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CORRESPONDENCE

WITH

BRITISH MINISTERS AND AGENTS

IN

FOREIGN COUNTRIES,

AND WITH

FOREIGN MINISTERS IN ENGLAND,

RELATING TO

THE SLAVE TRADE.

From January 1 to December 31, 1865.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1866.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

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Class B.

CORRESPONDENCE

WITH

FOREIGN POWERS.

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

No. 1.

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

My Lord,

Lagos, February 3, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch from Commodore Wilmot, commanding Her Majesty's naval forces on this station, relating to affairs in the Benin River.

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

Inclosure in No. 1.

Commodore Wilmot to Acting Consul Glover.

Sir,

"Rattlesnake," near Lagos, January 6, 1865.

1. I HAVE the honour to inform you that the original fine of fifty-five puncheons of oil levied on the Chiefs of the Benin River for the robbery committed at Dr. Henry's factory in 1863, as well as the other fine of thirty puncheons levied by myself in September last, in consequence of their breach of good faith, have both been paid, and that trade has been again reopened with the chiefs and natives.

2. I have considered it necessary to impose a fine of twenty-five puncheons on Adjoke, at Warree, for the outrage committed on the person of Mr. Hineson, Clerk to Dr. James, Messrs. Harrison's Agent, and six months are allowed him to pay this.

3. In the meantime all trade between his two brothers and the white agents in the river is stopped.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. P. EARDLEY WILMOT.

No. 2.

Acting Consul Glover to Earl Russell.—(Received June 9.)

(Extract.)

Lagos, May 8, 1865.

IT is with much pleasure I have to report to your Lordship the improved prospects of this settlement.

The trade from the Yoruba country continues to increase rapidly, and now fills to overflowing the markets of Jebu, viz., Eginné and Ikorodu. I may observe that one European house alone in Lagos has purchased in the period from 1st to 30th April the large amount of 444 tons of palm oil, and that the warehouses of the merchants generally are filled. The only thing now needed is European merchandize (principally rum and tobacco) to purchase the oil with and ships to convey it hence.

Much of the oil brought to the above-mentioned markets remained unpurchased, in consequence of the unexpected supply, and had to be stored and kept for future sale.

Doubtless much remains to be done in order to afford due and permanent security to the traders now flocking to the Lagos markets from the Yoruba country, in allaying and repressing the petty jealousies of the numerous small but comparatively independent townships of Jebu-Odé and Jebu-Remo, to the attainment of this object I am devoting my utmost attention. It has been arranged that I am shortly to meet Ogomollah, Chief of Ibadan, together with messengers from the King of Oyo, and all the Chiefs of the Yoruba country, at a grand "Durbar," (at which I hope to obtain the attendance of the Chiefs of the Jebu countries) to be held at Iperu or some town and way on the line of route between Ikorodu and Ibadan, for the purpose of fixing the rate of toll to be paid for transit, and to cement the alliance and friendship lately entered into between the Ibadans, the Jebus, and this Government.

In conclusion I have only to observe that instead of the scarcity of food and the exorbitantly high price for provisions consequent upon the late blockade by the Egbas of all the roads from the interior leading to this Settlement, we now enjoy the greatest abundance, and as a natural consequence the price of provisions of all kinds has fallen to a very great degree. I may instance as an example the price of a sheep, which, while it commanded the sum of 22s. 6d. in this market before the opening of the roads, can now be obtained for the sum of 10s. sterling. A considerable number of horses have also been brought into the Settlement, and a general feeling of security and rejoicing appears to prevail among the population of the Settlement, unless I except the Egba tribe, who are naturally discontented and depressed at the turn affairs have taken.

I have further the honour to report that, late last night, portions of an extensive present, consisting of palm oil, cotton, and the native produce of Ibadan and Yoruba, arrived here in Lagos. This present has been made up by contributions from the various towns in the Yoruba country, and has been sent as an expression of the gratitude felt towards this Government for the measures adopted by us in opening the roads. I having declined to accept the usual testimonial on such occasions, viz., a present of slaves (of which 200 were to have been sent to me), the King of Oyo and Chiefs of Ibadan and the Yoruba country thought that a sample of what their trade could produce would please me; up to the present moment 176 loads have arrived, consisting of palm oil, Shea butter, and cotton, and I am informed that much more is on the road, and will arrive here to-morrow. I shall have the goods sold for the benefit of this Government, but I am unable at present to form an approximate estimate of their value.

No. 3.

Earl Russell to Acting Consul Glover.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 23, 1865.

I TRANSMIT to you under flying seal the accompanying despatches for Lieutenant Bouchier, R.M., who was left last year in charge of the late Dr. Baikie's establishment on the Niger.

You will see by my despatch of this date that it is the wish of Her Majesty's Government that Lieutenant Bouchier and Mr. Robins should continue for another season at Lukoja, but it will be requisite to be prepared to replace them in the event of their wishing to return to the coast; and I have accordingly to desire that you will communicate with Commodore Wilmot, should he be in the neighbourhood of Lagos, and arrange with him for sending a fit and proper person to relieve Lieutenant Bouchier; but

should you be unable to communicate with the Commodore, I must then leave it to your discretion to make such arrangements as may be necessary for keeping up the establishment at Lukoja for another year.

I have been informed by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that they are doubtful whether there is any vessel now on the coast that is in a fit condition to ascend the Niger this year ; and should this be the case, of which you will probably be aware, it will be necessary that you should inform Lieutenant Bouchier of the fact, in order that he may make his arrangements accordingly, either to return by the merchant steamer when she descends the river, or, if he decides upon remaining, that he may make the necessary provisions for doing so.

I have directed supplies to be sent out by the packet of the 23rd July, as well as some presents for King Massaba, of which you will receive a list by the next mail.

If a Government steamer is sent up the Niger you will forward the goods and presents by her ; but in the event of there being no ship of war fit for the expedition, you will then avail yourself of the opportunity afforded by the merchant steamer.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 4.

Acting Consul Glover to Earl Russell.—(Received July 17.)

(Extract.)

Lagos, June 9, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to report that, up to the present moment, the political situation and prospects of this Colony are rapidly improving, and presenting every indication of a settlement of the quarrels which have so long oppressed the surrounding country, and which the Egbas are now alone maintaining.

2. The commerce of the Settlement is in a most thriving condition ; but the sudden and enormous demand for goods has entirely cleared the Lagos market. Until further supplies arrive matters will be almost at a standstill. Nevertheless, oil and other produce is coming from the Yoruba countries in great quantities. The house referred to in my last despatch, as having collected, in one month, 444 tons of palm oil, has succeeded in again collecting as large an amount in the same short space of time, and is now only checked by the complete exhaustion of European goods and cowries. Other houses have done equally well ; and the present trade with the natives is unprecedented in any year since this Settlement has been ceded to the British Crown.

3. To instance the rapidly increasing demand, I may mention that an Italian house in the Settlement, having received a cargo of the average value of 3,000*l.*, of rum and tobacco, has netted a clear profit of 6,000*l.*, or thereabouts, on its sale ; so great is the demand for these goods from the Yoruba country.

No. 5.

Earl Russell to Acting Consul Glover.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 24, 1865.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 23rd ultimo, I transmit to you herewith a letter from the Queen for King Masaba. I also inclose, for your information, a copy of the letter in question, together with a list of the presents for the King which I have directed to be forwarded by this mail.

I must leave it to your discretion to forward the letter and presents in charge of a proper officer to Lieutenant Bouchier, at Lukoja, who will deliver them to the King ; but the officer who takes charge of them should be authorized to deliver the presents himself to King Masaba in the event of Lieutenant Bouchier being prevented by illness or any other cause from performing this duty.

Inclosure 1 in No. 5.

Queen Victoria to King Masaba.

From Victoria, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, to the Emir Masaba, King of Nufi.

Greeting :

THIS is to inform you that we have received the letter that your Highness forwarded to us through Captain Glover, our Consul and Governor of Lagos.

We thank you for your good wishes in our behalf, which we heartily reciprocate, and we trust that you may enjoy a long life, with health, happiness, and prosperity.

Our servant, Dr. Baikie, who for so long a period resided in your Kingdom at Lukoja, you will be sorry to hear is dead; but we will send another officer who shall be the interpreter of our wishes, and who will faithfully report to us all that your Highness may have occasion to communicate, and we would request your Highness to afford him the same kind protection and support you always extended to the late Dr. Baikie.

Our chief wish is to put a stop to the Traffic in Slaves, and to prevent their being carried away in ships by wicked men from Africa to foreign countries, and we ask your Highness to use your great influence to put a stop to this Traffic and to prevent the wars that are undertaken in many cases for the sole purpose of procuring slaves to be sold for shipment beyond the seas.

We would also ask your Highness to encourage your subjects and the traders within your territories to bring the produce of their country to trade with the merchants who will go from this country to trade with your people.

This will be to the advantage of all parties, and will tend to increase the goodwill and friendship which it is our earnest wish should always exist between us and between your people and our people.

We have sent you some presents, which will be delivered to you by the officer who will deliver to your Highness this letter.

We request you to accept our best wishes, and so we recommend you to the protection of the Almighty.

Given at our Court at Osborne, the 20th of July, 1865, in the twenty-ninth year of our reign.

Your good friend,
(Signed) VICTORIA.

(Countersigned)

RUSSELL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 5.

King Masaba to Queen Victoria.

(Translation.)

THIS is a trustworthy letter, a salutation, a greeting, and satisfaction, and friendship, and a command, from the Sultan of Nifi to the Queen, a Sultana of some of the country of Christendom, the great Queen who possesses a great extent of dominion by sea and by land.

(This is) a notification unto thee, that thy messenger has reached us in health and safety, with what thou hast made a present of unto us, in three cases sealed with a signet, the which no one has opened save only he to whom they are given. I opened them myself, and I found therein what thou hadst there placed, the present given by thee unto the Sultan of the land, as is fitting. I thanked thee for it with many thanks; and I say, may God prolong thy glory, lengthen thy life, and help thee against thy enemies!

A notification unto thee that all which was your wish, the elephant's tusks and oil, red and white, and also the cotton, are all produced in our land at all times. As to our wish about the commodities of your country, they are all in request with us. Salve.

P.S.—A notification unto thee also. All that is between Atakaru and this our village is under our rule; the peace thereof too pertains unto us. What is beyond that, as far as your village, is under your rule, and the peace thereof appertains unto you.

(No signature, seal, or date.)

No. 6.

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

(Extract.)

Lagos, July 8, 1865.

REFERRING to my despatch of 9th June, I have the honour to observe that the events of the past month have fully corroborated the anticipations therein contained. The trade of this settlement has, during the past month, continued steadily to increase. Provisions of all kinds are abundant, and a feeling of satisfaction and security pervades the minds of all in the settlement.

At Porto Novo, the principal source of our supply of palm oil during the last four years, the value of that article is 1*l.* sterling for a ten gallon measure of oil, while at Lagos the market price of the same measure is 14*s.* This fact speaks for itself as to the increasing influx of this important item of Lagos commerce.

We can anticipate no extraordinary increase of revenue before the month of August, but I may observe that, on the cargoes of vessels at present discharging in the roads, 1,200*l.* of customs duties will be received.

No. 7.

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

My Lord,

Lagos, August 7, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 23rd June, and in compliance therewith, have requested Lieutenant Bouchier to meet me at the Nun mouth on or about the 25th, to receive the presents which are to arrive by the mail of the 22nd instant, and to hear from that officer whether it is his intention to remain for another season, as from two communications received from Lieutenant Bouchier on the subject, I am unable to determine what his intentions may be.

2. In the event of Lieutenant Bouchier wishing to return to England, I have selected Mr. Maxwell, Assistant Paymaster of Her Majesty's ship "Investigator," to take charge of the duties of the post. He is an active, energetic officer, of tact and discretion, who rendered very valuable service in opening communication with the Ibadans at the time the country was occupied by the Egbas; added to which, he is known to King Masaba.

Her Majesty's ship "Investigator" is in course of preparation, and will be ready for the service of the Niger when required.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN H. GLOVER.

No. 8.

Acting Consul Glover to Earl Russell.—(Received October 10.)

My Lord,

Lagos, September 8, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Lieutenant Commander J. G. G. M'Hardy, of Her Majesty's ship "Investigator," informs me that he communicated on the 5th instant, at the Nun Mouth, with Lieutenant Bouchier, and delivered to that officer the three cases of presents and Her Majesty's letter for the Emir of Nuphé.

2. Lieutenant Bouchier, by a despatch dated 5th September, informs me that it is his desire to return to Europe this season. I have consequently made arrangements with the senior naval officer in these lagoons that on the arrival of the mail from England on the 22nd instant, Her Majesty's ship "Investigator" shall proceed to Lukoja for the purpose of bringing Lieutenant Bouchier down, and I have appointed Mr. Melvill Maxwell, R.N., to assume the duties of the post for the ensuing year.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN H. GLOVER.

No. 9.

Earl Russell to Acting Consul Glover.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 19, 1865.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 8th ultimo, and I have to convey to you my approval of the arrangements you have made for relieving Lieutenant Bouchier from his duties as officer in command of the Niger Expedition, and of your having appointed Mr. Melvill Maxwell, R.N., as his successor.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 10.

Acting Consul Glover to Earl Russell.—(Received November 16.)

(Extract.)

Lagos, October 4, 1865.

IN reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 23rd June, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, with the sanction of the senior naval officer, I have appointed Mr. Melvill Maxwell, Assistant Paymaster of Her Majesty's ship "Investigator," to relieve Lieutenant Bouchier, R.N., in the duties of his post at Lukoja, that officer having expressed a wish to return to Europe.

No. 11.

Acting Consul Glover to Earl Russell.—(Received November 16.)

My Lord,

Lagos, October 6, 1865.

I AM forwarding by this mail to the Colonial Office, for Her Majesty's Government, an umbrella and flag, accompanied by a letter, received by me from the King of Dahomey, together with my reply thereto.

2. The custom of this country precludes the refusal of a present, unless a slight or declaration of war or enmity is intended.

3. I was careful, however, distinctly to ascertain, before receiving these presents, whether such acceptance would imply a co-operation in the allegory they contained. On the assurance of the messenger that such acceptance would not be considered as an assent to co-operate in the warlike intentions of the King of Dahomey, I received them on this distinct understanding.

4. This being the first occasion upon which the King of Dahomey had ever sent messengers to Lagos, I thought that it would be unwise to allow the opportunity of entering into friendly communications with that potentate to be passed over; and I would venture to suggest to your Lordship that on any future occasion, when Her Majesty's Government may wish to communicate with the King of Dahomey, such communications should pass through the Government of Lagos, which the King appears now to recognize as an important power in this country.

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

Inclosure 1 in No. 11.

The King of Dahomey to Lieutenant-Governor Glover.

My dear Friend,

Kannah, August 5, 1865.

I SEND you per the bearers one country cloth for your table; I send you one umbrella for out of door country use. This umbrella I send to you as you are a Governor for the Queen of England.

The same as I send to one in such position who is Governor of mine in Africa, also one leather bag and leather fob for pipes. I send to you again two boys, one for your table servant, and one for your washing boy, too. I send you one Dahomey flag; and there is some parable made in the middle of that flag—that is a deer made in the flag, and

there is a leopard hold the neck of that deer which represents King of Dahomey; and in the back of that beast or deer made in the flag, one man by the name of Goomola Ibadan hold it there, and in the leg of that beast or deer made in the flag, is held by the Governor of Lagos, John Hawley Glover, Esquire. A parable is made in the flag I send to you—that is Abbeokuta is in the middle of us three, and we all will eat it together at once. As for the Abbeokuta, I can't let them rest at all. I and you will join and break that town down, and after I break that town, then you, my good friend, will rule over it. That ground must be yours, the English people; you English are the only white man who will govern it. After it was taken by me I will give it up to you to take the place and do with it as you like; therefore I will break it down. I heard some news lately, that you have opened the road for them; and the King of Abbeokuta says, as for the English people part, there is no harm at all if he, Abbeokuta, uses some hard words to the English they will soon give up, as for white man he will finish and settle with them; therefore he don't care of the English people; so I send to ask you whether you heard or no. The King of Abbeokuta says that he is coming to beg you, not for begging sake, but they are going to deceive you, the English people, and say they are under your flag, and bye and bye they will rise against you. This is the message I hear lately, and I will tell you, don't hear what they are coming to tell you; only they are coming to deceive you. I give some part of the message verbal to the messengers: they will tell you all by mouth; they will tell you all verbally, not only by letters alone you will hear. I like you, the English, to be our friend, not friend alone, but like one finger in one hand, as in the time of one of my ancestors, Tabasoo. He made friend and peace with James, the English Governor of Whydah, at that time, when this King made strong friendship with him; that time just the same, this King Tabasoo went to same place to war, so he defeated that place, and this James helped him. This is the reason I, the present King Tengay, will make such a friendship with you.

I hope this will meet you quite well: with my love to you, Addanleyjah, Bocowocone, Yoboka; all in me send their love to you.

I am, &c.

(Signed) KING TENGAY OF DAHOMEY.

P.S.—Excuse the writer, Sir, as he is very little known of letters.

Inclosure 2 in No. 11.

Lieutenant-Governor Glover to the King of Dahomey.

Your Majesty,

Lagos, September 15, 1865.

I HAVE received your letter of the 5th August, together with your presents; the umbrella is very handsome, and I shall send it to the Queen. I thank you very much for these presents, which are worthy of a King.

2. With regard to joining you to eat Abbeokuta, it is a subject which I am not at liberty to discuss with you. You are a King and can do what you please, but I am only the Queen's Governor, and can do only what the Queen wishes.

3. As the Queen does not wish Abbeokuta to be eaten, I, as her Governor, cannot even enter into the subject with you.

4. You ask me for my advice, as your friend, so I must warn you that your present mode of warfare is not such as to enable you to eat Abbeokuta.

5. I trust that the communications which I have commenced between us will continue, and result in benefit to both our countries.

6. I am sorry again to inform you that the King of Porto Novo has treated myself and the Queen's people very badly, and continues to help the Egbas.

7. I have written to the Queen's Government for instructions regarding the King of Porto Novo.

8. I hope we may salute each other very often by our messengers. The Queen wishes this country to be in peace this dry season; consequently I have shut up all the guns and powder in Lagos.

9. I hope that the small present I send you will be acceptable.

10. I am much pleased with the messengers you sent me, and have talked with them a great deal. They will, no doubt, as faithful servants, tell you all they have seen and heard in Lagos.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN H. GLOVER.

No. 12.

The Earl of Clarendon to Acting Consul Glover.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 23, 1865.*
I HAVE received your despatch of the 6th ultimo, inclosing copies of a correspondence which has passed between the King of Dahomey and yourself on the occasion of his forwarding to you some presents.

I have to acquaint you that I approve the answer returned by you to the King's letter, and I have at the same time to desire that you will omit no opportunity of discountenancing as much as possible any attempt on the part of the King of Dahomey to make war on Abbeokuta, Porto Novo, or any of the neighbouring tribes.

With regard to your suggestion that any future communications between Her Majesty's Government and the King should pass through the Governor of Lagos, I have to observe that when the new arrangements are carried out, and a Governor-General is appointed for the African Coast, the officer appointed to that post will be informed of your suggestion, in order that he may make the arrangements he may think best for keeping up communications with the King of Dahomey.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 13.

The Earl of Clarendon to Acting Consul Glover.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, November 23, 1865.*
I HAVE received your despatch of the 4th instant, and I have to acquaint you that I approve the arrangement made by you as therein reported for the relief of Lieutenant Bouchier, who was in charge of the Niger Expedition.

No. 14.

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

(Extract.) *Lagos, November 7, 1865.*
I HAVE the honour to report for your Lordship's information, that Her Majesty's ship "Investigator" returned from the River Niger to this anchorage on the 2nd instant, bringing with her Lieutenant Bouchier, R.M., and Mr. Robins, artist to the expedition.

Lieutenant Bouchier reports, that before leaving the Niger, he had handed over Her Majesty's presents and the Queen's letter, in person, to the Emir of Nuphé; and had also introduced to that potentate his successor, Mr. Melville Maxwell, R.N., whose appointment, together with that of Mr. Fell, I have already had the honour to report.

Mr. Bouchier is leaving under my charge a ram, ewe, and lamb, as presents from the Emir to the Queen. It was not, however, considered advisable to send them to England at this time of the year.

Mr. Bouchier proceeds home by the present mail, having been ordered a passage to England at the public expense by the Commodore Commanding.

Mr. Robins, the artist, informs me that it is his intention to proceed to England by the same opportunity.

I have informed this gentleman that it would be desirable that he present himself at the Foreign Office, together with such pictures as he may have executed during his stay in the Niger.

No. 15.

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

(Extract.) *Lagos, November 7, 1865.*
I HAVE the honour to inclose, for the information of your Lordship, a document which will furnish ample proof of the Slave Trade still existing between Abbeokuta and Whydah.

Mr. Henry Robbin, a British-born Sierra Leone subject, generally considered the most influential and respectable of the Sierra Leone emigrants residing at Abbeokuta, has been and still is engaged in this nefarious traffic.

In July, 1863, the Reverend Messrs. Nicholson and Mann, when at Okeodan, fell in with a Christian boy, who, on examination, they found capable of reading the Psalms in the native tongue; and who stated that in consequence of a debt owed by his mother to the said Mr. Henry Robbin, he had been sold by the said Henry Robbin on account of this debt.

In December, 1864, I am informed that previous to his departure for Sierra Leone he sold, or caused to be sold, two of his domestic slaves.

Inclosure in No. 15.

Deposition of Daniel Dopemu, a Christian Convert at Abbeokuta.

I AM slave to Mr. Henry Robbin at Abbeokuta. I was bought by him four years ago for fourteen bags and four heads cowries.

I was employed to bring the Rev. Mr. Moore to Lagos in a canoe belonging to my master; in returning, the canoe and cargo were seized and confiscated, in consequence of a bag of shots that was found concealed in a bag of cowries. I got Mr. Moore's friend to buy the canoe at the public auction and return in her to Abbeokuta.

My master asked me whether it was I who put the shots in the bag of cowries. I told him no; he then said fortunately it is not you; for if it was you who did it, I would have killed you.

Five days afterwards, my master called me and said, I would return you to your former master, as I have heard you have got a disease, and I would not lose my money.

The Christians at Abbeokuta on hearing it, came and beg him not to sell or return me to my former master; they asked the amount for which I was bought; he told them, he bought me for thirty-one bags of cowries. As they all knew that he had only paid fourteen bags for me, they all returned without saying anything more.

Mr. Robbin then put me in chains, in which I remained for five days in his house; and after that, he handed me over to one Lumeye a slave-dealer, who shaved my head and kept me in chains at his house for seven days, and was preparing to take me, as he said, to Okeodan. Lumeye said to me himself that, as the people had begged Mr. Robbin and failed, I should be quiet and not run away, as he would not sell me at Okeodan as he was requested by Mr. Robbin, but that he would sell me to the son of the late King of Porto Novo, who will treat me kindly.

After Mr. Robbin had handed me over to Lumeye, I am told, he went to the Rev. Mr. Townsend and informed him that my former master had claimed me from him and had taken me away.

After I remained in chains at Lumeye's house for seven days, I was glad to find on the night of the seventh day that the chains fell off from me during a very strong wind that was then blowing. I then wrapped the chains in my cloth and escaped. I left the chains in an Oro bush at Illugun. I came through Oko-obba to Makoloki, and from thence to Otta in a canoe, and then to Lagos overland from Otta. This is the tenth day since I escaped from Abbeokuta.

I was told by Captain Davies, a few days ago, that Mr. Robbin had written to himself and Mr. Beckley, to say that my former master had claimed me from him and taken me to Porto Novo; and if they should happen to see me, they should not believe any word I may say against him, and that he believe I was to be taken to Dahomey.

(Signed) DANIEL DOPEMU, his ✕ mark.

On this 31st day of October, 1865, the foregoing deposition was sworn to by Daniel Dopemu, at Lagos.

Before me,
(Signed) BENJAMIN WAY, *Chief Magistrate.*

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

No. 16.

Consul Livingstone to Earl Russell.—(Received May 15.)

My Lord,

Fernando Po, April 3, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to report that the difficulty with King Pepple, of Bonny, has been amicably settled, and trade resumed.

This satisfactory result was obtained through the tact and good judgment of Commander Ruxton, of Her Majesty's ship "Pandora," under orders from Commodore Wilmot.

The King and his Chiefs acknowledged the infractions of the Treaty, expressed regret and sorrow for giving Her Majesty's Government so much trouble, and begged that Commander Ruxton, would, if possible, abate part of the fine. As the end for which it had been imposed was now obtained, the Commander generously decreased the amount one-half, which was paid at once.

Not being aware of the "Pandora's" presence in Bonny, and having no means of visiting the rivers of the Bight, I was not present when this affair was so happily settled.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

CHARLES LIVINGSTONE.

No. 17.

Consul Livingstone to Earl Russell.—(Received July 17.)

(Extract.)

Fernando Po, June 3, 1865.

IN my despatch of the 31st January, I had the honour to ask your Lordship for the use of the "Pioneer," in order to secure free trade with the oil products of the Bight of Biafra; and I now beg leave to suggest that the "Pioneer" be stationed in this Consular district to enable me to insist that the Treaty of May 7th, 1862, made with the Chiefs of Duke and Creek Towns, Old Calabar, be carried out, as one of its articles stipulates that any person shall be at liberty to bring to the shipping any native produce. After making this Treaty, Consul Burton attempted to go up the river in boats to see the oil markets, but was stopped by the men of Itu. These people have since told the Rev. Mr. Thomson, those boat and person they seized on that occasion, that had they known the real object of the expedition they should have offered no opposition; that the Duke Town people had deceived them, and now they were anxious to have free trade on the river, and heartily ashamed of their past conduct. A young, educated native of a village above Duke Town, believing that the Treaty would be faithfully carried out, commenced a brisk trade with the ships, but in a short time his canoes were seized by the Duke Town Chiefs, himself imprisoned, and compelled to pay a fine of 300*l.* sterling, and all trade of the natives above was stopped, except what passed through the hands of the Duke and Creek Town brokers. The Rev. Mr. Thompson, from his own limited private means, and aided by a few friends in Glasgow, has enabled the young man, who was educated in the Mission school, to pay the fine. The presence of the "Pioneer" at Duke Town, with stoppage of their trade if necessary, would soon compel them to abide by the treaty. A white trader was assaulted last month in the streets of Duke Town, and King Archibong declines to carry out the VIth Article of the Treaty for the protection of white men.

No. 18.

Consul Livingstone to Earl Russell.—(Received September 11.)

(Extract.)

Fernando Po, July 18, 1865.

I BEG to forward the following information received from a correspondent:—

“Wednesday, May 3rd, sailed from Batta towards Benito. A large black fore and aft schooner being in company on weather beam, colours not shown.

“Thursday, May 4th, and five following days, or up to the 9th, saw same schooner daily; and on Saturday 13th was informed by the natives of Torbané, Umber Point near Benito, that the said schooner was a slaver with her cargo of slaves on board, and that the captain having died, the chief officer had run the vessel on shore somewhere betwixt Cape Esterios and Point Clara on southern side Corisco Bay, and that the natives were enslaving the human freight as fast as they could get them ashore.”

The natives said that this slaver was bound for Brazil with her slaves.

This schooner may be the “*Emigrante*,” with the “white streak round her hull” obliterated.

I shall communicate the above to the first cruiser which calls at this port.

BRAZIL.

No. 19.

Earl Russell to Mr. Thornton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 8, 1865.

I TRANSMIT to you, for your information, a copy of a despatch,* from the Acting British Consul at Bahia, correcting an error into which Mr. Hunt had fallen when, in his Report of the 22nd of March last, he stated that the 396 Africans said to have been liberated by order of the Brazilian Government were at that time still held in bondage.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 20.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Thornton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 25, 1865.

YOU will see, on referring to the archives of Her Majesty's Legation at Rio, that at the time of the suspension of diplomatic relations between this country and Brazil a correspondence was being carried on between Her Majesty's Representative at Rio and the Brazilian Government upon the question of the treatment of the negroes who had been emancipated under the auspices of the Mixed Commission Court at Rio de Janeiro, and who had not received their freedom.

I have to acquaint you that it is not the wish of Her Majesty's Government that you should, on the resumption of diplomatic relations with Brazil, enter upon former matters of controversy connected with this question. You will, however, take an opportunity of stating that Her Majesty's Government learnt with satisfaction the promulgation by the Emperor of Brazil of the Decree dated the 24th of September, 1864, granting emancipation to all liberated Africans existing in the Empire, and you will at the same time ask how far it has yet been carried out, and how many of these people are still waiting for the beneficial operation of the Decree.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 21.

Mr. Thornton to Earl Russell.—(Received December 2.)

My Lord,

Rio de Janeiro, November 2, 1865.

GENERAL WOOD, of the late so-called Confederate States, has lately arrived here, and has made to the Brazilian Government some proposal, with the exact nature of which I am not yet acquainted, with regard to immigration into this country from the Southern States of a number of families, to the amount of about 60,000 souls.

I have the honour to inclose copy of a letter addressed by the Minister of Agriculture to General Wood, and I chiefly trouble your Lordship with this letter for the purpose of bringing to your notice an extract from it, a translation of which is inclosed, in which the Minister of Agriculture declares that, in accordance with the laws of Brazil, no negroes, either slaves or free, can be admitted into the country; and that if, therefore,

General Wood's countrymen who propose to come here] should possess any slaves they must previously dispose of them.

Indeed, whatever may be the feeling of a few landed proprietors in] the interior, I understand that there is the greatest desire on the part of the Brazilian Government and authorities in general that no importation of negroes should take place.

General Wood has gone to the province of St. Pauls for the purpose of seeing whether any advantageous spots can be found there on which his countrymen can establish themselves.

I have, &c
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

Inclosure in No. 21.

The Minister of Agriculture to General Wood.

(Translation.)

(Extract.)

AMONGST the property which they bring there is one which the Legislature does not permit to be imported, which is that represented by slaves, and I may further say that even the importation of free Africans is prohibited by law. If, therefore, any of the immigrants possess property of that nature, they ought to dispose of them. I will not say by this however, that once they are amongst us, they may employ their capital in that manner; unfortunately we still have slaves, and that trade is permitted in the Empire, from one province to another.

BRAZIL. (*Consular*)—*Bahia.*

No. 22.

Earl Russell to Consul Morgan.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 28, 1865.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 6th of September last, stating that a Decree had been signed by the Emperor, although not published, ordering the emancipation of all liberated Africans existing in Brazil, I have to desire that, if you have the means of doing so, you will furnish me with a list of all negroes set free under that Decree, showing, if possible, that they have really obtained their freedom.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 23.

Acting Consul Baines to Earl Russell.—(Received February 7, 1865.)

(Extract.)

Bahia, December 31, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the accompanying list the certificates of freedom issued by order of the Presidency of this Province.

Inclosure in No. 23.

CERTIFICATES of Freedom have been issued to the following number of Emancipated Slaves by order of the Presidency of this Province.

Number of Slaves.	How and where Employed.	Remarks.
58	At the Morro de S. Paulo as labourers	Government works.
16	In the employment of the Commendador José de Barros Reis	Ditto.
15	In the service of different persons	Ditto.
37	In the Misericordia Hospital in the town of Nazareth ..	Ditto.
2	In the Misericordia of Maragogipe	Ditto.
8	In the public gardens of this city	Ditto.
24	In the Quinta dos Lazaros	Ditto.
160		

British Consulate, Bahia, December 31, 1864.

(Signed)

H. B. BAINES, Acting Consul.

No. 24.

Acting Consul Baines to Earl Russell.—(Received February 7, 1865.)

My Lord,

Bahia, December 31, 1864.

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

I have, &c.

(Signed)

H. B. BAINES.

Inclosure in No. 24.

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, 1864.		For the half-year ending December 31, 1864.	
	Currency.	Sterling.	Currency.	Sterling.
	Reis.	£ s. d.		
African Males	1,500,000	162 10 0	} No alteration in prices.	
" Females	1,000 000	108 6 8		
Creole Males	1,200 000	130 0 0		
" " with profession	2,000 000	216 13 4		
" Females	800 000	86 13 4		

British Consulate, Bahia, December 31, 1864.

(Signed)

H. B. BAINES, Acting Consul.

No. 25.

Consul Morgan to Earl Russell.—(Received September 1.)

My Lord,

Bahia, August 4, 1864.

IN Mr. Consul Hunt's despatch to your Lordship on the 22nd of March last, printed in the Appendix to the Slave Trade papers presented to Parliament this year, an inclosure was transmitted giving a nominal list of the liberated Africans existing in this Province to the number of 396, as still held in bondage at that date.

I beg to report to your Lordship that Mr. Hunt has been misinformed.

The Imperial Decree, No. 3,310, of September 24, 1864, was ordered to be executed here by Ministerial "avizos" of the 30th September and 20th October of last year, and forms of the certificates of emancipation were transmitted to be signed by the Judge of Orphans, as well as instructions for the proper registration of the same at the Police Department, and for the delivery of these papers to the Africans.

In the Presidential despatches of the 13th and 31st October, 1864, addressed to the Chief of Police and to the Judge of Orphans, the Ministerial "avizos" alluded to above were ordered to be fulfilled; and as soon as the certificates of emancipation were granted,

the names of the respective liberated Africans were published in the "Diario de Bahia," the official Gazette of this Province, and those 396 Africans were placed in the enjoyment of their complete liberty.

Had such not been the case, Mr. Consul Morgan would, no doubt, have considered it his duty to communicate the fact to your Lordship.

I beg to hand herewith translated copy of one of these certificates of emancipation, which was given to the African Hermillo, who is at present a servant in my house, earning 30 milreis a month for himself, but who is reported by Mr. Hunt to be still in bondage, and figures under No. 184 in the nominal list inclosed in that gentleman's despatch mentioned above.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN CHAS. MORGAN.

Inclosure in No. 25.

Certificate of Emancipation.

(Translation.)

DR. MANOEL VIEIRA TOSTA, Municipal Judge of the 1st Vara, and 1st Substitute of the Judge of Orphans and Absentees in this loyal and valorous city of St. Salvador Bahia of all Saints and its district, for His Majesty the Emperor, whom God preserve, &c.

I hereby make known to all the authorities and persons, whom the present may concern, that the Imperial Government having taken into consideration the petition made to it by the free African Hermillo, of the Congo nation, registered under No. 627 of the cargo of imported on the 5th January, 1856, and whose services were entrusted to the Public Works of the Morro de St. Paulo, the said Government have been pleased to order that by these presents he be emancipated and in full liberty, in conformity with the Decree No. 3,310 of 24th September, 1864, with the condition of residing and obliged to employ himself, or hire himself for wages, as is determined by the aforesaid Decree.

And this title I order to be delivered to him for his security; the same being signed by me.

Bahia, October 31, 1864.

(Signed) MANOEL VIEIRA TOSTA.

I, the Scrivener of the Judge of Orphans, drew out the present.

(Signed) JOSE OLIMPIO G. DE SOUZA.

Let it be executed and registered.

(Signed) VILLABOIM, *Chief of Police.*

Characteristic signs of the African Hermillo.—Face, regular; eyes, black; nose, flat; lips, thick; ears, small; mark, *r* on right shoulder.

BRAZIL. (Consular)—Maranhã.

No. 26.

Vice-Consul Wilson to Earl Russell.—(Received February 20.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour herewith to transmit to your Lordship a Return of the prices of slaves within the district of this Vice-Consulate during the six months ended 31st day of December, 1864.

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

BRAZIL. (Consular)—Maranhã.

Inclosure in No. 26.

RETURN of the Prices of Slaves within the District of the Vice-Consulate of Maranhã, during the Half-year ended 31st day of December, 1864.

	Currency.		Sterling.			Remarks.	
	Reis.	Reis.	£	s.	d.		
African Males .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	African slaves are few and aged, therefore no quotations can be given.
" Females .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
Creole Males	1,000\$000	to 1,100\$000	114	11	8 to 126	0 10	Continue to be eagerly bought up by the cotton-planters.
" " with professions	1,100 000	1,300 000	126	0	10	148 19 2	
" Females	1,000 000	1,100 000	114	11	8	126 0 10	

Exchange on England, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ 727 reis to *l.* sterling.

British Vice-Consulate, Maranhã, December 31, 1864.

(Signed)

WILLIAM B. WILSON, Vice-Consul.

BRAZIL. (Consular)—Parã,

No. 27.

Acting Consul Blandy to Earl Russell.—(Received February 20, 1865.)

My Lord,

Parã, December 31, 1864.

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

I have, &c.

(Signed)

ALFRED ADDISON BLANDY.

No. 28.

Acting Consul Blandy to Earl Russell.—(Received February 20, 1865.)

My Lord,

Parã, December 31, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to inclose your Lordship a Return showing the average prices of slaves within this jurisdiction during the six months ending this day.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

ALFRED ADDISON BLANDY.

Inclosure in No. 28.

RETURN of the Average Prices of Slaves during the Half-year ending this 31st day of December, 1864.

	Reis.	Reis.
African Males (worn out)	1,000\$000	
" Females	800 000	
Creole Males	900 000 to 1,200\$000	
" Females	1,000 000	1,200 000
" Males with trades	1,200 000	1,600 000
" Females	1,200 000	1,600 000
Infants under 5 years	400 000	800 000
Children from 5 to 14 years	500 000	1,500 000

British Consulate, Parã, December 31, 1864.

(Signed)

ALFRED ADDISON BLANDY, Acting Consul.

No. 29.

Acting Consul Blandy to Earl Russell.—(Received June 5.)

My Lord,

Pará, March 31, 1865.

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

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED A. BLANDY.

No. 30.

Acting Consul Blandy to Earl Russell.—(Received September 4.)

My Lord,

Pará, June 30, 1865.

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

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED A. BLANDY.

No. 31.

Acting Consul Blandy to Earl Russell.—(Received September 4.)

My Lord,

Pará, June 30, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship a Return showing the average price of slaves within this jurisdiction during the six months ending with date.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED A. BLANDY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 31.

RETURN of the Prices of Slaves within the District of the Vice-Consulate of Maranham during the Half-year ended June 30, 1865.

Description.	Currency.		Sterling.				Remarks.		
	Reis.	Reis.	£	s.	d.	£		s.	d.
African, Males .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	African slaves are few and aged, therefore no quotations can be given.
„ Females .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Creole, Males	1,000\$	to 1,100\$	104	3	4	to 114	11	8	Nominal.
„ „ with professions..	1,100	1,300	114	11	8	135	8	4	Ditto.
„ Females	1,000	1,100	104	3	4	114	11	8	Ditto.

Exchange, 9\$600 to 1*l.* sterling.(Signed) WILLIAM B. WILSON, *Vice-Consul.**British Vice-Consulate, Maranham, June 30, 1865.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 31.

RETURN of the Prices of Slaves in the Jurisdiction of this Consulate during the six months ending with June 30, 1865.

Description.	Currency.		Remarks.
	Reis.	Reis.	
African, Males (worn out) ..	1,000\$		Price is always dependent upon colour, qualities, health, beauty, amiability, &c.; impossible to define.
„ Females (ditto) ..	800		
Creole, Males ..	900	to 1,200\$	
„ Females ..	1,000	1,200	
„ Males, with trades ..	1,200	1,600	
„ Females (ditto) ..	1,200	1,600	
Infants under 5 years ..	400	800	
„ 5 to 14 years ..	500	1,500	

(Signed) ALFRED A. BLANDY, *Acting Consul.**British Consulate, Pará, June 30, 1865.*

CLASS B.

No. 32.

Acting Consul Blandy to Earl Russell.—(Received November 17.)

My Lord,

Pará, September 30, 1865.

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

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED A. BLANDY.

BRAZIL. (Consular)—Pernambuco.

No. 33.

Acting Consul Austin to Earl Russell.—(Received April 5.)

My Lord,

Pernambuco, February 28, 1865.

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) RICHARD AUSTIN.

BRAZIL. (Consular)—Rio de Janeiro.

No. 34.

Consul Hunt to Earl Russell.—(Received June 17.)

(Extract.)

Rio de Janeiro, May 24, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship that a motion was made in the Senate on the 17th instant, by the Viscount de Jequitinhonha, for leave to present to the Chamber a Project of Law—first, fixing the term of ten years after which slavery should be and remain abolished within the territories of the Empire; secondly, that immediate freedom should be granted to all slaves in the possession of the Government, on condition that they should take service in the army. The motion was unsupported and was consequently lost.

On the same day a motion was made by Senator Silveira da Motta for leave to bring in a Project of Law prohibiting all foreigners from holding slaves within the Empire, and granting a term of two years, at the expiration of which all slaves so held should be declared free.

This motion was carried and was ordered to be printed.

This project, should it pass into law, would affect almost exclusively the Portuguese, many of whom are considerable slave-holders. The Portuguese here are generally industrious and succeed often in making money; they almost monopolize the lesser branches of trade. There is some prospect, therefore, that this project may pass into law.

COMORO ISLANDS.

No. 35.

Consul Sunley to Earl Russell.—(Received May 17.)

My Lord,

Johanna, January 5, 1865.

I REGRET to have to report to your Lordship that since the end of September last, two dhows have arrived at Johanna with about 130 slaves.

The removal of the naval depôt at Pomony, and the consequent rumour that men-of-war would not visit Johanna very frequently, together with a report that I was no longer Consul, have probably led the Johannese to suppose that they could import slaves with impunity.

The Sultan, I am sorry to say, appears to think with his subjects that so favourable an opportunity of bringing slaves to the island, without risk of capture, should not be neglected, and pays no attention to what I tell him of the impolicy of breaking his engagement with the British Government. I have not heard of any slaves being imported at Mohilla and at Comoro, or of any slaves being sent from these islands to Mayotte last year.

I have also the honour to report that the Slave Trade between the Portuguese possessions on the East Coast of Africa and Madagascar was actively carried on last year, and that probably from 2,000 to 3,000 slaves were landed at Madagascar.

Dhows engaged in carrying slaves from Africa to Madagascar in the southern monsoon really run very little risk of being captured, as Her Majesty's vessels were then cruising for the suppression of the Slave Trade north of Zanzibar. Most of the slaves embarked at Antonio River, at Mohamba, and at Port Conducia, near Mozambique, and were landed at Majunga and Movrantsange, two ports on the West Coast of Madagascar belonging to the Hovas. The price of a slave at the latter place was 28 to 30 dollars.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WM. SUNLEY.

No. 36.

Earl Russell to Consul Sunley.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 23, 1865.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 5th January last, reporting the arrival at Johanna of two dhows with about 130 slaves, and stating that, in consequence of recent changes in the naval station, and the belief that Her Majesty's cruisers will not visit Johanna very frequently, together with a report that you were to be removed from your post as Consul, the Sultan of Johanna and his subjects are under the impression that they may take advantage of this state of things to introduce slaves into the island, and pay no attention to your warnings of the impolicy of violating their engagements with Her Majesty's Government for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

I have to instruct you to express to the Sultan the regret of Her Majesty's Government at the conduct of His Highness in permitting the introduction of slaves into his dominions in violation of his Treaty engagements; and you will give him distinctly to understand that Her Majesty's Government will hold him responsible for a due fulfilment of his Treaty obligations for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 37.

*Earl Russell to Consul Sunley.**Foreign Office, June 23, 1865.*

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 31st of July, 1863, acquainting you that you must either give up the employment of slaves on your sugar plantations at Johanna, or resign your appointment as Her Majesty's Consul for the Comoro Islands, I have now to acquaint you that, as you state that it is impossible to procure free labourers, and that your interests will not permit of your giving up the employment of slaves on your estates, it will be necessary that I should fix a period for the withdrawal of your Consular Commission, and I have accordingly to acquaint you that on the 30th of September next your name will be struck off the Consular List, and your salary as Her Majesty's Consul for the Comoro Islands will cease.

From reports received by Her Majesty's Government I have every reason to believe that you have, by your example and enterprize, done much to promote the welfare and prosperity of the labouring classes in Johanna, both free and slave; but, as I have before explained to you, it is impossible that Her Majesty's Government can tolerate the employment of slaves by an officer holding Her Majesty's Consular Commission.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

DENMARK. (*Consular*)—*St. Thomas.*

No. 38.

Consul Lamb to Earl Russell.—(Received January 2, 1865.)

My Lord,

St. Thomas, December 12, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the British barque "*Indus*," of Cardiff, official number 44,252 (late American flag, under same name), arrived here on the 10th ultimo from Cadiz, and was reported at the Custom-house and to me as in ballast. After arrival three of her crew and her mate (American) were discharged, and four deserted, and her master, an American, transferred the command to a British subject, on the ground that as the vessel was likely to be chartered for Europe, and he was wishful to go to America, it was agreed with the consignees of the ship, and intimated by them to me, in writing, that he should give over charge to a British subject, master of a ship which had been abandoned at sea. Up to this date there was no suspicion regarding the "*Indus*." Subsequently I received information that she had landed cargo, and found that same consisted of 120 odd empty water-casks, a lot of rice (35 bags), beans (13 bags), bread (20 barrels), beef and pork (13 barrels), and some other trifles, far more than sufficient for the use of the crew, which consisted of ten persons. These goods were said to have been taken in at Cadiz, but of this there is no report by shipping documents of any kind or Customs clearance; and as the casks were said to be intended for ballast, but after being landed here the ship was for sea without taking in ballast, I considered the case, looking at the nature of the goods, as those generally found on board vessels engaged in the Slave Trade, sufficiently suspicious to justify my detaining her, and asking for the presence of one of Her Majesty's ships of war, which I did by writing to the Senior Naval Officer at Barbadoes, and yesterday the "*Cordelia*" has arrived here. As soon as suspicion attached to the ship I communicated with the Governor of this place, and had all the crew remaining on board examined, and I have received to-day a translation of the depositions, which, with the ship's log-book (kept in an irregular way), clearances, &c., have been submitted to Captain Scott, of the "*Cordelia*," and he agreed with me that there are strong grounds to believe that she has been intended for participating in the Slave Trade, and has under his consideration the propriety of seizing her, and taking her to Antigua, to be there placed in the Admiralty Court, on foregoing charge.

By next mail I will have the honour to inform your Lordship of the result of the case here, and meantime inclose copy of Captain Scott's letter to me, and my reply.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. B. LAMB.

Inclosure 1 in No. 38.

Commander Scott to Consul Lamb.

Sir,

"Cordelia," at St. Thomas, December 12, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to report to you the arrival of Her Majesty's ship, under my command, at this place, in pursuance of orders received from Captain Hood, the Senior Officer at Barbadoes; and in consequence of the information relative to the barque "*Indus*," contained in your letter of the 1st instant to that officer, that the case is now being investigated. I have to request you will be good enough to inform me whether there are good grounds for believing that the "*Indus*" was intended for the Slave Trade, and that she had on board any of the articles mentioned in the inclosure (copies of the ten paragraphs of suspicious articles in Slave Trade Instructions inclosed).

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. B. SCOTT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 38.

Consul Lamb to Commander Scott.

Sir,

St. Thomas, December 12, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your communication of this date, and in reply to inform you, that the barque "*Indus*," of Cardiff, official No. 44,252 (formerly under American flag, and same name), arrived here on 10th ultimo, and was reported at the Custom-house and to me in ballast as per documents Nos. 1 and 2 herewith; subsequently three of her crew were discharged, and four reported to me, but not to the police, as having run away. The master Chauncey, an American, gave up the command with consent of his consignees, to me in writing, as he did not care about going to Europe, where the ship was expected to be chartered for, and she was taken in command by Captain Bolman, a British subject, master of a vessel abandoned at sea. Subsequently to this I was informed that cargo had been landed, and on inquiry, found that same consisted of 120 odd empty water-casks, 35 bags rice, 13 bags beans, 20 barrels bread, 16 barrels beef and pork, &c., &c., and a report made of them at the Custom-house on 6th December, as per document No. 3. For these goods no clearance can be shown, and the bill of health from Cadiz (No. 4) states the vessel as in ballast bound for Bermuda. The time occupied in coming from Cadiz to this port, without any attempt as far as I can see by log-book (No. 5) to reach Bermuda, is so long, that taking the nature of the goods which were landed, their non-clearance at Cadiz, their non-report here on arrival, the general state of the log-book, the changes in the crew, and the depositions (No. 6) before the police-court here, of which I hand you copy, into consideration, I am of opinion that the vessel has been intended for the Slave Trade. I leave her seizure for your determination on examination of the circumstances attending the case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. B. LAMB.

No. 39.

Consul Lamb to Earl Russell.—(Received January 2, 1865.)

My Lord,

St. Thomas, December 14, 1864.

I HAVE the honour, in continuation of my communication regarding barque "*Indus*," to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter received by me this date from Captain Scott of Her Majesty's ship "*Cordelia*," in which he states that although the case of this vessel is a suspicious one, he does not, on examination of the documents and evidence submitted to him by me, and further inquiries, consider that there are sufficient grounds for her further detention; she is in consequence released this day.

I find that this vessel was transferred at New York, 23rd of June, 1864, to Joseph Horne Smith Millard, of London.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. B. LAMB.

Inclosure in No. 39.

Commander Scott to Consul Lamb.

Sir,

"Cordelia," St. Thomas, December 14, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant regarding the barque "*Indus*," and have to inform you that in compliance with orders received from Captain Hood, the senior officer, on the Windward Station, I have, in conjunction with the master and carpenter of this ship, examined the said barque, and cannot find that she was in any way fitted for the Slave Trade. There is no doubt that her having a greater number of water-casks than necessary, as also rice and beans, lays her open to suspicion; but from her log and chart, which I have also examined, and the depositions taken at the police-court here, I am of opinion that she made the best of her way across the Atlantic, and does not appear to have approached the Coast of Africa: consequently I do not think there are sufficient grounds for detaining her.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. B. SCOTT.

No. 40.

Earl Russell to Consul Lamb.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January 7, 1865.*
I HAVE received your despatches of the 12th and 14th ultimo, reporting the steps taken by you to ascertain the legality of the voyage upon which the barque "*Indus*" had been engaged; and I have to convey to you my approval of your proceedings in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELLI.

No. 41.

Mr. Murray to Consul Lamb.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January 21, 1865.*
WITH reference to your despatches of the 12th and 14th of December last, reporting the circumstances under which you caused the British barque "*Indus*" to be overhauled on suspicion of her being destined to be engaged in the Slave Trade, I am directed by Earl Russell to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a despatch which his Lordship received in the month of October last from Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz,* containing information respecting this vessel.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JAMES MURRAY.

No. 42.

Consul Lamb to Earl Russell.—(Received March 16.)

My Lord, *St. Thomas, February 22, 1865.*
I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatches, dated 7th and 21st ultimo, the former informing me that your Lordship was pleased to approve of my proceedings in the case of the "*Indus*," suspected of being destined for the Slave Trade; and the latter inclosing me copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz to your Lordship, with information of the sailing of said vessel from that port, and her destination.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. B. LAMB.

No. 43.

Acting Consul Lamb to Earl Russell.—(Received July 14.)

(Extract.) *St. Thomas, June 24, 1865.*
I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, with the exception of the barque "*Indus*," reported in December ultimo, no attempt at Slave Trade has been made at this port during the past six months.

I would, however, inform your Lordship that Mr. Chauncey, the former master of the "*Indus*," has since been here from Havana, to which port he again returned, it is said for the purpose of engaging in some new slave expedition from Cuba, but, as generally happens in such cases, it is difficult to obtain any reliable information. If I should hear of anything certain, I shall not fail in at once reporting same to your Lordship.

FRANCE

No. 44.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received January 7.

(Extract.)

Paris, January 6, 1865.

M. DROUYN DE LHUYS placed yesterday in my hands a memorandum or *note verbale*, of which a copy is inclosed, intended to be a reply to a note which I addressed his Excellency on the 10th ultimo, after receiving your Lordship's despatch of the 7th ultimo, and of which I also inclose a copy.

Your Lordship will see with regret that the Imperial Government, for reasons contained in M. Drouyn de Lhuys' memorandum, decline to comply with the proposal made by Her Majesty's Government that the maritime Governments should unite in denouncing the Slave Trade as piracy.

In giving me this paper M. Drouyn de Lhuys repeated many of the arguments contained in it. It seemed to him, he said further, impossible to assimilate that which had been made a crime by Convention to that which was a crime by international law, and to include them both within the same denomination of misdeeds. He dwelt also upon the uselessness of any denunciation such as your Lordship proposed, without adding to it the right of search, and to that he emphatically declared public opinion in France would never listen. If, short of this, Her Majesty's Government could imagine any measure more stringent for the suppression of the Slave Trade, it would receive the fullest consideration from the Imperial Government.

 Inclosure 1 in No. 44.
Earl Cowley to M. Drouyn de Lhuys.

M. le Ministre,

Paris, December 10, 1864.

YOUR Excellency is so well aware of the great interest taken not only by Her Majesty's Government but by the people of England in the extinction of the Slave Trade, and, on the other hand, the sentiments of the Emperor, of the Imperial Government, and of the French people, with regard to the iniquity of this nefarious Traffic, have been so often and so solemnly made public, that I know beforehand that I may count on an attentive consideration of any measure which Her Majesty's Government may propose to the Imperial Government for the complete extermination of this nefarious commerce.

I am instructed to make the following remarks to your Excellency, and to ask your consideration of the project which is the result of them.

The crime of trading in human beings has been for many years branded by the reprobation of all civilized nations. Still the atrocious Traffic subsists; and many persons flourish on the gains they have derived from that polluted source.

Her Majesty's Government, contemplating on the one hand with satisfaction the unanimous abhorrence which the crime inspires, and, on the other hand, with pain and disgust the trading speculations which still subsist, have come to the conclusion that no measure would be so effectual to put a stop to these wicked acts as the punishment of all persons who can be proved to be guilty of carrying slaves across the sea.

Her Majesty's Government therefore invite the Government of the Emperor of the French to consider whether it would not be practicable, honourable, and humane—

1st. To make a general declaration that the Governments who are parties to it denounce the Slave Trade as piracy.

2nd. That the aforesaid Governments should propose to their Legislatures to affix

the penalties of piracy already existing in their laws, providing only that the penalty in this case be short of death, to all persons being subjects or citizens of one of the contracting Powers who shall be convicted in a Court which takes cognizance of piracy, of being concerned in carrying human beings across the sea for the purpose of sale, or for the purpose of serving as slaves in any country or colony in the world.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) COWLEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 44.

Note-Verbale.

SON Excellence M. le Comte Cowley a remis le 10 de ce mois au Ministre des Affaires Étrangères de France une communication relative à la répression de la Traite des Noirs. Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique se fondant sur l'insuffisance des mesures de répression prises jusqu'ici contre ce Trafic odieux, insuffisance qui proviendrait en partie de l'absence d'un accord commun entre les Puissances pour organiser la compétence des juridictions à l'effet de poursuivre les coupables, propose deux moyens:—

1. Assimiler la Traite à la piraterie. Dans ce but les Gouvernements adhérents proclameraient ce principe dans une déclaration générale.

2. Appliquer aux sujets de ces mêmes Gouvernements, les pénalités édictées contre la piraterie par leurs lois particulières en saisissant de la question les pouvoirs législatifs de chaque pays. Toutefois une exception serait faite en ce qui touche les dispositions prononçant la peine de mort.

La France a, sur la répression de la Traite, une loi très sévère, celle du 4 Mars, 1831, dont l'économie prévoit tous les faits de Traite, aussi bien à l'extérieur qu'à l'intérieur. Ainsi elle s'applique aux préparatifs de la Traite, soit dans le port même, soit en mer, tels que l'armement du navire et la vente des instruments nécessaires à ce Trafic; elle s'occupe ensuite des faits de Traite consommés, et frappe en outre des peines portées par le code pénal, les crimes et les délits commis à bord d'un navire contre les noirs embarqués.

Les châtimens sont gradués suivant le rang du coupable, la pénalité s'élevant quand il s'agit des assureurs, des armateurs, des capitaines, des chefs de Traite en un mot, tandis qu'elle s'abaisse à l'égard de ceux qui ne sont que des agents secondaires.

Ainsi, le navire préparé pour la Traite est-il saisi en mer avant même qu'aucun fait de Traite ait eu lieu, les armateurs encourent une peine qui peut aller jusqu'à vingt ans de travaux forcés; le capitaine peut être condamné à dix ans dans les mêmes circonstances, et à vingt ans s'il y a eu un fait de Traite. Les bailleurs de fonds et les assureurs sont punis de la réclusion, ainsi que les officiers; les hommes composant l'équipage d'un emprisonnement qui peut aller jusqu'à cinq ans.

Dans tous les cas, le navire et la cargaison sont saisis et vendus, et une amende égale à la valeur du navire et à celle de la cargaison peut frapper solidairement les coupables.

De telle sorte que tous ceux qui participent de près ou de loin à la Traite, Français ou étrangers, sont atteints dans leurs personnes et dans leurs propriétés. Toutefois il a été jugé qu'un navire étranger arrêté pour fait de Traite par des croiseurs Français n'était pas justiciables des autorités Françaises.

En présence de ces dispositions on doit se demander ce que pourraient ajouter à la répression les propositions du Gouvernement Anglais.

Quant à la peine, celle qui est prononcée par la loi Française contre la piraterie est la mort, dans certains cas; mais l'assimilation proposée par la Grande Bretagne laisse en dehors la peine capitale. En matière de piraterie les travaux forcés peuvent, il est vrai, être prononcées à perpétuité, tandis que le maximum est de vingt ans pour les faits de Traite. Mais cette dernière pénalité est déjà très rigoureuse, et quelque abominable que soit le Trafic des Esclaves on ne saurait l'assimiler, au moins quant à ses résultats, à la piraterie, qui s'attaque indistinctement à toutes les nations et dont les premiers moyens sont le meurtre et le pillage.

Reste la poursuite, qui par l'assimilation proposée pourrait être exercée contre toute personne indistinctement. La piraterie étant un fait criminel du droit des gens, l'écumeur de mer échappe aux lois ordinaires de la compétence territoriale. Le droit international admet que tout le monde peut l'arrêter, le juger, et le punir; mais on aperçoit de suite les objections qui s'opposent à l'adoption de la proposition du Gouvernement Britannique.

En effet de deux choses l'une: ou le régime nouveau qui résulterait de cette proposition aurait pour effet de permettre aux vaisseaux Anglais de rechercher sur nos navires le fait de Traite, ou une réserve serait faite à cet égard.

Dans le dernier cas on ne voit pas quel avantage on pourrait tirer de la proposition, la loi Française ayant suffisamment assuré les moyens d'atteindre le but qu'on parait avoir en vue. Dans l'autre hypothèse, c'est-à-dire, si aucune réserve n'était faite pour nos bâtimens, la proposition ne serait au fond qu'une voie détournée pour revenir au droit de visite, qui a toujours excité si vivement en France les susceptibilités nationales.

No. 45.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 28, 1865.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 6th ultimo, inclosing a *note verbale* placed in your hands by M. Drouyn de Lhuys, stating the grounds on which the French Government decline to accede to the proposal of Her Majesty's Government that the great Maritime Powers should unite in denouncing the Slave Trade as piracy, and in affixing the penalties of that crime to all persons who may be convicted of being engaged in that Traffic in a Court which takes cognizance of piracy.

I have to instruct your Excellency to take an early opportunity of expressing to M. Drouyn de Lhuys the regret of Her Majesty's Government at the decision come to by the Government of the Emperor in this matter; a decision which, however, Her Majesty's Government trust may not be final, and your Excellency will at the same time place in the hands of the French Minister the further note on this subject the draft of which I inclose.

You will also give him a copy of this despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

Inclosure in No. 45.

Draft of Note to be presented to the French Government.

HER Majesty's Government have perused, with mingled satisfaction and regret, the *note verbale* placed by M. Drouyn de Lhuys in Lord Cowley's hands on the 5th ultimo, containing the reply of the French Government to the invitation of Her Majesty's Government that the Government of the Emperor should declare the Slave Trade piracy, and should affix the penalties of that crime to all persons who shall, in a Court which takes cognizance of piracy, be convicted of being engaged in Slave Traffic.

It is a matter of satisfaction to Her Majesty's Government to learn that the municipal law of France places the odious crime of slave-trading in the category of those criminal offences which are visited with the severest punishment, and Her Majesty's Government have no reason whatever to doubt the sincerity of that abhorrence with which M. Drouyn de Lhuys speaks of this abominable traffic; but in proportion to the satisfaction thus afforded is the regret which Her Majesty's Government are constrained to feel at the rejection by the French Minister of a proposal, by the adoption of which Her Majesty's Government had earnestly hoped that the last traces of this great guilt might be effaced, wherever the flag of France or of England might float.

Her Majesty's Government must observe that, however severely the municipal law of France may punish, within the territory of France, any French slave-dealer, yet, nevertheless, such offender would not naturally bring himself within the operation of this law, so long as the absence of French cruisers from the African coast may enable him to commit his crime with impunity. For while it may, Her Majesty's Government believe with truth, be said, that few, if any, Frenchmen engage in this nefarious traffic, yet the French flag may be, and often is, wrongfully assumed by the slave-traders of all nations. The most effectual remedy for this evil would appear to be that, within certain latitudes and under certain limitations, the right of ascertaining whether a suspected vessel be a slaver, or a ship engaged in legitimate commerce, should be conceded to the ships of war of all Christian States, while, if the vessel proved to be a slaver, she might, in the absence of any Mixed Commission Court, be delivered to the authorities of the country to which she might be found to belong. But, if the French Government should consider this simple and effective suggestion for any reason impracticable, which Her Majesty's Government hope may not be the case, Her Majesty's Government are desirous of stating that they attach the greatest importance to a joint declaration by France and England that, so far as the influence of the two Powers extends, this criminal traffic should be placed in that category of piracy to which, by its nature and by the reason of things, it properly belongs.

Murder and robbery of the worst kind are its inevitable companions, for in no other light can be regarded the stealing of human beings of all ages and of both sexes, and the destruction of the large number who perish in the razzias in the interior, in the barracoons on the coast, or by privations and sufferings during the passage from Africa to their destination across the Atlantic.

It is true, indeed, that slave-trading has not hitherto been considered piracy by international law, but international law has a deeper foundation than mere usage.

