foundation in an official point of view, because in all the steps which have been zealously and actively taken, both by the Government and judicial authorities, as well as by the Treasury and Marine Departments, in order to verify the said landing, nothing has been discovered to prove that it ever took place.

This negative result naturally led to another, which was, that the Royal Audiencia, in delivering its sentence upon the voluminous proceedings instituted in consequence of your Honour's denouncement, decreed to relinquish the case, and declared the costs official, since the Fiscal stated in his Report that there was no proof of the arrival of any slave-ship at the shores of Trinidad, and, as the same officer opined, the result of the investigations relative to the landing of Bozal negroes in that jurisdiction had proved entirely ineffectual.

This appears from a certificate which the Regente of the Royal Audiencia transmitted to me on the 10th instant, communicating to me the final sentence in the case referred to, and I have thought proper to place this in your knowledge, with all the rest which I have stated, thus fulfilling what my worthy predecessor promised your Honour in his letters of the 9th January and 5th February of last year, to inform you in due time of the result of the inquiries relative to the said landing, so that your Honour might have the information which you asked from this Government in your second official communication referred to.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed) DOMINGO DULCE.

No. 172.

Acting Consul-General Crawford to Earl Russell.—(Received May 29.)

My Lord,

Havana, April 18, 1863.

I HAVE the honour of laying before your Lordship a copy of a letter, dated the 10th instant, which I had occasion to address the Captain-General relative to the landing of a cargo of about 380 slaves near Coloma, on the south side of this island, about a fortnight ago.

This cargo, according to what my informant states, consisted of at least 380 negroes of the Congo tribe, and was safely landed, on the 31st ultimo, near Coloma, from whence the slaves were taken to the sugar-estate "Guacamayas," belonging to very noted slave-traders of this place.

The brig which is supposed to have conveyed the adventure from Africa was either abandoned, and was driven by the current, or was run ashore at Punta Holandes, near Cape Antonio, where she was seen by Her Majesty's ship "Nile," and where Commander Graham, of Her Majesty's ship "Rosario," also reports having seen a wrecked vessel.

I have furnished the Captain-General with these particulars, as I understand that the local authorities at Pinar del Rio deny the said landing; but as the slaves were safely entered upon the Guacamayas estate they cannot be touched, nor is it at all likely that any proceedings instituted so long after the occurrence will lead to the detection or punishment of any of the delinquents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN V. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure in No. 172.

*Acting Consul-General Crawford to the Captain-General of Cuba.**Havana, April 10, 1863.*

IT is my unpleasant duty to inform your Excellency that I have received a report upon which I think I can rely, that a cargo of about 380 Bozal negroes of the Congo tribe was landed near Coloma or Punta de Cartas during the early part of last week.

I have no doubt that this infraction of the law has been already made known to your Excellency by the local authorities; and I trust that some, if not all, of the adventure has been captured, and the parties interested brought to justice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN V. CRAWFORD.

No. 173.

Acting Consul-General Crawford to Earl Russell.—(Received May 29.)

My Lord,

Havana, May 5, 1863.

I HAVE the honour of transmitting to your Lordship copies of two letters which I have addressed to the Captain-General, relative to the landing of about 600 slaves which took place on the 25th ultimo close to Trinidad, and I have very great pleasure in reporting to your Lordship, that owing entirely to the praiseworthy activity and honesty of Colonel Causillos, commanding the marine battalion at that place, and who was Acting Lieutenant-Governor during Brigadier Caraza's temporary absence, 530 of the slaves were captured and brought to Trinidad.

Mr. Vice-Consul Smith informed Brigadier Caraza on the 25th ultimo that he had reported to me the arrival of a slave-ship on that coast, and the day after it appears that the Brigadier and the Comandante de Marina sailed in a schooner in pursuit of the slaver, and they had not returned on the 30th, although it was rumoured at Trinidad that they had taken a lighter with some 47 sickly negroes, purposely left, it is said, at one of the neighbouring cays as a blind to enable the authorities to hush the matter up, and to serve as a cloak for the escape of the bulk of the adventure.

It appears that the negroes, after landing, were taken to the estate "Manaca Armenteros," belonging to a certain Don Antonio Font, and that they were actually in the purging house when an alarm was given that Colonel Causillos was on his way to search the estate. They were at once removed to a place called "Arroyo Manaca," where it was

supposed that they would be safe ; but Colonel Causillos was too smart for them, and by his zeal and determination captured the entire lot of 530 slaves.

I am not aware whether any of the slave-traders have been arrested, but if the Captain-General acts up to his professions, I hope to see such an example made at Trinidad as will deter that slave-trading community from again engaging in that iniquitous Traffic, at least during the rule of General Dulce in Cuba.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN V. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 173.

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

Havana, April 29, 1863.

I HASTEN to acquaint your Excellency that information has just reached me that a cargo of Bozal negroes was landed a few days ago in the jurisdiction of Trinidad, the whole affair having been managed with much secrecy.

I understand that the negroes were put on shore at a place called "The Salinas;" and that the vessel which conveyed them from Africa was hovering off the coast in that vicinity for several days previous to the disembarkation.

The matter has been kept so quiet that I fear no judicial proofs will be obtained ; and that the search made by the Lieutenant-Governor and the Comandante de Marina will have led to no particular results.

I hope, however, that the very decided desire which your Excellency has expressed to put an end to this iniquitous Traffic may dictate measures which may lead to the detection and punishment of the parties who are implicated in this daring infraction of the law.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN V. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 173.

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

Havana, May 2, 1863.

I BEG leave to acquaint your Excellency that there can be no doubt whatever as to the landing of negroes referred to in my communication of the 29th ultimo, as I have learnt, with great satisfaction, that, owing entirely to the energetic and most praiseworthy measures taken by Don Tomas Causillos, Acting Lieutenant-Governor of Trinidad in the absence of Brigadier Caraza, 500 and odd Bozal negroes were seized at Arroyo Manaca, and were brought to Trinidad on the evening of the 27th ultimo.

I shall be much obliged if your Excellency will favour me, for the information of my Government, with any particulars which may have reached you relative to this capture, and I trust that the parties interested in the adventure have been also arrested and brought to justice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN V. CRAWFORD.

No. 174.

Acting Consul-General Crawford to Earl Russell.—(Received June 29.)

My Lord,

Havana, May 30, 1863.

I HAVE the honour of transmitting to your Lordship copy of a letter which I addressed the Captain-General on the 21st instant, relative to the landing of a cargo of slaves which took place on the 16th near Canasí.

I have since ascertained that the vessel which brought this cargo was commanded by the famous Don Eugenio Viñas, and that the landing was effected at Boca de Rotilla, a place about thirty miles to the eastward of this port, and close to Canasí.

The adventure consisted of 583 negroes, and belonged to a certain Don Ygnacio Gonzalez, who is well known here in the annals of the Slave Trade.

The usual amount of bribery and rascality took place on this occasion, and the Captain-General has taken steps to sift the matter, and to punish the delinquents. A Commissioner has been sent to take depositions, but as it has been proved beyond contradiction that legal testimony cannot be elicited in slave-trading transactions in this island, I do not expect that his mission will lead to anything beyond a heavy expenditure of hush-money. The Captain-General is very much annoyed about this affair, and his Excellency has assured me that he will do everything consistent with law to discover the parties who are interested in it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN V. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure in No. 174.

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

Most Excellent Sir,

Havana, May 21, 1863.

IT is again my unpleasant duty to state to your Excellency that a landing of bozal negroes took place near Canasí on the evening of the 16th instant, and as I am credibly informed that the Acting Governor of Matanzas and other authorities went out in pursuit of the adventure, I have no doubt that your Excellency is already in full possession of all the particulars.

I shall be glad therefore to learn that both the Bozals and the parties who are interested in the adventure have been captured, as it would be extremely gratifying to me to be able to report to Her Britannic Majesty's Government the efficacy of the measures adopted by your Excellency to put an end to the Slave Trade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN V. CRAWFORD.

No. 175.

Acting Consul-General Crawford to Earl Russell.—(Received July 29.)

My Lord,

Havana, July 1, 1863.

WITH reference to the landing of slaves at Canasí, as reported in my despatch of 30th May last, I have the honour of transmitting to your Lordship a translation of a letter which I have received from the Captain-General on the subject, stating that steps have been taken to discover the parties who were engaged in that infraction of the Treaty for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

The Captain-General has removed the Lieutenant-Governor of Jaruco, in whose jurisdiction the landing was effected, but beyond this I fear that nothing will result from the investigation which is being carried on by the Royal Audiencia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN V. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure in No. 175.

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

(Translation.)

Havana, June 30, 1863.

IN answer to your Honour's official communication of the 21st ultimo, denouncing a landing of Bozal negroes near Canasí, in the jurisdiction of Matanzas, I have to state to you that previously this Government had commenced an inquiry upon the subject, having been confidentially informed that there were signs of a cargo having been landed in the district of Tibacoa, adjoining that of Canasí, not belonging to the jurisdiction of Matanzas, but to that of Jaruco. Said inquiry is being carried out, with a view to discover the parties who have been guilty of such an infraction of the law and existing Treaties which prohibit the Slave Trade, it remaining for this Government to inform your Honour in due time of the definite result of these judicial proceedings.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed) DOMINGO DULCE.

No. 176.

Acting Consul-General Crawford to Earl Russell.—(Received July 29.)

My Lord,

Havana, July 6, 1863.

I HAVE the honour of transmitting to your Lordship copies of a correspondence which I have had with the Captain-General relative to a cargo of negroes reported to have been landed at Camarioca, in the jurisdiction of Matanzas, on the 9th ultimo.

I have found it extremely difficult to obtain the particulars of this affair; but as the Governor of Matanzas, in his report to the Captain-General, flatly denies that any negroes have been landed in that district, I requested the Vice-Consuls at Matanzas and Cardenas to renew their inquiries on the subject; and from their reports, which I am satisfied are quite correct, it appears that a square-rigged vessel called off Camarioca, and transferred her cargo of negroes to coasting craft, one of which landed 60 negroes at the mouth of the River Canimar in the very Bay of Matanzas.

It is stated that the officer in charge of the Morillo fort at this point received a bribe of 12,000 dollars as hush-money.

The adventure belonged to parties residing at Matanzas, with one of whom the Governor of that place is on intimate terms.

That arrangements had been made with the local authorities for the landing of this adventure is proved by the fact that the negroes landed at the Canimar were provided with passes, as if legally coming from another part of the island.

I have reason to believe that the greater portion of the Camarioca adventure was disembarked at Sagua la Chica, or some place to the eastward, but as the coasting schooners can go right up to the private wharves of the sugar estates, it is always extremely difficult to ascertain where negroes which are transferred at sea are landed.

I would not have answered the Captain-General's letter of the 16th June but for the remarks of the Governors of Matanzas and Cardenas, which I did not consider it proper to leave unnoticed, especially as the Captain-General asks for data, which it is clearly the duty of his own police to furnish. The occasion was also opportune to impress upon these officials that Her Majesty's officers are not to be considered as spies or public informers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN V. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 176.

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

Most Excellent Sir,

Havana, June 13, 1863.

I AM again compelled, in the execution of my duty, to state to your Excellency that another cargo of Bozal negroes was landed on the evening of the 9th instant in the jurisdiction of Matanzas.

It has been reported to me that the landing was safely effected at Camarioca, and that the adventure was a large one. I am not aware whether any of the negroes were captured, although I understand that both the authorities of Matanzas and Cardenas went out in pursuit of the adventure, and that Her Catholic Majesty's gun-boat "Neptuno" also started for that part of the coast.

I respectfully request the favour of your Excellency to acquaint me, for the information of my Government, what steps have been taken to punish the parties who are concerned in this breach of the law and of the Treaty for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN V. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 176.

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

(Translation.)

Havana, June 16, 1863.

PREVIOUS to the receipt of your Honour's official letter of the 13th instant, denouncing the landing of Bozals at Camarioca on the night of the 9th, this Government had already taken steps to prevent or to capture any landing, as information had been received that one would be attempted in the jurisdiction of Cardenas or Matanzas.

The authorities of these jurisdictions, and also those of Marine, who sent a cruizer to watch and run along the coast, assured me, nevertheless, that no such infraction of the law had taken place, and that even there were no suspicions of any such landing being intended.

On receipt of your Honour's denouncement I again addressed the said Governors for a report upon the subject, and yesterday they answered me as follows :—

That of Matanzas says :—

“Most Excellent Sir,

“Whoever has assured your Excellency that negroes have landed on the coast of this jurisdiction on the evening of the 9th has deceived you : just that night all the coast was well watched, and I have proof that neither before nor after has any landing taken place—I can affirm it.”

That of Cardenas says :—

“Most Excellent Sir,

“I take the liberty to observe to your Excellency that the answers which I have had the honour to give you respecting the landing of Bozals are not negative but affirmative, that none have been effected in any part of this jurisdiction.

“I beg your Excellency to direct that the persons who assure the contrary, and who appear to be so well informed of the fact, should transmit all the data they possess to this Court, which takes cognizance in the matter, or to the Judge whom your Excellency of the Royal Audiencia may please to commission.

“Thus only can be made patent to your Excellency the value and foundation of the reports which they give you, for my part I can only repeat what I have had the honour to acquaint you.”

All which I say and transmit to your Honour in answer to your communication referred to, hoping that if you possess more exact data or details of the said landing you will be pleased to remit them to me, so that I may adopt other measures in accordance therewith.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed)

DOMINGO DULCE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 176.

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

Havana, July 4, 1863.

I HAVE the honour of stating to your Excellency, in answer to your communication of the 16th ultimo, that notwithstanding the assurance given by the Governor of Matanzas that nothing whatever occurred at Camarioca on the 9th ultimo, and that no Bozals have been landed in his jurisdiction either then or since, I regret that the information which I have received from reliable sources on the subject differs very widely from said Governor's report.

The Bozals may not have been landed precisely on the 9th, nor were they all disembarked at Camarioca ; but that a slave-vessel called off that place and transferred, if not all, at least a part of her cargo, I am informed was the case. If nothing whatever occurred, is it reasonable to suppose that the Governors of the two most important districts of the island would have hastened to the spot? The cargo is reported to me to have consisted of over 500 negroes, and to have belonged to parties resident at Matanzas. A part of it was taken up the River Canimar.

I would very much regret that any one should attempt to practise deception upon your Excellency, as the Governor of Matanzas says must have been done on this occasion, by conveying false reports on so serious a subject.

With regard to the Lieutenant-Governor of Cardenas' remarks, I must clearly and distinctly state to your Excellency that in the performance of a very disagreeable duty, which is forced upon Her Majesty's officers by the continued disregard which is shown towards a solemn Treaty of nearly twenty-eight years' standing, they cannot be expected to supply the place of the police, nor are they called upon to act the part of spies or public informers. It is, therefore, only in cases which can be relied on that I address any official communication to your Excellency on the subject of Bozals. There are many and frequent reports which reach this Consulate relative to the landing of negroes from Africa ; but unless these reports are accompanied by reliable data they are never noticed to your Excellency, and I only mention this as a proof of the great caution and delicacy with which such matters are treated by me.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

JOHN V. CRAWFORD.

No. 177.

Acting Consul-General Crawford to Earl Russell.—(Received July 29.)

(Extract.)

Havana, July 7, 1863.

I HAVE the honour of reporting to your Lordship that the Captain-General has just dismissed the Political Governor of Havana, Don Pedro Navascues, for alleged abetting of the Slave Trade by the sale of passes for negroes.

This very decided step on the part of General Dulce will create great excitement among the slave-trading fraternity both here and in Spain; and every possible means will doubtless be employed to obtain the removal of the present Captain-General of Cuba.

No. 178.

Mr. Layard to Acting Consul-General Crawford.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 30, 1863.

IN your despatch of the 5th of May last you reported the seizure by the Spanish authorities of a cargo of 530 negroes who had been landed from a slave-vessel in the neighbourhood of Trinidad; and you anticipated, from the energy with which the Captain-General of Cuba had acted in this matter, that an example would be made of the persons engaged in this slave-trading transaction.

Lord Russell would be glad to know whether any steps have been or are likely to be taken for the punishment of the parties engaged in this affair.

I am also to desire that you will inform his Lordship of the fate of these particular negroes, and generally as to the condition and treatment of slaves captured by the Spanish authorities, either on board vessels previous to landing, or subsequently, when those slaves may have been seized on the estates of the planters.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 179.

Acting Consul-General Crawford to Earl Russell.—(Received August 28.)

My Lord,

Havana, July 16, 1863.

I HAVE the honour of laying before your Lordship translation of a letter which I have received from the Captain-General, acquainting me that the result of the inquiry made by the Royal Audiencia relative to the landing of slaves denounced as having been effected at Trinidad last October, is, that no such landing took place, and that there was no collusion on the part of the local authorities.

The details of that scandalous affair were reported to your Lordship in my despatch of the 30th of October, 1862; and so public and notorious was the fact of the landing of the negroes, and of the wholesale bribery which took place on that occasion, that General Serrano dismissed the Lieutenant-Governor of Trinidad and the Lieutenant of Police of Casilda, who were implicated in the transaction: but the finding of the Royal Audiencia is only in keeping with the result of all its investigations in matters affecting the Slave Trade, and it affords another proof of the impossibility of obtaining any legal evidence here for the conviction of parties who may be concerned in that abominable traffic.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN V. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure in No. 179.

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

(Translation.)

Havana, July 14, 1863.

AS final answer to the official denouncement made by your Honour to my worthy predecessor in the month of October last year, relative to a landing of Bozal negroes in the jurisdiction of Trinidad, and the alleged bribery of the authorities in consenting to said

landing, I have to state to you that I have received the final sentence of the First Hall of the Audiencia at this place, in the criminal cause which was instituted in order to investigate the facts denounced by your Honour; and that by said sentence it not only appears that the bribery referred to, but that the realization of the said landing, is inexact, as both matters turn out to be false in the proceedings and declarations of the judicial investigation to which I allude; and in conformity with this improbability was given the sentence the essence of which I have thought proper to acquaint you with for such purpose as you think proper, and that you may inform your Government of the result.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed) DOMINGO DULCE.

No. 180.

Acting Consul-General Crawford to Earl Russell.—(Received August 28.)

My Lord,

Havana, July 27, 1863.

I HAVE the honour of transmitting to your Lordship translation of a letter which I have received from the Captain-General, informing me that a cargo of 800 to 900 slaves, anonymously reported to the late Captain-General Serrano on the 12th of July, 1862, as being expected near Manzanillo, had not been landed, either then or since, on that coast.

This communication of the present Captain-General is the more remarkable as it is the first time that the Government of this island has ever volunteered any information on the subject of the Slave Trade, for no communication has ever been addressed by this Consulate to the Captain-General with reference to the expected landing at Manzanillo, no notice of it having reached this office.

I consider it a further proof of the sincerity of General Dulce in endeavouring to put an end to the Slave Trade; an object which he has assured me he is most desirous to attain.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN V. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure in No. 180.

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

(Translation.)

Havana, July 22, 1863.

UNDER date of the 12th July last year my predecessor received an anonymous letter stating that your Consulate was aware that a landing of 800 to 900 negroes was about to be effected at Manzanillo. In consequence thereof this Government took the necessary steps, giving the most stringent orders to the Governor of the Eastern Department, and to the Lieutenant-Governors of Porto Principe, Manzanillo, Bayamo, and Halguin, to prevent the said landing; and, whether the anonymous information relative to the intended disembarkation was false, or whether, in consequence of the great vigilance and the preventive measures which were adopted the slave-traders desisted from carrying out their intentions, it is certain that no such landing has taken place in any district in the Eastern Department, as no tidings thereof have reached this Government, although more than a year has transpired since the denouncement. All which I have thought proper to communicate to you for your information and consequent effects.

God preserve, &c.

DOMINGO DULCE.

No. 181.

Mr. Layard to Consul-General Crawford.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, August 31, 1863.

WITH reference to your despatches of the 4th of December, 1861, and 15th of February, 1862, relative to the case of the "*Laura*," a British vessel which cleared from Havana for St. Thomas under a bond exacted by you from her owners that she should not be employed in the Slave Trade, I am directed by Earl Russell to inform you that the "*Laura*," which was subsequently seized by Her Majesty's ship "*Cadmus*" on suspicion of being equipped for the Slave Trade, has been condemned by the Vice-Admiralty Court at Antigua.

CLASS B.

It would however appear that the decision of that Court has been appealed against, but, in the event of its being confirmed by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, I am to desire that you will take the necessary steps for enforcing payment of the bond.

No. 182.

Consul-General Crawford to Earl Russell.—(Received September 4.)

(Extract.)

London, September 3, 1863.

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of Mr. Layard's despatch of the 31st ultimo, informing me that the brig "*Laura*," which was seized by Her Majesty's ship "*Cadmus*," in consequence of the information which I communicated respecting her, has been condemned at Antigua. That the sentence of the Admiralty Court at that place has been appealed against, but, in the event of its being confirmed by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, I shall, in obedience to your Lordship's instruction, conveyed in the despatch now before me, take the necessary steps for enforcing payment of the bond for 25,000 dollars, which I exacted previous to the "*Laura's*" departure from Havana, that she should not be employed in the Slave Trade.

No. 183.

Acting Consul-General Crawford to Earl Russell.—(Received September 29.)

My Lord,

Havana, August 10, 1863.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 18th April last, reporting the landing of a cargo of slaves near Coloma, on the south-west coast of this island, I have the honour of transmitting to your Lordship a copy and translation of a letter which I have received from the Captain-General, denying that any such landing took place.

As the system of bringing over slaves in small lots from the Isle of Pines to the mainland of Cuba, can be, and is carried on very secretly, it may be possible that the landing alluded to may have escaped the vigilance of the late Lieutenant-Governor of Pinar del Rio, Colonel Mena, who is known to be a very honourable and upright officer; but as my information was derived from a party who saw the negroes on their way to the Guacamaya sugar plantation, I have every reason to believe that the statement I made to the Captain-General is correct.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN V. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure in No. 183.

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

(Translation.)

Havana, August 6, 1863.

IN view of your Honour's official communication of the 10th of April last, denouncing the landing of 380 Bozal negroes near Coloma or Punta de Cartas, in the jurisdiction of Pinar del Rio, information on the subject was asked from the Lieutenant-Governors of the Isle of Pines, Cienfuegos, and Sagua, and all have answered that no such infraction of the law has occurred within their jurisdictions, the executive and judicial proceedings which were instituted in that of Pinar del Rio also proving very circumstantially the same result.

Which I say to your Honour in answer to your above-mentioned communication.
God preserve, &c. (Signed) DOMINGO DULCE.

No. 184.

Acting Consul-General Crawford to Earl Russell.—(Received September 29.)

My Lord,

Havana, August 20, 1863.

THE inclosed translation of a letter, dated the 17th instant, which I have received from Captain General Dulce will afford your Lordship another proof of the utter impossibility of obtaining evidence against the slave-traders in Cuba.

His Excellency, fulfilling the late Captain-General's promise to acquaint me with the result of the judicial proceedings relative to the slave-landing which took place at the Ensenada de Cochinos in the month of March 1862, informs me that the Royal Audiencia has not been able to procure legal evidence of any such landing, and has accordingly pronounced sentence, absolving all the parties under prosecution, cancelling the bail put in for them, restoring the property which was embargoed, and declaring the costs for account of the Crown.

It appears to me, that any comment upon this judicial farce is quite superfluous, especially when the fact of the landing was so notorious, and General Serrano was so thoroughly satisfied on the subject that he dismissed several of the local authorities without waiting for further proofs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN V. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure in No. 184.

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

(Translation.)

Havana, August 17, 1863.

NOTWITHSTANDING what my worthy predecessor stated to your Honour on the 8th April last year, upon the probability of a landing of negroes having taken place on the Ensenada de Cochinos, in the jurisdiction of Cienfuegos, in answer to your Honour's denouncement of the 3rd of that month and year, I have to inform you that the third Hall of Justice of the Royal Audiencia at this place has pronounced sentence on the judicial proceedings instituted in that matter; and in said sentence the proceedings have been stayed with the usual reserve, placing at liberty the parties who were arrested, ordering the bail to be cancelled, the property embargoed to be returned, and declaring the costs official.

As your Honour will infer from the tenor of this Decree, the Court has not been able to prove in a legal and evident form that the said landing took place, and for this reason it has delivered its final sentence in the terms referred to.

I have also to state to your Honour that this Government has not been able to discover more positive data in confirmation of the fact since my worthy predecessor addressed you on the subject as referred to at the beginning of this despatch, although the most active steps have been taken by several of the Executive authorities, in order to find out the truth respecting the introduction of the Bozals.

All which I state to your Honour as definite answer to your letter of the 2nd April of last year, and fulfilling the promise of my worthy predecessor to acquaint you with the result of any subsequent inquiries on the subject.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed) DOMINGO DULCE.

No. 185.

Acting Consul-General Crawford to Earl Russell.—(Received September 29.)

My Lord,

Havana, August 21, 1863.

I HAVE the honour of transmitting herewith to your Lordship a translation of a letter dated the 17th instant which I have received from Captain-General Dulce, stating that the Lieutenant-Governors of Remedios and Puerto Principe had reported that the landing which I denounced as having been effected at Cayo Coco in the month of July last year had not taken place, their report being borne out by the result of the judicial investigation which was ordered to be made at the time.

The information which I had the honour of communicating to your Lordship in my despatch of August 4, 1862, is so very circumstantial and so trustworthy that there can be no doubt on the subject, and it is quite painful to see that there is no improvement in the moral condition of either the authorities or the people of this island.

The slave-trader can effect anything by the means of gold, and it is quite hopeless to expect any beneficial result from judicial investigations emanating from the Royal Audiencia, or that the truth regarding the importation of African slaves will ever be elicited from the needy officials of this island.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN V. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure in No. 185.

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

(Translation.)

Havana, August 17, 1863.

IN consequence of your Honour's official denouncement of 14th July last year, and of the confidential note of 14th October last addressed to my worthy predecessor, relative to the landing of 700 Bozals at Cayo Coco, in the jurisdiction of Puerto Principe, afterwards conveyed to Moron, in the jurisdiction of Remedios, the Lieutenant-Governors of those jurisdictions were ordered to pursue the said adventure, and these officers answered that no such landing had taken place in their respective districts, proving it by the judicial inquiries which were made to discover its accuracy or inaccuracy, and which were duly reported to head-quarters.

Which I state to your Honour in answer to your said denouncement and letter, and as final result of the inquiries instituted on the subject by this Government.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed)

DOMINGO DULCE.

No. 186.

Acting Consul-General Crawford to Earl Russell.—(Received September 29.)

(Extract.)

Havana, August 28, 1863.

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging Mr. Layard's despatch of the 30th ultimo, inquiring whether any steps have been or are likely to be taken for the punishment of the parties engaged in the landing of slaves which took place at Trinidad on the 25th April last, as reported in my despatch of 5th May, and instructing me to inform your Lordship of the fate of these particular negroes, and generally as to the treatment of the slaves captured by the Spanish authorities either on board vessels previous to landing, or subsequently, when those slaves may have been seized on the estates of the planters.

From a conversation which I have had with the Captain-General on the subject, I regret to report to your Lordship that beyond the removal of the Lieutenant-Governor of Trinidad, none of the other parties who are suspected to have been implicated in the slave landing of April last at that place have been punished, as unfortunately no legal proofs could be obtained in the matter. The owner of the estate Manaca Armenteros, who claims the negroes on the strength of the stipulations of the 9th Article of the Penal Law, has been subjected to the payment of large bribes and legal costs,—a means which the Captain-General considers very efficacious in deterring the planters from purchasing newly-landed negroes, and of thereby checking the Slave Trade.

The Royal Audiencia has declared part of these negroes "emancipados," but I understand that a portion of those who are alleged to have been seized on the estate Manaca, are still subject to the decision of that Court.

The administration of justice in Cuba is at a very low ebb. The most corrupt practices are tolerated to a degree which baffles all comprehension, and what is yet more extraordinary is, that the public look upon these malpractices as the natural and legitimate emoluments of office.