International law makes progress in keeping with the advance of Christian civilization, and if it be found that a practice not hitherto treated as a violation of its principles be, nevertheless, a crime of the darkest character and an offence against our common humanity, it would surely become the great Christian States to include by their united verdict this atrocious crime in the list of those which it is the duty of international law to prevent and to punish.

Scarcely more than a century ago, jurists of eminence were found to maintain the abstract right of a Christian belligerent to sell prisoners of war into slavery. In still more recent times the Bey of Tunis and the Bey of Algiers traded in Christian slaves.

No Christian Government now would maintain the former doctrine, or deny that the practice of the Algerines was justly punished as piracy by the armed forces of Christian nations. But the Slave Trade of the present day is far worse, in its character and effects, than Algerine piracy, and whereas Algerine piracy counted its victims by hundreds, the Slave Trade counts them by thousands, and it has been reckoned that for every African who survives the voyage to his dismal destination, ten perish either in the wars that are undertaken to procure captives, or in the long and miserable journeys to the coast, and their subsequent voyage across the ocean in vessels densely packed and inadequately furnished with supplies.

Pirates usually rob and plunder vessels of all nations, and murder the crews of the vessels captured.

But that was not the case with the Algerines any more than it is with the slave-traders of the present day. The Algerines carried Christian captives into slavery, and employed them to work for them as slaves, but this was rightly and justly deemed to be piracy. The slave-traders make war upon nations with darker skins, reduce them directly or indirectly to slavery, and sell them to work as slaves.

Can that which was justly declared to be piracy when committed against European whites be free from being so stigmatized when committed against African blacks?

But it is said that a bare declaration by France and England that slave-trading should be considered by them as piracy would have little or no political effect, unless it were accompanied by the concession of a mutual right of visit and search of each other's vessels, and that this is a thing which France could not permit.

Her Majesty's Government, fully appreciating the sentiment, however mistaken, which induces France to make this refusal, regrets that it should form an obstacle on the present occasion. England, which claims to be as jealous as any nation of the honour of her national flag, has by various Treaties granted to foreign States and Powers, under certain conditions, a mutual right of search for the suppression of Slave Trade, and no feelings of international jealousy would prevent Great Britain from making the same reciprocal concession to naval officers in the service of France.

Her Majesty's Government are strongly of opinion that a joint declaration by France and England that the Slave Trade is piracy would be honourable to Christendom, and conducive to the interests of the civilized world. The example of France and England making a public declaration that Slave Trade is piracy, would be followed no doubt by other nations, and it might be hoped that Spain and Portugal, whose sentence would have, from peculiar circumstances, so much weight in this matter, might be induced to join in such a declaration.

Upon the whole, therefore, Her Majesty's Government still earnestly hope that the Government of the Emperor may be induced to reconsider this proposal, and to take a step which would make France a fellow-worker with England in removing that which is still the great reproach of Christian nations.

No. 46.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received March 11.)

My Lord,

Paris, March 10, 1865.

DURING an interview which I had yesterday with M. Drouyn de Lhuys, I placed in his Excellency's hands a note in the terms of the draft inclosed in your Lordship's despatch

of the 28th ultimo, upon the question of denouncing Slave Trade as piracy, and I left with him a copy of your Lordship's despatch.

The arguments adduced in the note are so full and clear that I could add nothing to them; but I begged M. Drouyn de Lhuys to read it in my presence, expressing the hope that its contents would overcome the scruples of the Imperial Government to adopting the proposal of Her Majesty's Government.

His Excellency, after perusing the note with great attention, said that for the moment he could give no other reply than that it should receive the serious and careful consideration of himself and of the Minister of Marine. He touched upon the prejudices which continue to exist in France against any concession to Great Britain of the right of visit, and he said that your Lordship's despatch had arrived at an inopportune moment, as two complaints of the conduct of British officers in interfering with French ships had just reached him, which he was about to bring to the knowledge of Her Majesty's Government.

I observed that complaints of this nature would, I feared, continue to occur from time to time so long as the French Government persisted in their present system. Surely this was rather an argument for altering it. But for the present, I added, glad as Her Majesty's Government would be, could the Imperial Government be persuaded to admit a reciprocal right of visit and search for the suppression of the Slave Trade, the object of Her Majesty's Government was to obtain a joint declaration of the two Governments that the Slave Trade is piracy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) COWLEY.

No. 47.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, March 18, 1865.

I TRANSMIT, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a letter from Commodore Wilmot,* inclosing a copy of one from the French Rear-Admiral Commanding-in-chief on the West Coast of Africa, congratulating the Commodore on his assuming the command of the station, and thanking him for the services rendered by officers of the Royal Navy to French merchant ships.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 48.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received March 21.)

My Lord,

Paris, March 20, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have this day addressed a note to the French Government in the terms of your Lordship's despatch of March 18, upon the subject of the cordial relations between the commanders of the British and French squadrons on the West Coast of Africa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) COWLEY.

No. 49.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, April 4, 1865.

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, copies of despatches, as marked in the margin,† from Sir Henry Bulwer, from Mr. Stuart, and from Mr. Colquhoun, Her Majesty's Consul-General in Egypt, and also copies of instructions which I have addressed to the above-mentioned officers on matters connected with the Slave Trade carried on in the Soudan and from the Turkish ports in the Red Sea.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

* Class A, No. 63

† Nos. 211 to 219; 237 and 238.

No. 50.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, April 12, 1865.

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, copies of a correspondence which has passed between the French Ambassador and myself relative to the visit of French ships by British cruizers on the African coast.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 50.

The Prince de la Tour d'Auvergne to Earl Russell.

M. le Comte,

Londres, le 27 Février, 1865.

DANS un rapport qu'il vient d'adresser à M. le Ministre de la Marine, au retour d'un voyage sur les côtes occidentales d'Afrique, le capitaine au long cours Etienne, Commandant le navire Français "Jean et Camille," expose qu'il a été visité, 4 Août dernier, par deux embarcations de guerre Anglaises, et le lendemain par une troisième, appartenant à une canonnière Anglaise mouillé à Petit Popo.

Bien que le Capitaine Etienne eût arboré ses couleurs, les deux premières embarcations accostèrent son navire après avoir tiré plusieurs coups de fusil. Deux officiers montèrent ensuite sur le "Jean et Camille," demandèrent le rôle d'équipage et firent plusieurs questions sur le nom du navire, son armateur, son lieu de départ, et la nature de son chargement. Le lendemain, une visite semblable fut faite par un officier de la canonnière mouillée devant Petit Popo.

En me communiquant ces détails, M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères ajoute que le "Jean et Camille" ne présentait aucun des caractères suspects qui pouvaient autoriser la vérification de sa nationalité. En conséquence M. Drouyn de Lhuys me charge d'appeler l'attention de votre Excellence sur la conduite des officiers Anglais, qui semble constituer, en cette circonstance, une contravention aux termes des instructions communes concertées entre le Gouvernement de l'Empereur et celui de Sa Majesté Britannique. Je ne doute pas que vous ne reconnaissiez, M. le Comte, l'illégalité de la visite dont le "Jean et Camille" a été l'objet. Je serai, dans tous les cas, particulièrement reconnaissant à votre Excellence de m'informer de la suite qu'elle aura bien voulu donner à la réclamation que j'ai été invité à lui soumettre.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) PCE. DE LA TOUR D'Auvergne.

Inclosure 2 in No. 50.

Earl Russell to the Prince de la Tour d'Auvergne.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Foreign Office, March 4, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of the 27th ultimo, calling my attention to a complaint preferred by Captain Etienne, of the French vessel "Jean et Camille," against the officers of Her Majesty's cruizers on the African Coast, for having boarded his vessel on three different occasions within the short space of two days, whilst sailing under French colours; and I beg to assure your Excellency that I will lose no time in bringing this case to the notice of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, with the view to inquiries being made into the matter, the result of which I will not fail to make known to your Excellency.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 50.

The Prince de la Tour d'Auvergne to Earl Russell.

M. le Comte,

Londres, le 4 Avril, 1865.

LE Capitaine au long cours Astre, du brick Français "Le Zouave," aurait été, d'après un rapport qu'il a adressé aux autorités maritimes du Havre, visité à deux reprises différentes par des croiseurs Anglais sur la côte occidentale d'Afrique, dans les parages du Petit et du Grand Popo. Les officiers, qui ont accosté ce navire une première fois, ont

refusé de faire connaître le nom des bâtiments de guerre auxquels ils appartenaient. La seconde fois, l'un d'eux a écrit sur le livre du bord l'annotation suivante:—

“ 11th October, 1864. Boarded the brig ‘Zouave.’ I ascertained she was French,
 “ (Signed) POWNAL,
 “ Acting Second Master H.M. ship ‘Sparrow.’ ”

M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères me charge de porter ces faits à la connaissance de votre Excellence, pensant que l'indication donnée par le Capitaine Astre, sur la seconde visite à laquelle il a été soumis, facilitera au Gouvernement de la Reine la recherche des auteurs de la contravention au droit maritime que j'ai l'honneur de lui signaler.

Le 27 Février dernier j'ai fait connaître à votre Excellence que le navire “Jean et Camille” avait été l'objet d'une visite semblable dans les mêmes parages, il ne serait pas impossible que ce fut également de la part des officiers du “Sparrow,” auquel le Gouvernement de la Reine voudrait bien, s'il en était ainsi, rappeler les instructions d'après lesquelles ils doivent s'abstenir de toute visite de bâtiments portant pavillon Français.

Veuillez, &c.
 (Signé) PCE. DE LA TOUR D'Auvergne.

Inclosure 4 in No. 50.

Earl Russell to the Prince de la Tour d'Auvergne.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Foreign Office, April 11, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 4th instant, stating that you have been directed to call the attention of Her Majesty's Government to a complaint preferred by the master of the French brig “Zouave,” who represents that his vessel was visited on two different occasions by British cruisers off the African coast, in the neighbourhood of Great and Little Popoe.

On the first occasion it is stated that the officers in the boat which accosted the “Zouave” refused to give the name of the vessel to which they belonged, whilst on the second occasion it would appear, from an entry made in the log-book of the “Zouave,” that it was a boat from Her Majesty's ship “Sparrow” that boarded her.

I beg leave to acquaint your Excellency that I will call upon the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to make inquiries into this matter, the result of which I will not fail to communicate to your Excellency.

I think it right, however, to acquaint your Excellency that, according to information received by Her Majesty's Government, there were, about the time that the “Zouave” was visited by British cruisers, as well as the “Jean et Camille” referred to in your Excellency's communication of the 27th of February, a considerable number of slaves collected in the neighbourhood of Popo and Aghwey waiting for shipment by vessels that were expected to receive them, and it is probable, therefore, that the commanders of British cruisers were more than ordinarily particular in verifying the nationality of vessels approaching that part of the coast.

I presume that your Excellency does not mean that the mere hoisting of French colours should exempt a vessel from all inquiries by British captains of cruisers as to her nationality. If that were the case all these traders, whether of Spanish, Portuguese, or any other nationality, would hoist French colours, and if no French vessel of war were in sight would escape all search or interruption in their nefarious traffic.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 51.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, April 17, 1865.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 4th instant, I transmit to your Excellency, for your information, a copy of a further despatch from Sir H. Bulwer, Her Majesty's at Constantinople,* relative to the Slave Trade carried on in the Soudan and the Turkish ports in the Red Sea.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 52.

Earl Russell to Mr. Grey.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 20, 1865.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith an extract of a letter from the officer in command of Her Majesty's naval forces on the West Coast of Africa,* which has been communicated to me by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, reporting that the most cordial goodwill and understanding exists between him and the French Admiral Laffon de Ladebat on all matters connected with their respective Governments and squadrons.

Commodore Wilmot, in a further letter, also reports that Admiral Laffon de Ladebat and himself have agreed upon a set of conventional signals for the use of their respective squadrons on the coast.

I have to instruct you to communicate at once to M. Drouyn de Lhuys the foregoing information, which Her Majesty's Government do not doubt will be as gratifying to the Government of the Emperor as it is to that of Her Majesty.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 53.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, May 26, 1865.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 12th ultimo, I inclose, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a letter from the Prince de la Tour d'Auvergne, replying to the inquiry contained in the last paragraph of the letter which I addressed to his Excellency on the 11th of April last, as to whether it was maintained by the French Government that the mere hoisting of French colours should exempt a vessel from all inquiries by Commanders of British cruisers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

Inclosure in No. 53.

The Prince de la Tour d'Auvergne to Earl Russell.

M. le Comte,

Londres, le 5 Mai, 1865.

J'AI transmis à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères la dépêche que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'écrire le 11 Avril dernier, relativement aux visites opérées à bord des navires Français le "Zouave" et le "Jean et Camille," par des croiseurs Anglais dans les parages du Grand et du Petit Popo. M. Drouyn de Lhuys m'a répondu qu'il admettait parfaitement, avec votre Excellence, que le simple fait d'arborer les couleurs Françaises ne saurait dispenser un navire suspect de toute vérification de nationalité; mais il m'invite à lui faire remarquer, conformément à l'observation qui en a été faite par son Excellence M. le Ministre de la Marine, qu'une mesure de ce genre ne saurait être justifiée qu'autant que les navires suspects présentent, abstraction faite de leurs couleurs, des caractères pouvant inspirer des doutes sérieux sur leur nationalité, que la vérification doit se borner d'ailleurs au simple examen des papiers de bord, et qu'en tous cas les croiseurs doivent, aux termes des instructions de 1859, adresser à leur Gouvernement un rapport l'informant de leurs actes de vérification et de leurs motifs pour y avoir procédé. M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, en attendant le résultat de l'enquête que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'annoncer, a cru devoir me charger de présenter ces observations au Gouvernement de la Reine, pour le cas où les croiseurs Anglais auraient négligé d'adresser à l'Amirauté les rapports prescrits par leurs instructions.

Veillez, &c.
(Signé) PCE. DE LA TOUR D'AUVERGNE.

No. 54.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received May 31.)

My Lord,

Paris, May 30, 1865.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch to Mr. Grey dated the 20th instant, instructing him to express to the Imperial Government the satisfaction felt by that of Her Majesty at the good understanding existing between Commodore Wilmot and Admiral Laffon de Ladebat, commanding respectively the British and French naval forces on the West Coast of Africa, I have the honour to inclose copy of a note from M. Drouyn de Lhuys in reply to the note addressed to him by Mr. Grey. M. Drouyn de Lhuys, as your Lordship will observe, expresses the warm satisfaction of the Imperial Government at the cordiality existing between the two officers in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) COWLEY.

Inclosure in No. 54.

M. Drouyn de Lhuys to Earl Cowley.

M. le Comte,

Paris, le 27 Mai, 1865.

PAR la lettre qu'il m'a fait l'honneur de m'écrire le 22 de ce mois, Mr. Grey a porté à ma connaissance les informations que le Cabinet de Londres a reçues de M. le Commodore Wilmot, et qui témoignent de la cordialité de ses rapports avec M. le Contre-Amiral Laffon de Ladebat. Je m'empresse de m'adresser à votre Excellence mes remerciements pour cette communication, et de lui donner l'assurance que le Gouvernement de l'Empereur s'applaudit, comme celui de Sa Majesté Britannique, de l'accord qui est établi entre MM. les Commandants-en-chef des forces navales de leurs pays à la Cote Occidentale d'Afrique.

Veillez, &c.
(Signé) DROUYN DE LHUYS.

No. 55.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, June 7, 1865.

WITH reference to my despatches of the 4th and 17th of April, I inclose, for your Excellency's information, copies of further correspondence, as marked in the margin,* relative to the Slave Trade carried on from the Turkish ports in the Red Sea.

Your Excellency will perceive, from Mr. Stuart's despatches of the 4th and 8th ultimo, that the Turkish Government has decided to place the ports of Massowah and Souakim, in the Red Sea, under the administration of the Viceroy of Egypt, upon certain conditions stated in Mr. Stuart's despatches.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 56.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, June 24, 1865.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's information, copy of a letter from Commodore Wilmot,† inclosing copies of two letters from the officer in command of the French naval forces on the African station, respecting a code of signals to be established between the English and French squadrons, and respecting the services rendered by Her Majesty's ship "Pandora" to the French ship "Comtesse de Brienne."

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 57.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Grey.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December 6, 1865.*
 WITH reference to Earl Russell's despatches to Earl Cowley of the 12th of April and 26th May last, inclosing copies of a correspondence which had passed between the French Ambassador at this Court and his Lordship, relative to the visit of French ships by British cruisers off the African coast, I now inclose, for your information, a copy of a letter which I have addressed to his Excellency the Prince de la Tour d'Auvergne containing explanations on this subject.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) CLARENDON.

Inclosure in No. 57.

The Earl of Clarendon to the Prince de la Tour d'Auvergne.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, December 2, 1865.*

IN fulfilment of the promise made to your Excellency by Earl Russell in his letters of the 4th of March and the 11th of April last, I now have the honour to make known to your Excellency the results, as far as they have hitherto been ascertained, of the inquiries instituted by the Lords of the Admiralty into the cases of the alleged improper boarding of the French vessels "Jean et Camille" and "Zouave" by British cruisers off the African coast, which cases formed the subject of your Excellency's communications to my predecessor dated the 27th of February, 4th of April, and 5th of May last.

Commander Richards, the senior naval officer in the Bights of Benin and Biafra, where the occurrences complained of are stated to have taken place, reports that he has made inquiries, and that he has been unable to discover any cases in which French vessels have been boarded by cruisers in his division.

In the case of the brig "Zouave," which is stated in your Excellency's letter of the 4th of April to have been boarded by a boat from Her Majesty's ship "Sparrow," Commander Richards states that he very well remembers to have seen that vessel, but that she was never boarded by any cruiser under his orders; and Commander Jones of the "Sparrow," who was called upon for explanations in this matter, reports that no such name as the "Zouave" appears in the "Sparrow's" boarding book or log, and that he does not recollect ever having officially boarded a French merchant-ship. That officer adds that, on the contrary, he has most studiously abstained from even the appearance of doing so, and that he never at any time sent a boat on board French merchant-vessels for any other purpose than for the purchase of stock or to inquire if there were any for disposal.

The only case which Commander Richards can discover as at all likely to have given rise to the complaints of French shipmasters is that of a cruising boat belonging to Her Majesty's ship "Espoir," the officer in charge of which, contrary to his written orders, went on board a French ship, name unknown, in search of stock; but as this officer was afterwards unfortunately drowned with the whole of his boat's crew in the surf at Appi, it has not been possible to make further inquiries in this quarter.

Commander Richards observes, and doubtless with some reason, that many of the complaints that have been made of the boarding of French vessels by British cruisers, have arisen in consequence of the mutual ignorance of each other's language on the part of British officers and French shipmasters.

With the view, however, to prevent a recurrence of complaints which might possibly arise from the simple fact of French merchant-vessels being visited to procure provisions, Commander Richards has issued an order, a copy of which I beg leave to inclose, by which your Excellency will perceive that officers in command of detached boats are henceforward directed never to go on board French vessels in search of stock.

Whilst issuing this order, the senior officer of the Bights division dwells upon the difficult position in which the commanders of British cruisers are placed who are engaged in the suppression of the Slave Trade.

French vessels-of-war, he states, rarely visit the Bights of Benin and Biafra, and if they come once in three months they pass along in twenty-four hours.

Commander Richards adds that he has been Senior Officer of the Division for seven months, and that during that period he has seen but one French pendant, that of the "Somme" transport. He observes that the only check, therefore, against the fraudulent assumption of the French flag is the constant vigilance of the English cruisers, and that

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if a little latitude is not allowed to commanding officers in the execution of their duties, their exertions for the suppression of the Slave Trade must soon become paralyzed.

As as proof that there is no want of courtesy on the part of the Commanders of British cruizers towards the French flag, Commander Richards instances the case of Commander Jones of the "Sparrow," who was engaged for many days in the month of July last in endeavouring to save the French brig "Flèche," stranded near Great Popo, and who is now reluctantly compelled to quit the command of his ship from ill health, which is doubtless in some degree to be attributed to the exertions used by that officer in his endeavours to save the French vessel.

Another case is also mentioned in which Commander Maitland of the "Landrail" nearly lost his life in the surf when returning from another French vessel, the "Françoise Maria," whose anchor her crew has been engaged in endeavouring to recover.

Should I receive any further Reports from the Admiralty throwing additional light on the cases which form the subject of complaint in the letters addressed by your Excellency to my predecessor, I beg leave to assure you that I will lose no time in communicating them to you.

I will only now add that whilst, on the one hand, Her Majesty's Government regret that any complaints, whether well or ill-founded, should have been made to the French Government by French shipmasters, of the proceedings towards them of the Commanders of British cruizers, it is gratifying, on the other hand, to know that in some instances at least British cruizers have been of service to French shipping on the African Coast.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 58.

The Earl of Clarendon to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, December 22, 1865.

WITH reference to my despatch to Mr. Grey of the 6th instant, and to previous correspondence on the subject of complaints made by certain French shipmasters on the West Coast of Africa, of their vessels having been visited by British cruizers, I transmit to your Excellency herewith a copy of a letter which I have addressed to the Prince de la Tour d'Auvergne on this subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

Inclosure in No. 58.

The Earl of Clarendon to the Prince de la Tour d'Auvergne.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Foreign Office, December 19, 1865.

WITH reference to the letter which I had the honour to address to your Excellency on the 2nd instant, acquainting your Excellency with the results, as far as they have been ascertained, of the inquiries instituted by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty into the cases of alleged improper boarding of the French vessels "Jean et Camille" and "Zouave" by British cruizers off the African Coast, I have now the honour to inform your Excellency that I have received a further communication on this subject from the Admiralty, from which it appears that the Commanders of Her Majesty's ships "Espoir," "Landrail," "Torch," "Sparrow," "Snipe," and "Vindictive," who were employed in cruising for the suppression of the Slave Trade in the Bights of Benin and Biafra at the time when the "Jean et Camille" is stated to have been boarded by boats from British cruizers, distinctly deny that that vessel was ever visited by boats from Her Majesty's ships under their command.

As there may still remain reports to be received from other Commanders, which may throw some light on the case of the "Jean et Camille," I beg leave to assure your Excellency that should I receive any further information on this subject I will not fail to communicate it to you.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

MADAGASCAR.

No. 59.

Consul Pakenham to Earl Russell.—(Received March 20, 1865.)

My Lord,

Tananarivo, December 10, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of the Prime Minister's reply to my letter complaining of the Traffic in Slaves from beyond the sea carried on in Madagascar.

Your Lordship will be glad to see that the Hova Government are taking steps to carry out my suggestions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. C. PAKENHAM.

Inclosure in No. 59.

The Prime Minister of Madagascar to Consul Pakenham.

Sir,

Antananarivo, December 3, 1864.

I HAVE received the letter which you wrote to me from Tamatave on the 10th October, 1864, and concerning which I have to say that I am grieved to hear from you that slaves from across the sea are brought here. I now inform you that I have written to the Governors of all the ports of Madagascar forbidding them to do that, as it is a crime according to the law of Madagascar to do that, for the Queen of Madagascar has, in public khabary, issued a strong law forbidding to buy persons from beyond the seas, or to sell persons to export beyond the sea.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RAINILAIARIVONY.

No. 60.

Earl Russell to Consul Pakenham.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 30, 1865.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 15th of December last, inclosing a copy of the Prime Minister's reply to your letter complaining of the Traffic in Slaves from beyond sea carried on in Madagascar; and I have to instruct you to express to the Hova Government the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt the orders issued by the Prime Minister forbidding this traffic.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 61.

Consul Pakenham to Earl Russell.—(Received June 9.)

My Lord,

Tananarivo, January 20, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copies of correspondence between the Hova Government and myself, respecting a native of

Zanzibar, named Hamady, whom some unprincipled Hovas claimed as a runaway slave from Tananarivo, although I had, what appeared to me, satisfactory proof of the contrary.

I therefore considered it my duty, for the sake of example, to press the Hova Government for an equitable decision in favour of Hamady, which I am happy to be able to report I have obtained, Hamady having been manumitted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. C. PAKENHAM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 61.

Consul Pakenham to the Prime Minister of Madagascar.

My dear Sir,

Tananarivo, December 1, 1864.

I REALLY cannot imagine why there should be any khabary in the case of the free foreigner from beyond the sea, whom some wicked persons wrongfully claim as their slave.

The following are the facts of the case, and I tell you, as a friend, that unless justice is done to this poor man, they will have to be reported to Earl Russell.

His name is Hamady, and he is a native of Zanzibar, as I can prove by the testimony of two of my Lascars who come from the same country. He was quietly living at Moramanga, not as a slave, but as a free man, when we passed through there on the 11th instant. This, Rasolo 9th Honor, who accompanied us, will tell you. Rasolo hired Hamady to carry his baggage up to Tananarivo, and promised, on arrival, to pay his karama (hire), and send him back to Moramanga.

I therefore hope that Hamady will be allowed to return without further molestation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. C. PAKENHAM.

Inclosure 2 in No. 61.

The Prime Minister of Madagascar to Consul Pakenham.

My dear Sir,

Antananarivo, December 3, 1864.

I HAVE received your letter dated 1st December. In reply I wish to state that it is not the intention of Government to hold a khabary respecting Hamady, but the officers of the Government will give the case a fair hearing as soon as possible, and will take care that justice be done to him.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) RAINILAIARIVONY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 61.

Consul Pakenham to the Prime Minister of Madagascar.

My dear Sir,

Tananarivo, December 21, 1864.

ON the 3rd instant you promised me a fair hearing and justice for Hamady, the foreigner from beyond the sea. As yet nothing has been done; and this unfortunate man, besides being considered a slave, is even treated as a prisoner, being, I am told, put in fetters at night.

I cannot, I must confess, reconcile these proceedings with the repeated statements of your Government, that the laws of Madagascar prohibit the Traffic in Slaves from beyond the sea; as I am quite prepared to prove, whatever representations may be made to you to the contrary, that Hamady is from a country beyond the sea.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. C. PAKENHAM.

Inclosure 4 in No. 61.

The Prime Minister of Madagascar to Consul Pakenham.

My dear Sir,

Antananarivo, December 22, 1864.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date; and I inform you that justice "has done" to Hamady to-day.

Your friend,
(Signed) RAINILAIARIVONY.

No. 62.

Earl Russell to Consul Pakenham.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 19, 1865.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 20th of January last; and I have to convey to you my approval of the steps you took to procure from the Hova Government the manumission of Hamady, a native of Zanzibar.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 63.

Consul Pakenham to Earl Russell.—(Received August 11.)

(Extract.)

Tananarivo, May 22, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a letter which I received from the Prime Minister on the 12th of last March, respecting the sentence passed on M. Jules Xaver, a Swiss subject, for having caused the death of one of his slaves, which the Queen of Madagascar is desirous should be communicated to the Swiss Government. I also beg to transmit herewith, copies of a correspondence which passed between M. Jules Xaver and myself on the subject, and to mention that this matter would have been brought under your Lordship's notice sooner, had not an appeal from the condemned party to the Queen, which has just been dismissed, been pending.

I am sorry to have to add, that although M. Xaver himself admits having dealt in slaves, one of whom (the deceased) died from the effects of most cruel treatment, still the whole European community of Tamatave, including two English Protestant missionaries, signed a petition which was presented to the Queen a few days ago by Mr. Alexander Gair, a British subject, praying for his pardon.

Inclosure 1 in No. 63.

The Prime Minister of Madagascar to Consul Pakenham.

My dear Sir,

Ambohimanga, March 12, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that a Swiss subject residing at Mahanoro, by name Jules Xaver, has caused the death of one of his slaves by beating.

According to the Malagasy law, such crime is punishable by death; but in order to avoid the bad feeling which might be caused between foreigners and natives of Madagascar by carrying out this sentence on an European, Her Majesty the Queen of Madagascar has been pleased, with the advice of her Ministers, to sentence the said Jules Xaver to be banished from Madagascar, relying on the sense of justice by which Her Majesty feels sure the Swiss Government is animated to have Xaver punished for this crime according to Swiss law. And not having any Representative in Switzerland, Her Majesty solicits the friendly offices of the British Government in bringing the whole case to the notice of the Swiss Government.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) RAINILAIARIVONY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 63.

M. Xaver to Consul Pakenham.

Sir,

Mahanoro, January 6, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to inform you of the facts of an unfortunate accident which has happened to me, and beg with instance your protection and interference in my behalf.

In the month of November last, I ordered a slave of mine to be punished for having repeatedly stolen, and for being a runaway for the fifth time; the number of lashes were forty inflicted with the native rattan, applied upon his unmentionables. The slave instead of begging pardon became stupid, and I still more angry with his stupidity, would not have him untied until he would beg pardon, which he refused. Leaving the boy tied up I went about some business to a neighbour of mine where I remained for about one hour, when I was suddenly informed that the boy was dead, without having ever uttered a word since the time I left my place.

Upon this bad news I rushed to my house, where I found the boy still tied up and dead; I tried all in my power during three hours to bring life back, but to my great sorrow without success.

As I had no bad intention in inflicting punishment, I deferred interment until I had informed the Governor of Mahanoro of the case, requesting him to send two officers to inspect the body that there were no signs of blood, nor of a knife, iron, or any sharp weapon of whatsoever kind used by me. The officers came and reported the truth of my statement, and the affair was sent up to the capital for decision. A letter has since been received by the Governor from the Queen demanding the time which expired between his punishment and his death; I have given the answer according to truth, but as I am aware that the Hovas here wish to extort money in order to arrange this unfortunate case, I beg you will be good enough to accord me your protection and assistance. Be assured, Sir, that my conscience does not reprove me with any wilful intention to kill the boy. Having bought him for 40 dollars and paid 15 dollars more to get him back after he ran away, it cannot be supposed that I would kill intentionally a boy, committing at the same time a horrible crime and a fool's act.

My opinion is, that being of a depraved character, and finding no relief in his rage, he was killed by a congestion to the head.

I hope, Sir, you will view this case in the light of an accident, and give me that assistance of which I am so much in need; I shall remember with gratitude and thanks your interference. I do hardly fear to be sent out of the country, but should such be the case, it would be an ineffaceable stain upon my character. I am most unfortunate on that account, but trust, Sir, you will put in a word in my favour with the Queen and the Prime Minister.

Hoping, Sir, to receive a favourable reply to my letter, I remain, &c.

(Signed) JULES XAVER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 63.

Consul Pakenham to M. Xaver.

Sir,

Tananarivo, January 26, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt, late last evening, of your letter dated the 6th instant, in which you explain the circumstances under which one of your slaves met his death, and solicit my intervention and protection with a view to stopping certain proceedings instituted against you, in this matter, by the local authorities.

In reply I beg to inform you that the purchase of a slave constitutes a very grave offence against British law, and one which, if committed by a British subject, it would be my duty to take cognizance of. You will therefore at once see my inability to assist you in the present case, where the provisions of that law have in the first instance been infringed by you.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. C. PAKENHAM.

No. 64.

*Earl Russell to Consul Pakenham.*Sir, *Foreign Office, August 22, 1865.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 22nd of May last, together with its inclosures, relative to the conduct of a M. Jules Xaver, a Swiss citizen, who caused the death of one of his slaves by ill treatment.

I have to acquaint you that in compliance with the desire of the Queen of Madagascar, as expressed in your despatch, I have instructed Her Majesty's Minister at Berne to communicate the particulars of this case to the Swiss Government, and to state at the same time that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve your having declined to interfere in M. Xaver's behalf to prevent the sentence of banishment pronounced against him from being carried into effect.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

MEXICO.

No. 65.

Mr. Scarlett to Earl Russell.—(Received April 28.)

My Lord,

Mexico, March 18, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch which I received a few days ago from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Vera Cruz, as well as copy of a letter addressed to Mr. Ledward by the senior naval officer on the Gulf station, relative to the case of a steamer reported to have been employed in the Slave Trade, and at present at anchor in the harbour of Vera Cruz.

The "*Margarita Quintero*" was sailing under Spanish colours when she arrived at Tampico, but before leaving the port she hoisted the Mexican flag, retaining however her former captain, supercargo, and crew.

Under these circumstances I addressed the accompanying note to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and at the same time privately requested his Excellency to telegraph these facts to the chief authority at Vera Cruz, in order that the guilty parties might not escape, should they hear of the case having been laid before the Government.

Señor Ramirez at once complied with my request, and there the matter rests for the moment.

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

P.S.—Since writing the above despatch, I have received the note, copy and translation of which I have the honour herewith to inclose, from Señor Ramirez in answer to mine to his Excellency of the 16th instant, by which your Lordship will perceive that, as they allege, no proof appears to have existed of the "*Margarita Quintero*" being employed in the Slave Trade, that vessel has been set at liberty by the authorities of Vera Cruz.

I shall probably hear again from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Vera Cruz on this subject.

P. C. S.

Inclosure 1 in No. 65.

Acting Consul Ledward to Mr. Scarlett.

Sir,

Vera Cruz, March 11, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to inclose for your perusal copy of a letter from Captain Charles Wake, R.N., of Her Majesty's ship "*Bulldog*," respecting a steamer reported to have been employed in the Slave Trade, and now at anchor in this harbour.

As the information required by Captain Wake can only be obtained through an order from the Imperial Mexican Government to its officers in this port and Tampico, I take the liberty of placing the matter in your hands for the purpose of having it brought under the notice of the competent authorities in the city of Mexico, should you consider such a course necessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRED. LEDWARD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 65.

Captain Wake to Acting Consul Ledward.

Sir, "Bulldog," *Sacrificios, Vera Cruz, March 11, 1865.*
 AS there is some reason to believe that the screw steamer "*Margarita Quintero*," now in this port, has recently been engaged in the Slave Trade, and is one of those vessels which have hitherto evaded all the efforts of the British cruisers to capture them, and as the Mexican law declaring Slave Trade piracy, dated August 8, 1851, provides for the detention of ships, foreign or Mexican, that are suspected of being or having been engaged in the Slave Trade, I have to request that you will move the Mexican authorities to make inquiry into the antecedents of this ship before she assumed a Mexican nationality, and to detain her until the same can be done.

I have been informed that on her change of flag at Tampico, she retained the Spanish captain, supercargo, and crew, that brought her into that port, and I therefore also submit that the change of nationality that has been effected at Tampico, though admissible for the ends of legitimate commerce, ought not to be allowed where the effect of the transaction (unintentional on the part of the purchasers) is to protect the owners, captain, supercargo, and crew of a notorious slaver from the consequences of their crime.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) C. WAKE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 65.

Mr. Scarlett to Señor Ramirez.

M. le Ministre,

Mexico, March 16, 1865.

I HAVE the honour herewith to transmit to your Excellency copy of a despatch which I received yesterday from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Vera Cruz, Mr. Ledward, inclosing a communication that had been addressed to him by Captain Wake, of Her Majesty's ship "Bulldog," the senior officer of the British naval force in the Gulf of Mexico, copy of which I also beg to transmit for your Excellency's information.

Mr. Ledward is thereby apprised that the screw steamer "*Margarita Quintero*," which has for a long time been notoriously engaged in the Slave Trade, is now at Vera Cruz, having previously, on her arrival at Tampico, changed the Spanish flag for that of Mexico.

As the Mexican law of 1851, declaring Slave Trade piracy, provides for the detention of ships, foreign or Mexican, suspected of being engaged in the illicit Traffic of Slaves, I hasten to submit this correspondence to your Excellency's notice, so that an order may be sent, as soon as possible, to Vera Cruz, to detain the vessel in question, for the purpose of enabling the Mexican authorities to inquire into her antecedents before she assumed the Mexican nationality.

I moreover beg to call your Excellency's attention to Captain Wake's belief that the "*Margarita Quintero*," notwithstanding her change of flag, continues to retain on board the Spanish captain, supercargo, and crew, who have hitherto been the guilty parties in carrying on the Slave Trade, and who ought not to be allowed to escape the consequences of their culpability through the protection of the Mexican flag.

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

Inclosure 4 in No. 65.

Señor Ramirez to Mr. Scarlett.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Mexico, March 25, 1865.*
 YOUR Excellency has already been informed that immediately on receipt of your note of the 16th instant, with its accompanying documents, I sent by telegraph the most precise orders to the authorities of Vera Cruz to have the "*Margarita Quintero*" detained in port.

I have to-day the honour to acquaint your Excellency of the termination of this affair.

The "*Margarita Quintero*" (with her cargo already on board, and preparing to go out to sea), having been detained, every investigation was made, and steps conducive to

CLASS B.

proving whether that vessel was a slaver or not were taken, keeping in view for that object the Treaty of 1843 and the Law of 1851.

The attentive and minute examination of the papers, crew, equipment, and cargo, by very competent persons did not give any indication of culpability, and consequently the "*Margarita Quintero*" remained at liberty to undertake the voyage, the authorities of Vera Cruz having opportunely acquainted Her Majesty's Consul with the result on account of the intervention he had had in the business.

With this motive I have the honour to repeat, &c.

(Signed)

FRANCISCO J. RAMIREZ.

No. 66.

Earl Russell to Mr. Scarlett.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 1, 1865.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 18th of March last, I transmit to you herewith a copy of a letter from the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "*Griffon*,"* which has been communicated to me by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, containing information respecting the movements of the notorious Spanish slave-steamer "*Cicéron*," now called the "*Margarita Quintero*," which vessel has been thwarted a second time in an attempt to ship a cargo of slaves from the African coast.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

RUSSELL.

No. 67.

Earl Russell to Mr. Scarlett.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 10, 1865.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 18th of March last, together with its inclosures, relating to the notorious Spanish slave-steamer "*Cicéron*," which it appears is now transferred to the Mexican flag; and I have to acquaint you that I approve your proceedings with regard to this vessel.

You will not fail to make known to the Mexican Government the particulars communicated to you in my despatch of the 1st instant, which show the true nature of the voyage on which the "*Cicéron*" was lately engaged; and as this vessel still retains the same captain, crew, and supercargo, it may be inferred that she has only changed her name and colours in order the better to enable her to carry on the Traffic in Slaves in which she has been for the last two years engaged.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

RUSSELL.

No. 68.

Mr. Scarlett to Earl Russell.—(Received May 30.)

My Lord,

Mexico, April 12, 1865.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 18th ultimo, and to my postscript to the same, dated the 27th of that month, respecting the case of the supposed slaver "*Margarita Quintero*," I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have received in a despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Vera Cruz a copy, herewith inclosed, of the letter addressed by him to Captain Wake, R.N., Senior Naval Officer on the station, containing the result of the inquiries instituted by the Mexican authorities into the true character of that vessel, which appeared sufficiently satisfactory to admit of her being released from further detention.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

P. CAMPBELL SCARLETT.

* Class A, Inclosure in No. 65.

Inclosure in No. 68.

Acting Consul Ledward to Captain Wake.

Sir,

Vera Cruz, March 24, 1865.

RESPECTING the steamer "*Margarita Quintero*" I have the honour to inform you that after communicating with Her Britannic Majesty's Minister in the city of Mexico, who doubtless brought the matter under the notice of the Imperial Government, I have been informed by the chief authority of this city that every step has been taken on his part to discover the true character of the vessel in question; and that the result is—

"That she was legally sold and placed under the Mexican flag at Tampico.

"That she is at present employed in legitimate trade.

"That so long as she remains under the Mexican flag she cannot be employed in any nefarious traffic.

"That the present owners will incur very heavy penalties should the contrary be subsequently proved.

"That proper and substantial guarantee has been exacted for the fulfilment of these conditions."

Under these circumstances I consider it unnecessary to interfere further in the matter, as I am convinced that every reliance can be placed in the good faith of the Mexican authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRED. LEDWARD.

No. 69.

Mr. Scarlett to Earl Russell.—(Received August 30.)

My Lord,

Mexico, July 19, 1865.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 10th of May last, I have the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a note which I addressed on the 3rd instant to the Minister for Foreign Affairs relative to the case of the slave steamer "*Margarita Quintero*."

As yet Señor Ramirez has taken no notice of my communication, but should I obtain a reply from the Mexican Government in time for the mail, I will communicate it to your Lordship in a postscript to this despatch.

I have transmitted to the Admiral on the station, as well as to the senior naval officer in the Gulf of Mexico, a copy of my note to Señor Ramirez.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. CAMPBELL SCARLETT.

Inclosure in No. 69.

Mr. Scarlett to Señor Ramirez.

M. le Ministre,

Mexico, July 3, 1865.

On the 16th March last I had the honour of bringing to your Excellency's notice the case of the supposed slaver "*Margarita Quintero*," which vessel had, upon her arrival at Vera Cruz, changed the Spanish for the Mexican flag, retaining however her former captain, supercargo, and crew; and your Excellency was good enough to have the "*Margarita Quintero*" detained until it could be seen whether or not there were any proofs of her having been previously engaged in the Traffic of Slaves. From your note, however, of the 30th March, I learnt that this case had been fully investigated, and that the "*Margarita Quintero's*" papers were found to be in good and proper form, and that the steamer had consequently been allowed to proceed to sea, it having been proved to the satisfaction of the Imperial Government that she was not a slaver.

By the last mail from Europe I received a despatch from Earl Russell bearing upon this question, and, in accordance with his Lordship's instructions, I have the honour now to give your Excellency the following information respecting the movements of the "*Margarita Quintero*," previous to her arrival on this coast.

The "*Margarita Quintero*," better known as the notorious Spanish slaver "*Cicéron*," or "*Elvira*," commanded by Don Pedro Mas, a Spaniard, cleared from Cadiz for Matamoros on the 26th of October last, but proceeded directly to the Bight of Benin for slaves. She

made several attempts to get slaves on board, but was chased off the land by Her Britannic Majesty's cruizers, and had eventually to desist from her purpose, sailing for her original destination (Matamoros) with a cargo of blankets, shoes, and provisions, which she had shipped before leaving Cadiz, in order to clear expenses, should she not succeed in obtaining a cargo of slaves.

There can be no doubt whatever as to the nature of the voyage on which the "*Margarita Quintero*" was lately engaged, and as the "*Margarita Quintero*" and the "*Cicéron*" are one and the same vessel, and as she still retains her former captain, supercargo, and crew, it may be inferred that she has only changed her name and colours, in order the better to enable her to carry on the Traffic in Slaves, in which she has been engaged for the last two years.

Her Majesty's Government are very anxious that the movements of this vessel should be strictly watched, and I trust therefore that the official agents of His Imperial Majesty abroad will be duly informed of the suspicion which attaches to the "*Margarita Quintero*," in order that her papers may be thoroughly examined whenever her captain has occasion to present them in proof of his being entitled to the protection of His Imperial Majesty's Government, and should this slaver again present herself in Mexican waters, I have to request that she may be detained, and her arrival reported to me, as she is evidently the vessel which has been employed for so long in the illegal commerce of slaves, and although the change of nationality may be admissible for the ends of legitimate commerce, it ought not to be allowed where the effect of the transaction (unintentional no doubt on the part of the purchasers) is to protect the owners, captain, supercargo, and crew from the consequences of their crime.

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

No. 70.

Mr. Scarlett to Earl Russell.—(Received September 28.)

My Lord,

Mexico, August 22, 1865.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 19th of July ultimo, I have now the honour to inclose for your Lordship's information, translation of a note which I received yesterday from Señor Ramirez, in which his Excellency informs me that orders have been forwarded to the authorities at Vera Cruz, Tampico, and Matamoros, to detain the "*Margarita Quintero*," if she should arrive again at any of those ports.

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

Inclosure in No. 70.

Señor Ramirez to Mr. Scarlett.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre,

Mexico, August 21, 1865.

IN consequence of your Excellency's note of 3rd of July last, addressed to this Department, relative to the Spanish vessel "*Margarita Quintero*," proper orders have been sent to the authorities at Vera Cruz, Tampico, and Matamoros, in order that, should said vessel present herself in any of those ports, she be detained, and this Department be immediately advised thereof, so that the necessary measures may be taken.

Having thus complied with your Excellency's wishes, contained in the aforesaid note, I have, &c.

(Signed) JOSE F. RAMIREZ.

MUSCAT.

No. 71.

Lieutenant-Colonel Playfair to Earl Russell.—(Received October 27.)

My Lord,

Zanzibar, September 1, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to attach, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch of this day's date to the Government of Bombay.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. L. PLAYFAIR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 71.

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

(Extract.)

Zanzibar, September 1, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to report that Her Majesty's ship "Wasp" has arrived at Zanzibar for the double purpose of operating, during a limited period, for the suppression of the Slave Trade, and of obtaining, for submission to Admiral King, all the information her Commander can obtain on the subject.

Inclosed is a copy of a Memorandum which I have given to Captain Bowden, containing the views I have so frequently expressed regarding the locality to be watched.

Inclosure 2 in No. 71.

Memorandum.

THE northern dhows which come to the African coast for slaves commence running south about the beginning of November; they remain on this coast till the end of April. Such as have not succeeded in getting off by that time remain here till August, and numbers run across to Arabia between the end of August and the 15th of October.

Lately they have been running on the coast at all seasons, but only for the purpose of collecting a slave cargo at one of the northern ports, so as to be ready for the first favourable opportunity to proceed to Arabia.

Every slaver must pass between Cape Guardafui and Socotra. Were they to keep to the east of that island the current would take them to the Malabar coast. It is absolutely certain that if the Straits between those two places and the coast from Guardafui (14° north latitude) to Ras Maabar (9° north latitude) were efficiently watched, not a slave would leave the coast of Africa. A single gun-boat would have more effect there than the whole Indian squadron further south.

The times during which it would be necessary to watch this locality are from the 1st of September till the end of May; during the latter period the greatest number of slavers might be expected. No boats would venture across at any other time; and even at those periods they must keep close to the African coast, otherwise the current would carry them out to sea, and they would have to stand south again.

This plan, if adopted, would narrow the operations for the suppression of the Slave Trade within very practicable limits.

Liberated slaves could always be landed at Aden.

(Signed)

R. L. PLAYFAIR.

Zanzibar, September 1, 1864.

No. 72.

Lieutenant-Colonel Playfair to Earl Russell.—(Received January 28, 1865.)

My Lord,

Zanzibar, September 30, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch of this day's date to the Government of Bombay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. L. PLAYFAIR.

Inclosure in No. 72.

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

Sir,

Zanzibar, September 30, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to report that on the night of the 14th instant I received information that a dhow had surreptitiously embarked a cargo of slaves, and was just starting for Arabia. There was no time to communicate with His Highness, but I dispatched a messenger to his secretary requesting that the vessel might be seized. A party of soldiers was immediately sent, and these, with my messenger, got into the first boat they found on the beach and gave chase; in a few hours she was overtaken and brought back to Zanzibar.

She was found to contain fifty-seven slaves, many of them kidnapped from people in the town. His Highness freed five of the most promising children, and sent them to be educated at Bishop Tozer's mission; the remainder he confiscated, and the dhow was taken opposite to my windows and burnt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. L. PLAYFAIR.

No. 73.

Lieutenant-Colonel Playfair to Earl Russell.—(Received January 28, 1865.)

My Lord,

Zanzibar, November 28, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of my letter of this day's date to the Government of Bombay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. L. PLAYFAIR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 73.

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

Sir,

Zanzibar, November 28, 1864.

REFERRING to my letter dated 1st October, 1863, and previous correspondence, I have the honour to report that, after a year's experience of the working of the new taxes on cloves and cocoa-nut trees, His Highness has found it so difficult to collect the latter with the imperfect machinery at his disposal, that he has determined to abolish it and substitute an increased tax on slaves instead.

2. He has this day issued the proclamations attached, and from this source he hopes to increase his revenue more than by the abolished tax on cocoa-nut trees.

3. No revenue from such a source can be regarded as satisfactory, but as he has an undoubted right to deal with the institution of slavery in any manner he pleases within the limits prescribed by Treaty, I have not thought it advisable to offer any objections. His Highness consulted me before carrying the scheme into execution, but I declined to offer any opinions on it, except to state that, however he might see fit to increase his revenue, I thought that the proceeds should be devoted to the construction of public works likely to benefit his country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. L. PLAYFAIR.

Inclosure 2 in No. 73.

Proclamations.

(Translation.)

I.

TO all to whom it may concern.

Be it known that we have abolished the tax on cocoa-nut trees in the Island of Zanzibar from this 22nd day of Jumad-el-Akhir, 1281 (28th November, 1864).

II.

BE it known that we have imposed a tax of $1\frac{3}{4}$ dollars on every slave embarked at Kilwa for Zanzibar proper, and on every slave taken thence to another place 4 dollars, and on every slave exported from the Island of Zanzibar to the Marima (opposite coast), to Mombassa or Lamoo, 2 dollars. The exportation of slaves to any other place is prohibited.

(Date as above.)

No. 74.

Earl Russell to Lieutenant-Colonel Playfair.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 5, 1865.

I HAVE to acquaint you that the Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint Dr. Livingstone to be Her Majesty's Consul in the territories of the African Kings and Chiefs in the interior of Africa not subject to the authority of the King of Portugal, or of the King of Abyssinia, or of the Viceroy of Egypt.

The Queen's Commission has been given to Dr. Livingstone with a view to assist him in the important journey he is about to undertake, and which has for its objects the exploration of that part of the African continent lying between the 5th degrees of north and south latitude, the encouragement of lawful trade, and the suppression of the export traffic in slaves.

Dr. Livingstone will proceed to Zanzibar, where he will make arrangements for starting on his journey into the interior; and I have to desire that you will yourself afford him the benefit of your advice and assistance, and that you will bespeak for him the good offices of the Sultan of Zanzibar in the prosecution of the important expedition he is about to undertake, and in the success of which, you will inform His Highness, Her Majesty's Government take a lively interest.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 75.

Lieutenant-Colonel Playfair to Earl Russell.—(Received July 12.)

(Extract.)

Seychelles, May 30, 1865.

THE season during which the Slave Trade is principally carried on along the East Coast of Africa is from January to May; and, as it has now closed, I am able to report on the measures which have been adopted for its suppression, and on their results.

I regret to say that, for years past, so many slaves have not been exported from Zanzibar as during the last few months. The Northern Arabs came down rather later than usual, and I had hoped, from the experience of last year, that they were beginning to fear the activity of our cruisers, and to abandon to a great extent so dangerous a trade; but my anticipations have not been realised. They arrived in unusual numbers during March and April, with large sums of treasure for the purchase of slaves.

The average price of a slave is about 14 dollars; but owing to the measures which His Highness the Sultan had taken to prevent the Northern Arabs purchasing slaves, the price rose to 30 dollars, 40 dollars, and at one time to 70 dollars. Such prices easily induced the inhabitants to part with their domestic and farm slaves, and in addition large numbers were kidnapped from the town and adjacent plantations.

I had long seen how hopeless it was to grapple with the Slave Trade in the Sultan's dominions; the extent of coast is too great to be effectually watched by any

number of vessels which we are likely to have on the station, and I suggested that their operations should be transferred to the vicinity of Cape Guardafui.

This course was sanctioned; and, but for a series of unforeseen accidents, I have no doubt that the result would have answered my expectation.

The naval force on this coast consisted of the "Wasp," "Lyra," "Rapid," "Pantaloony," and "Penguin." The "Pantaloony" was detained in the Red Sea, and arrived here too late to do any good. A rumour, which turned out to be false, of the wreck of the "Penguin," near Brawa, rendered it necessary for the "Lyra," and subsequently the "Wasp," to proceed thither to ascertain the truth of the report; and thus, at the very season when their presence was necessary at the north, they were prevented from proceeding thither. The consequence was, that the "Penguin" alone was able to watch the passage between Cape Guardafui and Socotra.

I have received no official report of her proceedings; but I have heard, on reliable authority, that she made a prize containing 120 slaves, which was as many as she could well carry, and had to leave her cruising-ground in order to land them at Aden. She subsequently returned, made another capture of about 140 more, which, in like manner, she took to Aden.

I think there can be little doubt but that, if more vessels had been there, they would all have taken as many slaves as they could have accommodated on board.

The "Lyra" and "Rapid" have, as far as I know, done nothing; the former was cruising to the south of Zanzibar, the latter came too late to the station, and as she had orders to proceed to the Cape, she had not time to cruise for any length of time on the Zanzibar coast.

The "Wasp" has been more successful. She captured a dhow in April, with about 17 slaves on board*; and as it proved to belong to subjects of His Highness, transporting slaves from port to port in his dominions, as sanctioned by the Treaty, but contrary to his orders, it was made over to His Highness, who burnt the vessel and confiscated the slaves.

About the same time another prize was taken by the boats of the "Wasp;" she was supposed to contain one or two slaves, and three seamen were put on board to take charge of her. It was believed that these men, well-armed as they were, would have sufficed to overawe the small unarmed crew which she contained; but, during the absence of the boats, in chase of another vessel, the first prize, or one resembling her, was seen to make sail and proceed towards the north before a strong breeze, and nothing has been heard of her since.

His Highness has written to all the ports in his dominions to detain her if she enters; and if on my return to Zanzibar she has not been taken, I shall communicate with the Government of Bombay, with a view to have her searched for on the Arabian Coast.

But the most important capture made by the "Wasp" occurred on the 12th instant. Captain Bowden having received intelligence on that day that a large dhow was embarking a cargo of slaves, ordered his pinnace and cutter to intercept her. She was found at midnight, about a mile and a-half from the coast, and was taken after a vigorous resistance. The Arabs on board far outnumbered the boats' crew, and fought desperately. On our side one seaman was killed; Lieutenant Rising, who commanded the party, was dangerously, and Lieutenant Theobald and Mr. Midshipman Wilson were severely wounded; several seamen, moreover, were more or less dangerously wounded. Three of the Arabs were killed, others were wounded, and the majority jumped into the sea; of these, some were drowned and some escaped in a boat which was towing astern. The dhow contained 284 slaves, who have been brought to Seychelles.

Nothing could have exceeded the gallantry of Lieutenant Rising, and indeed of all under his command. It is, strictly speaking, no part of my duty to comment on the behaviour of naval officers, but I cannot resist recording the admiration with which I, and all who have any knowledge of the affair, regard their gallant conduct; especially that of Lieutenant Rising, who was the first to board the dhow, and who has been so seriously wounded that he will probably be a cripple for life.

From what I have stated it is evident that our operations during all the years over which they have extended, have had no appreciable effect in stopping the Slave Trade; and, from the experience I have gained at Zanzibar, I have no hesitation in saying that nothing we can do will ever stop it. Many slavers may be taken, and if we put on sufficient pressure the export may even be entirely suspended for a time; but the moment that pressure is removed, and our efforts are relaxed, it will be resumed with as great activity as ever.

* My records are at Zanzibar, and I am not sure of the number.

The whole fabric of Arab society is so interwoven with slavery, and the manners and customs of that race are so unchangeable, that it is hopeless to expect that they will ever permanently abandon their pursuit of slaves. Their fathers have possessed them ever since Arabia was peopled, and they have no idea of a state of things in which slaves do not occupy a prominent place. The institution is one sanctioned by their religion. Such a thing as civil law, or any other not contained in the Koran, is unknown to them; and I fear that no efforts of ours can induce them to regard slavery with the horror which its name excites in a Christian mind.

There is one thing to be said in palliation of slavery amongst Arabs, and that is, that no class of the community is so happy, so free from care, and so well treated as the Mahometan slave: nine out of ten would hardly regard freedom as a boon; and but for our intervention, which compels slavers to resort to all kinds of expedients to procure cargoes, the sufferings of the slaves "after" their arrival on the coast would be hardly appreciable.

But it is that word "after" which says so much. We shall never know the amount of suffering, the severance of family ties, and the misery resulting from the depopulation of large tracts of country, which is caused by the pursuit of slaves in the interior of Africa.

Regarding the conduct of Seyed Majid during the past season, I believe that he is, personally, sincerely anxious to prevent the exportation of slaves, but he meets with no assistance from those around him, and he is really powerless, as things stand at present, to effect any good.

I must, however, do him the justice to say that he has, of his own accord, made several seizures of slaves about to be exported, others have been made on information supplied by me, and one on information furnished to him by Captain Bowden during my absence.

In conclusion I would state, in explanation of this letter being dated from Seychelles, that the state of my health required me to take a trip to sea. I left Zanzibar in Her Majesty's ship "Lyra" on the 5th instant, and purpose returning to-morrow morning.

No. 76.

Mr. Layard to Lieutenant-Colonel Playfair.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 19, 1865.*
I AM directed by Earl Russell to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government have received information to the effect that a steam-vessel, under Mexican colours, now called the "*Margarita Quintero*," but formerly the notorious Spanish slave-steamer "*Cicéron*," has been fitted out at Havana ostensibly for a voyage to China to procure coolies. It is, however, stated, that the real object of the voyage is to procure slaves from the African coast, and as the captain, by name Mas, who commanded the "*Cicéron*" when sailing under Spanish colours, is believed to be still on board, and was formerly actively employed as an agent for procuring slaves on the East Coast of Africa, it is probable that this may be the real destination of the "*Margarita Quintero*."

I am accordingly to desire that you will make known the foregoing information to the Commanders of any of Her Majesty's cruizers with whom you may be able to communicate, and that you will use your best endeavours to frustrate the designs of this vessel, should she make her appearance on the East Coast of Africa.

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

NETHERLANDS.

No. 77.

Sir J. Milbanke to Earl Russell.—(Received January 12.)

My Lord,

The Hague, January 10, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith copy of a note which, in obedience to the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch of the 7th December of last year, I addressed to the Netherlands Minister for Foreign Affairs expressing the wish of Her Majesty's Government that the Dutch Government would give its concurrence to the proposal to denounce the Slave Trade as piracy, and to affix the penalties now visited on this crime, with one modification, to that of trafficking in slaves.

His Excellency's answer, of which I also subjoin a copy, indicates that this Government, whilst expressing its willingness to do everything in its power to oppose the Slave Trade, is disinclined to introduce into the legislation of the Netherlands alterations in the sense suggested in your Lordship's despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. R. MILBANKE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 77.

*Sir J. Milbanke to M. Cremers.**The Hague, December 13, 1864.*

THE Undersigned, &c., has received instructions to make an appeal to the Government of His Majesty the King of the Netherlands for its concurrence in the enactment of more stringent regulations for the suppression of the Trade in Slaves, which it is notorious that those in force have not yet been successful in extirpating.

The crime of trading in human beings has been for many years branded by the reprobation of all civilized nations. Still the atrocious Traffic subsists, and many persons flourish on the gains they have derived from that polluted source.

Her Majesty's Government, contemplating on the one hand with satisfaction the unanimous abhorrence which the crime inspires, and on the other hand with pain and disgust the slave-trading speculations which still subsist, have come to the conclusion that no measure would be so effectual to put a stop to those wicked acts as the punishment of all persons who can be proved to be guilty of carrying slaves across the sea.

Her Majesty's Government therefore invite the Government of the Netherlands to consider whether it would not be practicable, honourable, and humane—

1. To make a general declaration that the Governments who are parties to it denounce the Slave Trade as piracy.

2. That the aforesaid Governments should propose to their Legislatures to affix the penalties of piracy already existing in their laws, provided only that the penalty in this case be short of death, to all persons being subjects or citizens of one of the Contracting Powers, who shall be convicted in a Court which takes cognizance of piracy, of being concerned in carrying human beings across the sea, for the purpose of sale, or for the purpose of serving as slaves in any country or colony in that world.

In submitting this proposal for the consideration of His Netherlands Majesty, the Undersigned avails, &c.

(Signed) J. R. MILBANKE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 77.

*M. Cremers to Sir J. Milbanke.**La Haye, le 9 Janvier, 1865.*

LE Soussigné, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, a l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de Sir John Milbanke, Envoyé Extraordinaire de Sa Majesté Britannique, en réponse

à sa note du 13 Décembre, 1864, que le Gouvernement du Roi n'est pas encore convaincu de la nécessité de changer la législation des Pays-Bas, afin de fixer des peines plus sévères contre ceux qui se livrent à la Traite des Nègres.

D'après la loi existante, tous ceux qui se rendent coupables d'une participation quelconque à la Traite des Esclaves sont punis de quinze années de travaux forcés, d'une amende de 10,000 francs, et de la confiscation des bâtiments employés.

Cette pénalité paraît suffisamment rigoureuse, et si dans une loi que l'on promulguerait dans les Pays-Bas sur la piraterie, loi qui fait défaut encore à la législation Néerlandaise, et qu'on craint ne pouvoir faire passer d'ici à quelques années, on attachait à ce crime la peine immédiatement inférieure à la peine de mort, l'augmentation de celle existant actuellement contre ceux qui sont engagés dans l'odieux trafic en question serait de fort peu d'importance, savoir, cinq ans de réclusion de plus—augmentation qui peut être considérée comme balancée par la confiscation des bâtiments négriers et par l'amende considérable susmentionnée, qui, dans la pénalité existante contre la Traite, viennent aggraver la punition des coupables.

Le Soussigné se flatte que les explications qui précèdent suffiront pour faire comprendre à M. l'Envoyé Britannique, que lors même qu'il existât dans le Royaume une loi sur la piraterie, et que le Gouvernement du Roi voulût y assimiler la Traite, la pénalité à établir ne saurait guères, en regard aux dispositions du Code Pénal Néerlandais, être plus rigoureuse que celle qui existe déjà en vertu des lois de 1818 et 1824.

Le Gouvernement des Pays-Bas a été du reste toujours disposé à combattre, par tous les moyens en son pouvoir, les Trafic des Esclaves, et continuera à suivre cette ligne de conduite, tracée par le devoirs de l'humanité aussi bien que par les stipulations des Traités conclus avec la Grande Bretagne.

Le Soussigné, &c.

(Signé)

E. CREMERS.

No. 78.

Sir J. Milbanke to Earl Russell.—(Received March 6.)

My Lord,

The Hague, March 2, 1865.

IN reference to the correspondence which has passed between the Netherlands and Her Majesty's Government, and especially to your Lordship's despatch of the 17th of June, 1864, relative to the criminal proceedings instituted against the captain of the slaver "*Jane*," I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of a note addressed to me by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in which, whilst returning the legalized papers relating thereto which I had placed in his Excellency's hands, I am informed that the trial of the supposed master of that vessel, Gorsira, has terminated in an acquittal, and that the proceedings against the captain, Prince, were arrested by the death of that individual on the 26th of July last.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

J. R. MILBANKE.

Inclosure in No. 78.