Where testimony can be obtained or suppressed at the will of the highest bidder, it is not surprising that all evidence affecting slave-trading transactions is hushed up.

Nor does this iniquitous system stop with the Judiciary.

Until the Penal Law is altered, and as long as the Royal Audiencia is to take cognizance of cases of slave-trading, so long will the Cuban slave-trader carry on his shameful traffic unpunished.

As to the treatment of the slaves captured by the Spanish authorities, your Lordship must be aware that they are submitted in the first place to the jurisdiction of the Royal Audiencia, which declares them "emancipados" if the capture is considered legal.

They are then distributed as apprentices, by order of the Captain-General, among his protégés, or amongst the numerous applicants for them, or they are employed in the public works.

The term of assignment is for five years, during which the master pays the Government at the rate of 72 dollars per annum for men, 48 dollars for women, 60 dollars for boys, and 36 dollars for girls, in addition to a bonus of 25 dollars, which is intended to defray the bounty and expenses of capture.

After the first five years the Government receives 32 dollars per annum for men or

boys, and 24 dollars for women or girls, every "emancipado" being entitled to the sum of $4\frac{1}{4}$ dollars per month, which is to be paid him by his employer.

Your Lordship will observe, by the inclosed translation of the conditions of assignment, that the master is to instruct the "emancipado" in the Roman Catholic faith, that he is to give him a sufficiency of wholesome food, and furnish him with medical assistance and with two suits of clothes yearly.

In this, as in all other respects, the "emancipado" is to be treated very much like a slave.

It follows, therefore, that the "emancipado" is the most wretched of human beings, for he is neither more nor less than a Government slave, and he is condemned to drag out a life of hopeless misery, being constantly re-assigned from one master to another at the caprice of the authorities, and being subjected to all the hardest labour and discipline of the slave without any adequate remuneration, and without even the privilege which is accorded to the slave of purchasing his own freedom.

The treatment which these poor creatures receive at the hands of their masters is, generally speaking, of the very worst kind. They are cheated out of their wages, and are subjected to every species of punishment. They are sold, or rather they are transferred from one master to another for a consideration generally amounting to from 170 dollars to 204 dollars, and terrible abuses are committed with the friendless "emancipado," such as reporting him dead, whereas he has been made to fill the place of a defunct slave. The Government regulations, which are framed with a view to prevent such imposture, are not complied with, a *douceur* to the neighbouring police-officer being all that is required to cancel the requirements of the law!

The money which is exacted by the Government from the masters or holders of "emancipados" is intended to form a fund to be called the "Fondo de Emancipados," for the purpose of providing for aged and infirm negroes belonging to that class; but like all monetary deposits of the kind which are in the hands of the Government, it is very much to be feared that this fund is applied to very different purposes from what it was originally intended.

I have recommended this most unfortunate class of the coloured population to the Captain-General's earnest consideration, and his Excellency has assured me that he will do everything in his power to put an end to the abuses which are perpetrated with regard to them, and that he will grant free papers to all those emancipados who may apply for their liberty after serving their apprenticeship.

Inclosure in No. 186.

Obligations of the Masters of Emancipados.

(Translation.)

1. THE master shall take care to have the emancipado instructed in the tenets of our holy religion, so that, if he has not already done so, he may receive the sacrament of baptism, remembering to give him the same name under which he was assigned, and to enter in the parish register his number and where he came from; presenting a copy of the entry to the Bureau of Emancipados in the Government Secretary's office.

In case of the serious illness of the emancipado, the master will take care to administer to him, at least, the water of succour.

2. The master must lodge and maintain the emancipado with sufficient and wholesome food, giving him two complete suits of clothes every year.

3. In case of an emancipada giving birth to a child, the master will transmit to the Government Secretary's office a copy of the baptismal entry, in which the name, number, and precedence of the mother must be expressed. Should the child die previous to baptism, the water of succour shall be administered to it, the death to be reported to Government; and if the death occurs after baptism, it must be reported to the District Captain of Police, so that he may make the necessary inquiry on the subject.

When the master takes out the protection paper of the mother, he must report at the office where it is granted whether the emancipada has had any child during the six months, so that it may be included; and if she has any child which has attained or is about to attain the age of eight years, he must take out a separate cedula, and must apply to the Government for the assignment of said child, even although the mother's assignment may not have elapsed.

4. If any emancipado, assigned in this manner, is missing from his domicile without permission, written notice thereof must be given to the police of the district, so that the flight being cleared up he may be sought for and captured.

If the emancipado is paid for, the master must state whether he is willing to continue his payments to Government so as to retain his right to the negro after he is caught, and should he not wish to do so, he must return the documents of assignment and the cedula.

Should the runaway emancipado be an apprentice, he shall be sent, after he is caught, to work for a month on the public works, at the place of his domicile. Upon every repetition of this offence he shall be punished in the same manner for two months.

The same punishment, besides the loss of his wages during all the period of his flight and punishment, shall be applied to the journeyman negro who runs away.

A certificate of the time during which a runaway negro has been under punishment shall be furnished the master, so that a proportionate sum may be deducted from his payment to Government.

If the emancipado gives himself up spontaneously to his master after his flight, and his master has not already given him up, his master must forthwith take him back; but if otherwise, then he must be delivered up to the Government.

5. The master must report to the district police officer the illness of any emancipado, and in case of death he must immediately report it to that officer, so that the body may be identified and a proper inquiry made into the circumstances.

The master must pay the expenses of illness and of burial, and the doctor's certificate as well as the burial certificate must be attached to the proceedings.

6. The master who retains an emancipado in his possession over the time of assignment will incur for this fact alone a penalty of from 100 to 500 dollars, without prejudice to further punishment which the law may inflict in cases of forcible detention of their persons.

7. The disciplinary jurisdiction which the masters may exercise upon the emancipados permits them to inflict, when necessary, the following penalties:—

- (1.) Stocks; irons or arrest from one to ten days.
- (2.) Loss of wages during the same period. The first may be imposed without the second, but the second never without the first.

Shall be punished:

- (1.) Act of insubordination to the masters or heads of the establishments, or to any delegate of the master.
- (2.) Refusal to work, or want of punctuality in working out their tasks.
- (3.) Insults not amounting to bodily injury.
- (4.) Running away.
- (5.) Drunkenness.
- (6.) Infringement of the master's rules of discipline.
- (7.) Any offence against good breeding amounting to a crime.
- (8.) Any other deed done with malice.

Any other offences which the emancipados commit, and which, without being crimes, the master does not consider sufficiently punished with the appliance of his attributions, must be notified to the Government for its decision.

The payment of the sums due to the Government for each emancipado must be half-yearly, in advance.

If the first week of each six months passes over without payment being made the party shall be notified, and if he does not pay up during the following week he will incur a fine equal to the sum due in the fortnight which has elapsed.

If he allows a month to pass without payment he shall be made to pay the salary of the emancipado for the said month, besides a fine of as much more, and the emancipado shall be taken away from him.

SPAIN. (*Consular*)—*St. Jago de Cuba.*

No. 187.

Mr. Layard to Acting Consul Beattie.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 16, 1863.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 31st of October last, inclosing a copy of a letter which you addressed to the senior officer of Her Majesty's naval forces at Port Royal reporting the suspicions which you entertained with respect to the proceedings of the barque "*Jane*," I am directed by Earl Russell to acquaint you that this vessel has since been captured under Netherlands colours off the Congo River by Her Majesty's ship "*Espoir*," and was condemned on the 10th ultimo in the British and Netherlands Mixed Commission Court at Sierra Leone, on a charge of being equipped for the Slave Trade.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 188.

Acting Consul Beattie to Earl Russell.—(Received April 28.)

My Lord,

St. Jago de Cuba, March 31, 1863.

I HAVE had the satisfaction to receive Mr. Under-Secretary Layard's despatch of 16th January last, acquainting me, by direction of your Lordship with the capture of the barque "*Jane*," under Netherlands colours, off the Congo River by Her Majesty's ship "*Espoir*," and her subsequent condemnation at Sierra Leone on a charge of being equipped for the Slave Trade.

In connection with this subject, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that his Excellency Mariscal de Campo, Don José de la Gándara, appointed Governor and Commander-in-chief of this city and province by the Madrid Government, and lately arrived here (after taking orders from his Excellency Captain-General Dulce in Havana), has, on entering on his command, expressed his determination to second the energetic efforts of that officer to put an end to the African Slave Trade.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICH. HUDSON BEATTIE.

TURKEY.

No. 189.

Mr. Erskine to Earl Russell.—(Received December 19.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, December 5, 1863.

I HAVE communicated to Aali Pasha a French translation of Mr. Consul-General Herman's despatch to Sir Henry Bulwer of the 12th ultimo, relative to the forcible shipment of a number of negroes on board the Turkish frigate "Taïff" at Tripoli.

The explanation given of this occurrence by his Highness is, that the Capitan Pasha directed the Governor-General of Tripoli to procure some black recruits for the corps of Marines; that Mahmoud Pasha accordingly collected all the unemployed negroes he could lay his hands on, and sent them up here in the "Taïff" as instructed; but his Highness denies that they are slaves, or that they will be compelled to serve after the usual term. He, moreover, declares most positively that not a single woman was taken on board.

I do not perceive that the above statement differs very materially, except as to the women, from that of Colonel Herman; but it may be a question in a country where slavery is still tolerated whether these negroes will not be benefited, rather than the reverse, by their incorporation into the army.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. M. ERSKINE.

TURKEY. (*Consular*)—*Alexandria.*

No. 190.

Mr. Colquhoun to Earl Russell.—(Received July 16.)

My Lord,

Alexandria, July 1, 1863.

HAVING received information on which I could rely that a large caravan of merchants was likely to enter Egypt from the Wadai, and that this expedition had, besides its proper and legitimate traffic of ivory, gum, &c., a considerable number of slaves, I, on the 22nd May, informed the Egyptian Government of its approach, requiring it to take the proper steps for setting at liberty the said slaves, and acting up to the orders of the Porte on the subject. I have a reply from the Secretary of State, promising that measures shall be taken, and I know that orders were sent to the police to be on the alert.

I received, a few days ago, a despatch from Major Herman, dated Tripoli, 19th June (copy annexed), perhaps alluding to the very same expedition.

I accordingly asked the Viceroy, yesterday, if he had any intelligence of the fact. He replied he had, and that he had seized 120 slaves; that the adult males had been drafted with their own consent into the Nubian regiments; the lads were to be taught music for the military bands; the young women were taken as house servants on wages, in such houses as wished for them; and the young girls were sent to receive some education in the Government schools at Cairo.

His Highness told me he was resolved to check the Traffic as far as was in his power. I told him that, fully aware of his sentiments, I was about to submit to him a few remarks on what was passing above Khartoum, of which I had received details that made humanity shudder. His Highness said my representations should meet with every attention, and he would feel obliged by my bringing the subject before him.

On this subject I shall further communicate to your Lordship, but I am waiting,

before doing so or taking the promised steps with the Government, the arrival here of a Dr. Murie, who is now on his way from Khartoum, having left Mr. Petherick up at Gondokoro the end of March last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT G. COLQUHOUN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 190.

Mr. Colquhoun to Zulficar Pasha.

M. le Ministre,

Alexandrie, le 22 Mai, 1863.

J'AI l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence, pour être communiqué à Son Altesse le Viceroy, que, par une dépêche que je viens de recevoir du Consulat de Sa Majesté à Bengazi, je suis informé qu'une caravane partie de Wadaï venait vers la fin Avril passé, de toucher le territoire Egyptien à Sewah. La dite caravane est composée de marchands d'esclaves ayant un nombre considérable de nègres destinés à être vendus en Egypte.

Cette caravane doit arriver incessamment au Caire ou à Alexandrie.

Le Gouvernement de Son Altesse, connaissant les dispositions de celui de la Sublime Porte et de ceux des Puissances Européennes à l'égard de la Traite des Hommes, ne manquera pas, je suis persuadé, de prendre les mesures les plus promptes et les plus efficaces pour empêcher un Trafic flétri par l'humanité.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) ROBERT G. COLQUHOUN.

P.S.—Je prie votre Excellence de me communiquer l'arrivée de cette caravane soit au Caire soit à Alexandrie, afin que je puisse procurer des informations relativement à un voyageur Anglais.

R. G. C.

Inclosure 2 in No. 190.

Consul-General Herman to Mr. Colquhoun.

Sir,

Tripoli, June 19, 1863.

IT has been reported to me by the ex-Agent of the Sultan of Waday at Bengazi that a caravan from Waday had reached Cairo.

It was accompanied by ten persons of rank, and was composed of 150 camel-loads of ivory and 150 negro slaves, the latter of whom were to be sold at Cairo and the proceeds remitted to Mecca.

Should the last part of the report prove correct, it will be a most glaring infraction of the Imperial Firman prohibiting the importation and sale of slaves in the Ottoman dominions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. HERMAN.

No. 191.

Earl Russell to Mr. Colquhoun.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 31, 1863.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 1st instant, together with its inclosures, and I have to acquaint you that I approve the communication addressed by you to the Egyptian Government on learning that a caravan with a number of slaves was about to enter Egypt from the Wadai.

I have at the same time to desire that you will omit no opportunity of pressing the Egyptian Government to take effective measures for putting a stop to the slave-hunts on the Upper Nile, which, if the accounts received by Her Majesty's Government are to be believed, are planned and carried out by Europeans, whose proceedings render them a disgrace to humanity.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

Mr. Colquhoun to Earl Russell.—(Received August 28.)

(Extract.)

Alexandria, August 17, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of July 31, approving of what I had done respecting a caravan with a number of slaves recently arrived at Cairo.

The reports I heard from Captains Speke and Grant of the extent to which the Slave Trade was followed on the White Nile was enough to determine me to bring the matter before the Viceroy. These reports were confirmed and strengthened by my letters from Mr. S. W. Baker, now exploring the Sobat River; but as Mr. Baker wrote me that a Dr. Murie, who had been engaged by Mr. Petherick to accompany him, had left that gentleman at Gondokoro, and might shortly be expected here on his way home, I thought it best to defer taking any steps till I should have seen and closely questioned Dr. Murie, who arrived here some days ago.