M. Cremers to Sir J. Milbanke.

La Haye, le 28 Février, 1865.

LE Soussigné, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, a l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de Sir John Milbanke, Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté Britannique, que d'après les informations qui viennent d'être transmises au Département des Colonies par le Gouverneur de Curaçao, la procédure instituée constate que le Sieur Gorsira, ancien propriétaire du navire "*Jane*," a été entièrement terminée par un verdict acquittant complètement ce dernier du seul fait qui donnait lieu à des soupçons contre lui, savoir, d'avoir prêté son nom à l'effet d'obtenir des lettres de mer Néerlandaises pour le dit navire, qui en réalité serait demeuré propriété étrangère.

L'instruction criminelle entamée à Curaçao contre le Sieur Prince, capitaine de la "*Jane*," n'a pu être continuée, attendu que celui-ci est décédé dans cette ville le 26 Juillet, 1864.

En renvoyant ci-joints à Sir John Milbanke les pièces relatives à la déclaration de bonne prise de la "*Jane*" par la Cour Mixte de Sierra Leone, le Soussigné saisit, &c.

(Signé)

E. CREMERS.

PORTUGAL.

No. 79.

Sir A. Magenis to Earl Russell.—(Received January 2, 1865.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, December 12, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a translation of a note from the Duke de Loulé dated the 6th instant, in reply to the note which I had addressed to his Excellency, in conformity with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of October 8th, complaining of the conduct of Judge Dantas, in admitting to bail at Loanda the captain of the captured Spanish vessel "*Virgen del Refugio*."

This answer appears to me to be very unsatisfactory, and I shall say so to the Duke de Loulé on the first opportunity. The Portuguese Government admits the illegality of Judge Dantas' proceedings, and nevertheless it has done nothing either to inflict punishment on him for his conduct, or to declare the illegality, for the future, of similar conduct; and the Royal order ("*Portaria*") which has been sent out to Loanda merely endeavours to prevent its recurrence, in a roundabout way, by interposing legal delays.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

Inclosure in No. 79.

The Duke of Loulé to Sir A. Magenis.

(Translation.)

Foreign Office, Lisbon, December 6, 1864.

IN reply to the note which you were pleased to address to me on the 15th of October last, with respect to the conduct of Judge Dantas, in admitting to bail at Loanda the captain of the Spanish vessel "*Virgen del Refugio*," which had been engaged in the Slave Trade, I have the honour to communicate to you the contents of a despatch dated the 30th of November last, which I have received from the Minister of Marine.

In that despatch his Excellency informs me that the Governor-General of the Province of Angola had reported to him the conduct of that Judge in allowing the bail in question, an act which, in spite of the attempt made in that Court of First Instance to justify it by means of precedents of a similar nature which were quoted, was nevertheless declared to be illegal, on account of the nature of the crime, not only by the Attorney-General attached to the Court of *Relação* at Loanda, but also by the Councillor and Assistant Attorney-General to the Crown attached to that Department.

That Minister further adds, that in accordance with these views an order ("*Portaria*") had been sent out to the aforesaid Governor-General, directing him to issue the necessary instructions to the Public Prosecutor ("*Ministerio Publico*") to the effect that whenever any Judge should think proper to grant bail in cases of a similar nature, he should, in order to prevent it, lodge as many appeals as the law will allow.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) DUKE OF LOULE.

No. 80.

Sir A. Magenis to Earl Russell.—(Received January 2, 1865.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, December 26, 1864.

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch dated the 7th instant, I addressed to his Excellency the Duke of Loulé a note, dated the 16th of this month, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, calling his Excellency's attention to the information which has reached Her Majesty's Government, to the effect that the Governor of Benguela stands alone as the encourager of the Slave Trade on the coast of Africa, and as the sharer in its profits; and I requested his Excellency to be good enough to inform me whether any, and if any what, steps had been taken to prevent the exportation of slaves from the Portuguese Possessions in Angola; stating, in conclusion, that it would greatly tend to better the relations of the two Governments, if that of His Most Faithful Majesty would take energetic measures for suppressing the Slave Trade in their Possessions.

To this note his Excellency has, as yet, merely replied by informing me that it had been communicated to the Minister of Marine.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

Inclosure in No. 80.

Sir A. Magenis to the Duke of Loulé.

M. le Ministre,

Lisbon, December 16, 1864.

HER Majesty's Government have for some time been aware that a considerable number of slaves have been, within the last year, exported from the Portuguese Possessions to the southward of Loanda; and it has been stated to Her Majesty's Government that while the Governors of Angola and Mossamedes appear to be endeavouring conscientiously and strictly to carry out the engagements of the Portuguese Crown for the suppression of the Slave Trade, the Governor of Benguela stands alone as the encourager of that Traffic and the sharer in its profits.

Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has instructed me to request your Excellency to inform me whether any, and if any what, steps have been taken to prevent the exportation of slaves from the Portuguese Possessions in Angola, and to punish the parties engaged in this Traffic; which it is no less due to the interests of the Colony than to the engagements of the Portuguese Crown to put a stop to.

I am also instructed by Her Majesty's Government to state that it would greatly tend to better the relations of the two Governments if that of His Most Faithful Majesty would take energetic measures for suppressing the Slave Trade in their Possessions.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

No. 81.

Sir A. Magenis to Earl Russell.—(Received January 2, 1864.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, December 26, 1864.

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch dated the 7th December, I addressed a note to the Duke of Loulé on the 15th instant, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, acquainting the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty with the invitation of Her Majesty's Government to unite in making a general declaration that the Governments who are parties to it to denounce the Slave Trade as piracy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

Inclosure in No. 81.

Sir A. Magenis to the Duke of Loulé.

M. le Ministre,

Lisbon, December 15, 1864.

I HAVE the honour, in accordance with instructions which I have received from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to invite the earnest attention of the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty to certain measures, the adoption of which on the part of the Governments interested in the suppression of the Slave Trade, would, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, be most effectual in putting a stop to that atrocious Traffic.

Her Majesty's Government contemplating, on the one hand, with satisfaction the unanimous abhorrence which the crime inspires, and, on the other hand, with pain and disgust the Slave Trading speculations which still subsist, have come to the conclusion that no measure would be so effectual to put a stop to these wicked acts as the punishment of all persons who can be proved to be guilty of carrying slaves across the sea.

Her Majesty's Government therefore invite the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty to consider whether it would not be practicable, honourable, and humane :—

1st. To make a general declaration that the Governments who are parties to it denounce the Slave Trade as piracy.

2ndly. That the aforesaid Governments should propose to their Legislatures to affix the penalties of piracy, already existing in their laws, provided only that the penalty in this case be short of death, to all persons being subjects and citizens of one of the contracting Powers, who shall be convicted in a Court which shall take cognizance of piracy, of being concerned in carrying human beings across the sea for the purpose of sale, or for the purpose of serving as slaves in any country or colony in the world.

In submitting these most important propositions for the serious consideration of the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty, I avail, &c.

(Signed)

ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

No. 82.

Sir A. Magenis to Earl Russell.—(Received January 2, 1865.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, December 26, 1864.

IN accordance with the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch of the 8th instant, I addressed a note to his Excellency the Duke of Loulé on the 15th of this month, copy of which I now inclose, in which, after calling the attention of the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty to the increase of the Slave Trade from the southern portion of the African coast, I requested his Excellency to be good enough to favour me with the Report of Senhor Figueiredo, one of the Judges of the Court of Relação, who was sent by the Governor of Angola to inquire into the state of the Slave Trade in Benguela, and, in conclusion, expressed the deep regret which Her Majesty's Government feel that the best exertions of His Most Faithful Majesty's Government are not made to suppress the Slave Trade.

The Duke of Loulé has as yet only replied to my note by stating that it had been communicated to the Minister of Marine.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

Inclosure in No. 82.

Sir A. Magenis to the Duke of Loulé.

M. le Ministre,

Lisbon, December 15, 1864.

IN obedience to instructions which I have received from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I have now the honour to call the attention of the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty to the fact that, although the vigilance of Her Majesty's cruisers has during the last twelve months prevented the export of slaves from the northern part of the West Coast of Africa, it is now chiefly from the southern portion of the African coast that the Cuban market is supplied with slaves. It appears to Her Majesty's Government that there can be no doubt of the fact that a considerable number

of Africans have been shipped from the Portuguese Possessions to the southward of Loanda, and Her Majesty's Government are therefore naturally anxious to learn from what localities these slaves have been embarked, in order that the attention of the commanders of Her Majesty's ships of war may be directed to the neighbourhood of the places from whence these shipments have taken place.

Her Majesty's Government have been informed by Her Majesty's Commissioner at Loanda, that, in conformity with instructions from the Portuguese Government, the Governor-General of Angola sent Senhor Figueiredo, one of the Judges of the Court of Relação, on a special mission to Benguela, with the view, if possible, to discover the persons who have been engaged in the Slave Trade that has lately been carried on in that district, and that the Report of Senhor Figueiredo has been forwarded to Lisbon.

I have been instructed to request your Excellency to be good enough to favour me with the substance of the Judge's Report on this subject, for the information of Her Majesty's Government.

In conclusion, I have been further instructed to express the deep regret which Her Majesty's Government feel that the best exertions of His Most Faithful Majesty's Government are not made to suppress the Slave Trade.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

No. 83.

Earl Russell to Sir A. Magenis.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January 7, 1865.*
I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid on the subject of the Cuban Slave Trade.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 84.

Earl Russell to Sir A. Magenis.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January 8, 1865.*
WITH reference to your despatch of the 28th ultimo, I have to instruct you to acquaint the Portuguese Government that Her Majesty's Government have ascertained that it was to the Island of St. Thomas, in the West Indies, and not to the Portuguese Island of San Thomé, that the notorious Spanish slave-steamer "Ciceron" proceeded after her unsuccessful attempt to ship a cargo of slaves from the African coast in the month of June last.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 85.

Sir A. Magenis to Earl Russell.—(Received February 7.)

My Lord, *Lisbon, January 28, 1865.*
IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 28th of July last, relating to the Spanish vessel "Ciceron," engaged in the Slave Trade, and reported to have been abandoned by her captain at the Island of San Thomé, I addressed a note to the Duke of Loulé on the 15th of August, copy of which I now inclose, furnishing him with the information which Her Majesty's Government had received with respect to the nefarious designs of the above-mentioned vessel, and stating that Her Majesty's Government would be glad to be informed whether the report of the abandonment of the "Ciceron" was well founded, and, if so, what had since become of her.

The Duke of Loulé informed me, under date of the 20th of August, that he had

applied for information to the Minister of Marine with which he hoped shortly to be enabled to furnish me. I have now the honour to inclose in translation a further reply of his Excellency dated the 20th instant, by which your Lordship will perceive that the contents of my note having been communicated to the Governor of San Thomé, the latter declares that, ever since January of last year when he entered upon his functions, no such steamer or even any of her crew had ever appeared there, and that the suspicions which I had mentioned were groundless.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 85.

Sir A. Magenis to the Duke of Loulé.

M. le Ministre,

Lisbon, August 15, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have been instructed by Earl Russell, &c., to transmit to your Excellency the following information respecting the movements of the Spanish steamer "*Cicéron*," a vessel that has notoriously been engaged for some time past in the Cuban Slave Trade, and which information has been obtained from a perfectly reliable source.

It appears that the captain of the "*Cicéron*" having on his last voyage, upon which he started from Marseilles about the middle of last April, made three unsuccessful attempts to communicate with the African coast with the view of shipping a cargo of slaves, which attempts were frustrated by the vigilance of the British cruisers, resolved to abandon the expedition, and he thereupon steamed to the Island of San Thomé, where, with his crew, he is said to have abandoned his vessel and to have returned to Europe.

Her Majesty's Government would be glad to learn whether this report of the abandonment of the "*Cicéron*" at San Thomé is well founded, and, if so, what has since become of her.

In conclusion, I have been instructed by Earl Russell to convey to your Excellency the request of Her Majesty's Government that the Portuguese authorities on the African coast may be warned of the character of this vessel, and that they may be directed to use their best endeavours to frustrate her nefarious designs.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 85.

The Duke of Loulé to Sir A. Magenis.

(Translation.)

Foreign Office, Lisbon, January 20, 1865.

IN addition to my note dated the 20th of August of last year, and in answer to that which you were pleased to address to me on the 15th of that month, respecting the Spanish steamer "*Cicéron*," which was said to have been abandoned at St. Thomas after having made three attempts to ship slaves on the coast of Africa, I have the honour to communicate to you the information which I have received from the Minister of Marine.

In his despatch of the 14th instant his Excellency states that the contents of your aforesaid note having been communicated to the Governor of that island, the latter declares that ever since January of last year, when he entered upon his functions, no such steamer, or even any of her crew, had ever appeared there, and that he was able to assert that the suspicions mentioned in the note to which I now reply are groundless.

I renew, &c.
(Signed) DUKE OF LOULE.

No. 86.

Sir A. Magenis to Earl Russell.—(Received February 7.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, January 28, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy of a note, dated the 14th instant, addressed by me, on the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 31st

December, 1864, to the Duke of Loulé, in which, after calling his Excellency's attention to the manner in which the good intentions of Senhor Andrade, the present Governor-General of Angola, are frustrated, and his endeavours to carry out the engagements of the Portuguese Crown for the suppression of the Slave Trade, neutralized, by the conduct of his subordinate officers, who in some of the southern portions of the province are in league with the slave-dealers, I at the same time pressed upon his Excellency the necessity of removing the local authorities whenever well-grounded suspicions exist of their being in league with slave-dealers.

In the same note I drew his Excellency's attention to the continued export of slaves under the pretence of their being free labourers from the mainland to the Island of St. Thomas, as well as to the Slave Trade from the coast of Benguela; and in order to substantiate my remarks, I furnished his Excellency with an extract from the latter part of the Report of Mr. Vredenburg, Her Majesty's Commissioner at Loanda, having especial reference to my representations.

His Excellency informs me that he has communicated with the Minister of Marine on this subject, and will shortly reply to my note.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

Inclosure in No. 86.

Sir A. Magenis to the Duke of Loulé.

M. le Ministre,

Lisbon, January 14, 1865.

I INCLOSE herewith an extract from the Report of Her Majesty's Commissioner at Loanda upon the Slave Trade, as connected with the Portuguese Possessions in Angola.

It relates chiefly to the transport of slaves, under the pretence of their being free labourers, from the mainland to the Island of St. Thomas, and to the Slave Trade which is carried on from the coast of Benguela, with the connivance of the subordinate Portuguese authorities.

All the Reports received by Her Majesty's Government tend to prove that the present Governor-General of Angola, Senhor Andrade, honestly and faithfully endeavours, to the best of his ability, to carry out the engagements of the Portuguese Crown for the suppression of the Slave Trade; and Her Majesty's Government bear willing testimony to the zeal and good faith of this officer: but it is nevertheless painfully apparent that the good intentions of the Governor-General are neutralized and his efforts thwarted by his subordinate officers, who in some of the southern portions of the province, are in league with the slave-dealers, and share in their unholy gains.

I have in consequence been instructed by Her Majesty's Government to press upon the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty the necessity of removing the local authorities, whenever there may exist well-grounded suspicions of their being in league with the slave-dealers, and to add that it is only by so doing, and by finding means to punish the parties who are notoriously engaged in the Traffic, that the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty can prove that they are earnest in their endeavours to put a stop to the export of slaves from the Portuguese Possessions on the West Coast of Africa.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

No. 87.

Earl Russell to Sir A. Magenis.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 4, 1865.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 13th June last, I transmit herewith, for your information, a copy of a note which I have addressed to Count Lavradio, relative to the boarding of the Portuguese mail-steamer "Zaire," by a boat from Her Majesty's ship "Snipe," off the African coast on the 20th of February, 1864.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

Inclosure in No. 87.

Earl Russell to Count Lavradio.

M. le Comte,

Foreign Office, February 21, 1865.

I HAD the honour on the 30th of November last to communicate to you a copy of a letter from Lieutenant Battiscombe, commanding Her Majesty's ship "Snipe," reporting the circumstances under which he boarded the Portuguese mail-steamer "Zaire" off the African coast, on the 20th of February last, and I at the same time informed you that the Report in question was written at the time of the occurrence, and therefore before the Commander of the "Snipe" was aware that any complaint had been made by the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty of his having boarded the Portuguese mail-steamer.

I now beg leave to transmit to you a copy of a further letter from Lieutenant Battiscombe,* containing that officer's reply to a despatch addressed to him, informing him that a complaint had been made of his conduct in boarding the "Zaire," and calling upon him for a full report of his proceedings in this case, and I cannot doubt that this Report will prove satisfactory to the Portuguese Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 88.

Sir A. Magenis to Earl Russell.—(Received March 7.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, February 27, 1865.

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch, dated the 8th instant, I addressed to the Duke de Loulé a note, dated the 14th instant, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, informing his Excellency that it was to the Island of St. Thomas, in the West Indies, and not to the Portuguese Island of San Thomé, that the Spanish slave-vessel "Ciceron" had proceeded, after an unsuccessful attempt to land her cargo of slaves.

His Excellency replied to my note on the 18th instant, thanking me for my communication.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

Inclosure in No. 88.

Sir A. Magenis to the Duke of Loulé.

M. le Ministre,

Lisbon, February 14, 1865.

WITH reference to the note which I had the honour to address to your Excellency on the 15th of August last, and to your Excellency's reply to the same of the 20th ultimo, respecting the notorious Spanish slave-steamer "Ciceron," I have been instructed by Earl Russell, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to acquaint your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have ascertained that it was to the Island of St. Thomas, in the West Indies, and not to the Portuguese Island of San Thomé, that that vessel proceeded, after her unsuccessful attempt to ship a cargo of slaves from the African coast in the month of June last.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

No. 89.

Sir A. Magenis to Earl Russell.—(Received March 7.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, February 27, 1865.

WITH reference to my despatches of the 26th December last, inclosing copies of notes which, in obedience to your Lordship's instructions, I had addressed to the Duke

* Class A, No. 60.

of Loulé, calling attention to the increase of the Slave Trade from the south-western portion of the Portuguese Possessions on the African coast, and to the alleged complicity of the Governor of Benguela in the Slave Trade; and asking, at the same time, for a copy of the Report of Senhor Figueiredo, sent by the Governor of Angola to inquire into the state of the Slave Trade in Benguela, I have now the honour to inclose translation of his Excellency's reply, dated the 9th instant.

Your Lordship will perceive that, instead of a copy of Senhor Figueiredo's Report, the Duke of Loulé has furnished me with extract of a despatch addressed to him by the Minister of Marine, from which your Lordship will gather that Senhor Figueiredo was unable to obtain proofs of the complicity of the Governor of Benguela (who has since been replaced), or indeed of any other persons, in the Slave Trade; and that he points to certain parts of the coast, where, in his opinion, steamers might be advantageously ordered to cruise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 89.

The Duke of Loulé to Sir A. Magenis.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, Lisbon, February 9, 1865.

IN the two notes which you were pleased to address to me on the 15th and 16th of December of last year, with respect to Slave Trade speculations southward of Loanda, you stated that your Government had been informed that several shipments had been made there during the year 1863, with the connivance of the Governor of Benguela, and that, for this reason, you wished to know what steps had been taken in the matter, and at what places those shipments are more usually effected; and in fine you requested to be furnished with an extract from the report of Judge Figueiredo, who went to Benguela charged with the mission of inquiring into the Traffic in Slaves.

In compliance with your wishes I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of part of a despatch which was addressed to me on the 30th of January last, by the Minister of Marine and for the Colonies.

From the contents of the same you will perceive that His Majesty's Government have continued to employ all their endeavours to frustrate the attempts of the slave-dealers, and also what was the result of the inquiry made by that magistrate, who went through several places on the coast between Loanda and Benguela, but could not obtain anywhere clear proofs of any shipment of slaves having been effected there.

With regard to the connivance on the part of the aforesaid Governor (who has since been replaced) in those speculations, you will observe that the Judge above-mentioned did not gather any information tending to his discredit.

I renew, &c.
(Signed) DUKE OF LOULE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 89.

The Minister of Marine to the Duke of Loulé.

(Translation.)

(Extract.)

Lisbon, January 30, 1865.

WITH reference to the period mentioned (1863), nothing further was received in this Department with the exception of a despatch from the Governor-General of the Province of Angola, dated the 7th of March, 1863, reporting the captures made by the British cruisers of the brig "Venus" and of the vessel (patacho) "Laura," on suspicion of being engaged in the Slave Trade; but of these, the brig was declared to be an illegal prize.

If any Slave Trade attempts have been made subsequently, that is, in 1864, nothing else is known in the Department under my charge, except the capture and condemnation of the Spanish brigantine "Virgen del Refugio" (which was due to the vigilance of the Portuguese authorities), and the capture of the schooner (palhabote) "Congo" by the British cruisers, but which was afterwards adjudged to be an illegal prize.

The Government, being desirous of preventing, by all the means in their power, the continuation of these speculations, and in consequence of the note of Her Britannic Majesty's Minister, which formed the subject of your Excellency's despatch of the 19th of

April of last year, and in which it was stated that the Slave Trade had been recommenced in that Portuguese possession, repeated their orders to the Governor of the province to endeavour to discover any attempts to carry on that criminal traffic, and to proceed against the guilty with all the severity of the law.

It was in consequence of these injunctions that the Judge of the judicial district of Loanda, M. Figueiredo, was commissioned to go to Benguela for the purpose of instituting a most strict inquiry into the crimes of Traffic in Slaves committed there. That magistrate accomplished his mission with scrupulous exactness; and from his report, it may be seen that after leaving Loanda he visited several places on the coast as far as Benguela, making the most minute inquiries, and examining sixty-three witnesses. At none of these places was he able to obtain any clear proofs of shipments of slaves having been made, for only a few witnesses alluded to their having heard it said that some shipments had taken place, without mentioning either names or persons. With regard to the connivance on the part of the Governor of Benguela (who has since been replaced) in those speculations, he did not gather any information tending to his discredit, but rather, on the contrary, the witnesses spoke in his favour.

He says that there are places in Benguela, at a good distance from the city, which ought very properly to be watched, as there are no authorities in those places; and after making several remarks with respect to the proper measures to be taken, and to which the Government have given their best attention, he also states, that if a steamer were to cruize between Cape Saint Blase (Sao Braz), or at least between the neighbourhood of Old Benguela and Quicembó, and from time to time as far as Benguela, another from Benguela until beyond Cape St. Mary, wherever there may be factories in communication with Benguela, and another between Loanda and the Zaire, it appears to him that the slave-dealers will abandon all further idea of dealing in slaves in the Province of Angola.

No. 90.

Earl Russell to Sir A. Magenis.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 15, 1865.

WITH reference to my despatches of the 7th and 31st of December last, I inclose for your information a copy of a further despatch from Her Majesty's Commissioner at Loanda,* containing an account of his proceedings on the occasion of a visit which he made to the southern coast of the Province of Angola, for the purpose of inquiring into the Slave Trade operations that have recently been carried on to so great an extent in that quarter.

Although Mr. Vredenburg was unsuccessful in discovering the names of the persons engaged in these slave-trading transactions, the information procured by him left little room for doubting that Senhor Gamitto, the late Governor of Benguela, was deeply implicated, and that he connived at and participated in the profits of the Traffic in Slaves which it was his duty to have suppressed by all the means in his power.

I have to desire that you will communicate the substance of Mr. Vredenburg's Report to the Portuguese Government, and in doing so you will express the confident expectation of Her Majesty's Government that the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty will find some means of punishing Senhor Gamitto, or of otherwise marking their sense of the betrayal by that officer of the trust placed in him by his Sovereign.

I have further to desire that you will make known to the Viscount de Sá da Bandeira the particulars of the information which has been recently communicated to you regarding the shipments of slaves from the Portuguese Possessions to the southward of Loanda. You will say that Her Majesty's Government having a lively recollection of the successful exertions of his Excellency on a former occasion to put a stop to the exportation of slaves from the Portuguese Possessions in Loanda, do not doubt that he will now adopt whatever measures may be necessary for the discovery and punishment of the parties engaged in the late slave-trading transactions in Angola, and for the vindication of the good faith of the Portuguese Crown in carrying out its Treaty engagements for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 91.

Sir A. Magenis to Earl Russell.—(Received April 5.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, March 27, 1865.

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 15th instant, I addressed a note to the Duke de Loulé on the 24th instant (copy of which I have now the honour to inclose), giving his Excellency the substance of the Report of Her Majesty's Commissioner at Loanda, on the occasion of his recent visit to the south coast of Angola, for the purpose of endeavouring to obtain positive information respecting the complicity of the late Governor of Benguela, or others, in the Slave Trade, and expressing the confident expectation of Her Majesty's Government that the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty will find some means of punishing Senhor Gamitto, or of otherwise marking their sense of the betrayal by that officer of the trust placed in him by his Sovereign.

To this note I have not as yet received a reply.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

 Inclosure in No. 91.
Sir A. Magenis to the Duke of Loulé.

M. le Ministre,

Lisbon, March 24, 1865.

WITH reference to my note of the 16th December last, calling your Excellency's attention to the alleged connivance of the Governor of Benguela in the Slave Trade carried on from the south-west portion of the Portuguese Possessions in Africa, I have received the instructions of Her Majesty's Government to communicate to the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty the substance of a Report from Her Majesty's Commissioner at Loanda on the occasion of his visit to the south coast of Angola, by which it appears that although that officer was unable to discover the names of the persons engaged in these slave-trading transactions, the information procured by him left little room for doubting that Senhor Gamitto, the late Governor of Benguela, was deeply implicated, and that he connived at and participated in the profits of the Traffic in Slaves, which it was his duty to have suppressed by all the means in his power.

Mr. Vredenburg, the author of the Report in question, embarked on board Her Majesty's ship "Dart," on the 8th December last, for the purpose of visiting the coast to the southward of Loanda, with the object of discovering, if possible, the names of the persons engaged in the slave-trading operations which had been carried on from Benguela during the eighteen months previous.

Her Majesty's Commissioner first visited the settlements of Benguela Velha and Quicombo. At these places, the persons with whom he communicated, while admitting that many slaves had been sent from the district, maintained that the shipments had taken place further south, at the same time disclaiming all knowledge of those concerned in these transactions. At Benguela, the next place visited, although not one among the many persons with whom Mr. Vredenburg conversed upon the subject attempted to deny that slave-trading operations had taken place in the neighbourhood, they all professed ignorance as to the persons who had been engaged in them.

The Acting Governor-General of this latter town, Major Godinho, notwithstanding the difficulties which frustrated every attempt on his part to obtain direct testimony on this matter, did not hesitate to inform Her Majesty's Commissioner that, in the space of the two months during which he had been charged with the government of the district, he had "learnt enough to satisfy him that the slave-trading which Senhor Gamitto had sanctioned had been scandalous and disgraceful." Major Godinho stated, in explanation of the inability of obtaining positive proofs against the offenders under which he laboured, that the greater part of the inhabitants were interested and compromised, adding, however, that although all his information was from hearsay, it was notorious that the late Governor had received large bribes to connive at the slaving operations.

Among other matters, the Governor mentioned a statement that a shipment of slaves had even been made in a small bay at the entrance of the Bay of Benguela (Bahia Farta), the ship lying afterwards becalmed before the town.

At Mossamedes Her Majesty's Commissioner met with similar general admissions as to the connivance of the late Governor and the importance of the slave-trading transac-

tions which had been carried on, coupled with the same careful reticence with respect to names and particulars. Here, too, the Governor, Senhor Costa Leal, spoken of in the Report as "a determined enemy of the Slave Trade," and one who having himself officially denounced the slave-trading operations carried on in Benguela, had every interest in obtaining evidence of the fact, was nevertheless compelled to admit the futility of his endeavours in that direction. Although persons from Benguela had been willing to inform him, in confidence, how for one particular shipment Senhor Gamitto had received 2 contos of reis (444l.), for such another a similar sum, that his last trip to Novo Redondo, prior to his departure, was to obtain a balance due for a shipment that he had permitted, and that the Administrador of the Custom-house and the Commander of the Troops also received certain sums as the price of their connivance, still these persons all declined, when questioned, to accompany their assertions with a statement of details.

After leaving Mossamedes, Her Majesty's Commissioner visited Elephant Bay and Equimina, and, touching once more at Benguela on his way back, returned to Loanda on the 29th of December, without having been able to gather any further information respecting the persons implicated in the recent slave-trading transactions. The unwillingness, on the part of the subordinate authorities, to say anything which might inculpate each other or their superiors, had universally frustrated his endeavours to obtain categorical proofs of a criminal participation in the Slave Trade, respecting the reality of which, however, those best calculated to judge do not apparently entertain the shadow of a doubt.

On his return to Loanda, Mr. Vredenburg waited upon the Governor-General, and acquainted him with what he had heard respecting the late Governor of Benguela. His Excellency stated, in reply, that as substantial charges had been made against Senhor Gamitto, it was his intention to send down a Commissioner to Benguela, with the special object of inquiring into his proceedings.

Mr. Vredenburg takes occasion, in this Report, to reiterate the high opinion entertained by him of the present Governor-General, who, it seems, has himself often expressed to Her Majesty's Commissioner his disgust and abhorrence of the character of many of his subordinates, whose conduct tended to throw discredit on him in the eyes of those unacquainted with him; lamenting, at the same time, the want of success which had hitherto attended his efforts to find more trustworthy persons.

It is to this corruption and venality which, as unfortunately must be admitted, prevail among many of the authorities of the Portuguese Possessions in South Africa, that Her Majesty's Commissioner attributes the small grounds which at present exist for hoping that the Slave Trade will become extinct in those territories; an evil condition of things which can only be met by a most careful selection, on the part of the Portuguese Government, of thoroughly honest and fit persons to hold appointments in these Colonies, and by inexorably visiting those officials found guilty of delinquency with a punishment proportioned to so heinous an offence.

In conclusion, therefore, I have been instructed by Her Majesty's Government to express their confident expectation that the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty will find some means of punishing Senhor Gamitto, or of otherwise marking their sense of the betrayal by that officer of the trust placed in him by his Sovereign.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

No. 92.

Sir A. Magenis to Earl Russell.—(Received April 5.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, March 27, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a note which, in obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch dated the 15th ultimo, I addressed on the 13th instant to the Duke of Loulé, requesting his Excellency to convey to the Governor-General of Mozambique the thanks of Her Majesty's Government for the assistance rendered by that functionary to Commander Parr, of Her Majesty's ship "Lyra," in the month of November last, on the occasion of a boat from the ship under his command being lost in the Mozambique Channel.

I also inclose a translation of his Excellency's reply, dated the 17th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS

Inclosure 1 in No. 92.

Sir A. Magenis to the Duke of Loulé.

M. le Ministre,

Lisbon, March 13, 1865.

I HAVE received the instructions of Her Majesty's Government to request the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty to convey to the Governor-General of Mozambique their thanks for the kind and prompt assistance rendered by him to Commander Parr, of Her Majesty's ship "Lyra," in the month of November last, on the occasion of a boat from the ship under his command being lost in the Mozambique Channel, and two of her crew being, as it is supposed, afterwards murdered by the natives.

The Governor-General of Mozambique lent Commander Parr a small steamer, and otherwise assisted that officer in a search for his missing boat, and for the men who were supposed to have been murdered, for which services Her Majesty's Government are now desirous that their thanks should be conveyed to that official.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 92.

The Duke of Loulé to Sir A. Magenis.

(Translation.)

Lisbon, March 17, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the note which you were pleased to address to me on the 13th instant, requesting that the thanks of your Government should be transmitted to the Governor-General of the Province of the Mozambique for the prompt and effective assistance which he rendered to Commander Parr of Her Britannic Majesty's ship "Lyra," on the occasion of the loss of a boat belonging to that ship.

I have communicated the contents of that note to the Department for the Navy and Colonies for the proper purposes, and His Majesty's Government feel great satisfaction that the conduct of that official should have been pleasing to Her Britannic Majesty's Government.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) DUKE OF LOULE.

No. 93.

Earl Russell to Sir A. Magenis.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 17, 1865.

WITH reference to Mr. Vredenburg's despatch to me of the 20th of January last, transmitted to you under flying seal, in which he reports the capture of the mate of the Spanish slave-steamer "Cicéron," I transmit to you a copy of a letter from the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Griffon,"* which has been communicated to me by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, containing further information respecting the movements of the "Cicéron," which vessel you will perceive has been again thwarted in an attempt to ship a cargo of slaves from the African coast.

I have to desire that you will communicate the foregoing information to the Portuguese Government, and express the earnest hope of Her Majesty's Government that the mate of the "Cicéron," who is now in gaol in Angola, may meet with the punishment he so justly deserves, for engaging in the inhuman Traffic in Slaves.

You will further inform the Portuguese Minister that Her Majesty's Government have received advices from Cuba reporting the arrival of the "Cicéron" at a port in that island, after her unsuccessful attempt to procure slaves on the African coast, and she is stated now to have gone to Matamoros to ship a cargo of cotton; but it is possible, as her commander was formerly engaged in Slave Traffic on the East Coast of Africa, that she may, on her next voyage, endeavour to procure a cargo of slaves from thence.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

Sir A. Magenis to Earl Russell.—(Received May 3.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, April 26, 1865.

WITH reference to my despatch dated the 28th January, inclosing copy of a note which, in accordance with your Lordship's instructions, I had addressed to the Duke de Loulé on the 14th January, calling his Excellency's attention to the continued export of slaves, under the pretence of their being free labourers, from the mainland to the Island of St. Thomas, as well as to the Slave Trade from Benguela, and the connivance of the subaltern Portuguese authorities generally, and furnishing his Excellency with an extract from the Report of Her Majesty's Commissioner at Loanda; I have now the honour to inclose translation of the reply of the Portuguese Government dated the 19th instant.

Count d'Avila incloses copy of a note from the Department of the Navy and Colonies translation of which I also transmit), endeavouring to prove that many of the complaints of Her Majesty's Government are groundless. For what regards the export of free negroes, his Excellency refers me to previous notes, copies of which were forwarded to your Lordship in my despatches of April 5, 1862, of June 5 and of November 26, 1863; and after reiterating the assurance that the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty has hitherto complied, and will always comply by all means in their power, with the Treaty of the 3rd of July, 1842, concludes by informing me that a copy of the extract from Mr. Vredenburg's report will be forwarded for the information of the Governor-General of Angola.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 94.

Count d'Avila to Sir A. Magenis.

(Translation.)

Foreign Office, Lisbon, April 19, 1865.

WITH reference to the note, dated the 14th of January last, which you addressed to my predecessor, communicating an extract from a Report of the British Commissioner at Loanda respecting the transport of negroes from the African continent to the Island of St. Thomas, and the Slave Trade said to be carried on at Benguela, with the connivance of the local authorities, I have the honour to forward herewith the copy of a despatch from the Department for the Navy and the Colonies, dated the 31st of March last.

From the contents of that despatch, you will observe that the question of the transport of free negroes or freed-men (libertos) to St. Thomas must be looked upon to have been sufficiently elucidated by the correspondence of which copies were forwarded to you on the 26th of March, 1862, 22nd of May, and 24th of November, 1863.

With respect to the Slave Trade speculations to the south of Loanda, reference is made in that despatch to the correspondence which was communicated to you on the 9th of February last. It is stated therein, that it has been clearly shown and proved that many of the complaints made by Her Britannic Majesty's Government against the Portuguese authorities in Africa are groundless; that those functionaries in our African provinces against whom there have appeared proofs of connivance in the traffic have been dismissed and proceeded against; and that the Portuguese Government have up to the present day, and will always comply by all means in their power with the Treaty of the 3rd of July, 1842.

You will, however, perceive from the above-mentioned despatch that a copy of the extract from the Report of the British Commissioner would be forwarded to the Governor-General of Angola for his own information, and in order that he may renew his orders for the effectual repression of the Slave Trade, and for the punishment with the full rigour of the laws of any functionary that should transgress them.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) COUNT D'AVILA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 94.

The Duke of Loulé to Count d'Avila.

(Translation.)

*Department for the Navy and Colonies,
March 31, 1865.*

Most Illustrious and Excellent Sir,

I RECEIVED your Excellency's despatch dated the 30th of January last, inclosing the copy of a note in which Her Britannic Majesty's Minister at Lisbon states, with reference to the extract which he forwarded from the Report of the British Commissioner at Loanda, that he had received instructions from his Government to press upon the Portuguese Government the necessity of removing the local authorities of the Province of Angola, whenever there may exist well-grounded suspicions of their being in league with the slave-dealers, and of punishing the individuals who are notoriously engaged in the Slave Trade; and in accordance with your Excellency's wishes that I should, after taking cognizance of those documents, enable you to reply in a proper manner to that Minister, I have the honour to state to your Excellency what follows.

The extract from that report chiefly refers to the transport of negroes from the African continent to the Island of St. Thomas under the pretence (according to the statement made by the British Commissioner) of their being free labourers; and to the Slave Trade on the coast of Benguela, which, according to the same Commissioner, is carried on with the connivance of the subaltern Portuguese authorities.

With respect to the first part, Her Britannic Majesty's Minister does not say anything in his note, and as far as regards the second part, he himself acknowledges that all the reports received by his Government tend to prove that the present Governor-General of Angola honestly and faithfully endeavours to the best of his ability to comply with the engagements of the Portuguese Crown for the suppression of the Slave Trade; nevertheless, that Minister declares, in conclusion, that the good intentions of that Governor are neutralized and his efforts thwarted by his subordinates, who in some places to the south of the province are in league with the slave-dealers.

On examining the above-mentioned Report, we see that the British Commissioner gives the following information:—

1. That the Governor-General of Angola has scrupulously kept his resolution of not granting passports to slaves for St. Thomas, but that all ships bound to that island have carried ten freedmen ("libertos").
2. That the same Governor, entertaining suspicions that the two men who had obtained passports as freedmen were slaves, had directed the necessary inquiries to be made; and that in fine it had been proved that as they had never been registered as slaves they were free according to law.
3. That a Portuguese felucca had been captured with thirty or forty slaves who had embarked in French territory for the Islands of Princes and St. Thomas.
4. That the landowner in St. Thomas, Senhor José Maria Prado, had entered into a contract for supplying the French possession on the Gaboon with cattle; and that his vessels, after discharging, proceed to take in slaves between that place and Cape St. Catherine, and particularly in the neighbourhood of the River Cama, and convey them to St. Thomas.
5. That the Governor-General of St. Thomas had sent a special Commissioner to Benguela for the purpose of obtaining evidence with a view to the punishment of the offenders; that he has done all in his power to impress on the minds of the subaltern authorities the obligations and duties which they owe to society and to the nation in whose service they are engaged; and that in consequence of information given by the same Governor-General a barque fully equipped for the Slave Trade had been captured by the British cruisers.
6. That the officer in command of the Portuguese Naval Station, Captain Garção, deserves the highest praise for the zeal and energy with which he has acted, thus showing himself in marked contrast to his predecessor.

In reply to each of these items of information given by Her Britannic Majesty's Commissioner at Loanda, I have the honour to state to your Excellency,—

1. That the question of the transport of blacks, either freedmen ("libertos") or free, to St. Thomas has been already sufficiently elucidated in the despatches from this Department under my charge, of the 24th of February, 7th of March, 5th of June, and 28th of October, 1862, and 27th of June and 10th of November, 1863.

2. That from the above information it may be seen that the Governor-General of Angola endeavours, as it is his duty, to prevent his orders being frustrated with respect to the granting of passports only to blacks who are either freed men or free, and not to slave negroes. Your Excellency is well aware that all slaves that existed in the Portuguese

trans-marine dominions at the time of the publication of the Law of December 14, 1854, were ordered to be registered; and that those whose names were not inscribed in that register were to be considered as freedmen (libertos); and that the sale of the service of these freedmen (libertos) for a period of ten years, would be lawful in accordance with the same law.

3. That until Her Britannic Majesty's Government shall have made a Treaty with France upon the same terms as the one with Portugal, for the suppression of the Slave Trade, it will be possible to carry on that trade from the French Possessions, without the possibility of any nation preventing it.

4. That if the British Commissioner can assure the truth of what he states, nothing could be easier than for him to inform the Commanders of the several naval stations, in order that such vessels may be captured; and nothing is more difficult than to prevent the shipment of slaves from that part of the African coast which is not subject to the Portuguese dominion.

5. That the information given by the British Commissioner respecting the good services rendered by the Governor-General of Angola contain the well-merited praise of the chief authority in the Province, and they agree with the statement made by Her Majesty's Minister in his regard in the note above mentioned.

6. That the fact of the chief naval and civil authorities of Angola being thus praised and held in good repute affords a proof, confirmed by the testimony even of a British functionary, that the orders of the Portuguese Government for the effectual prevention of the exportation of slaves from the West Coast of Africa are carried into execution.

In fine, I refer to the statement made to your Excellency in the despatch from the Department under my charge, dated the 15th of April of last year, upon the Slave Trade carried on in the African territory by Portuguese subjects, and to the statement contained in the despatch of the 30th of January of this year upon Slave Trade speculations to the south of Loanda; and as I am not aware up to the present day that the reasons alleged by my predecessors in this Department had been called in question by Her Britannic Majesty's Government, it only remains for me to add, that I can crave your Excellency's permission to state, with respect to the remark made by Her Britannic Majesty's Minister in Lisbon, that the good intentions of the Governor-General of Angola are neutralized, and his endeavours thwarted by his subordinates, that this remark does not agree with what all the Reports received by Her Britannic Majesty's Government tend to prove (as that Minister himself states).

As those Reports prove that the aforesaid Governor-General complies with his duties as far as regards the suppression of the Slave Trade, it is clear that if his subordinates did not comply with their duty, he would never allow any functionaries to continue to serve in the Province under his charge who should disobey him, as soon as their disobedience was proved. And with respect to the expediency suggested by the same Minister, of removing the local authorities of Angola, and of punishing all individuals who may be suspected of being in league with the slave-dealers, your Excellency knows very well that neither the Portuguese Government nor any Representative Government can either remove or punish any Portuguese subjects, whether they be authorities or private individuals, only on suspicion of their guilt.

But it has been already clearly shown and proved in the despatches above mentioned, and in other previous ones, that many of the complaints brought forward by Her Britannic Majesty's Government against the Portuguese authorities in Africa are void of foundation; that as soon as there have been any proofs of connivance in the Trade on the part of our functionaries in the African Provinces, they have been dismissed and proceeded against; that the chief authorities of those Provinces comply with their duties, and labour vigilantly for the repression of the Traffic, as the British Commissioner himself has recently acknowledged; that it is not the Portuguese alone who are engaged in the Slave Trade, and that the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty have complied up to the present day with the Treaty of the 3rd of July, 1842, and will cause it to be complied with by all the means in their power.

But notwithstanding what has been stated above, a copy of the extract from the Report which was inclosed in your Excellency's despatch of the 30th of January last, will be forwarded under this date to the Governor-General of Angola, not only for the purpose of apprising him of the information sent by the British Commissioner to his own Government, but likewise that he may, with reference to the same, earnestly repeat his orders for the effectual repression of the Slave Trade, and endeavour to find out whether there is any pretext for charging his subordinates with connivance in that Traffic, and in case there should be, for him to proceed against the delinquents with all the rigour of the law.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed)

DUKE OF LOULE.

No. 95.

Sir A. Magenis to Earl Russell.—(Received May 3.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, April 26, 1865.

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 17th instant, I addressed a note to Count d'Avila, dated yesterday, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, informing him of the re-appearance of the slave-steamer "*Cicéron*" on the coast of Africa, and of her subsequent movements, as well as of the capture of her mate, and expressing the hope of Her Majesty's Government that the latter may be visited with the punishment he deserves for engaging in the Slave Traffic.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

Inclosure in No. 95.

Sir A. Magenis to Count d'Avila.

M. le Ministre,

Lisbon, April 25, 1865.

IN a note dated the 15th of August, 1864, I had the honour to draw the attention of the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty to the suspicious movements of the Spanish vessel "*Cicéron*," which ship was then supposed to have been abandoned by her captain at the Island of San Thomé, after three unsuccessful attempts to ship slaves on the African coast. In a subsequent note dated the 14th of February last, I informed his Excellency the Duke of Loulé that Her Majesty's Government had learnt that it was to the Island of St. Thomas in the West Indies, and not to the Portuguese Island of San Thomé, that this vessel proceeded after failing to ship a cargo of slaves.

I have now received the instructions of Her Majesty's Government to acquaint the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty with the following further information respecting the movements of the "*Cicéron*," which has been received from the commander of Her Majesty's ship "*Griffon*." From this it appears that a slave-steamer was chased by Her Majesty's ship "*Archer*" off Red Point, on the African coast, on the 5th of December last; that, on the following day, a boat was captured in the same neighbourhood by the cutter of Her Majesty's ship "*Griffon*," the coxswain of which (José d'Avila, a Portuguese), subsequently stated that the boat belonged to the slave-steamer "*Cicéron*." This man further declared that the "*Cicéron*" or "*Elvira*," commanded by Don Pedro Mas, a Spaniard, cleared from Cadiz on the 26th October for Matamoros, but proceeded direct to the Bight of Benin for slaves; that she made the land near Aghwey on two different occasions, each time being chased off again by the cruizers; that the captain, finding it impossible to ship slaves in that neighbourhood, declared his intention of going to the Congo, and on the 24th November made Point Padrone, and sent boats into Moanda with letters to one Senhor Oliveira, the "*Cicéron*" meanwhile standing out to sea; that the ship has a large quantity of blankets, shoes, and provisions on board for Matamoros, which were shipped at Cadiz to clear expenses in case she failed in obtaining a slave cargo; and, finally, that her captain had said that if slaves were not to be procured at Moanda at once, he would be obliged to leave the coast on account of shortness of coal.

Acting on this and other information, Commander Perry examined the coast in the neighbourhood, but without falling in with the "*Cicéron*," though that vessel was twice sighted (on the 24th November and 9th December) by Her Majesty's ship "*Snipe*," on both occasions steering for Vista. Commander Perry states, as the result of his investigations, that there were no slaves ready near Congo, nor money to buy them, but that any number could be got ready for shipment in a week, if money or goods were forthcoming. He adds as his opinion, that if the "*Cicéron*" left the coast where he was stationed without slaves, she would probably put into Annobon for wood, and possibly into St. Thomas for coal, and then pass by the Bights once more before returning to Matamoros.

Her Majesty's Government have also received information that the mate of the "*Cicéron*" has been captured and is now in jail in Angola, and I have therefore been instructed to express the earnest hope of Her Majesty's Government that he may meet with the punishment he so justly deserves for engaging in the inhuman Traffic in Slaves.

In conclusion I have likewise the honour to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have heard of the arrival in Cuba of the slave-steamer "*Cicéron*" after her failure to ship slaves on the African coast, and that she is now stated to have gone to Matamoros to ship a cargo of cotton, but that as her commander was formerly engaged in

the Slave Traffic on the East Coast of Africa, it is thought possible that she may on the next voyage endeavour to procure a cargo of slaves from thence.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

No. 96.

Earl Russell to Sir A. Magenis.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 8, 1865.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 26th ultimo and to previous correspondence relative to the notorious Spanish slave-steamer "*Cicéron*," I have to acquaint you that by despatches received from Her Majesty's Minister in Mexico, and from Her Majesty's Consul-General in Cuba, it appears that this vessel was transferred to the Mexican flag in the month of March last at the port of Tampico, and that she is now sailing under the name of the "*Margarita Quintero*."

As, however, she retains the same captain, crew, and supercargo, it may be inferred that the "*Cicéron's*" name and flag have been changed only the better to enable her to carry on the Traffic in Slaves, in which she has been for the last two years engaged.

I have to desire that you will communicate this information to the Portuguese Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 97.

Earl Russell to Sir A. Magenis.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 1, 1865.

I TRANSMIT to you, for your information, an extract from a Report of Captain Gardner,* of Her Majesty's ship "*Orestes*," relative to the Slave Trade on the East Coast of Africa, in the neighbourhood of Mozambique and the Island of Madagascar.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 98.

Sir A. Magenis to Earl Russell.—(Received June 4.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, May 23, 1865.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 27th of March last, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship the inclosed translation of a note which I have received from his Excellency Count d'Avila, in reply to that dated March 24th which I addressed to his Excellency's predecessor in office, and in which he states that the Minister of Marine had issued an order on the 5th instant to the Governor-General of Angola to institute judicial proceedings against the ex-Governor of Benguela, M. Gamitto, as soon as he should have obtained proofs of his guilt and connivance in the slave-trading operations said to have been carried on in Benguela.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

Inclosure in No. 98.

Count d'Avila to Sir A. Magenis.

(Translation.)

Foreign Department, Lisbon, May 13, 1865.

WITH reference to the note which you addressed to my predecessor on the 24th of March last with respect to the Slave Trade operations said to be carried on at Benguela,

and in which it appeared that the ex-Governor, M. Gamitto, was implicated, I have the honour to state to you that the Minister of Marine informed me on the 5th instant that on that day he would issue an order to the Governor-General of the Province of Angola, in order that, after taking cognizance of the facts mentioned in your note above mentioned, he should proceed as soon as possible to make the proper inquiries, and institute judicial proceedings against that ex-Governor as soon as some proof of his guilt shall have been obtained.

I renew, &c.
(Signed) COUNT D'AVILA.

No. 99.

Sir A. Magenis to Earl Russell.—(Received June 4.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, May 23, 1865.

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch dated the 8th instant, I addressed, on the 13th instant, a note to Count d'Avila, informing his Excellency of the transfer of the Spanish steam-slaver "Cicéron" to the Mexican flag, under the name of the "*Margarita Quintero*."

I have the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of that note, and also a translation of a note from Count d'Avila acknowledging the receipt of my communication to him on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 99.

Sir A. Magenis to Count d'Avila.

Lisbon, May 13, 1865.

M. le Ministre,

WITH reference to my note of the 25th ultimo, bringing to the knowledge of your Excellency certain information respecting the late movements of the notorious slave-steamer "Cicéron," I have now received the instructions of Her Majesty's Government to acquaint the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty that it appears, from despatches received from Her Majesty's Minister in Mexico and from Her Majesty's Consul-General in Cuba, that this vessel was transferred to the Mexican flag in the month of March last, at the port of Tampico, and that she is now sailing under the name of the "*Margarita Quintero*," retaining, however, the same captain and supercargo as before; from which it may be inferred that the "Cicéron's" name and flag have been changed only the better to enable her to carry on the Traffic in Slaves in which she has been for the last two years engaged.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR C. MAGENIS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 99.

Count d'Avila to Sir A. Magenis.

(Translation.)

Foreign Department, Lisbon, May 16, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the note which you were pleased to address to me on the 13th instant, giving me, by order of your Government, further information respecting the steam-slaver "Cicéron," which is navigated at present under the Mexican flag, and under the name of "*Margarita Quintero*."

While thanking you for the above information, it is my duty to state to you that I have this day communicated the same to the Minister of Marine for the proper purpose.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) COUNT D'AVILA.

No. 100.

Earl Russell to Mr. Lytton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 19, 1865.

WITH reference to my despatch to Sir A. Magenis of the 1st instant, I transmit for your information, and for communication to the Portuguese Government, the accompanying extract of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at the Comoro Islands, relative to the Slave Trade carried on from the Portuguese Possessions on the East Coast of Africa.*

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

P.S.—I also inclose a copy of a despatch on the same subject from Her Majesty's Commissioner at the Cape of Good Hope.†

No. 101.

Mr. Lytton to Earl Russell.—(Received July 14.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, July 1, 1865.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 1st June to Sir A. Magenis, and to your Lordship's despatch of the 19th ultimo to myself, I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a note which I have addressed to Count d'Avila, calling the notice of his Excellency to the activity given to the Slave Trade on the East Coast of Africa, about Mozambique and Madagascar, in consequence of the commercial restrictions imposed along that part of the coast over which the Portuguese authorities claim jurisdiction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RT. LYTTON.

Inclosure in No. 101.

Mr. Lytton to Count d'Avila.

M. le Ministre,

Lisbon, July 1, 1865.

I HAVE received from Her Majesty's Government, with instructions to communicate it to your Excellency, copy of an extract from a Report addressed to Earl Russell by Her Majesty's Consul at Johanna, relative to the active traffic in slaves now being carried on, in dhows, from the neighbourhood of Mozambique to the island of Madagascar.

The statements therein contained are fully confirmed by Her Majesty's Commissioners at the Cape of Good Hope, as well as by the officers in command of Her Majesty's ships employed for the suppression of the Slave Trade on the East Coast of Africa.

It is quite indisputable that the unhappy victims of this atrocious traffic, whether shipped at Mozambique or from the northwards, are almost entirely supplied from the country lying behind the Portuguese territory; and I regret to add that it is the unanimous opinion of all those officers, who, in the employ of Her Majesty's Government, have acquired experienced knowledge of the condition of things on this part of the African coast, that the activity there noticeable in the movement of the Slave Trade, must be attributed mainly to the severe commercial restrictions, or rather prohibitions, imposed by the Portuguese authorities throughout 600 miles of coast over which Portugal claims sovereignty. These restrictions, it is believed, by producing and maintaining the virtual suppression of all legitimate commerce, have now left open to the subjects of His Most Faithful Majesty, no less than to the native Chiefs along the above-mentioned line of coast, no available means of livelihood, save such as are furnished by traffic in human flesh.

Many of the native Chiefs would willingly enter into Treaty stipulations for the abolition of the Slave Trade, but, as no foreign vessels are allowed to trade with them, this illicit commerce is continued as the result of a dismal necessity.

It is in the fullest and frankest conviction that the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty, in common with that of every civilized state at the present day, and more especially as a party to the Treaty of 1842, is anxious to hasten the extinction of this

inhuman traffic, that I have the honour to invite to the facts herein set forth, and the document herewith inclosed, the serious and candid consideration of your Excellency.

I feel persuaded that if (as there is at present reason to believe) this trade in slaves along the East Coast of Africa can be extinguished, or greatly reduced, by some modification of the commercial system, or administrative practice now maintained, where Portuguese jurisdiction prevails, the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty will willingly give to its authorities on that coast such instructions as may tend to bring about so desirable a result.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) RT. LYTTON.

No. 102.

Earl Russell to Mr. Lytton.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, August 14, 1865.

YOU will state to Count d'Avila that Her Majesty's Government are most desirous to maintain the most cordial relations with Portugal; that he must be aware that there is no question upon which Her Majesty's Government are more deeply interested than that of the suppression of the Slave Trade; that Her Majesty's Government are of opinion, without at all questioning the sincerity of Portugal in this question, that increased vigilance, and steady discouragement of officials indifferent or corrupt in regard to Slave Trade, would be of great service in procuring the total suppression of the traffic.

No. 103.

Earl Russell to Mr. Lytton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 18, 1865.

I TRANSMIT to you, for your information, the inclosed extract of a letter addressed by Captain Bowden, of Her Majesty's ship "Wasp," to the Secretary of the Admiralty relative to the Slave Trade in the Mozambique Channel.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 104.

Earl Russell to Mr. Lytton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 18, 1865.

I TRANSMIT to you, for your information, a copy of a letter from Captain Paisley, of Her Majesty's ship "Highflyer,"† containing his Half-yearly Report on the Slave Trade in the Mozambique to the 30th of June last.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 105.

Earl Russell to Mr. Lytton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 30, 1865.

I TRANSMIT to you for your information a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Commissioner at Loanda,‡ reporting that certain slaves belonging to the estate of the late Senhor Guilherme da Silva Correa of Ambrizette, had been granted their freedom by order of the Governor-General of Angola.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

* Class A, No. 97.

† Ibid., No. 95.

‡ Ibid., No. 42.

No. 107.

Mr. Lytton to Earl Russell.—(Received October 1.)

(Extract.)

Lisbon, September 16, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of the note which, in obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch dated the 14th ultimo, I addressed on the 30th of the same month to Count de Castro, expressing the sincere desire of Her Majesty's Government to maintain cordial relations with this country, and reminding his Excellency of the great and deep interest taken by Her Majesty's Government in the suppression of the Slave Trade, and recommending increased vigilance and steady discouragement of corrupt officials with regard to the Slave Trade.

The receipt of this note has been acknowledged by Count de Castro, who has referred the same to the Department for the Navy and Colonies in order to enable him to send me a reply.

Inclosure in No. 107.

Mr. Lytton to Count d'Avila.

M. le Ministre,

Lisbon, August 30, 1865.

IN a despatch which I have just received from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, expressive of the sincere desire entertained by Her Majesty's Government that the relations maintained by Great Britain with the Crown of Portugal may be always those of unqualified cordiality, I am instructed to remind your Excellency that there is no question in which Her Majesty's Government is more deeply interested than that of the suppression of the Slave Trade. Her Majesty's Government do not at all question the sincerity of Portugal on this question, but they are of opinion that increased vigilance and steady discouragement of officials indifferent or corrupt in regard to the Slave Trade, would be of great service in procuring the total suppression of the Traffic.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RT. LYTTON.

No. 108.

Mr. Lytton to Earl Russell.—(Received October 1.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, September 21, 1865.

THE tenour of the reply I am likely to receive to my note to Count de Castro, copy of which is inclosed in my despatch of September 16, may be anticipated from perusal of the statements contained in the accompanying translation of a note which I have just received from his Excellency in reply to one addressed by myself last July to Count d'Avila, copy of which was forwarded to your Lordship in my despatch of the 1st July, on the subject of some opinions expressed in a Report from the British Consul at Johanna, with reference to the Traffic in Slaves carried on between Mozambique and Madagascar.

I believe that the Portuguese Government is not otherwise than sincere in the expression of its desire to suppress this Traffic, but that it has little control over its own agents and subjects in those places where it is carried on, and where the influence of local interests is stronger and more active than that of central authority. I have heard that Mr. Andrade, the Governor of Angola, whose zeal in the suppression of the Slave Trade has been so frequently and honourably alluded to by Her Majesty's Agents, has found himself exposed to so much hostility on that account, that he has requested the Government to accept his resignation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RT. LYTTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 108.

Count de Castro to Mr. Lytton.

(Translation.)

Foreign Department, Lisbon, September 11, 1865.

IN reply to the note which you addressed to my predecessor under date of the 1st of July last, inclosing an extract from a Report of the British Consul at Johanna with respect to the Traffic in Slaves said to be carried on from the neighbourhood of Mozambique to Madagascar, I have the honour to transmit to you the inclosed extract from a despatch of the Department for the Navy and Colonies, upon the subject of that note.

By that extract you will perceive that the Portuguese Government has made continual efforts to repress that odious traffic as much as possible, and it is not to be wondered at, if in spite of those efforts and of the vigilance of the Portuguese authorities, some operations of this nature should be carried on on the East Coast of Africa, so difficult to guard on account of its extent.

You will also observe that these operations on the coast of Mozambique are now chiefly effected in Arabian dhows, a great number of which belong to the States of the Sultan of Zanzibar.

With respect, however, to the opinion which you have expressed that the activity in the aforesaid traffic said to exist on that coast, must be attributed to the restrictions imposed upon lawful trade by the Portuguese authorities, it is my duty to state to you that such an opinion appears to me to be rather groundless, because from Cape Delgado to Lorenzo Marques, that is, on the part of that coast the sovereignty of which belongs to the Crown of Portugal, six of its principal ports have been opened since 1856, without any restriction to the commerce of all nations, as is mentioned in the despatch to which I refer.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) COUNT DE CASTRO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 108.

The Minister of Marine to Count de Castro.

(Translation.)

(Extract.)

August 31, 1865.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 5th of July last, inclosing the translation of a note from the Chargé d'Affaires of England in Lisbon, and also of an extract referred to therein, from a report of the British Consul at Johanna, respecting the Traffic in Slaves said to be carried on from the neighbourhood of Mozambique to Madagascar.

As in that note it is asserted that it is the unanimous opinion of all the officers and other persons employed by Her Britannic Majesty's Government, that the activity which is noticeable in the Traffic in Slaves on the East Coast of Africa must be ascribed to the restrictions, or rather prohibitions, imposed by the Portuguese authorities throughout an extent of 600 miles of coast, I cannot comprehend upon what grounds such an opinion is based, inasmuch as it is certain that, from Cape Delgado to Lorenzo Marques—that is, on that part of the coast which belongs *de jure* and *de facto* to the Sovereignty of Portugal—there are five Custom Houses: at Ibo, Mozambique, Quilimane, Inhambane, and at Lorenzo Marques (besides the one which was lately ordered to be established at the port of Angoche by a Decree of the 5th of July last), at which Custom Houses the ships of all nations are admitted without any restriction whatsoever, and where British, French, and American produce and manufactures pay the same duties as Portuguese produce and manufactures, inasmuch as those manufactures and produce belong to nations between whom and Portugal there are special Treaties in existence, which is a well-known fact, and has been the practice ever since 1856, the date when those ports were opened to the commerce of the whole world.

Hence your Excellency will perceive, as well as I do, that the opinion to which the Chargé d'Affaires above named refers is groundless, an opinion which he himself appears to adopt by supposing that the restrictions imposed by the Portuguese authorities upon lawful trade have not left open either to Portuguese subjects or to the native Chiefs, on the above-mentioned line of coast, any available means of livelihood saving those furnished by the Slave Trade.

Thus it remains proved that the Portuguese Government has facilitated and not restricted lawful trade in those six ports opened to commerce; and your Excellency is

CLASS B.

well aware that at other points of the coast where there is no Custom House, trade cannot be allowed, and if it could, it would happen that such ample liberty, instead of tending to restrict the Slave Trade, would facilitate and develop it to an amazing extent.

I cannot now abstain from remarking, for your Excellency's information, that whereas it would appear from the perusal of the note of the Chargé d'Affaires that England carries on a very active trade with the Portuguese East Coast of Africa, it is nevertheless certain that she is the nation who has sent the smallest number of ships to the place. Since 1858 one brig alone has proceeded to the port of Mozambique for the purpose of trading; two sloops went to Lorenzo Marques (where both tried to evade the payment of the Custom House duties), and there was another ship that also went there laden with coal; and it does not appear that any other British merchantman has arrived at those ports, while, at the same time, several French, Hamburguese, American, Portuguese, and Arabian vessels have gone to Mozambique, Quilimane, and to Ibo since that year for the purpose of trading.

With respect to the Treaties for the abolition of the Traffic in Slaves, into which, as is stated by the Chargé d'Affaires, the native Chiefs on the coast would be willing to enter, I ask, what guarantee would there be for Treaties made with Chiefs without faith and without law? They would be evaded as soon as a slaver were to appear to those Chiefs, whose natural tendency is in favour of the Slave Trade (by far the most lucrative), and whose system is to carry ivory, wax, and several other articles to the Portuguese establishments, and to reserve their slaves for their dealings with the Arabian dhows, or for European slavers which resort to those ports on the coast where no Portuguese authorities are to be found.

It is well known that at present the Slave Trade on the coast of Mozambique is chiefly carried on in Arabian dhows, the greater part of which belong to the States of the Sultan of Zanzibar; and, according to the reports which I have lately received from the Governor-General of the Province of Mozambique, in his despatch of the 6th of April of this year, a good many of these dhows make use of the French flag when pursued.

The Portuguese Government has made continual efforts, as your Excellency is well aware, to repress the Slave Trade as much as possible, and for this purpose it has kept two steamers at Mozambique, the "Maria Anna" and "Baron de Lazarim" which destroyed a short time ago several dhows engaged in the Slave Trade in the port of Velhaco and in that of Mocambo, and captured another on the high seas; and it is not to be wondered at, if, in spite of those efforts and of the vigilance of the Portuguese authorities, some traffic should be carried on on a coast so extensive and so difficult to guard; but it is also possible that there may be exaggeration in the accounts received by Her Britannic Majesty's Government respecting the increase of the Slave Trade, because it has already been proved by this Department that in the three years, from 1861 to 1863, only two cases of slave prizes had been submitted to the Mixed Commission Court at the Cape of Good Hope, and that one of those vessels which were captured had been adjudged to be a bad prize.

No. 109.

Mr. Lytton to Earl Russell.—(Received October 23.)

(Extract.)

Lisbon, October 5, 1865.

WITH reference to Sir A. Magenis's despatch of April 26, 1865, inclosing copy of the reply of the Duke de Loulé to the representations made by Sir Arthur to his Excellency on the subject of the export of slaves in the character of libertos to the Island of St. Thomas, with the connivance of the Portuguese authorities, I have now the honour to transmit herewith a despatch of August 17, 1865, addressed to your Lordship by Mr. Consul Vredenburg,* which I have received under flying seal from Loanda.

No. 110.

Mr. Lytton to Earl Russell.—(Received October 23.)

My Lord,

Lisbon, October 10, 1865.

WITH reference to Sir A. Magenis's despatch of May 23rd, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a further note dated the 23rd ultimo, which I have received from Count de Castro, stating that the inquiry into the conduct of Mr. Gamitto, ex-Governor of Benguella, with respect to the Slave Trade, was still going on; and that although the information received by the Governor-General of Angola upon this subject

* Class A, No. 45.

did not constitute a clear proof against Mr. Gamitto, it would nevertheless be taken into consideration in the course of that inquiry.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RT. LYTTON.

Inclosure in No. 110.

Count de Castro to Mr. Lytton.

(Translation.)

Foreign Department, Lisbon, September 23, 1865.

IN addition to the note addressed by my predecessor on the 13th of May last to Sir Arthur C. Magenis, wherein he informed him that the necessary orders had been sent to Loanda in order that an inquiry might be made there into the charges brought against the ex-Governor of Benguella, Mr. Antonio Candido Pedroza Gamito, I have the honour to state to you that according to a communication made to me by the Minister of Marine in a despatch dated the 21st instant, the Governor-General of the Province of Angola had endeavoured to obtain from the proper authorities the full details respecting the facts to which those charges have reference, and that, although the answers which he had received from those authorities do not constitute a clear and evident proof, nevertheless he had caused the same to be annexed to the records of the inquiry which he had ordered to be instituted into the conduct of that ex-Governor, in order that they might be taken into due consideration in the course of that inquiry.

I renew, &c.
(Signed) COUNT DE CASTRO.

No. 111.

The Earl of Clarendon to Sir A. Magenis.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 25, 1865.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith for your information an extract of a despatch from Her Majesty's Commissioners at the Cape of Good Hope*, relative to the export of slaves from the Portuguese possessions on the East Coast of Africa.

In calling the attention of the Portuguese Government to this matter, you will point out to them that it is useless to appoint officers who are anxious to carry out the engagements of the Portuguese Crown for the suppression of the Slave Trade, unless the Portuguese Government afford them the means of fulfilling their duties, and you will at the same time express the hope of Her Majesty's Government that the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty will place the necessary force at the disposal of the Governor-General of Mozambique to enable him to put a stop to the exportation of slaves from the Portuguese territories.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 112.

Sir A. Magenis to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 2.)

(Extract.)

Lisbon, November 22, 1865.

ON the 17th instant the Marquis Sá da Bandeira introduced a Bill into the Chamber of Peers for the immediate abolition of slavery in all the Portuguese dominions.

No. 113.

The Earl of Clarendon to Sir A. Magenis.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December 7, 1865.*

I TRANSMIT herewith for your information a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Commissioner at Loanda,† reporting the departure from thence on his return to Portugal of Senhor José Baptista d'Andrade, the Governor General of Angola, and containing some observations bearing favourable testimony to the character of that officer.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

* Class A, No. 31.

† Ibid., No. 48.

The Earl of Clarendon to Sir A. Magenis.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 14, 1865.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith for your information a copy of the Annual Report on the Slave Trade which I have received from Her Majesty's Commissioner at Loanda.

I have to call your particular attention to that part of it which relates to the trade in "libertos" carried on between the Province of Angola and the Island of San Thomé.

Mr. Vredenburg, you will see, reports that this trade has now assumed such formidable proportions, that no vessel leaves Loanda without conveying ten of them, and that the business is not confined to the mercantile class and owners of vessels trading to the Island of San Thomé, but that ships have been purchased for the Traffic by persons in no way connected with trade, and are used specifically for the purpose of carrying negroes to San Thomé.

In a despatch dated the 17th August last which reached Mr. Lytton under flying seal, and of which I now inclose a copy in case one should not have been kept in the archives of the Legation, Mr. Vredenburg enters so fully into the particulars of this Traffic that it will be unnecessary for me now to go further into details on the subject.

There can be no doubt of the fact that slaves in considerable numbers are purchased in the Province of Angola, furnished with papers purporting to constitute them free men, and then, without their wishes being in any way consulted, are shipped off to the Island of San Thomé, where for ought Her Majesty's Government know, they may, and in some cases undoubtedly are, consigned again to slavery or to a condition very little inferior.

I have to instruct you to make these facts known to the Government of Her Most Faithful Majesty, and in doing so you will state that Her Majesty's Government feel convinced that the Portuguese Government on being made acquainted with them by you, will concur in considering them to be opposed to the spirit no less than to the letter of the Treaty of 1842, and will not be surprised to hear that unless the practice is put a stop to, Her Majesty's Government will consider it to be their duty to give the negroes so transported an opportunity of stating before a Mixed Commission, whether they are or are not emigrating of their own free will.

Her Majesty's Government would much prefer to learn that the Portuguese authorities on the coast had taken the matter into their own hands, and you will therefore suggest to the Portuguese Government the propriety of sending those authorities instructions to that effect.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

PRUSSIA.

No. 115.

Lord Napier to Earl Russell.—(Received January 10.)

My Lord,

Berlin, January 6, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a translation of a note which I have received from the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, stating that the proposal of Her Majesty's Government to declare the Slave Trade piracy, and to subject parties guilty of it to the penalties attached to that crime, is a proposal which requires a close examination on the part of the competent authority in Prussia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 115.

M. de Thile to Lord Napier.

Berlin, January 4, 1865.

(Translation.)

THE Undersigned has the honour most respectfully to inform his Excellency Lord Napier, &c., that he, on receipt of the copy of Lord Russell's despatch of the 7th ultimo, made it his duty to bring the desire of the British Government to institute more strenuous regulations against the crime of slave-trading to the notice of the proper Department of the Royal Ministry. In considering the question as to how far the proposal of the British Government on this subject will harmonise with the existing laws in this country, a closer examination is necessary, and it will be the duty of the Undersigned, on the conclusion of the preliminary discussion, to inform his Excellency Lord Napier of the result thereof.

(For the Minister for Foreign Affairs),
(Signed) THILE.

No. 116.

Lord Napier to Earl Russell.—(Received March 6.)

My Lord,

Berlin, March 1, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a note which I have received from the Prussian Minister of Foreign Affairs relative to the proposal of Her Majesty's Government to declare the Slave Trade piracy, and subject to the penalties of piracy by a general international engagement. The Prussian Government express their sympathy with the motives which have prompted the overture of Her Majesty's Government, and their readiness to introduce a measure in the Prussian Chambers conformable to the views of Her Majesty's Government; but they desire, before doing so, to obtain some further information which your Lordship will no doubt be enabled to supply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER.

Inclosure in No. 116.

*M. de Bismarck to Lord Napier.**Berlin, ce 27 Février, 1865.*

LE Soussigné, se référant à la communication préalable qu'il a eu l'honneur d'adresser à son Excellence M. l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre le 4 de ce mois relativement à la proposition du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique de chercher à réprimer par des mesures efficaces la Traite des Esclaves, a l'honneur d'informer Lord Napier du résultat de l'examen auquel les Ministres du Roi ont soumis cette matière au point de vue de la législation en vigueur en Prusse.

Les lois Prussiennes contiennent deux dispositions relatives au genre de délit en question.

En premier lieu, l'Ordonnance du 8 Juillet, 1844, rendue par suite du Traité du 20 Décembre, 1841, et actuellement en vigueur, frappe d'une peine la Traite des Noirs.

En outre, le Code Criminel du 14 Avril, 1851, section 204, prononce que quiconque enlève, par ruse ou par la force, une créature humaine, pour la réduire en esclavage ou en servage, sera puni de cinq à vingt ans de travaux forcés.

Le Gouvernement du Roi reconnaît cependant que ces dispositions ne suffisent pas entièrement pour atteindre le but que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique se propose, et il n'a en principe aucune objection à faire aux mesures pour lesquelles son Excellence Lord Napier a été chargé de réclamer son concours. Les lois Prussiennes ne font à la vérité pas mention de la piraterie comme d'une espèce particulière de crime ; mais le Gouvernement du Roi prendrait à tâche, après la conclusion de la Convention Internationale proposée, d'introduire dans la législation les modifications conformes aux principes à adopter. Cependant avant de prononcer la pleine adhésion aux propositions du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, le Gouvernement du Roi désirerait apprendre si des faits positifs permettent de considérer les dispositions de la Convention du 20 Décembre, 1841, comme insuffisantes, et en particulier si, et dans quels cas, d'autres individus que ceux de la race noire ont été dans ces derniers temps l'objet d'un trafic illicite.

Le Soussigné présumant que les faits qui seraient de nature à éclairer le Gouvernement du Roi sur cette question, et à lui servir de motif pour un acte de législation, se trouveront à la portée du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, espère que son Excellence Lord Napier voudra bien, par son obligeante entremise, en donner connaissance au Gouvernement du Roi, &c.

(Signé) BISMARCK.

No. 117.

Earl Russell to Lord Napier.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, March 22, 1865.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 1st instant, inclosing a copy of a note from M. de Bismarck, stating that the Prussian Government have no objection in principle to the proposal of Her Majesty's Government for declaring the Slave Trade piracy, and expressing their readiness to introduce into the Prussian Chambers a project of law for giving effect to the views of Her Majesty's Government in this matter.

Before, however, pronouncing their full assent to the proposals of Her Majesty's Government, M. de Bismarck is desirous of obtaining further information on this subject, and more particularly as to whether facts have proved that the provisions of the Convention of December 20, 1841, are insufficient to meet the object for which the Convention was framed, and also in what cases individuals other than those of the black race have of late been the object of illicit traffic.

In reply to this last inquiry, I have to instruct your Excellency to acquaint M. de Bismarck that, beyond some attempts which were made a few years since by citizens of some of the South American States to kidnap natives of the South Sea Islands, with the view to sell them to be employed as labourers on the Chinha Islands, Her Majesty's Government are not aware that any attempts have been made to reduce to forced servitude any persons but natives of Africa.

With regard to the desire of the Prussian Government to be informed whether facts have proved the Convention of 1841 to be insufficient for the purposes for which it was framed, I have to instruct your Excellency to inform M. de Bismarck that it is the success of this Treaty and of similar engagements contracted by Her Majesty's Government with

other countries for the suppression of the Slave Trade that now renders further legislation necessary.

Formerly the Slave Trade was carried on almost with impunity, and the flag of any nation was used according as it suited the purposes of the parties engaged in the Traffic.

The conclusion of Slave Trade repression Treaties by this country with foreign Governments, owing to the facilities afforded by the provisions of these Treaties for the condemnation of slave-vessels, and for the punishment of their crews, has, however, effectually put a stop to the state of things that formerly existed; and now a vessel is rarely captured under the colours of any nation that has entered into a Treaty with Great Britain for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

But the Trade in Slaves has been too profitable a speculation to be abandoned altogether by the unprincipled men engaged in it, and accordingly slave-dealers now carry on their nefarious traffic almost entirely in vessels which, when captured, are found destitute of any colours or papers to denote their nationality.

The result is that, although the vessels are captured and condemned under the provisions of an Act of Parliament which empowers Her Majesty's Government to deal with vessels carrying on the Slave Trade without colours or papers to denote their nationality, yet the masters and crews of these vessels escape punishment altogether, in consequence of their not being in existence any tribunal competent to deal with persons captured in this category, and not being British subjects.

It was to remedy this state of things that Her Majesty's Government proposed to foreign Governments to declare the Slave Trade piracy, with the view to empower tribunals that may be competent to take cognizance of that crime to deal also with the crime of slave-trading.

Christian Governments have all agreed in denouncing the African Slave Trade, and have passed laws for the punishment of such of their subjects or citizens as may engage in the traffic. The question now to be dealt with is, are the laws passed on this subject to remain inoperative because individuals add to the violence of slave-trading the fraud of engaging in that Traffic in vessels divested of any national character?

The Slave Trade is now reduced, comparatively speaking, to very small dimensions, and many of the persons engaged in it are well known, some of them having been captured by British cruisers five or six times.

Her Majesty's Government rejoice that the Government of Prussia concur with them in agreeing that the stipulations at present in force are not sufficient for putting a stop to the crime of slave-trading; and past experience gives Her Majesty's Government every reason to hope that, if foreign Governments will concur in declaring the Slave Trade piracy, and will make arrangements for securing the punishment of such of their subjects or citizens who may be captured on board vessels engaged in the Slave Trade, a final blow will be given to the African Slave Traffic, and one of the greatest crimes of the present age will shortly cease to exist.

Your Excellency will state to M. de Bismarck that slave-trading is piracy by British law, and that the effect of this is that no British subject is ever found on board a slave-ship.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 118.

Lord Napier to Earl Russell.—(Received April 3.)

My Lord,

Berlin, March 27, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 22nd instant, stating the grounds on which Her Majesty's Government have deemed it right to invite foreign Governments to declare Slave Trade to be piracy, and to subject their respective subjects found guilty of participating in that Traffic to the penalties attached to the crime of piracy.

In conformity with your Lordship's direction I have addressed a letter to M. de Bismarck in the terms of your Lordship's instruction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NAPIER

RUSSIA.

No. 119.

Sir A. Buchanan to Earl Russell.—(Received May 1.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, April 22, 1865.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 7th December last, Prince Gortchakoff has read to me a Report which he has received from the Minister of Justice on the proposal of Her Majesty's Government that a general declaration should be made that the Governments who are parties to it denounce the Slave Trade as piracy, and secondly, that the penalties of piracy existing in the laws of the said Governments, if short of death, should be made applicable to all persons subjects or citizens of one of the Contracting Powers who shall be convicted in a Court which takes cognizance of piracy of being engaged in slave-trading.

The Minister of Justice begins his Report by quotations from answers which appear to have been given to the proposal of Her Majesty's Government by the Governments of Austria and France, and while he does not adopt precisely the views of either of these Governments, he expresses an opinion unfavourable to any international engagement being entered into by Russia with respect to the piratical character of the Slave Trade, and discourages the adoption of the proposal of Her Majesty's Government until further explanation can be obtained as to the manner in which Her Majesty's Government intend that it should be carried out in practice, and as to how far it is intended that our Government should exercise criminal jurisdiction for an offence committed on the high seas over the subjects of another.

The Minister of Justice points out, however, that the laws of Russia have already assimilated slave-trading to piracy, and rendered Russian subjects guilty of the former offence amenable to the same punishments as those who may be guilty of piracy.

Prince Gortchakoff, after reading this Report, said that his answer to your Lordship's despatch would be founded upon it, with perhaps some slight modifications of the opinions expressed in it, and that at all events before the Russian Government could adopt the proposal of Her Majesty's Government the question of criminal jurisdiction on the part of one Government over the subjects of another would require to be explained.

I said that I had no further instructions from your Lordship on the subject than those contained in the despatch which I had communicated to him, but that I presumed the personal impunity enjoyed by persons navigating the vessels captured by Her Majesty's cruizers with cargoes of slaves on board had convinced Her Majesty's Government of the impossibility of entirely preventing the crime while there was no means of punishing the criminals; and I explained to his Excellency how the masters and the crews of vessels captured with slaves on board are now generally set free by their captors, and are able almost immediately afterwards to return to their nefarious pursuits.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 120.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 13.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, November 8, 1865.

I HAVE reason to believe that an Imperial Manifesto will be promulgated at Kutais on the $\frac{8}{10}$ th instant, the fête day of the Emperor's Lieutenant, His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Michael Nicolaewitch, granting freedom to the slave population of the trans-Caucasian Provinces.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

SPAIN.

No. 121.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, January 5, 1865.

I HAVE to instruct you to request an interview with Marshal Narvaez, in order to speak to him again on the subject of the Slave Trade.

You will represent to his Excellency that the honour of Spain must suffer from the continued connivance of Spanish authorities at the violation of a solemn Treaty concluded with England in the year 1835. You will point out to him, that by the operation of a British Act of Parliament, and the consequent vigilance and activity of the Brazilian Government, Slave Trade has for the last ten years been unknown on the Coast of Brazil. That, unhappily, it is not unknown on the Coast of Cuba, but that it is impossible to believe that the Spanish Government cannot do that which the Brazilian Government has been able to do with ease and complete effect.

That by my despatch of the 7th ultimo, I have asked the Spanish Government to concur in submitting Spanish subjects captured in slave-trading ships to the jurisdiction of British Courts, British subjects similarly captured being similarly subjected to the jurisdiction of the Spanish Courts, and that in both cases the offenders should be liable to the penalties attached to piracy. I have made a similar proposal to other Governments in Europe and America.

You will point out to Marshal Narvaez the mischief of letting loose miscreants, quite unworthy of the protection of the Crown of Spain, who, after being taken in one slave-vessel, are liberated, and forthwith enlist in the same service in some other ship, bound on a similar unchristian and inhuman errand, and you will urge upon the Marshal, so well known for his chivalrous sentiments and lofty character, the duty which devolves upon him of effacing a stain from the escutcheon of Spain, and of rendering a brilliant service to the cause of African freedom.

No. 122.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 5, 1865.

I TRANSMIT to you, for your information, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Judge in the Mixed Commission Court at Havana,* reporting a conversation which he held with General Dulce on the subject of the Slave Trade.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 123.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 6, 1865.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, lists of Her Majesty's ships furnished with warrants for the suppression of the Slave Trade, specifying the number of their guns, the names and ranks of their commanding officers, and the stations on which they are employed; and

CLASS B.

* Class A, No. 9.

I have to desire that, in conformity with the stipulations contained in the second paragraph of Article V of the Treaty between this country and Spain for the suppression of the Slave Trade, you will communicate copies of these lists to the Spanish Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

Inclosure in No. 123.

Lists of Her Majesty's Cruizers employed in Suppression of Slave Trade.

North America and West Indies.

Names of Ships.	Names of Commanding Officers.	Ranks.	No. of Guns.
Duncan (flag ship)	R. Gibson	Captain	81
Shannon	O. J. Jones	Ditto	35
Phaeton	G. Le G. Bowyear	Ditto	35
Galatea	R. Maguire	Ditto	26
Pylades	A. W. A. Hood	Ditto	21
Wolverine	A. F. R. De Horsey	Ditto	21
Bulldog	C. Wake	Ditto	6
Buzzard	T. H. M. Martin	Commander	6
Styx	W. B. Urmston	Ditto	6
Virago	C. F. Palmer	Ditto	6
Medea	D' A. S. Preston	Ditto	6
Fawn	C. J. Wrey	Ditto	17
Peterel	E. Madden	Ditto	11
Rosario	L. H. Verstarme	Ditto	11
Royalist	E. J. Pollard	Ditto	11
Cordelia	J. B. Scott	Ditto	11
Lily	A. C. F. Heneage	Ditto	4
Cygnets	W. S. de Kantzow	Ditto	5
Steady	Hon. W. C. Talbot	Ditto	5
Plover	Hon. A. L. Corry	Ditto	5
Nimble	F. W. Hallowes	Lieutenant	5
Aboukir	P. Cracroft	Commodore	86

West Coast of Africa Station.

Names of Ships.	Names of Commanding Officers.	Ranks.	No. of Guns.
Rattlesnake (flag ship)	A. P. E. Wilmot	Commodore	19
Archer	F. Marten	Captain	13
Zebra	C. G. Lindsay	Commander	17
Dart	F. W. Richards	Ditto	5
Mullet	C. H. Simpson	Ditto	5
Pandora	W. F. Ruxton	Ditto	5
Sparrow	L. F. Jones	Ditto	5
Jaseur	W. J. H. Grubbe	Ditto	5
Snipe	A. H. W. Battiscombe	Ditto	5
Speedwell	G. F. Cottam	Ditto	5
Ranger	W. E. Gordon	Ditto	5
Espoir	M. S. L. Peile	Ditto	5
Rattlesnake for Lee (tender)	A. P. E. Wilnot	Commodore	5
Antelope	C. O'D. Allingham	Lieutenant	5
Wye (no foreign warrants)	V. G. Roberts	Staff Commander	2
Investigator for Handy (tender)	C. G. F. Knowles	Lieutenant	2
Investigator	Ditto	Ditto	2

Brazil Station.

Names of Ships.	Names of Commanding Officers.	Ranks.	No. of Guns.
Bombay (flag ship)	Colin A. Campbell	Captain	60
Satellite	S. S. L. Crofton	Ditto	21
Stromboli	Alexr. Philips	Commander	6
Sharpshooter	H. A. Clavering	Lieutenant	6
Triton	R. H. Napier	Ditto	3
Doterel	Wm. F. Johnson	Ditto	2
Sheldrake	John Nott	Ditto	2
Spider	E. A. T. Stubbs	Ditto	2

East Indian and Cape of Good Hope Station.

Names of Ships.	Names of Commanding Officers.	Ranks.	No of Guns.
Princess Royal (flag ship) ..	W. Gore Jones ..	Captain ..	73
Valorous ..	C. C. Forsyth ..	Ditto ..	16
Wasp ..	Wm. Bowden ..	Ditto ..	13
Rapid ..	C. T. Jago ..	Commander ..	11
Pantaloön ..	F. R. Purvis ..	Ditto ..	11
Lyra ..	R. A. Parr ..	Ditto ..	7
Vigilant ..	Wm. R. Hobson ..	Ditto ..	4
Princess Royal for Penguin (tender). No foreign warrants supplied	W. G. Jones ..	Captain ..	5

Admiralty, January 2, 1865.

No. 124.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received January 10.)

My Lord,

Madrid, January 5, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, copy of a note which I have received from the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs respecting the notorious slaver "*Cicéron*" which left Cadiz on the 24th of October last bound for Matamoros.

Señor Benavides states that the most scrupulous examination of that vessel by the authorities, afforded no proof that she was intended for the Slave Trade.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Inclosure in No. 124.

Señor Benavides to Sir J. Crampton.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Palace, January 2, 1865.

IN addition to what I had the honour to announce to you in my note of the 27th of September last, I have to state that the Minister of Marine informs me, under date of November last, that application having been made to the maritime authorities at Cadiz, it appears from their statement that the merchant-steamer "*Cicéron*" started for Matamoros on the 24th of last October, all the necessary preventive measures as regards her captain having been previously taken.

After a careful examination on board in the presence of competent persons, it does not appear, in the opinion of the said authorities, that any proof exists of that vessel's intention of sailing for the coast of Africa, since neither according to her papers, nor according to the number of her crew, can it be inferred that it was the intention of her owners to dedicate her to the Slave Trade.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) A. BENAVIDES.

No. 125.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received January 24.)

(Extract.)

Madrid, January 20, 1865.

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 5th instant, I obtained an interview with Marshal Narvaez for the purpose of making him acquainted with the sentiments of Her Majesty's Government in relation to the Slave Trade to Cuba, and their views as to the best means of putting an end to it.

Having presented myself at the time appointed, I found Señor Benavides, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, about to take leave of Marshal Narvaez, and I requested his Excellency, if at leisure, to wait in order that I might communicate to him at the same time as to the Marshal, what I had been charged by Her Majesty's Government to say in regard to this matter.

I remarked, in the first place, that the duty of renewing the representations of Her

Majesty's Government on this subject was one which, from the continuance of the Slave Trade in Cuba, I regretted to say always devolved upon me after any change in the Spanish Administration. Her Majesty's Government felt assured, however, that in addressing themselves to Marshal Narvaez, they would be met with honourable frankness on his part, and that whatever measures might be agreed upon with him, as calculated to effect the object in view, would be carried into execution with vigour.

I observed that it was satisfactory to me to be able to preface my observations by referring to the annual Reports of the Slave Trade in Cuba lately received by Her Majesty's Government, in which a steady decrease in the number of negroes imported into that Colony was observable. This appeared to me to prove two things. First, that the authorities had acted with greater vigour than formerly; and, secondly, that the total extinction of the Slave Trade in Cuba was not an object so unattainable as it had often been alleged to be, in consequence of peculiar circumstances out of the control of the Spanish Government.

It was clear that the decrease of this Traffic had taken place in due proportion to the active and judicious application of the means at the disposal of the Spanish authorities for its suppression. But if any argument were needed to prove the possibility of arriving at such a result, it would be found in the entire success of the Government of Brazil in extirpating this infamous Traffic. It could not be set down, nor would Marshal Narvaez admit that the organization of the Spanish executive was defective as compared with that of Brazil. There remained, therefore, but one supposition under which the continued subsistence of the Slave Trade with Cuba could be accounted for, namely, that through some defect in that part of the legislation of Spain which was applicable to the offence, those who continued to carry on and profit by this iniquity were enabled to evade the spirit and intention of the law, and to defeat to a great extent the well-intended efforts of the authorities.

A consideration of this striking contrast between Spain and Brazil forced upon Her Majesty's Government an examination of what were the points in regard to which the legislation of those two countries differed in this respect.

The points of difference which at once presented themselves were these: first, that the Government of Brazil had made the crime of slave-trading equivalent to that of piracy, which the Government of Spain had not done; secondly, that the Brazilian Government had adopted more efficient means for the discovery and punishment of offenders who had so far succeeded as to have actually landed slaves and introduced them into the interior of the country, while the laws in force in Cuba rendered such discovery and punishment impossible.

These were the measures which on more than one previous occasion I had brought under the notice of Her Catholic Majesty's Government, and in one instance, in concurrence with a similar step with my colleague the Minister of the United States, pressed upon their adoption. These were the measures which I was again instructed to recommend, and in regard to one of which, namely, the legal assimilation of Slave Trade to piracy, I had now a further proposal to make on the part of Her Majesty's Government.

It was to the following effect: that Her Catholic Majesty's Government should, in accordance with Her Majesty's Government, and other Governments in Europe and America to whom Her Majesty's Government have addressed the same proposal, first, make a general declaration that the Governments which are parties to it denounce the Slave Trade as piracy; secondly, that the aforesaid Governments should propose to their Legislatures to affix the penalties of piracy already existing in their laws, provided that in this case the penalty be short of death, to all persons being subjects or citizens of one of the Contracting Parties who shall be convicted, in a Court which takes cognizance of piracy, of being concerned in carrying human beings across the sea to be sold or used as slaves in any part of the world.

In addition to the many obvious advantages arising from such a general determination, I would advert to one which had been lately pointed out more particularly to Her Majesty's Government as likely to be attained by it. When a vessel is captured and condemned in a proper Court for slave-trading, the crew, if not subjects of the capturing Power, and in the absence of any international provision to the contrary, are liberated, and usually landed on some convenient spot on the coast for the purpose of getting rid of them, there being no legal Power by which they could be delivered up to the Governments of their respective countries. The consequence is that they almost always enlist themselves immediately in some fresh slave-trading adventure. This evil would be averted by the agreement to which I referred.

I then called Marshal Narvaez' attention to the ill effects upon the friendly feelings which ought to subsist between the two countries which were produced, and must ever be

produced, so long as the provisions of a solemn Treaty remained unexecuted by Spain. The subject of the Treaty in question was, besides, one of no common interest to Great Britain, and one in regard to which the attention neither of the public nor of statesmen and politicians of any party was likely to flag. On the contrary, the greatest names in England for the last seventy years were inseparably bound up with the unremitting effort to remedy an evil which must ever have appeared to minds capable of estimating the obligations of justice and humanity to be the most cruel abuse of weakness by force which had at any time prevailed in the world, and which was now more than ever regarded as a disgraceful blot upon civilization.

Marshal Narvaez and Señor Benavides listened with friendly attention to these arguments, and to others of the same nature which I urged in support of the views of Her Majesty's Government, and the Marshal at length said that I might safely assure your Lordship, from him, that Her Catholic Majesty's Government felt the most sincere desire to effect the entire extinction of a Traffic which was not less abhorrent to the feelings of the Queen of Spain and her Government than to the Sovereign and Ministers of Great Britain. His Excellency added that the Spanish Government not only entertained this desire, but also were firm in the determination of continuing to use their best efforts to efface every vestige of the Slave Trade. It must be admitted, however, his Excellency remarked, that the endeavours of the Spanish authorities to do this had already been attended with considerable success, and when the difficulties of the task were taken into account, he would say with very remarkable success; and he had no doubt that by a persevering application of the same remedies an entire cure of the evil would be ultimately effected.

These general assurances by Marshal Narvaez, and the tone in which they were made, were so far satisfactory; but when we came to discuss separately the arguments which I had presented, and the particular measures which I had urged, I regretted to perceive that His Excellency differed with me considerably in regard to their justice or practical applicability.

In the first place Marshal Narvaez entirely repelled the charge of a culpable neglect by Spain in the fulfilment of a Treaty obligation. Every effort had, he affirmed, been made, and would be made by the Spanish Government to effect the object which both the Governments had at heart, and if this had not yet been completely attained, he could not accept the inference that there had been a violation of a Treaty by Her Catholic Majesty's Government. The difficulties of the task were great, and Her Majesty's Government ought to recollect that at a time when prohibitive duties existed in England against the importation of certain articles, such as brandy for instance, yielding great profits to the successful smuggler, how impossible it had been found even by the well-organized Custom-house service of Great Britain, and within the compact and well-guarded British coast, to prevent the illicit trade. Nothing but an abrogation of the duties remedied this state of things. The Slave Trade was of the same nature as regarded the exorbitancy of its gains, and the consequent difficulties of its repression, but the same remedy was not applicable to it.

As regarded the unfavourable comparison I had instituted between the success of Brazil and Spain in suppressing the Slave Trade, neither could he accept it as being justly applied. The circumstances were widely different, and the difficulties which the Spanish Government had to contend against were much greater than those which the Brazilian Government had overcome.

His Excellency did not enlarge upon this topic, or state in regard to what points he considered this difference to exist. That there really is a considerable difference in the circumstances of the Brazilian Empire and the Spanish Colony of Cuba, I would not perhaps be disposed to contest, but I apprehend that it is of a nature which his Excellency would scarcely be ready to admit, or like to dwell upon. The difference would in fact be found not so much to depend upon the greater or less degree of energy in the exertions of the authorities of the two countries, as in the nature and spirit of the colonial system of Spain and its reaction on the Government of the mother country. The Brazilian Government were enabled to deal a decisive blow against the Slave Trade by sending out of the Empire a certain number of foreigners who were the chief instruments in conveying supplies of negroes to their planters; but the heart of the Slave Trade interest of Cuba is in Spain itself, where it finds the means of exercising its influence in the Legislature and in the principal seats of authority.

To the proposal of Her Majesty's Government to constitute Slave Trade piracy, his Excellency seemed to entertain some objection. He said he thought that few, if any of the Governments to which the British Government had made this proposal would be disposed to adopt it, and that as to Spain it would require a change of legislation which

could not be made without the concurrence of the Cortes. I replied that Her Majesty's Government did not expect that this measure, any more than the other changes in the Spanish law which they had recommended, could be adopted otherwise than by a decision of the Legislature; but they could not believe that if brought by his Excellency's Government under the consideration of the Cortes as necessary or conducive to the complete execution of a Treaty, and to the extinction of a deplorable practice, they would be rejected by that body. With respect to the probability of the adoption by other Powers of making Slave Trade piracy, I called his Excellency's attention to the fact that it was already so considered by Brazil and by the United States, and that capital punishment had been actually inflicted at New York on the master of a slaving vessel.

Señor Benavides here observed that he admitted that rendering Slave Trade piracy was, in fact, the real point at issue in regard to its extinction; but he felt great doubts whether the measure could be effected in Spain. He thought, too, that death was too severe a punishment for the offence. I reminded his Excellency, however, that Her Majesty's Government had made it a condition of their proposal that the penalty should be short of death.

With regard to the changes in the laws in force in Cuba required for the more effectual suppression of the Slave Trade, Marshal Narvaez observed that the substitution of an arbitrary system for a legal one would be properly objected to, and he did not suppose that this would be recommended by Her Majesty's Government. I replied by pointing out to his Excellency that the removal of a defect in a law by which the intention of the legislator was obviously defeated could not be considered as rendering its operations more arbitrary, but would have rather the contrary tendency. What Her Majesty's Government suggested was in no wise the substitution of an arbitrary for a legal system, and I entreated his Excellency to take into consideration not only the opinion of the present Captain-General of Cuba, but that of many of General Dulce's predecessors who were now in Spain, and were members of the Cortes. If I was not very much mistaken, every one of these experienced officers would agree in acknowledging the defects of the laws to which I had alluded, and in pointing out the necessary remedies. Marshal Narvaez contented himself by remarking on this head that it was perhaps easier to point out what seemed to be defects in a code of repressive laws than to hit upon practical remedies; and that in regard to a system which, after all that could be objected to it, seemed to be steadily working out the object in view, it would require much cautious study of the question before alterations could be admitted. That study he would, however, give it, and he could only reiterate through me his assurances to Lord Palmerston and to your Lordship that there was no lack of goodwill in regard to this point on the part of Her Catholic Majesty's Government.

With respect to the defects of the system in force in Cuba, to which I had alluded, I said that I did not feel myself at liberty to discuss or call in question the wisdom of the Spanish legislative or administrative system otherwise than in so far as they affected the execution of a Treaty with Her Majesty's Government.

I have at considerable length reported to your Lordship the observations of Marshal Narvaez and Señor Benavides respecting the Slave Trade with a view of elucidating the real cause of the evident reluctance of the Ministers of the Spanish Crown to take the necessary measures for suppressing it, while expressing their abhorrence of it, and their determination to put it down. That many of the individual Spanish Statesman with whom I have had to deal in regard to this matter are sincere in their expressed desires, I have little doubt. We must, therefore, look elsewhere for the cause, and this is unfortunately to be found in a certain laxity of public feeling respecting the enormity of the offence of slave-trading, together with the remains of the long-subsisting Colonial policy of the Spanish Monarchy, which still survives in regard to Cuba.

I have the honour to inclose the copy of an official note which I have addressed to Señor Benavides, conveying to him the proposal of Her Majesty's Government to join in a declaration denouncing Slave Trade as piracy, and providing for the punishment of the subjects of either Power by the Courts of the other for that offence.

Inclosure in No. 125.

Sir J. Crampton to Señor Benavides.

M. le Ministre,

Madrid, January 10, 1865.

IN pursuance of the remarks which I have lately had the honour of making to your Excellency verbally upon the subject of the Slave Trade, and more particularly with reference to the beneficial effect of some public act by Spain, declaring that infamous Traffic to be equivalent to the crime of piracy; I have now the honour, by the instructions of the Government of the Queen my mistress, to invite Her Catholic Majesty's Government to take into consideration a proposal which the British Government has made to several Governments in Europe and America, namely, to consider whether it would not be practicable, honourable, and humane—

1st. To make a general declaration that Governments who are partisthereeto denounce the Slave Trade as piracy.

2ndly. That the aforesaid Governments should propose to their Legislatures to affix the penalties of piracy already existing in their laws, provided only that the penalty in this case be short of death, to all persons being subjects or citizens of one of the Contracting Powers, who shall be convicted in a Court which takes cognizance of piracy, of being concerned in carrying human beings across the sea for the purposes of sale, or for the purpose of serving as slaves in any country or Colony in the world.

I have already, in several communications which I have had the honour to make to your Excellency's predecessors in office, dwelt upon the necessity of placing legally the crime of trading in slaves in the same category as that of piracy, from which morally and essentially it does not differ in any way, except that of being usually accompanied by circumstances of still greater cruelty and atrocity. I trust also that I have in those communications been successful in showing, by a reference to the conduct of those Governments who have adopted the principle in their laws, that while it has infinitely strengthened their hands in regard to the promotion of an object which Her Majesty's Government will not allow itself to doubt the Spanish Government have as much at heart as Her Majesty's Government itself, it is exempt from any countervailing disadvantage or inconvenience. It is therefore unnecessary for me now to say more on that head. I would nevertheless take this opportunity of adverting to a circumstance which has lately been brought more particularly under the attention of Her Majesty's Government, and which strikingly shows how much some arrangement of the kind now proposed is wanted in order to prevent parties engaged in the Slave Trade from continually evading the well-meant efforts of the authorities charged to suppress it.

When a vessel is captured and condemned to confiscation by a proper Tribunal for the crime of slave-trading, the persons composing her crew, and who are not subjects of the capturing Power, are, in the absence of any international provision to the contrary, liberated, and are landed at some convenient spot in order to get rid of them, there being no legal power by which they can be given up to their respective Governments. The usual result is, that these crews immediately engage in fresh Slave Trade adventures, thus affording to the contrivers of this inhuman Traffic a ready supply of hands for a renewal of their operations.

It is the opinion of the officers of Her Majesty's navy engaged in the suppression of the Slave Trade, that nothing would more contribute to this object than the power of delivering up the crews of captured slavers to their respective Governments to be punished according to law, instead of being let loose with the power of again pursuing their former avocation.

Her Majesty's Government feel persuaded that Her Catholic Majesty's Government will consider that such a class of persons is utterly unworthy of the protection of the Spanish Crown, and will not hesitate to accede to an arrangement calculated to deter all subjects of Her Catholic Majesty from forming a part of it.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

No. 126.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received January 25.)

My Lord,

Madrid, January 21, 1865.

WITH reference to that part of my despatch of yesterday's date, in which I state that I had referred Marshal Narvaez to the opinion of former Captains-General of

Cuba as being favourable to the measure so often pressed by Her Majesty's Government on that of Spain, of declaring the Slave Trade to be equivalent to piracy, it may be satisfactory to Her Majesty's Government to observe that in a speech pronounced last night in the Senate by one of the most distinguished of those officers, Marshal Serrano, Duke de la Torre, his Excellency took the opportunity of declaring that such was his decided opinion.

I have the honour to inclose translation of the passage to which I refer from this day's number of the "Madrid Gazette" containing a report of his Excellency's speech.

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

Inclosure in No. 126.

Extract from the Duke de la Torre's Speech.

(Translation.)

I NOW proceed to make some observations which I think necessary respecting our Colonial possessions, the first being that in my opinion the Slave Trade is a blot upon our national honour. Let it not be supposed that this opinion is one I now advance for the first time. I held this opinion at the time I was in the Island of Cuba, when I proposed that the Slave Trade should be treated as an act of piracy.

No. 127.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received February 15.)

(Extract.)

Madrid, February 11, 1865.

I HAVE on different occasions called your Lordship's attention to the expression by Spanish statesmen of their personal opinion as to the necessity of declaring the Slave Trade to be piracy, and of adopting measures of internal police in Cuba in order effectually to put an end to that abominable Traffic.

I have now the honour to forward translation of an extract from the "Madrid Gazette" containing the report of some observations on this subject made by Señor Posada Herrera in the course of a speech yesterday delivered by his Excellency in the Cortes.

Señor Posada Herrera was Minister for the Interior during the whole of Marshal O'Donnell's Administration, and is a personage of considerable political importance.

Your Lordship will observe that his Excellency not only states that "daily abuses" occur in respect to the importation of slaves into Cuba, but points out as the only remedies for such abuses a declaration that the Slave Trade be piracy, and a Law by which an annual census of the negro population should be compulsory. An implied admission of the inadequacy of the present Laws for repressing the Slave Trade in Cuba is contained in his remark that "when the Slave Trade should no longer exist" it would be necessary to consider what indemnity should be awarded to the planters in consideration of such a change of legislation as would effectually suppress it.

Inclosure in No. 127.

Extract from the Speech of Señor Posada Herrera, in the Cortes, February 10, 1865.

(Translation.)

. . . . Reflect, gentlemen, that there exists there (in the Spanish Colonies) the question of slavery, and reflect upon what will happen when no other slaves exist in the world than ours in Cuba. Calculate upon this, and see whether a prompt but well-considered solution of this question is not necessary. I know not in what manner the Slave Trade can be extinguished, except by considering it to be piracy, and by making an annual census of the negro population of Cuba, in order to avoid the abuses which are committed there every day.

And when this should be done, and when the Slave Trade should no longer exist, it would be necessary to take into consideration what indemnities should be awarded to the inhabitants of the island as compensation for the change from the one legislation to the other; and to consider the grave mercantile question which would extend from the Mediterranean to the Pacific; and to come to a prompt resolution before it was too late . . .

No. 128.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 16, 1865.*
I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, copy of a despatch as marked in the margin,* on matters connected with the Cuban Slave Trade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 129.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received February 22.)

(Extract.)

Madrid, February 18, 1865.

WITH reference to my despatch of February 11th, reporting some observations made in the Spanish Cortes by Señor Posada Herrera respecting slavery and the Slave Trade in Cuba, and more particularly his Excellency's opinion that the Slave Trade ought to be subjected to the penalties of piracy, I have now the honour to inclose the Report of part of a speech delivered by Señor Seijas Lojano, the Minister for the Colonies, in which he adverts to Señor Posada Herrera's remarks.

Inclosure in No. 129.

Extract from the "Madrid Gazette" of February 18, 1865.

(Translation.)

I SAID it was necessary to prove to foreign nations that we were desirous to have done with the Traffic, and there are two ways of doing this: either to declare it piracy, or to resort to a yearly census in the Island of Cuba. I am not favourable to the first method; but it is not for the reasons stated by Senor Seijas, because all writers on the law of nations admit two sorts of piracy—the true and the approximate; consequently, if we declare the Traffic to be piracy, it would be approximate; and therefore competition might be declared, and all the questions pointed out by Señor Seijas.

But I repeat that I am rather in favour of the second extreme; and, in consequence all his arguments have no force at all in regard to my view.

And it is clear that the question has to be studied; but I do not believe that we are to pass the whole of our lives in studying it. Let us take part with the natives of the place in this resolution, but let them know that they must entertain it.

No. 130.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 8, 1865.*
I INCLOSE, for your information, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General at the Havana,† reporting that no landings of negroes from Africa have taken place in Cuba during the month of January last.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 131.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir *Foreign Office, March 20, 1865.*
WITH reference to your despatch of the 5th of January last, inclosing a copy of a note from the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, stating that after strict examination of the "Ciceron" before she sailed from the port of Cadiz on the 24th of October last,

the Spanish authorities had come to the conclusion that she was not bound for the African coast or destined for the Slave Trade, I now transmit to you a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Commissioner at Loanda,* reporting the recent capture on the African coast of the boatswain of that vessel, together with copies of the papers in his possession tending to prove that the "Cicéron" visited that coast with the intention of shipping slaves.

I have to instruct you to make this intelligence known to the Spanish Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 132.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 12, 1865.

I TRANSMIT to you, for your information, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Havana,† reporting a conversation which he held with General Dulce on matters relating to the Cuban Slave Trade, and containing information respecting the movements of the slaver "Cicéron."

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 133.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 12, 1865.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a letter from the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Griffon,"‡ which has been communicated to me by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, containing information respecting the movements of the notorious Spanish slave-steamer "Cicéron," which vessel it will be seen has been again thwarted in an attempt to ship a cargo of slaves from the African coast.

The information contained in Commander Perry's letter, you will see is confirmed by a report received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Havana, a copy of which is inclosed in my previous despatch of this day's date.

I have to desire that you will communicate the foregoing information to the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs in reply to his note of the 2nd January last, in which he informed you that there were no grounds for detaining the "Cicéron," and that she was engaged on a legal voyage.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 134.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received April 17.)

My Lord,

Madrid, April 12, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy and translation of a note which I have received from the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, stating that Her Catholic Majesty's Government have received intelligence from the Captain-General of Cuba that upwards of 14,000 negroes are held in readiness at different place on the Coast of Africa to be embarked and sold as slaves, and suggesting that Her Majesty's Government should take measures for increasing the vigilance of the British cruizers employed for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

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

* Class A, No. 37.

† No. 181.

‡ Class A, No. 65.

Inclosure in No: 134.

Señor Benavides to Sir J. Crampton.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Madrid, April 8, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that according to information which the Government of the Queen, &c., has just received, transmitted by the Superior Governor of Cuba, there are at the present moment at different factories on the Coast of Africa 14,000 negroes ready to be embarked and sold as slaves. It is notorious, as the Government of Her Britannic Majesty is aware, that that worthy authority has captured five slave-trading expeditions, which during the time of his government reached the waters of Cuba; on account of the well-known perseverance and activity with which the Slave Trade is prosecuted, all the results which are so much desired by the Government of Her Majesty, and which they make every possible effort to attain, will not be arrived at unless the vigilance of the English cruizers on the Coast of Africa is increased.

The Government of Her Britannic Majesty may be assured that the Government of Her Majesty will employ, as they hitherto have done, every means of repression in their power; but in order to attain the end which both Governments have proposed to themselves it is necessary, as has already been pointed out, that on its part the Government which your Excellency so worthily represents should take the proper measures for redoubling the activity of the English vessels destined for the suppression of the trade.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) A. BENAVIDES.

No. 135.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 27, 1865.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 12th instant, inclosing the translation of a note from the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, stating that the Government of Her Catholic Majesty have received intelligence from the Captain-General of Cuba that upwards of 14,000 negroes are held in readiness at different places on the Coast of Africa to be embarked and sold as slaves, and suggesting that Her Majesty's Government should take measures for increasing the vigilance of the British cruizers employed for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

I have to instruct you to convey to Señor Benavides the thanks of Her Majesty's Government for his communication.

You will state to his Excellency that the reports received by Her Majesty's Government from the African Coast show that the information furnished by the Captain-General of Cuba is well founded, and that a considerable number of slaves are collected at various points on the coast for embarkation; but you will also inform his Excellency that the schemes of the slave-traders to procure their exportation have for some time past been paralyzed by the vigilance of Her Majesty's cruizers.

In proof of this vigilance you will remind the Spanish Minister that the efforts of the notorious slave-steamer "*Cicéron*" to procure a cargo of slaves have been frustrated on the occasion of her last two visits to the coast. My despatches of the 12th ultimo will have conveyed to you the latest information respecting this vessel, by which it will be seen that a boat's crew, containing the mate and four seamen belonging to the "*Cicéron*," have been captured by a British cruizer in the neighbourhood of the Congo River whilst on their way to the shore to make arrangements for the shipment of a cargo of slaves.

The four seamen in question have been handed over by the Commander of the British cruizer that made the capture to the Spanish authorities at the Canary Islands to be dealt with in accordance with the Spanish laws.

The Government of Her Catholic Majesty will therefore have the means, if they have the will to do so, of ascertaining the true nature of the voyage on which the "*Cicéron*" has been lately engaged.

Her Majesty's Government are convinced that nothing would tend more to discourage the Cuban slave-dealers, and to put a stop to the traffic, than the prosecution to conviction of some of the wealthy individuals who are well known to be deeply implicated in the Cuban Slave Trade, and who are notoriously interested in the slave steamer "*Cicéron*;" and Her Majesty's Government earnestly trust that the Government of Her Catholic

Majesty will avail themselves of the opportunity that will now be afforded them of prosecuting the owners and others interested in the slave-trading adventures of this vessel.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 136.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 8, 1865.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 27th ultimo, and to former correspondence relative to the notorious Spanish slave-steamer "*Cicéron*," I now transmit for your information the accompanying copies of despatches as marked in the margin from Her Majesty Minister in Mexico and from Her Majesty's Consul-General in Cuba,* containing information respecting this vessel, from which it will be seen that the "*Cicéron*" has apparently been transferred to the Mexican flag, and is now sailing under the name of the "*Margarita Quintero*."

You will communicate the substance of the information contained in these papers to the Spanish Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 137.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received May 16.)

My Lord,

Madrid, May 12, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a note which, in obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 12th April last, I addressed to the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs dated 22nd April, on the subject of the slave-steamer "*Cicéron*," together with a translation of the reply which his Excellency has returned to this and previous communications.

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

Inclosure 1 in No. 137.

Sir J. Crampton to Señor Arrazola.

M. le Ministre,

Madrid, April 22, 1865.

WITH reference to the note dated 26th March which I had the honour of addressing to Señor Benavides respecting the proceedings of the well-known slaving-vessel "*Cicéron*," I have now, by the instructions of Her Majesty's Government, to communicate to your Excellency a letter (copy of which is herewith inclosed) containing further information regarding this vessel, from which it appears evident that she proceeded to the coast of Africa for the purpose of shipping slaves, and that there can be no doubt that she has only hitherto been prevented by the watchfulness of Her Majesty's squadron from continuing to carry on the odious Traffic in which she has so often been engaged.

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

Inclosure 2 in No. 137.

Señor Benavides to Sir J. Crampton.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Madrid, May 6, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's notes of the 26th March and 22nd April last, together with four documents relative to the Spanish

* Nos. 65 and 183.

steamer "*Cicéron*," which is supposed to be destined for the odious and criminal Traffic in negroes on the coast of Africa. I have this day communicated the said documents to the Minister of Marine, and as soon as I receive an answer I will hasten to transmit it to your Excellency.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) A. BENAVIDES.

No. 138.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received May 31.)

My Lord,

Madrid, May 19, 1865.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 9th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a note which I addressed to the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, communicating to his Excellency the substance of the several despatches, copies of which were inclosed in that despatch, on the subject of the probable destination and suspicious character of the Spanish steamer "*Cicéron*."

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

Inclosure in No. 138.

Sir J. Crampton to Señor Benavides.

Sir,

Madrid, May 15, 1865.

WITH reference to my notes of the 26th of March and 22nd of April last, and to your Excellency's reply thereto of the 6th instant, I am instructed by Earl Russell to communicate to your Excellency the substance of further correspondence which has been received by Her Majesty's Government respecting the notorious slave-steamer "*Cicéron*," and I have therefore the honour to inclose to your Excellency herewith a memorandum from which your Excellency will learn the movements and probable destination of this vessel, and the suspicious character which is attached to her.

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

No. 139.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 2, 1865.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 25th October last, inclosing copies of papers relating to the case of the Spanish ship "*America*," condemned in the Mixed Commission Court at Sierra Leone for being equipped for the Slave Trade, I now inclose, for your information, a copy of a note from the Spanish Minister at this Court protesting against the condemnation of the "*America*," together with a copy of my reply.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 139.

M. Comyn to Earl Russell.

(Translation.)

My Lord,

Spanish Legation, London, March 10, 1865.

ON the 25th of August ultimo the Mixed Court of Sierra Leone condemned the Spanish frigate "*America*," on the supposition that she was intended for the Slave Trade. The circumstances which took place in the capture and condemnation of this frigate are of such a nature that the Government of Her Majesty the Queen my august Sovereign cannot but claim of Her Britannic Majesty's Government reparation for the unjust losses caused by this act, and that an attempt be made to avoid similar cases in future.

Her Britannic Majesty's Government must be perfectly well informed of everything

relating to this matter, so that it is not now necessary to remind it of all the details. Nevertheless, it will not be wholly useless to mention here the principal circumstances, giving a brief narration of the events in question.

The frigate "*America*," of the register of Bilbao, and belonging to a firm of Cadiz, was dispatched in due form from this port to Buenos Ayres in February 1863, under the command of Captain Don Antonio Bisquert. She remained there until the following July, when, after having left there the passengers and a part of the general cargo which she had brought from Cadiz, she left it bound for Mozambique, where Captain Bisquert proposed to make an establishment for purchasing and cleaning rice, for which purpose he carried a machine, and an English engineer to put it up. The necessity of getting water compelled the captain to put into the port of Mambave, on the bar of which he had the misfortune to lose four seamen. He soon after reached Mozambique, and, according to his intention, he began to sell his cargo and to buy rice for the purpose of cleaning it, but the engineer could not support the unhealthy climate, and died before setting up the machine. This additional misfortune obliged Captain Bisquert to give up his intention of cleaning rice, and he therefore determined to buy as much rice as he could in the husk, and to load it, with the machine, which was now of no use to him, on board of another vessel which was to arrive at that coast, dispatched by the same house which owned the vessel at Cadiz.

During her stay at Mozambique the "*America*" was rigorously searched, by Portuguese authority, and no proof or indication of any sort was found that could raise a doubt of her licit and lawful character.

On the 17th September the "*America*" weighed anchor for Zanzibar, from whence she returned, bound for Cadiz viâ Mozambique, on the 22nd December, having on board 1,800 bags of cloves. On this passage she was visited and convoyed to Mozambique by the English cruizer "*Penguin*," which likewise found on this occasion no reason for suspicion. When she arrived at this last place, the other Spanish vessel before mentioned was found there, and Captain Bisquert put on board of her the rice which he had purchased, and the machine mentioned above, completing the cargo by one-half the bags of cloves which he had brought from Zanzibar. This vessel immediately returned, whilst the "*America*" delayed her voyage to Cadiz for the purpose of taking in more rice, but as there was none at that time in Mozambique, the captain resolved to proceed to Nossibé, where he bought as much as he could for the time, and, without staying to wait for the new harvest, because the vessel was in a bad condition, he went away to return to Spain, after taking on board at Mozambique the mate, whom he had left there to look after the sale of the outward cargo.

The "*America*" then left Nossibé on the 30th March, and, after sailing a few days, met, on the 3rd April, the British cruizer "*Ariel*," who subjected her to a strict search of some hours. On this occasion, also, there was no suspicion, nor any indication unfavourable to the "*America*," wherefore she was left to pursue her voyage, after having some observations recorded, as provided by the Treaty in force upon this subject, in which is stated the search made in due form, and its favourable result. With this security the "*America*" continued her voyage, and in two days after, on the 5th April, the "*Ariel*" came to her again, and repeating the search, but with less deliberation, captured her and sent her to Sierra Leone, in order to prevent her, as declared by the British Commander, from going to the coast to take in negroes.

In consequence of this, after more than two months' navigation, during which she had to touch at the port of Santa Isabel to take water and buy bread, the captured vessel reached Sierra Leone on the 14th day of June. Judicial proceedings were commenced immediately, the result of which was the condemnation and destruction of the ship—a condemnation made by the British Arbitrator, because of the disagreement of the Spanish and English Judges, and pronounced two months and eleven days after the "*America*" had cast anchor in Sierra Leone.

Her Britannic Majesty's Government will readily agree that the facts which I have narrated cannot but call the attention of every impartial person. A dispassionate mind, considering only the circumstances of the case, without taking into account the interests of the captured or the captors, must feel a difficulty in approving the condemnation of this vessel, whose conduct furnishes no ground of suspicion when fairly considered. But the difficulty becomes astonishment when the arguments are weighed which were employed to support the condemnation. If Her Britannic Majesty's Government wishes to be satisfied of this, it will be sufficient that it should examine with attention the copy which I have the honour to inclose to your Excellency of the opinion of the Spanish Judge of the Mixed Court of Sierra Leone, in which he argues, triumphantly in my opinion, against the accusations of which the Spanish vessel "*America*" has been the victim. See, among

other matters, what is said about the circumstance of finding on board the "*America*" a larger number of casks than what the captors thought necessary, and you will be convinced of the overcharged way in which this fact has been considered, as well as all the others in relation to this matter. The water which those casks contained was not enough for the voyage from the place of capture to Sierra Leone, and, nevertheless, the captors alleged that they were more numerous than was necessary for the whole voyage which the "*America*" was to take from the southern coast of Africa to the continent of Europe.

But the Government of my august Sovereign does not propose to refute arguments nor to reproduce proofs in defence already brought forward by the Spanish Judge; this would be equivalent to instituting a new trial, or making an appeal which the Treaty of 1835 does not admit. Her Majesty's Government only intends to plead for the rigorous observance of the law established, and would therefore abstain from promoting a discussion upon a cause decided, if it was able to look upon the sentence pronounced by the Mixed Court of Sierra Leone on the cause in question as being such an observance. But far from this, it is of opinion that there were in this delicate matter circumstances which controvert the validity of the sentence passed by the Court, and cannot but afford a ground for legitimate remonstrances.

There are two incontrovertible official acts,—two manifest infractions of the Treaty,—which are sufficient to annul the whole result of the trial.

In the first place, the capture of the "*America*" was anomalous, unjust, and opposed to existing international legislation. The Treaty of 1835 authorizes the cruisers which are employed in putting down the illicit Trade to make one sole examination, and no more, until fresh circumstances come to destroy the security and confidence which are the result of this examination. In Article IV, Rule 3, it is provided, "If it appears from the search that the papers of the vessel are in regular order, and that it is employed on licit objects, the officer shall enter in the log-book of the vessel that the search has been made in pursuance of the aforesaid special orders; and the vessel shall be left at liberty to pursue its voyage." What can the value or the meaning of this last clause be, if the vessel, after having been searched and declared free from suspicions may be subjected to a daily search, to a continual and arbitrary detention, while she remains in the same circumstances in which she was found at the time of the first search? What can be the liberty of navigating which the Treaty so explicitly grants after the search?

Well, then, if the "*America*" was searched in due form, and in the documents there is the seasonable note in which the authorized officer declares his conviction that the operations of the vessel are licit, what should be done to complete the fulfilment of the Treaty?

It is evident that the only thing to be done without committing a manifestly arbitrary act, was to allow the vessel to continue freely her voyage. The cruiser had already made use of his right, and, at the same time, had done his duty of vigilance. From that moment the "*America*" remained, by express provision of the Treaty, at full liberty to continue her route. Had any new occurrence by chance taken place which could justify the necessity of the second search, so as to prevent this from being an open breach of the Treaty? Clearly not, because the vessel had not approached the coast, nor had met with any other ship, and the cruiser could hardly have lost sight of her. But the most decisive proof of that is the same declaration of the officer of the "*Ariel*," who proceeded to the capture to prevent the vessel from approaching the coast, that is to say, for a simple fear, for a personal suspicion, and without any proof evidencing that the "*America*" might go on shore with an illicit intention; but not because any new occurrence had taken place which might undo the effect of the former search.

This declaration is conclusive evidence against the conduct of the same commander, which not only shows his arbitrary conduct in putting forth a mere suspicion as the sole motive for his conduct, but who saw nothing wrong in risking it, contradicting the declaration written two days before, that is to say, contradicting his own authority, and at the same time infringing the spirit and the letter of the Treaty. The commander of the "*Ariel*" might, doubtless, have detained and captured the "*America*" at the first search, in accordance with the IVth and Xth Articles of the Treaty, if he believed he saw *prima facie* indications which would justify this step; he might also have done it from mere suspicions, appealing to the 1st Article of Annex A to this effect,—always, be it understood, under the responsibility which appertains to the case: but what he could not do under any view, what the Treaty does not authorize in any one of its Articles, what cannot be so interpreted without forcing both the spirit and the letter is, to proceed to make a second search in the form used by him, detaining a vessel which was already free by right, and free by virtue of the very legislation which the commandant of the "*Ariel*" abused so obviously.

It was only an act of force that could carry the ship "*America*" as a prize to Sierra Leone, and this being the case it is easy to infer that the proceedings of the Mixed Court, employed for investigating the indications and proofs in order to find out the destination of the captured vessel, were anomalous ("improcedentes"), because, first of all, it ought to have been ascertained whether or not the vessel ought to be subjected to trial, and whether or not the Court had jurisdiction over her. This was an indispensable preliminary question, the determination of which would have necessarily shown the impossibility of commencing proceedings. Before beginning its ordinary business, the Court ought to have examined whether the case was in its competency or not, and it should not lose sight of the fact that, in every case, its powers are limited to judging of captures made justly or unjustly, provided always that they be made in accordance with the Treaty, but not out of it nor against it.

By acting in a different way, the Court displayed ignorance of its own incompetence, and inexcusably left an essential flaw in the very origin of the proceedings. But this is not the only cause of nullity which invalidates the whole case in this matter. The IIIrd Article of Annex B of the Treaty, after having provided that the sentence shall be pronounced, whenever it is possible, within the term of twenty days, reckoned from the time when the captured ship enters the port where the Court sits, makes the following order:—

"The final sentence shall not, in any case, be delayed beyond the period of two months, whether on account of the absence of witnesses, or for any other cause, except upon the application of any of the parties interested; but, in that case, upon such party or parties giving satisfactory security that they will take upon themselves the expense and risks of the delay, the Courts may grant an additional delay, not exceeding four months."

According to this decisive provision, the "*America*" ought to have been sentenced, on the supposition that the trial had proceeded from a legal basis, first of all within twenty days if it had been possible, and, at the utmost, in two months, that is to say, on the 14th of August, and at the latest, when the aforesaid term expired. Nevertheless, this was not done; on the contrary, the sentence was delayed till the 25th August, eleven days further. In accordance with the letter of the Treaty, a motion for such delay could not in any case be made by the Court, nor could arise from any circumstance of the proceedings, but from the presentation of an appeal by the party or parties interested, after giving proper security. Well, then; neither party has intervened in the cause to legalize the slowness of the proceedings, or the delay of the judgment; so that the Court has pronounced sentence beyond the proper time, against the express provision of the Treaty; or, what comes to the same, when its jurisdiction had already expired, without the concurrence of the only legitimate means of prolonging it.