The information I have culled from the above intelligent person, proves, indeed, how utterly lost to all sense of humanity every individual connected with trade (even though that trade may on its face wear an appearance of legitimacy), becomes, from contact with the debased class of persons calling themselves merchants in those parts.

It is unfortunately the case that the Egyptian Government, while professing openly to discourage the Slave Trade, has nevertheless at certain places large barracoons or depôts, where the poor natives of the interior are collected for Government purposes; the males for filling the gaps in the Nubian regiments, the women and children for the purpose of being brought down as house servants in the harems; these are, by Government authorities, smuggled down the river, and smuggled into Cairo. The state of the wretched creatures in these barracoons is fearful. If the disease (the small-pox) which is so prevalent there gets into them, the creatures die like flies, and Dr. Murie has seen their bodies brought down by tens and cast into the river; but sad as this picture is, it is bright compared to what they undergo before coming into the Government possession.

The Arabs and negroes in the countries bordering the Bahr-el-Gazal, Shillooks, &c., are engaged by Europeans, who conduct in person the expeditions, in making razzias on the neighbouring tribes; the men on these expeditions are all armed with fire-arms, the tribes having no defence but spears and clubs. The plunder sought consists of ivory tusks, cattle, and the vanquished individuals of the tribe; such of them as have escaped the murderous night onslaught are bound together by cords and marched off to the depôts, either of Government or of individuals.

The natives have of late learnt that the copper ornaments and glass beads, hitherto so prized, are of no value whatever; and the trader,—European or other,—requiring their services as boatmen, porters, &c., can now no longer satisfy them by the worthless stores they had brought from Europe: now the natives require payment in cattle, or kind, and the European, pressed by necessity, and to enable him to carry out his trade, consents to sanction,—often to lead,—the razzias for the purpose of procuring cattle, now almost the sole circulating medium. From the cattle-stealer to the slave-dealer the step is but a short one; and hence the infamous character all Europeans up there bear.

Mr. Baker engaged, under contract and firman, a certain number of hands at Khartoum, forty-five in number; from one cause or another the greater number of these mutinied,—some because he would on no account tolerate razzias, some because he proposed to join his party to that of Mr. Petherick, in the view of approaching nearer to the Lake Nzigé, which he was so desirous of exploring; he then found himself with fourteen hands only, and has been compelled to abandon his project and proceed eastward to the Sobat till after the rainy season.

I learn, on inquiry, that Moossa Pasha, the Governor-General of the Soudan, is considered as a very active and efficient Governor, free from the Egyptian taint of corruption; and his Wakeel, who, during his frequent absences from Khartoum, represents him, was particularly brought to my notice by Captain Speke, as having rendered him good service.

It is very difficult to say what course should be pursued. If the Egyptian Government really and sincerely intended to suppress the Trade, it might be effected in a great degree by an efficient river police: but their Nubian regiments must be furnished by some means; and no pay would induce a Nubian to enlist. The sole female servants of, not only Arab and Turkish, but most European houses, are the negro women from Nubia; in the latter they receive good wages, and are faithful and attached. Not one of these would voluntarily have quitted her country, but they adapt themselves to their really bettered circumstances,

and are cheerful, and apparently contented. The Viceroy argued that their condition, and that of the males also, is largely ameliorated; but, for ten who reach Cairo, fifty have, perhaps, miserably perished in the transit, which has been described to me as worse than the middle passage in the Cuban slavers. It is a difficult question to deal with. I shall urge on the Viceroy the establishment along the river, at various stations, beginning at Gondokoro, of an officer with soldiers; but I fear that the Arab race advancing south, the Negro will have to fly, for we see most clearly the two races are hostile to each other.

A very serious question I feel compelled to submit to your Lordship, and which requires an immediate solution. Should not the British Consul in the Soudan be most strictly prohibited from trading? A Consul we require; and if the trade opens up, he will be of great use, both in watching that trade, when, untrammelled by any connection with the wretches who now abound in the upper parts of the country, he will be able to make his voice heard in favour of humanity, and will serve, if not as a positive and complete check on the Government, to mitigate the horrors of the Traffic, and pave the way to its entire abolition.

No. 193.

Mr. Colquhoun to Earl Russell.—(*Received September 14.*)

(Extract.)

Alexandria, September 2, 1863.

A REPORT reached me a few days ago that the native population on the White Nile above Khartoum had risen on the Europeans trading there, and massacred every one they could lay hold of. I find it has originated with a Frenchman, who, as the Prince Halim's Agent, has been frequently sent up to those countries to look after the Prince's interests. This person relates that on coming down the river he was overtaken by a messenger sent from Khartoum with the intelligence of the rising of the black population. I receive this and communicate it under reserve, for I think Mr. Petherick would not have failed to have informed me of the facts. It appears the native population are driven to despair by the abominable acts of violence committed on them by the traders, and have in sheer despair risen. Mr. Petherick is in all probability safe, but I am very uneasy as to the fate of that intrepid traveller Mr. White Baker, who, by his last letters, having failed in collecting men enough to penetrate to the Lake Tzigé, had gone away eastward, and was exploring the Sobat district. Mr. Baker is as popular and beloved among the various tribes as every other European, without exception, is feared and hated, so I trust he and his little band of fourteen are safe.

No. 194.

Earl Russell to Mr. Colquhoun.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 31, 1863.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith under flying seal, for your information, a despatch which I have addressed to Consul Petherick,* informing him that the Consulship of Khartoum will be abolished on and after the 1st of February next, and instructing him to deliver to you, on the termination of his services under this Department, the whole of his official archives.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

TURKEY. (*Consular*)—*Damascus*.

No. 195.

Consul Rogers to Earl Russell.—(*Received August 6.*)

My Lord.

Damascus, July 17, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that a few weeks ago an unfortunate female slave, far advanced in pregnancy, came to this Consulate to demand redress from the cruelty of her master and his brother. It appeared that the latter was the father of the child yet unborn, in consequence of which the former was much annoyed and wished to oblige him to purchase her, and both had inflicted tortures on the unfortunate negress with a view to produce a premature birth.

I had a personal interview with Rushdi Pasha, and, at his Excellency's suggestion, caused a petition to be written in the name of the applicant, which I sent to the Serai, where, after several interviews, it was decided that the negress could not be sold, and must be set free. The necessary document was eventually obtained, and the poor woman is now staying in my house until she be strong enough to undertake service.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. T. ROGERS.

No. 196.

Earl Russell to Consul Rogers.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 12, 1863.

I HAVE to acquaint you that I approve the steps taken by you to procure the manumission of the unfortunate female slave who took refuge in your house as reported in your despatch of the 17th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

TURKEY. (*Consular*)—*Khartoum*.

No. 197.

Earl Russell to Consul Petherick.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 31, 1863.

AS the public interests no longer require the retention of a British Consul at Khartoum, Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the time has arrived to abolish the post.

I have accordingly to state to you, that on and after the 1st of February next your functions as Her Majesty's Consul for the Soudan will be at an end.

You will, on the termination of your services under this Department, seal up and deliver to Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Alexandria the whole of your official archives.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

TURKEY. (Consular)—Monastir.

No. 198.

Acting Consul Calvert to Earl Russell.—(Received January 17, 1863.)

My Lord,

Monastir, December 20, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to report the following circumstances connected with the manumission of a slave through the instrumentality of this Consulate:—

On the 15th of March last, a negress named Gulfidan, aged 34 years, and owned by Suleiman Bey of Perlepé, ran away from her master and took refuge in the British Consulate. The more immediate cause of her flight was ill usage on the part of Suleiman Bey's wife, but she claimed her freedom as due by the Mahomedan law, which prescribes the liberation of every slave upon the completion of seven years' bondage under any one person, or the death of the proprietor. Although this poor woman had been in Suleiman Bey's service five years only, the first of these conditions had been fulfilled, in her case, twice, and the second three times, under previous masters.

Mr. Consul Charles Calvert having communicated on her behalf, officiously, with the then Governor of this province, Abdul Kerim Pasha, his Excellency promised to effect her manumission. Before this promise was carried out, however, the Pasha's sudden departure for Montenegro, in the month of June, temporarily suspended further action in the matter. Gulfidan meanwhile remained at the Consulate, and, being willing and industrious, I assigned her for her voluntary services wages at the rate usually given here to female servants, in addition to the clothes, &c., with which she had been provided by Mr. C. Calvert previously to his departure.

Upon Abdul Kerim Pasha's return to Monastir, two months ago, I addressed myself to Hadji Ali Pasha, the present Civil Governor, referring him to his military colleague on the subject. After some negotiations, his Excellency engaged that Gulfidan should be manumitted upon her being made over to the family of his Kiahia for two or three days. I at once acceded to this arrangement, and have the satisfaction to state that this poor creature has to-day received her certificate of freedom.

The wife of Abdi Pasha of Scutari, a benevolent lady resident here, who has interested herself in this case, has offered to take Gulfidan into her service on advantageous terms, which she will probably be induced to accept.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 199.

Earl Russell to Acting Consul Calvert.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 24, 1863.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 20th ultimo, and I have to convey to you my approval of the steps which you took to procure the manumission of the female slave Gulfidan, who took refuge in the British Consulate.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 200.

Acting Consul Calvert to Earl Russell.—(Received February 28.)

My Lord,

Monastir, February 6, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, inclosed, the copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting two cases of runaway slaves who have placed themselves under the protection of foreigners, and soliciting his Excellency's instructions in regard to one of those cases.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure in No. 200.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir H. Bulwer.

Sir,

Monastir, February 6, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency the following two cases which have again occurred here of runaway slaves placing themselves under the protection of foreigners.

The first is that of a negro, named Ali, twenty-five years of age, who took refuge at the Russian Consulate some weeks since. He was bought, seven years ago, by a certain Mustapha Bey, of this place, who died the year before last. Although the poor man thus possessed a clear title to his liberty, according to the provisions of the Mahometan law, he was, on the death of his master, transferred to the possession of Hakki Bey, the son of Mustapha Bey. The local authorities have, nevertheless, used every effort to obtain from the Russian Consul his restitution. Overtures to this effect were made, at first, in an unofficial form; but M. Hitroff having declined to give up the man until receiving instructions from his Legation, the parties interested finally had recourse to the stereotyped pretext of a charge of theft, which was conveyed in an official note from Hadji Ali Pasha to the Russian Consul.

Your Excellency will perhaps remember a similar pretext in the question of the two negresses claimed by Ahmed Pasha, and which was described by Mr. Consul Longworth in his despatch from Monastir of the 25th January, 1859, as already "a stale practice" in such cases.

The Pasha's note contained a demand for the delivery of the alleged thief to the local authorities, "together with the stolen property." M. Hitroff again declined to act in the matter pending the receipt of instructions. He further took umbrage at the Pasha's demand for the restitution by him, the Consul, of (alleged) stolen property. Although sufficient time had elapsed for the receipt of the expected instructions from Constantinople before M. Hitroff's departure hence, the question does not appear to have been yet settled between the Russian Legation and the Porte. The man Ali, meanwhile, remains at the Russian Consulate.

The second case I have to report is that of a negress named Khadidjé, aged twenty-four years, and owned by one Mahmoud Bey, of Monastir. The master having for some reason decided on parting with his slave, sent Khadidjé to the public vendor ("tellâl"). After remaining with this man's family for three weeks, in default of a purchaser, she took to flight on the 25th January. She made her way in the first place to the British Consulate. I happened to be away at the time, and the fugitive addressed herself to Gulfidan,* the manumitted slave whose case was reported in my last despatch. By her advice the poor woman went over to the Russian Consulate. M. Hitroff, being already embarrassed with the case above related, did not encourage her application; and it seems she was advised by some person at the Russian Consulate to apply to the Austrian Vice-Consul. She found her way, by mistake, to the house of M. Enz, a Swiss merchant under the protection of the French Vice-Consulate; who willingly gave her shelter, and with whom she has since remained. The case thus falls within my competency as Acting Vice-Consul for France.

Mahmoud Bey's endeavours for the recovery of his fugitive property were in the first instance limited to direct personal communication with M. Enz, with whom he has had several friendly interviews on the subject. As M. Enz, however, did not consider himself at liberty to comply with the Bey's request, an official application has been addressed

* I may mention that Gulfidan has resolved to await the return hither of Mrs. Charles Calvert before taking a decision as to the advantageous offer of employment referred to in the above despatch.

to me through Hadji Ali Pasha. I have begged his Excellency to allow the matter to remain over pending a reference of it to Constantinople.

I therefore now have the honour to solicit your Excellency's instructions with regard thereto, leaving it to your Excellency to communicate with the French Ambassador on the subject, should you judge that course proper.

It is necessary to state to your Excellency that the requirements of the Mussulman law with respect to manumission do not seem to have been fulfilled in the case of the woman Khadidjé. She has changed hands twice by regular purchase since she was first bought by a certain Abdullah Pasha at Constantinople twelve years ago; and her longest term of service under any one master has not exceeded five years. She had served Mahmoud Bey three years.

In none of these cases of runaway slaves which I have lately had occasion to report, does the ill-usage on the part of the owners appear to have been of a very aggravated nature. The leniency, generally speaking, of domestic slavery in Turkey is proved by the fact that these cases, occurring as they do from time to time, are by no means so numerous on the whole as might be expected. Still, however, there are exceptions to this leniency; and instances of illegal retention in slavery, such as those of Gulfidan and Ali, appear to be of not unfrequent occurrence. Under any circumstances, the occasional repetition of fugitive cases, such as those now reported, is a contingency to be looked for.

Hadji Ali Pasha took occasion to observe to me, in reference to the present instances, how desirable it was, in his opinion, that some fixed rule of action should be adopted with regard to these embarrassing questions; and the force of the remark is felt no less by the Consular Body here than by the local authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 201.

Acting Consul Calvert to Earl Russell.—(Received March 28.)

My Lord,

Monastir, March 3, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Lordship's despatch of the 24th January, by which I have the high gratification to learn that your Lordship is pleased to approve of the steps which I took to procure the manumission of the female slave Gulfidan, who took refuge in this Consulate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 202.

Consul Calvert to Earl Russell.—(Received April 25.)

My Lord,

Monastir, April 9, 1863.

REFERRING to Mr. Acting Consul E. Calvert's despatch dated the 6th February last, on the two cases of fugitive slaves who have taken refuge with foreigners, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Enz, the Swiss merchant, has voluntarily surrendered to Hadji Ali Pasha the negress Khadidjé who had fled to his house. M. Enz's motive for so acting proceeded, he tells me, from a desire to avoid causing embarrassment between the local Turkish authorities and myself immediately upon my return to my post. Whilst the quarrelsome disposition of this negress was a source of trouble to his household, M. Enz became convinced, moreover, on making inquiry, that her claim to manumission could not justly have been sustained.

Nothing new has transpired with regard to the case of the negro Ali, who still remains at the Russian Consulate.

I may add whilst on this subject that the negress Gulfidan, who was manumitted through the instrumentality of Mr. Acting Consul E. Calvert in December last, has engaged herself as a hired servant in my household.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES J. CALVERT.

TRIPOLI.

No. 203.

Consul-General Herman to Earl Russell.—(Received May 16.)

My Lord,

Tripoli, April 30, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that on the night of the 23rd instant some 15 slaves were clandestinely embarked within a mile of the town gates.

On bringing this circumstance to the notice of the Governor-General, he assured me that on the return of the xebeck, which belongs to this place, he will make an example of the captain and crew, but that with the owner, a Jew under the protection of France, he can do nothing. His Excellency at the same time lamented his inability, from the great extent of the seaboard of this Regency, to effectually put down the contraband Trade in Slaves, and with the inadequate means at his disposition it must be admitted that the observation is well founded. But means might certainly be found for effecting the object within sight of the town gates.

The Imperial Decree of 1856 abolishing the exportation of negroes from this province has rather diverted into new channels, than extinguished, the trade of the interior. The caravans which formerly, from the basins of the Lake Tchad and the Niger, used to find markets for their merchandize at Tripoli and Bengazi, now proceed to Algeria and Egypt; the last is the main stream which skirting the southern boundary of this province strikes the Egyptian frontier at a point between the latitudes of Siwas and Cairo. Such of the slaves as are not absorbed by the demand of the Egyptian market are dispatched in small parties across the Red Sea into Arabia, from whence they are distributed throughout the Levant.

So essential and time-honoured an element is negro slavery in the domestic organization of the Turks, and such the extent and unguarded condition of the Egyptian frontier, that were the vigilance of the Government authorities as active as it is supine, it is to be feared that to effectually arrest the Traffic will be an operation of immense difficulty.

The only effectual remedy for the evil would be the abolition, as at Tunis, of slavery as an institution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. HERMAN.

No. 204.

Consul-General Herman to Earl Russell.—(Received June 12.)

My Lord,

Tripoli, June 4, 1863.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 30th April last, reporting the clandestine embarkation on the night of the 23rd of April of a party of negro slaves within a mile of the town gates, I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship that on the return, a few days ago, of the vessel which conveyed them away, the master of the same was immediately thrown into prison by the orders of the Governor-General.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. HERMAN.

TUNIS.

No. 205.

Consul-General Wood to Earl Russell.—(Received January 12.)

My Lord,

Tunis, January 3, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to report that having been informed that a native had brought 7 female slaves to Tunis for the purpose of traffic, I brought the circumstance to the knowledge of the Bey, who immediately ordered their manumission.

His Highness declared that he would not allow slavery in his dominions, and as an earnest of his intention he caused the slaves to be brought to the palace, where, after delivering to each of them a certificate of emancipation, he directed the Chief of the negro population to take care of them until such time as they could find employment.

My informant was a Mahomedan of very great respectability, who, up to this time, was unknown to me, but he stated that he acted from conscientious motives; and as the affair has likewise created some sensation amongst Mussulmans, it is natural to deduce from these two facts that the public feeling has undergone a change, and that the Mussulmans in this country are at present generally adverse to slavery.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 206.

Earl Russell to Consul-General Wood.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 21, 1863.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 3rd instant, reporting the manumission of 7 female slaves at Tunis by desire of His Highness the Bey; and I have to desire that you will express to His Highness the gratification with which Her Majesty's Government has learnt his proceedings in this case, and his determination not to allow slavery to be carried on in his dominions.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

UNITED STATES.

No. 207.

Lord Lyons to Earl Russell.—(Received January 4, 1863.)

My Lord,

Washington, December 20, 1862.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a note from Mr. Seward, acknowledging the receipt of a notification from me of the fact that the oaths had been duly taken by the Judge and Registrar of the Mixed Commission Court at Sierra Leone, established under the Treaty of the 7th April last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 207.

Mr. Seward to Lord Lyons.

My Lord,

Department of State, Washington, December 18, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 14th instant, informing me that Mr. G. Skelton, Her Majesty's Judge in the Mixed Commission Court at Sierra Leone, has reported to Her Majesty's Government that he took, on the 13th of October last, before the Chief Justice of that Colony, the oath prescribed by Article I of Annex B to the Treaty concluded at Washington on the 7th of April last, and that later on the same day he administered the prescribed oath to Mr. William Smith, Registrar in the same Court.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

No. 208.

Earl Russell to Lord Lyons.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 8, 1863.

I HAVE to acquaint your Lordship that I have received a despatch from Mr. Frere, Her Majesty's Judge in the British and United States' Mixed Commission established at the Cape of Good Hope, under the provisions of the Treaty with the United States for the suppression of the Slave Trade, reporting that he has adopted the necessary formalities for opening the Court with the view to be prepared for the transaction of any business that may be brought before it. I have to instruct your Lordship to communicate this fact to the United States' Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 209.

Lord Lyons to Earl Russell.—(Received January 14, 1863.)

My Lord,

Washington, December 31, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a note with which, in obedience to the orders conveyed to me by your Lordship's despatch of the 6th instant, I transmitted to

Mr. Seward a copy of a letter from Commander Symons to Commodore Edmonstone, dated the 27th of August, and reporting his having boarded the American barque "*Elizabeth*," on suspicion of her being engaged in the Slave Trade. I have the honour to inclose a copy of a note from Mr. Seward acknowledging the receipt of the communication.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 209.

Lord Lyons to Mr. Seward.

Sir,

Washington, December 24, 1862.

IN obedience to the orders of Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I have the honour to transmit to you, for the information of the Government of the United States, a copy of a letter from Commander Symons, of Her Majesty's ship "*Lee*," reporting his having boarded, on the 27th of August last, the American barque "*Elizabeth*," on suspicion of her being engaged in the Slave Trade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 209.

Mr. Seward to Lord Lyons.

My Lord,

Department of State, Washington, December 26, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 24th instant, inclosing, for the information of this Government, a copy of a letter from Commander Symons, of Her Britannic Majesty's ship "*Lee*," reporting his having boarded, on the 27th of August last, the American barque "*Elizabeth*," on suspicion of her being engaged in the Slave Trade.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

No. 210.

Earl Russell to Lord Lyons.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 24, 1863.

I HAVE received your Lordship's despatch of the 12th ultimo, reporting that Mr. Seward has officially informed you that the President of the United States consents to extend to the coasts of the Island of Madagascar the reciprocal right of visit and detention established by Article I of the Treaty of the 7th of April last, between Her Majesty and the United States of America, for the suppression of the African Slave Trade.

In the opinion of Her Majesty's Government the most convenient form of carrying out the understanding come to by the two Governments on this matter, would be by annexing an Additional Article to the Treaty of the 7th of April last, and I accordingly inclose the draft of an Article to be submitted for the approval of the United States' Government.

I have further to state to your Lordship that, in consequence of what passed between your Lordship and Mr. Seward on the subject of the extension of the right of visit and detention to the coasts of the Island of Puerto Rico, I have had the Article framed to include that island; and also, in conformity with your Lordship's suggestion, the Island of San Domingo.

If the United States' Government should not consent to extend the provisions of the proposed Additional Article to the Islands of Puerto Rico and San Domingo, or should consent to those provisions being extended to only one or the other Island, your Lordship will make the necessary omission in the Draft Article, so that it may apply to Madagascar only or to Madagascar and either Puerto Rico or San Domingo, as the case may be, and you may then sign it in virtue of the full powers with which you are already invested.

I trust, however, that as the proposed extension of the reciprocal right of search and

detention to those two Islands will more effectually carry out the objects which the two Governments had in view in concluding the Treaty of the 7th of April last, the Cabinet of Washington will concur with Her Majesty's Government in thinking it desirable that the Article should be signed as it now stands.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

Inclosure in No. 210.

Draft of Additional Article to the Treaty between Her Britannic Majesty and the United States of America for the Suppression of the African Slave Trade, signed at Washington, April 7, 1862.

WHEREAS by the First Article of the Treaty between Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the United States of America, for the suppression of the African Slave Trade, signed at Washington on the 7th of April, 1862, it was stipulated and agreed that those ships of the respective navies of the two High Contracting Parties which shall be provided with special instructions for that purpose, as hereinafter mentioned, may visit such merchant-vessels of the two nations as may, upon reasonable grounds, be suspected of being engaged in the African Slave Trade, or of having been fitted out for that purpose, or of having, during the voyage on which they are met by the said cruisers, been engaged in the African Slave Trade contrary to the provisions of the said Treaty; and that such cruisers may detain and send or carry away such vessels in order that they may be brought to trial in the manner hereinafter agreed upon: And whereas it was by the said Article further stipulated and agreed, that the reciprocal right of search and detention should be exercised only within the distance of 200 miles from the coast of Africa, and to the southward of the thirty-second parallel of north latitude, and within thirty leagues from the coast of the Island of Cuba: And whereas the two High Contracting Parties are desirous of rendering the said Treaty still more efficacious for its purpose; the Plenipotentiaries who signed the said Treaty have, in virtue of their full powers, agreed that the reciprocal right of visit and detention, as defined in the Article aforesaid, may be exercised also within thirty leagues of the Island of Madagascar, within thirty leagues of the Island of Puerto Rico, and within thirty leagues of the Island of San Domingo.

The present Additional Article shall have the same force and validity as if it had been inserted word for word in the Treaty concluded between the two High Contracting Parties on the 7th of April, 1862, and shall have the same duration as that Treaty. It shall be ratified, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at London in six months from this date, or sooner if possible.

In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the same, and have thereunto affixed the seal of their arms.

Done at Washington, the day of , in the year of our Lord, 1863.

No. 211.

Lord Lyons to Earl Russell.—(Received February 13.)

My Lord,

Washington, January 27, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a note in which, in obedience to the instruction contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 8th instant, I have informed the Government of the United States that Mr. Frere, Her Majesty's Commissioner, has completed the necessary formalities for opening the Mixed Commission Court established at the Cape of Good Hope under the Treaty between Great Britain and the United States for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 211.

Lord Lyons to Mr. Seward.

Sir,

Washington, January 26, 1863.

I AM directed by Her Majesty's Government to inform you that Mr. Frere, Her Majesty's Judge in the British and United States' Mixed Commission Court established at the Cape of Good Hope under the Treaty of the 7th of April last, has completed the necessary formalities for opening the Court with a view to its being ready for the transaction of any business which may be brought before it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 212.

Lord Lyons to Earl Russell.—(Received February 13.)

My Lord,

Washington, January 30, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a note from Mr. Seward, acknowledging the receipt of the announcement made to him in my note of the 26th instant of the opening of the British and United States' Mixed Commission Court at the Cape of Good Hope.

A copy of my note was inclosed in my despatch to your Lordship of the 27th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 212.

Mr. Seward to Lord Lyons.

My Lord,

Department of State, Washington, January 29, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 26th instant, advising me that the necessary formalities have been completed for opening the United States and British Mixed Commission Court established at the Cape of Good Hope under the Treaty between the two countries of the 7th April last.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

No. 213.

Lord Lyons to Earl Russell.—(Received March 6.)

My Lord,

Washington, February 20, 1863.

MR. SEWARD and I signed, on the 17th instant, an Additional Article to the Treaty of the 7th April for the suppression of the Slave Trade. I have the honour to inclose a copy of it. Your Lordship will see that it extends the provisions of the Treaty to the seas within thirty miles of Madagascar, Puerto Rico, and San Domingo. It is, in fact, copied word for word from the draft transmitted to me with your Lordship's despatch of the 24th ultimo. Mr. Seward feels confident that it will be ratified by the Senate before the close of the session.

I shall transmit the signed Article to your Lordship by the Royal mail-packet which sails from New York on the 25th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 213.

Additional Article to the Treaty between Her Britannic Majesty and the United States of America for the Suppression of the African Slave Trade, signed at Washington, April 7, 1862.

WHEREAS by the First Article of the Treaty between Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the United States of America, for the suppression of the African Slave Trade, signed at Washington on the 7th of April, 1862, it was stipulated and agreed that those ships of the respective navies of the two High Contracting Parties which shall be provided with special instructions for that purpose, as thereafter mentioned, may visit such merchant-vessels of the two nations as may, upon reasonable grounds, be suspected of being engaged in the African Slave Trade, or of having been fitted out for that purpose, or of having, during the voyage on which they are met by the said cruizers, been engaged in the African Slave Trade contrary to the provisions of the said Treaty; and that such cruizers may detain and send or carry away such vessels in order that they may be brought to trial in the manner thereafter agreed upon: And whereas it was by the said Article further stipulated and agreed that the reciprocal right of search and detention should be exercised only within the distance of two hundred miles from the Coast of Africa, and to the southward of the thirty-second parallel of north latitude, and within thirty leagues from the coast of the Island of Cuba: And whereas the two High Contracting Parties are desirous of rendering the said Treaty still more efficacious for its purpose;—the Plenipotentiaries who signed the said Treaty have, in virtue of their full powers, agreed that the reciprocal right of visit and detention, as defined in the Article aforesaid, may be exercised also within thirty leagues of the Island of Madagascar, within thirty leagues of the Island of Puerto Rico, and within thirty leagues of the Island of San Domingo.

The present Additional Article shall have the same force and validity as if it had been inserted word for word in the Treaty concluded between the two High Contracting Parties on the 7th of April, 1862, and shall have the same duration as that Treaty. It shall be ratified, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at London in six months from this date, or sooner if possible.