This case not being foreseen in the Treaty, but there being at the same time no doubt that the Treaty points out a limit of two months for the definitive exercise of jurisdiction, it became the duty of the Court not to use powers which it no longer possessed, but to have recourse to the two Governments which signed the Treaty, to the effect that they should, in common accord, resolve a case which was now beyond any settled legislation, and, therefore, beyond the jurisdiction of the constituted Court. The result then is, that if, on the one hand, the Court could not commence proceedings because the act upon which the matter rested was illegal, and because such illegality remained unremedied, still less could it pronounce sentence after allowing its jurisdiction to expire, putting itself beyond the proper term allowed by the law. The government of my august Sovereign finds in each of these cases an evident cause of nullity, either of which would be sufficient to destroy the validity of the judgment.

Lastly, there is another fact which, whatever may be attached to it, could not but call the attention of Her Majesty's Government. In the course of the procedure, when, after repeated examinations effected on the vessel, and, after contradictory declarations, the trial was considered at an end, a man of the "*America's*" crew, by nation a Portuguese, named Manuel Martinez, came forward to make a declaration unfavourable to the vessel. This individual was on shore, and it is very remarkable that the representations of the Spanish Judge were unavailing to get him brought on board. This tardy ("estemporaneo") declaration, not mentioned at the commencement of the proceedings, has, on this account, a suspicious character, and, apart from the import to be given to the declarations of this seaman, it is proper to mention here that the Spanish Judge did not approve them, and that public opinion attributed that unseasonable accusation to causes inadmissible in the course of justice.

For all the reasons above alleged, the Government of the Queen my august Sovereign considers itself bound to remonstrate against the condemnation of the Spanish vessel "*America*," and, in compliance with its especial instructions, I have the honour to address

your Excellency, asking you, after examining into the details of this affair, and recognizing the illegality of the capture of that ship, to declare the proceedings and sentence of the Mixed Court to be null, and to grant to the owners of the "*America*" the indemnification which is due to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JUAN S. COMYN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 139.

Opinion of the Spanish Judge.

(Translation.)

IN the case of the Spanish ship "*America*," Antonio Bisquert master, which was tried in the Court on Thursday and Friday in this week for being engaged in the Slave Trade, his Excellency the English Acting Judge is of opinion that the vessel be condemned.

As I see no reason whatever for supposing this vessel to have been engaged in the Slave Trade, I am anxious to state the grounds which compel me to decide that this suit should be dismissed, and the captors condemned in damages and costs.

The "*America*," as it appears by the written evidence given on the part of the captors, was boarded, on the 3rd April last, by Her Majesty's ship "*Ariel*," in longitude 46° 45' east, and latitude 13° 45' south. The Commander of the "*Ariel*" did not go on board himself, but he sent Mr. Buckle, his First Lieutenant, to search the vessel, and he was engaged about six hours in searching the "*America*."

Mr. Buckle appears to have been satisfied that everything in the "*America*" was legal, and he accordingly made the following entry in her log:—

"Sunday, 3rd April, 1864. The '*America*' was boarded by a boat from Her Majesty's ship '*Ariel*' and searched; seven large tanks were found below, full of water, and ten casks on deck, but apparently nothing to justify detention. The ship's papers appear to be correct, excepting the date of arrival at Nos Beh on the 16th March. The '*Ariel*,' however, arrived at Nos Beh on the 19th, and the log, as regards arrival at Nos Beh, is considered correct. The ship has not been detained. No complaint.

(Signed) "CLAUD E. BUCKLE,
"Senior Lieutenant of Her Majesty's ship '*Ariel*.'"

The Commander of the "*Ariel*" was not satisfied with this, and, according to the statement of Mr. Dunlop, the prize-officer, he followed the "*America*," never losing sight of her, except at night, until the 5th April, when, accompanied by Mr. Buckle and another officer, he proceeded on board, and detained the vessel for being engaged in the Slave Trade. This was in itself a proceeding not warranted by the Treaty, which states that when the search is made by an officer of the cruiser who is not the Commander, the said officer shall exhibit to the captain of the merchant-vessel a copy of the before-mentioned special orders, signed by the Commander of the cruiser, and shall in like manner deliver a certificate signed by him, stating his rank in the Royal Navy, the name of the Commander by whose orders he proceeds to make the search, that of the cruiser in which he sails, and the object of the search, as has been already laid down. If it appears from the search that the papers of the vessel are in regular order, and that it is employed in licit objects, the officer shall enter in the log-book of the vessel that the search has been made in pursuance of the aforesaid special orders, and the vessel shall be left at liberty to pursue its voyage.

I hold, therefore, that the detention of the "*America*," after she was released by Mr. Buckle, was illegal. Commander Chapman, however, seized the vessel, placed a prize crew of thirteen men and three English officers on board, and sent her to this Colony for trial. He made a written declaration which contains the grounds for detaining the "*America*," viz.:—

- 1st. Four bulkheads or divisions, with several loose planks, and four tons of ebony, which would make another slave-deck for a quantity of slaves, &c.
- 2nd. A main-deck thoroughly adapted for the conveyance of slaves.
- 3rd. Some slave stocks.
- 4th. A larger quantity of water both in casks and tanks than requisite for the crew of the vessel.
- 5th. An extraordinary number of water-casks, and no certificate produced from any Custom-house for the same, and no security that such vessel should only be used for other than lawful commerce.

CLASS B.

6th. A larger quantity mess gear than requisite for the crew of the vessel. Cooking range much larger than requisite for the crew of the vessel.

7th. A very large quantity of rice in husk, upwards of 100 tons, and not entered on the manifest as part of cargo for trade; also 4,000 cocoa-nuts, both slave food.

This document shows that the commander had grave doubts respecting the regularity of his own proceedings, for he goes on to observe that, "I at once decided in placing a crew on board to take her to Sierra Leone to be adjudicated, as it would not delay the ships very materially, the master having informed me that he was bound to Cadiz, and I thought it would be a great blow to the Traffic to prevent him shipping his cargo."

The "*America*," on her way to Sierra Leone, called at Algoa Bay, and took in 11½ tons of water, some salt provisions, potatoes, a large quantity of biscuits, value 3*l.* English money.

These articles were paid for by Mr. Dunlop, the English prize officer in charge of the "*America*," and it appears they were all put on board the ship for the use of the Spanish crew. The "*America*" was only thirty-two days going to Algoa Bay, and it is singular that, although one of the grounds alleged by Commander Chapman for making the seizure was that the vessel had an excess of water and provisions on board for a crew of twenty persons, including the captain, in a voyage from Nos Beh to Cadiz, which would occupy about 100 days, there should have been any necessity to take a fresh supply of water after so short an interval, there being only thirty-six souls on board the vessel at this time.

The "*America*" arrived at this port on the 14th June, and proceedings were immediately taken against her, and she was arraigned before this Court upon the affidavit of Mr. Dunlop, the prize officer, which contains the following grounds of accusation against her, viz:—

1st. A second or main deck, fore and aft.

2nd. A set of wooden stocks with holes for shackling the feet, capable of containing twelve persons.

3rd. Sixteen large water-casks and three large iron tanks, capable of containing about 5,000 gallons of water, to the best of my knowledge and belief a quantity much more than requisite for the use of the crew of the vessel as a merchant-vessel, no certificate having been produced by the accused from the Custom-house at the place from which he cleared outwards, stating that security had been given by the owners of such vessel that such quantity of casks and other vessels should only be used for the reception of palm oil, or for other purposes of lawful commerce.

4th. A large quantity of mess-gear, consisting of ten drinking cups, earthenware, and ten vessels which could be used as mess-gear.

5th. Four extra boilers in the hold, in addition to the boiler on deck for the use of the crew.

6th. About 130 tons of rough rice, as I have been informed by the master, 3 hundred-weight of clean rice, 8 large bags of calavances, 6 barrels of beef and pork, 6 barrels and 3 cases of flour, and 19 barrels of biscuits, to the best of my knowledge and belief being a quantity of food beyond what might probably be requisite for the use of the crew of the vessel, the same not being entered on the manifest as part of the cargo for trade.

It thus appears that the first and second grounds of complaint alleged by Commander Chapman for seizing the vessel were abandoned by Mr. Dunlop, who, however, introduces in his affidavit a new charge that the "*America*" had four boilers in the hold, in addition to those on deck for the use of the crew.

The vessel having been brought before the Court, a claim was given in by the captain for the owner, Mrs. Portilla of Cadiz, and in due course the Court appointed two highly respectable gentlemen of this Colony, namely, the harbour-master and Mr. Pinnock, formerly purser but now the agent in the service of the African Mail Steam-packet Company, to survey the vessel. These gentlemen made their report, on oath, to the Court on the 18th July.

According to this document there does not appear to be more than one bulk-head or two in the "*America*." The alleged slave-deck on board is entirely ignored by these gentlemen, who declare that the ship has permanent lower-deck beams built with the ship fore and aft, and that the ebony on board being in billets was not fit for a slave-deck. They also state there were no loose planks on board the vessel that could be used for human food without being first crushed by an engine or beaten in a mortar, but none of these utensils were on board. They also reported having seen the cocoa-nuts in the "*America*," but as these are not prohibited by the Treaty, it is to be regretted they were objected to by the captors.

None of the mess-gear on board, as reported by the surveyors, are capable of contain-

ing more than half-a-pint, and as the Treaty mentions only mess tubs or kids, which, according to the evidence of these gentlemen, are never less than a gallon, it appears to me that the mess-gear on board the ship does not come within the spirit or letter of the Treaty, by which alone we can decide this case. They also report having seen some suction pipes on board, but these also are not provided by the Treaty, and it is unnecessary to say anything more about them.

They further report that the vessels on board for holding water could not contain more than 4,464 gallons, and the quantity of provisions as given by them is so trifling that it is, I think, very much to be deplored that the captors should have made them a ground of objection for seizing the ship, especially as Mr. Dunlop himself, in answer to interrogatories administered to him by the counsel, that the marshal's affidavit cannot be relied on not being a competent witness in nautical matters. It is, moreover, a very improper thing for an officer of this Court to become a partizan in a proceeding like this; and, I think, he is very much to blame for detaining the mate, boatswain, and two of the crew whose affidavit he ought to have known would be required in reply to the new case set up against the claimant.

The man who gave the marshal information about the boilers has also made an affidavit of boilers and other things having been thrown overboard before the capture of the vessel, and since her arrival in this port; but as he is directly contradicted by the master, mate, boatswain, and two other men, it could hardly be expected that I could act upon his unsupported testimony; and the observation of the claimants' counsel on the character of this man has my entire approval: moreover, I think this affidavit is also inadmissible.

The case having been delayed by the captors in consequence of this fresh evidence beyond the time provided by the Treaty to bring it to trial without any application to the Court to postpone it and sufficient security given, the claimant's counsel objected to our jurisdiction to entertain the cause. I think the objection was well-founded; but as his Honour the learned Arbitrator agreed with his Excellency the English Judge that the objection be overruled, I should say nothing more of the matter, only that since the objection was overruled the claimant's counsel has invited our attention to a despatch from an English Foreign Secretary of State who appears to concur in Mr. Raing's opinion on this point, for in that despatch Lord Clarendon says. in reply to an application from my Government, "That it is the Court of Mixed Commission at Sierra Leone that is alone competent to grant any delay in the adjudication of the cases that may be brought before it—a delay that in no case can exceed four months; and if the parties interested in the case of the "*Conchita*" had been desirous that the adjudication in this case should be suspended, then application should have been made to the Mixed Commission Court, and not to Her Majesty's Government.

I was very much surprised to hear so very little was said of the rough rice, food, mess-gear, and slave-deck on board, and these seem to have been practically given up by the captor's counsel; the portion of the cargo relied upon as being prohibited by the Treaty being the boilers which, in my opinion, do not exist, and the water casks. Respecting the boilers, I have said enough already; but as regards the water-casks, I am clearly of opinion that a most satisfactory answer has been given by Mr. Raing upon the captors' own showing. In the 11th paragraph of the master's affidavit dated 5th August, 1864, he states (and this is not denied by Mr. Dunlop) that when the "*America*" was detained they had the three tanks referred to in the Surveyor's Report, and eight pipes full of water on board, that they took thirty-one days to make the voyage to Algoa Bay, and on arrival there the eight casks and two tanks of water were consumed, along with a portion of water from the other tank. This is correct, for if it were not so, there would have been no room for the 11½ tons (equal to 2,875 gallons) of water taken at Algoa Bay, and which was paid for by the prize officer. Now the eight casks contained 1,040 gallons of water, the two tanks 1,700; the whole of these, say 2,740 gallons of water, and also some portion in the other tank, say about 260 gallons, was consumed by 36 men on board the "*America*" during 31 days only. Now if these men were going on a voyage of 100 days from Nos Beh to Cadiz, what quantity would they have consumed? Not less than 9,000 gallons of water; and yet one of the grounds of objection for bringing the vessel before this Court is that 4,464 gallons of water were an extraordinary quantity for the "*America*," with a crew of 20 persons on board, going on a voyage of 100 days. Again, it is sworn by the master that when the "*America*" left Algoa Bay the 3 tanks and 8 pipes were quite full; that they had 36 men on board, and made the voyage to this Colony in 35 days, and on arrival here they had less than 400 gallons of water remaining. Thus 36 men consumed 3,510 gallons of water in 35 days, and yet the captors object to 20 men providing themselves with 4,464 gallons of water in a voyage likely to last 100, possibly 130, days; the objec-

tion to the water, therefore, falls to the ground, the prohibition in the Treaty being an extraordinary number of water-casks, which extraordinary number was not on board the "*America*."

If I return to the remaining ground of the objection, viz., the rough rice, I find it equally futile. What kind of rice is prohibited by the Treaty? Is it rice fit to feed slaves with? Let the Treaty speak for itself:—

"An extraordinary quantity either of rice or flour of Brazil, of manioc or casada (commonly called farina), of maize or of Indian corn, beyond what might probably be requisite for the use of the crew, such rice, flour, maize, or Indian corn not being entered on the manifest as part of the cargo for trade."

Now, as it is clearly shown by the evidence that rough rice is not fit for human food, and there were no utensils on board that could be used to render it fit for human food, it is unnecessary to say anything more about this objection.

With regard to the wooden stocks, they are not provided for by the Treaty, and no reasonable man will tell me they were too many for unruly passengers and crew. The "*America*" was searched by Mr. Buckle when all the things objected to were on board: he was of opinion that he could not legally detain her, and so certified; other ships of war had visited her (minus the cargo of rough rice), and released her; and even in one of the papers before the Court Captain Gardiner, R.N., declares that every thing in her was legal; and yet, in the face of all this evidence, the Court is asked to condemn this ship. In my opinion the claimant's counsel has given a complete answer to this case, even upon the captor's own showing; and I agree with him that it was unfair, after the captors had challenged discussion on the articles of impeachment only, to raise a collateral issue, of which no notice was given to his client, in reference to the suspicious movements of the vessel and alleged irregularity of the papers, which, two days before she was seized, Mr. Buckle, the First Lieutenant of the "*Ariel*," had pronounced to be correct.

Claimants admit the food on board, without taking the rough rice into account, was not in excess.

The Surveyors say only one boiler (about four gallons) was on board, besides the usual cooking range, to which they could not object as being unusual. Such is the substance of the Report given by those two gentlemen; and two other surveyors appointed at the instance of the claimant, appear to confirm the Report made to the Court.

The captors do not appear to be satisfied with this Report, but they took the prudent step of not cross-examining the Surveyor of the Court.

Mr. Dunlop, however, took the unusual course of filing an additional affidavit, in which he insinuates that the four extra boilers and some water casks had been thrown overboard by the Spanish crew, but as it is shown in evidence that an English prize crew of six men and one officer armed were on the watch (being relieved by a fresh guard) during the whole of the voyage, it seems hardly within the range of probability that such a course of proceeding was adopted by the Spanish crew. But I am of opinion that this affidavit is wholly inadmissible on other grounds.

Mr. Dunlop was in charge of the "*America*," and must be held responsible for the safe custody of the alleged equipment; he swore in his affidavit of the 17th June that no change had taken place in the vessel, and I think he ought not to be permitted to contradict his own assertion. With this affidavit the captors closed their case on the 20th July.

To dispose of this case, the claimants put in various interrogatories, which were administered to the prize officer and surveyors, and an affidavit of the master, mate, and boatswain, was also filed in support of the defence.

Upon these I shall have to remark hereafter. I may mention that the claimant caused no delay in the proceedings, their case having been sent in on the 5th August.

The captors had, according to the practice of this Court, only two days to reply to the defence, but they were not permitted, according to what I understand to be the practise of all Courts, to set up a new case in answer to the defence.

They however did so, and what was its nature? The Marshal of this Court, as appears by an affidavit (which I think should not be received in evidence) made by him on behalf of the captors, discovered, upon the authority of one of the crew (a Portuguese), that there were four boilers concealed on board, which, on search, he found, but master, mate, and boatswain, and two other men, replied in another affidavit, that there were never more boilers on board the vessel than there are now; and they say that if the captors were to cause the surveyors of the Court to be examined, they would say so. The captors did not, however, see fit to examine the surveyors, and the only conclusion I am able to arrive at is this; that there are no boilers on board like those referred to by the Marshal. There is an extra boiler as stated by the surveyors, and admitted by the captain in replying

to the ninth special interrogatory, and a few small boilers for the use of the officer and crew. These were seen by the surveyors.

It is possible, as Mr. Raing has properly observed, that the Marshall saw some tin pots used for pitch and tar on board, not taken into account by the surveyors, and which he calls water-boilers. I entirely agree with the claimants pronounced to be correct.

But I think her movements have been fully accounted for in the answer given by the Captain to the eighth interrogatory administered to him, and I agree with Mr. Raing that the captors are not entitled to call upon the claimants to give an account of themselves before a *prima facie* case has been established that the vessel had on board articles prohibited by the Treaty. I have carefully perused the papers of this vessel, and they are perfectly in order.

It is on all these grounds, therefore, that I think no case has been made out against this vessel; and as Commander Chapman is greatly in fault I think this suit should be dismissed with damages and costs.

If I were to hold otherwise, I should be subjecting the owner of the vessel, a respectable lady at Cadiz, the master, the mate, boatswain and crew of the vessel to the penal consequences involved in the Treaty upon, I may say, no evidence at all.

(Signed) MIGUEL SUAVER.

Sierra Leone, August 21, 1864.

Inclosure 3 in No. 139.

Earl Russell to M. Comyn.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 27, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government have had under their consideration the contents of your note of the 10th ultimo, protesting against the condemnation by the British and Spanish Mixed Commission Court at Sierra Leone of the Spanish ship "*America*" on a charge of being equipped for the Slave Trade, and claiming reparation from Her Majesty's Government for the owners of the "*America*" on account of the losses sustained by them in consequence of the condemnation of their vessel.

Her Majesty's Government have likewise carefully considered the Report of Her Majesty's Judge at Sierra Leone and the evidence which accompanies his Report, and I will now proceed to make known to you the conclusions they have arrived at in this case.

Her Majesty's Government quite agree with that portion of your note which states that, after a full trial of all the circumstances before a properly constituted Tribunal, to call upon Her Majesty's Government to consider the force of arguments and proofs which had been unsuccessfully urged by the claimant before the Judge "would be equivalent to instituting a new trial, or making an appeal which the Treaty of 1835 does not admit."

Such a course of proceeding would rob the Treaty of much of its efficacy, and ought not, except in very extraordinary circumstances, to be resorted to; and certainly no such circumstances exist in the present case. On the contrary, an attentive consideration of all the facts brought forward at the trial seems to lead to the judicial conclusion that (so far as the merits of the case are concerned) the vessel was rightfully condemned.

It is to be remembered that Article X of the Treaty enumerates nine classes or categories of things relating to equipment which being found on board a vessel shall raise the legal presumption that she is a slaver; and the Article provides that "any one or more of these several circumstances, if proved, shall be considered as *prima facie* evidence of the actual employment of the vessel in the Slave Trade, and the vessel shall thereupon be condemned and declared lawful prize, unless satisfactory evidence upon the part of the master or owners shall establish that such vessel was, at the time of her detention or capture, employed in some legal pursuit."

Now, not to dwell on various other circumstances which also had their due weight with the Judges, there was found on board this vessel a large quantity of rough rice. The subject of the ninth category in the Treaty is "an extraordinary quantity of rice, &c., such rice, &c., not being entered on the manifest as part of the cargo for trade." Of this rice no mention whatever was made in the manifest; for the presence of the rice and the absence of the manifest the excuses were equally unsatisfactory.

It was said that the rice was not fit for immediate use, and that the manifest was refused at the place where the rice was put on board; but neither the manifest nor any copy of it, which it was alleged had been tendered and refused, was ever produced before the Court; and it was clear both that the rice might have been made fit for use by the use

of the rudest materials in the hands of the simplest native, and also that at the place where the slaves were to have been put on board a more elaborate machinery might have existed for the purpose of rendering it immediately fit for consumption. Though this appears to have been a prominent feature in the case, there are many others to which reference is not now made, because it seems to be admitted that neither the Spanish nor the British Governments are Courts of Appeal from sentences upon the merits of the cases properly tried before the Tribunals constituted by the Treaty. The words of the Treaty (Article III of Annex B) are express: "These Courts shall adjudge definitively and without appeal all questions which shall arise out of the capture and detention of these vessels."

Passing, therefore, from the consideration of the merits of the case, the formal technical objections raised in your note remain to be noticed.

The Government of Her Catholic Majesty contend, first, that the capture of the "*America*" was unlawful, on the ground that cruisers are not allowed to make more than one examination of a vessel suspected to be a slaver, and this position is founded upon the language of the 3rd Rule in the IVth Article of the Treaty, which provides, among other things, that "if it appears from the search that the papers of the vessel are in regular order, and that it is employed on licit objects, the officer shall enter in the log-book of the vessel that the search has been made in pursuance of the aforesaid special orders; and the vessel shall be left at liberty to pursue its voyage."

It is contended that by this provision the British officer having once searched the "*America*," and allowed her to pursue her voyage, was not at liberty in any circumstances to visit her again and detain her. Her Majesty's Government are unable to see the force of this argument, which appears to be neither warranted by the language of the Treaty, nor founded in reason, nor supported by analogy. There are no words which directly prohibit the making of a second search; and while, on the one hand, it could not have been upon any principle of reason intended that if subsequent suspicion—from whatever circumstances—arose that the vessel was a slaver, she should be allowed to escape; on the other hand, such second search and consequent detention would be made at the risk of costs and damages to the Government of the captor (under Article VI) should he fail in establishing the guilt of the vessel. Indeed, it often happens that a vessel, to all intents and purposes an apparently legal trader, is in reality destined to be engaged in the Slave Trade, and instances have occurred of vessels having been visited one day by a British cruiser and found with their papers in regular order and destitute of any Slave Trade equipments, that have two or three days subsequently been captured by the same cruiser with a cargo of slaves on board.

It follows, therefore, that if the construction of the Treaty contended for in your note were to be admitted, the object of the Treaty would be defeated, for a vessel would only have to come to the coast with a legal cargo, and get overhauled and examined by a cruiser, to be free subsequently to carry on her Slave Trade operations without being liable to detention or search.

The Judgment in this very case, assuming it, as we are bound to do, to be correct upon the merits, shows that the narrow construction of the Treaty contended for might defeat its object.

To the construction contended for in your note, analogy also is equally adverse. The captor in time of war not unfrequently visits and detains upon a second occasion the vessel which on a former and more imperfect examination he had released. He does so, as the captor of the slaver does, at the risk of costs and damages. This argument was, indeed, not advanced at the hearing by the legal agent of the claimant, and it is one in which Her Majesty's Government cannot concur.

The other objection, also of a formal and technical character, urged in your note is founded upon the language of the IIIrd Article of Annex B of the Treaty, which provides that the final sentence shall not "in any case be delayed beyond the period of two months," and "that as far as may be practicable" it shall be decided within twenty days. The sentence which condemned the "*America*" was passed eleven days after the two months; therefore you say the Court had no jurisdiction. But this position rests, in the first place, on a confusion of two distinct principles of jurisprudence or rules of law—the rule of law which directs and that which prohibits the jurisdiction of a Tribunal. The rule in question is a directory not a prohibitory law: the matter itself, namely, the question whether the vessel be a slaver or not, is always subject to the jurisdiction, properly speaking, of the Court; though the delay which exceeds the prescribed term may (unless accounted for by unavoidable necessity, which must be considered in all human laws) be such as to give just ground for remonstrance from either the Spanish or the British Government, leading, if the circumstances require it, to the removal of the offending Judge.

This would be the true remedy for the evil complained of, which is distinct in kind

from that of the Court exercising jurisdiction over a matter like that of murder, for instance, never subject to its jurisdiction.

An irregularity of procedure and a nullity of jurisdiction are very different things. Moreover, and independently of this principle of jurisprudence, the Treaty must be construed, according to well-known principles, liberally and as a contract of good faith between the Contracting Parties, so as to further not defeat the end in view, namely, the suppression of the Slave Trade; and the words, "The proceedings of these Courts shall take place as summarily as possible," which precede the limitations of twenty days and two months, indicate the true intention of the parties to the contract, which never could have been, if a Judge or a necessary witness became ill, or a proctor either on the one hand deserted his client, or on the other wilfully delayed the proceedings of the cause till two months and one second had elapsed, that the Court from which there is no appeal should be obliged either to do an injustice, or should cease to have jurisdiction and let the slaver go free.

In accordance with this view I should be enabled to cite numerous precedents where the point was directly raised and overruled.

The delay in this case appears to have arisen from wholly unavoidable causes, the illness of the Spanish Judge and of one of the surveyors, the necessity of unpacking the rice in bad weather, and of measuring every gallon of water.

I will only in conclusion add that from Reports received both prior and subsequent to the condemnation of the "*America*," Her Majesty's Government feel convinced that the decision come to by the Mixed Commission Court at Sierra Leone was well founded and in accordance with the merits of the case.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 140.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received June 13.)

My Lord,

Madrid, June 9, 1865.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 19th ultimo, inclosing the copy of a note which, in compliance with your Lordship's instructions, I had addressed to the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, communicating to his Excellency the substance of the several despatches which were inclosed in your Lordship's despatch of the 9th ultimo, on the subject of the Spanish steam-vessel "*Cicéron*," I have now the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship translation of his Excellency's reply to that communication, stating that the Spanish Consul at Vera Cruz has been instructed to report to his Government such information as he may be able to procure in regard to the legality of the change of flag of that vessel.

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

Inclosure in No. 140.

Señor Benavides to Sir J. Crampton.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Palace, June 6, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency, in answer to your note of the 15th ultimo, relative to the assumption of the Mexican flag by the Spanish steamer "*Cicéron*," that the Consul of Spain at Vera Cruz has this day been instructed to furnish such information as he can obtain relative to the legality of the change of flag referred to.

I await, &c.
(Signed) A. BENAVIDES.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received July 14.)

My Lord,

Madrid, July 9, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the report of a speech made by Marshal O'Donnell in the Spanish Senate yesterday, in reply to a question put to him by the Marquis de Manzanedo respecting slavery in the Island of Cuba.

Your Lordship will observe with satisfaction that, in the course of his observation, Marshal O'Donnell declared that "what the Spanish Government is resolved upon is, that the Slave Trade shall be put an end to, because both the honour of the Spanish nation and the tranquillity of the Colonies in question is interested in the matter;" and his Excellency adds, that "if the present law is not sufficient for the purpose, a Bill will be submitted by the Government to the Cortes for the more effectual attainment of that object."

With respect to slavery in Cuba, a question in regard to which it appears, from the remarks of the Marquis de Manzanedo, considerable alarm now exists, Marshal O'Donnell declared that, although the Government is determined to respect the existing state of property in the Colonies, they nevertheless recognize the necessity of studying certain questions relative to slavery, in order that Spain may not find herself unprepared to meet and deal with events which may possibly occur in the Colonies in question.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Inclosure in No. 141.

Speech of Marshal O'Donnell in the Spanish Senate on the 8th July, 1865, on the subject of Slavery in Cuba.

(Translation.)

THE Marquis of Manzanedo: I wish to ask the President of the Council of Ministers, who is now in provisional charge of the Colonial Department, to give some explanations which may put an end to the alarm produced by certain explanations given in this high body and in Congress, in respect of the political laws which may be thought expedient for that island, as also in respect of slavery; because they have given rise to such alarm there, that very influential persons and owners of large capital have felt it necessary to carry it away from that place, and to transfer the same to the United States; so that in the space of fifteen days, from six to eight millions of dollars have gone away, and the exchange upon Paris and London was 17 per cent. on the 15th of June, when the post left, whereas it has been usually from five to six. I should, therefore, be glad, as I said before, that you would give some explanations, as it is a question of interest so great that they must be attended to.

The President of the Council: I do not understand, gentlemen, how so much alarm can have been caused by the speeches delivered in this and the other Legislative Body by my political friends in treating of our Colonial possessions; for nothing more was said than that it was necessary to consider seriously of the improvements which were to be effected in the government of those possessions. And this is no new idea; because when I had the honour, on another occasion, to be President of the Council of Ministers and Minister of the Colonies, I stated that my intention, as to the government of our Colonial possessions, was that gradually, prudently, and without precipitation, taking into account the diverse elements composing that population, the government of those provinces should be assimilated to that which prevails in the rest of the monarchy, without giving rise to any alarm; and such could not assuredly be produced, because the inhabitants of that island, at whose head I had the honour to be for four years and a half, know that I am sufficiently acquainted with it, that therefore its necessities are not unknown to me, and that consequently I shall not propose to Her Majesty anything which is not compatible with the true interests of that country.

I can, therefore, assure the Marquis of Manzanedo, and especially the inhabitants of our provinces beyond sea, that in whatever the Government shall do in respect of the improvements which it may think necessary to be introduced, neither public tranquillity nor material interests shall have reason to be dissatisfied with the steps which the Government may take, relying always upon the Legislative Bodies, which is a guarantee that it will exercise prudence, and act with the utmost consideration.

Slavery also has been mentioned, and upon this subject I can solemnly declare that

the Government is resolved to respect property as it is constituted in those countries; but that it does not hide from itself, nevertheless, that it is necessary to study certain questions in order that we may not, through events which may occur, be taken unprovided with the means necessary for meeting them; but I repeat that the Government will not proceed to do anything without precautions and without the tact which is requisite to avoid damaging the interests of those countries or alarming property.

What the Government has determined is that the Slave Trade shall cease, because the honour of the Spanish nation and the tranquillity of those countries are interested in the matter, and if the existing law is insufficient to effect this, a bill shall be proposed in due time to the Legislative Bodies for the attainment of this object, because I believe that this is a duty incumbent on the Spanish nation, and a security for the tranquillity of those countries, and that thereby it will get rid of a cause which may lead to difficulties and even international hazards [compromises].

I think what I have said will be sufficient to tranquillize those inhabitants, giving them the assurance that they have nothing to fear from the measures which may be adopted, and that these cannot in any manner be prejudicial to them, because all the reforms will have to be made, as I said before, with the knowledge of the Legislative Bodies, so that nothing may be done which is not marked with the seal of due maturity and preparation. I do not think it requisite to enter into further details, as well because what has been said appears to me to be sufficient for the moment, and because this matter more properly belongs to the Minister of the Department.

Marquis of Manzanedo: I return thanks to the President of the Council of Ministers, being of opinion that men's minds will be in some measure tranquillized by those explanations.

The President: This subject is concluded.

No. 142.

Earl Russell to Mr. West.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, July 25, 1865.

WITH reference to Sir J. Crampton's despatch of the 7th of November last, inclosing a copy of the note, which by my directions he addressed to the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, conveying the request of Her Majesty's Government that the appointment of Señor Toca as Spanish Judge in the Mixed Commission Court at Havana might be revoked, I transmit to you, for your information, the accompanying copies of a correspondence which has passed between this office and M. Comyn, the Spanish Minister at this Court, upon the subject.

You will take an opportunity of stating to Señor Bermudez de Castro that the suppression of the Slave Trade in Brazil, and the abolition of slavery in the United States of America, are facts which place in an odious light the Traffic in Slaves kept up by the constant evasions of her Treaty engagements by Spain.

Inclosure 1 in No. 142.

Señor Comyn to Earl Russell.

(Translation.)

My Lord,

Legation of Spain, London, June 3, 1865.

BY order of the Government of the Queen, my august Sovereign, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the Captain-General of Cuba has named Don Rafael de Toca, Spanish Judge of the Mixed Court of Justice established at Havana, a distinguished and deserving person, in place of Don José Manuel Espelius, who had resigned that office.

The said nomination was made by that superior authority in the exercise of the powers conferred upon him, and in strict conformity with the provisions of Annex B of the Treaty of 1835, and was confirmed by Her Majesty the Queen by a Royal Order of the 13th September last.

In these circumstances, when Don Rafael de Toca was in full possession of his office, Her Majesty's Government received a note from Sir John Crampton, dated the 6th of November, in which, by your Excellency's directions, he expressed the wish that the choice made might not be approved, but without giving any reason in support of his request. This circumstance, and that above-mentioned, that Señor Toca is in possession of his office, together with the favourable repute of Señor Toca in Havana, render it

CLASS B.

impossible for Her Majesty's Government to gratify that of Her Britannic Majesty on this occasion, and it has instructed me to intimate the same to your Excellency.

I take, &c.

(Signed) JUAN S. COMYN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 142.

Earl Russell to Señor Comyn.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, July 12, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, stating the reasons which render it impossible for the Government of Her Catholic Majesty to accede to the request which I instructed Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid to make to the Spanish Government, to the effect that Señor Don Rafael de Toca, who had been nominated by the Captain-General of Cuba to the post of Judge in the Mixed Commission Court at Havana might not be confirmed in that appointment.

The circumstances under which Her Majesty's Government instructed Her Majesty's Representative at Madrid to remonstrate against the appointment of Señor de Toca to the post in question are as follows:—

In the month of August last Her Majesty's Government received a despatch from Mr. J. V. Crawford, the Acting British Commissary Judge at Havana, reporting that the Spanish Judge Don José Manuel Espelius had resigned his appointment, and that the Captain-General of Cuba had nominated Don Rafael de Toca to the vacant post.

In making this announcement Mr. Crawford stated that the appointment made by the Captain-General was not in conformity with the stipulations of the Treaty of 1835, and that the communication announcing it to him was made, not in the usual way by the Captain-General himself, but by his Secretary; and he added that the Captain-General's selection was a most unfortunate and objectionable one, inasmuch as Señor Toca was the nephew of the late notorious slave-trader, Don Joaquin Gomez.

I think it right to add that Mr. Bunch, who shortly afterwards was appointed by Her Majesty's Government to the post of British Judge in the Mixed Commission Court and Consul-General at the Havana, in writing on this subject also stated that Señor de Toca had himself, until within the last few years, been deeply implicated in the Traffic in Slaves.

There were two grounds, therefore, on which Her Majesty's Government, at the time I instructed Sir J. Crampton to make a communication to the Spanish Government on this subject, felt themselves justified in remonstrating against Señor Toca's appointment.

1. Because the Treaty of 1835 specially provides for the filling up of any vacancy that may occur in the Mixed Commission Courts, and the appointment of Señor Toca by the Captain-General was made in violation of the provisions of that Treaty; and

2. On account of the unfitness of the person selected for the appointment.

In support of the first ground of objection I would beg leave to point out that the 3rd paragraph of Article IX of Annex B of the Treaty of 1835 provides as follows:—

“Thirdly. On the part of Spain, and in that Court which shall sit within the Possessions of Her Catholic Majesty, if the vacancy be that of the Spanish Judge his place shall be filled by the Spanish arbitrator, and either in that case, or in the case where the vacancy be originally that of the Spanish arbitrator, the place of such arbitrator shall be filled successively by the Governor or Lieutenant-Governor resident in such Possession, by the principal Magistrate of the same, and by the Secretary of the Government; and the said Court so constituted as above shall sit, and in all cases brought before them for adjudication shall proceed to adjudge the same and pass sentence accordingly.”

It will be seen, therefore, that the Treaty specially provided for the vacancy that occurred by the resignation of the Spanish Judge, and as no appointment by the Captain-General of Cuba could override the stipulations of the Treaty, the appointment by that officer of Señor de Toca to the post of Spanish Judge in the Mixed Commission Court was null and void.

The Royal Order of the 13th of September last nominating Señor Toca to the post in question, it is true remedied the irregular proceeding on the part of the Captain-General, but had any case come for decision before the Mixed Commission Court at the Havana, and been adjudicated upon by Señor de Toca before he had been appointed to the post of Judge by the Government of Her Catholic Majesty, Her Majesty's Government maintain that the proceedings of the Court would have been illegal, and its decisions could not have been maintained.

I cannot doubt that the Government of Her Catholic Majesty on referring to the

provisions of the Treaty of 1835, will concur in the view taken by Her Majesty's Government of this matter, and will issue instructions accordingly for the guidance of the Captain-General of Cuba.

With regard to the question of the fitness of Señor de Toca to fill the post to which he has been nominated, Her Majesty's Government feel that they have done their duty in bringing to the notice of the Government of Her Catholic Majesty the substance of the reports they have received connecting Señor Toca's name with the Traffic in Slaves.

I did not in the first instance instruct Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid to remonstrate against the appointment of Señor de Toca on any other ground than that the nomination by the Captain-General of Cuba to the post of Judge was in violation of the provisions of the Treaty of 1835, and I have only now to add that if the Government of Her Catholic Majesty have satisfied themselves that Señor de Toca is a fit and proper person to carry out the provisions of the Treaty between the two countries for the suppression of the Slave Trade, Her Majesty's Government will offer no further objection to this appointment.

No. 143.

Earl Russell to Mr. West.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 25, 1865.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General at the Havana,* containing some observations relative to a report that appeared in some of the English newspapers to the effect that fears were entertained in Cuba of an outbreak among the slaves in that island.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 144.

Earl Russell to Mr. West.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 31, 1865.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 2nd ultimo to Sir J. Crampton, reporting the condemnation of the Spanish vessel "*America*" by the Mixed Commission Court at Sierra Leone, I transmit to you for your information a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Teneriffe,† stating that the master and crew of the "*America*" have been acquitted by the Audiencia of Grand Canary, before whom they were sent for trial on the 13th of September last.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 145.

Earl Russell to Mr. West.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 7, 1865.

I TRANSMIT to you, for your information, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Judge at Havana,‡ reporting the movements of the late notorious slave steamer "*Cicéron*," now the Mexican ship "*Margarita Quintero*."

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 146.

Earl Russell to Mr. West.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, August 17, 1865.

HER Majesty's Government are informed that for a year past the Cuban Slave Trade has greatly diminished, and indeed has hardly existed, and that this improved state of

* Class B, No. 186.

† No. 210.

‡ Class A, No. 18.

things is owing in a great measure to the zeal and energy with which the Captain-General has acted in carrying out the engagements of the Spanish Crown for the suppression of the Cuban Slave Trade.

No. 147.

Earl Russell to Mr. West.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 28, 1865.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General in Cuba,* inclosing copies of a letter from the Secretary to the Government of the island, and of Mr. Bunch's reply, relative to a complaint on the part of the Captain-General that the Slave Trade papers presented to Parliament during the late Session contain an exaggerated return of the number of slaves introduced into Cuba during the past year.

I also inclose a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Mr. Bunch,† explaining the cause of the inaccuracies of which the Captain-General complains.

I have to desire that you will communicate copies of this correspondence to the Spanish Government, and in doing so you will state that Her Majesty's Government do not doubt that the Government of Her Catholic Majesty will recognize in the communication which Mr. Bunch is instructed to make to the Captain-General of Cuba, a proof of the anxiety of Her Majesty's Government to do as full justice to the earnest desire of General Dulce for the suppression of the Cuban Slave Trade as they wish to do to the exertions of British cruisers in this most important matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 148.

Mr. West to Earl Russell.—(Received August 31.)

My Lord,

Madrid, August 19, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith copy and translation of a note which I have received from the Spanish Government in answer to the communication made by Sir John Crampton in his note of the 22nd of April last respecting the steamer "Cicéron."

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

Inclosure in No. 148.

Señor de Castro to Mr. West.

(Translation.)

Sir,

The Palace, August 12, 1865.

THE Minister of Marine, to whom as you are aware was duly communicated the note of your Legation of the 22nd of April last, informs me that as the cognizance of actions instituted against persons who may engage in the Traffic of Slaves belongs to the ordinary jurisdiction, he has transmitted to the Captain-General of the Department of Cadiz all the communications which were forwarded to him by this Ministry relating to the Spanish steamer "Cicéron," against which, it appears, there are already proofs of its having been engaged in so illegal a trade, in order that the documents referring to this case having been forwarded to the Senior Judge of First Instance in the city of Cadiz, from which place the vessel alluded to last proceeded, proceedings may forthwith be instituted in conformity with justice against whatever may have taken place.

In reporting to you the above decision, I flatter myself that the British Government will admit that Her Majesty's Government have on their side done all that is legally possible towards prosecuting and punishing those persons who engage in the illicit and reprobated Traffic in Slaves.

Availing, &c.
(Signed) M. BERMUDEZ DE CASTRO.

No. 149.

Earl Russell to Mr. West.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 15, 1865.

I TRANSMIT to you, for your information, a copy of a note which I have received from Mr. Adams, &c., stating that his Government has learnt that a cargo of 400 African slaves was landed between the 28th and 30th of July last at La Enseñada de Cochinos, to the westward of Cienfuegos in the Island of Cuba, and that Mr. Bunch, Her Majesty's Judge at the Havana, intended to call the attention of the Captain-General to this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

Inclosure in No. 149.

Mr. Adams to Earl Russell.

My Lord,

Legation of the United States, London, September 5, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that by a despatch of the 5th of August, received by the Secretary of State at Washington from the United States Consulate at Havana, it would appear that from the 28th to the 30th of July last a cargo of 400 negroes from Africa was landed at La Enseñada de Cochinos, a place about fifty miles to the westward of Cienfuegos. It is also stated that Mr. Bunch, Her Majesty's Consul-General, who did not appear to have been apprised of the fact, on being informed of it, promised to call the attention of the Captain-General to it.

I am directed by the Secretary of State to make this statement known to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS.

No. 150.

Earl Russell to Mr. West.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 23, 1865.

I TRANSMIT to you, for your information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Judge at the Havana,* stating that intelligence has reached him that the Mexican steamer "*Margarita Quintero*," late "*Cicéron*," is about to leave that port ostensibly to procure a cargo of coolies from China, but in reality bound for the African coast.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 151.

Mr. West to Earl Russell.—(Received September 29.)

My Lord,

Madrid, September 25, 1865

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith translation of the notice inserted in the Madrid Gazette of the 17th instant, of the issue of a Royal Order to the Civil Governor of Cuba, expressing the Royal satisfaction at the measures taken for the suppression of the Slave Trade. I may remark to your Lordship that this Royal Order was not published *in extenso* in the usual manner, but only appeared as a Resolution of the Colonial Department.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

No. 192.

Inclosure in No. 151.

Extract from the Madrid Gazette of September 17, 1865.

CUBA.—ROYAL Order to the Supreme Civil Governor, informing him that Her Majesty has seen with satisfaction the rigorous manner in which the international Treaties having reference to the Traffic in Slaves are being carried out, and that he is redoubling and exhausting all the precautionary and active measures in his power, by proposing such as he thinks suitable for effecting the total extinction of that Traffic.

No. 152.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 18, 1865.*
WITH reference to my despatch to Mr. West of the 23rd of August last, I transmit to you for your information a copy of a further despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Havana, relative to the movements of the "*Margarita Quintero*," formerly the Spanish steamer "*Cicéron*."*

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 153.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 28, 1865.*
I TRANSMIT to you, for your information, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Commissioner at Loanda,† reporting that a Spanish vessel had embarked, about the 10th of August last, a cargo of slaves between Ambrizette and Mangue Grande on the West Coast of Africa, and had succeeded in safely eluding the vigilance of Her Majesty's cruisers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 154.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received November 5.)

(Extract.)

Madrid, October 29, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship an extract from this day's Official Gazette of Madrid, containing a very important Royal Decree upon the subject of negro slavery in the Spanish Colonies, preceded by an "Esposicion" or address to Her Catholic Majesty, signed by Señor Carovas y Castillo, the Minister of the Colonies, both stating the objects of the Decree, and recommending the adoption of further measures of the same nature, which he has prepared for the consideration and sanction of the Cortes.

Your Lordship will at once perceive, that if the provisions of this Decree are faithfully observed, and still more, if the views and intentions expressed in the "Esposicion" are put into execution, a great deal will have been effected towards the final extirpation of the inhuman traffic which has so long disgraced the Administration of the Spanish Colonies.

The principal feature of the present Decree is, that it does away with the system by which illegally imported negroes, on being seized by the authorities, are hired out by the Government, and distributed among the proprietors under the name of "emancipados," that is to say, nominally as free men, but to almost all intents and purposes, as slaves under another denomination.

Negroes under these circumstances will, it is now enacted, be sent as free men to other Spanish Colonies where slavery does not exist, or, at their choice, be taken back to the countries from which they were originally exported by the slave dealers.

One strong motive on the part of the planters of Cuba for encouraging the importation of negroes will thus be removed. As the matter now stands, it matters in reality little to those engaged in the cultivation of the island, as a body, whether a cargo of slaves is seized by the Spanish authorities or not. The same amount of negro labour is acquired, and

* No. 193.

† Class A, No. 45.

your Lordship is aware how very slight, as far as real liberty or humanity of treatment is concerned, is the difference between the condition of the hired-out "emancipado" and the slave.

Inclosure 1 in No. 154.

Extract from the Madrid "Gazette" of October 29, 1865.

MINISTRY OF THE COLONIES.

Exposition to Her Majesty.

(Translation.)

Madam,

THE extinction of Slave Trade in the Islands of Cuba and Puerto Rico is the most imperious of all the duties devolving on the Government in the administration of those provinces. If the importation of slaves from Africa is not put a stop to in all particulars it will be useless to look for a solution in a conservative or pacific sense to the difficult problem of slavery; sooner or later there would be forced on those provinces, and on your Majesty's Government, a revolutionary solution which would defeat and for ever destroy the interests, moral and material, of our race in the Antilles.

Deeply convinced of this, the present Cabinet included in its political programme the project, which it now begins to carry into effect, of submitting to your Majesty as many measures as circumstances may render indispensable for the extinction of a Traffic no less prejudicial than it is inhuman. Some of them are such as cannot be dictated without the co-operation of the Cortes, and the Government will submit to them for their consideration in the ensuing session a Project of Law, in which the deficiencies of the Penal Law of 1845 will be supplied, and its responsibilities so far increased as to recognize as acts of real piracy many of those now committed with the object of carrying out and favouring in our dominions the Traffic in Slaves.

The coast guard is another means of repression which is now employed with perseverance and favourable results, and all that is required is to redouble its efficiency by increasing the number of vessels employed on this service in the American seas, for which purpose the Government has already taken the necessary steps.

But, Madam, the authority of the Penal Law and the vigilance of the coast guard are not sufficient; it is necessary that the evil should be sought out and followed up to its very foundation, and this will be the object of further administrative measures already prepared, and contained in the present Decree.

Nothing in the complicated question under consideration requires a more prompt solution than the lot of those negroes who have been emancipated and rescued from slavery by the Spanish authorities and forces.

These individuals now free only remain under the protection of the Administration for a period which cannot be an indefinite one, and it is necessary that they should recover the free disposal of their actions as soon as the interests created by their legal position will permit it. There is no reason whatever on these grounds for placing any restriction on the liberty of the negroes lately captured from the moment they are transported as free by the Government to any Spanish possession where slavery does not exist. The regulations generally applied to free labourers of their class are, further, the only ones by which they are to be governed in cases where they may not elect to be transported to the country of their birth.

Now is the time, Madam, for applying those principles with respect to the 103 freshly-arrived negroes, victims of this Traffic, which the supreme authority of Cuba, with its indefatigable zeal, captured in the month of September last, by transporting them to Fernando Po, where the laws do not allow of slavery; they can there choose between returning to the Continent of Africa, or remaining in that island to be hired out as free labourers.

The remaining emancipated negroes at present in the Spanish provinces of the Antilles deserve equal protection, and ought to obtain it from the day on which their present allowances terminate; and these according to present regulations, cannot be continued beyond five years. The negroes then returning to the depôt for the purpose of being employed solely on public works, the Government might then leave in perfect liberty as many as have completed their five years' residence in the Islands of Cuba and Porto Rico, permitting them to remain in the islands under the same conditions as other free negroes of the same class, or else transport them to other places which they themselves may designate.

From the moment the Government leaves the emancipated negroes complete liberty in the disposal of their actions, nothing further can be required from it; but still the fate of these unfortunate beings deserves all possible protection as long as they reside in the Spanish dominions, the benevolent provisions of the Treaty of June 28, 1835, sufficing for this purpose at the proper time, both as regards the emancipated negroes comprehended by that Treaty, and those who are to be exclusively governed by the laws of Spain, in consideration of the manner and place of their capture.

In proposing to your Majesty an act so in unison with the noble sentiments of your august mind, your Government flatters itself with the hope that it will serve as an unanswerable proof of the good faith with which it proposes to carry out the solemn engagements which, no less than its own conviction, and the good name of the Spanish nation, require it to prosecute and brand with the mark of its signal reprobation the Traffic in Slaves.

These measures will further serve as an evident proof of the special and unwearied attention given by your Majesty's Government to the difficult and delicate questions which have, with resolution and prudence at the same time, to be solved in the Colonial provinces; and in consideration of these reasons, and in conjunction with the Council of Ministers, the Undersigned has the honour to submit for your Majesty's approval the following project of a Decree.

Madam, &c.

(Signed) ANTONIO CANOVAS DEL CASTILLO.

Royal Decree.

IN consideration of the reason explained to me by my Colonial Minister, and in accordance with my Council of Ministers,

I have decreed as follows:—

Article 1. The 103 freshly-arrived negroes landed from a Portuguese vessel, and captured by the authorities in the Island of Cuba, in the month of September last, at a place called "The Cat" (El Gato), on the frontier of the jurisdiction of St. Cristobal and Pinar del Rio, shall be transported, at the expense of the Government, to the Island of Fernando Po, or to any other of the Spanish possessions in the Gulf of Guinea.

Art. 2. There shall also be transported to the same possessions, after the publication of this Decree, all negroes who may be captured by the Spanish authorities or forces, of any class whatever, in due accordance with the Treaties with foreign nations, and those laws and resolutions of the kingdom which prohibit the Slave Trade.

Art. 3. A special rule shall determine the conditions upon which slaves at present in the Islands of Cuba and Puerto Rico may pass from one island to the other, or through the interior. All negroes who may be captured, who do not present these conditions and cannot be proved to be vagrants, are to be comprehended under the provisions of Art. 2 of the present Decree.

Art. 4. The transportation of the negroes referred to in the three preceding Articles, shall be carried into effect immediately upon the competent tribunals or authorities declaring them emancipated, and placing them at the disposal of the Supreme Civil Governors. The Government of Her Majesty will take proper steps for making this declaration with as little delay as possible, no matter what the nature or character of the proceedings instituted in virtue of the capture.

Art. 5. Negroes transported to the Spanish possessions in the Gulf of Guinea shall, on their arrival there, become completely free, and shall be conveyed to the port they may choose on the coasts of the African continent, unless they should prefer remaining in the Spanish possessions under the protection of the Government; or be contracted for as free labourers, in the same manner as the "Kruman" negroes, and for the period determined by the regulations.

Art. 6. When the negroes who have been transported choose, in the exercise of their freedom, to remain in Fernando Po, or in any other of the possessions above specified, the Spanish authorities shall take care to carry into effect the humane provisions of Annex C to the Treaty of June 28, 1835, and faithfully to carry out, in the case of those negroes who have been emancipated by a sentence of the Mixed Courts of Justice, as well as of those who have been emancipated by the Spanish Courts, the provisions of Articles I and IV of the above-mentioned Annex, and the regulations of the Government relative to the emancipated slaves who have obtained their papers of freedom in the Islands of Cuba and Puerto Rico.

Art. 7. The permission conceded to the Supreme Civil Governors in those Colonial

possessions where slavery exists, of consigning emancipated negroes, is hereby revoked from this date.

Art. 8. According as the terms of consignments at present existing expire, the emancipated negroes shall be received into the depôt, where the Government shall take care that they are provided with the necessary means of subsistence and remuneration, employing them on the public works in obligatory labour as long as they remain in that state.

Art. 9. The Government may pronounce completely free all emancipated negroes who may enter the depôt, and who have passed more than five years in the Islands of Cuba and Porto Rico, authorizing them to remain in the islands under the conditions fixed by the regulations, or conveying them to one of the Spanish possessions in the Gulf of Guinea, or any other place which they may themselves select.

Art. 10. It is forbidden to exceed the limits of the existing consignments. The actual legal proprietors of the emancipated slaves will for the future be the only ones responsible to the Government for the fulfilment of all the obligations imposed by the consignment.

Art. 11. The Minister for the Colonies will draw up the necessary instructions for carrying into execution the present Royal Decree with the utmost exactitude and speed.

Given at San Ildefonso, 27th October, 1865.

(Signed Regiâ Manu.)

Minister for the Colonies :

(Countersigned)

ANTONIO CANOVAS DEL CASTILLO.

No. 155.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received November 5.)

My Lord,

Madrid, October 31, 1865.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 3rd June, 1864, I have the honour to inclose translation of a note which I have received from the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, respecting the slaver "*Virgen del Refugio*," in which his Excellency states that it results from the investigation made in the Port of Cadiz as to the preparations which that vessel made for going to sea, that there is cause to suspect the proprietor of being engaged in the Slave Trade; and that as this is a matter of which the ordinary tribunals are cognizant, steps have been taken to obtain evidence of the crime in order to bring the case before the ordinary Judge of that city. It being desirable that as many proofs as possible should be brought to bear upon the case, his Excellency is of opinion that it would be well if Her Majesty's Government were to furnish Her Catholic Majesty's Government, either in original or in copy, with all the documents found on board the vessel in question, and with the evidence contained in the depositions of the crew.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Inclosure in No. 155.

Señor de Castro to Sir J. Crampton.

(Translation.)

Sir,

San Ildefonso, October 19, 1865.

AS a supplement to the note which I had the honour to address to you on the 30th of June, in reply to one from you of the 8th of the same month, relative to the seizure of the Spanish brigantine "*Virgen del Refugio*," I must now inform you, with reference to information supplied by the Ministry of Marine, that there having resulted from the *procès-verbal* drawn up in the Port of Cadiz for the purpose of verifying the preparations made by this vessel when fitting out for sea, grounds for suspecting the owner of the same to have been a party in the Negro Trade, to which he appears to have been in the habit of devoting himself, and such cases being under the cognizance of the ordinary tribunals, the Marine Court of Cadiz has resolved that evidence with respect to the offence should be taken, for the purpose of transmitting it without delay to the Ordinary Judge of that city, under whose jurisdiction the case falls, in order that he may proceed to the legal consequences, and that the Maritime Jurisdiction may exact from the captain of the said brigantine the responsibility which falls on him, civil as well as criminal, for his illegal navigation, exacting the same responsibility from the issuer of the Royal Patent.

CLASS B.

But in order that in the case, which is being drawn up, the greatest possible amount of proof may be supplied, it will be very expedient that Her Britannic Majesty's Government should supply the Government of Her Catholic Majesty with all the documents, in original and in copy, found on board the vessel in question, as well as with the evidence of the depositions made by the crew when it was captured.

I cannot conclude without first remarking to you, in order to remove an idea expressed in your note of the 8th of June, that the vessels employed in the Slave Trade cannot possibly fit themselves out at Cadiz with all the necessaries for so reprehensible a Traffic, not only because there are no establishments of that kind there, but also because the extreme vigilance of the authorities would be able to prevent, as far as human foresight is able, the above-mentioned port being converted into a point for planning and organizing slave expeditions.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) M. BERMUDEZ DE CASTRO.

No. 156.

The Earl of Clarendon to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 7, 1865.*
I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch from Mr. Bunch, Her Majesty's Judge in the Mixed Commission Court at the Havana,* containing his Report upon the Cuban Slave Trade for the period comprised between the 1st October, 1864, and 30th September, 1865.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 157.

The Earl of Clarendon to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 10, 1865.*
I TRANSMIT to you herewith copies of two despatches from Her Majesty's Consul-General at the Havana,† reporting the landing of a cargo of slaves on the Cuban coast, and their subsequent capture by the Spanish authorities.

I also inclose a copy of a despatch addressed by Earl Russell to Mr. Bunch,‡ bearing testimony to the energy and good faith with which General Dulce, the present Captain-General of Cuba, has acted in carrying out the engagements of the Spanish Crown for the suppression of the Cuban Slave Trade, and I have to desire that you will make a similar communication to the Spanish Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 158.

The Earl of Clarendon to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 10, 1865.*
I HAVE received your despatch of the 31st ultimo, addressed to Earl Russell, inclosing a copy of a note from the Spanish Government requesting to be furnished with the originals, or copies of any documents found on board the Spanish slaver "*Virgen del Refugio*," with the view to their being used in evidence against the owners and other parties connected with this vessel.

I have to instruct you to state to the Spanish Minister that the "*Virgen del Refugio*" having been captured by a Portuguese cruiser with slaves on board, in Portuguese waters, all the documents connected with this vessel are in the hands of the Portuguese authorities, to whom, therefore, it will be advisable that the Spanish Government should apply for any information they may require to enable them to prosecute the parties connected with this Slave Trading transaction.

With reference to the concluding paragraph of Señor Bermudez de Castro's note, in

* Class A, No. 18.

† Nos. 194 and 195.

‡ No. 197.

which his Excellency takes exception to the statement contained in your note of the 8th of June last, with regard to the facilities afforded at Cadiz for the equipment of slave-vessels, I have to observe, that nearly all the vessels captured by Her Majesty's cruizers during the last three years having been found to have equipped at and sailed from Cadiz, it is to be inferred that the chief promoters of the Slave Traffic were established, or had their agents at that port, or else that the slave-dealers found facilities for equipping their vessels there that they did not find at other ports.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 159.

The Earl of Clarendon to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 10, 1865.*
I HAVE received your despatch of the 29th of October, inclosing a copy of the important Decree respecting negro slavery in the Spanish Colonies promulgated by Her Catholic Majesty on the 27th of that month.

I have to instruct you to express to the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs the great satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have received this evidence of the determination of the Queen of Spain, and of her Government, to extinguish the Slave Trade in the Spanish Colonies.

Her Majesty's Government hope that the wise and humane intentions of the Spanish Government will be carried into full effect by the authorities in Cuba and Puerto Rico.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 160.

The Earl of Clarendon to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 10, 1865.*
I HAVE to instruct you to acquaint the Spanish Government that the Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint Mr. William Follett Syngé to succeed Mr. Robert Bunch as Judge in the British and Spanish Mixed Commission Court established at the Havana, under the provisions of the Treaty of the 28th June, 1835, between Great Britain and Spain for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

In announcing this appointment to the Spanish Government, I have to desire that you will at the same time request that the necessary instructions may be issued for the recognition of Mr. Syngé in his character as Judge by the Cuban authorities.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 161.

The Earl of Clarendon to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 18, 1865.*
WITH reference to my despatch to Mr. West of the 28th of August last, I transmit, for your information, the accompanying copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General in Cuba,* inclosing copies of a correspondence with the Captain-General of that Island on the subject of certain inaccuracies which appeared in the papers relating to the Slave Trade presented to Parliament during the last session.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

Sir J. Crampton to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 25.)

My Lord,

Madrid, November 16, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a note which, in obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 10th instant, I have addressed to the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, informing him that Her Majesty's Government has appointed Mr. W. W. Follett Synge to succeed Mr. Robert Bunch as Judge in the British and Spanish Mixed Commission Court at the Havana, and requesting that instructions may be given for Mr. Synge's recognition in that character.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Inclosure in No. 162.

Sir J. Crampton to Señor de Castro.

M. le Ministre,

Madrid, November 16, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Mr. William Webb Follett Synge, late Her Majesty's Commissioner and Consul-General in the Sandwich Islands, has been appointed to succeed Mr. Robert Bunch as Judge in the British and Spanish Mixed Commission Court established at the Havana under the Treaty of June 28, 1835, for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

In announcing this appointment to your Excellency, I am instructed by Lord Clarendon to request your Excellency to have the goodness to cause the necessary instructions to be issued for the recognition of Mr. Synge in his character of Judge by the authorities of Her Catholic Majesty in the Island of Cuba.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

No. 163.

Sir J. Crampton to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received November 25.)

My Lord,

Madrid, November 16, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a note which, in obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 10th instant, I have addressed to the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, expressing the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government, on becoming acquainted with the Royal Decree of the 27th October last, which gives evidence of the determination of the Queen of Spain and her Government to extinguish the Slave Trade in the Spanish Colonies.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Inclosure in No. 163.

Sir J. Crampton to Señor de Castro.

M. le Ministre,

Madrid, November 16, 1865.

I DID not fail to acquaint Her Majesty's Government with the promulgation by Her Catholic Majesty's Government of the important Royal Decree of the 27th of October last respecting negro slavery in the Spanish Colonies.

I have now the gratification of expressing to your Excellency the great satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have received this evidence of the determination of the Queen of Spain and her Government to extinguish the Slave Trade in the Spanish Colonies.

Her Majesty's Government entertain the confident hope that the wise and humane intentions of Her Catholic Majesty's Government will be carried into full effect by the authorities of Cuba and Porto Rico.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

No. 164.

Sir J. Crampton to the Earl of Clarendon—(Received November 25.)

My Lord,

Madrid, November 17, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a note which, in obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 10th instant, I have addressed to the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, expressing the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at the capture by the Spanish authorities of a cargo of slaves landed at Cape St. Antonio on the Cuban coast, and their gratification at the energy and good faith with which General Dulce has acted in carrying out the engagements of the Spanish Crown for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Inclosure in No. 164.