In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the same, and have thereunto affixed the seal of their arms.

Done at Washington, the seventeenth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three.

(L.S.) LYONS.
(L.S.) WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

No. 214.

Lord Lyons to Earl Russell.—(Received March 9.)

My Lord,

Washington, February 24, 1863.

IN my immediately preceding despatch dated the 20th instant, I reported to your Lordship that Mr. Seward and I had signed, on the 17th instant, an Additional Article to the Treaty of the 7th of April for the suppression of the Slave Trade. I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Article so signed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 214.

Additional Article to the Treaty between Her Britannic Majesty and the United States of America for the Suppression of the African Slave Trade, signed at Washington, April 7, 1862.

[See Inclosure in No. 213.]

No. 215.

Lord Lyons to Earl Russell.—(Received March 17.)

My Lord

Washington, March 2, 1863.

THE Additional Article extending the provisions of the Slave Trade Treaty of the 7th of April last to the vicinity of Madagascar, San Domingo, and Puerto Rico, was unanimously ratified by the Senate in secret session on the 27th ultimo. I have not yet received official information of the fact, but there is no doubt of it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 216.

Earl Russell to Lord Lyons.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, March 26, 1863.

I TRANSMIT to your Lordship herewith copies of Reports as marked in the margin,* from Commanders of Her Majesty's cruisers employed in the suppression of the Slave Trade on the West Coast of Africa, reporting the boarding, for the purpose of ascertaining their nationality, of the under-mentioned vessels, flying American colours, viz. :—Barques "Ocilla," "Swallow," "Ann and Mary," and "Nye;" and brig "Leonidas."

As, at the time of the boarding of these vessels, Her Majesty's cruisers were not furnished with the instructions required by Treaty in order to enable them to detain a United States' ship, the "Ocilla," which it was notoriously known at the time was intended to be employed in the Slave Trade, was not further molested, and she escaped shortly afterwards from the Congo River with a cargo of upwards of 1,400 slaves,

I also inclose a copy of a Report from the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Wrangler,"† giving an account of the capture of a vessel without papers or colours, fully equipped for the Slave Trade. The master of the captured ship gave the name of his vessel as the "Josephine," but your Lordship will perceive that she was subsequently ascertained to be the "Island Queen," of Washington.

I have to instruct your Lordship to communicate the substance of these Reports to the United States' Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 217.

Earl Russell to Lord Lyons:

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, April 18, 1863.

I TRANSMIT to you, for your information, the accompanying extract of a letter from Mr. Adams, inclosing a list of United States' cruisers which have been furnished with authority to carry out the provisions of the Treaty of the 7th of April, 1862, for the suppression of the African Slave Trade.

Inclosure 1 in No. 217.

Mr. Adams to Earl Russell.

(Extract.)

Legation of the United States, London, April 14, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Navy of the United States to the Secretary of State, accompanied by a list of the national vessels which have so far been furnished with authority to carry out the provisions of the Treaty of the 7th April, 1862, for the further suppression of the Slave Trade.

* Class A, Nos. 97 and 101.

† Ibid, No. 105.

Inclosure 2 in No. 217.

Mr. Welles to Mr. Seward.

(Extract.)

Navy Department, March 28, 1863.

IN pursuance of the IIInd Article of the Treaty of the 7th April, 1862, between the United States and Great Britain, for the suppression of the African Slave Trade, I have the honour to inclose herewith, for transmission to Her Majesty's Government, a list of the vessels of the United States' navy which have so far been furnished with special authority to carry out the provisions of said Treaty.

Instructions to carry out the provisions of the Treaty will be given to other vessels, the names of which, with their Commanders, and the force of each, shall be duly communicated.

Inclosure 3 in No. 217.

LIST of Vessels of the United States' Navy duly authorized to carry out the provisions of the Treaty between the United States and Great Britain, of April 7, 1862, for the suppression of the African Slave Trade.

Vessel.	Class.	Guns.	Commander.	Station.
Juniata (Flag)	Screw sloop	11	Acting Rear-Admiral Chas. Wilkes	West Indies.
Alabama	Side-wheel steamer	9	Commander E. T. Nichols	Ditto.
Sonoma	Ditto	6	Commander J. M. B. Clitz	Ditto.
Tioga	Ditto	6	Commander A. G. Cleary	Ditto.
Santiago de Cuba	Ditto	10	Commander R. H. Wyman	Ditto.
Octorara	Ditto	6	Commander Napl. Collins	Ditto.
Shepherd Knapp	Sailing-ship	8	Lieutenant H. S. Eytinge	Ditto.
Rhode Island	Side-wheel steamer	11	Commander S. D. Trenchard	Ditto.
Vanderbilt	Ditto	15	Commander Ch. H. Baldwin	Ditto. Special service.
Connecticut	Ditto	5	Commander Geo. H. Cooper	Special service. Gulf of Mexico.
Mohican	Screw-sloop	7	Captain O. S. Glisson	Vicinity of the Cape de Verde Islands.

No. 218.

Lord Lyons to Earl Russell.—(Received March 21.)

My Lord,

Washington, March 6, 1863.

WITH reference to my despatch dated the 2nd instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a note from Mr. Seward acquainting me that the Senate has approved the Additional Article to the Slave Trade Treaty of the 7th April last, and that it will be immediately ratified by the President, and a ratified copy forwarded to Mr. Adams for exchange.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 218.

Mr. Seward to Lord Lyons.

My Lord,

Department of State, Washington, March 4, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that on the 27th ultimo the Senate approved the Additional Article to the Treaty for the suppression of the African Slave Trade between the United States and Great Britain of the 7th of April, 1862, which was concluded and signed by us on the 17th of last month. It will be immediately ratified by the President, and a ratified copy will be forwarded to Mr. Adams, for exchange, without unnecessary delay.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

No. 219.

Lord Lyons to Earl Russell.—(Received May 4.)

My Lord,

Washington, April 21, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a note in which, in obedience to the instruction contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 26th ultimo, I have communicated to the United States' Government the substance of despatches from Commanders of Her Majesty's cruisers reporting the boarding of the under-mentioned vessels flying American colours, viz., the barques "*Ocilla*," "*Anne and Mary*," and "*Nye*," and brig "*Leonidas*."

I have also the honour to inclose a copy of an answer which Mr. Seward has made to my note.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 219.

Lord Lyons to Mr. Seward.

Sir,

Washington, April 15, 1863.

I HAVE received instructions from Her Majesty's Government to acquaint you that reports have been received from the Commanders of Her Majesty's cruisers employed in the suppression of the Slave Trade on the West Coast of Africa of the following instances in which they have boarded vessels flying American colours for the purpose of ascertaining their nationality.

Commander Douglas, of Her Majesty's ship "*Espoir*," reports that on the 31st of October last he caused to be boarded the barque "*Ann and Mary*," belonging to the United States, and that her papers being found to be correct, and no complaint being made, she was allowed to proceed on her voyage.

The same officer reports that on the 25th of October last he caused to be boarded the barque "*Swallow*," belonging to the United States; that her papers being found to be correct, and no complaint being made, she was allowed to proceed on her voyage.

Commander Hoskins, of Her Majesty's ship "*Zebra*," reports that on the 24th of September last he caused to be boarded the American barque "*Nye*," of New Bedford, that her register appeared to be correct, and that her master did not wish any notation to be made in the log, nor did he make any complaint.

The same officer reports having caused to be boarded the American brig "*Leonidas*," of West Port, on the 25th of October last, with the same result as in the preceding case. The master is stated to have made no complaint.

A brig of the same name, and probably the same vessel, is stated to have been boarded on the 5th of October, at the wish of her master, by a boat from Her Majesty's ship "*Torch*."

The barque "*Ocilla*" is reported to have been twice boarded, first by Her Majesty's ship "*Espoir*" on the 10th, and afterwards by Her Majesty's ship "*Zebra*" on the 28th September last. Circumstances are stated to have given rise to suspicions on both occasions, but she could not be detained, as her papers were to all appearance correct, and the cruisers were not at that time furnished with the instructions required by Treaty in order to enable them to detain a United States' vessel.

She is reported to have subsequently escaped from the Congo River on the night of the 16th of October, with a cargo of 1,400 slaves, and to having been ineffectually chased by Her Majesty's ship "*Zebra*."

I am also instructed to inform you of the circumstances of the capture by Commander Beamish, of Her Majesty's ship "*Wrangler*," on the 28th of December last, in latitude 14° 37' south, longitude 90° 19' east, Little Fish Bay east $\frac{3}{4}$ north about 172 miles, of a full-rigged ship, perfectly equipped for the Slave Trade, and ready to receive from 1,000 to 1,300 slaves.

This vessel is reported to have been captured after a four hours' chase, to have shown no colours, and to have had no papers. The captain is stated to have called her the "*Josephine*," but the name of "*Island Queen*, Washington, D.C.," is said to have been made out without much difficulty on her stern, though means had been taken to erase it.

The Commander of the "*Wrangler*" states that he had reason to believe, from

CLASS B.

information he had obtained, that the vessel in question was fitted out at Havana in March 1862 with United States' colours and papers, and that she was commanded by a Captain Denham, said to be a noted slave-captain, by whom she was taken to Cadiz, where she changed ownership, took out Spanish papers under the name of "*Josephine*," received a new captain, a Portuguese, with a Spanish and Portuguese crew, and was fitted out for the Slave Trade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 219.

Mr. Seward to Lord Lyons.

My Lord, *Department of State, Washington, April 16, 1863.*
I TAKE great pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of your note of yesterday, in which, under the instructions of your Government, you inform me that reports have been received from the Commanders of Her Majesty's cruizers employed in the suppression of the Slave Trade on the West Coast of Africa of several stated instances in which they have boarded vessels flying American colours for the purpose of ascertaining their nationality. As it regards the cases of the "*Ocilla*" and the "*Josephine*," the information will be used to ferret out and bring to punishment any Americans who may be found to have been concerned in the violation of the laws in connection with those vessels.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

No. 220.

Lord Lyons to Earl Russell.—(Received May 7.)

My Lord, *Washington, April 24, 1863.*
MR. SEWARD informed me yesterday that Benjamin Pringle, Esq., had been appointed Judge, on the part of the United States, in the Mixed Commission Court established under the Slave Trade Treaty at the Cape of Good Hope, and was about to proceed to his post.

Mr. Seward asked me to give Mr. Pringle letters of introduction to the authorities at the Cape. I told Mr. Seward that I was not acquainted with any of those authorities, but that I would give Mr. Pringle a letter to the Duke of Newcastle, a few lines from whom to the Governor would be far more efficacious than anything I could write.

I have accordingly sent Mr. Seward a letter for the Duke to be given to Mr. Pringle.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 221.

Earl Russell to Lord Lyons.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, June 5, 1863.*
I TRANSMIT to your Lordship herewith copies of the Regulations which I have had drawn up for the guidance, in the technical part of their duties, of the Judges and Arbitrators appointed on the part of Her Majesty for carrying into effect the provisions of the Treaty between Her Majesty and the United States of America for the suppression of the African Slave Trade.

I have to instruct your Lordship to communicate copies of these Regulations to the United States' Government for their approval.

You will state that they have been framed mainly in accordance with the course observed in the High Court of Admiralty in this country, adapting and limiting the proceedings to the objects prescribed by the Treaty under which the Commission is framed.

Her Majesty's Government would, of course, take into consideration any amendments or alterations which the United States' Government, after due deliberation, might see fit to suggest; but as these Regulations have been already maturely considered, Her

Majesty's Government trust that they will be found to accord with the views of the United States' Government, and that the United States' officers in the several Mixed Commission Courts at New York, the Cape of Good Hope, and Sierra Leone will be directed to guide their proceedings in conformity therewith.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

Inclosure in No. 221.

Regulations for the Guidance of the Mixed Courts of Justice established in pursuance of the Treaty of the 7th of April, 1862, between Her Britannic Majesty and the United States of America, for the Suppression of the African Slave Trade.

[See Class A, Appendix.]

No. 222.

Lord Lyons to Earl Russell.—(Received June 8.)

My Lord,

Washington, May 20, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inclose two copies of a Proclamation of the President, publishing the Article which was signed by Mr. Seward and by me on the 17th of February last, as an Additional Article to the Treaty of the 7th April, 1862, for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

These copies of the Proclamation were sent to me in a cover bearing the seal of the State Department.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 222.

By the President of the United States of America.

A Proclamation.

WHEREAS an Additional Article to the Treaty for the Suppression of the African Slave Trade, between the United States of America and Her Britannic Majesty, of the 7th of April, 1862, was concluded and signed at Washington by their respective Plenipotentiaries, on the 17th day of February, 1863, which Additional Article is, word for word, as follows:—

Additional Article to the Treaty between the United States of America and Her Britannic Majesty for the Suppression of the African Slave Trade, signed at Washington, April 7, 1862.

Whereas, by the 1st Article of the Treaty between the United States of America and Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, for the Suppression of the African Slave Trade, signed at Washington on the 7th of April, 1862, it was stipulated and agreed that those ships of the respective navies of the two High Contracting Parties which shall be provided with special instructions for that purpose as thereafter mentioned, may visit such merchant-vessels of the two nations as may, upon reasonable grounds, be suspected of being engaged in the African Slave Trade, or of having been fitted out for that purpose, or of having, during the voyage on which they are met by the said cruisers, been engaged in the African Slave Trade contrary to the provisions of the said Treaty; and that such cruisers may detain and send or carry away such vessels in order that they may be brought to trial in the manner thereafter agreed upon; and whereas it was by the said Article further stipulated and agreed that the reciprocal right of search and detention should be exercised only within the distance of 200 miles from the coast of Africa, and to the southward of the thirty-second parallel of north latitude, and within thirty leagues from the coast of the Island of Cuba; and whereas the two High Contracting Parties are desirous of rendering the said Treaty still more efficacious for its purpose, the Plenipotentiaries who signed the said Treaty have, in virtue of their full powers, agreed that the reciprocal right of visit and

detention, as defined in the Article aforesaid, may be exercised also within thirty leagues of the Island of Madagascar, within thirty leagues of the Island of Puerto Rico, and within thirty leagues of the Island of San Domingo.