Sir J. Crampton to Señor de Castro.

M. le Ministre,

Madrid, November 17, 1865.

HER Majesty's Government have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Havana a despatch dated the 26th of October, reporting the landing of a cargo of slaves on the south coast of the Island of Cuba, near Cape St. Antonio, and their subsequent capture by the Spanish authorities.

Her Majesty's Government have learned with much satisfaction that the only cargo of slaves which, as far as Her Majesty's Government are aware, has been landed during the last twelve months should have been seized by the Cuban authorities, and I am consequently instructed to express to your Excellency the gratification which it affords to Her Majesty's Government to bear testimony to the energy and good faith with which the Captain-General of Cuba, General Dulce, has acted in carrying out the engagements of the Spanish Crown for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

I avail, &c.

(Signed)

JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

No. 165.

Sir J. Crampton to the Earl of Clarendon—(Received November 25.)

My Lord,

Madrid, November 17, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a note which, in obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 10th instant, I have addressed to the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, stating that as the documents found on board the Spanish slaver "*Virgen del Refugio*" are in the hands of the Portuguese authorities, the Spanish Government should apply to that of Portugal for the information required to prosecute the parties connected with the slave-trading transactions in which that vessel was engaged, and observing that it is evident that the promoters of the Slave Traffic find facilities at Cadiz for equipping their vessels which they do not find at other ports.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Inclosure in No. 165.

Sir J. Crampton to Señor de Castro.

M. le Ministre,

Madrid, November 16, 1865.

WITH reference to the note which your Excellency did me the honour to address to me on the 19th of October, in which you suggest that Her Catholic Majesty's Government should be furnished with the originals or copies of any documents found on board the Spanish slaver "*Virgen del Refugio*," with the view to their being used in evidence against the owners and other parties connected with this vessel, I am instructed to state to your Excellency that the "*Virgen del Refugio*" having been captured by a Portuguese cruiser

with slaves on board in Portuguese waters, all the documents connected with this vessel are in the hands of the Portuguese authorities, to whom therefore it will be advisable that Her Catholic Majesty's Government should apply for any information which they may require to prosecute the parties connected with this slave-trading transaction.

With reference to the concluding paragraph of your Excellency's above-mentioned note, in which exception is taken to the statement contained in my note of the 8th of June last with regard to the facilities afforded at Cadiz for the Slave Trade, Her Majesty's Government instruct me to remark that as nearly all the vessels captured by Her Majesty's cruisers during the last three years have been found to have been equipped at Cadiz, it is to be inferred that the chief promoters of the Slave Traffic were established or had their agents at that port, or else that the slave-dealers found facilities for equipping their vessels there that they did not find at other ports.

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

No. 166.

The Earl of Clarendon to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 30, 1865.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General at the Havana,* reporting the formation in Cuba of a society for the suppression of the African Slave Trade, and inclosing a copy of its rules.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 167.

The Earl of Clarendon to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 11, 1865.

I TRANSMIT herewith, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Commissioner at Loanda,† reporting the capture by Her Majesty's ship "Jaseur" on the 6th of October last of a brigantine fully equipped for the Slave Trade, which is reported to have cleared from Cadiz on or about the 18th of July last, and I have to desire that you will communicate the fact of this capture to the Spanish Government, with reference to the observations which you were instructed by my despatch of the 10th ultimo to make to the Spanish Minister respecting equipment of slave vessels at Cadiz.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 168.

The Earl of Clarendon to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 11, 1865.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, copies of two despatches from the Vice Consul-General of the United States at Havana, which have been communicated to me by the United States' Minister at this Court, containing information on matters connected with the Cuban Slave Trade.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 168.

Mr. Savage to Mr. Congar.

Sir,

*Consulate-General of the United States of America,
Havana, September 23, 1865.*

YOUR despatch No. 67 was duly received. In reply to that part of it directing me to procure some probable evidence to sustain the representations made in my despatch

* No. 199.

† Class A, No. 49.

No. 127 in reference to the reported landing of an expedition of negroes at Ensenada de Cochinos, I have the honour to say, that the report in question having been communicated by me to Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General, he called the attention of the Captain-General to the same, by whom a thorough investigation was ordered, the result of which was that the said landing never took place. I have endeavoured to obtain from the parties who gave me the information the proof of their assertion, but they merely answer me that they obtained it from others whom they supposed to know the facts. In the absence of evidence, and after the investigation made by order of the Captain-General, we must, at least for the present, believe that the report was unfounded.

A small expedition of African negroes was landed a few days since at a place called Gato, adjacent to the districts of San Cristobal and Pinar del Rio (south side of Cuba) from a small sloop. It is believed it did not exceed 160 in number, of whom 103 have been captured, the rest must have been run into the woods, but the Captain-General, whose unceasing efforts to put an end to the nefarious Traffic are truly worthy of all praise, is confident that, notwithstanding the difficulty to be met with, owing to the character of that part of the country (the Cazo mountains) they will be found and taken. The associate justice of the Superior Court (Pellijero de Lama) has proceeded to the spot, for the purpose of initiating the necessary legal proceedings. It is understood that these negroes are tall and strong, of a tribe that has never been brought to the island, as the authorities cannot find any negroes that understand their language. One person has been arrested who is believed to be concerned in the expedition, and orders have been issued for the arrest of two others for the same reason.

The Captain-General has information of other expeditions being under weigh from Africa, and taken his measures for their capture.

The orders from the Supreme Government for the suspension of the Slave Trade lately received are very stringent, and General Dulce will carry them out to the letter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) THOS. SAVAGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 168.

Mr. Savage to Mr. Seward.

*Consulate-General of the United States of America,
Havana, November 4, 1865.*

Sir,

INFORMATION was brought to me confidentially, some days since, that an expedition of about 600 negroes from Africa had been landed at a place called Malas Aguas, near the sugar plantation "Pan de Azucar," of Don Francisco Marty y Torrens,* and that this person was the owner of the cargo. The brig "Yucatan" (about which I wrote to the Departments months ago) is believed to be the vessel that brought the negroes (of the Macua tribe); the landing was effected very quietly. I immediately conveyed the information to Mr. Bunch, the British Consul-General, who had only the day before had a long interview with the Captain-General, and heard nothing from his Excellency upon the subject. As these reports are often circulated, sometimes founded on fact, but almost invariably not reducible to proof, Mr. Bunch and myself concluded to await for further developments before bringing the case to the knowledge of our respective Governments, or his addressing any communication to the Captain-General. Some days after the matter became one of some notoriety, and some correspondence passed between General Dulce and Mr. Bunch, which I have seen. It is very evident that the Captain-General believed that an expedition was landed somewhere, and had given very strict orders for the capture thereof.

In conclusion, I have to state that I learned last evening that about 400 negroes were found and captured at Consolacion del Sud by the Lieutenant-Governor of the district. The capture was made twice; the first time they were placed in a pen, from which they were stolen during the night, but they were again discovered and secured.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. SAVAGE.

N.B. An Association has been formed under the special sanction and protection of General Dulce, the members of which pledge themselves not to acquire, directly or indirectly, any negro slave, known to be a native of Africa, and to do all in their power to

* A sort of petty king in that part of the island, owing to his immense fishery business.

form or mould public opinion against the African Slave Trade. One of the most distinguished lawyers of Havana, Doctor Antonio Gonzalez de Mendoza, connected by marriage with one of the most wealthy, intelligent, and moral families of the island, has been elected President of the Society; the 19th of the present month (the Queen's Patroness Saint's day) has been fixed for the inauguration and other proceedings. Many influential gentlemen have already inscribed their names as members.

T. S.

No. 169.

The Earl of Clarendon to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 13, 1865.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 11th instant, inclosing copies of two letters from the Vice Consul-General of the United States at Havana, containing information relative to a reported landing of slaves in Cuba, I now transmit, for your information, copies of a despatch and its inclosures from Her Majesty's Consul-General at the Havana respecting this affair.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 170.

Sir J. Crampton to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 15.)

My Lord,

Madrid, December 9, 1865.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 17th ultimo, inclosing copy of a note which I had addressed to the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, stating the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government had learned the capture by the Cuban authorities of a cargo of slaves landed near Cape San Antonio, and their appreciation of the energy and good faith with which General Dulce had carried out the engagements of the Spanish Crown, I have now the honour to forward to your Lordship a copy and translation of his Excellency's reply to my communication.

Señor Bermudez de Castro observes that this incident offers the most evident proof of the activity with which General Dulce suppresses the Slave Trade, because the cargo of slaves in question is the only one which arrived in Cuba within the last twelve months; and adds that General Dulce in this does no more than second the desires of Her Catholic Majesty's Government for the complete extinction of the Slave Trade.

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

Inclosure in No. 170.

Señor de Castro to Sir J. Crampton.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Palace, December 7, 1865.

I HAVE had the honour to receive the note which you have had the goodness to address to me, dated the 19th of November last, expressing the satisfaction with which your Government have learnt the capture of a cargo of slaves, effected at its disembarkation, by the Spanish authorities of the Island of Cuba.

This event is the most evident proof of the energy and activity with which General Dulce carries out the Treaty, since the cargo which has been captured near Cape St. Antonio is the only one which has reached the Island of Cuba during the last twelve months; and in pursuing such conduct the Captain-General of that island has only seconded the wishes and executed the orders which he has received from the Government Her Majesty for the complete extinction of the inhuman Traffic in Slaves.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) M. BERMUDEZ DE CASTRO.

No. 171.

Sir J. Crampton to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 18.)

My Lord,

Madrid, December 14, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship translation of a note which I have received from Señor Bermudez de Castro, in answer to one in which I expressed to his Excellency the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at the promulgation of a Royal Decree respecting negro traffic in the Spanish Colonies, and which I transmitted to your Lordship in my despatch of November 16.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Inclosure in No. 171.

Señor de Castro to Sir J. Crampton.

(Translation.)

Sir,

The Palace, December 11, 1865.

I HAVE received the note which you were good enough to address me on the 16th of November last, in which, in alluding to the Decree of the 27th of October relative to the Slave Trade, you express the great satisfaction with which Her Britannic Majesty's Government have seen this proof of the determination of Her Majesty's Government to suppress that nefarious trade in the Spanish possessions.

It has been very pleasing to me, Sir, to know that the Government of the nation which you so worthily represent, does justice to the good faith and loyal intentions with which Her Majesty's Government are animated, with the object of fully carrying out the complete extinction of the Slave Trade in the Spanish dominions.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) M. BERMUDEZ DE CASTRO.

No. 172.

Sir J. Crampton to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 19.)

My Lord,

Madrid, December 14, 1865.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 16th ultimo, inclosing the copy of a note which I addressed to the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, requesting that Mr. William Webb Follet Syngé, should be recognized by Her Catholic Majesty's Government as the successor of Mr. Robert Bunch, as Judge of the Mixed Court of Havana, for the suppression of the Slave Trade, I have now the honour to forward herewith a copy and translation of the reply of the Spanish Government, stating that the necessary steps will be taken for the recognition of Mr. Syngé in that character.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Inclosure in No. 172.

Señor de Castro to Sir J. Crampton.

(Translation.)

Sir,

San Ildefonso, November 23, 1865.

I HAVE received the note which you were good enough to address to me on the 16th instant, in which you communicate to me the nomination of Mr. William Webb Follet Syngé to replace Mr. Robert Bunch as Judge of the Mixed Court established at the Havana for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

This fact has been to-day communicated to the Minister for the Colonies, and to the Captain-General of Cuba, that they may give the necessary orders for the recognition of Mr. Syngé in his capacity of Judge.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) M. BERMUDEZ DE CASTRO.

No. 173.

The Earl of Clarendon to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 21, 1865.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 11th instant, relative to the case of a brigantine fully equipped for the Slave Trade captured by Her Majesty's ship "Jaseur," on the 6th of October last, and which is stated to have cleared from Cadiz on or about the 18th of last July, I have now to acquaint you that it appears by reports received in this department from the Admiralty, and from the Vice-Admiralty Court at St. Helena, where the vessel has been condemned, that the name of the brigantine was the *Amelia*, and that she was commanded by Sebastiao da Silva Martha. The luggage of both the master and mate is stated to have had Cadiz railway labels on it.

I have to instruct you to communicate this information to the Spanish Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

CLARENDON.

SPAIN. (Consular)—Cadiz.

No. 174.

Consul Dunlop to Earl Russell.—(Received January 12.)

(Extract.)

Cadiz, January 7, 1865.

I WAS informed last night that the slaver "*Cicéron*" left Antwerp about six or seven weeks ago, supposed probably under another name, came into this port as if to undergo repairs and painting, thereafter proceeded either to Seville or Huelva; and about five weeks ago left this neighbourhood for the African coast, having ostensibly cleared for Matamoros.

This vessel has already for some time been under the notice of Her Majesty's cruisers. My belief is that she fitted out at Antwerp as far as she could, and completed her equipment and "stores" at Huelva.

No. 175.

Mr. Hammond to Consul Dunlop.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 20, 1865.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 7th of October last, containing information respecting the British barque "*Indus*," which was suspected of being destined to be engaged in the Slave Trade, I am directed by Earl Russell to transmit to you copies of two despatches from Her Majesty's Consul at St. Thomas,* reporting the circumstances under which he had this vessel overhauled on suspicion of her being equipped for Slave Traffic.

You will see that the "*Indus*" discharged at St. Thomas a large quantity of water-casks and provisions, which are stated to have been taken on board at Cadiz for ballast, but no shipping document of any kind or Customs clearance was produced in support of this statement; and the vessel, after landing the casks and provisions in question, was reported ready for sea without taking in ballast.

I am to state that the proceedings of this vessel are evidently so suspicious that Lord Russell thinks it right you should be made acquainted with them, in order that you may, if you have the means of doing so, procure further information respecting the "*Indus*" and the parties connected with her.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

E. HAMMOND.

No. 176.

Consul Dunlop to Earl Russell.—(Received February 6.)

(Extract.)

Cadiz, January 30, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Hammond's despatch dated 20th instant, and beg leave to mention that the "*Indus*" is believed here to have been, directly or indirectly, engaged in slave-trading at the very time she touched at St. Thomas. It seems a pity that she was not detained by the "*Cordelia*." At such places as St. Thomas, it is often in the Consul's power to arrest a suspected ship for such a length of time as would involve great injury to her owners.

 SPAIN. (Consular)—Havana.

No. 177.

Consul-General Bunch to Earl Russell.—(Received January 30, 1865.)

(Extract.)

Havana, December 16, 1864.

I TOOK advantage of the opportunity which was afforded me to-day of seeing the Captain-General for the purpose of taking the oath as Her Majesty's Judge, to hold some conversation with his Excellency on the subject of the Slave Trade.

I began by asking General Dulce if he had any information respecting a supposed landing of Bozal negroes in the early part of last month, from a sailing barque, at some point in the districts of Trinidad or Sancti Spiritus. The vessel was one which had been I can scarcely say chased, but followed, by Her Catholic Majesty's steamer "*General Lezo*," which vessel soon became leaky and was obliged to return to port. The slaver ran out to sea, and it is supposed that she subsequently returned to the neighbourhood of the River Zallabacoa and got rid of her cargo. The banks of that river are described as lined with fine plantations, in any of which a refuge is easily found.

General Dulce replied that he had received a report from the senior naval officer of the Trinidad District respecting this vessel and the short cruize of the "*General Lezo*," and had at once sent a Commissioner to inquire into the supposed landing. It had, however, been found impossible to procure evidence either through the Government officials or the inhabitants of the district. General Dulce was, therefore, compelled to abandon the investigation, which he did the more reluctantly that he entertained "a moral conviction" that some such landing had been effected.

I have heard that no less than fifteen expeditions are supposed to be on their way from Africa to the Cuban coast, that had been set on foot about two months ago when the change of Ministry took place in Spain. The slave-traders were fully persuaded that General Dulce would be immediately removed from this Government and his place be filled by a person more friendly to their interests. The Spanish cruizers are quite unfit for the service which they are supposed to perform. The ships in question are four in number: one is always in this port, another at Cienfuegos; and the other two are quite worn out. The "*General Lezo*," referred to above, cannot go to sea without leaking dangerously from the boilers.

I have lost no time in informing Vice-Admiral Sir James Hope of the supposed departure of the fifteen vessels.

 No. 178.
Consul-General Bunch to Earl Russell.—(Received January 30, 1865.)

My Lord,

Havana, December 26, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Layard's despatch of the 1st of December, addressed to Mr. Crawford, and conveying information as to the

capture of slave-vessels off the African coast by Her Majesty's ships "Griffon," "Dart," and "Snipe."

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT BUNCH.

No. 179.

Consul-General Bunch to Earl Russell.—(Received February 28.)

(Extract.)

Havana, January 31, 1865.

IN obedience to the instructions which I received from Mr. Layard when I had the honour of an interview with him just before I left England, I have inquired into the present condition of the importation of coolies from China. I find that some persons who have previously conducted this Traffic have gone to China for the purpose of engaging a fresh supply. None have yet arrived, but there appeared lately a notice in the newspapers to the effect that about 400 are expected in a French ship, and instructing those who may desire their services how to secure them.

I shall carefully watch for this vessel, and endeavour to ascertain the condition in which the emigrants arrive, as well as the terms upon which they are engaged.

There is, unfortunately, no doubt that labour is much wanted in Cuba. It seems probable, therefore, that a large importation of coolies will take place the more so as the Slave Trade is evidently checked for the moment.

No. 180.

Consul-General Bunch to Earl Russell.—(Received February 28.)

(Extract.)

Havana, January 31, 1865.

I HAVE much satisfaction in stating that no reports or even rumours of landings of negroes from Africa on the shores of this island have reached me during the month which expires to-day.

I have had two conversations with the Captain-General on this subject during the month. His Excellency continues to hold the same language respecting the determination of the Spanish Government to put down the Traffic as he did on my arrival. On the last occasion of my seeing him, he remarked that one or two expeditions had been broken up in Spanish ports.

Three of Her Majesty's cruisers on this station have visited the Havana since my arrival; the "Fawn," the "Plover" (twice), and the "Cygnet." Nothing had been seen of a suspicious character by any of them.

It is to be hoped that this favourable state of things may continue. It forms an exception to that which has hitherto engaged the attention of Her Majesty's Government.

No. 181.

Consul-General Bunch to Earl Russell.—(Received March 31.)

(Extract.)

Havana, March 1, 1865.

I AM able to report to your Lordship with much confidence that no landing of slaves has been even attempted on the coast of Cuba during the month of February.

I have just returned from an interview with the Captain-General. I told his Excellency that, as the mail-day was approaching, I was anxious to receive from him the latest intelligence on the subject of the Slave Trade for your Lordship's information. I added, that it was very agreeable to me to express my belief that no violation of the Treaty had occurred.

General Dulce replied, that I might inform your Lordship that such was the case, and that he was morally certain that no expedition had reached the coasts of this island. He stated, further, that he had himself written by the last Spanish mail to the Colonial Minister at Madrid ("Ministro de Ultramar") and recommended increased vigilance in the Spanish ports.

I told General Dulce that your Lordship would receive this intelligence with great satisfaction. I feel assured that he would, if he were permitted to do so, at once banish from the island a few of the most influential slave-traders.

I asked General Dulce whether he could tell me anything about the notorious steamer "Ciceron." His reply was, that she had touched on the 20th of January near Bahia

Honda, to the westward of this port, but had left again on the 22nd before anything could be done to detain her. She was quite empty, having been compelled to leave the African coast in haste. She had received a shot from some man-of-war, and had abandoned a boat with four men which she had not time to pick up. His Excellency added, that she was believed to have gone to Mobile, to try for a cargo of cotton.

Before leaving General Dulce, I asked him if he knew anything about the four or five cargoes of coolies which have arrived here during February. His Excellency replied, that it was not a matter with which he had much to do, but that they had arrived very comfortably. He also said that they had all been taken up at a premium of 25 ounces (about 83*l.*) for their contract, which his Excellency considered a proof that negroes were very scarce, as the coolies have hitherto been engaged at a premium of 15 ounces only (about 50*l.*)

I may add, that I received this morning a note from Commander De Kantzow, of Her Majesty's ship "Cygnet," one of the cruisers on this coast. He says, "We were only able to board a few vessels off Cape Antonio. Not a sign of a slaver, and I believe the Trade is pretty nearly done up."

I trust that your Lordship will be satisfied with the present condition of things; our only desire can be that it should continue.

No. 182.

Consul-General Bunch to Earl Russell.—(Received April 28.)

My Lord,

Havana, March 30, 1865.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 31st of January of this year, in which I alluded to the subject of the proposed importation of coolies from China into this island, I have the honour to state that during the last two months 2,874 have arrived in this port.

I beg leave to inclose a Return of the vessels in which they have come—nationality, tonnage, date of arrival, number of coolies, and port of embarkation.

Although it is not easy to obtain precise details respecting the condition of these people during their voyage and on their landing, I think that I am in a position to state that they have been well treated, and that the mortality has been very small indeed. I saw two ship-loads myself; they were cleanly dressed, and seemed to be in the best possible spirits.

Your Lordship has been made fully acquainted by my predecessor with the regulations under which the coolies are placed in this island. Although in theory they are humane and considerate, I much fear that they are but imperfectly carried out in practice. All accounts concur in declaring that the people are but poorly cared for on the majority of the estates, and that in many cases gross cruelty is practised upon them.

The present arrivals have been all taken up at a price of about 80*l.* each for their contract—a considerable advance upon former importations. There is no doubt that labour is scarce in Cuba at this moment.

I may mention that, so far as I have been able to ascertain, not one woman has formed part of these late arrivals.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT BUNCH.

Inclosure in No. 182.

VESSELS arrived at Havana with Coolies.

Vessels.	Nationality.	Arrived.	Tonnage.	No. of Coolies.	Where From.
1865.					
Barque Medoc	French ..	February 4	604	305	Macao.
Barque Joseph	Ditto ..	" 21	754	363	Ditto.
Barque Isabel	Ditto ..	March 12	484	325	Ditto.
Barque Charlotte ..	Ditto ..	" 28	541	264	Ditto.
Brig Leopold Catteau ..	Belgian ..	February 23	550	416	Ditto.
Ship Josefita Almira ..	Portuguese..	March 15	1,142	566	Ditto.
Barque Emigrante	Spanish ..	" 3	448	360	Ditto.
Barque Encarnacion	Ditto ..	" 19	430	275	Ditto.
			4,953	2,874	

(Signed) ROBERT BUNCH, *Consul-General.*

Havana, March 30, 1865.

No. 183.

Consul-General Bunch to Earl Russell.—(Received April 28.)

(Extract.)

Havana, April 3, 1865.

ON the morning of the 29th of March I received from Captain Wake, R.N., of Her Majesty's ship "Bulldog," Senior Officer at Vera Cruz, the despatch of which, with its inclosures, I beg leave to transmit herewith a copy to your Lordship. It relates to the appearance at Vera Cruz of the notorious steam screw slaver "*Cicéron*," now transformed into a Mexican vessel, and called the "*Margarita Quintero*." The despatch of Captain Wake contains all the details of this transaction, and of the steps which Her Majesty's officers in Mexico took in the matter.

As it was given out that the "*Margarita Quintero*," relying upon her immunity under her new nationality, was coming to the Havana on her way to New York, I wrote without delay to the Captain-General a private note, and a few hours later addressed to him an official letter on the subject. Of this latter a copy is inclosed herewith. Whilst I abstain from suggesting the measures which it might be desirable for the Captain-General to take, I inform him of the vessel's possible arrival within his jurisdiction, and call his attention to the supposed fact that the Spanish supercargo, captain, and crew are still on board.

I received no reply from his Excellency until Sunday, the 2nd of April, when one was sent to me, dated the 31st of March, of which I inclose a translation.

I have written to Mr. Archibald, Her Majesty's Consul at New York, and suggested the propriety of his keeping his eye on the vessel's movements should she go to that port. I beg leave to inclose a copy of my letter, and have, &c.

Inclosure I in No. 183.

Captain Wake to Consul-General Bunch.

Sir,

"Bulldog," Sacrificios, Vera Cruz, March 21, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, about fifteen days ago, a screw-steamer from Tampico, under Mexican colours, and calling herself the "*Margarita Quintero*," arrived at this port for the purpose of legitimatizing a change of nationality (from Spanish to Mexican) that had been effected at Tampico. She professed to be bound from Vera Cruz to New York, viâ Havana, and had shipped at Tampico a small assorted cargo, chiefly goat-skins, and a trifling amount of specie. I inclose, for your information, the copy of a letter addressed by Her Majesty's Acting Consul at this port to me, with reference to the said ship, and of my reply thereto; and I have also to inform you that, from information subsequently received, there is no doubt that this vessel is no other than the notorious screw-slaver "*Cicéron*;" that there is every reason to believe that she made her way to Tampico (knowing that there would be no British man-of-war at that port), for the purpose of effecting a change of nationality, thereby receiving, as it were, a certificate of honesty, without which it would have been dangerous for so well-known a ship to approach the neighbourhood of Her Majesty's cruisers.

Having heard of the inquiries I was making about the ship, her consignees, who did not deny her former bad character, took the alarm, and refused to allow her to sail until they had obtained from the shippers of the cargo at Tampico a written consent to her braving the dangers of capture to which she was exposed by her ill-fame. In the meanwhile, the Mexican Government, at the instance of Her Majesty's Minister at Mexico, ordered an inquiry to be made into the case by the Governor at Vera Cruz, which course has ended in nothing; and as I presume that the owners of the cargo at Tampico will consider the legality of the change of nationality, and the perfect regularity of all her papers, to be sufficient guarantee against the detention of the ship by Her Majesty's cruisers while their property is on board, the ship will probably shortly be allowed to sail on her voyage.

It seems not unlikely that she will transfer her trifling cargo at Havana to another vessel bound for New York, or else proceed to New York, and thence once more to the coast of Africa.

I have therefore thought it my duty to call your attention to the matter, that you may take such steps as may seem to you feasible and advisable for the frustration of the nefarious purpose which there can be little doubt she ultimately entertains, supposing my information to be correct, of which I feel pretty sure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. WAKE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 183.

Acting Consul Ledward to Captain Wake.

Sir, *Vera Cruz, March 8, 1865.*
 I HAVE the honour to inform you that, some two days ago, a screw-steamer called the "*Margarita Quintero*" entered this port; and from verbal information I have received, this steamer arrived at Tampico under Spanish colours, and there assumed the Mexican flag, preparatory to leaving that place for this port; and further, that she has hitherto been employed in the Slave Trade; but to enable her to enter Havana, she has received cargo in Tampico for New York, viâ Havana, and been placed, as before stated, under a flag.

I call your attention to these reports, as I have been given to understand that she is still destined for Slave Traffic, the vessel having already made several successful trips from the coast of Africa to the Island of Cuba, and, owing to her speed, has hitherto escaped capture.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) FREDK. LEDWARD.

Inclosure 3 in No. 183.

Captain Wake to Acting Consul Ledward.

Sir, *"Bulldog," Sacrificios, Vera Cruz, March 11, 1865.*
 AS there is some reason to believe that the screw-steamer "*Margarita Quintero*," now in this port, has been engaged in the Slave Trade, and is one of those vessels that have hitherto evaded all the efforts of the British cruisers to capture them, and as the Mexican law, declaring Slave Trade piracy, dated the 8th August, 1851, provides for the detention of ships, foreign or Mexican, that are suspected of being, or having been, engaged in the Slave Trade, I have to request that you will move the Mexican authorities to make inquiries into the antecedents of this ship before she assumed a Mexican nationality; and to detain her until the same can be done.

I have been informed that, on her change of flag at Tampico, she retained the Spanish captain, supercargo, and crew that brought her into that port; and I therefore submit that the change of nationality that has been effected at Tampico, though admissible for the ends of legitimate commerce, ought not to be allowed, where the effect of the transaction (unintentional on the part of the purchasers) is to protect the owners, captain, supercargo, and crew of a notorious slaver from the consequences of their crime.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) C. WAKE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 183.

Consul-General Bunch to the Captain-General of Cuba.

Sir, *Havana, March 29, 1865.*
 I DID myself the honour of addressing to your Excellency early this morning a note on the subject of the notorious screw steam-slaver "*Cicéron*," in order that no time might be lost in apprehending her should she show herself in any of the ports of this island. I propose now to place before your Excellency, in an official form, the information which has reached me concerning her, and which is embodied in my private letter above referred to. It has been communicated to me by the Senior Officer of Her Majesty's ships at Vera Cruz that the notorious steamer "*Cicéron*" arrived at that port about the 6th instant from Tampico, provisionally under Mexican colours, and calling herself the "*Margarita Quintero*." She professed to be bound to New York, viâ Havana, and had a small assorted cargo, chiefly goatskins, and a trifling amount of specie. The British Minister in Mexico having been informed by the Consul at Vera Cruz of the proceedings of this vessel, requested the Government of the Emperor to cause inquiry to be made into her previous history before allowing her to be formally registered as a Mexican vessel. An investigation was accordingly held by the Governor of Vera Cruz. It is supposed that nothing was found to justify a refusal of her new papers, and the vessel was to leave on her voyage as above described about the 23rd of March.

It is believed that the Spanish captain, supercargo, and crew have been retained on board, but I cannot speak positively as to this fact.

I have the honour to bring this matter to the knowledge of your Excellency, who will, I am persuaded, do whatever may be in your power to examine into it, and to further the ends of justice should the vessel enter any port of this island.

With sentiments, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT BUNCH.

Inclosure 5 in No. 183.

The Secretary to the Captain-General of Cuba to Consul-General Bunch.

(Translation.)

Havana, March 31, 1865.

HIS Excellency the Governor, Captain-General, directs me to acknowledge the receipt of your Honour's letter and official communication, both of the 29th instant, and relating to the placing under Mexican colours, with the name of "*Margarita Quintero*," of the vessel known as the "*Cicéron*," which, according to report, has been engaged in the Slave Trade.

His Excellency has received as information your Honour's report, and will act, should circumstances require it, as may appear expedient.

God preserve, &c.

The Secretary,
(Signed) JOSE VALLS Y PUIG.

Inclosure 6 in No. 183.

Consul-General Bunch to Consul Archibald.

Sir,

Havana, March 29, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the notorious screw steam-slaver "*Cicéron*," which has been the cause of so much trouble to Her Majesty's cruizers and to the authorities of this island, has recently appeared at Vera Cruz, where she consummated a change in her nationality, from Spanish to Mexican, which she had commenced a few days previously at Tampico. I am informed that on the 21st March she was at Vera Cruz under the Mexican flag and name of "*Margarita Quintero*," and that she was bound for New York, viâ Havana, with a small assorted cargo, consisting principally of goatskins and a little specie.

I have no idea that this vessel will show herself in this port, as the risk, notwithstanding the change in her flag, would be considerable. But it seems very likely that she may go to New York.

Whether or no this step on the part of the "*Cicéron*" is to be taken as a blind to deceive the Spanish and English authorities, or as evidence of her intention to abandon her late nefarious practices, I cannot say. But I think it my duty to acquaint you with her movements in order that you may cause her proceedings to be watched should she arrive within your Consular district.

It is stated that the "*Margarita Quintero*" would leave Vera Cruz for Havana and New York on or about the 23rd of March.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT BUNCH.

No. 184.

Consul-General Bunch to Earl Russell.—(Received July 29.)

My Lord,

Havana, July 1, 1865.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 3rd of April last, in which I had the honour to report to your Lordship certain particulars connected with the change of flag at Vera Cruz, and subsequent movements of the notorious steam slaver "*Cicéron*," now the Mexican ship "*Margarita Quintero*," I beg leave to state that this vessel arrived at this port from New York on the 25th of June.

I am informed by the Consul-General of Mexico, to whom I addressed myself respecting her, that she is a *bond fide* Mexican vessel, and that she is in process of being sold or hired to a Spanish steam navigation company to run between this port and Vera

Cruz. My colleague assures me that there is no ground for apprehending that the vessel will be put to any other use.

I have also spoken to the Captain-General on this subject. He gave me the same information as the Mexican Consul-General, and added that the vessel would not have dared to come here unless her proceedings had been above suspicion.

The "*Margarita Quintero*" is still here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT BUNCH.

No. 185.

Consul-General Bunch to Earl Russell.—(Received July 29.)

(Extract.)

Havana, June 24, 1865.

THE term of office of the present Captain-General of Cuba will expire in November of this year, and it seems to be considered certain that his successor will be General Lersundi.

Whatever may be the cause of the cessation of the Slave Trade, upon which we have had reason to congratulate ourselves during the past nine months, there can be no doubt that the energy of General Dulce has greatly conduced to the result.

In addition to this great benefit, I have much pleasure in saying that the interests of Her Majesty's subjects have always received due attention from General Dulce whenever I have had occasion to apply to him on their behalf. I shall, therefore, greatly regret his departure from this government.

I understand that a petition, emanating from the creoles, has been sent to Madrid to beg the Queen of Spain to prolong General Dulce's term of office.

No. 186.

Consul-General Bunch to Earl Russell.—(Received June 29.)

My Lord,

Havana, June 1, 1865.

I HAVE read a paragraph in the "*Times*" of the 10th of May to the effect that some excitement was prevailing at Havana on the subject of an unexpected insurrection of the slaves, and that fears were entertained that an outbreak was in contemplation.

As your Lordship, were your attention directed to this intelligence, would naturally think it strange that a matter of such importance to this community, and even to the Spanish rule in Cuba, should be passed over by me without notice or allusion, I think it my duty to say that the paragraph in question has no foundation in fact. The only justification that I can imagine for such a statement might possibly be found in a rumour which was current in this city at the time of the carnival, that some patrols of police had been doubled. The negroes are apt to take a good deal of license at that period, and several cases were recorded in the daily papers of wounds from knives having been inflicted in the streets on inoffensive passers-by by gangs of disorderly negroes dressed in grotesque costumes. This is, of course, extremely reprehensible; but the attacks were made in mere brutal wantonness, certainly not with any political meaning.

It is true that some vague apprehension exists throughout the island that the late emancipation of the negroes in the United States, coupled with the evacuation of Santo Domingo by the Spanish forces, might induce the coloured population to try their strength against their oppressors, for such the Spaniards and Creoles really are. It is also affirmed that the negroes showed much concern at the assassination of Mr. Lincoln, whom they called their father. But I am disposed myself to consider the uneasiness which exists in some quarters only as the natural fruit of an unquiet conscience, and of the belief that sooner or later a change must take place in the status of the coloured race in Cuba.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT BUNCH.

No. 187.

Consul-General Bunch to Earl Russell.—(Received July 29.)

(Extract.)

Havana, June 15, 1865.

IN my previous despatch of this date, I had the honour to state that the planters of Cuba were proposing measures for the termination of slavery in the island. I take leave to report to your Lordship what has been done thus far in this important matter.

Upon my arrival here I was told that a memorial was about to be presented to the Queen of Spain on this subject. Although I have tried to get a copy, or even a sight of this paper, I have never done so, nor am I sure that it was ever forwarded.

But I am able to state that a meeting of planters was held on Saturday last, by permission of the Captain-General, for the discussion of emancipation. I learn that it was recommended, apparently with the consent of the majority, that slavery should cease altogether at a very short date. It was, however, declared that the negroes should remain as at present in the service of their masters, who were to feed and clothe them, and pay them at first, two dollars and afterwards four dollars a-week for their labour. That any negro should have the right to transfer himself to another "patron," as I suppose the master might be called, upon the payment of 400 dollars, and that cases of ill-treatment should be punishable by the Courts of Law just as in the case of whites.

I asked the Captain-General if he believed that the planters were in earnest; he said that he thought so; that he had given them leave to hold another meeting, and had recommended them to draw up their own plans, without asking for his advice, or for Government assistance.

No. 188.

Consul-General Bunch to Earl Russell.—(Received July 29.)

My Lord,

Havana July 1, 1865.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 30th March last, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship, a list of the vessels which have arrived at this port since that date with coolies from China.

There has been very little mortality on board of these vessels, and the men have generally landed in good condition. Their contracts have been bought up at prices varying from 65*l.* to 80*l.* for their term of eight years.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT BUNCH.

Inclosure in No. 188.

LIST of Vessels Arrived at Havana with Coolies.

Rigging.	Names.	Nationality.	Arrived.	Number of Coolies.	Tonnage.	From
Ship . . .	David	French	Apri 8	413	726	Macao.
Ditto . . .	Guadalupe	Spanish	9	431	759	Ditto.
Barque . . .	Auguste et Gustave	French	25	235	428	Ditto.
Ship	Emma	Portuguese	May 4	231	478	Ditto.
Ditto	Lombard	French	6	239	453	Ditto.
Barque . . .	Port Durant	Ditto	18	187	177	Ditto.
Ditto	Nouvelle Pallas	Ditto	June 17	192	298	Ditto.
Ship	Avon	Italian	19	530	999	Ditto.
Ditto	Queen of England	Ditto	23	548	1,174	Ditto.
9 vessels.		Total . . . . .	..	3,006	5,492	

(Signed) ROBERT BUNCH, *Consul-General.*

Havana, July 1, 1865.

No. 189.

Consul-General Bunch to Earl Russell.—(Received August 14.)

(Extract.)

Havana, July 15, 1865.

IN my despatch of the 15th ultimo, I had the honour to report to your Lordship that certain steps were being taken by the planters of this island, towards, at the least, discussing the great question of the emancipation of their negroes.

I am now in a position to offer to your Lordship some further information as to the proceedings of these gentlemen.

Two meetings have been already held at the house of Count O'Farrill, a wealthy planter, who has accepted the Presidency of the body in Cuba, which is to be called, the Society of the Friends of the Country. Señor Olozaga has agreed to act in a similar capacity in Spain.

The avowed and real object of this Association is to consider the question of negro emancipation. Every one seems to consider it as certain that the condition of the African race will undergo a great change in this island within a very few years. It is the universally expressed belief that the public opinion of the world is against slavery; that the institution cannot be maintained in the face of this opposition, and that the recent events in the United States, joined to the evacuation of Santo Domingo by the Spaniards, will aid powerfully in precipitating a solution of the question. Under these circumstances the planters say frankly that their interest lies in guarding against the coming storm, which they hope to avert by judicious measures of precaution.

It would be agreeable to believe that a regard for the rights of the negro, or a conviction of the immorality of slavery had even a share in inducing the planters of Cuba to reform the system of cruelty and injustice of which they have been the strenuous supporters. But they seem to me to take pains to declare that they are well satisfied with things as they are; in other words, that it is fear for the future which alone counsels them to suggest the necessity of a change.

It is premature to say that any definite plan of emancipation has been seriously proposed at the meetings above referred to. They have been simply preliminary. But I am given to understand that the idea of an almost immediate liberation of the negroes, under the direction and control of their present masters, to which I alluded in my despatch of this year, is that which finds the greatest favour.

In the meantime, the mere agitation of the question is of use in discouraging the importation of negroes from Africa. It is evident that no one is anxious to buy fresh labourers at a heavy cost, whilst there is even a chance of the new arrivals being turned loose before they have paid for themselves. This consideration, joined to the difficulties thrown in the way of the Traffic by the hostility to it of General Dulce, is acting most favourably in checking its continuation.

In connection with this subject I may remark that many persons believe that an effort will be made to introduce some cargoes here just as General Dulce goes away. Although I cannot myself see the grounds for this belief, I would venture to recommend some vigilance on the Coast of Cuba during November and December next.

No. 190.

Consul-General Bunch to Earl Russell.—(Received August 14.)

My Lord,

Havana, July 17, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a translation of a letter, dated the 14th instant, which I have received from the Secretary of the Government of this island.

It is written by order of the Captain-General, with the view of obtaining the rectification of certain errors which, it is alleged, are to be found in the Papers relating to the Slave Trade recently laid before Parliament, and especially in a Return dated the 20th (30th?) of September last, signed by Mr. J. V. Crawford, which purports to be a list of the negroes from Africa which have been introduced into this island during the preceding twelvemonth. This Return, I imagine, is to be found on page 59 of Class A, from January 1 to December 31, 1864.

Your Lordship will observe that the letter of the Government Secretary is written in a very indignant tone. Your Lordship will determine whether or no that tone is justified by the facts of the case. It is unfortunately true that both the expeditions, viz, those of

625 and of 1,900 negroes, are put down by Mr. J. V. Crawford as landed and not captured. Mr. Crawford has, no doubt, good grounds for this assertion, but in his absence I am unable to say what they are, particularly as his late father seems to have given up the case of the 1,500 of the Aurora estate in his letter of the 6th of April, of which your Lordship has a translation.

I have replied to the Captain-General in the letter of which a copy is inclosed.

Whatever may be the truth concerning these two expeditions, I cannot help considering it a good sign that the chief authority of this island should manifest such an anxious desire to put upon record his activity and his determination to carry out the Treaty obligations of the nation whose servant he is.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT BUNCH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 190.

The Secretary to the Captain-General of Cuba to Consul-General Bunch.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Havana, July 14, 1864.

IN the "Epoca," a newspaper published in Madrid, No. 5,293, of the 2nd of June last, it is stated that there had lately been presented to the British Parliament the Annual Return of the Trade in Slaves, in which document it is announced that the number of such persons imported into the Island of Cuba in 1864 was 6,807.

I have before me the Return to which the paper refers, and to judge from the manner in which it is drawn up by Mr. John V. Crawford, your Honour's predecessor, the number might have been increased according to his fancy, even to 20,000.

It is of great importance that facts should be established and the truth evolved. This is a matter of interest to both England and Spain, as well as to the world at large. My object will be, in the communication which I now have the honour to address to you, by order of his Excellency the Superior Civil Governor, to discharge this duty, and to request of you to bring the facts to the knowledge of your Government as an act of justice to us.

Mr. Crawford alleges that seven expeditions of negroes were introduced between November 1863, and the date of his Return, which is the 20th of September, 1864. Of these he says that five were captured, which is true; as it also is that this Government gave him the information respecting all of them before his own agents did, and that the whole number of negroes amounted to 2,980.

Mr. Crawford adds to these expeditions another, which he supposes to have been landed at Cabañas, on the 19th of April, from a Spanish brig called the "Isabel," which he says was scuttled after having brought 625 negroes, which landing, he adds, was denied by the authorities.

Not only was it denied, Sir; it was most clearly proved that this expedition was purely imaginary and had never existed. It may, however, be that your predecessor's suspicions were founded upon the case of another vessel which was chased by our vessels of war. This vessel really was a slaver. In despair at not being able to escape, she did land her negroes to the number of 474; these were captured by the steamer "Guadalquivir," and figure among the 2,980. The vessel herself was burnt.

The British Consul must have known, through his agents, the measures which were taken along the coast by the subordinate agents of this Government, who were kept in activity by orders of his Excellency dispatched through the post and by the telegraph. These subordinate officers had reported to the Government the intended landing, and it was their faithful conduct which produced the capture of the 2nd of May. Your Honour's predecessor frequently failed to reply when the incorrectness of his intelligence was shown and proved to him; and as a consequence of this conduct, probably with a view of convincing his Government of his unwearying activity, he was not very scrupulous in furnishing information of a doubtful character.

Your Honour may yourself judge how far this is true by reading the two accompanying letters of Mr. Crawford, dated within three days of each other, in April 1864, viz., the first on the 3rd and the second on the 6th. These will show the degree of importance which his assertions deserved.

In the first of these letters, marked Private, to his Excellency the Captain-General, he affirms that the British ship "Martha" fell in with, at sea, a steamer loaded with African negroes, which cargo (as he makes the English captain say) he knew had been landed with

perfect success. The Consul adds, as from himself, that this landing was undoubted, and he even names the supposed owners of the cargo and the name of the vessel.

In the second letter, also addressed to his Excellency, he contradicts himself completely, it now appearing that the captain of the "Martha" did not see any such negroes on board of the steamer; the Consul therefore congratulates his Excellency that the intelligence had proved to be erroneous.

Comment would be superfluous.

The other expedition, which the Consul gratuitously sets to the credit of Spain, is that of another steamer, which he says landed 1,500 negroes at La Teja, who were sheltered at the estate Aurora. This, he adds, was also denied by the Spanish authorities.

So untrue was this landing that the Consul could only have imagined it in the same manner as he did that of the captain of the ship "Martha."

M. le Consul, the most thorough investigation was made, and in the belief that what your predecessor affirmed was correct, his Excellency the General Marquis of Castellflorit issued orders of great severity, which even had the effect of offending the susceptibilities of military officers of honour who had given proof of their integrity. These officers remonstrated respectfully, and affirmed on their honour not only that the report of the landing was false but also that the accusation was calumnious.

No vessel of our navy ever heard of this steamer; no look-out man on the coast saw her; no trace of African negroes was to be found in any place, not even in the estate Aurora; no one ever heard of it, even from an anonymous source. Could 1,500 negroes, savages, ignorant of our language, suddenly melt away and disappear? Be so good as to inquire for yourself, and you will learn that no expedition, even when it has been sheltered in an estate for the shortest possible time, has failed to leave behind some trace, at any rate sufficient to excite suspicion. You will also learn, and I am sure that you already know it, that whenever such a thing happens there are always certain disappointed people who, out of revenge, give information, although it may be difficult to obtain judicial proof concerning it.

But of the two above named Reports, no one, absolutely no one, but Mr. Crawford, knows anything, so far as we can determine.

It is thus proved that there were not 5,105 African negroes landed in this island, as Mr. Crawford declares in his Report. This gentleman, not content even with this number, probably for fear that some expedition may have escaped his notice, does us the favour to add a third more as a precautionary measure, thus raising the total to 6,807 actually landed; that is to say, 3,827 imaginary ones.

The positive result of all this is that from the date of the return of your Honour's predecessor, viz., November 1863, only 2,980 negroes have entered the island, and all these without excepting one have fallen into the hands of the authorities, and are, therefore, not slaves. It is also established that, since May 1864, no vessel has come with Bozal negroes. We can thus say with truth that the suppression of the Slave Trade has been carried into real and proper effect.

If anything can be shown to the contrary since your Honour's arrival in this island, you can now say so. Under any circumstances, I entreat you to acknowledge the receipt of this communication, which I repeat that I have the honour to address to you by His Excellency's directions.

God preserve, &c.

The Secretary:
(Signed) JOSE VALLS Y PUIG.

Inclosure 2 in No. 190.

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

(Translation.)

(Private.)

Sir,

Havana, April 3, 1864.

THE English ship "Martha R. Lockwood," which arrived yesterday at Matanzas, from New York, before her arrival met a steamer full of negroes from Africa, which cargo (the English captain has reason to know) was landed in this island with perfect success.

I hasten to give your Excellency this intelligence in order that you may adopt such measures as may appear to you necessary, and in the meantime I have requested from the British Vice-Consul in Matanzas more detailed information, which, so soon as I shall receive it, I shall have the honour of communicating to your Excellency. The intelligence which I possess is positive, so far as the landing is concerned. I fancy that it is another

cargo of Zulueta and Barro, brought from Africa in the steamer "Cicéron," and that the landing was made through Sagua.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed)

JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 3 No. 190.

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

(Translation.)

Sir,

Havana, April 6, 1864.

THE British Vice-Consul at Matanzas, whom I directed to question minutely the Captain of the English barque "Martha R. Lockwood," respecting his meeting with the steam-slaver, which he stated, on his arrival at Matanzas, he had reason to know had landed her cargo of Bozal negroes, has answered the questions which he was instructed by me to ask the said Captain. It now appears that on the 26th of last month he saw, near the Isla de Lobos, in the Old Bahama Channel, a steamer of about 700 tons, with side-wheels, painted black, with three masts, without a flag, which was standing towards the Island of Lobos; that he came within a mile of her, but did not speak her; he saw no negroes on board of her, nor has he any reason to know that she was a slaver. Nothing induces him to believe that she has landed a cargo in this island, as he vaguely reported, and the Vice-Consul immediately reported to me. I congratulate your Excellency and myself that the news is false, which was reported to me from Matanzas on the faith of what the Captain said.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed)

JOS. T. CRAWFORD.

Inclosure 4 in No. 190.

Consul-General Bunch to the Captain-General of Cuba.

Most Excellent Sir,

Havana, July 15, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a letter which was addressed to me, under date of yesterday, by the Secretary of the Government, in obedience to your Excellency's instructions.

In it, your Excellency is so good as to call my attention to certain errors of fact which have appeared in the papers relating to the Slave Trade, recently laid before the British Parliament, on the subject of the number of negroes from Africa which are stated to have been introduced into this island between November 1863, and September 1864.

Your Excellency refers especially to two expeditions: the one of 625, the other of 1,500 negroes, which appear in the papers as having been successfully landed, but which you are pleased to declare have never existed at all.

With reference to the latter of these expeditions, your Excellency has furnished me with a copy of a letter from the late Consul-General Crawford, in which he expresses himself satisfied that the information which he had furnished a few days previous to its date was incorrect.

I fully agree with your Excellency that it is of the utmost importance to the Governments of Spain and of England, as well as to the world at large, that the information which is furnished on the subject of the Slave Trade, should be as trustworthy as is compatible with the difficulties which surround the question. Your Excellency knows better than any one what these difficulties are, and can, therefore, appreciate the position of a foreign agent, whose means of information are limited in comparison with those possessed by the Captain-General of this island.

I shall take the earliest opportunity of forwarding your Excellency's letter to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. In doing so it will afford me the greatest pleasure to repeat the assurances which I have heretofore given to his Lordship, that the Slave Trade has almost ceased during several months past, and that under your Excellency's efficient guidance, the object which both our Governments have so much at heart, is in process of being carried out in reality and with success.

I avail, &c.

(Signed)

ROBERT BUNCH.

No. 191.

Earl Russell to Consul-General Bunch.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 25, 1865.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 17th ultimo, inclosing copies of a letter from the Secretary to the Government of the Island of Cuba, addressed to you by direction of the Captain-General of that island, together with a copy of your reply to the Captain-General, relative to a complaint on the part of his Excellency that the Slave Trade Papers laid before Parliament during the late session contain an exaggerated Return of the number of slaves introduced into Cuba during the twelve months ended the 30th of September last.

I have to state to you that the result of investigations made in this department, lead Her Majesty's Government to believe that the Captain-General of Cuba is borne out in representing that the number of slaves actually introduced into Cuba during the period comprised in Mr. J. V. Crawford's Return, was considerably less than that set down in that Return.

There are two causes which, doubtless, have conduced to the inaccuracy complained of:—

1. The practice which has hitherto existed of adding in the Returns of the number of slaves known to have been introduced into Cuba in the course of a year one third more, to make up for any cargoes that might have been landed without the knowledge of the Consulate; and

2. The fact of Mr. Crawford having included in his Returns 1,500 negroes at one time supposed to have been landed in the island from the notorious slave steamer "*Cicéron*."

It is now known that that vessel failed to procure a cargo on the African coast, having been driven off after narrowly escaping capture by the British cruisers.

As regards the first cause of inaccuracy, viz. : the custom of adding one-third to the number of slaves known to have been introduced into Cuba, I have to observe that, although this system may have been, and, doubtless, was perfectly justifiable a few years ago, when the Cuban Slave Trade was at its height, was carried on apparently with the connivance of the Spanish authorities, and it was impossible to obtain reliable information as to the number of negroes imported, yet Her Majesty's Government frankly admit that at present, owing to the increased vigilance of the Captain-General, and to the better means at the disposal of this Department for checking the number of slaves exported from the African coast against the cargoes reported as being imported into Cuba, the practice of adding one-third to the Cuban Slave Returns can no longer be justified, and you will, therefore, refrain from adopting this system so long as the Spanish authorities shall by their conduct prove that they are anxious to suppress, and not to connive at the importation of slaves into Cuba.

In the matter of the 1,500 slaves reported to have been introduced into Cuba by the "*Cicéron*," I have to observe that it was only when Mr. Crawford was informed by this Department that the "*Cicéron*" had failed to procure a cargo on the African coast that he could have certified that the slaves were not in reality landed in Cuba. It was notorious that this vessel was expected with a cargo of slaves, and every arrangement had been made for landing them, the small coasting vessels intended to be employed on this service having actually left for the appointed rendezvous. When they returned it was currently believed that the "*Cicéron's*" expedition had been successful.

I have to desire that you will address a letter to the Captain-General of Cuba in the sense of this despatch, expressing at the same time to his Excellency the regret of Her Majesty's Government that Mr. Crawford should have fallen into error in his Returns of the Cuban Slave Trade, and assuring his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have every desire to do full justice to the energy and activity displayed by him in carrying out the engagements of the Spanish Crown for the suppression of the Cuban Slave Trade.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 192.

Consul-General Bunch to Earl Russell.—(Received September 16.)

My Lord,

Havana, August 25, 1865.

I HAVE just received trustworthy information that the Mexican steam-ship "*Margarita Quintero*" formerly the Spanish slaver "*Cicéron*," now in this port, is

meditating a trip to the coast of Africa. She is nominally fitting for a voyage to China for coolies, but her crew are being fitted up for the coast. She is expected to sail in about a fortnight.

The attention of the Captain-General has been directed to her, and he will stop her if it be possible.

I am myself prostrated by yellow fever, and can do no more than send this information to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT BUNCH.

No. 193.

Consul-General Bunch to Earl Russell.—(Received October 16.)

(Extract.)

Havana, September 8, 1865.

WITH reference to my despatches of the 1st of July and 25th of August last, on the subject of the Mexican steamer "*Margarita Quintero*," formerly the Spanish slaver "*Cicero*," I beg leave to report to your Lordship the steps which I have lately taken regarding her.

In consideration of the intelligence I received that she was fitting for a trip to Africa under pretence of going to China for coolies (reported to your Lordship in my despatch of the 25th ultimo), I thought it advisable to request the co-operation of my French colleague, the Marquis de Forbin Janson. At my request he called upon the Consul-General of Mexico and expressed his hope that the stories which had reached him of the possible prostitution of the Mexican flag to purposes of slave-trading were without foundation. The Mexican Consul-General at once declared that they were entirely so, and added what he had before told me, that the vessel was in process of being sold to a Spanish Company to run between Havana and Vera Cruz. He further said that the "*Margarita Quintero*" had only a provisional pass from the Mexican Government, and could not undertake so long a voyage as from here to China.

I am much indebted to my colleague for his friendly assistance.

I shall continue to watch the vessel whilst she remains in this port.

No. 194.

Consul-General Bunch to Earl Russell.—(Received October 30.)

My Lord,

Havana, September 26, 1865.

I REGRET finding myself compelled to report to your Lordship that a landing of African negroes has taken place in this island. Fortunately, however, it has been on a small scale, and many of the new arrivals have been captured by the exertions of the Spanish authorities.

It was on the 21st instant that I heard of the landing. I lost no time in calling on the Secretary of the Government for information, which was given to me in the fullest manner. It appears that a brigantine of no great size succeeded in putting on shore, about the 18th or 19th instant, on the estate of two brothers named Hernandez, situated on the south side of the island between the jurisdictions of San Cristobal and Pinar del Rio, a party of negroes numbering, as it is believed, about 145. According to the IXth Article of the Spanish Code no investigation can be made inside the boundaries of an estate, but the authorities, evidently acting under the inspiration of the Captain-General, were not arrested by this difficulty. They obtained the traces of the newly-landed expedition and followed them for several leagues. The result has been, thus far, the capture of 103 of the negroes. Several persons also have been imprisoned on suspicion of having been concerned in this crime.

The Secretary of the Government volunteered to communicate this capture to me in writing, which he did on the following day. A translation of his letter is inclosed, as well as my reply.

The Spanish gunboats "*Venadito*" and "*General Lezo*" have been dispatched to cruize along the southern coast, as it is supposed that the expedition just captured is a portion of some larger one which is watching its opportunity in the neighbourhood of the Cuban coast.

I trust to be able to furnish your Lordship with further details on this subject so soon as the Magistrate of the Real Audiencia makes his report.

I am told that these newly arrived negroes are of larger stature, and that no one has been found who can understand their language. The belief is that they come from Goree, in Senegal, and it is said that many years have elapsed since any slaves have been brought from thence into this island.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT BUNCH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 194.

The Secretary to the Captain-General of Cuba to Consul-General Bunch.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Havana, September 22, 1865.*

HIS Excellency the Superior Civil Governor desires me to inform your Honour, as I now do, that after a lapse of nearly a year and a half without the occurrence of any event of importance, in consequence of the strict measures which have been adopted in order to put an entire stop to the disgraceful Slave Trade from Africa, one or more speculators have tried their fortune with a small vessel. These persons have failed to make any impression upon the honesty of the authorities of San Cristobal and Pinar del Rio. The negroes were indeed landed at a place called "El Gato," which forms the boundary of the two jurisdictions above mentioned, but there have been captured 103 African negroes, as well as some of the parties concerned in the expedition, notwithstanding that they had sought refuge in the broken country and woods of Cusco.

A Magistrate of the Real Audiencia is now engaged in investigating the matter.
God preserve, &c.

The Secretary :
(Signed) JOSE VALLS Y PUIG.

Inclosure 2 in No. 194.

Consul-General Bunch to the Captain-General of Cuba.

Sir, *Havana, September 22, 1865.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the letter which has been this day addressed to me by your Excellency's order. In it your Excellency is so obliging as to inform me of the capture, at a spot which forms the boundary of the jurisdictions of San Cristobal and Pinar del Rio, of 103 negroes who had been very recently landed there, and who had been driven into the woods which surround that district. Your Excellency adds that the whole affair is undergoing investigation before one of the Magistrates of the Real Audiencia.

I hasten to offer my thanks to your Excellency for this information, and to congratulate you on the satisfactory result of your untiring energy in the repression of the Slave Trade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT BUNCH.

No. 195.

Consul-General Bunch to Earl Russell.—(Received October 30.)

My Lord,

Havana, October 4, 1865.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 26th ultimo, in which I had the honour to report the landing near Pinar del Rio, on the south side of this island, of about 145 negroes from Africa, I beg leave to state that the Captain-General told me to-day that the entire number, viz., 143, had now been captured by the authorities of that district.

It appears from the evidence given by two negroes who speak Portuguese, that the number shipped in Africa was 152. One is said to have died on the passage, and 6 or 7 were killed during an attempted mutiny, in which 3 white men also perished.

General Dulce informed me, as he has done before, that he thinks an attempt will be made to introduce some negroes about November, when it is believed that his Excellency will be relieved from this command. He expressed a hope that great vigilance would be

CLASS B.

exercised by the cruizers on the African coast. He seemed to think that the British squadron there was about to be diminished. I told him that I had no reason to think so; on the contrary, that I had observed the appointment of a Commodore of the first class to the command of the station, which rather pointed to an increase than to a diminution of our force.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT BUNCH.

No. 196.

Earl Russell to Consul-General Bunch.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 31, 1865.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, copies of papers which have been communicated to me by the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, having reference to the Cuban Slave Trade.

These papers would lead to the belief that, at least, one landing of slaves has taken place in Cuba, of which Her Majesty's Government have not received any information from you; and I should be glad, therefore, to be furnished with any observations which you may have to offer upon the contents of the inclosed documents.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 196.

Commander Stuart to Governor Rawson.

Sir,

Lighthouse, Yacht "Georgina," September 21, 1865.

IN obedience to your Excellency's commands, directing me to state in writing a report that I made yesterday to your Excellency verbally, relative to a slaver that had landed a cargo of slaves at Cayo Romano, an island adjacent to the Island of Cuba, in May last, I have the honour to report that I arrived at Cay Lobos, with Mr. Harvey, on the 29th May. The lightkeepers reported to the inspector and myself that a brigantine, having the appearance of a slaver, had been lying off Cay Lobos from the 10th May to the 14th, and during that period they had observed from the balcony of the lighthouse tower a Spanish guarda-costa lying at Cay Confites, which is only twelve miles across from Lobos, on the Cuban side.

2. They noticed that the guarda-costa left on the evening of the 14th, steering westerly, and that the brigantine left Cay Lobos that night. On the 15th they saw a vessel, which they took to be the same brigantine, on the Cuban shore near Cayo Romano.

3. The suspicions of the lightkeepers were confirmed by the information, given to them by Captain Glenton, of the schooner "Ocean Monarch," and his crew, that a cargo of slaves had been landed at Cayo Romano, and that the proprietors of the island would not allow them to go into the interior of the island, as they had been accustomed to, stating that their reasons for preventing them were, that they had a cargo of slaves on the island, and did not wish the slaves to see them. Captain Glenton and his crew also saw the tracks of a great number of persons at the landing-place; he was at the Cay on the 25th of May.

4. Hoping that your Excellency will pardon my neglect in not reporting the case before, as the inspector was present at the time on an official tour, and who I thought would have made a report to your Excellency.

5. I have further to report that on my last quarter's tour of inspection to the Cay Lobos light, the lightkeeper reported to me that in the month of June last he saw two suspicious looking vessels, one a barque and the other a brigantine, hovering to the northward of Cay Lobos lighthouse on the Bahama bankside.

6. He also observed that whenever these vessels were near the edge of the bank, and saw a steamer in sight, steering either up or down channel, they always kept off, and ran to the northward on the bank.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. STUART.

Inclosure 2 in No. 196.

Governor Rawson to Mr. Cardwell.

(Extract.)

Government House, Nassau, September 23, 1865.

SINCE I finished my despatch of yesterday, reporting the grounds for my belief that cargoes of slaves have been landed at Anguilla and Cay Sal of late years, I have received a further letter from Captain Stuart, of which I inclose a copy, which furnishes reason for believing that Anguilla may still be made a rendezvous for slavers, if not a depôt for their cargoes.

2. I shall forward a copy of this letter to Admiral Hope, and I have already requested Captain Miall, of Her Majesty's ship "Cygnet," to visit both Anguilla and Cay Sal occasionally on his way between his present cruising ground and this port.

3. The Secretary to the Admiralty states in the letter of which you forwarded me a copy in your despatch of the 26th August, that Admiral Hope had stationed a cruiser off Cay Sal.

Inclosure 3 in No. 196.

Commander Stuart to Governor Rawson.

Sir,

Lighthouse, Yacht "Georgina," September 22, 1865.

SINCE making my last Report, of yesterday's date, I have seen Captain Eneas, of the schooner "Azarian," referred to in that Report in connexion with being surprised by a slaver's crew in Anguilla.