The present Additional Article shall have the same force and validity as if it had been inserted word for word in the Treaty concluded between the two High Contracting Parties on the 7th of April, 1862, and shall have the same duration as that Treaty. It shall be ratified, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at London in six months from this date, or sooner if possible.

In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the same, and have thereunto affixed the seal of their arms.

Done at Washington, the 17th day of February, in the year of our Lord 1863.

(L.S.) WILLIAM H. SEWARD.
(L.S.) LYONS.

And whereas the said Additional Article has been duly ratified on both parts, and the respective ratifications of the same were exchanged at London on the 1st instant, by Charles Francis Adams, Esq., Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States at the Court of St. James, and Earl Russell, Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, on the part of their respective Governments:

Now, therefore, be it known that I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States of America, have caused the said Additional Article to be made public, to the end that the same, and every clause and part thereof, may be observed and fulfilled with good faith by the United States and the citizens thereof.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington this 22nd day of April, in the year of our Lord 1863, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-seventh.

(Signed) ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

By the President:
(Signed) WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State.*

No. 223.

Lord Lyons to Earl Russell.—(Received July 5.)

My Lord,

Washington, June 22, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a note to Mr. Seward, in which I have inclosed, for the approval of the United States' Government, two of the copies of the Regulations for the guidance of the Mixed British and United States' Courts of Justice, which were sent to me with your Lordship's despatch of the 5th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 223.

Lord Lyons to Mr. Seward.

Sir,

Washington, June 20, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to submit, for the approval of the President of the United States, copies of Regulations which Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has had drawn up for the guidance, in the technical part of their duties, of the Judges and Arbitrators appointed, on the part of Her Majesty, for carrying into effect the provisions of the Treaty between Her Majesty and the United States of America for the suppression of the African Slave Trade.

The Regulations have been framed mainly in accordance with the course observed in the High Court of Admiralty in England, adapting and limiting the proceedings to the objects prescribed by the Treaty under which the Commission is framed.

Her Majesty's Government would, of course, attentively consider any amendments or alterations which the Government of the United States might, after due deliberation, think it advisable to propose; but as the Regulations have been drawn up with great care, Her

Majesty's Government trust that they will be found to accord with the views of the United States' Government, and that the United States' officers in the several Mixed Commission Courts at New York, the Cape of Good Hope, and Sierra Leone, will be directed to guide their proceedings in conformity therewith.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 224.

Lord Lyons to Earl Russell.—(Received July 18.)

My Lord,

Washington, July 3, 1863.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship a copy of a note which I have received from Mr. Seward, stating that the United States' Government has no objection to offer to the Regulations prepared by Her Majesty's Government for the guidance, in the technical part of their duties, of the Judges and Arbitrators appointed for carrying into effect the provisions of the Treaty between Her Majesty and the United States for the suppression of the Slave Trade, and that those Regulations are accordingly approved.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 224.

Mr. Seward to Lord Lyons.

My Lord,

Department of State, Washington, July 1, 1863.

THE Attorney-General, to whom was referred a copy of your note of the 20th ultimo, with one of the accompanying copies of the Regulations for the guidance of the Judges and Arbitrators appointed on the part of Her Majesty for carrying into effect the provisions of the Treaty between the United States and Great Britain for the suppression of the African Slave Trade, of the 7th of April, 1862, states, in reply, that those Regulations, which he has examined with some care, have been prepared after the forms and methods of proceeding in Courts of Admiralty, and with strict regard to the practice suitable to the Mixed Courts established under the Treaty; that they provide fully and minutely for all the stages of judicial proceeding in the investigation and disposal of captured prizes; that he does not perceive that, in this respect, they can be improved; and that they are also framed, as far he can see, with strict regard to the rights and obligations of both parties to the Treaty. Under these circumstances, this Government has no objections to offer against the Regulations in question, and they are accordingly approved.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

No. 225.

Earl Russell to Lord Lyons.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, August 1, 1863.

I TRANSMIT to your Lordship herewith copies of a despatch from Her Majesty's Commissioner at Loanda, and of a letter from Commodore Wilmot,* the officer in command of Her Majesty's naval forces on the West Coast of Africa, reporting the capture of a schooner called the "*Mariquita*," by Her Majesty's ship "*Zebra*," off the Congo River, with 471 slaves on board.

Your Lordship will see that Commodore Wilmot reports that a rumour had reached him that the owners of the "*Mariquita*" entered into heavy bonds at New York for the legal employment of this vessel, and if this is the case it will be right that the United States' Government should be informed of the circumstances under which this vessel has been captured, and I have accordingly to instruct your Lordship to communicate copies of the inclosed papers to the United States' Government for such steps as they may think proper to take in the matter.

* Class A, Nos. 69 and 117.

I have not yet received any report from St. Helena of the condemnation of the "*Mariquita*," nor of the manner in which the master and crew were disposed of; but I have taken the necessary steps for procuring information on these points, and I will not fail to communicate to your Lordship the result of my inquiries in this matter.

I annex also a copy of a letter from Her Majesty's Commissioners of Customs, reporting the result of inquiries instituted by them with regard to the clearance of the "*Mariquita*" from the port of London.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

Inclosure in No. 225.

The Commissioners of Customs to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury.

Custom-House, July 25, 1863,

YOUR Lordships having referred to us the annexed letter from Mr. Layard, stating, by desire of Earl Russell, that by a despatch received from Her Majesty's Commissioner at Loanda, it appears that on the 17th of March last Her Majesty's ship "*Zebra*" captured a fore-and-aft schooner called the "*Mariquita*," off Point Padrone, on the West Coast of Africa, with 471 slaves on board, and with clearances from the port of London; and requesting that inquiries may be made with the view of ascertaining, if possible, who were the parties connected with this vessel, and any other information which may tend to throw light on this slave-trading transaction, we report—

That the "*Mariquita*" arrived at this port in October last, with a cargo of flour, from New York, and cleared outwards on the 11th of December following for Kinsembo, in Africa, with the following goods shipped as merchandise:—10 crates of common earthenware, 65 packages of staves, 20 bundles of iron-hooping, 1 cask of iron rivets, 4 cases of cutlery, 3 cases of white flint-glass, 3 cases of cutlery, 50 tons of coals, 8 half-barrels of herrings, 10 boxes of cod-fish.

The goods were consigned, by a person named Lima Vianni or Viana, to order. This person, we are informed, was sole owner of the ship, and after she had sailed proceeded to Havana. He is of Spanish or Portuguese birth, but is a naturalized citizen of the United States of America, and resides in New York. Our officers were also informed that he was in London about six weeks since, and it is not improbable he may be still in this country, but we have been unable to ascertain his address, or any further particulars concerning him.

(Signed) THOS. F. FREMANTLE.
J. GOULBURN.

No. 226.

Earl Russell to Lord Lyons.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, August 22, 1863.

I HAVE to acquaint your Lordship that despatches have been received from Her Majesty's Acting Judge at Sierra Leone, reporting that Mr. C. V. Dyer and Mr. T. R. Hibbard, the officers appointed by the United States' Government to fill the posts of American Judge and Arbitrator in the Mixed Commission Court established at that place under the provisions of the Treaty of the 7th of April, 1862, between Her Majesty's Government and the United States for the suppression of the African Slave Trade, have arrived at their destination, and have been sworn in before the Chief Justice of the Colony.

Your Lordship will communicate the above information to the United States' Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 227.

Lord Lyons to Earl Russell.—(Received August 28.)

My Lord,

Washington, August 14, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a note with which I have, in obedience to your Lordship's orders, transmitted to Mr. Seward copies of the inclosures in your Lordship's despatch of the 1st instant, relative to the capture of the schooner "*Mariquita*," with 471 slaves on board.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 227.

Lord Lyons to Mr. Seward.

Sir,

Washington, August 13, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you copies of a despatch from Her Majesty's Commissioner at Loanda, and of a letter from Commodore Wilmot,* the officer in command of Her Majesty's naval forces on the West Coast of Africa, reporting the capture, off the Congo River, by Her Majesty's ship "*Zebra*," of a schooner called the "*Mariquita*," with 471 slaves on board.

You will see that Commodore Wilmot reports that a rumour had reached him that the owners of the "*Mariquita*" entered into heavy bonds at New York for the legal employment of this vessel. I have, in consequence, been directed by Earl Russell to inform you of the circumstances under which this vessel has been captured, and to communicate to you the inclosed papers, in order that the Government of the United States may take such steps in the matter as may appear to it to be proper.

Lord Russell has not yet received any report from St. Helena of the condemnation of the "*Mariquita*," nor of the manner in which the master and crew were disposed of; but his Lordship has taken the necessary steps for procuring information on these points.

In addition to the two papers already mentioned I inclose a copy of a letter from Her Majesty's Commissioners of Customs,† reporting the results of inquiries instituted by them with regard to the clearance of the "*Mariquita*" from the port of London.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 228.

Lord Lyons to Earl Russell.—(Received August 28.)

My Lord,

Washington, August 14, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a letter from Mr. Seward, informing me that it appears from a report of the United States' Consul at Trinidad de Cuba that the Courts of Havana have decided that slaves having been once landed and placed upon an estate, the proprietor of the estate is to all intents and purposes their legal owner, and no law or authority exists to question his right, or inquire how, or by what means he became possessed of them.

Having in compliance with Mr. Seward's request waited upon him for the purpose of conferring with him on this subject, I was requested by him to call the attention of Her Majesty's Government to it, and to request them to cause inquiry to be made about it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

* Class A, Nos. 69 and 117.

† Inclosure in No. 225.

Inclosure in No. 228.

Mr. Seward to Lord Lyons.

My dear Lord Lyons,

Department of State, Washington, August 11, 1863.

IN a despatch of the 25th ultimo, the Consul of the United States at Trinidad de Cuba refers to a previous despatch of his in which he advised this Department that there had been landed near that city a cargo of kidnapped Africans, but that by a kind of providential interference they had been captured by the Spanish authorities, after having reached a sugar estate in the interior, and had been sent to Havana to be disposed of by the Captain-General, in conformity to the subsisting Treaties of the civilized nations of the earth on that subject. In the despatch now before me, however, the Consul says that information has lately reached him to the effect that the Courts or Judicial Tribunals of Havana have decided that, as the negroes were landed, and upon an estate, the proprietor thereof was, to all intents and purposes, their legal owner, and that no law or authority existed to question his right, or inquire how or by what means he became possessed of said slaves; and that by virtue of said decision those unfortunate beings would be returned to slavery. The Consul has been so much shocked by this anomalous decision, which he thinks must strike every one as intended to evade the efforts of civilized nations to suppress this nefarious Traffic in human flesh, that he has felt it to be his duty to submit the facts to me for my consideration, and for any future orders that I may be inclined to give him on the subject. I shall therefore be pleased to confer with your Lordship in regard to the matter

I am, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

No. 229.

Mr. Stuart to Earl Russell.—(Received September 5.)

My Lord,

Washington, August 18, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a note which I have received from the Acting Secretary of State, in answer to the one addressed by Lord Lyons to Mr. Seward, of which a copy was forwarded to your Lordship in his Lordship's despatch of the 14th instant, relative to the capture of the American schooner "*Mariquita*," with a cargo of slaves on board, by Her Majesty's ship "*Zebra*," off the Congo River.

Your Lordship's despatch to Lord Lyons upon the subject was dated the 1st instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

Inclosure in No. 229.

Mr. F. Seward to Mr. Stuart.

Sir,

Department of State, Washington, August 17, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the note of the 13th instant and of its accompaniments, addressed to this Department by Lord Lyons, relative to the capture, off the Congo River, by Her Majesty's ship "*Zebra*," of an American schooner called the "*Mariquita*," with 471 slaves on board; and to state that these papers have been referred to the Attorney-General, in order that such steps may be taken by him towards recovering the penalties of the bonds into which the owners of the "*Mariquita*" are said to have entered at New York, for her legal employment, before her departure from that city, as the nature of the case shall, in his judgment, seem to require.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. W. SEWARD, *Acting Secretary.*

No. 230.

Earl Russell to Lord Lyons.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, September 24, 1863.

I HAVE received your Lordship's despatch of the 14th ultimo, inclosing a copy of a note addressed to you by Mr. Seward, upon the subject of the present state of the Spanish Law with reference to the introduction of slaves into Cuba, which provides that slaves once landed in Cuba who have become the property of any individual possessing an estate in that island are held to be the lawful property of such owner, the law having no power to rescue them nor to punish their proprietors.

Mr. Seward has requested you to call the attention of Her Majesty's Government to this subject; and to beg that they will cause inquiry to be made into the matter.

I have to instruct you to state to Mr. Seward, that Her Majesty's Consul at the Havana has frequently reported upon this subject, and Her Majesty's Government, as well as successive Governors of Cuba, have repeatedly pointed out to the Spanish Government the necessity that exists for a revision of this obnoxious law, which offers every facility for the importation of slaves into Cuba, and which, if suffered to exist, must necessarily weaken the efforts of Great Britain and the United States for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

Her Majesty's Government, however, regret that every remonstrance which they have hitherto made to the Spanish Government upon this subject has proved unsuccessful.

No. 231.

Mr. Stuart to Earl Russell.—(Received September 30.)

My Lord,

Washington, September 15, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a note which, in accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 22nd ultimo, I addressed to Mr. Seward on the 7th instant, for the purpose of informing him that Mr. Charles V. Dyer and Mr. Timothy R. Hibbard, the American Judge and Arbitrator in the Mixed Commission Court at Sierra Leone, had arrived at that place, and had been sworn in before the Chief Justice of the Colony.

I also inclose a copy of the note which I have received from Mr. Seward, conveying his thanks for the information in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

Inclosure I in No. 231.

Mr. Stuart to Mr. Seward.

Sir,

Washington, September 7, 1863.

I HAVE been instructed by Earl Russell to inform you that despatches have been received from Her Majesty's Acting Judge at Sierra Leone, reporting that Mr. Charles V. Dyer and Mr. Timothy R. Hibbard, the officers appointed by the United States' Government to fill the posts of American Judge and Arbitrator in the Mixed Commission Court established at that place under the provisions of the Treaty of the 7th April, 1862, between Her Majesty's Government and the United States for the suppression of the African Slave Trade, have arrived at their destination, and have been sworn in before the Chief Justice of the Colony.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

UNITED STATES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 231.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Stuart.