He states that Mr. John Roberts, who was mate with him at the time of his surprisal, had met the captain of the same slaver in New York last month, and was told by him that he was again at Anguilla last year in a barque with a cargo of slaves, and that he was anchored off there for three days, waiting advices from Cuba, and that subsequently he landed them twenty-five miles to the westward of Havana, carried his vessel to sea and scuttled her, and then took to his boats, and landed in Cuba.

Also, that this slave captain is an American, and boasted of its being his tenth voyage, and that he was then making preparation for going to the coast of Africa, and would be gone about three months.

Captain Eneas' opinion is that they use Anguilla to anchor off, but do not land them now on the island, but transport them direct to the small schooners.

He also informed me that the slave captain told him that he came around the west point of New Providence, up through the tongue of Ocean, round the southern part of Andros Island, to avoid meeting the cruisers in the old Bahama Channel.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. H. STUART.

No. 197.

Earl Russell to Consul-General Bunch.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 31, 1865.

I HAVE received your despatches of the 26th ultimo and 4th instant, reporting the landing of a cargo of slaves on the south side of the Island of Cuba, near Cape Antonio, and their subsequent seizure by the Spanish authorities.

It is very satisfactory that the only cargo of slaves which, as far as Her Majesty's Government are aware, has been introduced into Cuba during the last twelve months, should have been seized by the Cuban authorities, and I have to instruct you to take an opportunity of expressing to General Dulce the gratification which it affords me to bear testimony to the energy and good faith with which his Excellency has acted in carrying out the engagements of the Spanish Crown for the suppression of the Cuban Slave Trade.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

Consul-General Bunch to Earl Russell.—(Received November 13.)

My Lord,

Havana, October 12, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to report that, in compliance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 25th of August last, I have addressed to his Excellency the Captain-General of this island a letter, conceived in the terms of your Lordship's despatch, on the subject of certain inaccuracies which have appeared in the Papers relating to the Slave Trade presented to Parliament during its last session. A copy of that letter, which was dated on the 25th ultimo, I beg leave to inclose herewith.

I have to-day received from the Secretary of the Government a reply, dated on the 26th of September. A copy and translation of it are herewith inclosed to your Lordship.

Your Lordship will observe that General Dulce expresses himself as greatly indebted to you for the manner in which you had received his observations, and for your obliging expressions towards him. His Excellency, however, cannot admit that either his predecessors or any other Spanish officers have ever connived at a violation of the laws respecting the Slave Trade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT BUNCH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 198.

Consul-General Bunch to the Captain-General of Cuba.

Most Excellent Sir,

Havana, September 25, 1865.

ON the 14th of July last I had the honour to receive a letter which was addressed to me by the order of your Excellency, on the subject of certain inaccuracies which, it was alleged, had appeared in the Papers relating to the Slave Trade presented to Parliament, and notably in a Return, dated the 30th of September, 1864, signed by Mr. J. V. Crawford, at that time Her Majesty's Acting Commissary Judge at this place.

Your Excellency complained that the number of negroes from Africa, reported to have been landed in Cuba during the period comprised in that Return, was much exaggerated and expressed a desire that Her Majesty's Government should be furnished with an accurate statement of those really introduced into the island.

I stated to your Excellency in my reply to this letter on the following day, that I would take the earliest opportunity of transmitting a copy of your communication to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, accompanied by such observations upon the great change which has of late taken place in the Slave Trade, as appeared to be called for by a sense of justice to your Excellency.

I am now instructed by Earl Russell to state to your Excellency, that the result of the investigations made at the Foreign Office, leads Her Majesty's Government to believe that your Excellency is borne out in representing that the number of slaves actually introduced into Cuba during the period, covered by Mr. J. V. Crawford's Return, was considerably less than that set down in that Return.

I am to observe that there are two causes which doubtless have conduced to the inaccuracy complained of.

The first is the practice which has hitherto existed of adding to the Return of the number of slaves known to have been introduced into Cuba in the course of the year, one-third more, to make up for any cargoes that might have been landed without the knowledge of the Consulate-General; and secondly, the fact of Mr. Crawford having included in his Return 1,500 negroes, at one time supposed to have been landed in the island from the notorious slave steamer "*Cicéron.*"

It is now known that that vessel failed to procure a cargo on the African Coast, having been driven off, after narrowly escaping capture by the British cruisers.

As regards the first cause of inaccuracy, viz., the custom of adding one third more to the number of slaves known to have been introduced into Cuba, I am instructed to observe that although this system may have been, and doubtless was, perfectly justifiable a few years ago when the Cuban Slave Trade was at its height, was carried on apparently with the connivance of the Spanish authorities, and it was impossible to obtain reliable information as to the number of negroes imported; yet Her Majesty's Government frankly

admit that at present, owing to the increased vigilance of the Captain-General, and to the better means at the disposal of the Foreign Office for checking the number of slaves exported from the African Coast against the cargoes reported as being imported into Cuba, the practice of adding one-third to the Cuban Slave Returns can no longer be justified. The practice will, therefore, be discontinued for so long as the Spanish authorities shall prove that they are anxious to suppress the importation of slaves into Cuba.

With reference to the second cause of inaccuracy to which I have alluded, I am desired to remark that the 1,500 slaves which were reported to have been introduced by the "*Cicéron*" were currently believed to have been landed. It was notorious that this vessel was expected with a cargo, and every arrangement had been made for its disembarkation, the small vessels intended to have been employed on this service having actually left for the appointed rendezvous. It was only when Mr. Crawford was informed by the Foreign Office that the "*Cicéron*" had failed to procure a cargo on the coast of Africa that he could have certified that the slaves were not in reality landed in Cuba.

In thus conveying to your Excellency the views of Her Majesty's Government on this subject, I am directed to express their regret that Mr. Crawford should have fallen into error in his Returns of the Cuban Slave Trade. I am also to assure your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have every desire to do full justice to the energy and activity displayed by you in carrying out the engagements of the Spanish Crown for the suppression of the Slave Trade in this island.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT BUNCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 198.

The Secretary to the Captain-General of Cuba to Consul-General Bunch.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Havana, September 26, 1865.

HIS Excellency the Superior Civil Governor and Captain-General of this island has received with satisfaction the obliging letter which your Honour addressed to him, under date of yesterday, conveying to him the decision of his Excellency the Earl Russell that the errors should be corrected which had been published for the use of the British Parliament respecting the introduction of African negroes.

His Excellency directs me in acknowledging the receipt of your Honour's letter to say, that he congratulates himself upon the fact that the British Government has done justice to the protest which his Excellency made on this subject through your Honour, and that he offers his thanks to Lord Russell for the personal opinion which he has formed of the present Captain-General of this island. But his Excellency cannot admit it to be proved that his predecessors, or any other Spanish authorities, have at any time given reason for an addition being made to the number of African negroes supposed to have been introduced under the idea that these authorities had concealed the real number.

His Excellency is convinced that the Spanish authorities have always carried out the law and have behaved with good faith and honour.

His Excellency is grateful for the expressions of good-will with which your Honour accompanies the instructions of his Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Her Britannic Majesty, and desires me to thank you for them, as I have the honour to do, as also for the promptness with which your Honour informed your Government of the letter which I had the honour to address to you, and which has elicited the noble declaration of his Excellency the Earl Russell.

God preserve, &c.

The Secretary :
(Signed) JOSÉ VALLS Y PUIG.

No. 199.

Consul-General Bunch to Earl Russell.—(Received November 29.)

My Lord,

Havana, October 31, 1865.

GENERAL DULCE has spoken to me on more than one occasion of his desire to establish in this island an association of planters and merchants for the suppression of the Cuban Slave Trade. His Excellency informed me that he had borrowed the idea from

the English societies for the promotion of temperance, or the furtherance of other useful or moral objects; that membership would be entirely voluntary, but that he should consider himself entitled to accuse of a desire to perpetuate the Slave Trade any person of position who might refuse to enrol himself in the ranks of the society.

I have taken leave to encourage this idea, and have always told General Dulce that associations such as he alluded to in England, had been found to be powerful instruments in the promotion and diffusion of a sound public opinion on the subjects to which they relate.

I have now the satisfaction of inclosing herewith to your Lordship a translation of a set of rules which have been drawn up by two influential lawyers here for the government of this new society.

Your Lordship will observe that the members pledge their honour to the suppression of the Slave Trade by every means in their power. They declare that they will not purchase or acquire, directly or indirectly, negroes who may be introduced into this island after the 19th of November, 1865 (the fête, or saint's day of the Queen of Spain); that they will obey the dictates of conscience in contributing to the objects of the society, and that they will do all they can to diffuse the idea of the illegality and cruelty of the Slave Trade.

The society is, as yet, quite in its infancy, but I am told that several hundred persons have signified their intention of joining it.

I am inclined to expect much good from this entirely novel idea in Cuba.

Among other benefits which may arise from it may be mentioned the check which the existence of such a society here will be to any future Captain-General who may not be disposed to take General Dulce for his model in dealing with the Slave Trade.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT BUNCH.

Inclosure in No. 199.

Plan of the Projected Association against the Slave Trade.

(Translation.)

CHAPTER I.

THIS society has for its object to assist in the complete and total extinction of the illegal Traffic known as the African Slave Trade.

To this end, all who may become members of it pledge their word of honour to abstain from every act which might tend to favour the trade, and to fulfil, in addition, the following duties:

1st. Not to acquire by any title, direct or indirect, negroes from Africa who may be introduced into the island after the 19th of November, 1865.

2nd. To contribute to the object of the society by all the means which may be suggested to the members by the dictates of conscience.

3rd. To inculcate in every way the duty and propriety of the entire and absolute suppression of the Traffic, not only by putting this idea in circulation, but by bringing the greatest number possible of persons into the ranks of the society.

CHAPTER II.

The names of the members shall be published as they join the society, and a register shall be kept with the date of membership.

The names of those who may hereafter be excluded from the society for having infringed its rules by acts in contravention of their social duties shall be struck out of the register without any reason being given.

This expulsion shall be effected in concert with the central vigilance committee.

CHAPTER III.

The number of members shall be indefinite, and the greatest possible.

In each municipal district of the island there shall be a vigilance committee appointed by the members who may reside in that neighbourhood.

That of the Havana shall be considered as the central committee, and shall have such relation to the local committees as the rules shall determine.

Each committee shall be composed of nine individuals, except the central, which shall have fifteen, the president and secretary being comprised in those numbers.

These officers shall be honorary, unpaid and removeable.

The founders form a provisional committee for the organization of the society, for drawing up its rules, and for receiving the first accession of members. When the number of members shall reach 100 it shall call a meeting in order to appoint the central committee.

This meeting will proceed to organize throughout the island the provisional local committees, and thus, in their turn will establish the society within their respective districts.

In each of these there will be kept a supplementary register, but the names of the members will also appear in the general register.

No. 200.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul-General Bunch.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 30, 1865.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 31st ultimo, reporting the formation in Cuba of a society for the suppression of the African Slave Trade, and inclosing a copy of the rules, and I have to instruct you to take an opportunity of stating to General Dulce that Her Majesty's Government have learnt with much satisfaction the formation of this society.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 201.

Consul-General Bunch to Earl Russell.—(Received December 11.)

(Extract.)

Havana, November 17, 1865.

ON the 31st ultimo I received information through the Acting Consul-General of the United States, and immediately afterwards from another source, that a cargo of negroes, estimated at between 600 and 700, had been landed on the northern coast of Cuba, somewhere near Mariel, or at any rate between that port and Cape San Antonio. Happening to see the Captain-General on that day, I inquired of his Excellency whether he had any report of such a landing. General Dulce suggested that if a landing had taken place, it might rather be in the neighbourhood of Remedios, to the windward of this port. His reply certainly left on my mind the impression that there had been a successful attempt not very far from Havana.

Upon leaving the Captain-General, I told him that I should take leave to call his attention officially to the matter, to which he replied, "Just as you please."

I accordingly addressed to his Excellency on the same day the letter of which I inclose a copy to your Lordship. In it I allude to Mariel as the probable place of debarkation, but also avail myself of his own hint about the windward coast.

On the 1st of November I received two letters from the Secretary of Government, of each of these your Lordship will find a translation inclosed herewith.

Somewhat to my surprise, the Captain-General remarks in the first of these letters, that he had received no intelligence respecting a landing until my communication reached him. But he informs me in both that he has given strict orders for inquiry, and adds that the Lieutenant-Governor of Guanajay, in whose jurisdiction Mariel is, declares that there has been no infraction of the law at that spot.

On the same day I replied to General Dulce in the letter of which a copy is transmitted to your Lordship. I express my thanks for the prompt measures which his Excellency has taken to investigate this matter. But I feel it my duty to remark, that no doubt exists in the public mind that an expedition has been successfully introduced into the island within the preceding few days, nor do I affect to disbelieve it myself.

On the 3rd of November I received a further letter of which a translation is inclosed, stating that in the district of Pinar del Rio there has been no landing. But full investigation is promised, the result of which shall be communicated to me.

Thus matters remained until the 14th, when I received another letter from the Secretary of Government, dated the preceding day (a translation inclosed). In it, I am informed that reports have been received from the Lieutenant-Governors of Mariel, Pinar del Rio, Jaruco, and Matanzas, and that no landing of negroes has taken place in

any of those districts. I am also told that the brig "*Yucatan*," to which I alluded in my letter of the 31st of October, was sold at the Canary Islands.

I replied at once to this letter under date of the 14th instant. I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of my answer.

Whilst endeavouring to do full justice to the good intentions of the Captain-General, and even to those of the local authorities, I am compelled to express my disbelief of the statement that there has not been an introduction of negroes. I even furnish some particulars which ought to convince General Dulce that I am not ill-informed; and I openly state, that the newly-arrived slaves were conveyed to the estate of a certain Don Francisco Marty.

I have not yet received a reply to this last letter; but, as the "*Corsica*" leaves for New York to-morrow, I think it as well to transmit this case to your Lordship in its possibly unfinished state.

The fact is that there is not the slightest doubt in the mind of any one that this man Marty has successfully run a cargo of negroes. They were landed close to his estate on the Rio Pan de Azucar; he himself left town to receive them; and his friends here make no secret of his success.

With reference to this particular case I may add, that a portion at least of the newly-landed negroes were twice captured by the authorities near the Pau de Azucar, and were twice stolen from their pen during the night. Of this at least I am assured by a person worthy of credit. Unless this story is an entire fabrication it is difficult to understand how the Captain-General can be kept in ignorance of so remarkable an occurrence.

Inclosure 1 in No. 201.

Consul-General Bunch to the Captain-General of Cuba.

Most Excellent Sir,

Havana, October 31, 1865.

INFORMATION has reached me, from what I consider a trustworthy source, that a cargo of negroes from Africa has been very recently landed in this island.

It is said that nearly 900 left Africa in a brig called the "*Yucatan*."

Of this number it is supposed that between 600 and 700 were disembarked within the last week near the port of Mariel. Another account makes the place of landing to the windward of Havana.

I should feel greatly obliged if your Excellency will inform me whether your attention has been called to this matter; and if so, what the truth may be respecting it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT BUNCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 201.

The Secretary to the Captain-General of Cuba to Consul-General Bunch.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Havana, November 1, 1865.

HIS Excellency the Supreme Civil Governor has received the letter of your Honour of yesterday's date, in which you communicate to him intelligence of a landing of African negroes which is supposed to have taken place near the port of Mariel, or to windward of this city.

His Excellency had received no intelligence of this landing until you gave it to him. He immediately dispatched orders, by telegraph, for inquiry into the matter.

It seems strange that a brig should have been able to carry 900 negroes, which would rather be the cargo of three brigs; but, as I have said, the necessary measures will be taken to ascertain the truth.

By his Excellency's orders I have the honour to forward to you this reply, and there will be communicated to you all the particulars which may be obtained.

God preserve, &c.

The Secretary:

(Signed) JOSE VALLS Y PUIG.

Inclosure 3 in No. 201.

The Secretary to the Captain-General of Cuba to Consul-General Bunch.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Havana, November 1, 1865.*
 HIS Excellency the Governor and Captain-General has just received the following telegram:—

*“Guanajay, November 1, 12:10 P.M.**“The Lieutenant-Governor of Guanajay to his Excellency the Supreme Civil Governor.**“The intelligence which has been given to your Excellency is entirely false; nevertheless, I am going out at once, and by to-morrow’s post I am sure that I shall repeat to your Excellency what I now say.”**Guanajay is the jurisdiction to which Mariel and the adjacent coast belong.**By order of his Excellency, I forward to your Honour this information, and I shall continue to do so, as I had the honour of saying in my letter of this morning, which I presume that you have received.**God preserve, &c.*

The Secretary:
 (Signed) JOSE VALLS Y PUIG.

Inclosure 4 in No. 201.

Consul-General Bunch to the Captain-General of Cuba.

Most Excellent, Sir,

*Havana, November 1, 1865.**I HAVE had the honour to receive the two letters which the Secretary of the Government has addressed to me, under date of to-day, on the subject of the supposed landing of negroes from Africa, respecting which I communicated with your Excellency yesterday.**I receive, with much satisfaction, the intelligence of the prompt measures which your Excellency has taken to discover the truth of this report, as well as the denial of the Lieutenant-Governor of Guanajay that a landing has taken place in his district.**At the same time I feel bound to remark that an introduction of negroes into the island within the last ten days is assumed as certain by public report. I have heard of it from many sources, each independent of the other, and details are given which, although not reducible to proof, compel me to fear that the vigilance of the authorities has, in this instance, been eluded.**But it will afford me sincere pleasure to learn from the result of your Excellency’s inquiries that such has not been the case.*

With sentiments, &c.
 (Signed) ROBERT BUNCH.

Inclosure 5 in No. 201.

The Secretary to the Captain-General of Cuba to Consul-General Bunch.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Havana, November 2, 1865.*
 IN conformity with that which I represented to your Honour yesterday, and by order of his Excellency the Supreme Civil Governor, I have the pleasure of saying now that his Excellency, in consequence of the orders which he issued on the subject, has received a telegram from the Lieutenant-Governor of Pinar del Rio, stating that in that jurisdiction there was not the slightest rumour of a landing of negroes, but that he was about taking, nevertheless, measures for investigating the matter. The result of this inquiry will be communicated to your Honour without delay.

God preserve, &c.

The Secretary,
 (Signed) JOSE VALLS Y PUIG.

Inclosure 6 in No. 201.

The Secretary to the Captain-General of Cuba to Consul-General Bunch.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Havana, November 13, 1865.

WITH reference to my official communication of the 2nd instant, made by order of his Excellency the Supreme Civil Governor, I have the honour to say to your Honour, by the same Order, that his Excellency has received communications from the Lieutenant-Governors of Mariel and Pinar del Rio, as well as from those of Jaruco and Matanzas, in which are renewed the positive assurances that in their respective jurisdictions there was not even the slightest rumour of an expedition having attempted to land.

His Excellency also directs me to say to your Honour that, according to information on which he entirely relies, the brig "*Yucatan*," to which you allude, not having been able to carry out her intention of embarking in the Slave Trade, was sold at the Canary Islands, together with her cargo, which consisted of rum and other articles which she was carrying to the coast of Africa.

God preserve, &c.

The Secretary,
(Signed) JOSE VALLS Y PUIG.

Inclosure 7 in No. 201.

Consul-General Bunch to the Captain-General of Cuba.

Most Excellent Sir,

Havana, November 14, 1865.

I HAVE had the honour to receive the letter which the Secretary of Government addressed to me by your Excellency's order, under date of yesterday.

In it your Excellency is pleased to state that you have received reports from the Lieutenant-Governors of Mariel, Pinar del Rio, Jaruco, and Matanzas, to the effect that no landing of negroes from Africa had taken place within their respective jurisdictions at or about the period mentioned in my letters to your Excellency of the 31st of October and 1st instant.

Your Excellency remarks, further, that the brig "*Yucatan*," from which it was said that this supposed landing had been effected, had been sold, with her cargo, at the Canary Islands.

I am happy to receive the assurance of your Excellency that no evidence is to be found of a landing having taken place. I am satisfied that if negroes have really been introduced at the time and place to which public rumour and my own information point, it has been in spite of the vigilance of the local authorities and in defiance of your Excellency's orders. But it is out of my power to divest myself of the belief that the secrecy in which slave-trading operations are necessarily enveloped has been successful, in this instance, in diverting suspicion, and in concealing from your Excellency the traces of an infraction of the law. I am unable to resist the conviction that public report is not mistaken when it declares that an expedition of about 700 negroes did land at Malas Aguas, near the Rio Pan de Azucar, whence they were conveyed to the estate of a certain Don Francisco Marty.

As regards the brig "*Yucatan*," your Excellency will find that, in my letter of the 31st of October, I only mentioned it as probable that she was the vessel engaged in the supposed landing. It is now certain that it was not this brig; but I am persuaded that a brig has lately landed negroes, as a large vessel of this rig, evidently a slaver, arrived at Vera Cruz, in ballast, seven or eight days after the date at which it is supposed that a landing took place on the coast of this island.

With sentiments, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT BUNCH.

No. 202.

Consul-General Bunch to Earl Russell.—(Received December 30.)

My Lord,

Havana, November 27, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Murray's despatch of the 28th ultimo, together with the copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Commissioner

at Loanda, in which it is stated that a Spanish vessel had embarked a cargo of slaves, about the 10th August last, between Ambrizette and Mangue Grande, and had succeeded in eluding the vigilance of Her Majesty's cruisers.

Although no particulars are given by Her Majesty's Commissioner of the size of this vessel, or of the number of negroes which she is supposed to have embarked, I think it probable that this expedition may be the one which formed the subject of my despatches to your Lordship of the 26th of September and 4th of October of this year. The date of the supposed departure from Africa seems to correspond with that of the arrival in Cuba.

Your Lordship will remember that the whole of the negroes composing the expedition were captured by the Spanish authorities. They were about 145 in number.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT BUNCH.

No. 203.

Consul-General Bunch to Earl Russell.—(Received December 30.)

(Extract.)

Havana, November 27, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 31st of October, with which you are pleased to transmit to me copies of certain papers which have been communicated to your Lordship by the Colonial Office, having reference to the Slave Trade.

Your Lordship remarks that these papers would lead to the belief that at least one landing of slaves had taken place in Cuba of which Her Majesty's Government had not been informed by me, and adds that you would be glad to be furnished with any observations which I may have to offer on the contents of the papers now inclosed to me.

In reply I have the honour to state that I received, on the 13th ultimo, from the Governor of the Bahamas, copies of these same papers. In my answer to his Excellency's letter on this subject, I stated my views respecting this supposed landing. A copy of my answer, dated the 16th of October, 1865, is inclosed herewith.

Your Lordship will perceive that I am not in a position either to admit or to deny that such an expedition as that which is reported to have been at Cayo Romano in May last, did subsequently land on the coast of Cuba. I confess that the evidence of Captain Glenton, of the "Ocean Monarch," points very strongly to the fact that an attempt was about to be made. On the other hand, there is not only no proof that any such attempt was successful, but the assurances of the Captain-General, the opinion of the Vice-Consul at Cardenas, and the absence of any rumour of a landing at that time and place, would induce the belief that Captain Glenton's report was groundless.

After the receipt of Governor Rawson's despatch, I discussed the subject of this supposed landing fully with the Captain-General. His Excellency was confident that it had never been effected, but it is, of course, possible that it might have been made without his knowledge.

On the whole I incline to the belief that no slaves have been introduced into the island from Cayo Romano during this year. I have never heard such a landing alluded to, even as a rumour, by any one here, and the inquiries of Mr. Vice-Consul Schneider, at Cardenas, certainly went to prove that it had not taken place. It is, nevertheless, impossible to speak positively on the subject. The coast of Cuba is of great extent, and the facilities for illegal traffic are numerous. But I am convinced that, as a rule, no slaving expedition is successfully conducted to its close without some intelligence of it reaching the Consulate-General, either directly or indirectly.

Inclosure in No. 203.

Consul-General Bunch to the Governor of the Bahamas.

Sir,

Havana, October 16, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt (on the 13th instant) of your Excellency's despatch of the 21st ultimo, together with a copy of a report made to you by the Captain of the Light-house yacht with regard to the landing of a cargo of slaves at Cayo

Romano in May last. I beg leave to offer my thanks to your Excellency for this information.

The statements contained in Captain Stuart's Report, and particularly the evidence of Captain Glenton, of the schooner "Ocean Monarch," as to the conduct of the proprietors of Cayo Romano when he visited that island in May last, would certainly induce the belief that negroes had been landed there about that time. On the other hand there is no proof that either these or other negroes were landed in Cuba. The probabilities point the other way, as no tidings of such an expedition having disembarked can be procured, and the Captain-General has repeatedly assured me, verbally and in writing, that from May 1864, to September, 1865, not a single negro had been introduced into Cuba. But it is difficult to imagine how these negroes were disposed of if they were not landed in Cuba.

It is, of course, very possible that such might be the case without the knowledge either of the Captain-General or of the Lieutenant-Governors of the district. But this is not probable; besides which my own information, from anonymous and other sources, is generally to be depended upon.

I shall not fail to communicate these details to the Captain-General, although it is, of course, too late to recover the negroes, if they were ever landed.

The mention by Mr. Wiggins of the appearance of a suspicious vessel off Cay Sal, is a coincidence which should not be disregarded.

I have further to thank your Excellency for the copy of the report respecting the visit of the "Georgina" to Anguilla, and to congratulate you upon the fact that no use seemed to have been made of that island for slave-trading purposes for a long period. I feel assured that the measures taken by your Excellency will have an excellent effect in preventing its use in the future.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT BUNCH.

No. 204.

Consul-General Bunch to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 30.)

My Lord,

Havana, November 30, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Earl Russell's despatch of the 31st of October, on the subject of the successful capture by the Spanish authorities of this island of a slave-trading expedition which landed on the south side during the month of September last.

In obedience to the instructions contained in that despatch that I should take an opportunity of expressing to the Captain-General of Cuba the gratification of Earl Russell in bearing testimony to his Excellency's energy and good faith in matters relating to the Slave Trade, I have the honour to inclose the copy of a letter which I addressed to General Dulce in this sense. A copy of his reply is also transmitted to your Lordship.

General Dulce has expressed himself personally to me as much flattered by Earl Russell's appreciation of his efforts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT BUNCH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 204.

Consul-General Bunch to the Captain-General of Cuba.

Most Excellent Sir,

Havana, November 27, 1865.

I HAVE had the satisfaction of reporting to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs the particulars of the slave-trading expedition which effected a landing in the month of September last, on the south side of this island, between the jurisdictions of Pinar del Rio and San Cristobal.

It was particularly agreeable to me to be able to inform Earl Russell that the whole of the negroes of which that expedition was composed had been captured by the authorities of the island, acting under your Excellency's direction.

I am instructed by Earl Russell to say to your Excellency, that it is very satisfactory to his Lordship to learn that the only cargo of slaves which, so far as Her Majesty's Government are aware, had been introduced into Cuba for the twelve months previous to the date of this landing should have been successfully captured by the Spanish authorities.

am also directed to express to your Excellency the gratification which is felt by Earl Russell in bearing testimony to the energy and good faith with which your Excellency has acted in carrying out the engagements of the Spanish Crown for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

I beg leave to assure your Excellency of the pleasure with which I make this communication to you, and of the high consideration, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT BUNCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 204.

The Secretary to the Captain-General of Cuba to Consul-General Bunch.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Havana, November 28, 1865.

HIS Excellency the Supreme Civil Governor has received with great satisfaction the letter which your Honour was so good as to address to him under date of yesterday, stating that Earl Russell, forming his judgment upon information transmitted to him by your Honour, recognizes the energy with which his Excellency carries out the orders of the Government of Her Catholic Majesty for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

His Excellency directs me at the same time to express to your Honour the double pleasure with which he has received this communication, as it proves the impartiality and justice with which you forward to the Government you represent the information which you obtain, and thus give evidence of your Honour's good faith and honour.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed) JOSE VALLS Y PUIG.

No. 205.

Consul-General Bunch to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 30.)

My Lord,

Havana, December 2, 1865.

THERE appeared in one of the papers of this city a few days ago, a document which purported to be a copy of a Decree lately issued by the Queen of Spain on the subject of the emancipados, or liberated Africans, who are to be found in the Islands of Cuba and Puerto Rico.

By its provisions, arrangements were made for removing these persons to the Spanish possessions on the coast of Guinea, or to the continent of Africa, at the expense of the Spanish Government. The system which has heretofore prevailed of assigning them to masters at the will of the Captains-General is declared to be abolished, and other changes, of a nature favourable to this class of persons, are ordered to be carried into effect without delay.

I applied privately to the Captain-General for a copy of this Decree, which was at once given to me. I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship a translation of it, although I feel assured that it has already reached you from Madrid.

There can be no doubt that this Decree is a step in the right direction. The abuses which have been far many years past committed upon the emancipados must necessarily be brought to an end, whilst its general effect upon the system of slavery in the West Indian colonies of Spain cannot be other than favourable.

It only remains that the new system shall be carried faithfully into practice. So long as General Dulce remains at the head of this Government I believe that it will.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT BUNCH.

Inclosure in No. 205.

Decree respecting the Emancipados in the Islands of Cuba and Porto Rico.

[See Inclosure 1 in No. 158.]

SPAIN. (*Consular*)—*Porto Rico.*

No. 206.

Acting Consul Cowper to Earl Russell.—(Received February 1.)

My Lord, *Porto Rico, January 3, 1865.*
I HAVE much pleasure in informing your Lordship that no attempt at African Slave Trade has been made in this island during the past quarter.
I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS H. COWPER.

No. 207.

Acting Consul Cowper to Earl Russell.—(Received April 28.)

My Lord, *Porto Rico, April 4, 1865.*
I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that no attempt at Slave Trade has been made on the coast of this island during the past quarter.
I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS H. COWPER.

No. 208.

Acting Consul Cowper to Earl Russell.—(Received July 31.)

My Lord, *Porto Rico, July 1, 1865.*
I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship that no attempt at African Slave Trade has been made on the coast of this island during the past quarter.
I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS H. COWPER.

No. 209.

Acting Consul Cowper to Earl Russell.—(Received October 30.)

My Lord, *Porto Rico, October 1, 1865.*
I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that no attempt at the Slave Trade has been made on the coast of this island during the past quarter.
I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS H. COWPER.

SPAIN. (*Consular*)—*Teneriffe.*

No. 210.

Consul Grattan to Earl Russell.—(Received July 24.)

My Lord,

Teneriffe, July 12, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the copy and its translation of a letter which I have received from the "Comandante P'ncipal de Marina" of this province, in reply to a communication which I addressed to him on the 10th instant, informing me that the master and crew of the Spanish vessel "*America*," which had been condemned as a slaver by the Mixed Commission Court at Sierra Leone, who were landed at this port from Her Majesty's ship "*Gladiator*," Captain F. H. Shortt, on the 13th of September last, and sent to the Audiencia of Grand Canary for trial, have been acquitted by the Judge of First Instance of that district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY C. GRATTAN.

Inclosure in No. 210.

The Comandante Principal de Marina to Consul Grattan.

(Translation.)

Santa Cruz, Teneriffe, July 12, 1865

THE Ayudante of the district of Canary, under date of June 29 last, transmits a communication from the Judge of First Instance of that Department, which I copy literally:—

"I beg to state to you, for your information, that the master, mate, and crew of the vessel '*America*' have been acquitted by a verdict dated this day of the charge which had been brought against them of having been illicitly engaged in the Slave Trade."

In consequence these seamen having presented themselves at this "Comandancia," passports have been granted to them in order that they may proceed to the ports where they are respectively registered as seamen.

Which I think it right to state to you in reply to your despatch of the 10th instant.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed) EUSTAQUIO SALCEDO.

TURKEY.

No. 211.

Sir H. Bulwer to Earl Russell.—(Received January 21.)

My Lord,

Cairo, January 6, 1865.

FROM despatches received from Jeddah I learn that the Slave Trade is carried on there by sending negroes, in reality slaves, but with free papers, by the Egyptian steamers to Suez. In the first place, I have written to Constantinople requiring that urgent and decided measures should be taken to put down the fraud committed, and to detect and punish the parties guilty of it.

In the next, I have seen and spoken to the Viceroy as to the course to be adopted here with regard to Egyptian vessels.

His Highness seems willing to act quite honestly with us in this matter, and he speaks fairly. "I can't," he observes, "without ordering that no negro should be allowed to have a passage, which would be unfair, prevent negroes coming who have free papers; but I endeavour to ascertain if they are really free on arriving, and where I detect them not to be so, I not only set them free, but take care of them, and if children educate them."

What I suggested was, that on a vessel arriving the negroes should be collected and their papers examined, and if these papers regularly constituted them free, they should be publicly told they were so, and the protection of the Government offered.

The Viceroy said that what was done now was more than equivalent to this; but that he should wish our authorities to see and control the action of his own, and that he would order the Governor at Suez to inform Mr. West when a vessel arrived in order that he might be present and see the course followed, and improve it, if possible, by any suggestions of his own.

The Viceroy then continued to say that he desired to go further than this, and dry up the evil at its source. This source, he says, is the Soudan, where various foreigners carry on the most horrible system of negro kidnapping and hunting down. He added, "Let the European Governments give such instructions to their Agents there as will enable mine to act efficiently, and we will destroy the whole Traffic. I am most desirous to do this, for the negroes now suppose that I encourage and sanction the atrocities practised against them, which makes my name odious to them; whereas what is doing, is being done by foreigners against my interests, and in opposition to my authority."

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY L. BULWER.

P.S.—I think that if these measures do not succeed, the Viceroy will give orders to prevent any negroes from coming by Egyptian steamers.

H. L. B.

No. 212.

Sir H. Bulwer to Earl Russell.—(Received January 21.)

My Lord,

Cairo, January 9, 1865.

SINCE writing my despatch of the 6th instant, I thought it advisable, in order to avoid the possibility of any misconception as to the ideas of the Viceroy, to send

Mr. Stevens to read it to His Highness, and I have now the honour to inclose a report of the interview which Mr. Stevens had with His Highness on the occasion above referred to.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY L. BULWER.

Inclosure in No. 212.

Consul Stevens to Sir H. Bulwer.

(Extract.)

Cairo, January 7, 1865.

IN accordance with your Excellency's instructions I saw the Viceroy this morning, and read him the despatch you propose sending to Earl Russell on the subject of the Slave Trade, so that there should be no mistake on the subject.

His Highness asked me to assure your Excellency that he will prevent Egyptian steamers bringing slaves into Egypt, but at the same time he remarked that the measure would do little towards attaining the object of preventing or diminishing the traffic. "I fear, indeed," said His Highness, "it may rather tend to aggravate the condition of the unfortunate negroes; for instead of coming into the country by steamers, they will be conveyed by coasting boats, and clandestinely landed in open roadsteads, where it will be difficult, if not impossible, to detect them. Steamers afford the slaves a certain degree of comfort and protection, whereas boats take a long time to come up, and afford no protection whatever from the cruel treatment they generally receive from dealers and crews. A radical remedy against the traffic ought to be found. The failure which has almost invariably attended all praiseworthy efforts to suppress this inhuman trade in these parts is attributable to a simple cause. The Soudan is the country from whence the evil originates; there are at present three native dealers who monopolize the traffic, and who are aided and abetted by Europeans. Negroes are collected from all over that country, and embarked at Massowah and Souakin, in boats navigating under European colours, and avowedly the property of foreigners; the local authorities have therefore no control over them, and can in no wise interfere. Let me have the power to confiscate such boats and their cargoes, and in fact treat them as I would my own subjects, and I promise that ere long the iniquitous traffic will receive its death-blow."

No. 213.

Sir H. Bulwer to Earl Russell.—(Received January 26.)

My Lord,

Cairo, January 17, 1865.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 6th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a translation of an order that has been sent to the Governor of Suez, with the view of checking the Traffic in Slaves. It is understood that one of the foreign agents named will be Mr. West.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY L. BULWER.

Inclosure in No. 213.

*Letter addressed by the Egyptian Government to the Governor of Suez, dated
11 Chaban, 1281 (January 9, 1865).*

(Translation.)

SLAVE Trade having been for some time past strictly prohibited by the Government, the duty of its employés consists in examining, on the arrival of steamers and sailing-vessels, if negroes on board are free, and if they have any document declaring that they are so. After such examination all such negroes should be sent to the police of Cairo to prove that they have obtained their freedom. Should the case be otherwise, an emancipation letter should be given to them by the police, in order that they may go freely wherever they like.

Such was the rule observed by you and the other employés of the Government. Lately the steamers of the "Azizié" have been accused of having brought slaves; as such a practice is contrary to the principle and orders of the Government, the Company have inquired into the fact, and it has been found that its steamers do not receive slaves on

CLASS B.

board but such slaves as have obtained their freedom, and who can produce a document to that effect, thus placing them on a footing of servants instead of slaves.

Although such has been the case, yet in order to prevent, in future, similar statements affecting the authorities and the honour of the Company, and in order to render this publicly known, you are requested, on the arrival at Suez of every steamer or vessel within your jurisdiction, to go on board yourself, or to send your agent in your absence, taking with you as witnesses, in a friendly and unofficial manner, one or two employés of foreign Powers established there, in order to examine and carry out the Government instructions. If there are any negroes on board, see whether they are free; if they have the necessary document testifying their freedom; if they are satisfied with their masters, and if they wish to remain with them. You will then clearly explain to them that they are free to go wherever they like, to serve the persons whom they choose, and engage themselves in whatever business they wish. If amongst them there are any who cannot prove that they are free, or do not like to remain with their masters, a letter of freedom shall be immediately delivered to them by the Divan (Local Council), so that they may go wherever they please, and every assistance and facility shall be granted to them.

You are requested to give your particular care and attention to this subject.

No. 214.

Earl Russell to Sir H. Bulwer.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, February 22, 1865.

I HAVE received your Excellency despatches of the numbers and dates noted in the margin,* relative to the Traffic in African Slaves carried on between the ports of the Red Sea and Suez, and reporting what passed at conversations which your Excellency and Mr. Stevens had with the Viceroy of Egypt on this subject; and I have to acquaint your Excellency that I entirely approve the language held by you to the Viceroy, and the steps you have taken with the view to put a stop to this traffic.

With regard to the boats to which His Highness refers as belonging to foreigners, and as being engaged in shipping slaves from the ports of Massowah and Souakin, I have to state to your Excellency that I should be glad to be informed under what colours the boats in question navigate, and I should also be glad to learn what European Governments have Agents in the Soudan, and what measures the Viceroy of Egypt would suggest should be adopted for the purpose of putting a stop to the horrible system of kidnapping that is stated to be carried on by European Agents in that part of Africa.

The Reports received by Her Majesty's Government in 1862 and 1863 relative to the system of razzias and kidnapping organized by European Agents on the White Nile, under the pretence of carrying on trade with the tribes in the neighbourhood of that river, show a state of things disgraceful to all concerned in them, and more especially to the authorities on the Egyptian frontier. There cannot be any doubt that the Egyptian authorities connive at, if they do not participate in, the trade in African slaves, for if this were not the case it would be impossible for either European or native Agents to carry on the traffic.

Your Excellency will omit no opportunity of impressing upon the Viceroy the deep interest felt by Her Majesty's Government in the suppression of the African Slave Trade, and you will state that they will at all times be most happy to co-operate with His Highness, as far as it may be in their power to do so, in any measures having for their object the putting a stop to this inhuman traffic.

It will be desirable that you should keep Mr. Colquhoun informed of the communications which may pass on this subject between your Excellency and this Department; and I inclose, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Mr. Stuart at Constantinople.†

No. 215.

Earl Russell to Mr. Stuart.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, February 22, 1865.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copies of despatches, as marked in the margin,* from Sir Henry Bulwer, reporting what passed at conversations which his Excellency and

* Nos. 211, 212, and 213.

† No. 215.

Mr. Stevens had with the Viceroy of Egypt on the subject of the Trade in African Slaves carried on between the Turkish ports in the Red Sea and Egypt.

I also inclose a copy of a despatch on this subject which I have addressed to Sir Henry Bulwer.*

The Viceroy would appear to have taken the measures necessary for preventing, as far as it is in his power to do so, the introduction of slaves into Egypt by the steamers belonging to the Azizieh Company under the pretence of their being free negroes; but you will see what His Highness states with regard to the export of slaves from the ports of Massowah and Souakin, and the desire he expresses to have those ports placed under his jurisdiction, as well as his willingness to pay the Porte an annual tribute equal to the revenue it now receives from those places.

Her Majesty's Government have had occasion to complain repeatedly of the export of slaves from Massowah, but the representations of Her Majesty's Ambassador on this subject have had no other effect than to elicit promises that orders would be given to put a stop to the Traffic, but the export nevertheless still continues.

You will acquaint the Turkish Government that you have been instructed to support the representations made by Her Majesty's Ambassador, requiring that urgent and decided measures should be taken to put a stop to the export of slaves from the Turkish ports in the Red Sea, and to punish the parties engaged in carrying on this Traffic in violation of the orders of the Sultan.

No. 216.

Sir H. Bulwer to Earl Russell.—(Received February 17.)

My Lord,

Cairo, February 10, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch with its inclosure which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Alexandria relative to the Traffic in Slaves carried on in the Soudan.

I hope shortly to be able to forward to your Lordship a statement of the measures which the Viceroy deems most adapted to put an end to this traffic, which has so long been a disgrace to this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY L. BULWER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 216.

Consul Stanley to Sir H. Bulwer.

Sir,

Alexandria, January 12, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a letter addressed to Mr. Lindon, the Secretary of the Egyptian Trading Company, from Mr. Joyce, who has been for some time in Upper Egypt.

Mr. Lindon was correspondent for the "Times," and on a letter appearing accusing British subjects of trafficking in slaves in Upper Egypt, I asked him who was his informant, and requested him to furnish me with all particulars. He then wrote again to his agent, and the inclosed letter is the result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. E. STANLEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 216.

Mr. Joyce to the Egyptian Trading Company, Cairo.

(Extract.)

Khartoum, November 10, 1864.

IN reply to your private letter of the 16th September, containing a request of the Directors for information on the subject of the Slave Trade, lately so extensively carried on in the Soudan, I can add but little to that of June, July, and August last.

* No. 214.

The fact is well known that for some years past a large number of boats fully armed and equipped have annually left Khartoum for the capture of slaves from the Shillooke, Dinkia, and Barre tribes, or others bordering on the White River; that immense numbers have been brought here, principally women and children, and have been publicly sold to the Jellahs from Cairo, Souakin, and Massowah.

These expeditions this year have exceeded any former period, and it is said the most revolting atrocities have been committed on the defenceless negroes. In addition, however, to the expeditions fitted out by the slave-hunters, it is also proved that the traders, both European and native, who have establishments in the interior, professedly for the sole purchase of ivory, have directly or indirectly been engaged in the Slave Traffic, and in the habit of allowing their agents, soldiers, &c., to bring down a certain number of slaves in lieu of their salary.

During the last season no less than 120 boats left Khartoum for the White River, each with an equipment of fifty or sixty armed men.

The average pay of these men is 45 Turkish piastres per month, and they usually receive an advance of five months' salary either in money or merchandize (the latter at a most exorbitant price) previous to their departure from Khartoum.

Now an ordinary daily labourer here receives 3 Turkish piastres per day, equal to double that paid on the White River; so what inducement can these men have to leave their families for a period of seven or eight months, and risk their lives in similar expeditions, unless they are largely reimbursed for all the danger, fatigue, and privations they are obliged to undergo? The matter is easily explained. Each man is allowed to bring down as many slaves as can be possibly stowed in the boat, and the proceeds of their sale amply compensate him for the small salary he receives, and the extortionate price charged by his employer for any necessaries, such as clothing, &c., he may require on the voyage or in the interior.

From what I have seen since my arrival here, and information obtained in many cases from the men themselves, I have no hesitation in saying that all traders on the White River, or who have establishments up there and annually send expeditions, are, or have been, equally engaged in the disgraceful practices and atrocities committed on the negroes; and though some of them may not be personally guilty of having seized or sold slaves, they have permitted their agents to do so, being well aware of the fact and indirectly partners in the profits.

The expedition referred to in your letter, which is said to belong to an English subject, I think must be one fitted out by a certain Michael Luftolla, or, as he is termed here, Halil-il Sciane. This man is an Austrian protégé; but some years ago acted as British Consular Agent, and has since been in the habit of hoisting the English flag on his boats, two of which were seized by the Government on the return of the expedition, and no less than 850 negroes were found on board in a condition so horrible that it was positively sickening to witness. They were in fact a living mass of human skeletons, and from their appearance I am sure cannot have tasted food more than once in every three or four days.

It is impossible to ascertain how many died on the voyage, but I should say at least one-third, as when the boats arrived here they had not a single kilo of grain on board. I reported the circumstance at the time to the English Consul-General, and trust some steps have been taken for the punishment of the author of this infamous outrage.

No. 217.

Mr. Stuart to Earl Russell.—(Received March 19.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 4, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copies of three notes which I addressed to Aali Pasha; the first two, in conformity with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatches of the 28th November to Sir Henry Bulwer, and of the 29th December last to me; and the third, in consequence of further information sent to me by Sir Henry Bulwer relative to the Slave Trade which is carried on in the Red Sea under the Turkish flag.

In Aali Pasha's answer, a copy of which is also inclosed, his Highness states that the Porte has sent fresh instructions to the Governor-General of the Hedjaz, with a view to secure the extinction of that odious Traffic in a prudent and effectual manner. When I spoke to his Highness upon the subject he informed me that the Trade could not be suddenly put an end to without serious danger of exciting an insurrection, which the force at the

disposal of the Governor-General might not be able to suppress, and that great prudence and caution would be necessary in order to deal successfully with the evil.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

Inclosure 1 in No. 217.

Mr. Stuart to Aali Pasha.

Sir, *Constantinople, December 28, 1864.*

IT has been reported to Her Majesty's Government by Mr. H. Calvert, the Acting British Consul at Jeddah, that the Slave Trade is carried on to a considerable extent in the Red Sea by the vessels belonging to the Azizieh Steam Navigation Company; one of them, the "*Yembo*," on board of which Mr. Calvert took passage to Jeddah, having, it is stated, on her previous voyage to Suez conveyed several hundred slaves to that port, under the pretext that they were liberated slaves going to Egypt on business of their own.

It has also been represented in a report from Commander Purvis, of Her Majesty's ship "*Pantaloon*," that a considerable Traffic in Slaves is being carried on between Massowah and Jeddah by dhows sailing under the Turkish flag, and that no less than 300 slaves were embarked on the day previous to the arrival of the "*Pantaloon*" at the former port.

I have consequently been instructed by Earl Russell to bring the above information to the knowledge of the Ottoman Government, and to press upon your Highness the necessity of adopting stringent measures for putting a stop to the Slave Trade, which is being carried on under the Ottoman and Egyptian flags in the Red Sea.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART

Inclosure 2 in No. 217.

Mr. Stuart to Aali Pasha.

Sir, *Constantinople, January 8, 1865.*

WITH reference to the note which I had the honour to address to your Highness on the 28th ultimo, respecting the Slave Trade which is carried on under Turkish colours in the Red Sea, I beg to communicate to you herewith a copy of a letter from the India Office, with extracts of its inclosures containing further information upon that subject.

It would appear from these papers that, notwithstanding the firman of the late Sultan forbidding this Traffic, it is extensively carried on not only in Turkish vessels, but also in Turkish ports, with the consent of the authorities, who are alleged to participate in its profits.

I have therefore been instructed by Earl Russell to call the serious attention of the Ottoman Government to the present state of things, and to state that Her Majesty's Government expect that stringent orders will be issued to the authorities in the Red Sea for the removal and punishment of those officers who have been guilty of violating the orders of the Sultan, by conniving at and participating in the profits of the Traffic in African slaves.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

Inclosure 3 in No. 217.

Mr. Stuart to Aali Pasha.

Sir, *Constantinople, January 19, 1865.*

I HAD the honour to address representations to your Highness on the 28th ultimo and on the 8th instant, respecting the Slave Trade which is being carried on by means of Turkish vessels and in Turkish ports in the Red Sea.

Further information has since been sent to me by Sir Henry Bulwer upon the same subject, from which it appears that the Soudan is supposed to be the district in which the

evil complained of has its origin; that negroes are collected from all parts of that district and embarked at Massowah and Souakin—ports at which, owing to distance and other causes, the Porte exercises no proper control over the local authorities. His Excellency's information, moreover, confirms that which I had previously communicated to your Highness relative to the part taken in the Traffic by the ships of the Azizieh Steam Navigation Company, it having been reported to him in a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Jeddah that each steamer bound from that port to Suez is crowded with slaves, who are passed off as liberated negroes going to Egypt on business of their own, and furnished with fictitious papers of emancipation.

I could go into further details on the subject, but enough has been said to convince your Highness that it is high time that such orders should be issued as will put an immediate and effectual stop to proceedings which are as disgraceful to humanity as they must be at variance with the wishes and intentions of the Ottoman Government.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) W. STUART.

Inclosure 4 in No. 217.

Aali Pasha to Mr. Stuart.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

Sublime Porte, le 22 Février, 1865.

J'AI reçu avec leurs annexes les deux notes que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser en date des 8 et 19 Janvier, relativement à la Traite d'Esclaves qui, d'après les informations parvenues à votre connaissance, s'exerce dans la Mer Rouge par des navires sous pavillon Ottoman.

La Sublime Porte n'a pas manqué de transmettre au Gouverneur-Général de l'Hedjaz de nouvelles instructions tendant à assurer d'une manière sage et efficace l'extinction de cet odieux Trafic.

Agréer, &c.

(Signé) AALI.

No. 218.

Sir H. Bulwer to Earl Russell.—(Received March 26.)

(Extract.)

Alexandria, March 15, 1865.

IN reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 22nd ultimo, I have put the questions which your Lordship specially suggests to Cherif Pasha, who has already shown me the copy of the application he intends to make in the Viceroy's name to Her Majesty's Government.

I think your Lordship will find in that application nothing to refuse, and it is only surprising that the abuses practised by foreign Consulates should ever have rendered such requests as His Highness makes necessary. I do not mean by this sentence to convey an impression that the Consuls-General at Cairo and Alexandria give any countenance to the abominable traffic and cruel practices that have been going on in the Soudan. On the contrary, I am convinced there is not one of these gentlemen who is not of my own opinion concerning them, but by the extensive privileges many of this body have assumed (in some instances unsupported by the Capitulations), and by the facility with which they delegate such privileges (sometimes as it would appear) to unworthy subordinates, and by the spirit with which they usually sustain their own agents, whether right or wrong, against the native authorities, those authorities become powerless.

No. 219.

Mr. Stuart to Earl Russell.—(Received March 28.)

(Extract.)

Constantinople, March 16, 1865.

I HAVE not failed to speak to Aali Pasha in the sense of your Lordship's despatch of the 22nd ultimo, and to read to him portions of the despatches from Sir Henry Bulwer which were therewith inclosed, relative to the conversations which his Excellency and Mr. Stevens had held with the Viceroy of Egypt upon the subject of the trade in African slaves carried on between the Turkish ports in the Red Sea and Egypt.

No. 220.

Earl Russell to Mr. Stuart.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 30, 1865.*
 WITH reference to my despatch of the 22nd of February last, I transmit for your information copy of a despatch from Sir Henry Bulwer,* on the subject of the trade in African slaves carried on in the Soudan and between the Turkish ports in the Red Sea and Egypt.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 221.

Sir H. Bulwer to Earl Russell.—(Received April 3.)

My Lord, *Alexandria, March 23, 1865.*
 IN my despatch of the 15th instant, I mentioned to your Lordship that Cherif Pasha had shown me the draft of a note which he intended to address to me relative to the measures he deemed necessary for the suppression of the Traffic in Slaves from the Soudan.

I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of the note in question which I have since received from his Excellency.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) HENRY L. BULWER.

Inclosure in No. 221.

Cherif Pasha to Sir H. Bulwer.

Excellence, *Caire, le 19 Mars, 1865.*
 VOUS m'avez demandé de vous exposer les mesures dont l'adoption nous paraît nécessaire pour arriver à la destruction de la Traite des Esclaves dans sa source au Soudan. Voici, pour répondre au désir de votre Excellence, en quoi consistent principalement ces moyens.

Le vente des esclaves étant interdite par les Conventions et Traités intervenus entre les Puissances amies, il faudrait décréter que toutes les barques venant du Fleuve Blanc et portant à leur bord des esclaves, soit pour le commerce, soit pour l'usage de l'équipage, ou à destination des propriétaires de ces mêmes barques, seront arrêtées dès leur arrivée dans le premier port Egyptien du fleuve par l'Agent du Gouvernement commis spécialement à cette surveillance.

En mettant le main sur les esclaves qu'il y trouverait cette Agent dresserait immédiatement un procès-verbal de saisie devant les personnes présentes à l'arrestation. Il constaterait en même temps, devant l'équipage, le nombre des esclaves, leur sexe, l'usage auquel on les destine, ainsi que les noms des propriétaires, consignataires, ou destinataires.

Ce procès-verbal serait signé ou cacheté par les assistants, et une copie certifiée conforme par le Divan du Gouverneur en serait envoyée à l'Agent Consulaire duquel relève les propriétaires de la barque. Une autre copie en serait envoyée au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères à telles fins que de droit. Quant à la barque, aux marchandises, et aux esclaves s'y trouvant, le tout serait saisi par les Agents du Gouverneur sans autre intervention. Les esclaves seraient rendus à la liberté en vertu des ordres supérieurs ; la barque et les marchandises demeureraient sequestrées jusqu'à ce que le Gouverneur-Général eût reçu à leur égard les instructions nécessaires, soit du Divan Mohafiza de Son Altesse, soit du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères.

Il y aurait aussi bien de définir et de préciser une fois pour toutes nos droits dans les difficultés qui proviennent tantôt des aventuriers parcourant ces contrées avec des troupes armées, et tantôt des prétentions émises par les Agents Consulaires, et d'où résultent des conflits de juridiction.

Ainsi, nous croyons, par exemple, qu'un étranger qui n'est pas sous la protection d'un Agent de sa propre nationalité ne saurait être protégé arbitrairement et par ce seul fait qu'il est étranger, par l'Agent d'une Puissance quelconque.

Du moment où il ne jouit pas d'une protection reconnue, il doit tomber nécessairement sous la juridiction locale.

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Nous ne pensons pas davantage qu'un Agent étranger puisse s'arroger le droit de prendre un sujet Egyptien sous sa protection, sous le prétexte qu'il est à son service, si ce n'est à titre de drogman ou cawass.

Nous croyons encore que l'intérêt de la sûreté générale nous confère le droit de restreindre et de limiter la quantité d'armes que les bateaux remontant le fleuve ont coutume d'emporter avec eux, ainsi que celui d'empêcher, aux termes des Traités, le commerce de ces armes dans l'intérieur.

Nous prétendons également que si des Européens résidant au Soudan, ou s'y trouvant en voyage, se portent à des actes de violence des sujets locaux, ou s'ils viennent à commettre un fait quelconque portant atteinte à la tranquillité publique, il est du devoir des autorités locales de prendre immédiatement les mesures nécessaires pour maintenir l'ordre et s'opposer au crime, ou tout au moins, s'il est accompli déjà, pour en circonscrire les effets en arrêtant les individus qui s'en sont rendus coupables. Si de tels faits se sont accomplis dans le voisinage du siège du Gouvernement de la Province, c'est au Gouverneur qu'il appartiendra d'en dresser le procès-verbal, dont la copie sera envoyée au Représentant le plus voisin du lieu où le méfait s'est accompli; une autre copie en sera mandée au Gouvernement Central. Si, au contraire, ces désordres s'étaient accomplis sur un point éloigné de la résidence du Gouverneur, le procès-verbal ainsi que l'inculpé seront expédiés immédiatement au Gouverneur, qui prendrait alors les mesures nécessaires pour en aviser l'Agent ou le Consul représentant la nationalité du coupable.

Telles sont, M. l'Ambassadeur, les mesures essentielles dont nous croyons devoir soumettre l'adoption à votre haute appréciation, parceque nous les croyons les seules efficaces pour rétablir le bon ordre dans ces pays lointains, et pour mettre un terme aux abus et aux déprédations auxquels donne lieu le commerce des esclaves.

L'appui moral que nous semblons demander pour la mise à exécution de mesures aussi simples, et qui seraient élémentaires partout ailleurs, surprendra peut-être votre Excellence, mais je la prie de ne pas perdre de vue les entraves contre lesquelles l'autorité locale doit souvent se débattre en Egypte, où, quoi qu'elle fasse, elle est généralement exposée à voir ses droits les plus légitimes méconnus, bien que nos efforts aient toujours pour but de protéger les intérêts du commerce en général, et d'aider au développement de la prospérité publique.

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine, éclairé par les soins de votre Excellence sur l'état réel de la situation, pourrait donc rendre un double service et à l'humanité et à l'Egypte en prêtant à ce pays le concours moral dont il a besoin. Nous serions très reconnaissants au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine de cette preuve de sa bienveillance, et nos efforts tendront toujours à nous en rendre dignes.

Je prie, &c.
(Signé) CHERIF.

No. 222.

Sir H. Bulwer to Earl Russell.—(Received April 5.)

My Lord,

Alexandria, March 23, 1865.

THERE having arisen some difficulties as to the liberation of slaves who presented themselves requesting freedom at the Consulate here, I made the following agreement with the authorities :—

That when a slave comes to the Consul, the latter is to send a letter with the slave to the Chief of Police requesting a letter of freedom, and that the slave should be accompanied not only by an ordinary kavass, but by some one in a superior grade who understands Arabic. The Chief of Police will answer the Consul's letter, saying he has complied with his request, and the letter of freedom will be given to the slave in the presence of the person from the Consulate, and the man or woman will be allowed to go free.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY L. BULWER.

P.S.—I have told Mr. Stanley to keep a register of the slaves whose freedom he thus obtains.

H. L. B.

No. 223.

Earl Russell to Sir H. Bulwer.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 12, 1865.*
 WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 23rd ultimo, I have to acquaint you that I approve the arrangement made by your Excellency with the Egyptian authorities in regard to the emancipation of slaves who may take refuge at the British Consulate at Alexandria.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 224.

Sir H. Bulwer to Earl Russell.—(Received April 22.)

(Extract.)

Cairo, April 10, 1865.

I HAVE received a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Jeddah, dated the 29th ultimo, copy of which has been transmitted by Mr. Colquhoun to your Lordship's office, reporting that the Kaimakam of Massowah had recently issued an order authorizing the exportation of slaves from that port. I have felt it my duty to write at once to Mr. Stuart, requesting him to make strong representations to Aali Pasha on the subject, and I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of my despatch to him.

Inclosure in No. 224.

Sir H. Bulwer to Mr. Stuart.

Sir, *Cairo, April 9, 1865.*

FROM the inclosed correspondence you will see that the Kaimakam of Massowah has recently issued an order, as he alleges in obedience to the instructions of the Governor-General of the Hedjaz, authorizing the exportation of slaves from the ports of Massowah and Souakin to all ports of the Red Sea except Suez and Cosseir.

I have, therefore, to request you to call Aali Pasha's most serious attention to the statements contained in the papers I transmit, from which I think it will appear probable that the order to which I am referring was issued under the authority of the Governor-General of the Hedjaz; but you should impress on Aali Pasha that by whomsoever issued such proclamation should be immediately cancelled, as when, in our different communications with the Porte, it was agreed that in deference to the prejudices still existing in Arabia slavery should not be immediately abolished in the Hedjaz, there was a distinct understanding that for the future the importation of slaves should be entirely interdicted.

The Porte has so often and so solemnly assured us that it would do all in its power to suppress the Traffic in question, that I cannot doubt that Aali Pasha will be as much astonished as I am at the receipt of the intelligence I am communicating, and will immediately take the necessary measures to check any new development of this trade, and to redeem the promises which the Porte has so repeatedly made to the Governments of England and of France.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) HENRY L. BULWER.

No. 225.

Sir H. Bulwer to Earl Russell.—(Received April 27.)

Sir, *Cairo, April 15, 1865.*
 HAVING received the inclosed newspaper with the paragraph marked in it, I called on the Viceroy and put it into his hands. He said he had read it and made inquiries. That it was true that a merchant had landed with three girls; that he was crossing the *place* at Alexandria and people had asked him if he would sell the girls, and he said yes; a crowd then collected, and in order to prevent a tumult the police thought it better not to interfere, but to tell the man to go on to the railway. A person from the police accompanied him,

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and on arriving at Cairo he and the girls were laid hold of. The merchant was sent back to Constantinople and the girls freed, and they have been given in marriage to Egyptian officers with a small pension, which was registered; and this register, the Viceroy said, would always serve to prove their freedom and to keep the Government in their track.

His Highness complains that these Circassian slave-merchants came from Turkey with a trading *teskereh*, which gave them the right to remonstrate when their merchandize was seized. He gave me various instances of women and children brought for sale whom he had had taken from the merchants, put to school, placed in families or married; and he seems desirous, as a means of civilization, to get rid of purchase and sale in human beings. At the same time it would be unjust not to state that slavery in the East is very different from that in America, and is generally a means of fortune and advancement and protection to the poor man or woman which they would not otherwise have. It saves from misery and prostitution females without resource; and these women frequently rise to the highest positions, and as the Sultan's mother and the Viceroy's were slaves the title is no degradation. A slave also has always a ready resource in the Cadi, the ill-treatment of a slave being a great offence in the Mussulman law. Slavery, moreover, is so deeply engrained into the daily household habits that we may sometimes find both master and slave uniting against our efforts. I say this, not to defend slavery, which presents greater evils indirectly and generally than it, at times, offers directly and in individual cases advantages, but to explain how difficult it is to deal with it.

But I think the Viceroy is disposed to try his best. He cannot, however, do everything at once. His liberating a slave the other day belonging to his uncle Halim Pasha was perhaps the most decided act of this kind that ever took place in these countries.