Sir,

Department of State, Washington, September 14, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 7th instant, informing me that despatches have been received from Her Majesty's Acting Judge at Sierra Leone, representing that Mr. Charles V. Dyer and Mr. Timothy R. Hibbard, the officers appointed by the United States' Government to fill the posts of American Judge and Arbitrator in the Mixed Commission Court established at that place under the provisions of the Treaty of the 7th of April, 1862, between the United States and Great Britain for the suppression of the African Slave Trade, have arrived at their destination, and have been sworn in before the Chief Justice of the Colony.

Thanking you for this intelligence, I have, &c.

(Signed)

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

No. 232.

Mr. Stuart to Earl Russell.—(Received October 3.)

My Lord,

Washington, September 21, 1863.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 1st ultimo, and to Lord Lyons' despatch of the 14th and to mine of the 18th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith, copies of a note and its inclosures which I have received from Mr. Seward, including a report drawn up by the United States' District Attorney at New York, on the subject of the bonds which the owners of the "*Mariquita*" were supposed to have entered into at that port for the legal employment of their vessel.

Your Lordship will perceive that such bonds had been at one time entered into by the owners of the "*Mariquita*," but that they had been cancelled on her return from an apparently legal voyage previously to the one during which she was captured with slaves on board by Her Majesty's ship "*Zebra*," and that no evidence can be found of any subsequent bonds having been required from her owners.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

W. STUART.

Inclosure 1 in No. 232.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Stuart.

Sir,

Department of State, Washington, September 19, 1863.

REFERRING to Lord Lyons' note of the 13th ultim, and its accompaniments, relative to the capture off the Congo River by Her Majesty's ship "*Zebra*," of an American schooner called the "*Mariquita*," with 471 slaves on board, and to my reply, I have the honour to inclose, for your information, the copy of a communication of the 3rd instant, addressed to this Department by Mr. Kerr, under the instructions of the Attorney-General.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

WM. H. SEWARD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 232.

Mr. Kerr to Mr. Seward.

Sir,

Attorney-General's Office, Washington, September 3, 1863.

BY direction of the Attorney-General I inclose you herewith a copy of a letter of the District Attorney at New York, in relation to the schooner "*Mariquita*," and also sundry documents on the same subject previously sent from the Department State to the Attorney-General's office.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

JOHN B. KERR.

Inclosure 3 in No. 232.

Mr. Smith to Mr. Bates.

*Office of the District Attorney of the United States for the
Southern District of New York, New York,
September 1, 1863.*

Sir,

I HAVE already acknowledged the receipt of your letter of the 18th ultimo, with the accompanying documents, relating to the schooner "*Mariquita*."

It appears from the record in my office that a libel of information was filed, and suit *in rem* commenced against this vessel, her tackle and lading, in June 1860, upon the ground that her owners had fitted her out with intent to engage her in the African Slave Trade. A claim was filed, and a defence and denial were interposed.

In accordance with the practice in Admiralty, the claimants were allowed, on the 10th of July, 1860, to take the vessel upon filing in Court a bond conditioned, not that she should not engage in the Slave Trade, but that the appraised value of the ship and lading should be paid in the event of a decree of guilt; in other words, the bond secured the payment of the amount of such appraisal in case the Court should adjudge that she was fitted out with an illegal intent as was charged.

The prosecution appears to have been instituted upon information sent to the Law Officers in letters from the police, and from anonymous sources. It was said that the outfit was suited to a slave voyage, that handcuffs were put on board, and that other circumstances of suspicion existed. Among the sureties on the bond were men of high repute, and at the same time persons supposed to have been engaged in this nefarious traffic. One of the last mentioned I have myself prosecuted.

On the other hand, depositions of an exculpatory character were taken *de bene esse* at the instance of the counsel for the claimants, and with the Consent of the District Attorney. As further evidence of the alleged innocence of intent with which she was fitted out, it appears that having been released upon the bond already described, she sailed from this port, and returned in January 1861; that upon her arrival here she was laden with palm oil and other proper articles, thus, as her claimants alleged, verifying their assertions as to the integrity of the voyage, which had been projected at the time of her seizure.

In the same month (January 1861) the then District Attorney wrote to the then Solicitor of the Treasury requesting authority to discontinue the suit, and to cancel the stipulations of the bond. The authority was given, and an order of discontinuance and cancellation was entered. Thus the case never went to trial or judgment.

These proceedings were all closed some two or three months before my term of office commenced.

At my request, the Collector of the Customs at this port has searched his records for evidence of the taking of any bond by his predecessors from those interested in this vessel, conditioned that she should not engage in the Slave Trade. As you know, such bonds are sometimes required by the officers of the revenue, and are provided for by law. He certifies that no record of such a requirement can be found.

It would therefore appear, from an examination made by me of all the records and proceedings taken in New York in relation to the schooner "*Mariquita*," that there is no course left to me but to return the documents with the statement above made.

I am, &c.

(Signed) E. DELAFIELD SMITH,
United States' District Attorney.

No. 233.

Lord Lyons to Earl Russell.—(Received December 12.)

My Lord,

Washington, November 30, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a note from Mr. Seward stating that more than 1000 African negroes have recently been taken to Havana, and that it is reported that they were landed from a steam-ship which afterwards went on to Nassau. I have also the honour to transmit to you a copy of the answer which I have made to this communication.

I have sent copies of Mr. Seward's note to the Governor of the Bahama Islands and to Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Milne.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 233.

Mr. Seward to Lord Lyons.

My Lord,

Department of State, Washington, November 28, 1863.

IT appears from information this day received from the Consul-General of the United States at Havana, that over 1,000 African negroes were recently brought to that city. It is reported that they were landed from a steam-ship, whose name and nationality are unknown, in the neighbourhood of Cardenas or Sagua, and that very prominent and wealthy persons are said to be implicated in the business. The steamer was not captured. It is believed that she went to Nassau after landing the negroes. This intelligence has been communicated to the Navy Department.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 233.

Lord Lyons to Mr. Seward.

Sir,

Washington, November 30, 1863.

I HAVE this morning had the honour to receive your note of the day before yesterday, informing me that more than 1,000 African negroes were recently taken to Havana, and that it is reported that they were landed from a steam-ship, which afterwards went on to Nassau.

I will, without any loss of time, communicate copies of your note to Her Majesty's Government, to the Governor of the Bahama Islands, and to the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's naval forces on the North American and West Indian stations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 234.

Lord Lyons to Earl Russell.—(Received December 26.)

My Lord,

Washington, December 15, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of an unofficial letter which I have received from Mr. Seward, and a copy of its inclosure. It appears from these papers that 2,400 African negroes have been recently landed at a place called Ensenada de Cochinos, from two steamers, which sailed from Cadiz in Spain. I inclose also a copy of a letter in which I have informed Mr. Seward that I send copies of his communication to your Lordship and to Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Milne.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 234.

Mr. Seward to Lord Lyons.

My dear Lord Lyons,

Department of State, Washington, December 14, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to inclose for your information an extract from a despatch of the 5th instant addressed to this Department by the Vice Consul-General of the United States at Havana, relative to the recent landing of 2,400 African negroes in the place called Ensenada de Cochinos in the jurisdiction of Cienfuegos, from two steamers which sailed from Cadiz, Spain.

I am, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 234.

Mr. Savage to Mr. Seward.

(Extract.)

Consulate-General of United States, Havana, December 5, 1863.

I HAVE reliable information that 2,400 African negroes were landed on or about last Tuesday in the place called Ensenada de Cochinos, jurisdiction of Cienfuegos, from two steamers which sailed from Cadiz, Spain.

Don Julian Zuluetta, a prominent planter, Member of the Havana City Council, and a well-known slave-trader, is believed to be the owner of the expedition. A Mr. Apodaca, who purchased about 100 of the negroes, is now confined in one of the forts here, and the negroes have been seized.

Inclosure 3 in No. 234.

Lord Lyons to Mr. Seward.

My dear Sir,

Washington, December 15, 1863.

I BEG you to accept my thanks for your unofficial letter of yesterday concerning the negroes which appear to have been landed at Ensenada de Cochinos. I will, without loss of time, send copies of the communication to Lord Russell and to Vice-Admiral Sir A. Milne.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

UNITED STATES. (*Consular*)—*Boston.*

No. 235.

Consul Lousada to Earl Russell.—(Received June 26.)

My Lord,

Boston, June 10, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to report that the case of the United States against John C. Cork came up for trial in the United States' Circuit Court before Judge Clifford, on the 5th instant. This case has been before the Courts several times in proceedings against the various parties engaged.

The circumstances of the case, as sought to be established by the Government in other trials, are that in 1860, Zeno Kelly of New Bedford, bought the "Tahmaroo" and fitted her out ostensibly for a whaling voyage, but really for the Slave Trade. She sailed under command of Captain Hathaway, having on board Captain Cork, who was to act as "slaver captain" in bringing off a cargo of slaves to be sold in Cuba. For divers reasons the object of the voyage was not accomplished; Kelly was arrested, and while his trial was pending about a year ago, Whittemore, the mate of the "Tahmaroo" and the principal witness against Kelly, absconded, and has not since been heard from. The case was continued from term to term until this spring, when Kelly was convicted in one count, but a motion for a new trial is now pending. Captain Cork was a witness at Kelly's first trial, but was defaulted on his recognizance to appear at the last trial. An indictment was found against him for being concerned in fitting out the vessel for the Slave Trade, and he was arrested in New York a few weeks ago and brought to this city for trial.

The Government having consented to enter a *nolle prosequi* on the first five counts in the indictment, Cork pleaded guilty to the sixth, charging that he voluntarily served on board the "Tahmaroo" knowing that the vessel had been fitted out for the Slave Trade. Sentence was postponed at the request of his Counsel.*

* Subsequently two years' imprisonment in Bedford jail.—F. L.

It will thus appear that the United States' Government is vigorously carrying out the crusade against those concerned in the Slave Trade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS LOUSADA.

No. 236.

Consul Lousadu to Earl Russell.—(Received November 30.)

My Lord,

Boston, November 14, 1863.

I HAVE the honour to report that after a lengthened trial Zeno Kelly, of New Bedford, Massachusetts, charged with fitting out a vessel with intent to engage in the Slave Trade, has just been found guilty and sentenced to four years' imprisonment and to pay a fine of 1,000 dollars.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS LOUSADA.

UNITED STATES. (Consular)—New York.

No. 237.

Consul Archibald to Earl Russell.—(Received November 23.)

My Lord.

New York, November 16, 1863.

REFERRING to the case of the slave-barque "*Augusta*," which vessel was condemned in the United States' District Court of this District, on a libel, charging her with having been fitted out for a slave-trading expedition, from which decree of condemnation an appeal was taken to the Circuit Court of this District, I now have the honour to report to your Lordship that the Circuit Court has, by its decision, pronounced on the 13th instant, of which I inclose a brief report, affirmed the decree of condemnation in the Court below.

The "*Augusta*" has been the subject of two prosecutions, one of which is still pending, the vessel having been bonded on her first seizure, and having been subsequently seized on a charge of being again outfitted for the Slave Trade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. M. ARCHIBALD.

Inclosure in No. 237.

Newspaper Extract.

Condemnation of a Slaver on Appeal.

THE UNITED STATES VERSUS THE BARQUE "*AUGUSTA*," ET AL.—NELSON, C. J.—This was a libel of information against vessel and cargo on charge of having been fitted out and equipped at Greenport, Long Island, in June 1861, for a voyage to the coast of Africa, with the intent to enter into the Slave Trade, in violation of the Acts of Congress particularly referred to in the libel.

Jacob A. Appley appeared as owner of the vessel and cargo, and put in his answer, denying the several allegations in the information. The proofs in the case are voluminous, and full on both sides. The Court below decreed condemnation of vessel and cargo, from which decree an appeal was taken to this Court. Pending the proceedings below, the claimant applied to this Court for a discharge of vessel and cargo, on entering into the usual stipulations with sureties, which application was granted, and the vessel discharged

on the 28th October, 1861. She was again seized, on a charge of the same offence, while lying off Montauk Point, about the middle of November following, by the public authorities, and brought to Greenport, where she was the second time libelled for the offence.

The appeal still pending in first cause in this Court, the District Attorney has very properly produced new proofs, which consist of the facts and circumstances upon which the vessel was the second time seized, and they are full to clear up any doubts that might have existed on the proofs at the hearing of the Court below.

The vessel was originally purchased by the claimant Appley, through the agency of Appleton Oaksmith, who was his partner in a mercantile firm at Greenport. Oaksmith had the superintendence and control of the fitting out of the vessel the first time, ostensibly for the purpose of a whaling voyage. This was in May and June 1861. The vessel was seized the 23rd of that month, as we have already stated, and was discharged on stipulation from the seizure of the 28th of October following, and delivered up to Appley, the claimant, and again seized the middle of November. The facts and circumstances upon which this second seizure was made show that Appleton Oaksmith again had the superintendence and control of the vessel, and the fitting out and equipment of her, as in the first instance, and with the privity and concurrence of Appley, the owner, and at the time his partner in business. The new proofs before me show, beyond all controversy, that the second equipment of the vessel, ostensibly for a whaling voyage, was in reality with the purpose and intent to engage in the Slave Trade on the coast of Africa, and from the intimate connection between the two transactions, namely, the fitting out of the vessel in June and again in October, under the management of the same parties, the second cannot but reflect light on the first, and remove every doubt that might be raised on account of the character of the proofs being less clear and decisive in form. It is quite apparent upon these proofs, that although Appley may have been the legal owner of the vessel, even if he did not participate in the illegal fitting out and equipment, and did not expect to participate in the profits of the adventure, he held the title for the benefit of Oaksmith, and permitted him to assume the entire charge and control, as much so as if he had been owner. These proofs leave no doubt in my mind of the correctness of the decree below, and hence it should be affirmed.

For the United States, District-Attorney Smith ; for claimant, Mr. Sawyer.