There is, I hear, a curious state of things now going on with the Circassians which shows at least that the ladies are well aware of their rights and not indisposed to speculate on them. A Circassian sells a girl; after a little time the girl complains of being a slave and addresses a complaint to the police; she is released and asked where she would go; she says to such and such a person who is a friend of her father. She is sent there; three weeks afterwards with her own consent this new-found protector sells her again. Again she complains, gets free, and is sent to some other person she designates, who sells her again in the same way; and finally when a good price has been collected from various sales she (sharing with the vendor) bestows her person and her gains on some fortunate individual who has attracted her attention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY L. BULWER.

Inclosure in No. 225.

Extract from the "Manifesto Giornaliero" of April 12, 1865.

VENTE D'ESCLAVES.—Ce matin, une foule d'Européens et d'indigènes ont été témoins de la mise en vente, au grand jour et publiquement, d'abord sur la grande place des Consuls, et ensuite au marché central, de trois jeunes Circassiennes de 12 à 16 ans. Un marchand Turc en a débattu le prix avec plusieurs Européens qui le lui demandaient dans un but de curiosité, et pour s'assurer d'un fait auquel leurs yeux refusaient de croire. Aux uns il a demandé cinquante livres sterlinges (1,300 francs environ), aux autres trente bourses (2,000 francs environ). Un *cavas* (agent de police) qui se trouvait présent a servi d'interprète à l'un de ces Européens. On a demandé à ce *cavas* si ces jeunes filles étaient Chrétiennes, et comment il se faisait que le Gouvernement Local permît cette vente publique de chair humaine. Le *cavas* a répondu que ces jeunes filles étaient sensées Musulmanes, mais qu'en réalité elles n'étaient d'aucune religion, vivant comme des bêtes, et que cela importait fort peu au Gouvernement.

Nous nous demandons encore comment il est possible qu'un fait aussi révoltant se produise au grand jour, dans un pays qui se prétend civilisé, et où la vente des esclaves est formellement interdite par les Traités, sur la porte même des Consuls de deux Puissances comme la France et l'Angleterre, qui se sont donné la mission spéciale de détruire ce détestable Trafic de chair humain.

Nous sommes certains que le récit de ce qui précède soulèvera l'indignation de nos concitoyens, comme il a soulevé la nôtre. Et cependant ce n'est par la première fois que de pareils faits se sont produits.

No. 226.

Earl Russell to Mr. Stuart.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 27, 1865.

I TRANSMIT to you for your information, a copy of a letter from Mr. Heatley, inclosing an extract from the "Morning Star" of the 15th ultimo, stating that a number of Circassian children of Christian parents are annually exported from Constantinople and other Turkish ports to Alexandria, and there sold into slavery, and I have to instruct you to make inquiries and to inform me whether you have reason to believe that there is any foundation for this report.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 226.

Mr. Heatley to Earl Russell.

My Lord,

44, Sydney Street, Brompton, March 18, 1865.

I BEG leave respectfully to inclose you an extract taken from the "Morning Star" of Wednesday last (15th March), in which it is stated on the authority of the "Trieste Gazette," that a number of Circassian children of Christian parents, amounting to upwards of 10,000, are annually exported from Constantinople and other Turkish ports to Alexandria, and there sold to Egyptian masters at prices varying from 3,000 to 13,000 piastres each, and that this trade is carried on openly under the eyes of the Turkish Government, who appear to countenance it.

It is possible there may be some suppression of extenuating circumstances in this statement, which, were they known, would give a very different complexion to the affair. I have taken the liberty, however, of drawing your Lordship's attention to it in the hope that, with that interest in all that concerns the welfare of humanity which so peculiarly distinguishes your Lordship's character, you will be pleased to institute inquiries in the proper quarter, and put an end to such inhuman Traffic, and also, if possible, redress the injustice that has been already done by having the poor exported children returned to their parents.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TOWNSEND HEATLEY.

P.S.—I should feel happy in hearing that this letter has reached your Lordship.

Inclosure 2 in No. 226.

Extract from the "Morning Star" of March 15, 1865.

THE "Trieste Gazette" gives some astounding statistics in reference to the white Slave Trade in the Levant. It appears that the number of Circassian children of Christian parents annually exported from Constantinople and other Turkish ports to the Egyptian port of Alexandria amounts to more than 10,000. The boys are sold to their Egyptian masters at from 3,000 to 4,500 piastres each; the girls at from 10,000 to 13,000 piastres a piece. The trade is stated to be carried on openly under the eyes of the Turkish Government, which does not move a finger to suppress it. Kysarli Ali Agha, who resides at No. 4, Passdermage-lane, in Stamboul, is described as being one of the chief merchants engaged in this Slave Traffic.

No. 227.

Earl Russell to Sir H. Bulwer.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 4, 1865.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 10th ultimo, and I have to acquaint you that I entirely approve the instruction addressed by you to Mr. Stuart, directing him to make strong representations to the Turkish Government against the Order

issued by the Kaimakam of Massowah authorizing the exportation of slaves from that port.

Your Excellency will on your return to Constantinople express to Aali Pasha the extreme surprise and concern with which Her Majesty's Government received the intelligence of the issue of this Order, and your Excellency will also request to be informed of the steps that may be taken by the Porte to vindicate the good faith of the Turkish Government in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 228.

Mr. Stuart to Earl Russell.—(Received May 5.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 22, 1865.

I RECEIVED a despatch from Sir Henry Bulwer on the 17th instant, containing various inclosures from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Jeddah, relative to an Order which had been issued by the Kaimakam of Massowah, under instructions, it is alleged, from the Governor-General of the Hedjaz, authorizing the exportation of slaves from the ports of Massowah and Souakin to all the ports of the Red Sea, except Suez and Cosseir.

As requested by Sir Henry Bulwer, I lost no time in calling Aali Pasha's most serious attention to the statements contained in the papers forwarded from Mr. Calvert, and in representing to his Highness that the Order in question, by whomsoever it might have been issued, should be immediately cancelled.

His Highness appeared much surprised and annoyed on learning that such an Order had been issued, and assured me it was in direct opposition to the instructions which had been sent to the Governor-General of the Hedjaz by the Porte, and that he would at once cause an inquiry to be instituted into the matter, and direct that the Order should be cancelled.

I have since furnished Aali Pasha with a copy of Mr. Rassam's report to Mr. Calvert of the 11th March, which I had read to his Highness.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART

No. 229.

Sir H. Bulwer to Earl Russell.—(Received May 7.)

My Lord,

Alexandria, April 7, 1865.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 23rd ultimo, respecting the arrangements I have made for the liberation of slaves who claim protection at our Consulates, I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I addressed to Mr. Stanley on that subject, stating in more detail the arrangements I had made with the authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY L. BULWER.

Inclosure in No. 229.

Sir H. Bulwer to Consul Stanley.

Sir,

Alexandria, March 21, 1865.

I HAVE had your letter under my serious consideration, feeling deep interest in the question you bring to my notice.

Our position is this: you cannot free slaves on your own authority; but you have a right to call on the Agents of the Government to fulfil the promises made to Her Majesty's Government, and where you are able to show that they have not done so, you should inform Her Majesty's Consul-General, in order that he may bring the matter without delay before the Viceroy, who has held to myself personally the strongest language on this subject.

Having spoken to the Governor yesterday, before I received your letter, in reference

to your verbal communications, and having received from him every satisfactory assurance, I sent for the Prefect of Police, with whom you have more directly to do in this matter.

He told me that he only asked it to be shown that he had ever refused to give a deed of freedom to any one sent by you, or that any person he had declared free had been subsequently sold. In this case, he said, if what was done, was done by his connivance, he merited the severest punishment; and if anything was done by others without his knowledge, he would be the first to recommend them to punishment.

If, therefore, you have any case to bring forward, do so; on the other hand, I am sure you must feel that vague charges of so serious a character should be made with caution, or we run the risk of being unjust when we accuse others of injustice.

However, setting the past aside, I have made this arrangement for the future.

When a slave comes to you, send a letter to the Chief of Police, requesting a letter of freedom, and let the slave be accompanied not only by an ordinary cawass, but by some one in a superior grade who understands Arabic. The Chief of Police will answer your letter saying he has complied with your request, and the letter of freedom will then be given to the slave in the presence of the person you send, and the man or woman will be allowed to go free. If the man or woman wants employment, and asks the Chief of Police to get it for them, he is, of course, at liberty to do so, or if you have any employment to offer you will state the fact. I do not see any objection to the slave taking regular service with any one, official or not; but you should keep a register of the persons for whom you obtain freedom, and try to ascertain where they are placed, which you can easily do if you cultivate friendly relations with the Governor and persons in authority.

I forgot to mention that when you write to the Chief of Police, sending the slave to him, you will inform the Governor of the fact.

I may also add that when a female who has been a slave wants to marry, the Chief of the Police, who will have acquitted himself of his own duty on the part of the Government by liberating the woman, will, nevertheless, endeavour to get from her master a certificate of her being free, should such certificate be deemed necessary for her marriage.

I am, &c.

(Signed) HENRY L. BULWER.

No. 230.

Mr. Stuart to Earl Russell.—(Received May 12.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 4, 1865.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 16th of March last, I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a report which I have received from Mr. E. Pisani, stating that the Porte has lately decided to place the port of Massowah under the administration of the Viceroy of Egypt, instead of under that of the Government of Jeddah.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. STUART.

Inclosure in No. 230.

Mr. E. Pisani to Mr. Stuart.

Sir,

Pera, May 3, 1865.

HAVING asked Aali Pasha whether he had written to the Governor of Jeddah respecting the continuation of the Traffic in Slaves, &c., His Highness replied in the affirmative, and desired me to inform you that Massowah is no longer under the jurisdiction of the Government of Jeddah; but has, by a resolution lately taken by the Porte, been placed under the administration of the Viceroy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. PISANI.

No. 231.

Sir H. Bulwer to Earl Russell.—(Received May 30.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 22, 1865.

WITH reference to Mr. Stuart's despatch of the 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith, a copy of a despatch which I received yesterday from the British Acting Consul at Jeddah, informing me that the Kaïmakam of Massowah had received counter orders from the Governor-General of the Hedjaz directing him, under instructions from the Sublime Porte, to peremptorily interdict the Slave Traffic in those parts, and that the necessary notice had been issued by the Kaïmakam.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY L. BULWER.

Inclosure in No. 231.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir H. Bulwer.

Sir,

Jeddah, April 25, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that I have received a letter from Mr. Rassam, dated Massowah, 1st instant, which states that Abdullah Effendi, the Kaïmakam of that place, had informed him of "his having received counter-orders from the Governor-General of the Hedjaz, directing him (under instructions from the Sublime Porte) to peremptorily interdict the Slave Traffic in these parts."

The Kaïmakam, on the receipt of this order, immediately issued the necessary notice for prohibiting the trade.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY H. CALVERT.

No. 232.

Sir H. Bulwer to Earl Russell.—(Received June 30.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, June 21, 1865.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of April 27 to Mr. Stuart, I have the honour to state that, in my opinion, there is some truth and some exaggeration in the account given in the "Morning Star," and inclosed by Mr. Heatley to your Lordship, relative to the sale of Circassian slaves sent from Constantinople to Alexandria.

There has, no doubt, been at all times a certain traffic in Circassian children encouraged by all parties concerned. The parents who cannot support their children look upon their sale as we should look upon obtaining an honourable position leading to fortune; the children are delighted at getting from poverty to comfort; and the purchaser by whom such children—half servants, half playmates for his own children—are usually adopted, marries them, if females, to his sons or nephews; and if males, protects and advances them to creditable and influential situations, where they serve him in their turn with any influence they are able to acquire.

Under such circumstances and with such ideas, the traffic in Circassian children has been, as I have said, immemorially carried on, and is not yet abandoned.

Of late, indeed, the expatriation of the Circassians from their native land has thrown masses of this unfortunate population on a country little able to support them. It is no exaggeration, I grieve to say, that hundreds and hundreds of unhappy families in the last stage of misery were cast last year on the streets of Constantinople. The Government did something for them, as also did private charity, but these aids were insufficient: children perished almost of starvation before their fathers' eyes and in their mothers' arms.

Under these circumstances, no doubt the usual trade underwent a prodigious increase. Almost every Circassian who could get his children under a good roof, where food would be put into their mouths, did so. I have little doubt that large numbers went to Egypt; and if 10,000 did so (which I do not believe), 9,000 at least were probably saved thereby from misery and death.

The Turkish Government, which has issued a firman against the sale of negroes, has never issued one against the sale of Circassians. Nevertheless this sale is only conducted clandestinely, and rather winked at than permitted. In such a crisis, however, as that which the sudden inundation of the whole Circassian people created, the Turkish Govern-

ment, I dare say, was not sorry to see immigration to Egypt, and the manner in which children were carried there was such that it could not well interfere. A man, for instance, goes on board a Turkish steamer with five or six children, which are, or which he says are, his: they are not slaves, and probably he says nothing about selling them. When he lands he knows already of some place where he can take them to, and from which he will be able to place them advantageously. If a case is brought before the Egyptian Government, which is very rare, it interferes; takes the children and places them in the public schools, or has them brought up for soldiers, or places them in some family; but this is done for Europeans, and is not in Turkish ideas any bettering of their condition.

It is very difficult to deal with a question so engrafted into Oriental manners; but making allowances for the peculiar circumstances of the past year, which must be considered exceptional, I think, upon the whole, that in some degree owing to the diminution of great fortunes, and in some degree to new habits of expense and luxury, the custom of purchasing slaves, both black and white, is on the decrease; and the dispersion of the Circassians, and their reduced and pitiable condition, which will probably affect the beauty of the race, are also likely to lead to the gradual abandonment of a custom of which the debasing tendency can hardly be appreciated as long as the wives of the Sultan, and of some of the first men in the Empire, have belonged to a class which we should consider stamped with degradation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY L. BULWER.

No. 233.

Sir H. Bulwer to Earl Russell.—(Received July 21.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, July 10, 1865.

MR. COLQUHOUN having transmitted to me a copy of his despatch* to your Lordship of the 22nd ultimo, I lost no time in communicating it at once to the Viceroy of Egypt, who is still here, and his Highness assures me that he has immediately sent stringent orders to Sheriff Pasha that such atrocious acts should not recur, and that the perpetrators of them should be severely punished.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY L. BULWER.

No. 234.

Earl Russell to Sir H. Bulwer.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 13, 1865.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 21st ultimo, reporting upon a statement which appeared in the "Morning Star" newspaper relative to the sale at Constantinople of Circassian children as slaves, and their shipment to Alexandria.

With regard to your Excellency's observation, that the Turkish Government, which issued a firman against the sale of negroes, has never issued one against the sale of Circassians, have to refer your Excellency to the firmans prohibiting the traffic in Georgian and Circassian slaves issued by the Sultan in October 1854, and to a further Vizirial letter addressed by the Sultan in March 1855 to the Governor of Trebizond, directing him to enforce the firmans against Circassian Slave Trade.

Your Excellency will inform me whether these firmans have been acted upon, but you need do nothing more in the present state of affairs, Her Majesty's Government being ready to wait for further information.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

* No. 243.

Sir H. Bulwer to Earl Russell.—(Received August 21.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, August 10, 1865.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 13th ultimo, relative to the sale of Circassian slaves, I have the honour to state that I found that the Porte, when pressed on the subject, not only acknowledged the firmans of 1854, but, contrary to what I had been given to understand, viz., that it only considered these as temporary measures adopted during the war, admitted their general force and validity. It observed, however, that a variety of cases occurred over which the Porte had no control, as the generality of the Circassian parents were accomplices in this unnatural traffic of their offspring.

The Commission lately instituted here for the relief of the Circassian emigration, devised some very wise means for checking the evil by establishing an asylum for orphans or children whose parents were in great destitution. The boys are taught some useful trade, whilst the girls, after a kind of training, are sent as attendants to the harems; if they are pretty, they have a chance of getting well married, and this is very often the case.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY L. BULWER.

No. 236.

Sir H. Bulwer to Earl Russell.—(Received October 20.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, October 9, 1865.

I HAVE great pleasure in finding from the Report addressed to your Lordship by Colonel Stanton that the Viceroy of Egypt has acted up to the promises he made to me last year, and has done his best to put down the traffic in blacks on the White Nile.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY L. BULWER.

TURKEY. (*Consular*)—*Alexandria.*

No. 237.

Mr. Colquhoun to Earl Russell.—(Received February 8.)

My Lord,

Cairo, January 23, 1865.

HER Majesty's Acting Consul at Jeddah, and the French Consul there, have recently reported that the Egyptian steamers plying on the Red Sea, in spite of our remonstrances, continue to convey slaves to Suez.

Having, on reaching Egypt, found a despatch from Mr. Calvert, of which I think it right to send herewith a copy, I have made to the Egyptian Government strong representations on the continuance of the practice; and Sir Henry Bulwer also has made it the object of remark from his Excellency to the Viceroy.

His Highness gives us the most positive assurance that his orders on the subject have been peremptory, and he believes that the transport of slaves has been put a stop to. In order, however, to prove the sincerity of his intentions, an open letter has been sent to Sir Henry Bulwer, which, by his orders, I have conveyed to Mr. West, the Vice-Consul at Suez, addressed to the Governor of that port, wherein his previous instructions are confirmed; and to give a proof to European Governments of his desire to act up to the spirit of his promises, the Viceroy orders that the Governor shall, on the arrival of all steamers from Jeddah, proceed on board, taking with him two of the foreign Consuls, and carefully examine all those on board, and see that every one be furnished with a manumission ticket before his landing, giving each to understand that he is entirely free. Copy of this inclosed.

This is a great step, and we must give the Viceroy credit for it: however stringent these orders are they will still, I doubt not, in many instances be evaded; perhaps by landing the living cargo in part at ports lower down the Red Sea, or other means well known to the proprietors of the slaves.

The complete suppression in a country where the state of society tolerates, nay, perhaps requires, such an institution, must be the work of time.

I shall instruct Mr. West, while keeping his attention on the steamers, not to overlook the arrivals of the native boats or buggalows which may be employed in the traffic, and even render the condition of the poor creatures more wretched than if they were conveyed by the ordinary steamers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT G. COLQUHOUN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 237.

Acting Consul Calvert to Consul Reade.

Sir,

Jeddah, November 30, 1864.

I REGRET to say that the check to slave-dealing at this port (noticed in my despatch of the 14th of November) has been but temporary, for the Egyptian steamer "*Nejd*" conveyed, I am told, 50 or 60 slaves to Suez. There seems a prospect of this inhuman traffic being persevered in; I therefore think it will be needless for me to report to you every instance in which steamers or boats carry slaves, and I shall only notice any striking change occurring to this trade.

All the steamers of the Azizieh Company employ English engineers, and some have Maltese seamen on board: several of these engineers spontaneously expressed to me the repugnance they feel in assisting, even indirectly as they do, the conveyance of slaves; and

CLASS B.

they apprehend that they are acting contrary to British law. They added that were they in consequence to resign their situations, the Azizieh Company would mulct them in any balance of wages due to them, and perhaps would keep their effects as security for the continuance of their services. I took upon myself to tell them that were such an injustice done to them, I felt certain that an application to you would insure their receiving every iota due to them, as well as their property.

If I rightly construe the 2nd section of Act 5 Geo. IV, c. 113, for the abolition of the Slave Trade, these British subjects, serving on board of the Egyptian steamers, are liable to prosecution; for it is there enacted (with reference to vessels conveying slaves) that it shall not be lawful for any persons "to take the charge or command, or to navigate, or to enter and embark on board, or to contract for the taking the charge or command, or for the navigating or entering and embarking on board of any ship, vessel, or boat, as captain, master, mate, petty officer, surgeon, supercargo, seaman, marine, or servant, or in any other capacity, knowing that such ship, vessel, or boat, is actually employed, or is in the same voyage or upon the same occasion in respect of which they shall so take the charge or command, or navigate, or enter and embark," &c., "intended to be employed in accomplishing any of the objects, or the contracts in relation to the objects, which objects and contracts have herein before been declared unlawful." And in the 11th section of the same Act, it is enacted that seamen, &c., serving on board of such vessels shall be "declared to be guilty of a misdemeanour only, and shall be punished by imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years."

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY H. CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 237.

*Letter addressed to the Governor of Suez by the Maawneh Samieh, dated 11 Shaban, 1281
(January 9, 1865).*

(Translation.)

RESPECTING the prohibition of Slave Trade by the Government, strict orders were given some time ago to its Representatives to examine the steamers and boats coming from the exterior, and see if slaves, whether free or not free, and possessors or not possessors of certificates of freedom, were to be found on board; and for further assurance, that they should be sent to the police, and there be also verified, and those who are not free should be furnished by the police with a certificate of freedom, and allowed, according to rules and usages, to go where they please; and such orders have been attended to by your Excellency, as well as by all the Representatives of the Government. But in this interval an accusation has been made against the Azizieh Company of having brought on board its steamers some slaves, which accusation being contrary to the proceedings and rules of the Government, an investigation took place, and it was found that the said Company's steamers received only free black servants, possessors of certificates of freedom, and not otherwise. Notwithstanding the minutest examination of the case, nothing was found to justify the accusation intended to disrepute the Company, as well as the proceedings of the Government.

In order to render such proceedings more explicit and well known by all of you, it is requested that henceforward, whenever any Government steamer or boat arrive at Suez, your Excellency will personally, and in your absence your agent, go and take with you two Representatives of foreign Powers whom you find there to serve as witnesses, not in an official but officious way, to that steamer or boat, and examine its cargo well; and if you find on board black slaves, whether free or not free, and possessors or not possessors of regular certificates of freedom, and willing or unwilling to remain with their masters, you are to examine and give them well to understand that they are allowed to go wherever they please, and serve whoever they wish, or undertake business if they choose; and for those whose liberty is not proved, and are unwilling to remain with their masters, the required certificate of freedom is to be given them immediately by the Divan Mohafiza, in virtue of which they can go where they like.

For the object of desiring your Excellency to afford all needful assistance, facility, and pay great attention to this matter, I address the present for your Excellency's knowledge.

No. 238.

Earl Russell to Mr. Colquhoun.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 22, 1865.*
 I HAVE received your despatch of the 23rd ultimo, reporting the measures taken by the Viceroy of Egypt to put a stop to the introduction of slaves into Egypt from the Turkish ports in the Red Sea. His Highness would appear to have taken the measures necessary for preventing, as far as it is in his power to do so, the introduction of slaves into Egypt by the steamers belonging to the Azizieh Company, under the pretence of their being free negroes; and I have to acquaint you that I entirely approve of the British Vice-Consul at Suez being directed to assist the Egyptian authorities by all the means in his power in preventing the introduction of slaves into Egyptian territory, whether by the vessels of the Azizieh Company, or by the native boats or buggalows.

I have instructed Sir Henry Bulwer to keep you informed of the communications which may pass between his Excellency and this Department on this subject.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 239.

Mr. Colquhoun to Earl Russell.—(Received April 22.)

My Lord, *Cairo, April 8, 1865.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter and its inclosures received from Mr. Calvert.

I have given to Sir Henry Bulwer a similar despatch addressed to his Excellency, and he, I believe, writes by this mail to Constantinople, calling the serious attention of the Porte to the subject, and requiring that precise and stringent orders be sent to the Governor-General of the Hedjaz.

With reference to paragraph 8 in Mr. Rassam's letter to Mr. Calvert (Inclosure No. 1 in Mr. Calvert's despatch), your Lordship will see that the Governor-General not only denies having issued the notice published by his Kaimakam, but has recalled that functionary. But Mr. Calvert does not attach much credit to the *bond fideism* of this assertion.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) ROBERT G. COLQUHOUN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 239.

Acting Consul Calvert to Mr. Colquhoun.

(Extract.)

Jeddah, March 29, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of a letter from Mr. Rassam, with its inclosures, respecting the publication by the Kaimakam of Massowah of a notice issued by the Governor-General of the Hedjaz permitting the exportation of slaves from Massowah to all ports in the Red Sea, except to Suez and Cosseir.

M. Munzinger having officially written on the subject to the French Consul at Jeddah (under whose authority the French Vice-Consulate of Massowah is placed), M. de Sainte-Marie, the Acting Consul, addressed the Governor-General of the Hedjaz a letter to remonstrate against this removal of all restrictions on slave-dealing.

But supposing that the Kaimakam has acted arbitrarily, and that the Governor-General, invested with special instructions from Constantinople, were honestly and vigorously to attempt the extermination of the Slave Trade, his exertions would, I fear, prove only partially successful; the facilities for landing or embarking slaves being so very great in these waters, where the Ottoman Government has no cruizers, and where the whole country favours the Traffic: indeed, a merchant finds less difficulty in clandestinely introducing twenty slaves than in smuggling one bale of merchandize.

Inclosure 2 in No. 239.

Mr. Rassam to Acting Consul Calvert.

Sir,

Massowah, March 11, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to forward to you copy of correspondence that has passed between the Acting French Vice-Consul of this place and myself, from which you will find out that, in consequence of a recent order received by the Kaimakam of Massowah from the Governor-General of the Hedjaz, free permission has been given to the slave-dealers in this quarter to carry on their heinous traffic between this and the several ports of the Hedjaz.

2. To enable you to judge how much mischief this shameful order above referred to has done towards the revival of this abominable trade (which I had in some measure checked), I must give you a short account of what I had done in the matter since my arrival at this place.

3. I had not been here a week before I discovered that slavery was carried on in these localities to a great extent, though the buying and selling was conducted in a private manner. I knew there was no regular Treaty between England and Turkey about the entire abolition of the Slave Trade in the latter country; and, in the friendly communication between the two Governments treating upon the Slave Traffic in the Ottoman dominions, the land of the Hedjaz and its dependencies were exempted in a measure from the general abolition, on account of some religious prejudices. Nevertheless, I felt quite sure that the Turkish Government had the will to act in harmony with England in the philanthropic enterprize, by putting an end to slavery in all her Empire; wherefore I deemed it advisable to speak privately to the then Kaimakam of Massowah, Purtoo Effendi, upon the subject.

4. On conferring with that official, he acquiesced with me in the necessity of interdicting the inhuman practice, and, accordingly, he issued orders that all slaves brought down to the Massowah district from the interior should be liberated by their owners.

5. When he went away he directed his *locum tenens*, Abdallah Khaleel, to see that his orders were carried out strictly. The latter functionary, during his tenure of office, exerted himself praiseworthy in the dictates of humanity, and liberated a great number of poor captives who were brought down from the Galla country for the purpose of being sold for exportation to Jeddah.

6. On the arrival of the present Kaimakam, Abdallah Effendi, from Jeddah, I went to pay him an official visit, when we had an occasion to speak upon the Slave Trade. I was not a little pleased to find that, not only he intended to adhere to the policy of his predecessors, but he assured me that he was going to frame certain rules and regulations which would prove a death-blow to all slave transactions.

7. Before many days were over, he ordered that no buggalow was to leave Massowah without her nakhodha, or master, obtaining first a correct list of the crew and passengers he wished to carry from the Customs authorities of this port; and, furthermore, that he (the nakhodha) was to produce a personal security that he was not to allow any slave to be embarked on board his vessel between this place and the port of discharge.

8. This wise rule was acted upon faithfully; but, unfortunately, it was not suffered to continue more than a few days, because a peremptory order was received here from the Governor-General of the Hedjaz directing the Kaimakam not to interfere in the Slave Traffic which might be carried on between Massowah and the ports of the Hedjaz, but he was "only to prohibit the exportation of slaves for the ports of Cosseir and Suez." This proviso is neither more nor less than to practise on one's credulity; because who ever heard of native craft sailing hence for the last two mentioned ports?

9. I learn that there are already nearly 200 slaves at Massowah who are ready to be embarked for Jeddah; and I have no doubt that, if the Pasha of the Hedjaz will not cancel his orders immediately, thousands of poor women and children would be doomed to perpetual bondage.

10. I believe that, on the strength of the recent order of the Governor-General of the Hedjaz, a great number of slave-dealers have gone up to the Galla country for the purpose of purchasing, through kidnapping or aggression, some helpless children and women to bring down to Massowah, as it is assumed that the Sublime Porte has definitively re-established the Slave Trade to gratify the wishes of its Mahomedan subjects.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. RASSAM,

1st Assistant Political Resident of Aden, on Special
Mission to Abyssinia.

Inclosure 3 in No. 239.

M. Munzinger to Mr. Rassam.

Monsieur,

Massoua, le 9 Mars, 1865.

COMME vous m'avez dit, à l'occasion de la succession Hölzner, qu'en Gérant du Vice-Consulat de France j'ai l'autorité de soigner, pendant l'absence d'un autre Consul, les affaires de tous les Européens, telles que successions, &c., à l'exception des affaires politiques, je me prends la liberté de vous consulter, et éventuellement de vous inviter à la co-opération, dans l'affaire que je vais vous soumettre.

Une grande caravane d'esclaves est entrée hier à Mocollou ; quelques esclaves ont déjà été portés dans l'île, où le reste sera transporté demain.

Le Vice-Gouverneur d'ici m'a dit qu'il a reçu du Gouvernement de la Mecque l'ordre de déclarer libre le Commerce d'Esclaves ; mais je n'ai pas vu cet ordre, et mon supérieur, le Consul de Djedda, ne m'a rien communiqué à cet égard.

Je veux bien croire que les Ambassadeurs de France et d'Angleterre ont pu permettre la vente des esclaves au Hedjaz ; mais, bien que les îles de Massoua et de Souakin dépendent du Pacha de la Mecque, je pense que cette concession a été faite simplement pour le Hedjaz seul, en raison de la faiblesse du Gouvernement Turc dans l'Arabie, et de la férocité de ses habitants, raison qui n'a pas lieu du tout à Massoua, pays pacifique et complètement subjugué.

Comme l'Angleterre et la France marchent ensemble dans cette question d'esclaves, depuis la guerre de Crimée, je m'adresse à vous, Monsieur, pour vous demander si, d'après les Traités, un Consul Anglais ou Français a le droit de s'opposer à l'importation ou à la vente d'esclaves, ou de protester en cas que la réclamation soit inutile.

En vous demandant cela, je me base sur la supposition que la Sublime Porte a pris des engagements vis-à-vis des Puissances qu'elle est obligée de remplir ;

Que la permission de vente à Massoua détruit, de fait, tout ce qu'on a obtenu depuis dix ans dans la voie de l'abolition de la Traite ;

Que les Consuls, tant que les engagements sont en force, doivent avoir le droit d'y veiller tant qu'ils n'ont pas reçu des ordres de leurs supérieurs qui déclarent la prohibition suspendue.

Si vous êtes d'accord avec moi pour ces prémisses, je vous prie de me le dire, afin que nous puissions nous opposer de concert à la vente de ces esclaves ; car, ce n'est qu'à une opposition réunie que le Gouvernement se décidera de suspendre la permission de vente, au moins jusqu'au jour où les Consuls de Djeddah nous donneront connaissance du nouvel édit, en en expliquant la portée. Si mes suppositions ne sont pas justes, et que vous pouvez m'assurer, avec votre plus parfaite connaissance du droit public, que les Consuls d'Angleterre et de France n'ont pas le droit de se mêler de cette affaire, je ne demande mieux que d'être renseigné.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) G. MUNZINGER,
Gérant intérimaire du Vice-Consulat de France.

Inclosure 4 in No. 239.

Mr. Rassam to M. Munzinger.

Sir,

Moncooloo, March 10, 1865.

WITH reference to your letter of yesterday's date, I have the honour to inform you that, as I said to you on a former occasion, I know of no Treaty existing between the Governments of Great Britain, France, and Turkey, regarding the abolition of the Slave Traffic in the Red Sea ; and on this account I do not feel justified to show any public opposition to acts authorized by the Governor-General of the Hedjaz, in whose Pashalic Great Britain and France have proper Representatives.

2. The present Kaimakam of Massowah was very active, on his arrival here, in putting an end to the nefarious Traffic ; but his exertion was doomed to be of short duration, because he received superior orders from Jeddah that he was on no account to interfere in the exportation of slaves between this port and the Hedjaz.

(Signed) H. RASSAM.

No. 240.

Mr. Colquhoun to Earl Russell.—(Received May 27.)

My Lord,

Alexandria, May 18, 1865.

I BEG to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter I received a few days ago from Mr. Vice-Consul West, at Suez, on the subject of the entry into Egypt of a number of slave boys.

Mr. West appears to have acted with a becoming zeal and energy, and I have conveyed to him my approval of his conduct in the letter of which copy is annexed. As therein mentioned, I shall bring the subject before the Viceroy and Secretary of State.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT G. COLQUHOUN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 240.

Vice-Consul West to Mr. Colquhoun.

(Extract.)

Suez, May 10, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to report that, on the departure of the local train for Cairo this day, I found that some of the trucks contained slaves of evidently recent arrival from ports in the Red Sea; that I questioned one of the boys, and found that they had only just come to Suez, and were being hurried off to Cairo. I may add that the Zabet was present at the time, and that on my asking the boys whether they had their papers, they answered in the affirmative, and produced the documents, of which the inclosed are samples, which they held secreted about their persons with great care, as though they were of much value to them.

I immediately stopped the departure of the train, caused the boys to be removed under the protest of several of the bystanders, and proceeded to search the other carriages. Immediately I did this all the slaves who were in them were hurriedly removed and taken away in all directions.

From the first truck I removed about nine boys, eight more boys and a little girl were overtaken at different places near the platform, and eleven more had been secreted on board one of the transit steamers which was laying at the wharf.

As the transit-steamer belongs to the local Government, having ascertained that several of the slaves were on board, I immediately called upon the Governor, and returned with his Wakeel to search the vessel, over which, during the interval, I had placed a watch, and we found on board of her, some in the hold under closed hatches, and some locked in the cabins (the keys of which had already been removed with the evident intention of checking further perquisition), 10 more slaves, several of whom were very young; these were also taken to the Governor's divan, 29 in all, 28 boys and 1 little girl; and on my causing them to be examined by the doctor, 20 of them were found to be under the influence of small-pox, some in an advanced, and others in an early stage of the disease: these boys, although all about to be sent to Cairo, were now considered only fit to become inmates of a lazaretto, and they were consequently all removed to the quarantine ground.

I pointed out to his Excellency the Governor of Suez this very irregular and very distressing state of affairs, after the letter which I had had the honour of presenting to him from higher authority. I protested that he ought to be informed of the arrival of these slave-carrying vessels; that they ought to be inspected by us jointly, as it appeared that not one of these boys held certificates of freedom, notwithstanding which they were about to be sent to Cairo in the possession of slave-dealers, and in a sadly diseased and infectious state, under the very eyes of the local authority. His Excellency told me that he had no means of ascertaining the arrival of these slave-boats, nor of checking the secret landing of slaves: to which I replied that, under those circumstances, their departure from Suez by the railway ought to be checked until they held a certificate of freedom; that the Zabet was on the spot when the train was about to start, but that he seemed hardly to think there was anything irregular in the proceeding, although, I must add, that on my informing him that none of these boys must be allowed to escape, but that all of them must be taken before the Governor, he rendered me every assistance in capturing as many of them as he could; nevertheless, I feel convinced that several of them must have escaped into the town.

On the expiration of the term of quarantine to which they are to be subjected, and which has not yet been fixed, I will have all these boys up for inspection before the

Governor, and see that they are all of them duly provided with a certificate of freedom; nevertheless, I consider it my duty to take the very earliest opportunity of reporting the circumstance to you.

Inclosure 2 in No. 240.

Mr. Colquhoun to Vice-Consul West.

Sir, *Alexandria, May 17, 1865.*
I HAVE received with much satisfaction your despatch of the 10th instant, respecting your humane interference on behalf of a number of slaves lately arrived at Suez.

I consider that to your zeal on this occasion may be attributed not only the liberation of twenty-nine human creatures, but perhaps the spreading through the populous city of Cairo of a disease so fatal in this country as small-pox may have been prevented.

In conveying to you this my entire approval of your conduct, I beg to inform you that I shall send copy of your letter of the 10th to Earl Russell. I shall also bring the matter before the Egyptian Secretary of State, and shall make it the subject of my remarks to his Highness on the first interview I may have with him.

It is not to be tolerated that with sentiments so freely expressed as have been those of the Viceroy on the subject of slavery, his good intentions should be frustrated by such culpable lukewarmness and apathy as have been shown by the Suez authority.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT G. COLQUHOUN.

No. 241.

Earl Russell to Sir R. Colquhoun.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 9, 1865.*
I HAVE received your despatch of the 18th ultimo, together with its inclosures, relative to the proceedings of Mr. Vice-Consul West in causing the detention of some young slaves who had been surreptitiously introduced into Suez, and I have to instruct you to acquaint Mr. West that Her Majesty's Government approve his conduct in this affair.

I have further to acquaint you that I approve your intention of bringing this matter before the Viceroy, and you will not fail to inform me of the result of your representations to the Egyptian Government in this case.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 242.

Earl Russell to Sir R. Colquhoun.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, June 9, 1865.*
IN my despatch of the 22nd of February last I informed you that I had instructed Sir Henry Bulwer to keep you informed of the communications which might pass between his Excellency and this Department, relative to the introduction of slaves into Egypt from the Turkish ports in the Red Sea.

In order, however, that there should be no doubt about your being in possession of the correspondence on this subject, as well as of that which has passed between his Excellency and the Egyptian Government relative to the Slave Trade carried on in the Soudan and on the banks of the White Nile, I now inclose copies as marked in the margin* of this correspondence, together with copies of the communications on the same subject which have passed between Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople and this Department.

You will doubtless have heard from Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople that the Turkish Government has placed the ports of Massowah and Souakim under the administration of the Viceroy, and I have to desire that when this arrangement shall have been effected, you will state to His Highness that Her Majesty's Government expect

* Nos. 211 to 219, 222, 224, 227, 228, 230 and 231.

that the exportation of slaves from the ports in question will be promptly and effectually suppressed.

As regards the Slave Trade in the Soudan and on the banks of the White Nile, Sir Henry Bulwer in his despatch of the 23rd of March last inclosed a copy of a note from Cherif Pasha, setting forth the measures that the Egyptian Government considered necessary for the suppression of this Traffic; and with regard to the proposals of Cherif Pasha on this subject, I have to observe that the real difficulty of the case consists in giving the facilities asked for by the Egyptian Government, without surrendering any of the privileges which at present protect Europeans from being subject to the administration of Mahomedan criminal law.

To that part of Cherif Pasha's proposal which relates to seizing vessels coming from the White Nile laden with slaves, Her Majesty's Government see no objection in theory, though upon this, as upon the other proposals of his Excellency, it would be expedient that Her Majesty's Government should have an opinion from some Consular officer or person of practical experience, more especially as Sir H. Bulwer expresses no opinion of his own upon the project of Cherif Pasha.

With respect to the jurisdiction over European persons contained in these proposals, it seems reasonable that a foreigner, who is not placed under the jurisdiction of any foreign State, should not be allowed to claim, so far as any question of property which may arise out of the seizure of one of the slaves is concerned, the protection of a European State on the sole ground that he is a foreigner. Her Majesty's Government are of opinion also that no foreign Agent should be allowed to place an Egyptian subject under his protection except in the capacity of dragoman or cavass, and they further think that the demand of the Pasha with respect to the restriction of arms on board of boats ascending the river ought to be conceded.

With respect to Europeans whom the Pasha describes as "résidant au Soudan ou s'y trouvant en voyage," &c., who commit acts of violence against the property or persons of Egyptian subjects in these regions, it also appears to Her Majesty's Government that the demand of the Pasha is reasonable, which in substance Her Majesty's Government understand to be, that they shall be subject, in the first instance, to measures of prevention or arrest by the Egyptian local authorities, provided that these authorities so acting place themselves in immediate communication with the Agent or Consul of the State to which the accused person belongs, and that all measures relating to his trial or punishment be taken in accordance with usage and Treaty capitulations subsisting between the Porte and Christian States.

You are aware of the deep interest felt by Her Majesty's Government in the suppression of the African Slave Trade, and having now stated to you their views upon the proposals of Cherif Pasha for putting a stop to the introduction of slaves into Egypt, I should be glad to be furnished with any observations which you may have to offer upon the general question of the Slave Trade in Egypt before you make any communication to the Egyptian Government in conformity with the tenour of this despatch.

No. 243.

Sir R. Colquhoun to Earl Russell.—(Received July 6.)

My Lord,

Alexandria, June 22, 1865.

YOUR Lordship will learn with feelings of disgust, on perusing the inclosed letter from Mr. Vice-Consul West received by me from Mr. Reade this morning, an atrocious case of slave-dealing, which the activity of Mr. West has discovered.

I have considered it my duty to send a copy in translation to his Excellency Cherif Pasha, with the note here inclosed, requiring his Excellency to send a person to Suez to investigate the matter, and thus exonerate the Local Government from all suspicion of conniving at the Traffic in Slaves.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT G. COLQUHOUN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 243.

*Vice-Consul West to Consul Reade.**Suez, June 16, 1865.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have this day caused to be withdrawn from one of the trucks, about to be despatched for Cairo by the mid-day train, two negro children of from eight to ten years of age, who were evidently being taken to Cairo for the purpose of traffic, as they were tied up in ordinary corn sacks to avoid detection and were found with other packages of similar external appearance. The position in which these children had been thus placed was not only in the last degree precarious, but was such as to endanger life, as the texture of the sacks was strong and close, and they were moreover secured at the mouth in such manner as to render it impossible for the children to have liberated themselves by any act of their own; and death from suffocation appeared to be a very possible, if not a probable event.

I enter thus at length into these details, for if my efforts to impede the Traffic in Slaves continue unsupported by the local authority, they can lead only to acts of cruelty and oppression likely to endanger life; but I have no doubt that should the local authority really intend to put a stop to the importation of slaves, it would not be a very difficult matter for me, with their assistance, to detect and bring to light such cases as those which I have lately signalized.

My impression is not only that there is a want of desire to put a stop to the practice, but that there is no intention on the part of the Local Government to trace or to punish persons who are thus proved to be acting in direct opposition to the proposed desires and intentions of his Highness the Viceroy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. WEST.

Inclosure 2 in No. 243.

Sir R. Colquhoun to Chérif Pasha.

M. le Ministre,

Alexandrie, le 22 Juin, 1865.

JE prie votre Excellence de prendre connaissance de la lettre dont traduction ci-jointe, adressée par le Vice-Consul de Sa Majesté à Suez au Consulat du Caire, relativement à la détention que M. West a effectué de deux enfants nègres, qu'il a découvert enfermés dans deux sacs à blé en toile et déjà chargés sur le convoi du chemin de fer partant de Suez pour le Caire.

Je suis loin, M. le Ministre, de partager l'opinion émise dans le dernier paragraphe de la lettre de M. West. Son Altesse le Viceroy est, je le sais, désireux de coopérer avec la Porte et le monde entier à mettre fin au Trafic des Esclaves, et dans ce pays-ci il ne faut qu'une surveillance réelle et efficace pour arriver au but tant désiré.

Je prie donc votre Excellence de ne pas perdre un jour à envoyer une personne qui jouit de votre confiance à Suez de faire, d'accord avec M. West, une enquête sévère sur cette affaire, de découvrir le monstre en forme humaine qui a mêlé avec son envoi de sacs de blé par le chemin de fer deux jeunes enfants enfermés dans des sacs à blé (cette découverte ne doit pas être difficile par le moyen des employés du transit, car les registres doivent exister), et de punir de la manière la plus sévère le coupable.

J'attends cette mesure de la part de votre Excellence, et en même temps je vous prie d'ordonner une fois pour toutes les autorités de Suez qu'elles aient à veiller strictement que l'humanité ne soit plus outragée par des actes qui certes ne devraient pas ternir l'époque où nous vivons et le règne de Son Altesse Ismail Pacha.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) ROBERT G. COLQUHOUN.

No. 244.

Earl Russell to Sir R. Colquhoun.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 13, 1865.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 22nd ultimo, I have to acquaint you that I approve of the note which you addressed to Cherif Pasha in the matter of the two

CLASS B.

slave children discovered by Mr. Vice-Consul West tied up in sacks at Suez, for transmission by the railway to Cairo.

You will direct Mr. West to use his best endeavours to procure the punishment of the parties engaged in this disgraceful and inhuman proceeding;

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 245.

Sir R. Colquhoun to Earl Russell.—(Received July 28.)

(Extract.)

Alexandria, July 10, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of 9th June last, with its numerous inclosures on the subject of the introduction of slaves from the Turkish ports in the Red Sea, and on the Trade in Slaves carried on in the Soudan and on the banks of the White Nile.

With reference to the former, the Viceroy had communicated to me, previously to his departure, that the Porte had ceded to him for his life or tenure of the Vice-Royalty (*en viagère*) the jurisdiction over the ports of Souakin and Massowah, and that he intended to have a steamer constantly cruising between those ports and Suez. I hope this measure may have the effect desired; it ought to do so if loyally carried out, and if his Highness returns to Egypt before my departure, I shall communicate to him the expectation and desire of Her Majesty's Government.

With reference to the traffic on the Nile, it embraces too large a field for me to write on at present, situated as Egypt now is, and myself on the eve of quitting it. If time allows, I will, however, give it my serious attention during the present month; the more so as there is an insinuation of a shameful nature against some late travellers in those countries, which I cannot allow to pass unnoticed.

No. 246.

Sir R. Colquhoun to Earl Russell.—(Received August 15.)

My Lord,

Alexandria, August 7, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt on the 3rd instant of your Lordship's despatch of the 13th ultimo. I, on the same day, called the attention of the Minister Secretary of State to my previous note, to which his Excellency had not replied. This elicited from Chérif Pasha the note, of which the inclosed is a copy, which is good as far as it goes, but I have informed his Excellency that I should not be satisfied till the inhuman dealers who had so disgraced their character were detected and punished; this ought not to be a matter of much difficulty if the transit books or registers are kept in any order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT G. COLQUHOUN.

Inclosure in No. 246.

Chérif Pasha to Sir R. Colquhoun.

M. l'Agent et Consul-Général,

Alexandrie, le 5 Août, 1865.

J'AI reçu la dépêche que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire le 3 Août courant, pour me rappeler une précédente relative aux deux enfants nègres retrouvés dans des sacs de farine expédiés pour le Caire.

Toute la protection de l'autorité est désormais assurée aux deux enfants susdits, et des recherches sont activement dirigées contre les auteurs des méfaits signalés, lesquels aussitôt découverts auront sans doute à subir une punition exemplaire.

Vous reconnaîtrez, M. l'Agent et Consul-Général, que le moyen auquel on a recouru pour faire passer les deux nègres témoigne jusqu'à l'évidence de la surveillance rigoureuse

que l'autorité ne cesse de déployer pour empêcher la continuation d'un Trafic aussi honteux.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) CHERIF PACHA.

P.S.—Le Wekil du Ministre de l'Instruction Publique m'a informé, il y a quelques jours, que ces deux jeunes nègres avaient été envoyés aux Ecoles Primaires.

(Signé) CHERIF PACHA.

No. 247.

Earl Russell to Colonel Stanton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 22, 1865.

I HAVE received Sir R. Colquhoun's despatch of the 7th instant, inclosing a copy of the reply of Chérif Pasha to the note which he addressed to his Excellency on the 22nd of June last, in the matter of the two slave children who were discovered tied up in sacks on the Suez Railway. I have to instruct you to thank Chérif Pasha in the name of Her Majesty's Government for the assurance he has given, that proper means are adopted to prevent the recurrence of so disgraceful an act; but Her Majesty's Government trust that measures will still be taken to discover the authors of it, and to bring them to condign punishment.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 248.

Colonel Stanton to Earl Russell.—(Received October 10.)

My Lord,

Alexandria, September 26, 1865.

I HAVE taken advantage of the presence of Mr. Baker, the Nile traveller, here, to make inquiries from him on the subject of the Slave Trade on the White Nile, and have ascertained that the energetic measures adopted by the Egyptian Government during the last year have had a most marked effect upon the slave-dealers, so much so that he believes no slaves whatever have been brought down as far as Khartoum during the past twelve months. Mr. Baker is loud in his complaints against all the European traders in that country, and believes that all the ivory traders, without exception, are either openly slave-dealers, or, what is nearly as bad, allow the men employed in their service to collect slaves on their own account. His description of the state to which these traders have reduced the country is most lamentable; ruin and desolation now reign where formerly rich valleys teeming with cattle met the eye, and the European in most parts of this vast country is looked upon as the scourge of the native.

It appears further that the only articles that the native dealers will accept in exchange for their ivory are cattle, and the most revolting cruelty and most open robbery are resorted to to procure these; in fact, it is hardly too much to say that every elephant's tusk that is brought to European markets from this country has been procured by robbery and murder; and I regret much to have to add that there is little doubt that the British subjects engaged in this trade are not one wit less compromised than the others.

It is, however, most satisfactory to hear that the Egyptian Government have so far interfered with this inhuman traffic as to prevent the passage of slaves down the river during the past twelve months, and, doubtless, if the Government is sincere in its intention to put a stop to this traffic, it is in its power in a great measure to do so; but the spirit of slavery is so imbued into the reigning class here, that I fear the present prohibitive measures may be allowed before long to die away, and the traffic again become as general as before. Many slaves are now brought into Egypt by way of Suakin and the Red Sea; the slaves being landed at some distance from Suez, where the active supervision exercised by Mr. Vice-Consul West has disconcerted the dealers. It appears therefore, my Lord, that to stop this trade entirely, it now only requires active cruisers on the Red Sea, and some positive assurances that the Egyptian Government will not allow a single boat with slaves on board to descend the White Nile. It may be urged against this that the latter measure would entirely destroy the European trade in those regions, and give the Government a monopoly, and this objection may for the present be perfectly correct; but as

slave-hunting and cattle stealing have been the chief ingredients of this trade, even amongst the European traders, the ivory procured in the equatorial regions having been obtained only by such means, it is hardly unjust to say that such a trade should not receive the sanction of the European Governments, as its chief effect has been to spread desolation and misery over a wide extent of territory, and, instead of extending civilization, to render the names of Europeans justly odious to the unfortunate natives brought within their range.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. STANTON.

No. 249.

Earl Russell to Colonel Stanton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 19, 1865.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 26th ultimo, and I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government learn with much satisfaction that no slaves have been brought down the White Nile to Khartoum during the past twelve months. It is, however, highly desirable that this infamous traffic should, if possible, be entirely suppressed, and I have, therefore, to instruct you to make to the Egyptian Government the proposal suggested in your despatch with the view of preventing the introduction of slaves into Egypt by way of the Red Sea :—namely, that the Egyptian Government should give positive instructions that no boat of any kind having slaves on board shall be allowed to descend the White Nile.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

TURKEY. (*Consular*)—*Damascus.*

No. 250.

Consul Rogers to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received December 18.)

My Lord,

Damascus, November 28, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship, that it recently came to my knowledge that a native of India was in slavery here in Damascus.

I employed all the means at my disposal for obtaining accurate information, and discovered that last year an Indian arrived in Mecca with his son, a lad of about nine years of age; that the father died of cholera, and that the child was seized and sold as a slave; which I fear is not an uncommon practice on the Hajj route.

I found out the name of the person in possession, and sent an Indian lad to try and enter into conversation with the captive; he succeeded, and the report was thereby confirmed.

I then told the Pasha all that I had discovered. His Excellency immediately summoned the man in possession, who at first denied having anybody in his house answering to the description of the Indian child. I then begged the Pasha to have the house searched, or its owner kept under arrest. The Pasha agreed; whereupon the man confessed, and sent for the captive.

The poor little fellow was brought into Court; and when it was found that his only language was Hindustanee, and that he spoke a few words of broken Arabic, such as might have been acquired during eight or ten months, he was, without further testimony, given up to me as claimant and official guardian.

I do not know from what part of India the child came; and although he knows the name of the street or quarter, "Massad," he does not know the name of the town in which he lived. But I have begged some Indians living here to make inquiries; and I do not doubt that through them I shall eventually unravel the history of the child.

But even had I known for certain that he was a native of any part of India not belonging to the British Crown, I should still have felt justified in taking the same steps which I adopted in his behalf whilst in ignorance of his nationality.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. T. ROGERS.

No. 251.

The Earl of Clarendon to Consul Rogers.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 22, 1865.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 28th ultimo, reporting the steps taken by you to procure the release of a young boy, a native of India, who had been detained in slavery at Damascus; and I have to acquaint you that I approve your proceedings in this matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLARENDON.

UNITED STATES.

No. 252.

Earl Russell to Mr. Burnley.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 7, 1865.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid,* on the subject of the Cuban Slave Trade.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 253.

Mr. Burnley to Earl Russell.—(Received February 10.)

My Lord,

Washington, January 27, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Commissioners of the Mixed Commission Court established at New York, relative to the suppression of the African Slave Trade, stating that no case has been brought for adjudication before them during 1864.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. HUME BURNLEY.

Inclosure in No. 253.

Her Majesty's Commissioners to Mr. Burnley.

Sir,

New York, December 31, 1864.

WE have the honour to report to you that no case has been brought for adjudication before the Mixed Commission Court established at New York under the Treaty between Great Britain and the United States of America for the suppression of the African Slave Trade during the year ending this day.

We have, &c.

(Signed) E. M. ARCHIBALD.
W. D. RYDER.

No. 254.

Mr. Burnley to Earl Russell.—(Received April 2.)

My Lord,

Washington, March 21, 1865.

ON receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 7th December last, I placed a copy of it in Mr. Seward's hands, requesting him to take it into consideration, which he said he would do.

I subsequently inclosed in an unofficial letter copies of the correspondence inclosed in your Lordship's despatch of the 7th January, with a view of making more clear the object your Lordship had in view in making a joint invitation to Powers to declare the Slave Trade piracy.

I am sorry to say that the question escaped my memory until a short time before the adjournment of Congress, when I reminded Mr. Seward about the question, and received from him the inclosed reply, in answer to my notes, copies of which I have the honour to inclose, stating that it had been impossible to submit it to Congress, owing to the pressure of business at the short session, but that it would be taken into consideration at the ensuing one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HUME BURNLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 254.

Mr. Burnley to Mr. Seward.

My dear Sir,

Washington, January 28, 1865.

IT may conduce, perhaps, to a better understanding as to the scope and bearing of Earl Russell's despatch of the 7th December, of which I put a copy into your hands at the State Department, if I send you copies of correspondence addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid on this subject.

You will see that a despatch similar to the above has been addressed to all the European Courts, inviting them to join together in declaring Slave Trade piracy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HUME BURNLEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 254.

Mr. Burnley to Mr. Seward.

My dear Sir,

Washington, March 15, 1865.

WOULD you permit me to recall your attention to my note of the 28th of January, inclosing copies of despatches elucidatory of Earl Russell's despatch, of which I left you a copy, relative to the joint invitation to Powers declaring Slave Trade piracy?

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HUME BURNLEY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 254.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Burnley.

My dear Sir,

Department of State, Washington, March 16, 1865.

YOUR communication of the 28th of January last and your letter of yesterday relative to the joint invitation to Powers to declare the Slave Trade piracy, have been received. I regret to inform you that the pressure of business at the short session of Congress rendered it impossible to submit the papers to them. It will be taken into consideration by the President when another Congress is about to assemble. You may assure Her Britannic Majesty's Government that the disposition is good to effect an absolute and universal suppression of the Trade in human beings.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

No. 255.

Sir F. Bruce to Earl Russell.—(Received June 12.)

My Lord,

Washington, May 29, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copies of a note and its inclosure, which I have received from Mr. Hunter, relative to a suspected slave-trading enterprise, in which a steamer under Mexican colours, named "*Margarita Quintero*" or "*Matanzas*," is suspected of being about to engage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FREDERICK W. A. BRUCE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 255.

Mr. Hunter to Sir F. Bruce.

Sir,

Department of State, Washington, May 27, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to invite your attention to the inclosed copy of a despatch of the 9th instant from William J. Miner, Esq., the Consul-General of the United States at Havana, relative to a suspected slave-trading enterprise, in which the "*Margarita Quintero*," E. Morrua, master, is suspected of being about to engage. I have put the United States' Attorney at New York upon his guard, with a view to proper proceedings should the vessel touch at New York, and the Secretary of the Navy has also been placed in possession of the facts given in the despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. HUNTER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 255.

*Mr. Miner to Mr. Hunter.**United States' Consulate-General, Havana,
May 9, 1865.*

Sir,

A STEAMER under Mexican colours and named "*Margarita Quintero*" arrived from Vera Cruz on the 29th ultimo, and sailed again on the 1st instant. I am informed that she is the property of Don Julian Zulueta and Captain Eugenio Viñas, both notorious slave-traders, and was fitted out at Vera Cruz for the African Traffic in Slaves. She came to Matanzas for orders, bringing on board Don Tiburcio Audia, a partner of Zulueta, being cleared for New York, but some doubts are entertained that she has gone to New York; Audia will be the supercargo on the African voyage. It is possible, however, that she has actually visited New York to complete her outfit. Bonds were given at the Custom-house in Vera Cruz.

The above information has been obtained from a source which I consider reliable; unfortunately it was communicated to me only last evening.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM F. MINER.

No. 256.

Earl Russell to Sir F. Bruce.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 19, 1865.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 29th ultimo, I have to instruct you to convey to Mr. Hunter the thanks of Her Majesty's Government for the information contained in his letter to you of the 27th ultimo, respecting the steamer under Mexican colours called the "*Margarita Quintero*," which is suspected of being about to engage in the Slave Trade.

You will inform the United States' Government that the vessel in question is the notorious Spanish slave-steamer "*Cicero*," which has changed her name and flag in order, there is reason to believe, the better to enable her to carry on the Traffic in Slaves in which she has been for the last two years engaged.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 257.

Sir F. Bruce to Earl Russell.—(Received June 25.)

My Lord,

Washington, June 13, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a correspondence with the State Department on the subject of the co-operation by the United States in the measures for the suppression of the Slave Trade on the coast of Africa.

Your Lordship will see that Mr. Seward is still unfortunately unable to deal with these questions himself, and that they are postponed until he is sufficiently recovered to attend to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FREDERICK W. A. BRUCE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 257.

Sir F. Bruce to Mr. Hunter.

Sir,

Washington, June 10, 1865.

IT will be in your recollection that in the year 1864 a correspondence passed between this Legation and the State Department, arising out of an offer on the part of the United States' Government to station a squadron on the African coast for the suppression of the Slave Trade, in fulfilment of the obligations of the Treaty of July 1862.

The plan for a joint co-operation, however, could not then be carried into effect, owing to difficulties arising on the terms of the proposal for admission of the vessels of the United States into British ports on the African coast; but as the Secretary of the Navy of the United States, in declining the proposal, expressed a hope that no long time would elapse before the Naval Department would be able to tender the means of an efficient co-operation on the terms of the Treaty for the Suppression of the Slave Trade, I am now instructed by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to invite the attention of the United States' Government to this matter, and to state that Her Majesty's Government are still most anxious to obtain the assistance of United States' cruisers in putting down the Slave Trade; and I am at the same time to assure the Government of the United States that their cruisers will be received in all British ports on the African coast on the most friendly terms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FREDERICK W. A. BRUCE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 257.

Mr. Seward to Sir F. Bruce.

Sir,

Department of State, Washington, June 12, 1865.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your note of the 10th instant, on the subject of the obligations of the United States, under the Treaty of July 1862, to keep up a squadron on the African coast for the purpose of aiding in suppressing the Slave Trade.

In reply, I have the honour to inform you that your communication shall receive as prompt attention as circumstances, to you well known, connected with my state of health will allow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

No. 258.

Sir F. Bruce to Earl Russell.—(Received August 28.)

My Lord,

Washington, August 14, 1865.

MR. SEWARD having regained in a great measure his health and strength, I brought again under his notice, the desire of Her Majesty's Government to see the Treaty of 1862 for the suppression of the Slave Trade fully carried out.

The inclosed copy of Mr. Seward's reply will show that the Secretary of the Navy has been requested to decree the necessary measure for carrying out the provisions of the Treaty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FREDERICK W. A. BRUCE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 258.

Sir F. Bruce to Mr. Seward.

Sir,

Washington, August 10, 1865.

I HAD the honour on June 10th to express the anxiety felt by my Government to obtain the assistance of the cruisers of the United States in putting down the Slave Trade; and their hope that the time had arrived when the Treaty of July, 1862, in this respect, might be carried into effect.

Your reply, while expressing a desire to postpone the consideration of this subject,

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for reasons the justice of which was only too evident, encourages me to bring the proposal again to your notice, now that I understand you can entertain it without inconvenience.

I have, &c.

(Signed) **FREDERICK W. A. BRUCE.**

Inclosure 2 in No. 258.

Mr. Seward to Sir F. Bruce.

Sir,

Washington, August 12, 1865.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 10th instant, renewing a proposal, which you did me the honour to make on the 10th of June last on behalf of Her Britannic Majesty's Government, to obtain the co-operation of the cruisers of the United States in putting down the Slave Trade.

In reply, I have the honour to state that a copy of your note has been submitted to the Secretary of the Navy, and I have recommended to that officer the adoption of the proper measures to carry into effect the Treaty of 1862 in this respect.

The kindly motive which induced you to forbear pressing this proposition at an earlier day is thankfully appreciated.

I have, &c.

(Signed) **W. H. SEWARD.**

No. 259.

Earl Russell to Sir F. Bruce.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 31, 1865.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 14th instant, inclosing a copy of the reply of Mr. Seward to your note of the 10th instant, in which he states that he has recommended to the Secretary of the United States Navy the adoption of proper measures to carry into effect the Treaty of 1862 for the suppression of the Slave Trade; and I have to instruct you to express to Mr. Seward the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at this intelligence.

I am, &c.

(Signed) **RUSSELL.**

No. 260.

Sir F. Bruce to Earl Russell.—(Received October 16.)

My Lord,

Washington, September 26, 1865

IN compliance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 31st ultimo, I addressed a note to the Secretary of State of the United States, a copy of which I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith.

I have, &c.

(Signed) **FREDERICK W. A. BRUCE.**

Inclosure in No. 260.

Sir F. Bruce to Mr. Seward.

Sir,

Washington, September 22, 1865.

I TRANSMITTED to Her Majesty's Government copy of the note you did me the honour to address to me, informing me that you had recommended to the Secretary of the Navy of the United States the adoption of proper measures to carry into effect the Treaty of 1862 for the suppression of the Slave Trade.

I am instructed to express, in reply, the satisfaction felt by Her Majesty's Government on receipt of this intelligence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) **FREDERICK W. A. BRUCE.**